

Queensland  
**2020**  
IDEAS TO ACTION



## **FORUM REPORT**

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## Introduction

The Australia 2020 Summit process has captured people's imagination and challenged us all to think big. Australians have been asked to consider the future as a moment of limitless opportunity.

A thousand Australians answered the Prime Minister's call and came together in Canberra on 19 and 20 April 2008. One hundred and twenty seven Queenslanders attended this summit and another 18 participated in the Youth Summit that took place on 12 and 13 April. Queensland delegates co-chaired debate in three of the summit discussion areas – Professor Michael Good for Health, Dr Jackie Huggins for Indigenous Australians and Professor Michael Wesley for Australia in the World.

In advance of the summit, the Premier of Queensland, the Hon. Anna Bligh MP, called together the Queensland delegates to help prepare them. On 13 April, 88 of the Queensland delegates were given an overview of the challenges and opportunities facing Queensland.

Following the success of the national summit in Canberra, the Premier hosted an additional discussion of all the Queensland delegates to review the ideas raised at this summit and the Youth Summit. The aim was to identify which ideas could be immediately adopted in Queensland to meet the state's strategic challenges and opportunities.

One hundred and twenty delegates, Ministers and public servants attended the *Queensland 2020: Ideas to Action* forum in the Queensland Parliament on 15 May 2008.

Delegates were invited to continue in the streams in which they had participated at the national summit. Youth summit delegates were invited to self-select a stream on the day.

In a short space of time, significant progress was made.

This report of the discussions is not a comprehensive record of the debate in each of the ten streams. Rather, it presents an overview of the issues and ideas discussed on the day.

The Prime Minister has indicated that the Commonwealth Government will prepare a comprehensive response to the ideas generated at the Australia 2020 Summit by the end of the year. The publication of that report will offer a further opportunity for Queensland to review its 2020 priorities and its progress towards implementation of some of the ideas generated.

## REACHING FOR THE FUTURE

Queensland faces unique challenges. Booming population and economic growth contribute to increasing demand for essential infrastructure and services. With success comes the challenge of sustaining prosperity and preparing for the future.

Following the national summit, the *Queensland 2020: Ideas to Action* forum discussed which ideas could be adopted in Queensland to meet our specific challenges.

The ideas identified in the forum discussions covered a number of fields. Four themes emerged consistently across several streams:

- the importance of **skills** in the economy, and ensuring we have the right people, with the right skills in the right economic sectors. Specific ideas included –
  - the creation of *2020 Scholarships* to support the development of skills in specific industry sectors;
  - implementing a *Rural Skills Formation Strategy* to ensure a skilled and adaptable workforce is available to operate and manage the enterprises of 2020; and
  - investing in *Indigenous Business Development*.
- building **connectivity** between communities, establishing links between Government and industry and between business and education. Ideas included –
  - connecting experienced Golden Guru mentors with younger people in the workplace;
  - establishing business-school connections by creating a coordinated partnership program between Australia's top 100 companies and schools, universities and vocational education and training institutes.;
  - ensuring communities are connected by broadband ICT infrastructure; and
  - establishing service hubs in communities, to provide personalised and localised services, tailored to meet the needs of individuals and communities.
- taking new approaches to **sustainability and well-being**, recognising the complex interplay between communities, the environment and health, education and other outcomes. Ideas included –
  - developing a *Sustainability Charter* that would support a reduction in our ecological footprint, including measurable targets for industry and households;
  - implementing a *Wellness Footprint* that explicitly recognises the critical relationship between the environment and well-being; and
  - *Re-Imagining Community* to build a strong community culture that values people and promotes social inclusion.
- promoting **innovation and creativity**, and taking new approaches to complex challenges. Ideas included –
  - establishing a *Creative Queensland Endowment Fund* to support innovation in the arts; and

- embedding innovation in the *Queensland Public Service* and building excellence in public administration, recognising the role an effective and efficient Public Service plays in a vibrant economy.

Queensland is an ideas powerhouse, and many ideas were put forward both at the national summit and at the Queensland forum. The following chapters give a brief overview of the discussions in each theme, with a focus on a small number of specific ideas generated either at the national summit or at the *Queensland 2020: Ideas to Action* forum.

