Sustainable Resource Communities

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Today…

• Sustainable Resource Communities Policy
• Other Queensland Government policy responses for resource communities
  – Surat Basin Future Directions Statement
  – Approaches to cumulative impacts
    • Social Impact Management Plans
    • Cumulative Growth Management Framework
    • Gladstone Social Infrastructure Strategic Plan
• Cumulative Impact Challenges for the Future
Sustainable Resource Communities

- Bowen Basin
- Surat Basin
- North West Minerals Province
Bowen Basin – Isaac Regional Council

Significant Mining Resource areas in the Isaac Regional Shire (March 2010)

Legend
- Open Cut Coal Mine
- Underground Coal Mine
- Open Cut Coal Project
- Underground Coal Project
- Open Cut Mineral Mine
- Mineral Project/Resource
- Operating Quarry
- Gas Project
- Oil and Shale Resource
- Coal Resource
- Gas Pipelines
- Major Road
- Railway Line
Bowen Basin - Learnings

• Impact on social infrastructure and services
• Significant pressure on economic infrastructure
• Land use conflict
• Need for industrial land
• Impact from temporary workforce
• Cumulative impacts of development e.g. road safety, amenity and lifestyle
Surat Basin

• Issues of concern:
  – Need to plan ahead for “Bowen Basin” effects
  – Concern about good quality agricultural land
  – Need major infrastructure to assist development
  – Want social infrastructure ahead of growth
  – Want to secure regional and local economic benefits from growth
Sustainable Resource Communities Policy

• Improve coordination and management of impacts of resource development on communities

• Framework built on four key themes

• Relies on communication and shared responsibility

• Policy available at http://www.regions.qld.gov.au
SRC Policy - Themes

Theme One
• Strengthening the Queensland Government’s Coordination Role
  – Social Impact Assessment unit
  – Social Impact Management Plans
  – Work on priority issues

Theme Two
• Improved Linkages between Social Impact Assessment and Regional Planning
  – Regional Plans: potential to consider cumulative effects
  – Building land use planning capacity
  – Coal Infrastructure Strategic Plan
SRC Policy - Themes

Theme Three

• Fostering Partnerships with Governments, Industry and Community
  – Partnership Group
  – Local Leadership Groups
  – $100M: projects identified by Partnership Group
  – Liaison Officer appointed in Emerald

Theme Four

• Enhanced Regulatory Environment for Social Impact Assessment
  – Minor legislative amendment
  – Social Management Impact Plans as condition of approval
  – EIS trigger criteria
SRC Partnership Group

• State Government, Local Government, Industry
• Share strategic information and develop solutions to social issues
• First time this kind of approach undertaken
• Membership includes:
  – Queensland Government (Dept Infrastructure and Planning)
  – Mount Isa Regional Council
  – Cloncurry Shire Council
  – Isaac Regional Council
  – Central Highlands Regional Council
  – Banana Shire Council
  – Western Downs Regional Council
  – Maranoa Regional Council
  – Local Government Association of Queensland
  – Queensland Resources Council
SRC Policy - $100 million

• Criteria for funding:
  – **hard infrastructure** in relevant communities
  – projects that fall within the State Government’s area of responsibility (ie. roads, hospitals, education)
  – projects that will assist communities prepare for rapid growth, or manage the legacy of previous growth

• Potential projects identified/nominated by SRC Partnership Group members

• Projects assessed by Queensland Government agencies within context of existing priorities and infrastructure projects

• Projects that involved partnerships between government, industry and community considered favourably
SRC Policy - $100 million

- Projects supported include new and upgraded infrastructure for:
  - child care centres
  - affordable accommodation
  - trade training centres
  - community centres / pools
  - emergency services facilities
  - road safety improvements
  - health related accommodation
  - aged care facilities
SRC Policy Implementation

• 18 months into 3 year policy
• Policy to be reviewed after 3 years and make recommendations about extending to other industries
• Major learnings from implementation:
  – Partnerships can work
  – Capacity to influence infrastructure funding through shared priorities
  – Local action connected to decision makers
Other Queensland Government Policy Responses for Resource Communities

• Surat Basin Future Directions Statement
• Approaches to cumulative impacts
Surat Basin Future Directions Statement

• Commits the Government to work with local government, industry and community

• Achieve objectives through planning initiatives:
  - Preferred Settlement Pattern and Regional Planning Framework
  - Regional Transport Investigation
  - Resource Town Housing Affordability Strategy
  - Social Impact Management Plans
  - Regional Economic Strategy
  - Framework to manage Strategic Cropping Land
  - Workforce Development Plan
Approaches to Cumulative Impacts

- Social Impact Management Plans
- Cumulative Growth Management Framework
- Gladstone Social Infrastructure Strategic Plan
Cumulative Impact Challenges for the Future

• Uncertainty and unevenness of development
• Accurate and timely data
• Determining a hierarchy of regional centres
• Coordination and integration
• Sustainable resource management (land, water)
• Building capacity and capability of local business
• Diversifying the economy
• Monitoring and managing cumulative impacts
• Maintaining liveability
Meeting the Challenges

• Effective partnerships
• Comprehensive and integrated approach
• Building resilience in regional communities
• Adaptability and responsiveness
So…

• Significant potential for continued strong regional development in parts of Queensland

• Need to ensure partnerships with industry, community and all levels of government

• Focus on economic development, including liveability, as an attractor for skilled workforces and business investment