

Sustainable Planning and Development Coordination Youth Bill 2009

Explanatory Notes

Objectives of the Youth Bill

This Youth Bill will establish five major government bodies along with initiative schemes to coordinate and implement Queensland's infrastructure development and growth in a way that is economically, environmentally and socially sustainable. This Youth Bill is about state building and laying the foundation of tomorrow with a comprehensive development blueprint. It represents a radical paradigm shift in governance by integrating resource and environmental management with land use and transport planning throughout Queensland.

This Youth Bill establishes the Office of Integrated Planning (OIP)—the central agency designed to promote communication between the related government departments and bodies to coordinate Queensland's growth and development while enhancing the conservation of Queensland's major natural assets. Additionally, the Queensland Planning and Development Research Office (QPDR), established by this Youth Bill, will work with the Office of Integrated Planning, LINQ, various relevant government departments, all levels of government, universities and other centres of learning and the community. This new statutory body will support the Office of Integrated Planning by providing cutting edge research and quality advice that will develop best practice in the management of Queensland's infrastructure, transport, development, environment and natural resources.

This Youth Bill also seeks to establish the LINQ State Transit Authority, a transport body for Queensland based on south east Queensland's Translink model. Its purpose is to research and identify the transport needs (present and future) then plan and implement comprehensive, appropriate and sustainable public transport networks for all Queensland regions. LINQ will be responsible for ensuring the Queensland government provides adequate services and prevents locations from being forgotten in transport

planning. Translink will be integrated into the LINQ State Transit Authority as the south east Queensland branch.

To monitor and assess the performance of these bodies in providing enhanced sustainability, the Commission for Sustainability and the Environment will be set up. This new body will be required to prepare an annual report assessing Queensland's urban and regional development which details the positive and negative impact on the environment, economy and community so that appropriate recommendations can be made and implemented by the relevant government agencies.

This Youth Bill seeks to introduce the Queensland Government Tender Regulative Agency (QGTRA) as an independent statutory authority that has the capacity to ensure that preference is given to small businesses and companies related to construction whenever major State government development initiatives are tendered. The Queensland Government Tender Regulative Agency ensures that small businesses and companies in construction related industries are able to compete against large businesses and companies, when they otherwise would not have been able to do so. This agency will ultimately aid in the ongoing implementation of a sustainable future for this state both socially and economically by supporting the products, services and most importantly the jobs that so many communities depend on.

Other initiatives of this Youth Bill

This Youth Bill aims to build a sustainable future for Queensland by using QPDRO to research and implement alternative energy sources to minimise our greenhouse gas emissions. This is part of the wider approach to integrate infrastructure with natural resource management.

Along with transport and energy, water management is key to the future of sustainable communities in Queensland. This Youth Bill will provide what is needed to explore creating a north-south State wide water transfer grid to share the water resources of regions in excess with regions in drought. Similar to the energy initiatives, by 2020 all new homes must have water tanks incorporated along with rebate incentives to other households.

Finally, to encourage the shift away from private vehicles as the main method of commuting, this Youth Bill establishes an Incremental Vehicle Registration Fee Scheme. All these collective initiatives are part of the comprehensive planning measures that we must take to establish the Queensland of the 21st century—a sustainable Queensland.

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