

9 September 2011

Mr Jeff Seeney MP
Shadow Minister for Infrastructure, Planning and Reconstruction
PO Box 559
Biloela QLD 4715

Submitted via email: infrastructure@opposition.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Seeney,

On behalf of the Queensland business community, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry Queensland (CCIQ) welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on the LNP's discussion paper "Building Queensland's Future Together". CCIQ is strongly supportive of the LNP's commitment to deliver major infrastructure to transform the Queensland economy from the lowest to the highest ranked in Australia. Subsequently, we are keen to work with the Opposition to ensure the needs of the Queensland business community are reflected in the LNP's infrastructure policy.

CCIQ believes it is important that any future State Government take a strong leadership role in growing the economy and in planning, prioritising and delivering the infrastructure that will drive the economic development of Queensland. The business community often comments that the State's infrastructure networks are seriously inadequate in meeting the current needs of the economy and community, let alone the needs of the growing population moving forward. This situation needs to be rectified as a matter of urgency to alleviate the brake that infrastructure constraints place on economic growth and productivity.

CCIQ maintains strong support for any State Government committing to a major, long term infrastructure agenda designed to improve the availability and capacity of infrastructure in every region and improve the standards of living across the State. This will not only have positive implications for meeting the needs of the growing population and economy but also for encouraging more people and businesses to settle, work and invest in regional areas, thus alleviating some of the growth pressures on the south east corner. Delivering the required infrastructure when or before it is required will ensure that Queensland can once again be ranked number one in Australia.

In terms of the LNP infrastructure policy and plan, CCIQ would like to offer the following:

- A long term planning approach that identifies key infrastructure needs within all Queensland regions and an associated timeline for their delivery is required. Identifying and prioritising long term priorities (ie over the coming 20 years) will help drive economic and regional growth by providing signals to the business community on where infrastructure development will occur moving forward. This will also be crucial in the push for encouraging businesses to invest in regional areas in order to deliver a more regionalised population outside of SEQ.
- Infrastructure plans and associated priorities and timelines are required to be kept up-to-date to accurately reflect the needs of businesses and the community. Regular audits and surveys should be undertaken to identify capacity constraints and infrastructure gaps, with associated strategies

developed to address identified challenges in every region. Timelines should continue to be updated to provide increased certainty and direction for businesses that allow them to make informed decisions about investment and expansion activities.

- Regular engagement with businesses and Local Governments should be undertaken to ensure identified infrastructure priorities and associated activities drive productivity and economic growth. Increased engagement may help identify areas where early intervention is required to reduce the potential for issues to become significant bottlenecks. Businesses should also be provided with the opportunity to influence what infrastructure projects should receive the highest priority.
- Focus on SEQ and regional Queensland equally. Rightly or wrongly, there is a common perception that infrastructure investment is largely restricted to SEQ with limited focus on regional communities and metropolitan areas outside of the south east corner. Many Queensland regions will face strong population growth over the coming 20 years, for example Central Queensland and Mackay, Isaac and Whitsundays will more than double their current populations. CCIQ is strongly supportive of the LNP placing attention on regional Queensland to ensure the infrastructure requirements of these regions can be met moving forward.
- CCIQ is strongly supportive of placing increased attention on how to encourage and increase private sector participation in the delivery, management and operation of Queensland's infrastructure networks. Queensland businesses have identified a number of impediments that currently discourage their participation in Public-Private-Partnerships including the lack of information available on the potential opportunities that exist, complicated application processes, excessive amounts of red tape and initial capital outlay requirements. The most appropriate ways to engage the private sector in infrastructure projects throughout all Queensland regions needs to be determined.

CCIQ has also completed two Blueprints that aim to provide direction on infrastructure development, establishment and maintenance in Queensland – a transport blueprint and an energy blueprint. Both of these Blueprints are attached for your information.

CCIQ trusts that the comments provided in this correspondence and the attached Blueprints will prove useful in finalising the LNP's position on an infrastructure plan for Queensland. If you have any questions regarding this correspondence please contact me on (07) 3842 2279 or email nbehrens@cciq.com.au.

Yours Sincerely



Nick Behrens
General Manager, Policy
Chamber of Commerce and Industry Queensland

Attachments:

1. Improving Queensland's transport networks to enhance productivity and drive economic growth: Chamber of Commerce and Industry Queensland Transport Blueprint
2. An efficient, productive and sustainable electricity supply for Queensland: CCIQ Blueprint for design, planning and management of Queensland's energy sector and electricity market