

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Queensland Plan Ambassadors support thriving regional communities**

The Queensland Plan Ambassadors Council has met for the final time for 2019, discussing the economic, safety, law and justice issues which will shape Queensland in the decade ahead.

Meeting in Brisbane on 16 December 2019, Ambassadors reviewed the Australian Productivity Commission's Draft Report on Remote Area Tax Concessions and Payments, voting unanimously to endorse the Queensland Government's position on the Draft Report.

Hailing from all corners of the State, Chair of the Queensland Plan Ambassadors Council, the Honourable Tony McGrady, said Ambassadors recognised the importance of tax concessions to healthy and sustainable regional economies.

"The Queensland Plan identifies our regions as the engine rooms of the State – critical hubs for our growing industries," Mr McGrady said.

"The Council believes Queensland's regions should be empowered to reach their full potential, with diverse economies supporting thriving communities.

"Drawing on their shared experiences, Ambassadors noted the barriers to attracting skilled workers to the regions and the value of remote area tax concessions and payments to-date.

"Following these discussions, Ambassadors voted in-support of the Queensland Government's submission to the Australian Productivity Commission's Draft Report, which highlights the direct and material impact of significant changes to existing tax concessions and payments.

"Ambassadors will continue to raise awareness of the Draft Report in their respective communities in the weeks and months ahead.

"I thank all the Ambassadors for their insights and their expertise throughout and look forward to a productive 2020."

In 2014, the Ambassadors Council was established under the *Queensland Plan Act 2014* to promote awareness, and advocate for the implementation of *The Queensland Plan* within the community, business and industry.

The Ambassadors Council meets at least twice per year to discuss the long-term vision detailed in the Queensland Plan and share their priorities with Government.

The council is comprised of 11 members representing Queensland business, industry and community sectors, with each member appointed for a period of up to five years.

At the December meeting, the Ambassadors Council welcomed new member Ms Suzanne Cadigan – a board member Children's Health Queensland Hospital and Health Service and passionate Queenslander, with more than 40 years of experience working in the health sector.

The Ambassadors Council also acknowledged the valuable contributions of Mr Mark Henley and Professor John Cole, whose terms expired in October 2019.

For more information on the Queensland Plan Ambassadors Council and to read the latest Communique, please visit <https://www.queenslandplan.qld.gov.au/delivering-the-plan/ambassadors.aspx>

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