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A CHARTER FOR QUEENSLAND PLACES

QUEENSLAND BOARD FOR URBAN PLACES

Att 2 A Charter for Queensland Places



A Charter for Queensland Places

The Queensland Board for Urban Places

provides guidance and leadership

to ensure the best futures for our Queensland places.

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About this Charter

This Charter calls for a Queensland response to our place making and enunciates seven principles to guide the scoping, planning, procurement, development, transformation and evaluation of our places.

The Charter is intended for all Queenslanders; those who shape our environment, those who seek to make, use or understand Queensland places.

No act of place making exists in isolation. Every act of place making, from the smallest local intervention to the largest regional infrastructure project, influences life within and beyond that place.

Place making is not the responsibility of one particular individual or group; everybody may contribute to, and benefit from, the enhancement and transformation of Queensland's urban places.

Who can use this Charter?

The purpose of this Charter is manifold.

For individual citizens and community groups, the Charter provides an understanding of the importance and potential of good place making, a framework for the articulation of needs, and supports raised expectations and demands for high-quality places.

For project developers, managers, and builders the Charter outlines key principles to guide good place making.

For designers, built environment professionals and social planners, the Charter outlines the critical elements and the outcomes to be achieved in the design of good places.

For educators and students of all ages and in all places, the Charter provides a guide for teaching and learning throughout Queensland.

For policy makers, decision makers and actors at all levels of government, the Charter will guide the scoping, briefing, procurement and development of places, and provide a framework for review.

For the Board¹, the Charter provides a framework for guidance and review of projects and policies. The principles set out in this Charter will be used by the Board to review projects and propositions, including major transport and public infrastructure, which will be expected to demonstrate how high-quality public places will be delivered for Queenslanders.

The Charter identifies place making principles to inform policies and practices. The Charter is a call to action to encourage us to work together to ensure Queensland places realise their potential. It is our future.

¹ <http://www.dip.qld.gov.au/local-area-planning/board-for-urban-places.html>

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The Charter

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Queensland's opportunity

Queensland is at an important crossroad.

Rapid change is occurring within Queensland, in our population, climate, culture and technology, and is expected to continue apace. Our consumption patterns per capita of key resources – water, fuel and land – have grown beyond sustainable levels.

Sadly, place making in Queensland has not always achieved a balance between the built and the natural, people and places, past, present and future. We have not always delivered the best places for Queensland and our people.

There has been a tendency to upset the balance between the built and natural environment, and to contain infrastructure costs. There is a danger that ecological mismanagement, ill-considered and unplanned growth, and 'business as usual' will kill the goose that laid the golden egg.

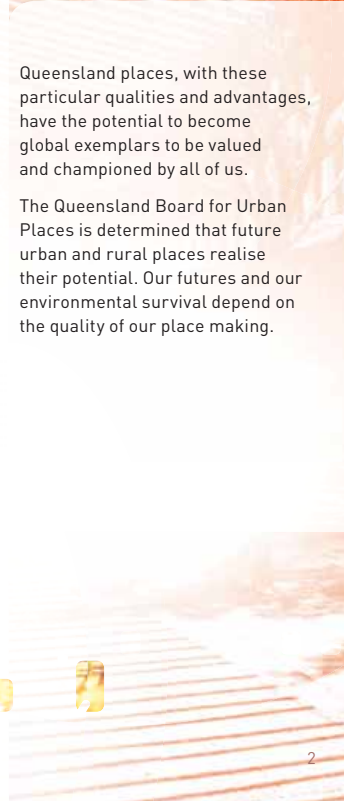
Good place making is fundamental to sustainable habitation in Queensland's places. We need to harness and manage change to deliver an enhanced quality of life for all, to conserve our precious resources and to ensure a sustainable future.

Queensland is in a unique and privileged position. We have wealth, resources and political stability: natural beauty and space abound.

Many of our places, for most of the year, enjoy some of the most benign climatic conditions on the planet, offering great opportunities for human comfort and amenity with low environmental impact. Ours is a state where the rich diversity of human settlement and natural environment is shaped by vast distances.

Queensland places, with these particular qualities and advantages, have the potential to become global exemplars to be valued and championed by all of us.

The Queensland Board for Urban Places is determined that future urban and rural places realise their potential. Our futures and our environmental survival depend on the quality of our place making.



