

WITHOUT
LIMITS

AECOM



SEQ2040

GROWING BETTER



INTRODUCTION & RECOMMENDATIONS

Would a South East Queensland Commission pave the way for a brighter future for the region?

We think so!

With South East Queensland (SEQ)'s population predicted to grow to 5.3 million by 2040, we need visionary leadership, robust community dialogue and a more engaged private sector to identify and capitalise on our competitive advantages now, to ensure we are *growing better*. That was the feedback from a group of key regional industry and public sector leaders who we interviewed for our latest report, *SEQ2040 – Growing Better*.

The establishment of a SEQ Commission is just one of several key recommendations in the new report.

We know SEQ is facing significant challenges in the coming decades, but with ambition, smart policy, excellent planning, coordinated governance and innovative thinking, we have the potential to prosper at both the regional and community levels well into the future.

Our region is rich with potential for greater efficiency, healthier placemaking and economic growth but we need to act now. Based on our industry research, detailed discussions and our own experience shaping successful cities around the world, here are the steps we think are essential to helping SEQ to *grow better*.

01.

South East Queensland Commission

Establishing a regional governance mechanism that sets a long-term, ambitious vision and directs government agencies, drives integration and identifies funding and delivery responsibilities.

02.

North / South Corridor Joining Economic Regions

Matching an east-west corridor, to focus enterprise, productivity and liveability along the coast.

03.

Smart Region Compact

Establishing a coordinated regional digital and technology collaboration to elevate the smart region status.

04.

A Jobs-Housing Balance

Delivering clear strategies that more closely match housing and employment activities across the region, shortening commute times and enhancing established and emerging precincts.



05.

Health in Everything

A clearly defined priority for the assessment and measurement of community health benefits as a return on infrastructure investment; to drive positive change and integrated place-based delivery. A 'health in all policies' approach that will require infrastructure investment to support healthier community performance.

06.

Advanced Infrastructure

A Different Model For Longer-Term Investment in Integrated Community Infrastructure

Our current approach to development is piecemeal, inflexible and has been designed to reactively address separate pieces of the infrastructure puzzle in isolation. We propose an advanced infrastructure framework designed to create a long-term model for investment backed by government and communities.

07.

SEQ Future Living Expo

A High-Profile Regional Showcase Highlighting What's Great About Living in SEQ Into 2040

We propose the development of at least three Future Living Expo sites within SEQ (urban, suburban and greenfield – with smart population density done well). These will be new places that will showcase everything that could be possible as a result of smarter community development; where development, transit, environment, energy, water, climate, community and economic potential are integrated and optimised in support of the growing better framework.

08.

A Rail Renaissance

Building on Cross River Rail and Brisbane Metro to advance a rail renaissance across the region, based upon a mix of light and heavy rail passenger routes and dedicated freight routes direct to the region's export hubs.

09.

Corridor Activation Plans

Develop corridor activation plans that strategically coordinate corridor roles and functions based on regional competitive advantages. These plans will provide a robust foundation for a polycentric region, maximising productivity and employment opportunities through planning instruments that provide certainty, facilitate streamlined approvals and deliver critical infrastructure.

10.

Integrated Investment Attraction

Integrated planning must provide certainty around land use and the timing of critical infrastructure for enterprise and growth corridors. We must remove barriers to investment and provide a platform to promote the region through coordinated and regionally focused development and targeted incentives.

11.

Engaged Communities

The absence of meaningful community engagement was highlighted in most of our discussions with industry leaders. There is plenty of evidence of what some communities are against; but there is less understanding of what they (we) want. We can create the future we need, but only if we can establish a better way to discuss, debate and agree what will work better. Only then can we establish a clear mandate for positive change. We have proposed an open community debate in response to *SEQ2040 – Growing Better*.

We anticipate several open web-based sessions that will bring together a panel to explore responses and commentary generated by *SEQ2040 – Growing Better*. We see this as the testbed for further issues-based discussion to engage communities in response to the decisions we need to make about the future of our region.

**WHAT ARE
YOU GOING TO
DO TODAY
TO DEMAND
THE SEQ REGION
GROWS BETTER?**

PRINCIPLES

With ambition, SEQ can learn valuable lessons from other places that have already experienced the challenges of reactive growth without change.

