



## North West Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils (NWQROC)

### Strategic Plan 2018-2021

#### Vision, Mission, Regional Priorities and Action Plan

##### **Vision**

Making North West Queensland a region attractive for people and businesses to live, work and invest.

##### **Mission**

Through collaboration and innovation, the NWQROC will work with the councils, communities and people of the North West creating and shaping the future of the region.

##### **Regional Priorities & Action Plan**

###### *1. Effective Political and Stakeholder Engagement*

- 1.1 Build effective apolitical working relationships with key State and Federal Ministers, Shadow Ministers and cross-bench members based on the identified regional priorities.
- 1.2 Work in close collaboration with regional departmental officers serving the NWQROC area to support implementation of the regional priorities.
- 1.3 Build effective working relationships with native title and traditional owners, and regional industry representative bodies to create opportunities for collaboration in the development and promotion of the North West.
- 1.4 Develop a North West Queensland Regional Narrative profiling the region's strengths and opportunities to support advocacy initiatives and promotion of the region.

###### *2. Supporting Regional and Economic Development of the State's North West*

- 2.1 Build relationships with the Mount Isa -Townsville Enterprise Zone (MITEZ) and Gulf Savannah Development (GSD) bodies seeking alignment with member council and NWQROC priorities and collaboration opportunities.
- 2.2 Work with industry representative bodies to support the region's agricultural and beef industries, focussing on road and transport infrastructure and bio-security responsibilities relating to weed and pest animal management.

- 2.3 Work with the the Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ), Trade and Investment Queensland (TIQ) and Austrade on trade and investment promotion and marketing opportunities for the North West.
  - 2.4 Engage the State Government and resources sector on the ongoing development of strategy and policy for the North West Minerals Province to achieve sector diversity and resilience and engagement on the infrastructure needs of member Councils within the province.
  - 2.5 Work with the State Government, Regional Tourism Organisations and the LGAQ on the development of programs and funding support for regional tourism promotion, product development and capacity building.
  - 2.6 Work with traditional owners to secure a better undertaking of native title and cultural heritage issues and resolving difference to promote regional development and the creation of indigenous business opportunities.
3. *Developing Regional Infrastructure, Transport Networks and Workforce Capability*
- 3.1 Engage the Federal and State Governments on the development of new financial assistance, grants and subsidy schemes to support the sustainable operation of member Councils recognising their expanding infrastructure and service provision responsibilities and limitations on their own source revenue raising capacity.
  - 3.2 Work with the Department of Transport and Main Roads, the North West Queensland Regional Roads and Transport Group, Ports North and Regional Development Australia – Townsville and North West Queensland on the development of an agreed transport network for the region’s road, rail, air and maritime services networks.
  - 3.2 Seek the development of collaborative arrangements amongst the State Government, member Councils, the LGAQ and qldwater for regional water security including river catchments and the Great Artesian Basin, and the management and operation of water, sewerage and waste infrastructure.
  - 3.3 Work with member Councils on the assessment of future workforce requirements acknowledging an aging workforce, recruitment and retention challenges and the impacts and opportunities of automation and innovation.
4. *Protecting the Region’s Environment, Natural Assets and Adapting to Climate Change*
- 4.1 Work with the Federal and State governments and industry groups on strategies to minimising the impact of climate conditions, climate events and seasonal fluctuations including drought, cyclones and floods on land, wetland and marine environments as well as rural producers, businesses and communities.
  - 4.2 Engage regional Natural Resource Management groups, State and Federal governments, land owners including traditional owners, and the LGAQ on the review of roles, responsibilities and funding arrangements for natural asset management and exploring a regional approach and funding to support local governments meet their obligations under the *Biosecurity Act 2014*.
  - 4.3 Work with the LGAQ on:
    - 4.3.1 Implementation of the Queensland Climate Resilient Councils (Q-CRC) program and the development of climate change strategies for the region, and

4.3.2 Implementation of the Coastal Hazards Adaptation Program – QCoast<sub>2100</sub> assisting coastal councils plan for and develop adaptation strategies to the impacts of climate change and rising sea levels.

5. *Provision of Equitable Health, Medical and Educational Services*

5.1 Work with State and Federal Governments to ensure their continued delivery of health, education, medical and housing services to the region essential for community liveability, health and well-being and stopping any further withdrawal from the provision of these services.

5.2 Work with member Councils to secure better funding and support for their provision of non-traditional local government services arising from Federal and State government services being withdrawn, for example, aged care, medical, hospital, early childhood and housing services.

6. *Affordable Access to Telecommunication and Broadband Services*

6.1 Work with member Councils, community organisations and industry bodies to identify telecommunication and broadband services availability, capacity and challenges applying across the region as well as digital economy opportunities through better access to and more affordable pricing of under-utilised network capacities.