



Western Downs Regional Council Futures Progress Group meeting 8 August 2023

Summary of Meeting – key insights

On 8th August 2023, the Western Downs Futures Progress Team held their second meeting, at the Tara Soldiers Memorial Hall, which was attended by 30 participants. The workshop followed a similar approach to previous workshops with continued learning about place-based change and practical group work.

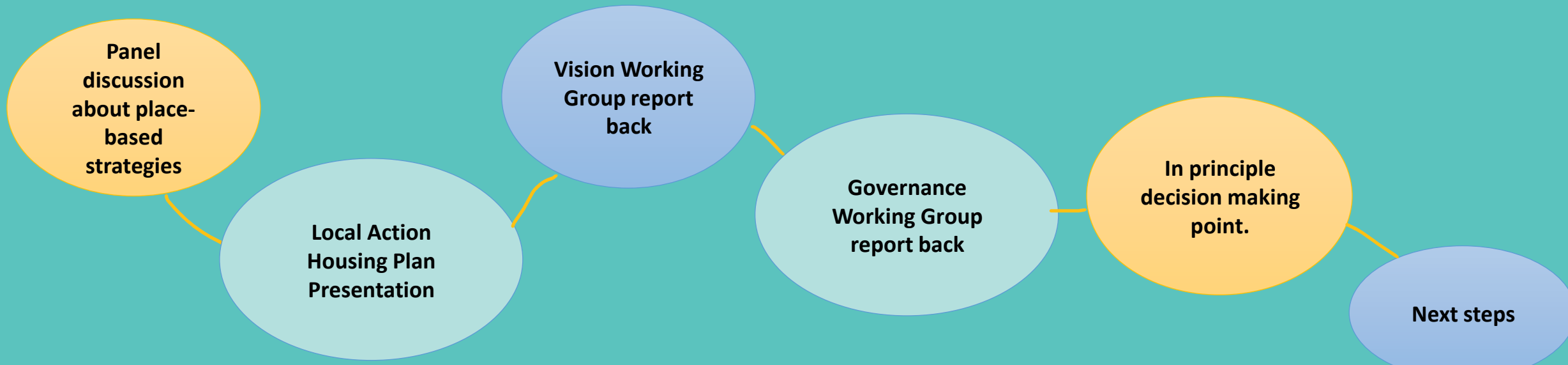
This meeting aimed to:

- continue learning from other examples of place-based change initiatives
- review the work that was progressed by the 2 x working groups established at the previous progress team meeting
- continue design work on the governance structure, principles and vision.

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

1. To finalise the vision statement.
2. Land the design of the governance structure.

Flow of the day



Learning and key insights

The opening session of the workshop was a panel discussion with Michelle Lucas (CEO of Logan Together), Chris Mitchell (QPS) and Daniel Fletcher (WDRC). Michelle Lucas was asked to share about the governance journey of Logan Together, and to share about any tips for the Western Downs Futures to hold in the design of their model. Chris and Daniel shared about their regional place-based strategies tour to Cairns, Townsville and Logan, their report was sent to all the Progress Team members as pre-reading.



Michelle Lucas recommendations:

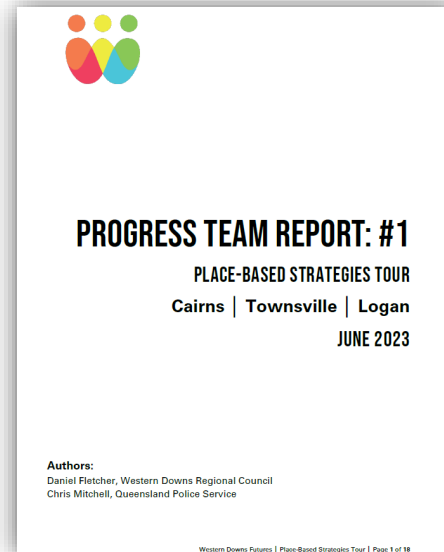
- Focus on establishing your Values & Principles and getting a shared understanding of these.
- Create a Common Language
- Logan Together has 3 Pillars that guide all their work.
 1. First Nations First
 2. Children First
 3. Community Led
- They do not deviate from these pillars.
- Their leadership Group is 1/3 community members ensuring the work is community led and co-designed with community. Corporate, government and services are also on the leadership group.

Creating the Logan Roadmap

- Using the 1000 Voice survey approach community members were asked 3 focus questions.
- 3 Focus communities, covering 67 suburbs have completed the 1000 voices survey.
- 600 people then participated in a workshop combining this data and additional evidence to prepare the Logan Road Map which sets out the generational change agenda.

Governance arrangements

- From 2014-2019 the initiative was housed in Griffith University.
- In 2019 they incorporated as Logan Together.
- It is important that the leadership and backbone have line of sight across the 5 Phases of collective impact to ensure that everything is running in alignment.



