**COMMUNIQUÉ**

**The Queensland PlanAmbassadors Council**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Meeting** | Tuesday 7 March 2017 |
| **Location**  | Ipswich |

The Queensland Plan Ambassadors Council (the Council) met on 7 March 2017 in Ipswich—the first regional meeting of the Council in recognition of the importance of regional Queensland.

The meeting was held at Fire Station 101 – Ipswich Innovation Hub, with the choice of location reflecting recent global recognition of Ipswich as a leading innovation community. Assistant Minister of State Assisting the Premier, the Honourable Jennifer Howard, and the Mayor of Ipswich Paul Pisasale attended the meeting and welcomed the Ambassadors to Ipswich.

The Chairman of the Ambassadors Council, the Honourable Tony McGrady stated that the Queensland Plan was conceived by 80,000 interested Queenslanders over a period of time to discuss the direction of Queensland over the next 10 years.

The Council re-iterated its purpose, which is to promote awareness and advocate for the implementation of *The Queensland Plan* (the Plan) within the community, business and industry; and to advise the Premier on matters relating to the implementation of *The Queensland Plan*.

The Council received a presentation on global "megatrends" impacting on Queensland, namely demographic shifts, digital futures, global marketplace and resourceful planet.

The Council agreed to continue to monitor global trends to underpin future iterations of thePlan.

Mr McGrady stated after the meeting that the Council resolved to hold a conversation with the people of Queensland through social media, and by inviting representatives of peak bodies and other interested Queenslanders to discuss matters with the Council. Mr McGrady stated, “It’s quite apparent that many people feel that governments are far removed from the views of the average citizen. But here in Queensland, through this Council, we will be having a conversation with all Queenslanders, not just here in Brisbane, but just as importantly, in the regions and country Queensland. We will work with the Premier and Cabinet, as well as keeping the State Opposition informed of our actions. We will listen, we will be educated, and pass this information on to all who are interested.”

The Council was informed of the Queensland Government's actions on domestic and family violence in response to the report of the Special Taskforce on Domestic and Family Violence in Queensland, *Not Now, Not Ever: Putting an end to domestic and family violence in Queensland*.

Domestic violence is not explicitly recognised in *The Queensland Plan* adopted in 2014; Council will take the issue up for the review of the Plan over the next two years, seeking to establish a goal and a description of success in this area.

The Council recognised that domestic violence is not just an issue for government; it is an issue for everyone in the community. It is relevant to employers, both in terms of its economic cost and in terms of support employers can provide to employee victims of domestic violence.

In this context, the Council decided to review each of the nine foundation areas of Planin the lead up to the Plan’s review.

The Council discussed ways to ensure all Queenslanders can participate in the review of *The Queensland Plan*.

Mr McGrady stated, “This is an exciting time in our state and the Council wants all organisations and individuals to feel that they are being listened to and that a small select group of people don’t have a monopoly on all the ideas and solutions to the problems facing our state”.

ENDS