



Garth HAMILTON MP

Federal Member for **Groom**

Listening. Working for you!



Hon Anthony Albanese MP
Prime Minister of Australia
PO Box 6022
House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Prime Minister

RE: SEQ City Deal

I write in relation to the SEQ City Deal and specifically, the Railway Parklands project in my electorate of Groom. Prime Minister, in July 2023 the partners of the SEQ City Deal released an implementation plan that claims to provide detail about how the Deal will be delivered, project milestones and the way funding arrangements will operate.

I have been seeking additional information from the Toowoomba Regional Council, Queensland Government, and the Australian Government for a number of months. I am specifically interested in additional information regarding the Railway Parklands Priority Development Area (PDA) project.

The Toowoomba Railway Parklands PDA covers an area of approximately 50 hectares and is designed to be a focus for investment, development and regeneration through an accelerated PDA process driving economic growth and job creation.

As you are aware Australia is confronting a housing supply crisis. Increasingly Australians are struggling to find an affordable place to call home, regardless of their circumstances and more needs to be done to deliver greater supply. The Railway Parklands project is catalyst infrastructure that will deliver investment from all levels of government and unlock further investment from the private sector.

There has been a lack of cooperation in relation to this City Deal project and we are not seeing the project be delivered nor the basic milestones outlined in the implementation plan, met. On 9 January 2024, I met with Mayor Geoff McDonald of Toowoomba Regional Council, and was advised that his Council has received insufficient detail to begin allocating funds for the deal in their budget. In addition, Council has received no information from the relevant authority regarding project milestones, deliverables or received funding guidelines.

It is concerning that other City Deal projects have commenced, as confirmed by Minister Catherine King in response to Questions in Writing last year. Prime Minister, I urge you to please seek all parties to progress the Railway Parklands and provide the necessary detail, as agreed in the SEQ City Deal and unlock further supply in the current housing crisis.

Yours sincerely


GARTH HAMILTON MP
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR GROOM

9 January 2024