Visionary infrastructure

Cultural Vibrancy

Economic vitality

Good Governance

Social Inclusion and wellbeing

Sustainable resource management

Kowrowa Chillagoe Hurricane
Middlebrook
Mona Mona Mount Mulligan
Wongabel Bolwarra
Myola Arriga Wrotham Kirrama
Kairi
Jaggan Mareeba Mungalli
Upper Barron Innot Hot Springs Paddy's Green
Ravenshoe Moomin
Gamboola Bellevue
Minnamoolka Herberton

Tablelands Community Plan 2021
Unique Communities Working Together

Barrine Atherton Malanda Millaa Millaa
Fossilbrook Beatrice
Gunnawarra Julatten Yungaburra Silver Valley
Glen Russell Koah
Irvinebank Mount Carbine Tarzali Petford
Kureen Amber Crystalbrook Mutchilba
Wondecla Nychum Palmerston Groganville
Peeramon Forty Mile Elinjaa Mt Garnet
Koombooloomba Tumoulin Maalan
Watsonville Kuranda Speewah Carrington
Lyndside Thornborough East Barron Glen Allyn
Walkamin Desailly
Danbulla Butchers Creek Barwidgi
Lake Barrine Evelyn Biboohra
North Johnstone Dimbulah
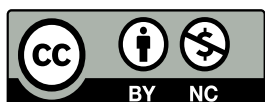Kalunga Kaban Mt Molloy Tinaroo
Glen Ruth Almaden Gadgarra

Tablelands Community Plan 2021

Unique Communities Working Together

"Valuing our natural and cultural heritage the unique communities of the Tablelands work together to create a vibrant, sustainable, inclusive and prosperous region"

Glenys Pilat   T: 4043 4110   E: glenysp@trc.qld.gov.au
Joy Wii   T: 4043 4115   E: joyw@trc.qld.gov.au
Anne Cunningham-Reid   T: 4043 4118   E: annec@trc.qld.gov.au

Cover photos from the community
Some images used in this document were selected from the TRC Faces and Places competitions (2010 and 2011) to reflect our communities.

Acknowledgement of Traditional Owner Groups

We acknowledge the Traditional Owner groups of country across the Tablelands Regional Council area.

We value the contribution made by Indigenous residents and representatives of community organisations and hope that you hear your voices in the Tablelands Community Plan.

"Meeting Place", Din Din Arts
Artist: Briana Enoch Language Name: Jarawee Tribe: Djabugay and Kanjtu

"The centre circle represents the meeting place. Smaller circles surrounding the centre circle are representation of the members of the community. The lines that lead to the centre circle are tracks that lead to the meeting place. All walks of life come from all directions to meet on common ground to work together as one." Briana Enoch

Thank You for Getting Involved!

The Tablelands Community Plan has been developed with input from approximately 11,000 people across our vast region. We thank each and every one of you for taking the time and making the effort to share your ideas, opinions, frustrations, excitement, dreams, vision and aspirations and we hope you can see these reflected in the long term community plan for the Tablelands Region.

We are extremely appreciative of the information, support and assistance provided by residents, representatives of our community, government and research organisations, our contractors, Council Officers, and the Tablelands Regional Councillors.

We would like to thank the Tablelands Community Plan Reference Group for their guidance throughout the development of the long term community plan.

The community reference group is open to the community, new members are welcome, and the group will continue to provide information, advice and guidance during the implementation and review phases of the Tablelands Community Plan 2021.

Message from the Mayor

It gives me great pleasure to present the first ever Tablelands Community Plan.

The 10-year plan is the culmination of more than 2 years of community engagement which saw approximately 11,000 people have a say as we reached out to the "silent majority" and those living in the far corners of our vast region.

We visited 20 towns and districts to hold a wide range of community planning events and activities and worked with local Indigenous residents in 7 of these to develop Indigenous community plans to make sure their voices were heard.

We engaged our communities by holding 89 events and activities, 69 held within our towns and districts and 20 activities with a Tablelands wide focus. They offered many different ways for people to get involved and have a say including a regional survey, 10 town surveys, 5 Indigenous town surveys, a youth survey, 27 community voting stalls, 4 community information and survey stalls, 20 town and district community planning workshops, 3 sector planning workshops, 6 youth forums, 7 Indigenous planning workshops, 3 regional think tank workshops and a Facebook page with all of these culminating in a regional summit.

The Tablelands Community Plan sets the pathways by which, together, we can achieve the community's vision, goals and aspirations for the future of our unique towns, districts and Tablelands region.

Council alone cannot implement all of the community's aspirations - it is a matter of community, council, government, business and industry working together and deciding which actions they can implement.

I appeal to everyone with an interest in the future of the Tablelands to consider how you can become involved with implementing the plan within your sphere of influence.

The Tablelands Community Plan Reference Group, which has provided information and advice to Council regarding the development of the plan, will continue in this role during the implementation and future review and updates of the document.

I would like to thank all those who provided input into the Tablelands Community Plan and to the reference group which has worked tirelessly to produce this important regional document.

Mayor Tom Gilmore
Tablelands Regional Council

Message from the CEO

Tablelands Community Plan 2021 is the long term community plan that has been developed by the people of the Tablelands to reflect the community's views and aspirations to guide the future of the region.

The community plan sets out the priority aspirations identified by residents in our unique towns and districts and the actions they believe are required to achieve these. They form the foundation of the community plan as we are committed to advancing the voices of people in our small towns and districts across our vast region.

At the regional planning events many residents, community, business, industry and government representatives explored how the Tablelands could capitalise on local, national and global opportunities. Everyone worked together to find innovative and creative solutions to significant challenges facing the region.

Future decision making, planning and policy development by Council will be informed and guided by these priority aspirations and strategies as well as the regional vision which describes how people ideally would like to see the Tablelands in 10 years time.

We are looking forward to the business of implementing the long term community plan. Some of the community aspirations are ambitious and far reaching and others will be more easily achieved. Council will consider those actions within its scope and will no doubt fund and implement many of these, but not all due to technical, financial or other considerations. Where actions are outside the scope of Council's responsibility, these will be raised with the relevant government, community, regional or industry organisation to encourage them to take action.

This important regional document will be publicly available and community, government, corporate and industry organisations are encouraged to endorse the plan and use it to guide strategic planning and decision-making.

I have been overwhelmed by the generosity of the many community members who have contributed their time, ideas and expertise to develop this community plan and I encourage you to remain involved to help put the plan into practice to achieve your community's aspirations.

Ian Church
Chief Executive Officer
Tablelands Regional Council

Contents

1. Introduction to the Tablelands Community Plan

Good at finding our own solutions

The people of the Tablelands region are good at finding answers to complex community and regional issues. We are confident we can continue capitalising on opportunities and finding answers to respond to current and future challenges such as global economic changes, diversification of the regional economy, industry deregulation, scarcity of resources and demographic changes including a population ageing at a faster rate than Far North Queensland, Queensland and Australia.

Working together to develop a long term community plan is a way for us to find these answers and to plan for the future prosperity of our towns, districts and the region as a whole while retaining what we value.

The community's plan

In essence, our aim has been to develop a community plan that sets out the community's views and aspirations by providing many different opportunities for as many Tablelands people as possible to have a say about what they believe are the important issues for the future of their town, district and the region as a whole.

In order for it to be "the community's plan", Council conducted a comprehensive community planning process that was designed to suit the unique characteristics of the Tablelands region including our highly dispersed and culturally diverse population of 46,937 people living across the vast 64,768 sq kms that is the Tablelands Regional Council area (estimated resident population at 30 June 2010, ABS catalogue no. 3218.0, 2011).

The rural and remote nature of the Tablelands Regional Council area means that many locals identify first and foremost with their town or district; are committed to retaining its unique identity; and are concerned to have their voices heard in the large Tablelands region. To this end, the community plan was designed to have *reach* - to reach out and engage people residing in the many small communities across the entire length and breadth of the Tablelands, especially the "silent majority" and those who do not normally have a voice in civic planning and decision-making.

The community plan amplifies a chorus of voices from all corners of our vast region and the community aspirations identified by residents in the 20 towns and districts form the foundation of the Tablelands Community Plan.

Creative regional planing

Another intention was for the community plan to have *depth and creativity* - to capture the community's innovative and creative ideas and solutions to capitalise on higher level *regional* opportunities and overcome significant challenges as well as documenting those "bread and butter" town and district issues that include potholes, better health services and more BBQs in parks. People were asked to imagine how the Tablelands region might change in response to various external forces or large scale trends that are driving change in the world today, such as world population growth and technological change.

It was also about providing the opportunity to develop a stronger sense of the "Tablelands" as a region and to capitalise on advantages that could arise by thinking about and working together at this broader regional level.

Community planning framework

Therefore, the following community planning framework was adopted to engage across distance, culture, age and gender:
- Place-based community planning with residents in 20 towns/ districts
- Place-based Indigenous community planning in 7 towns/ districts
- Youth action planning
- Community of interest planning with 3 sectors
- Regional Planning with a focus on the Tablelands within the broader Far North Queensland, national and global contexts to develop higher level goals and strategies

The community planning process has focussed on inviting people to imagine how they would ideally like their community and the wider region to be in 10 years time; asking them to identify what they believe are the most important issues facing their town, district and region over the next 10 years and to think about what needs to be done to address or achieve these. The community plan is devoted to reflecting these community views and aspirations, at the town/district and regional levels, and to outlining the action that needs to happen, who could take this action and when it could be done.

Community engagement strategy

A comprehensive community engagement strategy was designed and implemented that involved 89 events and activities being conducted from September 2009 to September 2011 including:
- 10 x town/district surveys
- 5 x Indigenous town/district surveys
- 4 x town/district information and survey stalls
- 23 x community voting exercises in towns/districts;
- 20 x community planning workshops in towns/districts
- 7 x Indigenous planning workshops in towns/districts
- 1 x regional survey
- 1 x youth survey
- 6 x youth forums
- 4 x regional voting exercises
- 3 x sector planning workshops
- 3 regional think tank workshops
- 1 x social media Facebook page
- 1 x regional summit.

Community ideas, feedback and suggestions are at the core of this community developed document

Community members discuss issues around Economic Vitality at the second regional 'Think Tank' workshop at Kairi, 9th August 2011

Benchmarking community participation

Community participation in the larger 10 towns/districts was benchmarked at 20% of the population aged 15 years and over and was achieved in all ten towns and districts with the rates ranging from 20% to 40%. Benchmarking the larger towns gives some degree of confidence that these town/district community plans are fairly representative of the views of residents, especially with respect to the identification of the priority community issues and aspirations.

In all, approximately 11,000 people actively participated to develop the community plan with approximately 7,400 of these participating in town/district events and activities and 3,600 completing regional surveys or attending regional events. Considering the population of the Tablelands aged 15 years and over is approximately 32,277, this indicates a relatively robust community participation rate of about 34% for the community planning project (ABS 2006 Census Usual Residents). This information is presented in Table 1.1 along with Diagram 1.1 showing the Community Engagement Pathways for the community plan and further details are in Section 8 Planning Methodology - Our Community Planing Framework.

Reflecting the community's views and aspirations

The extensive community engagement process enabled an enormous amount of community involvement and input to the long term community plan. These community contributions have not been "filtered" or sanctioned by Council. The priorities set out in the community plan are those identified by community members as are the solutions and actions to achieve and address them.

Some of the aspirations are very ambitious and far reaching, but every effort has been made to accurately reflect the views and priority aspirations of the 20 local communities. Similarly, the regional aspirations, goals and strategies are those developed by community members participating in the regional planning activities and events for the Tablelands Community Plan.

Informing Council decision-making

Reflecting the aspirations and views of the people of the Tablelands region, the long term community plan is highly valued by Council and will be used to guide decision-making and planning including the five year corporate plan, annual operational plans and budget processes as well as future strategic planning.

However, this doesn't mean that all community aspirations contained in the long term community plan have been endorsed by Council and will be acted on. It does mean that many of those issues and strategies that are within the scope of Council's responsibility will be funded and implemented by Council, but others will not due to financial constraints or some other consideration.

Community members discuss road issues at the Mareeba community workshop

Community partners

The community plan is about the community's aspirations so it contains issues that are within the sphere of influence of many community partners including residents and a vast array of community, government, industry and corporate groups and organisations. Council will make these community partners aware of the community plan and encourage them to use it to inform their decision-making and strategic planning.

This means the implementation of the Tablelands Community Plan is very much one of community partnerships and the extent to which the community plan is implemented and aspirations realised is directly related to the extent to which community partners agree to take responsibility for implementing strategies that are within their sphere of influence.

Community partners have been listed for each strategy outlined in the Tablelands Community Plan, however, this does not mean that each community partner will definitely be implementing that specific strategy or action. Some community partners are listed because they have committed to a specific strategy, but many are listed because the strategy is within their sphere of responsibility or influence. With respect to the latter, it will be up to each community partner to consider which of these strategies they will implement, depending on financial and other considerations. The list of community partners is not exhaustive and it is likely that others will be added over time.

Even though it is now a legislative requirement that all councils in Queensland develop a long term community plan with public input, we embarked on this journey with community partners before this became law. We continued to work with our community partners and there has been considerable community input to the design of the community engagement strategy as well as to developing the content of the actual community plan itself.

Outcomes oriented

Council was very concerned to create a document that would be useful to residents, council and community partners to make a difference and achieve outcomes. Therefore, a strategic planning approach was incorporated into the community planning process to ensure that priority aspirations were identified; key strategies were developed to achieve the community aspiration within a designated timeframe; and community partners were assigned to each strategy wherever possible.

Implementing the community plan

Council will facilitate the implementation of the Tablelands Community Plan with guidance, information and advice provided by the Community Plan Reference Group. To implement the plan, Council will continue the partnerships approach it adopted throughout the development of the community plan.

An annual review will be undertaken and Council will publish an annual "report card" to show the progress achieved with respect to implementing the long term community plan and it will be updated with community input within the next 5 years.

The Tablelands Community Plan 2021

We are extremely proud to present the community's views and aspirations for the future of our towns, districts and the Tablelands region in the Tablelands Community Plan.
This document:
• Provides an introduction to the people and places of the Tablelands region
• Describes the regional vision for the future of the Tablelands
• Presents the town/district community plans and the Indigenous community plans
• Presents the regional and sector priority aspirations and strategies
• Highlights the Big Ideas and Quick Wins amongst the regional aspirations, goals and strategies
• Outlines the community planning framework and tells the story about how the long term community plan was developed
• Describes how the community plan will be implemented
• Acknowledges the many people and organisations who have so generously given their time and expertise to this project

We trust that you hear the voices of the people of the Tablelands region reflected in the following pages telling how they want their unique communities and the region to unfold and prosper in the future.

Speewah community workshop, the Community Plan sought to hear the shared (and opposing) voices of the Tablelands Region

Diagram 1.1 Community Engagement Pathway

August 2008
- Community and council collaborate to develop a community plan.
- Community Plan Reference Group established

Sept - Oct 2009
- Regional 'Postcard' Survey

Oct - Nov 2009
- Youth engagement project

December 2009
- Research community issues for consideration

Feb - Nov 2010
- Sector planning

July 2010
- New Local Government Act requires all councils to prepare a long term community plan

Aug 2010 - July 2011
- Place-based planning in 20 towns and districts

Town / district surveys

Community voting stalls

Community workshops

Feb - June 2011
- Indigenous planning in 7 towns and districts

Indigenous surveys

Regional voting stalls

Indigenous Community workshops

The Community Engagement Strategy

The engagement process used in the development of the plan to ensure people could have their say and get involved.

August 2011
- Series of regional Think Tanks

Sept 2011
- Regional Summit

Oct - Dec 2011
- Developing the regional strategies and drafting the Community Plan

Dec 2011 - Jan 2012
- Public comment on draft community plan

Feb 2012
- Incorporating community feedback

March 2012
- Tablelands Community Plan finalised and endorsed by council

May 2012
- Implementation

Table 1.1   Town/District Community Participation

Town / District	Community engagement events and activities	Community participation (persons)*	Community and Indigenous community participation rates**
Benchmarked Communities			
Atherton/Tolga District	Regional survey, town survey, Indigenous survey, 5 community voting stalls, Indigenous planning workshop, community planning workshop	1952	26% **(31%)**
Dimbulah District	Regional survey, town survey, community voting stall, community planning workshop	352	30%
Herberton/ Wondecla District	Regional survey, district survey, 2 community voting stalls, community planning workshop	380	25%
Julatten / Mt Molloy District #	Regional survey, town survey, community voting stall, 2 community planning workshops	232	22%
Kuranda District	Regional survey, town survey, Indigenous survey, 2 community voting stalls, Indigenous planning workshop, community planning workshop	673	33% **(107%) ^**
Malanda District	Regional survey, town survey, Indigenous survey, 2 community voting stalls, Indigenous planning workshop, community planning workshop	627	20% **(52%)**
Mareeba District	Regional survey, town survey, Indigenous survey, 6 community voting stalls, Indigenous planning workshop, community planning workshop	2111	26% **(29%)**
Millaa Millaa District	Regional survey, town survey, community voting stall, community planning workshop	214	40%
Ravenshoe District	Regional survey, town survey, Indigenous survey, 2 community voting stalls, Indigenous planning workshop, community planning workshop	694	35% **(49%)**
Yungaburra District	Regional survey, town survey, community voting stall, community planning workshop	311	24%
Smaller Communities - Not Benchmarked			
Biboohra District	Regional survey, Community planning workshop	46	NA
Chillagoe District	Regional survey, Community planning workshop, Indigenous planning workshop	75	NA
Irvinebank/ Watsonville	Regional survey, Community planning workshop	15	NA
Kairi/Tinaroo	Regional survey, Community planning workshop	28	NA
Koah	Regional survey, Community planning workshop	24	NA
Mt Garnet	Regional survey, Community planning workshop Indigenous planning workshop	47	NA
Mutchilba	Regional survey , Community planning workshop	13	NA
Speewah	Regional survey, Community planning workshop	53	NA
Walkamin	Regional survey, Community planning workshop	30	NA
Total		**7875***	**24%**

* Includes those who completed a regional survey. Total town/district participation without regional survey is 7,368; total regional engagement is 3,663; total community participation is 11,031. Refer Section 8 for full details.

*** Number of people who participated in the town/district community planning as a proportion of town/district population aged 15 years and over and **(x)%** Indigenous community participation rate (number of persons as a proportion of the Indigenous population aged 15 yrs+)*

 # Mt Molloy and Julatten shared a district survey and are grouped together for community participation as population data is only available for the wider district. A community plan was developed for Mt Molloy and one for Julatten.

^ Kuranda residents regard the ABS population data as an undercount and estimate that there are about 1200 Indigenous residents in the Kuranda district, providing a community participation rate of at least 20%

Table 1.2   Regional Engagement

Regional Engagement Strategy	Number of Participants
Regional Postcard Survey	646
Youth action planning	912
Sector planning workshops: Remote Families, Disability Sector, Community Services Sector	167
Regional voting exercises:Rabobank Field Day, Atherton Show and Mareeba Rodeo, Disability and Carers Expo	1335
Think Tanks	312
Regional Summit	189
Facebook page members	102
Total	**3663**

1.1 Local Government Areas Map

**Tablelands Regional Council
and adjoining Local Government Areas**

This map shows the boundaries of the amalgamated councils formed in March 2008. It also highlights the Tablelands Regional Council area in relation to other councils in Queensland.

*Cook
Shire
Council*

*Tablelands
Regional Council*

Cairns Regional Council

*Carpentaria
Shire Council*

*Cassowary Coast
Regional Council*

*Croydon
Shire
Council*

*Etheridge
Shire
Council*

*Hinchinbrook
Shire Council*

*Charters Towers
Reional Council*

*Planning Information and Forecasting Unit , April 2008, www.dlgp.qld.gov.au
© The State of Queensland (Department of Infrastructure and Planning) 2008.
No liability accepted for any loss or damage which may arise from the use of or reliance upon this data*

1.2 Tablelands Regional Council Area

The Tablelands Regional Council was formed in March 2008 as a result of the amalgamation of the former Atherton, Eacham, Herberton and Mareeba Shires.

Community engagement strategies to engage remote communities:
- Remote Families Planning Workshop
- Email
- Facebook
- Online Survey
- TRC Website

Tablelands Regional Council Area

17°23′ S *Dotted line shows the line of the elevation profile shown at the top of the page*

Covering a total area of 64,768 km², the Tablelands Regional Council area is larger than the main island of the State of Tasmania.

Based on or contains data provided by the Tablelands Regional Council, State of Queensland (Department of Environment and Resource Management) and Commonwealth of Australia (Geoscience Australia) [2011]. In consideration of the above permitting use of this data you acknowledge and agree that the above give no warranty in relation to the data (including accuracy, reliability, completeness, currency or suitability) and accepts no liability (including without limitation, liability in negligence) for any loss, damage or costs (including consequential damage) relating to any use of the data. Data must not be used for direct marketing or be used in breach of the privacy laws. Vegetation data based on MODIS Vegetation Continuous Fields. Source: Global Land Cover Facility, www.landcover.org

Atherton Tablelands
G.I.S.

Mount Bartle Frere
1622m

Herberton

Kennedy Highway

Emu Creek

Tate River

North Johnstone River

Russell River

• • • • • • • *Elevation profile from the western boundary (approx. 67m above sea level) to Mount Bartle Frere (1622m above sea level), illustrated by the dotted line across the map below*

Tablelands Regional Council Area

Julatten

Mt Molloy

Kuranda

Koah

Speewah

Biboohra

Mareeba

Chillagoe

Dimbulah

Mutchilba

Walkamin

Tinaroo

Tolga

Kairi

Atherton

Yungaburra

Watsonville

Malanda

Herberton

Irvinebank

Millaa Millaa

Ravenshoe

Mt Garnet

During the community engagement, the 23 communities highlighted on this map were involved in developing the Tablelands Community Plan.

Some of these smaller communities were grouped together and shared combined community planning events and activities.

The communities were:
• Irvinebank and Watsonville,
• Tinaroo and Kairi and
• Atherton and Tolga

1.3 Introducing the Tablelands Region

The Tablelands Regional Council was formed in March 2008 as a result of the amalgamation of the former Atherton, Eacham, Herberton and Mareeba Shires.

The Tablelands is a diverse region, covering an area of 64,768 km² - larger than the main island of the State of Tasmania - and home to 46,937 people (estimated resident population at 30 June 2010, ABS 2011). The main population centres on the Tablelands are Mareeba, Atherton, Malanda, Herberton, Kuranda, Ravenshoe, Millaa Millaa, Chillagoe, Dimbulah, Mt Garnet, Mt Molloy, Tinaroo and Yungaburra.

The region spreads westwards and southwards from the coastal escarpment behind Cairns and incorporates parts of the Wet Tropics bioregion to the east, the Einasleigh Uplands to the south, the Gulf Plains to the west and the Cape York Peninsula bioregion to the north. The Wet Tropics World Heritage Area lies within the region's eastern boundaries.

The Tablelands region is situated in the vicinity of 16° - 17° south latitude. Its elevation above sea level ranges from about 400 metres in northern areas around Mareeba to 1,280 metres in the southern areas encompassing the former Herberton and Eacham Shires. The mountainous region in the east reaches heights above 1600m, including Queensland's highest mountain Mt Bartle Frere at 1622m.

Because of its altitude, the region does not suffer from temperature extremes or the high humidity experienced in coastal areas. The northern part of the region enjoys cool, dry winters and warm, wet summers with minimum daily temperatures in winter rarely falling below 15°C and maximum daily summer temperatures rarely exceeding 35°C. To the south, rainfall is much higher with the area around Topaz recording some of the highest annual rainfall in Australia. Temperatures are also lower with a range of between 17°C and 25°C from September to June and between 5°C and 14°C from July to August.

The considerable range in elevation, rainfall and soil types has produced an incredibly diverse and beautiful region. There is a prolific diversity in natural flora and fauna, ranging from tropical highland rainforests to dry tropical savannah.

Water, soils and diverse growing conditions have supported development of a wide range of agricultural and horticultural cropping operations. The region's farmers and support services represent, in most cases, best international practice in farming in a tropical environment. Water supplied from Tinaroo Dam enables a tremendous range of fruit and vegetables to be grown to supply both the domestic and overseas markets.

The range of crops grown is truly amazing and includes avocados, bananas, cashews, citrus, coffee, cow pea, custard apples, dolichos, flowers, fresh herbs, grapes, grass seed, legume seed, lettuce, longans, lychees, macadamia, maize, mangoes, mixed vegetables, navy beans, potatoes, passionfruit, paw paw, peaches, peanuts, pineapples, pumpkins, sorghum, sugar cane, sweet potatoes, ti tree, tomatoes, native trees, turf and watermelons.

Bananas are not only a major regional food crop, but creative thinking by farmers is turning banana waste products into innovative packing materials and other re-usable products. 'Banana Bender', Photo courtesy: Leith Hawke

The cattle industry also plays a significant role in the region's economy and in recent years the value of animals produced in the region has been approximately $35 million per annum.

To the south, around the Malanda/Millaa Millaa area, the dairy industry is significant and the Tablelands dairy industry is the only tropical dairy industry in Australia and one of the few globally. Other agriculture based industries include poultry, fruit wineries, aquaculture and timber.

'Mustering cattle on Karma Waters Station', Photo courtesy: Jennifer Eliot

With its remarkable scenic qualities, the Tablelands Region is a popular tourist destination. Visually the region is stunning. It encompasses a myriad of waterfalls, broad mountain vistas, clear mountain streams, crater lakes, National Parks and freehold pristine rainforests, popular and attractive villages such as Kuranda and Yungaburra oriented to tourism, rich outback savannah wetlands teeming with bird life, historic mining towns, limestone caves, rich farming vistas and stark outback scenery reminiscent of Cape York and Kakadu.

The Tablelands' history and landscape includes our rich and robust Aboriginal heritage.

With its location within a World Heritage Area, adjacent to an international airport and within a region that is already a destination for some 2.2 million visitors per annum, it has unrealised tourism potential. Kuranda alone, with the Kuranda Scenic Railway and Skyrail Cableway, brings up to a million visitors to the region each year. Tinaroo Dam is a further drawcard, bringing an estimated 500,000 visitors per annum to utilise the Dam for water skiing, boating, fishing and camping.

In recent years there has been a rapid expansion of high quality Bed and Breakfast properties which allow visitors to experience the unique attractions of the Tablelands first hand. The area is also a popular destination for Grey Nomads who hold a Christmas in July event at Mareeba each year.

The Tablelands region is rich in mineral resources including gold, lead, zinc and other base metals, tungsten, copper sulphate, tin, perlite, limestone, marble and slate, and there are a number of major mining operations within the region.

Overall, with its natural beauty, economic diversity, abundance of water, proximity to Cairns and potential for significant expansion in terms of agriculture, tourism and mining, the Tablelands region has a secure future.

The region will continue to be a lifestyle destination of choice for many "tree changers" leaving the cities in search of a quieter lifestyle or for those people who are simply attracted to the natural beauty of the region, its mild tropical climate and its relative proximity to Cairns (with its domestic and international airports).

As well, a focus on establishing Mareeba as the industrial hub of Far North Queensland and the further development of the Mareeba airport, which has the potential to become a major regional centre in North Queensland's fast growing general aviation industry, will provide strategic infrastructure which will help fuel sustained economic growth into the future.

Tinaroo Dam is a critical driver of the regional economy, supplying water for agricultural production and serving as a key tourist attraction. Visitors and locals alike enjoy many sport and recreational activities at the Dam. Upgrading these facilities, water pricing and improving water safety were highlighted as important issues during the community planning.
*'Biscuiting on Tinaroo', Photo courtesy: Lydia O'Meara*

1.4 Our Changing Tablelands Population

The estimated resident population of the Tablelands Regional Council local government area at 30 June 2010 was 46,937 persons (ABS, 2011).

Population Growth

The Tablelands population has grown from 40,801 residents in 2001 to 46,937 in 2010 (estimated resident population at 30 June, ABS catalogue 3218.0, 2011).

Estimated Resident Population, Tablelands Regional Council
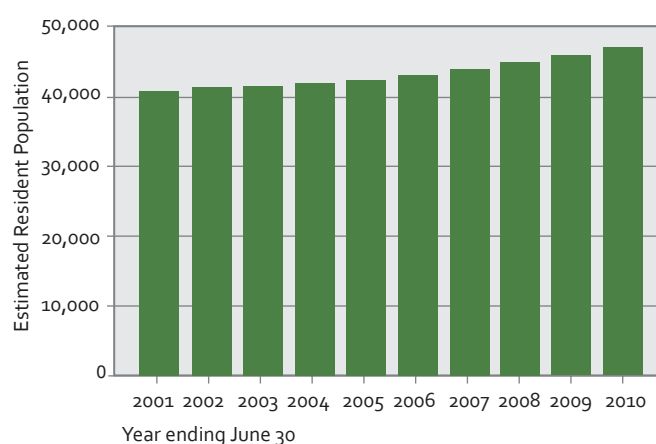
Source: TRC Demographic Profile
http://www.trc.qld.gov.au/discover/community-profile

Rate of Change

Annual growth over this period has been variable, with a low of 0.8% in the 2003-04 year to a high of 2.4% in 2007-08, slowing to 1.2% in the 2009-10 year. The average annual growth rate over the period June 2001 to June 2010 was 1.6%.

Change in Estimated Resident Population, Tablelands Regional Council
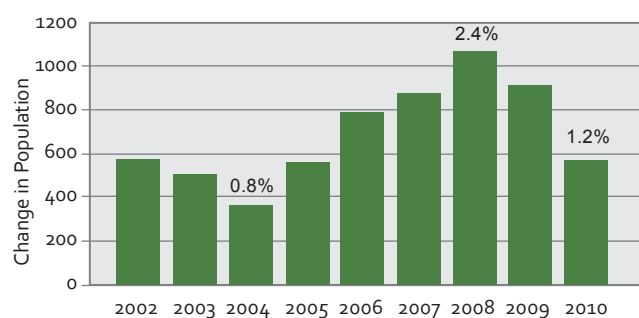
Migration and Natural Increase

While both net migration and the level of natural increase fluctuate from year to year, most of the growth in the Tablelands population over the 2001-2009 period was due to net migration rather than natural increase.

More people moved into the Tablelands region than moved out by an average of 505 people per year. In addition, the number of births exceeded the number of deaths by an average of 190 persons per year. Thus, net migration contributed 73% of the population growth and natural increase 27% during this period (OESR, Queensland Treasury 2011).

Future Population Change

In 2021 it is expected that the Tablelands population will have increased to somewhere between 51,000 and 56,000 persons. If current trends continue, the most likely figure is 53,464 persons (medium series, Queensland Government Population Projections to 2031: Local Government Areas, 2011 edition, OESR, Queensland Treasury, 2011).

Tablelands Local Government Area, Population Projected to 2021

	Tablelands Projected Population			Average annual change (5 years prior - Medium series)	
	Low	Medium	High	Number	Percent
2011	47,362	47,572	47,686	813	1.8%
2016	49,522	50,622	51,876	610	1.3%
2021	51,292	53,464	56,050	568	1.1%
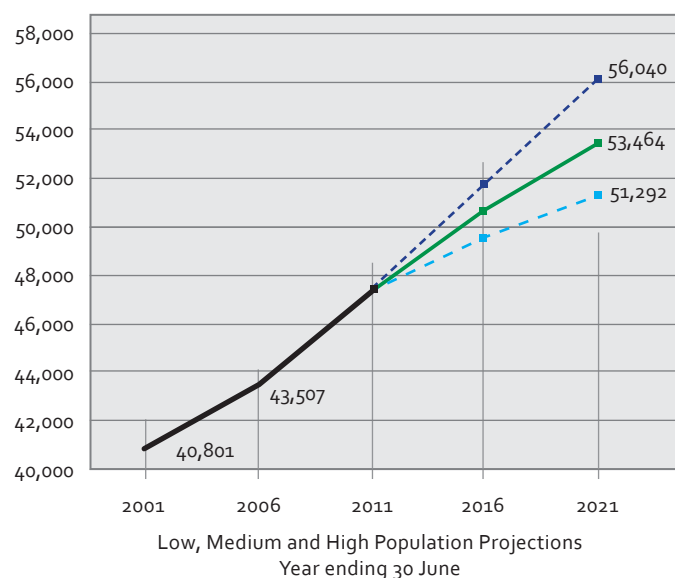
Based on: ABS Cat 3218.0 (for 2001 ERP) and Queensland Government population projections to 2031: local government areas, 2011 edition, Office of Economic and Statistical Research, Queensland Treasury 2011

Changing Age Structure

The most significant change in the age structure of the Tablelands population over the next ten years will be rapid ageing of the population. This is a global and national phenomenon.

Nationally, population ageing is the result of longer life expectancy and the baby boom of the post-war years being followed by a period of lower fertility rates. In the Tablelands, as in other rural areas, it is exacerbated by the loss of young people in the 16-29 year age group who migrate to the cities.

Ageing of the Tablelands Population

The median age of the Tablelands population in 2006 was 41.2 years. In 2021 it is expected to be 46.0 years.

Age Distribution, Tablelands Regional Council 2006 and projected 2021
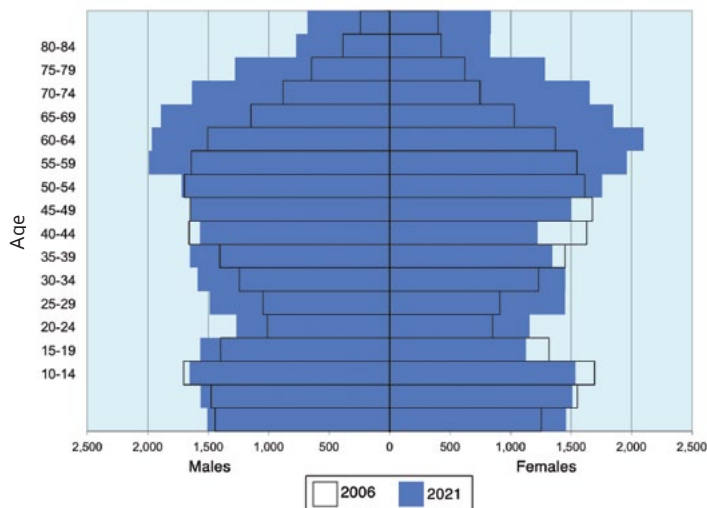
Source: Queensland Government population projections to 2031: local government areas, 2011 edition, Office of Economic and Statistical Research, Queensland Treasury 2011

While the size of the younger age groups (0-19 yrs) will remain fairly steady over the next ten years, the size of the older age groups (55+ yrs) will become significantly larger. In the middle years, the 25 - 39 years age group is expected to become larger than it was in 2006, but the 40-49 years age group is expected to become smaller. A very significant change will be in the number of people aged over 85 years. There were 643 people aged 85 years and over in 2006; on current trends there will be around 1,500 people 85 years and over in the Tablelands in 2021, an increase of 133%.

Tablelands: Size of population by age group
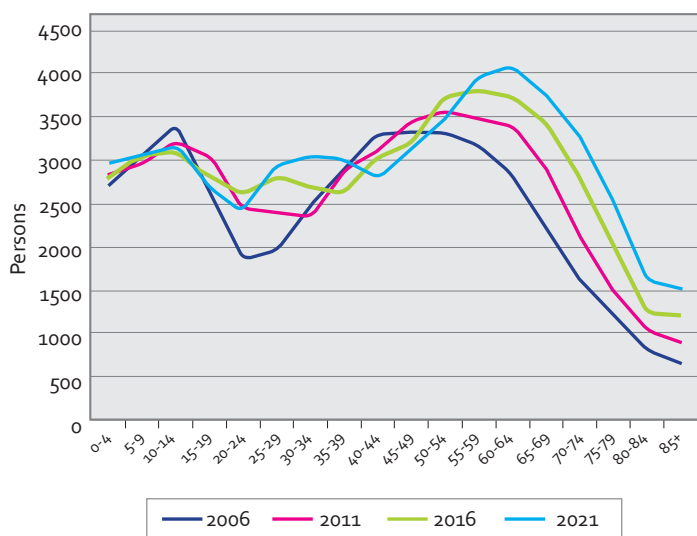
Source of data: Queensland Government population projections to 2031: local government areas, 2011 edition, Office of Economic and Statistical Research, Queensland Treasury 2011

Although the numbers of young people may not change very much, the proportion of young people (0-19 yrs) in the Tablelands population is projected to fall from 27.2% in 2006 to 22.3% in 2021. The proportion of older people (65+ yrs) is projected to rise from 15.0% in 2006 to 23.8% in 2021.

Tablelands % Total Population per 5 year Age Group, 2006 and 2021
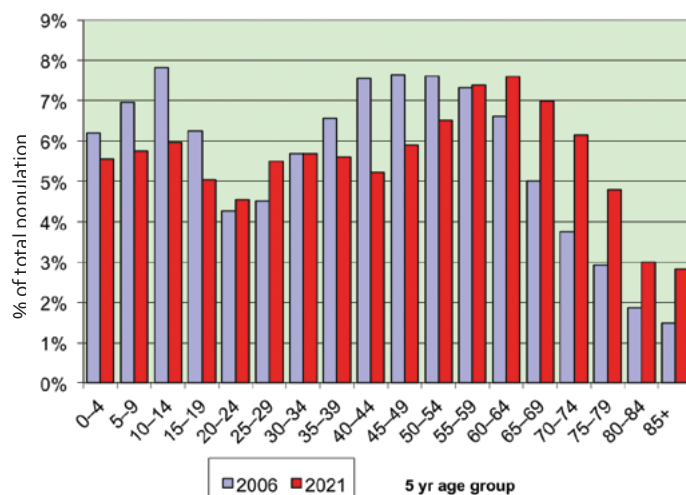
Source of data: Queensland Government population projections to 2031: local government areas, 2011 edition, Office of Economic and Statistical Research, Queensland Treasury 2011

Changing Household Composition

The ageing of the Tablelands population has implications for the composition of households. As people age they tend to move through the lifecycle from couple households with children to couple only households and then lone person households. It is projected that in the Tablelands Local Government Area average household size will decrease from 2.52 persons per household in 2006 to 2.30 persons per household in 2031 (Queensland Treasury, 2010).

The trend towards smaller households means that growth in the number of households will be greater than population growth. The number of households in the Tablelands region is projected to grow by 15% in the period 2011 to 2021 whereas the population as a whole is projected to grow by 12.6%. Queensland Government projections indicate an underlying demand for around 300 new dwellings per year between 2011 and 2021 in the Tablelands region (Household and Dwelling Projections Queensland Local Government Areas 2010, OESR, Queensland Treasury May 2010).

Future Trends

Over the next ten years, the Tablelands population is likely to increase by 12.6% to around 53,500 people. Almost a quarter of our population will be over the age of 65 years in 2021. There will be demand for around 300 new dwellings per year and this demand is likely to be for smaller dwellings to accommodate the growth in the number of people living on their own. Demand is likely to be greater in the urban areas for proximity to health and community amenities.

2. A Regional Vision

Developing a vision of the future

This section introduces the community's ideas and views on the long term future of the Tablelands region. It presents a regional vision and describes how that vision was developed.

The Tablelands Region

The Tablelands Regional Council area, commonly referred to as the "Tablelands region", derives from the March 2008 amalgamation of the four former shires of Atherton, Eacham, Herberton and Mareeba. The rural and remote nature of this area means that many locals identify first and foremost with their town or district and are committed to maintaining its strong and unique identity.

However, a sense of identifying with the broader Tablelands region is developing gradually. There is a view that new opportunities for future prosperity lie in thinking about and working together at this broader Tablelands regional level. There is also a stance that many of the common issues experienced by towns and districts, such as improved health services and all weather road access, could be more appropriately addressed by a regional approach.

Therefore, the community planning process set out to provide the opportunity for people to express their views about how they want the Tablelands to develop as a region.

What do we value most?

The Tablelands Community Plan utilised many strategies to tease out a sense of the direction in which the community would like the region to go over the next ten years. It was essential to discover what the people of the Tablelands value most about where they live, what people would like improved or changed and what kind of place they would like the Tablelands to be in the future.

The first community engagement strategy carried out for the Tablelands Community Plan, the TRC Postcard Survey 2009, set out to do just this.

The Postcard Survey found that the most highly valued aspects of the Tablelands are:

• The tropical highland climate
• The rural, relaxed lifestyle
• The rural, farm landscape
• The natural environment, especially the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area
• The farming economy and way of life
• The small country town atmosphere
• The sense of community
• That it is a good place to raise children

What kind of place do we want the Tablelands to be?

In the Postcard Survey the most common response to the question "What kind of place would you like the Tablelands to be in 20 years time?" was "the same but with better infrastructure and services".

Nine themes were identified from the responses, in rank order:
1. A place very similar to how it is now
2. A place with better infrastructure and services
3. A self-sufficient, green, clean and sustainable place
4. A place with a prosperous, vibrant, rural economy
5. A place with a strong community spirit
6. A place that is not overdeveloped and not like Cairns
7. A place with good cultural, recreational and entertainment facilities and a lively arts culture,
8. A community that is more open-minded, equitable, diverse, cosmopolitan, progressive and inclusive
9. A place that keeps and attracts young people

Recurring themes

Similar themes were reiterated throughout the other regional events and activities as well as the 27 town/district vision statements developed by residents and the sector visions developed by people representing remote families, the disability and carers sector and the community services sector.

The first stages of research began in 2009 through the TRC Postcard Survey. 646 people completed this regional survey.

The major recurring themes were:
• The desire to retain those elements that we value about the Tablelands while pursuing opportunities for economic prosperity and cultural vibrancy; and

• The need for better infrastructure to be developed in preparation for future population growth and the most urgent infrastructure called for included better roads; upgraded public recreational facilities in parks and gardens; safe bicycle and walking paths; more health and aged care facilities and better telecommunications.

Opportunities and challenges arising from global driving forces

The three regional Think Tanks gave people the chance to imagine how the Tablelands region might change in response to various external forces or large scale trends that are driving change in the world today, such as world population growth and technological change. This stimulated thinking and discussion about the challenges and opportunities that might arise for the Tablelands in the face of such global forces.

Climate change, "peak resources", global financial crises, global population pressure on land, food and water security and threats to our biodiversity from overdevelopment were seen by many as factors that required the Tablelands to become much more self-sufficient in food and energy, to localise our economy and to change our way of life to make it sustainable, with less negative impact on the environment.

For some the challenges of feeding more people in the world, reducing carbon emissions and finding new ways to harness and utilise energy from renewable sources offer great opportunities for the Tablelands, with its well-developed expertise in tropical agriculture, its land area and its potential for harnessing solar, wind and geothermal energy. Opportunities for the development of diverse bio-based industries on the Tablelands were identified as having great potential for sustainable economic growth.

In thinking about our ageing population, a clear vision emerged of a community where our older people live active, healthy lives contributing to society through volunteering, mentoring and active participation in community events and activities while having access to excellent support services allowing the aged to carry on living in their own homes but if necessary being cared for in residential care facilities here on the Tablelands.

The challenge of an ageing population with associated loss of young people from the region stimulated ideas about how we can attract and retain skilled and professional people in the younger age groups to the Tablelands. There was a strong call to develop a distinct regional identity and regional brand to promote the region not only to attract tourists and economic activity, but also to attract "knowledge workers" who would come to the Tablelands for its unique lifestyle, climate and friendly community while being able to work for international clients using high speed internet technology.

A balanced path to the future

In summary, there is a very strong sense that Tablelanders don't want to stagnate and be left behind, but in pursuing new opportunities to progress, don't want to lose those unique community and regional characteristics that people value now. Considered, gradual development that builds on and retains our unique regional and community characteristics is the preferred pathway to ensuring future wellbeing. Whilst valuing our connections and partnerships that extend beyond the Tablelands region, there is a strong sense that the region continues to build self-sufficiency and sustainability.

Somehow we need to hold the tension inherent in striving to capitalise on opportunities for future prosperity on the Tablelands, yet be ever mindful of appreciating and retaining the region's unique characteristics.

At the Regional Summit participants were asked to write down three things that they value highly and find unique about the Tablelands. Their responses were very similar to those in the Postcard Survey and are summarised in the following illustration where the words used most frequently are the largest:

The unique features that we value most about the Tablelands region
(created from community responses at the Regional Summit)

Drafting the vision

Taking into consideration all of the material generated from the community planning so far, a draft vision of how we would like the Tablelands to be in 2021 was presented at the Regional Summit in September 2011. Community participants gave feedback on the wording of this draft vision which has been taken into consideration, as have comments made during the public viewing phase of the Draft Tablelands Community Plan.

The Tablelands Community Plan vision for the future of our region is presented in two ways: one a narrative outlining what sort of place we would like the Tablelands to be in 2021 and the second, a short statement focussing on how we will achieve this.

A Vision of the Tablelands Region in 2021

In 2021, the Tablelands is an open, friendly, welcoming, safe and inclusive place with a strong community spirit. All residents and visitors are able to enjoy a healthy, active and relaxed lifestyle in our beautiful rural landscape.

We have access to excellent health and community services and are connected with well maintained roads, public transport and communications services. The character and identity of each of our many small rural communities remains strong and distinct, their diverse cultural heritages valued, protected and celebrated.

While the Tablelands has grown in population, its good quality agricultural land has been protected from urban encroachment and is highly productive. Our extensive areas of ecological significance, with their high level of biodiversity, are protected and valued for the ecosystem services they provide, contributing to the economy and community wellbeing. Our Traditional Owner groups are acknowledged for their long custodianship of the land and their knowledge of the land is highly valued.

Our highly diverse natural resources are managed using best practice sustainability principles. Our community and environment is resilient in the face of changing climate and availability of resources. We are more self-sufficient in food and energy, trading locally grown food and harnessing energy from local, renewable sources.

In 2021, the Tablelands is a thriving economic hub at the heart of the Far North Queensland region, providing a diverse range of services to the local and wider region. The Tablelands is internationally recognised for its expertise in tropical research and development in primary industries, including emerging bio-based technologies, in aviation, in mining and in renewable energy services. It is a centre of excellence in rural and remote health and wellbeing services, attracting a highly skilled workforce. Our tourism industry is well developed offering excellent accommodation facilities and a diversity of visitor experiences. Our economic vitality is supported with high quality transport and communications infrastructure and excellent skills training facilities.

In 2021, the Tablelands is a place with many high quality cultural, recreational and entertainment facilities and a lively arts culture. We are proud of our multicultural community, celebrating our diversity in our many festivals. Our Indigenous people are respected and included in all aspects of community life.

The wellbeing, economic vitality and cultural vibrancy of the Tablelands region is enabled and supported by good governance, with government and community working collaboratively towards a sustainable, prosperous, inclusive future.
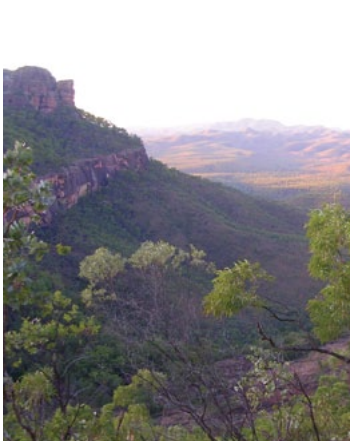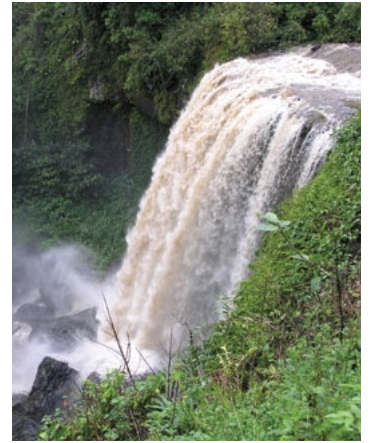
Mt Mulligan's Southern Ramparts
Photo courtesy: Rupert Russell

Chillagoe Smelters
Photo courtesy: Sue Colman

Zillie Falls in the Wet
Photo courtesy: Lyndal White

Achieving the vision

Much of the thinking behind the development of the "Big Ideas" outlined in Section 6 is related to the key concepts in the regional vision and to the action required to achieve the vision. Many of the regional aspirations, goals and strategies are also about trying to achieve the regional vision, or at least parts of it.

