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19<sup>th</sup> October, 2021

The Honourable Dr Steven Miles MP  
Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning  
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**Draft State Infrastructure Strategy: Suburban Futures submission**

Dear Deputy Premier,

Thank you for the opportunity to offer this submission to your review of the State Infrastructure Strategy.

Suburban Futures (formerly The Suburban Alliance) is a not-for-profit advocacy and research organisation devoted to exploring opportunities for suburban renewal, in the form of more local jobs, enhanced infrastructure, and supportive public policy frameworks. We have grown rapidly and now have 22 Corporate Members representing leading enterprises with similar interests, plus some 1400 members.

Our submission to the State Infrastructure Strategy is relatively high level, and takes into account:

- The impacts of Covid on accelerating the pre-Covid trend toward more suburban employment (particularly via high growth suburban industries such as education, health and construction)
- The ongoing challenges of a growing population in SE Queensland
- The underfunding of high growth areas of limited economic opportunity and which often enjoy lower standards of amenity or infrastructure, relative to wealthier and more privileged inner urban areas.

Our submission is straightforward – that the State Infrastructure Strategy in the future needs to:

- Provide more infrastructure support to the areas tasked in the Regional Plan for SEQ with delivering some of the highest rates of population growth.
- Support the ongoing dispersal of employment into suburban and regional hubs via public policy and capital works programs that will assist the delivering of more employment

opportunities closer to where people live (rather than tasking these outer suburban areas to be primarily dormitories from which people are expected to endure lengthy and costly commutes to a workplace).

To highlight this imbalance, we submit the following two graphs which are based on the Queensland State Budget Paper Number 3, and on the current version of the SEQ Regional Plan:

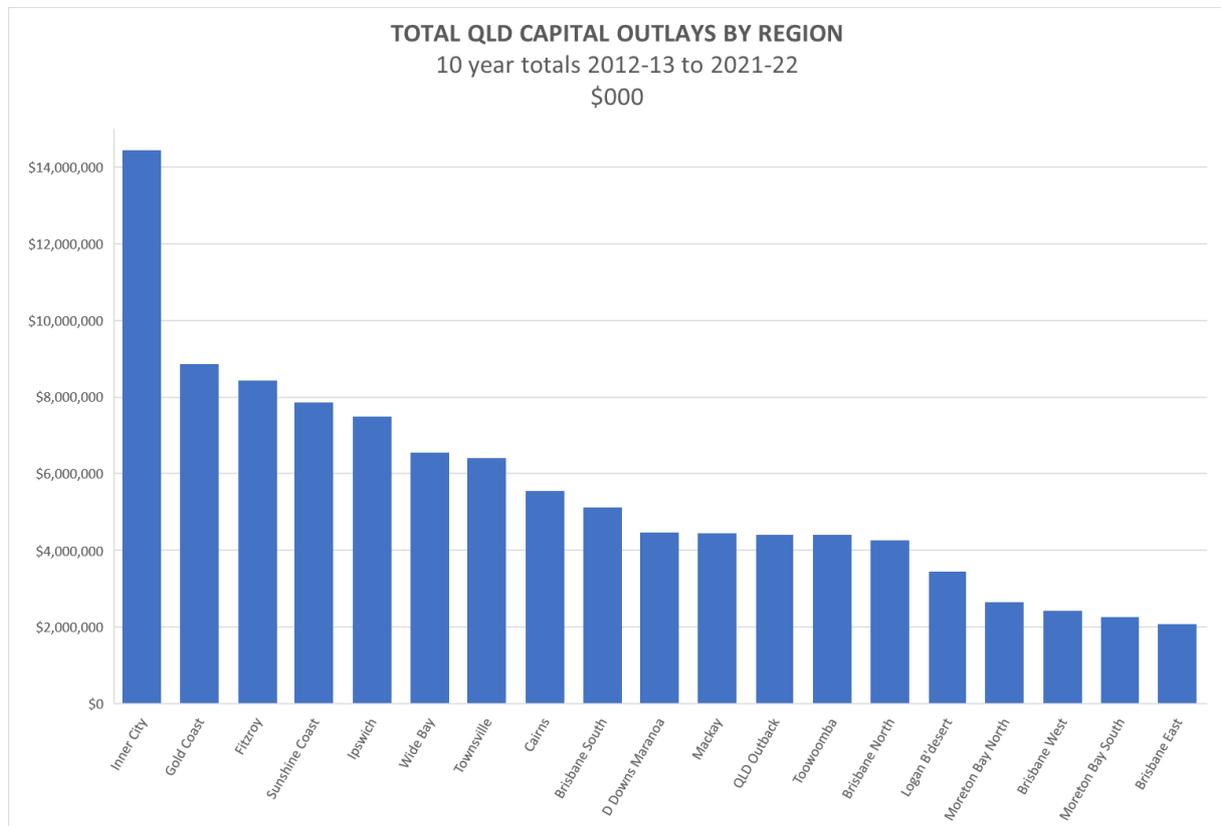


Figure 1 Queensland State Budget Paper Number 3. Ten year totals of regional spending. The highest population growth areas of the state - namely the outer suburbs of the Brisbane/SEQ region - receive the least funding support.

