the fulcrum

SUSTAINABILITY & INNOVATION LEARNING HUB

…an inspirational learning hub based at Samford Parklands, advancing sustainability and innovation knowledge in schools, businesses and communities across the region…

the concept

The proposed learning hub at Samford, provisionally called *The Fulcrum*, aims to build regional capability in sustainability, innovation and entrepreneurship. It will do this through inspirational, forward-thinking education for school students, workers, community groups, residents and entrepreneurs.

Based from a new purpose-built centre at Samford Parklands, *The Fulcrum* will offer learning experiences not available through mainstream facilities. Dedicated programs for sustainability and innovation education will be developed hand-in-hand with regional anchor schools, Innovate Moreton Bay, community groups, RTOs and other delivery partners.

A learning space without boundaries, *The Fulcrum* will access local, regional and worldwide resources. Its innovative learning model will pioneer advanced online strategies and co-learning networks. Highly practical programs will equip students with valuable skills in fields such as agricultural technology, IT/knowledge industries, innovative business processes, circular economy opportunities and sustainable working, living and learning.

the opportunity

The Samford Parklands site is rather special. Following lobbying from the community, this former CSIRO site is home to an urban farming enterprise (Millen Farm), the newly built Samford Community Hub, and a range of sporting precincts. Three other areas of the site are now open to expressions of interest, with the aim of bringing economic and social benefit to the region.

Community organisation Samford Commons, with the backing of local schools and industry partners, is proposing a sustainability and innovation education centre based at Lot 3 on the Parklands site.

Conceived as a partnership between government, regional schools, business and the community, the learning facility will be financially sustainable. It will charge fees for education programs, seminars, webinars and online products and services. With built spaces designed around sustainable principles, and an active online learning community, it will redefine sustainability education.

The Fulcrum is suggested as a name to reflect its role as a central hub that facilitates knowledge sharing and drives innovation across the region.

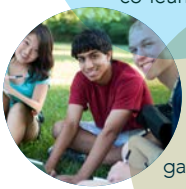
Educators, investors and community members – this is your opportunity to co-create something with real social, environmental and economic value!

the vision

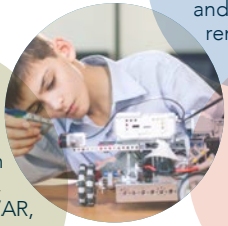
The Fulcrum **sustainability and innovation learning hub will have a physical campus that showcases sustainability principles, with flexible spaces for active learning and collaboration.**

Energy Tower to track and compare various forms of energy, and showcase renewables

Adaptable indoor/ outdoor spaces designed to stimulate creative thinking and agile co-learning



Futures Room for research and experimentation in areas like robotics, gaming, bio-tech, VR/AR, sustainable living



Classrooms and learning studios designed for human interaction and co-learning

Catering and retail services

Cultural resources and activities

Small-scale Visitor Accommodation and camping facilities

Maker Spaces for prototyping ideas and building enterprises

Urban Farm

Links to Parklands facilities

Local & regional **Trails**

the approach

To deliver inspirational learning experiences that promote critical thinking, *The Fulcrum* will embrace agile learning techniques, smart technologies and collaborative tools and processes.

Agile learning is a highly adaptable approach to education that responds to meet changing needs. This is especially relevant to sustainability and innovation learning, which requires active participation and openness to new ideas.

Co-learning (collaborative learning) involves learning with others, often on practical group projects and research. This approach enhances creative thinking, communication, cross-cultural awareness and teamworking skills.

Smart technology augments the learning experience, connecting people, information and ideas. Intelligently applied technologies will help to:

- connect students on site to online classrooms worldwide
- tell multimedia stories of learning journeys and share research
- develop 'edutainment' and gamified learning experiences
- enhance learning using robotics and AI
- create augmented (AR), mixed (MR) and virtual reality (VR) experiences
- track sustainability data related to the hub's operations
- share knowledge, discuss ideas and collaborate on programs.

Knowledge Tunnel using advanced technologies to enhance & share learning face-to-face and online

Network of online workspaces

AR/VR learning & research

Video stories

Inclusive programs for all ages, cultures and abilities

the programs

Education programs will be co-developed with teachers, students, industry experts, government bodies and the local community. Sustainability & innovation programs for schools will be the initial priority.

Programs for primary and secondary school students

- Sustainability themed programs connecting subjects across the curriculum, co-designed with 'Anchor Schools' and offered to all schools in the region
- Agricultural technology, sustainability and innovation explored in depth, cross-matched to Australian ESTEAM curriculum (Entrepreneurism, Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathemeatics)
- Daily educational visits by local/regional schools, and immersion programs for local, rural, remote or overseas students
- Inclusive programs to support disadvantaged and special needs students
- Indigenous culture elements offered on site and nearby cultural sites as may be agreed with First Nations People
- Flexible access to facilities on site and nearby, including the urban farm, Eco-Corridor, sporting precincts, CoLab, Futures Room robotics/gaming space, Knowledge Tunnel, Energy Tower, local trails, Samford business centre and community groups
- Online connections with international students, fostering entrepreneurship and problem-solving while adding value to school language programs.

Programs for residents, workers and community groups

- Vocational education programs accredited by RTOs, to enhance employability in ESTEAM industries
- Sustainability immersion programs providing learning opportunities for life and work, serving online/local students of any age/location/background
- Online/on-site programs in urban agriculture, sustainability, environment, the arts, community development, well-being and related fields
- Programs inclusive of disadvantaged, special needs and disabled persons.

Opportunities for researchers, educators and entrepreneurs

- Sustainability, circular economy and innovation workshops/programs for entrepreneurs and businesses wanting to be more sustainable
- Teams of researchers, educators, students and software developers co-creating and testing new software and processes for agile learning
- Roundtable conferencing for creative problem solving in CoLabs and Maker Spaces designed for collaboration and prototyping
- Futures-oriented programs of conferences, film and culture, with a futurist in-residence to identify cross-discipline learning opportunities.

the way forward

If the expression of interest for a sustainability and innovation learning hub is accepted, a consortium will be formed to refine the proposal, arrange funding and manage the process of setting up the entity.

Funding and economic sustainability

To set up *The Fulcrum's* physical and operational infrastructure, funding will be sought from investors, grants and industry sponsors. Anchor Schools will contribute staff resources to create a core suite of co-designed programs, and these can be run 'without walls' while buildings are constructed.

Once established, the learning hub will generate income from school membership fees, individual/group course fees, seminars, online learning subscriptions, digital products, research grants and other sources.

Benefits to the community

The Fulcrum learning hub will enhance the Samford Parklands site, bring jobs and investment, support the region's schools, provide unique learning opportunites and promote sustainable practices for the benefit of all.

It will also help deliver Moreton Bay regional strategies for economic development and sustainable business. These relate to innovation, entrepreneurship, industry advancement, knowledge sharing, regional leadership and sustainability via circular economy activities.

Get involved or find out more

Interested in being an anchor school, delivering programs, or investing time or money in this project? Samford Commons is already partnering with schools, regional bodies and delivery agencies. **See the website FAQs, or get in touch!**

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Samford commons