

Queensland  
**2020**  
IDEAS TO ACTION



## Queensland Government Response

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## Premier's foreword

In February this year, the Prime Minister announced that he would invite 1000 of the best and brightest Australian minds to a national summit in Canberra. I was pleased to be able to attend the national Australia 2020 Summit on 19 and 20 April 2008 and was particularly struck by the range and breadth of the excellent ideas under discussion.

I was also pleased to see Queenslanders take centre stage in the debate, with Professors Michael Good and Michael Wesley and Dr Jackie Huggins helping to lead debate in three of the summit topic areas.

On 15 May 2008, I hosted a follow-up discussion with Queensland delegates to the national summit, as well as Queensland delegates to the Youth Summit held on 12 and 13 April. More than 122 delegates, youth delegates, Ministers and public servants attended the Queensland 2020: Ideas to Action forum. The forum was aimed at identifying which of the ideas raised at the national summit could be adopted to help meet Queensland's strategic challenges.

The report of the forum discussions covered 72 ideas across the ten topic themes. This Government Response examines each idea individually and on its own merits.

I want to thank those Queenslanders who gave their time and their knowledge to the 2020 Forum. They enriched the discussions in both Canberra and Brisbane with wisdom and passion.

My Government will work closely with the Commonwealth Government in its review of the ideas discussed at the national summit, to ensure that Queensland voices continue to be heard in Canberra.

I want to make early and immediate progress wherever we can. My Government has already made a start on the big ideas to emerge from the national summit. Janelle Colquhoun's idea for a new approach to organ donation is already the subject of a significant review here in Queensland. My Government is also working with Ernie Peralta to turn his idea for *Golden Gurus* into reality.

In September I launched *Toward Q2: Tomorrow's Queensland*. *Toward Q2* outlines ambitious, long-term targets for 2020 that tackle some of the biggest challenges Queensland faces. These are designed to focus government, industry and community activity on achieving a strong, smart, green, healthy and fair future for all Queenslanders.

The Queensland 2020: Ideas to Action forum was a fine example of the ongoing dialogue and ideas sharing needed to deliver on our *Toward Q2* ambitions, and many of the ideas discussed at the forum will contribute to the realisation of our ambitions.

The forum report and this Government response are not the end of the 2020 discussions. All of us have a stake in the future of our State. My Government will continue to listen to Queenslanders – including in *Toward Q2* consultation – to tap the reservoir of excellence so abundant in our State.

Hon Anna Bligh MP  
Premier of Queensland

## Acknowledgements

The Queensland Government would like to thank the following Queenslanders for giving their time, ideas and passion to both the Queensland 2020 Forums and to the national Australia 2020 Summit.

### **Theme 1: The productivity agenda**

Mr Rod Camm, Ms Deb Daly, Prof Sandra Harding, Ms Tania Major, Prof Bruce Muirhead, Mr Ernesto Peralta, Dr Chris Sarra.

### **Theme 2: Future of the Queensland economy**

Mr Brian Flannery, Prof John Foster, Mr Lance Hockridge, Prof Max Lu, Mr Patrick McKendry, Mr John Mulcahy, Ms Jude Munro, Ms Narelle Pearse.

### **Theme 3: Population, sustainability, climate change, water and the future of our cities**

Mr Michael Berwick, Mrs Leith Bouilly, Ms Erin Cini, Prof Chris Cocklin, Ms Cheryl Desha, Ms Melissa-Leigh George, Prof Ross Guest, Dr Andrew Johnson, Prof Ian Lowe AO, Ms Elizabeth Nosworthy AO, Prof Hugh Possingham, Prof John Quiggin, Dr Russell Reichelt, Dr Lorraine Stephenson.

### **Theme 4: Future directions for rural industries and communities**

Ms Sue Ann Adair, Mrs Maxine Baldwin, Ms Robyn Boundy, Mrs Bobby Brazil, Ms Edwina Clowes, Mr Everaldo Compton, Mr Monte Dwyer, Mr Robert Granger, Mr Brett Heading, Mr Stuart Higgins, Ms Kerrina King, Prof Bob Lonnie, Dr Mark McGovern, Ms Marion Murphy, Mrs Georgina Somerset, Mrs Mary Ann Walsh OAM, Mrs Beth Welden.

### **Theme 5: A long-term health strategy**

Prof Perry F Bartlett, Prof Peter Brooks, Assoc. Prof Brendan Burkett, Assoc. Prof David Colquhoun, Ms Janelle Colquhoun, Prof Caroline de Costa, Prof Niki Ellis, Prof. Michael Good, Dr Clive Hadfield, Prof. John Mendoza, Mr. Allan Pidgeon, Prof Lawrie Powell AC, Mr Michael Rayner, Prof Cindy Shannon, Dr Sunita Shaunak, Dr Marian Sullivan, Dr Jim Varghese, Prof Emma Whitelaw, Dr Catherine Yelland.

### **Theme 6: Strengthening communities and supporting families**

Dr Mohamad Abdalla, Mrs Shelley Argent, Ms Hazel Douglas, Ms Valerie French AM, Rev Dr Catherine Laufer, Mr. Alex McDonald, Mr. Michael O'Neill, Ms Zoe Rathus, Dr Wendell Rosevear OAM, Mr Iqbal Singh, Ms Jessica Wellard, Ms Indigo Willing OAM.

### **Theme 7: Options for the future of Indigenous Queensland**

Dr Mick Adams, Mr Graham Dillon, Ms Mary Graham, Mr Stephen Hagan, Dr Richard Heazlewood, Dr Jackie Huggins, Mr Vince Mundraby, Dr Rae Norris, Mr Noel Pearson, Mayor Napau Pedro Stephen, Dr Mark Wenitong, Ms Tammy Williams, Mr Neil Willmetts.

**Theme 8: Towards a creative Queensland**

Mr James Baker, Adj Prof Michael Bryce AM AE, Mr Daryl Buckley, Prof Stuart Cunningham, Mr Wesley Enoch, Mr Michael Gow, Prof Anna Haebich, Mr Scott Hocknall, Ms Cathy Hunt, Dr Liza Lim, Prof Marilyn McMeniman.

**Theme 9: Governance**

Mr Sean Barrett, Dr Alexander Brown, Hon Matt Foley, Mr Paul Formosa, Ms Bridie Jabour, Ms Joanne Kelly, Prof the Hon. Michael Lavarch, Mr Michael McKinnon, Mr Alexander McLaughlin, Mr Stewart McRae, Dr David Solomon, Dr Anne Tiernan, Ms Danielle Vujovich, Prof Patrick Weller AO.

**Theme 10: Queensland in the World**

Dr Walter Bateman, Mr Abraham Gubler, Dr Bronwyn Harch, Dr Chris Kang, Ms Eliza Matthews, Prof Lorraine Mazerolle, Mr Gregory Nelson, Mr Garry Redlich, Prof Swee-Hin Toh, Prof Michael Wesley.

**Youth Summit Delegates**

Ms Yassmin Abdel-Magied, Ms Kate Allison, Ms Emma Betts, Mr Elliot Bledsoe, Mr Andrew Daniels, Ms Sarah Flomersfeld, Ms Jayde Fuller, Ms Rhiannon Habermann, Mr Alan Huynh, Mr Joshua Lane, Mr Gerhard Leinenga, Mr Luke Middleton, Ms Jenny O'Brien, Ms Jess Price, Mr Michael Richards, Ms Alison Smith, Mr Owen Wareham, Mr Boxun Yin.

## Summary

This paper responds to the ideas generated at the Queensland 2020: Ideas to Action forum held on 15 May 2008. It provides the Queensland Government's response to each of the 72 initiatives and proposals listed under the 'Key Ideas' sections of the *Queensland 2020: Ideas to Action Forum Report*.<sup>1</sup>

Of the 72 ideas discussed at the Queensland 2020: Ideas to Action, the Queensland Government accepts 69 ideas in full or in principle. A further idea is accepted in part. The Queensland Government will work with 2020 delegates and other stakeholders to turn these ideas into reality.

The Queensland Government does not support two of the ideas discussed at the summit. In both cases, the reasoning behind this decision has been given.

On 8 September 2008, the Queensland Government launched *Toward Q2: Tomorrow's Queensland*<sup>2</sup> blueprint. *Toward Q2* outlines ambitious, long-term targets for 2020 that tackle some of the biggest challenges Queensland faces. These are designed to focus government, industry and community activity on achieving a strong, smart, green, healthy and fair future for all Queenslanders.

Many of the ideas discussed at the Queensland 2020: Ideas to Action forum will help us to work together to realise the ambitions set out in *Toward Q2*.

The Queensland Government appreciates the energy and commitment that Queenslanders have given to the Queensland 2020 forum discussions, and will continue to work with all Queenslanders to realise our ambitions for a strong, smart, green, healthy and fair Queensland.

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<sup>1</sup> See <http://www.thepremier.qld.gov.au/initiatives/forum2020/index.shtm>

<sup>2</sup> See <http://www.towardQ2.qld.gov.au> for more information

## Theme 1: The productivity agenda

### Summary

The discussions at the Queensland 2020: Ideas to Action forum on 15 May 2008 covered 19 key ideas under the productivity theme. The Queensland Government accepts all of these ideas.

The ideas under this theme will help us achieve our ambition for a diverse economy powered by bright ideas, and a smart Queensland, delivering world class education and training, as set out in *Toward Q2: Tomorrow's Queensland*.

### Key ideas

#### 1. Develop a single school curriculum.

The Queensland Government supports this idea, which is consistent with the Premier of Queensland's call for a nationally-consistent education curriculum. The Queensland Government has already made a start on achieving a single curriculum, through the Queensland Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting (QCAR) framework. QCAR represents the most complete definition of a curriculum framework that not only aligns curriculum, assessment and reporting, but also conforms to the well-established objectives of achieving high quality and high equity curriculum.

At the national level, the National Curriculum Board (NCB) has been established to oversee the development of a national curriculum from Prep to Year 12. English, Mathematics, the Sciences and History, underpinned by a renewed focus on literacy and numeracy, will be developed and implemented by 2011. Geography and Languages will be the next subjects developed.

Queensland will continue to advocate for the abolition of state-based curriculum authorities and the creation of a single National Curriculum Authority.

#### 2. Invest in Golden Gurus, retired people acting as mentors in the workplace.

The Queensland Government accepts this idea. The Queensland Government has a number of mentoring initiatives in place that address the needs of small businesses. The Queensland Government has therefore agreed with the project proponent, Mr Ernesto Peralta, to focus Golden Gurus on the non-profit and community sectors.

At first, Golden Gurus will seek to recruit older people to contribute their time and skills to community and non-government organisations. This will directly support the *Toward Q2* target of increasing by 50 per cent the proportion of Queenslanders involved in volunteering by 2020.

The Queensland Government will work with Mr Peralta to get the Golden Gurus program up and running early in 2009, and will provide \$15,000 funding for Volunteering Queensland to support this program.

Golden Gurus was also suggested at the national summit. The Queensland Government will work with the Commonwealth Government to help realise the potential productivity benefits in Golden Gurus.

**3. Improve business-school connections by creating a coordinated partnership program between Australia's top 100 companies and schools, universities and VET institutes.**

The Queensland Government accepts this idea. This proposal has also been put forward at a national level, and the Commonwealth Government's response may impact on how this is pursued in Queensland. The Queensland Government will work with the Commonwealth Government to progress this idea.

Partnerships and other programs between Australia's top companies and schools have grown in recent years. For example, Woolworths has been especially supportive of school-based apprentices and trainees in the Brisbane South and Townsville regions over the past year. Queensland's Aviation High is a state-based partnership with Boeing Australia. Partnerships have also been established between Queensland schools and key global organisations including Rio Tinto (Comalco), Zinifex, BHP Billiton Mitsubishi Alliance, Rabobank and Australian-based companies such as Pacific Seeds and Hastings Deering. Nationally, Westpac has sponsored a Maths Competition in schools since 1978. CISCO has had a long-standing relationship with TAFEs in the area of ICT.

To build on these partnerships and further progress the idea of a coordinated partnership program, the Department of Education, Training and the Arts (DETA) will identify which of the top 100 Australian companies operate in a major way in Queensland, assess existing partnerships, and identify ways to strengthen the current links.

Where partnerships do not currently exist, DETA will identify options to initiate partnerships, based on current successful programs such as the Industry Schools Engagement Strategy, school-based apprenticeships and traineeships and the Skills Formation Strategies under the Queensland Skills Plan 2008. Work has also commenced with universities to strengthen industry/sector linkages. DETA will also explore the possibility of working with peak industry organisations, such as the Business Council of Australia and the Australian Industry Group, to further progress this idea.

**4. Ensure 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.**

The Queensland Government accepts this idea, and will expand on-line mechanisms into community consultation. The Government has been actively seeking ideas from

the Queensland community about the achievement of ambitions and targets set out in *Toward Q2: Tomorrow's Queensland*, through community forums and online feedback. More than 63,000 Q2 web pages have been viewed, 1000 people have contributed ideas through the online feedback facility, and 1500 people have received e-newsletter updates. This is the beginning of increased on-line communication with the Queensland public.

