

**DATE**            **Friday, 25 November 2022**

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

**SUBJECT**       **LGAQ Policy Executive Update for the Far North Queensland Regional**  
**Organisation of Councils – Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2022**

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- 1.     *Policy Executive Meeting Update***
- 2.     *2022 Annual Conference outcomes***
- 3.     *Federal Budget Update***
- 4.     *Housing Advocacy and Campaign Update***
- 5.     *The Energy Transformation of Queensland - Queensland's Energy and Jobs Plan***
- 6.     *Major survey on cost shifting onto Queensland Councils***
- 7.     *Parliamentary Inquiry into the Office of the Independent Assessor (OIA)***
- 8.     *Rural and Remote Councils Compact***
- 9.     *Natural Resources and Environment Update***
- 10.    *Water and Wastewater Update***
- 11.    *Waste Update***
- 12.    *Works for Queensland: #BackTo100Mill***
- 13.    *Regional University Centres***
- 14.    *Transport and Main Roads / Local Government Cost Sharing Arrangement Review***
- 15.    *Telecom Carriers – Multi-Function Poles***
- 16.    *LGAQ Workforce & Industrial Relations Strategy 2023 – 2026***
- 17.    *Local Governing Training Needs***
- 18.    *2022 Local Government Workforce Skills and Capability Survey***
- 19.    *LGAQ Submissions Update***

## **1. Policy Executive Meeting Update**

- The fifth Policy Executive (PE) meeting for 2022 was held in Cairns on Sunday 16 October 2022.
- Items discussed by the PE at this meeting included:
  - Discussion on the outcomes of the review of the operations of the Office of the Independent Assessor (OIA).
  - Discussion on our continued advocacy on housing, as well as the Queensland Jobs and Energy Plan
  - An update on the Rural and Remote Councils Compact.
  - And funding sought by the sector through the Federal Budget.
- Minutes from the October 2022 PE meeting have been posted on Congruent, available [here](#).
- The next Policy Executive Meeting will be held on 9 December 2022.

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

## **2. 2022 Annual Conference outcomes**

- The 2022 Annual Conference was held in **Cairns from 17 – 19 October 2022**.
- 130 motions were carried at the AGM, 6 were defeated and 2 were withdrawn.
- The Final Outcomes document is now available on Congruent for members [here](#).
- Work is now under way by the LGAQ Advocacy team to action these motions.

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

## **3. Federal Budget Update**

- Treasurer Jim Chalmers handed down his first Budget on 25 October 2022.
- The government made clear that this was a 'mini-Budget' to fund the election promises they had made, and not be for major new announcements.
- The LGAQ team provided analysis of the Budget for the local government sector in Queensland and distributed that analysis on the morning of 26 October 2022. Items highlighted included:
  - Funding extension for the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program.
  - A dollar increase in Financial Assistance Grants of \$100 million, however, with tax revenue increasing, councils will now receive just 0.52 per cent of Commonwealth taxation revenue, far below our 1 per cent ask.
  - No funding to address overcrowding in Queensland's First Nations communities, nor to upgrade critical marine infrastructure in the Torres Strait.
  - Queensland's water infrastructure funding has been heavily reduced.
  - The Building Better Regions Fund (BBRF) has been axed and will be replaced by \$1 billion over three years for two new programs – the Growing Regions Program and the Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program.
  - Queensland's early flood warning network has been left high and dry without a critical upgrade.
  - Housing announcements – see below in the housing update.

*LGAQ Lead Contact for this matter: Nicole Lessio – Lead, Intergovernmental Relations*

## **4. Housing Advocacy and Campaign Update**

### *Queensland Housing Summit*

- The Queensland Housing Summit, hosted by Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk, was held on Thursday 20 October 2022 in response to the Queensland housing crisis.

