

Question on Notice
No. 328
Asked on 21 June 2012

MR WELLINGTON asked the Premier (MR NEWMAN)—

With reference to the Premier's ministerial statement on 31 May 2012 where he spoke about delegating some of the Urban Land Development Authority powers to some CEO's of local government—

When will the government amend the relevant legislation so that democratically elected leaders of local government will be able to have direct involvement in the making of planning decisions for their communities by regaining previous powers now in the hands of CEO's and the department?

ANSWER:

As the Member would know, because he supported the legislation when it was introduced into the Parliament in 2007, The Urban Land Development Authority (ULDA) currently exercises planning control only in declared Urban Development Areas (UDAs). Within these UDAs, the ULDA's role is to plan, carry out and coordinate the development of land and assume the responsibility for assessing development applications.

There are currently 17 UDAs in Queensland across 11 local government areas. Of these UDAs, 14 have a development scheme in place, one scheme is under consideration by government and two are in draft. Development schemes for these UDAs have been developed in consultation with the relevant local government, local community and state agencies in accordance with the requirements under the *Urban Land Development Authority Act 2007*.

My Government has commenced the process of returning some UDAs to local governments by having the ULDA delegate its development assessment and administration powers to the relevant councils.

Subject to the willingness and resourcing of the respective local governments to take on the responsibility, my Government intends to carry out delegations progressively across UDAs to manage resources and avoid disruption to the development industry.

Delegations to south east Queensland (SEQ) councils will be undertaken first due to the size, complexity and number of UDAs in the region.

In the first instance, delegation instruments will be prepared transferring ULDA development assessment functions for the Northshore Hamilton, Bowen Hills, Fitzgibbon and Woolloongabba UDAs to Brisbane City Council. Subject to council agreement, these delegations could commence by late August 2012.

Delegations will then be progressively made to larger SEQ local governments with the financial and resource capacity to take on the role, such as Ipswich City Council (Ripley Valley), Logan City Council (Greater Flagstone and Yarrabilba) and Sunshine Coast Regional Council (Caloundra South).

The Government will then offer delegations to some regional councils that have UDAs in their local government area.

Assistance will be provided by the Government to councils under intense resource industry pressure, rather than delegation of powers.

While delegation provides the fastest path to transfer powers in the short term, a more permanent transfer mechanism, such as legislative amendment, is part of a mid-term plan for the planning roles and functions of the ULDA to be restored to local government.

I appreciate the Member of Nicklin showing interest in this matter given he initially supported removing these powers from democratically elected leaders of local government.