The 'Get Involved' web-site, maintained by the Department of Communities, also enables members of the public to provide on-line input to key issues and regulatory changes considered by government. It provides details of various opportunities for everyday Queenslanders to interact with the government.<sup>3</sup>

The Queensland Government holds a range of other forums to enable individuals, groups and communities to communicate ideas to the government and government departments. Community Cabinet meetings are held throughout Queensland every three to four weeks on Sundays between 1pm and 6pm. Meetings generally commence with an open community forum, as well as a series of short meetings where individuals or groups may meet personally with the Premier or Ministers about issues of interest. In addition, Ministerial Regional Community Forums provide Queenslanders living in regional areas with opportunities to bring issues of concern to the attention of the Queensland Government each year.

5. **Fund students according to need and encourage more private investment in schools.**
6. **Support the development of funding models which recognise particular areas of disadvantage.**

The Queensland Government accepts these ideas. The Department of Education, Training and the Arts (DETA) has programs that resource schools according to the needs of students – for instance, staffing for students with disabilities, special learning needs, English as a second language, behaviour management. A wide variety of programs provide additional support to schools to address student disadvantage, help improve literacy and numeracy, and provide extra assistance for Indigenous students.

In addition, the Queensland Government has developed with the Commonwealth and other states and territories a National Partnership agreement aimed at improving the outcomes for students in low-socio economic status school communities. This National Partnership agreement will distribute additional funding for within school and out-of-school reforms that will support the educational and wellbeing needs of students and schools in low SES communities. Monitoring improvements in student outcomes will be an important part of the national partnership agreements.

The new *Believe Achieve Succeed* (BAS) strategy will improve educational and life outcomes for disadvantaged students with the allocation of 10 full time equivalent

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<sup>3</sup> See <http://www.getinvolved.qld.gov.au> for more information.

staff to undertake a range of initiatives including a pilot of multi-disciplinary intervention teams and delivery of enhanced teacher induction and professional development. A number of new graduates and high performing staff will be transferred into BAS schools for the start of the 2009 school year and a new induction program developed specifically for the BAS schools will ensure that teachers can better align their teaching to the learning needs of their students.

DETA is investigating ways to better link resource allocation to student needs and increase local flexibility to help drive improved performance in state schooling. The development of a blueprint for state schooling beyond 2010, in consultation with communities and other stakeholders, will also provide an opportunity to explore further policy approaches to needs-based funding and increased private investment.

## 7. Support the establishment of databases which can provide a stronger evidence base for investment in human capital.

The Queensland Government supports this idea, and has made progress in the area. The Department of Education, Training and the Arts (DETA) provides specialist research into Queensland labour market behaviour and trends which provides an evidence base for the development of strategic policy and continuous improvement and more targeted investment in employment and training in Queensland.

A significant volume of supply side data is captured through databases such as STAC and DELTA<sup>4</sup>, the National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER), Corporate Data Warehouse (CDW), ABS statistical surveys and information held by the Queensland Studies Authority (QSA).

For example, NCVER figures released in the 12 months to 31 December 2007 showed that 63 200 new apprentice and trainee commencements were recorded in Queensland, an increase of 10 per cent on the previous 12 months and more than double the national increase of 3.7 per cent for the same period.

As part of the *Queensland Skills Plan 2008* work has commenced on a proposal for a pilot Skills Bank initiative, a database for capturing all training undertaken by VET students.<sup>5</sup> Demand side data is collected on a survey basis, and is supplemented by input from industry about specific skill needs.

Over the past three years, employer surveys have indicated that the lack of suitably qualified staff is a constraint on growth and investment. In an environment of more constrained growth, enhancing the productivity of our vital industries and regions becomes an even greater imperative. Industry is an essential partner in responses to skill needs through proactive workforce planning. To assist industry in this, DETA will periodically publish an Assessment of Occupational Demand to assist in the allocation of resources for delivery in skill-needs occupations.

DETA continues to collaborate with other agencies and research institutes to identify and address the needs of those disadvantaged in the labour market, including employees affected by significant adverse events and structural changes.

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<sup>4</sup> The State Training Agency Clearinghouse (STAC) and Direct Entry Level Training Administration (DELTA) databases.

<sup>5</sup> See <http://www.trainandemploy.qld.gov.au/skillsplan/> for more information.

**8. 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.**

The Queensland Government accepts the need to build on existing approaches to ensure education and training outcomes fit with the broad needs of a strong and diverse economy.

The Queensland Government has a solid platform to build on, with a number of programs already in place to promote collaboration between industry, VET and universities representing the tertiary sector, and schools including:

- a. the three Queensland Academies (Creative Industries; Science, Mathematics and Technology; and Health Sciences) commenced operation in 2007 and 2008 and are continuing to establish partnerships with the tertiary sector and industry. Over the coming year, DETA will continue to grow and strengthen these academies, and an evaluation is planned for 2009-10
- b. DETA's Industry Schools Engagement Strategy which includes the Gateway Schools Project which began in 2004 in partnership with sections of the aerospace industry. The Gateway Schools Projects are school-based, industry support projects specifically designed to help young people make a successful transition from school into further education and/or employment. The projects encourage meaningful collaboration between schools, training (VET), universities and industry to provide career opportunities for young people
- c. the *Queensland Skills Plan* introduced a new industry engagement framework to ensure that Queensland's training system better meets industries' skills needs. The plan includes three new centres for excellence, 24 region or industry specific Skills Formation Strategies and five new industry alliances. Partnerships between industry, the training sector and schools are continuing to grow across the state
- d. concerted efforts to increase the number of school-based apprenticeships and traineeships (SATs) are providing closer links between schools, industries and employers. Projects such as Healthy Futures in Brisbane North are building collaboration between local employers experiencing skills shortages and the Australian Catholic University.
- e. new school-based apprenticeship and traineeship management approaches are being developed in collaboration with industries with significant potential for growth, including local government, manufacturing, marine industries, transport and logistics and health.

These direct partnerships between schools, training providers, universities and industry will provide greater opportunities for school students to make successful transitions to further study, training and work.

9. **Merit-based scholarships to VET and higher education institutions in skills shortages areas.**
10. **Promote a 2020 foundation which could support the development of specific skill based scholarships across all sectors.**

The Queensland Government accepts these ideas in principle and will ensure they are progressed through *Queensland Skills Plan* implementation networks and forums.

Merit-based scholarships are consistent with *Queensland Skills Plan 2008*, which contains a wide range of initiatives to support people seeking access to vocational education and training. For example, as part of efforts to address skill shortages in the health industry the Department of Education, Training and the Arts (DETA) has commenced implementation of merit-based scholarships for VET practitioners in health training. Further opportunities for merit-based scholarships are under consideration by skills alliances and centres of excellence in skill shortage areas.

A foundation to support specific skill-based scholarships needs to be predicated upon industry and community commitment to ensure that target groups, governance, financial management and award criteria are appropriate and sustainable. Government will play a key role as catalyst and supporter of such a foundation.

Any scholarship program for higher education would need to complement the Commonwealth Government's extensive scholarship schemes and those funded directly by institutions.

DETA will research relevant scholarship models that will meet industry and equity considerations of financially supporting VET and higher education in skill shortage areas and liaise with universities about alignment of both Commonwealth and institution funded scholarships with state skill priorities, where practicable. It will also promote the establishment of such a foundation through industry and corporate linkages and facilitate dialogue between interested parties to explore options for a foundation.

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

The Queensland Government accepts this idea, and will work with 2020 delegates and other stakeholders to identify opportunities to make progress on the ground.

The Queensland Government's *Science Education Strategy 2006-2009* incorporates significant initiatives toward this goal. Six Science Centres of Innovation and Professional Practice operate at Tannum Sands, the Gold Coast, the Sunshine Coast, Toowoomba, North Queensland and Bundaberg. Each is based in a cluster of primary and secondary schools and works with university partners to deliver professional development and extended curriculum opportunities for teachers, students and science operations officers.

The *Science Education Strategy 2006-2009* also appointed four senior science officers (experienced science teachers co-located with science researchers) who

facilitate enhanced links between schools, industry and research organisations. The officers engage working scientists to provide real-life science experiences for students and teachers and to collaborate on the development of learning materials linked directly to contemporary scientific issues.

The Queensland Government is also developing a 10-year plan for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education and skills. Extensive public consultation has highlighted the need to further strengthen partnerships between schools, training organisations, universities and industry. The range of measures to be coordinated through the STEM Plan will seek to double the number<sup>6</sup> of Queensland schools with formal links to a scientist by 2012.

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

The Queensland Government accepts the need to recognise excellence in teaching and provide appropriate training and development opportunities for teachers.

The Queensland Government has made some early progress in this field, particularly through the establishment of the Professional Development and Leadership Institute in June 2007 to promote the responsiveness, cohesion and quality of professional development for state school teachers and school leaders. Additionally, The Department of Education, Training and the Arts' (DETA) suite of teacher excellence awards are presented annually on World Teachers' Day.

Responsibility for delivering and accessing professional development is shared between individual teachers, teams, schools and DETA. In supporting this shared responsibility, DETA publishes an annual professional development (PD) agenda (identifying key school PD priorities) and PD catalogue, calendars and bulletins that provide details of the opportunities available to teachers. Phased implementation of the Developing Performance Framework in state schools is providing Education Queensland employees with the means to help them optimise their professional performance.

## **13. Establish a national institute for innovation and creativity.**

The Queensland Government accepts this idea in principle. A national institute for innovation and creativity has potential to support early progress against the Queensland Government's ambitions for a strong and smart Queensland, as set out in *Toward Q2; Tomorrow's Queensland*.

The Commonwealth Government commenced an independent review of the National Innovation System in early 2008. The review, undertaken in consultation with states, territories and other stakeholders, is intended to outline a new framework and

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<sup>6</sup> Current number of Queensland partnerships (241) represents 30% of all those established under the national Scientists in Schools program.

initiatives to progress innovation across society and through the economy, including a more coordinated and streamlined delivery model of innovation-based programs at the Commonwealth and state level. This idea will need to be fully considered in the context of the national review.

For its part, the Queensland Government promotes innovation through its support for the Australian Institute for Commercialisation (AIC). The AIC was established in 2002 by the Queensland Government as a not-for-profit, independent entity, to deliver programs and services to improve the commercialisation of Australian intellectual property. The State of Queensland is the sole shareholder of the AIC.

The Queensland Government currently provides up to \$800,000 per year and in-kind support to the AIC. The Queensland Government, along with a number of other governments, also engages the AIC to deliver specific commercialisation programs on a fee-for-service basis. Major achievements of the AIC include:

- a. TechFast (a technology transfer business unit) providing innovation and commercialisation advice, skills development and linkages to nearly 120 small to medium enterprises, 40 research organisations and 14 government, economic development and industry organisations each year over the past three years
- b. the conduct of industry briefing sessions and the conclusion of intellectual property licensing deals with Queensland firms resulting in the leveraging of some \$2.5 million in venture capital during 2007-08
- c. the delivery of Ideas2Market education programs to 178 small business owners and entrepreneurs state-wide and Commercialisation Bootcamp courses to 520 researchers and industry representatives during 2007-08.

#### **14. 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.**

The Queensland Government accepts this idea in principle. In 2008-09, the Queensland Government will invest more than \$47 million, in addition to extensive in-house development programs, to promote the professional knowledge, skills and expertise of its employees, particularly teachers.

The Queensland Government will seek further discussions with the Commonwealth Government regarding this proposal to ensure clear links with Queensland's education context and strategic initiatives being implemented to build the capacity of our teachers and leaders and deliver high quality outcomes for students.

The Queensland Government is also investing in innovation skills programs such as the Smart Futures Fellowships and Smart State PhD Scholarships, to retain talented early and mid career researchers in Queensland; attract outstanding researchers nationally and internationally; grow mutually beneficial linkages between research and industry; and support research which will benefit the future economic, social, environmental and/or regional development of Queensland.

These programs help build critical masses of internationally recognised and competitive research while developing networks with national and international researchers, and advancing science and research as a desirable career path.

Over the past three funding rounds, 63 fellowships and scholarships have been awarded through the Smart State Innovation Funds, for a total investment of \$8.8 million. Over the next four years, the Queensland Government has allocated \$20 million for various fellowship and scholarship programs.

- 15. Develop a flexible innovative training system which is responsive to industry needs and the demands of the economy for a skilled workforce.**
- 16. Establish pilot projects with industry for specific groups to demonstrate the benefits of direct industry investment.**

The Queensland Government accepts these ideas. New engagement arrangements were announced in the *Queensland Skills Plan* as a mechanism to achieve a stronger partnership approach between industry and government and to provide flexible and innovative training solutions to address critical skill shortages. These arrangements were progressively introduced from 1 July 2007 and are now fully operational. They include three centres of excellence, five industry skills alliances, two industry-government skilling partnerships and six direct engagement arrangements.

