

The Queensland Plan

A 30-year vision for Queensland



Queensland Plan Ambassadors Council Meeting Communiqué

16 June 2022

The Queensland Plan Ambassadors Council (the Council) held its second meeting of 2022 in Emerald on 16 June 2022. The Council welcomed Ambassadors who travelled from across Queensland or participated virtually. Maximising the opportunities of a regional meeting, the Council took the opportunity to hear directly from local community members across key sectors in the region.

The Council meeting was opened by Mr Jonathon Malone, Elder, Western Kangoulu people, who performed a Welcome to Country and provided an engaging background on his people and Country.

During the meeting, the Council continued its work on place-based solutions, heard presentations from local industry stakeholders, learned about the importance of regional innovation and supporting future industries and developed an agreed agenda for the remaining 2022 Council meetings.

The Council welcomed Councillor Kerry Hayes, Mayor, Central Highlands Regional Council, who, during an opening presentation, provided the Council with a background on the region and work of the Central Highlands Regional Council to support economic development and innovation in the region.

The Council's priorities for 2022–2023

The Council continued its discussion on developing new priorities for 2022–2023. The Council determined that focus will be placed on three Foundation Areas of the Queensland Plan:

- Environment
- People
- Governance.

By focusing on these Foundation Areas, the Council recognises it has the opportunity to expand on its previous work with respect to inclusion and place-based solutions. Acknowledging the Queensland's Plan recognition that Queenslanders are our State's greatest asset, the Council committed to establishing constructive discussions in future meetings with community stakeholders across these three Foundation Areas.

Emerald Coaches

Mr Michael Baulch and Ms Rachel Baulch, owners of Emerald Coaches, facilitated a site visit of their business where they showcased their transition to hydrogen fuel cell technology, and later, gave a presentation during the Council meeting where they outlined the opportunities for further hydrogen industry innovation, development and scope for enhanced private and public support and investment.

Mr and Ms Baulch acknowledged the support of the Honourable Mark Bailey MP, Minister for Transport and Main Roads and the Honourable Mick de Brenni MP, Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen and Minister for Public Works and Procurement. In their presentation, they also requested assistance and feedback from the Council on exploring opportunities for strengthening future government support for the hydrogen fuel cell industry.

The Council found this discussion engaging and will continue to explore the issue of industry transition across Queensland's regions because, as the Queensland Plan recognises, *"Government can't do this alone but as a community working together we can achieve everything we want for our state's future"*.

Central Highlands Development Corporation

The Queensland Plan highlights that *"our regional centres are the strongest in the nation and critical hubs for our growing industries"*. To better understand how the needs and opportunities of the Central Highlands region, the Council invited Mr Peter Dowling, Acting Chief Executive Officer of the Central Highlands Development Corporation (CHDC), to give a presentation on the CHDC's important work in the region and how it is assisting economic development.

The Council acknowledged the CHDC's significant work and was interested to hear the innovative practices across the diverse business and local government sectors. The Council noted that supporting innovation and business growth is pivotal to creating sustainable regions and identified strong alignment between the work of the CHDC and the current focus of the Council.

Next meeting

The Council will return to Brisbane for its next meeting, scheduled for 15 September 2022, with another regional meeting scheduled for 8 December 2022.

The Council's next meeting will facilitate discussion between the Council and representatives from the Queensland Government, the resources industry and environmental groups, to explore challenges and opportunities in line with the identified 2022–2023 priority of 'Environment'.

Additionally, this meeting will provide an opportunity for representatives from North West Queensland Indigenous Catholic Social Services Limited to address the Council and identified government and non-government stakeholders on issues they have identified regarding the delivery of key social services in Mount Isa – an outcome from the 15 December 2021 Mount Isa Council meeting.

The Queensland Plan aspires to be *"the greatest state in which to live, work and play, and guardian of a sustainable natural environment that inspires an active lifestyle and supports healthy communities"*. The planned focus on the three Foundation Areas of the Queensland Plan will allow the Council to continue its productive work towards this vision.