



The Retailers Association

Serving Members Australia Wide™

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Queensland Economic Lag Depends on Population Growth Now

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Scott Driscoll, National Executive Director of **The Retailers Association**, has called on the Bligh Government to take the warning from Access Economics very seriously and force Queensland's regional Councils to take the issue of population growth to the top of their "to do lists", or face economic disaster.

"There are some Councils in Queensland that are playing local politics on the issue of population growth and in the end they are costing local jobs and destroying local economies via a death of a thousand cuts," said Mr Driscoll.

"I'm calling on Premier Bligh, her Local Government Minister Desley Boyle and her Infrastructure Minister Stirling Hinchcliffe to not only "educate" some Councils on the folly of their current ways, but if necessary, intervene and install an Administrator if there is too much of a history of failure to address this serious problem that some Councils are playing dangerous games with," said Mr Driscoll.

"Moreton Bay Regional Council, just North of Brisbane, is the Council I suggest the Premier and Ministers start with look at," said Mr Driscoll.

"In recent weeks it's been uncovered that Moreton Bay Regional Council is knocking back developments that would assist with population growth, such as the **North Harbour** development at Caboolture. At the very same time they are considering approving unsustainable "Greenfield" Coles backed retail precincts in the middle of junior football fields at the Redcliffe Leagues Club, when there is already a massive oversupply of retail on the Redcliffe Peninsula based on the extremely low levels of population growth and will be until 2016," said Mr Driscoll.

"Moreton Bay Regional Council's Mayor Allan Sutherland has declared in the media in the last week that he wants a "war" with the state government over potential intervention. Well he should get one. And when he does he'll find me standing shoulder to shoulder with the state government on this," said Mr Driscoll.

"What Mayor Allan Sutherland doesn't understand or perhaps just won't acknowledge is that the time is up for petty political games and alliances when it comes to doing what is right for the future of the region he's supposed to be working for. Unfortunately Allan is looking more and more like yesterday's man with the backward positions he's taking on the challenges facing the Moreton Bay region around the population debate, a debate and issue the state and federal government's seem now at odds with him on," said Mr Driscoll.

For further comment call Scott Driscoll on 0413 831 045.