

# Existing urban area

## Appropriate use

The existing urban area (EUA) is a special purpose aggregated statistical area for the compilation of data relating to regional planning.

Whether specific parcels of land are inside or outside of the EUA will not affect the current planning intent for those parcels under the relevant planning scheme or the South East Queensland (SEQ) Regional Plan 2009–2031, and should not influence any decisions about changes to planning intent. The EUA is not to be used directly in specific local land use allocation or development assessment decisions.

## Measuring infill

Any residential development occurring within the EUA boundary is considered *infill*. This includes both detached and attached housing, development on vacant land or redevelopment of an existing site to increase density or change the land use from non-residential to residential.

## How was the EUA defined?

The EUA boundary was originally created by the former Office of Urban Management in 2005 for the purposes of monitoring and reporting infill and redevelopment activity against SEQ Regional Plan 2005–2026 dwelling targets.

The spatial definition of the EUA boundary was revised by the former Department of Infrastructure and Planning at the time of development of the SEQ Regional Plan 2009–2031. Resulting residential infill data were used, along with a range of other residential development data, to help monitor activity against the dwelling targets included in the SEQ Regional Plan 2009–2031.

The revised EUA boundary was based on circumstances as at December 2008 and used 2006 Census Collection Districts (CDs) as the base spatial unit to enable more efficient direct comparisons between infill targets and Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) building approvals data. A range of data sources were used to confirm whether a CD was included within the EUA, based on a consistent set of decision rules applied across the region. The data inputs included:

- the digital cadastral database
- local government planning schemes
- the Draft SEQ Regional Plan 2009–2031 land use category boundaries
- spatial representation of existing sewerage infrastructure
- UBD raster images
- aerial and satellite imagery.

Since the implementation of the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS), building approvals are no longer reported by CD, therefore a concordance is used to adjust published ASGS Statistical Area building approvals data to an approximation of the EUA. Residential infill data based on Material Change of Use development assessment information collected from local governments continue to use the EUA boundary as at December 2008.

## Review of EUA

A new Regional Plan for South East Queensland is currently being prepared by the Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning, and is expected to be completed by the end of 2014.

Reporting of infill and building approvals data based on the EUA will be reassessed once the revised SEQ Regional Plan and its data monitoring and reporting requirements are finalised.