- The LGAQ advocated strongly for local government representation at the Summit and was joined by elected members from across Queensland's regions (including Regional Organisation of Councils (ROC) Chairs and proxies) at the Queensland Housing Summit, to represent the diversity of housing challenges and opportunities that exist state-wide.
- At the Summit, the LGAQ President Mayor Mark Jamieson participated in a panel discussion on the topic of "*Incentives and disincentives to promote housing supply*" with representatives from the Planning Institute of Australia, the Property Council of Australia and the Urban Development Institute of Australia.
- The Hon. Julie Collins MP, Federal Minister for Housing, Minister for Homelessness and Minister for Small Business also addressed the Summit acknowledging the affordability challenges being experienced across Queensland, outlining the new Federal Government housing programs and confirming the commitment of the Federal Government to develop a National Housing and Homelessness Plan and establish a National Housing Supply and Affordability Council.
- In advance of the Summit, the LGAQ lodged a comprehensive written submission to the Premier and the Deputy Premier consolidating priority advocacy asks of local government and including reference to the relevant 2022 LGAQ Annual Conference motions that were debated on the day prior to the Summit. A copy of the full LGAQ submission can be viewed [here](#).
- The Housing Summit was [announced](#) on 13 September 2022 and followed an initial roundtable held on 16 September 2022 (see the LGAQ media release [here](#)). 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 Queensland Housing Summit was livestreamed and a recording is available [here](#). An outcomes report from the Queensland Housing Summit will also be tabled in Parliament in November 2022.

#### National housing advocacy

- The LGAQ is continuing to advocate nationally, including calling for a National Housing Summit.
- 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. A copy of the LGAQ submission to the Productivity Commission in March 2022 can be found [here](#).
- The Federal Budget 2022-23 was also released on 25 October 2022 and includes some key announcements in relation to housing including the following:
  - A new National Housing Accord between all levels of government, investors and industry with an aspirational target of 1 million new, well-located homes over 5 years (2024-2029).
  - Expansion of the remit for the \$1 billion National Housing Infrastructure Facility to more flexibly deploy up to \$575 million to unlock over 5,500 projected new dwellings, accelerate housing supply and seek to attract more institutional capital to the sector, and renaming of the National Housing Finance and Investment Corporation (NHFIC).
  - Allocation of an additional \$350 million over 5 years from 2024-25 (through the NHFIC), to support delivery of 10,000 affordable homes that have an energy efficiency rating of 7 stars or greater (or a State or Territory's minimum standard). This is in addition to the 30,000

new social and affordable dwellings already committed to by the Federal Government under the \$10 billion Housing Australia Future Fund.

- Provision of a one-year extension for the National Housing and Homelessness Agreement to 30 June 2024 to allow for the development of a new arrangement, in consultation with the National Housing Supply and Affordability Council.
- A full list of new and pre-existing housing commitments by the Federal Government can be found [here](#) and accessed via the new Housing Congruent webpage launched in late October 2022.

#### New Housing Congruent Webpage Launched

- The LGAQ has developed and launched a [dedicated Housing Congruent webpage](#) to provide councils with access to the latest housing related news and information including:
  - key policy and program updates,
  - local government advocacy priorities and LGAQ submissions,
  - funding opportunities for councils, industry and the community,
  - recent webinars and council showcase, and
  - relevant research and data, including the Social Housing Dashboard developed by the LGAQ Data & Analytics Team (with additional data dashboards coming soon).
- The [Social Housing Dashboard](#) is the first housing dashboard to be developed by the LGAQ, following the support of the LGAQ Policy Executive in mid-2022, for the LGAQ to undertake a project to aggregate and visualise a range of publicly available datasets related to key housing indicators. The dashboards are being designed to enable state-wide comparison and trend analysis to support and inform councils and LGAQ's ongoing advocacy to State and Federal Government.
- Councils are encouraged to explore the Housing Congruent webpage and the Social Housing Dashboard and provide feedback, ideas and suggestions through to the LGAQ.

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

## **5. The Energy Transformation of Queensland - Queensland's Energy and Jobs Plan**

- The Queensland Government has released the Energy and Jobs Plan, which outlines a pathway to a clean, reliable and affordable energy system for future generations. In releasing the plan, the Queensland Government has committed to undertake significant consultation with local governments. That will include targeted, regional consultation with impacted communities as well as a state-wide webinar in which all councils can participate and ask questions.
- Director-General of the Department of Energy and Public Works (EPW), Mr Paul Martyn hosted a webinar for local governments, on Tuesday 22 November where members had a chance to hear about the energy transition planned for Queensland. Participants had the chance to express the challenges faced by their communities and the opportunities to share their new projects planned for their regions.
- Have your Say on how the energy transformation will occur in your region by participating in the [LGAQ survey: https://congruent.lgaq.asn.au/article/?num=KA-11116](https://congruent.lgaq.asn.au/article/?num=KA-11116) This submission will close on **COB Friday 16 December 2022**.

