

## Brisbane Debrief Worksheet

### Process

Using a thorough process to analyze and summarize the Community Conversation helps ensure that key findings are well-captured for a) sharing with the community in a way that builds trust and shared understanding; b) identifies the most productive information/conversation to happen next. Elements of what gets reviewed and incorporated into March 21<sup>st</sup> meeting report:



1. Input heard during calls/in-person outreach (e.g., interactions with MOB, other super connectors, plus from employers/employees during March 7 intercepts, etc.)
2. Emails received prior to meeting from people who could not attend
3. March 21 table discussion notes from all 13 tables (20 pages)
4. March 21 individual input and feedback forms – from 66 out of 87 attendees (21 pages)
5. Feedback from facilitators (notes and debrief discussion)
6. Any feedback received by City from attendees after the meeting

### I. Attendance:

- Total participant attendees (per table facilitators and City): 87
- Total in the room, including council, observers, helpers: About 110
- Link to Photos: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/UL5HSjxFh4118KyMA>
- Percent “new to conversation” was captured by many but not all of our table facilitators. It appears to be in the range between one third to one half of attendees.
- A show of hands at start of meeting suggested that attendees split about equally across these categories of how long they’ve lived or worked in Brisbane:
  - 5 years or less
  - 5 to 15 years
  - 15 to 30 years
  - 30 years
- Number of attendees who own a business or work in Brisbane appeared to be about one quarter or a little more.
- The average age of attendees looked to be 10-15 years older than average age of Brisbane adults overall.
- Groups that were reached outside of the March 21 meeting: young families (via MOB’s Friday PlayGym and Silverspot cubbies), renters, Brisbane employers and employees who do not live in Brisbane via March 7 intercepts at the Brisbane Village and 150 North Hill.

### II. Reflecting on the Participant Experience: Highlights from Facilitation Team

Feedback on the meeting design indicated that it met its goals. A primary takeaway was that the tables

that had both newer and longtime residents had a richer exchange. The logistics for check and the food appeared to work well. Sightlines and acoustics were a challenge for the back of the room.

The questions for Discussion #1 worked well; most tables were able to complete that discussion. The report out after the first conversation appeared to enhance trust that there were in fact common themes and values and confirmed the level of caring in the room.

The level of detail of the information was observed to be a bit on the technical side by some of the facilitators. Others said some of their attendees found it too basic. On balance, the level of detail was probably about right for the whole.

The questions for Discussion #2 also appeared to work well in generating input and exchange. Of note, several table facilitators reported people sharing deep felt feelings of loss about the extent of change that has already happened even before the Baylands development proceeds. Discussion #2 created an appetite for more information about Baylands next steps and timing. The question about “How can we work together?” helped many of the tables get inspired about possible community projects and/or events. The closing words and tone were positive at almost all of the tables.

How much do you agree with the following statements?	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
I learned information that is useful to me	17	30	12	4	1
I gained new perspectives about other people who live or work in Brisbane	20	32	9	2	1
I have a better understanding of our community’s shared values and beliefs	20	27	14	1	2
The format of the meeting worked well for me	24	25	12	2	1

### III. Summary of Themes and Representative Quotes:

#### Discussion number #1

##### What people value about Brisbane

- The location: “ access to urban areas while feeling far from them”
- Small town feel: “a sense of community, knowing your neighbors”, friendly neighbors, close-knit community
- Natural beauty; great weather: “Peaceful community close to nature and mountains.”
- Open space and outdoor recreation
- Safe
- Quirky: “Everyone’s a character”
- Quality services, library
- Community events
- Walkability

##### Prevalently cited challenges

- Traffic

- Housing costs: “Increasing housing cost for both rentals and home ownership” “People are being priced out of Brisbane and have to move away” “Lack of small entry level housing.”
- “The growth of the Bay Area is collapsing onto Brisbane.”
- Too dependent on car; lack of good transit
- Limited amenities: “Lack of retail, especially grocery stores.”
- Missing a high school
- Parking
- “Small town feel translates into lack of openness to change, including with things, people and houses that are not considered the norm.”
- Need more places to connect, people on the Ridge neighborhood don’t have place to meet. “No local Watering Hole.”

## Discussion #2

### Hopes for the future of Brisbane

- To be able to keep the best of what makes Brisbane a strong community while addressing challenges: “[I hope that] the quirky, creative, environmentally conscious and community-oriented feel will be sustained and extended as we live into the next chapter of the city’s life.”
- Create a welcoming environment for new residents, attract people who like a community feel. “That we still have a heart for each other.”
- Improve walkability and transit options: “Safe connectivity such as biking and walking, to public transit; this can lead to embracing the community that we connect to and minimize the ‘us’ vs. ‘them’ mindset.”
- Provide a mix of housing, including more affordable, “neighborhood-oriented” housing
- Environmental resilience; “Adapt, not react, to change such as climate change and growth.” That the “Baylands thrive.”
- More open space, trails
- “Increase resources: High school, Super Market, pharmacy, gas station, a bar.”
- Closer high school campus; “Educational access for children to grow up in Brisbane for the long-term.”
- “The kids can stay and I can stay.”
- “People working in the Baylands will be able to live in the Baylands.”
- Maintain City services

### Concerns about the future

- “That the Village does not become a City.”
- Traffic and increase in car trips, still too dependent on the car
- Remediation: “I’m worried about the environmental questions about the ground contamination in the Baylands and whether people will be safe and healthy.”
- That will have a “split community.”
- “Tension and uncertainty regarding development.”
- Housing affordability; “Locals squeezed out.” “More friends and family moving away, losing community.”
- Cost of development on City: “That the maintenance and remediation for the Baylands project does not outweigh Brisbane’s ability to pay for it.”
- Noise pollution

## How can we work together?

Several participants talked about building bridges and connections, some literally as well as figuratively.

- “Community depends on people who want to be part of a community; providing places and events for this to be possible is essential.”
- Some attendees talked about physical connectors, walking bridges, corridors and trails to connect different parts of town.
- “Continue the format of this meeting.”
- “Keep having these events and work hard to get newer residents here in greater numbers.”
- “Combined Community meetings with music and food regularly.”
  
- “Have new people join community organizations.”
- “Figure out ways to connect Ridge folks with the rest of town.”

Participants demonstrated that Brisbane has a strong sense of community and yet there were some distinct differences in perception. Some feel that it will be extremely difficult to maintain what makes Brisbane special with a development the size of the Baylands. This is a comment that was sent in by someone who could not attend the meeting: “It’s impossible for me to imagine how the residential and commercial development on the Baylands would not make an already awful traffic situation here much worse.” There are also others who are more optimistic. “I value the quietness of the town. I also don't believe these things necessarily go away even if the town triples in size. We will still be a small town even with 12,000 people.”

Information people were curious about (may be provided as an adjunct to meetings)

- Most common query was about what is happening with remediation
- Also requests for more information about:
  - Who lives in Brisbane: How many are retired? How many are disabled?
  - The school district
  - Environmental steps the city is taking overall, not just on the Baylands
  - Faces of the Baylands development; transparency

Feedback about the meeting:

- People appreciated that it was “not contentious” and they were “able to share.” There were predominantly positive ratings on feedback form (see above). Frequently shared closing words noted by table facilitators and written by attendees: “enjoyable, informative, fun, important, motivating.”
- Participants suggested that future discussions include more families with young children, people working in Brisbane who do not live here and more residents that have moved here more recently.