## Moving forward

Often, the simplest ideas are the ones that can have the greatest impact. One idea to emerge from the Australia 2020 Summit was for an “opt-out” system of organ donation, to address falling donation rates. A bi-partisan Parliamentary Select Committee has been appointed to examine the issue of establishing an “opt-out” organ donation system in Queensland. The Review of Organ and Tissue Donation Procedures Select Committee will report to the Queensland Parliament by 28 October 2008.

The ideas generated at the Australia 2020 Summit and at the *Queensland 2020: Ideas to Action* forum all deserve a fair hearing. The Prime Minister has announced that the Commonwealth Government will prepare a detailed response to all the ideas generated at the national summit by the end of the year. The Queensland Government will prepare a response to the ideas in this report by the end of September 2008.

# THE PRODUCTIVITY AGENDA

## Overview

The general theme addressed by members of the Productivity Agenda stream was opening up channels of communication between schools, industry and higher education institutions to encourage the free flow of ideas and information.

Encouraging the flow of ideas and knowledge was identified as a key means to unlock the human capital potential in the Queensland economy.

The discussions therefore examined:

- how an open conversation between Government, education and business could be established;
- how Queensland can aspire to be a world-class model of connectivity; and
- how we can continue a *discussion of ideas*.

## Key ideas

The Productivity Agenda stream identified a number of key ideas for further consideration:

**Human capital** – releasing the latent value in our human capital by:

- Developing a single school curriculum. A single curriculum would potentially release funding for additional investment in schools and education.
  - Build on work already underway at the State and the Commonwealth to develop a national curriculum – digitised where possible.
  - Ensure that any future national curriculum reflects contemporary communication methods and that teachers and students have appropriate technology and other tools to use effectively.
- Investing in Golden Gurus, retired people acting as mentors in the workplace.
  - Establish a database of interested retirees who can offer their time and expertise to undertake training sessions
  - Establish a database of small businesses with identified training needs which could be matched with the volunteer trainer database.
- Improving business-school connections by creating a coordinated partnership program between Australia's top 100 companies and schools, universities and vocational education and training institutes.
  - Encourage businesses to adopt or sponsor a school in their particular areas. This could include commercial and in-kind contributions.
  - Establish a Queensland Alumni Network Association.
  - Establish formal recognition system for industry support and contributions for schools and educational institutes.

- ensuring open communication avenues to support the flow of ideas.
  - Establish a mechanism for on-line access for the community and stakeholders to communicate with Government and provide ideas for future action.
  - Disseminate information about the Smart State to the general public with a focus on making it more meaningful to the community and promoting greater ownership and understanding of its concepts and directions.

**Supporting kids** – and overcoming the public/private divide in education by, for example, funding students according to need and encouraging more private investment.

- Support the development of funding models which recognise particular areas of disadvantage (noting work already underway at the national/state level as part of the COAG Productivity Agenda).
- Support the establishment of databases which can provide a stronger evidence base for investments in human capital.
- Build on collaborative approaches with industry, the tertiary sector and schools in Queensland such as the establishment of Aviation High and the Health Sciences and Creative Industries Academies

**2020 scholarships** – merit based scholarships to vocational education and training and higher education institutions in skills shortages areas.

- Promote the concept of a broad based national Foundation (2020 Foundation) which could support the development of specific skill based scholarships across all sectors.

### **Science and maths connections**

- Encourage scientists working in academia as well as industry to engage with schools in the development of curriculum and as role models for students.

### **Rewarding excellence in teaching**

- Lift the performance of the teaching profession by recognising outstanding performance and providing appropriate training and professional development.

**Innovation Australia** – establish a national institute for innovation and creativity

- Encourage the Australian Government to link scholarships with the establishment of a new national body aimed at fostering innovation and creativity amongst teachers and students.

## Skills development

- Develop flexible, innovative training systems that are responsive to industry needs and the demands of the economy for a skilled workforce
- Establish pilot projects with industry for specific groups to demonstrate the benefits of direct industry investment
- Target large employer groups to make contributions to skills development

## Work in the bush

- Develop and disseminate better information about work and lifestyle opportunities in the State's regions.
- Improve the availability of training and education places in regional areas in recognition of the fact that people who train locally are more likely to seek permanent employment in those areas.

