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community deserves
to be a liveable one

LGAQ POLICY STATEMENT 2025



About the LGAQ

The Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) is the peak body for local government in Queensland. We are a not-for-profit association set up solely to serve the state's 77 councils and their individual needs.

We have been advising, supporting, and representing local councils since 1896, aiding them to improve their operations and strengthen relationships with their communities.

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QUEENSLAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT POLICY STATEMENT

1 Context

1.1 The Role of the LGAQ

- 1.1.1 The Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) is the peak body for local government in Queensland. It is a not-for-profit apolitical association set up solely to serve councils and their individual needs. The LGAQ has been advising, supporting and representing local councils since 1896, allowing them to improve their operations and strengthen relationships with their communities. The Association does this by connecting councils to people and places that count; supporting their drive to innovate and improve service delivery through smart services and sustainable solutions; and delivering them the means to achieve community, professional and political excellence.
- 1.1.2 The LGAQ provides a voice for local government at the State and Federal level. The LGAQ is the corporate entity representing all Queensland local governing bodies. While it seeks to identify issues of state-wide concern to local government and to arrive at a consensus view as to local government's position on the issues identified, there is provision for minority views to be represented.
- 1.1.3 The LGAQ uses a range of digital and traditional communication channels to create an awareness at the State and Federal government levels of the local government position on important issues and to enhance the image, credibility and support for local government within the community.
- 1.1.4 The LGAQ seeks a close liaison with other groupings of local governments, local government professional associations and other strategic organisations with a view to the identification of common areas of interest and joint action to address mutual needs.

1.2 LGAQ Policy Statement

- 1.2.1 The LGAQ Policy Statement is a definitive statement of the collective voice of local government in Queensland which identifies how local government seeks to engage with and be recognised by State and Federal governments.
- 1.2.2 The Policy Statement gathers key issues currently affecting local government and ensures an evidence-based and place-based policy position is settled for a particular issue. This provides certainty when discussing policy propositions or reforms offered by the State and Federal governments.

1.3 Context

- 1.3.1 Local government's vision for our sphere of government is that we provide local leadership; open, accountable, transparent, community-based local government; effective and efficient local government; co-operative partnerships with State and Federal governments; and customer focused service to the people of Queensland.
- 1.3.2 Within the context of local, State and Federal jurisdictional responsibilities, local government should enjoy maximum autonomy and be subject to minimum state intervention.
- 1.3.3 Federal, State and local governments have legitimate interests and inter-related jurisdictional responsibilities.
- 1.3.4 Local governments' legitimate interests and autonomous jurisdiction responsibilities are for the good rule and governance of their local areas.
- 1.3.5 The Federal and State governments' legitimate interests and jurisdictional responsibilities are for the good rule and governance of the entire country and state respectively. In exercising this jurisdiction, governments have the responsibility to set, regulate and enforce appropriate policies and standards for the good of the entire community that have national, state-wide and regional impacts and implications. In doing so, government regulates activities and functions that may involve local government. During the development, regulation and enforcement of appropriate community standards, local government will not be the specific focus of government, even though in some areas of activity local governments may be the sole providers or the only entities operating in this sector or area of activity.

1.4 Co-operative Partnerships with Federal and State Government

- 1.4.1 Partnerships will be strengthened by:
- Attaining recognition by State and Federal governments of local governments' capacity to contribute to state and nation building, for example, by retaining significant Federal and State Government funding programs for roads and community infrastructure;
 - Positive, timely, cooperative, proper and meaningful engagement with and by local government at the local, regional, state and federal levels to the development of state and federal policies and programs;
 - Rationalisation of the roles and responsibility of the three spheres of government to improve efficiency and avoid duplication of effort;
 - Access to adequate financial and other resources consistent with fiscal equalisation objectives and commensurate with local government's roles and responsibilities;

- Representation by local government on all appropriate state and national bodies and the nomination of those representatives by the LGAQ, taking into consideration intra-state diversity of local governments;
- Actively maintaining and implementing LGAQ's intergovernmental relations strategy;
- Securing formalised agreements with the State and Federal governments that include commitments to end cost shifting onto local governments.

1.5 Fundamental basis of relationship

- 1.5.1 Governments should agree with the principles of empowerment and of subsidiarity, which holds that decisions should be made by the lowest level of government capable of properly doing so. Intergovernmental relations should be conducted in a spirit of mutual respect and cooperation with an emphasis on partnership and a commitment to timely and frequent communication, with recognition of each other's roles and responsibilities.
- 1.5.2 Local government should be subject to minimum intervention from other spheres of government with respect to its legitimate interests and jurisdictional responsibilities (including revenue raising, local laws and land use planning). Devolution or delegation of new responsibilities, roles and functions to local government should only occur where prior consultation has been undertaken, the financial implications and other impacts on local government are taken into account, and do not result in a cost shift and the identification and availability of an ongoing revenue source has been considered.

1.6 Governance Arrangements

- 1.6.1 To ensure the system of local government is accountable, democratic, efficient, sustainable and transparent, local governments have a responsibility to comply with appropriate standards relating to applicable governance arrangements. This includes boundaries, electoral arrangements, financial accountability and reporting, integrity and ethical standards, and oversight by independent bodies including the Queensland Audit Office, Integrity Commissioner, Office of the Independent Assessor, Ombudsman, Remuneration and Discipline Tribunal, and the Crime and Corruption Commission.
- 1.6.2 The governance arrangements that apply to local government should, where appropriate, be consistent with those applying to the State Government – the obligations placed on local government will not be higher than those applying to the State Government.

- 1.6.3 Local governments have a responsibility to comply with any applicable legislative, industry or professional requirements to ensure that appropriate standards are maintained for the benefit of the entire community. Wherever possible, local governments should have the ability to tailor regulatory regimes to suit local conditions and interests while still achieving the desired performance-based outcome.

1.7 Effective, Efficient and Productive Local Government

- 1.7.1 Local government will commit where possible and practical to:

- Maximisation of operational productivity, for example, via joint local government resource sharing;
- Utilising “best practice” in local government;
- Flexibility and adaptability to changing circumstances;
- Innovation in all aspects of local government operations;
- Delivery of services to customers that represent value for money;
- Co-operative sharing of information and resources between councils;
- Ensuring operational service levels are appropriate to individual councils and strike a balance between community expectations, ecological sustainability and financial sustainability;
- Generating a proper and reasonable level of own source revenue to meet the funding requirements of its own legitimate interests and jurisdictional responsibilities;
- Attracting, developing and retaining quality elected members and staff; and
- Being a model employer.

1.8 Performance Reporting

- 1.8.1 Local government supports the development of performance indicators measuring local government financial sustainability, operational and service delivery proficiency.
- 1.8.2 Annual and periodic reporting against agreed performance indicators enables continuous improvement practices and benchmarking with other local governments to improve financial sustainability and operational proficiency.
- 1.8.3 Performance reporting against agreed indicators and measures enables an outcomes focus to be achieved driving performance improvement in a far more effective manner than the preparation of multiple plans and compliance reporting.

- 1.8.4 Local governments supported by the LGAQ's Better Councils, Better Communities initiatives will continuously be provided with tools and resources to drive better performance outcomes.

1.9 First Nations Local Governments

- 1.9.1 The system of local government in Queensland includes 17 First Nations councils.
- 1.9.2 First Nations local government leaders are recognised as having additional significant legal, social and cultural responsibilities within their communities.

As the only democratically elected leaders who live and work in their communities, local government mayors will be recognised for their leadership within the community and actively consulted on matters affecting their communities by State and Federal governments.

- 1.9.3 The LGAQ will continue to support the Indigenous Leaders Forum (ILF) to provide a dedicated means of engaging with and understanding the needs of First Nations councils, to support their advocacy priorities, and to assist them thrive within the regulatory requirements of the *Local Government Act*.
- 1.9.4 There should be genuine and collaborative partnerships between the Federal and State governments and First Nations local governments democratically elected by and representative of their communities to improve their economic and social wellbeing.
- 1.9.5 State and Federal governments will work with local governments to ensure that government investment in their communities will encourage the local economy, promote local skills acquisition and local employment, and serve to Close the Gap on the identified areas of disadvantage occurring in the communities.

1.10 Policy Formulation Process

- 1.10.1 Negotiation and Consultation
- 1.10.1.1 The LGAQ provides the principal avenue of communication between local government and the Federal and State governments and other state bodies. The LGAQ evaluates, where appropriate, State Government policies and programs, develops policies for submission to the Federal and State governments, and negotiates where appropriate with those governments in relation to those policies and programs.
- 1.10.1.2 The LGAQ should be consulted by the State and Federal governments and their departments, authorities and officers, with adequate time available for response, before taking legislative and administrative actions that affect local governments individually or collectively.

- 1.10.1.3 The LGAQ should have the right to participate fully in all discussions on the formulation of the State Government budget as it affects local government. As part of the state budget process, the State Government should prepare a whole- of-government overview of funding to councils.
- 1.10.2 Policy Adoption
- 1.10.2.1 The three mechanisms by which new and amended policies are developed include:
- On the basis of resolutions at the LGAQ Annual Conference;
 - On the basis of resolutions of the LGAQ Policy Executive between Annual Conferences; and
 - Bi-annual review of the Policy Statement involving the LGAQ Policy Executive, Management and LGAQ Reference/Advisory/Segment groups.
- 1.10.2.2 In addition, State and Federal Election Policy Plans are adopted by the Policy Executive to provide a priority emphasis for each term of Federal and State Parliament.
- 1.10.3 Policy Engagement
- 1.10.3.1 To ensure its members are better informed and contribute to ongoing policy development, the LGAQ has and will continue to:
- Strengthen ties with regional groupings of councils and ensure Policy Executive members and senior LGAQ staff attend meetings of Regional Organisations of Councils and other regional groupings with a view to ensuring up to date briefings are provided;
 - Coordinate representation and advocacy strategies and activities across the LGAQ, with members updated on progress and outcomes;
 - Ensure regular updates and briefings are provided to member councils, via a range of different channels including but not limited to, direct email and SMS alerts, CEO wrap, Council Leader magazine, social media feeds and a public facing and members' only website;
 - Increase State Government engagement and coordination on policy as per the agreed terms in the Equal Partners in Government Agreement (EPIGA) signed by State Government and the LGAQ in 2025; and
 - Provide greater focus on strategic policy-making and priority-setting at Annual Conference.

1.10.4 Consultation

- 1.10.4.1 Local government seeks a commitment to consultation from all political parties in the development of policies, and for any significant changes to service or program delivery, which has the potential to impact the local community and affect local government.
- 1.10.4.2 Local government departments of both the State and Federal governments should be the prime avenue for communication between local government and other spheres of government.
- 1.10.4.3 When the State Cabinet has before it a proposal that will significantly affect the responsibilities or resources of local government, the responsible Minister should provide a report to Cabinet that includes:
- The likely impact on local government;
 - The view of local government as expressed by the LGAQ and the relevant councils; and
 - Consultation mechanisms for final proposal development and potential implementation, including mechanisms to appropriately fund or compensate local government for costs arising from the proposal.

2 Governance

2.1 Legislative Framework

2.1.1 Local Government Enabling Legislation

- 2.1.1.1 The *Local Government Act* and *City of Brisbane Act* should be the major defining legislation for local government's role, powers and functions.
- 2.1.1.2 The term of office of a local government council as prescribed in the *Local Government Act* should remain a fixed term of four (4) years.
- 2.1.1.3 The date for the quadrennial local government elections should remain in March.
- 2.1.1.4 The legal status of local government in Queensland should be that of a body corporate to provide the necessary protection to Councillors and Officers in the performance of their roles and responsibilities, in addition to securing the status of local governments in dealing with other spheres of government and the private sector.
- 2.1.1.5 Local government supports the inclusion of triple-bottom-line reporting, including financial, ecological and social targets as part of the development of corporate plans and annual reports of councils where practicable.

2.1.2 Legislation/Compliance

- 2.1.2.1 Legislation affecting local government in Queensland should be framed in recognition of the diversity of capacity, size, resources, skills and physical location of local governments, and should not be drafted under a "one size fits all" model.
- 2.1.2.2 Additional compliance placed on local government by the State Government should take into consideration risk management and materiality and the value of transparency to the community and should not be based on simply aligning local government with the State Government.
- 2.1.2.3 Legislation affecting local government in Queensland should not increase red tape or result in any cost shifting on to local governments.

