A new Grants to Local Government Model

The Grants Review Project will result in the implementation of a new and more efficient Grants to Local Government Model. The new model will apply to all local government grant funding from State Government agencies and is designed to be simple and adaptable and offer a coordinated approach. It will provide value for the state, while being responsive to community priorities. The new model encompasses:

• a single web page for grants to local government
• fewer departments administering grants
• alignment of program timeframes with council budget cycles wherever possible
• a single head funding agreement between the state and local governments
• consistent and standard templates for guidelines and applications
• quarterly reporting and/or project milestone reporting
• inclusion of funding for non-capital activities within infrastructure programs
• improved early stakeholder involvement and more time for councils to deliver projects (minimum two years).

Extensive engagement has occurred during the project with all 77 local governments provided the opportunity for input and state agencies and industry stakeholders involved in key consultation activities and working groups. Feedback has provided significant direction for the new model which is expected to be in operation by the end of 2019.

Due to the substantial response from over 90% of councils and local government stakeholder representative bodies – Local Government Association of Queensland, Local Government Managers Australia and Local Government Finance Professionals of Queensland – the department has been able to deliver a comprehensive and contemporary grants framework for all state agencies to leverage and ensure councils needs are at the center of local government grant design and evaluation.

Capacity building program

Through the department’s capacity building program, close to 1,500 participants, including councillors and staff from 76 councils, undertook capacity building during 2018-19. The program included information for local government election candidates, induction training for newly elected or recently appointed councillors, Tropical Council financial reporting workshops, professional development provided through the department’s Women in Local Government Strategy and governance and financial training provided by external training organisations.

Following legislative amendments to change the requirements for managing conflicts of interest, prohibiting developer donations and introducing a new councillor conduct and complaints framework, the department provided face to face training to more than 900 participants across 76 councils. Participants who provided feedback on the training recorded a satisfaction rating of 97%.

The department values client engagement with stakeholders, and has also employed modern approaches to engagement – webinars, online discussion papers and its first online training course on the mandatory Code of Conduct for Councillors in Queensland, which was introduced on 3 December 2018. Further online courses and materials will be developed in 2019-20.

Works for Queensland

Commencing in 2016-17 and with funding available up to 2020-21, Works for Queensland is now a $600 million program supporting local governments outside South East Queensland to undertake job-creating maintenance and minor infrastructure projects.

With funding provided for a variety of maintenance and minor infrastructure works that create local jobs, boost local economies and increase livability, the program has been an enormous success in towns and cities across regional Queensland. The latest round of Works for Queensland has been expanded to focus on providing job opportunities for young people not in education, employment or training.
Charles Moroney Park

Townsville received $23.24 million through the 2017-19 Works for Queensland program to undertake 18 projects which have supported or created a total of 314 jobs.

As part of this funding, the Council received $4.4 million towards the Charles Moroney Park Upgrade and supported 35 jobs.

The project provided a comprehensive upgrade of Charles Moroney Park to a District Recreational and District Sports Standard. The upgrade included the establishment of a new teen play area and fitness course, a new pump track for cyclists and a new car park. Along with these works, the rugby league and soccer fields and dog off-leash area were upgraded. Other improvements included building or installing additional shelters, seating, irrigation, landscaping and drainage to improve the amenity for visitors and nearby residents.

Nature Based Play Space at Plantation Park in the Burdekin

The Queensland Government contributed $2 million towards the design and construction of the Burdekin Shire Council’s Nature Based Play Space at Plantation Park. Designed to complement the natural bush setting, the state-of-the-art play space was designed with accessibility in mind and takes inspiration from the surrounding natural bush setting featuring a plethora of natural materials such as timber, grass, smoothed stones, river sand and water. It provides a wonderful and unique space for the Burdekin community. The works were funded using $1.5 million from a 2017 election commitment and an additional $500,000 from the 2017-19 Works for Queensland program.
Tree lined streets and an upgraded aquatic centre in Blackall Tambo

Blackall Tambo Regional Council’s plan to tree line their streets was given a helping hand through the Works for Queensland program. Rather than purchasing trees and transporting them at significant cost to Blackall, the council now grows its own. Apart from a significant cost saving, the saplings produced are native to the area and already acclimatised, with a considerably higher survival rate than if the trees were brought into the area.

