

Feedback on the Southern Moreton Bay Island (SMBI) Integrated Transport Plan Review from the Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation's (DEEDI) Brisbane Southside Centre.

February 2011

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the SMBI Integrated Transport Plan Review.

Realising the Review is the pre-cursor to the 2011 SMBI Integrated Local Transport Plan (SMBI ILTP), DEEDI would like to see a more strategic and holistic approach to this major planning issue considering the 10 year lifespan of the Plan. For instance, a more detailed explanation should be provided as to why there is a separate Plan for the SMBIs as opposed to it being incorporated into the Redlands ILTP. To provide a more strategic focus, DEEDI also believes some further future population modelling should be incorporated to enable more accurate forecasting. Linked to any population growth is the need to improve infrastructure such as roads and sewerage etc so linkages to Redlands City Council (RCC) infrastructure plans should also be considered when developing the SMBI ILTP. RCC's position on building a bridge to the Islands should also be included for clarification.

Section 2 refers to key planning documents for the Islands but there is no reference to the RCC draft Tourism Strategy. The SMBIs have been identified in the draft Strategy as a key location for future tourism growth so any growth (eg. an increase in visitor numbers) should to be factored into transport planning (and infrastructure requirements).

Tourism should also be considered in regards to the proposed Strategies in Section 7, particularly Strategy 1: Land use and transport integration; Strategy 2: Public transport; Strategy 3: Walking and cycling; and Strategy 6: Transport and the environment. For example, a well planned cycle and walking system would attract visitors and could encourage employment opportunities through new tourism businesses or increased use of services. A bike hire scheme, similar to that recently implemented by Brisbane City Council, could be considered.

Also in Section 2, there is no reference to the RCC Economic Development Strategy although there are references to economic growth in Section 7, Strategy 1: Land use and transport integration. One of the proposed actions discusses revisions of the RCC Planning Scheme to foster land use that encourages the establishment of businesses on the islands, however there is no reference as to how RCC will attract business to the Islands. It is DEEDI's understanding that all available land has been sold with the majority of it zoned residential. If there is general industry land-use zoning, to what extent has the uptake been to date and how will this affect transport to, from and around the Islands? There is, as mentioned above, an opportunity to link the draft Tourism Strategy to this action but further diversity in the economy would, we consider, be the desired outcome given the existing demographics of the

Islands and the desired outcomes of the Integrated Transport Planning Framework.

The RCC Economic Development Strategy identifies economic opportunities in RCC that may encourage existing Island residents (and even encourage new residents) to increase their use of public transport to and from the mainland (hence increasing the use of the Weinam Creek facility).

DEEDI would also like to know if there has been any consideration to land-use around the Weinam Creek Terminal and does the 2010 Translink Feasibility and Concept Design include any space for commercial, industrial or community activity?

The paper also discusses the increase in the percentage of the SMBI population working full-time from 2001-2006. Has there been a survey conducted that shows where these people are commuting to for work once they reach the mainland eg. are they working within the RCC area or leaving and travelling to Logan, Brisbane and the Gold Coast?

Economic opportunities could also help alleviate the socio-economic issues identified in the discussion paper.

Some other comments and queries DEEDI have regarding the paper are listed below:

- A map and/or list of the Islands in the scope of the paper would be useful;
- There are a number of references to the SMBI Barge Route Assessment Study throughout the report. The Study Report is expected to be released in early 2011 so should be considered in parallel to this discussion paper.
- What is the criteria for a general route service referred to in Section 6.3?

If you have any questions or require clarification on anything in this document, please contact Mary Watson, Senior Regional Development Officer on mary.watson@deedi.qld.gov.au or at 07 3884 7858.