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Queensland – Our Place

What is Queensland?

Queensland is not one place, but many places.

Queensland is the long, ever-changing coastline, the ocean and our many islands, the arid regions of Central Queensland, the dense jungles of the north, the dry tropics, the wet tropics, the sub-tropics, the Great Dividing Range and the Western Downs.

Queensland, the most decentralised state in Australia, is both remote and urban. Vast distances and diverse regional ecosystems of wilderness and natural green interweave with and separate our human settlements, large and small, coastal and inland. We live in tiny rural hamlets, vital country towns, busy coastal cities, in timber cottages, in suburban bungalows, in sparkling beach-hugging towers.

Queensland's varied climates and environments can be demanding. Queenslanders understand the experience of the intense summer sun, impossible glare, the powerful

contrast between light and shade, torrential summer rainstorms, stifling humidity, cold dry winters, blustering winds, floods, droughts and the quick descent of night. Our places provide opportunities for respite from and enjoyment of these varying conditions.

Queensland, a place with a valued past, is also a place of 'becoming'. Queensland has an ancient, rich Indigenous culture whose history and presence is tangible and alive. Subsequent settlers from all corners of the world have enriched and continue to enrich our culture and day-to-day life.

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Queensland – Our Place cont'd...

Our vibrant arts, mining, education and tourism sectors continue to shape our identity and economy. In recent years, Queensland's cultural identity has been radically influenced by migration from elsewhere. Queensland's culture, enriched by Indigenous, Pacific, European and Asian cultures, continues to evolve. There is a developing sense of strong connections with Asia and the Pacific in particular.

Queensland is a place where we value the quality of relationships between people, and between people and places, whether natural or made. Our places play an important role in nurturing these essential relationships.

Queensland is a place identified with an iconic building – the 'Queenslander' house, typified by its veranda – an in-between-place of prospect and refuge. We gather here in languid repose, in loose clothes and bare skin, retreating from the heat and glare, enjoying the breeze, a casual yarn and a cool drink. Here we engage with neighbours, the community and nature. The 'Queenslander' is an enduring symbol of our practical character and our openness, and speaks powerfully of our cultural values.

These Queensland values can also translate to contemporary neighbourhoods and, at a larger scale, to the way we may live and interact within our cities and towns. These are important sensibilities informing our place making.

A particular and identifiable 'Queenslander' evolution continues today as we experiment and abstract, across all scales of development and creative endeavour, with new ways to harmonise with, and celebrate, our unique cultures and environments.

An understanding of Queensland has informed the principles of this Charter to guide us as we navigate through an inevitably changing future and to ensure Queensland's places realise their potential.

The Principles

The Queensland Board for Urban Places has established seven principles to guide the making of successful places to benefit and sustain Queensland and its people.

- Our places embody our values and our uniqueness
- Our places are for people and about people
- Our places are ecosystems that we respect and nurture
- Our places value our natural landscape and waterways

- Our place experiences are enhanced by what we build and the spaces within and between
- Our places are connected, accessible and contribute to the surrounding neighbourhoods
- Our places are shaped by design, our shared responsibility and our management

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Our places embody our values and our uniqueness

Our places speak of and reflect our culture, memory, community values, aspirations and achievements.

A good place promotes belonging and attachment

A good place embodies and reflects our values and identity

A good place respects our past, the present and creates a framework for the generations to come

A good place has meaning for its users and for succeeding generations

A good place values its landmarks and ensures their setting is protected



Our places are for people and about people

Our places provide the stage for our well-being and our community life.

The experience, form and function of our places contribute to the quality of our lives.

A good place is comfortable, user-friendly, and welcoming to all

A good place provides a variety of rewarding experiences

A good place enhances human interaction and celebration

A good place encourages inclusion and involvement in all seasons, day and night

A good place is safe and secure

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Our places are ecosystems that we respect and nurture

Nowhere exists in isolation. Our places exist within, and are influenced by, the broader ecology, society and economy.

Our places are dynamic and interactive social, cultural and economic environments – highly complex and varied organisms.

The interactions between people, the natural and the built environments can contribute to a healthy ecosystem. This balance is central to life and to our effective and efficient use of finite resources.