Examples of how these industry engagement strategies are contributing to the development of a flexible training system (Idea 15) and demonstrating the benefits of direct industry involvement and investment (Idea 16) include:

- a. Construction Skills Queensland, the centre of excellence for the building and construction industry, has partnered with Skills Tech Australia under the Civskills program to provide an opportunity for 200 job seekers each year to receive specialised civil construction training. The training program specifically targets long term disengaged/disadvantaged, Indigenous, migrants and women, and helps individuals seeking work in the civil sector to become 'job ready'
- b. to address training needs in the health and community services industry, the Health and Community Services Workforce Council – the skills alliance for this industry – has partnered with The Bremer Institute of TAFE. Under this arrangement, The Bremer is managing the delivery of critical training to community services organisations
- c. the *Bundaberg Horticulture Skills Formation Strategy* provides another example of how these industry engagement models are addressing skill shortages. A group of employers involved in this skills formation strategy has developed a partnership arrangement with the Australian Agricultural College Corporation for the delivery of a cadetship in horticulture to upskill their existing workforce
- d. close liaison between the Departments of Education, Training and the Arts (DETA) and Tourism, Regional Development and Industry (DTRDI) and aviation industry in the establishment of Aviation Australia (addressing industry shortages in aircraft

maintenance engineering), implementation of the Aerospace Gateway to Industry program with Boeing and Aviation Australia, the establishment of Aviation High and the introduction of the Griffith University Bachelor of Education Technology with a specific aerospace strand.

DETA will continue to seek advice from these industry engagement partners about best practice examples and case studies of effective industry partnerships and innovative and flexible delivery.

### **17. Target large employer groups to make contributions to skills development.**

The Queensland Government accepts this idea and will work with employers to ensure there is appropriate investment in the current and future skills needs of the Queensland economy. Addressing skills development in this way will support the achievement of the Queensland Government's Toward Q2 ambitions for a strong and smart Queensland.

As with Idea 16, a key role of the centres of excellence, and to a lesser extent the other industry engagement strategies, is to engage large employers and industry stakeholders to leverage contributions toward skills development in their sector. The Queensland Government will continue to work with these centres to highlight examples of best practice in skilling partnerships with industry.

### **18. Develop and disseminate better information about work and lifestyle opportunities in the State's regions.**

The Queensland Government accepts this idea. The Queensland Government is developing a Growing Liveable Regions Strategy that will focus on developing the potential of target high growth regions, and encouraging sustainable growth and development.

The Queensland Government also maintains the Queensland Work Live Play website which provides interested people from interstate and overseas with a wide range of information about career and lifestyle opportunities including current areas of skills demand by profession and by region.<sup>7</sup>

### **19. 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.**

The Queensland Government accepts this idea. To a degree, regional funding of higher education institutions will continue to depend upon the arrangements that institutions develop with the Commonwealth Government and the Commonwealth's on-going commitment to providing a "loading" for regional places. The Queensland Government will continue to work with the Commonwealth Government to ensure that the needs of regional Queensland are being met.

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<sup>7</sup> See <http://www.workliveplay.qld.gov.au> for more information.

The *Queensland Skills Plan* is expanding system capacity across the State. This is supported through additional vocational and trade training funding in regional and remote areas.

Through the community-based Remote Area Teacher Education Program (RATEP), Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander tertiary students are able to study in their local communities through centres located from St George, through to islands in the Torres Strait. A joint initiative between the Queensland Government and James Cook University, RATEP uses multimedia, online technology and the support of onsite teacher coordinators to give students hands-on experience in local schools as they study. There are currently 19 sites in operation across Queensland, with approximately 120 students enrolled across Certificate III and IV courses, Diplomas of Education through to a Bachelor of Education degree.

## Theme 2: Future of the Queensland economy

### Summary

The discussions at the Queensland 2020: Ideas to Action forum on 15 May 2008 covered four key ideas. The Queensland Government accepts all of the ideas identified in this theme.

As demonstrated in *Toward Q2: Tomorrow's Queensland*, the Queensland Government is committed to creating a diverse economy powered by bright ideas. The ideas in this theme will help the Queensland Government work with industry and communities to reach its targets of:

- making Queensland Australia's strongest economy, with infrastructure that anticipates growth
- increasing by 50 per cent the proportion of businesses undertaking research and development or innovation.

These ideas will also contribute to the government's ambition for a smart Queensland, delivering world class training and education, helping to ensure that by 2020 three out of four Queenslanders hold trade, training or tertiary qualifications.

### Key ideas

#### **20. Support 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.**

The Queensland Government accepts this idea, and the need to invest in appropriate infrastructure. The Queensland Government has demonstrated its commitment to delivering the necessary economic and community infrastructure through its record investment through successive State Budgets. The Queensland Government also works closely with the Commonwealth Government to ensure Queensland's needs are addressed in national plans, particularly the recently announced *Building Australia* fund.

The Queensland Government supports the Commonwealth Government's establishment of Infrastructure Australia to reform the way nationally significant infrastructure is planned, financed and delivered. Infrastructure Australia's immediate task is to undertake a National Infrastructure Audit.

The Queensland Government has provided a detailed submission to the National Infrastructure Audit and has requested Infrastructure Australia to consider three key infrastructure themes in Queensland:

- a. infrastructure needed to address urban growth, to combat urban congestion and its costs

- b. infrastructure needed to support major industrial centres, to boost economic production
  - c. infrastructure needed to open up new industries for new economic production.
- 21. Ensure a holistic approach to the provision of both hard and soft infrastructure.**

The Queensland Government accepts this idea and agrees that Queensland's strong economic and population growth needs to be managed in balance with existing lifestyles, neighbourhoods and communities, and the high quality of Queensland's environment. The identification and delivery of appropriate infrastructure is an ongoing priority for the Queensland Government.

Planning and infrastructure provision in the state is aimed at providing a holistic partnership approach to the integrated delivery of all infrastructure, from water assets and services, roads and public transport, health facilities, and schools and sports and community facilities.

As part of delivering a contemporary planning and development system, the Queensland Government has commenced implementing the 80 recommendations from the report, *Planning for a Prosperous Queensland - A reform agenda for planning and development in the Smart State*. A critical component of the reform is new planning legislation that will become operational in early 2009.

**22. Remove potential brakes on economic progress by addressing regulatory reform.**

The Queensland Government accepts this idea. The Government has made some early progress in the field of regulatory reform, including through a major overhaul of all legislation under National Competition Policy and the reform of energy markets and services.

The Queensland Government is an active participant in the national regulatory reform agenda being coordinated by the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Business Regulation and Competition Working Group. Additionally, the Government is pursuing its own Smart Regulation Reform Agenda, which is being implemented by the Queensland Office of Regulatory Efficiency, now located in Treasury. This will be part of a phased program of annual reviews of existing regulation in line with COAG commitments.

**23. Address the current and future skills needs of the Queensland workforce.**

The Queensland Government accepts this idea and the need for a skilled workforce, which will assist in the realisation of the Government's Toward Q2 ambitions for a strong and smart Queensland. The Government has begun work in this area, including through its \$1 billion investment in the *Queensland Skills Plan*.

Implementation of the *Queensland Skills Plan* will continue in 2008-09 through:

- a. \$14.9 million for 3,500 additional training places at Certificate IV or above, with a target of 14,000 additional places available by 2010
- b. \$6.6 million for industry engagement models that promote industry leadership of skills formation and skilling solutions
- c. \$17.1 million for 4,250 additional training places, with a target of 17,000 extra places available by 2010.

Early success has been illustrated by the fact that, from 2001 to 2007, the proportion of Queenslanders aged 25 to 34 with a qualification at Certificate III level or above increased from 43.3 per cent to 57.4 per cent. This sets a foundation for achieving the Toward Q2 target for three out of four Queenslanders to hold trade, training or tertiary qualifications by 2020.

## Theme 3: Population, sustainability, climate change, water and the future of our cities

### Summary

Of the six key ideas covered in discussion at the Queensland 2020: Ideas to Action forum on 15 May 2008, the Queensland Government accepts or accepts in principle all the ideas.

This theme and the ideas explored below are consistent with the Queensland's Government's *Toward Q2: Tomorrow's Queensland* ambition for Queensland to be a green state, protecting its lifestyle and environment.

### Key ideas

#### **24. 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.**

The Queensland Government accepts this idea. The Queensland Government will work with 2020 delegates and other stakeholders to deliver a Sustainability Charter, building on the ambitions and targets outlined in *Toward Q2: Tomorrow's Queensland*.

#### Measurable targets

*Toward Q2* includes two targets which specifically relate to ecological sustainability:

- a. cut by one-third Queenslanders' carbon footprint with reduced car and electricity use
- b. protect 50 per cent more land for nature conservation and public recreation.

The targets are measurable. Updated reports on each of the targets will be published on the *Toward Q2* website as the information becomes available. In addition, annual progress reports on the targets will be published along with a plan that maps out what needs to be done over the coming 12 months to bring us closer towards each target.

To complement the *Toward Q2* agenda to cut the carbon footprint of Queensland households, the Queensland Government is working with the Commonwealth Government to develop and support national greenhouse gas emission reduction and renewable energy targets.

#### Establishing a system of offsets for landscape repair

The *Queensland Government Environmental Offsets Policy* (QGEOP) equips government, industry and the community with an integrated, consistent and transparent approach to using environmental offsets in Queensland.

Environmental offsets are used to replace the value of environmental features inevitably lost in development that supports a growing economy and population. It is based on the premise that offsets should only be considered after all environmental impacts have been avoided and minimised.

The Queensland Government is establishing a system of offsets for landscape repair. The *Vegetation Management Act*, through the Regional Vegetation Management Codes and other policies, allows offsets to be provided in a limited number of situations and purposes, for the clearing of otherwise protected vegetation. *Vegetation Management Act* offsets are consistent with the QGEOP.

A fundamental principle in this approach is that offsets are only used to mitigate the impacts of developments that would be approved under existing legislation, not to negotiate approval of development that would not otherwise be approved. Offset proposals are assessed against the government's *Policy for Vegetation Management Offsets* which was finalised in November 2006.

## **25. Undertake a legislative and policy review with a view to removing perverse incentives and regulatory barriers to sustainability.**

The Queensland Government accepts this idea. Through the Council of Australian Governments (COAG), Queensland is committed to reviewing existing regulation to produce a 'smart regulatory environment' supporting better economic, social and environmental outcomes. Perverse incentives and regulatory barriers to economic, social and environmental sustainability will be considered as part of a phased program of annual reviews of existing regulation by all Queensland Government agencies in line with COAG commitments.

The Queensland Government's Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will begin the program by reviewing its regulations in 2009 and, in consultation with Queensland Treasury, other agencies and Queensland 2020 forum participants, develop policy options addressing sustainability to inform the regulatory reviews of other agencies.

## **26. Extend the success of sustainable development educational programs in schools into higher education and VET sectors by, for example, developing clear directions on embedding sustainability in the curriculum.**

The Queensland Government accepts this idea. The Department of Education, Training and the Arts (DETA) leads a working group developing a policy and action plan for embedding sustainability in the VET sector in Queensland. In parallel, Commonwealth, state and territory Ministers have agreed to form an all-jurisdiction action group, which Queensland is leading, to progress embedding sustainability in the sector at the national level. Both national and Queensland sustainability action plans (2009-2012) will be completed by March 2009.

This idea also has merit for the higher education sector, but will need to consider how universities will be affected in terms of course development and course offerings. There is an increasingly high focus on sustainability across the higher education

sector specifically but also the education sector more broadly. There is already a strong push for embedding sustainability in higher education curriculum.

The Australian Vice-Chancellor's Committee's *Policy on Education for Sustainable Development* is evidence of Australian universities' commitment to education for sustainable development. Considerable sustainability expertise resides in Queensland universities and examples of good practice. DETA will collate examples of good practice provided by Queensland universities into a paper for dissemination to all Queensland universities and other stakeholders.

**27. 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.**

The Queensland Government accepts this idea in principle. The Queensland Government recognises that sustainable management of water resources means management of water quality, flow regimes and extractions are interdependent and equally important. This entails investment firstly in protecting waterways' existing natural values to avoid the high costs imposed on society by losing these values, and then investing in the even higher costs of restoring degraded waters.

Relationships between flow regimes, ecosystem services and land use are complex and our understanding of them is still too incomplete to develop a fully integrated system. However we know that ecosystem services flow directly from ecosystem health – in other words, services are the 'interest' we derive from investing in ecosystem health. Ecosystem health is the goal of Environmental Flow Objectives in Water Resource Plans, along with social, cultural and community needs. Research is improving our quantification and understanding of the link between flow regimes, land management practice and ecosystem health, allowing us to better support ecosystem services.

Queensland's *Wild Rivers Act* is unique in Australia in ensuring that the ecological health of our least disturbed aquatic ecosystems is maintained. Focussed in tropical regions, the Act also has a social dimension with the employment of 20 Indigenous wild river rangers to work with landholders, communities and traditional owners to protect the wild rivers of Cape York Peninsula and the Gulf of Carpentaria.

Queensland leads the nation in progressive water reform and a vast amount has already occurred. The *Water Act 2000* delivers the intent of the National Water Initiative, providing a framework for planning, allocating water for the environment and then sustainably using these waters, including tropical and other surface waterways and groundwater. Catchment water resource plans outline economic, environmental and social objectives for water use, while resource operations plans detail how these objectives will be met. Regional water supply strategies are being developed for six major urban, industrial and rural growth areas providing a medium to long term plan for water supply. The water allocations register increases water users' current water security. Water quality improvement plans in several key catchments provide a basis to establish water quality environmental values and

objectives and the necessary land management regime to achieve them from ‘source to sea.’

