



Local Thriving Communities Joint Coordinating Communique – No. 9

23 November 2022

The Local Thriving Communities (LTC) Joint Coordinating Committee (JCC) met on 23 November 2022 in Brisbane and online. The Committee noted that this was the last meeting for the current term of the JCC, which expired on 22 December 2022.

Palm Island debrief

The Committee reflected on their visit to Palm Island and noted the value of meeting in community to ensure that progress of the LTC reform continues to be informed by diverse perspectives and community insights. Attendees agreed that hosting JCC meetings in community enables community and government leaders to listen to diverse community voices and engage in robust conversation about government service delivery as well as building cultural capability.

The Committee reflected that community engagement opportunities strengthen understanding of the complexities of local decision-making in remote and discrete Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. Mr Michael Bissell, Chief Executive Officer, Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council attended the meeting as a guest and expressed his gratitude for government providing information, proactively listening to community priorities and following up on commitments made. Mr Bissell advised that community has felt empowered since the engagements and looks forward to ongoing engagement especially in relation to improving social and emotional wellbeing.

LTC implementation

The Committee noted LTC progress including the establishment of five interim Local Decision-Making Bodies (LDMBs) to date. The Committee noted that Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire Council is establishing a Council of Elders in partnership with Council as an interim LDMB. The committee also noted progress of local decision-making by the Woorabinda Leadership Group and Yarrabah Leaders Forum. The Committee noted Goonawoona Jungai in Doomadgee is progressing a model for delivery of the Closing the Gap Place Based Partnership. The Committee was provided with an update on several engagements with leaders in the Torres Strait regarding the Masig Statement on Torres Strait regional aspirations to map a way forward working in partnership to progress community aspirations through existing reforms.

The Committee heard that the Sly Grog Working Group has endorsed the co-designed Sly Grog Strategy which takes a cross-agency, trauma informed and harm minimisation approach to addressing the issue of sly grog in communities. The Committee noted Pormpuraaw's new carriage limit commenced on 4 November 2022. This measure in conjunction with broader community safety planning strategies aims to address the significant health and social impacts of sly grog.

The Committee noted that investment mapping commitments in the Local Thriving Communities Action Plan 2022-2024 are progressing. KMPG has been engaged to conduct the independent Mornington Island audit and analysis of services. The Mornington project will analyse investment, service gaps, duplication, integration, effectiveness, and opportunities for reform. Commonwealth and State level agencies are supporting this process through the sharing of key data relating to Mornington Island.

DSDSATSIP is progressing phase one of investment mapping for communities with interim LDMBs as well as communities that are close to establishing an interim LDMB. Local leaders are looking forward to receiving this information to give transparency of investment and to inform local decision-making.

Review of the JCC

The Committee appreciated the opportunity to complete a survey to reflect on their engagement to inform analysis of the strengths of the JCC and identify opportunities for improvement. The Committee noted that the review of the JCC found the JCC has been effective and has achieved the aims set out in its Terms of Reference. Over the last three years the JCC has championed strategic engagement with local leadership through the Ministerial and Government Champions Program, led the expansion of LTC to urban and regional locations, co-designed the LTC Action Plan underpinned by cultural insights and developed resources to inform the LTC reform.

The Committee acknowledged the JCC has transitioned from informing the design of the LTC reform to oversight of implementation and support to establish LDMBs. Through adopting a genuine co-design and partnership approach, the JCC has built trust between government and community.

First Nations Workforce Strategy for Action

Ms Haylene Grogan, Chief First Nations Health Officer, Queensland Health provided an update on proposed actions for the new Queensland First Nations Health Workforce Strategy for Action (the strategy) currently being developed by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Controlled Health Organisation sector and First Nations leaders across the public health system. A concept paper has been distributed to stimulate discussion regarding the types of actions needed to value, invest in, and grow Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workforces.

The strategy will be the first integrated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workforce strategy developed for Queensland's health system. The proposed actions are aimed to reshape and redesign the workforce funding and planning environment, grow the future Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workforce supply pipeline and support retention, career development and progression of the current Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workforces. The strategy will enable First Nations people to lead the design of First Nations care models including guiding the delivery of culturally safe care. Valuing, investing in and growing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workforces and ensuring First Nations voices are at every decision-making table will directly improve the health and wellbeing outcomes of First Nations families and communities.

LTC Joint Coordinating Committee Meeting 23 November 2022 Attendance

Attendees	Dr Chris Sarra (Co-Chair)	Director-General, Department of Seniors, Disability Services and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships
	Ms Zhanae Dodd	Community Youth representative (Co Chair)
	Ms Joann Schmider	Community representative
	Ms Kelly Barclay	Community representative
	Ms Susan Sewter	Community representative
	Ms Haylene Grogan	Chief First Nations Health Officer, Queensland Health
	Mr Mark Wheeler	Acting Deputy Commissioner, Queensland Police Service
	Mr Drew Ellem	Head of Policy and Performance, Queensland Treasury
	Ms Brigita Cunnington	A/Deputy Director General Department of Justice and Attorney-General
Proxies	Ms Bronwyn Blagoev (Proxy for Jae Lancaster)	Executive Director, Local Government Division, Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning
	Mr Chris Evers (Proxy for Mr Phil Brooks)	Executive Director, First Nations Strategy and Partnerships, Department of Education
	Ms Jessica Martin (Proxy for Ms Rebecca McGarrity)	Director, Social Policy, Department of the Premier and Cabinet
	Mr Ron Weatherall (Proxy for Ms Kate Connors)	Executive Director, Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs
	Mr Rob Willmet (Proxy for Ms Mary-Anne Curtis)	Deputy Director-General, First Nations Strategy Unit, Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy
	Ms Jessica Foote (Proxy for Marnie Wettenhall)	Branch Manager, Strategy and Policy, National Indigenous Australians Agency
Apologies	Mr Laurie Nona	Community representative nominee
	Mayor Janita Motton	Napranum Aboriginal Shire Council
	Ms Mary-Anne Curtis	Associate Director-General, Housing and Homelessness Services, Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy
	Ms Jae Lancaster	Acting Deputy Director-General, Local Government Division, Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning
	Ms Rebecca McGarrity	Deputy Director-General, Policy, Department of Premier and Cabinet
	Mayor Patricia Yusia	Northern Peninsula Area Council
	Ms Kate Connors	Deputy Director-General, Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs
	Mayor Joshua Weazel	Woorabinda Aboriginal Shire Council
	Mayor Mislam Sam	Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council
Guests	Mr Michael Bissell	Chief Executive Officer, Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council

Other Attendees	Ms Kathy Parton	Deputy Director-General, Strategic Policy and Legislation, DSDSATSIP
	Mr Tim Fell	Executive Director, Local Thriving Communities (LTC), DSDSATSIP
	Ms Michelle Hoffman	Manager, Governance and Policy, LTC, DSDSATSIP
	Ms Vicki Sunderland	Principal Policy and Legislation Officer, LTC, DSDSATSIP
	Ms Erin Brown	Graduate Policy Officer, LTC, DSDSATSIP