



## Local Thriving Communities Joint Coordinating Communique – No. 8

### 20-21 September 2022 – Palm Island

The Local Thriving Communities (LTC) Joint Coordinating Committee (JCC) met on Palm Island on 20 and 21 September 2022.

#### Community engagement – 20 September 2022

JCC members were honoured to be welcomed to Country with a smoking ceremony by Uncle Alan Palm Island and Mr Richard Cassidy where they learned about the rich history of Palm Island.

JCC members attended community engagement events hosted by the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council (PIASC) at Fred Clay Park. This provided an opportunity for members to learn about Palm Island, to build relationships and engage in robust discussion with community to inform the co-design of service delivery in line with community priorities. This engagement showcases the reframed relationship in action with senior government representatives working collaboratively with local leaders in community.

#### JCC Meeting – 21 September 2022

##### Palm Island discussion

The committee were privileged to hear about several local decision-making success stories led by the Palm Island community. Ms Rachel Atkinson, Chief Executive Officer, Palm Island Community Company (PICC) provided insight on the PICC transition to community control which represents a significant step forward in community-led self-determination. Ms Atkinson explained how PICC has grown from a small office into an organisation with an annual budget of over \$20 million in 2022-23. Ms Atkinson said their success centres on local cultural knowledge and governance and their investment and training of local people with 83% of staff living locally. Through building successful relationships with Council and Queensland Health, PICC now has governance and management of all general practice and primary health services on Palm Island.

The committee also heard about the First Nations Protective Services project, which was co-designed between the Protective Services Group within Queensland Police Service and the Palm Island community to train local Palm Island residents to deliver security at various locations on the Island. All seven local people trained and engaged to provide security in 2019 are still in their jobs providing local employment and building community trust. The project was the subject of an external review which found that in locations with local security there was a reduction in crime such as damage to school grounds. The review also found that there was improved safety of students and teachers, and truancy rates were improving. Queensland Police Service and JCC representatives shared their perspectives about the benefits of this program, including local opportunities and improved efficiencies for the Queensland Government agencies. The program is being expanded into a further 10 communities following the success of the model.

##### Agency presentations

Government members provided updates on current service delivery and opportunities for co-design in Palm Island. The committee heard how the Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy has been actively engaging with the community and the Local Government Association of Queensland Indigenous Leaders Forum about remote home ownership, housing maintenance programs in Palm Island and other communities and the co-design of the Palm Island Local Housing Plan.

The Department of Education is working through its Local Community Engagement through Co-design program to bring community voice to the design of education to improve outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in State Schools. Some communities are adopting local language

programs, such as a Wik program in Aurukun. Where these programs are running there is evidence of increased enrolments and engagement of students.

The Department of Justice and Attorney-General talked about the strengths of Palm Island Community Justice Group (PICIG) which provides culturally informed court-based support to the fortnightly sittings of the Palm Island Magistrates Court. The PICJG is responsible for service delivery of the Domestic and Family Violence Enhancement Program (DFVEP) and the Office for Women and Violence Prevention funds services on the Island. DJAG noted there are opportunities to strengthen the culturally informed court-based support and DFVEP response of the PICJG through the recommendations handed down by the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce Report.

The Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning reflected on how valuable it was to be in community and see public works projects underway. DSDSATSIP noted that grant funding has been provided from 2022-2024 for water treatment and sewer inlet work and is committed to ongoing engagement with Council to identify funding opportunities to further enable local infrastructure priorities .

The Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs advised that there are a number of Youth Justice services that the community can access such as court management services, case management, restorative justice conferencing. It was also noted grant funding has been provided for 2022-23 to support youth who are at risk of involvement with the youth justice system, and who may be at risk of disconnection from family, community and school. It was noted that Child Safety could not have achieved the successes of PICC. Government has struggled to have no wrong door which PICC has achieved. PICC is an excellent example of the journey Government is on to delegate authority regarding child protection.

The National Indigenous Assurance Agency advised that they work in partnership with the State to build upon local decision making. The Commonwealth is working with Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council on the replacement of the Community Development Program and that Palm Island is a pilot site for this. There are broader conversations being had regarding the Commonwealth Voice and implementing the Uluru Statement from the Heart in full. It is proposed that Indigenous voice will include establishment of an independent advisory body legislated by Parliament in the ordinary way. The voice will be informed through community-based conversations.

Queensland Health provided an update on the Health Equity Strategies to addressing issues of discrimination and racism. Queensland Health are working with communities with a focus on we can do better, how we provide responsive models of care and a culturally safe response through health care. This involves building the cultural capability of staff. Qld Health is keen to understand what we can do from a systems level and apply a ten-year focus to align with closing the gap.

### **LTC implementation**

The committee noted that the LTC reform is maturing with a number of interim Local Decision Making Bodies (LDMBs) engaging across government to break down silos and co-design service delivery. Mayor Mislam Sam updated the committee on an expression of interest process run by PIASC to seek nominations for community representation for an interim LDMB. Council is working closely with community and stakeholders to consider options for the formation of the group building on the success of existing leadership structures.

Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire Council has endorsed a model for an interim LDMB and is finalising arrangements. In Doomadgee, Goonawoona Jungai Ltd (made up of all Traditional Owner clans in Doomadgee), a company limited by guarantee, was formally established on 31 August 2022 through cultural governance processes. Doomadgee is Queensland's first Place Based Partnership under the National Agreement on Closing the Gap.

Implementation of the LTC Action Plan is ongoing. The committee discussed how investment mapping is a significant priority and the Department of Seniors, Disability Services and Aboriginal and Torres

Strait Islander Partnerships is working on a proposal to progress investment mapping for communities with interim LDMBs. Work is also underway with the Queensland Government Statistician's Office to progress data sharing to support local decision making and data sharing commitments including under the National Agreement on Closing the Gap.

## Treaty

The committee was pleased to be provided an update on the Queensland Government Response to the Treaty Advancement Committee report and the commitment to a \$300 million Path to Treaty Fund. The Treaty process will be underpinned by the development of legislation, a three-year formal Truth Telling and Healing Inquiry and the establishment of a First Nations Institute and Path to Treaty Office. An Independent Interim Body was established on 15 August 2022 which is hosted by the State Library of Queensland to maintain independence.

### LTC Joint Coordinating Committee Meeting 21 September 2022 Attendance

<b>Attendees</b>	Dr Chris Sarra (Co-Chair)	Director-General, Department of Seniors, Disability Services and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships
	Ms Joann Schmider	Community representative
	Ms Kelly Barclay	Community representative
	Ms Susan Sewter	Community representative
	Ms Zhanae Dodd	Community Youth representative (Co Chair)
	Mayor Patricia Yusia	Mayor, Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council
	Mayor Mislam Sam	Mayor, Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council
	Mayor Josh Weazel	Mayor, Woorabinda Aboriginal Shire Council
	Mr Drew Ellem	Head of Policy and Performance, Queensland Treasury
	Ms Kate Connors	Deputy Director-General, Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs
	Mr Chris Evers	A/Deputy Director-General, First Nations Strategy and Partnerships, Department of Education
	Ms Nicola Doumany	A/Deputy Director General Department of Justice and Attorney-General
	Ms Jae Lancaster	A/Deputy Director-General, Local Government Division, Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning
<b>Proxies</b>	Mr Glenn Morris Proxy for Commissioner (vacant position)	Acting Assistant Commissioner, Queensland Police Service
	Ms Sharon Kenyon Proxy for Mary-Anne Curtis	Executive Director, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing, Housing and Homelessness Services Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy
	Ms Marnie Wettenhall Proxy for NIAA (formerly Rob Willmet)	National Indigenous Australians Agency (noting Mr Robert Wilmet has resigned from his role as Group Manager, Operations & Delivery, Eastern Group, National Indigenous Australians Agency)

	Ms Emma Ogilvie Proxy for Rebecca McGarrity	A/Executive Director, Social Policy, Department of the Premier and Cabinet	
	Ms Wendy Ah Chin Proxy for Haylene Grogan	Executive Director, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Office of the Chief Executive, Townsville Hospital and Health Services, Queensland Health	
<b>Apologies</b>	Mr Laurie Nona	Community representative nominee	
	Mayor Janita Motton	Mayor, Napranum Aboriginal Shire Council	
	Ms Mary-Anne Curtis	Associate Director-General, Housing and Homelessness Services, Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy	
	Ms Rebecca McGarrity	Deputy Director-General, Policy, Department of Premier and Cabinet	
	Ms Haylene Grogan	Deputy Director-General and Chief Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Officer, Queensland Health	
	Mr Mark Wheeler	Acting Deputy Commissioner, Queensland Police Service	
	Vacant	National Indigenous Australians Agency – <i>Robert Wilmet</i> resigned from NIAA in August 2022. New NIAA representative TBC.	
<b>Guests</b>	Ms Katie Kiss	Chief of Staff, Office of the Honourable Craig Crawford, Minister for Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships	
	Mr Michael Bissell	Chief Executive Officer, Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council	
	Ms Rachel Atkinson	Chief Executive Officer, Palm Island Community Company	
	A/Chief Inspector, Chris Lawson	Queensland Police Service	
	Ms Narelle Gleeson–Henaway	Program Manager, Palm Island Community Company	
	Ms Dorothy Smith	Coordinator, Women’s Healing Service, Palm Island Community Company	
	Ms Jyranni Ryan	Community member	
	Inspector Scott Allan	Queensland Police Service	
	Ms Lauwana Blackley	Head Nurse, Palm Island Health Service	
	Mr Roy Prior	Palm Island Community Company	
	<b>Other Attendees</b>	Ms Kathy Parton	Deputy Director-General, Strategic Policy and Legislation, DSDSATSIP
		Mr Tim Fell	Executive Director, Local Thriving Communities (LTC), DSDSATSIP
		Mr Greg Anderson	Executive Director, Regional Coordination and Remote Indigenous Land Program Office
		Ms Charlotte Young	Director, Whole of Government Reform, LTC, DSDSATSIP
Ms Michelle Hoffman		Manager, Governance and Policy, LTC, DSDSATSIP	
Ms Margaret Ross-Kelly		Project Officer, LTC, DSDSATSIP	
Mr Eddie Hollingsworth		Manager, North Queensland Region	
Ms Tammie Harrison	Senior Project Officer, North Queensland Region		