2.2 Intergovernmental Relations

2.2.1 Constitutional Recognition

- 2.2.1.1 There should be an acknowledgement and guarantee of the Commonwealth's power to directly fund local government in the *Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act* as a means of recognising the existence and importance of local government as a sphere of responsible government in Australia.
- 2.2.1.2 The *Constitution of Queensland 2001* should maintain its recognition of the existence and status of local government and ensure its continuance.
- 2.2.1.3 The State Government should comply with the spirit and intent of Chapter 7 Part 3 of the *Constitution of Queensland 2001*, namely "arrange for a summary of the Bill to be given to a body representing local governments in the State a reasonable time before the Bill is introduced in the Legislative Assembly".

2.2.2 Partnerships, Empowerment and Autonomy

- 2.2.2.1 The State Government should continue to adhere to the principles outlined in the Partners in Government Agreement, including mutual respect and cooperation, open and timely communication and consultation, and an understanding of the respective roles and responsibilities of both the State and local governments.
- 2.2.2.2 Local government acknowledges the value of long-term community planning to develop priorities and inform specific projects and programs. Any State Government-based long-term planning must recognise the diversity of local governments across Queensland and accept the right of individual councils to determine a fit for purpose arrangement that reflects their individual circumstances and capacity to respond.
- 2.2.2.3 The general competence power that exists under the *Local Government Act* should be retained to allow local governments to respond as they consider appropriate to the needs of the communities they serve and to provide the services required. Restrictive and unnecessary conditions and approvals imposed by other governments on the performance of local government activities should be removed.
- 2.2.2.4 Federal and State governments must continuously be informed of the restrictions placed on local governments to rate and charge for services by any additional taxes, compliance standards and other regulations imposed by the Commonwealth and the State.

2.2.3 Dismissal of Local Government

- 2.2.3.1 Only where an appropriately constituted public inquiry finds that a local government as a whole is acting illegally or is condoning the illegal actions of its officers, should the State Government have the power to dismiss a local government. The dismissal should occur only after the passing of an Act of Parliament which provides for new elections for the local government as soon as reasonably practicable, and which provides for the appointment of a Commission to conduct the affairs of the local government until new elections have been held.

2.2.4 Boundary Changes

- 2.2.4.1 A public inquiry should be held prior to any boundary changes unless the agreement of all local governments involved in the changes is obtained.
- 2.2.4.2 Where the involved local governments initiate and agree on boundary changes, these should, as a general principle, be implemented without interference by the State Government.
- 2.2.4.3 An amalgamation of one local government with another or a major boundary change shall not take place if the majority of electors in either council are opposed to such amalgamation or major boundary change. A major boundary change occurs when a part of a local government area which contains at least 10% of the population of a local government or which contains at least 10% of the unimproved capital value of the local government is joined with another local government.

2.2.5 Regionalism

- 2.2.5.1 The voluntary grouping of local governments to deal with specific regional issues is encouraged.
- 2.2.5.2 The *Local Government Act* provides the opportunity for regional approaches to deal with matters that extend across local government boundaries, and the use of such cooperative arrangements should remain as a matter for decision by individual local governments and not be imposed by Federal or State governments.

2.2.6 Freedom of Information

- 2.2.6.1 The Right to Information and Information Privacy legislation should permit local governments to recover from applicants the actual cost of processing applications for access to documents.

2.2.7 Election Expenses

- 2.2.7.1 Expenses incurred by candidates at local government elections should be tax deductible in the same manner as are those incurred by Federal and State election candidates.

2.3 Representing the Community

2.3.1 Community Engagement

- 2.3.1.1 Local governments recognise that community engagement is vital to the democratic process and contributes to building balanced healthy communities.
- 2.3.1.2 Local governments understand that community engagement contains the core elements of information, consultation and participation, which will be applied, where appropriate, to facilitate meaningful community involvement in the decision-making process.

2.3.2 Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

- 2.3.2.1 Local governments recognise the importance of all forms of human diversity to the social, cultural and economic life of local communities. It is committed to inclusion of that diversity, to enhance and celebrate the richness of community identity and capture the benefits of that diversity for the benefit of all.
- 2.3.2.2 Local governments recognise the rights of people with a disability and will continue to take appropriate measures to address their needs, including the provision of equitable access to facilities, services, human and other resources (including information) by all members of the community.

2.3.3 First Nations People

- 2.3.3.1 Local government recognises the importance of the culture and heritage of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people of Australia and affirms its commitment to the reconciliation process between First Nations peoples and the broader Australian community.

3 Finance and Administration

3.1 Funding Assistance

3.1.1 Federal Funding

- 3.1.1.1 Untied Federal funding for local governments should continue.
- 3.1.1.2 The amount allocated by the Federal government should be based on a fixed share of Commonwealth taxation.
- 3.1.1.3 The method of interstate distribution of general-purpose grants should be changed from a per capita basis to a fiscal equalisation basis.
- 3.1.1.4 Principles for grant distribution in the state should be developed by the Queensland Local Government Grants Commission in close consultation with the LGAQ and individual local governments.
- 3.1.1.5 The grants methodology should be transparent and easy to understand, based upon quality data, and should produce consistency and predictability in grant outcomes, ensuring equitable treatment of councils facing similar circumstances.
- 3.1.1.6 Where the methodology changes, a transition period of four years with a maximum reduction of 15% per year should be established to allow local governments to absorb and adapt to the change.
- 3.1.1.7 Financial assistance for roads (the Identified Road Grant) should remain a specific allocation for this purpose and not become absorbed in any other avenue of financial assistance for local government.
- 3.1.1.8 The Federal Government will continue to directly invest in housing construction in the remote and discrete First Nations communities to reduce chronic overcrowding and to improve socioeconomic outcomes.

3.1.2 State Funding

- 3.1.2.1 Local government seeks a dedicated water and wastewater infrastructure funding program, allocated on a basis of assessed need and to support local governments water supply upgrades identified as necessary in response to water supply security assessments and regulatory change.
- 3.1.2.2 Local government supports an increase in, and the continuation of the Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme (TIDS) based on an allocative model through Regional Road and Transport Groups (RRTGs), that includes indexation to keep pace with rising construction costs.

- 3.1.2.3 There should be increased financial contributions to local government road safety initiatives via a permanent formula that provides direct contributions from traffic infringements.
- 3.1.2.4 In addition, the State Government should maintain targeted funding schemes based on the strategic importance of infrastructure and service provision recognising the varying needs and capacity of local governments across the state.
- 3.1.2.5 The State Government should provide a 100% subsidy to councils for provision of external infrastructure to State Government sites and to non-State School sites. Additionally, the State Government should make arrangements for improved engagement and associated planning mechanisms to ensure a better balance is achieved between State and local government priorities in the provision of essential public infrastructure.
- 3.1.2.6 Acquittal of expenditure related to State-funded assistance programs should be standardised across all government agencies and should consist of the current audit processes applied to local government.
- 3.1.3 Funding Protocols
- 3.1.3.1 To deliver infrastructure and services that are more responsive to community needs, the State Government and local government should work together to implement a simpler, more efficient model of State Government grants to local government.
- 3.1.3.2 To support councils' long-term planning, asset management and financial sustainability requirements, it is essential that the grant funding model provides local government with certainty regarding grant funding over the forward estimates of the State Budget.
- 3.1.3.3 To be effective, this grant funding model should be based on the following principles:
- Be a genuine partnership between the State Government and local government;
 - Has a strategic focus on achieving outcomes for communities, including:
 - Security of essential services
 - Improved community well-being
 - Jobs and economic growth

- A safe and efficient road and transport system
- Sustainable natural resource management
- Resilient communities
- Includes stable funding parameters that see a move from competitive to allocative programs that are underpinned by council planning and asset management requirements;
- Develops councils' capability and capacity and incentivises innovation;
- Is administratively simple; and
- Incorporates regular evaluation and communication of program outcomes, with lessons learned incorporated into future programs.

3.1.3.4 The long-term objective for reform of State Government grant funding to local government should be to implement a centralised model of grant funding to local government, whereby a single State entity oversees consolidated local government grant funding arrangements.

3.1.4 Funding of Infrastructure

- 3.1.4.1 Local governments should have the right to access funding from both public and private sources, including partnerships and joint ventures with other spheres of government and the private sector. Federal and State legislation and policy should not impede such arrangements.
- 3.1.4.2 Funding issues for transport infrastructure should be addressed by all spheres of government during the development of Integrated Transport Plans.
- 3.1.4.3 Water supply, sewerage schemes and stormwater drainage should be regarded as a high priority area for State Government grants with subsidies based on their critical role in the economic development and sustainability of Queensland's regions and communities.
- 3.1.4.4 Federal and State Government infrastructure grants and subsidy programs should be annually indexed in recognition of the increased costs of infrastructure provision and population growth.
- 3.1.4.5 Local government is opposed to the introduction of any new property-based taxes by Federal or State governments for the purposes of value capture from their infrastructure investment believing:
- It would adversely impact on local governments' sole own source revenue base;

- Better use can be made of existing federal and state taxation and user-pay mechanisms from the beneficiaries of infrastructure provision; and
- Value capture arrangements need to be considered within the broader context of national taxation reform to ensure local government is not disadvantaged through the erosion of its revenue raising capacity.

3.2 Taxation and Revenue

3.2.1 Valuation and Rating

- 3.2.1.1 There should be no interference with the autonomy of local governments in the setting of rates and charges.
- 3.2.1.2 The responsibility for valuation should remain with the State Government.
- 3.2.1.3 Site valuation is the preferred valuation methodology for urban properties.
- 3.2.1.4 State and Federal governments, their departments and instrumentalities should not be exempt from the payment of rates, charges and fees on income producing property owned by them or leased to private sector entities.
- 3.2.1.5 All government-owned land used for residential accommodation should be fully rateable. The government department and not the tenant should be responsible for the payment of rates and charges to the local government.
- 3.2.1.6 The provisions of Section 50 of the *Land Valuation Act 2010* regarding the discounting of rateable valuation of undeveloped “balance area” of subdivisions held by the developer should be repealed.

3.2.2 Taxation Benefits

- 3.2.2.1 All gifts and endowments to local governments should be fully tax deductible.

3.3 Microeconomic Reform

3.3.1 Compulsory Competitive Tendering

- 3.3.1.1 Prescriptive or compulsory approaches to service delivery, as has occurred interstate with compulsory competitive tendering, are seen as inappropriate to Queensland local governments because they ignore the need for autonomy and flexibility at the local level.

3.3.2 National Competition Policy

- 3.3.2.1 In the implementation of the National Competition Policy, councils should retain the right to determine the level of reform to be implemented, with the requirement to undertake reviews a voluntary process for those councils below the type 1 and 2 thresholds.
- 3.3.2.2 In response to National Competition Policy obligations, and to ensure that equitable community access to essential services is not diminished, local governments will apply the techniques of social impact assessment in their determination of the existence or otherwise of community service obligations in respect of these services.

3.4 Procurement

3.4.1 Purchasing

- 3.4.1.1 Local governments and the State Government should work closely together on maximising opportunities for whole of government procurement in Queensland.
- 3.4.1.2 The provision within legislation to allow the LGAQ or a wholly owned subsidiary to have the rights to set up supplier arrangements for councils and other government agencies should continue.
- 3.4.1.3 Legislated thresholds for requiring quotations or tenders before entering into medium- or large-sized contractual arrangements should be reviewed every five years in light of the LGAQ's Council Cost Index to ensure the thresholds remain relevant to council operations.

3.4.2 Electronic Data

- 3.4.2.1 Local government as owners of electronic data will resolve to retain, pass on or sell this data on an individual council basis subject to legislated privacy requirements and any undertakings to rate payers and customers.

3.5 Risk Management

3.5.1 Liability Exposure

- 3.5.1.1 Local governments have a unique exposure to public liability claims due to councils being in control of public places that they do not occupy. Action is required to introduce statutory defence to liability claims against councils relating to roads and other public places.

- 3.5.1.2 Local governments support the introduction of a legislative exemption from liability for advice given or acts done or omitted to be done in good faith in respect to the management of natural hazards, including flood, bushfire, landslide, storm tide inundation and coastal erosion.
- 3.5.1.3 Local governments support the introduction of legislation indemnifying councils from liability associated with the release of Perfluoroalkyl and Poly Fluoro Alkyl Substances (PFAS) to potable and receiving waters, including stormwater.
- 3.5.1.4 Road Maintenance Performance Contracts provide vital work for councils and must include appropriate indemnity for councils against the burden of defect backlogs on the State Controlled Road network.

