



# Can Regional Plans Increase Community Resilience?

26 October, 2011

# Acknowledgements



- Sharon Boyle is the author of the paper that underpins this presentation.
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# Overview



- Regional planning defined
- The RDA initiative from a planning perspective
- RDA and water
- Ipswich and West Moreton
- Darling Downs and South West Qld



- Regional Plans can be relevant if they are actively managed and reflect the needs of key stakeholders

# Regional Planning defined

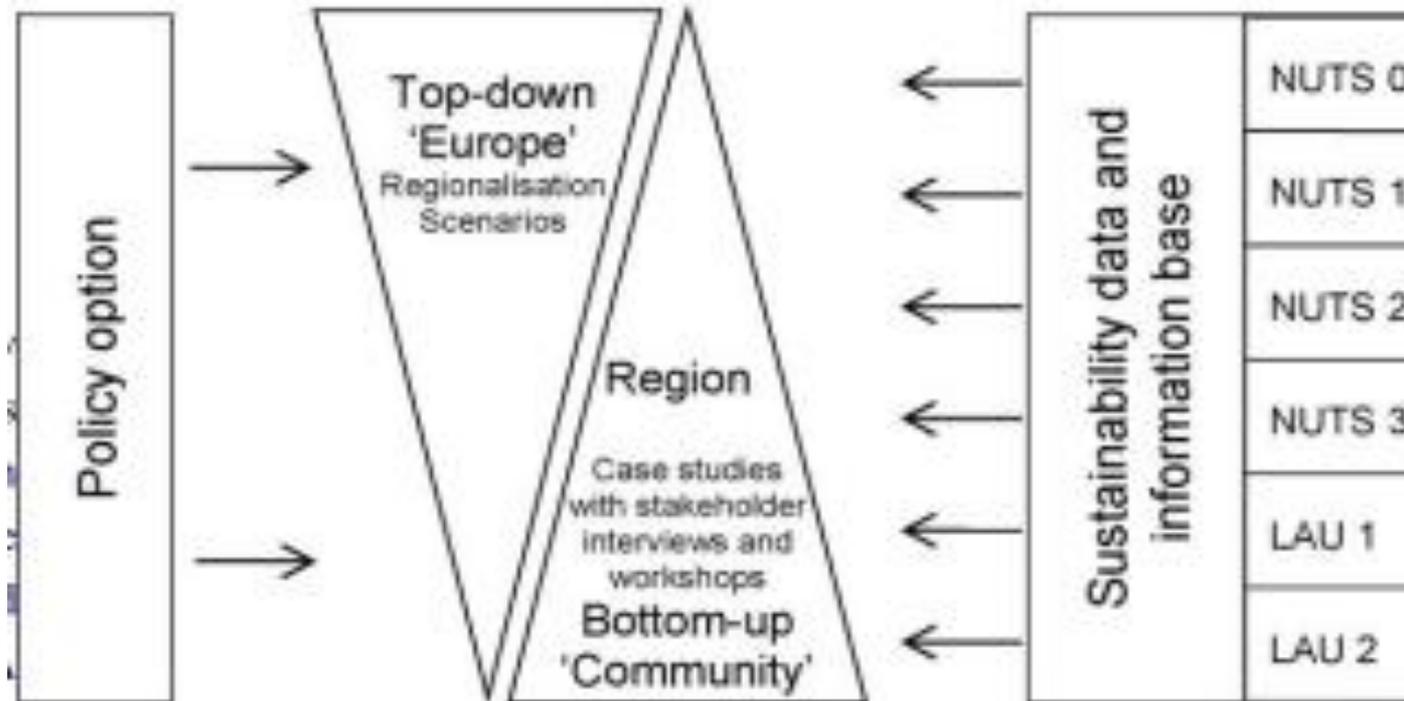


- What is regional planning?
  - a style and approach to planning which has a geographic scope larger than one local government area
  - it will generally integrate the aspects of sustainable planning and some will have stronger focus on specific areas than others
  - the purpose is generally to improve the lives of the people who live and work in the region and this often involves shaping government investment.

# Models of regional planning



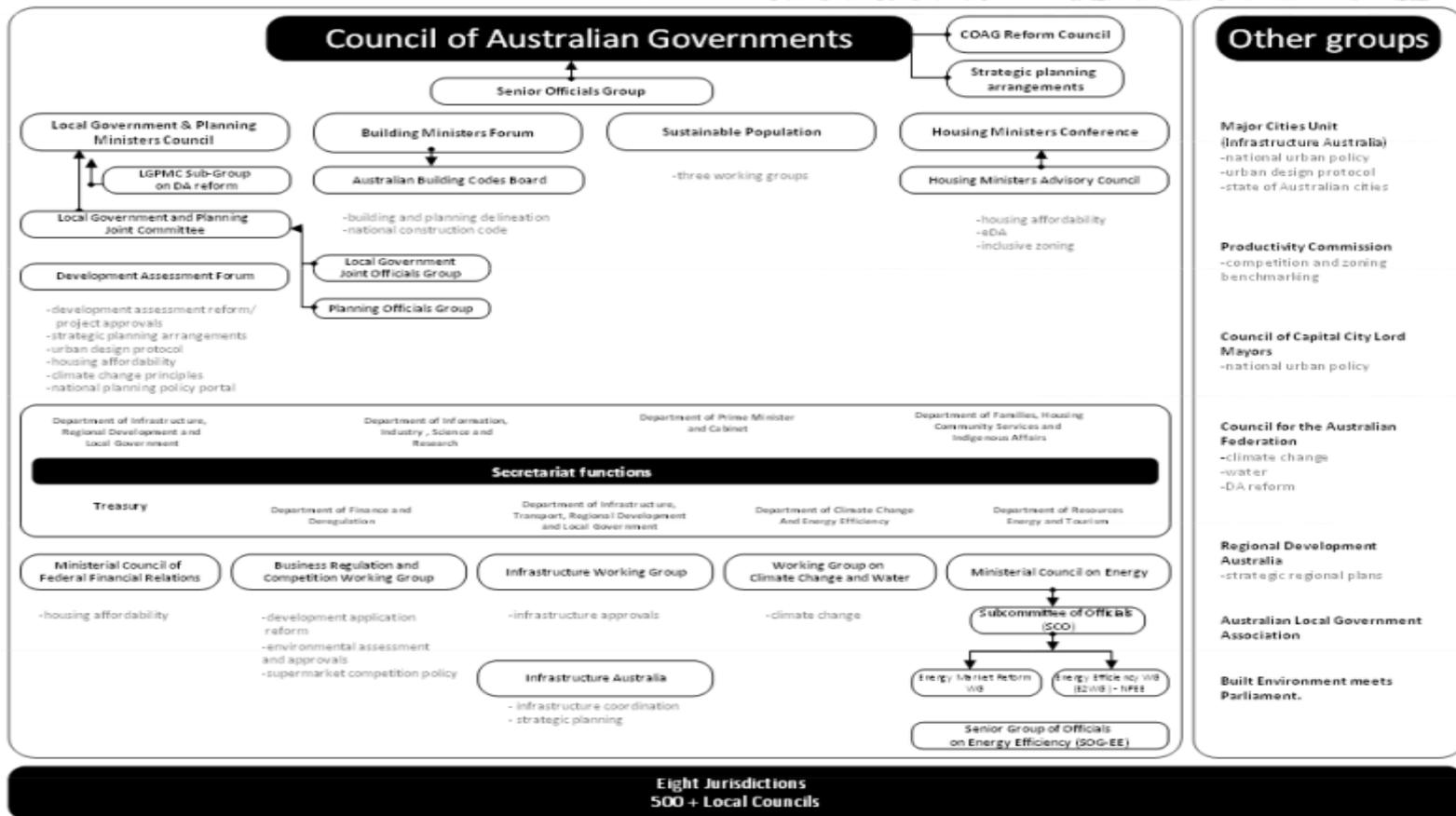
- European approach (Dilly, O, and Hutt"ll 2009:5)
- NUTS = a nationally recognised regional spatial unit
- LAU = Local spatial unit



# Where does RDA fit?



- Relationship of Federal government in land use planning is complex and can vary over time





- Regional Development Australia program in 2009 which continued the community based or bottom-up approach to regional planning
- Regional Development Australia will be an important contributor to and driver of:
  - *regional business growth plans and strategies, which will help support economic development, the creation of new jobs, skills development and business investment*
  - environmental solutions, which will support ongoing sustainability and the management of climate change (including the impact of drought, flood or bushfires)
  - social inclusion strategies, which will bring together and support all members of the community.

# Bottom up approach reinforced



- recognition of the RDA program as a bottom-up approach and its political significance was evident in the quote below from Minister Crean's speech entitled 'Driving regional economic development through localism'
- *...complements the work of Local government. RDAs are there to perform a strategic role – one that is rooted in strong engagement with Local Government, Regional Organisations of Councils and other stakeholders. RDAs are there as facilitators, mentors and brokers on regional development.*

