

Question on Notice
No. 370
Asked on 21 May 2013

MR COSTIGAN asked the Premier (MR NEWMAN)—

Will the Premier outline the success of the Mackay summit as part of The Queensland Plan and how the community was engaged?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Plan Mackay Summit on 10 May 2013 was the first step in an historic process to develop a long-term vision for our great State.

It was a first in several ways – it was the first time we have seen this level of community representation from all 89 electorates in one room and the first time that members of different political parties and persuasions have come together to plan for the future in this way.

From the outset it was made clear that *The Queensland Plan* would be developed by Queenslanders, for Queenslanders, and this was certainly the case at the Mackay Summit. The summit's success can be measured in multiple ways: by the collaborative atmosphere, by the reception of youth and the recognition of their contribution, by the delegates' feedback, and by Queenslanders already having their say.

The Mackay Summit saw more than 400 people from across Queensland come together to design the process for how *The Queensland Plan* will be developed. All 89 electorates were represented, reflecting the bipartisan commitment to the process. The delegates were also representative of Queensland's diversity, including community groups, sporting organisations, business, Indigenous, youth, multicultural and disability sectors.

Young Queenslanders were represented by a delegation of 19 students from 10 local schools and youth groups. The students provided great insight at the summit workshops and their contributions were warmly received by all delegates. As Jo-Elle Winner from headspace, the local National Youth Mental Health Foundation centre, said “It’s not the kind of thing I’d ever think I’d see myself at and it’s really awesome to have a say”.

A total of 89 local and regional questions were developed to help local communities start the conversation about what issues should be considered in planning for the future. A shortlist of 51 statewide questions was developed, and through a voting process the delegates selected the final six statewide questions that are now being put to all Queenslanders to help inform the development of *The Queensland Plan*.

The delegates also workshopped different ways to engage with Queenslanders to develop the vision, drawing upon the diverse experience and knowledge in the room and sharing ideas on how to stimulate conversations and capture feedback.

Within hours of the Mackay Summit, the online survey was running on *The Queensland Plan* website to allow Queenslanders to start sharing their thoughts on the six questions.

By the following week, activities were already taking place across the state as Members of Parliament launched into the heart of the process – grassroots engagement. Activities conducted so far include stalls at football games, meetings with community organisations, and community advisory groups.

The conversation continues to grow on social media too, through the *The Queensland Plan* Facebook page and on Twitter.

Queenslanders have also been receptive to the concept of *The Queensland Plan* and its development process. As Leon Yeatman who attended the Mackay Summit said, “The future holds a lot of mysteries, this process allows us to be aspirational and identify things we feel are priorities and more importantly, hopefully give a plan or a blueprint for the future generation”.

The Mackay Summit was just the start of the journey, and there is still a long way to go. The next few months form the real heart of the process as Members of Parliament work with communities across Queensland to respond to the six questions and help shape the vision.