



# Western Downs Regional Council Futures Progress Group meeting 5 June 2023

## Summary of Meeting – key insights

Following on from the Western Downs Regional Futures Summit held in May 2023, the council convened the first Progress Group meeting on 5 June 2023 to continue the dialogue around regional collaboration. The meeting at the Community Events Centre in Dalby was attended by 50 people from the community and business sectors, local government and state government. It was great that this session was also attended by some youth from the schools in the region. Collaboration for Impact consultants facilitated the meeting.

The first Progress Meeting signified the commencement of some tangible design work on structures and processes which will be progressed between the sessions. The next Progress Team meeting will be held on 18 July 2023.

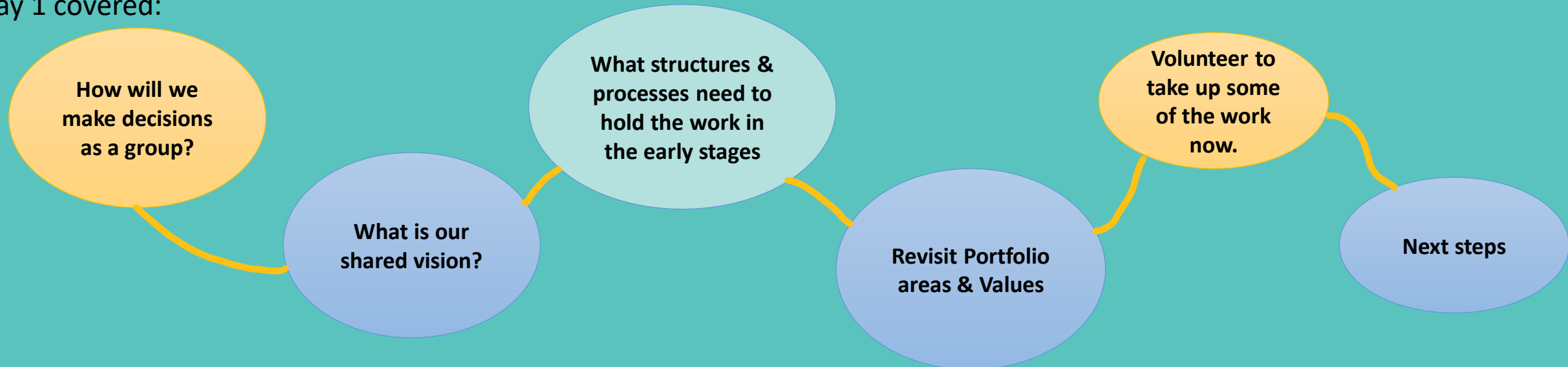
This meeting aimed to:

- revisit some key concepts from the Summit, deepening knowledge and understanding.
- share new information and examples of collaborative partnership governance arrangements
- provide activities that enabled participants to start to experience real collaboration and decision-making in practice, whilst starting to land some key elements of the work.

This approach to the meeting aimed to achieve the following **objectives**:

1. To define a decision-making process to support the work to move forward in the early stages.
2. To clarify vision / purpose for coming together.
3. To discuss what structures are needed to hold the work in the early stages.
4. Revisit the key portfolio areas.

Day 1 covered:



# Learning and key insights

It was great to see that the word had spread post the Summit to some of the youth in the region. As a result, we had 8 young people from Tara and Dalby schools. Prefect Melissa representing Dalby State High provided the acknowledgement of country to open the first Progress Group meeting. **Mayor Paul McVeigh** expressed his gratitude for all those who were in attendance and for those who took up and progressed some of the work from the Summit. With an aspirational framing from the Mayor the first Progress Group Meeting was underway. First an update on **progress on key actions** from the Summit.



Acting Officer in Charge **Greg Wheeler** from QLD Police shared about progress made in additional policing resources coming into the region.

- 13 Surplus positions located in Tara (2) Chinchilla (3) Tactical Crime Squad Dalby (6) & Vulnerable persons unit Dalby (4).
- 2 School based officers
- Additional capital infrastructure
- Additional ancillary support infrastructure.

