

3 March 2017

Draft South East Queensland Regional Plan Review Feedback
Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning
PO Box 15009
CITY EAST QLD 4000
Sent via email to: SEQRegionalPlan@dilgp.qld.gov.au

Dear SEQRPR Team,

Submission on 'Shaping SEQ' – Draft South East Queensland Regional Plan

I am a member of Tamborine Mountain Progress Association and of Tamborine Mountain Landcare. TMPA spends a lot of time trying to defend this plateau from would-be developers who have no regard for the native flora and fauna, nor for the fragile escarpment, the rainforest and the underground aquifers, nor indeed for the ambience and amenity of our rural landscape. TML is active in removing exotic plant pests and replacing them with native species.

The key issues in the review of the SEQ Regional Plan must include:

1. **Iconic Tamborine Mountain should be removed from the urban footprint.** This high amenity tourist destination must be protected. It is highly inappropriate for Tamborine Mountain to be looked at as part of the South East Queensland urban sprawl development. It should be considered in isolation and not as an adjacent and contiguous part of the Gold Coast. After all it is known in Tourism circles as *"The Green behind the Gold"*.
2. Native forest regrowth and Riparian vegetation should always be viewed on its merits and in context as to its local relevance. **It should be protected where necessary** and not simply placed in the unprotected category en masse.
3. A full and proper assessment of **the ecologically sustainable carrying capacity of the SEQ region.** The assessment must be publicly available **before** public submissions are sought on the amended SEQ Regional Plan. Population growth should not be given priority over the environment and local ecological systems.
4. The SEQ Regional Plan must include an assessment of the ecologically sustainable carrying capacity of the area **and development must not be allowed to over-ride this capacity.** No more extinction of flora or fauna must be tolerated, and the effects of future drought and/or cyclonic weather conditions must be considered.
5. **The reduction of greenhouse gasses** must be considered and included in the new SEQ Regional Plan.
6. Population targets must be of **secondary** consideration when compared to the target of ecological sustainability.
7. Housing affordability must not be used as an **excuse to overdevelop the area.** Housing density should **not** impact adversely on ecological sustainability.

8. **The community**, in particular the environmental sectors, **must be included** in the review process.
9. The following items, as advocated by the **Environmental Defenders Office**, must be supported by the SEQ Regional Plan:
 - The actions within the Healthy Waterways Strategy 2007 – 2012;
 - The SEQ Natural Resources Management Plan Resource Condition Targets;
 - The findings and recommendations of the State of the Regional Report (July release);
 - SEQ Constraint mapping;
 - SEQ Catchment Eco systems services mapping;
 - Endangered and Of Concern Regional Ecosystems must be fully protected;
 - Significant wildlife and regional biodiversity corridors must be fully protected;
 - Endangered and Vulnerable species must be given strong protections;
 - The SEQ population of Koala and its habitat must be fully protected;
 - Realistic and enforceable targets for public transport and green energy uses;
 - The State Coastal Plan review recommendations of the joint environmental sector via QCC must be incorporated in the SEQ Regional Plan;
 - The inclusion of more open space and recreational land, but not at the expense of National Parks or land earmarked for conservation.

EDO recommends that the measures that matter be overhauled, to provide:

- more measures which capture all intended goals within the SEQRP adequately to ensure we have a good indication of whether we are on our way to meet the performance indicators and whether changes are needed to the SEQRP in the next iteration; and
- more specific, tangible goals for our 'preferred future', to ensure we have motivation and direction to achieve strong outcomes to improve SEQ.

SEQ strategic assessment – great care needed to prevent negative environmental outcomes

I understand that the Queensland Government is investigating the undertaking of a Strategic Assessment for SEQ under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cth). I ask that you please ensure that you do your utmost to ensure that the biodiversity and ecosystems of SEQ are adequately protected when providing for this Strategic Assessment. While providing a strategic assessment for SEQ gives the advantage of forward-consideration of the cumulative impacts the region is likely to face from expected development cumulative impacts, it also may remove a level of individual project assessment normally provided through EPBC referral assessment. We expect the Commonwealth and Queensland Government's to undertake this process with much care and precision to ensure it does not lead to increased development impacts on our environment.

Yours sincerely

Roland Lindenmayer

Tamborine Mountain.