

Queensland Agricultural Land Audit

Annual Addendum

November 2016

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Introduction

Since its release in May 2013, the Queensland Agricultural Land Audit (the Audit) has been used as a key reference tool to guide investment decisions and has been increasingly relied upon to support a range of government policy. As a result of the influence of the Audit, periodic updates to the Audit information were deemed necessary to ensure that accuracy and currency of the Audit is maintained.

The purpose of the annual addendum is to highlight major information updates at the state and regional scale. The annual addendum will cover major:

- Policy changes;
- Proposed, on-going and completed infrastructure projects and issues;
- Data updates and resource studies;
- Changed or proposed changes to regional plans;
- Changed or proposed changes to water plans; and
- Changes to relevant socio-economic data.

It is not intended that any current or potential agricultural land use maps will be generated or updated in this or any future annual addendum. New spatial datasets and analysis will be generated when the Audit is reviewed in 2018.

New Audit Tools and Information

Since the release of the Audit, the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) has continued to update tools to assist the dissemination of Audit and land use information.

Web Mapping

Table 1 outlines the map layers that have been updated or added to the Web-based Agricultural Land Information (WALI) web map since the 2015 addendum.

Table 1: Updated map layers

Updated map layer	Further information
Queensland Land Use Mapping Program (QLUMP)	QLUMP land use mapping data has been updated to 2015 for the Northern Gulf, Southern Gulf, South West Queensland and the Wet Tropics. The 2015 data also includes a 'commodity' field used to classify specific horticulture tree crops including bananas, mangoes, avocados and macadamias. This dataset is used in the Audit to show current cropping, sugar cane, and annual and perennial horticulture. The complete QLUMP dataset showing all land uses is now also included in WALI as well as the separate 'current agriculture' layers.
Nature refuges and coordinated conservation areas	The Department of Environment and Heritage Protection have divided nature refuges and coordinated conservations into two separate datasets. These are now displayed in WALI as two separate layers.
Drought declaration boundaries	Drought declaration boundaries are available in WALI for full and partially drought declared local government areas.
Bioindustries Resources – sugarcane residues by supply region	As part of the Australian Biomass for Bioenergy Assessment (ABBA) project, the Queensland Government has mapped the location, volume and availability of sugarcane biomass for use as potential feedstock for future bioenergy projects.

Updated versions of the map layers are available to download from the Queensland Spatial Catalogue ([QSpatial](#)) and the Queensland Government Open Data portal ([Open data](#)). The updated map layers are also displayed on the Web-based Agricultural Land Information ([WALI](#)) mapping tool.

For more information on drought declarations see the [Department of Science, Information Technology and Innovation \(DSITI\) website](#)

[<https://www.longpaddock.qld.gov.au/queenslanddroughtmonitor/queenslanddroughtreport/>] and the [Business and Industry Portal](#) [<https://www.business.qld.gov.au/industry/agriculture/drought/declarations-revocations>].

National Updates

National Water Infrastructure Development Fund

On 19 November 2015, the Federal Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources announced a call for expressions of interest for the first round of funding under the \$500 million National Water Infrastructure Development Fund. The purpose of the Fund is to support new and augmented water infrastructure, including dams, pipelines and managed aquifer recharge projects around Australia.

States and territories were invited to apply for a share in \$59.5 million of Part 1 funding to undertake feasibility studies to support water infrastructure projects across the country. On 26 May 2016, the Australian Government announced that 14 Queensland applications are being offered a total of \$19.8 million of funding under Part 1 of the Fund. This is in addition to the announcement in 2015 of \$5 million for a feasibility study of the proposed Nullinga Dam near Mareeba and \$5 million for CSIRO to undertake a northern water resource assessment for the Mitchell River catchment.

For more information on the Queensland process under the National Water Infrastructure Development Fund see the [Department of Energy and Water Supply \(DEWS\) website](#) [<https://www.dews.qld.gov.au/water/initiatives/national-infrastructure-fund>].

Developing Northern Australia

From the \$1.7 billion federal funding package aimed at developing agriculture in northern Australia, the Australian Government has committed to invest \$100 million into the new Northern Australia Beef Roads Fund. Of this, \$56 million will be invested in Queensland to facilitate 15 beef roads projects. This will improve the resilience of cattle supply chains in northern Australia by helping reduce the financial risks of floods and seasonal road closures in the region through targeted upgrades to key roads used for transporting cattle. To view the list of projects funded for Queensland, see the [media statement](#) [http://minister.infrastructure.gov.au/chester/releases/2016/October/dc154_2016.aspx].

