

Question on Notice
No. 820
Asked on 18 August 2022

Mrs D Frecklington asked Premier and Minister for the Olympics (Hon. A Palaszczuk)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the Regional Community Forums—

Will the Premier advise (a) the costs associated with holding Regional Forums across Queensland, (b) who is on each of the seven forums, (c) what is the selection process for attendees to the forums, (d) will minutes of these forums be made available for the public and (e) what measures are in place to ensure the arrangements around these events are transparent?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Government understands the importance of jobs and economic development in our state, especially in rural and regional Queensland.

Regional Community Forums (Forums) commenced in October 2019, with 141 members across seven regions - Far North Queensland, North and North West Queensland, Mackay/Isaac/Whitsunday, Central Queensland, Wide Bay/Burnett/Fraser Coast, Central Queensland and the Darling Downs/South West.

The Forums provide a critical connection to regional communities, help inform policy initiatives, enhance service delivery and maximise opportunities across these regions. Forum members provide feedback to government on challenges and opportunities, and work across their regions to progress priorities identified through the Forum program. In 2021-22, the cost to deliver the Forums was \$175,432.

I am advised that Forum members are appointed through a public expression of interest process and that members are shortlisted based on their skills and experience, community involvement and geographic, cultural and demographic diversity. Up to 20 representatives are appointed to each region, representing a broad cross-section of the community. Forum members' names are publicly available and can be found on the Advancing Queensland's Regions website at <https://campaigns.premiers.qld.gov.au/advancing-qld-regions/>.

The Forums are an important part of how Government engages with local communities, and formats for the Forums include interactive sessions, including round table discussions. I am advised that these sessions are not required to be minuted. I am further advised that details of key matters and actions discussed at Forums across the state will be published as a summary on the Advancing Queensland's Regions website.

The Member may be interested to know that ahead of each Forum, statements are released to advise the community of the events and to ensure transparency.

The Forums continue to strengthen the participation of regional communities in Queensland Government decision-making and policy development.