Key points to note about the plan

- Queensland's renewable energy target has been revised up to 70 per cent by 2032 and 80 per cent by 2035. Large State Government sites like schools and State Government buildings have been set a 100 per cent renewable electricity target by 2030.
- All publicly owned coal-fired power stations to be operating as clean energy hubs by 2035 with these changes to occur gradually from 2027.

- A “super grid” delivering 1,500 kilometres of transmission lines from Brisbane to Townsville and out west to Hughenden will be built with early design and planning for the SuperGrid backbone transmission to be undertaken by Powerlink between 2022 and 2024. The State is also developing a Government-led model for the connection to Mount Isa and the North West Minerals Province.
- A \$200 million Regional Economic Futures Fund will be established. The Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning will lead the consultation and implementation of this fund, with delivery of this initiative earmarked for 2023.
- A \$150 million Job Security Guarantee, backed by a fund and an Energy Workers’ Charter, to support workers in publicly owned coal-fired power stations by guaranteeing opportunities to continue their careers within these energy businesses or pursue other career pathways. This is set down to be delivered in 2023.
- A Future Energy Workforce Roadmap will be developed during 2023 and \$90 million will be invested under the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan.
- Investment in renewables projects including two new pumped hydroelectricity schemes - the Pioneer-Burdekin Pumped Hydroelectricity Scheme near Mackay, and the Borumba Pumped Hydroelectricity Scheme.
- A Remote and First Nations clean energy strategy will be co-designed by remote First Nations communities and the Queensland and Australian governments between 2023 and 2025. It will be released in 2026.
- Energy Queensland will be directed to update its Isolated Networks Strategy 2030 and complete feasibility studies to decarbonise isolated power stations in each community. This will occur between 2023 and 2025.

*LGAQ Lead Contact for this matter: Paul Cranch, Manager - Infrastructure and Economic Development Policy*

## **6. Major survey on cost shifting onto Queensland Councils**

- 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.**
- Assistance is available for councils looking to complete this survey. Please contact Intergovernmental Relations Lead Lucy Greene.

*LGAQ Lead Contact for this matter: Glen Beckett, Acting Head of Advocacy & Head of Assist and Lucy Greene, Intergovernmental Relations Lead.*

## **7. Parliamentary Inquiry into the Office of the Independent Assessor (OIA)**

- On 14 October, the Parliamentary Committee conducting the public Inquiry into the Office of the Independent Assessor (OIA) tabled its final report. It is a public document that is available on their website and can be found [here](#).
- The Committee report outlined 40 recommendations to overhaul the administration of the system. Some recommendations have included changes needed in the legislation, but many don’t and can be adopted much sooner.
- A link to all submissions, including the LGAQ submission, is [here](#).
- Key issues that the LGAQ has pursued on your behalf included:
  - Faster resolution of matters
  - Properly dealing with frivolous or vexatious complainants



- Refusing anonymous complaints
- Councillor Conduct Register should only be for substantiated matters
- The cost to councils and councillors of the current system
- Common sense conflict-of-interest laws
- How to manage social media trolls
- Freedom of political expression to do your job
- More oversight and transparency
- A detailed overview of key asks and recommendations can be found [here](#).
- Next steps: The State Government now has up to six months to respond to the report, but work has already begun in terms of the LGAQ and the department working through the recommendations to assist in finalising the government response.
- As LGAQ President Mayor Mark Jamieson said on the day the report was released:  
*“The onus should now be on the Independent Assessor ensure the Committee’s recommended changes are implemented from the top down, or the Government should consider whether it is now time to change direction and appoint someone else to lead the body going forward.”*
- A full copy of the LGAQ media release is available [here](#).

