

QRC Social and Community Development Policy

The Queensland Resources Council (QRC) is committed to working with members and governments to establish and maintain the livability of the communities in which member companies operate.

QRC will provide strategic leadership in social policy and community development by:

- promoting good communication and engagement within and between the resources sector and stakeholders
- supporting resources sector involvement and contributions to build social capacity and sustainability of resource communities
- promoting assessment, monitoring and management of social impacts and benefits associated with resource industry operations
- working with stakeholders to secure adequate social services and infrastructure for resource communities
- establishing resource industry positions on social and community development issues
- providing industry representation and promoting member companies at key forums
- developing and maintaining relations with key government and non government stakeholders
- working with key stakeholders to achieve an equitable regulatory framework.



Social and Community Development Policy

Guidance notes

The purpose of these guidance notes is to set the strategic direction for the Queensland Resources Council's (QRC) Social and Community Development Policy implementation.

The policies and programs outlined in these notes will also provide the foundation for developing QRC's Board and Secretariat Strategic Plan annual objectives and targets.

The basis of the Social and Community Development Policy is QRC's commitment to working with members and governments to establish and maintain the livability of the communities in which member companies operate.

In achieving this, QRC will provide strategic leadership in social policy and community development, specifically raising awareness of industry achievements, encouraging companies to strive to achieve leading practice in community development, and working with government, industry and other stakeholders to facilitate equitable outcomes for member companies.

To provide this strategic leadership, QRC is committed to:

Promoting good communication and engagement within and between the resources sector and stakeholders

- Promote good communications and engagement skills within member companies such as supporting relevant educative programs to further develop these skills.
- Promote opportunities for the resources sector to exchange information on social policy issues and community development matters.
- Promote open communication with host communities and stakeholders prior to and throughout the life of resource industry operations.
- Develop tools and voluntary mechanisms to encourage clear communication and maintain relationships with stakeholders, for example, community liaison groups and codes of conduct.

Supporting resources sector involvement and contributions to building social capacity and sustainability of resource communities

- Take an active role and interest in the work and community programs of member companies, and seek and promote ways to add value to existing programs.
- When approached by external organisations, inform member companies of new and emerging opportunities for involvement in community development projects, and where appropriate promote avenues for companies operating in the same local area to work collaboratively, for example Central Queensland Health Collaborative Midwifery Program.
- Promote externally the contributions made by member companies to local and regional communities, through regional forums and development of a booklet to highlight leading practice initiatives.

Promoting assessment, monitoring and management of social impacts and benefits associated with resource industry operations

- Encourage further research and improved industry practice in key aspects of impact assessment and management, such as cumulative and regional impacts, and encourage ongoing monitoring of social impacts and benefits.
- Develop tools to promote leading practice in assessment and management of social impacts and benefits.

Working with stakeholders to secure adequate social services and infrastructure for resource communities

- Continue to advocate that the resources sector should not be regarded as a surrogate for government in the provision of basic social and infrastructure services in resource communities.
- Promote partnerships and frameworks between all levels of government, industry and other stakeholders to secure essential services.
- Work with non-government groups such as the Rural Doctors Association and Queensland Cancer Council to actively lobby for further provision of services and infrastructure.

Establishing resource industry positions on social and community development issues

- Work with member companies to establish resources industry positions on key social policy and community development issues, such as the provision of services and infrastructure, housing and accommodation arrangements, community funding and support.
- Use industry positions to inform all levels of government and other stakeholders of industry practices and policies, for the purposes of negotiating and securing preferred outcomes for industry on key issues.

Providing industry representation and promoting member companies at key forums

- Attend key forums to provide resources industry input, and ensure whole-of-sector representation.
- Provide feedback to members, and identify key emerging issues and concerns.

Developing and maintaining relations with government and non government stakeholders

- Develop and maintain relationships with key stakeholders, who have an interest and role in ensuring the social wellbeing of regional resource communities, including community groups and organisations for example the Mackay Whitsunday Regional Economic Development Corporation and Central Queensland Health Collaborative and non-government representative bodies such as AgForce, other industry representative bodies including APPEA and the MCA and all levels of government.
- Develop and deliver information programs to key stakeholders.

Working with key stakeholders to achieve an equitable regulatory framework

- Lead the Queensland resources sector in negotiating with all stakeholders in the development of policies, legislation, regulations, guidelines and procedures so as to achieve an equitable regulatory and non-regulatory framework for addressing social impacts and benefits, and the provision of social services and infrastructure.