3.6 Climate Risk Management

3.6.1 Role of local government

- 3.6.1.1 Local government is committed to providing a leadership role to assist local communities, including industry, to understand and address climate risk including acute and chronic physical risks and transition risks associated with moving to a low carbon economy.
- 3.6.1.2 Local government is committed to working in partnership with all spheres of government, industry and the community to develop and implement effective climate risk management strategies focusing on emissions reduction and adaptation.
- 3.6.1.3 Local government is committed to utilising the best available scientific information, robust risk assessment methodologies and community engagement when developing climate risk management strategies and action plans, establishing priorities and the allocation of resources.

3.6.2 Empowering local government and communities to take climate risk management action

- 3.6.2.1 Local government seeks appropriate policy and legislative frameworks from the Federal and State governments to allow necessary decision making and responses to climate risk to occur without prejudice or undue risk exposure to councils.
- 3.6.2.2 Local government seeks timely access to high quality, nationally consistent but locally appropriate data, methodologies, standards and codes from the Federal and State governments to ensure responses to climate risk are safe, timely, proportionate and equitable.

- 3.6.2.3 Local government urgently seeks appropriate levels of funding and resourcing assistance to develop Climate Risk Management Strategies, undertake detailed risk assessments for priority risks and prepare and implement local government area wide action plans for the immediate, medium- and long-term protection and benefit of communities.

3.7 Disaster Management

3.7.1 Climate change Community Disaster Resilience and Disaster Mitigation

- 3.7.1.1 The Federal and State governments should expedite the delivery of the suite of recommendations of the 2020 Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements (28 October 2020).
- 3.7.1.2 The Federal and State governments should commit to continued funding of the Natural Disaster Resilience Program (NDRP) as a fund to assist local governments to undertake community resilience building projects to reduce the impacts of identified natural disaster risks on communities. In accordance with recommendation 22.7 of the Royal Commission, the Federal and State governments should review current funding arrangements and recovery methods to ensure there is increased focus on building community resilience. Priority should be given to communities that are more likely to be affected by natural disasters based on historical records and predictive models.
- 3.7.1.3 In accordance with recommendation 9.4 of the 2020 Royal Commission into National Natural Disasters, the Federal and State Government should work with local governments to ensure a collective awareness of risks.

3.7.2 Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA)

- 3.7.2.1 Local governments support in principle an upfront reconstruction and recovery funding model of the type announced in the DRFA (including provisions for betterment as per recommendation 22.6 of the Royal Commission, which calls on more broadly including 'build back better' arrangements into the DRFA.
- 3.7.2.2 In accordance with recommendation 22.3 and 22.4 of the 2020 Royal Commission, the Federal and State governments should review the thresholds and activation processes of the DRFA.

- 3.7.2.3 Where a council experiences a disaster event under the DRFA, for all essential public assets – whether they be a road, bridge, water supply or wastewater treatment assets or other essential public assets – they be treated as eligible for assessment on the same terms under the DRFA Guidelines. In each case, consideration to provide funding for an asset to be “built back better” should be incorporated into the core criteria of DRFA.

3.8 Fire and Emergency Services

- 3.8.1 Administration of the Emergency Management, Fire and Rescue Levy (EMFRL) should be made as simple and practical as possible by the State Government to minimise the burden placed on local governments by this additional function.
- 3.8.2 The EMFRL should provide funding to the State Emergency Service as a core State Government responsibility, lessening the increasing burden of cost being met by local government.
- 3.8.3 Local governments should be fully compensated for all costs involved in administering the EMFRL.
- 3.8.4 Local governments should be kept informed of State Government proposals and initiatives relating to the planning for or expansion of fire services.

3.9 Terrorism

- 3.9.1 Local governments should be kept fully informed of Federal and State government proposals and initiatives relating to counterterrorism, particularly critical infrastructure risk assessment, cyber terrorism and management strategies.

4 Workforce Relations

4.1 Human Resource Management

4.1.1 Principles and Practices

- 4.1.1.1 Local government recognises it must engage in contemporary human resource management practices to ensure councils are operating to their maximum capacity. Improved productivity will be achieved through the proactive pursuit of innovation and evidence-based workforce management interventions.
- 4.1.1.2 Local government recognises that a contemporary human resource management system is built on a sound legislative framework and policies that are relevant, drafted to suit the local government context and professionally implemented and managed within each council.
- 4.1.1.3 Local government supports recruitment, selection and promotion on merit and will ensure the successful incumbent of a designated role meets the desired level of competency, capability and commitment to fulfil the position.
- 4.1.1.4 Local government recognises the value of diversity of elected members and employees of councils to enhance representation of, and responsiveness to, the diversity of their constituency. Local government will ensure all groups within the population are encouraged to consider applying for and are able to access positions within local government. Local government will be sensitive to barriers, direct or indirect, that discourage or disadvantage the full participation of the entire community and local governments will act to mitigate against those barriers.
- 4.1.1.5 Local government is committed to creating and supporting an open and supportive environment that promotes equity and fairness and encourages full participation by all.

4.1.2 Training and Development

- 4.1.2.1 Local government supports accredited and non-accredited training and skill development that builds capacity in elected members and employees.
- 4.1.2.2 Local government recognises that an investment in training and development is an investment in people and the future success of Queensland local government.

- 4.1.2.3 Local government supports the maximisation of industry led training and development initiatives given the demonstrable advantages such programs deliver over direct funding of training organisations.
- 4.1.3 Employment
 - 4.1.3.1 Local government recognises that it must compete for talent with other industries and must act to ensure the existence of a pool of skilled and qualified workers.
 - 4.1.3.2 Local government encourages entry-level employment coupled with accredited training to increase the skill capacity within councils and to create employment opportunities locally.

4.2 Industrial Relations

- 4.2.1 Workplace Reform
 - 4.2.1.1 Local government supports an enterprise-based workplace relations system that utilises enterprise bargaining and individual flexibility agreements to align workplace conditions and practices with the business and interests of councils and their workforce.
- 4.2.2 Industrial Relations System
 - 4.2.2.1 Local government is best served by a strong industrial system operating in a single jurisdiction and is contemporary, robust, and supported by a well- maintained and independent Industrial Relations Commission.
 - 4.2.2.2 Local government supports freedom of association.
 - 4.2.2.3 Local government strongly supports a single industry award to ensure consistency and equity for employees and ease of administration for councils.
 - 4.2.2.4 Unfair dismissal laws must protect employees from unfair dismissal without unreasonably hindering management's prerogative to separate employees who fail to reach the necessary performance standards and breach acceptable standards of behaviour.
 - 4.2.2.5 Local government supports the concept of pay for skills acquired and required, not qualifications gained.
- 4.2.3 Enterprise Bargaining
 - 4.2.3.1 Local government acknowledges the role that enterprise bargaining plays within the current industrial relations framework and the potential benefits that might flow for council and workers from mutually agreed arrangements between councils and their workforces.

- 4.2.3.2 Local government recognises the right of councils to bargain directly with employees.
- 4.2.3.3 Local government recognises the right of employees to be represented during bargaining, whether by direct representation, workers' representatives, or a union.

4.3 Workplace Health and Safety

4.3.1 Working Environment

- 4.3.1.1 Local government supports the provision of healthy and safe working environments.
- 4.3.1.2 Local government recognises the benefits of a fit and healthy workforce and invests in engagement with its workforce to improve their health and wellness.

4.3.2 Workers Compensation

- 4.3.2.1 Local government supports increased industry control of workers compensation arrangements in order to reduce costs and maximise service delivery. Increased industry control involves the continuation of the ability to self-insure and the existence of fair and reasonable self-insurance licensing conditions.

5 Environment and Health

5.1 Environment Protection

5.1.1 Roles, Responsibilities and Procedures

- 5.1.1.1 Local government seeks State Government regional support to assist in the administration of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*, *Biosecurity Act 2014*, the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* and other environmental reforms.
- 5.1.1.2 Local government supports the State Government funding councils to develop voluntary local State of Environment reports that can assist the State Government in preparing Queensland State of Environment reports.
- 5.1.1.3 Local government supports the development and use of corporate Environmental Management Systems to support councils in complying with Federal and State government environmental legislation through their operations.

5.1.2 Air

- 5.1.2.1 Local government supports the development of regional cooperative air quality strategies by the State Government.
- 5.1.2.2 Local government opposes the establishment of statutory regional air management authorities. Councils will seek to maintain good local air quality that complies with appropriate standards through cooperative, voluntary regional approaches with contiguous local governments and the State Government.

5.1.3 Noise

- 5.1.3.1 Local government supports working, in consultation with the State Government, to achieve the effective management of noise levels in the community through utilisation of planning, building and environmental noise policies and Australian Standards.
- 5.1.3.2 Local government seeks all government and private enterprise activity to be bound by environment noise control provisions.

5.1.4 Contaminated Lands

- 5.1.4.1 Local government requires the Department of Defence to fund the investigation and remediation of potential and identified unexploded military ordnances sites.

- 5.1.4.2 Local government calls on the State and Federal governments to take the lead in investigating and remediating any known issues of PFAS contamination that arises from historical operations of fire stations, ports, airports, Department of Defence land and other infrastructure.

5.2 Sustainable Natural Resource Management

5.2.1 Sustainable Natural Resource Management

- 5.2.1.1 Local government is committed to the sustainable use of Australia's natural resources for the intergenerational benefit of the broader community.
- 5.2.1.2 Local government seeks full and comprehensive consultation with relevant government agencies on proposals for the exploration and extraction of natural resources and associated activities that pose potential negative impacts to local communities.
- 5.2.1.3 Local government seeks ongoing support for local communities impacted by the extraction and exploitation of natural resources and associated activities within their local government area.
- 5.2.1.4 Local government supports the protection of natural resources to ensure the future sustainability of local communities and their industries.
- 5.2.1.5 Local government seeks State and Federal Government support for local communities impacted by the establishment and operation of environmental markets, particularly those reliant on agricultural industries.

5.2.2 Stock Route Network

- 5.2.2.1 Local government supports an equitable partnership approach with the State Government in the sustainable maintenance and effective management of the stock route network.
- 5.2.2.2 Local government supports the inclusion of local government representation to provide opinion, comment and advice to the State and relevant Minister on the development of legislation, policies and guidelines for the use and management of the stock route network.
- 5.2.2.3 Local government supports a fair and equitable fee and management structure that provides full cost recovery to ensure the sustainable management and maintenance of the stock route network.

5.2.3 Forestry

- 5.2.3.1 Local government supports the establishment of private native forestry based on ecological sustainable development while also providing sustainable timber resources.
- 5.2.3.2 Local government supports the need for forestry harvest security.
- 5.2.3.3 Local government supports a cooperative approach with the State Government in the determination of responsibilities and resources regarding private forestry development and operation and its impacts on local governments and their communities.

5.3 Natural Asset Management

5.3.1 Natural Asset Management

- 5.3.1.1 Local government is committed to protect, enhance and maintain natural assets as well as provide support to community groups and private landholders to encourage stewardship and sound land management.
- 5.3.1.2 Local government recognises and upholds the inclusion of natural asset management (NAM) issues and priorities identified at a national, state, regional and local scale into its community, corporate, strategic, operational and land use plans.
- 5.3.1.3 Local government supports the State Government retaining primary responsibility and expertise for wildlife management.
- 5.3.1.4 Local government seeks formal recognition as a key contributor in the development of natural asset management legislation, programs and policies, including the development of grants programs.
- 5.3.1.5 Local government acknowledges the links to country, knowledge, rights and roles of Traditional Owners and seeks to build stronger partnerships with First Nations people for the delivery of shared goals in natural asset management.
- 5.3.1.6 Local government acknowledges the need for integrated and coordinated regional, sub-regional and catchment approaches to natural asset management.
- 5.3.1.7 Local government supports the concept of natural asset management governance arrangements with appropriate funding allocations that have links to other regional/local planning processes; streamlined administrative processes; clear communication channels; reduced duplication of effort and better governance integration.