*LGAQ Lead Contact for this matter: Sarah Vogler, External Relations Director or Nathan Ruhle, Lead – Intergovernmental Relations*

## **8. Rural and Remote Councils Compact**

- The most recent meeting of the Policy and Legislation Committee which underpins the work of the Rural and Remote Councils Compact occurred on **17 November 2022**.
- Compact members welcomed the recent appointment of new Compact Guardian, Mayor Andrew Martin and thanked Mayor Robbie Dare for his work over the first year.
- The minutes and action items as well as the meeting communique will be distributed to everyone in the coming days once it is finalised, but a short summary of the discussions is provided below.
- The Office for Rural and Regional Queensland in the Department of Premier and Cabinet provided an update on recent community forums and actions to be progressed from that engagement.
- Key updates were provided on the strategic priorities of roads, housing and financial sustainability. This included an update on work being progressed with the Department of Transport and Main Roads on Road Maintenance Performance Contracts (RMPCs), progression of initiatives from the recent State Housing Summit, an update on the Western Queensland Alliance of Councils work to progress local housing action plans and recent correspondence from the Assistant Minister for Local Government, Nikki Boyd MP, in relation to the updated local government sustainability framework.
- A lengthy workshop was held to discuss rural economic development and attracting investment into rural and remote parts of Queensland. This was raised an agenda item following discussions at a RAPAD meeting earlier in the year in Birdsville. Examples of the current challenges were discussed, as well as a discussion to unpack opportunities for a dedicated policy focus from the State Government on this issue.
- Information on all of the recent meetings and action items are available [here](#).
- An Annual Report for the Compact, which provides a good summary of the discussion and progress to date, has now been released and is available [here](#).
- The next meeting will be held on **16 February 2023**.

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

## **9. Natural Resources and Environment Update**

### Stock Route Advocacy Update

- The LGAQ convened the fourth Local Government Stock Route Working Group (LGSRWG) meeting on Friday, 28 October 2022. The group discussed a spatial dashboard for monitoring pest animal and weed infestations on stock route reserves, as well as further discussing actions highlighted by the Department of Resources through their Qld Stock Route Strategy. A LGSRWG Communique is available on Congruent [here](#).
- The Department of Resources convened the Qld Stock Route Management Working Group (SRMWG) meeting on 16 November 2022. At the meeting:
  - It was confirmed that the *Land and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022*, including 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, is expected to be debated at Parliament in early 2023.
  - That local governments will be receiving correspondence from the Department in the coming month to progress the finalisation of stock route network maps (local governments will have the opportunity to review and request amendments prior to any map finalisation).
  - That reference material to protect animal welfare considerations for travelling stock will be included in stock route travel application forms to ensure that animals are 'fit-for-travel'.
  - That the LGAQ will continue to work with stakeholders in the development of a values based spatial system to identify areas of economic, social, environmental and cultural importance, and work with the respective Departments and NRM groups to identify funding sources to assist in the management of threatening processes to the identified values.
  - That the Group be expanded to include additional stakeholders, including Biosecurity Queensland (IP&A), Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, Traditional Owners and drover representatives.

### Additional Biosecurity officers to support Local Government

- Biosecurity Queensland continues to recruit new regional Biosecurity officers, with difficulties being noted for the recruitment of officers in the Central-West and North-West regions.
- Biosecurity Queensland has verbally notified the LGAQ that they have been successful in the recruitment of Biosecurity officers at Cairns and Mareeba.

### Biosecurity Queensland's continued involvement in 1080 (Sodium fluoroacetate) oversight

- Queensland Health confirmed that the *Departmental Standards – Dealings with restricted S7 poisons for invasive animal control* is still in the process of being reviewed internally with Biosecurity Queensland (BQ), with a focus on working with BQ on compliance arrangements, which includes investigations of reported misuse. Queensland Health made a commitment that Queensland local governments will be given an opportunity to provide comment on the reviewed Departmental Standards prior to its finalisation, so that:
  - proposed amendments are pragmatic; and
  - local government learnings can be considered/incorporated into the reviewed standard.
- Queensland Health confirmed that a draft Bill is being prepared that will allow local governments to request records of all 1080 usage within their local government areas, ensuring that LGs continue to have knowledge on 1080 usage in their local government areas, which can be used to inform future management programs.

### Funding for the control of weeds in regional areas of Queensland

- Funding through Round 7 of the Queensland Feral Pest Initiative is currently open for projects managing invasive plants and animals in Queensland. The total funding pool is approximately \$1 million, with applications closing 30 November 2022. Details are available [here](#).