Aged pipework at the Blackall Aquatic Centre was leaking significant amounts of water, estimated at 60,000 litres per day – a major concern during such an extended period of drought. The council used Works for Queensland funding to install new pipework. The new infrastructure will pay for itself through reduced water and chlorination costs.

The Mayor of Blackall Tambo Regional Council said, ‘During the toughest economic and climatic period on record, Works for Queensland has kept our regional infrastructure and social cohesion on a demonstratively positive level and has maintained employment with the upgrading and or development of our major assets’.

March of the Dungarees memorial at Warwick’s Leslie Park

The Memorial commemorates the March of the Dungarees which commenced in Warwick in 1915 with the intention of recruiting men for World War 1. At the start of the march, 28 local men enlisted and by the time the march reached Brisbane the number had increased to 128.
Graham Andrews Park at Charleville

The regeneration of this park has not only seen an immediate increase in community use but has been awarded the Parks and Leisure Australia Park of the Year award. The project included beautification of the lake area, pathways, interpretive signage, installation of park furniture and free electric barbecues.

The Graham Andrews Park forms part of the significant wetland of the Warrego River Floodplain and supports thousands of water birds. It is also home to the vulnerable Major Mitchell cockatoo, barking owls and red-tailed black cockatoos. The regeneration of the natural habitat for these and other wildlife along with water conservation measures has been an important part of creating an environmentally rich setting which is welcoming to all.

Infrastructure projects in Indigenous local government areas

Filtration plant on Horn Island

The 2018-19 State Budget provided $12 million over two financial years to improve the safety and quality of drinking water on Horn, Thursday and Hammond Islands. So far, the Torres Shire Council has installed temporary filtration units at the Horn Island water treatment plant to address water quality issues and to ensure long term access to healthy drinking water. More work is planned for the 2019 dry season.
Local Government Grants and Subsidies Program

Investment under the Local Government Grants and Subsidies Program supports councils to deliver priority infrastructure projects that contribute to sustainable and livable communities and support local employment opportunities. The results can be seen in the diversity of community projects completed in 2018-19.

State Emergency Services Centre at Arana Hills

Moreton Bay Regional Council received more than $1 million from the 2017-19 Local Government Grants and Subsidies Program towards the delivery of a purpose-built State Emergency Services Depot to support the operations of the Arana Hills State Emergency Service. The project included the construction and fit-out of a new administration building with adjoining storage shed and standalone vehicle accommodation. The Arana Hills State Emergency Service group now has increased capacity to deliver core community activities including storm damage operations, flood operations, land search activities and other emergency support services.

Inglewood Effluent Disposal Project

The joint project between the Queensland Government and the Goondiwindi Regional Council has resolved environmental issues with the disposal of treated effluent from the Inglewood sewerage treatment plant. The effluent is now compliant with Environmental Protection Agency guidelines. The treated water is used for irrigating horticultural crops in the Inglewood area supporting the region’s agricultural industry.

State Emergency Services Centre at Arana Hills

Inglewood Effluent Disposal Project
Queensland Multicultural Policy and Action Plan 2016-19


The Multicultural Policy focuses on the Queensland Government’s commitment for people from culturally diverse backgrounds, and for Queensland as a whole, across three priorities:

- achieving culturally responsive government
- supporting inclusive, harmonious and united communities
- improving economic opportunities.

2018-19 was the final year of implementation for the first Queensland Multicultural Action Plan, which was released in 2016 and committed 35 government agencies to 104 actions over a three-year period.

Examples of outcomes achieved include:

- 207 children from refugee or asylum seeker backgrounds enrolled in the Department of Education’s Refugee and Asylum Seeker Early Childhood Pilot Program
- two intakes involving over 40 recruits were involved in the Queensland Police Service’s Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Recruit Preparation Program
- over 6,800 migrants and refugees participated in TAFE Queensland’s Adult Migrant English Program annually across 40 delivery sites, including 900 humanitarian entrants who were provided with English and settlement support via the Special Preparatory Program
- more than 5,660 participants from culturally diverse backgrounds have been placed on pathways to employment since the reinstatement of the Department of Employment, Small Business and Training’s Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative
- engaged 101 Multicultural Queensland Ambassador organisations to provide employment and training programs for refugees and migrants through the Department of Local Government, Racing and Multicultural Affairs’ Multicultural Queensland Ambassador Program.

