



POLICY LEADERS



QUEENSLAND
FUTURES
INSTITUTE

SUMMARY REPORT

QLD POLICY LEADERS SERIES

Queensland State of Play 2018

Thursday 15 February 2018

Customs House, Brisbane

7.30am - 9.00am

Moderator

Professor Julie Cogin, Academic Dean and Head of School, UQ Business School

Panellists

Daniel Gschwind, Chief Executive Officer, Queensland Tourism Industry Council

Stephen Tait, Chief Executive Officer, Chamber of Commerce and Industry Queensland

Leisa Bourne, Director Queensland, Australian Red Cross

Chris Mountford, Queensland Executive Director, Property Council of Australia

Andrew Barger, Policy Director, Economics and Infrastructure, Queensland Resources Council

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Breakfast Summary

The predominant themes from the QLD Policy Leaders *Queensland State of Play 2018* breakfast event included the interrelated nature of the economy and therefore the importance of, particularly the higher education sector to a strong Queensland economy. It noted significant differences in opportunities between geographic locations specific to each industry, the need for comprehensive evidence based policy approaches for issues such as tax reform and infrastructure investment, and a requirement to determine what it is we're working towards, that is, where do we strive to be in the future.

Key comments from panellists

Daniel Gschwind, Chief Executive Officer, Queensland Tourism Industry Council

- There are immense opportunities in the Tourism industry, and while we are in a great position due to the many international airports in Queensland, the sector is only growing at half the rate of the national average of 6%. Significant investment in infrastructure is currently in the pipeline and needs to be supported by increased investment in skills training for the workforce and a focus on building confidence in the largely SME dominated industry.

Stephen Tait, Chief Executive Officer, Chamber of Commerce and Industry Queensland

- While business sentiment is positive for the first time in years, characterised by a growing number of tech companies and professional services firms, regional Queensland is still experiencing challenges. We are therefore investing in infrastructure, including mobile coverage, good access to medical and social services, water supply etc. in order to create the right environment to do business.

Leisa Bourne, Director Queensland, Australian Red Cross

- The non-profit sector is experiencing incredible increases in demand for services, while government is demanding greater efficiencies and a major health crisis is emerging. A fundamental shift in the way non-profits operate is required, focusing on people in place, and long-term solutions driven by collaboration with industry and the community. There is also a need to change the narrative particularly driven by the media, and to acknowledge the regional differences in economic growth and subsequent employment and service opportunities.

Chris Mountford, Queensland Executive Director, Property Council of Australia

- Multiple factors are pushing and pulling the industry in different directions, and the state of the market is quite specific to regions and sectors. Large projects such as the Cross River Rail offer the opportunity to recreate entire precincts which adds to other primary market dynamics including state policy and interest rates.

Andrew Barger, Policy Director, Economics and Infrastructure, Queensland Resources Council

- Increased prices and stable exchange rates are positive for the industry. This, however, is weighed against increasing approval times and a broader level of disruption for the industry. Such disruption also offers opportunities and the future opportunities around rare earth metals, recycling post-consumer waste and big data are currently under investigation by miners and QFI. Overall, Queensland is well placed internationally to service the market and future trends due to strict environmental and safety regulatory systems, and the strong regional capabilities of regional engineering centres.

The Queensland Futures Institute acknowledges the support of the UQ Business School PhD student Cristyn Meath for her summary of the Breakfast.

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