



Joint Media Statement

21 July 2020

Postponement of SEQ City Deal a Cruel Blow to SEQ Residents

Today's announcement that the long-awaited South East Queensland City Deal has been delayed until some time in 2021 is a cruel blow to one of Australia's fastest growing regions, whose citizens deserve better.

For more than two years, the Federal and Queensland Governments and the Council of Mayors (South East Queensland) have been negotiating, with the support of industry, to deliver a package of infrastructure investment that recognises, and plans for, the region's growth.

The significant impact of COVID-19 on the State's economy should provide added impetus to a City Deal, now.

In an announcement that is the complete opposite, the governments will "extend the negotiation of the SEQ City Deal into 2021 while we focus on recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic".

A SEQ City Deal should be the centrepiece of recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. Today's decision to postpone all the hard work done to date is confusing and disappointing.

Other regions of Australia - Darwin, Geelong, Western Sydney, Albury/Wodonga - are benefitting from billions of dollars of investment through City Deals, so why is south east Queensland being neglected?

We remain committed to working with all three levels of government to deliver a SEQ City Deal.

We ask the governments to reconsider this decision and deliver on the promises made to south east Queensland residents to fund and prioritise City Deal projects that will support our growth and our economy.

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