- 5.3.1.8 Local government supports genuine and comprehensive consultation in the development, implementation and review of regional NAM plans and investment strategies.
 - 5.3.1.9 Local government is committed to using its resources including planning responsibilities and links with the community to achieve mutually agreed local and regional natural asset management outcomes.
- 5.3.2 World Heritage
- 5.3.2.1 Local government seeks genuine consultation by the Federal Government on the listing of World Heritage Areas and their future management, including the Great Barrier Reef.
 - 5.3.2.2 Local government seeks collaboration with Federal and State governments in relation to natural asset planning, protection and management of buffers adjacent to World Heritage areas.
 - 5.3.2.3 Local government seeks recognition of and financial assistance to support its role in and contribution to maintain the health of World Heritage Areas, particularly the Great Barrier Reef.
- 5.3.3 National Park and Crown Land Management
- 5.3.3.1 Local government seeks the establishment of, and appropriate Federal and State government funding for, a state-wide network of protected areas which is a comprehensive, adequate and representative system of Queensland's terrestrial and marine protected areas.
 - 5.3.3.2 Local government seeks genuine and comprehensive consultation by the State Government on matters that directly affect local governments by any proposal considering the gazettal of an area as National Park, the removal of an area from a National Park, or the approval of commercial activities within a National Park.
 - 5.3.3.3 Local government seeks adequate compensatory measures for any adverse financial impact that is experienced as a result of the establishment and operation of National Parks, World Heritage Areas and Crown Land within their local government areas in recognition of the loss of rateable revenue and potential impacts of park visitation.
 - 5.3.3.4 Local government seeks adequate Federal and State Government resourcing of National Parks and Crown Land management authorities to ensure that appropriate land management practices are undertaken, especially in regard to the delivery of invasive species management and fuel load reduction activities.

5.3.4 Coastal Management

- 5.3.4.1 Local governments recognise the importance of coastal hazard adaptation planning (as a climate adaptation mechanism) to help safeguard their communities from the impacts of coastal hazards.
- 5.3.4.2 Local governments seek financial support from the State for the implementation of coastal protection and coastal hazard adaptation projects.
- 5.3.4.3 Local government seeks genuine collaboration with the State Government on the preparation, review and amendment of Queensland Coastal Management Plan and the declaration of Coastal Management Districts.

5.3.5 Catchment Management

- 5.3.5.1 Local government recognises the significance of its role in delivering sound catchment management activities including streambank rehabilitation, revegetation, stormwater management including water sensitive urban design, reducing stormwater litter and erosion, sediment control and revegetation to deliver outcomes that protect the natural assets of a catchment.
- 5.3.5.2 Local government seeks to simplify the management of waterways through the development of streamlined legislation and other processes to support sound environmental outcomes.
- 5.3.5.3 Local government seeks support to update drainage infrastructure to meet present day standards in water sensitive urban design.
- 5.3.5.4 Local government seeks support for further research and development on emerging contaminants in waterways.

5.3.6 Great Barrier Reef Conservation

- 5.3.6.1 Reef catchment councils support the development and implementation of the Reef 2050 Plan and other associated plans.
- 5.3.6.2 Reef catchment councils are a significant contributor to actions supporting the conservation of the Great Barrier Reef.
- 5.3.6.3 Reef catchment councils seek investment from the Federal and State governments for the holistic implementation of the Reef Councils' Rescue Plan to enable the acceleration of innovation and delivery of activities that support the conservation of the Great Barrier Reef.

5.3.7 Biodiversity

- 5.3.7.1 Local government seeks funding to assist the State Government in the delivery of the Conserving Nature – a Biodiversity Conservation Strategy.
- 5.3.7.2 Local government seeks to work cooperatively with Federal and State governments to protect biodiversity values and threatened species in Queensland.
- 5.3.7.3 Local government seeks funding to implement recovery plans and on-ground actions to conserve species and communities listed in the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.
- 5.3.7.4 Local government seeks the reinstatement of a local government's right to seek offsets for matters of local environmental significance that are largely the same as matters of national or state environmental significance in geographical areas where the State and Federal governments have determined they do not require offsets.
- 5.3.7.5 Local government seeks stronger alignment and less duplication in mapping advice and direction between Matters of National, State and Local Environmental Significance including consolidated species distribution and habitat mapping for threatened species and ecological communities; consistency between recovery actions under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* and the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*; and availability of species-based data for incorporation into local government planning systems where appropriate.
- 5.3.7.6 Local government supports the use of proactive fire management regimes, including traditional burning, to protect biodiversity, as well as life and property.

5.3.8 Biosecurity

- 5.3.8.1 Local government seeks ongoing Federal and State resourcing to deliver national and State outcomes identified through the Weeds of National Significance program, Threat Abatement Plans, Strategies and Action Plans.
- 5.3.8.2 Local government seeks to work cooperatively with the Federal and State governments to control the impacts of pest animals and pest plants in the state.
- 5.3.8.3 The State Government should ensure that appropriate guidelines and funding are in place to allow improved control of wild dogs by local government.

- 5.3.8.4 Local government requires the support of the State Government to facilitate regional and local biosecurity planning and compliance functions as set by the *Biosecurity Act 2014*.
- 5.3.8.5 Local government supports a full commitment by the State Government to the resourcing of the Queensland Biosecurity Strategy and associated action plans and strategies.
- 5.3.9 Resourcing
 - 5.3.9.1 Local government is a major investor in natural asset management and seeks State and Federal governments co-investment by making funds directly available to councils to value add to natural asset management outcomes in the state.

5.4 Waste Management

- 5.4.1 Waste Management Strategy and regional waste plans
 - 5.4.1.1 Local government supports the development of regional waste management plans underpinned by a comprehensive Waste Management and Resource Recovery Strategy for Queensland.
 - 5.4.1.2 Local government supports the development and implementation of a comprehensive strategy for the development of the waste and secondary resource industry that is complementary and integrated with the Waste Management and Resource Recovery Strategy for Queensland.
 - 5.4.1.3 Local government supports enhanced shared data collection in waste management to enable comprehensive waste analysis, policy setting and performance management.
 - 5.4.1.4 Local government supports the development of regional waste management plans to deliver waste and resource recovery outcomes across Queensland. These plans will assist, to guide the allocation of Federal and State government investment and 'fit for purpose' funding to assist both local government and industry.
 - 5.4.1.5 Goals and targets should be jointly developed between the State and local government to provide direction and enable outcomes to be measured. Improved measurement against goals and targets will enable better monitoring of policy and strategy to ensure continuous improvement.

- 5.4.1.6 Local government supports community behaviour change driven through education and awareness campaigns being developed to focus on 'selling' waste minimisation and recycling to the community and small to medium-sized enterprises.
- 5.4.2 Toxic and Hazardous Wastes
 - 5.4.2.1 As a matter of priority, the State Government should play an active role in the establishment of regional hazardous waste management and treatment facilities in Queensland.
 - 5.4.2.2 Local government supports the continued use of a practical, effective system to track wastes of environmental concern which will ensure the disposal of those wastes in an environmentally appropriate manner. The system must provide for increased waste producer responsibility and accountability but not place additional administrative demands on local government without adequate compensation.
- 5.4.3 Domestic Waste Collection
 - 5.4.3.1 Domestic waste should be collected and treated in an effective manner which minimises the impact on community health and the environment.
 - 5.4.3.2 Local Government must maintain the ability to control and regulate waste management services to the entire community to ensure the maintenance of public health, safety, environmental and amenity standards.
 - 5.4.3.3 Local government is in the best position to ascertain the need for one, two or more kerbside collection systems within their community and must maintain the ability to do so.
 - 5.4.3.4 As a matter of priority, the State Government should play an active role in supporting the roll out of additional kerbside and alternative waste collection systems.
- 5.4.4 Waste Levy
 - 5.4.4.1 Managing the transition to ensure the imposition of a State Waste Levy on the collection of domestic kerbside waste does not impact on Queensland households.

- 5.4.4.2 A waste levy should:
- Directly target problem waste streams or those where there is potential for considerable gains in terms of recycling; and
 - Provide industry with the confidence to invest in new waste management and recycling infrastructure and technology knowing that there will be consistent application of principles and standards.
- 5.4.4.3 Waste Levy revenue should be fully returned to waste management and resource recovery activities delivered by local government and industry.
- 5.4.4.4 Local Government supports offsetting the impacts of the Waste Levy to minimise burden on households, until appropriate infrastructure is developed.
- 5.4.5 Extended Producer Responsibility
- 5.4.5.1 Local government strongly supports the principle and introduction of Extended Producer Responsibility.
- 5.4.5.2 The State and Federal governments should establish the necessary policy and legislative frameworks for the effective implementation of Extended Producer Responsibility.
- 5.4.5.3 Local government calls on the State and Federal Governments to ban the importation and use of products containing PFAS-group chemicals by the end of 2026 to protect community health and environment from these chemicals.
- 5.4.6 Costs of Waste Management
- 5.4.6.1 The principles of 'user pays' and 'polluter pays' should be applied where possible in addressing the issue of charging for waste management services.
- 5.4.6.2 The State Government should provide adequate resources including 'fit for purpose' funding for waste management to enable all Queensland councils to achieve associated legislative and community standards.
- 5.4.6.3 Local government acknowledges the benefits of Life Cycle Accounting in identifying the true costs associated with waste management and will endeavour to implement it where practicable.

- 5.4.6.4 Local government recognises that the cost of waste management in rural, remote and First Nations communities is substantial. Special resourcing and support is required for these councils to assist them to move as close as possible to best practice waste management having regard to their particular circumstances and needs.
- 5.4.7 Recycling and Resource Recovery
 - 5.4.7.1 Local government is strongly committed to a circular economy for waste management supported through the introduction of economically, environmentally and socially sustainable recycling schemes.
 - 5.4.7.2 Local government supports the removal of regulatory barriers that unnecessarily restrict the wide implementation of economically, environmentally and socially sustainable recycling schemes.
 - 5.4.7.3 Local government strongly supports the principle of the integration of waste management from 'cradle to grave' with a move away from a linear approach to waste management especially with a focus on those waste minimisation options at the top of the waste management hierarchy: waste avoidance and reduction, and materials re-use and recycling.
 - 5.4.7.4 Local government supports the development of expanded markets for recyclables through influencing government policy and committing to promoting and marketing recycled products.
 - 5.4.7.5 Local government supports the State Government in implementing flexible policies for compost end products, that allows for different uses dependent on the levels of contaminants of emerging concern such as PFAS.
- 5.4.8 Packaging
 - 5.4.8.1 The reduction of excess packaging and introduction of recyclable packaging materials and processes is strongly encouraged by local government.
 - 5.4.8.2 Local government supports the Australian Packaging Covenant Organisation (APCO) and encourages the State Government to continue to support APCO with appropriate funding commitments and legislative support.

5.4.9 Landfill Management

- 5.4.9.1 Local government supports improved actions to divert materials from landfill to conserve valuable landfill airspace.
- 5.4.9.2 The development of landfill licence conditions and standards should involve genuine consultation with local governments.
- 5.4.9.3 The implementation of higher standards of landfill management should be phased in over time to allow for long term financial planning.
- 5.4.9.4 A 'one size fits all' approach to landfill licensing is inappropriate. Appropriate regulations to drive improved waste management outcomes and consumer behaviour should be developed in recognition of the diverse needs and circumstances of Queensland communities.
- 5.4.9.5 For regulations to be effective there must be public recognition that they are realistic, relevant, appropriate to the circumstances, achievable and able to be implemented by the responsible agencies.
- 5.4.9.6 Planning for the provision of landfill sites and the location for alternative waste technology facilities requires greater priority in regional planning processes including the need for appropriate zoning, buffering and transport networks for both new and existing sites.

5.4.10 Single Use Plastic

- 5.4.10.1 Local government supports a ban on the use of unnecessary single use plastic items in Queensland.
- 5.4.10.2 Local government supports appropriate extended producer responsibility for currently unavoidable single use plastics, such as food grade foil. Responsibility for management of these materials has to be in line with the 'polluter pays' principle.

5.4.11 Alternate Waste Technologies

- 5.4.11.1 Research into and incentives for alternate waste technologies (for example - anaerobic digestion) should be included in the Waste Management and Resource Recovery Strategy for Queensland as an alternative to landfill disposal where socially, environmentally and economically viable.
- 5.4.11.2 Federal and State governments assistance in the form of subsidies or grants may need to be considered if local governments are to be encouraged to utilise these options, where appropriate, in lieu of traditional landfill operations.