Our strong sense of community is one of the most highly valued qualities of the Tablelands region. It is this sense that underpins our ability to collaborate and form partnerships within the region to pursue common goals. The eagerness of the Tablelands community to work together to build the prosperity of the region was evident throughout the community planning process and can be seen in the number of community organisations putting forward their names as partners in progressing the town/district and regional aspirations.

This is reflected in the following statement, which summarises what we want to keep, what type of place we want the Tablelands to be and how we will create it:

> *Valuing our natural and cultural heritage,*
>
> *the unique communities of the Tablelands*
>
> *work together to create a vibrant,*
>
> *sustainable, inclusive and prosperous region*

Rainforest Creek near Tully Falls Lookout
Photo courtesy: Tourism Tropical Tablelands

'Sombrero Heroes',
The Great Wheelbarrow Race, 2005

Balloons over Mareeba district
Photo courtesy: Tourism Tropical North Queensland

3. Community Aspirations

Place-based planning

This section presents the community's views about the most important issues facing their town or district for the next 10 years. It sets out the results of place-based planning with 20 communities and includes Indigenous community planning in 7 towns and districts.

The rural and remote nature of the Tablelands Regional Council area means that many locals identify first and foremost with their town or district; are committed to retaining it's unique identity; and are concerned to have their voices heard in the large Tablelands region.

To this end, the community plan was designed to have *reach* - to reach out and engage people residing in the many small communities across the entire length and breadth of the Tablelands, especially the "silent majority" and those who do not normally have a voice in civic planning and decision-making.

Community engagement

Approximately 11,000 people actively participated to develop the Tablelands Community Plan, with 70% of these participating in town/district events and activities. Each town/district community plan was developed by local residents, community groups, government and non-government services and local businesses as they identified the community priorities, or the issues they believed to be the most important for their community for the next 10 years, by participating in surveys, community voting exercises and workshops.

Different levels of community engagement were conducted in the towns and districts depending on their size, location and complexity.

Atherton, Chillagoe, Kuranda, Malanda, Mareeba, Mt. Garnet and Ravenshoe had additional planning workshops with the local Indigenous community

The Tableland Region is represented by many communities - both large and small. The Community Plan is designed to capture the many voices that represent this vast region.

A community planning workshop was held in each of the 20 towns and districts and this formed the minimum level of community engagement that was conducted for the town/district place-based planning. We asked people to imagine how they would like their town or district to be in 10 years time; to identify and prioritise the important issues facing their town/district over the long term; and plan how they can achieve or address these issues and aspirations.

In the 10 larger communities, surveys and community voting exercises were also offered as a way for more residents to have a say about their important issues and aspirations and these results were presented at the community planning workshop.

In 7 towns with significant Indigenous populations, Indigenous community planning was facilitated. A door to door survey of all Indigenous residents was conducted in Atherton, Kuranda and Mareeba. In Malanda and Millaa Millaa a survey was distributed via local family and Indigenous organisational networks. Indigenous surveys were not conducted in Mt Garnet and Chillagoe but an Indigenous planning workshop was held before the town community planning workshop. An Indigenous community plan and a town/district community plan were developed for each of these 7 towns and are presented in the following section.

Benchmarking community participation

In the larger communities where we provided multiple ways for people to get involved in developing their town/district community plan, we wanted some indication that the community engagement strategies were achieving a reasonable level of community participation.

We benchmarked these larger towns and districts for community participation, setting a target of having at least 20% of the population aged 15 years and over participate in developing their town plan. This benchmark was achieved in each of the larger 10 communities and the community participation rates are presented in the following town and district community plans in this section.

Community partners

The community plan is about the community's aspirations so it contains issues that are within the sphere of influence of not only Council, but of many community partners including residents and a vast array of community, government, industry and corporate groups and organisations.

Community partners have been listed for each strategy outlined in the following town/district community plans. However, this does not mean that each community partner will definitely be implementing that specific strategy or action within the identified timeframe. Some community partners are listed because they have committed to a specific strategy; many are listed because the strategy is within their sphere of responsibility or influence. The list of community partners is not exhaustive and there are likely to be others that could be included.

Council will inform community partners of the Tablelands Community Plan and it will be up to each community partner to consider which of these strategies they will implement, depending on financial and other considerations. It will be important then, for residents and community groups to talk to community partners about how these strategies can be implemented and encourage them to become involved to achieve the desired outcomes. Achieving the aspirations identified in the Tablelands Community Plan is very dependent on a community partnerships approach.
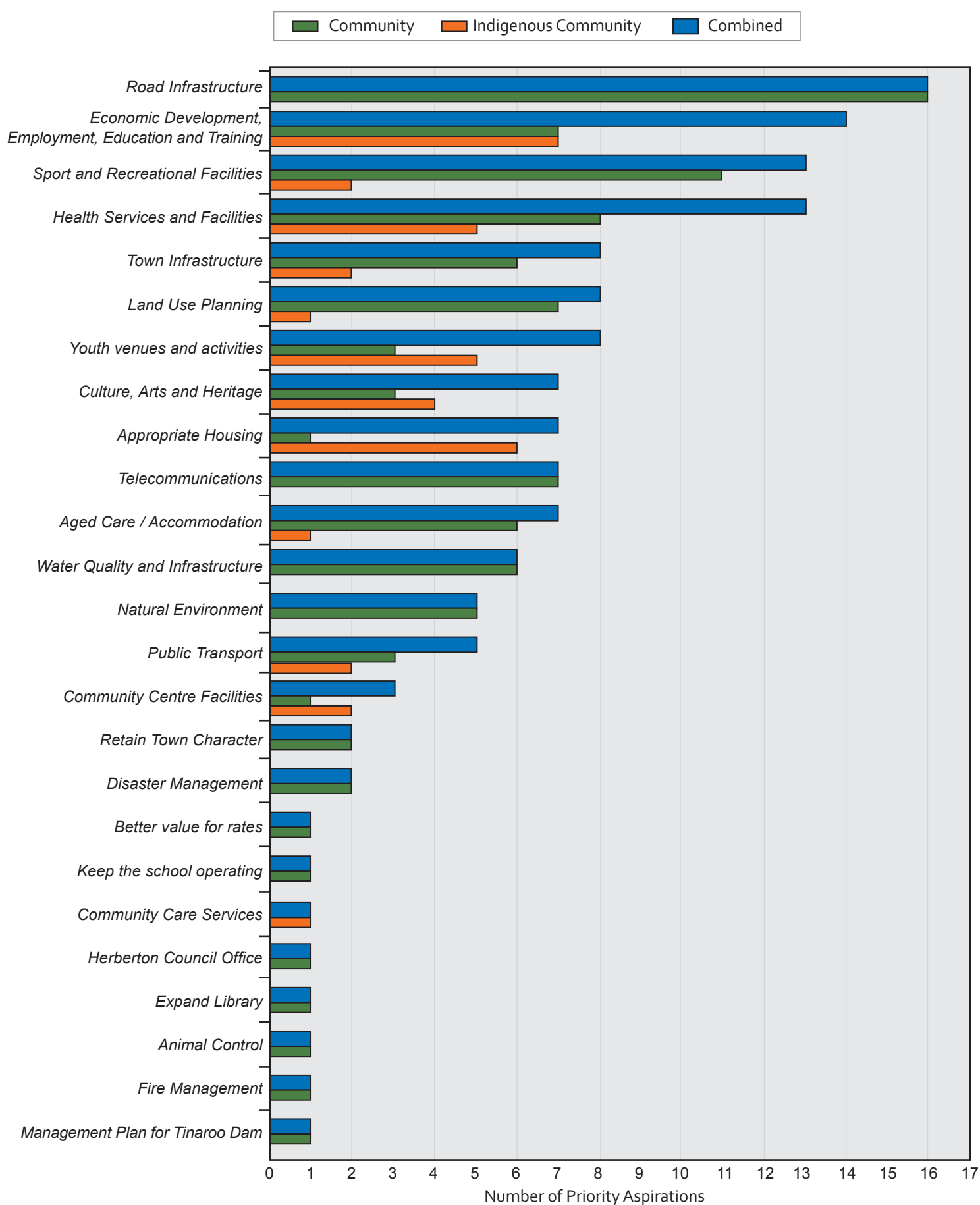
Community members raised issues and voiced their ideas for the future of their unique communities. Ravenshoe community workshop

Summary of Priority Community Aspirations in 20 Towns / Districts

This chart shows how often a priority community aspiration was identified across the 20 towns/districts

Legend: Community | Indigenous Community | Combined

X-axis: Number of Priority Aspirations

Categories (top to bottom):
- Road Infrastructure
- Economic Development, Employment, Education and Training
- Sport and Recreational Facilities
- Health Services and Facilities
- Town Infrastructure
- Land Use Planning
- Youth venues and activities
- Culture, Arts and Heritage
- Appropriate Housing
- Telecommunications
- Aged Care / Accommodation
- Water Quality and Infrastructure
- Natural Environment
- Public Transport
- Community Centre Facilities
- Retain Town Character
- Disaster Management
- Better value for rates
- Keep the school operating
- Community Care Services
- Herberton Council Office
- Expand Library
- Animal Control
- Fire Management
- Management Plan for Tinaroo Dam

Community plan posters

Each town/district community plan will be produced as a large colour poster and each community will be presented with a copy to display.

Timeframes

Timeframes have been identified for each strategy in an effort to increase the likelihood of outcomes being achieved and to enable more accurate and meaningful review of the implementation of the community plan which will involve an annual report on outcomes and achievements. Some timeframes may seem somewhat unrealistic but many community planning workshop participants were very keen for strategies to be addressed now or in the short term. Some of these may be adjusted during future annual reviews.

Further details about how the 27 place-based community plans for towns/ districts were developed are in Section 8 "Planning Methodology - Our Community Planning Framework".

Community aspirations - the foundation of the Tablelands Community Plan

The community aspirations identified by residents in the 20 towns and districts form the foundation of the Tablelands Community Plan. The most common community aspirations (presented the chart on page 24) and strategies as well as those with regional significance were used to inform the development of the region-wide goals and strategies which are presented in Section 4. The sentiments, ideals and values described in the 27 town visions also informed the development of the regional vision.

This section reflects the voices of people in our unique rural and remote towns and districts and we hope you hear their voices in the following pages.

Community plans are shown in the following alphabetical order:

- Atherton and Tolga
- Biboohra
- Chillagoe
- Dimbulah
- Herberton
- Irvinebank and Watsonville
- Julatten
- Kairi and Tinaroo
- Koah
- Kuranda
- Malanda
- Mareeba
- Millaa Millaa
- Mt Garnet
- Mt Molloy
- Mutchilba
- Ravenshoe
- Speewah
- Walkamin
- Yungaburra

Key to using the Community / District Plans

3.1.4 Town infrastructure

(i) Consider options for additional land to be designated for business and industrial use in the new Planning Scheme.
TRC, Dept of Local Government and Planning, Atherton Tableland Chamber of Commerce
2012 - 2013

(ii) Recruit, train and support volunteer groups to assist with maintaining existing town gardens and parks.
TRC, Volunteer Garden Club, Community, Atherton Tableland Chamber of Commerce
2013 - 2016

(iii) Artists to create public art works for parks and public spaces.
Artists, TRC

(iv) Community priorities for maintaining and upgrading town infrastructure identified to inform Council decision-making including improved drainage in Atherton, Tolga, Rangeview.
TRC, Atherton Tableland Chamber of Commerce
2012 - 2021

Community Priority
These are the most important issues for each town/district identified and prioritised by locals

Strategies
People at the community planning workshop in their town/district developed these actions to achieve the community priority

Community Partners
These are the community members, groups, organisations, businesses and departments which may be able to contribute to implementing the strategy and achieving the community priority

Timeframes
These range from short, to medium to long term and provide a guide for implementing the strategy

3.1 Atherton and Tolga

Our Community Vision

In 2021, imagine Atherton is a vibrant economic and cultural hub at the heart of the Tablelands, but has retained its rural relaxed way of life.

Atherton is a place where young and old have plenty of opportunities for healthy activities, employment, entertainment and lifelong learning.

There is a cultural precinct where local and visiting artists have excellent facilities for performance and training with studios and workshops; an entertainment centre with performance space, a cinema and recreational facilities for families. Atherton has excellent health facilities and all people have access to doctors and a wide range of specialist services. There are enough aged care services and facilities so that families can stay together on the Tablelands.

Our rural landscape is preserved and our natural environment protected. Farmers are able to export their produce with excellent freight transport routes as well as sell their produce through local food networks.

We are able to access the wide range of activities and services on the Tablelands through a well developed public transport system connecting all the towns on the Tablelands. We are also well connected to global opportunities and networks through high speed Internet access.

Atherton Community Planning Workshop, 6th June 2011

Atherton District Population: 9389
Atherton Indigenous Population: 574
(6.1% of total population)
ABS 2006 Census Usual Residents

Community Priorities ~ This plan reflects the aspirations of local residents. Council and other community partners will use these aspirations to guide future planning and consider which actions they can implement.

3.1.1   Road infrastructure

(i) Inform Department of Transport and Main Roads of identified community priorities for maintenance and upgrade of state controlled roads.
Dept of Transport and Main Roads, TRC

(ii) Community priorities for maintenance and upgrade of Council roads identified to inform Council decision-making.   TRC

(iii) Advocate for improved road infrastructure   Atherton Tableland Chamber of Commerce

2012 - 2021

Aged care accommodation and pedestrian access is important for our community. Maurie Costa takes a break on his daily stroll. Photo courtesy: James Leech

3.1.2   Health services and facilities

(i) Lobby to increase rebate for General Practice medical services to encourage bulk billing in rural practices.   FNQ Division of Rural General Practice, Community, TRC Health Action Group, Australian Government

(ii) Investigate options for improved public transport for patients to access specialist services in Cairns.   Community, Queensland Health, Tablelands Community Transport Service Providers Network

(iii) Implement preventative health initiatives including:
• Promotion of exercise and healthy active lifestyles
• More cycling and walking paths
• Construct Mareeba to Atherton cycle route
• More outdoor gyms along walking paths.   Queensland Health, TRC, Community, Sporting Clubs and Groups, Forest Users Group, Atherton Tableland Chamber of Commerce, Employment Service Providers

(iv) Extend mental health services, especially after hours.   Queensland Health, Community-based health and support services

(v) Campaign to upgrade Atherton Hospital to a standard that enables residents to continue residing on the Tablelands and reduces the necessity to travel to Cairns for treatment.   Hospital Auxiliary, TRC Health Action Group, Community, Queensland Health, Atherton Tableland Chamber of Commerce

(vi) Encourage blood bank services.   Community, Red Cross

(vii) Investigate incentives to entice and retain medical general practitioners and specialists to the area.   FNQ Division of Rural General Practice, Queensland Health, Australian Government

(viii) Investigate options to extend public dental services.   Queensland Health, Australian Government

(ix) Investigate models of health service delivery suitable to rural communities including:
• Telemedicine with high speed internet connection
• E-Health to streamline information sharing. Indigenous and community health service providers, FNQ Division of Rural General Practice, Queensland Health, Australian Government

(x) Investigate feasibility of establishing a Wellbeing Centre providing services for diet, mental health, alternative therapies, specialist services.   Queensland Health, Australian Government, Community Health and Support Services, Atherton Tableland Chamber of Commerce

2012 - 2013

2013 - 2016

2016 - 2021

3.1.3 Aged Care / Accommodation

(i) Encourage more volunteering in nursing homes and provide more training for staff and volunteers.
Residential Aged Care Facilities

(ii) Investigate options for improving transport between Tolga and Atherton. Tablelands Community Transport Service Providers Network, Atherton Tableland Chamber of Commerce

(iii) Investigate new models of accommodation for Seniors:
• Explore suitable models of retirement village settlement for those wanting to downsize
• Range of low - high care services available on site
• Designed to suit needs of elderly
• Retrofitting existing houses to extend independent living (ageing in place principles)
• Shared accommodation
• Clusters of independent living units with on site support
• Planning scheme to support small scale development with community title (6 units with one unit for live in carer or nurse).
Seniors, Developers, Aged Care Providers, Architects, Builders and Designers, TRC, Tablelands Aged Care and Retirement Accommodation Action Group

(iv) Explore options for improving public transport to better connect Atherton to other towns and Cairns Airport. Public Transport Operators, Community Transport Operators, Public Transport Users, Tablelands Community Transport Service Providers Network, Atherton Tableland Chamber of Commerce

(v) Investigate feasibility of establishing a supported accommodation facility for younger people with disabilities. Disability Support Services, Dept of Communities, Community, Atherton Tableland Chamber of Commerce

2012 - 2013

(vi) Town infrastructure upgraded to enable elderly to continue living independently in own home longer:
• Upgrade footpaths for multi-use (e.g. wheelchairs, mobility scooters, walking aids)
• Improved access to shops and public facilities for people using wheelchairs and walking aids.
Elderly, Wheelchair, Mobility Scooter and Walking Aid Users, TRC, Dept of Transport and Main Roads, Atherton Tableland Chamber of Commerce, Q.I.T.E.

(vii) Review government infrastructure fees and charges for aged housing developments and explore options for reducing fees and charges. TRC, Queensland Government

(viii) Conduct community education including:
• Remaining active and involved in community life as we age
• Population projections for region and age group break downs
• Availability of accommodation and support services for elderly. Seniors Groups, TRC, Aged Care Providers

2013 - 2016

(ix) Increase Neighbourhood Watch programs for elderly.
Neighbourhood Watch Program, Community, Atherton Tableland Chamber of Commerce

3.1.4 Town infrastructure

(i) Consider options for additional land to be designated for business and industrial use in the new Planning Scheme.
TRC, Dept of Local Government and Planning, Atherton Tableland Chamber of Commerce

2012 - 2013

(ii) Recruit, train and support volunteer groups to assist with maintaining existing town gardens and parks.
TRC, Volunteer Garden Club, Community, Atherton Tableland Chamber of Commerce

(iii) Artists to create public art works for parks and public spaces.
Artists, TRC

2013 - 2016

(iv) Community priorities for maintaining and upgrading town infrastructure identified to inform Council decision-making including improved drainage in Atherton, Tolga, Rangeview.
TRC, Atherton Tableland Chamber of Commerce

2012 - 2021

3.1.5 Cultural centre

(i) Establish community reference group to develop proposal for multipurpose cultural centre: cinema, performing arts, markets, arts and crafts, recreation, coffee shop, artists studios, gallery.
TRC Regional Cultural Centre Advisory Group, Atherton Tableland Chamber of Commerce

(ii) Investigate feasibility of establishing an innovative multipurpose cultural centre:
• Develop and cost the model
• Access funding to prepare a business case
• Investigate funding options
• Gauge level of community support for proposal
• Incorporate Indigenous and other stakeholder aspirations.
TRC Regional Cultural Centre Advisory Group, Businesses, Schools, Cultural and Performing Arts Groups, Traditional Owner Groups, Atherton Tableland Chamber of Commerce

2012 - 2013

(iii) Support existing cultural events such as Taste of the Tablelands and Atherton Show. Community, TRC, Businesses, Atherton Tableland Chamber of Commerce

Community Participation
The plan reflects the aspirations of local residents - 26% of the Atherton/Tolga district population aged 15 years and over participated in developing the Atherton Community Plans.

Our Community Vision

In 2021, imagine Atherton values its Traditional Owner groups and Aboriginal cultural heritage, preserving culturally significant sites and using Aboriginal names in signage of places and streets.

There is a Cultural Centre, run by Indigenous people, where cultural events, arts, crafts, dance and other performance activities can be held; where traditions can be passed on to the younger generation and shown to the wider community and visitors.

In 2021, Council employs many Indigenous people who provide a link with the community ensuring services are delivered in a culturally appropriate way. Local businesses offer training apprenticeships and employment to Indigenous people and many businesses are Indigenous owned.

Atherton Indigenous people have good access to health services, with more bulk-

Atherton Indigenous Community Planning Workshop, 3rd May 2011

billing of GP services and transport to hospital available.

Our elderly are cared for in culturally appropriate settings and have equitable access to aged care services. All our people have access to appropriate and adequate housing.

Our young people participate in community events, are engaged in healthy activities and are equipped for healthy life choices.

Our families have access to recreational areas in national parks and state forests to enjoy the beautiful environment surrounding Atherton, which has been preserved to allow our natural flora and fauna to proliferate.

**Atherton District Population: 9389
Atherton Indigenous Population: 574**
(6.1% of total population)
ABS 2006 Census Usual Residents

Community Priorities ~ This plan reflects the aspirations of local residents. Council and other community partners will use these aspirations to guide future planning and consider which actions they can implement.

3.2.1 Cultural, arts and heritage

(i) Investigate feasibility of establishing an Indigenous Cultural Centre:
• Establish Community Reference Group
• Centre to be operated by Indigenous people
• Accessible to community, schools, visitors
• Opportunity for small businesses in arts, crafts, dance, performance, history, community education, training, meeting and conference facilities, tourism
• Cultural tourism hub for walking tracks and trails across the region
• Place of celebration of Indigenous and community events.
Community,
Community Reference Group,
TRC, Queensland Government, Australian Government

(ii) Liaise with TRC Regional Cultural Centre Advisory Group to consider incorporating Indigenous Cultural Centre concept in Regional Cultural Centre proposal. Indigenous Community, Community Reference Group, TRC Regional Cultural Centre Advisory Group

(iii) Conduct more culturally based programs in primary and high schools. Traditional Owner Groups, Indigenous Community, Education Queensland, Catholic Education, Independent Schools

(iv) Negotiate with Council to install Indigenous art work at Halloran's Hill. Traditional Owner Groups, TRC

(v) Develop a register of Indigenous names for new street names and signage. Indigenous Community, TRC

2012 - 2013

(vi) Investigate options for improving public transport across the Tablelands region. Community, Transport Providers, Tablelands Community Transport Service Providers Network, Atherton Tableland Chamber of Commerce

(vii) Preserve sites of significant cultural heritage to local Indigenous people:
• Halloran's Hill
• Hastie's Swamp
• Carrington Falls
• Tolga Scrub *(Dulga)*
• Wongabel State Forest
• Bones Knob
• Mount Hypipamee
• Cherry Creek
• Pioneer Cemetery spring
• Indigenous Barney Springs.
Community, TRC,
Dept of Environment and Resource Management

(viii) Lobby Council to employ an Indigenous Cultural Heritage Officer. Community, TRC

(ix) Visitor Information Centres to actively recruit Indigenous volunteers to provide Indigenous information and history to visitors. Indigenous Community, Visitor Information Centres

2013 - 2016

Community Participation
The plan reflects the aspirations of local Indigenous residents. 31% of the Atherton/Tolga district Indigenous population aged 15 years and over participated in developing this plan.

3.2.2 Employment and training

(i) Employment Service providers to employ more Indigenous Officers to deliver culturally appropriate services. Employment Service Providers

2012 - 2013

(ii) Investigate options for creating new businesses and jobs:
• Community and employer education to break down barriers to the employment of Indigenous workers
• Promote incentives to major employers to employ local Indigenous people
• Encourage local large employers to set workforce targets for the employment of Indigenous workers
• Access to crown land for new business development. Community, Employment Service Providers, Employers, Industry Groups, TRC , Dept of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation,

(iii) Investigate improved training options for Indigenous people:
• Establish an Indigenous Registered Training Organisation and employment service
• More school-based apprenticeships for Indigenous students managed by Indigenous Officers
• More apprenticeships for mature trainees. Indigenous community, Dept of Education and Training

2013 - 2016

(iv) Review community and government services and training to improve service delivery to local Indigenous people:
• Remote Area Teacher Education Program to operate from Atherton Schools
• Male and female Police Indigenous Liaison Officers
• Local Indigenous youth justice service. Indigenous Community, Queensland Government

3.2.3 Health services and facilities

(i) Lobby to increase rebate for General Practice medical services to encourage bulk billing in rural practices. Community, TRC Health Action Group, FNQ Division of Rural General Practice, Australian Government

(ii) Review existing government health services:
• More specialist services to visit Atherton
• Improved transport assistance to travel to Cairns to access specialist services
• Culturally appropriate services
• Review Emergency Services at Hospital to reduce waiting time
• Indigenous Liaison Officer to be employed at Atherton Hospital
• More local Health Workers to be employed and trained in Hospital and allied health services
• More support for Indigenous school students to access school dental clinic
• Locally owned and managed social health service Indigenous Community, Queensland Health, Atherton Tableland Chamber of Commerce, Health Service Providers

2012 - 2013

(iii) Lobby for bulk billing for dental services by private providers. Community, TRC, Australian Government, Atherton Tableland Chamber of Commerce

2013 - 2016

3.2.4 Youth venues and activities

(i) Review existing youth activities and facilities to develop new activities identified by young people. Indigenous Community, Indigenous Young People, Atherton Tableland Chamber of Commerce

2012 - 2013

(ii) Investigate options for improving public transport for young people. Community, Tablelands Community Transport Service Providers Network

(iii) Promote existing youth sport, drama, arts and recreation activities to Indigenous young people. Community, Sport and Recreation Clubs, Indigenous Young People

2013 - 2016

(iv) Review local Indigenous youth justice service. Indigenous Community, Queensland Goverment

3.2.5 Aged care/ Accommodation

(i) Investigate options for innovative and culturally appropriate aged care, accommodation and support services for Indigenous seniors. Community, Indigenous Health Services, TRC, Government and Community Aged Care Service Providers, Atherton Tableland Chamber of Commerce

2013 - 2016

3.2.6 Appropriate housing

(i) More support for tenants to retain their tenancy and for homeless people. Home Stay, Street2Home

2012-2013

(ii) Lobby for:
• Design and construction of culturally appropriate social housing
• Review of social housing application process
• More "rent to buy" schemes for Indigenous renants Indigenous Community, Queensland Government, Australian Government

2013 - 2016

(iii) Independent Living Skills programs to be conducted at schools. Community, Education Queensland, Catholic Education, Independent Schools, Community and Health Services

Significant cultural heritage sites such as Carrington Falls should be protected

3.3 Biboohra

Our Community Vision

In 2021, imagine the Biboohra district remains low density, quiet and friendly.

We enjoy our small, safe and friendly community where everyone knows one another. Community cohesion is strong and people get together regularly.

The Barron River, our local school and store are highly valued as is our unique rural location: one hour from Cairns and the International airport allows us to remain connected and go to cultural and other events as we choose.

First Biboohra Community Planning Workshop, 9th March 2011 (Cut short by flooding)

Second Biboohra Community Planning Workshop, 19th July 2011

Biboohra District Population: 406
ABS 2006 Census Usual Residents

Community Priorities ~ This plan reflects the aspirations of local residents. Council and other community partners will use these aspirations to guide future planning and consider which actions they can implement.

3.3.1 Road infrastructure

(i) Inform Department of Transport and Main Roads of identified community priorities for maintenance and upgrade of state controlled roads. TRC, Dept of Transport and Main Roads

(ii) Community priorities for maintenance and upgrade of Council roads identified to inform Council decision-making. TRC

2012 - 2021

3.3.2 Telecommunications

(i) Community to log complaints with Telecommunications companies and those that are not resolved, to lodge with Telecommunications Industry Ombudsman.
Community, Telecommunications companies, Telecommunications Industry Ombudsman

2012 - 2013

(ii) Request information from telecommunications companies about their respective infrastructure priorities for Biboohra and lobby for improved infrastructure.
Community, TRC, Optus, Telstra

2013 - 2016

3.3.3 Land use planning

(i) New Planning scheme to consider:
• Making sufficient commercial land available for future business growth e.g. hairdresser, butcher in the long term
• Restricting higher density housing and maintaining rural residential density
• Excluding intensive commercial animal husbandry from the Biboohra/Bilwon area.
TRC, Dept of Local Government and Planning

2012 - 2013

(ii) Prepare a submission to FNQ Regional Plan 2031 to expand Rural Living Area land use category for 10 acre blocks in Biboohra to allow for some growth in district to ensure school remains viable.
TRC, Dept of Local Government and Planning

(iii) Open "State Forests" for recreational use by community.
Community, Queensland Government

2013 - 2016

3.3.4 Water infrastructure

(i) Maintain gazetted access points to river for Rural Fire Brigade to refill for outlying properties.
Property Owners, TRC, Queensland Government

(ii) Maintain access points to dams on private properties for fire trucks to refill. Property Owners

(iii) Encourage property owners to maintain riparian zone along Barron River to maintain water quality.
Landcare groups, Community, Property Owners

2012 - 2013

(iv) Maintain adequate environmental flow in Barron River.
Dept of Environment and Resource Management, SunWater

2012 - 2021

Community Participation
No community participation benchmark set as Biboohra is a small community. 46 residents participated in the regional survey and 2 community planning workshops (first cut short by flooding) to develop the Biboorha plan.

3.3.5   Fire management

(i) Raise community awareness about safe controlled burning for fuel reduction and conduct appropriate controlled burns.   Property Owners,
Queensland Fire and Rescue Service

(ii) Clean up railway line for fuel reduction.   Community,
Queensland Rail

(iii) Raise community awareness that camlock fittings for water tanks are mandatory for new sub-divisions and encourage existing property owners to install them as soon as possible.   TRC

(iv) Investigate feasibility of establishing a local rural fire brigade.   Community,
Hodzic Road Rural Fire Service

(v) Promote community discussion about developing a plan for the fire season.   Local Disaster Management Committee,
Queensland Fire and Rescue Service,
Hodzic Road Rural Fire Service

(vi) Maintain gazetted access points to river for brigade to refill for outlying properties.   TRC,
Property Owners,
Queensland Government

(vii) Map location of water supplies in the fire season.
Queensland Fire and Rescue Service,
Rural Fire Services

2012 - 2013

3.3.6   Sport and recreational facilities

(i) Discuss public access to school sporting facilities outside of school hours and negotiate:
• Public liability insurance
• School guidelines or conditions for community use of facilities.   Community, State Primary School

2012 - 2013

(ii) Lobby Council to maintain and upgrade Tom Mahon Park:
• Clean and tidy park
• Improve drainage
• Mow more regularly
• Build amenity block
• Install playground equipment and shade covering
• Install BBQ and covered seating and picnic tables
• Install water bubbler
• Tree plantings.   Community, TRC

(iii) Investigate feasibility of establishing more sporting clubs in Biboohra: tennis, cricket, martial arts and developing separate areas for dirt bikes and horse riding.   Community

(iv) Open State Forests for public recreational activities.
Community, Queensland Government

2013 - 2016

The Barron River is an important part of Biboohra's identity and water supply.
It is imporatnt that adequate environmental flows are maintained.
Image source: CNES/Spot image, Digital Globe, GeoEye and Google Maps

Our Community Vision

In 2021, imagine Chillagoe is still a small remote town with its unique lifestyle, history and heritage preserved.

Our parks, gardens, town facilities and services, such as Chillagoe Hospital and the Hub, are maintained to a high standard for use by residents and tourists. We still have our strong community spirit, reflected in our volunteers, clubs and community events, including thriving community markets and the annual rodeo.

Our highly valued natural resources and environment continue to offer opportunities in mining and outback adventure tourism, sustaining local businesses and inviting investment in our town leading to enhanced community capacity and assets.

Our Aboriginal heritage also offers opportunities for Indigenous businesses in cultural and environmental tourism.

Chillagoe remains accessible with good roads and a well maintained airstrip.

Community planning meeting held during the Chillagoe Markets, Saturday 25th June 2011

Chillagoe district population: 377
Chillagoe Indigenous Population: 75
(20% of total population)
ABS 2006 Census Usual Residents

Community Priorities ~ This plan reflects the aspirations of local residents. Council and other community partners will use these aspirations to guide future planning and consider which actions they can implement.

3.4.1   Animal control

(i) Conduct regular animal control patrols including at night.   TRC

(ii) Ensure stricter enforcement of animal control regulations.   TRC

(iii) Address health issues in infected and sick dogs.   TRC, Queensland Government

2012 - 2013

3.4.2   Sport and recreational facilities

(i) Explore funding options to employ a Sport and Recreation Officer.   Community, Chillagoe Alliance

2012- 2013

(ii) Upgrade existing sport and recreation facilities including:
• Upgrade 10 Acre Sports Field including installing lights
• Install lighting in playground behind hall
• Clean out swimming hole at the weir
• Install power points and street lights in front of hall.
                TRC, Queensland Government, Community, Businesses

2013 - 2016

(iii) Upgrade Rodeo grounds with tree planting and new toilet block.   TRC, Rodeo Committee, Queensland Government, Community, Businesses

(iv) Investigate feasibility of building a multi purpose sport and recreational facility at the Rodeo grounds.
                Community, Businesses, Chillagoe Alliance, Rodeo Committee, Sporting Club

2016 - 2021

3.4.3   Road infrastructure

(i) Install water level markers on causeway at Chillagoe Creek.   Dept of Transport and Main Roads

2012 - 2013

(ii) Inform Department of Transport and Main Roads of identified community priorities for maintenance and upgrade of state controlled roads.   TRC, Dept of Transport and Main Roads,

(iii) Community priorities for maintenance and upgrade of Council roads identified to inform Council decision-making.   TRC

2012 - 2021

(iv) Complete the sealing of the Chillagoe to Mareeba road.   Dept of Transport and Main Roads

(v) Raise awareness amongst tourists about driving on gravel roads:
• Include community advertising material in tourist promotional and advertising material, rental vehicles and tourist booking centres;
• Cover information about livestock, wildlife, dust, soft edges, road train trucks, drive with lights on.
                Tropical Tablelands Tourism, Tourism Tropical North Queensland, Tablelands Safer Communities Committee

2013 - 2016

Community Participation

No community participation benchmark set as Chillagoe is a small community. 75 residents participated in the community planning workshop, Indigenous planning workshop and regional survey to develop the Chillagoe plans.

3.4.4   Expand library

(i) Investigate feasibility of expanding library.   TRC, Community   2012 - 2013

(ii) Conduct more activities for children in the library.   TRC

3.4.5   Town infrastructure

(i) Maintain vacant blocks and enforce regular mowing and other maintenance.   Property Owners, TRC   2012 - 2013

(ii) Improve drinking water quality and supply.   TRC   2013 - 2016

(iii) Upgrade town infrastructure:
• More street lighting
• Better storm water drainage in town.   TRC, Dept of Transport and Main Roads   2016 - 2021

3.4.6   Upgrade industrial area

(i) Investigate feasibility of upgrading electricity and water infrastructure in the industrial area.   TRC, Property Owners, Ergon Energy   2013 - 2016

3.4.7   Retain town character

(i) Raise awareness amongst business owners about local identity, history and special features and characteristics to encourage preservation of buildings and promote local history and identity.   Chillagoe Alliance, Community, Business Owners   2012 - 2013

(ii) Record and promote the town history, climate, diversity, proximity to International airport and unique geographic location.   Community, Chillagoe State Primary School   2013 - 2016

Promoting Chillagoe's mining heritage is an important community aspiration. Photo courtesy: Sue Colman

Our Community Vision

In 2021, imagine Chillagoe is a friendly, clean, safe town free of pollution. Our people are healthy and enjoy access to the natural environment for fishing, hunting and cultural activities.

Traditional artworks and heritage are cared for by local Aboriginal people and other community members in partnership together. There is no overcrowding with housing for all and Elders have lots of support.

We have formed good partnerships to create jobs, businesses and services that are owned by Aboriginal people.

Our Chillagoe Indigenous Co-op is strong and speaks with a strong, clear voice to represent the interests of the Aboriginal people of Chillagoe.

Nearly all of Chillagoe's Aboriginal adult residents attended the Indigenous Planning Workshop on 31st May 2011

Chillagoe district population: 377
Chillagoe Indigenous Population: 75 (20% of total population)
ABS 2006 Census Usual Residents

Community Priorities ~ This plan reflects the aspirations of local residents. Council and other community partners will use these aspirations to guide future planning and consider which actions they can implement.

3.5.1 Employment and training

(i) Negotiate with employment services to identify achievable employment outcomes e.g. to explore jobs for Indigenous people in the mines.   Employment Services

(ii) Annual training calendar developed, promoted and delivered in the community.   Cairns Regional CDEP

(iii) Link training with mining job opportunities.
          Cairns Regional CDEP

(iv) Facilitate and organize meeting with Kagara Mining Company and local employers to promote employment of local Aboriginal people.   Cairns Regional CDEP, Department of Communities, Indigenous Coordination Centre.

2012 - 2013

(v) Explore funding for training for people not on CDEP or income support payments.   Dept of Education and Training, Dept of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

2013-2016

Recreational areas such as Bogey Hole should be maintained regularly

3.5.2 Sport and recreational facilities

(i) Organise weekly delivery of Men's Health "Pit Stop" program.   Health Services

(ii) Bogey Swimming Hole maintained regularly to provide all year round access.   Volunteers, CDEP, Chillagoe Co-op, TRC

(iii) Greater access to community hall for Indigenous community to host music events, discos etc.
          Indigenous Co-op, TRC

2012 - 2013

(iv) Upgrade Ten Acres Sports Field by building:
• Toilet block
• Shade shelter
• Rainwater drinking tanks
• Water fountain and bottle fill
• Seating
• Lighting
• Gas or wood BBQ.   TRC, Community Project, CDEP Project, Lions Club, Businesses

(v) Investigate feasibility of organizing more sport and recreation activities including:
• Annual Golf competition
• Tai Chi classes
• Activities at Ten Acre Sports Field.   Community members

(vi) Conduct Vacation Care Programs for ages 10-18 years including discos, music events, excursions, movies, sports.
          Government funding programs, Youth at Risk Program, Mulungu Mums and Bubs Program, TRC Youth Development Officer, Student Work Experience, CDEP, Chillagoe School

(vii) Investigate feasibility of establishing funded Sport and Recreation Officer Position.   Indigenous Co-op

2013 - 2016

3.5.3   Appropriate housing

(i) Undertake assessment of Chillagoe Indigenous housing needs.   Dept of Communities, Cairns and District Regional Housing Corporation

(ii) Housing application forms to be available at CDEP office and Post Office.   Dept of Communities

(iii) Regular housing needs and maintenance assessments to be conducted by Chillagoe housing providers with regular repairs and maintenance performed.   Dept of Communities, Cairns and District Regional Housing Corporation

(iv) Install rainwater tanks to existing social housing in Chillagoe.   Dept of Communities, Cairns and District Regional Housing Corporation

(v) Conduct regular Tenant Union Information Sessions.   CDEP , Tableland Tenancy Advice Service

(vi) Request environmental safety assessment of houses with identified issues.   Housing Tenants, TRC

2012 - 2013

(vii) Conduct assessment of available land for future housing.   TRC, Dept of Communities, Dept of Environment and Resource Management

(viii) Increased outreach services to assist residents with housing issues.   Dept of Communities

2013 - 2016

(ix) Appropriate housing is designed and built to suit Chillagoe Indigenous population i.e. single men and women, Elder cottages, duplexes, 5 to 6 bedroom homes for large families.   Dept of Communities, Cairns and District Regional Housing Corporation, Developers

(x) Appropriate ongoing planning and funding for housing Infrastructure in Chillagoe happens.   Dept of Communities, Cairns and District Regional Housing Corporation, TRC

2016 - 2021

3.5.4   Improve health services

(i) Regular fortnightly clinics to be delivered by Indigenous Health Service providers including offering more child and adult health checks and provide a visiting dental service.   Mamu Remote Health Services, Queensland Health, Royal Flying Doctor Service

(ii) Conduct health partnership action meetings between Indigenous community and health services.   Mamu Remote Health Services, Queensland Health, Royal Flying Doctor Service, Chillagoe Indigenous Community

2012 - 2013

(iii) Investigate options for community transport for specialist health appointments. Conduct community meeting to discuss transport issues and making better use of the Patient Transport Scheme.   Chillagoe Co-op, Queensland Health

(iv) Conduct more and improved Health Programs: school programs, preventing chronic disease, men and women's health issues.   Mamu Remote Health Services, Queensland Health, Royal Flying Doctor Service

2013 - 2016

3.5.5   Town infrastructure

(i) Install rain water tanks in social housing at Chillagoe.   Dept of Communities, Cairns and District Regional Housing Corporation

(ii) Review location of rain water tanks and connection to house water supply in Cairns Regional Housing houses.   Cairns and District Regional Housing Corporation

(iii) Talk with landlords of private rental properties regarding installation of rainwater tanks.   Community

(iv) Investigate ways to improve water quality and supply for current and future demands.   TRC

2012 - 2013

(v) Identify tenure and blocks zoned rural where horses can be agisted.   TRC

(vi) Enforce horses being restrained on fenced property in suitable paddocks and not on town blocks.   TRC

(vii) Investigate TRC block at bottom of airstrip and its availability for horse agistment (The State Paddock).   Community, TRC

(viii) Install a cement footpath on the right hand side of Queen St heading to Mareeba: start at National Park Office at the corner of Cathedral St through to Dinosaur Park.   TRC, Dept of Transport and Main Roads

(ix) Improve storm water drains on Queen St beside new footpath, from King St to Queen St to Tower St.   TRC, Dept of Transport and Main Roads

(x) Investigate feasibility of introducing a household rubbish collection service including the possibility of contracting CDEP to operate the service.   TRC, CDEP

2013 - 2016

(xi) Investigate feasibility of creating a heavy vehicle bypass for Queen St due to health and safety issues.   TRC, Dept of Transport and Main Roads

(xii) Negotiate with TRC for the installation of street lighting for Atherton St, Knowe St, Hospital Ave, Aerodrome Rd, Frew St, Ten Acre Sports Field.   TRC, Community

2016 - 2021

Community Participation
No community participation benchmark set as Chillagoe is a small community. 30 residents participated in the Indigenous planning workshop to develop this plan.

Our Community Vision

In 2021, imagine Dimbulah is growing gradually in a sustainable way to protect the environment.

We enjoy a safe and relaxed lifestyle where everyone is well connected to one another and we have a strong sense of belonging. We have good services and facilities including a GP service.

The excellent sporting facilities are well maintained and used to their fullest potential. Dimbulah is a town people want to stay in and move to.

Dimbulah District Population: 1525
ABS 2006 Census Usual Residents
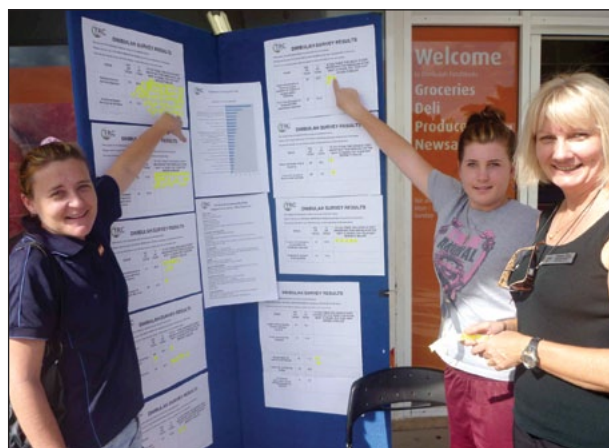
Community members placing their votes at the community voting stall

Community Priorities ~ This plan reflects the aspirations of local residents. Council and other community partners will use these aspirations to guide future planning and consider which actions they can implement.

3.6.1 Health services and facilities

(i) Set up Dimbulah Health Action Sub-Committee comprising residents, FNQ Division of Rural Practice and Mareeba Hospital.   Community, Dimbulah Community Bank® Branch of Bendigo Bank

(ii) Negotiate with Queensland Health to raise and discuss issues and highlight high level of community concern regarding the need for an increased medical practitioner service.
Dimbulah Community Bank® Branch of Bendigo Bank, Dimbulah Health Action Sub-Committee, Queensland Health,

(iii) Negotiate with Queensland Health to set up a governance committee to oversee the funding generated by the COAG exemption and include a Dimbulah community representative on the committee.
Queensland Health,Dimbulah Community Bank® Branch of Bendigo Bank

(iv) Lobby State and Federal Politicians for increased health services funded by COAG agreement and promote health service issues in the media. Dimbulah Community Bank® Branch of Bendigo Bank, Dimbulah Health Subcommittee and residents, TRC, FNQ Rural Division of General Practice

2012 - 2013

(v) Investigate options to increase the range of health services in Dimbulah including mental health, chronic health care, respite services, dental, allied health services by investigating :
• Outreach/visiting service models
• Option of using COAG exemption funding for allied and other
  health services
• Option of securing funding for Indigenous health initiatives
  at Dimbulah clinic
• Potential service delivery partnerships with Mulungu Aboriginal
  and Torres Strait Islander Health Service and Royal Flying
  Doctor Service and private allied health practitioners in Mareeba
• Longer opening hours of the health clinic, especially on week ends.
Dimbulah Health Subcommittee, Mareeba Hospital, FNQ Rural Division of General Practice

2013 - 2016

(vi) Secure better health facilities and equipment:
• Investigate feasibility of establishing new health clinic and
  co-locating it beside the ambulance or extending ambulance to
  include health clinic for shared staffing etc
• Apply to Dimbulah Community Bank Bendigo Bank for sponsorship
  of key health equipment.   Dimbulah Health Action Subcommittee, Community, Queensland Health, Queensland Ambulance Service, Dimbulah Community Bank® Branch of Bendigo Bank

2016 - 2021

3.6.2 Sport and recreational facilities

(i) Improve disability access to pool
• Install chair
• Investigate option of ramp.   TRC

(ii) Review hire costs of community facilities so they are affordable to encourage community events.   Community clubs and groups, TRC

(iii) Maintain BMX track to prevent weeds getting into adjacent soccer field - weed eradication program required.   TRC

(iv) Investigate feasibility of moving Council's mobile skate ramp to Dimbulah.   Community, TRC

(v) Apply for financial assistance for students and residents to travel to sporting and recreational events held outside of Dimbulah and Mareeba districts.   Dimbulah Community Bank® Branch of Bendigo Bank, Sporting and recreational clubs, Dimbulah Lions Club, TRC

2012 - 2013

(vi) Investigate options for increasing volunteers in clubs for all sports and facilities. Sporting Clubs, TRC

(vii) Negotiate access to school oval and sporting facilities for young people outside of school hours.
Dimbulah State P-10, St Anthony's Primary School, Community

(viii) Establish facility for recreational activities for elderly men, including those with a multicultural background.   Community organisations, Dimbulah Community Centre, HACC services

2013 - 2016

(ix) Investigate feasibility of upgrading Basketball Court including the option of turning it into a Skate Park including gauging level of community demand for courts or skate park.   Community, TRC

(x) Investigate feasibility of establishing a multi-purpose undercover sports centre. Community, TRC

2016 - 2021

3.6.3   Youth venues and activities

(i) Coordinate and encourage a collaborative approach to conducting youth activities:
• Involve young people and parents in organising activities
• Explore option of Red Frogs program being held in Dimbulah
• Enlist assistance of TRC Youth Development Officer to access funding for Red Frogs and other youth activities
• Negotiate with TRC to extend opening hours of swimming pool in autumn and spring
• Encourage people to gain coaching and instructor qualifications and parents and others to volunteer to assist with conducting activities
• Investigate feasibility of establishing SES Cadets, drumming classes, barefoot bowls,
• Conduct youth activities for all ages outside of school hours to encourage more interaction.
Dimbulah Community Centre,
Dimbulah Youth Action Group, TRC, Schools

2012 - 2013

(ii) Investigate affordable transport for children to attend youth activities in nearby towns.
Dimbulah Community Bank® Branch of Bendigo Bank,
Dimbulah Community Centre

(iii) Create a safe place to hold youth activities:
• Identify suitable places and venues
• Negotiate with TRC to upgrade lighting needed in Heritage Park to improve safety.
Police, Parents, Neighbours, Community, Dimbulah
Community Centre, TRC, Dimbulah Youth Action Group

(iv) Organise leadership classes for all ages of youth.
TRC,
Dimbulah Youth Action Group

2013 - 2016

3.6.4   Aged care / Accommodation

(i) Negotiate with TRC to conduct audit of disability access to key community facilities and upgrade critical areas:
• Footpaths near Post Office and Foodworks Supermarket.
Dimbulah Community Centre, TRC

(ii) Investigate options for increasing support services to elderly residents:
• Blue Care nurses based at Health Clinic;
• More outreach/visiting services;
• Establishment of a local Meals on Wheels service
• Respite care.
Dimbulah Community Centre,
St John's Community Care,
HACC, Respite Care services,
TRC

2012 - 2013

(iii) Lobby for more aged care packages and better support services.
TRC, Community

(iv) More affordable training for carers to be made available.
Carers , TRC,
Service Providers,
Carer Networks and Peak Bodies

2013 - 2016

3.6.5   Diversify economy and create jobs

(i) Provide accommodation to attract seasonal workers.
Farmers, Van Park (TRC),
Out of season tourism operators

2013 - 2016

(ii) Investigate availability of professional assistance to assist farmers to transition to organic farming and to diversify farming activities e.g. farm tourism.
Farmers,
Dimbulah Community Centre,
Industry Organisations,
Tablelands Industry Workforce Group Inc

2016 - 2021

(iii) Upgrade rail line to Chillagoe to provide increased tourism opportunities.
Queensland Rail

(iv) Allow and promote subdivision in Dimbulah to make land available for new industries and residents.
TRC,
Department of Local Government and Planning,
Community, Businesses

Community Participation
The plan reflects the aspirations of local residents - 30% of the Dimbulah district population aged 15 years and over participated in developing the Dimbulah plan.