# RDA and Water



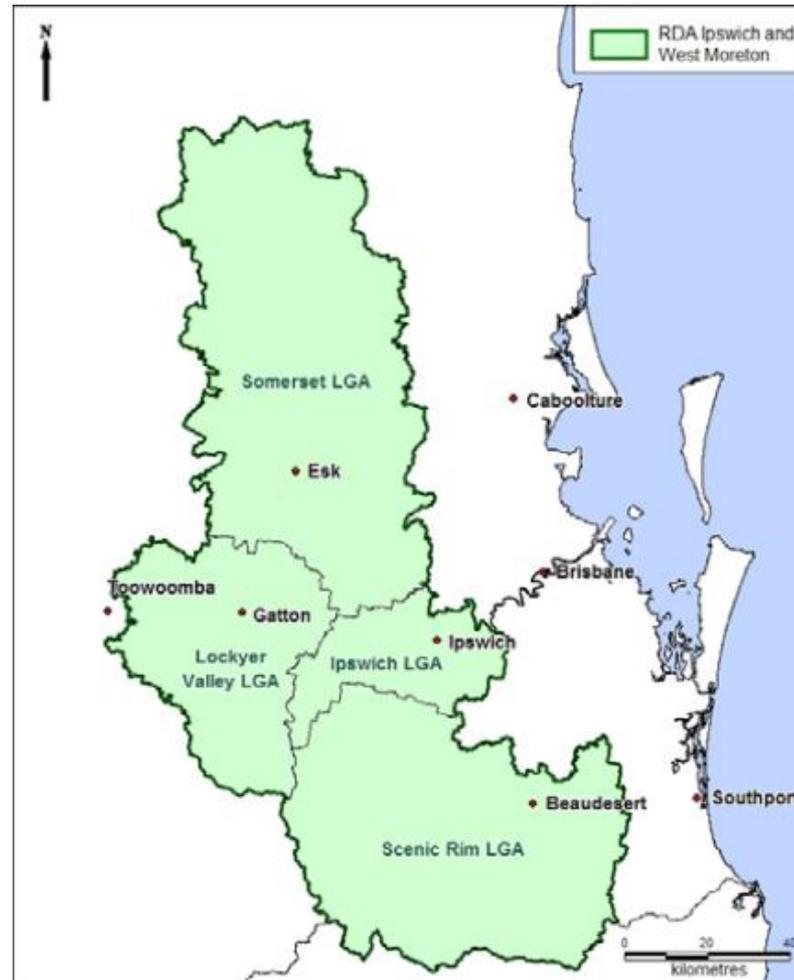
- The impact of the floods in Qld on Road Maps for Ipswich and West Moreton (IWM) and Darling Downs and South West Qld (DDSW)
- IWM
  - Interim Plan September 2010
  - Revised Road Map August 2011
  - Significant reference to natural disasters in update
- DDSW
  - Road Map August 2010
  - Disasters, including flooding, were anticipated in this Regional Roadmap

# IWM Region



- Ipswich City Council, Scenic Rim Regional Council, Lockyer Valley Regional Council and Somerset Regional Council.
- This region has boundaries to the greater Brisbane metropolitan area and it includes the majority of SEQ Queensland's dams and the dominant land use is agricultural. The largest centre is Ipswich which is the focus of the region's State and Federal government functions, including a large hospital.

# IWM Region



# IWM Interim Road Map



- The floods were clearly a very significant event for this region and this is reflected in the current Roadmap where 5 of the 7 priority themes discuss water as opposed to the earlier roadmap included a reference to water in only 2 of 7 priority themes.
- Action of Committee –
  - making their Regional Roadmap a living document
  - taking a leadership role through such events as the Regional Leadership Forum May 2011
  - demonstrating a clear role for the RDA committee in assisting the development of community resilience, particularly post January 2011 floods

# DDSW Region



- The region comprises 10 local government shires and regions of Balonne, Bulloo, Goondiwindi, Maranoa, Murweh, Paroo, Quilpie, Southern Downs, Toowoomba and Western Downs.
- The region covers a total area of 397,240.8 square kilometres or 22.9% of Queensland's total area. The region is home to 262,467 persons, with an expected population of 330,204 persons by year 2026.



# DDSW Response



- the DD and SW RDA will be adding appendices to their existing Roadmap which will include the flood mitigation strategies and associated infrastructure from the constituent Council Community Plans
- advocating for flood mitigation projects to ensure a better preparedness for future events
- provide strategic advice where to better place/replace infrastructure to eliminate, or at least limit, the impact of such events

# DDSW Response



- working with bodies such as Job Skills Development Officer (JSDO), DEEWR and DEEDI to identify staff shortages as one of the major problems confronting local businesses on the road to recovering from the devastating floods of late 2010 and early 2011
- putting forward concerns directly to the Minister in Canberra for example; the extension of the Flood Assistance monies paid to Councils from two years to four years and also the inclusion of the day labour rate in their disaster payments
- advising applicants of funding availability and avenues accessible for flood mitigation.

# Conclusion



- There is an obligation or at least an expectation that the RDA committees will regularly to update regional roadmaps to reflect changing community priorities and government program. IWMRDA have accomplished this with the recent release of their Regional Roadmap while DD and SW RDA have foreshadowed upcoming amendments while maintaining an information rich and current website. .
- Active Committees that engage the community

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