

The QUT logo, consisting of the letters 'QUT' in white on a blue square background.

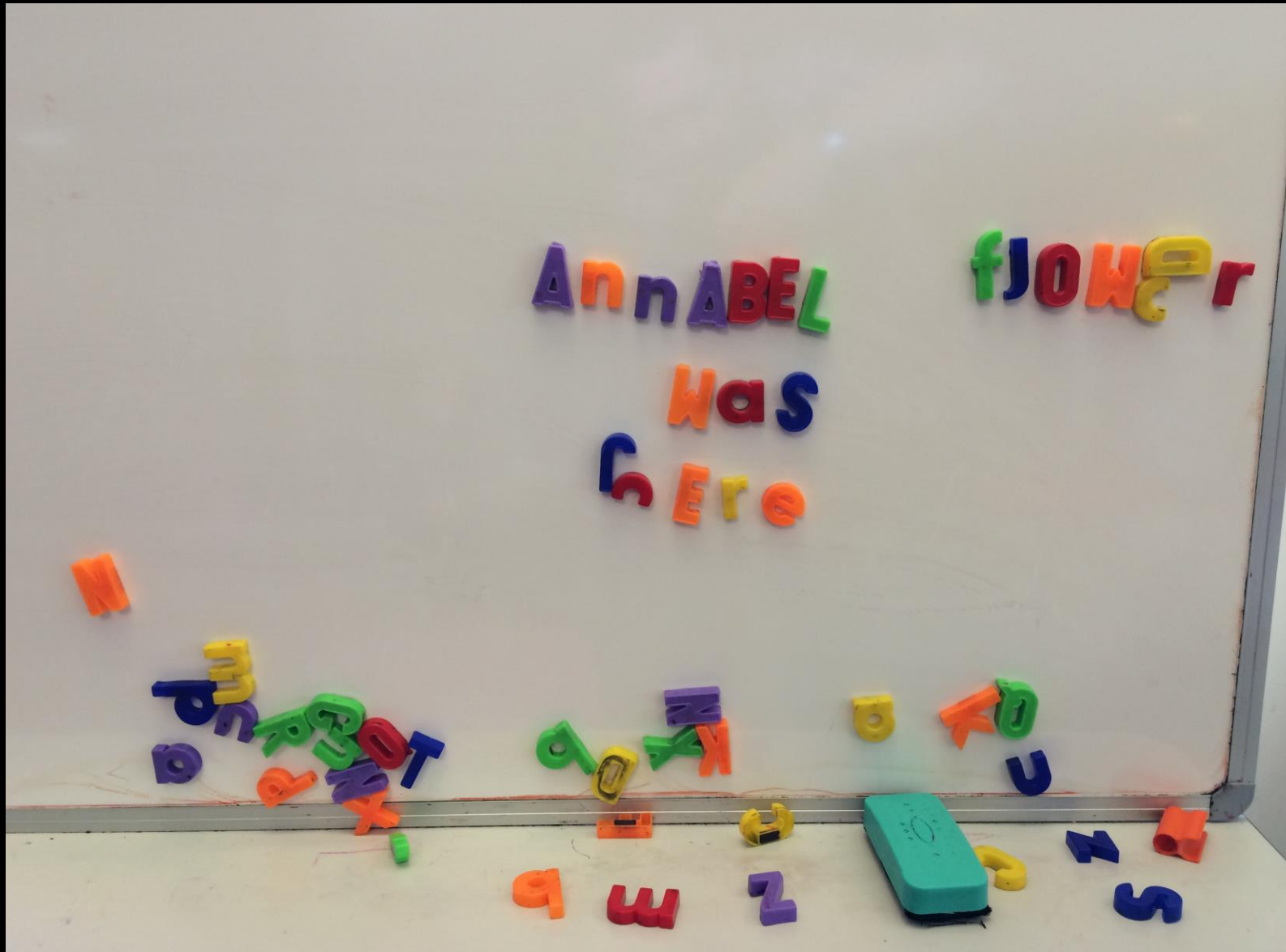
QUT

The SL logo, featuring the letters 'SL' in red inside a white speech bubble, which is set against a red square background.

