

DATE **Saturday, 1 October 2022**

TO: **Cr Peter Scott, Mayor – Cook Shire Council**

SUBJECT **LGAQ Policy Executive Update for the Far North Queensland Regional**
Organisation of Councils Meeting – Thursday 6th October 2022

Key Activities Summary

- 1. *Policy Executive Meeting Update***
- 2. *2022 Annual Conference***
- 3. *Housing Advocacy and Campaign Update***
- 4. *Major survey on cost shifting onto Queensland Councils***
- 5. *Coastal Leaders Forum Wrap Up***
- 6. *Rural and Remote Councils Compact***
- 7. *Climate Risk and Resilience Update***
- 8. *Natural Resources and Environment Update***
- 9. *Commission of Inquiry into matters related to the Crime and Corruption***
Commission
- 10. *Water and Wastewater Update***
- 11. *Animal Management – targeted review of Animal Management (Cats and Dogs)***
Act 2008
- 12. *Waste Update***
- 13. *Works for Queensland: #BackTo100Mill***
- 14. *Industrial Relations Amendment Bill***
- 15. *Regional University Centres***
- 16. *Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic games planning***
- 17. *LGAQ Submissions Update***

1. Policy Executive Meeting Update

- The fourth Policy Executive (PE) meeting for 2022 was held on Wednesday 31 August 2022 hosted by Cook Shire Council in Cooktown.
- Items discussed by the PE at this meeting included:
 - Endorsement of the 2022 Policy Statement
 - Discussion on initial findings of the LGAQ Olympics and Paralympics Survey
 - Outcomes from the Advisory Group Review
 - And commencement of the Local Government Cost Shifting Research
- The meeting in Far North Queensland also included visits to First Nations communities of Hope Vale and Wujal Wujal.
- Minutes from the August 2022 PE meeting have been posted on Congruent available [here](#).
- The next Policy Executive Meeting will be held on 16 October.

LGAQ Lead Contact for this matter: Cory Heathwood, Head of Advocacy

2. 2022 Annual Conference

- The 2022 Annual Conference is being held in **Cairns from 17 – 19 October 2022**.
- Motion submissions closed on Wednesday 10 August 2022.
- 137 motions are being taken to the AGM for debate.
- The Preliminary Agenda is now available on Congruent for members.

LGAQ Lead Contact for this matter: Grace McSorley – Planning & Projects Coordinator

3. Housing Advocacy and Campaign Update

Queensland Housing Roundtable and Housing Summit

- On 13 September 2022, the State Government [announced](#) it would hold a Housing Summit to address the urgency around multiple housing issues, beginning with an initial roundtable of key government and non-government stakeholders.
- The LGAQ [welcomed](#) the announcement as a critical step, following a sustained campaign by the LGAQ on behalf of councils, calling for coordinated action by all levels of government to begin to conquer the housing crisis.
- The Housing Summit is scheduled to be held on Thursday 20 October 2022 in Brisbane.
- Final details are yet to be released regarding the Summit. However, in lieu of the State Government finalising how the event will run and who will attend, they have provided an email address for LGAQ to circulate to councils to express interest in attending: housingsummit@premiers.qld.gov.au.
- The LGAQ will be making a detailed written submission in advance of the Housing Summit and put forward a range of immediate measures and policy priorities on behalf of councils, at the initial housing roundtable held on 16 September 2022 (see the LGAQ media release [here](#)).
- Attendees at the initial housing roundtable included State Government ministers, housing organisations, industry bodies, the community and welfare sector, the LGAQ CEO and other local government representatives including Brisbane Lord Mayor; Western Downs Mayor Paul McVeigh, representing the Rural and Regional Compact Guardians; the CEO of Council of Mayors SEQ and the NWQROC Executive Officer, representing Western Queensland Alliance of Councils.
- The LGAQ, also met with the Hon. Leeanne Enoch MP, Minister for Housing and Homelessness in early August 2022 and the Deputy Premier in mid-August 2022 to progress advocacy in relation to a number of housing matters.

