

TransformingSEQ – a City Deal for SEQ

What is TransformingSEQ?

TransformingSEQ is a joint production of the Queensland Government and the Council of Mayors (SEQ), and outlines our case for an SEQ City Deal.

It identifies some of the transformational opportunities an SEQ City Deal can realise for our region and the nation, and is intended to form the basis for future deal negotiations with the Australian Government.

City Deals are long-term agreements between the federal, state and local governments to deliver a shared platform of investment and reform. The Australian Government has signed four City Deals in Australia since 2016 (Darwin, Launceston, Townsville and Western Sydney) and a further four more are currently under negotiation (Adelaide, Geelong, Hobart and Perth).

We believe the time is right for SEQ to get a City Deal.

SEQ is the third largest urban region in Australia, spanning around 34,000 square kilometres from the Sunshine Coast to the border, and from the Moreton Bay islands to Toowoomba.

We are already home to one in seven Australians – 3.5 million people – and we are growing at twice the OECD average. In the next 25 years, we will need to accommodate another 1.9 million residents and almost 800,000 new homes.

As one of the fastest growing regions in Australia, our population growth presents both opportunities and challenges. The best way to realise the opportunities presented by our region’s growth is through an ambitious and transformative City Deal, which brings together the three levels of government in a genuine and long-term partnership for the future.

An SEQ City Deal is all about ensuring our region gets **better, not just bigger**.

What could a City Deal deliver?

Through an SEQ City Deal, we want to **focus on creating one region that is connected locally and competing globally**.

To do this, we are seeking a City Deal focussed on unlocking our potential and overcoming our challenges, including improved regional transport connectivity, more high-value jobs, and even better lifestyle advantages.

Importantly, KPMG modelling indicates the SEQ economy may be up to \$58 billion bigger than “business as usual” if we realise an ambitious and long-term City Deal that turns the dial on our region’s productivity and competitiveness.¹

To achieve an outcome like this, *TransformingSEQ* identifies six “domains” for an SEQ City Deal to focus on:



Connecting Infrastructure



Jobs and Skills



Liveability and Sustainability



Housing and Planning



Digital



Governance and Leadership

Within these six domains, *TransformingSEQ* identifies 35 “opportunities” that could be considered in negotiations for a City Deal, including six “transformational opportunities” for the region.

State and local government, with industry, have identified these six transformational opportunities as critical enablers to help unlock the full potential of our region. Importantly, all six of these transformational opportunities can only be delivered through strong collaboration and focus between all tiers of government and the private sector. An SEQ City Deal can provide the long-term partnership we need to transform SEQ, unlocking the benefits of “good growth” and delivering a step change in our region and nation’s future.



The six transformational opportunities for SEQ

The Queensland Government, SEQ Local Governments and key industry leaders across SEQ have identified these six transformational opportunities as having the capacity to unlock the potential of our region. All six of these transformational opportunities can only be delivered through strong collaboration and focus between all tiers of government and the private sector. Collectively we can unlock the benefits of “good growth” and deliver a step change in our region and nation’s future.

45-minute region

Build on Cross River Rail and Brisbane Metro to move SEQ towards a 45-minute region by delivering the next wave of Rail and Metro projects to connect our key activity and growth centres.

Trade and Enterprise Spine

Supercharge an SEQ Trade and Enterprise Spine between the Toowoomba Trade Gateway and the Australia TradeCoast by connecting Inland Rail to the Port of Brisbane and unlocking new jobs in the south-west and western growth areas.

Innovation Precincts

Ignite our nationally significant Innovation Precincts to deliver more high-value, knowledge-intensive jobs through enabling-infrastructure and a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship.

Liveability Fund

Deliver and secure better open spaces, recreational areas and landscapes for our growing region, including through a new tripartite Liveability Fund to invest in critical blue and green infrastructure.

Regional Coordination Board

Deliver greater coordination and collaboration between federal, state and local governments, including a new tripartite Regional Coordination Board to support strategic governance for the region.

Smart Digital Region

Establish SEQ as Australia’s leading Smart Digital Region by leveraging the new International Broadband Submarine Cable to deliver a Digital Trade Hub and taking a region-wide approach to data and digital connectivity.

The six “domains” and 35 “opportunities” identified in *TransformingSEQ* are intended to provide a starting point for negotiations for an SEQ City Deal with the Australian Government.

These opportunities are diverse: some a specific infrastructure projects, whilst others are areas for potential policy reform or alignment. Together, they show how an SEQ City Deal might provide a platform to transform the connectivity of our region, enhance our liveability, and develop the right conditions to attract and retain more high value jobs.

