



Working Sessions

Issues and Challenges

Group 1:

- People with good ideas don't know where to go for help
- Clifton – comparative advantages being realised by community committees.
 - o Tourism
 - o Aged care
 - o Agriculture – value adding
 - o Transport
- Conflicting Federal and State policies on land use eg. Federal form assets test vs State protection of agricultural land
- Satellite town CBD businesses closing because can't compete with larger businesses in town. Biggest risk factor for < 8,000 towns is narrow economic base

Group 2:

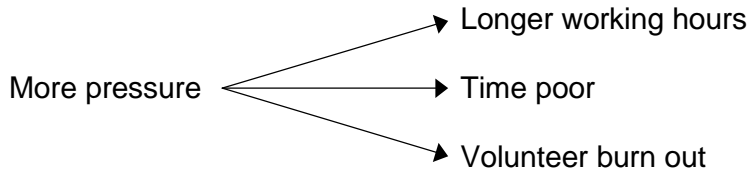
Opportunities

- Tele-working → work from home → anywhere in the world
- Easy access to politicians
- Skills audit of local people
- Interstate regional integration
- More willingness to co-operate (no other choice)
- Better use of educational institutions. Eg USQ, TAFE, Ag College
- Election year
- Community owned projects

Trends

Pop → Slow growth

Skills → Negative perception regarding local skills



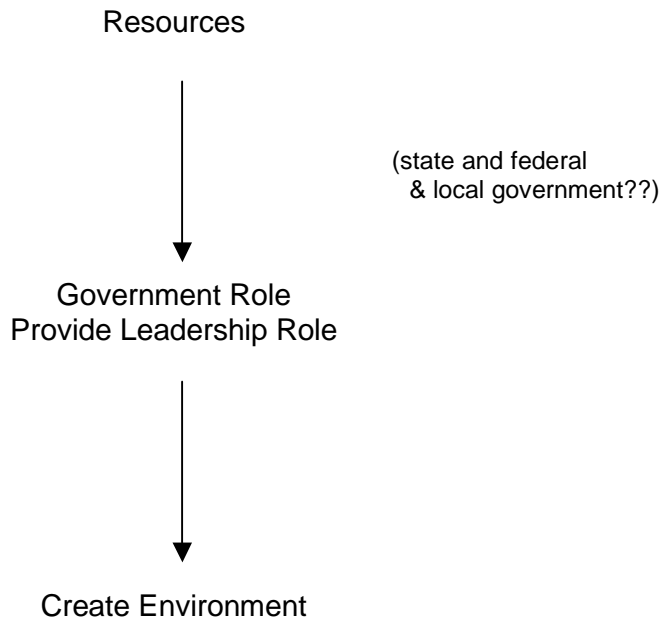
More by government to fund 'self sustaining' community development positions

Over reliance on government in some sectors

Group 3:

Regional Assessment

- Skills in community



Government backs up policy framework. With support community develops initiatives within the community. Is it a function of local government to find and develop the initiatives???. Does community want local government to undertake such a role?

Eg. Skill/resource assessment?

What about social infrastructure amenities?

Group 4:

Trends and Themes

- Living in comfort zone- ACTION NOW!
- Leadership is not strong and focused
- Learn the lessons of eg. Israel, Holland and Ireland
- Recognise that our most valuable commodity is information
- Develop models around relationship between research, implementations and profit sharing
- Working out of an old paradigm "Old empire"
 - o Needs review
- Commitment to futuring whole of community
- Commitment to community and therefore regional development is low
- Business are not necessarily interested
- One common focused vision

Group 5:

Trends

- ↓Population
- ↓Wealth
- ↑Tourism
- Distortion of unemployment figures due to manipulation
- Catchment policy/management focus

Important Issues From Today

- Recognition of business culture differences – metro/bush
- Capacity – critical mass?
- Recognition of inter – regional differences (trends/stats. Etc)
- Capacity to manage change
- Dig up the relevant data stats, stuff → top profile region/sub-region /L.G.A
- Recognition of the people stuff (triple bottom line)
- Social impact resulting in government policy → regionally specific
- Regional scenario building
- Bi-partisan 'plan/strategy' for regional development (partnership govt/community)
- Inter-regional R.D equity *youth get them out of here and "attract" them back

Opportunities

- Green businesses
- Framework to local "on-site" tertiary educational nodes
- Macropod/game meat
- "Water efficiencies → Development opportunities
- "Infrastructure management/policy
- Social and cultural activities/ opportunity/infrastructure

- Avocation of long term planning by all levels of Government

Group 6:

Does Local Government Have Skills?