SL



The impact of libraries as creative spaces



Deb Miles SLQ
Kirralie Houghton QUT

The Next Horizon Report

Vision 2017 for Queensland public libraries articulates a strategic vision for the 21st century and puts forward four priority areas for action.

These envision libraries respectively as:

- ✓ Creative community spaces
- ✓ Connectors
- ✓ Technology trendsetters
- ✓ Incubators of ideas, learning and innovation

Why are we doing this research?

- To examine the impact of libraries as creative spaces
- To articulate further creative opportunities for libraries
- To demonstrate the value-add of libraries as creative spaces
- To further embed creativity within the library space



Steering committee – to guide research

- Sub-committee Public Library Advisory Group to the SLQ Board
 - * To provide support and advise to SLQ and QUT during the research project.
 - * To provide assistance in identification and selection of case study sites.
 - * To share knowledge and expertise and provide sector advice on the development of creative programs within Queensland public libraries.
 - * To help promote best practice for the further development of creative spaces and programs throughout Queensland public libraries.
 - * To support the alignment with the four themes of VISION 2017.

Steering Committee

- * SLQ Project Manager (Chair)
- * QUT Researchers
- * Three representatives from the Public Library
Advisory Group (to the Library Board of Qld)
 - Katie Edmiston – Arts QLD
 - Susan Coker – Townsville Library Manager
 - Prof. Andrew Griffiths – UQ business school and chair of
plag



THE LIBRARY DIVIDEND SUMMARY REPORT

A guide to the socio-economic value of Queensland's public libraries
September 2012

Contextual review

- The ISO standard for measuring the impact of libraries doesn't include evaluation of libraries as creative spaces.
- Impact is often intangible and difficult to quantify



Contextual review

- Long terms effects of activity/service offerings can be difficult to assess
- Library workers are not always familiar with methods of impact assessment
- Impact assessment can be resource intensive leading to questions of sustainability.



Contextual review

- The studies to date are limited by a concentration of specific spaces, activities and demographics
- Existing evaluation frameworks are rarely clearly tied to an evidence base.



Literature review

- A working definition of what is meant by creativity
- Understandings of how creative spaces are evaluated (outside of the library context)
- Understanding of how libraries are currently evaluated