The updated *Reef Water Quality Protection Plan* (Reef Plan) is the primary planning tool to address diffuse pollution from land-use in Reef catchments, to improve the quality of water entering the Reef lagoon and maintain the health of the Reef itself. The Queensland and Commonwealth Governments are working with regional Natural Resource Management (NRM) bodies, landowners and other stakeholders to improve land management practices through Reef Plan, the Commonwealth Government’s Caring for our Country NRM program – including the \$200 million Reef Rescue package – as well as Queensland’s complementary NRM program.

## **28. Recognise the impact of the built environment on our ecological footprint and the opportunities to deliver cost effective greenhouse gas abatement for Queensland.**

The Queensland Government accepts this idea. As part of the *Toward Q2: Tomorrow’s Queensland* blueprint, the Queensland Government has set a target to cut Queenslanders’ carbon footprint by one-third with reduced car and electricity use. Some initial progress has been made across a number of related fields, including:

### Sustainable housing

The Queensland Government is currently discussing improvements to the *Sustainable Housing Code* covering all new houses in Queensland required to achieve a minimum 5-star (out of 10) energy equivalent rating under the *Building Code of Australia*. The Queensland Government also recently announced a \$60 million ClimateSmart Home Service to commence on 1 January 2009 to help Queenslanders reduce household greenhouse gas emissions and electricity costs, supported by the ongoing ClimateSmart Living education campaign.

### Reducing oil vulnerability

The Queensland Government is developing an Oil Vulnerability Mitigation Strategy and Action Plan to help Queenslanders lessen their reliance on liquid fossil fuels as the price of oil increases and supply diminishes.

### Public transport

The Queensland Government will invest \$168.4 million to improve customer services across the TransLink network, including funding for 134 new buses for SEQ in 2008–09. In addition, the Queensland Government will:

- a. implement a program for replacing older, high emitting buses with new low emission buses that meet Euro IV emission standards
- b. provide \$22.6 million over the next four years to expand the TravelSmart program. In addition, \$5.2 million is devoted to TravelSmart Travel Plans for Workplaces and Destinations and \$5 million for TravelSmart schools

- c. invest \$556 million in the subregional cycle network and \$160 million in the subregional walking network program between 2008 and 2026.

#### Climate Change Impact Statements

All relevant Queensland Government Cabinet submissions now require a climate change impact statement to enable Cabinet to consider the impacts of a proposal within the broader context of the state's greenhouse gas emissions profile and future climate change risks. This will include specific information on the potential greenhouse gas emissions impacts or benefits of a proposal and the potential risks to the proposal from projected changes in climate.

#### Transport, planning and urban form

Queensland is tackling the ecological and carbon footprint of transport and urban form through ClimateSmart 2050 as well as involvement in the Garnaut climate change impacts review, the National Transport Policy Framework and the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Climate Change and Water Working Group – for instance, through lower carbon fuels, fuel-efficient vehicles, efficient transport and better information to support sustainable transport decisions. While investment in better mass transit is essential, there are significant benefits from better integration of land use and transport planning because of their influence on movement of people and goods and the consequent emissions produced.

This is already reflected in major regional planning activities, for instance the *Draft Far North Queensland Regional Plan 2025* released in May 2008 consolidates growth within existing urban centres and limits urban development to achieve economic and environmental sustainability.

Governments at all levels are investigating linkages between land use and transport demand to identify actions to improve the transport carbon footprint. The *South East Queensland Regional Plan* promotes denser settlement within a defined footprint, including through urban infill, an increase in Transit Oriented Developments and at several specific 'activity centre' locations identified for significant future development.

### **29. 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.**

The Queensland Government accepts this idea. The Queensland Government is considering:

- a. new mapping of coastal areas at increased risk from storm tide inundation and erosion as the benchmark for all planning, development, building and emergency authorities. This will include use of a state of the art digital elevation modelling to provide very fine scale contour maps in two and three dimensions.

- b. policy, relevant triggers, and long-term contingency plans for urban areas already within the ‘at risk’ area
- c. policies to establish ‘public cyclone shelter buildings’ of a required standard.

In addition, the Queensland Government has prepared:

- a. *Design Guidelines for Australian Public Cyclone Shelters* (on behalf of Emergency Management Australia), since updated and adopted by the State Disaster Management Group
- b. *A guideline for Mitigating the Adverse Impacts of Tropical Cyclones – Evacuation and Shelter* in conjunction with state and Commonwealth Government agencies, defining a step-by-step process local government can use to reduce community vulnerability to cyclones by:
  - i. analysing risks to a community from storm tide inundation, the ability to evacuate, the vulnerability of housing to wind and the ability of people to shelter
  - ii. evaluating risks to the community with quantified statements informing functional operational planning with evacuation information.

An assessment of vulnerability of remote and coastal communities to climate change including cyclone risk was completed under the ‘Queensland Climate Change and Community Vulnerability to Tropical Cyclones’ assessment by the Queensland Government, James Cook University and the Bureau of Meteorology.

## Theme 4: Future directions for rural industries and communities

### Summary

The Queensland 2020: Ideas to Action forum discussions on 15 May 2008 covered 11 key ideas, of which 10 are accepted or accepted in principle. One idea is not supported.

Ensuring a bright future for rural industries and communities is central to the Toward Q2 vision. The Toward Q2 consultation is involving all Queenslanders in a dialogue about how the Toward Q2 targets can be achieved for the benefit of the whole state.

The specific ideas discussed below will assist most with the Queensland Government's ambitions for Queensland to be strong, with a diverse economy powered by bright ideas, smart, delivering world class education and training, and green, protecting our lifestyle and environment.

Additionally, the Queensland Government continues to work with AgForce Queensland and other partners to deliver the *Blueprint for the Bush* and to ensure it continues to have a positive impact on the liveability, sustainability and prosperity of regional Queensland.

### Key ideas

#### **30. 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.**

The Queensland Government accepts this idea in principle. The issue of parity of access for remote and rural communities is dependent on the availability of funding to support the issues encountered by individuals. This, in part, will depend on the Commonwealth Government's allocations for rural and remote support.

Access to early childhood education for all Queenslanders continues to be a Queensland Government priority and is one of the 10 Toward Q2 targets. More than \$350 million has been invested to introduce Prep across the State where 97 per cent of eligible children are enrolled in Prep across Queensland and are reaping the benefits. Rural and remote communities will benefit from the Government's recent commitment to create an extra 240 kindergarten services by 2014 at a cost of \$300 million to accommodate the 12,000 children not currently accessing any childhood education or care services.

Along with additional allocation of training hours in remote and rural areas, the Queensland Government supports education and training initiatives for students, staff and communities in rural and remote communities, including:

- a. a range of allowance schemes to help families in remote areas to access education opportunities, including the living Away from Home Allowance Scheme,

the Student Hostel Support Scheme and the Textbook and Resource Allowance scheme. A 5.2 per cent funding increase to these allowances, effective from 1 January 2009, was announced in October 2008

- b. Gateway Schools – Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries (DPI&F) and the Department of Education, Training and the Arts (DETA) are partnering with AgForce, the Queensland Farmers' Federation and the agribusiness sector to provide students with pathways into agricultural careers through curriculum structures that access a broad range of learning and career opportunities (a *Blueprint for the Bush*<sup>8</sup> initiative)
- c. DPI&F partnerships – DPI&F is creating new collaborative partnerships with the Queensland university sector and vocational education providers such as the Australian Agricultural Colleges Corporation (AACC) as an integrated model to provide access to education and skills formation in industries important to rural and remote communities
- d. Science, Training and Extension Precincts – in partnership with AACC, DPI&F will create a world-class agriculture, science and training network across Queensland with a system of facilities that works hand-in-hand with educational institutions, including secondary schools. It is also intended to use the expertise of AACC and DPI&F staff to deliver training that is relevant to rural communities in partnership with TAFE, schools (Gateway Schools), the Queensland Academy for Science, Mathematics and Technology and the higher education sector. Co-location of DPI&F and AACC staff and students will facilitate graduate and post-graduate education for producers, providing access to lifelong learning relevant to rural communities.

**31. Attract and retain professionals and knowledge managers who can apply the latest research and knowledge to the challenges and problems facing rural and remote communities.**

The Queensland Government accepts this idea, and will continue to work with 2020 delegates and other stakeholders to make progress. Some early work has been undertaken in some related fields, including:

Migration and Skills Recruitment Queensland

Migration and Skills Recruitment Queensland (MSRQ) works to actively attract skilled professionals to Queensland's regions through interstate and international recruitment initiatives, careers expos and associated advertising campaigns. MSRQ targets researchers, scientists and high level professionals in established and emerging labour markets and it continues to refine the 'skills in demand' list to reflect Queensland's current and future skills needs and promotes Queensland Skilled Regional Sponsored Visa options.

Research and Development

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<sup>8</sup> See <http://www.localgovernment.qld.gov.au/?id=6821> for more information.

The Queensland Government Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries (DPI&F) invests around \$60 million in state funds and \$40 million in Commonwealth funds (obtained through Research and Development Corporations) in primary industries Research and Development (R&D). DPI&F's Fresh Approach aims to maximise this R&D capacity through the establishment of regional centres of excellence in collaboration with the university sector.

DPI&F is exploring strategic relationships with universities to improve regional Queensland's capacity to attract and retain world-class scientists, knowledge professionals and managers to better address the challenges and problems facing these communities.

The Minister for Primary Industries and Fisheries has signed a 'Statement of Intent' with the Vice Chancellor of JCU to establish an Australian Institute of Tropical Agricultural Sciences. This institute will focus on tropical agriculture, aquaculture and biosecurity and will see both organisations working together to attract and retain outstanding scientific staff to North Queensland.

Agreement in principle has been reached with the University of the Sunshine Coast regarding Forestry Science, and ongoing discussions are occurring with the University of Queensland in the field of Plant Science.

#### Consortium for Integrated Resource Management

The Consortium for Integrated Resource Management (CIRM), a partnership of the Queensland Government, Queensland Universities and CSIRO, has reviewed graduate employability skills for the integrated resource sciences, a field of work important to rural and remote communities. CIRM has produced *Guidelines for Good Practice in Work Integrated Learning* and is implementing them through its partners to improve the work readiness of new graduates.<sup>9</sup>

#### Other initiatives

The Interdepartmental Labour Market Advisory Committee led by the Department of Education, Training and the Arts (DETA) has identified attraction and retention of skills in regional communities as a theme around which it will base future research.

The Queensland Government also has in place initiatives at agency level designed to attract and retain key public service staff in rural and regional Queensland. For example, the Department of Child Safety has adopted a Rural and Remote Incentives Scheme, which provides a range of incentives for staff in priority areas of need. The scheme includes an annual bonus of \$10,000, rent assistance and \$3,000 per annum to access training and professional development opportunities. Similarly, the Strategic Recruitment unit in the Department of Main Roads has developed a targeted recruitment strategy to attract technical and professional engineering candidates. This strategy includes attracting candidates to rural and remote communities.

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<sup>9</sup> See <http://www.cirm.org.au/pubs.htm> for more information.

### **32. Ensure that modern and effective communication tools, especially broadband ICT, is available in rural and remote Queensland.**

The Queensland Government is working to address ICT needs in rural and remote Queensland. The Queensland Government Chief Information Office (QGClO) and the Department of Tourism, Regional Development and Industry (DTRDI) actively work with the Commonwealth Government to influence and gain the best outcome possible for Queensland from broadband initiatives, such as the current National Broadband Network initiative. On 25 June 2008, the Queensland Government, through the QGClO, tendered a submission titled *Queensland Government Submission to the Commonwealth Government on Policy and Funding Initiatives to Provide Enhanced Broadband to Rural and Remote Areas*.<sup>10</sup>

The Commonwealth Government's current position is that 98 per cent of Australians will have access to broadband infrastructure when the National Broadband Network is implemented. Once details are known, the Queensland Government will review strategies and initiatives to address any potential deficiencies the state might have. The Queensland Government will work with the Commonwealth Government to ensure that the needs of rural and regional communities are clearly and comprehensively considered.

### **33. Continue government support for rural research and development corporations.**

It is Queensland Government policy to strongly support continuation of this Commonwealth Government responsibility. Additionally, in the strong economy ambition of the *Toward Q2: Tomorrow's Queensland* blueprint the Queensland Government has committed to achieving a 50 per cent increase in the proportion of Queensland businesses that undertake research and development or innovation.

Continued funding by the Commonwealth Government of Rural Research and Development Corporations (RDCs) in the form of Commonwealth funding which matches industry levy contributions provides a proven incentive mechanism for collective funding of research and development by food and fibre primary producers.

This RDC funding pool currently provides a significant source of funding of around \$40 million per year on a competitive basis to the Queensland Government Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries (DPI&F). This funding supplements DPI&F's current investment of around \$60 million of Queensland State funds in research and development to support the food and fibre sector.

Innovation and the uptake of new technologies and practices developed and supported by DPI&F's extensive research and development activities underpin productivity increases and sustainability improvement across a broad range of industries in the Queensland food and fibre sector which in 2007-08 had a gross value of production at the farm gate of around \$12.3 billion and generates about \$6 billion in exports for Queensland.

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<sup>10</sup> The submission is available online at <http://www.qgcio.qld.gov.au>

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

The Queensland Government does not support the idea of payments for ecosystem services at this present time.