*Bec Coffey from Powerlink has created an online survey to gather the names and skills (gifts) of people in the region who are keen to be involved. You can follow this link at any time to enter your data and outline your areas of interest and passion to contribute to.*

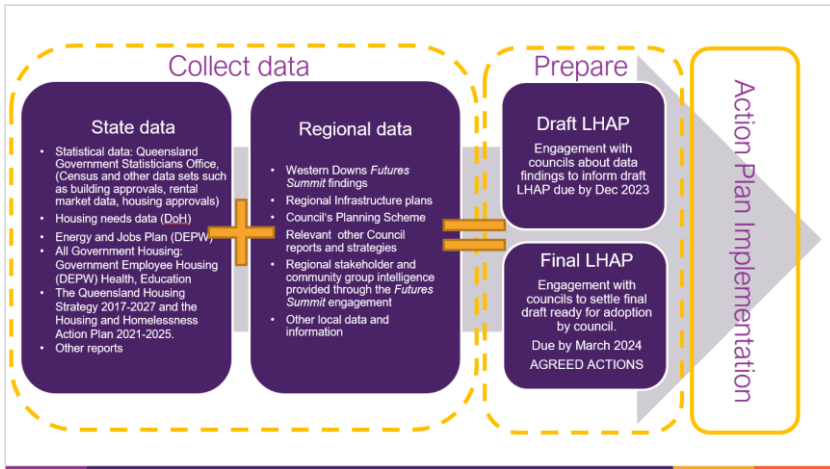
## Stakeholder Data Survey



Microsoft Forms Survey  
Brought to us by PowerLink Queensland

27 Survey Responses since Summit. Please jump online and contribute.

Rebecca Kenny from the Department of Housing reported on how State Data is available to support council data towards the local housing action plans



WDRC have commenced building a service mapping activity & stakeholder mapping across the region. They have also committed some resourcing by way of a team member being allocated to support the Progress Group meetings.

# Learning and key insights

How will we make decisions as a group?

The session kicked off with an **activity** to determine how the group would agree to make decisions.

The group was **tasked with their first collaborative process** to choose which of the following 8 decision-making processes could contribute to their own process for making decisions as a group.

The group was given a **timeframe** of just 10 minutes to determine their outcome.

The group spent some time talking in smaller groups, forming some larger groups, smaller break aways and some individuals moved between the different groups talking. With the pressure of time and with just 3 minutes to go, one person called everyone to form a large circle to discuss the options.

After much discussion and with some great insight and guidance from one of the youth participants the group landed with the following 3 options.

**KEY INSIGHT:** *Through the experience of collaborating on this activity the group experienced a range of emotions such as uncertainty and frustration at the time it took to make the decision. It is valuable to note that it is normal to experience this in collaborative practice. If you spend a bit more time going slow in the beginning, you will build a foundation that will go the distance.*

Decisions  
decisions....

<b>Consultative</b> We decide with input	<b>Delegation</b> You decide, with limitations
<b>Consent</b> No one objects. Group decision making process that enables the group to accept a "good enough" solution	<b>Consensus</b> Everyone agrees. A group decision making process for finding solutions that everyone actively supports, or at least can live with
<b>Democratic</b> Majority rules	<b>Avoidant</b> Let's wait and see
<b>Autocratic</b> We alone decide	<b>Stochastic</b> Flip a coin



**Consultative**  
We decide with input

**Consensus**  
Everyone agrees. A group decision making process for finding solutions that everyone actively supports, or at least can live with.

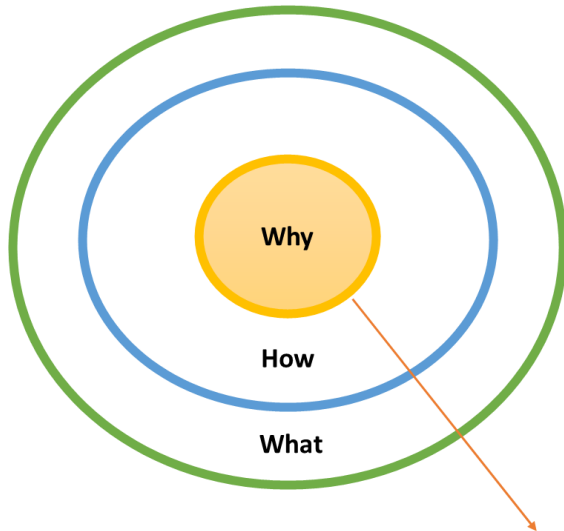
**Democratic**  
Majority Rules

What is our shared vision?