3.7 Herberton

Our Community Vision

In 2021, imagine Herberton is a safe and quiet rural village that offers a great lifestyle that includes cultural heritage and the village history.

Herberton fosters a strong united community and good farming land is maintained between Herberton and Ravenshoe.

Herberton District Population: 1928
ABS 2006 Census Usual Residents

Herberton Community Planning Workshop

Community Priorities ~ This plan reflects the aspirations of local residents. Council and other community partners will use these aspirations to guide future planning and consider which actions they can implement.

3.7.1   Aged care / Accommodation

(i) Develop waiting list for public housing in Herberton.
Dept of Communities, TRC

(ii) Promote information about existing accommodation and support services.   TRC, Service Clubs, Service Providers

(iii) Lobby for more aged care packages.   Community, Service Providers, TRC

2012 - 2013

(iv) Review existing coordination of services to elderly and disabled by community and government agencies to increase coordination.   Community, Service Providers, TRC

2013 - 2016

(v) Lobby for social housing units to be built for elderly.
Community, Community Housing Providers, Dept of Communities, TRC

(vi) Investigate feasibility of establishing a retirement village and/or small unit development.   Community, Tablelands Retirement and Aged Care Facilities Action Group, Private Developers

(vii) Investigate feasibility of establishing a community bank to fund an aged care facility.   Community

(viii) Lobby for more beds at Herberton Hospital.
Community, Queensland Health

2016 - 2021

Community voting on priority issues at the Herberton information stall

3.7.2   Health services and facilities

(i) Promote preventative health strategies to promote community wellbeing: Yoga, Tai Chi, relaxation classes, dance classes.   Community, TRC, Queensland Health

2012 - 2013

(ii) Negotiate with Queensland Government to:
• Re-instate outpatient services at hospital
• Staff hospital with appropriately qualified staff to deliver clinical and other hospital services including emergency response
• Extend allied health services to wider community including self funded retirees
• Extend and upgrade Patient Transfer Scheme to be more disabled and elderly friendly
• Establish an Ambulance Service and consider co-locating it with Hospital.   Community, Queensland Health, Queensland Ambulance Service

(iii) Support upgrade of Atherton Hospital.   Community, Queensland Health

2016 - 2021

3.7.3 Sport and recreational facilities

(i) Promote and support dancing and Tai Chi classes.
Community, Instructors, TRC

2012 - 2013

(ii) Community priorities for upgrading Council sport and recreation facilities developed.
TRC

(iii) Upgrade Lions Park to gain Recreational Vehicle (RV) accreditation.
Community, TRC

(iv) Investigate feasibility of establishing a Touch Football Club.
Community

(v) Investigate feasibility of re-locating mobile skate ramp to Herberton.
Community, TRC

2013 - 2016

(vi) Develop a regional strategy for network of off road trails including those around Herberton.
Community, TRC, Queensland Government

(vii) Review youth sport and recreation facilities and activities and actively include young people in the review to identify gaps and promote existing facilities and activities.
Community, TRC

(viii) Investigate feasibility of establishing new sport and recreation facilities including:
• 25m swimming pool
• Amphitheatre at Battery site.
Community, TRC

2016 - 2021

3.7.4 Public transport

(i) Support the Tablelands Community Transport Service Providers Network Regional Coordination Project.
Community, Tablelands Community Transport Service Providers Network

2012 - 2013

(ii) Negotiate with commercial and community transport providers to:
• Review bus routes and timetables e.g. to travel on weekends for sporting events
• Promote bus timetables in community.
Community, Commercial Transport Providers, Tablelands Community Transport Service Providers Network

2013 - 2016

3.7.5 Herberton council services

(i) Community to increase use of customer services at the Council office.
Community

(ii) Review cost of hiring Council facilities to make them more affordable and accessible by community organisations and promote Town Hall as a community space.
TRC, Community

2012 - 2013

(iii) Negotiate with Council to ensure customer service levels are maintained and accessible to all members of the community:
• Deliver broader range of Council services from Herberton office
• Promote services that are available from local office
• Co-locate library with office and open Library on Saturday mornings
• Lease library space to community organisations e.g. for youth activities
• Consider renting space to other government and community services
• Create calendar of visiting Council services to Herberton including extended hours (10am to 6pm) and promote publicly.
Community, TRC

2013 - 2016

Community Participation
This plan reflects the aspirations of local residents. 25% of the Herberton district population aged 15 years and over participated in developing the Herberton plan.

Herberton residents are proud of the beautiful streetscapes and have identified more sport and recreation facilities as community priorities.

Our Community Vision

In 2021, imagine Irvinebank will be retained as a "step back in time", safe village that has authentic historical significance.

We have capitalised on our unique heritage and environmental values, including the Loop Road, to develop our tourism potential and sustain our economy.

Irvinebank/Watsonville District Population: 370
ABS 2006 Census Usual Residents

Irvinebank/Watsonville community planning workshop 14th October 2010

Community Priorities ~ This plan reflects the aspirations of local residents. Council and other community partners will use these aspirations to guide future planning and consider which actions they can implement.

3.8.1 Mill and museum cultural precinct

(i) Develop a "Social Sustainability Centre" to provide information support and counselling for all aspects of community life as part of the cultural precinct:
• Aged care
• Youth education on drugs and alcohol
• Parenting support
• Health information
• Sustainability information
• Recycling depot
• Edible community gardens.
Irvinebank School of Arts and Progress Association Inc

2012 - 2013

(ii) Investigate feasibility of developing an Interpretive Cultural Precinct at the Old Mill site.
Community, Dept of Environment and Resource Management , James Cook University

(iii) Advocate for feasibility study for cultural precinct to be conducted and promote issue in the media.
Irvinebank School of Arts and Progress Association Inc, Queensland Heritage Council

2013 - 2016

3.8.2 Road infrastructure

(i) Inform Department of Transport and Main Roads of identified community priorities for maintenance and upgrade of state controlled roads.
Dept of Transport and Main Roads, TRC

(ii) Lobby Queensland Government to seal road citing road safety issues; promote issue in the media and raise community support.
Irvinebank School of Arts and Progress Association Inc

2012 - 2021

3.8.3 Town infrastructure

(i) Investigate options for incorporating recycling into waste management strategy. TRC

(ii) Review maintenance program for town infrastructure to keep town tidy and transfer station is maintained at a suitable standard. TRC

2012 - 2016

3.8.4 Water infrastructure

(i) Residents to be kept informed of developments regarding water supply and infrastructure.
Dept of Environment and Resource Management

(ii) Investigate options for delivering a sustainable town water supply. Dept of Environment and Resource Management, Community, TRC

2012 - 2013

'State Treatment Works' , Irvinebank

Community Participation
No community participation benchmark set as Irvinebank and Watsonville are small communities. 13 residents participated in the combined community planning workshop and regional survey.

Our Community Vision

In 2021, imagine Julatten is a unique tranquil place with its natural environment intact and its quiet rural way of life preserved.

Julatten has grown gradually, if at all, and although its residents value their independence and private space, there is a sense of community with the focal point being the community hall at Geraghty Park.

We can walk and ride around our community safely on designated bike paths.

Health services are available in the regional centres of Mossman and Mareeba and are accessible with good, safe roads and public transport. We have good phone, internet and television services.

Julatten community planning workshop, 18 Nov 2010

Julatten and Mt Molloy District Population: 1345
ABS 2006 Census Usual Residents

Community Priorities ~ This plan reflects the aspirations of local residents. Council and other community partners will use these aspirations to guide future planning and consider which actions they can implement.

3.9.1   Telecommunications

(i) Ensure continuity of electricity supply to improve telecommunications.   Community, TRC, Ergon Energy, Julatten and Mt Molloy Association of Residents and Ratepayers (JAMARR),

(ii) Explore ways to share information amongst community members regarding the best types of telecommunications technology and services that work in the district.
Community, Julatten Community Centre

2012 - 2013

(iii) Request information from Ergon Energy, Optus and Telstra about their respective infrastructure priorities for Julatten and lobby for improved infrastructure.
Community, Julatten and Mt Molloy Association of Residents and Ratepayers (JAMARR), TRC, Ergon Energy, Telstra, Optus

2013 - 2016

3.9.2   Road infrastructure

(i) Inform Department of Transport and Main Roads of identified community priorities for flood proofing of state controlled roads and widening of Rifle Creek bridge.
TRC, Dept of Transport and Main Roads

(ii) Community priorities for flood proofing of Council roads identified to inform Council decision-making.   TRC

2012 - 2021

Julatten Edna Head Public Library, Geraghty Park

3.9.3   Community precinct in Julatten

(i) Investigate feasibility of establishing a community precinct at Geraghty Park to include:
• Multipurpose sport and recreation area
• Extended Library
• Upgraded hall (commercial kitchen, internal lining)
• Community meeting rooms
• Precinct linked to school and community centre via cycle and walk way.   Community, Julatten and Mt Molloy Association of Residents and Ratepayers (JAMARR), TRC

2016 - 2021

3.9.4   Sport and recreational facilities

(i) Connect Geraghty Park with the school by building a safe walk/cycle path.
Community, Dept of Transport and Main Roads, TRC

2012-2013

(ii) Investigate feasibility of developing innovative sport and recreational facilities including:
• BMX track and small skate park
• Swimming hole for public access
• Driving practice area for learners, especially young drivers
• Disability access to Geraghty Park Hall and toilets
• Designated bike paths for safe cycling around the community.   Community, TRC

(iii) Develop a regional strategy for network of off road trails to include:
• Connect Mt Molloy and Julatten
• Black Mountain Road
• Disused roads and stock routes. TRC, Julatten and Mt Molloy Association of Residents and Ratepayers (JAMARR), Community

2013 - 2016

Community Participation
The plan reflects the aspirations of local residents - 22% of the Julatten and Mt Molloy district population aged 15 years and over participated in developing the Mt Molloy and Julatten plans.

Our Community Vision

In 2021, imagine Kairi and Tinaroo remain beautiful, clean and healthy rural farming areas. Kairi and Tinaroo are quiet and welcoming communities that offer a wide variety of recreational and educational opportunities for residents and visitors to the Tablelands. It is the playground of the region but retains its environmental integrity.

Kairi/Tinaroo District Population: 897
ABS 2006 Census Usual Residents

Community Plan meeting, Kairi, 2010

Community Priorities ~ This plan reflects the aspirations of local residents. Council and other community partners will use these aspirations to guide future planning and consider which actions they can implement.

3.10.1 Bike and walking tracks

(i) Develop regional off-road trails strategy for walking, riding and cycling and include Kairi-Tinaroo trails.
TRC, Community, Queensland Government, Australian Government, Businesses
2013 - 2016

(ii) Develop Trails Asset Register of tracks for public non-motorised access. Register to be on TRC website for public to access and edit. TRC

(iii) Develop local network of safe bike and walking paths to connect school to community to encourage more families into the area and bolster school enrolments.
Community, TRC, Department of Transport and Main Roads, School, Atherton Tableland Chamber of Commerce
2016 - 2021

3.10.2 Improve Anders Park

(i) Review Dry Concession Deed for Anders Park to clarify responsibilities. SunWater, TRC

(ii) Review the current maintenance program and identify required facility upgrades including:
• Increased mowing frequency
• Increased frequency of toilet cleaning
• Provide rubbish bins and service regularly
• Provide more shelters and BBQ's
• Formalise car and boat parking
• Seal park road
• Erect interpretive and information signage
• Replace toilets. SunWater , TRC
2013 - 2016

(iii) Enlist assistance of water sports clubs to help with park maintenance. SunWater, TRC, Water Sports Clubs

Focus on improving water safety on Tinaroo Dam

3.10.3 Safety on Tinaroo Dam

(i) Facilitate a coordinated response to conducting community education about water safety on Dam including:
• Safety brochure attached to boat registrations
• Improved signage at Dam.
• Internet
• Brochures TRC, Water Sports Clubs, Queensland Government
2013 - 2016

(ii) Increase policing on Dam by Harbourmaster.
Queensland Water Police

(iii) Clear channel areas in Dam for improved safety.
Queensland Government Departments

(iv) Allocate one section of the Dam to non-motorised craft only e.g. canoes and kayaks only at School Point. Dam Users, Water Sport Clubs, Queensland Government
2016- 2021

3.10.4 Management plan for Tinaroo Dam

(i) Develop a Management Plan for the sustainable future of Tinaroo Dam covering:
• Growth management
• Water safety
• Eradication of feral pigs and weeds
• Indigenous aspirations for the area
• Dam users aspirations for the area
• Protection of native flora and fauna. TRC, SunWater, Community
2016 - 2021

(ii) Continue with foreshore development at Tinaroo. TRC

3.10.5 Road infrastructure

(i) Moderate and re-direct traffic, enforce speed limits and raise tourist awareness of road safety issues.
Dept of Transport and Main Roads, Queensland Police Service
2013-2016

(ii) Community priorities for maintenance and upgrade of Council roads identified to inform Council decision-making. TRC

(iii) Advocate for improved road infrastructure.
Atherton Tableland Chamber of Commerce
2012 - 2021

Community Participation
No community participation benchmark set as Kairi and Tinaroo are small communities. 28 people participated in the combined community planning workshop and regional survey to develop the Kairi/Tinaroo plan.

Our Community Vision

In 2021, imagine our Koah district remains low density, quiet and friendly, characterised by bushland and a healthy river system.

Families are able to live locally in a sustainable way. Farming and rural residential activities exist side by side.

People have safe, all weather access to their properties and other regional centres.

Koah District Population: 359
ABS 2006 Census Usual Residents

Community members attending Community Plan meeting Koah Hall, 2011

Community Priorities ~ This plan reflects the aspirations of local residents. Council and other community partners will use these aspirations to guide future planning and consider which actions they can implement.

3.11.1   Land use planning

(i) Lobby Queensland Government to review FNQ Regional Plan 2031 to allow low density subdivisions or small family subdivisions in Koah district.   Landowners

(ii) Subject to successful lobbying to amend the FNQ Regional Plan, consider allowing low density subdivisions or small family subdivisions in the development of the new Planning Scheme.   TRC

(iii) Prepare a submission of land use planning issues arising from FNQ Regional Plan 2031 that have been raised in Tablelands Community Plan including those at Koah.   TRC

2012 - 2013

2013-2016

3.11.2   Road infrastructure

(i) Inform Department of Transport and Main Roads of identified community priorities for maintenance and upgrade of state controlled roads.   TRC, Dept of Transport and Main Roads

(ii) Community priorities for maintenance and upgrade of Council roads identified to inform Council decision-making.   TRC

2012 - 2021

3.11.3   Telecommunications

(i) New Planning Scheme to consider requiring subdivisions to include underground fibre-optics.
TRC, Developers

(ii) Above ground telephone lines damaged by fire to be replaced by underground wiring. Telstra

(iii) Request information from Telecommunication companies about their respective infrastructure priorities for Koah and lobby for improved infrastructure.
Community, TRC, Telecommunications Companies

2012 - 2013

2013-2016

3.11.4   Natural environment

(i) Lobby government for increased incentives for landowners and farmers to eradicate weeds.   Community, TRC, Queensland Government, Australian Government

(ii) Enforce regulations for domestic animal control and increase penalties.   TRC

(iii) Review restrictions on All Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) in public areas and limit ATVs to designated areas such as commercial ATV enterprise.
Dept of Environment and Resource Management

(iv) New Planning Scheme to consider requiring new developments to install sufficient water tanks for domestic supply.   TRC

(v) Lobby for improved decision-making regarding release of water from Tinaroo Dam to meet local needs.   Community, SunWater

(vi) Review water quality monitoring in Clohesy River and Grove Creek.
Dept of Environment and Resource, Management

(vii) Check former dumps for possible water leaching into Grove Creek. TRC

(viii) Conduct community education to inform community about:
• How weeds are spread and actions to take to eradicate them
• Effective fire management practices
• Control of dogs.   Community, Queensland Fire and Rescue Service, TRC

(ix) Inform new residents about flora and fauna in Koah district.
Community Centre

(x) Conduct hydrological study to determine the sustainability of the water table.   Dept of Environment and Resource Management

2012 - 2013

2013-2016

3.11.5   Upgrade Koah hall

(i) Investigate the feasibility of installing children's and youth sport and recreational facilities at the community hall.

Community, TRC

2013 - 2016

Community Participation
No community participation benchmark set as Koah is a small community. 24 residents participated in the community planning workshop and regional survey to develop the Koah plan.

Our Community Vision

In 2021, imagine our village in the rainforest has a renewed sense of community where people know one another.

Our signature fig trees line our village heart which is enjoyed by locals and visitors alike. Our economy is diverse and balanced; tourism is prominent and supports community life and is one of many local industries.

The unique Kuranda identity is reflected in the 'Kuranda brand' which protects and promotes local industries including the creative arts and cultural industries, local products, skilled workers and services.

Our local Indigenous culture is an integral part of community life, reflected in signage and community entities. Locals are making good use of our transport assets including utilising the train and Skyrail for regular transport.

We are capitalising on our central location between the rural Tablelands and coastal city environments to increase our access to services and facilities. We live in harmony with our unique environment.

Kuranda Community Planning Workshop, 28th June 2011

Kuranda District Population: 2505
Kuranda Indigenous Population: 362 (14.4% of total population)*
*Local residents regard ABS population data as an undercount and estimate the local Indigenous population to be about 1200
ABS 2006 Census Usual Residents

Community Priorities ~ This plan reflects the aspirations of local residents. Council and other community partners will use these aspirations to guide future planning and consider which actions they can implement.

3.12.1   Appropriate housing

(i) Link training of local workers with construction of housing to create new opportunities for apprenticeships and jobs.
Registered Training Organisations, Kuranda District P12 College, Queensland Government, TRC, Ngoonbi Co-operative Society

(ii) Review sewerage connection fees for low income residents of top Koworowa. TRC

(iii) Housing design to take into account local lifestyle, environmental factors, Indigenous culture, ageing in place principles and special needs. Developers, Queensland Government, TRC

(iv) Investigate options to address high need for crisis accommodation for singles and families.
Community Support Services, Dept of Communities, Ngoonbi Cooperative Society

(v) Develop infrastructure using low carbon options:
• Use rail to transport building products
• Higher density housing closer to services and facilities
Developers, Queensland Government, TRC

(vi) Engage with elderly and people with special needs by including them in community events. Community, Community Support Services

(vii) Link training of local workers with the development of the proposed Welcome Pocket aged care facility. Welcome Pocket Aged Care Project, Registered Training Organisations, Kuranda District P12 College, Queensland Government

(viii) Develop a water management plan for top Kowrowa and Mantaka. TRC, Queensland Government

(ix) Supplement formal services to elderly with volunteer and commercial care services as new business enterprises such as handyman, shopping, gardening.
Local Volunteers, Ngoonbi Cooperative Society, Community Support Services, New Businesses

(x) Sell or lease portion of Kuranda Community Precinct for the development of high density low care housing for elderly residents and use revenue to develop the community precinct. TRC, Community

2012 - 2013

2013 - 2016

3.12.2   Public transport

(i) Community priorities for maintenance and upgrade of Council roads identified to inform Council decision-making. TRC

(ii) Inform Department of Transport and Main Roads of identified community priorities for maintenance and upgrade of state controlled roads especially widening with more slow lanes for the Kuranda Range road. Dept of Transport and Main Roads, TRC

(iii) Investigate options for improving public transport from Kuranda to Cairns, Kowrowa, Mantaka, Mona Mona, Koah, Myola and Speewah:
• Hold community meetings in each community to address transport issues
• Campaign for competitive tendering of local taxi service and enforcement of good practices by taxi services
• Regular bus services
• Liaise with Community Transport Service Providers Network
• Investigate feasibility of a fast rail passenger service between Kuranda, Cairns and Mareeba. Community, Dept of Transport and Main Roads, Private Bus Operators, Taxi Service, Tablelands Community Transport Service Providers Network

(iv) Investigate alternative waste management options to avoid trucking waste up and down the Kuranda Range. TRC

2012-2021

2013 - 2016

3.12.3   Natural environment

(i) Improve Barron River water quality by reinstating Water Watch program. Barron River Catchment Management, TRC, Dept of Environment and Resource Management

(ii) Continue to care for the river with chemical free riparian restoration including facilitating public access. Envirocare, TRC

(iii) Install flood level monitoring devices. TRC, Queensland Government

(iv) Protect wildlife from impacts of development by creating buffer zones around creeks and waterways in new planning scheme. TRC

(v) Protect steep slopes by replanting and eradicating weeds using methods with minimal negative environmental impact. Kuranda Envirocare, TRC, Government Funding Programs

(vi) Re-vegetation to continue including stringybark and blood wood plantings for the honey industry. Revegetation Groups, Government Funding Programs

2012 - 2013

3.12.3   Natural environment (continued)

(vii) Greater control of domestic animals and regulations to be enforced.   TRC

(viii) New Planning Scheme to allow higher density developments within existing village to avoid further clearing and cutting down of trees.   TRC

(ix) Use environmentally friendly methods to clean the main street.   TRC

(x) Install water bubblers in the village to reduce use of plastic water bottles and use funds from the tourism infrastructure levy.
Kuranda Tourism Infrastructure Committee

(xi) Save the fig trees in the main street.   TRC

(xii) Plant local native plants in village centre to improve shaded areas and village amenity to reduce "concrete jungle" image.   TRC

2012 - 2013

(xiii) Provide information and advice on improved land management practices to farmers and promote commercial benefits for clean green produce.   Advance Cairns, Farmers and Industry Groups, Land Management Groups

(xiv) Create designated camping areas along Barron River with amenities.   Indigenous Community, Traditional Owner Groups, Dept of Environment and Resource Management, TRC

2013 - 2016

(xv) Re-open walking track from Barron River Bridge to railway station.   Community, TRC, Dept of Environment and Resource Management, Dept of Transport and Main Roads

(xvi) Install more seating and beautification works along the river walk including signage for distance and time taken for the walk.   Community, TRC, Dept of Environment and Resource Management

2016 - 2021

3.12.4   Employment and training

(i) Utilise Kuranda Paper to match people looking for work with employers seeking to recruit at no cost to advertise.   Kuranda Paper, Jobseekers, Employers

(ii) Promote Kuranda as an ideal location for home-based businesses.   Recharge Kuranda

(iii) Conduct a training needs analysis to identify the types of skills that employers require and offer training courses to fill this gap e.g. Barista course.
Registered Training Organisations, Tablelands Industry Workforce Group Inc

2012 - 2013

(iv) Investigate feasibility of Kuranda Community Centre being utilised as a community hub and connector for all community groups.
Kuranda Community Centre, Community

(v) Investigate options for creating new business opportunities and jobs:
• Public transport between Cairns and Mareeba
• Develop car/bicycle network

2013 - 2016

3.12.4   Employment and training (continued)

• Research how locals spend and buy to identify opportunities for business expansion
• Encourage longer opening hours
• Train locals for impending aged care facility
• Review Mona Mona Business Development Plan
• Develop Gorge tours and train Rangers
• Train Indigenous tour guides
• Re-enrich and expand tourism product.
Kuranda Businesses, Private Transport Providers, Dept of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation

2013 - 2016

(vi) Establish a Green Dollars (Barter) system in Kuranda.   Community

(vii) Establish community garden to make it an entrance feature to Kuranda and provide training opportunities.   Community

(viii) Investigate feasibility of establishing an Arts School in Kuranda.
Community

2016 - 2021

3.12.5   Culture, arts and heritage

(i) Display artists in their workshops utilising empty shops. Kuranda Arts Co-op

(ii) Conduct arts workshops.   Local Artists

(iii) Encourage more busking in the streets.   Buskers, TRC

(iv) Develop local arts economy - buy local goods.
Community, Recharge Kuranda

2012 - 2013

(v) Investigate feasibility of Kuranda Community Centre being utilised as a community hub and connector for all community groups.
Kuranda Community Centre, Community

(vi) Install more street art displaying the spirit of the forest and wildlife.
Artists, Kuranda Arts Co-op, TRC

(vii) Develop and enforce a "Made in Kuranda" brand using copyright.
Tourism Kuranda, Advance Kuranda, TRC Benefited Area Levy

(viii) Encourage more local plays and acts such as Blackrobats.
Kuranda Amphitheatre

(ix) Install more Indigenous themed signage in keeping with the Village in the Rainforest theme.   Kuranda Infrastructure Advisory Committee

(x) Develop the entrance to Kuranda to reflect Indigenous and artistic heritage. Extend this theme to railway station and Skyrail. Tourism Kuranda

(xi) Conduct Innovation awards for arts in Kuranda with lots of promotion.
Tourism Kuranda, Advance Kuranda, Kuranda Arts Co-op, Arts Queensland

(xii) Develop an arts and artists trail through Kuranda and beyond.
Kuranda Arts Co-op, Tourism Kuranda, TRC

(xiii) Conduct arts courses on various mediums. TAFE, Kuranda Arts Co-op

(xiv) Establish an artist's market in the park and include local fresh produce.   Kuranda Arts Co-op, Recharge Kuranda, Local Producers

2013 - 2016

(xv) Investigate feasibility of establishing an arts and cultural precinct.
Kuranda Arts Co-op, Recharge Kuranda, Kuranda Infrastructure Advisory Committee, Tourism Kuranda, TRC, Queensland Government, Community

2016 - 2021

Community Participation
The plan reflects the aspirations of local residents - 33% of the Kuranda district population aged 15 yrs and over participated in developing the Kuranda Community Plans.

Our Community Vision

In 2021, imagine our people are happy, healthy, well housed, in paid jobs, have good access to community and health services and sport and recreational facilities.

Djabugay Traditional Owners are well recognized by the wider community and the whole Indigenous community is actively involved in decision-making for Kuranda and district. Local Indigenous culture is celebrated, well promoted and controlled by Indigenous people.

The Kuranda Indigenous community has a strong political voice that governments and the wider community take notice of.

Kuranda Indigenous community plan workshop, 2011

Kuranda District Population: 2505
Kuranda Indigenous Population: 362 (14.4% of total population)*
Local residents regard ABS population data as an undercount and estimate the local Indigenous population to be about 1200   ABS 2006 Census Usual Residents

Community Priorities ~ This plan reflects the aspirations of local residents. Council and other community partners will use these aspirations to guide future planning and consider which actions they can implement.

3.13.1   Appropriate housing

(i) Investigate options for building new housing in Kuranda, Kowrowa, Mantaka, Koah, Mona Mona and Speewah:
•Local organisations to access government funds to purchase land and build houses or purchase existing houses
•Local organisations acquire Crown or Council reserve land for housing
•Queensland Government to build more public housing;
•Construct homes on Nyuwarri Estate and address planning scheme issues
•Culturally appropriate accommodation for elderly Indigenous residents.   Queensland Government, Australian Government, Ngoonbi Cooperative Society, TRC

(ii) Investigate options for establishing safe crisis accommodation for women and children and a men's shelter to meet urgent need.   Local community organisations, Queensland Government, Australian Government

(iii) Review and improve the maintenance program for public housing.   Queensland Government

2012 - 2021

3.13.2   Public transport

(i) Investigate options for improving public transport from Kuranda to Kowrowa, Mantaka, Mona Mona, Koah, Myola and Speewah:
• Hold community meetings in each community to address transport issues
• Lobby for competitive tendering of local taxi service
• Enforce good practices by taxi services
• Regular bus services
• Liaise with Community Transport Service Providers Network.   Private Bus Operators, Community, Dept of Transport and Main Roads, Taxi Service, Tablelands Community Transport Service Providers Network

(ii) Conduct learn to drive classes in community and at school to assist Indigenous people to gain driver license.   Kuranda District P12 College, Ngoonbi Cooperative Society, Dept of Transport and Main Roads

2012 - 2013

3.13.3   Employment and training

(i) Assist School to improve educational outcomes for Indigenous students:
• Employ more Indigenous staff
• Review programs and curriculum to ensure engagement of Indigenous students
• Establish mentoring program Prep to year 12 including cultural mentoring by Elders
• More career expos and career information
• Greater support for Indigenous students to take up vocational education placements
• Indigenous students included in school leadership
• More support for Education Officers to assist students to attend and participate in school
• Continue funding for Family as First Teachers program in Kuranda, Mantaka and Kowrowa.
Indigenous Community, Indigenous Elders, Kuranda District P12 College, Dept of Education and Training

(ii) Encourage local employers to employ local Indigenous workers.   Community, Local Employers, Tablelands Industry Workforce Group Inc

2012 - 2013

(iii) Explore feasibility of establishing a training centre to equip local Indigenous people with skills for local jobs eg. Barista and ensure training is linked to real jobs.
Community, Dept of Education and Training, Training Organisations

(iv) Investigate options to create new business opportunities and real jobs.   Community, Employment Service Providers, Dept of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation, Local Employers, Tablelands Industry Workforce Group Inc

2013 - 2016

Community Participation
The community participation rate for developing the Kuranda Indigenous plan was 107%, indicating that more Kuranda Indigenous residents participated in the community planning than there are residing in the district. However, Kuranda residents regard the ABS population data as an undercount and estimate that there are about 1200 Indigenous residents in the Kuranda district, which gives a rate of at least 20%.

3.13.4 Culture arts and heritage

(i) Establish a Djabugay Ranger Program to preserve authentic Djabugay culture:
• Personalized tours
• Links with Sky Rail and Kuranda Train. Djabugay, Queensland Government, Australian Government

(ii) Conduct cultural mentoring by Elders. Djabugay, Community

(iii) Promote Djabugay as Traditional Owners:
• Signage
• Inclusion in Council decision-making. Djabugay, TRC

(iv) Raise awareness with Council and Government decision-makers of two distinct cultural heritages:
• Djabugay as Traditional Owners
• Historical association under government Aboriginal Acts of forced removal of Indigenous people. Australian Government Djabugay, Indigenous Community, TRC, Queensland Government

(v) Protect and promote authentic Indigenous arts and culture in Kuranda by introducing and enforcing a system to safeguard Indigenous art works and ensure copyright protection. Local Businesses, Community, Queensland Government, Djabugay, Indigenous Organisations, Indigenous Artists

(vi) Celebrate NAIDOC Week as a whole of community celebration. Community, Indigenous Community, TRC, Queensland Government

2012 - 2013

(vii) Appoint an Indigenous Arts and Culture Officer to promote Indigenous arts and culture. Tourism Kuranda

(viii) Investigate feasibility of establishing Indigenous Museum, Cultural Interpretation and Information Centre. Djabugay, Queensland Government, Australian Government

2013 - 2016

3.13.5 Youth venues and activities

(i) Investigate feasibility of establishing a child care centre. Community , Community Organisations, Queensland Government

(ii) Conduct ongoing coaching clinics. Queensland Government, Sporting Clubs

(iii) Conduct youth leadership programs and offer tutoring and mentoring to assist young people to achieve. Local Organisations, Kuranda District P12 College, Families, Mareeba Youth Service (TRC)

(iv) Investigate feasibility of establishing a Safe House for crisis situations. Dept of Communities, Local Community Organisations

(v) Engage with young people to identify youth led activities such as community gardens. Indigenous Community

2012 - 2013

(vi) Investigate feasibility of establishing a multipurpose indoor sporting facility. TRC, Queensland Government, Community, Local Sport and Recreation Groups

(vii) Access funding to establish a long term Indigenous Youth Officer position. Ngoonbi Cooperative Society, Queensland Government, Australian Government

2013 - 2016

(viii) Upgrade current sport and recreation facilities. TRC

2016-2021

3.13.6 Health services and facilities

(i) Employ and train Indigenous aged care nurses and carers for proposed Welcome Pocket Aged Care Facility. Aged Care Providers

(ii) Conduct Elder cultural programs for youth and community. Djabugay, Kuranda Justice Group, Ngoonbi Cooperative Society

(iii) Investigate feasibility of establishing a Diversionary Centre with a culturally suitable program for rehabilitation and diversion. Local Indigenous Organisations, Djabugay, Queensland Government, Australian Government

(iv) Justice System to acknowledge alternative sentencing options such as Ngoonbi Farm and offer outreach and training for offenders. Kuranda Justice Group, Dept of Justice and Attorney General, Djabugay, Lotus Glen Correctional Centre

(v) Review community and government services:
• Increase in dental services
• Recognised Entity for Child Safety established in Kuranda
• Health check ups and more home visits
• Regular mental health services and male and female counsellors required
• Health and wellbeing services to be improved
• More medical, social, emotional and allied health services required. Queensland Health, Dept of Communities (Child Safety), Indigenous Health Services

2012 - 2013

(vi) Training and support for local Indigenous people to enter health related employment and professions as nurses, doctors, ambulance officers, health workers and mental health counsellors. Training Providers, James Cook University, Kuranda District P12 College, Local Indigenous Organisations

(vii) Conduct health education and programs for good nutrition, substance abuse, men's health. Queensland Health, Kuranda Medical Centre

(viii) Investigate feasibility of establishing a Drug and Alcohol Service with a "Dry Out" centre on country. Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Worker Education Program Aboriginal Corporation (QATSIHWEPAC), Dept of Communities, Ngoonbi Cooperative Society, Mona Bulmba Aboriginal Corporation, Kuranda Justice Group, Health Action Group

2013 - 2016

(ix) Investigate feasibility of establishing an Aboriginal Health service. Health Action Group, Ngoonbi Cooperative Society, Queensland Health, Australian Government

2012 - 2021

Our Community Vision

In 2021, imagine Malanda is a vibrant rural town supported by a diversified, sustainable economic base.

Our good quality agricultural land is protected and highly productive. More marginal land is available for lifestyle acreage, attracting young families who keep our community alive. Children are able to walk or ride to school safely.

We are a friendly, active community living in a clean, green environment. We have excellent health, education and community services and our roads are well maintained.

The unique natural resources of our rainforests are harnessed in a sustainable way by local bio-based industries, with our Traditional Owner groups.

We are proud to showcase our cultural and environmental heritage in ecotourism ventures and to welcome visitors onto our farms to sample our local food produce.

Malanda Community Planning Workshop, 27th April 2011

Malanda District Population: 4063
Malanda Indigenous Population: 146
(3.6% of total population)
ABS 2006 Census Usual Residents

Community Priorities ~ This plan reflects the aspirations of local residents. Council and other community partners will use these aspirations to guide future planning and consider which actions they can implement.

3.14.1   Diversify economy and create jobs

(i) Explore options for diversifying the local economy including:
• Volunteer tourism to promote natural environment
• Promote change as a positive opportunity and support community to embrace change
• Lifestyle retirement industry
• Clean green environment, renewable energy options and associated education, health and wellbeing industries
• Organic and biodynamic farming
• Co-operative Greenfield milk processing plant
• Value adding of locally grown food and on-farm diversification including innovative milk products
• Sidewalk dining
• Cycling, arts and food trails
• Explore options for developing tourism including: wildlife as a tourist attraction and promote tree kangaroo as a cultural and tourism icon
• Learn from best practice in other countries by encouraging younger residents to travel overseas to research
• Industries associated with information and telecommunications technology
• Rainforest bio-ceuticals industry in partnership with Traditional Owner groups
• Funding for economic development hub/officer
• Develop Indigenous cultural tourism and erect signage at town entry points acknowledging the Traditional Owners
• Develop ecotourism and history based tourism.
Community, Traditional Owner Groups,
Malanda Chamber of Commerce,
TRC, Sustainable / DRiVe Malanda,
Forest Users Group, Industry Groups,
Tropical Tablelands Tourism
Tourist Operators, Tablelands Industry Workforce Group Inc,
Dept of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation

(ii) Liaise with Dairy Industry and farmer representatives to explore ways community can show support for local farmers.
Malanda Chamber of Commerce,
Dairy Industry, Community

2012 - 2013

(iii) Promote Localisation:
• Local production of goods and services
• Purchase local goods and services
• Awareness of "food miles" concept
• Farmers' Markets
• Community gardens.   Community, Farmers,
Malanda Chamber of Commerce, LETS, Tablelands Futures
Corporation, Malanda North Project, Sustainable / DRiVe Malanda

(iv) Support innovative affordable housing projects.
Community, Malanda North,
TRC, Queensland Government

(v) Lobby for sufficient infrastructure to support sustainable growth and development such as telecommunications, all weather road access.   Community, Sustainable Malanda,
Malanda Chamber of Commerce, TRC

(vi) Lobby for flexible land use planning regulations to support flexible business environment.   Community, Businesses,
Malanda Chamber of Commerce

2012 - 2013

(vii) Develop and promote district as an attractive lifestyle destination to attract knowledge workers and global economy workers including cultural development with upgrade of Majestic Theatre and ongoing support for local cultural groups.   Malanda Theatre Company, Community,
Tablelands Futures Corporation, Malanda Chamber of Commerce,
TRC, Malanda North Project, Sustainable / DRiVe Malanda

2013 - 2016

(viii) Additional cultural development required: Majestic Theatre, youth facilities.
Community,
TRC

2012 - 2021

Community Participation
The plan reflects the aspirations of local residents - 20% of the Malanda district population aged 15 years and over participated in developing the Malanda plan.

3.14.2   Road infrastructure

(i) Inform Department of Transport and Main Roads of identified community priorities for maintenance and upgrade of state controlled roads. TRC, Dept of Transport and Main Roads

(ii) Community priorities for maintenance and upgrade of Council roads identified to inform Council decision-making. TRC

2012 - 2021

3.14.3   Disaster management

(i) Establish Malanda Disaster Management Committee to coordinate local preparation for disasters and responses and recovery operations post-disaster. Community, Community Services and Groups, Government Services TRC, Local Disaster Management Group

(ii) Develop Malanda Disaster Management Plan. Malanda Disaster Management Committee, TRC, Local Disaster Management Group

(iii) Promote community self-reliance during a local disaster:
• People are responsible for their own safety
• Buildings are kept up to standard by owners and have adequate insurance
• Residents are well equipped and prepared for disaster. Local Disaster Management Group, Malanda Disaster Management Committee

(iv) Raise community awareness about how to be well prepared and self-reliant during and post local disaster including availability of evacuation centres post event. Malanda Disaster Management Committee, Local Disaster Management Group

2012 - 2013

(v) Ensure vulnerable community members are cared for during a local disaster:
• Register of frail aged and other vulnerable residents developed
• List of carers and people prepared to billet others developed
• Match those requiring billeting or care during and post disaster with those volunteering to care for or billet others. Malanda Disaster Management Committee

(vi) Conduct audit of public facilities and encourage community audit of private buildings to assess standard. TRC, Queensland Government, Private Owners

(vii) New public infrastructure is constructed to the highest possible cyclone standard. TRC, Queensland Government

2012 - 2021

3.14.4   Town infrastructure

(i) Review the Malanda Beautification Plan 2003. TRC

(ii) Encourage civic pride to beautify the town. Chamber of Commerce, Businesses, Residents, TRC

(iii) Establish Malanda Garden Club. Community

(iv) Explore options for maintaining and upgrading caravan park including:
• Retain as a van park
• Sell to private enterprise
• Subdivide and sell caravan park to private enterprise and sell other parcels of excess land. TRC

2012 - 2013

(v) Investigate options for improving town water supply. TRC

(vi) Develop a regional strategy for off road trails and include those in and around Malanda. TRC

(vii) Clean or replace signage at entrances to town and beautify entrances and erect signage to acknowledge Traditional Owner groups. Malanda Garden Club, Traditional Owner Groups, TRC

(viii) Investigate options for improving waste management that incorporate reclaiming from waste transfer station. TRC, Community

(ix) Investigate options for upgrading the Malanda Majestic Theatre. Malanda Theatre Company, TRC, Queensland Government

2013 - 2016

(x) Community priorities for maintenance, upgrade and beautification of town infrastructure identified. TRC

2012 - 2021

3.14.5   Health services and facilities

(i) Establish Malanda Health Action Group. Community

(ii) Conduct community needs analysis of local health needs:
• Understand health status of local population
• Identify service gaps
• Identify preventative strategies. Malanda Health Action Group, Queensland Health, Indigenous Health Services, Community Health Service Providers

(iii) Lobby to increase rebate for General Practice medical services to encourage bulk billing in rural practices. FNQ Division of Rural General Practice, Community, TRC, Australian Government

2012 - 2013

(iv) Utilise technology to improve patient access to specialist services:
• High speed Internet
• Video conferencing
• Teleconferencing. Queensland Health, Sustainable Malanda

(v) Promote healthy active lifestyles:
• Develop trails network
• Locally grown foods
• Community gardens. Malanda Health Action Group, LETS, TRC, Queensland Health

2013 - 2016

(vi) Investigate feasibility of establishing an integrated local health service. Malanda Health Action Group, Sustainable Malanda, Health Service Providers

(vii) Upgrade Atherton Hospital as a district hospital and build a regional Greenfield hospital attached to a scientific facility at Walkamin. Queensland Government

2016 - 2021

Our Community Vision

In 2021, imagine the Malanda and Millaa Millaa Indigenous communities have grown gradually and are clean, green, healthy communities. We enjoy our safe and relaxed lifestyle where everyone knows one another and we value visiting relatives, looking after one another and caring for country.

The wildlife is well protected, the environment preserved and our waterways are clean. We have thriving businesses and some are based on culture, tourism and the environment and have a community education focus.

Our old people are well looked after. Our young people make the most of their education and are well aware of career opportunities and have lots of activities to participate in.

Housing is affordable and people have good jobs or are meaningfully occupied. We have good services, facilities and shops and everyone gets along well across the whole community.

Our culture is strong and alive, and our young people have been well prepared to take over caring for country responsibilities.

Malanda Indigenous Community members develop priority actions

Malanda District Population: 4063
Malanda Indigenous Population: 146
(3.6% of total population)
ABS 2006 Census Usual Residents

Community Priorities ~ This plan reflects the aspirations of local residents. Council and other community partners will use these aspirations to guide future planning and consider which actions they can implement.

3.15.1   Youth venues and activities

(i) Encourage and support students to attend school and consider holding an annual Indigenous student graduation ceremony.
Parents,
Malanda State High School,
Traditional Owner Groups

2012 - 2013

(ii) Explore measures to increase youth self esteem including:
• Young people get to know the land they walk on
• Spend time on holidays caring for country, cultural awareness, social events and sport fun days
• Learn local traditional languages.
Families,
Traditional Owner groups,
Malanda State High School

2013 - 2016

(iii) Encourage young non-Indigenous people to learn about local culture.
Malanda State High School,
Traditional Owner groups

3.15.2   Culture, arts and heritage

(i) Establish an Indigenous Cultural Working Group.
Community

(ii) Share culture - stories, art, history - by holding sessions at schools, library, Visitor Information Centre and other community events and venues.
Indigenous Cultural Working Group , Traditional Owner Groups,
Community, Malanda State Primary and High Schools,
TRC Library, TRC Visitor Information Centre

2012 - 2013

(iii) Investigate feasibility of developing a Cultural Centre in Malanda including:
• Purpose and model of operation
• Activities and events
• Capital and operating costs
• Building design
• Location
• Funding.
Indigenous Cultural Working Group

2013 - 2016

Community Participation
The plan reflects the aspirations of local residents - 52% of the Malanda district Indigenous population aged 15 yrs and over participated in developing this plan.

3.15.3 Public transport

(i) Investigate feasibility of establishing a door to door maxi taxi service:
• With wheel chair access
• For seniors and other community members
• For social outings, access to health services and other appointments
• Service to cover Malanda, Yungaburra, Millaa Millaa with access to Atherton
• Identify funding
• Affordable fee for service
• Identify community demand.   Community,
Eacham Community Help Organisation (ECHO),
Service Clubs,
Private bus owners,
Tablelands Community Transport Service Providers Network

2012 - 2013

(ii) Promote ECHO bus service within community
Eacham Community Help Organisation (ECHO),
Community

Establishing a cultural working group to share cultural stories and history with school groups, locals and visitors to the Malanda area is a priority for the Malanda Indigenous Community.
Malanda Falls Mural, Artist Warren Canendo Ngadjon Jii,
Photo courtesy: Central Wet Tropics Institute for Country and Culture Aboriginal Corporation (CWTICCAC)

3.15.4 Multipurpose community facility

(i) Liaise with Malanda Sport and Recreation Association to explore options of incorporating Indigenous aspirations for a community facility into the Jack May Park Redevelopment.
Indigenous and wider Malanda communities,
Malanda Sport and Recreation Association, TRC

2012 - 2021

3.15.5 Land and facilities planning

(i) Lobby for improved pedestrian safety in the main street and provide information and advice about where Indigenous and other residents walk.   Dept of Transport and Main Roads,
Community

2012 - 2013

(ii) Raise community awareness about housing options and town services, especially for young people.
Malanda State High School, Social Housing Providers,
Real Estate Agents, TRC, Community

(iii) Continue to plan to meet the needs of our changing and diverse population including:
• Community needs assessments
• Infrastructure planning
• Affordable housing options.
Social Housing Providers ,
Community and Government Service Providers,
TRC, Queensland Government

2013 - 2021

Our Community Vision

In 2021, imagine Mareeba has grown in a sustainable way to capitalise on its opportunities while retaining its highly valued rural relaxed way of life.

Mareeba, with its consistent water supply and productive soils, has further expanded its agricultural and economic diversity to offer a wide variety of employment and business opportunities to all our people - young, mature, Aboriginal and recently arrived.

Mareeba celebrates its cultural diversity and heritage. It is a friendly, healthy and safe community where our children can develop with high quality education that leads to high quality jobs within the region. Families can access excellent health services within the town from birth to old age. There is enough housing for all to live in comfortable, healthy and safe surrounds.

With its own airport and a fit for purpose industrial precinct at the gateway to the Gulf and Cape York, Mareeba is an innovative resilient economic hub serving the wider region in construction, mining and agricultural services.

In close proximity to the international airport and outstanding natural attractions, Mareeba is a magnet for tourists and offers a lifestyle to be envied.

Prioritising road issues at the Mareeba Community Plan workshop, 2011

Mareeba District Population: 10,407
Mareeba Indigenous Population: 1447
(13.9% of total pop.)
ABS 2006 Census Usual Residents

Community Priorities ~ This plan reflects the aspirations of local residents. Council and other community partners will use these aspirations to guide future planning and consider which actions they can implement.