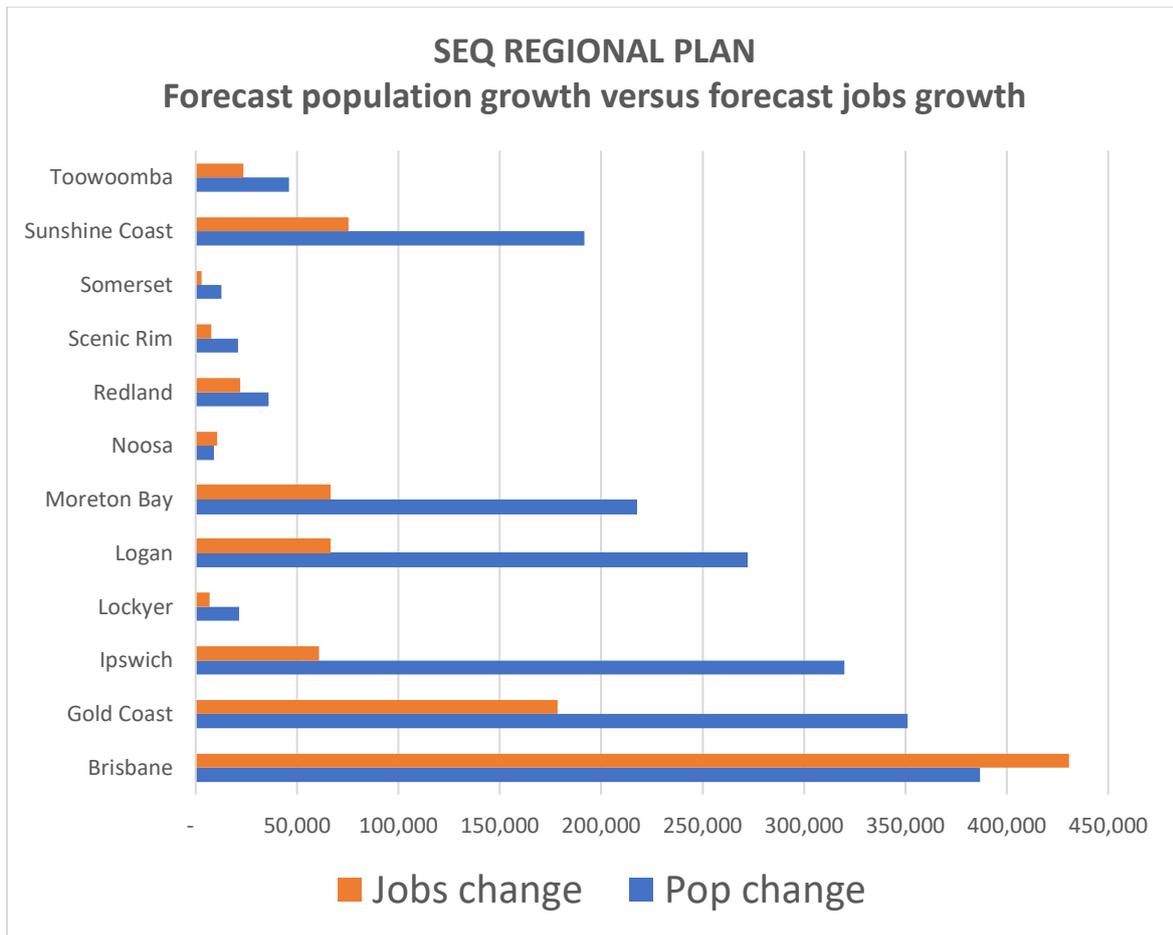


Figure 2 Data drawn from SEQ Regional Plan shows how some suburban regions tasked with the higher rates of population growth are not equally conferred similar levels of forecast jobs growth. This will mean longer commutes and fewer work near home jobs.

The graphs, sourced from the State Budget and the current regional plan, speak volumes about the current imbalances between infrastructure priorities and support for growth (via infrastructure) and support for jobs in suburban areas of SEQ. Many of these communities are not economically or socially privileged. Further population growth without commensurate infrastructure support or support for more local jobs will risk a long term future of ongoing economic and social disadvantage.

We also provide in support of our submission a range of research and policy submissions already completed by Suburban Futures. These reports all address issues of infrastructure and growth in the region. These are attached and include:

- **State Capital Expenditure Comparison – Inner City vs Suburbs and Regions** Final Report (July 2021). Comparative analysis of Queensland, NSW and Victorian State Budgets by areas of geographic focus. Report prepared for Suburban Futures by Innovociti.
- **Where the jobs are: A South East Queensland profile.** July 2019. Report prepared by Urban Economics for Suburban Futures.
- **Policy and Pre-budget Submission to the Queensland Government.** April 2020. Submission prepared by Suburban Futures.
- **Submission to the draft South East Queensland Regional Plan.** March 2017. Submission prepared by Suburban Futures.

- **Suburban Business Centre Review: Understanding the Role of the Suburban Economy.** May 2017. Report prepared by Macroplan for Suburban Futures.

We trust this submission and the related attachments will be taken into consideration by the Queensland Government and your Department in its review of the State Infrastructure Strategy.

Yours sincerely

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## The Directors, Suburban Futures.

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