Chris Mitchell QPS and Daniel Fletcher WDRC completed a tour of place-based strategies in QLD to gather insights and learning about governance arrangements and ways of working. The insights are detailed in the report setting out 5 key recommendations for the Western Downs progress group as follows:

- Recommendation 1: Pursue Early Wins with an Early Action Group (EAG)
- Recommendation 2: Prioritise Planning over Haste
- Recommendation 3: Foster a Strong Sense of Belonging for Allocated Staff
- Recommendation 4: Embrace the Power of No/Low Funded Initiatives
- Recommendation 5: Early Involvement of Universities

Learning and key insights

Housing was identified as a priority area for the region at the Futures Summit in May, and the Department of Housing committed to develop a Local Housing Action Plan for the Western Downs region. Mary Crosdale from the Department of Housing presented an in-depth presentation about Local Housing Action Plans and what is being developed for the Western Downs region.

She explained that each LHAP provides an overview of **key community and housing characteristics**, and **emerging issues** related to housing in the community and identifies a targeted initial set of **priority actions** to respond to housing need that can improve housing responses in the short and longer-term. The Western Downs Regional Council is currently working with the department to develop the LHAP. This plan would help the Western Downs Futures group to collaborate to address Housing needs in the region.



Local Housing Action Plans

Purpose

- To improve **awareness** of drivers underpinning housing issues in individual local government areas.
- To encourage **action** to be taken by local governments to address such drivers over the short, medium and long-term.
- To build and maintain purposeful **relationships** with councils about strategic housing priorities and opportunities.



Vision Working Group Report back

Learning and key insights

The Vision Working group followed the process set out below to progress work in between the Progress Team meetings on the vision. The group reported back on the process, the options and how they refined their statements to present three statements back to the group.



Working Group options for discussion and refinement

- VISION**
1. Connected Community Embracing Opportunity
 2. Connected Community Alive with Opportunity Growing Together
 3. A connected community bursting with opportunity for everyone to grow together

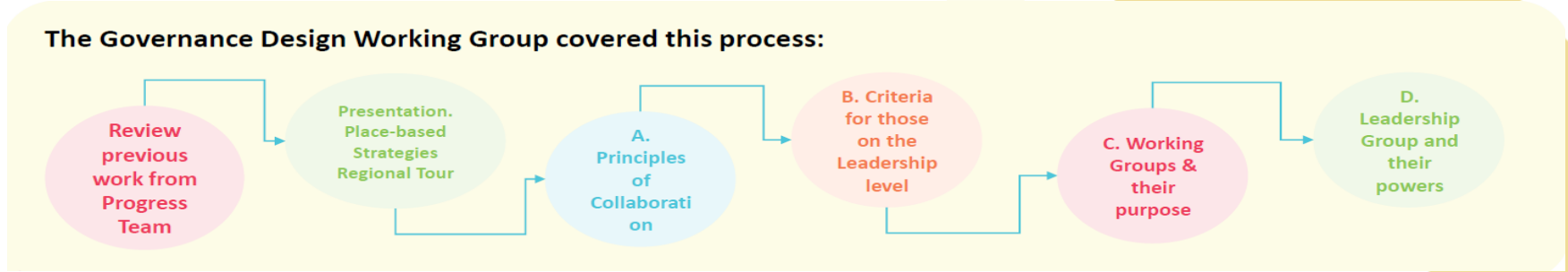
The participants began with some discussion about the options and then were asked to work in their smaller groups to refine the wording, and structure of the vision.

Following multiple rounds of voting and reworking, the group eventually landed on the following vision statement that will now be shared around the region to see how it resonates with others.

VISION
Connected Communities, Growing Together and Alive with Opportunities

Learning and key insights

The governance working group followed the process set out below to progress the governance and principles discussion.



Members of the governance working group presented back the different elements of the governance structure and explained how they had arrived at these arrangements. A detailed explanation of the arrangements was provided in the pre-reading. **Noting that the structure was in draft form and open for feedback and further input.**