A more globally competitive, productive and attractive SEQ will make a significant contribution to Australia’s national success, and we believe an SEQ City Deal provides the best platform to realise our region’s potential, together.

The proposed focus for each domain is summarised below, along with the key opportunities that we believe can help transform SEQ.



Connecting Infrastructure



For connecting infrastructure, our objective is to transform regional connectivity to support a 45 minute region and 30 minute cities, with better mobility for people, goods and services.

To do this, we want to work together to deliver:

- » The next wave of rail and metro projects to deliver better public transport to SEQ's growth areas
- » A new SEQ Transport Partnership, with all levels of government working together to deliver a better public transport network with more integrated planning
- » The missing rail freight link between Inland Rail and the Port of Brisbane
- » Walking and cycling upgrades around key activity hubs
- » Upgrades to key roads, level crossings and intersections
- » Technology to help people develop personalised transport options
- » High speed digital connections to our key education and health precincts

Jobs and Skills



For jobs and skills, our objective is to develop an export-competitive and knowledge-intensive region with a skilled workforce.

To do this, we want to work together to deliver:

- » Skills development to grow our advanced manufacturing sector
- » Infrastructure and support to increase our agribusiness sector
- » Globally significant health and education precincts, including at Dutton Park
- » Local education and health precincts, including the Mill at Moreton
- » New and expanded intermodal freight facilities to support our freight network
- » New tourism initiatives, starting with Brisbane Live and an Indigenous Tourism Experience
- » Better training and skills in modernised TAFE facilities

Liveability and Sustainability



For liveability and sustainability, our objective is to enhance SEQ's lifestyle with sustainable communities and great places and spaces.

To do this, we want to work together to deliver:

- » A new Liveability Fund to improve the liveability of our communities
- » Resilient Rivers, cleaner waterways and restored habitat connections
- » Better green spaces and public places
- » A network of connected green streets, spaces and waterways
- » A sustainable system of recycling, renewal and reuse
- » Better design for our urban environments

Housing and Planning



For housing and planning, our objective is to deliver "good growth" through greater housing choice, more affordable living, better access to jobs and community-enabling infrastructure and services.

To do this, we want to work together to deliver:

- » Better planning and delivery of infrastructure and services to support growing communities
- » New ways to fund and finance infrastructure in high growth areas
- » Good growth outcomes through better government collaboration
- » Improved cooperation to implement the SEQ Regional Plan, *ShapingSEQ*.
- » More housing, jobs, and community facilities through better use of government land
- » Greater housing choice and more affordable living

Digital



For digital, our objective is to establish SEQ as Australia's leading Smart Digital Region.

To do this, we want to work together to deliver:

- » A “seamless regional economy” that helps grow small and medium businesses
- » 5G technology across SEQ through industry partnership
- » More innovation, improved services and infrastructure delivery through better use of data and regulation
- » Economic development that leverages the new international broadband submarine cable
- » Greater investment attraction to SEQ in the development of new technologies

Governance and Leadership



For governance and leadership, our objective is to unite our civic, government, industry and community leaders to collaboratively drive the success of SEQ.

To do this, we want to work together to deliver:

- » A coordinated approach to economic development, inclusive growth and prosperity for all of SEQ
- » Support for more private investment opportunities in SEQ
- » Leading edge research into the future of cities
- » A formal Regional Coordination Board to deliver a permanent regional partnership between governments
- » A greater role for the private sector to invest in precinct development

Next Steps

The Queensland Government and the Council of Mayors (SEQ) are seeking Australian Government support to begin formal negotiations to develop an SEQ City Deal.

You can find out more about TransformingSEQ by visiting: www.treasury.qld.gov.au/growing-queensland/queensland-city-deals

If you support the concept of an SEQ City Deal, or wish to be kept updated on the development of the proposed SEQ City Deal, please let us know:

Cities Transformation Taskforce
citydeals@treasury.qld.gov.au

You can also be part of the conversation via **#SEQcitydeal**



TransformingSEQ
#SEQcitydeal



1 KPMG (2018) modelled the impact of a 0.25% increase in annual multi-factor productivity growth across the SEQ regional economy. Given the higher productivity and flow impacts across the broader economy, the modelling estimates that the economy may be larger by up to \$58bn in 25 years (2017 dollars). Australian Bureau of Statistics estimates show that multi-factor productivity has grown by 0.73% per annum on average between 1994–95 and 2017–18. Over the same period, NSW multi-factor productivity growth has averaged 0.97%. The potential 0.25% increase in multi factor productivity used in the analysis was based on the impact required to close the historical multi factor productivity gap with NSW. The actual impact of a City Deal on multi factor productivity would be dependent on the final terms of the deal along with a range of other factors.