# FUTURE OF THE QUEENSLAND ECONOMY

## Overview

The Queensland economy is booming. Yet there are challenges in any economy, especially dealing with the changing nature of the world economy, the immediate impacts of economic changes in our region and addressing longer-term challenges such as the potential impacts of climate change.

The discussions in the Future of the Queensland Economy stream focussed on a single ambition – to make Queensland the best place to live, work and do business in 2020.

Discussion in the stream therefore focused on increasing Queensland's economic capacity, investing in infrastructure and investing in the whole *spectrum of talents* in the Queensland economy. Delegates felt there was a need for Queensland to map out and plan for our energy and infrastructure needs and to plan for uncertainties such as climate change and the potential impact of a carbon tax.

## Key ideas

The discussions in the Queensland Economy stream identified four key ideas for future consideration.

Supporting the growth of the Queensland economy now and into the future by ensuring that Queensland interests and needs are fully embodied and met in national **infrastructure plans**.

- Key areas of energy, water, high speed broadband and public transport.
- Workforce skilling with particular focus on skilled labour and professional occupations.

Continuing the theme of infrastructure, ensuring a holistic approach to the provision of both **hard and soft infrastructure**.

- Planning and provision of infrastructure should be focused toward improving productivity and lifting the rate of economic growth.
- More and better data on infrastructure to remove differences in planning across different kinds of infrastructure.

Removing potential brakes on economic progress by addressing **regulatory reform**, with a particular focus on freeing-up national markets and aligning regulation across States and Territories.

- Establish holistic approach to regulation.
- Focus toward national emerging markets.

- Occupational health and safety and skills accreditation identified as existing areas of bottlenecks.

Addressing the current and future **skills** needs of the Queensland workforce.

- An express need to recognise global competition for skills.
- Impediments to overseas migration should be reviewed.

# POPULATION, SUSTAINABILITY, CLIMATE CHANGE, WATER AND THE FUTURE OF OUR CITIES

## Overview

The Population, Sustainability, Climate Change and the Future of Our Cities stream reiterated the urgency of dealing with climate change and sustainability. It was noted that climate change and sustainability had resonated strongly in the deliberations of many of the national summit streams, emphasising their importance to the future of Australia. The stream participants felt that States and Territories needed to play a central role in delivering the strategies proposed through the national summit.

Stream participants felt that there was a need to make an explicit link between reducing our ecological footprint and achieving the repair of the landscape. With respect to water, it was acknowledged that different issues presented themselves across the State – South-East Queensland faces very different challenges to Far North Queensland. A national agenda was needed with respect to tropical water resources, with a particular emphasis on moving away from resource development.

The stream discussion focussed on the importance of greenhouse gas mitigation, acknowledging the complexity of addressing mitigation in an economy where the coal industry is such a significant partner. The stream discussion also felt that challenges were presented by high rates of population growth and the geographical concentration of this growth, and the need to address education and skills in sustainable development.

## Key ideas

The discussion in this stream identified a number of ideas for further consideration:

Prepare a **'Sustainability Charter'** which:

- commits to reducing the ecological footprint;
- includes measurable targets for industry and households; and
- establishes a system of offsets for landscape repair

Undertake a **legislative and policy** review with a view to removing perverse incentives and regulatory barriers to sustainability. The review could provide an opportunity to redirect funding towards programs that actively reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Queensland.

Extending the success of sustainable development **educational programs** in schools into higher education and vocational education and training sectors by, for example, developing clear directions on embedding sustainability in the curriculum.

Achieve national and international leadership in the **sustainable management of tropical water resources** by:

- establishing a state-based water rights system which incorporates the value of ecosystem services;
- engaging Indigenous land managers; and
- integrating the Reef Rescue initiative.

Recognise the impact of the **built environment** on our ecological footprint and the opportunities to deliver cost effective greenhouse gas abatement for Queensland, for example by:

- setting measurable and time-bound targets, in consultation with industry; and
- adopting a risk-based approach to retrofitting existing built infrastructure in order to reduce oil vulnerability and greenhouse gas emissions.

Develop a **coastal development policy** which addresses the vulnerability of coastal settlements in Queensland to extreme events (e.g. cyclones) and that provides an appropriate framework for the management of natural values such as coastal biodiversity.