National housing advocacy

- The LGAQ is continuing its housing advocacy nationally, including calls for a National Housing Summit, and is optimistic that an announcement in support of this may still eventuate.
- In mid-September 2022, the LGAQ led a delegation to Canberra and met with a number of Federal Ministers, Shadow Ministers and Ministerial Advisors, raising housing matters with many including the Office of the Minister for Housing, Homelessness and Small Business, the Office of the Minister for Trade and Tourism, the Hon. Kristy McBain MP, Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories and Michael Sukkar MP, Shadow Minister for Housing, Homelessness, the NDIS and Social Services.
- On 30 September 2022, the [Productivity Commission's Final Report: National Housing and Homelessness Agreement Review](#) was publicly released (containing 37 recommendations and 25 key findings). The Report was handed to the Australian Government on 31 August 2022 and followed release of an Issues Paper late 2021, and receipt of 105 submissions nationally.
- The LGAQ is reviewing the recommendations and findings of the Productivity Commission in the context of current policy positions and in preparing for the Queensland Housing Summit. A copy of the LGAQ submission to the Productivity Commission in March 2022 can be found [here](#).

LGAQ Lead Contacts for these matters: Crystal Baker, Lead - Planning & Development and Samantha Dean, Campaign Planner

4. Major survey on cost shifting onto Queensland Councils

- Financial sustainability is a major issue confronting local government within Queensland. The LGAQ is renewing a critical piece of research to track cost shifting across Queensland Councils.
- Last undertaken in 2002, this new research will provide important evidence, and give new and contemporary data to help our advocacy for improved funding outcomes for local government.
- The LGAQ has engaged AEC Group to conduct research on this issue and report on the findings.
- The research will seek to quantify the extent to which Queensland local governments are providing community service obligations, map the services Councils are providing to communities due to market failure or due to the withdrawal of the State and Federal governments from the space, or because without Council intervention, the community would have to go without. Importantly, the research will highlight the impacts providing these services on Councils' financial sustainability.
- Importantly, the LGAQ is also seeking to quantify the cost of CSOs that are not reported under the Local Government Regulation 2012 (regulations).
- This survey is a critical piece of work for the LGAQ as we mount our most convincing campaign yet for action to address community liveability – and council financial sustainability.
- Responses were due by the 15 September, however, the LGAQ is keen to ensure the data collected is as comprehensive as possible so councils yet to respond are encouraged to do so as soon as they are able.

LGAQ Lead Contact for this matter: Jessica Shannon, Project Manager – Member projects

5. Coastal Leaders Forum Wrap Up

- The inaugural LGAQ Coastal Leaders Forum, in conjunction with the QCoast₂₁₀₀ program was held in Gladstone on the 11th & 12th of August.
- Delegates from our coastal councils focused on the unique challenges and opportunities of our coastal communities.
- Delegates had the opportunity to meet with new Federal Local Government Minister Kristy McBain in her first trip outside of Canberra in her new portfolio, Assistant Minister Anthony Chisholm and

State Tourism Minister Stirling Hinchliffe as well as hearing from experts in coastal hazards, economic growth, disaster mitigation and reinsurance.

- Presentations from the Forum can be found [here](#), and the communique distributed after the forum can be found [here](#).
- Delegates overwhelmingly said they would like to see LGAQ put together another Coastal Leaders Forum in the future. Thank you to Gladstone for hosting the Forum.

LGAQ Lead Contact for this matter: Nicole Lessio, Lead Intergovernmental Relations & Crystal Baker, Lead Planning & Development and Climate Risk & Resilience