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

## **10. Water and Wastewater Update**

### QWRAP Project Update

- The QWRAP Partner Steering Committee has held three governance workshops over the past three months to determine future funding and governance arrangements for the program. The independent review, finalised at the end of the last QWRAP round (2018-2022) gave clear guidance on future priorities, including simplified access to coordination, and the need for an overall vision and mission of the program.
- An executive summary of the outcomes can be viewed on Congruent [here](#).
- The newly elevated Partner Steering Committee (DDG Water, Head of Advocacy LGAQ, CEO qldwater) will meet for the first time in December 2022 to approve new reporting and application material and kickstart research into water service provision sustainability, as highlighted by the review.
- The FNQROC working group is continuing their collaboration with QTC on workforce planning and skill development. At the last Chairs and Coordinators meeting, this progress was noted by other regions and FNQ has committed to sharing experiences and outcomes with the group further down the track.

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

### Building our Regions (Round 6) projects announced

- Projects have been announced under the latest round of Building our Regions funding for planning and construction projects for critical water and wastewater infrastructure.
- This latest announcement adds 55 water and sewerage infrastructure projects to the 35 planning projects announced in June.
- Round 6 of Building our Regions will provide \$70 million in funding over three years. LGAQ will continue to advocate for continuation of this well-received and successful program.

### New Drinking Water Management Guidelines

- Queensland Health have advised that new guidelines for managing private drinking water supplies in commercial and community premises are now available on the Queensland Health website [here](#). The publication includes a template for the development of a simple drinking water management plan.
- RDMW in their role as drinking water regulator have also updated their guidelines for drinking water management for public water suppliers and have been holding workshops with service providers to explain how the guideline has been updated. The revised guideline (renamed the *Guideline for the Preparation, Review and Audit of Drinking Water Management Plans*) should be published in the next 4-6 weeks.
- Councils are encouraged to attend these workshops to understand the changes made to the guidelines and implications to Council operations.

### PFAS National Environment Management Plan (NEMP) 3.0

- The PFAS national environmental management plan 3.0 has been released for public consultation.
- The NEMP 3.0 is an Appendix to the *Intergovernmental 10 Agreement on a National Framework Responding to PFAS Contamination* and provides guidance on the management of PFAS



contamination in the environment, including prevention of the spread of contamination. This has implications for the waste, water and wastewater sectors of local government.

- Further information on how LGAQ are working with the sector on the development of this national policy can be found on our Congruent website [here](#).
- Queensland Water Directorate (qldwater) and LGAQ have partnered to deliver an information webinar on 2nd December at 10am. To register your interest, fill out the form on the site [here](#).
- To make a direct submission to the consultation, members can visit the DAFF [website](#). (Submissions close 28<sup>th</sup> February 2023).

*LGAQ Lead Contact for this matter: Josephine Raftery, Lead – Water and Wastewater Infrastructure*

## **11. Waste Update**

### Organics Study Tour – Cancellation

- The LGAQ has cancelled plans for an organics collection and processing tour to Melbourne, planned for 8-10 November, due to a lack of interest in the EOI process.
- The LGAQ will consider offering this in 2023 instead.

*LGAQ Lead Contact for this matter: Glen Beckett, Acting Head of Advocacy & Head of Assist*

## **12. Works for Queensland: #BackTo100Mill**

- The LGAQ is continuing in its advocacy to restore funding to the Works for Queensland program back to \$100 million a year and to secure funding certainty that it will continue to be funded at least at this level going forward.
- A request for an additional \$100 million to be allocated to the program was included in the LGAQ's submission to the Queensland Treasurer ahead of the Mid-Year Fiscal and Economic Review, due to be released later this month.
- The LGAQ recommenced its public facing Works for Queensland campaign in June.
- 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.

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

## **13. Regional University Centres**

- Submission for noting: Delivery of VET in Regional, Rural and Remote Queensland. Information is on Congruent and the LGAQ will be making a submission into this inquiry by the Qld Parliamentary Committee. <https://congruent.lgaq.asn.au/article/?num=KA-11198>
- At the LGAQ Annual Conference in Cairns, on 17 October from 11:00am – 12:30pm, the LGAQ held a panel session on the value of Regional University Centres.
- Session panel invitees included Senator Anthony Chisholm – Assistant Minister for Education and Regional Development.
- The LGAQ led a sold-out tour for the '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, Assistant Secretary at the Commonwealth Department of Education and Country University Centre founder, Duncan Taylor. Date: Tuesday 29th and Wednesday 30th of November.