Creativity is purposeful novelty

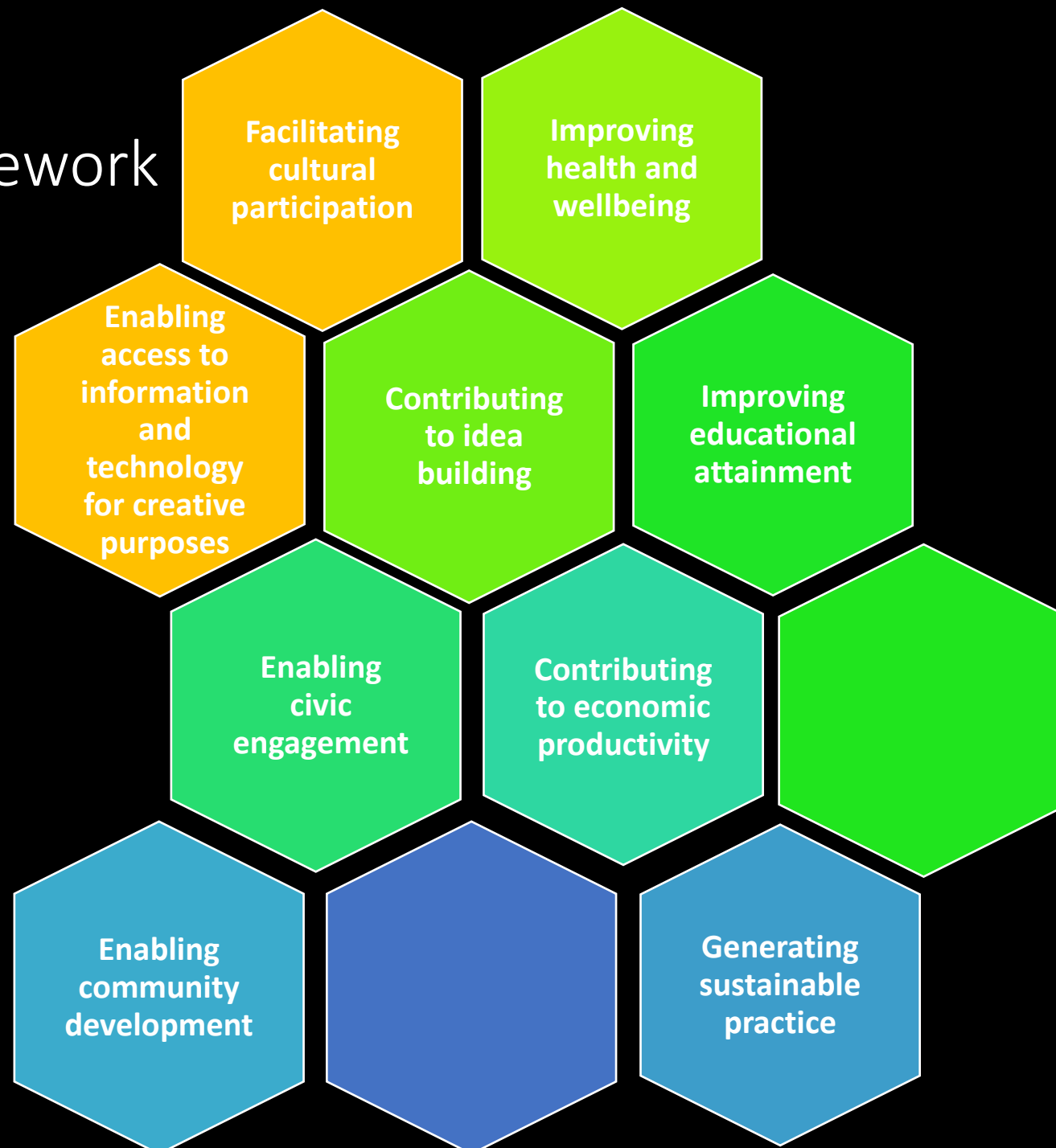
- Creativity is relational
- Creativity can be intrinsic in purpose
- Creativity can be extrinsic in purpose
- Creativity is formal and informal
- Creativity is collective and individual



Draft community impact framework

- A conceptual tool to aid library workers to:
 - a) Consider what might constitute creative programming for their community
 - b) Think about the kinds of things they might seek to evaluate where activities articulate libraries as creative spaces
 - c) Provide a standardised evaluation mechanism so over time a range data regarding the impact of libraries as creative spaces.