6. Rural and Remote Councils Compact

- The Rural and Remote Council Compact Policy and Legislation Committee held its most recent meeting on Thursday 11 August, with key updates on roads, housing and financial sustainability.
- We were also pleased to be joined by the Assistant Minister for Local Government, Nikki Boyd MP.
- This was the fourth meeting of the Policy and Legislation Committee, which provides the key governance oversight of the Compact.
- Heading into its second year of operation, Compact Guardians have confirmed that the three strategic priorities of roads, housing and financial sustainability will remain as the key focus.
- The Compact has already unlocked some key opportunities to progress changes that will benefit rural and remote communities, which is why the three strategic priorities of roads, housing and financial sustainability are continuing for a second year. There is more to achieve, but some good headway has been made in the first year of the Compact.
- A summary of the road issues being progressed includes work on:
 - Road Maintenance Performance Contracts (RMPCs);
 - Procurement Policies;
 - First and last mile;
 - Roads off alignment; and
 - Road safety in rural areas.
- The most recent meeting included a detailed update from the Western Queensland Alliance of Councils on the pilot project underway to assist councils in the preparation and development of Local Housing Action Plans for rural and remote councils.
- Six councils are currently undertaking this pilot, with the view to expand this work across all 22 western Queensland councils and then to the 45 rural and remote councils.
- The pilot is being undertaken in partnership with the Department of Local Government and Housing, overseen by a project steering group.
- In the meantime, work is continuing on the following housing related matters that have been raised through the Compact:
 - Unlocking state land tenure;
 - The cost of housing finance;
 - Lending practices and 'postcode discrimination'; and
 - Extending the first home owners' grant to the purchase of existing dwellings.
- The meeting also included an update from the Local Government Division in the Department on state budget initiatives that were secured to focus on improving financial sustainability across the local government sector.
- The update included work being undertaken to develop new financial sustainability ratios for councils, and some work expected to roll out in the next year on training, potential water and wastewater initiatives in Indigenous communities, and some potential pilots at a ROC level on some shared services projects. We look forward to getting more information on these soon for members.

- Guardians also provided an update on the success of the recent Bush Councils Convention in Barcaldine, with a particular acknowledgement of David McNab from the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry who attended and provided a detailed update on emerging biosecurity threats from Foot and Mouth Disease and Lumpy Skin Disease.
- A communique from the most recent meeting is on Congruent and is available [here](#).
- The minutes from the most recent meeting will be available soon and published on Congruent.
- An Annual Report for the Compact is also being finalised and will be released in the coming weeks.
- The next meeting will be held on 17 November 2022.

LGAQ Lead Contact for this matter: Nathan Ruhle, Lead – Intergovernmental Relations

7. Climate Risk and Resilience Update

- The LGAQ has launched a new Climate Risk & Resilience Congruent webpage – click [here](#) to access. The new page provides access to policy updates, latest news and events, and consolidates relevant research and data to assist councils in responding to climate risks and building resilience in their regions.
- Councils are also encouraged to register for the [Local Government Climate Network](#) by joining the mailing list via the Congruent page to receive email updates on the LGAQ's climate advocacy.

LGAQ Contacts for this matter: Crystal Baker, Lead – Planning & Development and Climate Risk & Resilience and Jacqui Hurwood, Policy Officer – Environment & Building.

8. Natural Resources and Environment Update

Great Barrier Reef Cleaner Road Runoff Project

- Based on the success of the project to date, the GBRF has agreed to extend the project with an additional \$1,000,000 of funding until May 2024. This additional funding has allowed the project to invite additional councils to join the study.
- The project now has five councils participating in the project including:
 - Cassowary Coast Regional Council – Granadilla Road
 - Whitsunday Regional Council – Strathmore Road
 - Isaac Regional Council – Wuthung Road
 - Gladstone Regional Council - Raglan Station Road
 - Bundaberg Regional Council – Back Windermere Road
- Based on the work completed across the five site visits, the project team submitted Progress Report #4 on 30 September 2022. The report included the following supplementary documents
 - Stage 2b Progress Report – A detailed overview of each of the study sites and the relevant study segment set-up
 - Stage 3 Scope and Work Plan – Details the 'Communication and Knowledge Transfer' stage of the project including capacity building opportunities
 - Draft Design Guideline – A document to be utilised in consulting with councils on how the project team can deliver a fit-for-purpose tool for implementation of study findings
- The project team is also working to identify opportunities for linkages and collaborations as part of the GBRF's newly renewed partnership with AECOM for the 'Roads to Reef' initiative. This partnership sees AECOM commit up to \$1million of in-kind support to support GBRF in their projects relating to roads.
- Key findings from the project to date from the collected sediment runoff samples indicate
 - Generation of large volumes of fine sediment from unsealed roads and drains are a possibility.
 - Sediment concentrations increase with rainfall intensity

- Sediment concentrations were lower in V-Drains with vegetation compared to a 0.5 Flat Bottom Drain with no vegetation
- Unvegetated V-Drain recorded the highest sediment concentrations
- Particle size analysis indicates that most samples tested contain fine grained sediment (52-92% by volume is less than or equal to 20µm), indicating that most sediment is of a size of most concern to the health of the Great Barrier Reef.