In addition to the \$100 million for Beef Roads, upwards of \$140 million is being invested in the six Northern Australia Roads Programme projects in Queensland. These roads projects will be funded out of the \$600 million Northern Australia Roads Fund and include:

- more than \$33 million for two projects along the Flinders Highway, one between Townsville and Torrens Creek and the other between Charters Towers and Richmond
- almost \$43 million for works on the Kennedy Developmental Road
- almost \$5 million for intersection upgrades on the Barkly Highway in Mount Isa
- \$60 million for expansion of the Capricorn Highway between Rockhampton and Gracemere.

These road projects will support economic growth and improve the safety and reliability along critical routes. In particular, the Flinders and Barkly Highways play a vital role in the regional economy, serving as the principle link in the Mt Isa–Townsville logistics supply chain connecting inland producers to regional services and export facilities in Townsville.

For more information see the [Office of Northern Australia website](#) [<http://www.northernaustralia.gov.au/page/infrastructure>].

Statewide Updates

This section outlines major information updates that apply to the whole of Queensland and can subsequently affect all chapters of the Audit.

Climate Change

The State government released a discussion paper, [Advancing Climate Action in Queensland: Making the transition to a low carbon future](http://www.ehp.qld.gov.au/assets/documents/climate/advancing-climate-action.pdf) [http://www.ehp.qld.gov.au/assets/documents/climate/advancing-climate-action.pdf] to explore options for climate change mitigation; submissions closed on 2 September 2016. The discussion paper provided some of the best examples of work being done throughout Australia to tackle climate change and sought input in developing the right strategies to achieve a low carbon future for Queensland. Among the strategies being pursued is the promotion of opportunities for Queensland landholders to participate in the national Emissions Reduction Fund.

Responses to the *Advancing Climate Action in Queensland* discussion paper are informing the development of a Queensland Climate Transition Strategy, and expected to be finalised in early 2017.

The Queensland Government is developing a comprehensive Queensland Climate Adaptation Strategy (Q-CAS) to address emerging opportunities and reduce risks to our economy, environment, infrastructure and communities resulting from climate change. The *Queensland Climate Adaptation Directions Statement* provides a broad direction for the development of Q-CAS and is open for public consultation until 14 December 2016. The Department of Environment and Heritage Protection and the Department of Science, Information Technology and Innovation have developed new resources to assist regional governments, industries and communities understand their risks and prepare for the impacts of a changing climate. These resources include a series of Regional Climate Change Impact Summaries and a new interactive *Climate Change in Queensland* map application. More information on Q-CAS, the Directions Statement and supporting resources are available on the [Adapting to climate change website](https://www.qld.gov.au/environment/climate/adapting/) [https://www.qld.gov.au/environment/climate/adapting/].

Queensland's Biofuels Mandate – Sustainability Criteria

The Liquid Fuel Supply (Ethanol and Other Biofuels Mandate) Amendment Act 2015, introduced a three per cent bio-based petrol mandate that will increase to four per cent within 18 months of commencing, and a 0.5 per cent bio-based diesel mandate (biofuels mandate). The biofuels mandate requires liable fuel sellers to sell a minimum prescribed percentage of sustainable bio-based petrol, such as E10 ethanol-blended petrol and sustainable bio-based diesel to meet the mandated sales volumes. Bio-based petrol and bio-based diesel to be sold under the mandate must comply with sustainability criteria prescribed by regulation. The biofuels mandate is scheduled to commence on 1 January 2017.

The key purpose of the sustainability criteria is to reduce the likelihood of unintended environmental consequences arising from the biofuels mandate, particularly impacts associated with increased demand for agricultural feedstock including sugarcane, which is a key feedstock for ethanol production. The most immediate environmental risk has been identified as the potential for increased nutrient and sediment runoff to the Great Barrier Reef due to expansion of, or increased intensity in sugarcane production and to a lesser degree sorghum production.

For more information visit the [Department of State Development website](http://www.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au/industry-development/biofutures.html) [http://www.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au/industry-development/biofutures.html].

Great Barrier Reef Water Science Taskforce – Final Report

The Great Barrier Reef Water Science Taskforce released their [final report](http://www.gbr.qld.gov.au/taskforce/final-report/) [http://www.gbr.qld.gov.au/taskforce/final-report/] in 2016, making several recommendations regarding how water quality targets may be achieved in Great Barrier Reef catchments.