Developing an Evaluation Framework



Selection Criteria Case Studies

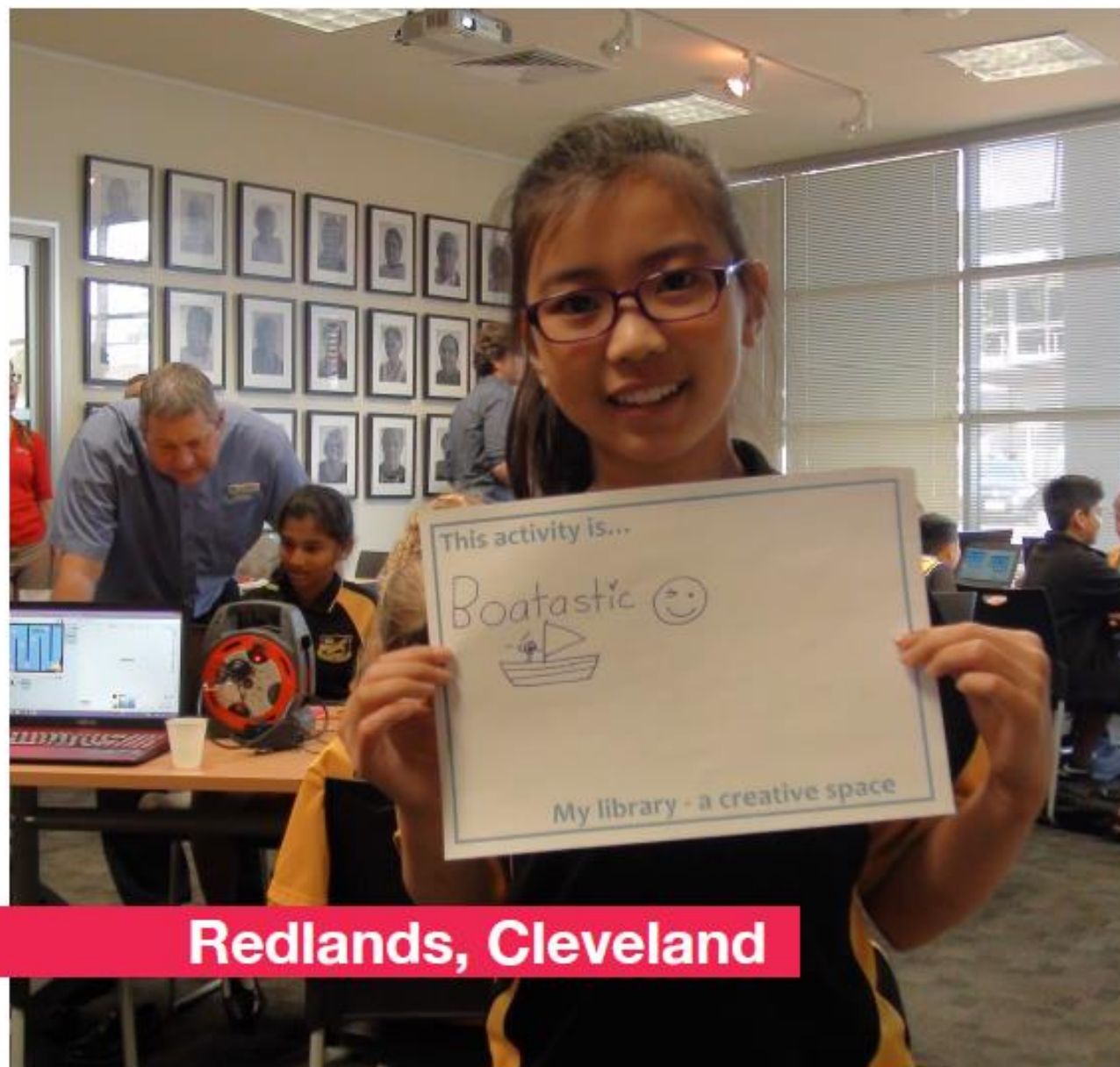
- Steering Group
- Diversity
 - Project types
 - Size urban/rural
 - Demographic



Photo: Redlands – robot workshop

Case Studies

- **Redlands**, Cleveland and Victoria Point libraries – Code Club & Robots
- **Gold Coast**, Helensvale – Baby Rhyme Time, Gardeners Club, Digital Media Lab
- **Maranoa**, Roma Library – Creative Writing Group, Tumblr Storybooks, Story Bunting
- **Burdekin**, Ayr Library – Ideas@108, Seniors Computing



