



Every Queensland  
community deserves  
to be a liveable one

# CIVIC LEADERS SUMMIT

**From Effort to Impact  
Program**

**25 – 26 March 2026**

**The Westin Hotel, Brisbane**

*An exclusive LGAQ member council event*

Member hotline  
Get in touch

**Phone:** 1300 542 700  
**Email:** [events@lgaq.asn.au](mailto:events@lgaq.asn.au)



# President's Introduction

The LGAQ Civic Leaders Summit remains the only event of its kind in Australian local government, bringing together mayors, councillors, CEOs and key stakeholders in a closed-door setting under the Chatham House Rule. This unique environment enables open conversations, candid learning and a strong focus on professional development.

This year's theme, **"From Effort to Impact"** challenges us to move beyond simply working hard and instead ensure our collective efforts translate into meaningful outcomes for the communities we serve.

The program features insightful guest speakers, sector experts and council leaders who will share practical experiences of turning ideas into real results.

Civic Leaders is more than a conference – it is a platform for collaboration, designed to inspire, inform and energise. Alongside the formal sessions, dedicated time for peer-to-peer networking, offers opportunities to exchange ideas, tackle common challenges and spark innovative solutions.

As the third Summit of this four-year term, it promises to be an exceptional gathering – one that will strengthen our leadership and sharpen our focus on delivering impact where it matters most.

I look forward to joining you there.

**Cr Matt Burnett**

LGAQ President and Mayor, Gladstone Regional Council

# THANK YOU

to Our Sponsors

Hastings Deering



right by your side



# WEDNESDAY

25 MARCH 2026

## TIME SESSION

8:00am **Registration**

9:00am **Welcome & Acknowledgment of Country**

9:05am **President's Welcome**  
Cr Matt Burnett  
*LGAQ President and Mayor, Gladstone Regional Council*

9:10am **From Effort to Impact**  
**The importance of local leadership and properly productive relationships**  
Alicia McKay  
*Author, speaker, consultant and entrepreneur*

9:50am **Expert Panel: From Effort to Impact**  
Facilitated by Alicia McKay  
Daniel Fletcher, *General Manager, Community & liveability, Western Downs Regional Council*  
Cr Helen Blackburn, *Mayor, Bundaberg Regional Council*  
Scott Waters, *Chief Executive Officer, Moreton Bay City Council*

10:30am **MORNING TEA**

# WEDNESDAY

25 MARCH 2026 CONTINUED

## TIME SESSION

11:00am **Sponsor Address 1:** LGMS

11:05am **A Productive Workforce**  
**Why your people are the biggest drivers of efficiency**  
*Gary Sturgess, Adjunct Professor of Public Service Innovation, Griffith University*

11:35am **Expert Panel: A Productive Workforce**  
*Gary Sturgess, Adjunct Professor of Public Service Innovation, Griffith University*  
*Sonia Cooper, Chief Executive Officer, Ipswich City Council*  
*Chatur Zala, Chief Executive Officer, Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council*  
*Karina Ewer, Chief Executive Officer, Charters Towers Regional Council*

12:10pm **Platinum Sponsor Address 2:** Telstra

12:15pm **LUNCH**

1:00pm **Platinum Sponsor Address 3:** Brighter Super

1:05pm **Behind the Breakthroughs**  
**A confidential, Chatham House Rule conversation on wins, missteps and the lessons learned on the road to getting it right**  
*Brett Fraser, Chief Executive Officer, Peak Services Group*  
*Anne Lenz, Group Executive, Corporate Services, Brisbane City Council*  
*Cr Jon Raven, Mayor, Logan City Council*  
*Cr Nick Dametto, Mayor, Townsville City Council*

# WEDNESDAY

25 MARCH 2026 CONTINUED

## TIME SESSION

### BREAKOUT SESSIONS

#### Session 1: **Measuring what matters: rethinking the corporate plan**

Kim Driver, *Manager Governance and Advisory Services, LGAQ*

Cale Dendle, *Chief Executive Officer, Isaac Regional Council*

Tim Fynes-Clinton, *Executive Partner, King & Company Solicitors*

Cr Rick Britton, *Mayor, Boulia Shire Council*

1:45pm OR

#### Session 2: **Building Capability for Impact: Insights from the Local Government Skills Audit**

**Unpack the latest insights from the Local Government Skills Audit and training package implementation, highlighting what they mean for workforce capability, leadership development and sector productivity.**

Adam Halliwell, *Director Workforce Strategy and Insights, Public Skills Australia*

2:45pm **AFTERNOON TEA**

### Departmental Update

#### Update from the Department of Local Government, Water and Volunteers

3:15pm

Bronwyn Blagoev, *Director General, Department of Local Government, Water and Volunteers*

### BREAKOUT SESSIONS

#### Session 1: **Resilience & Wellbeing**

**Maintaining productivity without burning out staff or elected members**

Rebecka Vargas, *Senior Consultant, Trevor Roberts*

3:25pm OR

#### Session 2: **When crisis hits: are you ready?**

**Building a team-focused crisis communications plan**

Aleesha Phillips, *Senior Social Media and Digital Communications Officer, LGAQ*

# WEDNESDAY

25 MARCH 2026 CONTINUED

## TIME SESSION

4:25pm **Reconvene in plenary**

### **Keys to Success: International Trade and Diplomatic Engagement**

4:30pm Trudy McGowan OAM, *State Director, Queensland State Office of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade*

5:00pm **CLOSE DAY 1**

5:30pm **Pre-dinner Drinks**

### **NETWORKING DINNER**

6:30pm Sponsored by King & Company Solicitors

### **In Conversation: Leading Through Crisis – Lessons from Wieambilla**

7:00pm In this fireside conversation, the CEO of Western Downs Regional Council reflect on what leadership looks like when plans give way to uncertainty, and effort must quickly translate into real impact for communities.

*Jodie Taylor, Chief Executive Officer, Western Downs Regional Council*

9:00pm **FORMALITIES CONCLUDE**

# THURSDAY

26 MARCH 2026

## TIME SESSION

9:00am **Welcome Back**

### **Advocating for Impact**

9:05am Alison Smith, *Chief Executive Officer, LGAQ*  
Samantha Dean, *Campaign Manager, LGAQ*

### **Mayoral Panel: Influencing Advocacy**

9:25am Cr Peta MacRae, *Mayor, Mount Isa City Council*  
Cr Geoff McDonald, *Mayor, Toowoomba Regional Council*  
Cr Bruce Simpson, *Mayor, Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council*

10:00am **Platinum Sponsor Address 3:** Hastings Deering

### **Q & A – Empowering Councils: A new Legislative Environment**

10:10am Tim Fynes-Clinton, *Executive Partner, King & Company Solicitors*  
Kim Driver, *Manager Governance and Advisory Services, LGAQ*

10:45am **MORNING TEA**

### **Building for Productivity**

11:15am **How the corporate sector is tackling productivity challenges, addressing urban growth and shaping Queensland**  
Scott Hutchinson, *Chairman, Hutchinson Builders*

12:15pm **Wrap-Up & Close**

**Full Registration**

**\$990\***

\*GST inc

**Networking Dinner**

**\$150pp\***

\*GST inc

**REGISTER HERE**

## ACCOMMODATION

### The Westin, Brisbane

The Westin Hotel, Brisbane is offering a special conference rate of \$330 AUD per night.



**BOOK HERE**



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## CONTACT US

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