## FUTURE DIRECTIONS FOR RURAL INDUSTRIES AND COMMUNITIES

### Overview

The primary focus of this group's deliberations was to maintain and grow the social capital in – and the liveability of – Queensland's rural and remote communities, building on important programs such as the *Blueprint for the Bush*. Bush culture is an important part of Queensland's heritage and needs to be strengthened and retained.

The rural stream discussion identified a need for Queensland to look beyond the current mining boom to sustain rural and remote areas. It was the view of the group that great advantages and savings for the State could be made by keeping the existing population and encouraging more people to live and work in rural and remote Queensland.

### Key ideas

Rural stream delegates identified three major priorities.

First, the **Knowledge Economy**. Agriculture in Australia has always been at the forefront of embracing new knowledge, innovation, science and technology. The looming reality of climate change in the 21<sup>st</sup> century provided heightened emphasis on the need to be open to new knowledge and understanding in a changing environment.

Despite the increasing need for up-to-date knowledge, the group felt that rural and remote communities were being increasingly disadvantaged in the knowledge economy. For a better future in 2020, there was an immediate need to:

- Address parity of access to all levels of **education and skills formation** from Early Childhood to Tertiary, to lifelong educational opportunities for people living in remote and rural communities.
- **Retain and attract** professionals and knowledge managers who can apply the latest research and knowledge to the challenges and problems facing rural and remote communities.
- Ensure that modern and effective communication tools, especially **broadband ICT**, is available in rural and remote Queensland. A lack of ICT can serve to compound the disadvantage of people already suffering from isolation and is a disincentive for people moving from urban communities to the bush.
- Continue Government support for **rural research and development** corporations.

The second theme identified in discussion concerned **Enterprise Viability**. The group recognised that only profitability in the rural sector would ensure the sustainability and livability of communities in rural and remote Queensland.

Climate change was a key consideration in discussions, as agriculture and environmental and economic sustainability are inextricably connected. While climate change presents challenges, it also affords opportunities – it has been suggested that

climate change could lead to a possible change in the balance of agricultural development from Southern to Northern Australia.

The group felt that production systems would need to change as a result of climate change, which will require the adaptation of traditional industries and the creation of new ones. By 2020 agriculture could look very different from today:

- Farmers could be paid for ecosystem services or sequestration of carbon, as well as farm production.

The group felt there was an immediate need to:

- Develop a **rural skills formation strategy** to ensure a skilled and adaptable workforce was available to operate and manage the enterprises of 2020. This will require resourced regional colleges and universities and assistance for students now and the immediate future.
- Establish a workforce and skills program that enables **foreign workers** to come to remote, rural and regional Australia.
- Identify policy settings that support more holistic farming models and a more **sustainable business** approach. It was suggested that the profitability of rural businesses in 2020 might be very different to profit models of today – with farmers, for instance, being paid for ecosystem services.
- Hold **quarterly meetings** with Ministers to identify the strategic issues pertaining to the environment and rural issues.

The final theme the group addressed was **Regulatory Alignment**. The group felt that there were many unnecessary barriers to business efficiency arising from regulatory duplication, particularly in regard to transport. A flexible, open and consultative approach to the review of regulation was advocated to ensure genuine regional and state circumstances were given due consideration.

The rural stream felt there was an immediate need to undertake a **regulatory review**, covering all relevant State and Commonwealth legislation and local government regulation, to remove interstate and boundary red tape.

## A LONG-TERM HEALTH STRATEGY

### Overview

Discussion in the Health stream focussed primarily on the importance of preventative health measures, and ensuring that the health services of 2020 were focussed more on prevention and early intervention models than on traditional acute care service models.

Building on the priority themes and top ideas from the Australia 2020 Summit, the group agreed that Queensland could play a significant role in driving preventative health activities and promoting better research and its translation into commercial and clinical benefits.

The group also agreed that it was essential that health services were delivered by an adequately trained medical and non-medical workforce.

### Key ideas

The group proposed action in three key areas:

First, development of a **'wellness footprint'** based on a recognition of the critical relationship between the environment, cities and our health and social well-being. The footprint would be a measure of the extent to which a community promotes and facilitates 'wellness' and would provide a platform for the development of strategies to address environmental risk factors associated with obesity, cancer, cardio-vascular disease and other health problems.