A good place balances environmental, social, cultural, climatic and physical contexts for the benefit of this and future generations

A good place contributes constructively to its ecosystem and environment

A good place nurtures, sustains and benefits everybody now and into the future

A good place minimises energy and resource consumption throughout its life-cycle



Our places value our natural landscapes and waterways

The conservation of our existing natural pristine landscapes and waterways has not always been the priority it should be.

We need careful consideration of the location, arrangement and footprint of our built environment to ensure the preservation and development of these natural assets.

Our places should offer appropriately sized waterways and landscape zones for the benefit and overall health of all. Wildlife and natural corridors form essential links that must be maintained and augmented to enhance the regional biosphere network, buffer infrastructure corridors and offer relief and environmental benefit.

Our natural environments and waterways should inspire and suggest possibilities for the invigoration of existing places, and for creating new places.

A good place conserves the natural and pristine landscapes and waterways

A good place provides multiple opportunities to experience nature and its benefits

A good place contains green and blue networks offering connectivity, recreation and mobility for people and wildlife

A good place provides the opportunity to experience nature with greater awareness



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Our place experiences are enhanced by what we build and the spaces within and between

All elements of the built environment are important components of any human settlement.

Spaces are created by the groupings of buildings and structures defining networks of streets, plazas and open spaces.

The public realm accommodates our need for movement and access, gathering and recreation.

The uses within, and on, the edges of buildings and other structures interfacing with the public realm have the potential to enliven the places and spaces between.

Appropriately integrated infrastructure, buildings and services enhance the quality and experience of the public realm.

A good place has a memorable sequence of streets, thoroughfares and public spaces

A good place has buildings that play a significant role in creating a distinctive identity and meaning

A good place has infrastructure that supports the quality of our experience

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Our places are connected, accessible and contribute to the surrounding neighbourhoods

The quality of a place is determined by the quality of the experience of people moving around and within that place: by the clarity of its places, spaces and thoroughfares.

Our dependence on the private car is increasingly causing significant negative impacts and reducing ease of access.

Environments should be shaped to encourage walking, cycling, exercising, community life and the use of public transport.

Walking, cycling and user-friendly public transport should take precedence over the private car.

Good connectivity and access offers choices and enriches the public and private realm.

A good place provides legible way-finding between destinations

A good place is well-connected to other places

A good place is comfortable, safe and accessible by all

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Our places are shaped by design, our shared responsibility and our management

Everyone contributes to our life experiences within our places and the public realm.

All citizens, organisations and levels of government share responsibility, in varying degrees, for making and maintaining places of enduring quality. Individual or landowners' benefit should never be at the expense of a high-quality environment.

Design leadership, positive partnerships and collaboration are fundamental to successful place

making. Good design is more than just an aesthetic arrangement, more than just the placement of individual objects – it is a process whereby all elements of places are understood and blended into a meaningful whole.

Good design is all encompassing, resolves conflicting desires and is not governed by self-interest. Good places are created not through incidental or unplanned circumstances but through positive, informed, planned action – good design.

Custodianship, management and maintenance are critical for the success of a place throughout its life. At various intervals, a place or space should be reworked or adjusted to incorporate periodic feedback. Good management begins at inception and adjusts appropriately to the evolutionary stage and use of the place. At all times there needs to be an understanding of economic, community and ecological values.

A good place is created by the commitment of all who have a stake in that place

A good place is dependent on everyone meeting their responsibilities while exercising their rights

A good place has public infrastructure that supports the quality of experience of the place

A good place realises its potential based on effective leadership, partnerships, innovation and ongoing custodianship

A good place is made through considered, skilled and holistic design

A good place is one that finds appropriate and creative uses that enliven historic places and precincts, and provides a sense of historic continuity



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The Charter and future QBUP publications

This Charter is the foundation document in an intended suite of future Board publications. These will include a Tool Box providing a comprehensive interactive checklist for all phases of design, development and evaluation, as well as reports and advice on procurement processes and capacity building.

While this Charter calls for a particular Queensland focus and a vision encompassing our diverse regions, the Board acknowledges the existing good work relating to place making listed in the Acknowledgments and References section.

We encourage readers to explore this important subject and to take part with us in

shaping good places for Queensland's future.

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Acknowledgments and References

The Queensland Board for Urban Places acknowledges the following documents that provided helpful references for the development of the Charter.

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