



Speech By  
**Hon. Andrew Powell**


**MEMBER FOR GLASS HOUSE**

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Record of Proceedings, 29 October 2014

**MOTION**

**Ratification of Queensland Plan**

 **Hon. AC POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection) (3.55 pm): I move—

That this House:

- (1) notes the Queensland Plan that was tabled in the Legislative Assembly by the Premier on 26 August 2014; and
- (2) ratifies the Queensland Plan as required under section 6 of the Queensland Plan Act 2014.

I would like to emphasise the title: *The Queensland Plan: Queenslanders' 30-year vision*. That plan was created by Queenslanders from all over this fantastic state of Queensland—from Weipa to Cairns, Doomadgee, Mackay, Longreach, Maleny, Burpengary, Windsor, Wynnum, Jindalee and Palm Beach.

**Ms Davis:** And Aspley.

**Mr POWELL:** From Aspley, too. People came together in workshops, at local events, at summits, in meeting rooms and in their homes to share their ideas about our future. In the electorate of Glass House, which I have the honour to represent, we held a number of different activities. I take a moment to thank Miss Ruby Scott, Mr Riley Williamson, Ms Ursula Starkovsky and Mr Howard Walters for their hard work and dedication in representing what is the best part of the state of Queensland.

Queenslanders were involved in every step of developing the Queensland Plan, and I would like to take a few moments to remind fellow members about those efforts. A key partners workshop was held in April 2013 to help identify the key elements to be discussed at the Mackay summit in May last year. Community delegates from every electorate, together with school students and mayors, attended the Mackay summit to develop the engagement questions. Delegates also workshopped how to engage their local communities. A four-month engagement period followed, from May to August 2013, when every Queenslander was encouraged to have their say. The Brisbane summit, on 9 and 10 October last year, saw community delegates, together with business and industry representatives, school students, mayors and Queensland government directors-general, review Queenslanders' feedback and helped create the Queensland Plan.

The Queensland Plan working draft was released for public consultation from 8 December 2013 to 7 March 2014. Hundreds of Queenslanders reviewed the draft, with 71 per cent of submissions noting that it was a true reflection of Queenslanders' feedback while several others asked for further emphasis or detail. An independent review group, drawn together through an expression-of-interest process from Brisbane summit delegates, then assessed the process to action the community's feedback into the final plan. The Queensland Plan was released on 31 July 2014 and tabled in this House by the Premier on 26 August 2014.

I believe that this extensive engagement process is an excellent example of our democracy in action, where the community was integrally involved in co-defining the issues, co-designing the process and co-creating the plan. That is why it was with incredible disappointment that at the eleventh hour what was a bipartisan approach fell to pieces when the opposition voted against the Queensland Plan Bill. I am disappointed for the thousands of Queenslanders from all walks of life and political persuasions who contributed to the plan. You see, it is not my plan or the government's plan; it is Queensland's plan.

Let me just share a couple of the comments from Queenslanders about the process, should anyone in this House be under any misconception. One Queenslandersaid—

I appreciate the opportunity to contribute to this Queensland Plan, which is a great start to being able to have more connectedness to government ideology and planning.

Another said—

This is positive, gives hope. Keep up the process.

I also have great pleasure in announcing to the House today that the engagement process has been recognised by the International Association for Public Participation, otherwise known as IAP2. IAP2 is the leading public participation association in Australasia and indeed the world and its core value awards recognise projects that are at the forefront of public participation. The Queensland Plan is the proud winner of the IAP2 planning award and recipient of a highly commended for Australasian Project of the Year 2014. I think it is fitting that we recognise those staff, particularly in the Queensland Plan secretariat in the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, who contributed so much and are very fitting and worthy recipients of those awards.

As I have just outlined, the Queensland Plan was created by Queenslanders. It is not the government's plan. In fact, it was deliberately designed not to be the government's plan. The Queensland Plan paints Queenslanders' picture of the future for our state in 2044. There are 35 goals and 20 targets across nine foundation areas, including one that is very important to me—that of the environment. Queenslanders are passionate about our diverse landscapes and unique ecosystems. We are guardians of some of the planet's pristine natural and cultural areas and their preservation and protection is essential. Queenslanders also recognise the need to ensure our natural resources are managed effectively, that we look for sustainable and renewable solutions and that we are responsible about growth. Some of these goals will be challenges to achieve and there will be many different views on how we get the balance between environmental protection and economic development right. But this is a conversation worth having and, I believe, will help drive greater Queensland innovation.

Just as Queenslanders were engaged in creating the plan, they will also be involved in achieving its goals and targets. At this juncture I acknowledge the efforts already and thank the members of the Queensland Plan Ambassadors Council for their assistance. They will be assisting not only the state government but other jurisdictions, local and federal, as well as community and business sectors, the not-for-profit sector, individual mums and dads and school students who will all have a role to play in ensuring that the Queensland Plan comes to fruition. Many different groups of Queenslanders are now looking at the plan. Some have already aligned their planning while others are identifying what it means for their local communities, and I thank each and every one of them for their attention to the plan and for their efforts in rolling it out. I acknowledge the contributions from Queenslanders across our great state and their expectations that we, as elected representatives, now take it forward in partnership with them. I move—

That this House ratifies the Queensland Plan.