LGAQ Contact for these matters: Megan Forrest, Project Manager, Cleaner Road Runoff Project

Stock Route Advocacy Update

- On Friday 6 May 2022, the Transport and Resources Committee recommended the *Land and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022* be passed. This Bill includes amendments to the *Stock Route Management Act 2002* and *Stock Route Management Regulation 2003* to improve recovery of costs local governments incur managing and administering the stock route network, and to overall simplify processes for stock route management. The Bill is expected to be presented to Parliament before the end of 2022.
- The LGAQ convened the third Local Government Stock Route Working Group (LGSRWG) meeting on Friday 1 July 2022. The group discussed Stock Route Management Strategy actions delegated by the SRMWG, as well as committed to disseminate a draft Stock Route Management Plan template for comment with regional members. A LGSRWG Communique is available on Congruent [here](#).
- The Stock Route Management Working Group (SRMWG) last met on Friday 22 July 2022, discussing progress against the Qld Stock Route Strategy. At the meeting:
 - The LGSRWG presented a draft 'Statement of Management Intent' for stock route assets, which seeks to prioritise stock route assets for management, whilst seeking co-management arrangements for lower priority assets and portions of the network (i.e. secondary and minor/unused stock routes); and
 - The Department of Resources and Department of Agriculture and Fisheries committed to work with the LGSRWG to develop training packages to assist local government officers in the management of the stock route network; and
 - The Department of Resources committed to work with LGAQ to develop a fact sheet for local government on available management arrangements for the stock route management network (i.e. Permit to Occupy, Grazing Permits under the Stock Route Management Act 2002, Works on Roads Permits under Local Laws, etc.), including their benefits and consequences to local governments.

Additional Biosecurity officers to Support Local Government

- No funding for additional Biosecurity Officers was included in the 2022/23 State Budget, with Biosecurity Officer staffing numbers being maintained at 2021/22 staffing levels.
- The budget did include, however, increased investment in the National Biosecurity System of \$1.8 million over two years to meet immediate gaps in the National Biosecurity System as well as increased funding of up to \$6 million over four years and \$1.5 million per annum ongoing towards future obligations to help mitigate the risks and impacts of significant pests and diseases.
- In July and August 2022, Biosecurity Queensland announced an additional 20 biosecurity officers and four feral pig coordinators to be engaged across regional Queensland in response to the threat of Emerging Animal Diseases (i.e. foot and mouth disease, lumpy skin disease, etc.). LGAQ is monitoring for further developments and will provide communications as appropriate.

Funding for the control of weeds in regional areas of Queensland

- On 21 December 2021, the LGAQ wrote to Mark Furner, Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and in February 2022 to Minister for Rural Communities and David

Littleproud, Minister for Agriculture and Northern Australia regarding funding for the control of weeds in regional areas of Queensland.

- The State budget allocated \$1 million for Round 7 of the Queensland Feral Pest Initiative, providing funding to stakeholders to deliver invasive species management activities over a three-year period. Applications to open September/October 2022.
- In July 2022, LGAQ sent Minister Watt, the new Federal Labour Government's Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, correspondence seeking local government funding for the management of WoNs in regional Queensland and followed up with a delegation to Canberra in September 2022.

Crocodile Management Update

- On 21 December 2021, the LGAQ wrote to Meaghan Scanlon, Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs and met with the Department of Environment and Science in March 2022 in relation to increasing resourcing into monitoring, detection and deterrent projects to support proactive crocodile management.
- A budget request was included in LGAQ's State Budget submission, seeking an increase in funding to \$4 million per year for four years to invest in monitoring, detection and education (community and tourist) programs to support the proactive management of crocodiles.
- The Department released a media release 29 July 2022 stating that:
 - An independent panel, chaired by Queensland's Chief Scientist, Professor Hugh Possingham, had reviewed Queensland's Crocodile Management Program, making 22 recommendations (with the Department accepting all recommendations).
 - Funding of \$3 million per year will be ongoing for 18 frontline regional officers to manage problem crocodiles, deliver community safety education and for ongoing scientific research and monitoring.
 - The State will commit an additional funding of over \$300,000 per year for the next two years for additional scientific research, crocodile population modelling and community engagement research.
 - The State will fund two new regional positions dedicated to implementing the Be Crocwise community safety education program across "croc country".

