

# QUARTERLY REPORT | 2024 OCT-DEC

AN OVERVIEW OF THE THIRD QUARTER SINCE STANDING UP OUR PLACE-BASED INITIATIVE



Connected Communities, Growing Together and Alive with Opportunities

## WORKING GROUP WINS



Housing Working Group has completed the second quarterly report of the Local Housing Action Plan since its endorsement. They had a presentation from QSHELTER, and looking to coordinating presentations with Gladstone Region Together’s Housing Working Group in 2025. After meeting with the Gympie Housing and Homelessness Group, the Housing Working Group have requested the Interim Steering Committee to advocate to Department of Housing to establish a local housing officer in the Western Downs region.



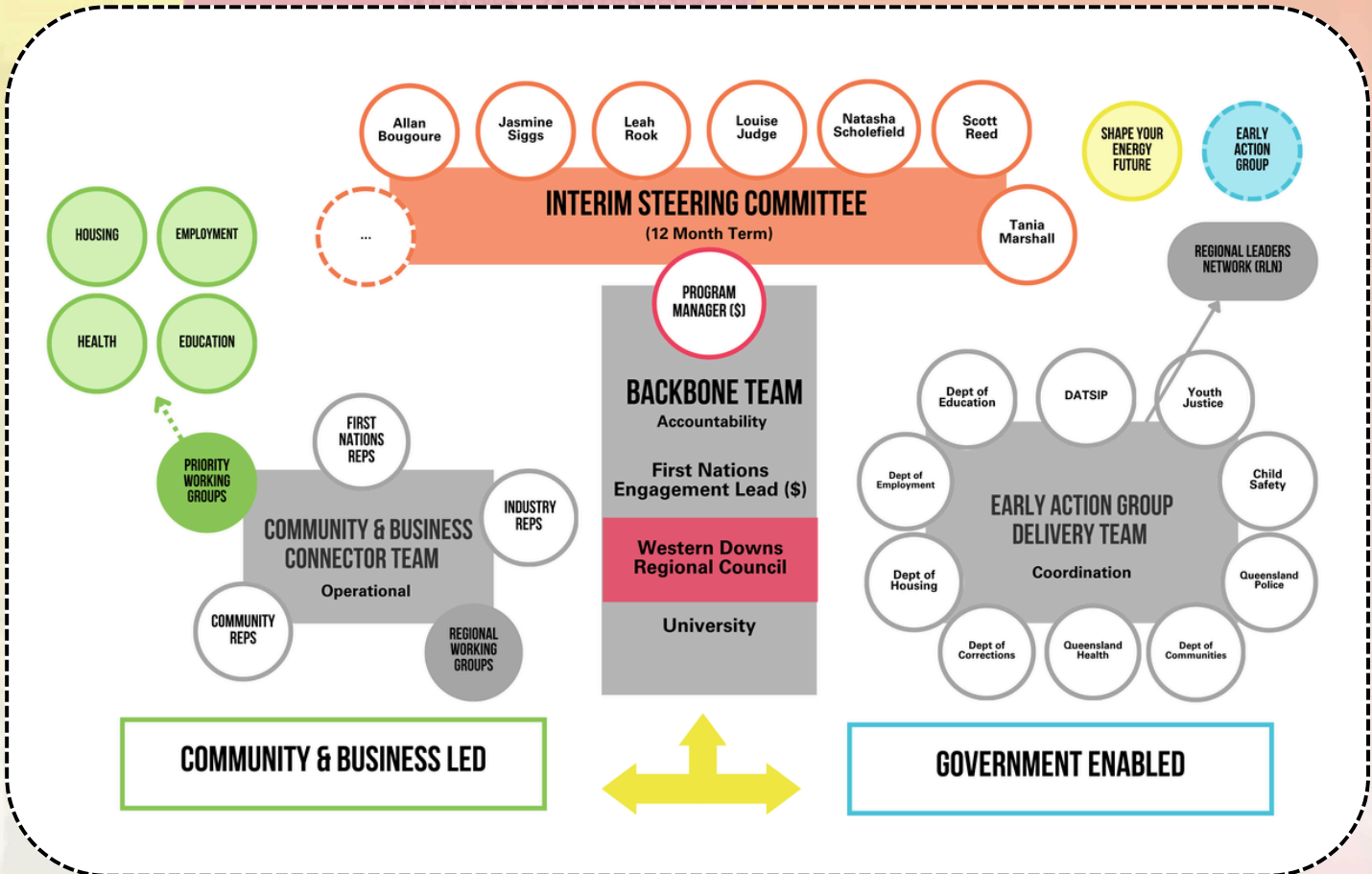
Employment Working Group is using a mutli-pronged approach to promote attraction, retention, training and skilling pathways in our region. They held a successful Employment Roundtable Forum in October, and are finalising a complete action plan with three key objectives. (1) Employers in the WD can easily attract and retain a workforce, (2) Employees can easily access the workforce in the WD, (3) Training and skill development pathways are prevalent to enable businesses to have strong workforce planning.



Education Working Group has been tackling the common challenge of childcare. After the Working Group Forum, Department of Education committed to coordinating an Approved Provider Action Group: a collaboration with each of the Early Childhood Education & Care providers in the region. The Working Group has also stood up a Dolly Parton Imagination Library Project Group who are progressing this project to provide a free book to all children born in the region every month for their first five years! Keep your eyes peeled for updates...



Health Working Group is collectively pursuing better access to healthcare across the Western Downs region. After mapping the interagency systems of healthcare in our region, they are looking at the possibility of amalgamating with the Health Sustainability Futures Group while continuing to report to Western Downs Futures. In pursuit of better access to healthcare and community safety, the group successfully advocated across their networks to ensure appropriate GP access over the Christmas & New Year period in the Chinchilla district.



## SHAPING WESTERN DOWNS ENERGY FUTURE

- Regional Benefit Sharing Project Team have finalised the options paper after engagements with industry, government, and WDF stakeholders. WDF is presenting the Options Paper to WDRC for support in 2025.
- Recruitment is underway for a “Project Officer Energy Futures” with WDRC’s Ec Dev team and will engage with Shape Your Energy Futures group to April 2026.



Department of State Development  
Regional Economic Futures Fund (REFF)  
\$400,000

## AT A GLANCE

- 9** Working Group Meetings facilitated in Q3, down from 13 in Q2
- 4** Interim Steering Committee Meetings facilitated in Q3, up from 3 in Q2
- 81** Members of the Working Groups in Q3, up from 62 in Q2.

Composition of Working Groups:  
**38%** COMM      **40%** IND      **22%** GOV