Redlands, Cleveland







Goldcoast, Helensvale

EXTINGUISH



Goldcoast, Helensvale







Maranoa, Roma

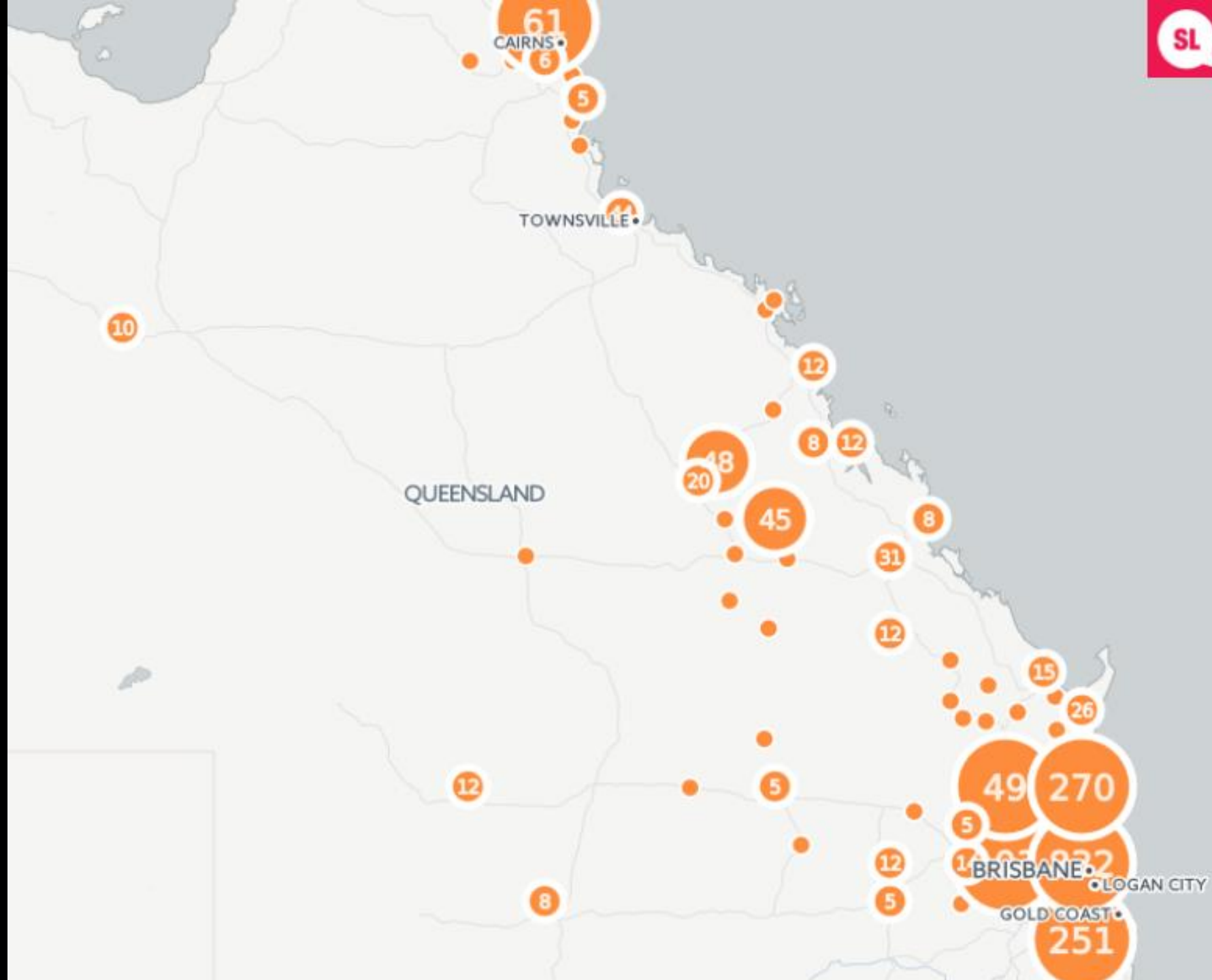


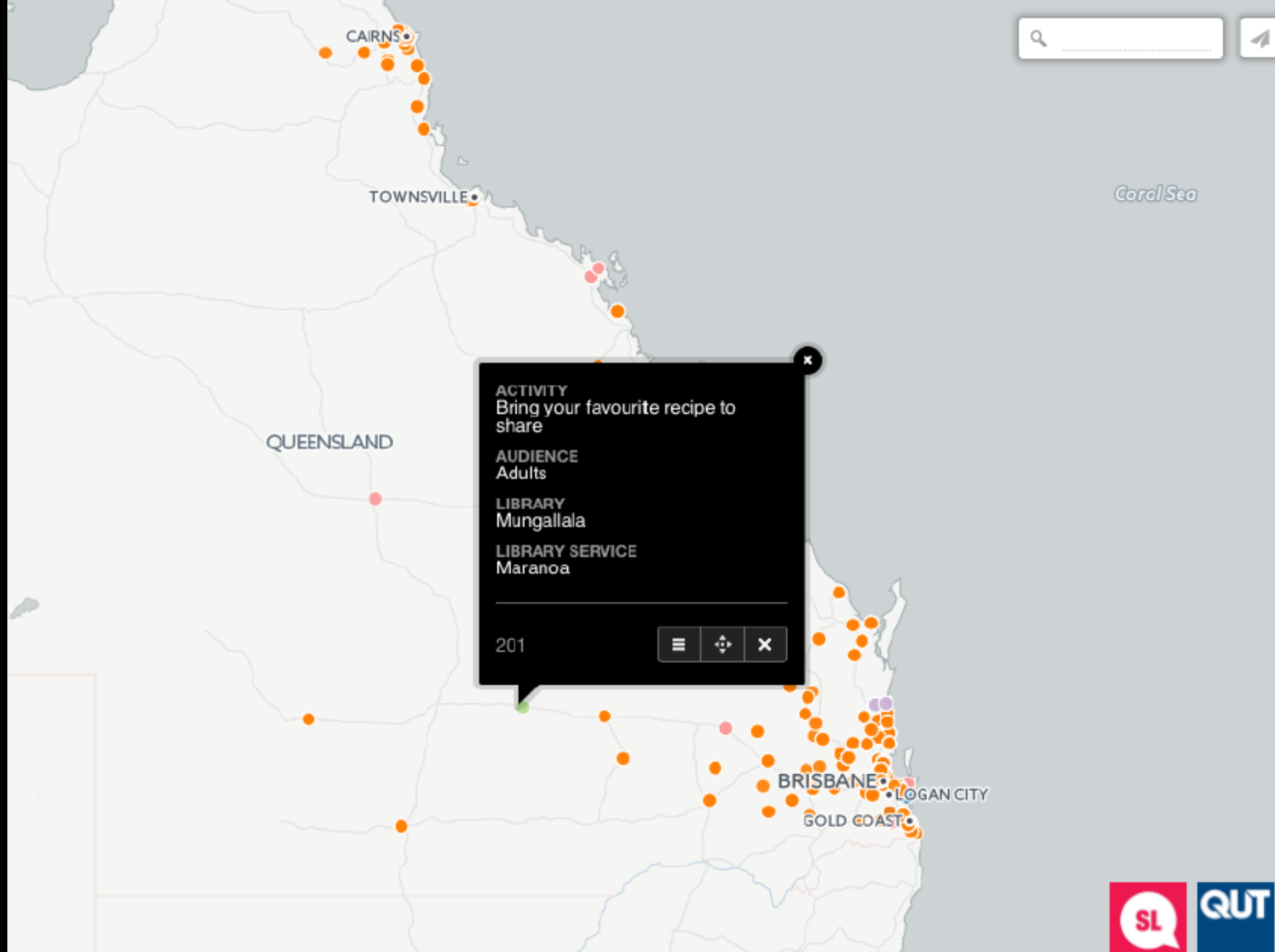


Maranoa, Roma









Final Report - Findings of the Research

- November 2015 – Launch February/March 2016
- Rich Media Content
- Relationship to the Community Impact Framework
- Relationships to the spaces within libraries
- Different formations of creativity in libraries
 - Location/co-location
 - Staff
 - Population served
- Operational and strategic data and information issues
- Sustainability and resourcing questions
- Recommendations for ongoing evaluation

Beyond the final report

- Sharing findings
- Sharing impact framework
- Advice on how to use in libraries and councils
- Available online

Any Questions?



Queensland
Government

all yours