Roma Saleyards upgrade

The Roma Saleyards is the largest livestock selling complex in Australia with yarding capacity exceeding 10,000 head. $1.3 million was provided under the 2017-19 Local Government Grants and Subsidies Program towards the $2 million upgrade project which has enhanced the capacity and efficiency of saleyard operations, streamlined the flow of cattle and improved animal safety.
Multicultural Queensland Advisory Council

The Multicultural Recognition Act 2016 establishes the Multicultural Queensland Advisory Council. The Minister for Multicultural Affairs chairs the 11-member Council, which advises on opportunities and barriers facing people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and developing and implementing government policies about cultural diversity and inclusion.

The Council met five times in 2018-19 providing advice on a range of matters, including opportunities presented through the Deloitte Access Economics report, Seizing the opportunity: Making the most of the skills and experience of migrants and refugees; Queensland Multicultural Month; and engaging with the media to encourage more balanced and factual reporting relating to culturally and linguistically diverse communities and promoting positive stories.

The Council also met with Directors-General and senior executives from four different departments and six government agencies to advise and give feedback on the progress of actions in the first Queensland Multicultural Action Plan and recommend ways to strengthen their approach. Members of the Council also held an additional meeting with the chairs and secretariats of Parliamentary Committees to provide advice on ways to improve their engagement with Queenslanders from culturally diverse backgrounds.

Building connections – Community Action for a Multicultural Society

In 2018-19 the Queensland Government provided 19 community-based organisations across Queensland with $2.3 million under the Community Action for a Multicultural Society Program. The program is valued for the way it builds connected communities, removes barriers to participation and makes a positive difference to people’s lives. Highlights include:

- Mercy Community Services (Toowoomba) worked with the Yazidi community from Northern Iraq to organise the inaugural commemoration of the Yazidi Genocide. The commemoration was broadcast on local television and attended by almost 500 people. The program also recruited 49 parents and children from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds to enter a prize-winning float in the 2018 Toowoomba Festival of Flowers.
- Multicultural Communities Council (Gold Coast) organised the 2018 Walk Together event held at the Broadwater Parklands Gold Coast attended by an estimated 800 people. The walk included Syrian, Niuean, Maori, Indonesian and Brazilian cultural stops.
- Good Shepherd Parish (Mt Isa) assisted isolated women to access local driving schools, TAFE courses, English speaking programs and a new computer room to access employment opportunities. The program supported 10 of the 14 new participants into employment.
- The Neighbourhood Hub (Mackay) delivered an International Day for World Indigenous People including a Yarning Circle with local Indigenous groups, an International Literacy Day and World Café Christmas Carols event. Diverse families were able to connect with the wider community and gain exposure to different cultures and receive information on how to access services.
Multicultural Queensland Ambassador Program

The Multicultural Queensland Ambassador Program aims to empower Queensland’s leading corporations, institutions and organisations to embed the Multicultural Queensland Charter within their workforce and business practices.

Organisations nominate an Ambassador representative to lead this process, which includes assisting their organisation to commit to the Charter, strengthen their cultural capability and adopt best practices to promote cultural diversity and inclusion. The department supports Ambassador organisations by facilitating connections, providing learning resources and designing and delivering exclusive events and activities to encourage positive action.

In 2018-19, the department welcomed 21 new organisations to the Ambassador program taking the total number of Ambassador organisations to 101—this includes 18 cultural advisor organisations who work within the multicultural sector and are well placed to advise and partner with corporations to deliver diversity and inclusion initiatives.

