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Hon Andrew Powell MP
Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection
GPO Box 2454
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Dear Minister, *Andrew.*

The Queensland Plan: a 30 – year vision for Queensland

As the Minister in charge of *The Queensland Plan: a 30 – year vision for Queensland* (the Plan) the Property Council of Australia would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Plan's working draft.

The Property Council has long advocated for a 30 year strategic plan for Queensland, and is pleased to be a part of the process to set the vision for our state's future growth.

The consultation process towards *The Queensland Plan* has been one of the most detailed in the State's history, and the Queensland Government must be congratulated for their industry and community engagement to date.

The Property Council's submissions to the Plan

The Property Council notes the draft Plan is designed to provide industry and the community with an "*understanding of the vision and key themes of the plan*", rather than focusing on the detail surrounding implementation and enforcement.

While Property Council has provided a submission on the plan's Foundation Areas through the online survey, this submission is focused on the overarching strategy and ensuring the Plan features quantifiable measures.

Future iterations of the Plan

The timeline presented on page i of the Plan does not include any further opportunity for consultation before the proposed launch in mid-2014.

As the working draft of the Plan does not include an indication of how close this document is to *The Queensland Plan's* final iteration, the Property Council would appreciate the opportunity to provide further feedback on a final draft.

Quantifiable Goals

Since the announcement of *The Queensland Plan*, the Property Council has expressed its support for a similar structure to that utilized by 'South Australia's Strategic Plan' (SA Strategic Plan).

Essential to the success of the SA Strategic Plan are quantifiable targets which include both 'progress' and 'achievability' ratings, however, similar targets are currently lacking in *The Queensland Plan*.

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For each of the Plan's 9 Foundation Areas, the working draft currently outlines preliminary targets and describes the goals and outcomes that would represent success. However, many of the measures that support these targets are too vague to provide adequate direction for the plan's users.

The Property Council generally supports the preliminary targets outlined in the Plan, and recommendations for adjustments or considerations have been made through the online survey.

The Property Council understands that statistical baseline data will be collected for all targets and expert advice will be sought to ensure an appropriate balance of aspiration and pragmatism is achieved in the final Plan.

Once these processes are complete, the Property Council is willing to work with the State to ensure the Foundation Areas directly relevant to our members: Community, Regions, Economy, Environment, Infrastructure and Governance, contain quantifiable targets and adequate data.

Keeping the plan current and relevant

It is not currently articulated how the Plan will be kept current and relevant throughout its 30 year horizon.

The Property Council recommends a formal, regular review process that considers the relevancy of each of the targets and updates them accordingly.

Legislative Power

The Property Council is concerned with the extent of the legislative power given to *The Queensland Plan* and how these powers will take effect.

We would appreciate the opportunity to provide further comment on the Plan's legislation when this detail is made available.

Governance and reporting

Bi-yearly progress reports are also a key feature of the *SA Strategic Plan* and would be an appropriate mechanism to report on the progress of *The Queensland Plan* towards its targets.

In the Plan's current form the preliminary targets are described as;

"Collaboratively delivered by all levels of government, business, industry, community organisations and individuals."

THE VOICE OF LEADERSHIP

The Property Council supports a more structured overarching hierarchy similar to that employed by the *SA Strategic Plan*. This hierarchy includes:

- **Cabinet**
Oversees the implementation of the Plan and monitors each State Government department for consideration of the Plan's principles.
- **An Audit Committee**
The Audit Committee is responsible for producing progress reports every two years. It is the role of the Audit Committee to rate progress towards the targets, based on the best information available, and to provide an assessment of target achievability.
- **A Community Engagement Board**
The Community Engagement Board is the State Government and Audit Committee's conduit to the wider community.

The Property Council believes the Community Engagement Board would also be an appropriate role for industry bodies, interest groups and local government representatives.

Under this governance structure the South Australian Government is held to a high standard of adherence to the goals of the Plan, which has become the main instrument for determining policy development as well as strategic priorities within agencies.

The Property Council's response to *The Queensland Plan*

The Property Council embraces the underlying strength of the draft *The Queensland Plan* – its articulation of the community's vision for the state.

We are committed to working in partnership with all levels of government and with the community to deliver the vision and goals of the final *The Queensland Plan*.

To this end, our upcoming advocacy agenda, titled *Building a prosperous Queensland* will include five strategies that directly align with core elements of the Plan.

Our Agenda will be released on March 12, and a copy will be sent to all members of Parliament.

Conclusion

The Property Council supports the objectives of *The Queensland Plan*. The consultation process to date has engaged a comprehensive cross section of the community and the needs and priorities of all Queenslanders have been adequately represented.

The next stages for the Plan must be public consultation on the measurable targets, governance structure and legislative process that will underpin it.

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If you have any further questions about the Property Council or this submission, please contact Ian Harvey Ross, Policy Officer - Property Council of Australia on iharveyross@propertyoz.com.au or 3225 3000.

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Yours sincerely



Kathy Mac Dermott
Executive Director

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