The Queensland Government [formally responded](http://www.gbr.qld.gov.au/documents/taskforce-final-report-response.pdf) (PDF, 147K) [http://www.gbr.qld.gov.au/documents/taskforce-final-report-response.pdf] in August 2016 identifying the key initiatives to be delivered under the Queensland Reef Water Quality Program with \$90 million in new funding over the next four years. These initiatives will complement and extend the work

already occurring under the Reef 2050 Long-Term Sustainability Plan and the Reef Water Quality Protection Plan, and include:

- Enhanced coordination and delivery of extension and education approaches
- [Science, research and farm extension projects](https://www.qld.gov.au/environment/agriculture/sustainable-farming/reef-program/) [https://www.qld.gov.au/environment/agriculture/sustainable-farming/reef-program/] to give farmers the best advice and tools to make improvements that reduce run-off, increase profitability and underpin [sustainable agriculture](https://www.qld.gov.au/environment/agriculture/sustainable-farming/reef/) [https://www.qld.gov.au/environment/agriculture/sustainable-farming/reef/]
- [Regulations](https://www.qld.gov.au/environment/agriculture/sustainable-farming/reef-initiatives/) [https://www.qld.gov.au/environment/agriculture/sustainable-farming/reef-initiatives/] to ensure that graziers and cane farmers are meeting standards that will help reduce run-off to their local waterways
- [Major integrated projects](https://www.qld.gov.au/environment/agriculture/sustainable-farming/reef-major-projects/) [https://www.qld.gov.au/environment/agriculture/sustainable-farming/reef-major-projects/] in the Wet Tropics and the Burdekin to focus on reducing nutrient and pesticide loss and sediment and nutrient run-off.

Planning Reform

In Queensland, statewide legislation establishes the framework and overarching policy for land use planning. The *Planning Act 2016* was passed in May 2016 by the Queensland Parliament and will establish a new planning system for the state.

The *Planning Act 2016* will replace the current *Sustainable Planning Act 2009* and is scheduled to commence in mid-2017. The new *Planning and Environment Court Act 2016*, which governs the constitution, composition, jurisdiction and powers of the Planning and Environment Court, and the *Planning (Consequential) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2016* will also commence at the same time as the *Planning Act 2016*.

The new planning system comprises three main elements: plan making, development assessment and dispute resolution, with state and local government sharing the responsibility in delivery. The system is performance based, which allows for innovation and flexibility in how development can be achieved, which also responds to community needs and expectations.

For more information on Planning Reform, see the [Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning \(DILGP\) website](http://www.dilgp.qld.gov.au/planning-reform.html) [http://www.dilgp.qld.gov.au/planning-reform.html].

Regional Updates

This section outlines major information updates that apply to a specific region and will subsequently affect a specific chapter of the Audit.

Chapter 4: Cape York

Water resources

Cape York draft water plan

The Queensland Government has started the process to develop the first ever water plan for the Cape York region. The water planning process will cover 15 river basins. On 6 May 2016, the Minister for Natural Resources and Mines published a moratorium notice on new water licence applications and the construction of certain works in the Cape York plan area.

For more information on the Cape York water plan, go to the [Department of Natural Resources and Mines \(DNRM\) website](https://www.dnrm.qld.gov.au/water/catchments-planning/catchments/cape-york) [https://www.dnrm.qld.gov.au/water/catchments-planning/catchments/cape-york].

Chapter 5: Gulf and North West

Water resources

Great Artesian Basin water plan

See Great Artesian Basin water plan under Chapter 9: Central West and South West.

Gulf water plan

The Gulf water plan was amended on 21 August 2015, concurrently with the water plan, to provide for the permanent and seasonal assignment of licences that may be granted from the new unallocated water reserves in the Flinders and Gilbert river catchments. A total of up to 264 550 megalitres of general reserve unallocated water is being made available by tender from particular catchment areas: the Flinders, Gregory, Leichhardt, Norman and Nicholson river catchments. Tenders are still being finalised, and water being made available through this tender process will be granted to successful tenderers as water licences.

For more information on the Gulf water plan go to the [DNRM website](https://www.dnrm.qld.gov.au/water/catchments-planning/catchments/gulf) [https://www.dnrm.qld.gov.au/water/catchments-planning/catchments/gulf].

