



Director-General's foreword



I am pleased to present the 2016–17 Annual Report for the Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning.

It has been a year in which we focused on the demands of a diverse economy, the wellbeing of communities and on delivering modern infrastructure to meet current and future demands.

Our achievements include being part of Queensland's number one infrastructure priority, Cross River Rail, with the establishment of the Cross River Rail Delivery Authority. The project is now entering the delivery phase with early works starting in September 2017 to mark the beginning of the \$5.4 billion city-shaping project.

Cross River Rail is also an integral part of *Connecting Brisbane*, a public transport strategy led by the department in collaboration with the Department of Transport and Main Roads and Brisbane City Council.

The first annual update of the State Infrastructure Plan Part B will provide a forward pipeline of emerging capital and infrastructure investment across all asset classes over the next four years.

The Infrastructure Policy and Planning group now monitors and provides regular reporting on the delivery of the Government's capital program worth in excess of \$40 billion over four years.

The department established the Cities Transformation Taskforce to lead and coordinate the negotiation of City Deal initiatives. The benefits have been immediate, with the signing of a city deal for Townsville and discussions commenced to support a South East Queensland city deal.

The \$400 million Works for Queensland program is being rolled out over three years with the aim of boosting regional economic growth and creating employment opportunities. The first round supported more than 700 projects in 65 local governments across regional Queensland and was heralded by mayors and other community leaders as ground-breaking.

We have adopted a more streamlined approach to the council grants application and assessment process, designed to get the money to councils sooner for key infrastructure projects. The department also developed legislative amendments to provide for online real-time disclosure of local government electoral donations, improving transparency and accountability in the election of mayors and councillors.

The Advancing our cities and regions strategy managed by the department's commercialised business unit, Economic Development Queensland, has created job opportunities and improved economic prospects in many parts of the state. It uses an innovative approach to renewing and repurposing surplus and underutilised state owned land.

Much work was done to ensure a smooth transition to the commencement of the *Planning Act 2016* in July 2017. The new planning framework balances efficient and transparent planning with economic development, cultural and environmental protection and the physical and social wellbeing of Queenslanders.

The South East Queensland Regional Plan – *ShapingSEQ* – reflects the aspirations and needs of south east Queenslanders, responds to the region's projected growth over the next 25 years and will deliver improved environmental outcomes for the region.

The Office of the Queensland Government Architect continued to assist government departments and local governments to create enhanced urban environments by providing expertise and strategic advice on urban design, procurement, heritage and the built environment.

There is a new chief executive officer for the South Bank Corporation bringing vision and experience to the precinct including the iconic parklands which is celebrating its 25th birthday.

While much has been accomplished in 2016–17, in the coming year, the department will continue to work with tenacity and dedication to:

- finalise the draft North Queensland Regional Plan following consultation
- continue to administer the Works for Queensland program
- deliver infrastructure innovation and best-practice infrastructure solutions across Queensland
- implement tailored capacity building initiatives to help improve local government sustainability
- deliver additional funding of \$120 million over four years from 2016–17 to provide water, wastewater and general waste infrastructure programs in Indigenous communities
- engage with local government to encourage planning innovation and improvement
- deliver the Advancing our cities and regions strategy by progressing renewal and reinvigoration of surplus and underutilised state land
- commence implementation of *ShapingSEQ*
- commence a community-led master plan for the Gold Coast Spit to strike a balance between protecting environmental and community values and allowing appropriate commercial development.

I would like to thank all business teams who work collaboratively to bring together the functions of Local Government and Regional Services, the Planning Group, Infrastructure Policy and Planning, Economic Development Queensland, Strategy, Governance and Engagement, South Bank, Chief Engineer and the Office of the Queensland Government Architect.

Together we are delivering the government's objectives and contributing to economic growth, social wellbeing and community connectedness of all Queenslanders across our vast and great state.