

The Earth Charter

A framework for values-based planning
Future Queensland Forum



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The Earth Charter:

“A declaration of fundamental ethical principles for building a just, sustainable and peaceful global society in the 21st century.”

- ▶ Declared in 2000 as a follow-up to the 1992 Earth summit
- ▶ Global consensus
- ▶ Statement of values and principles for a sustainable future
- ▶ Derived through an extensive process of international consultation
- ▶ Adopted by UNESCO and the World Conservation Union.

4 Pillars

Qld Government

It's all about economic growth

- ▶ Tourism
- ▶ Agriculture
- ▶ Resources
- ▶ Construction

Cutting red tape,
“green” tape and
regulation

Earth Charter

Its all about universal values

- ▶ Respect and care for the community of life
- ▶ Ecological integrity
- ▶ Social and economic justice
- ▶ Democracy, nonviolence and peace

This requires a change of
mind and heart

Under the Charter, we declare responsibility:

- ▶ To one another
- ▶ To the greater community of life, and

- ▶ To future generations

Under the “pillars” are:

- ▶ 16 “principles” and
- ▶ 61 “guiding statements”

...to assist in exercising that responsibility



How can we apply the charter to the Queensland Plan?

1. Re-interpreting the questions:

- ▶ How do we move from “me” to “we”?
- ▶ How do we teach skills and values to meet global challenges?
- ▶ How do we embrace responsibility for an active and healthy lifestyle?
- ▶ How do we structure our economy to ensure a resilient future?
- ▶ How do we achieve sustainable landscapes
- ▶ How do we attract and retain the brightest minds?
- ▶ “We” includes other species and future generations
- ▶ Learn inter-connectedness, not narrow skill sets
- ▶ Shift from tackling symptoms to embracing the joy of life
- ▶ Move from self-centred consumption to collective sharing and sustainability
- ▶ Our lives and livelihoods depend on the continuing health of the environment
- ▶ Nurture local skills and reward care and compassion in the community

How can we apply the charter to the Queensland Plan?

2. Re-examining the critical issues:

- ▶ Climate change
- ▶ Impact of mining
- ▶ Impact of rampant consumerism
- ▶ Biodiversity loss
- ▶ Nature deficit disorder
- ▶ Increasing social and economic disparity
- ▶ Social and cultural isolation

What legacy do we leave
future generations?

- ▶ Application of Earth Charter principles and guiding statements
- ▶ What is within our influence to change?

What values underpin our
own view of the future?

What positive ideas do we
take forward?

What steps do we take for a
better Queensland?