The footprint would assess the health of a community, based on a number of different criteria across environmental, economic, health and social domains – for example, town planning, recreational facilities, building design, transport and community and education facilities.

The development of Springfield was cited as an example of a community where initiatives to integrate and support health, economic and social well-being are taking place. It was suggested that much development in Queensland is taking place at greenfield sites and Queensland could lead the way in terms of trialling a wellness footprint in the development of these communities.

The group also supported the importance of public health education and information campaigns in supporting preventative health initiatives. In addition, the role of social cohesiveness and social inclusion in prevention was highlighted. Social support and the role of 'community' are critical particularly in the case of supporting those with mental health problems and the ageing.

Second, the discussion focussed on the importance of **health research**. The group endorsed building upon the innovative and successful Smart State Strategy to position Queensland as a leader in attracting and promoting research in health.

The group identified the importance of strengthening research and its translation and integration across teaching hospitals. Strengthening the research capacity of teaching

hospitals through the integration of research supports translation of research and the attraction of a skilled health workforce.

It was also suggested that funding support could be encouraged from prominent philanthropists, with some incentive funding provided by the Government.

Third, the group focussed on **indigenous health**. Rather than focusing on establishing a body such as the Health Equalities Commission, the group stressed actions could be prioritised and undertaken immediately.

Direct and targeted action to address specific and high burden issues such as suicides among young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men and the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mothers and their babies would impact positively and make a difference sooner rather than later. Examples of specific initiatives which have been shown to make a difference include reducing overcrowding in housing and ensuring all babies and children have the child health check.

## STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES AND SUPPORTING FAMILIES

### Overview

Discussion in this stream focused on issues of connectivity – how Queenslanders operate as communities and the services that are provided to those communities. Delegates noted that people often did not know what services were available to them, and that services could be better tailored to their personal or local needs. Delegates noted that the national summit had struggled to address all of the issues identified, and welcomed the opportunity to progress discussion beyond what had been achieved at the national summit.

Discussion in this stream focussed primarily on two themes:

- Improving **access to services** and the concept of one-stop-shops or service hubs; and
- **Re-imagining communities** to address social inclusion.

In discussing these themes, delegates strongly advocated the benefits of a holistic approach and the need to achieve a paradigm shift from crisis intervention to proactive prevention and early intervention initiatives.

### Key ideas

Within the two themes, the discussion in the Strengthening Communities stream identified several key ideas for further consideration:

#### Access to services

Delegates agreed that there was ultimately some confusion about the role of one-stop-shops and service hubs in providing the kinds of holistic services under discussion. It is clear however that there was support, both at the National Summit and at the Queensland forum, for providing easier access to a wider range of services at the one location – with a particular focus on education, health, parental assistance programs, migrant support and financial assistance. Delegates also agreed that services should have an emphasis on early intervention and prevention, and reducing red tape.

Key ideas with regard to one-stop shops and service hubs included:

- establishing **service hubs** in locations such as schools. It was agreed that hubs needed to be easily accessible and socially inclusive, located in central places identified by the community. Schools provide such a coordination point that connects to other services, with potential to be utilised 24 hours a day, seven days a week – and could be linked to other hubs; and
- empowering **young people** to establish hubs to meet their needs, linking with expertise from seniors who are willing and available to provide intergenerational support.

Delegates also discussed the lack of awareness about existing services and difficulties in connecting people with services when they need them. Possible solutions included:

- promoting services through alternative outlets, including **targeting information** – for instance, targeting migrant services and information at children who can in turn influence their parents and grandparents; and
- providing advice and referral services through information desks in **community venues**, for instance in banks.

### Re-imagining community

Delegates discussed the importance of building a strong community culture that values people and promotes social inclusion.

Key issues discussed included:

- addressing **social inclusion**, including through support for the development of a Charter of Rights, a National Action Plan for Social Inclusion and a National Development Index, with measurable community outcomes;
- moving towards a culture that accepts and embraces – and not just tolerates – **diversity**. It was suggested that politicians actively demonstrate support for diversity by attending relevant events;
- creating a register of **Diversity Champions** to provide mentorship for migrants and refugees, and extending the Golden Gurus idea into the area of social inclusion;
- breaking the victim/perpetrator cycle by providing a greater range of **recovery choices** for victims, from adversarial to counselling and safe mediation options, including sexual assault programs for men;
- showcasing positive outcomes achieved through the **juvenile justice** conferencing restorative process in public forums; and
- keeping new responses to **drug use and homelessness** on the national agenda.