The Queensland Government supports programs involving payments to landholders for the delivery of well-defined conservation outcomes, as occurs under the Delbessie Agreement, as part of a range of policy measures to address high priority natural resource and environmental issues. Such programs continue to be a feature under Commonwealth and State Government programs including the current Caring for our Country program. Carbon sequestration issues are being considered as a part of the Commonwealth Government's work on a Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS). The government will ensure that it keeps abreast of developments in this field.

The *CPRS Green Paper* does not favour the general inclusion of provisions for activities involving land use change and forestry to be eligible carbon offset activities. The Australian Government's preferred policy position is for reforestation activities to be able to voluntarily opt-in to the CPRS and be allocated permits for eligible sequestration. In addition, the scope for carbon sequestration activities will be limited until a decision is made in 2013 on whether agriculture is to be covered under the scheme from 2015 onwards. There is however, already scope for landholders to profit from carbon sequestration in voluntary carbon offset markets.

The Queensland Government is working to position Queensland to benefit from all the potential biosequestration opportunities that could arise through the proposed CPRS.

The National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality/National Heritage Trust 2 (NAP/NHT2) programs have facilitated considerable investment by regional natural resource management (NRM) bodies in recent years to the provision of conservation outcomes by landholders. However, the ecosystem services concept has not developed to an extent where it could provide the basis for broad ranging payments to farmers. There is a variable understanding of what constitutes ecosystem services and no official definitional approach in Australia although NRM Ministerial Council and Australia 21 have canvassed the use of the concept in wider policy settings.

Moreover, there is a gap between the concept of ecosystem services and practical realities of implementing new programs and policies incorporating the concept. This is due to problems identifying and recognising the biophysical information required to quantify ecosystem services at the property level, the multiple benefits and costs of changes in ecosystem function, problems with identifying rights and obligations and the public good nature of ecosystem services.

It is likely that regionally targeted investments particularly by regional NRM bodies and industries will continue increasingly on a competitive basis for the delivery of environmental outcomes by landholders.

**35. Develop a rural skills formation strategy to ensure a skilled and adaptable workforce is available to operate and manage the enterprises of 2020.**

The Queensland Government accepts this idea, and the need to ensure appropriate strategies are in place to link rural enterprises with skilled workers. Improving skills and labour in the primary industries sector is one of the major priorities of the Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries (DPI&F). DPI&F has made some first steps in this field through the implementation of initiatives under its *Rural Skills Training and Labour Strategy*.

Under the recently announced Fresh Approach, DPI&F will take this priority even further through the creation of new collaborative partnerships with the university sector and utilisation of the Australian Agricultural Colleges Corporation (AACC) to provide an integrated approach to addressing skills and training needs in rural Queensland.

The *Queensland Skills Plan* includes establishing skills formation strategies for priority industry areas. The *Bundaberg Horticulture Skills Formation Strategy* was managed by DPI&F with representatives from the horticulture industry in the Bundaberg region. The group of employers involved in this skills formation strategy have developed a successful partnership arrangement with the AACC for the delivery of a cadetship in horticulture to up-skill their existing workforce. This is an example of the potential for skills formation strategies to be successfully developed and applied for key industries in rural areas.

The Department of Education, Training and the Arts (DETA) currently supports skills formation strategy initiatives targeting rural workforces including horticulture in the Bundaberg region and Agribusiness in the Inland Burnett. As a response to the successful outcomes achieved through the *Bundaberg Horticulture Skills Formation Strategy*, DETA has invested in a two year partnership with DPI&F, from 2008-2010, to design and implement a place-based workforce planning and development framework. The framework is based on the DETA skills formation strategy methodology and will build organisational capacity to develop a skilled and adaptable workforce to operate and manage the enterprises of 2020.

**36. Establish a workforce and skills program that enables foreign workers to come to remote, rural and regional Australia.**

The Queensland Government accepts this idea in principle. The Queensland Government will continue to work with 2020 participants and other interested stakeholders to determine the process for evaluating this proposal further.

The Commonwealth Government is responsible for Australia's migration program which controls the entry and settlement of skilled workers throughout Australia. The Queensland Government's Migration and Skills Recruitment Queensland (MSRQ) office continues to work directly with the Commonwealth Government and through attendance at national forums to raise issues of concern to Queensland in relation to skilled visas and conditions.

MSRQ promotes Queensland Skilled Regional Sponsored Visa options and influences employers to recognise the value of migrants by promoting employer sponsored migration. MSRQ assesses and administers applications for State sponsorship (or State nomination for visa applications) in 12 visa classes.

In 2007/08, the Queensland Government sponsored 382 skilled and 411 business migrants which will create an estimated 1772 potential jobs and attract an estimated \$1.087 billion in potential investment to Queensland.

### **37. Establish a business mentoring initiative to foster the very best of entrepreneurial skill in rural and remote communities.**

The Queensland Government accepts this idea, and the need for investment in rural and remote entrepreneurs. The Queensland Government has initiatives in place to mentor entrepreneurs throughout Queensland, particularly through its Small Business Solutions and Mentoring for Growth programs.

#### Small Business Solutions

Metropolitan South Institute of TAFE (MSIT) has developed a systematic business mentoring program with a skills recognition component – Small Business Solutions.<sup>11</sup> This program was launched in March 2007, is available in regional and remote areas, and is currently expanding across Queensland. An alliance has been formed with the rural industry training council to use mentors with particular business acumen within a rural setting. These mentors have strong rural connections and abilities in supporting business owners in rural industry. Mentors are available in Brisbane, Wide Bay, Western Downs, Townsville and Cairns. There are currently 623 clients signed up to the program.

Small Business Solutions is currently the only service of its kind in Australia to offer personalised business mentoring and recognition of prior learning from accredited industry professionals at a subsidised price. There is potential for this model to be adopted nationally and West Coast TAFE in Perth has recently partnered with MSIT to begin this initiative in Western Australia.

#### Mentoring for Growth

The Department of Tourism, Regional Development and Industry (DTRDI) runs the Mentoring for Growth suite of programs. Mentoring for Growth was established in 2002 and is delivered in 13 regions across Queensland in partnership with DTRDI regional centres, sectoral development units, other government departments, businesses services experts and voluntary private sector businesses leaders.

There are more than 900 registered mentors, representing an extensive range of skills, experience and expertise. It is a free service to Queensland businesses, providing for each business a panel of up to 10 mentors for an hour at a time to discuss pre-identified strategic business challenges and offer options for growth.

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<sup>11</sup> See <http://www.smallbusinesssolutions.qld.gov.au> for more information.

The Mentor for Growth suite of programs incorporates:

- a. Mentoring for Growth – this program assists businesses to address opportunities and constraints affecting business development and growth
- b. Mentoring for Export – an advanced program for export businesses that are refining and expanding international market capabilities, drawing on experience of expert export mentors
- c. Mentoring for Investment – provides businesses seeking to become investment ready with feedback from investment industry mentors.

Since commencement, approximately 640 Mentoring for Growth panel meetings have been held and just over half of these sessions have been to assist regional businesses. An estimated 12,000 hours of private sector mentors' time has been provided on a totally voluntary bases in support of Queensland's high growth enterprises. The Mentoring for Growth suite of programs targets businesses in Queensland priority sectors including: manufacturing, information and communications technologies, biotechnology, clean-technology, resources, nanotechnology, creative industries, tourism, wine and food industries.

Industry 'pipeline' initiatives have been progressed for a number of these priority sectors providing customised education and networking programs, and access to the Mentoring programs, with the objective of facilitating business growth and investment and export readiness.

For example, the Queensland Tourism Pipeline, which provides business growth programs (including mentoring) for tourism operators, has been developed as an action of the Queensland Tourism Strategy and is being implemented by the Queensland Tourism Industry Council state-wide with the support of Tourism Queensland and DTRDI. Opportunities exist to extend the model to other sectors and geographic areas, for example in collaboration with partners with a rural and remote community focus such as the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries (DPI&F), AgForce and Indigenous business support organisations.

### 38. Identify policy settings that support more holistic farming models and a more sustainable business approach.

The Queensland Government accepts this idea and, through the OnePlan project and the memorandum of understanding with the Queensland Farmers' Federation on supporting Farm Management Systems (FMS) by the accreditation/recognition of the delivery of regulatory plans through Property Management Systems (PMS) programs, is working towards more holistic farming models.

In addition, holistic property management will be the focus of a new partnership arrangement between the Queensland Government and AgForce through which AgForce will be supported to prepare a PMS framework for the grazing industry. As well as improved risk management supporting profitable and sustainable grazing enterprises on State and freehold land, the grazing PMS framework will also support Queensland Government initiatives such as the Delbessie Agreement, Pest and Vegetation Management and cultural heritage.<sup>12</sup>

The OnePlan approach also has a role to facilitate the inclusion of other property level regulatory planning requirements in industry FMS/PMS programs by other administering agencies. The target to have this approach well established is June 2010 when current OnePlan project funding finishes.

The Queensland Government has developed the Property Management Systems Initiative (PMSI) in partnership with industry and Natural Resources Management organisations as a *Blueprint for the Bush* project. The PMSI aims to help producers increase the profitability of their business while also demonstrating sustainability and environmental stewardship, applying information and technologies sourced from industry best management practice programs and the latest research and development.

To support the dissemination of information about sustainable farming and business management, the Queensland Government this year launched two mobile offices and a mobile service centre capable of providing extension and services to primary producers in rural and remote communities. The mobile service centre can provide farmers with information on:

- a. Beef Extension and Industry Services
- b. Queensland Rural Adjustment Authority assistance schemes
- c. environmental and resource management
- d. education and awareness of Biosecurity and Fisheries legal requirements for example animal welfare, invasive plants and disease awareness

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<sup>12</sup> The *Delbessie Agreement* (State Rural Leasehold Land Strategy) is a Queensland Government initiative under *Blueprint for the Bush*. It provides a framework to support profitable agricultural enterprises and addresses the natural resource management issues challenging the management and use of state rural leasehold land. The agreement was signed in December 2007 at "Delbessie", a property north of Hughenden.

- e. National Livestock Identification Scheme (NLIS) information and training
- f. drought assistance
- g. Smart Science across all agricultural commodities.

The state's *Processed Food Sector Action Plan* and the *Queensland Aquaculture Industry Development Directions* document both promote and facilitate sustainable practices including water efficiency in food processing. In addition, the Queensland Government Department of Tourism, Regional Development and Industry (DTRDI) collaborates with other government agencies to develop policies for sustainable farming and processing methodologies. Work is also being done on a range of practical initiatives designed to assist food companies to transition to a low carbon economy.

**39. Hold quarterly meetings with Ministers to identify the strategic issues pertaining to the environment and rural issues.**

The Queensland Government accepts this idea. The Minister for Primary Industries and Fisheries will host quarterly Community of Interest meetings with Queensland 2020 rural theme participants and leading women in rural industries, and invite the Ministers for Natural Resources and Water; Tourism, Regional Development and Industry; and Sustainability, Climate Change and Innovation to attend alternate meetings. The first Community of Interest meeting hosted by the Minister for Primary Industries and Fisheries (DPI&F) was held on 17 November 2008, and discussed topics including Queensland 2020 ideas, enterprise viability issues and DPI&F's Fresh Approach. The next meeting will be held in March 2009.

**40. Undertake a regulatory review, covering all relevant state and Commonwealth legislation and local government regulation, to remove interstate and boundary red tape.**

The Queensland Government accepts this idea in principle. The Queensland Government is committed to reviewing existing regulation to produce a 'smart regulatory' environment that supports better economic, social and environmental outcomes for Queensland businesses and communities. At the national level, Queensland contributes to the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) business regulation and competition reform agenda which aims to deliver a 'seamless national' economy and create efficiencies by addressing key regulatory 'hot spots' across jurisdictions. In addition, Queensland supports the Productivity Commission's ongoing regulatory reviews, for instance mutual recognition arrangements, benchmarking of business regulation and of key industries.

Queensland is similarly committed to reducing regulatory impediments at the state level and has completed regulatory reviews of specific industries, as well as of key pieces of regulation. It is developing a proposal for a phased program of annual reviews by all agencies of existing regulation in line with its COAG commitments.



## Theme 5: A long-term health strategy

### Summary

The Queensland 2020: Ideas to Action forum on 15 May 2008 covered three key ideas, all of which are accepted or accepted in principle.

The Queensland Government recognises that the future well-being and wealth of the state relies on healthy people, healthy communities and a healthy workforce.

The *Toward Q2: Tomorrow's Queensland* blueprint sets an ambition for Queenslanders to be Australia's healthiest people. It includes two specific targets:

- having the shortest public hospital waiting times in Australia
- cutting by one-third obesity, smoking, heavy drinking and unsafe sun exposure.

The ideas discussed below will help to address the overarching ambition and individual targets.

### Key ideas

**41. Develop a 'wellness footprint', a measure of the extent to which a community promotes and facilitates 'wellness'. The footprint 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 Queensland Government accepts this idea in principle, noting the potential to contribute to the achievement of the Toward Q2 target to cut obesity, smoking heavy drinking and sun exposure by one-third and build on existing evidence bases.

The Queensland Government will develop a proposal to pilot a wellness footprint approach as a means of providing evidence for targeted action, partnerships and prioritisation in planning, resourcing and services, as well as a mechanism for measuring progress towards these outcomes over time.