3.16.1   Health services and facilities

(i) Explore feasibility of collaborative approach by government, community and commercial health service providers to deliver improved and expanded health services including:
• Bulk billing
• Increasing the number of General Practitioners
• Explore feasibility of developing a specialist medical centre in town.
General Practice Services,
Mulungu Aboriginal Corporation Medical Centre,
Mareeba Hospital, FNQ Division of Rural General Practice

(ii) Lobby to increase rebate for General Practice medical services to encourage bulk billing in rural practices.
Community,
FNQ Division of Rural General Practice,
TRC, Australian Government

(iii) Lobby for improved incentives for doctors and health professionals to work and live locally.
Australian Government, Queensland Government,
FNQ Rural Division of General Practice

(iv) Continue to lobby to expand Mareeba Hospital as the main central hospital in the region given Mareeba is the largest regional centre with the highest proportion of patients with chronic health needs.
Community,
Queensland Health

(v) Monitor and support the Governance Committee to manage the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Exemption funds appropriately.
Community,
Governance Committee

2012 - 2013

(vi) Lobby for increased transparency in decision-making regarding health services and facilities.
Community,
Queensland Health

(vii) Campaign for increased and more regular visits by medical specialists.
Queensland Health

(viii) Health service community consultations to include people with a disability and more disabled car parks at Mareeba Hospital.
Queensland Health, TRC

2012 - 2013

(ix) Lobby for increased services for chronic health disease and need to plan for increasing aged population.
Community,
Aged Care Providers,
Queensland Health

2013 - 2016

Community Participation
The plan reflects the aspirations of local residents - 26% of the Mareeba district population aged 15 yrs and over participated in developing the Mareeba plans.

3.16.2 Aged care/ Accommodation

(i) Investigate options for designating land for future aged care development including donations and creation of an "aged care" precinct. TRC, Private land owners, Queensland Government

(ii) Improved public transport for elderly to visit specialist medical services in Cairns. Queensland Health, Community Transport Providers, Public Transport Providers, Tablelands Community Transport Service Providers Network

(iii) Advocate to increase funding for home modifications and in-home care packages to enable people to continue living at home. Community, Aged Care Providers, TRC

(iv) Lobby for information about future of the former Rose Colless aged care facility and advocate for it to continue to be used as an aged care facility. TRC, Community, Queensland Government, Australian Government

(v) Explore options for increasing the number of nurses in aged care. Queensland Health, Aged Care Facilities, Tablelands Industry Workforce Group Inc

(vi) Explore investment options to develop aged care accommodation models:
• Small cluster developments built to ageing in place principles with on site live in qualified carer in one of the units
• Share homes for seniors with a qualified carer
• Licensing requirements. Aged Care Providers, Dept of Health and Ageing, Developers, Tablelands Aged Care and Retirement Accommodation Action Group

(vii) Continue to improve town infrastructure so elderly people and those with a disability can continue to live in their own homes including audit and upgrade of footpaths. TRC, Queensland Government, Australian Government, Service Clubs, Mareeba Chamber of Commerce, Corporate Sector

[sidebar: 2012 - 2013]
[sidebar: 2012 - 2021]

3.16.3 Promote buying local

(i) Advocate for Coles Supermarket to sell local produce. Community, Industry Groups

(ii) Promote "local buy" practices:
• Encourage people to support local businesses that sell locally produced goods and services
• Raise awareness about shops that stock local produce
• Nurture a new culture of "low food miles"
• Investigate ways to label and promote locally produced products and manage authenticity. Community, Mareeba Chamber of Commerce, Local Businesses

(iii) Support "Taste Paradise" local branding. Local Producers, Local Consumers

(iv) Investigate feasibility of establishing a local Farmers Market. Community, Farmers and Industry Groups, Entrepreneurs

[sidebar: 2012 - 2013]
[sidebar: 2013 - 2016]

3.16.4 Road infrastructure

(i) Inform Department of Transport and Main Roads of identified community priorities for maintenance and upgrade of state controlled roads. TRC, Dept of Transport and Main Roads

(ii) Community priorities for maintenance and upgrade of Council roads identified to inform Council decision-making. TRC

[sidebar: 2012 - 2021]

3.16.5 Diversify economy and create jobs

(i) Investigate opportunities for new business and jobs from long term expansion of Mareeba Airport:
• Attract new industries to use air transport
• Establish flight training school and aeroplane maintenance
• Fly in / fly out transport for mines. TRC, Air Transport Operators, James Cook University, Tablelands Industry Workforce Group Inc

(ii) Explore feasibility of establishing a medical graduate training school in Mareeba with a special focus on Indigenous health. Mulungu Aboriginal Corporation Medical Centre, James Cook University, Mareeba Hospital, FNQ Rural Division of General Practice

(iii) Investigate options for developing new or expanded industry or business:
• Continue to develop Mareeba Industrial Estate
• Manufacturing potential for value adding to agricultural products
• Solve heavy vehicle bypass
• Packaging industry
• Export innovative agricultural expertise
• Cutting edge technological training centre
• Servicing Tablelands, Cape York and Gulf areas
• Call centre in Mareeba
• Attract IT industries
• Business and employer incentives
• Training hub for agricultural and health industries
• Aged care industry
• Personal services industry
• Arts and cultural training centre to develop arts industry
• Sport Academy for outdoor and adventure sports (mountain biking, canoeing)
• Lifestyle destination for knowledge workers and global economy workers to base business in district
• Recycling industry
• Regional economic zone to attract government support and tax concessions. TAFE, James Cook University, Dept of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation, Australian Government TRC, Tablelands Futures Corporation, Advance Cairns, Industry Organisations, Mareeba Chamber of Commerce, Community, Aged Care Providers, Tablelands Industry Workforce Group Inc

(iv) Building Codes to incorporate disability access in new developments. TRC, Queensland Government

[sidebar: 2012 - 2021]

3.17 Mareeba Indigenous Community

Our Community Vision

In 2021 the Mareeba community accepts and recognizes Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural heritage and diversity, ensuring equitable and successful access to education and employment for the prosperity and good health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Mareeba District Population: 10,407
Mareeba Indigenous Population: 1447
(13.9% of total pop.)
ABS 2006 Census Usual Residents

Mareeba Indigenous Community Plan Workshop, 7th June 2011

Community Priorities ~ This plan reflects the aspirations of local residents. Council and other community partners will use these aspirations to guide future planning and consider which actions they can implement.

3.17.1   Employment and training

(i) Encourage and support students to complete education.
Families, Mentors, Elders, Schools, Community Organisations

(ii) Investigate options for linking training to job outcomes:
• Continue to identify local skills shortages
• School based traineeships and apprenticeships linked to local skill shortages. Registered Training Organisations, Employer Groups, Schools, Dept of Education and Training, Employment Service Providers, Tablelands Industry Workforce Group Inc, Australian Government

2012 - 2013

(iii) Investigate options for developing business and jobs including cultural tourism. Registered Training Organisations, Employer Groups, Schools, Mareeba Chamber of Commerce, Employment Service Providers, Dept of Education and Training, Australian Government, Dept of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation

2013 - 2016

(iv) Identified Indigenous Community Engagement and Development Officer position to be established to strengthen links between Council and Indigenous groups and assist Indigenous people to capitalise on employment opportunities within local government. TRC

3.17.2   Appropriate housing

(i) Review Indigenous housing including:
• Rent levels
• Location of housing across town
• Design of new and existing housing to be culturally appropriate
• Target groups including elderly. Community Housing Providers, Dept of Communities, Indigenous Community

(ii) Promote and encourage more Indigenous home ownership including "rent to buy" program. Queensland Government, Australian Government

2012 - 2013

(iii) Provide tenancy support services to assist people to retain their tenancy and conduct community education about tenancy rights and responsibilities. TRC Home Stay, Tableland Tenants Advice and Advocacy Service, Mareeba State High School

(iv) Develop suitable models of accommodation for people in crisis including hostel accommodation. Community Housing Organisations, Indigenous Community, Dept of Communities, Australian Government

2013-2016

3.17.3   Culture arts and heritage

(i) Fly the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders flags alongside the Australian flag at Council offices. TRC

(ii) Develop a Reconciliation Action Plan to recognise Traditional Owner Groups; include Traditional Owner Groups in decision-making and develop protocols. Muluridji Elders, TRC, Indigenous Community

(iii) Reclaim and revive cultural knowledge practices and traditional languages:
• School cultural programs
• Community workshops
• Screen Indigenous films
• Teach cultural child rearing practices to young people and young parents
• Cultural cooking of foods. Aboriginal Corporations and Traditional Owner Groups, Schools, Indigenous Community and Health Services, Queensland Government, Australian Government

2012 - 2013

(iv) Explore cultural tourism opportunities to employ Indigenous workers. Indigenous Community, Indigenous Organisations, Queensland Government

(v) Investigate feasibility of establishing an Indigenous Cultural Heritage and Entertainment Centre:
• Museum
• Promote local traditional heritage
• Youth activities
• Community events
• Indigenous business opportunities to showcase Indigenous talents
• Story telling.
Community, Muluridji Traditional Owners, TRC, Queensland Government, Australian Government

2013 - 2016

3.17.4   Health services and facilities

(i) Explore feasibility of expanding Mulungu Aboriginal Corporation Medical Centre:
• Mobile health services and outreach
• One stop shop model
• Dental service.
Mulungu Aboriginal Corporation Medical Centre

(ii) Deliver more drug and alcohol intervention programs integrated with existing community support services.
TRC, Mulungu Aboriginal Corporation Medical Centre, Queensland Health, Churches

(iii) Promote the Wuchopperen Dental Van in the community.
Wuchopperen Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Medical Centre

(iv) Lobby to increase rebate for General Practice medical services to encourage bulk billing in rural practices.
Community, FNQ Division of Rural General Practice, TRC, Australian Government

(v) Conduct healthy eating programs.   Queensland Health, Mulungu Aboriginal Corporation Medical Centre

(vi) Lobby for more aged care packages for in home care to enable Indigenous Elders to live in their own homes for longer.   TRC, Mareeba District Elders, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporation

2012 - 2013

(vii) Review maternity services to include higher level of cultural service delivery and closer links with mental health services.   Mareeba Hospital, Mulungu Aboriginal Corporation Medical Centre, Queensland Mental Health Service

(viii) Upgrade Mareeba Hospital to deliver more services.
Queensland Health

2013 - 2016

(ix) Investigate option of developing Indigenous aged care homes:
• Models
• Location
• Culturally appropriate
• Suitable level of care and support.
Home and Community Care, Mulungu Aboriginal Corporation Medical Centre, Developers, TRC, Mareeba District Elders Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Corporation

(x) Investigate feasibility of establishing a Rehabilitation Centre or "dry out" centre.   Queensland Health, Indigenous and Community Support Services, Mulungu Aboriginal Corporation Medical Centre, Indigenous Community

2016 - 2021

3.17.5   Emergency/crisis accommodation

(i) Explore appropriate models of accommodation and related support services for people in crisis without secure, stable housing including:
• Emergency accommodation for itinerant people
• Hostel and safe house for women and children experiencing domestic violence
• Hostel services for men
• Safe house for young people
• Homeless people.
Mareeba Homelessness Coordination Network, Community Housing Providers, Indigenous Service Providers, Community Service Providers Churches, TRC, Dept of Communities

(ii) Lobby for funding to establish new accommodation and support service models for people in crisis.
Mareeba Homelessness Coordination Network, Community Housing Providers, Indigenous Service Providers, Community Service Providers Churches, TRC, Dept of Communities

2012 - 2013

3.17.6   Youth venues and activities

(i) Assist young people to run youth led activities and events and find ways to better utilise existing facilities and venues.
Mareeba Youth Service, Churches, Community, PCYC

(ii) Investigate better options for public transport including transport to the Drive In Movies.
Tablelands Community Transport Service Providers Network, Public Transport Providers, Community Transport Providers

(iii) Continue Families First As Teachers program.
Mareeba State Primary School, Families

(iv) Open up public access to Plowman's Crossing and install public amenities and picnic area.   Community, TRC

2012 - 2013

(v) Investigate option of developing an after school program for high risk children so they can be safe from 3.30pm to 10pm.   Indigenous Community, Community Service Providers

(vi) Investigate option of opening a theatre/cinema in Mareeba.   Community

2013 - 2016

Community Participation
The plan reflects the aspirations of local residents - 29% of the Mareeba district Indigenous population aged 15 yrs and over participated in developing this plan.

Our Community Vision

In 2021, imagine we have capitalised on our huge potential with our great weather, quality soil, abundant water, rich culture and heritage and safe, clean, green community.

Our population has grown with families moving into the district. Our economy is well diversified with agriculture, organic agriculture, permaculture, tourism, 'food tourism', industrial and retail activity.

Our town and district is well known by tourists and locals as a destination of choice and as a Gateway to the waterfalls, Tablelands and Gulf Savannah.

Millaa Millaa District Population: 646
ABS 2006 Census Usual Residents

Community members attending Millaa Millaa Community Plan meeting

Community Priorities ~ This plan reflects the aspirations of local residents. Council and other community partners will use these aspirations to guide future planning and consider which actions they can implement.

3.18.1   Road infrastructure

(i) Inform Department of Transport and Main Roads of identified community priorities for maintenance and upgrade of main roads infrastructure.
Dept of Transport and Main Roads, TRC

(ii) Community priorities for maintenance and upgrade of Council roads identified to inform Council decision-making.
TRC

2012 - 2021

3.18.2   Land use planning

(i) New Planning Scheme to consider:
• being more flexible to support sustainable development with smaller blocks to better manage permaculture
• have more affordable fees
• allow future development and extension of commercial activity in Millaa Millaa
• protect and promote revegetation of wildlife corridors and old sawmill site
• promote historical and heritage signage.
TRC, Dept of Local Government and Planning

2012 - 2013

(ii) Promote town as a green environment.
Millaa Millaa Chamber of Commerce

(iii) Investigate option of developing an Industrial Estate in Millaa Millaa.   TRC, Developers,Millaa Millaa Chamber of Commerce

2016 -2021

Millaa Millaa is a Gateway to the Tablelands Region, Photo courtesy: James Leech

3.18.3   Sport and recreational facilities

(i) Develop a regional strategy for a network of regional off road cycle and walking paths including:
• Linking key features and facilities within and around Millaa Millaa
• Linking Millaa Millaa to other towns.
Community, Landowners, Traditional Owner Groups, TRC, Queensland Government, Community and Sporting Organisations, Tropical Tablelands Tourism, Tablelands Futures Corporation

2012 - 2013

(ii) Lobby to upgrade main roads for safe cycling to link Millaa Millaa to other towns.
Community, Dept of Transport and Main Roads

(iii) Investigate the feasibility of re-opening the Irwin Walking Track.   Community, Landowners, Traditional Owner Groups, TRC, Queensland Government

(iv) Apply for funding for a local Sport and Recreation Officer.   Millaa Millaa Chamber of Commerce

(v) Plan program of sport and recreation activities with young people.   Millaa Millaa Chamber of Commerce

2013 - 2016

(vi) Investigate feasibility of re-locating mobile skate ramp to Millaa Millaa.   Young people, TRC, Millaa Millaa Chamber of Commerce

3.18.4   Public transport

(i) Investigate opportunities for subsidised pensioner fares on public transport to be available from commercial bus operators.
Community, Commercial Bus Operators, Dept of Transport and Main Roads

2012 - 2013

(ii) Promote existing public bus services and routes.
Commercial Bus Operators, Community

(iii) Participate in Tablelands Community Transport Service Providers Network.
Commercial Bus Operators, Community, TRC

Community Participation
The plan reflects the aspirations of local residents - 40% of the Millaa Millaa district population aged 15 yrs and over participated in developing the Millaa Millaa plan.

3.18.5   Health services and facilities

(i) Negotiate to increase opening hours at Clinic to five days/week by having relief staff available when Clinic Nurse is doing home visits.   Community, Queensland Health

(ii) Negotiate with Clinic Nurse to advertise times that Clinic is not staffed.   Queensland Health

(iii) Lobby for more in home services for elderly Millaa Millaa residents (Home and Community Care [HACC] and Community Aged Care Packages [CACP]). Community, TRC, Queensland Health, Dept of Health and Ageing

2012 - 2013

(iv) Investigate feasibility of establishing a respite care centre in Millaa Millaa. Community, TRC, Regional Respite Care Providers

(v)   Conduct   community   needs   assessment   of   aged accommodation and support services.   Community, TRC

(vi) Negotiate with Queensland Health and GP clinics in the region for visiting and outreach specialist and allied health services to Millaa Millaa.   Community, Private Medical Practitioners, Queensland Health

2013 - 2016

(vii) Establish Millaa Millaa Community Action Group to lobby for improved access to support services for seniors, people with a disability and carers.   Community, TRC

(viii) Investigate feasibility of establishing a private medical clinic in Millaa Millaa.   Community

2016 -2021

Negotiate increased opening hours at the Medical Clinic

Our Community Vision

In 2021, imagine Mt Garnet, a gateway to the Tablelands and Gulf Savannah, remains a friendly, safe and inclusive town.

The town has capitalized on its assets of a favourable climate and mining industry with its population growing under a sustainable land use plan.

The town is well supported with good road infrastructure, housing, health and community services and a reliable power and water supply. Our natural environment, history and Aboriginal heritage attracts visitors to the town encouraging business opportunities.

Our youth are supported in their education to achieve high quality results and have access to healthy activities and safe places.

Our elderly and people with disabilities have appropriate housing and support services and good access to all town facilities. We are an inclusive community and embrace all who live in and visit our town.

Mt Garnet District Population: 938
Mt Garnet Indigenous Population: 204
    (21.7% of total population)
ABS 2006 Census Usual Residents

Community Plan meeting, Mt Garnet Hall, 2011

Community Priorities ~ This plan reflects the aspirations of local residents. Council and other community partners will use these aspirations to guide future planning and consider which actions they can implement.

3.19.1 Land use planning

(i) Investigate ways to resolve land tenure issues.
Dept of Environment and Resource Management

(ii) Investigate feasibility of making more land available for subdivision:
• Market demand
• FNQ Regional Plan 2031 urban footprint for Mt Garnet
• Land tenure including option of subdividing Crown land
• Electricity supply and alternative sources of energy
• Water supply
• Waste infrastructure. *Mt Garnet Progress Association, TRC, Dept of Environment and Resource Management, Dept of Local Government and Planning*

2013 - 2016
2016 - 2021

3.19.2 Aged care/ Accommodation

(i) Lobby for increased care packages for in-home assistance. *Community, Mt Garnet Progress Association, TRC, Aged Care Providers*

(ii) Conduct activities for elderly in Mt Garnet to promote mental, physical and emotional health.
Community Service Providers, Queensland Health, TRC

(iii) Investigate options for having a local provider of services for elderly. *Community, Community Service Providers, Queensland Health*

(iv) Review existing emergency medical services and evacuations. *Queensland Ambulance Service, TRC*

(v) Review system of residents accessing prescriptions from pharmacy or clinic. *Queensland Health, Community*

(vi) Investigate the feasibility of building accommodation for seniors in Mt Garnet. *Community, TRC, Dept of Communities*

2012 - 2013
2013 - 2016

Community Participation
No community participation benchmark set as Mt Garnet is a small community. 47 people participated in the community planning workshop, Indigenous planning workshop and regional survey to develop the Mt Garnet plans.

3.19.3 Youth venues and activities

(i) Review activities for children and young people and develop a Calendar of Activities that is widely promoted.
Mt Garnet Progress Association, School, Church Groups, Gumbilbadan Land Trust Directors

(ii) Identify community transport solutions for young people to access activities in other towns.
Mt Garnet Progress Association, Tablelands Community Transport Service Providers Network

(iii) Investigate option of incorporating youth and children's activities in the Indigenous Community Support Centre on Gumbilbadan Land Trust grounds.
Gumbilbadan Land Trust Directors, Community

2012 - 2013
2012 - 2021

3.19.4 Road infrastructure

(i) Inform Department of Transport and Main Roads of identified community priorities for maintenance and upgrade of state controlled roads. *TRC, Dept of Transport and Main Roads*

(ii) Community priorities for maintenance and upgrade of Council roads identified to inform Council decision-making. *TRC*

2012 - 2021

3.19.5 Disaster management

(i) Establish a Mt Garnet Disaster Management Committee to coordinate local preparations, response and recovery operations. *Community, TRC*

(ii) Develop a Mt Garnet Disaster Management Community Plan. *Mt Garnet Disaster Management Committee, TRC, Local Disaster Management Group*

(iii) Encourage people to prepare for natural disasters and to be self-sufficient including identifying safe buildings to shelter during disaster. *TRC, Community, Mt Garnet Disaster Management Committee, Local Disaster Management Group*

2012 - 2016

Our Community Vision

In 2021, imagine Mt Garnet is a happy, healthy and safe community. Our Aboriginal community has a safe place to gather, where our children can meet, with a youth shed and a community garden, and where we carry on our culture. We have a thriving artefacts and cultural promotions industry, with young people learning skills and culture from community Elders.

We are employed in our local industries and community services. We own our own homes on our own land. We have an integrated health centre where services are delivered to the whole community in culturally appropriate ways. We have good community transport that enables us to access services and take part in community activities.

We have open, healthy relationships where we feel safe to raise issues, share information and are active participants in our community.

Every year we commemorate local Aboriginal culture in NAIDOC Week which is when the whole community comes together celebrating the spirit of reconciliation. We are proud of our heritage and share it happily with the wider community and visitors.

Mt Garnet Indigenous Community Plan Workshop

Mt Garnet District Population: 938
Mt Garnet Indigenous Population: 204
(21.7% of total population)
ABS 2006 Census Usual Residents

Community Priorities ~ This plan reflects the aspirations of local residents. Council and other community partners will use these aspirations to guide future planning and consider which actions they can implement.

3.20.1 Indigenous community facility

(i) Investigate feasibility of establishing an Indigenous Community Support Centre on Gumbilbadan Land Trust grounds including:
• Service delivery and centre models
• Community activities
• Governance
• Building design
• Capital and operational costs
• Funding. Gumbilbadan Land Trust Directors, Mt Garnet Progress Association, Community, Community Service Providers, Kagara Pty Ltd, CDEP

2012 - 2021

3.20.2 Health services and facilities

(i) Form a Murri Health Action Group to progress coordination and other health related issues. Community

(ii) Review existing delivery of health services to Mt Garnet by government and community service providers including:
• Coordination
• Service types and gaps, patient access and frequency of visiting services
• Access to services
• Co-location of services
• Calendar of local and visiting services promoted within community
• Proposed multipurpose community centre on Gumbilbadan Land Trust grounds.
Mt Garnet Murri Health Action Group, Queensland Health, Indigenous Health Services, TRC, Community Health Service Providers

2012 - 2013

Community Participation

No community participation benchmark set as Mt Garnet is a small community. 14 people participated in the Indigenous planning workshop to develop this plan.

3.20.3 Indigenous industries

(i) Investigate the feasibility of establishing Indigenous owned and operated businesses including:
• Nature of local tourism traffic through Mt Garnet
• Manufacture, marketing and sale of local artefacts
• Cultural promotion
• Other business opportunities. Traditional Owner Groups, Dept of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation

2012 - 2013

(ii) Research cultural language names and landmarks to build an information base for signage, community education and interpretative uses. Traditional Owner Groups, Terrain Natural Resource Management

2013 - 2016

3.20.4 Community care services

(i) Conduct community needs analysis of community care services and community transport for residents of all ages to identify:
• Community care and gaps in services
• Transport needs including connections to Ravenshoe and Atherton services
• Training and employment opportunities.
Community, Mt Garnet Murri Health Action Group, TRC

(ii) Promote community awareness of community care needs and services and raise issue in media and with government agencies.
Community, Mt Garnet Murri Health Action Group, TRC, Local Members

2013 - 2016

3.20.5 Employment and training

(i) Encourage local Aboriginal people to gain trade qualifications and set up businesses to supply local community. Community, Queensland Government

(ii) Investigate existing and future opportunities for local Aboriginal jobs including:
• Identify local commercial, government and community employers;
• Encourage community and government service providers to employ and train locals to deliver services in Mt Garnet
• Conduct skills and qualifications assessment across Aboriginal community
• Promote people in jobs as good role models for students.
Community, Dept of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation, Tablelands Futures Corporation, Local Employers, Dept of Education and Training, Tablelands Industry Workforce Group Inc

2012-2013

2013 - 2016

(iii) Promote immediate and future job opportunities to local Aboriginal people and encourage further training and education as appropriate.
Community, Tablelands Futures Corporation, Dept of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation, Tablelands Industry Workforce Group Inc

3.21 Mt Molloy

Our Community Vision

In 2021, imagine Mt Molloy is a thriving small town that has grown slightly in population but still has a good sense of community.

We have a natural water supply uncontaminated with chemicals. There is plenty for our children to do and our school is still open. We attract a lot of tourist visitors who stay in town and enjoy the walks through bushland and along the old stock routes.

We are well connected to the outside world with good phone, internet and TV services and safe roads.

Julatten and Mt Molloy District Population: 1345
ABS 2006 Census Usual Residents

Information and survey stall at Mt Molloy markets

Community Priorities ~ This plan reflects the aspirations of local residents. Council and other community partners will use these aspirations to guide future planning and consider which actions they can implement.

3.21.1 Telecommunications

(i) Explore ways to share information amongst community members regarding the best types of telecommunications that work in the district. *Community*

(ii) Request information from Ergon Energy, Optus and Telstra about their respective infrastructure priorities for Mt Molloy and lobby for improved infrastructure. *Community, TRC*

2012 - 2013

(iii) Investigate ways to improve television service coverage. *Community, TRC*

2013 - 2016

3.21.2 Road infrastructure

(i) Inform Department of Transport and Main Roads of identified community priorities for flood proofing of state controlled roads and widening of Rifle Creek bridge and other options to improve safety.
Dept of Transport and Main Roads, TRC

(ii) Community priorities for flood proofing of Council roads and other maintenance and upgrade works identified including footpath from town to Rifle Creek to inform Council decision-making. *TRC*

2012 - 2021

'Mount Molloy Hall in the Evening', Photo courtesy: Duncan Cunningham

3.21.3 Water infrastructure

(i) Lobby for town water supply to remain untreated. *Community*

(ii) Council to continue to negotiate with Queensland Government to retain untreated water supply for Mt Molloy residents. *TRC, Queensland Health, Office of the Water Supply Regulator*

2012 - 2013

(iii) Investigate options for improving town water supply pressure as part of the preparation of the Drinking Water Quality Management Plan for Mt Molloy. *TRC*

2013-2016

3.21.4 Sport and recreational facilities

(i) Investigate insurance cover for volunteers helping to maintain community areas eg. Babbler's Hill. *TRC, Community*

2012 - 2013

(ii) Develop regional strategy for off road trails for walking, cycling and horse-riding. *TRC, Community*

(iii) Investigate the feasibility of community organisations maintaining specific Council reserves as parks with a formal arrangement in place to enable funding opportunities to be accessed by the community. *Community, Julatten and Mt Molloy Association of Residents and Ratepayers (JAMARR), TRC*

2013 - 2016

(iv) Upgrade lighting in park beside Memorial Hall. *TRC*

(v) Upgrade and extend playground beside Memorial Hall to cater for older age groups up to 12 years and include skate park to cater for 12 - 16 years. *TRC*

Community Participation
The plan reflects the aspirations of local residents - 22% of the Julatten and Mt Molloy district population aged 15 yrs and over participated in developing the Mt Molloy and Julatten plans.

Our Community Vision

In 2021, imagine Mutchilba remains a friendly, safe and quiet farming community.

Diversified farms are connected to the irrigation scheme with good water infrastructure and are able to export their produce on good road infrastructure to the Cairns airport.

There is accommodation for seasonal farm workers and land available for more people to relocate to the area.

Mutchilba is connected to the wider world with mobile phone access and public transport.

Mutchilba District Population: N/A
ABS 2006 Census Usual Residents

Mutchilba Community Planning Workshop, 16th September 2010

Community Priorities ~ This plan reflects the aspirations of local residents. Council and other community partners will use these aspirations to guide future planning and consider which actions they can implement.

3.22.1   Land use planning

(i) Prepare a submission to expand the Mutchilba Urban Footprint in the FNQ Regional Plan.
Community, TRC, Dept of Local Government and Planning

(ii) Ensure new land uses including noxious industries are complementary to agriculture.   TRC

(iii) Lobby to have identified sites for noxious industries in suitable safe locations.   Community

2012 - 2013

(iv) Investigate option of subdividing farm land close to town.

Landowners

2013 - 2016

3.22.2   Telecommunications

(i) Follow up proposal by Optus to build a transmission tower in the district.   Community, Optus, TRC

2012 - 2013

3.22.3   Upgrade community Centre

(i) Install bollards and signage to prevent vehicle access on lawn in front of centre to protect sprinkler system.   TRC

(ii) Install 'no camping' signage at Community Centre.   TRC

(iii) Source quotes for kitchen upgrade.
Community Centre Committee

(iv) Prepare funding application for kitchen upgrade and follow up lease to clarify tenure.   TRC, Community Centre Committee

2012 - 2013

3.22.4   Water infrastructure

(i) Inform SunWater about need to maintain and upgrade water infrastructure (installation of gravity supply system required).   Community, SunWater, TRC

(ii) Inform Ergon Energy about inadequate energy supply which impacts on the water supply.   Community, Ergon Energy, TRC

2013 - 2016

Community Participation
No community participation benchmark set as Mutchilba is a small community. 13 people participated in the regional survey and the community planning workshop to develop the Mutchilba plan.

Our Community Vision

In 2021, imagine the Ravenshoe community is friendly and safe for families who enjoy a holistic healthy lifestyle in a sustainable, non-polluted natural environment.

We value our Indigenous heritage and celebrate cultural harmony. Community projects actively involve all generations from youth through to the elderly.

Ravenshoe is a major service centre for outlying western towns and benefits from the mining sector in the district. The strong and diverse local economy comprises agriculture, thriving niche industries and eco-cultural tourism.

Small businesses are well-supported and provide sufficient job opportunities.

Education programs from public and private providers offer quality outcomes to pre-primary, primary, secondary and tertiary age-groups.

Community members discuss road issues as part of the Community Plan, 2011

Ravenshoe District Population: 2557
Ravenshoe Indigenous Population: 285
(11.1% of total population)

ABS 2006 Census Usual Residents

Community Priorities ~ This plan reflects the aspirations of local residents. Council and other community partners will use these aspirations to guide future planning and consider which actions they can implement.

3.23.1   Sport and recreational facilities

(i) Investigate feasibility of establishing a swimming pool:
• Community demand
• Funding
• Capital and operational costs
• Size and heating.

2012 - 2013

Community, TRC,
Rural Activities Incorporated Sustainable Energy (RAISE)

Improving health services and facilities is a community priority. Photo courtesy: Sarah Scragg

3.23.2   Health services and facilities

(i) Review existing delivery of health services to Ravenshoe by government and community service providers including:
• Coordination
• Service types, patient access and frequency of visiting services
• Access to services
• Co-location of services
• Calendar of local and visiting services promoted within community.

Queensland Health, Indigenous Health Services,
Community Health Service Providers, TRC

(ii) Lobby to increase rebate for General Practice medical services to encourage bulk billing in rural practices.
Community,
FNQ Division of Rural General Practice,
TRC, Australian Government

(iii) Explore incentives to attract and retain General Practitioners in rural and remote areas and lobby for increased incentives.
Community, FNQ Division of Rural General Practice
TRC, Queensland Health

(iv) Lobby for trainee doctors to spend time in rural areas.
Community, FNQ Division of Rural General Practice
TRC, Queensland Health, James Cook University

(v) Lobby for more aged care packages for elderly residents, for both in-home and residential care.
Community,
Aged Care Providers, TRC

2012 - 2021

(vi) Investigate feasibility of improving local services and facilities to entice and retain professionals in rural areas.
TRC,
Community, Tablelands Futures Corporation,
FNQ Division of Rural General Practice

2013 - 2016

Community Participation
The plan reflects the aspirations of local residents - 35% of the Ravenshoe district population aged 15 yrs and over participated in developing the Ravenshoe plans.

3.23.3 Employment and training

(i) Promote a "Local Buy" policy for the procurement of goods and services by private and government enterprises and encourage local businesses to register and meet government standards and guidelines.
Local Businesses, Private Enterprises, Government Departments, TRC

2012 - 2013

(ii) Flexible town planning guidelines required to promote home businesses. TRC,
Dept of Local Government and Planning

(iii) Investigate options for generating more business, employment and training opportunities.
Ravenshoe and District Chamber of Commerce, Tablelands Futures Corporation, Dept of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation, TRC, Ravenshoe State High School, Businesses, Industry Groups Tablelands Industry Workforce Group Inc

2013 - 2016

(iv) Review numeracy and literacy courses for Indigenous students to include more practical learning modes.
Ravenshoe State High School, Education Queensland, Training Providers

3.23.4 Telecommunications

(i) Lobby to improve telecommunications in Ravenshoe including:
• ABC Radio
• UHF reception for handheld radios by emergency services
• Install back up generator at Telstra tower for mobile phone service
• Improved mobile, Internet, TV and radio services.
Radio National For Ravenshoe, Community, TRC

2012 - 2013

(ii) Request information from Telecommunication companies about their respective infrastructure priorities for Ravenshoe district and lobby for improved infrastructure and raise issues in the media and with local Members of Parliament. Community, TRC

2013 - 2016

Improving telecommunications is a priority for many communities, including Ravenshoe. Photo courtesy: Sarah Scragg

3.23.5 Youth venues and activities

(i) Foster pride in young people by promoting youth achievements:
• Create a wall of fame at the local high school of the sporting, academic, business and community achievements of past students
• Youth groups to cater for young people who are doing "ok" and reward their good behaviour and achievements as well as those at risk. Ravenshoe State High School,
It Takes A Community To Raise A Child (ITACTRAC), Yabu Mija Aboriginal Corporation, Ravenshoe Youth On Track (RYOT),

(ii) Review strategies for addressing truancy and engage with small group of children not attending to address issues.
Yabu Mija Aboriginal Corporation, Local schools, Queensland Police, Community, Ravenshoe Community Centre

2012 - 2013

(iii) Explore and maximise opportunities for young people, including those not presently attending school, presented by the new Agricultural College to be established at the High School.
Ravenshoe State High School, Youth support groups, Community support groups, Local agricultural enterprises

(iv) Involve young people in reviewing current youth activities and venues to "refresh" and tap into current trends and act on outcomes of the youth survey. Youth Shed,
It Takes A Community To Raise A Child (ITACTRAC), Ravenshoe Youth on Track, Community support services, Schools

(v) Investigate feasibility of establishing a PCYC based on Cape York model. Queensland Police Service, Youth support groups, Young people, Community

2013 - 2016

(vi) Explore options for assisting young people to gain independent living skills and being involved in helping with local community initiatives such as Meals on Wheels and Visitor Information Centre. Youth support groups,
Visitor Information Centre, Community support services

3.23.6 Road and water infrastructure

(i) Improve planning for road infrastructure. TRC,
Dept of Transport and Main Roads

2012-2013

(ii) Develop Drinking Water Quality Management Plan. TRC

2013-2016

(iii) Inform Department of Transport and Main Roads of identified community priorities for maintenance and upgrade of state controlled roads. TRC, Dept of Transport and Main Roads

2012 - 2021

(iv) Community priorities for maintenance and upgrade of Council roads identified to inform Council decision-making. TRC

(v) Investigate options for improving water quality and supply:
• Build Lake Millstream
• Promote installation of rain water tanks with increased Government assistance
• Bore water options. TRC,
Queensland Government

2016 - 2021

3.24 Ravenshoe Indigenous Community

Our Community Vision

In 2021, imagine the Ravenshoe Indigenous community is friendly and actively participates in local life and events. Indigenous cultures are integral to the whole community.

We have strong leaders throughout our community and they support Elders and youth in vigorously promoting our culture and history through stories, language, dance and art, and caring for country.

The scenic environment is greatly valued and cultural sites are respected. The Indigenous community has access to the sites, and we utilise this to educate our young ones and the wider community. Indigenous tourism nurtures living culture and generates income.

Our Ravenshoe Indigenous community has a wide range of employment opportunities and good jobs. Our people take advantage of education opportunities to be more self-sufficient, and we have revitalized the Farm.

We have good access to housing, health services and local facilities for all our people and all generations enjoy healthy lifestyles.

Ravenshoe Indigenous Community Planning Workshop

Ravenshoe District Population: 2557
Ravenshoe Indigenous Population: 285
(11.1% of total population)

ABS 2006 Census Usual Residents

Community Priorities ~ This plan reflects the aspirations of local residents. Council and other community partners will use these aspirations to guide future planning and consider which actions they can implement.

3.24.1   Sport and recreational facilities

(i) Investigate feasibility of using existing buildings such as new primary school hall, town hall and high school hall for indoor recreational, cultural and social activities.
Community, TRC

2012 - 2013

(ii) Investigate feasibility of establishing a swimming pool:
• Community demand
• Funding
• Capital and operational costs
• Size and heating.
Rural Activities Incorporated Sustainable Energy (RAISE), Community, TRC

(iii) Investigate options of incorporating an indoor sport and recreational facility with the swimming pool and outdoor activities area to use for:
• Sports
• Recreational and social gatherings such as funerals, birthdays, NAIDOC
• Indoor markets
• Workshops, meeting rooms and small conferences
• Arts and crafts, cooking and music activities
• Cyclone shelter
• Elders gatherings.
Rural Activities Incorporated Sustainable Energy (RAISE), Indigenous Community, TRC

2013 - 2016

3.24.2   Employment and training

(i) Learn from other areas and develop innovative strategies to create more jobs:
• More nationally accredited courses held in community
• More small business funding
• More TRC jobs for Indigenous people
• More support for employers willing to take on apprentices
• Conduct audit of community skills and qualifications and jobs they want to do
• Support youth who want to work in larger centres and to upgrade local community facilities
• Utilise existing assets to hold training for events management such as Torimba, RATS
• Support individuals to lead and try new projects
• Link the "haves" with the "have nots" and link funding, training and transport
• Ranger training program for Millstream and Koombooloomba.

Employment Service Providers, Q.I.T.E., ITEC, Community, TRC, Dept of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation, Tablelands Industry Workforce Group Inc

2012 - 2013

(ii) Establish a "Men's Shed" where youth can learn new skills informally.
Community

2013 - 2016

Community Participation
The plan reflects the aspirations of local residents - 49% of the Ravenshoe district Indigenous population aged 15 yrs and over participated in developing this plan.

3.24.3   Youth venues and activities

(i) Conduct independent living skills courses with young people: cooking, managing money, housekeeping, renting. Young People, Community, Yabu Mija Aboriginal Corporation, Jiddabul Aboriginal Corporation, Ravenshoe State High School, Youth Shed

2012 - 2013

(ii) Review Youth Shed activities and space to extend activities, create more space and assist young people to get there. Youth Shed, Community

(iii) Conduct youth and community social events such as a progressive dinner in the Town Hall. Community, Community organisations and groups

(iv) Conduct an annual program of school holiday activities. Young People, Community, Yabu Mija Aboriginal Corporation, Youth Shed

(v) Conduct regular cultural and social activities after school, at weekends and for special events and cater for both young men and women. Young People, Community, Yabu Mija, Jiddabul Aboriginal Corporation, Mamu Health Service Ravenshoe State High School, Youth Shed, Ravenshoe Amateur Theatrical Society, Dancing School, Torimba Festival

2013 - 2016

(vi) Investigate feasibility of establishing a PCYC. Queensland Police Service, Community

2016 - 2021

3.24.4   Appropriate housing

(i) Negotiate with private and public housing providers to repair and maintain existing housing and encourage tenants to get involved. Public and private housing providers, Tenants

2012 - 2013

(ii) Investigate housing options for elderly people and people with a disability. Jiddabul Aboriginal Corporation, Yabu Mija, Aged Care and Disability Service Providers, TRC, Dept of Communities

(iii) Promote existing tenancy support programs to assist people to understand renting and to retain their tenancy. HomeStay, Street2Home

(iv) Investigate options for more housing including building affordable housing in Ravenshoe. Social housing providers, TRC, Community

2013 - 2016

3.24.5   Parks and recreation areas

(i) Investigate options to train and employ local Indigenous people to beautify and maintain the town and recreation areas in the district and to enlist the assistance of volunteers to help mentor and train. Employment Services, Community, TRC, Dept of Environment and Resource Management

2012 - 2013

(ii) Establish closer links between School Career Guidance programs and the local Indigenous community. Ravenshoe State High School, Community

(iii) Investigate feasibility of re-establishing the Jiddabul Farm. Jiddabul Aboriginal Corporation

2013 - 2016

(iv) Investigate feasibility of creating public art to beautify parks and gardens. Local artists, TRC

Ravenshoe community centre

Our Community Vision

In 2021, imagine Speewah is still a friendly, safe rural-residential community surrounded by World Heritage rainforest.

While our beautiful environment is protected from weeds, pests, feral and domestic animals, we are able to enjoy walking, cycling and horse riding through it on well-maintained tracks with good signage and public amenities.

We have a thriving tourism industry guiding visitors along these tracks, showcasing our diverse wildlife and historic cultural heritage.

We are well connected to the wider world with good phone, internet and TV services and are able to travel into and out of Speewah in all weather, on safe roads. But we still give each other a wave as we cross the little wooden bridge that signifies we are home in Speewah!

Speewah Community Planning Workshop, 2011

Speewah District Population: 812
ABS 2006 Census Usual Residents

Community Priorities ~ This plan reflects the aspirations of local residents. Council and other community partners will use these aspirations to guide future planning and consider which actions they can implement.

3.25.1   Off road trails

(i) Develop Douglas Track as an off road non-motorised trail:
• Clear and maintain trails
• Map trails
• Investigate heritage values of trails
• Promote trails locally
• Signage to protect wildlife
• Identify funding.   Community, TRC,
Queensland Government

2012 - 2013

(ii) Develop alternative site to Douglas Track for motorised vehicles and promote widely.   Community,
Department of Environment and Resource Management

(iii) Prepare a regional strategy to map and develop off road trails for walking, cycling and horse-riding and include trails to link Speewah to regional network.   TRC,
Community,
Queensland Government, Australian Government

2013 - 2016

3.25.2   Road infrastructure

(i) Inform Department of Transport and Main Roads of identified community priorities for maintenance and upgrade of state controlled roads especially flood proof to 1 in 10 year standard for bridges and stream crossings.
Dept of Transport and Main Roads, TRC

(ii) Community priorities to inform Council decision-making for maintenance and upgrade of Council roads identified, especially flood proof to 1 in 10 year standard for bridges and stream crossings.   TRC

2012 - 2021

3.25.3   Telecommunications

(i) Request information from Optus and Telstra about their respective infrastructure priorities for Speewah and lobby for improved infrastructure.   Community, TRC

(ii) Request information about plans to improve TV reception and coverage.   Community, Optus, Telstra,
Australian Government, TRC

2012 - 2013

Community Participation
No community participation benchmark set as Speewah is a small community. 53 residents participated in the community planning workshop and regional survey to develop the Speewah plan.

3.25.4   Natural environment

(i) Lobby government for increased incentives for landowners and farmers to eradicate weeds.
Community, TRC, Queensland Government, Australian Government

(ii) Enforce regulations for domestic animal control and increase penalties and monitor the management of on site effluent disposal systems.   TRC

2012 - 2013

(iii) Raise community awareness about safe controlled burning for fuel reduction and conduct controlled burns.
Property Owners, Queensland Fire and Rescue Service

(iv) Investigate options for an affordable sustainable water supply.   Community, TRC

2016-2021

3.25.5   Land use planning

(i) New Planning Scheme to consider applying the following conditions to new development:
• Underground power in new developments
• Enforce minimum clearing around buildings for fire protection
• Enforce male camlock rural fire fitting on water tanks for fire management
• Fencing of buildings and not the entire block to secure domestic animals but allow wildlife movement.
TRC

2012 - 2013

(ii) Retain the Rural Living Area land use category for Speewah in accordance with the FNQ Regional Plan 2031 and include this land in a rural residential zoning in the new TRC Planning Scheme.   TRC, Dept of Local Government and Planning

2012 - 2021

Off road tracks for non-motorised use is the top priority for the Speewah community. Alternative areas should be made available for motorised vehicles. Photo courtesy: James Leech

Our Community Vision

In 2021, imagine that Walkamin has grown sustainably in keeping with our quiet, local and friendly lifestyle. We are a thriving "green" community powered by renewable energy technologies appropriate for our rural lifestyle.

A small business centre has developed and our children go to the local school with services such as after school care available to support this.

Our infrastructure of roads, water and street lighting is clean, safe and maintained and upgraded regularly to accepted standards.

Our economy continues to be driven by traditional agriculture and has been diversified by employment opportunities in innovative local agricultural enterprises and government research, at the agricultural college and the school.

Walkamin Community Planning Workshop, August 2010

Walkamin District Population: 751
ABS 2006 Census Usual Residents

Community Priorities ~ This plan reflects the aspirations of local residents. Council and other community partners will use these aspirations to guide future planning and consider which actions they can implement.

3.26.1 Keep the school operating

(i) Consult with community members to identify issues as to why locals are not sending their children to the school e.g. lack of before and after school care. Community, Principal to gather evidence/issues

(ii) Review the bus routes so they service the local children as they need to develop a local area bus run and lengthen it to the end of Chewko Road and investigate if they can also service the other side of the sugar mill. Education Queensland, Dept of Transport and Main Roads

(iii) Lobby more strongly for a local school bus run. Community

2012 - 2013

(iv) Make the school unique and special with improved quality and specialised education so people will want to send their children to it. Education Queensland, P&C

(v) School to expand presence in the wider community and be more connected to the wider community. Education Queensland, Teachers, Community

(vi) Attract more families to the district by making 1/4 acre and 2 acre lots, for example, along Carbeen Road available for residential development of land that is not viable agricultural land. TRC, Dept of Local Government and Planning

(vii) Advocate to FNQ 2031 Regional Plan for a larger urban footprint to be allowed in the Walkamin town area of land that is not viable agricultural land. Community, TRC, Dept of Local Government and Planning

2013 - 2016

(viii) Investigate option of creating a multipurpose centre out of the school by attaching services to the education service e.g. health, TRC library services. Education Queensland, TRC, Queensland Health

2016 - 2021

3.26.2 Water infrastructure

(i) Replace and upgrade water mains to improve water supply pressure and reliability. TRC

(ii) Keep community informed about progress to date and advise timeframes. TRC Divisional Councillor

(iii) Advocate for equity regarding water pressure, quality and reliability of supply for Walkamin residents. Community, TRC

2012 - 2013

(iv) Upgrade other relevant water infrastructure to improve supply, quality and reliability. TRC

2013 - 2016

Walkamin State School is a vital part of our community

Community Participation
No community participation benchmark set as Walkamin is a small community. 30 residents participated in the community planning workshop and the regional survey to develop the Walkamin plan.

3.26.3   Road infrastructure

(i) Community priorities for maintenance and upgrade of Council roads identified to inform Council decision-making.   TRC

(ii) Inform Department of Transport and Main Roads of identified community priorities for maintenance and upgrade of state controlled roads.   TRC, Dept of Transport and Main Roads

2012 - 2021

3.26.4   A tree sound barrier

(i) Establish a community committee to manage the project and investigate options for a noise and dust barrier.   Community

(ii) Determine the responsible government and other agencies and negotiate the project with them.   TRC, Community Committee, Dept Transport and Main Roads

2012 - 2013

(iii) Develop a plan to improve the tree barrier that utilizes the existing barrier and plant new trees. Plan to include:
• Ensure the right trees are planted to do the job;
• Number of new plantings required
• Placement of new plantings
• Plan Budget - $15-00 per tree
• Long term maintenance.   Community Committee, TRC, Yuruga Nursery

(iv) Gather resources:
• Trees: some in-kind, planted by the community,
• In-kind ditch (bulldozer) and mulch.   Community, TRC

(v) Apply for grants.   TRC, Community groups

(vi) Look for alternative sound barriers.   Community

(vii) Organise a community tree planting day.   Community, Research Station, Barron River Catchment Care, TREAT

(viii) Organise a school tree planting day.   School

2013 - 2016

3.26.5   Better value for rates

(i) Review water service charges across the Tablelands region.   TRC

(ii) Investigate feasibility of expanding the recycling program, including provision of bins.   TRC

2012 - 2013

(iii) Keep services in line with value for money with rates by providing rates equity to services supplied.   TRC

(iv) Improve water pressure (refer to 3.26.2).   TRC

2012-2016

(v) Seal gravel streets as dust is a major problem (refer 3.26.3 Road infrastructure).   TRC

(vi) Improve drainage - storm water, channel and kerbing (refer 3.26.3 Road infrastructure).   TRC

2013 - 2021

Water pressure, quality and reliability of supply required for Walkamin

Trees provide a barrier to traffic and highway noise

3.27 Yungaburra

Our Community Vision

In 2021, imagine Yungaburra is a thriving village centre with a unique heritage and village character.