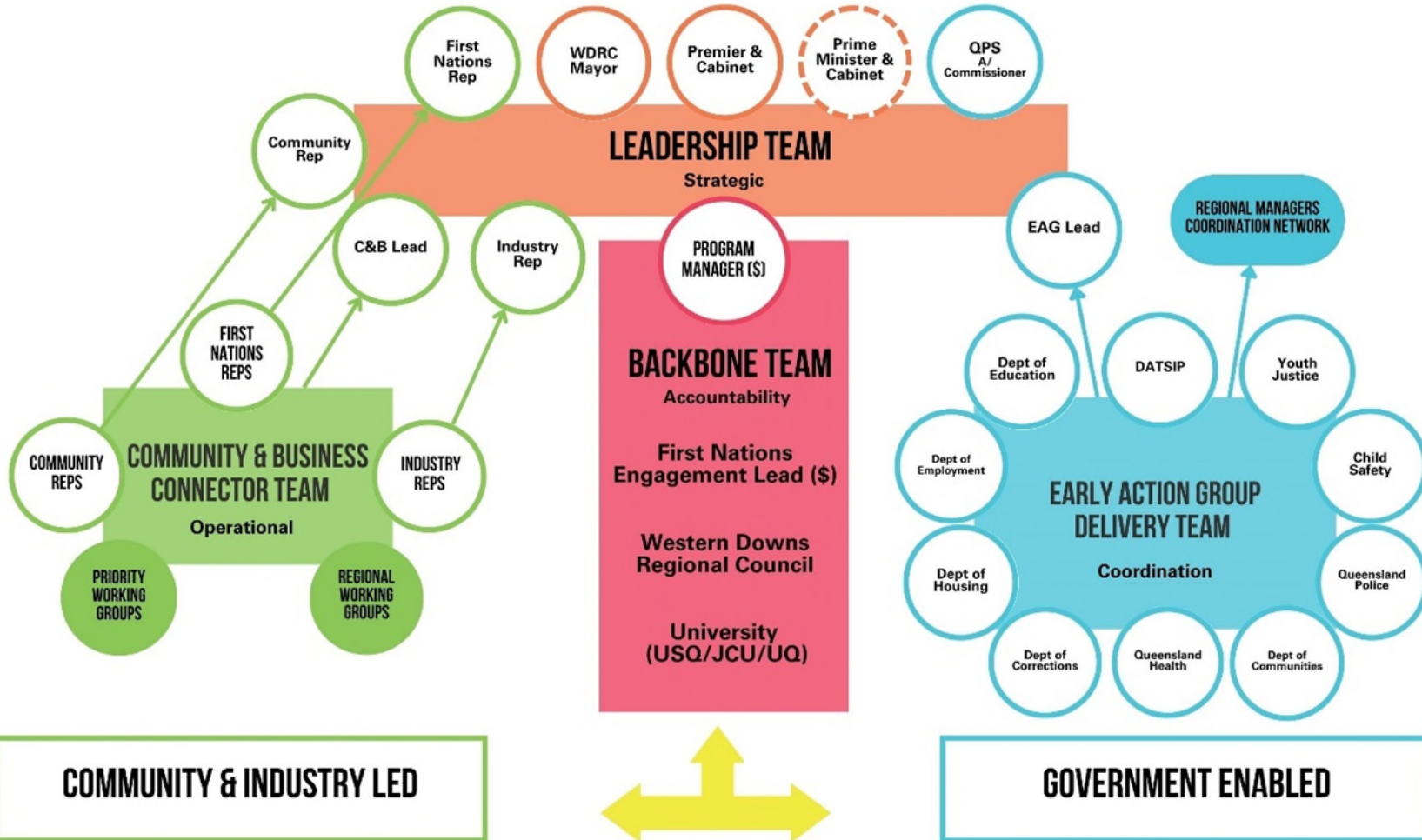
Following the presentation, smaller groups discussed the model and then provided feedback. The following table details the comments against the 4 key areas of the governance structure.

The group then worked through making some adjustments to the governance structure. The edits have been made in the supporting document **WDF Governance Arrangements and Context 8 August 2023.**

Leadership Delivery Team	Community & Industry Team	Early Action Group	Backbone
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is the chair a paid position? What roles are paid? There needs to be a clear line of site where conflicts of interest exist between representatives in the different areas. There needs to be a First Nations representative at the leadership table 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> C&I member should sit on the EAG and visa versa Following working groups completing their work they need to do post project evaluation to learn what worked and didn't. Strong cross over and info sharing across the C&I and EAG Working Groups should be issues based and attract people based on their interest in the issue, their passion and skills. Rules of engagement need to be established to call out conflicts of interest and this needs to be well documented. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We need to include the Department of Communities and Child Safety & Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 positions will need to be funded: Program Manager & First Nations Engagement Lead.

Learning and key insights

Consensus was reached for in-principle support towards this Governance Structure:



The group all voted *in-principle* to the final updated version of the structure, noting that more detailed work on the design was to come in further workshops.

This support would enable the WDRC to apply for funding for the 2 backbone positions. These positions were also agreed to by the group.

Next Steps

ACTION	WHO	BY WHEN
1. Circulate Principles for comment which we didn't get to today	Renee	One week post meeting
2. Circulate the Final Vision Statement for consultation with community	Renee	Completed on 10 August
3. Position Descriptions for the Program Manager and First Nations Engagement Lead for comment	Renee	One week post meeting
4. Revised Working Draft of the Governance Structure & Context to Progress Team, which was in-principle supported today	Renee	One week post meeting