Chapter 6: Far North Queensland

Water resources

Barron water plan

Amendments to the Barron water plan and Barron water plan were made in September 2015. The water plan amendments commenced on 3 December 2015 and focus on:

- improving groundwater allocation and management arrangements in the upper Barron River catchment area
- enhancing water trading arrangements for both surface and groundwater across the upper Barron River catchment area
- reducing regulatory burden.

For more information on the Barron water plan, go to the [DNRM website](https://www.dnrm.qld.gov.au/water/catchments-planning/catchments/barron) [https://www.dnrm.qld.gov.au/water/catchments-planning/catchments/barron].

Wet Tropics water plan

The Wet Tropics water plan 2016 was finalised in July 2016 to implement the water plan, which commenced on 13 December 2013.

For more information on the Wet Tropics water plan go to the [DNRM website](https://www.dnrm.qld.gov.au/water/catchments-planning/catchments/wet-tropics) [https://www.dnrm.qld.gov.au/water/catchments-planning/catchments/wet-tropics].

Chapter 7: Charters Towers

Water resources

Burdekin water plan

The Department of Natural Resources and Mines is undertaking a targeted amendment of the Water Resource (Burdekin Basin) Plan 2007 and the Burdekin water plan to establish a water trading framework and clarify existing water use entitlements to support granting of unallocated water in the upper sub-catchments of the plan area.

For more information on the Burdekin water plan go to the [DNRM website](https://www.dnrm.qld.gov.au/water/catchments-planning/catchments/Burdekin) [https://www.dnrm.qld.gov.au/water/catchments-planning/catchments/Burdekin].

Wet tropics water plan

See Wet Tropics water plan under Chapter 6: Far North Queensland.

Infrastructure

The five local government areas of Townsville, Burdekin, Charters Towers, Hinchinbrook and Palm Island are working with the Department of Local Government, Infrastructure and Planning (DILGP) to prepare a regional plan for the region. Public consultation on this plan is expected in mid-2017.

Chapter 8: Mackay, Isaac, Whitsunday

Water resources

Fitzroy Basin water plan

See Fitzroy Basin water plan under Chapter 10: Central Queensland.

Infrastructure

The Queensland Government and the Federal Government have each provided \$35 million joint funding for the \$70 million replacement of four timber bridges and approaches at Fiery Creek, Lonely Creek, Boundary Creek and Cut Creek with new concrete structures on the Peak Downs Highway between Nebo and Mackay.

Chapter 9: Central West and South West

Water resources

Great Artesian Basin unallocated water

The Department of Natural Resources and Mines commenced a process to release unallocated water across management areas of the Great Artesian Basin in late 2015. Tenders for unallocated water in the Great Artesian Basin have now closed. For more information on unallocated water see the [DNRM website \[https://www.dnrm.qld.gov.au/water/catchments-planning/unallocated-water\]](https://www.dnrm.qld.gov.au/water/catchments-planning/unallocated-water).

Great Artesian Basin water plan

On 19 August 2016, the Minister for Natural Resources and Mines published the Water Resource (Great Artesian Basin) Plan Postponement of Expiry Notice 2016 to postpone the expiry of the plan for one year to 1 September 2017. It is anticipated that a draft new water plan and a draft new water plan will be available for public comment in late-2016. More information can be found on the [DNRM website \[https://www.dnrm.qld.gov.au/water/catchments-planning/catchments/great-artesian-basin\]](https://www.dnrm.qld.gov.au/water/catchments-planning/catchments/great-artesian-basin).

Warrego, Paroo, Bulloo and Nebine water plan

The new Warrego, Paroo, Bulloo and Nebine water plan commenced on 12 February 2016 and the revised Warrego, Paroo, Bulloo and Nebine water plan commenced on 13 May 2016.

The new plans provide for:

- increased security for entitlement holders through alignment with the Murray–Darling Basin Plan
- unallocated water reserves of surface water and groundwater to support future development
- management of groundwater for non-stock or domestic purposes
- management of overland flow water for non-stock or domestic purposes
- recognition of Indigenous outcomes for water management, separate from social and economic outcomes
- revised operating rules for Cunnamulla Water Supply Scheme.

For more information on the Warrego, Paroo, Bulloo and Nebine water plan go to the [DNRM website \[https://www.dnrm.qld.gov.au/water/catchments-planning/catchments/warrego-paroo-bulloo-nebine\]](https://www.dnrm.qld.gov.au/water/catchments-planning/catchments/warrego-paroo-bulloo-nebine).