## OPTIONS FOR THE FUTURE OF INDIGENOUS QUEENSLAND

### Overview

The Premier of Queensland, the Hon. Anna Bligh MP, hosted the discussions in the Indigenous Queensland stream. Delegates noted that the discussions in this stream received more attention at this forum than at the national summit in Canberra.

The Minister for Communities, Disability Services, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Multicultural Affairs, Seniors and Youth, the Hon. Lindy Nelson-Carr MP, and her Parliamentary Secretary, Ms Rachel Nolan MP, and the Leader of the Opposition, Mr Lawrence Springborg MP, also attended.

### Key ideas

The discussion in the Indigenous Queensland stream identified three key ideas for further consideration:

- the establishment of an **Indigenous Advisory Group** that would provide high-level and strategic advice to government. This Group would –
  - Provide strategic advice, with regional and operational engagement strengthened through existing mechanisms (Negotiation Tables etc);
  - Consist of 10 – 12 appointed members, though could call in additional expertise if required. Members would be appointed on the basis of expertise, geographical, gender and age balance;
  - Not have responsibility for funding decisions, and would be sufficiently independent to provide ‘frank and fearless’ advice; and
  - Consider Indigenous and non-Indigenous members – appointed based on individuals’ track records, and consider appointing representatives from other existing mechanisms (e.g. the Queensland Indigenous Education Consultative Committee).
- the establishment of a **Centre of Excellence** to improve the availability of evidence based research and cultivate new ideas. The Centre would need to take account of:
  - Other, similar models – which are normally based within a University and supported by government, business and philanthropic contributions;
  - How to link research effectively with Indigenous communities; and
  - How Queensland can be best positioned to drive and host research.
- development of an **Indigenous Business Development** program, that promotes sustainable Indigenous-run businesses. Acknowledging that economic participation is a key issue on the Council of Australian Governments, the delegates noted that:
  - the South East Queensland Indigenous Chamber of Commerce (SEQICC) was established over 12 months ago and has approximately 65 members. SEQICC is keen to set up similar groups in Rockhampton and Cairns.
  - Business and industry development support is in place, but there is a lack of ongoing support for business management

## TOWARDS A CREATIVE QUEENSLAND

### Overview

The Creative Queensland stream discussion noted that the arts, film and design play a central role in innovation and creativity. Delegates suggested that a policy environment is needed where creativity is valued in all government business and the arts are recognised as a cornerstone of creativity. Delegates also suggested that arts and culture are of value in addressing issues across several other streams.

### Key ideas

The Creative Queensland stream discussions identified a number of key ideas for further consideration, including:

- the establishment of a **Creative Queensland Endowment Fund** to support artistic risk and innovation and long-term projects and loans. The Endowment Fund would –
  - be in addition to existing support, and would provide assistance to individual artists, not-for-profit ventures and commercial projects;
  - incorporate all Queensland Government awards focused on creativity, making it one of the richest award programs in Australia; and
  - be created through capital investment by the Queensland Government over a period of time. The Fund would be managed by an independent foundation with the required tax status to secure investment support from individuals, and corporate and philanthropic bodies.
- the development of additional **investment models and incentives**. In addition to the Creative Queensland Endowment Fund, a need was identified for:
  - better tax incentives to attract philanthropic support for the arts, including expanding the scope of Prescribed Private Funds;
  - a HECS-type scheme for artists to facilitate access to loans for professional development and materials;
  - consideration of different ways governments could contribute to the arts and creativity through their internal budgets; and
  - consideration of how film finance and investment models could be applied more broadly in the arts sector for projects with a potential commercial return.
- implementation of a **State Indemnification Scheme** to facilitate community access to publicly funded arts and cultural spaces. The Scheme would be developed in response to public liability issues and could draw on models implemented in other countries, such as the New Zealand ‘no fault’ model.
- supporting the **digitisation** of all collections in all Queensland’s major cultural institutions to facilitate universal access (within Queensland, interstate and internationally) to our arts and cultural assets.
  - Delegates acknowledged that this work was already under way, but suggested that a target for completion by 2020 should be set.

