



1 March 2011

Major Cities Unit
Department of Infrastructure and Transport
GPO Box 594
Canberra ACT 2601

Dear Sir/Madam,

The Chamber of Commerce and Industry Queensland (CCIQ) welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback into the development of a National Urban Policy. CCIQ is supportive of this consultation process in order to identify the issues and opportunities facing Queensland cities to guide the Federal Government's policy into one that can facilitate more productive, sustainable and liveable cities within our State.

The Government has announced that the National Urban Policy will focus on the 18 Australian cities with a population of more than 100,000. One third of these cities are currently located in Queensland and include Brisbane, Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast, Townsville, Cairns and Toowoomba. There are also a further two cities within Queensland, Mackay and Gladstone, that are expanding rapidly and may face similar challenges to larger cities in the near future. CCIQ is strongly supportive of the Federal Government placing greater attention on these cities as well as on helping the business community provide stable and ongoing employment opportunities for those living within these cities.

Last year, CCIQ released a Population and Infrastructure Blueprint which provides the Queensland business community's perspective on population and infrastructure challenges and opportunities. The blueprint builds on the results of a survey of 800 businesses to develop strategies and recommendations that will assist in planning for population growth and infrastructure moving forward. A copy of the Blueprint is attached for consideration by the Major Cities Unit.

The key recommendation from CCIQ's Blueprint was for the development and implementation of a Population Policy that ensures Government takes a leadership and coordination role to achieve the most consistent, coherent and considered approach to population planning and infrastructure provision. This policy should incorporate the following strategies:

- Encouraging the settlement of more people in regional areas to address such issues as congestion;
- Planning and development of infrastructure networks that meet the needs of the growing population and economy;
- Marketing and promotional campaigns to increase the knowledge, awareness and attractiveness of all regions;
- Developing strategies to meet the labour and skills demands of business in all regions;
- Developing regional and industry specific 'Industry Development Plans';
- Implementing strategies that enhance the tax competitiveness of regions;
- Adopting innovative and practical ways to reduce the regulatory burdens impacting on all businesses and communities; and
- Strengthening community engagement and consultation practices.

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CCIQ is also currently finalising a transport blueprint to provide a Queensland business perspective of how to rebuild Queensland's transport infrastructure with a focus on delivering an even better transport system that drives business and economic growth moving forward. This Blueprint is expected to be released in March and includes the following recommendations in relation to Queensland's transport networks:

- As part of the Queensland Infrastructure Plan, the Queensland Government should develop a comprehensive Transport Plan that outlines key priorities in relation to all transport networks. This plan should embrace a forward planning approach to ensure the needs of the future population are met, as well as develop a clear list of priorities and a timetable for when infrastructure projects will be delivered.
- Reduce or eliminate key capacity constraints on existing transport networks. This needs to include flood proofing/flood mitigation activities in relation to the state's road network, a clear map forward for tackling traffic congestion and strengthening road freight networks through high capacity connections to other modes of transport.
- Enhance transport networks in regional areas to link with the Government's commitment to build stronger regions to ensure growth and economic opportunities are shared throughout the state. Government activities should include increasing the proportion of budget spending for road infrastructure outside of SEQ, increasing the accessibility of regions through improved rail and airport networks and boosting the availability of public transport in all regions.
- Ensure existing infrastructure is used to its full capacity, particularly rail networks in regional areas and tolls roads in SEQ.
- Provide businesses and the community with more options by increasing the competitiveness of rail, air and sea freight compared to road freight.
- Enhance land transport connections to airports and seaports to deliver more efficient supply chain links.

Overall, CCIQ is strongly supportive of linking the development of a National Urban Policy with other major policy initiatives and reforms. However, there are also several concurrent activities occurring around population policy including the development of a Sustainable Population Strategy by the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities as well as the development of a regional policy. CCIQ believes it is essential to bring all of these activities together in order to develop one overarching population policy with one Minister responsible for its development and implementation, and subsequently responsibility for driving a whole-of-government approach to population policy.

With good policy and planning, strong population growth will be a positive outcome for Australia and its cities. It does provide challenges, however it also provides abundant opportunities for our economy and communities. It is essential that Australia successfully capitalises on these opportunities whilst meeting challenges head on to secure our future prosperity.

If you have any questions regarding this correspondence or the attached Blueprint, please do not hesitate to contact CCIQ Policy Analyst Leanne Usher on (07) 3842 2237. CCIQ looks forward to working with the Federal Government to finalise and implement a national population policy.

Yours sincerely,



Nick Behrens
General Manager – Policy

Att. CCIQ Population and Infrastructure Blueprint