- To move with changing, social and economic demands of the community and business
- Therefore role of local government is changing who picks the winners?
- Who is/will be responsible for administration of support program?
- Support sought from Local government
 - o Administrative
 - o Financing
 - o Hire of plant

Old Paradigm of Local Government

- Roads
- Rates
- Rubbish

- New paradigm (sea change)
- Catalyst role in promotion of economic change/development and social change
- Takes us back to first question of "Is the function of the local government to develop initiatives and undertake skill/resource audit"

Group 7:

Issues

- Revolving door of infrastructure
- False perception of information technology advances
- Disappointing in educational standards
- Economic sustainability → environmental sustainability
- Skills move to city
- Cultural isolation
- Pockets of conservatism
- Power with \$

Group 8:

SWOT

S-

- Volume and space
- Tourism
- Investment in land care

- Diversity – people
- Can-do attitude (need to harness energy)
- Training and education
- Network and resources available i.e. DSD, association networks

W-

- Lack of self promotion
- Industry diversity (mainly agricultural)
- Distance to markets (cost)
- To think regionally vs locally
- Loss of the people (skilled services/professionals)
- Investment in R&D
- Fragmentation of resources and knowledge
- Equitable access to services

O-

- Utilize natural resources eg. water, land
- Co-operative integration
- Harness government focus on regional development
- Promotion and marketing of natural products eg. green and clean-organic (GMO free)
- Intermodal facilities
- Internet

T-

- Change in the climate
- Globalisation – world commodity prices
- Lack of regional unity (who regional leadership)

Potential Solutions

- Integrated regional development policy/development plan (long term) by WHO?
- Accountability and authority to deliver

Group 9:

Learning Highlights

- Discriminating use of data/stats (eg LGA's – variations within)
- Flexibility in terms of employment opportunities is critical eg moving jobs to rural locations (IT potential)
- Regional development different from developing healthy regions
- Balanced approach to regional development -need to have holistic approach that incorporates more social aspects
- Triple bottom line analysis happens better at community level (where it is critically felt)

- Connectivity to the SEQ?
- Difference between 'responsibility' and 'authority' is important
- Importance of building on existing or developing strengths → 'drive emerging regions'
- Having a unified, coordinated approach, a sense of direction and synergy is vital
- Taking the 'school at centre' concept has a lot of potential
- Accepting the 'realities of rural lifestyle and communities' is important in terms of acknowledgement issues etc that have to be dealt with
- Need to insist on longer timeframes in dealing with governments
- Importance of 'tacit' (implied) knowledge of communities
- Critical concepts of 'sustainability'
- A sustainable approach which is holistic, healthy, balanced unified; utilising synergies with authority from governments

Group 10:

Taking Advantage

- Improving access to global markets eg. Ex farm gate
- Formation of joint ventures/partnerships
 - o Government
 - o Industry
 - o Within industries
- Respond to consumer demands eg. organic products, ethical investments, environmental sustainability
- Implementing and marketing/promoting sustainable concepts
- Strategic delivery – successful planning of services etc. and collaboration
- Maximising use of resources – multiple (sustainable) use

Trends

- Competitiveness in a global market
- Collaboration
- Focus on the triple-bottom-line
- Responsibility without employment (authority and resources)
- Acceptance of sustainability
- Market differentiation – consumer preference → link to value adding – ethical investment
- Innovation eg. Multiple use of resources
- Increasing regulation of inputs/resources
- Movement of youth?
- Increased litigation
- Focus on diversification/specialisation
- Decreased regulation of outputs
- Breaking barriers between farm gate and markets
- Infrastructure improvements

Group 11:

Peter Brain

- How to measure
- The potential of human capacity to stimulate local economy?
 - o What is the potential to increase/improve this in a community?
- Positive from data in the region there was always a “top” performing LGA – we need to analyse reasons why
- Australian and regions not creating the high skill/high income jobs – but opportunity through co-operation to focus on specific higher value market niches
- It's decision time!! 14 marginal LAG's (50%)
- 9 unstable LGA's (40%)
- Need to analyse why and develop strategies/actions
- Focus on economic measures
- Need for broader view to include social and environment
- Need clarification on the role of government in regional development
- Clear national vision required – Is it development, sustainability, planned decline or laissez faire?
- Challenge is the changing base for “community of interest” LGA, workplace, catchment, geographic region
- Co-operation is essential!!!!
- Find the points of common interest
- Recognition of value of social capital – so can impact on policy/strategy
- YOUTH – school as focus of community and school to have community as focus.
- Regions – where bottom–up meets top down