



Regional Roadmap review helps RDA respond to a rapidly changing Brisbane

A Key Stakeholder Forum held in June has provided a wealth of "on-the-ground" intelligence and ideas, forming the basis for an update of RDA Brisbane's Regional Roadmap, and helping the RDA respond to a rapidly changing local environment.

The Roadmap, developed in 2010, provides a vision for a dynamic and thriving city, outlining issues and corresponding actions around five priority themes: Transport, Future Workforce, Emerging Enterprise & Innovation, Liveability and Carbon.

Nearly 100 ideas or refinements were submitted around issues such as:

- Addressing the lack of public transport to key employment areas such as Australia's Trade Coast
- The need to develop a cross-regional freight corridor
- Improving hiring and training practices, and

At the invitation of the RDA, more than 100 key stakeholders from industry, all levels of government, and the community and education sectors gathered to review and refine the issues and actions around these themes, in light of recent changes in the economic, social and policy environments. These include: effects of the Brisbane flood and ensuing recovery and rebuilding process; launch of the Regional Development Australia Fund; launch of the National Digital Economy Strategy and roll out of the NBN; and other government initiatives and policy changes since the Roadmap was completed in September last year (see box below).



developing pathways to labour in areas with skill shortages such as the south-west industrial belt

- Lack of equity and access to community services and facilities, including deficits in the 'mortgage belt' areas
- Ensuring appropriate levels of infrastructure and transport in satellite suburbs

- Development of affordable housing models
- The effects of natural disaster on where and how people live
- Need for new knowledge precincts and education as a catalyst for future enterprise and innovation
- Modifying industry and household behaviour in the face of climate change ("sustainability skills").

The nuanced feedback provided will now form the basis of a review of the Regional Roadmap, expected to be completed within the next two months. RDA Brisbane would like to sincerely thank all of the Forum participants for their time and expertise, and look forward to their continued engagement with the Roadmap through participation in future initiatives or working groups.



The session was facilitated by Economic Consulting Group MacroPlan Australia, and included a presentation by Chief Economist Brian Haratsis on "National Economic Drivers and Brisbane Dynamics", to provide a context for discussions.

Participants then separated into five groups, tackling a priority theme each. Later RDA Members spoke on behalf of their respective groups, reporting back to the room with local intelligence, refinements to current issues and actions and suggestions for new initiatives.



Since the forum, the RDA has had many requests for a copy of the presentation by Brian Haratsis of MacroPlan Australia (left) on "National Economic Drivers and Brisbane Dynamics". The complete Forum PowerPoint presentation, including this presentation, can now be downloaded from the RDA website at www.rdabrisbane.org.au



Why an update?

Economic, social and policy changes since the Roadmap was completed:

- The Brisbane Flood (issues include recovery, rebuilding, economic and social impacts, increasing resilience and preparedness for future disasters)
- Commencement of the national Regional Development Australia Fund (the Roadmap will underpin decisions on infrastructure priorities for the region)
- Announcement of a new Sustainable Population Strategy /National Urban Policy (funding for "liveable cities", smart-managed motorways & suburban job initiatives)
- Launch of the National Digital Economy Strategy, including "Digital Communities" and "Digital Enterprises" initiatives, and roll out of the NBN
- The Clean Energy Future carbon tax package (released since the Forum was held).
- A reinvigorated approach by the Australian and Queensland Governments to RDAs in Queensland.

Role for RDAs in Carbon Package

RDAs are expected to play a role in the implementation of the Australian Government's new carbon tax package, by providing feedback on local effects and helping to facilitate solutions to local challenges.

"The Clean Energy Future" policy was announced by the Prime Minister Julia Gillard on 10 July 2011, and will come into effect on 1 July 2012.

The Department of Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government will be working closely with RDA Committees to support and assist regions through this transition to a low carbon economy, and is currently developing an evidence base around the potential effects that a price on carbon will have across Australia. RDAs will be a vital source of regional feedback to the Department, and can help with advice or "on-the-ground" solutions to local problems as they arise.

