

The Queensland Plan

A 30-year vision for Queensland



Queensland Plan Ambassadors Council meeting communiqué

15 December 2022

The Queensland Plan Ambassadors Council (the Council) held its fourth meeting of 2022 in Gladstone on 15 December 2022. The Council welcomed Ambassadors who had travelled from across Queensland and those participating virtually.

During the meeting, the Council continued to identify opportunities to effectively support place-based solutions and initiatives. The focus of this meeting was *The Queensland Plan's* foundation areas of "Regions", "Economy" and "Governance". The Council received presentations from Queensland Government representatives, the Gladstone Ports Corporation, Gladstone Regional Council, local businesses, and a non-for-profit organisation on matters relating to renewable energy transition in the region, and place-based infrastructure and social services.

The Queensland Plan foundation area – Regions and Economy

Due to unforeseen weather conditions in Gladstone, the Council welcomed an early session with the Gladstone Ports Corporation on Wednesday 14 December. The Council heard from Craig Haymes, Chief Executive Officer, Richard Haward, Executive General Manager, Safety and ESG, Brianna Janson, Corporate and Community Relations Superintendent, and Ben Hayden, Executive General Manager of Asset Management.

The Gladstone Ports Corporation's presentation was linked to *The Queensland Plan's* foundation areas of 'Economy' and 'Regions'. They noted their current workforce initiatives, port diversification activities and community-centered approach in the region. In relation to the foundation area of 'Regions', Mr Haward shared the Gladstone Ports Corporation's environmental, social and governance work in relation to climate change, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander matters, community relations, culture and employee engagement, governance and board diversity. They also highlighted various renewable energy policies in Central Queensland and the Gladstone Ports Corporation's commitment to building a sustainable future.

On 15 December 2022, the Council welcomed the Assistant Minister for Education, Brittany Lauga MP, Member for Keppel and Councillor Matt Burnett, Mayor, Gladstone Regional Council to open the Council meeting. Mayor Burnett welcomed Ambassadors to Gladstone and the Philip Street Communities and Families Precinct.

Chris Filby, Regional Director, Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning (DSDILGP) presented on hydrogen in Central Queensland. Mr Filby discussed the current opportunities for Gladstone and regional Queensland in relation to the emerging hydrogen industry. He also identified current challenges to a renewable transition for the State.

The Queensland Plan foundation area – Governance

The Council also received a presentation from Kari Morris, Acting Executive Director, Regional Strategy, DSDILGP on place-based community infrastructure planning opportunities, and the Community Hubs and Partnerships Program, led by DSDILGP. Ms Morris shared insights on planning processes, collaborative partnership models and case studies relating to these programs as well as DSDILGP's involvement in the Philip Street Communities and Families Precinct.

The Council welcomed Kylie Lee, General Manager, Community Development and Events, Gladstone Regional Council, Debbie Meir-Cuddy, Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy and Captain Chris Ford from The Salvation Army to present on the Philip Street Communities and Families Precinct (the Precinct).

Ms Lee discussed the Gladstone Regional Council's strategic investment in social infrastructure which clusters community facilities and services to enhance delivery of human and social services in the region. Since the Precinct opened in December 2021, over 80 community groups have used the facilities for community activities.

Ms Meir-Cuddy and Captain Ford noted the Precinct is a first of its kind. The Precinct has a strong partnership framework involving the Salvation Army Gladstone, Gladstone Regional Council, Gladstone Region's Communities for Children and the Queensland Government and supports shared goals, and joint planning and evaluation.

Place-based solutions

Julie Pettett, General Manager, Integreat Queensland and Scott Harrington, Acting Director of Xtreme Engineering and presented on place-based social development initiatives.

Ms Pettett presented on Integreat's initiatives in Gladstone, including the Flourish Multicultural Festival and Get Work Ready – Skills for Migrant Women Program. Ms Pettett shared positive outcomes for women who have found employment through Integreat's program, as well as the opportunities to further attract and retain a skilled workforce in Queensland's regions.

Mr Harrington outlined Xtreme Engineering's experience in creating inclusive workplace environments, and its current apprenticeship and First Nations employment programs. Mr Harrington explained the importance of cultural connectedness and flexibility to support a diverse workplace. Ms Pettett and Mr Harrington's presentations were followed by discussion between Ambassadors and guest speakers with a particular focus on pathways for young people into the workforce.

Professor Allan Dale presented on congested space and highlighted the importance of community-led place-based initiatives, noting the excellent opportunities identified in Gladstone. Professor Dale highlighted a variety of policy frameworks and strategies developed by both the Australian and Queensland Governments, noting that while some strategies reference place-based opportunities, there is a need for a more strategic conversation about the economic benefit of place-based program delivery.

Next meeting

The Council will hold its next meeting in Brisbane in 2023. The Council also acknowledged the importance of continuing to hold meetings in Queensland's regions.