



Local Thriving Communities Joint Coordinating Communique – No. 11

20 September 2023

The Local Thriving Communities (LTC) Joint Coordinating Committee (JCC) met on 20 September 2023 in Brisbane and online. This was the first meeting of the JCC following the establishment of the Department of Treaty, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Communities and the Arts (DTATSIPCA).

Joint Coordinating Committee

The Committee noted changes to Queensland Government membership with the functions of newly created departments including for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Child Safety, Youth Justice and Housing located within these new departments. The Committee also considered and endorsed updated Terms of Reference to strengthen alignment of LTC with structural reforms including the priority reforms and targets under the National Agreement on Closing the Gap (CTG).

The Committee considered the forward program of work and how the JCC will provide oversight to support capacity building of interim Local Decision-Making Bodies (LDMBs) including through the provision of investment information to inform the co-design and delivery of services in accordance with community priorities.

LTC implementation

The Committee noted the progress of local decision making. Interim LDMBs have been established in nine urban and regional communities – Coen, Hope Vale, Mapoon, Napranum, Northern Peninsula Area, Palm Island, Woorabinda, Wujal Wujal and Yarrabah and in 11 urban and regional communities - Bundaberg, Eidsvold, Gladstone, Hervey Bay, Jumbun, Maryborough, Mount Isa, Normanton, Rockhampton, St George and Toowoomba. LTC grants are being made available to interim LDMBs to support auspicing arrangements, build capacity, and support community engagement.

The Committee further noted how LTC's approach to co-designed locally led initiatives can be adapted and supported through the core business of all government agencies. The Commonwealth Government and the department's recent support for a community night patrol proposal from the Palm Island Local Leadership Group is an example of positive outcomes (reduction in youth offending) where there is local ownership of an issue.

High level findings of the Mornington Island Audit and Analysis of Services were shared in the meeting. The Committee noted that while investment had increased on Mornington by 81% from 2017-2022 there had not been corresponding improvements in key indicators including schooling, training, employment, social housing, chronic disease, mental health and child safety. Government will work closely with Council and community to implement the recommendations of the report.

The Committee also noted the progress of investment mapping in 11 remote and discrete communities which is being finalised. Once finalised the investment profiles will be shared with Ministerial and Government Champions, local leadership groups and Aboriginal and Torres Shire Councils to better inform investment and support local decision-making and engagement on service delivery in communities.

Path to Treaty

The Committee noted that the next steps to implement the *Path to Treaty Act 2023* are the establishment of the First Nations Treaty Institute to build the capacity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait

Islander groups to work towards treaties and co-develop a treaty framework and a formal Truth-telling and Healing Inquiry. The Interim Truth and Treaty Body (ITTB) has undertaken consultation with community and key stakeholders and has provided advice to the Queensland Government for consideration. Communication materials have been developed to explain the background and next steps on the Path to Treaty and are available at www.qld.gov.au/treaty.

Voice

Members heard how the First Nations Consultative Committee (FNCC) has submitted a report to government on First Nations views and aspirations to inform development of a preferred First Nations Voice model for Queensland. Key themes include that Queensland can learn from the Voice models of Victoria and South Australia and that Grass Roots support is critical to success. The committee noted that the outcome of the national Voice referendum will also inform the Queensland approach.

Closing the Gap Update

The Department of Treaty, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Communities and Arts (DTATSIPCA) and the Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Coalition (QATSIC) have codesigned a template for Queensland's 2023 CTG Implementation Plan. The Implementation Plan has an increased focus on community identified activities that will support the implementation of the priority reform areas of the National Agreement.

The Implementation Plan and Annual Report will be finalised prior to the next meeting of the Joint Council on 24 November 2023. The Cabinet Handbook has also been updated to require an assessment of the effect of policy and legislation proposals on government efforts to reframe the relationship with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and how proposals support the National Agreement on CTG.

Attendance – 20 September 2023

Members	
Ms Clare O'Connor (Co-Chair)	Director-General, Department of Treaty, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Communities and the Arts (DTATSIPCA)
Ms Joann Schmider (Co-Chair)	Community representative
Ms Kelly Barclay	Community representative
Ms Susan Sewter	Community representative
Ms Nicole Huxley	Community representative
Mayor Patricia Yusia	Mayor, Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council
Councillor Jayden Marrott	Councillor, Aurukun Shire Council
Mayor Janita Motton	Mayor, Napranum Aboriginal Shire Council
Mayor Joshua Weazel	Mayor, Woorabinda Aboriginal Shire Council
Mr Drew Ellem	Head of Policy and Performance, Queensland Treasury
Ms Kate Connors	Deputy Director-General, Department of Child Safety, Seniors and Disability Services
Mr Phillip Brooks	Deputy Director-General, First Nations Strategy and Partnerships, Department of Education
Ms Brigita Cunnington	A/Deputy Director-General, Justice Services, Department of Justice and Attorney-General
Ms Sharon Kenyon	Executive Director, Department of Housing
Ms Bernadette Harvey	Deputy Director-General, Youth Services, Department of Youth Justice, Employment, Small Business and Training
Ms Haylene Grogan	Chief First Nations Health Officer, Queensland Health
Mr Joshua Hannan	A/Deputy Director-General, Local Government Division, Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning (DSDILGP)
Apologies	
Mr Joseph Wallace	Community representative
Mr Laurie Nona	Community representative
Mayor Mislam Sam	Mayor, Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council
Ms Sarah Vandersee	Deputy Director General, Corporate Services, Department of Tourism, Innovation and Sport (DTIS)
Ms Andrea Kelly	Group Manager, Operations & Delivery, Eastern Group, National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA)
Mr Mark Wheeler	A/Deputy Commissioner, Queensland Police Service (QPS)
Ms Rebecca McGarrity	Deputy Director-General, Policy, Department of the Premier and Cabinet
Ms Kathy Parton	Deputy Director-General, Strategic Policy, Legislation and Program Reform, DTATSIPCA

Proxies	
Mr Jason Kidd	A/ Deputy Director-General, Strategic Policy and Legislation, DTATSIPCA
Ms Emma Ogilvie	A/Executive Director, Social Policy, Department of the Premier and Cabinet
Mr Chris Hodgman	Acting Assistant Commissioner, QPS
Ms Courtney De Kever	A/Senior Director, Engagement and Monitoring, First Nations Health Office, Queensland Health
Mr Jeff Jimmieson	Regional Director, Strategy and Service Delivery, DSDILGP
Ms Kate Cohen	Executive Director, Corporate Services, DTIS
Ms Kate Hamilton	A/Branch Manager, Strategy and Policy, NIAA
Other Attendees	
Mr Robert Willmet	Deputy Director-General, Culture and Economic Participation, DTATSIPCA
Mr Stephen Tillett	First Nations Justice Officer, DJAG
Mr Tim Fell	Executive Director, Local Thriving Communities, LTC
Dr Bruce Visser	A/Director, Strategic Policy and Legislation, LTC
Ms Michelle Hoffman	Manager, Governance and Policy, LTC,
Ms Tania Fortune	Project Officer, LTC Secretariat
Ms Kelsea Berto	Digital Trainee, LTC