



Gecko - Gold Coast and Hinterland Environment Council Assn Inc.

ABN 90 689 258 843

Gecko House, 139 Duringan Street, Currumbin, Qld 4223.
Telephone 07 5534 1412 Facsimile 07 5534 1401
info@gecko.org.au www.gecko.org.au

MEDIA RELEASE

24th February, 2017

Gold Coast to be swamped by population growth in SEQ Regional Plan

The review of the SEQ Regional Plan “Shaping SEQ” puts unrealistic population growth on one of the most environmentally vulnerable areas of Australia, the Gold Coast without consideration of the carrying capacity of the area.

For every person here now there will be a doubling of the population and the livability and community amenity will be severely impacted. We need adequate provision for public transport, roads, schools, community facilities, open spaces and conservation areas for our unique wildlife and plants, which are already under severe strain and no financial fix in sight.

The State Government is imposing a 67% increase of the current permanent population projected to be accommodated here by 2041, but is this sustainable?

Gecko spokesperson, Lois Levy, said “It is essential that a process is established to determine the actual sustainable carrying capacity of the City relating to community amenity and protection of the natural environment. The forecast population has been determined without any proper research into these factors and the current residents are not being genuinely consulted about the future of their areas with no alternatives provided for consideration. “

Instead of sound research the State Government appears to be using a ‘predict and provide’ model which is now recognized as a very limited and dated method of long term planning. Other cities such Perth conducted a broad collaborative consultation process with different scenarios for the future provided to the citizens for consideration and negotiation of a consensus.

With the Gold Coast’s severe landscape constraints such as steep slopes, narrow floodplains, multiple waterways, proneness to flooding and already crowded coastal development, this imposition of high population growth is unreasonable and unrealistic, especially with essential infrastructure lagging so far behind.”

“Our city is already under huge stress with insufficient roads and services,” she said. “The State Government needs to solve these problems for the people and wildlife living here now”

Unrestricted population growth and its impact on quality of life was shown as a major concern of residents in submissions to our recently approved City Plan, now this additional growth will destroy many of the values current residents hold dear.

All residents should have their say by responding to the *Shaping SEQ* public consultation that closes at midnight on Friday, 3 March - <http://www.shapingseq.com.au>. A submission can be found on gecko.org.au

For more information: Lois Levy, Gecko 5534-1412