By measuring the capacity to facilitate and encourage healthy lifestyles to assist in preventing chronic disease, the wellness footprint would enable Government and local Government to comparatively measure the wellness capacity of cities, towns and possibly suburbs.

A wellness footprint would build upon the evidence base of other national and international comparable measures, such as the current Griffith University project Community Indicators Queensland - a collaborative initiative between governments, community organisations and industry to support the development and use of local community wellbeing indicators.



**42. Build on the innovative and successful Smart State Strategy to position Queensland as a leader in attracting and promoting research in health.**

The Queensland Government accepts this idea and has started to make some progress in this field, including:

- a. the establishment, in September 2008, of a dedicated Office of Health and Medical Research in Queensland Health to lead research and development activity and foster collaboration across the research sector to improve the translation of research into practice
- b. the allocation of \$20.55 million for a Health and Medical Research Program that will fund six Senior Clinical Research Fellows, 22 Health Research Fellows and 12 Clinical Academic Fellows. The Senior Clinical Research Fellowships were launched on 20 November 2008, with the remainder to be rolled out in early 2009. The Smart State Innovation Funds will continue to provide funding for some health and medical research
- c. the development of *Research for a Healthier Future: Smart State Health R&D Strategy 2008-2018*, to be launched in January 2009. An action plan will be developed to support the strategy and will identify the performance indicators which will be used to measure progress
- d. the establishment in 2009 of a Ministerial Advisory Council which will provide expert advice on research and development issues and provide oversight of the evaluation of research and development initiatives.

**43. Direct and targeted action to address specific and high burden Indigenous health issues – for instance, suicides among young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men and the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mothers and their babies.**

The Queensland Government accepts this idea and is committed to achieving equality of life expectancy and health outcomes for Indigenous people by 2030, through a state-wide plan that addresses a broad range of risk factors. On 29 April 2008, the Queensland Government signed a Statement of Intent to achieve equality of life expectancy and health outcomes by 2030.

Since 2006, more than 40 positions including Indigenous Child Health Workers, maternal and child health coordinators and hearing health positions have been recruited and another 30 positions including young parent support workers, early intervention specialists and Indigenous Child Health Workers for primary schools will be recruited in 2008-09 to work with families and children to strengthen parenting practices, increase parent-infant attachment and promote children's health and wellbeing.

A package of community-based maternal and child health services which aims to bring about long term health improvements and changes to the governance and delivery of primary health care in Cape York will be implemented in Kowanyama,

Lockhart Rover, Pormpuraaw and Napranum from 2008-09. The package comprises delivery of comprehensive core, locally-based services supported by access to visiting specialists, and sustained through workforce support and development and better coordination of services and includes the staged delivery of “baby basket” products to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mothers to encourage them to attend antenatal and postnatal health checks.

The Indigenous Early Childhood Development Reform (IECD) National Partnership Agreement between the Commonwealth and Queensland signed in October 2008 will fund and implement strategies to improve access to antenatal care, pre-pregnancy and teenage sexual and reproductive health, and increase access to, and use of, maternal and child health services by Indigenous families.

The Queensland Government endorsed *Making Tracks: A state-wide plan toward closing the gap in health outcomes for Indigenous Queenslanders 2009-2013* in October 2008. Making Tracks focuses on evidence-based interventions that will contribute to closing the life expectancy and child mortality gaps, including health promotion and prevention, maternal and child health, as well as diagnosis and treatment of existing illnesses.

A \$101 million joint Commonwealth and State Government Alcohol Reform package is addressing alcohol issues, including demand, supply and support services in 21 Indigenous communities across Queensland. This includes community-based drug and alcohol support workers, and drug and alcohol counselling services to the 21 communities. In Aurukun, Coen, Hope Vale and Mossman Gorge these services will be provided through Wellbeing Centres that will provide integrated mental health and drug and alcohol counselling services.

## Theme 6: Strengthening communities and supporting families

### Summary

The Queensland 2020: Ideas to Action forum discussions on 15 May 2008 covered 10 key ideas, all of which are either accepted or accepted in principle.

In *Toward Q2: Tomorrow's Queensland*, the Queensland Government has adopted the ambition to be a fair Queensland, supporting safe and caring communities. The ideas under this theme will help us to realise the targets under this ambition:

- halving the proportion of Queensland children living in households without a working parent
- increasing by 50 per cent the proportion of Queenslanders involved in their community as volunteers.

### Key ideas

#### **44. Establish service hubs in schools. Schools provide a good potential coordination point that connects to other services and could be utilised 24 hours a day, seven days a week.**

The Queensland Government accepts this idea and is working to deliver integrated services through a variety of service channels, including service hubs, although there are some restrictions on 24 hour access. The Queensland Government is also committed to establishing stronger links with community services such as child care, child health, training, TAFE and tertiary providers, and to co-locate these services at schools where possible.

The hub service delivery model has been adopted in a range of settings and is an effective way to provide integrated services to address client needs across a range of areas. Hubs have the capacity to provide universal services, to identify those vulnerable and disadvantaged children and families who would benefit from receiving secondary services, and to support families so their difficulties do not escalate to the point where a tertiary response is required.

Queensland Government initiatives underway include:

- a. the *State Schools of Tomorrow* strategy, which has a strong focus on state schools becoming genuine community resources with facilities that could support new adult learning opportunities outside of school hours, or other community programs and events
- b. co-location of early childhood education and care services on or near school sites through the Best Start Initiative, which will provide integrated early childhood education and care, family support and health care services for children from

birth to eight years and their families. Under *Toward Q2*, the Queensland Government has committed to the roll out of 240 kindergartens across Queensland by 2014. This will complement opportunities under the Commonwealth Government election commitment to provide 260 additional early learning and care centres nationally

- c. the *Believe Achieve* strategy, which aims to improve student achievement in disadvantaged communities, with a focus on facilitating innovative family support services that promote student success. These services may be delivered outside school hours in partnership with community groups
- d. The Youth Support Coordinator initiative, which uses schools as a point of engagement to provide support for young people at risk of disengaging from learning.

**45. Empower young people to establish hubs to meet their needs, linking with expertise from seniors who are willing and available to provide inter-generational support.**

The Queensland Government accepts this idea in principle, and has made some progress in this area already, including by providing \$400,000 in Youth Engagement Grant funding to empower young people across Queensland to work with local organisations to raise issues of importance to them, and to be part of developing and implementing solutions to meet their needs.

The approach takes into account that young people living in Queensland's diverse communities face many different issues, and that there is not one best solution. Depending on the issues and solutions identified at a local level, grant funding under this initiative could be used to establish hubs, and to build linkages with older members of the community.

In terms of linking young people with inter-generational support and expertise, the members of the 2008-09 Queensland Youth Council and the 2008-09 Queensland Seniors Council have recognised the value of sharing knowledge across the generations and have established effective linkages to maximise the opportunities for intergenerational support.

Earlier this year members from both councils participated in an inter-generational volunteering project workshop to develop resources to encourage organisations to better recruit and retain both younger and older volunteers, and to assist organisations find ways to get younger and older people working together. All those involved mentioned how valuable they found the experience.

#### **46. Promote services through alternative outlets, including targeting information.**

The Queensland Government accepts this idea and recognises that Queensland's diverse, geographically dispersed population has different needs, which require different types of communication about government services.

Through Smart Service Queensland, the Queensland Government facilitates easier access to government information with transactions and services through the internet, telephone and face-to-face channels. Between 1 July 2007 and 30 June 2008, Smart Service Queensland handled more than five million client enquiries through a range of channels including:

- a. 2.5 million enquiries to the contact centre
- b. 2.3 million internet visits
- c. 200,000 counter transactions
- d. 700,000 concessions provided to eligible Queenslanders.

Smart Service Queensland provides targeted information through specialist services such as 13-Health and 13-Quit, and delivered 18 specific campaigns during 2007/2008 including Land Valuations and Annual Revaluation, Quitline and Unspent Indigenous Reparation Funds. New technologies that suit different audiences are also being trialled, for example using SMS for the first time in the Quitline campaign.

The Queensland Government Agency Program enables clients in rural and remote areas to access a range of Queensland Government services locally through its 68 service counters in locations such as Birdsville, Camooweal, Cooktown and Weipa. Partnerships with non-government organisations, industry peaks and other government agencies, participation in a range of community events and communication strategies also enable targeting of information about services.

#### **47. Provide advice and referral services through information desks in community venues, for instance in banks.**

The Queensland Government accepts this idea, and the need to ensure that advice and referral services are readily accessible to all members of the community. Some initiatives in place to facilitate such access include:

- a. the Queensland Government Agents Program (QGAP) also provides face-to-face services in remote, discrete or low population areas. Agents may be from other government departments (including courthouses and schools) or a commercial operator (e.g. post office, bank or store)
- b. establishment of one-stop-shop community recovery centres in community venues such as church and community halls to provide a range of support services for local people affected by disasters.

These initiatives supplement other advice and referral services such as:

- a. 13 Health information line – a 24-hour, seven-day-a-week state-wide service providing access to health information, triage and referral to the people of Queensland.
- b. Department of Communities' 10 regional offices located across Queensland, with core business functions of community capacity, service quality and youth justice

The Queensland Government is also working toward a strategy that balances the increasing use of the internet by the community to seek information about government services and to conduct a range of transactions, with other service delivery methods, (for example, phone and counters) to make services more accessible.

**48. Address 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.**

The Queensland Government accepts this idea in principle. The Queensland Government will work with the Commonwealth Government in framing an appropriate national response.

The Queensland Government has developed and is implementing innovative integrated human service initiatives in disadvantaged communities to support social inclusion. These initiatives focus on both improved outcomes for individuals and families and reforms to the service system to achieve the correct balance of prevention and early intervention activities and intensive support for clients with multiple and complex needs.

There is a strong evaluation and continuous improvement component which will support ongoing learning and replication of the successful components of the models. Commonwealth Government Agencies (the Departments of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, Education, Employment and Workplace Relations and Health and Ageing) have been invited to work with State agencies on the planning and implementation of key initiatives to support social inclusion.

The development of a National Plan for Social Inclusion, and a National Development Index with measurable community outcomes are matters for the Commonwealth Government to consider. A Bill or Charter of Rights is also an issue best addressed at a national level by the Commonwealth Government.<sup>13</sup>

**49. Move towards a culture that accepts and embraces – and not just tolerates – diversity.**

The Queensland Government accepts this idea. Developing greater awareness and acceptance of multiculturalism is part of the Queensland Government's Multicultural Policy, *Multicultural Queensland – making a world of difference*.<sup>14</sup> The policy acknowledges the diversity of the Queensland community as one of its great strengths, and provides a blueprint for maximising the social, cultural and economic benefits of this diversity for all Queenslanders. Key concepts and values include mutual respect, social inclusion, community harmony and cohesion, and social justice.

Through a Multicultural Assistance Grants program administered by Multicultural Affairs Queensland, the Queensland Government provides annual funding of more than \$700,000 toward a range of community projects, regional multicultural festivals, and cultural celebrations that promote positive community relations, improve community cohesion, and recognise the cultural development needs of diverse ethnic communities.

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<sup>13</sup> See also the Queensland Government response to Idea 67

<sup>14</sup> See [www.multicultural.qld.gov.au](http://www.multicultural.qld.gov.au) for more information.

In addition, more than \$2 million has been allocated towards the Local Area Multicultural Partnership and Coordinated Advocacy in the Multicultural Sector programs, which support multiculturalism and facilitate improved levels of access to services, planning and consultation by diverse interest groups across local councils and communities. An evaluation of both programs in 2007 highlighted their effectiveness in linking culturally and linguistically diverse communities to services, and in improving social cohesion and cross-cultural competency in remote and regional Queensland.

In partnership with the Queensland Roar Football Club, the Queensland Government developed a three-year Queensland Roars Against Racism campaign. As part of the campaign, two exhibition matches were held in 2007 and 2008 between Queensland Roar and elite teams from South Africa and Brazil. More than 26,000 people attended the matches to show their support for the campaign.

Other significant initiatives undertaken by the government include the Queensland Multicultural Festival held annually at the Roma Street Parkland, the Premier's Multicultural Photographic Awards and Queensland Multicultural Awards. These initiatives are established to foster the development of a harmonious and respectful community recognising the benefits of cultural diversity and embracing migrants as part of the Queensland society.

Under *Multicultural Queensland – Making a world of difference*, each Queensland Government department is responsible for the development of an annual Multicultural Action Plan to deliver tangible services and projects that embrace cultural diversity and address the differing needs of Queenslanders from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. Priorities have been established for the 2008-09 Multicultural Action Plans, which include:

- a. refugee issues, particularly among African refugees
- b. Pacific Islander communities' issues
- c. responsiveness and accessibility of services delivered by Queensland Government-funded non-government organisations.

**50. Create a register of Diversity Champions to provide mentorship for migrants and refugees, and extending the Golden Gurus idea into the area of social inclusion.**

The Queensland Government accepts this idea in principle. The Queensland Government will investigate the establishment of an effective register of Diversity Champions.

Consultation with key ethnic communities stakeholders and newly arrived migrants/refugees through settlement service providers will occur in early 2009 to obtain their views on the idea and assess the level of community acceptance and

support. If supported, practical options on how the program could be developed will be sought.