5.4.12 Container Refund Scheme

5.4.12.1 Local government support the Container Refund Scheme (CRS) subject to:

- The continuation of there being no negative financial impact on individual council waste and recycling operations and/or current contractual arrangements;
- The continuation of there being full consultation and agreement with local governments in relation to the location and installation of container collection infrastructure;
- Councils and council contractors not being excluded from claiming the container deposit refund on eligible containers collected through kerbside or other recycling collection arrangements; and
- Councils not being directed by the State Government but retaining the right to determine whether or not they establish and operate container collection centres.

5.4.13 Institutional Arrangement

5.4.13.1 Local government supports the establishment of a Waste Advisory panel to advise government on waste policy, strategy and regulation consisting of representatives of State Government, local government and industry.

5.4.13.2 Local government supports regional collaboration amongst councils and supports and encourages the promotion of economies of scope and scale through the development of regional waste management plans that include facilities and services of regional significance.

5.5 Public Health

5.5.1 Coordination and Cooperation

5.5.1.1 The State Government should be encouraged to work in consultation and cooperation with local governments to avoid duplication of inspectorial and other activities in the provision of environmental health services.

5.5.1.2 Where local governments enforce State health legislation, provision should be made for the reimbursement of costs incurred by local governments by way of direct reimbursement from the State or other equitable cost recovery mechanisms.

5.5.1.3 Local government should have a supporting role to the State Government for community health education and promotion.

5.5.1.4 Funding for the provision and maintenance of community health services, should be supported by way of specific purpose grants to local government.

5.5.2 Preventive Health

5.5.2.1 Local government has a responsibility in the provision and facilitation of preventive health services to protect the community from known health threats and identify and respond to new threats. This is normally achieved by:

- The enforcement of appropriate State legislation and local laws; and
- The provision of services designed to reduce the risk of disease.

5.5.3 Animal Management

5.5.3.1 Local government supports a full review of the *Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008*, including development of a centralised statewide animal management database that contains microchipping details, to improve community safety outcomes.

5.5.3.2 Local government acknowledges the importance of protecting the community against dangerous dog attacks and supports the review of animal management legislation to ensure it remains both current and appropriate for Queensland councils and their compliance activities.

5.5.3.3 The aim of the State Government regulatory framework for regulated dogs and council local laws should be to ensure that people who keep dogs do so in a responsible manner and that all persons are adequately protected from wandering dogs.

5.5.3.4 Penalties for non-compliance with local laws for dog control should be set at high levels to act as an effective deterrent.

5.5.3.5 To ensure effective implementation and efficient use of resources, State legislation for compulsory microchipping of cats and dogs should provide local governments with the ability to designate areas where the provisions apply as well as areas that are exempt.

5.5.3.6 In consultation with local government, the State Government should coordinate a review of the *Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal Act 2009* (QCAT) and Regulation, and QCAT practice directions, to identify methods to reduce extended delays in hearing and determining matters and streamline processes for decision making under the *Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008*.

5.5.4 Mosquito Management

5.5.4.1 The State Government should acknowledge its responsibility and provide funding for mosquito management on Crown Land in partnership with local government.

5.5.4.2 Local government supports the introduction and implementation of a joint funding commitment with the State Government for mosquito management across the state.

5.5.5 Immunisation

5.5.5.1 The State Government should work collaboratively with local government as part of a State immunisation strategy.

5.5.5.2 Local government strongly supports the State Government immunisation funding program to achieve a high level of immunisation across the state.

5.5.6 Asbestos in Non-Workplace Settings

5.5.6.1 Local government recognises that asbestos in non-workplace settings represents a significant public health risk to Queenslanders.

5.5.6.2 To ensure the risks posed by asbestos in non-workplace settings are adequately managed, local government supports a proactive regulatory regime and public awareness campaign that ensures that all Queenslanders who may be exposed in this setting are made aware of the likely risks and the necessary actions required to protect themselves, other occupants and tradespeople.

5.5.6.3 A proactive regulatory regime introduced by the State Government should, as a minimum, include the following requirements:

- Asbestos removal in non-workplaces settings should preferably be undertaken by licensed asbestos removalists, in line with the 10m²-rule;
- Certification be required as to the presence or otherwise of asbestos in a building as part of property sale processes and/or building lease arrangements.

5.5.6.4 Local government agrees to undertake the responsibilities in relation to the administration and enforcement of domestic asbestos matters devolved to it under the *Public Health Act 2005*, subject to the State Government maintaining:

- The legal indemnity for local governments in the Act;
- Ongoing funding for the clean-up fund; and
- Training for local government authorised persons.

5.5.7 Fluoridation of Public Water Supplies

5.5.7.1 Local government believes the decision to add or remove fluoride from public water supplies should be made by individual local governments.

5.5.7.2 The State Government should fully fund local government for the capital and recurrent costs of the fluoridation of public water supplies as oral health is a State Government responsibility.

6 Planning and Development

6.1 Planning Policy and Development

6.1.1 Strategic Planning

- 6.1.1.1 Local government should be recognised as the sphere of government immediately responsible for land use planning and development assessment.
- 6.1.1.2 Local government supports an effective planning system guided by appropriate legislation and balanced social, environmental, cultural and economic interests.
- 6.1.1.3 Local government supports the definition of a 'State Interest' being limited to whole of State Government endorsed land use planning policy that has undergone rigorous community review.
- 6.1.1.4 Local government supports the use of prescriptive standards and assessment benchmarks in a local planning instrument, where appropriate, to provide certainty of development outcomes. The State Government can support this during state interest review processes.
- 6.1.1.5 Local government opposes the devolution of land use planning matters to councils, where these matters are of interest to the State and should be considered and decided by the State Government.
- 6.1.1.6 Local government opposes State Government land use planning policy or intervention that inhibits local decision making.
- 6.1.1.7 Local government seeks greater coordination between state agencies, consultation with local government and resolution of any conflicts, prior to the release of State Government mapping overlays used in planning and development.
- 6.1.1.8 Local government supports an infrastructure designation framework that provides for appropriate local government engagement and approval processes to ensure compliance with relevant local planning instruments.
- 6.1.1.9 Local government supports the State Government developing a State Population Policy to provide clear guidance on the future locations of population growth and infrastructure provision.

- 6.1.1.10 Local government supports the introduction of a statutory regional planning framework that:
- Represents a true regional partnership between the State and local governments;
 - Addresses matters of State and regional interest; and
 - Informs local planning instruments.
- 6.1.1.11 Local government supports the ability to clearly identify uses appropriate to a particular area, including the ability to prohibit certain types of development in a local planning instrument.
- 6.1.1.12 Local government supports the use of a standard structure, definitions, codes and other components common to all local planning instruments to improve consistency without compromising the ability of local governments to respond to local planning issues.
- 6.1.1.13 Local government opposes the extent of the compensation provisions in current planning legislation and only supports limited provisions for compensation based upon certain criteria being met before councils would be liable. Compensation rights should only be preserved where an applicant can establish that they have suffered an immediate and demonstrable loss. Claims for compensation should be eliminated where there is no substantive restriction on continuing use of the land for existing lawful purposes, and where the only loss is loss of the speculative possibility of future development for some other purpose.
- 6.1.1.14 Compensation should not be available where local planning instruments are made or amended to manage risks associated with natural hazards, including flood, bushfire, landslide, storm tide inundation and coastal erosion.
- 6.1.2 Infrastructure Planning and Charging
- 6.1.2.1 Local government supports integrated infrastructure and land use planning measures within local planning instruments.
- 6.1.2.2 Local government supports the State Government developing comprehensive state infrastructure plans that support and inform local planning instruments and statutory regional plans.
- 6.1.2.3 Local government supports the creation and implementation of a permanent infrastructure funding framework that addresses the funding gap for councils and does not result in further cost shifting onto councils and the community.

- 6.1.2.4 Local government supports the use of an adopted infrastructure charge option given the simplicity, legal clarity, and certainty provided by such a framework. Local government opposes the use of an adopted infrastructure charge option where a maximum charge is imposed unless supported and offset by State Government subsidies for essential development infrastructure.
 - 6.1.2.5 Local government supports the annual indexation of the maximum adopted infrastructure charges by the Queensland road and bridge construction index.
 - 6.1.2.6 Local government supports the application of infrastructure charges for essential development infrastructure when calculated using a fair cost apportionment methodology.
 - 6.1.2.7 Contributions towards the costs of providing local government infrastructure associated with State Government projects should be the same as those imposed for similar private sector developments.
 - 6.1.2.8 Local government supports the use of Priority Development Areas by Economic Development Queensland to facilitate development in specific locations only when undertaken in consultation with and with the full agreement by local government, including full agreement regarding infrastructure planning and expenses recovery.
- 6.1.3 Development Assessment
- 6.1.3.1 Local government supports the principle of a single integrated development assessment system.
 - 6.1.3.2 Local government supports an efficient planning and development system that utilises streamlined procedures commensurate to risk and appropriate technology to minimise costs.
 - 6.1.3.3 Local governments support flexibility in timeframes for local government assessment managers, when required, similar to the 'stop the clock' provisions already provided for applicants under the *Planning Act 2016*.
 - 6.1.3.4 Local government does not support the mandatory introduction of externally appointed development assessment panels to determine development approvals, nor a state-based private certification system for planning but supports a council- controlled private certification of development applications. Decision making for development applications must remain with local government.

- 6.1.3.5 All spheres of government should comply with the provisions of local planning instruments when undertaking development, inclusive of obtaining and complying with appropriate approvals, payment of relevant fees, and provision of required external infrastructure or financial contributions.
- 6.1.3.6 Local government opposes the use of Ministerial Call-In powers other than in limited cases where relevant to a matter of State Interest.
- 6.1.3.7 Local government supports amendments to the *State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971*, that require development to be subject to the same or similar assessment requirements as development under the *Planning Act 2016*, including public notification.
- 6.1.3.8 Local government supports a review of the application and scope of State Agency and Referral Agency (SARA) fees and charges on councils delivering services and infrastructure to the community to reduce costs and red tape.
- 6.1.3.9 Local government seeks greater expertise and support from State Government for the assessment of levee bank development applications and when preparing floodplain risk management plans in line with Queensland's levee regulatory framework.
- 6.1.4 Dispute Resolution
 - 6.1.4.1 Local government supports the creation of alternative dispute resolution mechanisms to provide more effective, responsive and lower cost resolution of planning disputes.
 - 6.1.4.2 Local government supports a review of, and amendment to, the current cost provisions under the *Planning & Environment Court Act 2016* in consultation with councils, to ensure these are equitable and fair.
 - 6.1.4.3 Local government supports a court that is structured and adequately resourced so that judges, assessors and support staff are obliged to proactively case manage all matters before the court.
 - 6.1.4.4 State Government agencies must be clearly responsible for any decisions they make regarding a development application and must pay the full cost of defending their decisions in court.
 - 6.1.4.5 Local government supports legislative provisions that ensure that the Planning and Environment Court can hear and determine prosecutions and issue fines for offences proved and reduce the burden of proof to a civil standard.

- 6.1.4.6 In relation to prosecutions only, councils' cost of investigating an offence should form part of the total costs where the losing party pays the successful party's costs.
- 6.1.5 Short stay accommodation of residential properties
- 6.1.5.1 Local government should continue to establish and enforce appropriate planning, local law and rating responses for residential properties used for short stay accommodation, within their local government area.
- 6.1.5.2 Local government is committed to working in partnership with the State Government and industry to effectively manage the growth of emerging short stay accommodation styles and the impact of this on local communities.
- 6.1.5.3 Local government supports the State Government in:
- Developing a Code of Conduct, including information regarding fire safety standards, for hosts and guests of residential properties that are advertised for short stay accommodation;
 - Obtaining the agreement of online accommodation booking agencies to provide details regarding the location of residential properties that are advertised for short stay accommodation, to regulatory authorities; and
 - Establishing a state-wide data sharing system across the short stay accommodation sector, that is accessible by local government.
- 6.1.6 Cultural Heritage
- 6.1.6.1 Local government acknowledges and supports the recognition, protection and conservation of First Nations cultural heritage.
- 6.1.6.2 Local government supports streamlined operational processes and procedures associated with the recognition, protection and conservation of First Nations cultural heritage to ensure they are practical, effective and cost efficient.
- 6.1.6.3 Local government supports the development of First Nations protocols or other measures that assist in integrating cultural heritage values into local planning instruments and development assessment processes.
- 6.1.6.4 Local government acknowledges the role the built environment plays in community cultural identity and supports the preservation or adaptation of heritage places that is responsive to the aspirations of local communities.