Shark Management Update

- On 21 December 2022, the LGAQ wrote to Mark Furner, Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities raising the management of sharks in Queensland.
- The LGAQ met with Department officers 20 July 2022 to discuss budget arrangements under the Shark Control Program, which in summary included:
 - Continuing the operation of shark nets and drum lines to protect beach goers (including funding response operations for non-target captures);
 - Expanding the SharkSmart behaviours program to improve swimmer awareness;
 - Providing \$1 million annually for research to inform trials, operations, and education. This includes: Working with tertiary institutions to estimate shark populations in Queensland - research results to be published up in the next 2-3 years; Working with tertiary institutions and stakeholders to understand shark behaviours in Queensland waters; and Working with tertiary institutions to test personal electric deterrent devices.
 - Trialling the use of alternative shark mitigation technology and equipment, including SharkSmart drone trial; Catch Alert (SMART) drumline trial; and Shark Barrier Trial.
- LGAQ has requested that the Department continues to engage with local governments on outcomes found through research and trials, as well as involvement in the review and amendment of the [Queensland Shark Management Plan 2021-2025](#).

LGAQ Contact for these matters: Joshua Dyke, Lead – Environment and Natural Resources

9. Commission of Inquiry into matters related to the Crime and Corruption Commission

- The announcement of a Commission of Inquiry into the Queensland Crime and Corruption Commission (CCC), headed by Tony Fitzgerald AC QC, was a critical step in restoring confidence in this important institution.
- The Commission handed down its final report on 9 August 2022. It can be found [here](#).
- The Commission made 32 recommendations to reform the CCC and its practices including requiring the CCC to seek advice from the Director of Public Prosecutions before any charges can be laid, and requiring post-prosecution reviews to be conducted.
- It also raised additional issues the Commission believe warrant further consideration by the State, including a review of s175K of the Local Government Act 1993 regarding the automatic suspension of councillors charged with a disqualifying offence.
- The LGAQ's submission to the inquiry included a recommendation for this section to be reviewed and amended. The LGAQ's submission can be found [here](#).
- The LGAQ has welcomed the Inquiry's recommendations and called for the review of this section of the Act to be progressed by the State. You can read more [here](#).
- The LGAQ has also called for post-prosecution reviews to be held into other failed cases involving elected members as a matter of urgency. You can read more on this [here](#).

LGAQ Lead Contact for this matter: Sarah Vogler – External Relations Director

10. Water and Wastewater Update

QWRAP Project Update

- As part of the transition from the current program, RDMW have commissioned an independent review of QWRAP. A first workshop to translate the findings into the program was held on the 12 July 2022, with a further followed on 22 August 2022. The Project Steering Committee (RDMW, LGAQ and QldWater) is confident to have new governance structures in place by the end of the year. New arrangements will come into effect in discussion with QWRAP groups up to the start of the next financial year.
- For the FY 22/23, FNQROC Water and Sewerage Alliance has been approved for funding for a project investigating AI usage in relation to sewer relining. Additionally, to tackle the increasing pressure of worker and skill shortages, the alliances has partnered with Queensland Treasury Corporation to investigate potential solutions to these issues. The QWRAP partner steering committee (LGAQ, QldWater and RDMW) want to commend the alliance for this step and are offering to assist in data collection and any workshops associated with this process.
- To allow for efficient developments, information sharing within council and the ROC has been identified by other QWRAP regions as the key element. Elected members and CEOs are encouraged to reach out to their relevant officer or the LGAQ representative on the QWRAP steering committee, Rudolf Pretzler, for further information.

