

# DEEDI's rural and regional agenda: opportunities and challenges

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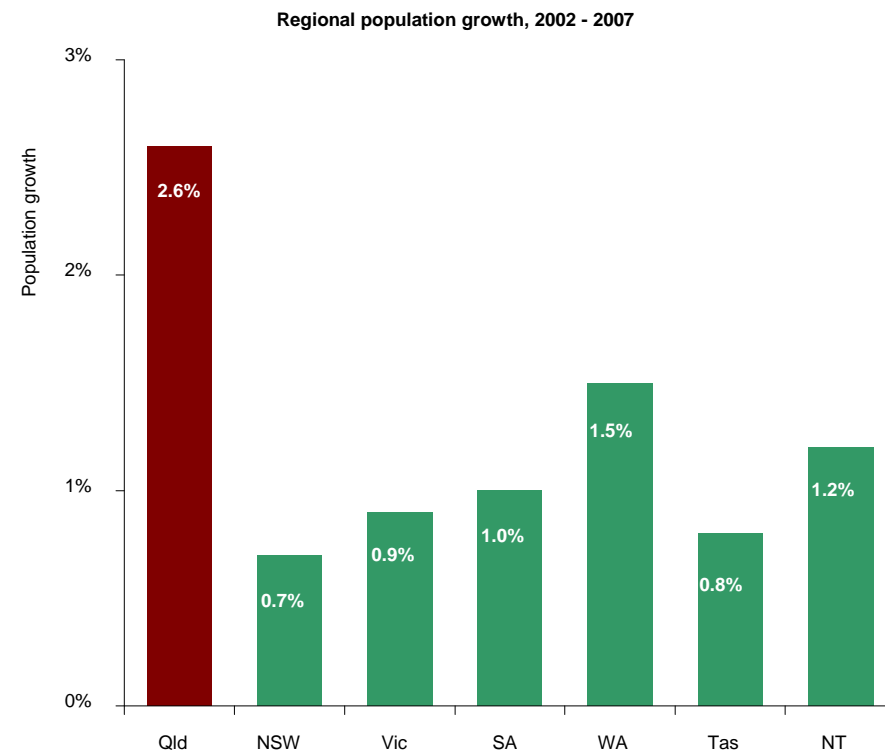
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## Key issues

- Rural and regional development is an essential component of Queensland's economy
- The formation of DEEDI provides opportunities to enhance services for our clients and produce economic development outcomes across the value chain
- DEEDI will also be challenged to:
  - provide seamless and extended services to clients while maintaining necessary specialisations
  - create a regional presence that can deliver services effectively and efficiently
  - deliver on the Government's jobs agenda and build resilience in regional economies (diversification and technology diffusion)
  - ensure effective rural and regional engagement
  - influence planning processes and infrastructure development to support regional economic development

## Rural and regional Queensland

- Queensland is the most decentralised state in Australia
- Queensland has experienced strong regional population growth



## Rural and regional Queensland matters

- Industries based in rural and regional areas are integral to the Queensland economy
  - *Mining*
    - \$26.4 billion and over 60 per cent of the State's total exports
    - Around 37,000 direct jobs and 160,000 indirect jobs
  - *Primary industries*
    - \$13 billion, almost 6% higher than in 2007-08
    - Around 100,000 jobs
  - *Tourism*
    - \$8.8 billion directly to the State's gross product in 2006-07, and a further \$6.1 billion indirectly
    - Around 119,000 jobs directly and 87,000 jobs indirectly
  - *Emerging industries*

## Current economic conditions

- Currently, the rural and regional economy is experiencing a mixture of fortunes
  - Job losses in mining
  - Job losses in tourism
  - Relative strength of agricultural production, due to sustained demand and a break in the drought
  - Significant jobs and industry growth opportunities in the Surat Basin (currently 1.7% unemployment) based on LNG

## Rural and regional development

- *Regional development* takes a broader “helicopter” view of issues including planning, engagement, infrastructure provision, government services and an assessment of what governments needs to be aware of to underpin the liveability of regions.
- *Regional economic development* is a key component of regional development and aims to grow and attract businesses, diversify regional economies, foster innovation and promote infrastructure development and regional investment.

## DEEDI's suite of rural and regional services

- DEEDI's suite of services for rural and regional Queensland:
  - Industry development
  - Business development
  - Employment
  - Research, development and innovation
  - Export development
  - Investment attraction
  - Community engagement
  - Biosecurity
  - Regulation of resource use
  - Labour force skills development
  - Regional planning
  - Safety and health

## Current delivery of DEEDI services

- Around 300 sites in over 100 locations
- Around 1,800 DEEDI staff based in rural and regional Queensland
- Other service delivery methods:
  - Business Information Centre
  - Online through departmental websites
  - Mobile offices



## Supporting rural and regional development into the future

- Ensure service delivery is meeting the challenges and opportunities that drive employment, economic development and innovation
- Improve the coordination of service delivery
- Acknowledge the different needs of DEEDI's clients and ensure that the depth of specialist services is maintained
- Ensure uninterrupted service delivery and an ongoing focus on core business
  - provide seamless and extended services to clients while maintaining necessary specialisations
  - create a regional presence that can deliver services effectively and efficiently
  - deliver on the Government's jobs agenda and build resilience in regional economies (diversification and technology diffusion)
  - ensure effective rural and regional engagement
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## Opportunities and challenges

- Some potential opportunities:
  - Recognition of the role of agriculture in employment and economic development
  - Stronger voice on broader economic development issues
  - Increased engagement through the Office of Rural and Regional Communities
  - Delivery of services across the value chain
  - Delivering on the Smart State agenda and Smart Industry plans
  - Collaborative approach to cross-industry issues, including regional planning and climate change
  - Stronger linkages between trade, investment and innovation activities
- Some potential challenges:
  - Ensuring the same depth of specialised services is provided
  - Ensuring agriculture has a strong voice alongside the department's other responsibilities

## Discussion

- Other opportunities?
- Other challenges?
- How can DEEDI best deliver on its job creation and economic development agenda?
- What services will make the biggest impact in this area?
- Are there any specific examples of issues which would benefit from a whole-of-value-chain approach?