



## GOVERNOR OF QUEENSLAND

### Message from the Governor of Queensland

The Open House movement has become a much-anticipated feature of life in cities around the world since London launched the very first celebration of World Architecture Day, almost 30 years ago.

Here in Queensland, the movement has flourished since 2010 when Brisbane hosted its inaugural Open House. In the decade since, buildings in cities throughout the State, including the Gold Coast, have welcomed thousands of curious visitors as part of this wonderful annual celebration of the built environment.

The first Gold Coast Open House in 2016 (which I had the great honour of launching) invited people to explore 30 buildings. Today, the program encompasses not only visits to the city's buildings, but self-guided tours, panel discussions, the always popular photo competition and a special opportunity to experience last year's virtual event, made necessary by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The ongoing pandemic remains one of the great challenges for Gold Coast Open House in 2021, but I have been very pleased to see that two of the event's founding partners, the City of Gold Coast and the Australian Institute of Architects, as well as many other sponsors and donors, are supporting this year's event. On behalf of all Queenslanders, I thank them for their commitment to the ideals that Open House represents.

I also congratulate and thank the organising committee and the many citizen volunteers without whom the initiative would simply not be possible. What unites them all is pride in their city and their passion for the city's buildings, both public and private. By telling the stories behind those buildings, Open House is helping to create greater public understanding of the importance of good design and of preserving our built heritage.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul de Jersey".

**His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC CVO**  
Governor of Queensland