

Policy Sub-Committee Annual Report

Date:	15/8/10
Sub-Committee:	Policy
Reporter:	Lindi Bowen (Chair)

Policy Sub-Committee – Formation and Membership

At the start of 2009-10, there were no policy subcommittee members. The regularly participating membership of the subcommittee now stands at seven, with fourteen others having expressed interest in being involved. Active membership depends on the topic of the submission. Members who have nominated for regular participation are:

- Lindi Bowen
- Sepp Malekizadeh
- Angela Perera
- Howard Briggs
- Mark Williamson
- Pratik Patel
- Sheri Fitton
- Nelson Wills

The Policy Chairperson, Lindi Bowen, thanks the sub-committee members for their contributions and the volunteer coordinator, Laura Canevieri and Danielle Bolton for identifying and forwarding contact information for potentially interested participants. Thanks also to SEQ President David Carberry for signing responses in short timeframes, and to Howard Briggs, Simon Cavendish, Norrie Sanders, Mary Maher, Chris Milligan, Christopher Ewing, Andrew Zuch, Jane O’Sullivan, Ian Bridge, Bill Haylock, Sepp Malekizadeh, Angela Perera, Mark Williamson, Wayne Slack and others for contributions to submissions during the year.

Submissions

SEQ members are invited to participate in the coordinated SEQ EIANZ submissions through email newsletters. All submission responses are framed in the context of the published EIANZ Position Statements. The following five substantial submissions were prepared during 2009-2010:

- QLD Planning Provisions Draft 2.0 (August 2010)
- QLD Draft Waste Strategy (July 2010)
- QLD Clean Technology Industry Development (June 2010 - submission to be confirmed)
- SEQ Greenspace Strategy Review (May 2010)
- Strategic Cropping Land (Mar 2010)
- SEQ Climate Change Adaptation Management Plan (Oct 2009)

Profile Building

The SEQ EIANZ profile with Queensland State Government has benefited from past and current work on preparing submissions and members participating in committees. This year the SEQ EIANZ has been actively invited by the State Government Departments of Infrastructure and Planning (DIP), Environment and Resource Management (DERM) and Employment, Economic Development and Innovation (DEEDI) to contribute submissions and participate in consultative committees. The Climate Change submission in particular was recognised for its quality and promulgated for detailed consideration by Department of Infrastructure and Planning.

Strategic Work

The SEQ EIANZ annual retreat strategic review identified strategic environmental issues for consideration as:

- Waste/resource use efficiency
- Urban Agriculture (Food)
- Climate Change – mitigation/ adaptation
- Cumulative impacts
- Population
- Water

The sub-committee was not yet of sufficient strength to divert resources from the important reactive submissions to look at a more strategic approach, however the Waste Strategy and Climate Change submissions addressed two of these issues directly, and the concerns regarding cumulative impacts and the other issues generally were addressed in each of the submissions where relevant. Monthly updates were provided to the SEQ committee on the QLD government's population growth discussion forum and outcomes. Opportunities – subject to volunteers capacity - have been identified to contribute to better environmental outcomes by:

- Providing proactive input to Urban Land Development Authority and QLD Government about the opportunity to apply Urban Agriculture and Sustainable Cities principles to the new cities of 250,000 people in Ripley Valley, Greater Flagstone and Yarrabilba growth areas, and to
- Questioning how the announced plan to transform canefields and other rural lands in South East Queensland into 'green wedges' to reduce urban sprawl fits with the Greenspace Strategy and the Strategic Cropping Land policy.

Members at the SEQ EIANZ's Directors General forum also raised the following issues:

- EIS Process (size of document, community engagement issues, saving time (therefore money), and doing EMPs with EIS)
- Cumulative impacts assessment
- Environmental Offsets
- Development management planning for population growth

It is anticipated that stronger connections to policy work at the international/national EIANZ level will also be formed in 2010-11.

Current Reactive Opportunities

SEQ EIANZ has been invited by DERM and DIP (respectively) to:

- Identify Green Tape and Regulatory Reform issues; and
- Comment on the Smart eDA electronic Development Application submission system.

Currently open for public comment is:

- The clean technologies-related discussion paper "*Strategic directions for development of the Queensland bio-based industrial products sector*" (Queensland's current capabilities in bio-based industrial products including renewable fuels, higher value materials and bio-chemicals manufactured using advanced processes from renewable feedstocks such as sugarcane, sorghum, pongamia or algae. Seeking views on the challenges, proposed solutions and actions to make this a viable sector) – closes 30 August 2010.

How to get involved

Just contact a member of the Policy Sub-Committee.