

Concise interim report from Habitat3 for South East Queensland (28 Jan 2017)

Localising international policy SDSG11 and New Urban Agenda into SEQ

Why? In order to build hope for a better future, we need to understand and implement the transformative power of cities through principles (1) leave nobody behind (2) a fairer economy (3) environmental care as foundations for a robust system upon which our healthy life depends.

This UNAAQ event responds to (1) Sustainable Development Goal 11 (cities); the New Urban Agenda: Habitat3 toward 2035, and the draft 2016 South East Queensland Regional Plan that envisages a 50-year future. South East Queensland comprises 6 cities, 17 urban centres, 47 towns and many rural centres, inside an area equivalent to the Netherlands. SEQ benchmarking against 25 regions over 2 decades shows our performance is variable. A range of reporting tools record our stewardship and quality of life. SEQ trends are worrying, and mirror Australian SDGA 2016 results.

79 people from different backgrounds, disciplinary and community roles participated. One third of represented as 'under 35 year olds' while half the room identified as 'over 50'. Apart from community leaders, there were planners, scientists, architects, engineers, landscape designers, urban professionals, teachers, lawyers, business owners, health and emergency services professionals.

A background paper was provided to all participants with a full set of NUA policy and practice statements that institutionalise action for shared governance and culturally appropriate implementation. This allowed great speed of learning as our 16 speakers and 4 moderators shared their expertise and passion for the better future.

Aunty Ruby gave an indigenous traditional acknowledgement also set the scene for gender sensitive pathways for intergenerational, intercultural and interdisciplinary methods for our common future. Song-lines were gifted to us as the SEQ anthem and sung by the Rachel Hore choir; with the Earth Charter art by Graham Payne (community of life drawing) now hot-linked in electronic papers. During the afternoon, slam poetry was written for us and shared in the final panel session. This memento is being gifted to us as a motivational tool to go forward for the next 5 years. 4 Expert Panels each answered set questions to focus our thoughts:

1. Evolution and achievements for SEQ
2. The future prospects and possibilities (active Habitat 3 representatives)
3. Practices and innovative implementation – case studies
4. Shared governance – roles and responsibilities

After lunch Uncle Desmond gave a welcome to his country. Then participants chose what topics they wished to pursue to advance the NUA themes in SEQ. These included (1) access to affordable housing; (2) empowering vulnerable peoples and the working poor through sharing food, assets, public assets, public transport, and basic human needs (3) jobs and entrepreneurship (4) Greenspace stewardship (5) Protecting public space for use by everyone (recreation, community farm, non-privatisation of river/ beach access) (6) regenerative urban design for climate (7) shared governance framework for SEQ accountability, (8) inclusive infrastructure investment. After teamwork, a spokesperson shared their innovative local approaches. Wow! People socialised considerably before heading home. The outcomes included greater goodwill and draft '**We the Peoples of SEQ Declaration**' to shepherd local action. This will be reviewed over the next 5 years (probably this anniversary date). Special thanks go to UNAAQ team and active partners.