

## SUBMISSION NO. 38



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Dr Mal Washer MP  
Chair  
Standing Committee on Environment and Heritage  
House of Representatives  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600  
[Environment.Reps@aph.gov.au](mailto:Environment.Reps@aph.gov.au)

Dear Dr Washer

I wish to acknowledge the release of the Standing Committee on Environment and Heritage's discussion paper outlining the inquiry into a Sustainability Charter.

Prior to establishment of the Council of Mayors (SEQ) in September 2005, a submission was provided by the then South East Queensland Regional Organisations of Councils for consideration in the *Sustainable Cities* report.

The Council of Mayors (SEQ) comprises the mayors who, representing their 18 councils, work collaboratively to tackle the strategic issues which impact on the lives of the one in seven Australians who live in South East Queensland. One of the key areas of interest identified by the Council of Mayors is sustainability, and working groups have been established which address issues of sustainability from the perspective of the environment and regional growth.

At the Council of Mayors (SEQ) meeting on 18 April 2006, the mayors formally welcomed the Standing Committee inquiry, having earlier endorsed an organisational goal of promoting sustainable development. The objectives of developing and advocating robust measures to ensure that development occurs in a strategic and sustainable manner in SEQ, and the promotion of sustainable use and management of natural resources essential to the region, were also agreed at the meeting.

Through the statutory South East Queensland Regional Plan 2005-2026, the Council of Mayors (SEQ) is working in partnership with the Queensland Government to ensure there is an appropriate balance between a rapidly growing population and the

recognised Queensland lifestyle. The overriding intent of the SEQ Regional Plan is to ensure that the region grows and changes in a sustainable way, and both the Regional Plan and Environment Working Groups of the Council of Mayors are involved in establishing sustainability indicators to measure the success of implementation.

The Council of Mayors (SEQ) has not considered the detail of the recommendations included in the Sustainability Charter discussion paper, but agrees strongly with the concept of an aspirational charter to focus efforts of all parties on preserving quality of life. Given the impact of recommendations on all areas of Australia – not just cities – the Council of Mayors also strongly supports the inclusion of rural and regional areas in the inquiry.

I trust that these issues will be given appropriate consideration prior to finalisation of the Sustainability Charter, and I look forward to hearing outcomes from the Standing Committee.

Yours sincerely



Allan Sutherland

**CHAIRMAN**

**COUNCIL OF MAYORS (SEQ) ENVIRONMENT WORKING GROUP**

cc: Council of Mayors (SEQ) Environment Working Group