- 6.1.6.5 The *Queensland Heritage Act 1992* should be amended to facilitate delegation of the powers of the Act to local government in relation to places of local heritage significance.
- 6.1.7 Training and Education
 - 6.1.7.1 Local government supports extensive and ongoing accredited and non-accredited training and skill development that builds capacity in elected members and council staff regarding land use planning and development assessment.
 - 6.1.7.2 Local government supports the Diploma of Local Government (Planning) as a means to meet the need for additional skilled development assessment administrative staff.
- 6.1.8 Performance Monitoring
 - 6.1.8.1 Local government supports the collection of planning statistics as a tool to assist monitoring the performance of strategic planning and development assessment frameworks. Performance monitoring needs to be collaborative across all sectors involved in the planning system.

6.2 Building Services and Pool Safety

- 6.2.1 Building Certification
 - 6.2.1.1 Local government supports an efficient and effective building certification system in Queensland.
 - 6.2.1.2 Local government acknowledges its role and responsibility in performing building certifying functions under Queensland's current building legislation, including as a provider of 'last resort' in certain circumstances. Local government should retain discretion in how its building certifying functions are performed and any changes to the building certification system, should recognise the diversity of capacity, size, resources, skills and physical location of councils in Queensland.
 - 6.2.1.3 Local government supports the State Government implementing an improved regulatory system through the Queensland Building and Construction Commission (QBCC) to provide greater incentive for building certifiers to operate professionally. The reviewed system will address minor and major offences and ensure the compliance system is efficient and appropriate penalties are applied.
 - 6.2.1.4 Local government supports enhanced education and training of building certifiers by the State Government, the QBCC and accreditation standards bodies, to reduce instances of non-compliance with Queensland's building legislation.

- 6.2.1.5 Local government supports the State Government in providing the QBCC with additional and adequate resources to carry out a more extensive and comprehensive role in advising, auditing, investigating complaints and where necessary, taking disciplinary action against building certifiers in a timely manner.
 - 6.2.1.6 Local government seeks to work in collaboration with the State Government and the QBCC to ensure clarity regarding roles and responsibilities and a streamlined, effective and efficient process for lodging complaints to the QBCC against building certifiers not acting in accordance with Queensland's building legislation.
 - 6.2.1.7 Local government acknowledges the important role of the State Government in monitoring and facilitating the performance of the building certification system.
 - 6.2.1.8 Local government supports the use of special infrastructure contributions to help fund key state and regional infrastructure required to support high growth areas.
 - 6.2.1.9 The State Government should provide a comprehensive education program to increase community awareness and understanding of how the building certification system works and where responsibility/liability resides. The State Government should also create a system of consumer protection.
- 6.2.2 Fire Safety
- 6.2.2.1 Local government strongly opposes the delegation of responsibility to local government for building fire safety in shared accommodation.
- 6.2.3 Energy and Water Efficiency
- 6.2.3.1 Local government supports the introduction of energy and water saving measures that continue to provide councils with the discretion to respond to local policy issues.
- 6.2.4 Pool Safety
- 6.2.4.1 Local government supports enhanced education and training of pool safety inspectors by the State Government and the QBCC, to reduce instances of non-compliance with Queensland's pool safety laws.
 - 6.2.4.2 Local government supports the State Government in providing the QBCC with additional and adequate resources to carry out a more extensive and comprehensive role in advising, auditing, investigating complaints and where necessary, taking disciplinary action against pool safety inspectors, in a timely manner.

- 6.2.4.3 Local government seeks to work in collaboration with the State Government and the QBCC to ensure clarity regarding roles and responsibilities and a streamlined, effective and efficient process for lodging complaints to the QBCC against pool safety inspectors not acting in accordance with Queensland's pool safety laws.

6.3 Land Tenure

6.3.1 Native Title

- 6.3.1.1 Local government recognises, acknowledges and supports the principles, processes and procedures contained within Federal and State Native Title legislation.
- 6.3.1.2 Local government supports collaboration between the State Government, National Native Title Tribunal, Native Title representative bodies, councils and Traditional Owners to achieve consent for native title determinations. If consensus cannot be realised, local government acknowledges the need to resolve native title determinations through court processes.
- 6.3.1.3 Local government acknowledges that there are relative levels of impact on native title on rural and urban communities. Local government supports the State and Federal Government identifying and developing administrative and legislative solutions to ensure the specific needs of rural and urban communities are met and there are no adverse impacts on council operations.
- 6.3.1.4 Local government supports a dedicated Financial Assistance Scheme under the *Native Title Act 1993* being established by the Federal Government, until all native claims within Queensland are determined.

7 Community Services and Social Policy

7.1 Community Development

7.1.1 Planning and Resourcing

7.1.1.1 Local government will work with its community and other spheres of government and the private sector to facilitate and coordinate appropriate planning and resourcing for the delivery of human services.

7.1.1.2 Local government will negotiate its financial arrangements with other spheres of government in the areas of human services and social planning based on:

- A clear delineation of the role and function of the respective spheres of government, private and community sectors;
- Appropriate and adequate consultation and monitoring mechanisms in the determination of the responsibilities, roles and finances; and
- Involvement of local government in Federal/State negotiations regarding the terms and conditions of human services policies, programs and funding offered to councils and local communities either directly or through the States.

7.1.2 Capacity Building

7.1.2.1 Local government recognises the broad range of factors that impact on health and wellbeing in communities, in particular the importance of social capital in building strong healthy communities, and the need to document this in planning processes.

7.1.2.2 Local government will use evidence-based social planning processes to make communities better places in which to live.

7.1.2.3 Local government is committed to the full participation of women and engagement of women in all levels of local government activities.

7.1.3 Access and Equity

7.1.3.1 Local government will work in collaboration with the State and Federal governments and all relevant disability services groups to address access and equity issues that fall within local government's jurisdiction.

- 7.1.3.2 Local government will, where appropriate, develop Disability Action Plans to address issues affecting those with a disability. Where possible and within resource constraints, local government will work with the Federal and State governments to implement the National Disability Insurance Scheme.
- 7.1.4 Children
 - 7.1.4.1 Local government will continue to work in collaboration with State and Federal government departments with jurisdiction for childcare services, monitor changes in childcare legislation and government policy, and develop a local government position.
- 7.1.5 Young People
 - 7.1.5.1 Local government acknowledges and recognises young people of all ages as legitimate community members and stakeholders who possess the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.
 - 7.1.5.2 Local government, in partnership with the State Government, is committed to actively encouraging the contribution, participation and engagement of young people in the development and implementation of policy, programs, opportunities and services that directly impact upon young people exclusively or within broader community agendas.
- 7.1.6 Seniors
 - 7.1.6.1 Local government recognises that Queensland has an ageing population and will take appropriate measures to ensure that ageing is considered and understood by councils in servicing communities.
 - 7.1.6.2 Local government agrees that issues affecting seniors are important for all spheres of government and the community and will work in partnership with relevant stakeholders to encourage collaboration on addressing these issues.
- 7.1.7 Housing
 - 7.1.7.1 Local government is committed to working in partnership with the State and Federal governments, and industry, to effectively address the challenges of housing affordability and supply. Councils are seeking the opportunity to identify and develop a range of innovative and fit for purpose strategies across all communities, to support growth and investment, improve liveability, and grow stronger and more diverse local communities.

- 7.1.7.2 Local governments will determine their own role in provision of affordable community housing and comply with Federal and State Government requirements.
- 7.1.7.3 Local government will actively participate in forums and networks, where appropriate, that seek to establish good practice approaches to sustainable, accessible and affordable housing.
- 7.1.7.4 Local government will work with the State Government to ensure adequate financial assistance and training is made available to those councils that wish to identify the need for, and the provision of, affordable housing in local communities.
- 7.1.7.5 Local government seeks ongoing funding commitments by State and Federal governments to increase social and affordable housing supply in areas of need, and to adequately meet demand for social and affordable housing across Queensland's regions.
- 7.1.7.6 Local government seeks fair and reasonable treatment of local government community housing providers under the National Regulatory System for Community Housing.
- 7.1.7.7 Local government seeks provision of appropriate housing for First Nations communities under a continuing National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing, or equivalent that is environmentally appropriate, encourages home ownership and is cost efficient.

7.2 Arts and Culture

7.2.1 Delivering Local Arts and Cultural Outcomes

- 7.2.1.1 Local government recognises that arts and culture contribute to the identity, wellbeing and resilience of local communities. Local government uses local and regional planning frameworks to identify and address local arts and cultural needs and aspirations, and achieve broader social, economic and environmental outcomes. Local government develops, funds and supports local institutions such as libraries, galleries, museums, visitor information services and performing arts venues and, as such, has an important role in the development, renewal and maintenance of cultural infrastructure.
- 7.2.1.2 State and Federal governments should include arts and culture in policies, programs and funding initiatives relating to regionalisation, urban planning and the development of facilities and infrastructure.

- 7.2.1.3 Local government calls on the State and Federal governments to support the development of arts and culture in regional communities through funding programs such as Regional Arts Development Fund, the Indigenous Regional Arts Development Fund and Regional Arts Fund, and that funding for these programs should be maintained at least in real terms.
- 7.2.2 Building Meaningful Partnerships
- 7.2.2.1 Local government supports the Protocol between Arts Queensland and local government in relation to Arts and Cultural Development in Queensland that affirms the shared commitment to support growth and development of arts and culture in Queensland. The State Government and local government will work collaboratively to:
- Identify innovative solutions to state-wide arts and cultural concerns; and
 - Ensure funding and programs are responsive to local needs, build local capacity and are delivered in a coordinated manner.
- 7.2.3 Strengthening Capacity and Capability
- 7.2.3.1 Local government supports local artists, arts and cultural workers, and community and cultural organisations, in developing relevant skills and expertise through professional development and training, information and direct funding.
- 7.2.4 Delivering Cultural Tourism in Queensland
- 7.2.4.1 Local government supports capacity building of local individuals and groups including First Nations communities, artists, cultural organisations, businesses, community groups and other local and regional stakeholders to build a competitive visitor experience based on a destination's authentic natural and cultural assets, events and experiences.
- 7.2.4.2 Local government seeks to position culture more strongly within the broader tourism conversation by promoting the artistic, cultural, social and economic value of cultural tourism at the local, regional and state level.

7.3 Library Services

7.3.1 Partnerships

- 7.3.1.1 Local government recognises libraries as areas of opportunity within the community to deliver lifelong learning, social capital, and foster strategies for learning communities. Local government recognises the value of cooperative joint ventures between local, State and Federal Government departments and agencies in delivering quality library services.
- 7.3.1.2 Local government will work in partnership with the State Government to deliver equitable and quality library services.
- 7.3.1.3 Local government will continue to lobby the State Government for additional library resources and improved library services.
- 7.3.1.4 State Government subsidies for library services should be regularly reviewed and increased where necessary to a level sufficient to allow local governments to meet the growing needs of library services, including technological advances. Additional State funding will not be used by local governments to reduce their financial commitment to library services.
- 7.3.1.5 Local government supports the establishment and maintenance of Indigenous Knowledge Centres in discrete and remote First Nations communities as hubs for library, cultural and social services within the communities.

7.4 Sport, Recreation, Leisure and Safety

7.4.1 Sport and Leisure

- 7.4.1.1 Local government seeks a more coordinated approach to accessing existing State land and facilities, particularly state schools and colleges, for community- based sporting clubs outside normal school hours.
- 7.4.1.2 Local government supports the State Government establishing the policies and procedures to encourage and enable community access to school sporting facilities.
- 7.4.1.3 Local government acknowledges the need to ensure the provision of a diverse range of sport and leisure facilities, programs and services to meet community needs.

