

Enquiries:
Cr Greg Christensen
07 5540 5111
File Ref: 19/03/011
Other Ref: GC:lr

20 September 2023

Hon Dr Steven Miles
Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning
and Minister assisting the Premier on Olympic and Paralympic Games Infrastructure

PO Box 15009
CITY EAST QLD 4002

Sent by email to: ShapingSEQProjects@dsdilgp.qld.gov.au

Dear Deputy Premier

Draft Shaping SEQ2023 Councillor Submission - Scenic Rim Regional Council

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback within the public consultation process for the Draft SEQ Regional Plan (the Plan), Draft South East Queensland Infrastructure Supplement (SEQIS) and Regulation Amendment Consultation Paper (the Paper).

While it is noted that Scenic Rim Regional Council has endorsed and submitted a more detailed technical response fully informed by Expert Officers, at a Strategic Leadership level we believe there are significant concerns with ***the approach and outcomes currently embedded in the Plan and SEQIS that significantly fail our communities.***

It is encouraging that the State has ***heard our call to focus on affordable liveability*** rather than affordable housing in a document that is intended to provide a roadmap for strong development direction over an extended period of time.

However it is so deeply disappointing that, having heard that voice, the Plan and SEQIS then go on to ***ignore the foundations that would make it possible for our Scenic Rim Region to equitably participate*** in the full opportunity being afforded to our Urban neighbours. This is not something we can accept quietly.

From the outset of this Review cycle, ***our Council has participated in good faith in the processes***, investing officer time and resources along with completing activities such as the development of our Growth Management Strategy. This good faith participation has relied upon the undertakings on behalf of the State that this review was committed to equitable investment by the State, a commitment to enable equitable participation opportunity for our communities and a truly modern forward focussed approach.

A key principle of affordable liveability is to enable people to live, work and play without significant commuting requirements. We are already a region where more than 40% of our working age population have no choice but to commute away from the region for employment opportunities.

We are playing our part as required by the State to provide housing growth for an expanding SEQ population. However, based on the current draft plan we will be condemned to a continuation of this trend with more unfair community burden. This is because **the State has ignored our calls for the right investment to activate local jobs** and reverse the commuter load.

Bromelton SDA has long been identified as a major jobs growth hub, but has also been the regular "forgotten child" in the willingness of the State to make proper investments to activate its potential. **A major failure of this draft plan is that it pushes Bromelton even further back** into the long term as a jobs development location and instead gives preference to other more recently identified locations. This lack of genuine intent is further reinforced by the absence of relevant investments in the SEQIS to provide the critical enabling infrastructure such as the Bromelton North-South Arterial Road.

This is but one example of the neglect afforded our community in this draft. **This neglect is further compounded by the ongoing refusal to give meaningful commitments to real public transport access** for our residents. The Salisbury to Beaudesert rail link is one such example. Based on the information provided by the State in the Plan and the SEQIS **at least another whole generation across our region will pass** before there is any prospect of meaningful, respectful public transport. The lack of this investment compounds the afore mentioned failure to support jobs growth and in practical terms commits many across our communities to high cost personal vehicle solutions to be able to connect to employment.

As has often been communicated to the State, **this neglect fails our communities at many levels. Far too many of our youth are forced to leave our region to secure both employment and to access higher education** as they are deprived of safe affordable access locally or via reliable effective public transport.

Our communities still carry a DNA that prioritises contributing to society - so far too many family units see both partners leave early each day to commute to distant employment opportunities. This gnaws at the fabric of family and community for our youth. **Without proper State investment our communities and our limited Council budget will be forced to fill the void** of Social Infrastructure Demand that empirical data demonstrates is required to augment such circumstances.

There are a number of other examples also evident by their absence in the SEQIS that demonstrate disrespect for our communities and their long suffering patience. We are proud of our diligent communities and the evident desire of new families to join our communities. However they share an expectation that they will be given proper and fair regard by their State Government to be equal citizens of South East Queensland with our more urbanised neighbours.

As the Elected Representatives of our diverse and vibrant Scenic Rim communities, we call upon the State to amend the final SEQ Regional Plan and SEQIS to afford proper respect to our communities. As referenced earlier, Scenic Rim Regional Council has submitted a comprehensive suite of proposed amendments that we believe can address the shortcomings identified.

Yours faithfully



Cr Greg Christensen
MAYOR



Cr Jeff McConnell
DEPUTY MAYOR
COUNCILLOR DIVISION 2



Cr Amanda Hay
COUNCILLOR DIVISION 1



Cr Virginia West
COUNCILLOR DIVISION 3



Cr Michael Enright
COUNCILLOR DIVISION 4



Cr Marshall Chalk
COUNCILLOR DIVISION 5



Cr Duncan McInnes OAM
COUNCILLOR DIVISION 6

Appendix: Scenic Rim Regional Council List of Submitters

APPENDIX

LIST OF SUBMITTERS:

Cr Greg Christensen
Mayor
Scenic Rim Regional Council
PO Box 25
BEAUDESERT QLD 4285
Email: greg.c@scenicrim.qld.gov.au

Cr Jeff McConnell
Deputy Mayor/Councillor Division 2
Scenic Rim Regional Council
PO Box 25
BEAUDESERT QLD 4285
Email: jeff.m@scenicrim.qld.gov.au

Cr Amanda Hay
Councillor Division 1
Scenic Rim Regional Council
PO Box 25
BEAUDESERT QLD 4285
Email: amanda.h@scenicrim.qld.gov.au

Cr Virginia West
Councillor Division 3
Scenic Rim Regional Council
PO Box 25
BEAUDESERT QLD 4285
Email: virginia.w@scenicrim.qld.gov.au

Cr Michael Enright
Councillor Division 4
Scenic Rim Regional Council
PO Box 25
BEAUDESERT QLD 4285
Email: michael.e@scenicrim.qld.gov.au

Cr Marshall Chalk
Councillor Division 5
Scenic Rim Regional Council
PO Box 25
BEAUDESERT QLD 4285
Email: marshall.c@scenicrim.qld.gov.au

Cr Duncan McInnes
Councillor Division 6
Scenic Rim Regional Council
PO Box 25
BEAUDESERT QLD 4285
Email: duncan.m@scenicrim.qld.gov.au