It offers a great lifestyle on the edge of Lake Tinaroo, with safe bike paths and water sports.

Tourists and residents enjoy fresh local produce and a buzzing art, cultural and social scene.

It is a healthy, safe place to live surrounded by a well-preserved natural environment, without pests and weeds, keeping a good balance of farming and tourism and using ecologically sustainable technologies.

Yungaburra District Population: 1639
ABS 2006 Census Usual Residents

Yungaburra Community Planning Workshop, 9th November, 2010

Community Priorities ~ This plan reflects the aspirations of local residents. Council and other community partners will use these aspirations to guide future planning and consider which actions they can implement.

3.27.1   Maintain the village theme

(i) New Planning Scheme for land use management to ensure village theme of Yungaburra is retained and protected.
Community, TRC
2012 - 2013

(ii) Ensure owners of buildings preserve the heritage features.   Community, Building owners, TRC

(iii) Investigate directional signage for business and services in keeping with the Village Heritage theme. Community, TRC

(iv) Develop historical village walking map/signage. Community

(v) Install signage at entry points to town that acknowledges Traditional Owner groups.   TRC, Traditional Owner Groups, Community Organisations
2013 - 2016

(vi) New street furniture to complement the village heritage theme.   TRC, Community

(vii) Develop a village "common" and associated community activities including Indigenous interpretive walk, park sculpture and gardens.   Community, TRC

(viii) Develop an Indigenous Cultural Centre.   Community

(ix) Develop a cultural precinct with a museum that celebrates local history and culture.   Community
2016 - 2021

(x) Promote development of community events such as the Folk Festival which focus on celebrating our heritage.
Community

(xi) Explore the feasibility of establishing an off leash area for dogs outside of village e.g. Tinaburra.   Community, TRC

Maintaining the village character is a top priority, Photo courtesy: James Leech

3.27.2   Managing flying foxes

(i) Develop and implement strategy to manage flying foxes that incorporates:
• Vegetation management so that flying fox attractant species are not planted in residential areas and those already planted can be removed
• Replacement of existing trees attractive to flying foxes
• Exploration of other solutions.   TRC, Dept of Environment and Resource Management
2012 - 2013

(ii) Continue to fund James Cook University to develop effective strategies.   Queensland Government
2013-2016

3.27.3   Road infrastructure

(i) Inform Department of Transport and Main Roads of identified community priorities for maintenance and upgrade of state controlled roads.
Dept of Transport and Main Roads, TRC
2012 - 2021

(ii) Community priorities for maintenance and upgrade of Council roads identified to inform Council decision-making.
TRC

3.27.4   Bicycle and walking tracks

(i) Integrate bike lanes in road infrastructure planning.
TRC, Dept of Transport and Main Roads
2012 - 2013

(ii) Develop regional walking and riding trails strategy:
• Include trails around Yungaburra; and
• Interconnecting trails with other towns in regional walking and riding trails strategy.   Community, TRC
2016 - 2021

(iii) Create asset register of tracks for public to access and edit on TRC website.   TRC

Community Participation
The plan reflects the aspirations of local residents - 24% of the Yungaburra district population aged 15 yrs and over participated in developing the Yungaburra plan.

3.27.5 Natural environment

(i) Retain existing trees and lobby to protect canopy access for animals. Community, All levels of government

(ii) Establish more picnic areas in suitable locations in the natural environment and plant more native trees. Community, TRC

(iii) Promote recreational safety on the lake. SunWater, Community

(iv) Commercial tourism operators to provide feedback on their activities. Tourism Operators, Community

(v) Investigate options for increased community education to preserve the natural environment:
• Establish a newspaper column called "Ask Alan Gillanders" to share Alan's knowledge of the natural environment with the wider community
• Encourage tourism operators to incorporate natural history interpretation into their tours and education for tourists (similar to Savannah Guides)
• Libraries to provide an area for scientific research publications and other relevant resource material
• School for Field Studies research reports to be more accessible to the public. Tourism Operators, Community, Environmental Groups, TRC, School for Field Studies

(vi) Investigate incentives and rewards programs for preservation of the natural environment and support local nominations. Community

(vii) Maintain good water quality by:
• Educating public about how to care for the lake and water supply e.g. keep cows out of the lake and streams, avoid droppings in water and fertiliser run-off
• Publish water quality test results on Council website and in newspapers
• Fence off water ways
• Protect rivers and streams from urban development and agriculture. Community, DERM, TRC

(viii) Map key routes for public access to environmental assets and create Asset Register of tracks that public can edit on website. Community, TRC

(ix) Gauge level of community support to open up tracks using a small levy to cover costs. Community

(x) Encourage sensitive ecotourism development. Tourism Operators, Tropical Tablelands, Tourism

(xi) Explore the feasibility of establishing a Centre for Preservation of the Natural Environment in Yungaburra devoted to research, study and community education. Community

(xii) Develop Allumbah Park as an interpretative park:
• Showcase local history and culture
• Plant native species
• Create more picnic tables and shade
• Create spaces for art and cultural activities
• Indigenous garden and landscape
• Link Catholic Church to centre of town. Community, Traditional Owners Groups, TRC

(margin dates: 2012 - 2013; 2013 - 2016; 2016 - 2021)

3.27.6 Aged care/ Accommodation

(i) Lobby for increased in home support services to enable residents to live in their own homes as long as possible. TRC, Community, Community Support Services and Providers

(ii) Lobby to ensure opportunities for over 50's independent living in Council's new Planning Scheme. Community, Developers, TRC

(iii) Explore options for Seniors to continue contributing to community e.g. community shed, schools, mentoring, community garden. Community

(iv) Continue to release land for community housing projects. TRC, Developers, Queensland Government

(v) New Planning Scheme to incorporate sustainability principles. TRC, Dept of Infrastructure and Planning

(vi) Improve mobility and access in the village for elderly residents:
• Council to conduct disability audit of council facilities
• Lobby for ramp at Post Office
• Build public toilets with disability access
• Build sealed path from village to Lakeside. Business Owners, TRC, Community

(vii) Build and manage more independent living units for Seniors in Yungaburra. TRC, Community Housing Providers

(viii) Investigate suitable models of accommodation for seniors:
• Integrate seniors housing into community
• Accommodation is within walking distance of facilities
• Avoid "standard" large retirement village model
• Prefer smaller complexes of villas on small lots with common areas
• Promote supported independent living model
• Mix of public and private housing
• Incorporate "ageing in place" principles
• Model promotes village ambience with no high density development
• Shared housing of mixed ages, separate living/ sleeping areas with common garden. Community, TRC, Developers

(margin dates: 2012 - 2013; 2013 - 2016; 2016 - 2021)

Peterson's Creek, Photo courtesy: Sarah Scragg

4. Regional Aspirations

This section presents the community's views about the important issues facing the Tablelands region for the next 10 years and how they would like the region to progress. It outlines the regional aspirations, goals, desired outcomes and strategies developed by regional planning that focused on considering the Tablelands within the broader Far North Queensland, Australian and global contexts.

Regional planning for creativity and innovation

Our aim was for the community plan to have *depth and creativity* - to capture the higher level innovative and creative ideas and solutions to capitalise on regional opportunities and overcome significant challenges as well as those "bread and butter" issues such as potholes, better health services and more BBQs in parks.

It was also about providing the opportunity to develop a stronger sense of the "Tablelands" as a region and to capitalise on advantages that could arise by thinking about and working together at this broader regional level.

To this end, the community planning process offered people the opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of the key issues impacting on the Tablelands now and into the future by considering the region within the wider Far North Queensland, national and global contexts. We hoped that resourcing people with stimulating information and providing the opportunity for guided analysis and deliberation of the significant issues and impacts would generate innovative regional strategies to ensure that the Tablelands continues to prosper in the future.

Community participation

Regional aspirations, goals and strategies were developed from community contributions provided via the following regional engagement events and activities that were conducted over two years:

- Regional survey
- Youth survey and forums
- Regional voting exercises
- Sector planning workshops
- Think Tank workshops
- Social media strategy (Facebook)
- Regional summit

Approximately 3,600 people participated in the regional planning events and activities with at least 500 people attending the Think Tanks and Regional Summit where the goals and strategies were developed.

An analysis of the town/district community plans to identify the common issues and those with regional impact also informed the development of the regional aspirations, goals and strategies. The key themes, values and sentiment in the 27 town/district visions also informed the development of the regional vision.

Changing the regional planning approach

After realising that the initial sectoral approach to developing the regional component of the Tablelands Community Plan was not delivering the anticipated innovative regional issues and strategies, we changed course to adopt a community education and deliberative approach that had a "whole of region" focus.

The three sector community plans that were developed before this change of direction are presented in this section and have also been incorporated into the six regional aspirations.

A stimulating regional planning process

A series of three Think Tank workshops culminating in a Regional Summit stimulated thinking amongst the community around the possible challenges and opportunities that might arise from external, worldwide impacts and trends on the social, economic, cultural and environmental domains of Tablelands community life over the next 10 years.

Think Tank participants considered the following significant worldwide driving forces (global drivers):
- Population growth, migration and ageing
- The rising prevalence of preventable chronic diseases
- Climate change
- Technological change
- Globalisation and localisation
- World population growth, urbanisation and rising living standards in China and India

Regional aspirations

This deliberative regional planning process led to the development of the following key regional aspirations:
- Good Governance
- Economic Vitality
- Sustainable Resource Management
- Social Inclusion and Wellbeing
- Cultural Vibrancy
- Visionary Infrastructure

Participants at the 3 Think Tank workshops worked in small groups to gain a deeper understanding of the key issues impacting on the region and find ways to capitalise on some of the worldwide driving forces such as the global demand for renewable resources.

Goals, desired outcomes and strategies for achieving the regional aspirations are described in the following section.

Quick Wins

This section outlines many regional aspirations, goals and strategies. Some "Quick Wins" have been highlighted to guide those wanting direction as to where they could be best placed to put some effort with respect to achieving regional aspirations and outcomes.

The Quick Wins in the following section do not represent an exhaustive list, but are presented in the spirit of providing some direction to focus the implementation of the community plan and to encourage community partners to identify and implement other strategies they believe could be readily achievable - their own Quick Wins.

The Quick Wins highlighted in this next section are defined as those regional strategies that can be relatively easily implemented because:
- The strategy will be completed within 12 months
- An individual, group or organisation is already working on or has committed to implementing it, or it will be relatively straightforward to delegate the strategy
- Resources including funding are available to implement the strategy

✪ This symbol is used throughout this next section to highlight Quick Wins.

Summary of 6 Regional Aspirations

The following visionary descriptions of the regional aspirations reflect how Tablelanders prefer to see the region governed; its economy, environment and infrastructure developed and managed; and lifestyles preserved and enhanced in the future.

Aspiration 1: Good Governance

Governance in the Tablelands Region is a partnership between community and three levels of government, working collaboratively towards common goals. The community actively participates in the making of policies, plans and decisions that affect the Tablelands community and environment. Elected representatives advocate on behalf of the Tablelands community and make decisions that are informed by comprehensive and inclusive engagement with the community.

Decision making processes and outcomes are transparent with timely information reported back to the community using best practice community engagement. Community leadership and self-responsibility is encouraged and supported. There is better coordination between all levels of government, business and industry to ensure effective and efficient planning and delivery of infrastructure and services, with regulatory processes streamlined. This aspiration has the following goal:
- 4.1.1 A well governed community

Aspiration 2: Economic Vitality

A strong, diverse, sustainable and prosperous rural economy that is locally resilient but also actively trades with the global market. This aspiration has the following 4 goals:
- 4.2.1 A strong, diversified and prosperous economy
- 4.2.2 A competent, skilled workforce
- 4.2.3 A resilient and sustainable economy
- 4.2.4 An economy that trades globally

Aspiration 3: Sustainable Resource Management

Our extensive and highly diverse natural resources are managed and utilised in a sustainable way that enables the wellbeing of today's people and ecosystems while allowing for the wellbeing of future generations and ecosystems.

Our man-made resources and built environment are also managed sustainably. Our community and environment is resilient in the face of changing climate and availability of resources. This aspiration has the following 4 goals:
- 4.3.1 A region of high biodiversity
- 4.3.2 A sustainable and productive primary industries sector
- 4.3.3 A sustainable region
- 4.3.4 A resilient community

Aspiration 4: Social Inclusion And Wellbeing

Our socially, culturally, geographically and historically unique small rural communities are linked together by a strong, inclusive, friendly, caring and active community spirit in a healthy environment with infrastructure and services that support the wellbeing of families and individuals. This aspiration has the following 5 goals:
- 4.4.1 A healthy, active community
- 4.4.2 A safe and caring community
- 4.4.3 A socially inclusive community
- 4.4.4 A connected community
- 4.4.5 A wise and knowledgeable community

Aspiration 5: Cultural Vibrancy

Artistic and cultural diversity and heritage is freely expressed, celebrated and shared in a spirit of generosity and sensitivity in a supportive, open environment that welcomes change and values its history. This aspiration has the following goal:
- 4.5.1 A culturally vibrant region

Aspiration 6: Visionary Infrastructure

The wellbeing, economic vitality and cultural vibrancy of the Tablelands region is enabled and supported by the good governance of both hard and soft infrastructure, ensuring that we plan for future population growth and changes in our demographics, changes in technology and for future impacts from climate change and availability of natural and economic resources. This aspiration has the following 4 goals:
- 4.6.1 Improved Transport Infrastructure
- 4.6.2 Improved Communications Infrastructure
- 4.6.3 Sustainable Water, Waste and Energy Infrastructure
- 4.6.4 Improved Community Infrastructure

The following section presents the desired outcomes and strategies for achieving respective regional aspirations and goals. Community Partners who can help implement the strategy are listed and a timeframe to guide implementation is provided.

4.1 Good Governance

4.1.1 A well governed community

Our Tablelands governance is responsive to community issues and aspirations and governs in partnership with communities to deliver efficient and effective services.

4.1.1 (a) Community participation

(i) Explore options for insurance liability cover for volunteers in community groups. *FNQ Volunteers* | 2012-2013

(ii) Continue to build strong partnerships between community groups, organisations and Council. ✪ *TRC, Community Groups and Organisations*

(iii) Explore ways for all levels of government to connect better with existing community decision making groups and networks across the Tablelands. ✪ *TRC, Queensland and Australian Governments Community Groups and Networks*

(iv) Consider feasibility of establishing more community boards for governance and specialised community task force groups to progress issues and strategies e.g. hospital boards with a majority of community representatives, and Council community reference groups as appropriate. ✪ *Community, TRC, Queensland and Australian Governments* | 2012 - 2021

(v) Provide support for the establishment and maintenance of voluntary management committees of community organisations. ✪ *FNQ Volunteers, Queensland Government*

(vi) Decentralise government decision making in favour of more localised decision making such as regionalised government structures with decision-making authority - not all decisions to be made in Brisbane and Canberra. *Queensland and Australian Governments*

Identifying specific road issues in Mareeba that people want addressed, Mareeba Indigenous Community Plan Workshop. Council will consider these in its decision-making and pass them onto Dept of Transport and Main Roads

4.1.1 (b) Best practice community engagement and planning

(i) Conduct best practice community engagement to involve the community in decision-making including:
- Provide information about the level of influence the community can have on particular decisions
- Only consult if there is scope for the community to influence the decision
- Design community engagement to suit the purpose of engagement and unique community characteristics
- Publish decision-making criteria
- Provide feedback on outcomes of decisions in a timely manner so that the community knows it is being heard and, on occasions when community recommendations are not adopted, explain the reasons for this
- Develop strategies that seek to reach and include ALL groups in the community including those most marginalised
- Investigate using social media and communications technology to engage the community
- Evaluate community engagement to ensure continuous quality improvement
- Coordinate community engagement to avoid duplication, public overload and ineffective use of resources. ✪ *TRC, Queensland and Australian Governments, Regional and Community Organisations* | 2012 - 2013

(ii) Ensure strategic and infrastructure plans take into account projected population growth and future anticipated changes such as climate change. ✪ *TRC, Queensland and Australian Governments*

(iii) Adopt a partnerships approach between government and community to facilitate future community planning to enable governance to be responsive to community issues and aspirations. ✪ *Community, TRC, Queensland and Australian Governments* | 2012 - 2021

(iv) Ensure community plans developed with community participation are implemented:
- Encourage community groups to drive the implementation of community planning strategies
- Establish a clear reporting framework to measure progress on community plan strategies. ✪ *Community, TRC, Queensland and Australian Governments*

✪ ="Quick Wins"

4.1.1 (c) Inclusive decision making

(i) Involve Indigenous groups and Traditional Owner groups in local community decision making and develop an inclusion policy. *Community Groups and Organisations, Traditional Owner Groups, Indigenous Groups*

(ii) Involve multicultural groups in local community decision making. *Community Groups and Organisations, Multicultural Groups*

(iii) Develop a Council Reconciliation Action Plan that includes protocols for Indigenous engagement. ✪ *TRC, Community, Traditional Owner Groups, Indigenous Groups and Organisations*

(iv) Establish a Council reference group that will hold regular (eg quarterly) reference group meetings with community participation to address access issues for people with a disability, enabling co-creation of public spaces and access to buildings (within technical design parameters). ✪ *TRC, People with a disability, Disability Groups and Organisations, Dept of Communities*

(v) Campaign for government, corporate and community organisations to develop their own Reconciliation Action Plan. *Community, Government and Corporate Organisations, Traditional Owner Groups, Indigenous Residents*

(vi) Investigate options for including young people in Council and government decision-making, for example, using social media for youth engagement. *TRC, Young People*

2012 - 2013

2012 - 2016

4.1.1 (d) Leadership and self-responsibility

(i) Develop strategies to encourage and support leadership and self-responsibility in the community, including:
• Promote leadership in the community using awards and mentoring
• Encourage and recognise self-reliance and community led decision-making and explore ways to connect better with existing community decision-making groups and networks across the Tablelands. *TRC, Community*

(ii) Promote 'Governance' being 'two ways' between levels of government and the public:
• Government to listen to the community and support "ground up" solutions
• Community to become better equipped to capitalise on opportunities to influence government decision-making *Community, TRC, Queensland Government, Australian Government*
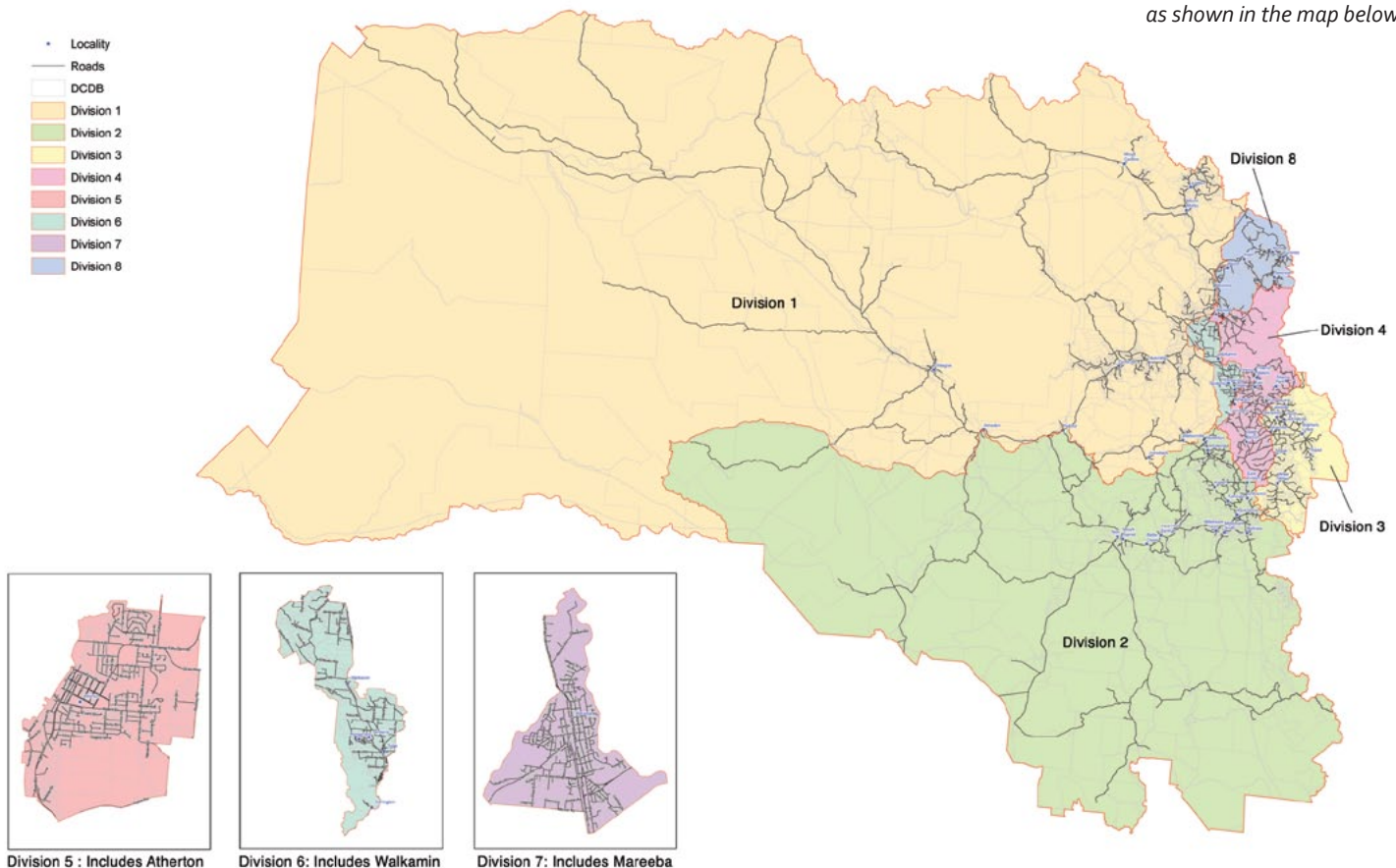
(iii) Continue to deliver effective and efficient local government services. ✪ *TRC*

2012 - 2013

2012-2021

Tablelands Regional Council Electoral Divisions
The Tablelands Regional Council local government area is represented by one mayor and eight councillors each representing one of eight electoral divisions, as shown in the map below:

Division 5 : Includes Atherton | Division 6: Includes Walkamin | Division 7: Includes Mareeba

4.2 Economic Vitality

4.2.1 : A strong, diversified and prosperous economy

The Tablelands economy is strong and prosperous through diversification, innovation and entrepreneurship.

4.2.1 (a) New business and industry is developed on the Tablelands   ✪ =″Quick Wins″

(i) Capitalise on the Mareeba Airport Development Plan and identify opportunities in regional aviation services.✪
Aviation Services Industry, Tablelands Industry Workforce Group Inc

(ii) Ensure Council's new Planning Scheme promotes responsive land use planning for agriculture, residential and industrial development including:
• Settlement planning and regional centres hierarchy
• Promote the availability of affordable vacant industrial land and continue to develop appropriate industrial precincts. ✪
TRC, Atherton Tableland Chamber of Commerce

2012 - 2013

(iii) Identify opportunities in mining support services. Advance Cairns, Tablelands Industry Workforce Group, Tablelands Futures Corp

(iv) Continue to develop a trained workforce to support new and expanding industries including the agricultural industries.
TAFE, Tablelands Industry Workforce Group Inc, Registered Training Organisations

2012-2021

(v) Establish an Economic and Business Development Unit with an Economic Development Officer within Council. TRC

2013-2016

(vi) Explore business opportunities related to the new carbon economy:
• Carbon farming and ecosystem services
• Recycled materials and waste
• Renewable energy. Atherton Tableland Chamber of Commerce, Tablelands Industry Workforce Group Inc

2012 - 2021

(vii) Develop and promote the Tablelands as a tropical lifestyle destination of choice to attract knowledge workers, global economy workers, Fly In-Fly Out (FIFO) workers and home-based businesses in the professional services industries:
• Ready access to international airport
• Rural lifestyle with good educational, sporting, recreational services and other community services and facilities
• Bountiful natural assets, great climate and clean green environment
• Telecommunications infrastructure in place to support knowledge workers and global economy workers and community leaders taking action to upgrade infrastructure such as the early roll out of the NBN to the region
• Affordable cost of living. Atherton Tableland Chamber of Commerce, Business and Industry groups, Tablelands Industry Workforce Group Inc, "Big Idea" Project group

2012 - 2021

(viii) Investigate the feasibility of developing and promoting the Tablelands as a leading tropical bio-based industries precinct including:
• Tropical bio-based research and development in bio-mimicry bio-prospecting, bio-ceuticals
• Production of bio-mass
• Construction of a bio-refinery
• Manufacture of industrial products from bio-mass.
"Big Idea" Project group/ community partners to be identified

Innovative ideas are needed to develop and promote the Tablelands as a tropical lifestyle destination. Creative image courtesy: Patricia Goodger

4.2.1 (b) Innovation and entrepreneurship in business is thriving

(i) Campaign to reduce amount of red tape and government regulation in setting up and operating businesses.
Business Sector, TRC,
Atherton Tableland Chamber of Commerce,
Queensland and Australian Governments

(ii) Investigate ways to increase support, training and incentives for local small businesses and home-based businesses including:
• Arts/cultural industries
• Indigenous business initiatives
• Young people to start businesses.
Tablelands Futures Corp,
Gulf Savannah Development Inc,
Atherton Tableland Chamber of Commerce

2012 - 2013

(iii) Develop strategies to encourage innovation and entrepreneurship in business, including:
• Investigate the feasibility of forming a community-based business enterprise centre for the Tablelands to encourage entrepreneurs/ business start-ups
• Establish innovation awards on the Tablelands
• Develop innovation hubs/creative precincts
• Campaign for more research and development funding.
Industry and Business Groups,
Tablelands Futures Corp, Advance Cairns, Dept of
Employment, Economic Development and Innovation,
Atherton Tableland Chamber of Commerce

2013 - 2016

(iv) Address lack of economic confidence and limited access to finance for business and find new ways to attract venture capital.
Community,
Atherton Tableland Chamber of Commerce,
Industry and business groups

2016 - 2021

Small business in the Tablelands Region

Of the 4,745 businesses in the Tablelands region, 94.3% were small businesses (employing less than 20 people) in 2008-09.

Tablelands Businesses by Employment Size
(2008-2009)

| Small
Less than
20 employees | Medium
20-100 employees | Large
More than
100 employees |
|---|---|---|
| **4,474 Businesses**
(94.3%) | **241 Businesses**
(5.1%) | **30 Businesses**
(0.6%) |

From OESR 2011, Source: ABS cat no. 8165.0

Tablelands Businesses by Turnover Range
(2008-2009)

| Turnover
Less than
$100,000 | Turnover
More than
$100,000 | Turnover
More than
$1,000,000 |
|---|---|---|
| **2,236 Businesses**
(47.1%) | **2,107 Businesses**
(44.4%) | **402 Businesses**
(8.5%) |

From OESR 2011, Source: ABS cat no. 8165.0

Mining in the Tablelands Region

Value of Mineral Production - Tablelands/Etheridge 2008/09	
Copper Concentrate/Precipitate	$58.8 million
Zinc (concentrate)	$40 million
Lead (concentrate)	$2.4 million
Limestone/Dolomite	$2 million
Gemstones/Gold/Other	$1.3 million
Dimension Stones/Perlite/Silica	$2 million
Total	$106.5 million

Total value of mineral production (at mine) - Tablelands/Etheridge	
2005 /2006	$75 million
2006 /2007	$286 million
2007 /2008	$364.2 million
2008 /2009	$106.5 million

Source: Cummings Economics from Queensland Department of Mines and Energy in Mareeba Chamber of Commerce Economic Snapshot, 2011

4.2 Economic Vitality

4.2.1 : A strong, diversified and prosperous economy

The Tablelands economy is strong and prosperous through diversification, innovation and entrepreneurship.

4.2.1 (c) Tourism on the Tablelands is well developed, diversified and sustainable

(i) Protect the scenic amenity of our rural landscape by developing policy and strategies for a consistent approach to signage so that billboards and signage do not detract from the scenic quality of the landscape.
TRC, Dept of Transport and Main Roads, Atherton Tableland Chamber of Commerce

(ii) Increase training of volunteers at Visitor Information Centres to promote all businesses and attractions to further tourism. *Visitor Information Centres*

(iii) Provide improved directional signage and themed signage to promote tourist trails. *Tourist Operators, TRC, Tropical Tablelands Tourism, Dept of Transport and Main Roads*

(iv) Ensure the new Planning Scheme:
• Incorporates local plans to protect specific character elements of the built environment in towns reliant on tourism
• Protects the scenic amenity of the region and key scenic routes. ✪ *TRC, Atherton Tableland Chamber of Commerce*

(v) Provide information, programs and support to assist tourist operators to cut carbon, save money and remain competitive in a resource and carbon constrained environment. ✪
Tourist Operators, Dept of Environment and Resource Management

2013 - 2016

2012 - 2021

(vi) Promote the Tablelands Region worldwide and continue to develop the regional tourism experience:
• Promote the region's high environmental values, including the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area, to encourage ecotourism and educational/ research visitation
• Expand the cultural and historical tourism industry, for example art trails and historical trails
• Further develop food tourism including niche markets and unique food products
• Further develop recreational and adventure tourism, for example non-motorised off road trails, mountain biking trails, hot-air ballooning
• Expand Indigenous tourism including establishment of a cultural centre
• Encourage agri-tourism
• Further develop educational tourism
• Further develop ecotourism, for example bird trails
• Ensure adequate facilities for the grey nomad/RV sector
• Encourage the development of more visitor accommodation options
• Develop strategies to keep visitors on the Tablelands longer.
Tourism Tropical North Queensland, TRC, Tourism Operators, Tropical Tablelands Tourism, Tableland Cycle Sports, Tablelands Futures Corp, Tablelands Integrated Mountain Bike Alliance, Wet Tropics Management Authority, Advance Cairns, Atherton Tableland Chamber of Commerce

2012 - 2021

Percentage of Businesses by Industry, Tablelands 2008-2009

Industry	Percentage
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	~31%
Construction	~16%
Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services	~7%
Retail Trade	~7%
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	~5%
Transport, Postal and Warehousing	~4%
Manufacturing	~4%
Accommodation and Food Services	~4%
Other Services	~4%
Financial and Insurance Services	~3%
Administrative and Support Services	~3%
Wholesale Trade	~2.5%
Health Care and Social Assistance	~2%
Arts and Recreation Services	~1.5%
Not Classified	~1.5%
Mining	~1.5%
Education and Training	~0.5%
Public Administration and Safety	~0.5%
Information Media and Telecommunications	~0.5%
Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services	~0.3%

(ABS, catalogue 8165.0, OESR, 2011)

✪ ="Quick Wins"

4.2.1 (d) Existing industries and businesses are growing stronger

(i) Continue to develop strategies to strengthen, develop and promote existing industries on the Tablelands, including:
• Chambers of Commerce work together to strengthen industries across the region
• Explore options for greater collaboration between businesses, for example, in marketing and training
• Businesses are supported to adjust to the economic implications of the carbon tax and future emissions trading scheme
• Explore further value adding
• Develop and promote high customer service standards
• Develop niche markets
• Target and tailor services - "create the personal touch"
• Use technology to develop online sales
• Develop wider business links.   Businesses, Industry Groups, Chambers of Commerce, Tablelands Industry Workforce Group Inc, Employment Service Providers

2012 - 2021

(ii) Identify, strengthen and promote the Tablelands' competitive advantages in the global marketplace including the development of a Tablelands regional identity/brand. Tropical Tablelands Tourism, Tablelands Futures Corp, TRC, Chambers of Commerce, Tablelands Industry Workforce Group Inc, "Big Idea" Project group

2013 - 2016

Tablelands Agriculture

In 2008-09, Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing had the largest number of businesses at 1,495 or 31.5% of all businesses in the region. Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing employed 2,337 persons, 14.1% of all employed in the Tablelands region (2006 census).

Value of Agricultural Production

The total value of agricultural production in the Tablelands region in 2005-06 was $272.0M, 55% crops and 45% livestock (OESR, 2011).

More recent data indicates total value of agricultural production was $303.3M in the 2008-09 year (Cummings Economics in Mareeba Chamber of Commerce "Strength in Diversity" 2011)

The main crops are mangoes, bananas, avocados, pawpaws, potatoes, sugar, maize, grass legume seed, peanuts, citrus, lychees, pumpkins, tea and coffee.

Livestock industries include beef grazing, dairy, pork and poultry.

4.2.1 (e) Agricultural production is sustained and valued as a key component of the regional economy

(i) Explore options for sustaining agricultural production in the region recognising that agricultural production is a key component of the regional economy:
•Develop the region as a clean green food bowl
•Encourage agricultural diversification
•Explore further value adding opportunities for agricultural producers
•Identify increased agricultural efficiencies and innovative practices to increase profitability including capitalising on economic opportunities in relation to carbon farming and ecosystem services
•Campaign for fair and viable pricing for producers on agricultural inputs such as water
•Campaign for fair and viable market price of agricultural products for producers
•Promote local buy campaigns for fresh produce and promote local businesses that use local produce
•Encourage and support innovation, research and development in the primary industries.
                Industry and Farmer Groups, Agri-businesses , Tablelands Futures Corp, Dept of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation,

2012 - 2021

(ii) Ensure appropriate infrastructure for affordable transport of produce is in place.   Industry Groups, TRC, Far North Queensland Region of Councils, Queensland and Australian Governments, Tablelands Industry Workforce Group Inc

(iii) Improve strategies to reduce the negative impact of pests, weeds, feral animals and other biosecurity threats and develop suitable management strategies to protect crops and orchards from flying foxes.   Landowners, TRC, Dept of Environment and Resource Management

Potatoes, one of the key crops grown on Tablelands. Photo courtesy: James Leech

4.2 Economic Vitality

4.2.2 A competent, skilled workforce

The Tablelands workforce is well qualified, competent and skilled in the full range of occupations required.

4.2.2 (a) More skilled workers and professionals are attracted to and retained on the Tablelands

(i) Retain and attract people of working age including young people and families to the region:
- Promote and create more awareness of the opportunities available in existing industries such as agribusiness, on the Tablelands
- Investigate feasibility of expanding technology based industries that attract younger knowledge based workers and help retain young people in the region
- Encourage young people leaving the region to remain connected to family and community to increase likelihood of them returning and/or encouraging other young people to settle here ✪
- Encourage young people choosing to leave the region to act as "Ambassadors" to promote the Tablelands:
  – Develop a Tablelands Ambassador's Kit and train High School Seniors intending to leave to promote the region to encourage others to settle here
  – Develop social media tools for use by young people to promote the region. ✪   Q.I.T.E.

2012 - 2021

(ii) Ensure adequate facilities are available to accommodate and attract seasonal casual workers, e.g. fruit pickers, to the region.   Farmers,
Tablelands Industry Workforce Group Inc,
Developers,
Queensland and Australian Governments

Workforce

There were 23,244 persons (15yrs+) in the Tablelands labour force in the June qtr 2011. 90.2% were employed and 9.8% unemployed (DEEWR, 2011).

Skill levels

38.6% of Tablelands adults have completed Yr 11 or 12 schooling compared with 49.5% of Queensland adults (15yrs+ (ABS, 2006 Census)

47.9% of Tablelanders (15yrs+) have a qualification, compared with 50.4% of Queenslanders (15Yrs+)

37.7% of Tablelands people with a qualification have a certificate (I,II,III,IV), 10.8% an advanced diploma or diploma and 17.7% a bachelor degree or higher, compared with 35.5%, 13.1% and 26.0% of Queenslanders.

(ABS, 2006 Census)

In 2009 TRC area had 3,574 VET students (OESR,2011).

4.2.2 (b) Training opportunities are expanded for existing and potential workers on the Tablelands

(i) More Tablelands schools to be selected as National Partnerships Schools.
                     Dept of Education and Training, Australian Government

(ii) Investigate options to improve educational outcomes for Indigenous students including:
- Increased engagement between school community and Indigenous students, families, Traditional Owner Groups, Indigenous organisations and the wider Indigenous community
- Increased Indigenous cultural component in curriculum
- Increased support and assistance for Indigenous students to achieve educational outcomes.
                     Dept of Education and Training, Indigenous Community

2012 - 2013

(iii) Explore options to increase employment and training opportunities on the Tablelands including:
- Conduct regular training needs analysis in local industries
- Match training programs and strategies to skills shortages
- Link training to expanding industries such as aged care and personal care and services sectors, mining and bio-based industries
- Conduct training in customer service.
          Tablelands Industry Workforce Group Inc, Q.I.T.E., Registered Training Organisations, Vocational Education Training Institutes

(iv) Investigate options for improving training and employment outcomes for Indigenous people, especially young Indigenous people:
- Match training to skills shortages
- Increased support for duration of training and work placement
- More school-based training and work experience for Indigenous students
- Conduct Indigenous youth programs on traditional country.
                     Tablelands Industry Workforce Group Inc, Q.I.T.E.,
Registered Training Organisations,
Vocational Education Training Institutes,
Schools, Dept of Education and Training

2012 - 2021

(v) Ensure workers and businesses are up-skilled in new IT technologies.   Businesses,
Tablelands Industry Workforce Group Inc,
Training Providers, Q.I.T.E.

2013 - 2016

78.2% of employed residents of the Tablelands region worked within the Tablelands region, 13.5% worked elsewhere (Cairns, Port Douglas, Mossman or elsewhere) [8.3% not stated].

(ABS 2006 Census)

✪ ="Quick Wins"

4.2.2 (c) The Tablelands workforce is a learning community, well integrated with tertiary education and research institutions

(i) Enhance and promote the development of a learning community across the Tablelands through the:
• Provision of high tech infrastructure
• Development of partnerships and programs that promote this
• Implementation of Council's "Libraries as Learning Communities" Strategy
• Explore feasibility of James Cook University offering more extension courses to the Tablelands.   Advance Cairns, Far North Queensland Region of Councils, TRC, James Cook University

2012 - 2021

4.2.2 (d) The expertise of the Tablelands workforce is valued within and outside the region

(i) Develop strategies to promote the expertise of the local workforce and industries including:
• Encourage business and government to utilise local workers and professionals as contractors on projects
• Create more awareness, within and outside the region, of the skills available in the Tablelands workforce
• Develop a professional expertise database
• Link in with wider regional networks, such as Troplinks   Tablelands Industry Workforce Group Inc, Far North Queensland Region of Councils

2012 - 2016

Employment by Occupation, Tablelands, 2006

	Tablelands*	Qld*
Managers	17.8%	12.4%
Labourers	15.5%	11.9%
Technicians and Trade Workers	14.4%	15.4%
Professionals	13.1%	17.1%
Clerical and admin	10.6%	14.8%
Community and personal service	10.3%	9.1%
Sales workers	8.7%	10.4%
Machinery operators and drivers	7.4%	7.2%

*% Total employed persons aged 15 yrs and over   (ABS, 2006 Census)

4.2.2 (e) The skills and experience of older workers are valued and capitalised on

(i) Capitalise on the experience of mature age workers:
• Provide incentives for older workers to stay in the workforce
• Provide viable training and upskilling options for older workers to retrain for better paid jobs in other industries such as mining
• Develop mentoring systems for knowledge transfer   Tablelands Industry Workforce Group Inc, Employment Service Providers

2012 - 2016

Employment by Industry Sector, Tablelands, 2006
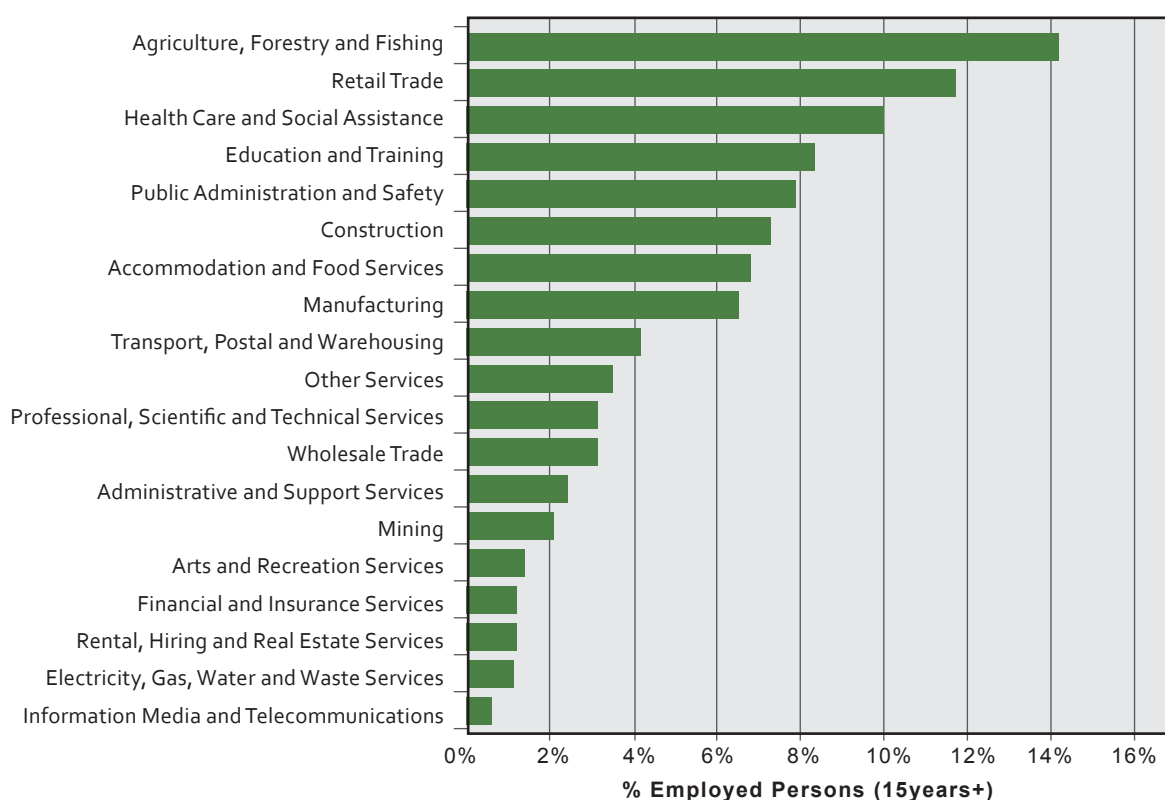
(ABS 2006 Census)

4.2 Economic Vitality

4.2.3 A resilient and sustainable economy

The Tablelands economy is resilient in the face of internal and external change and develops long term sustainability.

4.2.3 (a) The Tablelands develops a strong local economy

(i) Identify ways to strengthen the local economy to increase resilience to external shocks:
• Encourage local buy policies and practices especially of local fresh produce.
• Explore innovative models of economic sustainability
• Encourage initiatives that retain capital within the local community and explore innovative models for raising capital locally such as community currencies.
Atherton Tableland Chamber of Commerce, Mareeba Chamber of Commerce, Community Sustainability Groups, "Big Idea" Project group

2012 - 2021

(ii) Identify ways for the Tablelands to become more self-sufficient in food:
• Establish a regional produce market for local distribution of Tablelands fresh produce instead of sending to southern markets and then transporting back to FNQ.
Atherton Tableland Chamber of Commerce

4.2.3 (b) More Tablelands businesses are based on sustainability principles

(i) Create greater awareness of sustainability principles and practices among businesses on the Tablelands.
"Big Idea" Project group/ community partners to be identified

2012 - 2021

(ii) Develop a regional strategy to assist businesses to transition to sustainable business models.
Atherton Tableland Chamber of Commerce

4.2.3 (c) The Tablelands is resilient to and capitalises on the new carbon economy

(i) Explore opportunities in the carbon market, for example:
• Carbon farming
• Payment for ecosystem services.
"Big Idea" Project group/ community partners to be identified

2012 - 2021

4.2.3 (d) The Tablelands is recognised as a rural region of excellence in economic sustainability

(i) Provide information, programs and support to assist businesses to cut carbon, save money and remain competitive in a resource and carbon constrained environment. ✪
Businesses, Dept of Environment and Resource Management, Atherton Tableland Chamber of Commerce, Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation

2012 - 2013

(ii) Develop the Tablelands as a leading rural region in tropical economic sustainability:
• Campaign for all levels of government to fund the Tablelands Region as a pilot in rural sustainability across all areas: community wellbeing, business and industry, built environment, infrastructure, waste management, resource management.
"Big Idea" Project group/ community partners to be identified

2012 - 2021
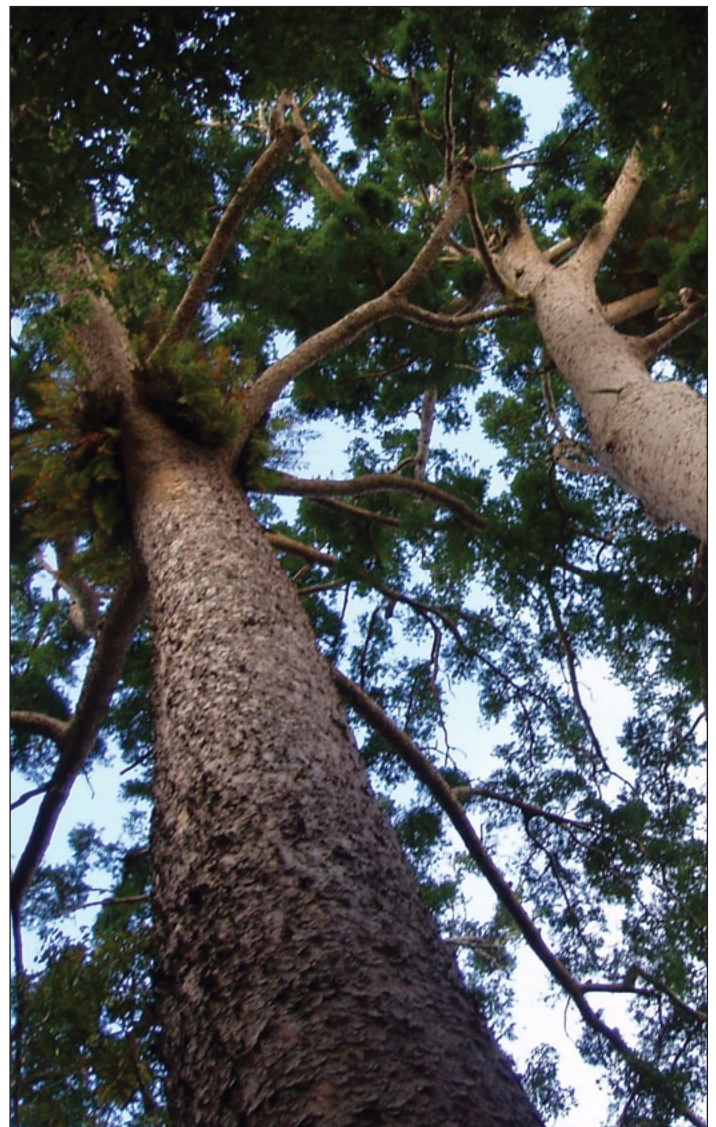
Carbon offsetting may help Tablelands businesses to capitalise on the new carbon economy.
Photo courtesy: Cassie McLucas

✪ = "Quick Wins"

4.2.4 An economy that trades globally

The Tablelands economy has well developed capacity to trade regionally, nationally and globally.