- 7.4.1.4 Local government will continue to lobby the State Government and the private sector to provide a wide range of funding and grant programs to meet identified community need for a diverse range of sport and leisure facilities.
- 7.4.1.5 Local government will consider the community's sport and leisure needs when developing open space plans.
- 7.4.2 Community Safety
 - 7.4.2.1 Councils will work in cooperation with the Queensland Police Service and communities to address crime, fear of crime, and injury prevention.
 - 7.4.2.2 Local government will work with the State Government and all sectors of the community to assist with the identification of issues of local and regional concern and negotiate appropriate responses that contribute to a sense of safety and wellbeing. Local government will actively seek to engage stakeholders as part of planning and development processes as a contribution to building communities in which people feel safe.
 - 7.4.2.3 Local government will incorporate Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design principles in their assessment frameworks within the planning development process.
- 7.4.3 Gaming
 - 7.4.3.1 Local government will work with the Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation and Department of Justice and Attorney-General to identify and mitigate the potential social impacts of gaming on local communities within the licensing process.
 - 7.4.3.2 Local government will recognise community and council concerns regarding gaming premises in and around socially sensitive locations in the community and raise these concerns with the state government.
- 7.4.4 Liquor Licensing
 - 7.4.4.1 Local government will continue to identify and monitor the concerns and impacts of changes to the *Liquor Act 1992* and raise issues as appropriate with the relevant State Government department and/or via inclusion on advisory groups.
 - 7.4.4.2 There should be a collaborative approach between State and local governments on the conduct of a council-led Alcohol Management Plan (AMP) review process.

7.4.4.3 Local government will continue to identify and monitor impacts of alcohol restrictions within communities and regions affected by the AMP restrictions and act where necessary.

7.4.5 Prostitution

7.4.5.1 Local government will continue to promote its position that health issues associated with brothel operations are a State Government responsibility.

7.4.6 Domestic and Family Violence

7.4.6.1 Local government will continue to support measures to assist the prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, including, but not limited to:

- Supporting and promoting local community efforts to end domestic and family violence; and,
- Partnering with the State Government to raise community understanding and recognition of coercive and controlling behaviours.

8 Infrastructure, Economics and Regional Development

8.1 Roads

8.1.1 Funding Assistance

- 8.1.1.1 Federal legislation on road funding should provide for a tripartite agreement between Federal, State and local government.
- 8.1.1.2 Local government has a right and responsibility to control, develop and maintain roads, and is entitled to an equitable share of Federal and State road funding for this purpose.
- 8.1.1.3 The basis for allocation of road funding by the State and Federal governments to local government should be reviewed, and the mechanisms for transferring funds from both spheres of government to local government must be clearly defined and agreed.
- 8.1.1.4 State and Federal governments should recognise the need for local government to have adequate notice of future road funding allocations to facilitate effective and efficient programming.
- 8.1.1.5 The quantum of Federal and State Government funding allocated to local government for roads should be increased commensurate with local governments' responsibilities as a road asset manager and indexed to keep pace with rising construction costs. Local government road networks are integral to state and national roads and provide essential linkages for the freight industry and other users.
- 8.1.1.6 The share of Federal Government Road funding allocated to Queensland should increase in real terms.
- 8.1.1.7 The process and methodology of allocating road funds to Queensland local government as determined by the Queensland Local Government Grants Commission should appropriately reflect the needs of local government.

8.1.2 Responsibilities for Roads

8.1.2.1 Local government seeks an agreement with the State and Federal governments to substantially increase funding for the local road network where:

- Local roads provide for significant arterial and through traffic, or have economic significance beyond the access interests and responsibility of ratepayers; and
- The relationship between a council's potential rate base and its road responsibility is so unbalanced that the council is unable to meet its obligations.

8.1.2.2 Local government accepts responsibility for effective management and maintenance of the local road network by adopting professional asset management standards, maximising productivity gains, seeking and applying the most effective technology, and setting priorities that provide required levels of access in the most cost-effective manner.

8.1.3 Road Planning and Delivery

8.1.3.1 Local government is committed to the principles embodied in the Equal Partners in Government Agreement and the Roads and Transport Accord. These principles reflect a spirit of cooperation and joint decision making between local governments, and between local government and the State Government.

8.1.3.2 Local government acknowledges the benefits of regional based road planning, management and delivery and continues to strive to realise these benefits.

8.1.3.3 Local government is committed to working with the Department of Transport and Main Roads to jointly manage roads of comparable function to ensure the best delivery of services for the region.

8.1.3.4 Local government is prepared to consider flexible, more productive arrangements for accelerated maintenance but only on the basis that there is no significant transfer of work from councils to the private sector.

8.1.3.5 Local government should retain the discretion as to whether road programs are put to tender or conducted by day labour and on application of funds to maintenance or construction.

8.1.4 Road Safety

- 8.1.4.1 Road safety should be a priority of all spheres of government.
- 8.1.4.2 Local government is committed to collaborating with Federal and State Government agencies to implement initiatives aimed at reducing regional road trauma.
- 8.1.4.3 Recognising that road safety is a shared responsibility, local government will continue to recognise road safety as a priority within the management of transport planning, land use and community planning processes.
- 8.1.4.4 Local government calls on Federal and State governments to provide a share of revenue, information and support to address local road safety issues including hypothecation of State revenue from traffic infringement fines on local roads.
- 8.1.4.5 Local government calls on Federal and State governments to recognise and respond to local road safety issues.

8.1.5 Freight and Heavy Vehicle Management

- 8.1.5.1 Recognising that the majority of freight tasks start and finish on a local government-controlled road, councils play a critical role in responding to the growing freight task.
- 8.1.5.2 Local government should be engaged as a legitimate partner in the Heavy Vehicle Road Reform being pursued at the national level.
- 8.1.5.3 Local government is committed to working with Federal and State governments to develop strategic freight routes, and to address impediments to accessing the locally controlled network.
- 8.1.5.4 Local government is committed to working with the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator and other regulatory agencies to ensure that heavy vehicle reforms benefit councils.
- 8.1.5.5 Local government requires simplified, aligned and transparent heavy vehicle permit approval processes.
- 8.1.5.6 Local government calls on the State Government to provide heavy vehicle trailer breakdown facilities where a heavy vehicle permitted route terminates.
- 8.1.5.7 Local government calls on the Federal and State governments to provide adequate funding to repair damage to roads associated with heavy vehicle use, and to upgrade or construct roads, including bridges and culverts, to facilitate improved heavy vehicle access.

- 8.1.5.8 Local government calls on the State Government to maintain rail as an accessible freight mode, particularly for agricultural commodities.
- 8.1.5.9 While local government acknowledges that technologies are being developed to improve route and impact monitoring of heavy vehicles, councils require access to Intelligent Access Program data and better information on the impact of high mass limits, performance-based standards and multi-combination vehicles on varying pavements through braking, traction and horizontal forces.

8.2 Public Transport

8.2.1 Access and Availability

- 8.2.1.1 Federal and State Government funding should be available to provide for a regionally and locally focused, multi-modal and integrated public transport network. The funding should be available for infrastructure delivery and operational continuance in preparation for sustained urban growth.
- 8.2.1.2 Prior to taking any decision on the closure of rail lines, the State Government should ensure that:
- A social and economic impact assessment be conducted;
 - A 'whole-of-government' strategy be developed to ensure the social and economic viability of rural communities in genuine consultation with local government, the community and the Federal Government;
 - Minimum standards and benchmarks for service delivery to rural communities be developed to ensure basic standards of service delivery are maintained;
 - Consultation with affected communities and their representatives be taken prior to the State Government making decisions which will affect the social and economic viability of rural communities; and
 - An evaluation of Queensland Rail's standard of service provision to rural communities be undertaken.
- 8.2.1.3 In planning for land use and transport integration, the Federal, State and local government should adopt a collaborative multi-modal approach that minimises the impact on the environment and energy consumption, supports accessibility, and encourages the use of alternative modes of transport.

8.3 Aviation

8.3.1 Regional Services

- 8.3.1.1 Local government calls on the State Government to increase funding provided for regulated long-distance air services to ensure continued connectivity for rural, remote and First Nations communities.
- 8.3.1.2 Airline licensing policies should take account of the decentralised population in Queensland to ensure that rural residents are not disadvantaged by cost and inadequate service levels.
- 8.3.1.3 The State and Federal Government should guarantee regional airline networks be protected in the conditions of sale of major airports, ensuring access is maintained and regional airlines are not squeezed out by higher costs.
- 8.3.1.4 The Federal Government should adequately subsidise regional and sub-regional airports and associated services as a community service obligation, with an emphasis on rural and remote areas.
- 8.3.1.5 The State Government should continue to support subsidised air fares for residents of remote and discrete First Nations communities to travel to the nearest regional centre.

8.3.2 Airports and Aviation

- 8.3.2.1 Councils within proximity of a strategic major airport have a right to have direct input into the operations of that airport, to ensure appropriate transport and amenity is provided for local communities, while minimising environmental impacts.

8.4 Communication

8.4.1 Service Access

- 8.4.1.1 Advances in technology should be applied to give remote areas access to telephone, television and internet services consistent with those available in urban areas.
- 8.4.1.2 Local government across Queensland experiences significant inequities in internet access, mobile phone coverage and reliability of services between rural and urban communities. Local government will engage the State and Federal governments to address this inequity.
- 8.4.1.3 Local government supports the concept of a system of uniform telephone charges throughout Australia to reduce the disparity of remote locations.

8.4.2 Telecommunications

- 8.4.2.1 Local government acknowledges the fundamental role played by 'telecommunications' infrastructure as an enabler of economic development and in the provision of health, education and emergency services in rural and remote areas of Queensland.
- 8.4.2.2 Local government supports efficient planning assessment and installation of telecommunications infrastructure and is the appropriate sphere of government to determine the level of assessment to be applied to telecommunications facilities.
- 8.4.2.3 Local government supports co-location of telecommunications infrastructure and information sharing amongst the development industry, digital service providers, mobile network operators, telecommunications infrastructure providers and local government in order to minimise disruption to local communities and to maximise efficiencies.

8.5 Water Supply and Sewerage

8.5.1 Institutional Arrangements

- 8.5.1.1 Local government recognises it has primary responsibility for providing potable water services to Queensland communities. Local government recognises water is a resource that should be shared equitably across each region through institutional arrangements that best facilitate efficient service delivery and resource use.
- 8.5.1.2 The State Government must ensure no community is substantially disadvantaged in terms of basic access to, and price of a reasonable supply of potable water.
- 8.5.1.3 Local government supports the setting of a minimum standard for water and sewerage services across Queensland, with the instalment of a community service obligation, levelling the actual cost of providing water and sewerage services to local communities based on the average price in South East Queensland.
- 8.5.1.4 Local government believes water demand and supply planning across the State, including the establishment of adequate levels of service provision to the community, should be led by the State Government, with active involvement of local government as a key stakeholder. There should be continued engagement with local government in the design and implementation of the State Government's strategy for Queensland's water sector.

- 8.5.1.5 Where reform of current institutional arrangements is considered necessary to enhance security, sustainability and efficiency of water services, there should be full consultation with the LGAQ and all local governments likely to be affected by any proposed changes. Any change should address sustainability of small communities and broad economic impact and must seek continuous improvement in services and responsiveness to community needs.
 - 8.5.1.6 Local government believes any change in current water institutional arrangements should seek to build on existing roles, responsibilities and relationships reflecting the existing partnership approach between the State Government and local governments and amongst local governments.
 - 8.5.1.7 Where regional water supply schemes across a number of councils are considered advantageous by the group of councils, joint local governments or local government owned corporations are the preferred approach rather than a separate statutory authority.
 - 8.5.1.8 The role of individual councils in water retailing should be maintained in any changes to institutional arrangements.
 - 8.5.1.9 Where any water infrastructure is subsumed into new bulk supply institutional arrangements, there should be a guarantee of full compensation for current owners.
- 8.5.2 Funding Arrangements
- 8.5.2.1 Local government believes that greater capital investment in water infrastructure by Federal and State governments is needed to meet future needs and foster regional development. Local government requires openness and transparency in assigning externality charges to water providers. Externalities include environmental costs as well as water resource planning and management costs.
 - 8.5.2.2 Local government will advocate for the return of revenue raised from National Water Agreement imposed externality charges to ongoing investigations and planning as well as investment in future water infrastructure needs including dam safety upgrades.
 - 8.5.2.3 Local government will seek contributions to the cost of long-term regional water infrastructure through instruments such as the development of infrastructure charges plans.

8.5.3 Pricing Regime

- 8.5.3.1 Local government accepts that significant local government water retailers should be subject to price oversight by an independent body. However, retail water pricing must remain the responsibility of each water retailer, recognising the varying circumstances that exist.
- 8.5.3.2 In setting retail prices, local government recognises the need for pricing regimes that encourage efficient use of water resources. This will generally be achieved by use of two-part tariffs including, where appropriate, inclining block tariffs.
- 8.5.3.3 Where separate institutional arrangements exist for bulk water supply within a region, a common 'postage stamp' approach to pricing is generally preferred by local government rather than one based on differential nodal pricing.

