

Queensland Plan Ambassadors Council Meeting Communiqué

6 October 2021

With the meeting scheduled for 4 August 2021 postponed due to COVID-19, the Queensland Plan Ambassadors Council (Council) held its second meeting for the year in Brisbane on 6 October 2021.

Given the success of a virtual meeting in September 2020, the Council again took advantage of this technology to enable Ambassadors and presenters who were unable to attend in person to participate remotely.

The Council welcomed its newest member, Mr Ben Bjarnesen.

The Council welcomed the Honourable Grace Grace MP, Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing, the Honourable Glenn Butcher MP, Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water, and Mr Lance McCallum MP, Assistant Minister for Hydrogen Development and the 50% Renewable Energy Target by 2030, to share their insights on the future of Queensland.

The Council was also pleased to hear from a range of speakers on topics including youth justice, regional development and innovation, renewable energy and investment.

Youth Justice

Mr Bob Atkinson AO, APM discussed his roles in, and important contributions to, the areas of youth justice and domestic and family violence, including his position as Co-Chair of the Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Council.

The Queensland Plan highlights the impact of public safety on the liveability of local communities, and the effect of high crime rates on the ability of communities to grow and prosper. Mr Atkinson led a discussion with the Council on successful programs and initiatives to manage challenging or complicated demographics, including crime prevention for young women in Townsville and responding to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander crime.

Queensland's Chief Entrepreneur

The Council welcomed Mr Wayne Gerard, who highlighted his role as Queensland's Chief Entrepreneur.

The Queensland Plan recognises the importance of innovation:

'Innovation and the adoption of technology by a skilled workforce will be essential to grow and diversify Queensland's economic base, improve productivity and our competitiveness in the global economy.'

Mr Gerard noted his role in establishing an Innovation Advisory Council to support Queensland entrepreneurs to develop their businesses and industries, further growing Queensland's economy. He

also detailed his focus on maximising opportunities arising from the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Regional development and innovation, and renewable energy potential and investment

The Council welcomed Mr Clark Butler, Mr Chad Renando, Ms Leigh Diffy and Mr Michael McKee, who shared valuable insights into developing and promoting innovative projects and businesses throughout Queensland. These speakers also outlined the benefits of private and government investment to support regional innovation.

Understanding the uniqueness of, and opportunities offered by, the State's regions, the Queensland Plan outlines the importance of regional development and assisting regions to grow, including an overall target to double the regional population outside South East Queensland.

The Council engaged in robust discussion on regional innovation and committed to focus on strengthening the alignment between Queensland Government initiatives and investment, and the needs of the community.

Next meeting

The Council will return to the regions for its next meeting, which will be held in Mount Isa in December 2021. This meeting will provide a further opportunity to consider business and community development.

The Queensland Plan includes a commitment that *'In 30 years, Queensland will be home to vibrant and prosperous communities'*. With this in mind, the Council will continue its focus on innovation and will promote opportunities for regional economic development and enhanced social outcomes in the lead up to and at its next meeting.