4.2.4 (a) Tablelands businesses are able to reach markets with all-weather road, rail and air freight transport routes

(i) Improve and upgrade infrastructure for all weather road, rail and air infrastructure to link inter-regional and intra-regional freight logistics including:

* Upgrade Hahn Highway as alternative route including Nettle Creek Bridge and other approach roads
* Improve traffic flow from Tablelands to coast by upgrading road and rail infrastructure ensuring minimal impacts on World Heritage values (Kuranda Range Road, Palmerston Highway, Gillies Range, Rex Range)
* Upgrade the Mourilyan/Cairns Ports for direct export to Asia of locally produced agricultural products
* Provide suitable B-double access by construction of town by-passes
* Provide B-double set-down pads at appropriate locations
* Expand air freight opportunities, including at Mareeba Airport
* Ensure all State Controlled Roads in the Tablelands region are flood-proofed and well maintained.

TRC, Dept of Transport and Main Roads, Australian Government, Atherton Tableland Chamber of Commerce

2012 - 2021

4.2.4 (b) Tablelands businesses are able to reach all potential markets with high quality, high speed telecommunications services

(i) Improve access to reliable and consistent high speed internet and mobile phone services:

* Campaign for the early roll-out of NBN in FNQ ✪
* Ensure the Tablelands has the IT infrastructure available to support business needs
* Ensure the Tablelands has the infrastructure available to support and attract knowledge workers, global economy workers and home-based businesses
* Internet infrastructure to be in place to enable tele-working from home.

Businesses, Chambers of Commerce, Industry Groups, TRC, Far North Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils, Tablelands Futures Corp, Advance Cairns, Dept of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation

2012 - 2013

(ii) Ensure businesses are up-skilled in new IT technologies
Businesses, Chambers of Commerce, Tablelands Futures Corp, Tablelands Industry Workforce Group Inc

2013 - 2016

(iii) Explore opportunities in new technologies
Businesses, Tablelands Futures Corp

4.2.4 (c) Tablelands businesses are assisted in their marketing by a well recognised Tablelands brand and regional economic investment profile

(i) Continue to develop a unique Tablelands regional identity/brand and regional value proposition.
Tropical Tablelands Tourism, Tablelands Futures Corp, TRC, Chambers of Commerce, Business and Industry Groups, Advance Cairns, Dept of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation, Tablelands Industry Workforce Group Inc

2012 - 2013

(ii) Update the regional economic investment profile.
Tropical Tablelands Tourism, Tablelands Futures Corp, TRC, Chambers of Commerce, Business and Industry Groups, Advance Cairns, Dept of Economic Development and Innovation, Tablelands Industry Workforce Group Inc

2013 - 2016

4.2.4 (d) Tablelands businesses capitalise on new opportunities in the global marketplace

(i) Capitalise on new opportunities in the global marketplace by:

* Investigating opportunities to service mining operations in PNG, for example with aviation services, food products, ecosystem restoration services and as a residential location for fly-in-fly-out workers to PNG
* Investigating opportunities for new export markets in Asia
* Investigating opportunities for the export of tropical expertise to other tropical nations
* Investigating opportunities for the Tablelands in meat processing for export
* Collaborating with other regional economic development agencies to promote the competitive advantages of the Tablelands as part of the FNQ region and to contribute to wider economic development strategies.

Tablelands Futures Corp, TRC, Chambers of Commerce, Business and Industry Groups, Advance Cairns, Dept of Economic Development and Innovation , Tablelands Industry Workforce Group Inc

2012 - 2021

Mining related air services from Far North Queensland
Source: Cummings Economics, 2008

4.3 Sustainable Resource Management

4.3.1 A region of high biodiversity

The significant environmental values of the Tablelands region are protected and preserved.

4.3.1 (a) Our natural regions are managed as a partnership between government and community

(i) The new Planning Scheme is aligned with the three Natural Resource Management (NRM) region plans, river catchment plans and other regional plans and protect the values of the World Heritage areas and other areas of high environmental significance. ✪ TRC, Wet Tropics Management Authority, NRM bodies

2012 - 2013

(ii) Investigate opportunities for:
- Close collaboration to manage the region's natural resources and develop and implement NRM region plans and river catchment plans
- Alignment of NRM region plans that lie within the Tablelands Regional Council area
- Increased contribution by Traditional Owner Groups in the custodianship and management of natural areas
- Increased communication between environmental groups using internet communications technology
- More trainee programs in the management of NRM areas.
Communities, Landholders, Traditional Owner Groups, Northern Gulf Resource Management Group Ltd, Terrain Natural Resource Management, NQ Dry Tropics, Catchment Management Groups, TRC, Dept of Environment and Resource Management, Wet Tropics Management Authority, Australian Government

2012 - 2021

(iii) Support community volunteers involved in local catchment area management.
Catchment Management Groups

(iv) Raise community awareness that the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area plays a significant role in the life of the community including in the health and wellbeing of the community. Community, Terrain NRM, Wet Tropics Management Authority

Community members helping to revegetate the Barron River riparian zone
Photo courtesy: Barron Catchment Care

4.3.1 (b) Our highly diverse ecosystems are protected and preserved

(i) Ensure areas of ecological significance across the TRC region are identified and protected through the new Planning Scheme biodiversity overlay. ✪ TRC

2012 - 2013

(ii) Ensure strategic rehabilitation areas are locally refined and incorporated into the new Planning Scheme biodiversity overlay as habitat investment areas. TRC, Dept of Local Government and Planning, Dept of Environment and Resource Management, Traditional Owner Groups

(iii) Increase our understanding of the biodiversity of the region by conducting further biodiversity surveys to inform conservation strategies and explore the option of using GIS and other technologies to map the biodiversity of the region.
NRM Groups, Universities, Wet Tropics Management Authority

2013 - 2016

(iv) Greater encouragement and incentives are provided to landholders to create or restore wildlife and riparian corridors and refuges. Queensland and Australian Governments, Landholders

(v) Ensure all extractive resource developments have minimal environmental, social, cultural and health impact and sites are fully rehabilitated. TRC, Dept of Environment and Resource Management

(vi) Advocate for NRM groups and community groups to be adequately resourced to implement revegetation or rehabilitation of priority areas. Community, NRM Groups

(vii) Utilise enforcement procedures to protect areas of significant regional biodiversity:
- Improve enforcement of regulations and laws to protect vegetation, biodiversity and stream health
- Develop strategies to enable public access to National Parks and State Forests whilst protecting areas of ecological significance
- Identify and promote areas for motorised access and restrict access to critical areas requiring protection.
Dept of Environment and Resource Management and Commonwealth Dept of Environment

2012 - 2021

(viii) Achieve more effective control of feral animals, pests and weeds:
- Establish local weed eradication groups
- Encourage landholders to eradicate feral animals, pests and weeds on their property and riparian areas and lobby for increased incentives
- Conduct more education and awareness in the community about weeds and pests.
Community, Landholders, TRC, Traditional Owner Groups, Dept of Environment and Resource Management

✪ = "Quick Wins"

4.3.1 (c) The quality and flow of our natural waterways is protected

(i) Develop an integrated water management plan for the whole Tablelands Region to:
• Protect catchments and water resources
• Address water use efficiency and demand
• Improve water supply, quality and distribution
• Address sustainability and water safety issues for Tinaroo Dam
• Address stormwater run-off issues
• Ensure ecologically significant wetlands are protected.

Traditional Owner Groups, TRC, Dept of Environment and Resource Management, SunWater, NRM Groups, Catchment Management Groups

2013 - 2016

(ii) TRC to implement its Reef Guardian Action Plan to ensure minimal impact from the Tablelands on the Great Barrier Reef via the Barron, Johnstone and Herbert Rivers.

TRC, Reef Guardian Councils

4.3.1 (d) Our environmental resources and their management are valued in the carbon economy

(i) Develop strategies to:
• Create more awareness of the ecosystem services economy
• Identify and capitalise on opportunities in the ecosystem services economy
• Encourage and support land managers (farmers, Traditional Owner groups, other land owners and lessees) to secure market payment for ecosystem services provided eg carbon sequestration, water quality, biodiversity conservation.

"Big Idea" Project group

2012 - 2021

(ii) Investigate the feasibility of further developing bio-based industries on the Tablelands including bio-prospecting, bio-mimicry, production of bio-mass and intensive research and development activities across these areas.

"Big Idea" Project group

Photo courtesy: James Leech

Protected Areas on the Tablelands

The Wet Tropics World Heritage Area that lies within TRC Local Government Area covers 225,000ha (2,254kms) - approximately 25% of the total Wet Tropics World Heritage Area.

Source: Wet Tropics Management Authority

The total park and forest estate in terms of National Park, State Forest, Timber Reserve and Forest Reserve in Tablelands Regional Council Local Government Area (LGA) as of 2010 was 8,091.1 square kilometres, 6.7 per cent of the total protected area in Queensland.

National Parks were the major component for the Tablelands Regional Council LGA as of 2010, accounting for 86.7 per cent of the total protected area within the region.

	Area (square kilometres)
National Parks	7,012.8
State Forest	680.3
Timber Reserve	0
Forest Reserve	398.0
Total	8,091.1

Source: Queensland Department of Environment and Resource Management, (Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service) in OESR Regional Profile, 2011

Natural Resource Management Regions

The TRC region encompasses three federally funded Natural Resource Management regions:

• Northern Gulf NRM region, managed by The Northern Gulf Resource Management Group Ltd (NGRMG)

• Wet Tropics NRM region, managed by Terrain NRM Ltd

• Burdekin NRM Region

The Northern Gulf NRM Region that is within the TRC area comprises the Mitchell River catchment (which includes the Walsh River) and the Staaten River catchment. The Staaten River is classified by the Queensland Government as a Wild River.

The Wet Tropics NRM Region that is within the TRC area comprises the Barron River catchment above the Barron Falls, the upper Johnstone catchment area and the upper Herbert catchment area.

A small northern portion of the Burdekin NRM Region lies within the TRC southern boundary.

4.3 Sustainable Resource Management

4.3.2 A sustainable and productive primary industries sector

Our rural landscape is protected and our primary industries are managed using best practice sustainability principles.

4.3.2 (a) Our good quality agricultural land is protected from urban encroachment

(i) Ensure good quality agricultural land is protected from urban encroachment through:

- Effective and responsive implementation of land use planning instruments
- Managing population growth with strategies that encourage higher density living within existing urban boundaries.

TRC,
Dept of Local Government and Planning

2012 - 2021

> Look after our farming community - they create employment in themselves - support industry. Create innovation and efficiencies - if we lose these businesses it will be too expensive to re-establish
>
> *Post It note comment,*
> *Regional Summit*

4.3.2 (b) Our high quality soil is protected and enhanced

(i) Develop strategies to protect the quality and presence of top-soil to prevent:

- loss of top soil
- overgrazing
- loss of ground cover
- salinity hazards
- erosion from water run-off.

Farmer and Industry Groups, Permaculture Groups, Agri-businesses, NRM Groups, Dept of Employment and Economic Development and Innovation

(ii) Encourage restorative, regenerative farming practices that enhance soil quality. ✪

FNQ Transitions, Permaculture Groups, Farmer and Industry Groups, Agri-businesses, Dept of Employment and Economic Development and Innovation

2012 - 2021

(iii) Explore opportunities in the carbon economy to enhance soil fertility through carbon sequestration in soil .

"Big Idea" Project group/ community partners to be identified

(iv) Support the production of compost and mulch from the recycling of green waste. ✪

TRC,
Dept of Environment and Resource Management

2013-2016

'King Brown Compost' , Photo courtesy: The Tablelander

✪ ="Quick Wins"

'Golden Triangle' , Photo courtesy: Cassie McLucas

4.3.2 (c) Our farms are protected from pests, weeds, feral animals and other biosecurity threats

(i) Develop strategies to ensure:
• A coordinated approach and more effective control of feral animals, pests and weeds
• Effective biosecurity measures are carried out
• More community awareness and education around biosecurity issues.

Landholders, TRC,
Queensland Government

(ii) Hold a "Small Farms Field Day" to encourage interaction and learning between farmers.

Landholders, TRC,
Agri-Groups and Businesses,
Queensland Government

(iii) Create traineeships for young rural youth in the area of land management, environmental protection and pest control.

Landholders,
Queensland Government,
Tablelands Industry Workforce Group Inc

2013 - 2016

Tablelands Land Use

Total area of Tablelands Regional Council: 65,008.4 km²

Total area of agricultural land: 3,908,736 hectares

Area of agricultural land irrigated: 24,000 hectares (0.6%) in 2009-2010.

(ABS 2011, cat. no. 4618.0)

4.3.2 (d) Our farms are managed using best practice sustainability principles

(i) Provide information, programs and support to assist farmers to cut carbon, save money and remain competitive in a resource and carbon constrained environment. ✪

Farmers, Dept of Environment and Resource Management, Australian Government , Tablelands Industry Workforce Group Inc

2012 - 2013

(ii) Research and promote sustainable, regenerative farming practices:
• Identify market opportunities for sustainable farming practices such as organic and biodynamic produce
• Identify models for regenerative farming practices that are economically viable to local producers and include transitioning strategies when appropriate
• Conduct community education such as shed meetings to promote sustainable farming practices
• Encourage use of smart technology in farming for more efficient use of input resources and make case examples of good practice available to community
• Develop strategies to address community impacts from agricultural practices, e.g. aerial spraying, noise, smell and health impacts.

FNQ Transitions,
Permaculture Groups, Farmer and Industry Groups,
Agri-Businesses, Tablelands Futures Corp,
Dept of Environment and Resource Management,
Tablelands Industry Workforce Group Inc

2012 - 2021

(iii) Continue to explore viable options for increased farm and industry diversification.

Tablelands Futures Corp,
Agri-Industry and Farmer Groups,
Tablelands Industry Workforce Group Inc

4.3 Sustainable Resource Management

4.3.3 A sustainable region

The Tablelands uses and manages resources according to best practice sustainability principles.

4.3.3 (a) The Tablelands is a leading region of best practice in tropical rural sustainability

(i) Implement the Tablelands Regional Council Sustainability Action Plan 2010. ✪   TRC

(ii) Champion sustainability in the Tablelands region:
• Key local organisations including Tablelands Regional Council to model sustainable practices
• Conduct community education to promote sustainability. ✪   Community, FNQ Transitions, TRC, Dept of Environment and Resource Management, Atherton Tableland Chamber of Commerce

(iii) Advocate and negotiate for the Tablelands Region to become a government funded pilot in rural and remote tropical sustainability in all areas of community life:
• Community wellbeing
• Built environment
• Transport infrastructure
• Communications infrastructure
• Natural resource management
• Waste management
• Energy generation and supply
• Agricultural production
• Economic sustainability and resilience
• Natural disaster management, recovery and resilience.
Atherton Tableland Chamber of Commerce, "Big Idea" Project Group

(iv) Conduct a cost-benefit analysis of transitioning to a more sustainable region e.g. farming, built environment, health and community wellbeing, infrastructure, energy, economy:
• Assess the economic impacts on all stakeholders of transitioning to a more sustainable region and the impacts of maintaining current practices;
• Explore models for sustainable communities such as Transition Towns;
• Explore and support sustainable, regenerative farming practices e.g. organic, biodynamic farming;
• Explore building codes incorporating renewable energy and design suitable for regional climate, lifestyle and values
• Promote awareness of ecosystem services
• Promote active travel (riding/walking to work/school, car pooling
• Investigate opportunities in relation to carbon farming.
Atherton Tableland Chamber of Commerce, Tablelands Industry Workforce Group Inc

(v) Explore options for highly efficient, minimal environmental impact transport solutions
Queensland and Australian Government

2012 - 2021

4.3.3 (b) The Tablelands region recycles, renews and reclaims resources

(i) Investigate and promote appropriate and cost effective strategies to recycle, renew and reclaim resources:
• Encourage the recycling of green waste into compost
• Enable effective recycling of glass, paper and cardboard
• Investigate options for selling recycled waste to help re-coup cost of regional recycling
• Investigate the cost-benefits of recycling
• Conduct community education on how to recycle and the findings of the cost-benefit analysis
• Investigate options for improving waste management that incorporate reclaiming from waste transfer station
• Re-use road materials during maintenance and construction activities as appropriate
• Encourage innovation and invention using recycled materials
• Promote and embrace renewable products in buildings.
Community, TRC, Dept of Environment and Resource Management, Atherton Tableland Chamber of Commerce

2012 - 2021

4.3.3 (c) The Tablelands adopts sustainable energy generation

(i) Establish a regional task force to explore renewable energy options for the Tablelands (solar, hydro, wind and geothermal) that are in keeping with our rural lifestyle and regional values.

(ii) Ensure renewable or alternative energy developments on the Tablelands have minimal environmental, social, cultural and health impacts.
Ergon Energy,
FNQ Transitions,
Advance Cairns,
Tablelands Futures Corp, TRC,
Dept of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation

2012 - 2016

4.3.3 (d) Farm products are marketed locally

(i) Explore options to reduce "food miles" including:
• Establishing Farmers Markets or incorporating Farmers Markets into existing Community Markets
• Benchmark food miles for Tablelands products and champion improvements
• Review current system of transporting local fresh produce to southern markets and then transporting back for sale in local supermarkets
• Encourage local supermarkets to sell local fresh produce.
Community,
Farmers,
Supermarkets,
FNQ Transitions, Agri-businesses,
Atherton Tableland Chamber of Commerce

2013 - 2016

Exploring renewable energy options for the Tablelands that are in keeping with our rural lifestyle and regional values was a popular strategy identified to achieve the aspiration of managing our resources sustainably. Photo courtesy: Sarah Scragg

4.3 Sustainable Resource Management

4.3.4 A resilient community

The Tablelands is resilient to future shocks such as the impacts of climate change and of depleting resources.

4.3.4 (a) The Tablelands is prepared for the impacts of climate change including more intense weather events such as cyclones, bush fires and flooding

(i) Develop community management plans for disaster preparation and recovery and incorporate sustainability principles. ✪
Community, TRC
2012 - 2013

(ii) Improve resilience and access by increasing flood immunity at known causeway hotspots.
TRC, Dept of Transport and Main Roads

(iii) Buildings and towns are designed and built to adapt to more extreme weather events, using sustainability principles.
Community, Design Industry, TRC, Dept of Local Government and Planning
2012 - 2021

(iv) Establish and maintain wildlife corridors across the landscape as a climate change adaptation mechanism.
Developers, Land Care Groups, TRC, Dept of Environment and Resource Management, Wet Tropics Management Authority, NRM Groups, Australian Government, Traditional Owner Groups

Vehicle Ownership and Fuel Type

The estimated rate of vehicle ownership in the Tablelands Regional Council area was 762 registered motor vehicles per 1000 people at 31 March 2010, compared with 741/1000 for Queensland .
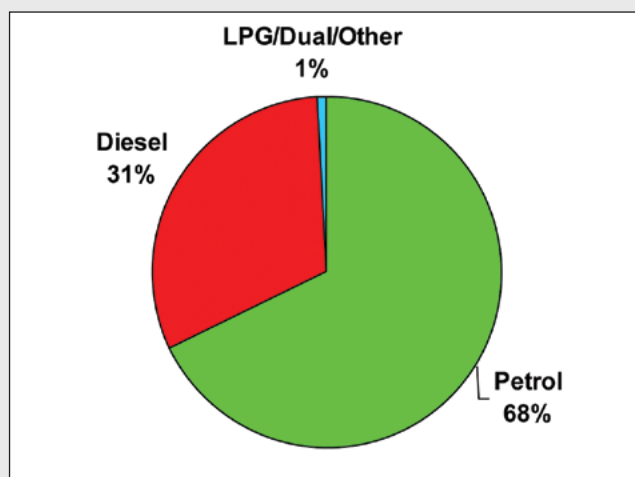
Source: ABS, Motor Vehicle Census, in National Regional Profile, 2011

4.3.4 (b) The Tablelands is prepared for the impact of peak oil and peak phosphorus

(i) Investigate options to increase regional self-sufficiency in energy generation and supply through the use of alternative technologies and renewable energy sources and supply.
Ergon Energy, FNQ Transitions, Advance Cairns, Tablelands Futures Corp, TRC, Dept of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation, Australian Government
2012 - 2016

(ii) Encourage reduction in use of fossil fuels for transport, including:
• Further develop the local food economy to reduce "food miles" (Refer Section 4.3.3(d))
• Provide incentives for car-pooling
• Improve public transport options.
Community, Public Transport Operators, Tablelands Community Transport Service Providers Network
2013 - 2016

(iii) Encourage reduction in use of phosphates and support viable alternatives to chemical fertilisers, as used in restorative farming practices e.g. permaculture, biodynamic farming.
(Refer Section 4.3.2)

(iv) Encourage the conversion of organic waste into compost and its use as fertiliser. ✪
TRC, Organic Waste Recycling Businesses, Dept of Environment and Resource Management
2012 - 2021

(v) Investigate options to prepare for impact of Peak Resources as a key challenge.
Community, Queensland and Australian Governments, TRC

(vi) Investigate the feasibility of bio-fuel and bio-mass research and production in the Tablelands as an alternative to fossil fuels.
"Big Idea" Project group/ community partners to be identified

(vii) Investigate the feasibility of rail transport, especially for freight.
Queensland Rail, Transport Operators, Farmers, Businesses, Chambers of Commerce
2016 - 2021

✪ = "Quick Wins"

4.3.4 (c) The Tablelands has strong food security

(i) Identify ways for the Tablelands to become more self-sufficient in food:
- Encourage and support the development of community gardens
- Encourage home growing of fruit and vegetables
- Establish a regional produce market as an alternative to relying on southern markets to distribute fresh produce that has been grown locally
- Explore options to ensure food security on the Tablelands to strengthen the local economic resilience and health and well-being in the community
- Develop strategies to support households and individuals to acquire food that is nutritious, safe, affordable and sufficient
- Encourage local supermarkets to sell local fresh produce.

2013 - 2016

Community,
Community Sustainability Groups,
Farmers, Supermarkets,
FNQ Transitions, Agri-businesses,

Climate Change Projections for Far North Queensland

- Temperature increase of up to 3.9 °C by 2070

- Cairns may have eight times the number of days over 35 °C (average of four per year to average of 34 per year)

- Evaporation could increase 7–15 per cent

- Spring rainfall could reduce by 16%

- Cyclones – slight decrease in numbers, increase in severity and longevity (20-50%)

- Cyclone intensity – rise by 10%

(Source: DEEDI, 2011)

Agriculture / Crops are perishable (which a huge cyclone can destroy fairly easily & comprehensively).

How are we preparing for such an ocassion?

Note on Tablecloth,
Think Tank Workshop 2

Community markets, such as those held in Mareeba,
were identified as key strategies to reduce 'food miles',
develop economic self sufficiency and create social opportunities.

4.4 Social Inclusion And Wellbeing

4.4.1 A healthy, active community

The physical, emotional and social wellbeing of individuals, families and communities is supported by high quality infrastructure and services.

4.4.1 (a) Health services and facilities meet the primary care needs of a growing and ageing population on the Tablelands

(i) Advocate for improved health services and facilities, including:
- More visiting medical specialists and better access to GP bulk billing and dental services
- Lobby against the centralisation of facilities in Cairns
- Ensure that the Tablelands has an equitable share of health services that are adequately funded to meet demographic characteristics, population growth, and ageing. ✪

Community, TRC Health Action Group, Far North Queensland Division of Rural General Practice, Queensland Health, Dept of Health and Ageing, Indigenous Health Services, Atherton Tableland Chamber of Commerce

2012 - 2013

(ii) Promote preventative health measures and initiatives
- Conduct more preventative health projects
- Continue to raise awareness about the benefits of a preventative health approach
- Encourage major employers to support workplace initiatives that promote healthy active workplaces and employees. ✪

Tablelands Health Partnership, TRC, Indigenous Health Services

(iii) Explore innovative service delivery models that lead to better outcomes in health on the Tablelands including:
- Internet and telecommunications technology to enhance access to and delivery of health services across distance, e.g. telehealth
- Collaboration and partnerships between health service providers to create more integrated health services including coordinated and joint visits to rural towns
- Mobile medical units to service rural and remote communities
- Delivery of health services is tailored to address the unique characteristics of groups across the region including Indigenous and multicultural residents.

Queensland Health, FNQ Division of Rural General Practice, Indigenous Health Services

2013 - 2016

(iv) Develop strategies to attract skilled healthcare workers and professionals to the Tablelands.

Tablelands Workforce Industry Group Inc

Tablelands Health Services - Queensland Wealth

The Tablelands is part of the Queensland Health Cairns and Hinterland Health Service District.

Facilities are: Atherton Hospital, Mareeba Hospital, Chillagoe Hospital, Dimbulah Hospital, Herberton Hospital, Malanda Health Centre, Millaa Millaa Health Centre, Mt Garnet Day Clinic, Ravenshoe Primary Health Centre.

(v) Continue to campaign for improved funding models to meet the life-long care needs and issues of people with a disability and their carers including the proposal for a national insurance scheme for people with a disability.

Community, Disability Advocates, Queensland and Australian Governments

(vi) Develop and promote the Tablelands as a centre of excellence in tropical health, aged care and wellbeing services and training. *Atherton Tableland Chamber of Commerce, "Big Idea" Project group*

2012 - 2021

Rural and Remote Health Training

Atherton Hospital is the largest referral centre on the Tablelands. The hospital is at the forefront of Rural Generalists training and is the first hospital in Australia to be accredited to train Rural Generalist interns following the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine Training Pathway.

Mareeba Hospital is an Accredited Teaching Hospital of James Cook University (Medical and Registered Nursing students) and the Tropical Medical Training (Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine Provisional Fellows). Mareeba Hospital works with TAFE Queensland in the training of Enrolled Nursing students.

Health Needs

Tablelands has a high proportion of people in the population groups most at risk of chronic disease:

- aged population: 16% over 65yrs (ABS, ERP 2010)
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander: 8.9% (ABS, 2006 Census)
- Socioeconomically disadvantaged: 42% of Tablelands population lives in areas of highest disadvantage (OESR, 2011; ABS 2006 Census)
- Outer-regional / remote location.

Design our infrastructure to support a healthy, active community
Image courtesy: www.ggiarchitects.com

✪ ="Quick Wins"

4.4.1 (b) The built and natural environments of the Tablelands promote community health and wellbeing

(i) Continue to develop infrastructure that creates an environment supportive of safe social interaction, physical activity and connects people and places:
- Make towns more pedestrian friendly with improved connectivity of pathways, shaded streets and seating including improved access for people with diverse disabilities and older adults, ensuring adequate lighting in places of concern
- Upgrade and maintain parks, gardens and beautification of town streetscapes, with more shaded areas with a focus on facilitating active communities
- Provide street lighting, landscaping and surveillance that increase actual and perceived safety
- Ensure drinking fountains, toilets and ramps are wheelchair accessible
- Upgrade, maintain and build more multi-purpose sport and recreation facilities
- Improve community access to sport and recreation facilities and community halls including access to cooking facilities and changing rooms
- Provide open recreational space for adventure and imaginative play for children in all new developments
  TRC, Community, Atherton Tableland Chamber of Commerce, Queensland and Australian Governments, Corporate Sector

(ii) Prepare a region-wide Pedestrian and Cycle Strategy, including:
- Develop safe bicycle lanes on State controlled roads and Council controlled roads
- Prepare a regional strategy for the development of a network of local & regional off-road bicycle, walking & horse-riding trails   Community, TRC, Dept of Transport and Main Roads, Cycling and Walking Groups, Atherton Tableland Chamber of Commerce

(iii) Encourage employers to offer flexible working hours to allow time for exercise and to provide facilities such as showers and bike racks to encourage active lifestyles by employees
Employees, Employers, TRC, Queensland and Australian Governments

(iv) Require new commercial development to provide infrastructure to support active transport including bike facilities and showers TRC, Dept of Local Government and Planning

(v) Urban planning to encourage mix of residential densities
TRC, Queensland Government

(vi) Explore innovative models of sustainable urban living such as Transition Towns and Citta-Slow movement   TRC, Community, Atherton Tableland Chamber of Commerce, Queensland and Australian Governments, Corporate Sector

(vii) Recognise that improving Indigenous health outcomes requires a holistic approach and is intrinsically intertwined with relationship to country and environment.   Community, Government, Traditional Owner Groups, Indigenous Health Services

(viii) Recognise the role of the natural environment in promoting community health and wellbeing   TRC, Community, Atherton Tableland Chamber of Commerce, Queensland and Australian Governments

2012 - 2021

4.4.1 (c) Community health & wellbeing is enhanced through the promotion of healthy eating, physical activity and healthy lifestyle choices

(i) Develop strategies to improve the health and wellbeing of Tablelanders, including:
- Promote healthy physical activity
- Support local community exercise groups
- Improve access to fitness programs, e.g. with subsidies and community transport for disadvantaged groups ✪
- Conduct group physical activities in parks (Tai Chi, dance and exercise)
- Hold more family sports events.
  Community, Sport Clubs and Recreation Groups, TRC, Queensland Government, Australian Government

(ii) Promote and facilitate healthy eating and healthy food choices including:
- Initiatives that create greater awareness of healthy eating ✪
- Provide incentives to cafes, takeaway food outlets and community clubs to offer healthy food choices
- Provide incentives to supermarkets to promote healthy food choices
- Promote and encourage growing of fruit and vegetables
- Encourage and support community gardens
- Facilitate access to local fresh produce
- Support local food networks
- Support regenerative farming methods that improve soil health and the nutritional value of locally grown produce
- Promote & support breastfeeding and increase community awareness and acceptance of breastfeeding
- Ensure the environmental health and safety of our water, food production, processing systems and food outlets.
  Community, FNQ Transitions, Community Markets, Tableland Health Partnership, Qld Health, TRC, Atherton Tableland Chamber of Commerce, Dept of Health and Ageing

(iii) Develop the Tablelands as a region of excellence in healthy active wellbeing and liveability.
  "Big Idea" Project group/community partners to be identified

2012 - 2021

4.4.1 (d) Community health and wellbeing is enhanced through facilities and services to support mental health

(i) Develop strategies to promote positive mental health and support for people with mental illness in the community, including:
- Advocate for better resourcing of existing mental health services and the establishment of new services and facilities
- Encourage and promote community support groups
- Support suicide prevention and awareness programs
- More awareness of depression and support for people with depression. (Refer 5.3 Community Services Sector).
  Community, Mental Health Services, Queensland Health, Community Services

2012 - 2021

4.4 Social Inclusion And Wellbeing

4.4.2 A safe and caring community

Our Tablelands communities are friendly, safe and caring with appropriate and affordable housing and services that support safe, nurturing communities.

4.4.2 (a) Our young people are able to grow and develop to their full potential in a safe environment

(i) Develop strategies to improve the safety of young people and address:
• Youth homelessness
• Drugs and alcohol in schools
• Youth safety around bullying (including cyber bullying), binge drinking and youth violence
• Family and racial conflict
• Lack of youth spaces on the Tablelands
• Explore supported accommodation opportunities for young people at risk other than foster care
• Inclusion of young workers in the workforce especially Indigenous young workers. Community Services, Community , Dept of Communities, Dept of Education and Training, TRC, Corporate Sector, Churches, Atherton Tableland Chamber of Commerce

2012 - 2013

(ii) Encourage young people to join clubs and community groups and engage in volunteering and healthy activities and encourage clubs and groups to be more open to including younger members. Young People, Service Clubs, Schools , Atherton Tableland Chamber of Commerce

(iii) Implement the TRC Youth Action Plan. ✪ TRC

(iv) Encourage youth participation/ engagement in community decision making. Community, Young People, TRC, Schools

2012- 2016

Tablelands' projected proportion of younger and older residents, 2006-2021
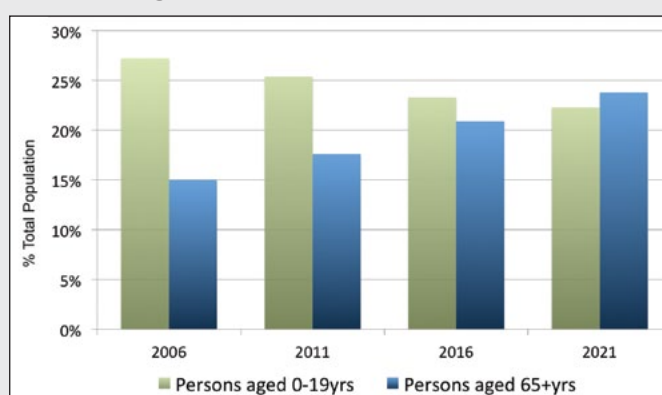
Source: Queensland Treasury, 2011, medium series projections

Disengaged Youth

At the time of the 2006 census, 13.3% of all youth aged 15-24yrs were neither employed, looking for work nor attending any educational institution. (ABS 2006; TRC atlas.id.com.au)

4.4.2 (b) The Tablelands is promoted and supported as a safe and caring community

(i) Continue to support the Safer Communities Initiative and conduct projects to address:
• Domestic violence
• Child protection
• Drug and alcohol abuse
• Road safety
• Homelessness and housing
• Public safety
• Personal and parental responsibility
• Community education. ✪
TRC, Queensland Police Service, Community Services, Churches, Schools, Atherton Tableland Chamber of Commerce

2012 - 2021

(ii) Ensure crime prevention by incorporating suitable environmental design principles in our town centres, public buildings, open spaces and commercial development.
TRC, Development Industry, Queensland Police Service, Atherton Tableland Chamber of Commerce

(iii) Develop strategies to improve the quality of life for people with disabilities:
• More accommodation and support services for independent living
• Better access to services and programs
• Increased community inclusion and connectedness
• Support for carers
• Access to transport
• Access to information
• Access to public spaces and facilities.
(Refer to "People with a Disability and Carers Sector")

2013 - 2016

Help our communities to be more resilient to natural and man-made disasters. Image courtesy: John Williams

✪ ="Quick Wins"

4.4.2 (c) Access to safe, affordable and appropriate housing is available to all in the community

(i) Investigate feasibility of establishing a Regional Housing Company. ✪
Mareeba Community Housing Association, Tablelands Community Housing Association, Dept of Communities, TRC

2012 - 2013

(ii) Continue to investigate opportunities to enable better access to affordable and appropriate housing on the Tablelands to address:
• Overcrowding, "couch surfing" and homelessness especially by young people
• Provision of emergency/crisis accommodation
• Provision of adequate and appropriate accommodation for people with a disability
• Provision of adequate social housing, including Indigenous housing. ✪
Community Services, Community Housing Providers, Dept of Communities, TRC

(iii) Continue to provide housing support services. ✪ TRC Housing Support Services, Tablelands Tenancy Advice, Tablelands Women's Centre, Emergency Relief Services, Mulungu Aboriginal Corporation Medical Centre

2012 - 2021

(iv) Explore innovative models of supported accommodation for young adults with a disability and pursue funding opportunities. ✪
Disability Support Services, Community Housing Providers, Dept of Communities, TRC

(v) Support the development of age appropriate housing for seniors, including social housing and retirement village housing. ✪ Tablelands Retirement and Aged Care Facilities Action Group, TRC, Developers

Emergency Services supporting the Tablelands Community

At 30 June 2010 in the Tablelands region there were:

• 12 Police Stations
• 9 Ambulance Stations
• 9 Fire Stations (not including Rural Fire Brigade)
• 9 Hospitals/Health Centres

4.4.2 (d) Communities are resilient to natural and man-made disasters

(i) Facilitate the development of town and district community plans for local disaster preparation and recovery. ✪ TRC, Communities

(ii) Provide information kits to better prepare residents and visitors for the cyclone season including the following evacuation advice:
• There are no public cyclone shelters in the Tablelands Regional Council area
• A number of buildings have been earmarked as a refuge of last resort but these are not intended as cyclone shelters
• If necessary, evacuation centres will be established once the cyclone has passed. ✪
• Provide information kits in different languages as appropriate TRC

2012 - 2016

(iii) Construct appropriate public cyclone shelters to increase public safety during cyclones. Queensland Government

2016-2021

(iv) Develop strategies to plan for the impacts of climate change and for future changes in resource availability, such as fossil fuels and food security:
• Monitor local and regional impacts of climate change
• Research the regional impact of a reduction in supply of fossil fuels and food to better understand and respond to possible future changes
• Investigate ways to increase self-sufficiency within the region
• Investigate renewable energy options within the region.
"Big Idea" Project group/community partners to be identified

2012 - 2021

4.4.2 (e) Seniors are supported with appropriate facilities and services

(i) Develop a region-wide Ageing Well Strategy to address issues associated with the ageing population, including:
• Plan for the increase in the aged population by ensuring adequate availability of aged care services and facilities
• Support initiatives to develop more age appropriate housing for seniors, including social housing and retirement village accommodation
• Support initiatives to develop more residential aged care facilities on the Tablelands, including culturally appropriate facilities
• "Ageing well" strategies to encourage social interaction, physical activity and healthy eating and adopt a healthy active ageing strategic approach to increase community based strength and balance programs for the Tablelands region (providing an avenue for social interactions, reducing social isolation and reducing the prevalence of falls in the older adult population thus keeping people in their homes longer).
• Community education to raise awareness about valuing and respecting older people
• Value and utilise the knowledge, experience, skills and community participation of older people, for example with mentoring systems, flexible work arrangements, volunteering and learning networks
• Encourage all community, government and commercial organisations to review policies to ensure they promote positive ageing and don't discriminate against older residents, either intentionally or unintentionally
• Form an older adult advisory committee for Council
• Campaign for Ageing in Place principles and standards to be universally adopted in the Building Code and across the region in new housing developments and major renovations.
Community, Seniors' Groups, TRC, Aged Care Providers, Community Services

(ii) Increase availability of community based programs to build strength and balance to prevent falls in the older adult population.
Community, TRC, Queensland Government

2013 - 2016

4.4 Social Inclusion And Wellbeing

4.4.3 A socially inclusive community

Our Tablelands communities are strong, inclusive and welcoming to all.

4.4.3 (a) Our communities are welcoming to new residents

(i) Support initiatives to welcome new residents and help them to integrate into the community.
Atherton Tableland Chamber of Commerce, Community, Tablelands Workforce Industry Group Inc

(ii) Encourage clubs and groups to be more open to new members.   Service Clubs, Sport and Recreation Clubs, Atherton Tableland Chamber of Commerce

(iii) Facilitate "know your neighbour" initiatives to combat social isolation.   Atherton Tableland Chamber of Commerce

2012 - 2013

2012 - 2021

Indigenous and Overseas-born Population

At the 2006 census, 3,640 persons identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. This was 8.9% of the Tablelands population.

6,004 persons, 14.7% of the Tablelands population, were born overseas.   *(ABS, 2006 Census).*

'Filipino Dancers'. Tablelanders celebrate their multicultural heritage at the annual Mareeba Multicultural Festival. Photo courtesy: Eve Stafford

New Residents to the Tablelands, 2006
(based on place of residence five years before)

	Residents	% Total
Moved from somewhere else in Queensland	5,867	71.7%
Moved from elsewhere in Australia (outside Qld)	1,698	20.8%
Moved from overseas	613	7.5%
Total new residents	8,178	100%

Source: ABS, 2006 Census, Usual Residents
http://www.trc.qld.gov.au/discover/community-profile

4.4.3 (b) Our communities are inclusive of all in all aspects of life

(i) Support Indigenous participation in community life while recognising Indigenous uniqueness in community needs, arts, culture and relationship to land:
• Promote reconciliation initiatives
• Campaign for government, corporate and community organisations to develop their own Reconciliation Action Plan
• Traditional Owner Groups to conduct strategic planning in relation to traditional lands. Traditional Owner Groups, Indigenous Community, TRC, Community Organisations, Government and Corporate Organisations, North Queensland Land Council

(ii) Promote NAIDOC celebrations as "whole of community" events with broad community representation on the organising committees and wide community participation in events. ✪ Community, TRC, Queensland   and Australian Governments

(iii) Support participation of people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds (CALD) in community life while recognising and respecting the uniqueness of their diverse cultural heritage:
• Link with TRC Multicultural Policy
• Equitable access to community and government services
• Respect, fairness and understanding regardless of cultural, ethnic, religious and linguistic backgrounds
• Welcome and inform new CALD arrivals, backpackers and seasonal workers
• Continue to celebrate the social and cultural diversity and facilitate tolerance and understanding between people of different cultures and social groups
• Promote use of Translating and Interpreting Service (Tel: 131 450) by services, government and people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.
TRC, Queensland Government, Multicultural Groups and Services

(iv) Continue to celebrate our social and cultural diversity and facilitate tolerance and understanding between people of different cultures and social groups. ✪
Community, Festivals, Community Events

(v) Ensure best practice inclusive community engagement is carried out by government organisations in developing community and regional plans. ✪
TRC, Queensland and Australian Governments

(vi) Establish a Mentoring Program to link young people and older residents.   Q.I.T.E.

2012 - 2021

✪ ="Quick Wins"

4.4.3 (c) Our communities are lively and socially interactive

(i) Develop strategies to improve social interaction and community participation, including:
- Promote community information portals, directories, calendars and networks to encourage participation in community activities
- Continue to encourage and support community clubs and groups
- Promote community gardens as opportunity for social interaction, mixing up the ages and sharing activities and food
- Continue to support community markets to encourage social interaction
- Create scenic and covered areas in towns and districts that are easily accessible to all for social gatherings
- Conduct more intergenerational and cross cultural events and activities. Community, Service Clubs, Sport and Recreation Clubs, Atherton Tableland Chamber of Commerce, Corporate Sector, TRC, Queensland and Australian Governments, Tablelands Workforce Industry Group Inc

2012 - 2021

Tablelanders living on their own, 2006

	Male	**Female**
15-24yrs	80	51
25-44yrs	396	187
45-64yrs	880	653
65-84yrs	508	770
85+yrs	63	133
Total	1,927	1,794

Source: ABS, 2006 Census
persons in occupied dwellings, place of usual residence

4.4.3 (d) There is equity of access to community resources

(i) Develop strategies that embody principles of social justice to ensure equity of access to community resources, including:
- Establish a community reference group to work with Council to improve access for people with a disability to Council and community buildings, public spaces and facilities. ✪ People with a Disability, TRC, Dept of Communities

- Develop strategies to improve access to computers, the internet and social media across the community. Community Services, U3A

- Develop strategies to improve access to public and community transport to enable greater participation in community life. Transport Providers, Tablelands Community Transport Service Providers Network, Atherton Tableland Chamber of Commerce

2012 - 2013

4.4.3 (e) Disadvantaged individuals and families are supported with assistance from appropriate community services

(i) Develop strategies to improve service delivery in the community services sector, including:
- Investigate innovative service delivery models for community services working across distance, culture and age
- More appropriate targeting of resources for the community services sector to address local priorities
- Develop strategies to address and plan for the social impact of the expansion of Lotus Glen Correctional Centre on the local community.

Community Services, Churches, Dept of Communities, TRC

2012 - 2021

Average Income

In 2008-09 the average annual personal income in the Tablelands region was $34,358 compared with $44,239 for Queensland (ABS, in OESR Regional Profile 2011).

At the 2006 census, Tablelands median weekly incomes were lower than for Queensland:

Median Weekly Income	Tablelands	Queensland
Individual	$376	$476
Household	$707	$1,033
Family	$925	$1,154

Source: ABS, 2006 Census

Socioeconomic Index of Disadvantage

When compared with the 20% of the Queensland population living in the most socioeconomically disadvantaged areas, 42% of the Tablelands population is living at an equivalent level of disadvantage.

(ABS 2006, SEIFA, from OESR Regional Profile, 2011)

Our Tablelands communities are well connected with public and community transport systems and high quality communications systems. Our roads provide high quality transport routes connecting communities across the region.

4.4.4 (a) Our communities are well connected with public and community transport systems

(i) Develop strategies to improve public and community transport services across the Tablelands, including:

- Continue to support the Tablelands Community Transport Service Providers Network to develop a co-ordinated approach to community transport across the Tablelands ✪
- Improve access to community transport for:
  - youth
  - the elderly
  - people with disabilities
  - people living in rural communities
  - disadvantaged groups within towns
  - community groups
- Improve access to public and community transport for those travelling to health clinics and hospitals
- Encourage and support volunteer drivers
- Campaign for government funding for community transport models suitable for rural and remote regions.

Community and Public Transport Users, Tablelands Community Transport Service Providers Network, Dept of Communities, Queensland Health, Dept of Health and Ageing, Public Transport Providers, Atherton Tableland Chamber of Commerce, Q.I.T.E.

2012 - 2013

Method of Travel to Work, Tablelands, 2006

	Number	% Total
Bus	88	0.5%
Bicycle	124	0.7%
Walked	1,155	7.0%
Car, as driver	9,235	55.8%
Car, as passenger	1,050	6.3%

Source: ABS, 2006 Census
http://www.trc.qld.gov.au/discover/community-profile

Our communities are well conected with good public and community transport systems.
Photo courtesy: James Leech

4.4.4 (b) Our communities are connected with well maintained roads

(i) Develop strategies to ensure our roads are well maintained, including:
• Campaign for funding to improve road surfaces, bridges and other road infrastructure
• Ensure an equitable system of road maintenance across the region. Community, TRC, Advance Cairns, Far North Queensland Region of Councils, Tablelands Futures Corp, Industry Groups, Chambers of Commerce, Dept of Transport and Main Roads, Australian Government

2012 - 2021

Car Ownership, Tablelands 2006

Number of vehicles owned	Number of households	% Total
One or more	13,668	84.4%
None	1,059	6.5%

Source: ABS, 2006 Census
http://www.trc.qld.gov.au/discover/community-profile

Internet Connection

53% of households in the Tablelands region had an internet connection in 2006 compared with 62.8% in Queensland.

Of those with an internet connection in 2006, 44% were connected to broadband and 66% had a dial-up connection.

(ABS, 2006 Census, from OESR Regional Profile, 2011).

4.4.4 (c) Our communities have access to high quality telecommunications networks and services

(i) Campaign strongly for the early roll-out of the NBN on the Tablelands. ✪ Community, TRC, FNQROC, Advance Cairns, Tablelands Futures Corp, Community Groups, Chambers of Commerce, Industry Groups, Schools

(ii) Campaign for residents to register complaints about telecommunications services with respective telecommunications companies and those that are not resolved, to lodge with Telecommunications Industry Ombudsman. ✪ Community, Telecommunications Companies, Telecommunications Industry Ombudsman

2012 - 2013

(iii) Improve access by low income social groups to the Internet:
• Offer training to overcome the digital divide to ensure all residents are able to access the Internet, social media and other digital technologies
• Promote the use of libraries to access internet resources. Community Services, Q.I.T.E., TRC

(iv) Request information from Telecommunications Companies about their respective infrastructure and service priorities for towns and districts across the Tablelands region and campaign for improved infrastructure and services. Community, Telecommunications Companies

2013 - 2016

Promote public libraries as locations to access the Internet and other digital technologies. Photo courtesy: James Leech

4.4 Social Inclusion And Wellbeing

4.4.5 A wise and knowledgeable community

The Tablelands is a learning community that values the wisdom, knowledge and experience of its residents, encourages life-long learning and shares its knowledge with others.

4.4.5 (a) Improved Education and training outcomes

(i) Investigate options to improve educational outcomes for Indigenous students:
• Increase engagement between school community and Indigenous students, families, Traditional Owner groups, Indigenous organisations and the wider Indigenous community
• Increase Indigenous cultural component in school curriculum
• Campaign for more Tablelands schools to be selected as National Partnerships Schools. Traditional Owner Groups, Indigenous Community, Dept of Education and Training, School P&C Associations

(ii) Investigate options for improving training and employment outcomes for Indigenous people, especially young Indigenous people:
• Match training to gaps in skills
• Increase support for duration of training and work placement
• Establish more school-based training and work experience for Indigenous students.
Traditional Owner Groups, Indigenous Community, Dept of Education and Training, Tablelands Industry Workforce Group Inc, Registered Training Organisations, Employment Service Providers, Centrelink

(iii) Campaign for increased opportunities to extend primary and high school students and for increased funding and extra programs to support children with learning issues.
P&C Associations, Dept of Education and Training

(iv) Continue to partner with James Cook University and other universities to explore feasibility of establishing more tertiary extension programs in the Tablelands. Community, Professional Groups, Universities, James Cook University, TRC,

2012 - 2013

2013-2016

4.4.5 (b) IT infrastructure and information hubs - new age libraries

(i) Enhance and promote the development of a learning community across the Tablelands through the:
• Development of partnerships and programs that promote the provision of high tech infrastructure
• Implementation of Council's "Libraries as Learning Communities" Strategy.
• Develop Mareeba Library as the hub of the Tablelands Regional Council library network
Community, TRC

(ii) Investigate opportunities for the provision and use of improved communications technology, including:
• Campaign for NBN to get here sooner
• Facilitate the preparation of the community to be able to capitalise on opportunities to be delivered through NBN
• Provide education and training in use of the internet and social media across all population groups
• Enable better access to the internet and social media to overcome the digital divide.
Far North Queensland Region of Councils, Advance Cairns, TRC, Community, JCU

2012 - 2013

A fun way to learn ! Planting the veggie garden at the Mareeba library as part of the Summer Reading Programme theme - gardening.