**51. Break 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.**

The Queensland Government accepts this idea, and is currently developing a strategy to target domestic and family violence. A consultation paper has been released for public comment prior to the submission of a final strategy for government consideration.

Additionally, the Department of Justice and Attorney-General (JAG) has conducted a comprehensive review of the criminal injury compensation scheme to make it simpler and easier for victims of crime. The review also considered how to better coordinate service delivery to victims. Victims of crime will have access to faster, more effective financial assistance as well as coordinated support services under a new Victims Financial Assistance Scheme, which in 2009 will replace the current scheme under the Criminal Offence Victims Act. A draft bill outlining the new scheme will be released for public consultation in early 2009.

The Queensland Government already provides or funds many services aimed at breaking the cycle of violence, supporting victims and holding perpetrators accountable for their behaviour. These services range from policing initiatives and responses, legal assistance, housing, material aid, health services and counselling and support for victims and behaviour change programs for perpetrators.

**52. Showcase positive outcomes achieved through the juvenile justice conferencing restorative process in public forums.**

The Queensland Government accepts this idea in principle, noting that confidentiality will be a key consideration. A meeting with key internal stakeholders will be convened in early 2009 to assess the existing suite of youth justice conferencing resources and determine opportunities to leverage existing public forums in a community education campaign.

**53. Keep new responses to drug use and homelessness on the national agenda.**

The Queensland Government accepts this idea. The Council of Australian Governments (COAG) has established a working group to inform the development of the new National Affordable Housing Agreement and released a Green Paper, *Which way home – a new approach to homelessness*, with a White Paper to follow later in 2008. The Queensland Government is an active contributor in these Commonwealth initiatives.

The Queensland Government's response to the Green Paper identified the need for service system reform and additional investment to reduce homelessness, including

prevention and early intervention to address factors such as drug and alcohol use and domestic and family violence.

Queensland Government Ministers also actively participate in national drug policy through the Ministerial Council on Drug Strategy. Senior Government officials support the work of the Ministerial Council through the inter-governmental Committee on Drugs.

The national drug policy framework, including these committees, enables the Queensland Government to contribute to national direction and programs, and to bring Queensland issues to the forefront. An example is the Queensland Government's participation in the Prime Minister's *National Binge Drinking Strategy*. Queensland is leading the way on liquor legislation reform and we are helping other jurisdictions to examine and reform their laws.

For the past eight years, the Queensland Government has collaborated with all jurisdictions and the Commonwealth Government to develop and implement a range of drug programs under the national Illicit Drug Diversion Initiative. This has resulted in offenders being diverted into drug treatment through the establishment of Police Diversion, Illicit Drugs Court Diversion and the Queensland Magistrates' Early Referral Into Treatment programs. In addition, the Queensland Government has established the Drug Courts program and is piloting the Indigenous Alcohol Diversion Program.

## Theme 7: Options for the future of Indigenous Queensland

### Summary

The Queensland 2020: Ideas to Action forum covered three key ideas, all of which are accepted or accepted in principle.

*Toward Q2* recognises the importance of a comprehensive approach to addressing the needs of Indigenous Queenslanders. The ideas raised below will assist in realising all five ambitions and 10 targets in *Toward Q2* and work towards creating a brighter future for Indigenous Queensland.

### Key ideas

#### **54. Establish an Indigenous Advisory Group to provide high-level and strategic advice to government.**

The Queensland Government accepts this idea. Following the national Australia 2020 summit, the Premier stated that it ‘had been too long’ since Queensland had had a formal Indigenous advisory body. At the Queensland 2020: Ideas to Action forum, the Premier initiated a dialogue with delegates in the Indigenous stream on engagement with Indigenous Queenslanders.

Expressions of interest have been called for a 12-member Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Council. It is anticipated that the Council will be established by the end of 2008. The Council will be chaired by the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and will provide a direct link between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and the Queensland Government. The Advisory Council will provide the government with advice on strategies and partnerships that can contribute to meeting national *Closing the Gap* Indigenous reform targets and the Queensland Government’s *Toward Q2: Tomorrow’s Queensland* ambitions and targets.

**55. Establish a Centre of Excellence to improve the availability of evidence based research and cultivate new ideas.**

The Queensland Government accepts this idea in principle. The Centre of Excellence proposal is in concept stage and requires consultation and scoping. There are a number of specialist Indigenous studies units in the Queensland tertiary sector and at this stage it is proposed a centre could form a network linking the best of these units, as opposed to being based out of a single institution. The Queensland Government Office for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships in the Department of Communities, the Office for Economic and Social Research in Queensland Treasury and the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, met with approximately 25 academic, government and community representatives on 15 September 2008 as a first step in the scoping exercise which is to be completed early next year.

The Office for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships also has a joint initiative with the Office of Economic and Statistical Research in Queensland Treasury to establish a joint Indigenous statistics unit. The jointly funded unit commenced on 14 July 2008 and provides a central point for the management and improvement of data as it relates to the outcomes for Indigenous Queenslanders.

**56. Develop an Indigenous business development program, that promotes sustainable Indigenous-run businesses.**

The Queensland Government accepts this idea. Some programs already exist that are aimed at supporting or investing in Indigenous businesses. The Indigenous Business Development Unit in the Department of Tourism, Regional Development and Industry supports a range of Indigenous business development initiatives including support for Indigenous owned and run businesses and fostering partnerships and joint ventures between Indigenous and non-Indigenous businesses. The Indigenous Business Development Grants Scheme has two programs:

- a. the Indigenous Business Establishment Program which supports activities that lead to establishing viable Indigenous businesses and expanding existing businesses
- b. the Indigenous Business Capacity Building Program, which historically has been used to partner with third parties to provide business development advice and support to Indigenous Queenslanders. Examples of this are the Indigenous business hubs including Balkanu in Cape York and TSRA in the Torres Strait. The guidelines for this program are currently under review.

The Queensland Government also supports Indigenous businesses and employment programs in other ways. For instance, through the *Looking After Country Together* strategy and as part of implementing the *Cape York Peninsula Heritage Act*, the Queensland Government is working with representatives of Indigenous organisations on a number of initiatives to support sustainable Indigenous-run businesses based on natural resources.

## Theme 8: Towards a creative Queensland

### Summary

Eight key ideas were covered in discussions at the Queensland 2020: Ideas to Action forum on 15 May 2008. The Queensland Government accepts or accepts in principle six ideas, and does not support one idea. An eighth idea comprised four separate components, of which three are accepted in principle and one is not supported.

Creativity is critical to achieving the targets under the strong and smart ambitions in *Toward Q2: Tomorrow's Queensland*.

### Key ideas

#### **57. Establish a Creative Queensland Endowment Fund to support artistic risk and innovation and long-term projects and loans.**

The Queensland Government accepts this idea in principle and over the next two years Arts Queensland will undertake further research on the establishment of a Creative Queensland Endowment Fund. Issues for consideration will include the resource and operational requirements for such a fund, how it could be used to complement existing funding schemes, alignment with Government priorities for arts and cultural development. While establishment of such a fund would require significant start-up resources, it would have potential to leverage private sector contributions.

#### **58. Develop additional investment models and incentives, such as:**

- tax incentives to attract philanthropic support for the arts
- 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
- consideration of how film finance and investment models could be applied more broadly in the arts sector for projects with a potential commercial return.

#### Tax incentives

The Queensland Government accepts this idea in principle. Arts Queensland has commissioned a study to examine options for using taxation legislation to attract donations to the arts, with a view to identifying alternative income streams for arts organisations. The study is due for completion by the end of 2008. Depending on the study findings, a paper may be prepared for further discussion at the Cultural Ministers' Council.

### A HECS-type scheme for artists.

The Queensland Government accepts this idea in principle. Arts Queensland has existing grant schemes which support professional development of artists and arts workers, and access to materials for supported projects. The creation of an income contingent loans scheme is, however, dependent on links to the taxation system, and therefore requires a Commonwealth Government response.

### Different internal contributions

The Queensland Government does not support this idea. This idea was based on a suggestion at the National 2020 Summit that each department contribute a one per cent dividend to support arts activities. The Queensland Government believes that such an approach is unlikely to receive sufficient support, and does not allow for the unique priorities individual departments face. The national and international experience of such schemes has also shown them to be difficult to implement effectively.

The Queensland Government's preferred approach is to identify and pursue specific opportunities for partnerships and collaboration between government agencies and other potential partners.

### Broader application of film finance and investment models

The Queensland Government accepts this idea in principle. Apart from grants models which Arts Queensland already uses, film industry support schemes use incentives (to attract production to the state) and low interest repayable loans which depend on a commercial outcome. Over the next two years Arts Queensland will examine the relevance of the revolving loans scheme model for investment in arts productions.

It is noted that such a model would only be appropriate where an arts product was likely to make a significant commercial return and would need to be business-led with government considering its contribution on a case-by-case basis.

## **59. Implement a State Indemnification Scheme to facilitate community access to publicly funded arts and cultural spaces.**

The Queensland Government does not support this idea. In response to the difficult insurance market some years ago, the Queensland Government established an insurance service through Aon Risk Services (an insurance broker) to provide not-for-profit organisations with insurance advice and, if requested, to place insurance business on the best possible terms available. This arrangement has been very effective in support of the not-for-profit sector providing access to affordable insurance.

If the government was to provide an indemnification scheme for not-for-profit arts organisations it would mean a transfer of financial risk to the government. It would be arguable that a scheme should apply equally to all not-for-profit organisations. Such a scheme would come at a cost which would need to be met by the sector or subsidised by government at the expense of other government services. Unlike the

early 2000s, liability insurance is more readily accessible and at competitive premiums.

**60. Support the digitisation of museum and cultural collections in all Queensland's major cultural institutions to facilitate universal access to our arts and cultural assets.**

The Queensland Government accepts this idea, and progress is already being made toward the digitisation of collections. Major cultural institutions which are part of the Queensland Government are developing policies and processes to progress digitisation of their collections. For example:

- a. over the next 12 months, Arts Queensland will work with the Queensland Museum, Queensland Art Gallery and State Library of Queensland to develop a plan for digitising museum and cultural collections
- b. Queensland State Archives is conducting a pilot program and developing a policy framework to support the digitisation of the State's collection of archival public records. Queensland State Archives will work with Arts Queensland and other cultural institutions on this initiative.

The State Library of Queensland has digitised five per cent of its one million image collection so far and the Queensland Art Gallery is well on track to have its Asia-Pacific collection digitised by 2009, which is 10 per cent of its total artwork collection.

**61. Advocate for the inclusion of the arts as a core component of the National Curriculum for all ages and across all disciplines.**

The Queensland Government accepts this idea in principle. The National Curriculum Board (NCB) has been established to oversee the development of a national curriculum from Prep to Year 12. The initial scope is to start with English, Mathematics, the Sciences and History, underpinned by a renewed focus on literacy and numeracy. Geography and Languages will be developed in the second phase of work.

The position of the NCB is that other learning areas such as the Arts, Health and Physical Education and Technology are important parts of the curriculum for which the states and territories will continue to be responsible. They could become part of a national curriculum if the various governments decide that they should. Further consideration and discussion of this issue will need to be informed by the implementation of the initial phases of the national curriculum.

**62. Support the development of a national cultural policy, which recognises the important role of arts and culture across all aspects of the government agenda.**

The Queensland Government accepts this idea, and Arts Queensland is participating with other Australian state governments and the Commonwealth Government on the development of a National Cultural Strategy. At a state level, the central importance of arts and culture to our society is recognised in *Creative Queensland - The Queensland Government Policy 2002*, a whole-of-Government policy statement setting the direction for the Queensland Government's ongoing investment in arts and culture.

*Creative Queensland* sets a vision for Queensland as a culturally dynamic place to live, rich in diversity and experiences, where ideas and talent are supported, artistic and cultural pursuits encouraged and the economy is enhanced by excellence in creative innovation.

Developed in 2007, the *Queensland Arts Industry Sector Development Plan* supports this vision by working towards the development of an economically viable and artistically vital arts and cultural sector. The plan provides the Government and the arts sector with clear goals and actions to address the challenges and opportunities facing the arts sector while reflecting government, industry and community priorities.

Arts Queensland is currently undertaking an evaluation of the plan. The purpose of the evaluation is to consider how effective the plan has been in establishing a shared understanding of, and engagement with, the strategic direction for arts development, and to seek feedback from the arts and cultural sector on possible future priorities, challenges, opportunities and actions for the next iteration of the plan. The next iteration will cover the three-year period from 2010 to 2012, and is due for release in late 2009.

**63. Develop and implement a State Government Design Policy for the built environment.**

The Queensland Government accepts this idea. Arts Queensland has commenced development of a whole-of-Government Queensland Design Strategy, which will incorporate design for the built environment. The strategy will include a broad range of initiatives to build a strong design culture in Queensland, working in collaboration with a range of government departments to promote good design practice and principles which benefit the environment, education and public awareness, local design sector and the Queensland economy.

**64. Acknowledge the centrality of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts and culture in defining Australia's history, culture and national identity.**

The Queensland Government accepts this idea. A key priority for Arts Queensland is the support and promotion of strong Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts and

cultures. In collaboration with the arts statutory authorities, Arts Queensland is drafting an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Policy that acknowledges the centrality of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history and arts to the formation of Queensland's cultural identity. Following changes from consultation with stakeholders, the policy will be released in early 2009.