## Learning and key insights

At the Summit participants learned about the 5 Key Elements of Collective Impact. Session 2 of the Progress Team meeting focused in on the first key element **creating a shared vision**. It is crucial to spend time focusing on the "why" rather than the "what" or "how" to inspire others and create a sense of purpose-driven leadership. By focusing on the core beliefs and reasons behind your actions, it will aim to inspire others to take action. Simon Sinek is an American author and leadership development coach. He is widely known for his simple and powerful model known as the Golden Circle. Participants were guided to think about the shared vision through this lens starting with the 'why' and working from there.

### The Golden Circle



Ref. Simon Sinek.



To bring the future vision to life participants were invited to work in small groups to imagine the region in 2033.

As a group create an attention-grabbing headline (see Daily News Headlines) that would emphasize the results of the collaborative partnerships efforts.

Prior to the meeting WDRC Futures Team emailed out a survey inviting people to provide their ideas, words and inspiration for a future vision. These contributions were given to each group to include in their thinking.

A small group will be taking the work from this activity into a smaller sub-working group to create several Vision statements to share back with the larger group at the next meeting.

It was requested that this group do some additional surveying to encourage more community input into the vision.

# THE DAILY NEWS

www.dailynews.com

THE WORLD'S FAVOURITE NEWSPAPER

Date:

Western Downs: QLD's most happy, thriving & progressive Community!

Live, Laugh, Local.

Western Downs achieves highest living standard of any region

Western Downs wins golden award for most livable region.

Western Downs unveils tiny home village

Western Downs wins worlds most livable region



# Learning and key insights

What structures & processes are needed for collaboration

Revisit portfolio areas

Shared values

Session 3 commenced with revisiting some key concepts and themes presented on Day 2 of the Summit pertaining to the structures and processes that are needed to enable systems change. We zoomed in on the first phase of collaborative governance **Building Readiness**. In this phase time is spent preparing a shared vision for the future, and developing a shared understanding of the issues. Testing hypothesis as to why the issues are occurring and the impacts on the region. We revisited the Collective Impact structure of collaborative governance and included additional examples of constellation models, cross sector leadership groups, working groups and alternative ways to structure a backbone team.

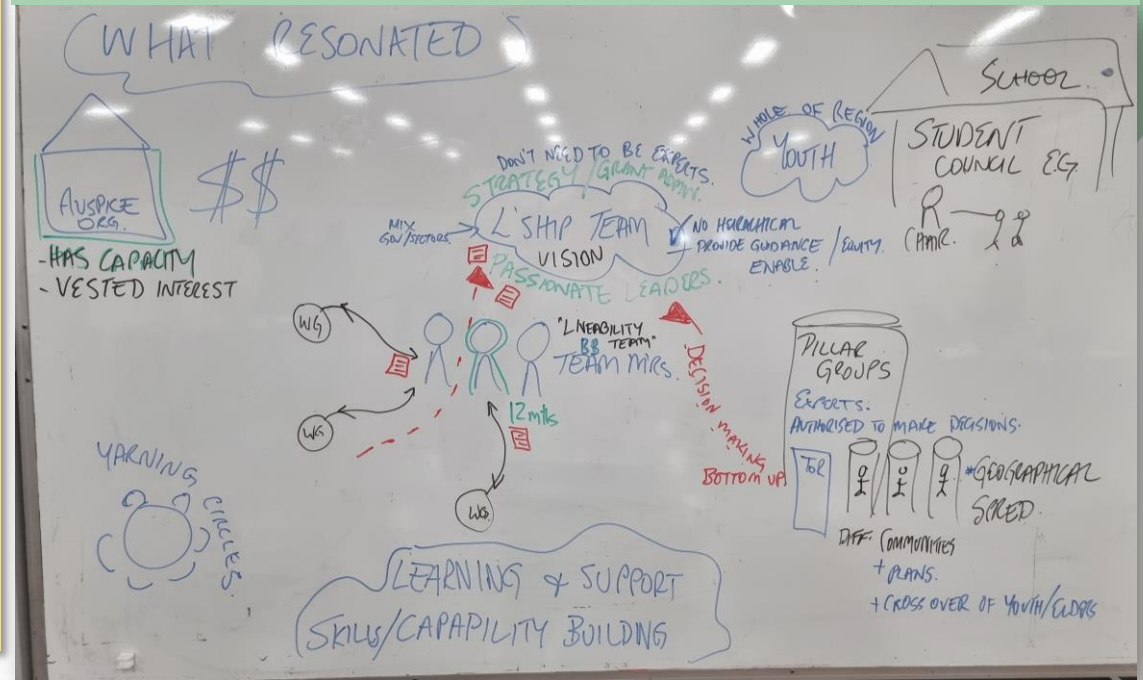
The participants were then invited to work in their smaller groups to consider what key elements of the structures resonated for them from the examples.