⭐ ="Quick Wins"

4.4.5 (c) The Tablelands supports a culture of life-long learning

(i) Support life-long learning networks, such as U3A.
Q.I.T.E., Community, U3A

(ii) Continue to offer internet training to Seniors and groups who experience difficulties accessing the internet.
Q.I.T.E., Training Organisations, Community Services

(iii) Implement and further develop the TRC "Libraries as Learning Communities" Strategy to create centres of life-long learning.
Community, TRC

(iv) Continue to develop strong links and partnerships with universities.
Community, Universities

(v) Raise community awareness to value and utilise the knowledge, experience, skills and community participation of older people, for example with mentoring systems, flexible work arrangements, volunteering and learning networks.
"Big Idea" Project group/community partners to be identified

(vi) Encourage schools to incorporate more local knowledge into the curriculum.
Dept of Education and Training

2012 - 2013
2012 - 2021
2016-2021

Tablelands Regional Council Libraries

TRC operates 11 libraries across the region receiving around 30,000 visits per month. 1,920 new members registered in 2010-11.

The State Library of Queensland 'White Gloves' tour at Tableland Council Libraries encourages community members to access, share and preserve historical documents

4.4.5 (d) Knowledge capture and transfer

(i) Support and engage Indigenous people to promote their culture and art and pass down to next generation and to the wider community.
Traditional Owner Groups, Indigenous community, Libraries, Historical Centres, Community

(ii) Use technology to capture and store cultural knowledge and history.
Libraries, Historical Centres, Community

(iii) Promote the region's historical museums and collections.
Libraries, Historical Centres, Community

(iv) Develop mentoring systems and other strategies to:
• Transfer knowledge, experience and wisdom of the mature aged to others
• Transfer the knowledge and skills of the young in IT and social media techniques to others
• Share cultural knowledge and expertise within the community
• Encourage cultural exchange within the community and also with people from the wider region of FNQ and other countries
• Share local knowledge with newcomers to the Tablelands.
"Big Idea" Project group/ community partners to be identified

2012 - 2021

4.4.5 (e) Research and development

(i) Continue to partner with Universities and other research and development organisations on a range of projects.
Community, Business and Industry Sectors, TRC, JCU, Research and Development Organisations

(ii) Develop and promote the region as a leading region in tropical rural research and development, especially in relation to bio-based industrial products that capitalise on the region's natural assets, capacity for large scale agricultural production, existing infrastructure and expertise in bio-based research and development.
Community partners to be identified

2012 - 2013
2012 - 2021

Schools

In August 2009 there were 7,622 school students attending 31 schools in the Tablelands region

In 2009 there were 3,574 Tablelands residents studying a vocational education and training (VET) course (OESR, 2011 from NCVER)

There were 470 residents of the Tablelands region attending university at August 2006.
(ABS 2006 Census)

4.5: Cultural Vibrancy

4.5.1 A culturally vibrant region

The cultural life, diversity and heritage of the Tablelands is valued, nurtured and promoted. Arts and cultural development is supported with high quality infrastructure and resources.

4.5.1 (a) The cultural diversity and unique cultural heritage of the Tablelands is valued and promoted

(i) Finalise and implement the TRC Cultural Plan. ✪ TRC

(ii) Ensure Indigenous culture and heritage matters are included in Reconciliation Action Plans that community, government and corporate organisations may develop. Community, Indigenous Community, TRC, Corporate and Government Organisations

2012 - 2016

(iii) Develop an Indigenous Cultural Strategy to highlight Indigenous culture, history and contribution, including the establishment of an Indigenous Cultural Centre. Community, Traditional Owner Groups, Indigenous Community Organisations, Dept of Communities, TRC

(iv) Preserve and promote the cultural and heritage features of the Tablelands, with strategies to:
• Value and promote the cultural diversity of the Tablelands
• Retain the cultural identity of each town and rural locality
• Support and engage Indigenous people to promote their culture and art and pass down to next generation
• Use technology to capture and store cultural knowledge and history
• Develop a cultural trail through the region that is based on the unique aspects of local communities
• Protect local heritage places
• Improve our understanding of the region's cultural and heritage features by conducting mapping and research projects. Community, Museums, Historical Societies, Traditional Owner Groups, TRC, Queensland and Australian Governments, Atherton Tableland Chamber of Commerce

2013 - 2016

(v) Further develop and promote cultural tourism in the region, including:
• Develop and promote art trails, history trails and cultural heritage trails
• Promote the region's historical museums and collections
• Promote the region's art galleries and artists
• Promote the region's cultural events to the wider region using social media and print media
• Provide improved directional signage and themed signage to promote culture and heritage trails for tourism
• Develop a cohesive regional identity based on our unique lifestyle, environment, produce, heritage and cultural diversity. Historical Societies, Traditional Owner Groups, Tourist Operators, Tropical Tablelands Tourism, Art Galleries and Societies, Artists, TRC, Dept of Transport and Main Roads, Chambers of Commerce

4.5.1 (b) Local arts and cultural development is supported with high quality infrastructure, facilities and resources

(i) Investigate opportunities to improve facilities for cultural/arts entertainment and events, including the feasibility of establishing a regional performance centre and cinema. ✪ TRC, Regional Cultural Centre Advisory Committee, Atherton Tableland Chamber of Commerce

2012 - 2013

(ii) Pursue avenues towards greater support of local arts and cultural development, including:
• Cultural precincts/hubs to be developed as creative workspaces and to showcase artistic work
• More support for Indigenous arts and artists
• More support for arts businesses and artists
• Continue to support the TRC art galleries. Artists, Arts Businesses, TRC, Queensland and Australian Governments Atherton Tableland Chamber of Commerce, "Big Idea" Project group

(iii) Encourage and support community festivals and cultural events with strategies to:
• Continue to support and promote the Multicultural Festival
• Better promotion of NAIDOC week and have whole of community celebration and organising committee
• Continue to support local town festivals and events
• Encourage social inclusion and interaction between different cultures. Community, Queensland and Australian Governments, TRC, Atherton Tableland Chamber of Commerce

2012 - 2021

(iv) Continue to upgrade community halls across the Tablelands region and encourage their use for community activities and events by:
• Reducing fees for use
• Addressing regulations currently inhibiting community use of halls such as health and safety regulations around use of community kitchens
• Addressing public liability issues for volunteers in community groups and at community events. TRC, Community Groups, Atherton Tableland Chamber of Commerce

(v) Investigate opportunities for more youth spaces and events. Young People, Community Services, TRC, Dept of Communities, Atherton Tableland Chamber of Commerce

2013-2016

Arts Businesses

There were 75 registered businesses in Arts and Recreation Services in the Tablelands region in the 2008-09 year. This was 1.6% of all businesses in the Tablelands region.

(Source: ABS cat no. 8165.0, 2010)

✪ ="Quick Wins"

4.5.1 (c) Cultural life is nurtured within the community

(i) Continue to support community and individual arts and cultural projects through the Regional Arts Development Fund. ✪ Community, TRC, Arts Queensland, Atherton Tableland Chamber of Commerce

(ii) Continue to support and develop community markets as hubs for cultural exchange and cultural life. Community, Community Markets, Atherton Tableland Chamber of Commerce

(iii) Develop a local food culture:
• Create a cafe/restaurant culture with quality restaurants serving and promoting local food direct from farms
• Continue to support "Taste of the Tablelands"
• Set up farmers/growers markets
• Set up community gardens
• Support local food networks and utilise international food culture networks
• Value the role that food growing, exchange, cooking, sharing and eating together plays in cultural life. Community, Café and Restaurant Industry, Atherton Tableland Chamber of Commerce

(iv) Value the role that the natural environment plays in cultural life. Community, Dept of Environment and Resource Management, Atherton Tableland Chamber of Commerce

(v) Explore the wider use of community arts and cultural programs for health and wellbeing, for example art therapy. Community and Health Service Providers

(vi) Develop more outdoor undercover/shaded areas for people to meet casually or to gather for cultural events. Developers, Atherton Tableland Chamber of Commerce, TRC

(vii) Support Men's Sheds and develop similar community spaces for other groups. Men's Groups, Community Groups

(viii) Develop strategies to take art into the community and outdoor environment. Regional Arts Development Fund, TRC, Arts and Community Groups

(ix) Encourage a culture of innovation, new ideas and creativity:
• Establish innovation hubs
• Make use of empty shops and buildings for temporary creative endeavours
• Develop skills in applying for grants and funding for innovative and creative projects. Community, Shop Owners, TRC, Community Groups, Atherton Tableland Chamber of Commerce

(Timeline markers: 2012 - 2021, 2013-2016, 2013-2021, 2016 - 2021)

Exhibitions held at TRC Art Galleries

There were 28 exhibitions held at TRC Galleries in the 2010-11 year:

• Tablelands Regional Art Gallery (11)

• Foyer Gallery (12)

• The Old Post Office (5) *(TRC Annual Report, 2011)*

4.5.1 (d) Arts and cultural development is supported with access to high quality communications technology

(i) Investigate opportunities for the provision and use of improved communications technology to support arts and cultural development including:
• Explore avenues to enable wider access to high speed Internet services
• Lobby for the National Broadband Network to be rolled out in the Tablelands region
• Enable better access to the internet and social media to overcome the digital divide with training and affordable access through libraries
• Establish a co-ordinated community information portal for cultural events, community groups and activities ✪
• Use technology to capture and store cultural knowledge, history and stories
• Use technology to showcase artists work - create a virtual art gallery for Tablelands artists
• Use technology to link arts and cultural community groups across the Tablelands including the development of libraries as high tech life-long learning centres. TRC, Community, Artists, Atherton Tableland Chamber of Commerce, Far North Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils

(Timeline marker: 2012 - 2021)

2011 Tablelands Folk Festival, Photo courtesy: Sandy Carroll

Regional Arts Development Funding
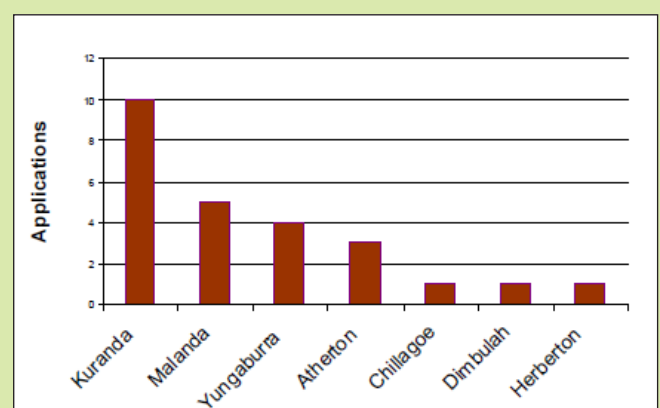
Overall, a total of $74,029 was distributed to the Tablelands community to support a range of Arts and Cultural Activities by the Queensland government and TRC through the RADF program in 2010-11. *(TRC Annual Report, 2011)*

4.6 Visionary Infrastructure

4.6.1 Improved Transport Infrastructure

Our road, rail and air networks are well maintained and upgraded to ensure adequate capacity for future population and economic growth and enhanced community safety and convenience.

4.6.1 (a) Well maintained and improved road, rail, air and sea networks

(i) Collaborate to plan for, provide and maintain road, rail, air and sea transport infrastructure that enables the safe, efficient, cost effective and convenient all weather movement of people, goods and services throughout the Tablelands region and beyond to other destinations including:
- Upgrade the Hahn Highway and Nettle Creek Bridge, the Kuranda Range Road and Palmerston Highway
- Upgrade Cairns or Mourilyan Ports for direct export to Asia of locally produced agricultural products
- Explore improved linkages between road, air, rail and sea transport routes to achieve efficient all weather access for freight
- Provide suitable B-double access by construction of town by-passes
- Provide B-double set-down pads at appropriate locations.

Freight Transport Operators, Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Farmer Groups, TRC, Tablelands Futures Corp, Advance Cairns, Queensland and Australian Governments

2012 - 2021

(ii) Ensure an equitable system of road upgrades and maintenance across the region for State controlled roads and Council controlled roads and strive for all weather access and flood-proofing of critical roads relied on for freight and emergency access.
TRC, Dept of Transport and Main Roads, Australian Government

(iii) Continue to develop and upgrade the Cairns International and Mareeba regional airports.
Community, TRC, Cairns Airport, Queensland Government

(iv) Prepare a region-wide Pedestrian and Cycle Strategy.
Community, TRC, Dept of Transport and Main Roads, Cycling and Walking Groups, Atherton Tableland Chamber of Commerce

2013 - 2021

(v) Investigate feasibility of extending the rail network and adopting innovative rail solutions.
Queensland Rail, Dept of Infrastructure and Planning

2016 - 2021

4.6.1 (b) Improved community and public transport network

(i) Improve access to public and community transport for those travelling to health clinics and hospitals including:
- Increasing funding for the Patient Transfer Scheme
- Funding community transport schemes in rural and remote areas
- Encouraging and supporting volunteer drivers in community transport schemes.

Queensland Health, Dept of Transport and Main Roads, Community Transport Providers

2012 - 2013

(ii) Continue to support the Tablelands Community Transport Service Providers Network to develop a co-ordinated approach to community transport across the Tablelands. ✪
Community, Transport Providers, TRC

2012 - 2016

(iii) Improve access to community transport for:
- Young people
- Seniors
- People with disabilities
- People living in rural and remote communities
- Disadvantaged groups within towns
- Community groups.

Community Groups and Community Services, Transport Providers, Tablelands Community Transport Service Providers Network, Dept of Transport and Main Roads

2012 - 2021

Ensure an equitable system of road upgrades and maintenance across the region
Photo courtesy: James Leech

✪ = "Quick Wins"

4.6 Visionary Infrastructure

4.6.2 Improved Communications Infrastructure

The Tablelands is serviced by high quality telecommunications infrastructure optimising business, social and educational opportunities.

4.6.2 (a) Tablelands businesses are able to reach all potential markets with high quality, high speed telecommunications services

(i) Develop strategies to improve access to reliable and consistent high speed internet and mobile phone services:
• Campaign for the early roll-out of NBN on Tablelands ✪
• Ensure the Tablelands has the internet and telecommunications infrastructure available to support business needs
• Ensure the Tablelands has the internet and telecommunications infrastructure available to support and attract knowledge workers, global economy workers and tele-working from home
• Ensure workers and businesses are up-skilled in new internet and telecommunications technologies
• Explore opportunities in new technologies such as cloud computing.
Tablelands Futures Corp,
Advance Cairns, TRC,
FNQ Regional Organisation of Councils,
Sustainable Malanda,
ICT businesses, Chambers of Commerce

2012 - 2021

4.6.2 (b) Our communities have access to high quality and reliable high speed internet, phone and TV services

(i) Investigate opportunities for improved access to reliable and consistent high speed internet, phone and TV services including:
• Request information from internet and telecommunications companies about their respective infrastructure and service priorities for towns and districts across the Tablelands region and campaign for improved infrastructure and services
• Campaign for residents to register complaints about internet and telecommunications services with respective telecommunications companies and those that are not resolved, to lodge with the Telecommunications Industry Ombudsman ✪
• Investigate creative ways to connect the communities of the Tablelands through Information and Communication Technologies (ICT).
Community,
Information and Communication Technology businesses,
Telecommunications Industry Ombudsman

2012 - 2016

(ii) Increase public access to internet services especially for disadvantaged social groups including:
• Offer training to overcome the digital divide to ensure all residents are able to access the Internet, social media and other digital technologies
• Promote the use of libraries to access affordable internet resources.
Community Services,
Training Organisations, TRC

2012 - 2021

4.6.2 (c) Information and learning hubs are networked across the Tablelands - new age libraries

(i) Enhance and promote the development of a learning community across the Tablelands through the:
• Provision of high tech infrastructure
• The development of partnerships and programs that promote this.
Community, U3A,
TRC, Tertiary Education Institutions,
Registered Training Organisations

(ii) Implement the "Libraries as Learning Communities" Strategy to develop a network of conference rooms with connection to high speed and reliable internet, tele and video conferencing, computers, projectors and screens with the upgraded Mareeba Library as the hub.
TRC

(iii) Facilitate the community to be able to capitalise on opportunities to be delivered through the National Broadband Network and other improved technologies.
"Big Idea" Project group/
community partners to be identified

2012 - 2021

4.6 Visionary Infrastructure

4.6.3 Sustainable Water, Waste and Energy Infrastructure

Water, waste and energy infrastructure meets the needs of our growing population and is managed sustainably

4.6.3 (a) Well maintained and improved water infrastructure

(i) Develop an integrated water management plan for the Tablelands Region to:
• Plan for population growth and increase in water demand
• Address water use efficiency and demand
• Improve water supply, storage, quality and distribution
• Improve water pressure in low water pressure areas
• Improve stormwater drainage
• Protect catchments and water resources
• Address and minimise public health risks related to public water storage and supply
• Plan for climate change impacts on water infrastructure.
TRC, SunWater, Dept of Environment and Resource Management, Queensland Health

2012 - 2021

(ii) Maintain and upgrade irrigation infrastructure in the Mareeba-Dimbulah Irrigation Area.   SunWater

(iii) Address safety issues related to the region's water storage facilities, including dams.
Community, SunWater, Dept of Environment and Resource Management, Queensland Police Service, Dept of Transport and Main Roads

'Barron River', Photo courtesy: Cassie McLucas

4.6.3 (b) Sustainable waste management

(i) Develop strategies to provide cost-effective and sustainable waste management infrastructure to accommodate future population growth. ✪   TRC, Dept of Environment and Resource Management

(ii) Investigate and promote appropriate and cost effective recycling strategies to:
• Encourage the recycling of green waste into compost
• Enable effective recycling of glass, paper and cardboard
• Investigate options for selling recycled waste to help recoup cost of regional recycling
• Prepare a cost-benefit analysis of recycling manufactured goods
• Conduct community education on how to recycle manufactured goods and the findings of the recycling cost-benefit analysis
• Investigate options for improving waste management that incorporate reclaiming from waste transfer station.
TRC, Dept of Environment and Resource Management

2012 - 2021

Queensland Government Renewable Energy Plan 2020
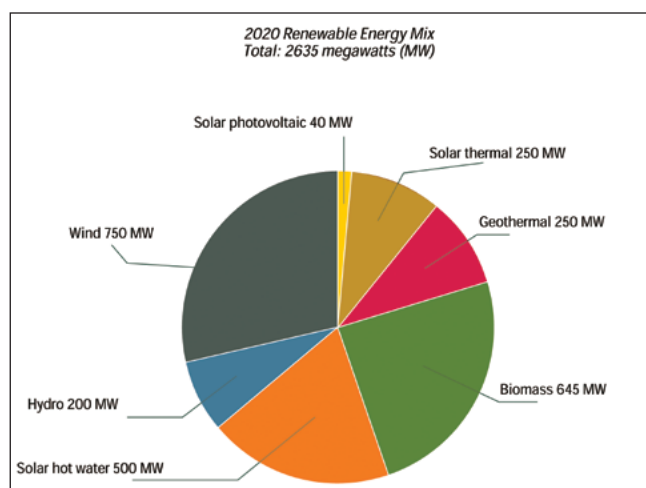
The pie graph above represents a possible renewable energy profile for Queensland by 2020.

The scenarios for each technology type and the approximate share of each renewable energy source for the state have been estimated using advice from industry, renewable energy proponents and national and international modelling.

Source: Queensland Renewable Energy Plan, Queensland Government 2009

✪ ="Quick Wins"

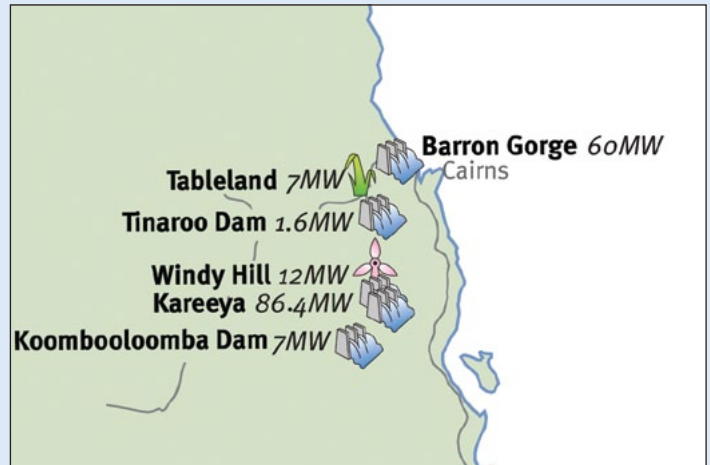## 4.6.3 (c) Sustainable energy generation and supply

(i) Establish a Tablelands task force to explore and promote renewable clean energy options for the Tablelands that:

• Are in keeping with our rural lifestyle and regional values
• Cover a range of renewable energy sources:
  – Solar
  – Wind
  – Hydro
  – Geothermal
  – Bio-mass
• Allow for population growth and increased energy demand
• Ensure renewable energy developments on the Tablelands have minimal environmental, social, cultural and health impacts.

FNQ Transitions,
Ergon Energy,
Renewable Energy Companies,
Advance Cairns,
Tablelands Futures Corp,
TRC, Dept of Employment, Economic Development
and Innovation

2012 - 2016

Tablelands contribution to Queensland's Renewable Energy Generation

Barron Gorge 60MW
Cairns
Tableland 7MW
Tinaroo Dam 1.6MW
Windy Hill 12MW
Kareeya 86.4MW
Koombooloomba Dam 7MW

Projects and resources

Hydro
Wind
Biomass - Bagasse
Export port
Cairns · Population centre
Railway
MW Mega Watts

Source: Queensland Renewable Energy Plan, Queensland Government 2009

'Tinaroo Dam Wall', Photo courtesy: Cassie McLucas

Wind Turbines at Windy Hill - Queensland's first wind farm

4.6 Visionary Infrastructure

4.6.4 Improved Community Infrastructure

High quality community infrastructure supports our growing and ageing population and enables safe, active, healthy, socially and culturally vibrant lifestyles.

4.6.4 (a) Health infrastructure meets the demands of a growing and ageing population

(i) Plan for population growth and ageing and increasing demand for primary health services. ✪ Community, Atherton Tableland Chamber of Commerce, Queensland Health

(ii) Advocate for improved primary health facilities, including:
• Upgraded and better equipped hospitals
• More community and primary health facilities. ✪
Community, TRC,
FNQ Division of Rural General Practice,
Tablelands Health Action Group,
Atherton Tableland Chamber of Commerce

(iii) Lobby against the centralisation of health facilities in Cairns and ensure that the Tablelands has an equitable share of health services and facilities to meet population growth and ageing. ✪ Community, TRC,
Tablelands Health Action Group,
Atherton Tableland Chamber of Commerce

(iv) Develop and implement innovative health service models suitable to rural and remote communities with high Indigenous and ageing populations.(Refer Section 4.1.1)
Community, TRC,
Tablelands Health Action Group,
Queensland Health,
Dept of Health and Ageing

(v) Develop strategies to enable the provision of adequate residential aged care facilities to meet the needs of a growing aged population on the Tablelands. ✪
Aged Care Providers,
Developers, TRC, Community,
Queensland Government, Australian Government,
Atherton Tableland Chamber of Commerce

2012 - 2021

4.6.4 (b) Outdoor infrastructure promotes community cohesion, social interaction and healthy physical activity

(i) Prepare a regional strategy for the development of a network of local and regional off-road bicycle, walking and horse-riding trails. ✪ Community,
TRC,Atherton Tableland Chamber of Commerce

2012 - 2013

(ii) Continue to develop infrastructure that promotes safe social interaction, physical activity and connects people and places. (Refer Section 4.4.1). TRC, Community,
Queensland Government,
Australian Government, Corporate Sector ,
Atherton Tableland Chamber of Commerce

2012 - 2021

(iii) Prepare a region-wide Pedestrian and Cycle Strategy.
Community, TRC,
Dept of Transport and Main Roads, Cycle and Walking Groups

2016 - 2021

'Irvinebank circuit ride',
Photo courtesy: Sarah Scragg

✪ ="Quick Wins"

4.6.4 (c) Housing Infrastructure: safe, affordable and appropriate housing is available to all in the community

(i) Investigate the feasibility of establishing a Regional Housing Company. ✪   Mareeba Community Housing Association, Tablelands Community Housing Association, Dept of Communities, TRC

2012-2013

(ii) Investigate opportunities to enable better access to affordable and appropriate housing on the Tablelands including:
• Reducing homelessness of young people
• Emergency and crisis accommodation
• Appropriate supported accommodation for people with a disability
• Affordable social housing especially for Indigenous people
• Suitable age appropriate housing for seniors including social housing and retirement village housing. (Refer Section 4.2.3).
Community Housing Providers, Community Services, Tablelands Retirement and Aged Care Facilities Action Group, TRC, Developers, Dept of Communities, Disability Support Services

2012 - 2021

(iii) Encourage the adoption of ageing in place principles in housing design.   Design Industry, TRC, Tablelands Retirement and Aged Care Facilities Action Group

4.6.4 (d) Cultural Infrastructure

(i) Investigate opportunities to improve facilities for cultural/arts entertainment and events, including the feasibility of establishing a regional performance centre and cinema. ✪   TRC, Regional Cultural Centre Advisory Committee, Atherton Tableland Chamber of Commerce

2012 - 2013

(ii) Implement the "Libraries as Learning Communities" Strategy to develop a network of conference rooms with connection to high speed and reliable internet, video conferencing, personal computers, projectors and screens.   TRC

(iii) Upgrade community halls across the Tablelands region and encourage their use. ✪   TRC

(iv) Retain the cultural identity and heritage of each town and rural locality.   Community, Historical Societies, TRC, Queensland Government, Atherton Tableland Chamber of Commerce

2012 - 2021

(v) Develop more outdoor undercover/shaded areas for people to meet casually or to gather for cultural events.   TRC, Queensland Government, Australian Government, Atherton Tableland Chamber of Commerce

2013-2021

(vi) Encourage a culture of innovation, new ideas and creativity:
• Establish cultural precincts/innovation hubs as creative workspaces and to showcase artistic work
• Make use of empty shops and buildings for temporary creative endeavours.   Community, Shop Owners, TRC, Community Groups, Atherton Tableland Chamber of Commerce

(vii) Explore the feasibility of establishing an Indigenous Cultural Centre.
Community, Traditional Owner Groups, Indigenous Community Organisations, Dept of Communities, TRC, Atherton Tableland Chamber of Commerce

2016 - 2021

4.6.4 (e) Town infrastructure

(i) Develop strategies to:
• Upgrade, beautify and maintain streetscapes and the scenic amenity of towns e.g. street foliage, seating, parking, footpaths, shading, public spaces for community events
• Improve Street lighting in high use areas and install in open spaces to promote safety and prevent anti social behaviour
• Upgrade and maintain parks, gardens and recreation areas
• Improve directional and themed signage such as arts and cultural trails
• Incorporate Indigenous heritage into street names and other signage
• Provide appropriate cyclone shelters and evacuation centres
• Improve parking for RVs
• Develop an Open Space Strategy
• Include pathways that are wide enough to cater for wheelchairs and cyclists adjacent to each other
• Improve connectivity of walking paths within towns and between towns. (Refer Section 4.4.1 and 4.4.4).   Chambers of Commerce, TRC, Community, Queensland Government, Australian Government

2012 - 2021

5. Sector Aspirations

Community of interest planning

Initially we envisaged embarking on community of interest planning with a wide range of sectors to identify the significant higher level regional issues.

Sectors included demographic groups such as seniors, multicultural seniors; people with a disability and their carers, families on remote properties, and young people. We also identified sectors by function such as business and tourism, primary industries, health, community services, arts and culture, sport and recreation, and the environment sector.

Changing the regional planning approach

However, after conducting 3 sector planning workshops (Remote Families; Community Services; and People with a Disability and Carers), we were concerned that the higher level regional issues and innovative future strategies were not being identified and addressed as this sectoral approach was highlighting the issues and aspirations of specific sectors, rather than the region as a whole.

Whilst these were important to capture in the community plan, this approach was not delivering the higher level regional aspirations required to inform long term planning by Council and other community partners and would not allow us to meet state government expectations.

Therefore, after considerable reflection by the Community Plan Reference Group, it was decided to change direction to a more holistic and creative regional planning approach that would allow issues affecting the region as a whole to be addressed and that sectoral issues could be identified and reflected in these. We then adopted a community education and deliberative approach to facilitate the development of innovative and creative responses to critical regional issues and these regional aspirations, goals and strategies are presented in the preceding Section 4.

Three sector plans

The three sector plans developed by the initial regional planning approach are presented in this section:

• People with a Disability and Carers

• Community Services

• Remote Families

Further details about how each sector plan was developed and the story about why we changed course during the planning process are in section 8.

✪ This symbol is used throughout this section to Highlight Quick Wins - those strategies that can be readily implemented within 12 months.

Key to using the Sector Plans

5.3.2 Funding and resources

(i) Investigate models of user pays for sustainable service delivery. — *Community Services*

(ii) Greater support and training required for volunteer community groups and committees that are now relied on to provide more services. — *FNQ Volunteers, Funding programs, Community Groups and Management Committees*

2012 - 2013

(iii) Community service organisations to combine efforts to secure funding and resources:
• Services to develop a coordinated business case around common issues of need to lobby government for resources
• Investigate opportunities for establishing a coordinated body to pursue public/private partnerships to resource services
• Explore more creative ways to source funding from government, corporations, philanthropic organisations
• Encourage qualified financial professionals and other experts to volunteer to give advice at community service clusters. — *Community Services*

2012 - 2016

Sector Priority
These are the most important issues identified and prioritised by representatives from each sector

Strategies
People at the sector planning workshop developed these actions to achieve the sector priority

Community Partners
These are community members, groups, organisations, businesses and departments which may be able to contribute to implementing the strategy and achieving the community priority

Timeframes
These range from short, to medium to long term and provide a guide for implementing the strategy

✪ ="Quick Wins"

Our Community Vision

In 2021, imagine the people of rural Queensland are acknowledged by authorities as an economically and culturally important part of life in Australia.

Remote Families Planning Workshop, School of Distance Education Camp, Mt Garnet August 2010

Community Priorities ~ This plan reflects the aspirations of Sector representatives. Council and other community partners will use these aspirations to guide future planning and consider which actions they can implement.

5.1.1 Access to education

(i) Recognition of Distance Education as a program by tertiary education institutions is required so that placement of student teachers can be arranged for short, medium and long term placements at rural families properties with adequate support and assessment of student teachers available. TAFE, Universities, Dept of Education and Training

(ii) Affordable Broadband, tele-conferencing and video-conferencing to be made available for students.
Australian Government, Dept of Education and Training

2012 - 2013

5.1.2 Road infrastructure

(i) Maintain roads at appropriate times of the year e.g. after the wet season, not immediately before the wet season. ✪
Dept of Transport and Main Roads, TRC

(ii) Review road maintenance program to match road works to bush requirements e.g. slashing on bush roads is unnecessary. ✪ Dept of Transport and Main Roads, TRC

(iii) Grade roads to rural properties to allow services to access properties in all weather conditions e.g. mail, Telstra, essential services and Ergon. TRC

2012 - 2013

5.1.3 Weed and pest control

(i) Raise community awareness of the importance of pest control and of correct procedures. TRC, Community

(ii) More effective weed control required:
• Use appropriate strength and quantity of chemicals
• Appropriate frequency of spraying to be carried out. TRC

(iii) Adopt a coordinated approach including baiting to eradicate or reduce feral animals, especially feral pigs.
TRC, Property Owners, Dept of Environment and Resource Management

(iv) All governments to control weed problems on government property to avoid spreading to neighbouring properties. TRC, Dept of Environment and Resource Management

2012 - 2013

5.1.4 Special needs teachers

(i) Investigate options for increasing access to special needs teachers:
• More funding for special needs teachers to be placed with families in the bush for individual personalised teaching of the child with disabilities
• More incentives for teachers to work in remote areas
• Review funding program guidelines for children with special needs to increase allowances and funding levels
• Mobile special needs teacher service
• Regional clinics. Dept of Education and Training, Queensland Health, Australian Government

(ii) More funding to be made available for home modifications for children with a disability.
Queensland Health

2012 - 2013

5.1.5 National parks and state forests

(i) Conduct more public forums for rural property owners to discuss closures, public access and overall management of National Parks and State Forests.
Dept of Environment and Resource Management

(ii) Eradicate the pests, weeds, feral dogs, pigs and brumbies within National Parks and State Forests.
Dept of Environment and Resource Management

(iii) Create traineeships for young rural youth who have a lot of skills from working on properties in the area of land management, environmental protection and pest control.
Dept of Education and Training
Dept of Environment and Resource Management

(iv) Ensure Traditional Owner groups of country in remote areas are involved alongside land managers.
Traditional Owner Groups, Dept of Environment and Resource Management

2012 - 2013

Our Community Vision

In 2021, the Tablelands is a place where everyone is known by their gifts and talents and contributions, holding roles of value and participating as much as they wish in the life and rhythm of the community.

Tablelands communities are inclusive of all and everyone is well cared for in and by the community. When needed, services for people with a disability and their carers are a springboard into the community.

It is easy to find out what services are available using a central information point and directory.

Services for people with a disability and their carers are plentiful, well-integrated and serve as bridge builders between people and communities. The Tablelands is a world's best practice area in the field of disability services with leading edge, innovative service models and highly skilled staff.

The Tablelands is a place with plenty of well-maintained parks and green spaces. Community buildings and public spaces are easily accessible to all, having been co-created by the community and Council working together in their design.

The towns of the Tablelands are well-connected by accessible public transport enabling all to participate in community life.

There are a range of suitable accommodation options for all people, supported with a wide range of services.

There are well-resourced and functioning hospitals in Mareeba and Atherton with a wide range of allied health services that are accessible and affordable.

Community Priorities ~ This plan reflects the aspirations of Sector representatives. Council and other community partners will use these aspirations to guide future planning and consider which actions they can implement.

5.2.1 Accommodation and support for independent living

(i) Request Council to convene advance planning focus groups to develop a knowledge bank of land /assets /plans for accommodation needs for the future.   Community, TRC

2012 - 2013

(ii) More information to be made available to the community on housing options. ✪   TRC, Dept of Communities, Community Housing Organisations, Community Service Organisations

(iii) Encourage negotiation between supported accommodation facilities and community service providers to allow greater flexibility for disability service workers to access their clients. ✪   Dept of Communities, Accommodation Providers, Community Service Organisations

2012 - 2016

(iv) Housing to be designed to accommodate requirements of people with disabilities and their carers (Universal Design+), with input from people who will use the housing.   Dept of Communities, TRC, Community, Design Professionals

(v) Develop appropriate supported housing models and investigate funding opportunities for innovative supported accommodation models.   Community Service Organisations, Dept of Communities, Community

(vi) Encourage location of accommodation in the community, not in enclaves.   TRC, Dept of Communities, Community Housing Organisations

(vii) Investigate opportunities for collaboration with private sector to assist accommodation outcomes.   TRC, Dept of Communities, Community Housing Organisations, Community Service Organisations

2012 - 2021

(viii) Encourage any future social housing units to be built as two bedroom units to cater for a live-in carer.   Dept of Communities, TRC, Community Service Organisations

2013 - 2021

5.2.2 Access to services and programs

(i) Lobby for more bulk billed therapy (Allied Health and especially Occupational Therapy) or any specialist service that people have to travel to Cairns for. ✪   Queensland Health, Community Service Organisations, Tablelands Parent Cover Lobby Group, Disability Advocacy Groups

2012 - 2016

(ii) More education for service providers regarding inclusive practices and strategies.   Dept of Communities, Community, Service Providers

(iii) Lobby State and Australian Governments to increase funding for key specialist services including health and allied health. ✪   Dept of Communities, Community Service Organisations, Tablelands Parent Cover Lobby Group

(iv) Identify gaps in services and programs and develop a strategy to establish new and expand existing services and programs to fill gaps.   People with Disabilities, Carers, Service organisations, Dept of Communities

(v) Continue to campaign for improved funding models to meet the life-long care needs and issues of people with a disability and their carers including the proposal for a national insurance scheme for people with a disability. ✪   Community, Disability Advocates, Queensland and Australian Governments, Tablelands Parent Cover Lobby Group

2012 - 2021

(vi) Government agencies and community service organisations to reduce segregation in services between those with and without disabilities.   All Government Agencies and Community Service Organisations

✪ ="Quick Wins"

5.2.3 Community inclusion

(i) Investigate opportunities for Council to employ an access and equity officer for a disability portfolio. TRC, Dept of Communities

2013 - 2016

(ii) Increase physical accessibility of buildings and transport to people with disabilities - Refer Aspirations 5.2.5, 5.2.6 and 5.2.7. ✪

(iii) Encourage change in attitude in the wider community to be more inclusive of people with disabilities, including:

• Raise community awareness of what it is like to be a person with a disability, and how to treat people with a disability
Community, State and Australian Government, Tablelands Workforce Industry Group Inc

• Lobby big business to sponsor advertisements showing people with disabilities doing fun things that other young people do e.g. bungy jumping. Community Action, Government Agencies

• Encourage schools, clubs and social groups to make everyone feel welcome so that people with disabilities can join in with activities or do whatever activities they want.
All Government Agencies, Schools, Clubs

• Encourage everyone in the community to take responsibility for being inclusive towards people with disabilities.
Community, All Government Agencies

• More education for all stakeholders about inclusive practices and strategies, with young families and carers to be prioritised. State and Australian Government

• Encourage employers to engage more people with disabilities: for example, in job advertisements saying "people with disabilities are encouraged to apply". TRC, Chambers of Commerce, Local Businesses

• Explore possibility of innovative programs to link young people outside the school system with people in schools.
Community Service Organisations, Education Queensland, Dept of Communities

2012 - 2021

5.2.4 Support for carers

(i) Continue to support existing carer networks and establish new networks. Community Service Organisations, Dept of Communities, Commonwealth

2012-2016

(ii) Explore alternative and innovative models of "respite" and "support" and how it is offered, including informal support.
Community Service Organisations, Dept of Communities, TRC

(iii) Assist carers in developing strategies for the future.
Community Service Organisations, Dept of Communities, Commonwealth

2013 - 2021

5.2.5 Access to transport

(i) Continue support for the Tablelands Community Transport Service Providers Network. ✪ TRC, Community Service Organisations, Transport Service Providers, Atherton Tableland Chamber of Commerce

2012 - 2013

(ii) Advocate to transport agencies the needs of the disability sector for: accessible, timely, affordable, flexible/appropriate, reliable, safe transport. ✪ Community Groups, Community Service Organisations, Dept Of Communities, Transport Providers, Community Transport Service Providers Network, TRC, Atherton Tableland Chamber of Commerce

2012 - 2021

5.2.6 Access to information

(i) Investigate opportunities for services and organisations to be more proactive in disseminating information especially about what is already out there:
• Encourage a referral organisation to be a single point of information
• A single web site for community information
• Increase capacity of visitor information centres to disseminate community information
• An information package for new residents.
Community Service Organisations

2012 - 2016

(ii) Investigate opportunities for more sharing of knowledge, expertise, experiences, and stories to inspire, encourage and support others. Community Service Organisations, Community Groups

2012 - 2021

5.2.7 Access to public spaces and facilities

(i) Establish a Council All Abilities Access Reference Group that will:
• Hold regular (e.g. quarterly) reference group meetings with community participation (people with a disability and service providers)
• Discuss access issues, enabling co-creation of public spaces and access to buildings (within technical design parameters)
• Participate in an audit of Council assets for accessibility by all. Community priorities for upgrading facilities will be used to inform Council decision making
• Advise relevant parties on accessibility issues relating to other non-Council buildings and facilities on the Tablelands. ✪ TRC, Community Members, Queensland Government

2012 - 2016

(ii) Investigate the need for an increase in the number of parking spaces for people with a disability.
Dept of Transport and Main Roads, TRC

(iii) Planning Scheme to ensure new developments and buildings are accessible by persons with a disability. ✪
TRC, Queensland Government

(iv) Encourage more co-operation between stakeholders to enforce parking rules e.g. people parking in disabled parking places without permits at schools and other key locations in towns. Education Queensland, Shopping Centre Managers, TRC, Queensland Police

2012 - 2021

5.3 Community Services Sector

Our Community Vision

In 2021, imagine the Tablelands is a healthy, active community where all people have an opportunity to participate in community life. All our people are accommodated in appropriate housing, with support services where required. There are enough beds for all who require residential care.

There is less need for community and health services as more people are self-sufficient and healthy, but when needed, services are co-ordinated to provide an integrated service.

There are two central community service hubs, one in Atherton and one in Mareeba, where services are co-located.

Outreach services are delivered from these hubs to the smaller Tablelands communities, enabling these communities to retain their population and strong community spirit.

The small communities are linked to the larger towns with well co-ordinated public and community transport systems.

Community Priorities ~ This plan reflects the aspirations of Sector representatives. Council and other community partners will use these aspirations to guide future planning and consider which actions they can implement.

5.3.1 Community health and wellbeing

(i) Support the Tablelands Safer Communities initiative and give higher priority to Safer Communities issues. ⊕
Government Agencies, Community Service Organisations, TRC, Community

2012 – 2013

(ii) Investigate avenues for the provision of more community based mental health and counselling programs:
• Investigate funding opportunities for more specialist counselling and support services for: depression, alcohol and drug abuse, domestic violence and gambling.
• Support early intervention programs using appropriate community engagement activities such as sport and art
• Encourage/lobby for bulk billing for psychology services
• Establish a crisis on-call ambulatory mental health service
• Establish a community-managed residential facility with a range of mental health services that promote recovery
• Expand vocational options for mental health consumers
• Enhance mental health service capacity to deliver a range of promotion, prevention, and early intervention initiatives including mental health literacy programs
• Establish an early psychosis service
• Establish a support group for carers of people with a mental illness.   *Queensland Health, Australian Government, Community and Health Service Organisations*

2012 – 2016

(iii) Establish early intervention programs including:
• home-based and outreach maternal and baby care
• Indigenous self confidence, family and community leadership.   *Queensland Health, Dept of Communities, Indigenous Health Services*

(iv) Develop a suicide prevention strategy for the Tablelands:
• Explore opportunities for increased training, education and information resources on suicide prevention, including volunteer training.   *Community Service Organisations, Department of Communities, Queensland Health, Australian Government, Dr Edward Koch Foundation*

(v) Develop an integrated preventative health strategy for the Tablelands:
• Improve access to information about health and wellbeing programs and initiatives
• Link the TRC Sport and Recreation Strategy with preventative health initiatives
• Apply more intervention and prevention programs for keeping people active and connected - emotionally and physically
• Ensure equitable access to health services, healthy eating and lifestyle programs, recreational activity clubs
• Initiate stronger partnerships among recreational groups and clubs

2012 – 2021

• Promote recreational clubs and community groups through events and forums
• Celebrate current achievements in health and wellbeing on the Tablelands
• Promote the values of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area and its role in supporting mental and physical health
• Encourage people to take more responsibility for their own health and wellbeing. ⊕ *TRC, Queensland Health, Department of Communities, Community Groups, "Big Idea" Project Group, Community Service Providers, Fitness Trainers*

2012 - 2021

5.3.2 Funding and resources

(i) Investigate models of user pays for sustainable service delivery.   *Community Services*

(ii) Greater support and training required for volunteer community groups and committees that are now relied on to provide more services.   *FNQ Volunteers, Funding programs, Community Groups and Management Committees*

2012 - 2013

(iii) Community service organisations to combine efforts to secure funding and resources:
• Services to develop a coordinated business case around common issues of need to lobby government for resources
• Investigate opportunities for establishing a coordinated body to pursue public/private partnerships to resource services
• Explore more creative ways to source funding from government, corporations, philanthropic organisations
• Encourage qualified financial professionals and other experts to volunteer to give advice at community service clusters.   *Community Services*

2012 - 2016

5.3.3 Innovative service delivery

(i) Investigate innovative service delivery models for the sector:
• Research the effectiveness of "one-stop shops" or co-location models for community service delivery where many community services are clustered in a hub, making it easier for the community to access services and also easier for services to collaborate, case manage and share resources
• Explore the feasibility of establishing "one stop shop" community service hubs in Atherton and Mareeba, where many services share central facilities, e.g. buildings, reception staff, phones etc

2012 - 2016

⊕ ="Quick Wins"

• Investigate opportunities for different community services to co-ordinate their outreach services, visiting rural communities on the same day, sharing transport and making it easier for clients to access several services at once.
• Other models:
  - Find new ways to partner and keep local arrangements
  - Develop more personalised referral networks
  - Partnership with schools to increase referrals to support services for students and families e.g. mental health, drug and alcohol, parent support
  - Keep separate identity and separate locations, but have a more integrated service delivery.
Community Services, Government Agencies

(ii) Explore opportunities to use communications technology e.g. video conferencing, tele-health, tele-working in the delivery of services and for networking and collaboration between services:
• Lobby for early roll-out of the National Broadband Network on the Tablelands
• Encourage the use of low cost video conferencing (e.g. Skype / Facetime) and teleconferencing and social media to increase communication, collaboration and networking between service providers
• Use low cost video conferencing for training and counselling
• Use social media to keep in touch with clients
• Encourage and resource the use of IT for monitoring, e.g. the elderly, those with chronic conditions,
• Create a directory of services that can be self-updated
• Create a hotline for community services to direct people to the right service. TRC, IT Companies, Community Service Organisations, Atherton Tableland Chamber of Commerce

(iii) Develop a governance model that reduces red tape for the community services sector. Dept of Communities, Community Service Organisations, Atherton Tableland Chamber of Commerce

2012 - 2016

5.3.4 Access to appropriate housing

(i) Create alternative housing models to allow more flexible living arrangements for people to share accommodation:
• Lobby to allow for innovative housing models to be accommodated in the FNQ2031 plan and the TRC planning scheme
• Investigate opportunities for shared housing arrangements e.g. community title.
Community Service Organisations, TRC, Dept of Local Government and Planning, Dept of Communities

(ii) Plan for the impact of more families needing accommodation in Mareeba to be near prisoners as Lotus Glen expands:
• Conduct a needs analysis on the potential impact of the expansion of Lotus Glen on housing availability and demand on the Tablelands, especially Mareeba. TRC, Community Housing Associations, Dept of Communities

2012 - 2016

(iii) Behaviour management in relation to housing:
• Establish early intervention programs for alcohol and drug abuse
• Explore the feasibility of alcohol management plans and income management plans, for people who cannot manage, on the Tablelands. Community Services, Queensland Health, Dept of Communities

2013 - 2016

(iv) More affordable housing is available:
• Pursue opportunities for more social housing to be built
• Encourage Council to stipulate that a certain proportion of units in new developments be allocated to affordable housing. TRC, Community Housing Associations, Queensland Government

(v) More supported accommodation is available:
Lobby Queensland government to resource:
• Accommodation for single men, with support services available if needed
• Transition accommodation with support, e.g. employment and training services, for people leaving Lotus Glen
• Crisis accommodation, for women and for men, youth and families
• Develop a supported accommodation model for young people
• Establish living skills programs for people in social housing. Community Services, Queensland Government

(vi) Secure funding for homelessness programs and support services:
• Ensure continued and adequate resources to address homelessness in Mareeba
• Investigate funding opportunities to resource programs in other parts of the Tablelands to address homelessness, especially for youth. ✪ Dept of Communities,TRC, Australian Government, Community Housing and Community Service Providers

2012 - 2021

5.3.5 Ageing population

(i) Explore ways to provide better information about aged care services. ✪ TRC, Community Service Organisations

(ii) Take steps to balance the ageing population by encouraging families to move into the region including the provision of more social housing for families. TRC, Dept of Communities, Community Housing Providers, Chambers of Commerce, Tablelands Futures Corp, Tablelands Workforce Industry Group Inc

2012 - 2013

(iii) Encourage a reduction in age discrimination. Community, All levels of Government

(iv) Develop an Ageing Well Strategy for the Tablelands, encompassing housing, aged care accommodation, aged care services, and health and wellbeing initiatives for seniors to maintain active, healthy, well-connected lives. TRC, Queensland Health, Community Services, Community Groups, Residents

(v) Investigate ways to streamline entry processes for aged care services and facilities. Queensland Health, Dept of Health and Ageing, Community Service Organisations, TRC

2012 - 2016

(vi) Ensure social housing for seniors is spread across the Tablelands and not only in Mareeba and Atherton. TRC, Dept of Communities

(vii) Investigate options for establishing an Indigenous Aged Care facility where traditional and modern care is available by trained Indigenous staff: Indigenous Community Services and Groups, TRC, Dept of Health and Ageing

6. Big Ideas

This section describes some key projects or Big Ideas that have been identified from all of the regional aspirations, goals, outcomes and strategies.