In 2007, the \$10.73 million four-year Backing Indigenous Arts program was announced to strengthen arts in Far North Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. Arts Queensland also supports Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists and communities through the Indigenous Regional Arts Development Fund, Aboriginal Centre for Performing Arts, funding for Indigenous-specific festivals, Indigenous Knowledge Centres operated through the State Library of Queensland, and supporting the Return of Indigenous Cultural Property Program in partnership with the Commonwealth Government and Queensland Museum. In addition, Arts Queensland is participating in state and national discussions about other potential mechanisms for supporting Indigenous arts and cultures, such as the possible establishment of a National Indigenous Theatre Company and a Centre for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts and Cultural Excellence.

## Theme 9: Governance

### Summary

Four key ideas were identified and discussed at the Queensland 2020: Ideas to Action forum. All four ideas are accepted or accepted in principle.

In *Toward Q2: Tomorrow's Queensland*, the Queensland Government has set ambitions for a strong, green, smart, healthy and fair Queensland. Achievement of these ambitions will rely on effective governance practices and the Queensland Government leading by example in its own policies and programs.

The *Toward Q2* consultation process itself demonstrates the government's commitment to engaging the community on the issues that matter and listening to Queenslanders' thoughts and ideas on innovative ways of achieving the ten targets.

### Key ideas

#### 65. Invest in excellence in the public sector, 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
- 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)
- establishing partnerships between private and public sectors to enable the transfer and development of talented staff.

The Queensland Government accepts the need to invest in excellence throughout the public sector.

#### Flexible engagement practices

Queensland public sector employees have an array of work-life balance policies such as flexible and part time work arrangements, tele-commuting and cultural leave available to them. These policies help employees reduce the impact of work on family and personal life, thereby often reducing stress levels, while increasing focus and motivation at work knowing that family, personal and work commitments are being met.

For the government as an employer, these policies result in increased attraction and retention of highly skilled staff and ultimately, continued quality service delivery and responsiveness to the Queensland community.

The Queensland Government is implementing a *Work-Life Balance Strategy* which includes customised support for human resources managers, line managers and employees to increase the uptake of the relevant existing work-life balance policies, where appropriate. The strategy comprises:

- a. a short-term strategy to create immediate awareness for managers and employees
- b. a longer-term strategy which will include an investigation of and the development of responses to underlying factors impacting the uptake of work-life balance policies.

#### Cadetships and graduate programs

The Queensland Government Public Service Commission (PSC) and other agencies already run graduate and cadetship programs. The various graduate programs conducted by 17 government agencies have attracted 410 participants in 2007 and 350 participants in 2008. The PSC is leading a more coordinated graduate program for the Queensland Government and will explore other strategies such as vacation employment, internships and scholarships to promote the Queensland Government as an employer of choice to younger people and graduates in the future.

#### Retention through incentive schemes

The Queensland Government accepts this idea and has introduced schemes including special employment contracts to attract and retain critical skills in the public sector. Further responsive strategies will be introduced to address job market challenges in the future.

#### Partnerships with the Private Sector

An existing initiative to build senior public service mobility is the Executive Program, which is a program of rotation of executives across agencies. The PSC is investigating expanding the program to include placements inter-sector (private, public, non-profit), inter-jurisdiction (across state and territory boundaries), inter-governmental (local, state and federal levels) and internationally. This builds a more mobile public service, with a broader set of experiences and skills, with spin-off benefits in supporting a more collaborative approach to federalism in Australia.

### **66. Investing in civic participation and collaborative governance by:**

- **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**
- **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**

- **increase respect of public and government institutions through a program of civic education.**

The Queensland Government accepts this idea. The Queensland Government has good foundations to build on, being a strong leader in community engagement and e-democracy initiatives, including civic education programs, the Queensland Youth Parliament and forums and Community Cabinet.

The Queensland Government is committed to improving opportunities for young people to participate in the community and develop their leadership skills, including by funding and support for the YMCA Youth Parliament, the Queensland Youth Council, Youth Engagement Grants, National Youth Week events and the Young Indigenous Leaders Forum.

The Get-Involved website provides comprehensive information about how citizens can get involved in Queensland Government decision making.<sup>15</sup> Through this website, the community can:

- provide input to inform government policy (Consult Queensland)
- lodge online petitions to the Parliament (e-Petitioning)
- listen to Parliament live on the internet. The website also provides information about community engagement resources.

The Queensland Government has also used the on-line virtual 3D world Second Life as a tool to consult with young people from around the state.

In 2005, the Queensland Government and the United Nations held the inaugural International Conference on Engaging Communities in Brisbane. This was a significant event, attended by more than 2300 participants. The *Engaging Queensland: State of Engagement 2005* report provided a comprehensive summary of the diversity and extent of community engagement achievements across government.

An issue that was raised by delegates at the Queensland 2020: Ideas to Action forum concerned the automatic enrolment of voters. The issue of automatic enrolment is a sensitive one for many people, going as it does to the heart of our democratic process. The Queensland Electoral Commissioner supports the automatic enrolment of eligible voters, and is involved in Commonwealth initiatives to modernise and harmonise Commonwealth and state electoral systems. The Electoral Commissioner will contribute to a Commonwealth Joint Standing Committee and Green Paper on these issues. For its part, the Queensland Government has an open mind on the issue, though the balance of the Queensland Government's investment is in supporting positive engagement with the Queensland community rather than in forced participation or punishing non-participation.

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<sup>15</sup> See <http://www.getinvolved.qld.gov.au/community/getinvolved/> for more information.

**67. Amend the preamble to the *Constitution of Queensland Act* to recognise Indigenous prior landowners and develop a Bill or Charter of Rights, following Indigenous and community consultation.**

The Queensland Government accepts the first aspect of this idea and accepts the second in principle.

Therefore, the Queensland Government proposes the insertion of a preamble into the Constitution of Queensland 2001 as an aspirational statement for all Queenslanders which gives due recognition to Queensland's Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander people, and also to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the State of Queensland.

It is proposed to ask the House to refer the development of a draft preamble text to the Legal Constitutional and Administrative Review Committee (LCARC) of the Queensland Parliament in December 2008 with a view to the Government finalising the preamble text by mid 2009.

A Bill of Rights is an issue best addressed at a national level by the Commonwealth Government. The Commonwealth Government has already made a commitment to a public inquiry into how to recognise and protect the human rights and freedoms enjoyed by all Australians, and has allocated \$2.8 million in the Commonwealth Attorney-General's department budget for consultation on a Bill of Rights. The Queensland Government will contribute to ongoing discussions with the Commonwealth Government on this matter, to ensure that Queensland voices are heard in any inquiry.

**68. Support open and accountable government.**

The Queensland Government accepts this idea, and is committed to delivering open and accountable government. The Queensland Government recently announced a number of initiatives aimed at delivering more open and accountable government. The Freedom of Information (FOI) Independent Review Panel's *The Right to Information: Reviewing Queensland's Freedom of Information Act* report recommends a change from a 'pull' model of releasing government information to a 'push' model. This change in approach will ensure that government routinely and proactively releases information to the public.

The Queensland Government Departments of the Premier and Cabinet, Public Works and Justice and Attorney-General, will lead the implementation of the Government's response. Significant actions include:

- a. development and introduction of a new *Right to Information Bill* and a *Privacy Bill*
- b. developing a whole-of-Government strategic information policy with the intent of:
  - i. promoting greater openness through organisational and cultural change

- ii. improving the quality of and access to government information, especially through enhanced information search capabilities
- iii. enhancing information management across the public sector for all aspects of the information life-cycle, including planning, creating, collecting, organising, using, disseminating, storing and destroying government information.

These initiatives have the potential to enable government to more effectively engage with the community as there will be an increased release of and access to information as a matter of practice.

## Theme 10: Queensland in the world

### Summary

Four key ideas were discussed at the Queensland 2020: Ideas to Action forum on 15 May 2008, all of which are accepted.

The ideas discussed below have the potential to contribute to a number of the ambitions in *Toward Q2: Tomorrow's Queensland*, particularly the Government's ambition to be strong, with a diverse economy powered by bright ideas.

### Key ideas

#### **69. Introduce a targeted and focussed pilot study regarding the introduction of Asian languages in primary, secondary and higher education institutions.**

The Queensland Government accepts this idea. At present, in Queensland, across the year levels, approximately 50 per cent of students who study a language other than English study either Japanese or Chinese.

As part of its election commitment, the Commonwealth Government is introducing the National Asian Languages and Studies in Schools Program (NALSSP) to promote the study of Japanese, Indonesian, Chinese and Korean languages. This program has three elements:

- a. development of specialist curriculum for students who display advanced abilities in Asian languages and studies
- b. increase number of suitably qualified language teachers competent to teach the four target Asian languages
- c. increase the number of Asian languages classes in high schools.

The implementation plan for NALSSP does not, however, explicitly identify any additional resources to support Asian languages programs in primary schools, which may represent a risk for states and territories if there is an expectation that Asian language programs will be implemented in primary schools.

#### **70. Invest in partnerships with Pacific neighbours to share 'lessons learned', and share good practice in public administration.**

The Queensland Government accepts this idea. The Queensland Government has made some early progress in this field, including under the banner of the Queensland-Papua New Guinea (PNG) Business Cooperation Group, managed by Trade Queensland. Each year, officials from Queensland and PNG departments meet to advance co-operation in areas such as capacity building, training, skilling and support in numerous areas. Trade Queensland is the lead agency of this forum and

includes the participation of other Queensland agencies such as Primary Industries and Fisheries, Education, Training and the Arts, Natural Resources and Water, Queensland Museum and the Queensland Art Gallery.

The Australian meetings of the Queensland-PNG Business Cooperation Group are held to coincide with the Australia PNG Business Forum, which is held in Cairns. Since 2004, Trade Queensland has paid the registration fee for between 12 to 15 PNG delegates to attend the Australia PNG Business Forum.

In May 2007, Trade Queensland hosted five officers from the Government of Papua New Guinea for training and to share Trade Queensland's 'lessons learnt' on matters related to export development and facilitation. This activity was under the auspices of the Australian Leadership Awards Fellowship Program, which is funded by AusAID.

Trade Queensland facilitates engagement with South Pacific nations through its International Development Business Unit, which seeks to connect industry and public sector organisations with programs funded by AusAID and other donor organisations that deliver assistance and training to the region. A mission to target certain South Pacific nations to capitalise on expanding opportunities delivered through donor programs is proposed for the first half of 2009, which also reflects the State Government's engagement to expand linkages between the region and Queensland.

#### **71. Improve engagement with regional economic partners through:**

- **sister-state agreements that further knowledge partnerships and provide benefits for Queensland**
- **agreements with the national government departments in major regional economies**
- **agreements that are research intensive and focused on priority sectors in our economy**
- **expand traditional networks and exchanges to include major regional economies.**

The Queensland Government accepts the need to engage with our regional economic partners. Queensland sister-state relationships with regional partners (Saitama, Japan; Osaka, Japan; Shanghai, China; Central Java, Indonesia; Gyeonggi, Korea) are actively supported to promote an interchange of knowledge, cultural understanding, educational and where appropriate, business linkages.

In recent years, the Department of the Premier and Cabinet has focused on the establishment of research intensive knowledge alliances with the governments of major regional economies. Examples include the agreements with the Chinese and Indian Ministries for Science and Technology. These agreements are being actively supported by the Queensland Government.

Queensland has established networks and exchanges with major regional economies through its formal agreements and exchange programs. The new International Fellowships Program, under *Smart State Strategy 2008-2012*, will focus on building

greater knowledge links between Queensland and major regional economies to promote research collaboration and innovation.

Individual agencies also enter into and maintain agreements with various agencies overseas which deliver benefits for Queensland in priority areas of science, industry development or business (e.g. trade). The Queensland Government Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries (DPI&F) supports Trade Queensland in delivering outcomes under sister-state and other agreements by developing and implementing mutually beneficial initiatives in the areas of food and agriculture. DPI&F has established a joint working group with the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives in Thailand to identify and develop collaboration in food and agriculture. A joint project has already been successfully implemented.

Another example of an agency level agreement is the Department of Tourism, Regional Development and Industry's establishment of the Queensland-New Zealand Biotechnology Collaboration.

The Smart State National and International Research Alliances Program provides funds for collaborative research and development projects that build on Queensland's national and international research alliances. In 2008-09, Trade Queensland will start reviewing all business-related memoranda of understanding to ensure that the benefit to Queensland matches the resources required to maintain them.

## **72. Ensure that Queensland Government policies align with United Nations' protocols and conventions.**

The Queensland Government accepts this idea, noting that it is the Commonwealth Government's jurisdiction to enter into, negotiate amendments to, and withdraw from all international treaties and obligations, including the United Nations protocols and conventions. The onus is also on the Commonwealth Government to provide outreach mechanisms to inform the states and territories about such obligations.

The Queensland Government undertakes checks of relevant legislation and policies when responding to the Commonwealth Government about compliance under any new treaty obligations. This is coordinated through inter-governmental relations within the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, largely through the Standing Committee on Treaties network.