## What Resonated.

- A non-hierarchical structure where the leadership team is central and sets the vision and strategy. They do not have to be the experts. What's important is that they are passionate and committed.
- This group of leaders will provide guidance and ensure equity across all components of the partnership model.
- Could be a mix of sectors, government, community and youth.
- There should be a youth component within the structure. Schools have Student Councils with a chair. This could be expanded to have a whole of region Youth Council.

- Decision-making can work from the bottom up.
- Working groups or Pillar Groups (same concept) need to be authorised to make decisions and progress work. Their submissions to the leadership table would come through the backbone team.
- Working Groups /Pillar Groups could represent a geographic spread across the region i.e. different communities.
- They could have a Terms of Reference
- They would ideally have experts on these groups who are knowledgeable about the issues and have lived experience.
- Yarning Circles are a great way to involve community in the discussions.
- Not everyone can commit time, but they can contribute their voices.

- The Backbone team or Livability Team members should be recruited early on to help with the work.
- The idea of having a backbone organisation that can auspice any funding for running a backbone team was a welcome idea. The benefit of that is that they have the capacity and vested interest in the region to provide that support through administration.



## Next Steps

# Participants agreed on the way forward.

The activities in the 4 Sessions were designed to commence the real work of collaboration. Additional work is required to progress and develop the design ideas. As such, the following key outcomes were achieved, and the next steps agreed by the group.