LGAQ Lead Contact for this matter: Rudolf Pretzler, Senior Policy Officer – Water and Waste

11. Animal Management – targeted review of *Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008*

- On 1 December 2021, a delegation of elected representatives of local councils and the LGAQ met with Mark Furner MP, Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities and representatives of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) to discuss a targeted review of the *Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008*.

- The Minister supported the establishment of a Taskforce to conduct a targeted review of the legislation. In addition to the Taskforce, a dedicated technical working group would also be established to progress the detailed targeted review.
- The Animal Management Taskforce met on 4th August, followed by technical working group meetings on 5th and 26th September.
- Council officers from a representative group of Queensland councils participated on the technical working group including representatives from Cairns, Cassowary Regional and Douglas Shire Councils.
- Key matters for discussion include:
 - The need for additional enforcement powers in relation to unregistered dogs required to ensure compliance, including seizure and forfeiture of dogs
 - Ability of councils to apply a range of compliance approaches including issuing an infringement if a dog is not declared a regulated dog and increasing Penalty Infringement Notices (PINs)
 - Effectiveness of councils to respond to incidences of serious dog attacks and regulated dog offences through the Act and additional legislative pathways including QCAT
 - Simplifying powers of entry for council officers for a range of animal management compliance matters including inspection of dog enclosures
 - Integrating micro-chip database with dog registration database and the Queensland Dog Breeder Register to track the movement of owners with dangerous dogs across the State
 - The ownership of puppies following seizure of pregnant dangerous dogs.
- It is anticipated that the technical working group will meet several times over the next few months and report back to the taskforce on their progress on these matters.

LGAQ Lead Contact for this matter: Robert Ferguson, Lead – Public Health and Waste

12. Waste Update

Regional Waste Management Plans

- Work is continuing across Queensland to progress regional plans at a regional/ROC level.
- Regional plans are being developed across Queensland with ROC's and CoMs at various stages of development.
- The LGAQ working in partnership across several regions have engaged SLR Consulting (working in partnership with Arcadis and PWC) to progress regional plans in NQ, CQ, Greater Whitsundays, and Wide Bay Burnett regions.
- RAPAD, NWQROC, DDSW and FNQROC are all progressing the development of their own plans, engaging consultants and working directly with the Department of Environment and Science.
- It is expected that most ROC's include CQROC, will have regional plans finalised (or in draft) by December 2022.
- The LGAQ will look towards these plans to influence the review of the Queensland Waste Strategy and assist to prioritise the allocation of recycling and jobs funding with the State budget committing an initial \$78 million to commence the implementation of regional plans.

Organics Study Tour – Melbourne

- The LGAQ has postponed the organics study tour to Melbourne for September until 8-10 November.

- The purpose of the tour is to provide council elected members and senior officers the opportunity to learn from Councils, industry and processors, and explore the range of organic technologies, challenges and solutions across Melbourne.
- If you have interest in attending, please follow the EOI registration process via Congruent [here](#).

Waste Forum – 4-6 July

- Presentations from the Waste Forum are available via this [link here](#).

LGAQ Lead Contact for this matter: Robert Ferguson, Lead – Public Health and Waste

13. Works for Queensland: #BackTo100Mill

- The LGAQ recommenced its public facing campaign calling for the restoration of Works for Queensland funding back to historical funding levels of \$100 million p/a ahead of the State Budget in June.
- Councils hold grave concerns that a reduction of Works for Queensland funding in the 2022-23 State Budget will directly impact local workforces in their communities including tradies, and small businesses.
- At this stage, Works for Queensland funding has decreased to \$70 million in FY22/23 and to \$30 million in FY23/24.
- The campaign spotlights Works for Queensland funded projects and their positive impact on community and small business which the LGAQ will share and promote across social media.
- View the videos and case studies here: <https://www.lgaq.asn.au/BackTo100Mill>
- To date, the campaign has generated over 200K impressions and 52K video plays across social media.
- The LGAQ is continuing discussions with the State about reinstating this money.