*LGAQ Lead Contact for this matter: Paul Cranch, Manager - Infrastructure and Economic Development Policy*

#### **14. Transport and Main Roads / Local Government Cost Sharing Arrangement Review**

- The TMR/Local Government Cost Sharing Arrangement provides a framework that supports engagement and a mutual understanding regarding cost-sharing for works within state-controlled road corridors.
- The Cost Sharing Arrangement was signed in October 2017 and included a review provision after five years. The purpose of the review is to ensure that the Memorandum of Understanding and the cost-sharing modules contained within the arrangement remain relevant and to identify any updates required.
- Subject to agreement between the LGAQ and TMR, the latest iteration is intended to operate for a further five-year period. To ensure the new iteration is relevant, the LGAQ invited councils to provide feedback and suggestions through a survey to all members on 30 August 2022. 23 responses were received, and a number of councils also volunteered to join a working group.
- This working group met for a TMR / LGAQ co-facilitated workshop on 9 November 2022. Items discussed included the survey results, feedback and a collaborative way forward. The project team and working group continue to progress this work.

*LGAQ Lead Contact for this matter: Delia Atkinson – Lead, Transport and Logistics*

#### **15. Telecom Carriers – Multi-Function Poles**

- The Federal Government is currently considering a potential legislative change to the Powers and Immunities Framework.
- This would mean telecommunications carriers could deploy 12 metre Multi-Function Poles using the Low Impact Facilities Determination (LIFD) and bypass all local government approval processes altogether.
- Councils and their communities would be cut out of the planning decisions that impact them, and not be able to give input on the effectiveness of the locations being used by carriers.
- The LGAQ has written to The Hon. Michelle Rowland MP, the Minister for Communications to express our opposition to this change.
- We also encourage councils to write to and meet with their own Federal MPs on this issue.
- More information can be found [here](#).

*LGAQ Lead Contact for this matter: Simon Booth – Lead, Infrastructure, Policy and Regional Communities*

#### **16. LGAQ Workforce & Industrial Relations Strategy 2023 – 2026**

- The LGAQ, in conjunction with members, will undertake the process of developing a new Workforce & Industrial Relations Strategy 2023 – 2026 (the Strategy).
- The Strategy will be member-driven and guide the efforts, attention and activity of the LGAQ concerning workforce and industrial relations reform.
- There will be a number of opportunities over the coming months for members to provide their input.

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

#### **17. Local Governing Training Needs**

- The Queensland Government has launched their *Good People Good Jobs: Queensland Workforce Strategy 2022 – 2032* which includes the following action item: “Partner with rural and remote

*communities to deliver local skills and job creation initiatives to increase workforce capacity in these locations.”*

- The Department of Employment, Small Business and Training has asked LGAQ to provide, on behalf of members, information on the needs of rural and remote communities (including but not limited to training needs) to inform their approach.
- Please provide any feedback to Kathleen Jones, Manager Workforce and Industrial Relations at [kathleen.jones@lgaq.asn.au](mailto:kathleen.jones@lgaq.asn.au) by 7 December 2022.

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

## **18. 2022 Local Government Workforce Skills and Capability Survey**

- The Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) commissioned a 2022 Local Government Workforce Skills Capability Survey to gather contemporary insights into the national workforce profile of Australia’s local government sector to determine the current and future workforce needs and priorities.
- All Australian local governments were provided with the opportunity to participate with 210 local governments contributing including 37 local governments from Queensland.
- ALGA have now released the [2022 Local Government Workforce Skills and Capability Survey National](#) and [Queensland Reports](#) based on findings drawn from research commissioned between December 2021 and March 2022.
- The Reports will inform policy and decision-making to combat constraints that continue to impede the progress of workforce development in local government.

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

## **19. LGAQ Submissions Update**

### Recent Submissions

- *Review of Work Health and Safety Act 2011 (23 September)*
- *Review of the Commonwealth Drought Response, Resilience and Preparedness Plan (5 October)*
- *Queensland Housing Summit Submission (5 October)*
- *Australian Government Drought Plan (5 October)*
- *Public Exposure Draft Property Law Bill 2022 (21 October)*
- *National Electric Vehicle Strategy Consultation Paper (31 October)*

### Upcoming Submissions

- *Northern Australia Workforce Development (30 November)*
- *Regional Energy Transformation Partnerships Framework (16 December)*
- *Building and Construction Developer Review Discussion Paper (16 December)*
- *Delivery of VET in Regional, Rural and Remote Queensland*
- *Livestock brands and earmarks consultation (15 January 2023)*