



SUBMISSION – FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

24 September 2014

Steve Davies MP
Chair Finance and Administration Committee
Parliament House
BRISBANE QLD 4000



Please accept this as Council's submission in relation to the *Queensland Plan Bill 2014*. We apologise for the late submission.

The Queensland Plan is a great visionary document for the State for the next 30 years and we applaud the Government for its initiative to undertake such a task. The support and involvement of Queenslanders from across the State has contributed to its content and intent.

Council agrees with all of the primary objectives of the Bill but wishes to provide a comment in relation to the impacts of those objectives that relate to local government.

Councils were required to have a Community Plan under previous legislation (this has since been taken out of the *Local Government Act 2009*) and most of them had prepared a Community Plan. The Queensland Plan is now a document that could replace the previously legislated Community Plan.

It is the intention of the Charters Towers Regional Council to adopt this methodology, and then amend our Corporate Plan to reflect the outcomes we intend to implement to achieve the outcomes in the Queensland Plan, as they relate to our communities within the Charters Towers Regional Council area.

We have commenced a review of our Corporate Plan to align with the Queensland Plan (or those parts that will be identified by the community) when we consult with our community about our progress against the Community Plan. Taking this approach Council will satisfy the primary objective of the Bill as it relates to local government and our five year corporate plan.

With regard to the reporting in our annual report we have no concern with this also. However this brings me to the reason for lodging the submission.

Council would recommend a further review of the *Local Government Act 2009* as it relates to Councils requirement to have an Operational Plan and the reporting arrangements associated with this plan. Councils across Queensland have been faced with the reduction of funding from the other two levels of Government for some years now and have accepted a transfer of responsibility (in the name of Red Tape reductions from other levels of Government) without an increase in financial resources and we are constantly reminded that we need to be more efficient and financially sustainable.

We will gladly accept the additional responsibility of achieving the primary objectives of the Bill provided some consideration could be given to reducing the burden (removing the need for the Operational Plan and the associated reporting arrangement) of other legislative requirements that provide no real benefit but to satisfy a legislative requirement.

Mark Crawley
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER