

Gympie Region Local Housing Action Plan (LHAP) - Implementation

Working Together Commitment

Endorsed 15 June 2023

BACKGROUND

Parties to this Commitment

- Gympie Region Housing and Homelessness Forum - a community led network comprised of individuals and community organisation and government agency representatives. The network has been meeting since 2019.
- Gympie Regional Council – represented by Community Services Team and Planning Team.
- Queensland Government – represented by Department of Housing.

Local Housing Action Plan

The Gympie Region Local Housing Action Plan 2022 (LHAP) aims to improve the availability, diversity and quality of housing overtime and encourages community liveability, resilience, and social and economic prosperity. The LHAP was jointly developed by the Queensland Government and Gympie Regional Council and adopted by Council in September 2022.

The LHAP was informed by the advocacy and issues raised by the Gympie Region Housing and Homelessness Forum over many years, and this is reflected in this Commitment to work together on the implementation of the LHAP. It is anticipated that the Plan will be implemented until at least December 2025, with further iterations developed.

Purpose of this Commitment

The purpose of the Working Together Commitment is to provide the parties with guidance about how we will work together to progress actions under the Local Housing Action Plan (LHAP) and other actions that may arise within the general scope of the LHAP. The Commitment is a non-legally binding document.

A shared purpose

We have a shared purpose to improve housing for the Gympie region and in turn improve the overall health and wellbeing of this community. We are committed to working together to implement the Gympie Region Local Housing Action Plan.

OPERATIONAL MATTERS FOR WORKING TOGETHER

Role of the Implementation Parties

A working group of Gympie Regional Council and State Government representatives have primary responsibility for progressing actions and next steps, reviewing findings and reporting against the LHAP. The working group will engage with the housing and social services sector to develop or refine targeted responses.

Representatives of Council and the State Government will engage with the Gympie Region Housing and Homelessness Forum to review actions, gain insight into emerging community issues and develop regional responses in alignment with the overall direction of the Plan.

Frequency of Engagement

Forum meetings are held approximately once a month. The parties agree that implementation of the LHAP will be an agenda item at least every quarter, or more frequently, while the LHAP is being implemented by Council and State Government.

Secretariat

The Forum's Chairperson (or delegate) is responsible for setting up meetings, preparing and distributing any agendas and minutes, and distributing documentation from State and Council representatives.

A schedule of LHAP topics will be agreed ahead of meetings to enable parties to prepare and benefit from constructive and informed engagement. Council and State Government representatives are responsible for preparing the materials for LHAP agenda items prior to meetings.

At each meeting in which the LHAP is an agenda item, a quorum of 6 Forum participants present will agree on a summary of the key LHAP points discussed at the meeting for quarterly reporting purposes by the Council and the State.

Meeting Protocol and Principles

We agree to:

- Record attendance, produce an agenda and provide minutes for LHAP matters
- Listen to each other's viewpoints and respect differences and backgrounds as they add value to group and individual perspectives
- Participate openly and honestly
- Not make improper use of confidential information
- Take a strengths-based approach and look for solutions
- Make sure our discussions and actions are informed by and support the people, places and resources of the Gympie regional community
- Learn from housing strategies and ideas from other places

Type of engagement

When we meet, the level of engagement between the parties will be made clear and will span the community engagement spectrum framework:

- Inform: provide information to increase awareness of an issue, opportunity or decision
- Consult: seek feedback on alternatives or analysis
- Involve: work together to ensure Forum participants' concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the actions and alternatives developed
- Collaborate: seek Forum Participants' advice and innovation in formulating solutions, and incorporating that advice into the recommendations and decisions of the State Government and Council within the priorities, actions and resources of the Local Housing Action Plan

Declaration of Interest

Forum participants may have a range of interests that arise at different stages of the LHAP's implementation. Participants agree to declare these interests as they arise, and the Chairperson will direct the agenda discussions in a way that ensures everyone present can continue to participate.

Reporting

Representatives of Council and the State Government must report on the implementation of the LHAP to their agencies on a quarterly basis. As part of this Working Together Commitment, Council and State Government representatives commit to sharing the issues, insights and escalations raised by Forum participants in their quarterly reports. Council will make the quarterly reports available on its website.

Confidentiality and Media

The parties agree that there is value in being able to openly share and discuss information at the Forum. Sometimes items may be confidential and may contain information that is not to be shared outside of the Forum meeting. Where this applies, the Forum participant presenting the information will make this known at the Forum meeting.

Individuals, organisations and agencies agree not to make any public statements on behalf of other parties, noting that Forum participants need to comply with their own organisation’s media procedures.

Review

Parties may review and amend this Working Together Commitment at any time, with a review to be undertaken at least annually in February of each year.

2023 MEETING SCHEDULE

Forum Meeting Date	LHAP Workshop Topic	Engagement Level	Resources/Material
18 May 2023	LHAP Working Together Commitment and Update	Inform and Consult	Draft Working Together Commitment
15 June 2023	Land, Planning and Optimisation	Inform, Consult, Involve	Housing Needs Assessment; Residential Housing Policy Position Paper (Local Planning Scheme); Fact Sheet and Survey
17 August 2023	People in Need and Supports	Inform, Consult, Involve, Collaborate	Nil
16 November 2023	Master Planning, Capital Solutions and Construction. Wrap up for 2023	Inform, Consult, Involve, Collaborate	To be confirmed

Response Opportunities

A Local Housing Action Plan enables engagement across all levels of government, and benefits from partnerships between private and not-for-profit organisations.

An initial set of tactical actions has been developed, enabling refinement through an ongoing iterative process. These actions provide for a targeted response and outcomes that will seek to either create immediate benefit or establish a foundation for the next phase of actions. More specific responses will be determined in consultation with the local housing and social services sector. These responses can provide flexibility in delivery and support each of the broad areas identified.