**Vision Statement Group**

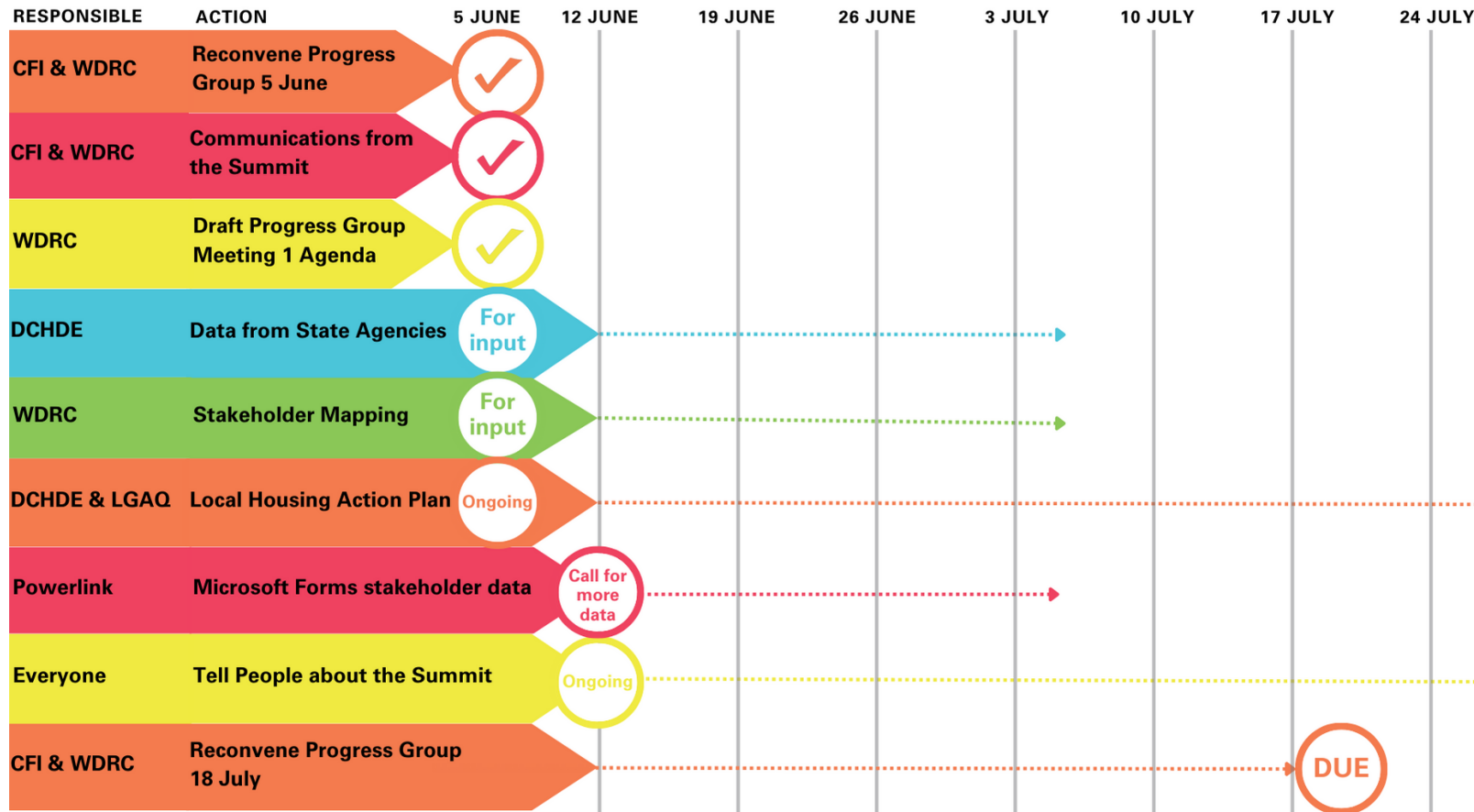


**Governance Design Group**

Purpose	People		Meeting date
<p>Complete additional surveying of the broader community to gain further input into the collateral developed in the progress team meeting activity on developing a Vision.</p> <p>Prepare several vision statements, incorporating the collective thoughts of the region, to bring back to the larger group for refinement.</p>	Cecil Barnard Anne-Marie Giles Evalyn Thompson Kristelle Townsend Kaye Maguire Josette Moffat Stephen Wadeson Sara Thorneycroft Vicky Yarrow Lucas Bell Tom Atu Nikki Seymour Ros Wade	Andrew Smith Ingrid Nichols Paul Porea Matt Gregg Mark Wall Lance Payne Dani MaGuire Peter Homan George Moore Megan James Tracey Mitchell Adam Myers Dalby SHS Leaders	18 July 2023
<p>Using the collateral from the progress team meeting early-stages governance design activity and including a review of the Values / Principles of how we will work together, develop 3 prototypes of collaborative governance arrangements to bring back to the larger group for discussion and refinement.</p>	Jasmine Siggs Sophie Bougoure Belinda Walker Allan Bougoure Bec Coffey Jeff Bidstrup Kylie Bourne Louise Judge David Thannhauser Lucy Rockett Mary Crosdale Ian Rasmussen Jennifer Severns Bec Coffey	Natasha Schofield Rebecca Kenny Todd Summerville Greg Wheeler Peter Saxelby Carolyn Tillman Paul McVeigh Raelene Bates Liam Weber Craig Rutledge Rob Burke Glen Dawes Trevor Robertson Tara SSC Leaders	18 July 2023



# NEXT STEPS PROGRESS CHART



# NEXT MEETING DATES





**Support Now**

Ready to get involved now?  
 Please email the [westerndownsfutures@wdrc.qld.gov.au](mailto:westerndownsfutures@wdrc.qld.gov.au)  
 and we will connect you to your area of interest.