Chapter 10: Central Queensland

Water resources

Fitzroy Basin water plan

Amendments to the Fitzroy Basin water plan and Fitzroy Basin water plan were made on the 11 September 2015. The water plan amendments commenced on 3 December 2015, which addressed deferred aspects from the 2014 Fitzroy Basin water plan amendment, and other key water management issues, including:

- implementing the new methodology for reducing groundwater entitlements in the Callide Valley alluvium (provided in an amendment to the water plan) and the conversion of 54 water licences in the Lower Callide groundwater sub-area to tradeable groundwater allocations, provision of water sharing and water trading rules for these entitlements
- amendment of water licences to better define the terms and conditions for accessing water from Lake Mary/McDonald
- amendment of 16 water licences in the Don and Dee rivers and Alma Creek to state an increased volume of water with appropriate flow access conditions to ensure existing users are not adversely impacted
- amendment of four groundwater allocations in the Callide Valley Water Supply Scheme with additional volume in alignment with the criteria stated in the water plan amendment.

For more information on the Fitzroy Basin water plan go to the [DNRM website \[https://www.dnrm.qld.gov.au/water/catchments-planning/catchments/fitzroy-basin\]](https://www.dnrm.qld.gov.au/water/catchments-planning/catchments/fitzroy-basin).

Infrastructure

A \$40 million commitment, which will see five timber bridges replaced with new concrete structure, is fully state government funded through the Department of Transport and Main Roads (DTMR). Through this investment, the timber bridges at Catfish Creek, Nine Mile Creek, Sheep Station Creek, Maxwellton Creek and Doubtful Creek on the Dawson Highway between Calliope and Biloela will be replaced with concrete structures.

Replacing the five timber bridges between Calliope and Biloela will result in a wider Dawson Highway at these locations, increasing safety for all road users. The existing weight limitations in place on these timber bridges is also a major inhibitor to the region's freight operations, with some vehicles needed to travel hundreds of additional kilometres via Rockhampton. The new concrete structures will increase freight efficiency and open up new transport opportunities for the region.

The design stage for the five timber bridges has commenced. The first of the Dawson Highway bridges to be replaced will be at Catfish Creek Bridge, located approximately 40km west of Gladstone, commencing in 2017 avoiding the traditional wet weather period between December and March. The four remaining bridges will be progressively delivered through to 2020.

Sun Water Ltd and the Gladstone Area Water Board are the designated joint proponents of the Lower Fitzroy River Infrastructure Project, involving the proposed construction of a weir on the Fitzroy River to help meet future water demand from urban populations, industry and agriculture in Rockhampton, Gladstone and the Capricorn Coast. This includes an Environmental Impact Assessment and a Water Infrastructure Strategy Report.

Chapter 11: Wide Bay Burnett

Water resources

Moreton water plan

See Moreton water plan under Chapter 13: South East Queensland.

Infrastructure

Bruce Highway Upgrade

The Bruce Highway (Cooroy to Curra) upgrade project involves a 62 kilometre upgrade and realignment of the Bruce Highway between Cooroy and Curra, including a bypass of Gympie. It is designed to meet strategic transport needs of the Sunshine Coast and Gympie regions into the future.

For construction purposes the project is being delivered in four sections: section A (Cooroy southern interchange to Sankeys Road) commenced in July 2013 and is expected to be completed early 2017 (weather permitting); section B of the upgrade (Sankeys Road to Traveston Road) was completed in 2012; section C (Traveston Road to Woondum) construction is underway and should be completed by mid-2018; and for section D (Woondum to Curra, includes Gympie Bypass) detailed design has started and is anticipated to be complete late 2017. (Construction of this part of the project is subject to funding.) For updates regarding section A of the upgrade, refer to Chapter 13: South East Region.

The Bruce Highway Upgrade – Caloundra Road to Sunshine Motorway project involves an upgrade of the Bruce Highway between Caloundra Road and the Sunshine Motorway to six lanes. This also includes major upgrades to both interchanges and the delivery of a service road for local traffic on the western side of the highway between Steve Irwin Way and Tanawha Tourist Drive. This upgrade is designed to meet the strategic transport needs of the Sunshine Coast region in this area well into the future.

Preliminary construction is expected to start in late 2016 in preparation for major construction in mid-2017. Construction is expected to be completed in late 2020, weather permitting.

For more information, visit the [DTMR website \[http://www.tmr.qld.gov.au/Projects/Name/B/Bruce-Highway-Cooroy-to-Curra.aspx\]](http://www.tmr.qld.gov.au/Projects/Name/B/Bruce-Highway-Cooroy-to-Curra.aspx).