Many RDAs have been deeply engaged in the issue of climate change as a regional priority for some time; RDA Brisbane's Regional Roadmap identifies 'Carbon' (the management of greenhouse gas emissions and transition to a low carbon economy to promote economic growth, resilience and opportunity) as one of its priority themes. Strategies and actions around this theme will be further developed as government policy is implemented.

www.cleanenergyfuture.gov.au

Department of Climate Change Hotline: 1800 057 590

Queensland Government announces 20 year infrastructure plan and regionalisation strategy

An infrastructure plan for the next 20 years has been released by the State Government for public consultation, with the plan also unpinning a new Queensland Regionalisation Strategy.

The Queensland Infrastructure Plan (QIP) provides an outline of short-term infrastructure projects as well as forward planning for longer-term priorities to meet future needs in growing regions. The QIP also focuses on rebuilding tasks associated with recent natural disasters that have affected Queensland. The plan will be finalised later this year after a series of regional consultation forums, and input from the private sector and other levels of government. It will then become the key state-wide planning document, replacing other regional infrastructure plans and programs.

The QIP also provides the foundation for the State Government's new Queensland Regionalisation Strategy (QRS), released at the same time, which aims to maximise the long-term economic growth and liveability of Queensland's regions. The Strategy seeks to ease growing pains and strengthen prosperity by

promoting and improving the economic links within and between regional cities and towns. It details 31 proposed actions to sustain long-term growth, encourage workers to the regions, support new business investment and improve partnerships

RDA Brisbane will work with the Queensland Government where there is scope to link local infrastructure projects with the Regional Development Australia Fund, particularly where projects have strong cross-regional benefits.

between governments. These include: an integrated Queensland freight strategy (also identified as a priority at the RDA Brisbane Regional Roadmap Forum); new energy opportunities; more local skills training aimed at regional needs; better regional relocation opportunities; jobs for Indigenous people; suitable industrial land; a single coordination point in government to support investment; and development of a regular map of significant growth areas.

To view the QIP and QRS, find out about the forums or provide feedback go to www.qld.gov.au or call **1800 093 903**. Public consultation closes on Friday 9 September 2011.

Lord Mayor's Business Awards open

Brisbane Lord Mayor Graham Quirk and Brisbane Marketing have invited local businesses to enter the sixth annual Lord Mayor's Business Awards (LMBA).

LBMA's celebrate the achievements and exceptional contributions of businesses and individuals to Brisbane, with awards in nine categories:

- Business Growth
- Business Innovation
- Business Creativity
- New Investment
- Corporate Citizenship
- Employer of Choice
- Sustainability in Business
- Young Business Person of the Year
- Business Person of the Year

Award nominations close on 29 July with winners to be unveiled at the LMBA dinner on Wednesday 12 October at the Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre. For more info go to: www.lmba.com.au

Community leaders needed for new governing health councils

Expressions of Interest will open on 16 July 2011 for positions on the governing councils of new Local Health and Hospital Networks, as part of the National Health Reform process.

The aim is for health services to be managed in the community, for the community, with reforms ensuring local decision-making and local accountability. Each autonomous network will be run by an expert governing council, to ensure tax payer dollars are spent wisely. Queensland Health is seeking people who live in their local community, or have a connection to the

community and a strong understanding of local issues. Each council will need a good mix of people, including those with business, financial, legal and human resource expertise, as well as those experienced in the delivery of clinical services.

Newspaper ads will begin appearing from 16 July 2011 detailing the available positions and encouraging Queenslanders to get involved, with the new networks to commence operation on 1 July 2012. For more info contact Queensland Health on **1800 128 053** or www.health.qld.gov.au

Have your say on government business policy and legislation

Australian businesses of all sizes can help shape government policy for their industry, by registering on the Business Consultation website, part of the Australian Government's www.business.gov.au portal. Businesses who register gain instant access to all current public Australian Government consultations, including details on how to have their say on any proposed changes to business-related legislation or policy. For more details go to:

<https://consultation.business.gov.au/consultation/>