8.5.4 Operations

- 8.5.4.1 Local government is committed to best practice in water use, implementation of sustainable urban water management, and development of strategies to:
- Reduce demand for water to improve the efficiency of use;
 - Reduce supply losses;
 - Increase the re-use of water;
 - Increase use of stormwater for urban and household demands; and
 - Improve community awareness of water management issues.
- 8.5.4.2 Where regional arrangements for bulk water supply exist, local government accepts that there should be common rules set for supply restrictions and minimum service levels by the body responsible for water supply planning.
- 8.5.4.3 Time of day tariff structures for electricity should be available to allow local government to minimise operating costs of water supply and sewerage systems.
- 8.5.4.4 Local government is committed to rationalising the system of water information reporting by local governments to reduce inefficiencies, eliminate duplication of reporting mechanisms and improve information for water planning and security.

8.5.5 Sewerage Management

- 8.5.5.1 Local government recognises it has primary responsibility for the collection and treatment of wastewater and disposal of treated wastewater in urban areas.
- 8.5.5.2 Local government acknowledges wastewater should be treated in accordance with legislative requirements or to a 'fit-for-purpose' standard provided due consideration is given to the social, economic and financial impacts on communities in addition to preventing significant adverse impacts on receiving environments.
- 8.5.5.3 Any increases in the standard of treatment required for wastewater should be phased in over an appropriate period following consultation and be accompanied by an appropriate level of State or Federal Government funding.
- 8.5.5.4 Local government fully supports the beneficial reuse of 'fit for purpose' treated wastewater as a strategy to mitigate the adverse environmental effects of releasing treated wastewater to waterways and as a strategy to achieve sustainable urban water use.
- 8.5.5.5 Decisions relating to the options pursued for the reuse of effluent should remain within the jurisdiction of local government.
- 8.5.5.6 Local government supports a State Government licensing regime that is based on mass loads of nutrients released to receiving environments.
- 8.5.5.7 The reuse of greywater in sewered areas should only occur where local government can be satisfied that the public health implications and soil and climatic conditions can be appropriately managed.
- 8.5.5.8 Local government supports a consistent national or state approach to the management of contaminants of emerging concern, on a case-by-case basis, focussed on control at source, with local government considered a key stakeholder in each land and sewerage management consultation process.

8.5.6 Dam Safety

- 8.5.6.1 Local government recognises that dam owners have legislative and regulatory obligations to ensure that dams under their control comply with Dam Safety Guidelines to minimise the risk of dam failure and to protect life and property.
- 8.5.6.2 The acceptable risk levels for dam safety should be based on an open and transparent process with peer-reviewed engineering advice and community consultation in determining an acceptable level of risk.

- 8.5.6.3 The costs of dam safety upgrades should consider the community capacity to pay, and the State and Federal governments should provide community service obligation payments where such work is necessary but economically unviable.
- 8.5.6.4 Dams were constructed in partnership with the State and Federal governments and this should be recognised in the apportionment of dam safety costs.
- 8.5.6.5 Local government believes that due to the diversity of circumstances that apply to dams across the state, dam safety upgrade costs should be apportioned based on the purpose and use of each dam.

8.6 Resources, Mining and Mineral Extraction

8.6.1 Quarries

- 8.6.1.1 Local governments require continued and secure access to quarried materials, including gravel, to support the maintenance, renewal, and delivery of essential public infrastructure that underpins community safety, connectivity, and regional economic resilience.

8.6.2 Resource and Mineral Extraction

- 8.6.2.1 Local government seeks to work in collaboration with the State and Federal governments and private sector bodies, in identifying and addressing the infrastructure needs of local and regional communities required to support mineral and gas exploration and extraction and the environmental and social impacts that arise.
- 8.6.2.2 Local government, as an equal government partner in resource communities planning, requires early and comprehensive engagement in resource tenure approval processes to allow sufficient time to plan for impacts associated with the commencement or upgrading of a resource project.
- 8.6.2.3 Local government seeks equity and consistency across both resource and renewable sector projects.
- 8.6.2.4 Local government seeks that the State Government mandates the requirement for a Social Impact Assessment (SIA) and Social Impact Management Plan (SIMP) based on the actual and/or potential impact of a resource project on local communities and not just on whether the project has been the subject of an Environmental Impact statement (EIS) process.

- 8.6.2.5 With respect to a SIMP, the following requirements should be enacted:
- The Coordinator-General must consult with local government on the SIA terms of reference, SIA, SIMP and social impact management condition;
 - A project proponent must consult with the relevant local governments on its SIA and SIMP;
 - A Statutory Guideline on Consultation and Negotiation between Local government and Resource Companies should be developed;
 - The SIA should include an assessment of the impacts of resource project activities on local government assets, services and land-use planning schemes;
 - An Infrastructure Agreement (IA) be negotiated between the project proponent and relevant local governments to avoid and/or mitigate the adverse impacts of a resource project on local government assets, services and land-use planning schemes and to provide compensation for any unavoidable impacts. This agreement is to be in place prior to the commencement of a project, unless the council/s agrees otherwise;
 - Resource companies should fund the reasonable costs of local government participation in SIA/SIMP processes and negotiation of an IA; and
 - A resource project should regularly review and update its SIMP, including when there is a significant change to project operations and, for single-lease projects, at renewal of the tenure.
- 8.6.2.6 Local government is opposed to 100% FIFO/DIDO/BIBO developments in established resource communities for the following reasons:
- It discriminates against all Queensland workers outside of identified FIFO hubs for employment opportunities;
 - It negatively impacts the social cohesion of local communities; and
 - It diminishes the transfer of economic benefits to local and regional communities.

8.7 Energy

- 8.7.1 Local government supports the development of an integrated renewable energy strategy for Queensland by the State Government, in genuine consultation with Queensland councils.

8.7.2 Local government should seek partnerships with electricity authorities to promote the use of environmentally friendly equipment and practices in line with ecologically sustainable objectives including alternative energy sources and off-grid or micro-grid technologies.

8.7.3 Energy Use

8.7.3.1 Local government supports a whole of government approach to improving energy performance across all sectors and greater recognition of local governments' powers and capabilities in delivering improved energy use performance through access to appropriate programs and incentives.

8.7.3.2 Local government supports State Government provision of accessible and relevant information on energy use management.

8.7.3.3 Local government supports effective and consistent standards and regulations where necessary for cleaner and more efficient energy use management.

8.7.3.4 Local government supports whole of government support for regional implementation of energy use management initiatives including capacity building programs, incentives schemes, regional strategies for land use planning and transport.

8.7.4 Public Lighting

8.7.4.1 The provision of public lighting is an essential community service. Distribution entities have a role in the provision of this community service, and as such should seek to minimise the charges levied for the installation and operation of public lighting (i.e. the Alternate Control Service Charge).

8.7.4.2 Distribution entities should have a publicly available Service Charter regarding the provision of public lighting. Further to this, the distribution entities should enter into a specific Service Level Agreement with individual councils upon request.

8.7.4.3 Local government recognises the advancement of public lighting technology, especially in relation to energy efficiency and smart streetlight technology. Distribution entities should make their plans for a timely transition to these new technologies publicly available.

8.7.5 Demand Management

- 8.7.5.1 Local government understands the network efficiency benefits that arise from metering capable of measuring kilovolt amperes (kVA). Where local government infrastructure requires upgrading, distribution entities should allow sufficient time for investigation and installation of necessary equipment prior to the commencement of charging on a kVA basis.
- 8.7.5.2 Communications enabled metering capable of measuring kVA should be provided at the distribution entities' cost.
- 8.7.5.3 Existing local government infrastructure provides opportunities for distribution entities to better manage peak demand. Distribution entities should enter into arrangements with local government that reduce (curtail) electrical load during periods of peak demand.

8.8 Economic Development

- 8.8.1 Local government recognises business retention and expansion as a core component of local government economic development activities, running programs to help existing businesses survive economic difficulties and assisting with expansions that create new jobs.
- 8.8.2 Local government supports economic development teams to develop and execute marketing, attraction and funding strategies and campaigns to promote their communities to existing and potential businesses. State and Federal Government agencies should engage local government early to co-design any proposed marketing, attraction and funding programs to ensure alignment and maximum effectiveness.
- 8.8.3 In their support of small businesses and entrepreneurs, local government seeks engagement from State and Federal Government agencies to launch funding and programs that will grow the innovative businesses of the future locally. This includes programs that help them access capital, navigate regulatory process, and/or enter new markets both in Australian and overseas.
- 8.8.4 Local government facilitates partnerships between government, industry, universities, and the community, with particular focus on technology commercialisation and emerging industry sectors. Local government recommends all government agencies have a whole of government approach and engage local councils on local projects in the early stages of interest to deliver the best possible outcomes for research translation and commercialisation to benefit the local economy.

- 8.8.5 Local government is a legitimate partner with State and Federal governments in facilitating sustainable economic and regional development. Local government does this through its role as purchaser, property owner/developer, regional leader, infrastructure provider, economic policy and community advocate, regulator and business development facilitator.
- 8.8.6 Local governments are frequently engaged in development projects in their communities and are suppliers of the infrastructure needed to ensure their success. State and Federal governments should engage with local governments on any proposed real estate development projects those levels of government initiate, and research the impacts of these projects (both positive and negative) on local communities and the local governments in the impacted region/s.
- 8.8.7 Where State Government departments are considering major developments in local government areas, the Coordinator-General may be directed by the State Government to act as liaison in the first instance between the relevant department(s) and local government(s), in accordance with the Equal Partners in Government Agreement between the State and local government. The use by State Government of major project status provisions of planning legislation should be consistent with the economic development objectives of local and regional areas.
- 8.8.8 Local government seeks support from the State Government to place small business support officers in relevant communities to work with local businesses, providing them with the opportunities to take advantage of all the programs, initiatives, and campaigns that the State Government offers.
- 8.8.9 Local governments and their economic development teams should be consulted when developing statewide infrastructure and regional planning and development.
- 8.8.10 Local government plays a vital role in supporting local businesses during natural disasters and economic downturns. Local government seeks funding, training, and resources to assist councils to build the economic resilience of their communities and to shorten the timeframes for economic recovery.
- 8.8.11 Local governments are increasingly engaged in international opportunities to support their local and regional economy. It is imperative that State and Federal Government agencies work collaboratively with local government with a whole of government approach to marketing, trade/export, investment attraction and facilitation to maximise these opportunities.

8.9 Regional Development

- 8.9.12 Regional Queensland underpins the State's economy through a diverse industry base including agriculture, resources and tourism and seeks to be supported by appropriate levels of service and infrastructure.

- 8.9.13 All spheres of government must work collaboratively in the early stages of developing and subsequent implementation of policies and plans that impact on the social, environmental and economic growth of regional Queensland, such as the Queensland Plan, the Northern Australia White Paper and the Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility.
- 8.9.14 The decision-making processes of State and Federal governments must be underpinned by the preparation of Regional Impact Assessment statements prepared independent of government, allowing reasonable time for regional consultation and made available for public scrutiny.
- 8.9.15 Development and investment in regional Queensland will occur through coordinated programs by Federal, State and local governments. Private sector investment in facilities and infrastructure in regional Queensland is crucial and should be encouraged by all spheres of government.
- 8.9.16 The Federal and State Government should work together with local government to make it more attractive for private and public sector investors to supply affordable and appropriate housing and infrastructure in rural and remote areas.
- 8.9.17 Digital infrastructure and technology are recognised as enablers to help overcome the barriers of remoteness, infrastructure shortfalls, attract regional investment and facilitate regional prosperity.
- 8.9.18 Local government supports the rollout of digital infrastructure, including but not limited to, the National Broadband Network and the provision of equitable access to high-speed broadband internet. This includes support from the Federal and State governments in developing the digital economy and online service delivery for local government.
- 8.9.19 Federal and State Government funding for joint activities with councils in business/tourism support must be supported by 3-5-year program agreements and based on negotiated agreements that specify objectives and performance criteria, reporting mechanisms and review processes. Such agreements must commit parties for the specified period, irrespective of elections, subject to non-performance clauses or agreed variations.

For all enquiries,
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**Every Queensland
community** deserves
to be a liveable one