

The Queensland Plan

A 30-year vision for Queensland



Queensland Plan Ambassadors Council Meeting Communiqué

31 March 2022

The Queensland Plan Ambassadors Council (the Council) held its first meeting of 2022 in Brisbane on 31 March 2022. The Council welcomed Ambassadors who travelled from across the State to attend, and the Chair thanked all Ambassadors for their commitment and dedication to the Council despite the disruptive impact of COVID-19 and flood events in early 2022.

The Council was pleased to welcome the Premier's representative responsible for the Queensland Plan, the Honourable Grace Grace MP, Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing. The Council was interested to hear of the recent Queensland Government investment, in partnership with Telstra, of \$190 million to improve internet connectivity for regional communities, businesses and schools. This investment in connecting our communities directly relates to the Queensland Plan's Foundation Areas of 'Infrastructure' and 'Regions'.

During the meeting, the Council reflected on its 2021 achievements and discussed ways to continue progressing this valuable work. The Council also welcomed presentations from Queensland-based community leaders on place-based solutions, before building on these engagements to begin developing an action plan to advance the Council's priorities for 2022–2023.

Mount Isa outcomes

The Council opened with a discussion on advancing the outcomes from the 15 December 2021 meeting in Mount Isa. This meeting provided a clear direction for the Council with productive presentations from key community members.

The Council discussed the ongoing engagement with Mr Faisal Khan, Chief Executive Officer and Mr Adam Kuzmanovic, Manager, Youth Hub, from North West Queensland Indigenous Catholic Social Services Limited. The Council recognised their valuable work and agreed to work further with North West Queensland Indigenous Catholic Social Services Limited, both out of session and in the next meeting.. As part of this discussion, the Council committed to extending the invite to key industry stakeholders and Government representatives.

Place-based initiatives

The Council welcomed Mr Chris Norman, Chief Executive Officer, Natural Resource Management (NRM) Regions Qld, and Mr Michael Hogan, Convenor, Thriving Queensland Kids Partnership (TQKP), to present case studies on place-based initiatives.

Place-based initiatives provide insights to guide investment, initiatives and programs implemented in Australia, enabling TQKP to help give Queensland children a better start in life and promote social and mental development.

The Council heard, through a case study, a comprehensive overview of an effective place-based initiative. NRM Regions Qld outlined their lessons learned, helping the Council to continue to strengthen its understanding of how they can support positive community outcomes and promote the vision of the Queensland Plan.

The Council also invited TQKP to attend the next Council meeting to help develop, along with the Council and other key stakeholders, a place-based service model.

The Council's priorities for 2022–2023

The Council discussed the development of its new priorities for 2022–2023.

In particular, the Council focused on the prioritising work around the Queensland Plan's Foundation Area of 'Governance':

"Governance is the people's voice. The decisions made by governments and community organisations change our lives. We want a greater say in the process and in the allocation of resources, especially in our local communities. We will reframe our governance model to involve a broader cross-section of stakeholders, including everyday Queenslanders. We'll reduce red tape and have effective regulation to positively change behaviours."

The Council will continue develop its priorities for 2022–2023 and identify how the Council can maximise its impact consistent with the targets and goals for the priority Foundation Areas of the Queensland Plan.

Next meeting

Following the success of 2021 regional meetings in Roma and Mount Isa and consistent with the Queensland Plan commitment that *'In 30 years, Queensland will be home to vibrant and prosperous communities'*, the Council agreed to hold its next meeting in Emerald.

The meeting in Emerald will allow the Council to continue its direct contact with rural and regional stakeholders across many industries and continue to develop its understanding of the community's needs.