Highlights include:

- Suncorp partnered with Multicultural Development Australia to improve financial literacy and expand employment pathways for vulnerable migrants and refugees, leading to the direct employment of nine Multicultural Development Australia clients this year.
- Football Queensland and ACCESS Community Services are partnering to deliver several all-ages multisport events to encourage greater diversity and participation.
- Randstad partnered with Multicultural Development Australia to deliver a six-week mentoring program for young people from migrant and refugee backgrounds to help prepare them for the workplace, and secure employment.
Supporting intercultural connections and pathways to participation

The Celebrating Multicultural Queensland Program is an annual program that provides funding towards multicultural events and projects that engage people from culturally diverse backgrounds to contribute to building an inclusive, harmonious and united Queensland. In 2018-19 the department allocated funding to over 164 events and initiatives. Highlights that reinforce the importance of building connections in early-life include:

- Circus workshops in Townsville involving 25 students from diverse cultural backgrounds in grades 6 to 10 have helped to build self-esteem and confidence and build connections with other students.
- More than 110 high school students from Pacific Islander communities in Logan were engaged in a day long leadership development workshop that promoted increased self-confidence and practical knowledge about how they can progress towards life goals, including pathways to employment and higher education opportunities.
- 17 high school students from diverse cultural backgrounds from grades 7 to 11 were engaged in a series of music workshops in Brisbane, which provided an opportunity for them to share both experiences and future plans as a migrant or refugee through songs and musical performances.

Queensland Multicultural Month

Queensland Multicultural Month is the state’s largest multicultural celebration held in August each year. Queensland is a multicultural success story and the month presents an opportunity to showcase and celebrate our unique diversity and its benefits. People from across the state come together to perform, share, taste, listen, learn and acknowledge that, while we may come from different cultures, we all love living in Queensland.

Highlights include:

- Multicultural Queensland Awards - since 1990 the awards have recognised the valuable contributions of Queenslanders who support and promote an inclusive, harmonious and united Queensland community. In 2018, 133 state-wide nominations were received, and the award winners were announced at a gala lunch with 426 guests in attendance.
- Multicultural Race Day - the inaugural Multicultural Race Day was held at Doomben Racecourse in partnership with Brisbane Racing Club featuring multicultural entertainment and ‘Diversity Dash’ and ‘Global Gallop’ races.
- Multicultural Plaza at the Brisbane EKKA - featuring a diverse array of talented Queensland musicians, the Multicultural Plaza Music Stage was attended by over 414,000 people.
- Culture Train Regional Music Tour - in partnership with BEMAC, the Culture Train tour visited 15 locations across Queensland including North Stradbroke Island, Roma, Gladstone, Emerald, Charleville, Chinchilla, Dalby, Longreach, Barcaldine, Rockhampton, Childers, Cherbourg, Toowoomba, Ipswich and Brisbane.
Racing forum brings stakeholders together to deliver industry reform

In October 2018, the Queensland Government agreed to increase funding levels for Queensland thoroughbred TAB race meetings by $26 million in exchange for a commitment to broader industry reforms with $18 million released from 1 November 2018.

In March 2019, the department in collaboration with Racing Queensland held a Racing Industry Forum bringing together government and over 60 racing industry stakeholders from all codes to discuss a reform agenda with the aim of achieving a more sustainable racing industry in Queensland.

Following this consultation and the development of key racing industry reform initiatives, the Queensland Government agreed to release the remaining $8 million of the $26 million thoroughbred TAB prize money and an additional $12 million over three years for greyhound and harness racing.

This is in addition to the government’s commitment of $70.4 million until 2020-21 to support country racing in recognition of the significant social and economic benefits of country racing to regional communities across the state.

Actions committed to through the Racing Industry Forum include:

- the attendance of the Minister for Racing at a minimum of one of each racing code panel meeting per annum
- Racing Queensland is to review racing products in Queensland to ensure best commercial outcomes across all codes of racing
- Racing Queensland will convert non-TAB racing to TAB racing across all codes, where viable
- the department and Racing Queensland will support race clubs to diversify and promote the practice of multi-use facilities
- the Minister for Racing will consider hosting a second all-codes industry and government forum to evaluate progress against reform initiatives
- race clubs will actively seek to add people from more diverse backgrounds and independent members to their boards and committees, as a modern best-practice governance model.

Scenes from the forum