Chapter 12: Darling Downs

Water resources

Border Rivers, Moonie and Condamine Balonne water plans

The Department of Natural Resources and Mines is proposing to amalgamate the Border Rivers, Moonie and Condamine Balonne water plans for reasons of administrative efficiency. Amalgamating these plans will enable the department to focus on developing specific policies to improve water management in each area. There will be no disadvantage to water users in either catchment resulting from the amalgamation of these plans. The Border Rivers, Moonie and Condamine Balonne statement of proposals, outlining the issues for the plan review, was available for public comment, and submissions closed on 31 August 2016.

On 6 July 2016 the Minister for Natural Resources and Mines published a moratorium for works that take underground water in the Granite Belt Underground Water Area.

For more information on the proposed amalgamation of the Border Rivers, Moonie and Condamine Balonne water plans go to the [DNRM website \[https://www.dnrm.qld.gov.au/water/catchments-planning\]](https://www.dnrm.qld.gov.au/water/catchments-planning).

Infrastructure

Toowoomba Second Range Crossing

Construction on the Second Range Crossing has commenced. The 41 kilometre-long bypass route will run from the Warrego Highway at Helidon Spa, in the east, to the Gore Highway at Athol, in the west, via Charlton. It is expected that this will divert heavy vehicle traffic (i.e. trucks) from populated areas in Toowoomba and shorten travel times. More information can be found on the [DTMR website \[http://www.tmr.qld.gov.au/Projects/Name/T/Toowoomba-Second-Range-Crossing\]](http://www.tmr.qld.gov.au/Projects/Name/T/Toowoomba-Second-Range-Crossing).

Chapter 13: South East Queensland

Water resources

Moreton water plan

Amendments to the Moreton water plan and water plan are currently proposed, focusing on water allocation and management arrangements in the Central Lockyer Valley Water Supply Scheme.

A Statement of Proposals was released in October 2015 for public comment. Public information sessions were held in Gatton and Glenore Grove in November and December 2015 to brief local communities. Over 150 submissions were received during the submission period and these will be used to inform the development of a draft water plan and water plan for the Moreton area.

Consultation with the local community will continue regarding the proposed amendments throughout the development of the draft water plans. Further opportunity for consultation and submission on these proposals will also occur when the draft water plans are released for public comment.

For more information on the Moreton water plan go to the [DNRM website \[https://www.dnrm.qld.gov.au/water/catchments-planning/catchments/moreton\]](https://www.dnrm.qld.gov.au/water/catchments-planning/catchments/moreton).

Infrastructure

Bruce Highway Upgrade

For updates the Bruce Highway Upgrade, refer to Chapter 11: Wide Bay Burnett. For more information visit the [DTMR website \[http://www.tmr.qld.gov.au/Projects/Name/B/Bruce-Highway-Cooroy-to-Curra.aspx\]](http://www.tmr.qld.gov.au/Projects/Name/B/Bruce-Highway-Cooroy-to-Curra.aspx).

Draft South East Queensland (SEQ) Regional Plan – ShapingSEQ

The Queensland Government released the draft SEQ Regional Plan (ShapingSEQ) on 20 October 2016 for public consultation. Submissions can be made to the Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning until midnight, 3 March 2017. This plan will eventually replace the 2009 South East Queensland Regional plan. The final plan will be adopted in mid-2017 following consideration of the public submissions.

ShapingSEQ maps Agricultural Land (classes A and B) and Important Agricultural Areas as regionally significant natural resources to be protected from loss and fragmentation. In addition, ShapingSEQ contains policies supported by mapping to address the requirements of the *Regional Planning Interests Act 2014* (RPI Act). Specifically, ShapingSEQ maps Priority Agricultural Areas (PAA) throughout South East Queensland (SEQ) that captures significant contiguous clusters of priority agricultural land uses (PALU) and reflects the major agricultural activities within SEQ. Resource activities proposing to locate within a PAA, and where affecting a PALU, will require a development approval under the RPI Act. In the PAA, agriculture is the priority land use and PALU are to be protected.

For further information about the RPI Act and the inclusion within ShapingSEQ, see the RPI Act technical note, located on the [DILGP website \[http://www.dilgp.qld.gov.au/planning/regional-planning/review-of-the-south-east-queensland-regional-plan.html\]](http://www.dilgp.qld.gov.au/planning/regional-planning/review-of-the-south-east-queensland-regional-plan.html).