LGAQ Lead Contact for this matter: Samantha Dean, Campaign Planner and Sarah Vogler, External Relations Director

14. Industrial Relations Amendment Bill

- The State Government has introduced a Bill to amend the Queensland *Industrial Relations Act 2016*, following a review of the Act by former Queensland Industrial Relations Commissioner John Thompson and former Labor MLA and Attorney-General and Minister for Justice Linda Lavarch.
- The changes will have implications for councils as employers to varying degrees and the LGAQ will be conducting a range of workshops and podcasts to familiarise councils with relevant changes.
- The amendments include:
 - Introducing sexual harassment and gender-based harassment as an offence under the industrial relations act and associated penalty and procedural amendments.
 - Adjustments to a number of QES standards to align with superior provisions in the Australian Employment standards.
 - Requiring parties to exchange information relevant to Gender Pay Equity at beginning of bargaining processes.
 - Subject to all parties' agreement, allowing for a single Commissioner to arbitrate on EB matters.
 - Amendments to definitions of Registered Industrial Organisations and providing for a range of punitive options for any organisations encroaching on responsibilities of registered organisations.
 - Introducing a new jurisdiction for Independent Couriers

- Other minor changes such as to state wage provisions and removing clauses considered to be irrelevant.
- It is anticipated that the Bill will be passed in October.

LGAQ Lead Contact for this matter: Kathleen Jones, Manager Workforce and Industrial Relations.

15. Regional University Centres

- With housing and labour challenges being a major issue for many communities and also councils, the LGAQ is working to enhance opportunities for additional, localised higher education opportunities, enabling rural Queenslanders to have greater access so they can continue to live, learn and earn closer to home. A key part of this advocacy is centred around supporting and expanding the Regional University Centre program.
- There are 26 Regional University Centres across Australia and growing (supporting 2,465 students)
- Eight new centres were announced in 2022, with two new additions planned to be added to the existing four already operating in Queensland.
- The new Federal Labour Government has indicated it is keen to continue the program and the LGAQ is keen to see more established in Qld and seeking the support of councils to advocate to expand the program to more regions.
- At the LGAQ Annual Conference in Cairns, on 17 October from 11:00am – 12:30pm, the LGAQ will be holding a panel session on the value of Regional University Centres and invite all who would like to know more to attend.
- Session panel invitees include Senator Anthony Chisholm – Assistant Minister for Education and Regional Development.
- Grow your own talent – Study Tour to Maranoa and Balonne's University Centre models. Joining this tour will be the National Regional Education Minister, Fiona Nash and Country University Centre founder, Duncan Taylor. Date: Tuesday 29th and Wednesday 30th of November. Registration of interest can be made on Congruent (members portal).

LGAQ Lead Contact for this matter: Paul Cranch, Lead - Trade and Investment.

16. Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic games planning

- The LGAQ has sought initial ideas on planning and legacy for the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic games through a member survey. This will inform our continued dialogue and engagement with the State Government and organising committees and in our general advocacy for members.
- This work is in response to the 2021 resolution for the LGAQ to request the State Government ensure there is a sharing of economic benefits and funding commitments for all of Queensland, particularly rural and remote communities, following our successful bid to host the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic games.
- A two-phase launch plan will be undertaken with the report distributed to Councils, State and Federal government and presented to the Brisbane 2032 organising committee.

LGAQ Lead Contact for this matter: Cory Heathwood, Head of Advocacy

17. LGAQ Submissions Update

Recent Submissions

- *Queensland Law Reform Commission – review on decriminalising the sex work industry (3 June)*

- *Draft Feral Deer Management Strategy (30 June)*
- *Review of the Queensland Waste Strategy and Levy efficacy (10 June)*
- *Development Applications Forms under the Planning Act 2016 (1 July)*
- *Draft Interim Queensland Japanese Encephalitis Virus Mosquito Surveillance and Control Plan (15 July)*
- *Independent Environmental Protection Agency (15 July)*
- *Consultation Paper: Proposed Changes to Queensland's Information Privacy Framework (25 July)*
- *Consultation Draft: Reef Wetlands Strategy (17 August)*
- *Federal Budget Submission (24 August)*
- *Proposed statutory seller disclosure scheme in Queensland (31 August)*
- *Review of Work Health and Safety Act 2011 (23 September)*

Upcoming Submissions

- *Review of the Commonwealth Drought Response, Resilience and Preparedness Plan (5 October)*
- *Public Exposure Draft Property Law Bill 2022 (21 October)*