



28 March 2014

Inquiry into Public Infrastructure
Productivity Commission
LB 2 Collins Street East
MELBOURNE VIC 8003

By email: infrastructure@pc.gov.au

To whom it may concern

The Council of Mayors (SEQ) is Australia's largest regional Local Government advocacy organisation, representing the South East Queensland (SEQ) region which is home to one in seven Australians, generates one fifth of the nation's economic growth and is a powerhouse of Australia's economic future.

Five of Australia's six largest Councils are located in SEQ, and the membership of the Council of Mayors (SEQ) includes ten Councils of SEQ: Brisbane, Ipswich, Logan and Redland City Councils and Lockyer Valley, Moreton Bay, Scenic Rim, Somerset, Sunshine Coast and Toowoomba Regional Councils.

With a projected population growth of 4.4 million by 2031, SEQ faces the challenge of planning for, and delivering, the infrastructure and services needed to improve productivity and reduce cost of living pressures, whilst maintaining and improving the liveability of the region.

With this in mind, the Council of Mayors (SEQ) speaks with one united voice, aiming to:

- **Advocate** for a better planned and resourced region;
- **Influence** other levels of government to support a growing and sustainable region; and
- **Collaborate** for leading practice in service delivery for the region.

Early in 2013, the Queensland State Government commenced a review of the State's Infrastructure Charges Framework relating to urban infrastructure and developer charges. As outlined in our initial submission to the Commission in late 2013, the Council of Mayors (SEQ) in partnership with the Property Council of Australia (Qld) and the Queensland State Government, (Department of State Development Infrastructure and Planning), engaged KPMG to undertake a review of the UK Cities Deal and its applicability and adaptability in a Queensland context. The review produced a report which is attached for the Commission's consideration.

The report provides an outline of a possible infrastructure funding solution for Queensland with a pilot in South East Queensland. The report also outlines a staged implementation approach allowing for multiple decision points. The next phase of the project will aim to undertake broader stakeholder consultation and the financial and economic analysis and modelling required to test the proposed adaption for its suitability and likelihood of success.

The proposed model is initially based on a partnership between State and Local Government, but provides a future path to include the Federal Government in the partnership. The Mayors of South East Queensland have provided in-principle support for the next phase of the project and we are currently awaiting a commitment for the Queensland State Government in order to proceed to the next phase.

Should you have any questions regarding the report or wish to discuss any aspect of our position in this important policy area, please contact myself or Scott Smith of my office.

Yours sincerely

Peter Olah
Executive Director