- The Creative Queensland stream delegates felt that it was critical that this be supported by the parallel roll-out of broadband across Australia, and be implemented in accordance with national standards for digitisation.
- advocate for the inclusion of the arts as a core component of the **National Curriculum** for all ages and across all disciplines, recognising the central role the arts play in developing creative capability from early learning onwards and in sustaining our communities.
  - Delegates noted that the provision of Artists-in-Residence in Schools as recently announced in the Federal budget is one component of this agenda.
- support the development of a **National Cultural Policy**, which recognises the important role of arts and culture across all aspects of the government agenda.
- develop and implement a **State Government Design Policy** for the built environment, to ensure that all construction and design undertaken by the public and for-profit sectors in the built environment is informed by design standards and collaboration with designers, architects and artists.
  - The policy could be modelled on the work of the United Kingdom's Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE), which is rolling out a similar initiative across the public and private sectors by 2010.
- acknowledge the centrality of **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts and culture** in defining Australia's history, culture and national identity.

## GOVERNANCE

### Overview

Delegates to the Queensland Governance stream agreed that Queensland should aim to progress the priority areas identified at the national summit in Canberra.

Discussion acknowledged the changing face of federalism in Australia, and the new challenges and opportunities that the new collaborative federalism will bring. Delegates also noted the importance of securing bi-partisan support to strengthen mechanisms for collaboration.

Delegates felt that two issues deserved particular prominence in Queensland:

- Queensland should lead the national debate on enhancing **civic participation** and collaborative governance by hosting a national event to develop this idea further; and
- the **automatic enrolment** of voters turning eighteen years of age – delegates felt that a working group should be tasked with considering how current automated licensing and registration systems could be adapted.

### Key ideas

The Queensland Governance stream discussions identified a number of key ideas for further consideration, including:

- investing in **excellence in the public sector**, for instance by exploring the opportunities for flexible engagement practices to ensure the public service is able to attract and retain highly skilled, motivated and mobile public servants. Delegates also suggested –
  - enhancing **cadetships** and graduate programs to attract talented individuals early in their careers;
  - investing in retention of individuals through innovative and flexible **incentive schemes** (e.g. a waiver of HECS debt); and
  - establishing **partnerships** between private and public sectors to enable the transfer and development of talented staff.
- investing in **civic participation and collaborative governance**. It was suggested that, through the Local Government Act review, the Government could facilitate place-based community planning processes to provide a focus for local community engagement and government service delivery. Delegates also suggested –
  - using technology to **energise the engagement process** making better use of innovation and technology to develop structures and processes to increase and improve dialogue between policy and decision makers and the community. This could be supplemented by an audit of existing engagement mechanisms, with a view to identifying how these could be made more accessible or known to the community;
  - engaging with **disenfranchised** members of the community;

- building on Queensland's **pioneering work**, including in fields such as civic education, youth participation, deliberative democracy, community planning and e-government; and
- increase respect of public and government institutions through a program of **civic education**.
- the preamble to the **Constitution of Queensland Act** be amended to recognise Indigenous Australians. Delegates felt that the amendment could be developed as an important staging post in the reconciliation agenda, and would not need a referendum for action.
  - Delegates also supported the development of a Bill or Charter of Rights, following Indigenous and community consultation.
- support for **open and accountable government**. Delegates acknowledged that the Queensland Government was taking forward an extensive review of its Freedom of Information legislation.

## QUEENSLAND IN THE WORLD

### Overview

The national summit in Canberra had examined “Australia’s future security and prosperity in a rapidly changing region and world”. For the purposes of the *Queensland 2020: Ideas to Action* forum, the stream was focussed on Queensland’s relationships with key regional trading partners and on strategic, Government-level agreements.

### Key ideas

The group’s discussion focussed on four priority themes:

- A campaign to develop **regional literacy**;
- Closer economic and political **integration with the Pacific**;
- Engagement of major **regional economies**; and
- Assert new leadership in **global governance**.

