



MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Local Government Welcomes Investment

Claims by the Treasurer that Local Government is stifling development and impeding investment in the State are ludicrous and unfounded according to LGAT President, Barry Easter.

“We are presently working in collaboration with the State Government on a regional planning process and the development of a template planning scheme to bring consistency to planning schemes across the state,” said Mr Easter.

These processes are aimed at improving the lot of developers and making the process easier to understand and work with. We are developing strategic plans for each of the three regions that will provide an improved vision and understanding by all of growth patterns, settlement strategies and infrastructure requirements.

“All of this is being prepared against a backdrop of incomplete strategies and planning processes by the State Government. If blame is to be levelled then perhaps the Treasurer needs to consider some of the issues that he is responsible for before casting stones elsewhere.”

“We are working to the timetable of the State Government and have been responding to a series of planning reform agendas of the State Government over the past few years.”

“If more speed is required then perhaps the Minister for Planning needs to engage with Local Government or at least find out from the Treasurer where he views the problems”

What is forgotten in this whole debate is that Local Government administers a system that is the responsibility of the State Government. If the system is not coping then maybe it needs fixing. Local Government cannot be held accountable for the lack of a vision by the State Government.

“The Treasurer cites anecdotal evidence but has not had the decency to discuss these issues with myself and has chosen to use Local Government to deflect criticism of his own responsibilities during the Budget Estimates debate. It is the old trick of trying to throw the dogs off the scent by getting into deeper water.”

“I would have thought that the issues associated with the Aurora blowout and resultant impacts on costs to business across the board are likely to have far greater impact on investment than the purported widespread discontent of Local Government decision making that only Mr Aird seems privy to. “

“If investors have concerns I can assure you that the Association’s door is always open to discuss ways of alleviating any deficiencies.”

For further information contact LGAT President, Mayor Barry Easter on 0408 334 936

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