



The Hon. Steven Miles
Minister of Planning
Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning
PO Box 15009
QLD 4002

By email: ShapingSEQProjects@dsgilgp.qld.gov.au

Dear Minister Miles

Submission: Draft Shaping SEQ 2023 Update

The National Growth Areas Alliance (NGAA) welcomes the opportunity to respond to the consultation process for the Draft Shaping SEQ 2023 Update (the Update).

The NGAA is the peak body for local governments in Australia's outer metropolitan growth areas and advocates to state and federal governments on growth area challenges and opportunities. Together, we represent more than five million people living in Australia's fast-growing suburbs and are united by shared experiences of population growth rates at double the national average and long-term under-investment in vital infrastructure.

We take an evidence-based approach, with a Policy Platform built on the foundations of our comprehensive research strategy. We also help to develop Alliance Councils' capacity to deliver good growth through best practice case studies, policy discussions, officer-level networks and our program of events bringing the best and latest speakers on growth issues.

We support the 50-year vision outlined in the Update, and the aspiration of SEQ becoming a leading model of subtropical, climate resilient living where choice allows everyone to lead productive and fulfilling lives. We also commend the approach of embracing the diverse communities that define the region and reinforcing their identities whilst simultaneously accommodating the projected population growth.

We consider there is alignment between NGAA policies and the stated goal in the Update of new and established neighbourhoods supporting active and public transport options that contribute to a high level of connectivity, mixed and integrated land uses with diverse housing, and access to public spaces and natural features.

We note there is a strong focus on the housing required to meet population projections, and we agree that this is a crucial consideration. However, we encourage the Department to also consider broader economic trends relating to the locations of employment growth. The NGAA regularly advocates for better alignment between new housing and access to employment (and other) opportunities. We have extensive [research](#) demonstrating the impact of long commutes to reach employment opportunities in terms of financial cost, time, health and wellbeing, and social participation. Specifically, this research found that commuting by car to work from outer growth suburbs costs commuters \$5.4 billion a year. These adverse impacts can be reduced by locating services and amenities, including employment opportunities, within close proximity of new housing.

Contact

Should you wish to discuss any of the matters raised in this submission, please contact Caroline Speed, National Research and Policy Lead, on caroline.speed@ngaa.org.au .

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bronwen Clark', written in a cursive style.

Bronwen Clark
Executive Officer
National Growth Areas Alliance