### A campaign to develop regional literacy

Delegates felt that the Queensland Government should consider introducing a targeted and focussed pilot study regarding the introduction of Asian languages in primary, secondary and higher education institutions. The study should be a product of collaboration with the business community in its formulation, be voluntary and include experienced teachers.

It was noted that European countries such as Germany and Spain would not be such successful global economic nations if only 7 percent of their population spoke another language – this is the situation in Australia. An Asian language pilot needs to be a result of consultation with the business community and aim to meet their language needs. This poses the opportunity to incorporate business into the funding models for the scheme over the long-term. Moreover, the business community stands to be one of the greatest beneficiaries of the scheme.

It was felt that a pilot would:

- Contribute to life-long learning and a greater culture of learning among Queenslanders;
- Result in an increase in 2-way cultural exchanges, which would be a boost to our tourism industry;
- Greater cultural understanding would result in less potential for regional conflicts and improve Australia’s overall security level in the region; and

- Learning an Asian language would affect our perception of other cultures, which would provide us with greater ease when dealing with other cultures in a business setting – this would afford Queensland a competitive edge over other economies when dealing with the upcoming economic giants of Asia.

Delegates felt that the pilot would need to be linked into the education system. It was felt that – due to the complexity of the languages involved – high school students find little motivation to learn an Asian language as it may have a negative impact on their OP score and university placement.

Delegates noted that studies had demonstrated it is easier to start learning second languages at pre-school and primary school level. The pilot would therefore need to be established across primary, senior, higher and adult education. It would also be necessary to ensure continuity, with the program going from feeder schools through to university.

### **Closer economic and political integration with the Pacific**

Delegates suggested that Queensland is well positioned to be Australia's gateway to the Pacific region.

Discussion highlighted the need for the Queensland Government and the State's non-government sector to share 'lessons learnt' through partnerships with our Pacific neighbours and that this would provide benefits to Queensland and our Pacific neighbours.

The group emphasised that engagement with partners in the Pacific needed to be on a long-term basis. In discussion, the types of potential exchanges and partnerships highlighted as suitable were identified as:

- Government-to-Government exchanges that would provide the opportunity for Pacific nations to learn from Queensland's public sector and governance reforms;
- Queensland and many of the Pacific nations face similar dilemmas, such as best harnessing of their natural resources while managing the environmental impacts;
- There are common problems, such as climate change, regional security, etc;
- Encourage partnerships for development initiatives and volunteering exchanges; and
- Partnerships could cover the activities of the judiciary, police and military exercises to expose our Pacific neighbours to responsible community policing. Exchange officers could spend time seconded to Queensland to be embedded in a work unit and experience the hands-on delivery of responsible community policing

Delegates suggested that these initiatives could strengthen government and civil society institutions in the Pacific countries involved in such exchanges. Longer term, this could potentially have the effect of creating a safer region.

## Engagement of major regional economies

Australia is intimately linked to the major regional economies of India and China, primarily as a result of demand for Queensland's natural resources. Delegates felt that there was room for a greater level of engagement with India and China – though such engagements would need to have benefits for Queensland.

The group supported the idea that Queensland is Australia's gateway into Asia and stressed that we have a common future with our neighbours in the region and closer engagements will provide us with higher levels of security.

Discussion in the stream supported the following activities:

- Strategic Government-level agreements that further knowledge partnerships and that provide benefits for Queensland;
- Agreements between Queensland and governments in these major regional economies, such as India and China;
- Agreements that are research intensive and focused on targeted priority sectors within the Queensland economy; and
- The Queensland Government and business community should be encouraged to expand their traditional networks and exchanges to include these major regional economies.

The successful delivery of these activities would necessitate early investment in developing regional literacy initiatives.

## Assert new leadership in global governance

Delegates suggested that Queensland Government policies needed to align with United Nations' protocols and conventions. Delegates felt that:

- Enriching civil societies through strengthening community capacity and viability and the associated institutions will provide people with a higher respect for human rights;
- Policies needed to focus on groups that are at-risk of 'feeling disenfranchised';
- State and local policy need to have a more coordinated approach;
- Governments should be encouraged to build the appropriate knowledge platforms and correct array of skills in order for the State to have an effective planned response to crises; and
- International trade and cultural exchanges have a positive impact on global security.