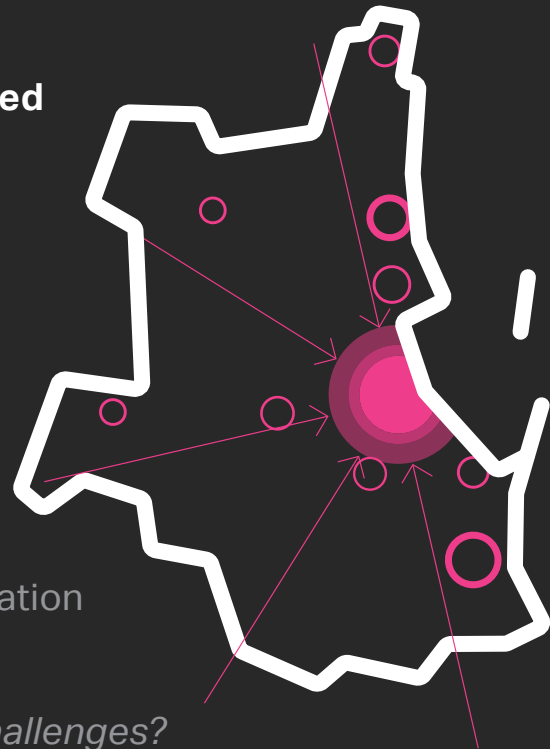
A broader regional perspective for SEQ can deliver a legacy of benefits at the regional scale.

This is the difference between just growing, or growing better.

NOW Centralised

Regional
Concentration

*Building
Future Challenges?*



GROWING BETTER

**Ambitious
Leadership
& Governance**

**Integrated
Longterm
Thinking**

**Resilient
Polycentric
Growth**

**Community
Legacy**



CONCEPTUAL NETWORK

Polycentric
Region

Resilient Legacy
of a Connected
& Integrated
Regional Eco-System





Living the dream. The South East Queensland region has it all: stunning beaches, a sensational climate and economic diversification. With population projected to grow to 5.3 million by 2040, how do we keep pace and add value to our enviable liveability by capitalising on our competitive advantages to grow better?

These questions and more were raised by AECOM through internal workshops and meeting directly with a range of industry participants. We spoke to 18 industry leaders across the water, government, transport, health, education and finance sectors to identify key challenges facing the region and explore innovative and integrated solutions to address the risks, optimise the opportunities and challenge the status quo.

Out of these discussions emerged five critical focus areas for SEQ's future – **Leadership & Governance, Water to Grow, Health & Wellbeing, an Economy of the Future** and a **Connected Region**. These topics form the basis of *SEQ2040 – Growing Better*.



INTRODUCTION RECOMMENDATIONS



PAPER 1 LEADERSHIP & GOVERNANCE

The first paper in the series looks at how a coordinated approach to regional governance could open up the opportunity for a more ambitious long-term vision for SEQ.



PAPER 2 WATER TO GROW

Our water is a precious resource requiring new strategies to ensure it is managed well into the future. This paper explores how water contributes to the health and wellbeing of communities, its economic potential as an asset, and how we need to build resilience in the face of climate change.



PAPER 3 HEALTH & WELLBEING

We know that prevention is better than cure, but a reactive approach to healthcare is still the status quo. This paper examines the economic and social imperative for change and how an integrated place-based approach to health and wellbeing can help build a healthier population.



PAPER 4 ECONOMY OF THE FUTURE

In this paper, we argue that SEQ has untapped economic potential that we could harness with a commitment to integrated long-term thinking and a polycentric approach to regional growth. It's time for SEQ to discover and benefit from its competitive advantages.



PAPER 5 CONNECTED REGION

In the final paper of the series, we explore how building more reliable connections – through transport and technology – can also build resilience. Smart investment that connects housing and employment, along with digital innovation, can help unlock the region's potential.

The five papers examine the crucial issues and explore opportunities for a better, more liveable and productive region, using the following structure:

THE CHALLENGE

Outlining issues confronting the region now and in the near future.

OUR PROPOSITION

The transformation required to address the challenge/s.

THE BENEFITS OF CHANGE

The merits of taking an alternative course of action for the region and its communities.

Along with the papers, we have proposed a list of key recommendations we believe are vital for SEQ to grow better. These are underpinned by our five focus areas and if implemented, will be game changers for our stunning region.

Over the coming weeks, we invite you to read and think about how SEQ can *grow better*.

The challenges and disruptions we will face in the coming decades demand a change to business-as-usual practices. The coronavirus pandemic has underlined the need for cities and regions to rethink their approach to infrastructure to build community resilience. These papers and our proposed recommendations are a conversation-starter for discussion and debate around the SEQ region's future, providing an opportunity to rethink our current course and future actions. We need to act now!

**WE LOOK
FORWARD TO
HEARING YOUR
THOUGHTS
ABOUT HOW
SEQ CAN GROW
BETTER.**

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