The Big Ideas have the potential to:
- Position the Tablelands for ongoing and future prosperity
- Achieve the regional vision
- Enable those highly valued unique regional characteristics to be retained

Some Big Ideas that can make a difference

Four of the Big Ideas focus on developing and positioning the Tablelands as a leading Tropical Rural and Remote Precinct in:
- **Health and Wellbeing**
- **Sustainability**
- **BioBased Industries**
- **Cultural Diversity and Heritage**

Two of the Big Ideas are "enabling strategies" - strategies that will enable the progression of the other Big Ideas and also many of the other goals and strategies in the Tablelands Community Plan.

These two Big Ideas focus on developing:
- **Workforce Diversity**
- **A Tablelands Regional Identity and Branding**

Identifying the Big Ideas

The community put forward a huge array of aspirations, ideas and strategies at the town/district and regional levels. Every effort has been made for these to be reflected in the town/district community planning and regional planning sections of this document.

All of these community contributions have been analysed to identify some Big Ideas and the following factors guided this analysis.

The Big Ideas are those that:
- Assist with achieving the regional vision
- Retain or enhance the highly valued regional characteristics
- Reflect those key ideas, themes or trends that have been raised repeatedly during the community planning process
- Are regionally significant
- Utilise our strengths and what we do well
- Highlight the region's "points of difference"
- Capitalise on our existing natural and other assets such as the region's location and expertise
- Capitalise on local, national and global opportunities for future prosperity
- Overcome constraints that are or could hold the region back

- Do not require extensive and expensive immediate investment in infrastructure to facilitate the strategy such as a major road upgrade
- Align with key regional, state or national planning processes such as the Tropical North Queensland Regional Economic Plan, Regional Development Australia Far North Queensland and Torres Straits Road Map and the Queensland Regionalisation Strategy.

Future prosperity and regional values

During the community planning process, there was a very strong sense that Tablelanders don't want to stagnate and be left behind, but in pursing new opportunities to progress, don't want to lose those unique community and regional characteristics that are highly valued now.

Considered, gradual development that builds on and retains our unique regional and community characteristics is the preferred pathway to ensuring future wellbeing. Whilst valuing our connections and partnerships that extend beyond the Tablelands region, there is a strong sense that the region continues to build self-sufficiency and sustainability.

Somehow we need to hold the tension inherent in striving to capitalise on opportunities for future prosperity on the Tablelands, yet be ever mindful of appreciating and retaining the region's unique regional characteristics that include:
- The relaxed rural lifestyle
- Great climate
- Clean, natural environment
- Strong sense of community and self reliance
- Unique cultural diversity and heritage
- Good quality agricultural land
- Lack of high rise development

We need to hold the tension inherent in striving to capitalise on opportunities for future prosperity on the Tablelands, yet be ever mindful of appreciating and retaining the region's unique regional characteristics. Photo courtesy: Michael Petersen

Regional vision

The regional vision developed from all of the community's contributions to the Tablelands Community Plan is presented at Section 2 and is summarised below.

What do we want the Tablelands to be like in 10 years time?

- An open, friendly, welcoming, safe and inclusive place with a strong community spirit
- Residents enjoy a healthy, active and relaxed lifestyle in a beautiful rural landscape
- Indigenous people are respected and included in all aspects of community life
- We have access to excellent health and community services
- We are connected with well maintained roads, public transport and communications services
- Our many small rural communities have retained their character and identity
- Our cultural heritage is valued, protected and celebrated
- Our good quality agricultural land has been protected from urban encroachment and is highly productive
- Our extensive areas of ecological significance are protected and valued
- Our highly diverse natural resources are managed using best practice sustainability principles
- Our community and environment is resilient in the face of changing climate and availability of resources
- We are more self-sufficient in food and energy
- We have a thriving economy in the heart of the Far North Queensland region
- We provide a diverse range of services to the local and wider region
- We are recognised for our expertise in tropical research and development
- Our workforce is highly skilled and supported by excellent skills training facilities
- We have good cultural, recreational and entertainment facilities and a lively arts culture
- We are proud of our multicultural community, celebrated through our many festivals
- The region is enabled and supported by good governance and leadership
- Government and community work collaboratively towards a sustainable, prosperous, inclusive future

The Big Ideas highlighted here are not only consistent with this regional vision, but if implemented, would go a long way to helping achieve it.

Other "Big Ideas"

Certainly the list of six 'big ideas" is not exhaustive and many others could well be identified, but the six described in the following section do score well in terms of helping to achieve the regional vision; retain or enhance the highly valued regional characteristics; and position the Tablelands for continued and future prosperity. The six big ideas have not been ranked in order of priority.

This section is also presented in the spirit of encouraging community partners to identify their own "Big Ideas" and to group strategies and goals into larger ideas or projects that suit their particular needs and aims.

Big Idea
6.1 Tropical Rural and Remote Health and Wellbeing

The Tablelands is a leading tropical rural and remote precinct in health and wellbeing.

In 2021... Capitalising on our high "liveability", the Tablelands is developed and promoted as a region of choice by those seeking tropical healthy active lifestyles and wellbeing for all ages, especially our ageing population. Our expertise in preventive health and in the design and delivery of tropical health and wellbeing services and facilities in rural and remote communities is expanded, shared and exported to other tropical regions.

Strategy

- Develop and promote the Tablelands as a region with high "liveability" and tropical expertise in the design and delivery of services, facilities and infrastructure for healthy active rural and remote communities.

  This prioritises active transport and walkability and covers the development of regional non-motorised trails, building safe networks of connected pedestrian and cycle ways, creating more shaded areas for outdoor activities and town infrastructure to support active lifestyles, building design to incorporate showers to promote active transport use by employees, employers adopting flexible work hours to promote active lifestyles by employees and provision of supportive infrastructure such as seating, water bubblers and wayfinding signage

- Continue to address the accommodation and support needs of social groups including Indigenous people, people with a disability and young people

- Continue to promote the development of suitable aged accommodation models and support services

- Continue to secure Queensland and Australian government funding for pilot and ongoing projects to further develop and showcase the region's expertise in tropical health and wellbeing, including a focus on Indigenous health and wellbeing

- Partner with James Cook University to develop best practice in the design and delivery of tropical health and wellbeing services and facilities and develop training packages for knowledge and skills transfer to other tropical regions including the local expertise in Indigenous health and wellbeing

Capitalising on the Opportunities and Assets

- The natural assets and rural lifestyle of the Tablelands lends itself to the promotion of healthy active lifestyles

- This idea builds on existing community, government, corporate and industry activity and expertise in the design and delivery of services and facilities for healthy active lifestyles in our dispersed rural and remote communities

- It capitalises on the global trend of preventing chronic disease by promoting healthy active lifestyles and communities that is being actively supported by the Australian and Queensland governments. Many ideas were generated from the Think Tank workshops where people considered global drivers such as the rising incidence of preventable chronic disease, population trends such as ageing populations and came up with many innovative strategies to create active, healthy communities in the Tablelands

- To gain traction, this big idea does not require a huge initial injection of capital for major infrastructure projects but it does require a strategic approach to planning for healthy active communities. Funding for projects to showcase tropical rural and remote health and wellbeing will be required in the future

What's Next?

A *Wellbeing Tablelands* project group will be established in 2012 to explore the feasibility of this "Big Idea" and interested community partners are invited to join the project group.

The Tablelands is developed and promoted as a region of choice by those seeking tropical healthy active lifestyles and wellbeing for all ages.
Photo courtesy: Elite Earthmoving

Big Idea
6.2 Tropical Rural and Remote Sustainability

The Tablelands uses and manages resources to be a leading region showcasing best practice in tropical rural and remote sustainability.

In 2021… The Tablelands is developing and showcasing unique and viable ways of meeting the needs of residents in rural and remote towns and districts characterised by high cultural and age diversity that do not compromise the ability of future generations to meet their needs.

Creating viable sustainable tropical rural and remote communities is at the forefront of planning, development and service delivery across the region by community, government, industry and corporate sectors.

Strategy

- Campaign for the Tablelands region to be a Queensland and Australian Government funded pilot in rural and remote tropical sustainability in all areas:
  - Community Wellbeing
  - Built environment
  - Transport infrastructure
  - Natural resource management
  - Waste management
  - Energy generation and supply
  - Agricultural production
  - Economic sustainability and resilience
  - Natural disaster management, recovery and resilience
  - Sustainable service delivery across distance, culture and age

- Investigate ways to create sustainability in all areas of community life and raise community awareness about these

Capitalising on the Opportunities and Assets

- Sustainability was a key theme repeatedly raised during the town and regional planning events held for the community plan. Many ideas for creating a sustainable Tablelands were generated at the three Think Tank workshops by people reflecting on the global drivers of climate change, world population growth and the changing global resource base.

  Many Tablelanders have a sense that they are "of and with the environment" and committed to leaving the region in a fit state for future generations. For others, strategies and developments promoting sustainability must complement and not compromise the rural lifestyle valued by many

- This idea builds on a lot of community, government, corporate and industry activity that is already happening across the region and could provide a means of increasing coordination and collaboration across this network

- It capitalises on the global trend of creating more sustainable lifestyles, reducing consumption of non-renewable resources, and the growing global demand for producing renewable products and energy sources using environmentally friendly processes

- To gain traction, this big idea does not require a huge initial injection of capital for major infrastructure projects but it does require an attitudinal and cultural change by some groups. Funding for pilot infrastructure showcasing tropical rural and remote sustainability will be required in the future

- It capitalises on opportunities that may be available in the emerging carbon economy such as carbon sequestration in soil and trees

What's Next?

A *Tablelands Sustainability* project group will be established to explore the feasibility of this "Big Idea" and interested community partners are invited to join the project group.
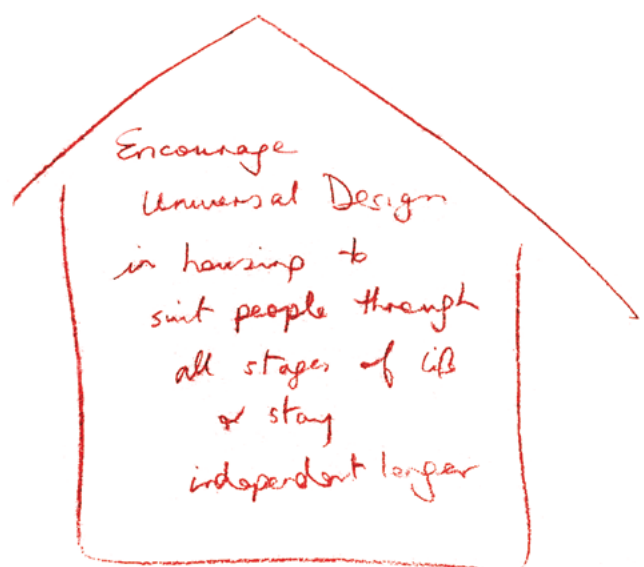
'Encourage Universal Design in housing to suit people through all stages of life and stay independent longer', Drawing on Tablecloth by a participant at Think Tank workshop #1 in Atherton

The Tablelands is developed and promoted as a leading tropical biotechnology precinct undertaking cutting edge research and development to support the large scale production of biomass tropical crops (both food and non-food) and the eventual manufacture of biobased fuels, biopharmaceuticals and industrial products within the region from non-food biomass.

In 2021... The Tablelands retains its enviable reputation as a tropical clean green food bowl, and at the same time, develops into a leading producer of tropical biomass for biofuels for transport and machinery, bioenergy (utilising plants for renewable energy generation) and bioproducts as petro-chemical replacements with the potential for the future manufacture of these within the Tablelands region.

Developing biobased industries builds on the long history within the region of large scale agricultural production. It could enable the agricultural sector to continue producing food crops on good quality agricultural land, and to diversify into the production of large scale biomass (non-food crops) which is often grown on more marginal land.

Farm diversification into biomass may increase the economic viability of many farm businesses but the risk is that food crops and/or existing farmland could be replaced by the large scale production of non-food biomass. Development of sustainability criteria as part of a biobased zoning strategy will help incentivise biobased industrial investments and maximise biobased development in the region.

Our region already grows a range of crops which could be converted into biofuels.
Photo courtesy: Leithe Hawke

Biobased Industries

Biobased industrial products are developed from renewable agricultural and biological resources (bioresources) through environmentally friendly and complex processes that have become available due to technological advances enabling bioproducts to be produced in a sustainable way.

Essentially, research and development using advanced technologies in relation to plants have the potential to transition our reliance on carbon-based non-renewable fuels, energy and products to renewable plant based fuels, energy and products and the Tablelands is well placed to be at the forefront of this significant global phenomenon.

Table 6.1 Biobased Industries In a sense, farming has always been a biobased industry. The scope, nature and size of the opportunities for new biobased products and materials are rapidly expanding, as illustrated below:

Category / sector	Examples of biobased products and markets	Remarks *(information derived from a number of sources)*
Biopharmaceuticals	vaccines, antibodies, anti-cancer agents	Global biologics market to reach US$160 billion by 2015
Nutraceuticals	over the counter health-care products/ pills	World demand will increase 7.2 % p/a to $23.7 billion in 2015
Cosmeceuticals	personal-care products (skin, hair, anti-ageing)	US demand to increase 5.8 % p/a to $8.5 billion in 2015
Biofuels	transportation – ethanol and biodiesel	US$100 billion market for aviatiation biofuels (2011 projection)
Bioenergy	green electricity and heat	Bioenergy could supply 30% of Australia's electricity by 2050
Biofibres	automobile, housing, textiles, construction	Natural fibre composites >$530 million by 2016 (11% CAGR)
Bioplastics	automobile, electronics, construction, furniture	Global bioplastics market to grow at 32% over 2010-2014
Biobased chemicals	chemicals, paints, dyes, enzymes, solvents, inks	Succinic acid market to grow 6 fold to $1.35 billion by 2015

Source: Updated 2011 Table from this earlier research article. 'Fostering the bio-economic revolution — the new age of agriculture in tropical north Queensland ',
Peter Holden, Peter Tonello and Natalie Dillon Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries, December 2005

It is an emerging industry driven by the global demands for sustainable and cost-effective petro-chemical replacements and other clean green fuels and products. The range of biobased industries and products are outlined in the Table below.

Strategy

- Continue to explore the feasibility of the region developing as a tropical biobased precinct for research and development, production of biomass, establishment of bio-refinery and the eventual manufacture of industrial products from biomass

- Campaign to have the Tablelands region recognised as a biobased industrial zone

- Ensure potential investors are aware of the region's natural advantages with respect to biobased industries through engagement with state and national organisations that promote biobased industries

- Engage with the Indigenous community who have significant knowledge in the use of natural remedies which can be commercialised and explore the potential dual benefits of cultural and economic development for Indigenous Australians and the Tablelands related to biobased industries

- Approach the publicly well-known local business enterprises that are already capitalising on the global demand for bioproducts and enlist their support to act as Industry Champions.
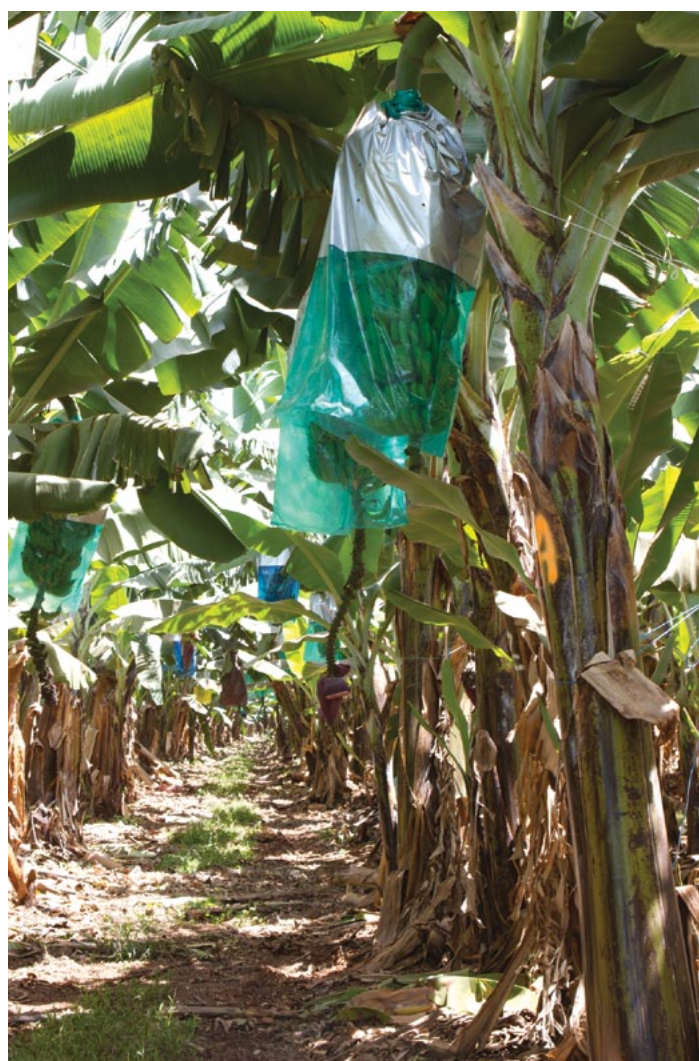
Mercedes and other car manufacturers are developing car components using agro-based biofibres created from banana plants. Photo courtesy: Sarah Scragg

- Promote these Champions nationally and internationally to draw significant attention to the Tablelands as a growing Centre of Excellence in tropical biobased capabilities

- Partner with James Cook University and the Mareeba Agricultural Research Precinct to explore options for expanding research and development in biobased industries and creating more knowledge-based jobs

Capitalising on the Opportunities and Assets

- The world is looking for alternatives to petro-chemicals and for clean green fuel sources and products and this global demand is driving advanced research and development to explore the potential of biobased industries and products

- A few publicly well-known local business enterprises are already capitalising on this growing global demand for bioproducts and having grasped the potential of biobased industries, are involved in bioprospecting for biopharmaceuticals; another is developing the technology to grow plants suitable for biofuels and other bioproducts; and there is an emerging local interest by farmers to start growing biomass (non food crops) for conversion to biofuels and products. These Champions could be promoted nationally and internationally to draw significant attention to the Tablelands as a growing Centre of Excellence in biobased capabilities

- The Tablelands region has many characteristics and assets required to support the strategic development of biobased industries including:-
  - Agricultural Research Precinct at Peters St, Mareeba (with a long history of extensive agricultural research and development)
  - Land and water plus demonstrated capacity for large scale agriculture and climate for year-round biomass production
  - Proximity to ports including Mareeba regional airport
  - Industrial estates plus centralised and modern sugar mill
  - Tablelands lifestyle plus proximity to Cairns and Wet Tropics

- Promotion of Indigenous expertise in biobased products is an area that will give the Tablelands a significant point of difference

- Biobased industries build on the long history within the region of large scale agricultural production

- Expanding the region's biobased research and development capabilities will build on and expand the region's reputation as a "knowledge" region, attracting younger highly skilled knowledge workers which will help to offset the current net loss of younger residents aged 18-49 years

What's Next?

A "*Big Ideas*" Project Group will be established to build on the earlier work of community partners to develop biobased industries in the Tablelands and interested community partners are invited to join the project group in 2012.

Key community partners are Tablelands Futures Corp, Dept of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation, Advance Cairns, Industry Groups, James Cook University and Biobased businesses.

Big Idea

6.4 Workforce Diversity

Endorsing our "liveability", the Tablelands is promoted as a desirable tropical home-base of choice by highly skilled and high tech workers, many of whom travel to work outside the region.

Younger, skilled workers (18 to 49 years) are retained and attracted to ensure a population more evenly distributed across all age groups and socio-economic levels.

In 2021... The Tablelands is renowned for its workforce diversity and expertise in tropical skills and knowledge which is exported around the world.

Strategy:

- Promote the high liveability of the region to attract knowledge workers, global economy workers and fly-in-fly-out workers
- Recruit and encourage young people leaving the region to act as regional ambassadors to promote the region
- Use social media to encourage young people to remain connected to the region when they leave to increase the likelihood they will return or encourage others to move into the region
- Campaign to ensure appropriate infrastructure is available to support home-based industries, knowledge-based and high tech workers and global economy workers. This includes fast and reliable internet and telecommunications services
- Investigate the potential to develop new knowledge-based and high tech industries that will attract and retain younger skilled workers. This links strongly to the Tropical Rural and Remote Sustainability and Tropical BioBased Industries "Big Ideas" outlined above
- Publicise the significant international knowledge-based organisations that are located in the Tablelands already such as Boston University and Conservation International to highlight the Tablelands as a recognised "knowledge" region

Capitalising on the Opportunities and Assets

- Promoting the natural assets and rural lifestyle benefits of the Tablelands reinforces the valued regional characteristics without altering them in any significant way which is a key component of the regional vision. The gradual population increase from such a strategy is not likely to threaten the regional characteristics so highly prized

- Retaining and attracting younger skilled workers will contribute to diversifying the regional workforce and balancing the population which is presently skewed towards older age cohorts

What's Next?

Tablelands Industry Workforce Group Inc will continue to develop and implement strategies to create a diverse workforce and interested community partners including Q.I.T.E. are invited to join the project group.
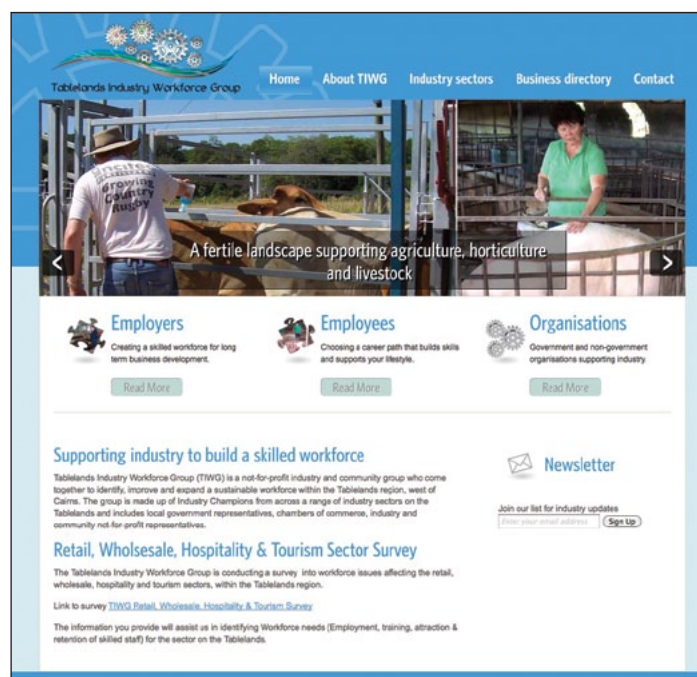
Project group member's website: www.tablelandsworkforce.com.au

Big Idea
6.5 Regional Identity and Branding

A Tablelands regional identity is developed further with agreement reached by key stakeholders and promoted to increase our regional profile.

In 2021... The Tablelands regional identity is well recognised and reflects our regional point of difference and the unique characteristics of the region.

Much has already been done in the area of regional branding, although an agreed upon regional brand has not been created. This "Big Idea" involves taking a broad-based approach to develop an agreed "regional identity" which can then be adapted by various industries for their own branding purposes.

The Tablelands regional identity is developed to reflect our regional point of difference and the unique characteristics of the region.

The Tablelands "regional identity" is adapted for use as a "regional brand" by industries for marketing purposes as well as by community, government and corporate bodies for promotions such as regional festivals.

Strategy

- Continue to develop and reach agreement on a regional identity that can be adapted by various industries to use as a regional brand for a range of promotional and marketing purposes
- Apply the information obtained from the community planning process and other community and industry consultation processes to develop an agreed upon regional identity
- Engage a suitable marketing and communications consultant to assist with developing a regional brand(s) for use by a range of industries and community promotional and marketing purposes
- Promote and publicise the presence of significant organisations that have a national or international profile to assist in building the image credibility of the Tablelands

Capitalising on the Opportunities and Assets

- Developing a Tablelands identity and brand was frequently raised during the community planning consultations as being needed to capitalise on marketing and promotional opportunities
- The lack of a regional brand was identified as a constraint on the potential growth of some industries
- A regional identity was regarded as being a unifying influence that would complement the unique identity of the many small towns and districts spread across the vast Tablelands region

What's Next?

Tablelands Futures Corporation is the most likely lead community partner to facilitate this "Big Idea" further. Interested community partners including Tropical Tablelands Tourism, Tablelands Industry Workforce Group Inc and especially those industry groups working on a regional brand for their industry are invited to join the project group.

Project group member's websites: www.tablelandsfutures.com and, www.athertontablelands.com.au

6.6 Cultural Diversity, Heritage and Creativity

The Tablelands is renowned as a creative region with unique and vibrant tropical arts, cultural diversity and heritage.

In 2021... The region proudly displays its rich tropical cultural diversity and heritage, salutes its historical past and promotes cultural creativity now and into the future.

Strategy

Tropical culture and heritage including Indigenous culture is well signposted across the region revealing trails for locals and tourists with virtual arts and cultural trails available on the internet

- The feasibility of establishing a regional performing arts centre as the hub for a network of local arts and cultural precincts across the region is investigated
- Opportunities for supporting and expanding the creative arts industries in the region are explored
- The feasibility of establishing an Indigenous Cultural Centre is investigated
- A calendar is developed to promote whole of community celebrations for Indigenous, multicultural, music, arts and crafts events and festivals
- Numerous community, government and corporate entities develop Reconciliation Action Plans to formalise relations with Traditional Owner Groups and Indigenous communities
- Council's "Libraries as Learning Communities" strategy is implemented with the Mareeba Library the central hub in a network of high tech community libraries to develop a region rich in knowledge and culture

- Establish community committees to organise (National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee) NAIDOC celebrations to encourage whole of community celebrations by people from all walks of life

Capitalising on the Opportunities and Assets

- The Tablelands comprises a rich harmonious tapestry of people from different cultural and linguistic backgrounds, including Indigenous people, post world war two southern European migrants and more recent arrivals from all parts of the world.
- The region's history is unique and well documented by historical societies and museums
- A fledging arts and culture industry has the potential for future expansion and development
- The region is well placed to benefit from the growing global interest in cultural and heritage tourism

What's Next?

A *Culturally Vibrant Tablelands* project group will be established to explore the feasibility of this "Big Idea" and interested parties including Q.I.T.E. are invited to join the project group.

Tablelands Tapestry Weavers - part of our vibrant arts community. Photo courtesy: Eve Stafford

7. Implementing the Tablelands Community Plan

This section describes how the Tablelands Community Plan will be implemented.

A partnerships approach

We are looking forward to the business of implementing the long term community plan. Some of the community aspirations are ambitious and far reaching and others will be more easily achieved. Council will facilitate the implementation of the Tablelands Community Plan with guidance, information and advice provided by the Community Plan Reference Group. To implement the plan, Council will continue the partnerships approach it adopted throughout the development of the community plan.

Council's role

As part of its role to facilitate the implementation of the long term community plan, Council will consider those community plan strategies within its scope and will fund and implement many of these, but not all due to technical, financial or other considerations. Council will use the Tablelands Community Plan to inform the development of the new five year Corporate Plan which is due to be completed later in 2012.

Where strategies are outside the scope of Council's responsibility, these will be raised with the relevant government, community, regional or industry organisation to encourage them to take action.

The community plan will be publicly available and community, government, corporate and industry organisations are encouraged to endorse the plan and use it to guide strategic planning and decision-making.

Community resolve required to implement the plan

The Tablelands Community Plan has been developed through the generosity of the many community members who have contributed their time, ideas and expertise to develop this community plan and they will be encouraged to remain involved to help put the plan into practice to achieve their community's outcomes.

The community plan is about the community's aspirations so it contains issues that are within the sphere of influence of many community partners including residents and community, government, industry and corporate organisations.

The implementation of the Tablelands Community Plan, therefore, is very much one of community partnerships and the extent to which the community plan is implemented and community aspirations are achieved is directly related to the extent to which community partners agree to take responsibility for implementing strategies that are within their sphere of influence.

Reviewing and updating the community plan

Council is required by legislation to conduct:

- An annual review of the community plan; and
- To update the community plan with community input within 5 years.

The annual review will ensure that the Tablelands Community Plan captures the important issues and continues to be relevant.

The review will involve a desk top research exercise to gather information from other community engagement strategies and reports relevant to reporting on the implementation of the community plan and the outcomes achieved. For instance, Council will be able to report on the aspirations and strategies that have informed council decision-making, planning and policy development and on the community plan outcomes it has funded or helped to facilitate. Similar research will be done to identify, where possible, the progress made by other community partners to implement those elements of the community plan that are within their sphere of influence. A public report card will be prepared.

We expect that momentum will build over time as word spreads about the community plan and in due course, we will be able to enlist greater community participation to ensure the plan reflects the priority community issues and aspirations. The long term community plan will guide the way Council manages its business, and advocates and lobbies on behalf of the community, and we hope it will similarly guide the business of other community, government, industry and corporate organisations.

Through this ongoing process of review, emerging issues and priorities will be incorporated into the Tablelands Community Plan to ensure it remains relevant and useful. The Community Reference Group will continue in its role of providing information, advice and guidance throughout the implementation and review phases of the Tablelands Community Plan.

Measuring progress

We are also concerned to measure how well the community plan aspirations are being achieved at both the regional and town/district levels.

Council will report on the community priorities, aspirations, goals, and strategies that it has implemented and achieved every 12 months by evaluating its annual operational plans. The following performance measures will also guide the annual review of how well regional aspirations are being realised. Other measures will be identified and developed over time.

Indicative performance measures for regional aspirations

The six performance measures are based on the Regional Aspirations:

- Good Governance
- Economic Vitality
- Sustainable Resource Management
- Social Inclusion and Wellbeing
- Cultural Vibrancy
- Visionary Infrastructure

These are shown in detail in the following pages.

7.1 Good Governance

Desired Outcomes

7.1.1 Our Tablelands governance is responsive to community issues and aspirations and governs in partnership with communities to deliver efficient and effective services

How will we measure our performance and know that we are achieving desired outcomes?

(a) The community is satisfied with the opportunities provided for them to participate in local and regional decision making

(b) Partnerships are developed with community and other stakeholders to deliver the priority projects outlined in the Community Plan

(c) Successful outcomes are achieved with respect to use of native title land

(d) Tablelands communities are satisfied with the way all levels of leadership (federal, state, local government) work towards achieving community goals

(e) Access to public spaces and Council facilities for people with a disability is improved

(f) The community is able to manage and progress community projects and initiatives without the need for Council support and staff involvement in their activities

Our Tablelands governance is responsive to community issues and aspirations and governs in partnership with communities
Image Source: Drawing from an unknown participant of Think Tank workshop #1, Atherton

7.2 Economic Vitality

Desired Outcomes

7.2.1 The Tablelands economy is strong and prosperous through diversification, innovation and entrepreneurship

7.2.2 The Tablelands workforce is well qualified, competent and skilled in the full range of occupations required

7.2.3 The Tablelands economy is resilient in the face of internal and external change and develops long term sustainability

7.2.4 The Tablelands economy has well developed capacity to trade regionally, nationally and globally

How will we measure our performance and know that we are achieving desired outcomes?

(a) There is no decrease in the area of good quality agricultural land under production

(b) Residential densities increase in urban areas without compromising liveability and open space

(c) An adequate land bank is maintained for future business and industrial growth

(d) The number of people in full time employment increases

(e) There is continued economic growth on the Tablelands as new businesses and industries develop

(f) Skills and qualifications of local residents increase to support the local economy

(g) The Tablelands population continues to grow and migration of young people out of the Tablelands decreases (as measured by ABS census data and PIFU population projections)

(h) Council's carbon footprint is minimised

(i) Tourist and visitor numbers increase

(j) Our road transport infrastructure meets desired service levels and maintenance, renewals and upgrades are adequately funded via annual budget allocation

(k) Our roads become safer as borne out by lower accident statistics

(l) Alternative transport routes increase safety and efficiency of heavy vehicles and reduce conflict with residential and commercial uses

(m) Aircraft activity and related industry increases, particularly at Mareeba airport

(n) Information and communications technology infrastructure meets desired standard to support business, industry and community needs

7.3 Sustainable Resource Management

Desired Outcomes

7.3.1 The significant environmental values of the Tablelands region are protected and preserved

7.3.2 Our rural landscape is protected and our primary industries are managed using best practice sustainability principles

7.3.3 The Tablelands uses and manages resources according to best practice sustainability principles

7.3.4 The Tablelands is resilient to future shocks such as the impacts of climate change and of depleting resources

How will we measure our performance and know that we are achieving desired outcomes?

(a) Our Planning Scheme contains appropriate provisions to minimise the loss of productive agricultural soils and the impact of development on sensitive environmental and ecological areas

(b) Our natural resources are sustainably managed with natural habitat restored and soil and water quality improved

(c) Our agricultural industries remain viable and sustainable in the face of climate change and peak oil

(d) Control programs are effective in eradicating or reducing the incidence of pest plants and animals and strategies are in place to minimise the impacts of flying foxes on agricultural production and urban amenity

(e) Production and sale of compost from the Mareeba landfill trial site continues and meets or exceeds projected tonnages

(f) The recommendations and strategies in the Council's Sustainability Action Plan are implemented and a scorecard developed to monitor and report on outcomes

(g) Council's fuel and energy costs reduce

(h) An increased portion of the region's energy needs is sourced from renewable energy options

(i) We meet waste disposal and recycling targets to minimise the impact of solid waste on the environment

(j) There is general community satisfaction with the way the environment is managed

7.4 Social Inclusion and Wellbeing

Desired Outcomes

7.4.1 The physical, emotional and social wellbeing of individuals, families and communities is supported by high quality infrastructure and services

7.4.2 Our Tablelands communities are friendly, safe and caring with appropriate and affordable housing and services that support safe, nurturing communities

7.4.3 Our Tablelands communities are strong, inclusive and welcoming to all

7.4.4 Our Tablelands communities are well connected with public and community transport systems and high quality communications systems. Our roads provide high quality transport routes connecting communities across the region

7.4.5 The Tablelands is a learning community that values the wisdom, knowledge and experience of its residents, encourages life-long learning and shares knowledge with others

How will we measure our performance and know that we are achieving desired outcomes?

(a) Health services and facilities have improved

(b) Overall community health improves and there is a decreased incidence of chronic disease

(c) Community surveys and public feedback indicate that people are satisfied with the range and quality of facilities available

(d) Our community facilities are well used

(e) Crime rates decrease in our urban areas

(f) Appropriate plans are in place and facilities, equipment and trained staff available to respond to natural disasters

(g) A range of affordable housing types is available to meet the community's needs

(h) Adequate and appropriate facilities are in place to cater for the needs of an ageing population

(i) Residents are satisfied with their public transport and mobility options

(j) A high proportion of the community, across all sectors, participate in community engagement initiatives and community activities

(k) Volunteer numbers and hours are maintained or increased

(l) The community is satisfied with the facilities and services available to assist those in need within the community

(m) Educational opportunities improve and the number of residents with Year 12 or higher education increases (as measured by ABS census data)

7.5 Cultural Vibrancy

Desired Outcomes

7.5.1 The cultural life, diversity and heritage of the Tablelands is valued, nurtured and promoted. Arts and cultural development is supported with high quality infrastructure and resources

How will we measure our performance and know that we are achieving desired outcomes?

(a) Recommendations within the Cultural Plan have been progressively implemented and there is increased participation by residents in the cultural life of the community

(b) Important sites of natural and cultural heritage are identified and protected

(c) Residents express pride in the region and actively promote the character and identity of their individual communities

(d) The investigation into the feasibility of constructing a regional Cultural Centre on the Tablelands is completed

(e) Public feedback indicates that there is general community satisfaction with the range and quality of recreation and leisure facilities and activities on the Tablelands

(f) Usage of community facilities (eg community halls, swimming pools, libraries, art galleries) increases

(g) Current level of support for arts and cultural projects is maintained and increased

The cultural life, diversity and heritage of the Tablelands is valued, nurtured and promoted. Arts and cultural development is supported with high quality infrastructure and resources

7.6 Visionary Infrastructure

Desired Outcomes

7.6.1 Our road, rail and air networks are well maintained and upgraded to ensure adequate capacity for future population and economic growth and enhanced community safety and convenience

7.6.2 The Tablelands is serviced by high quality telecommunications infrastructure optimising business, social and educational opportunities

7.6.3 Water, waste and energy infrastructure meets the needs of our growing population and is managed sustainably

7.6.4 High quality community infrastructure supports our growing and ageing population and enables safe, active, healthy, socially and culturally vibrant lifestyles

How will we measure our performance and know that we are achieving desired outcomes?

(a) Strategic infrastructure priorities are identified and planned, supported by up-to-date regional and local area plans

(b) Key infrastructure is provided in advance of development

(c) Through the development of long term asset management plans, our infrastructure is maintained and managed for future generations

(d) We have an efficient road hierarchy

(e) Road infrastructure assets are progressively upgraded to provide desired service levels and meet community expectations in accordance with the Project Prioritisation Tool and annual budget allocation

(f) Facilities for green transport options increase (bikeways, walkways, trails)

(g) Appropriate facilities are in place to cater for our ageing population

(h) Regional town infrastructure is progressively improved and attracts favourable comment from residents and visitors alike

8. Planning Methodology
Our Community Planning Framework

This section describes the community planning framework that has been used to develop the long term community plan and it outlines the:

- Key principles and values that underpin the community planning process
- Community engagement strategy
- Community planning approaches and processes

Essentially this section explains how we went about developing a long term community plan for the Tablelands and what we did to ensure that it reflects the views and aspirations of the people of the Tablelands and meets new legislative community planning requirements for local government in Queensland. A diagram depicting the community planning framework that guided the development of the Tablelands Community Plan 2021 is on the next page.

8.1 Community driven

There is a strong community view that working together to develop a long term community plan is a way for us to find answers to complex community and regional issues and to plan for the future prosperity of our towns, districts and the region as a whole while retaining what we value.

In August 2008, community representatives decided to collaborate to develop a Tablelands Community Plan. A Community Plan Reference Group was established and a funding application to Blueprint for the Bush was successful in securing $20,000 for the project in early 2009.

Before the project could commence, the Queensland Government announced it would be legislating for all local government authorities to develop a long term community plan with comprehensive community input. It was decided to delay the project until further information was available.

8.2 Community engagement and planning is now law

On 1st July 2010, the Local Government Act 2009 and the Local Government (Finance, Plans and Reporting) Regulation 2009 came into effect requiring all Councils in Queensland to:

- Make a commitment to engage the community on relevant council business and complete an annual community engagement audit
- Adopt a community engagement policy
- Develop a long term community plan by means of meaningful community engagement that would cover the social, economic, environmental and governance domains of community life
- Demonstrate how each Council complied with its community engagement policy in regard to developing the community plan

It was decided that Tablelands Regional Council would develop the long term community plan in partnership with the community, incorporating the Blueprint for the Bush grant into the project, and that Council would meet the other costs involved.

A plan based on the different views of all Tableland communities was deemed essential to develop a meaningful community plan

The Tablelands Community Plan Reference Group agreed to oversee the community planning project providing information, advice and guidance throughout the development of the plan and Council became the project manager. Both Council and the Reference Group are committed to extending this successful partnership during the the next phases of community plan implementation and review.

8.3 Council roles and responsibilities

Council's role is one of project management and facilitation to ensure the long term community plan:

- Reflects community views and aspirations
- Informs and guides Council decision-making, planning and policy development
- Is implemented by a community partnerships approach and that other community partners including community, government, industry and corporate organisations are aware of the long term community plan
- Is reviewed annually with a public report card outlining achieved outcomes prepared
- Will be updated and refreshed with community input within 5 years

Diagram 8.1 Tablelands Community Planning Framework

This framework guided the development of the Tablelands Community Plan 2021
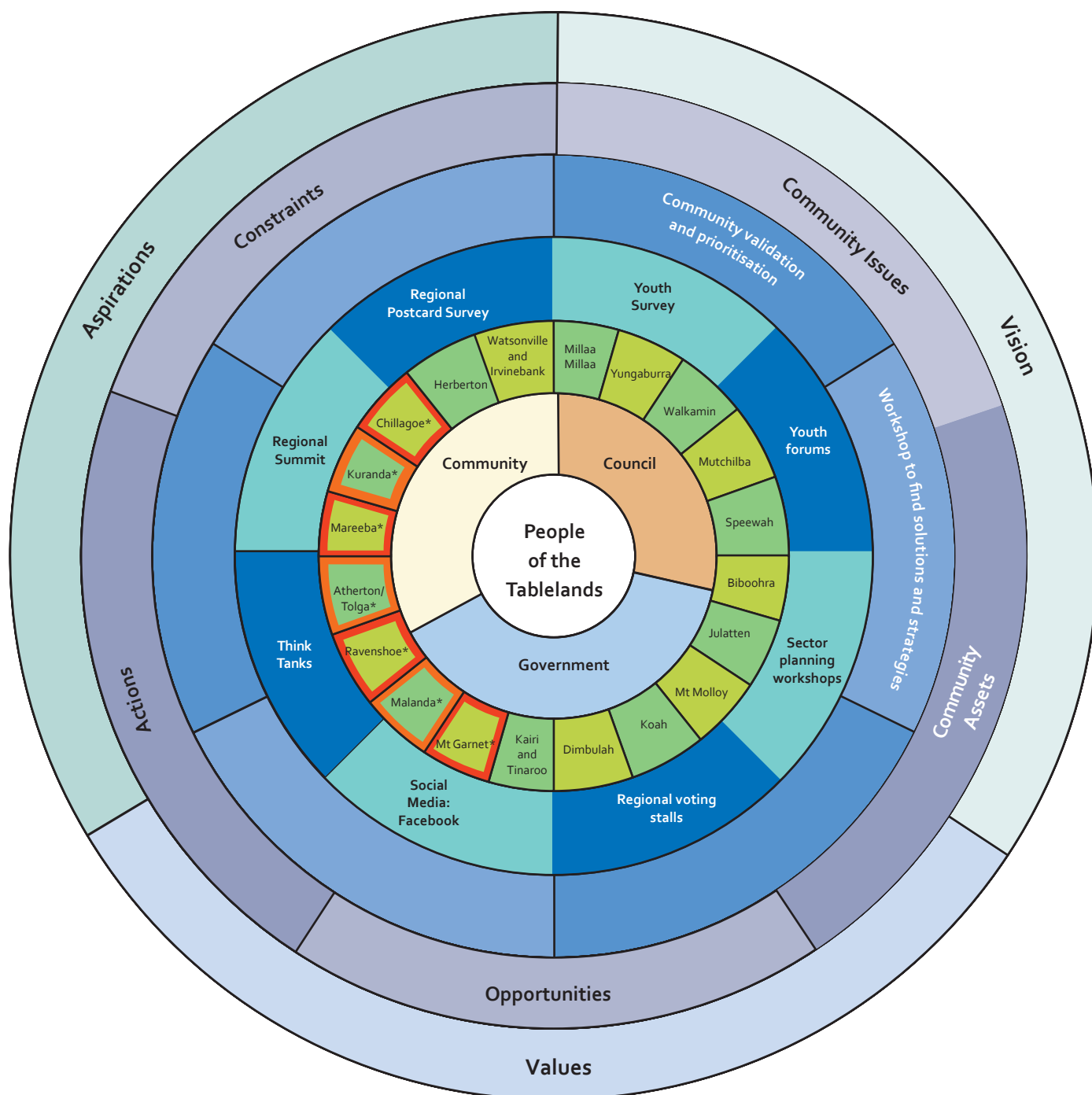
* Indigenous community planning was conducted in these towns and districts

8.4 Project aim

The aim is to develop a long term community plan that reflects the aspirations of local residents and key stakeholders and sets out the community's issues and concerns for the long term future of the Tablelands region in the following domains of community life:

• Social

• Cultural

• Economic

• Environment

• Governance

In essence, our aim has been to develop a community plan that reflects the community's views and aspirations by providing many different opportunities for as many Tablelands people as possible to have a say about what they believe are the important issues for the future of their town, district and the region as a whole.

To this end, our aim was for the community plan to have *reach* - to reach out and engage people across the entire length and breadth of the Tablelands, especially the "silent majority" and those who do not normally have a voice in civic planning and decision-making. The community plan would reflect a chorus of voices from all corners of our vast region.

Our intention was also to provide the opportunity for people to gain a deeper understanding of the key issues impacting on the Tablelands now and in the future and to consider the Tablelands within the wider regional, national and global context. We hoped that resourcing people with stimulating information and providing the opportunity for guided analysis and deliberation of the significant issues and impacts would generate innovative regional strategies to ensure that the Tablelands continues to prosper in the future.

To this end, our aim was for the community plan to have *depth and creativity* - to capture the innovative and creative ideas and solutions to capitalise on *regional* opportunities and overcome significant challenges as well as documenting those "bread and butter" issues such as potholes, better health services and more BBQs in parks that are of concern to so many residents in our towns and districts.

Koah residents added important community issues to a list prepared for the workshop by researching local issues. They then voted for the most important issues using coloured dots. The issues with the most 'votes' became the community's priorities.

8.5 Key principles and values underlying the community plan

To achieve the project aim, key principles and values have guided the design and implementation of the community plan from its inception and these are outlined below.

(i) Extensive and intensive community participation

Council was highly committed to developing the long term community plan with comprehensive community input to reflect the community's aspirations, ideas and concerns, especially the "silent majority" and those groups who do not usually have a voice in civic planning. The community's contributions have not been "filtered" or sanctioned by Council. The priorities set out in the community plan are those identified by community members as are the solutions and actions to achieve and address them. Some of the aspirations are very ambitious and far reaching, but every effort has been made to accurately reflect the views and priority aspirations of local communities. This commitment led to the development of an extremely ambitious and comprehensive community engagement strategy that was conducted over 2 years.

(ii) Community plan will guide council decision-making and planning

The long term community plan will be used to guide Council decision-making and planning including the five year corporate plan, annual operational plans and budget processes as well as future strategic planning.

However, this doesn't mean that all community aspirations contained in the community plan have been endorsed by Council and will be acted on.

It does mean, however, that those issues and strategies that are within the scope of Council's responsibility will be considered in Council planning and budgeting processes. Many will be funded and implemented by Council, but others will not due to technical or financial considerations or other competing interests and demands made on Council's finite resources.

(iii) Community plan is multi-issue

The Tablelands Community Plan covers all community issues, not just those that are the business of Council. In this sense, it is the community's plan. It is not Council's "community plan" containing only those issues within the scope of local government.

(iv) Community plan is multi-agency

The multi-issue nature of the community plan means it reflects issues and aspirations that are outside the scope of Council's sphere of influence and responsibility. Therefore, the implementation of the plan requires the participation of multiple agencies to achieve outcomes. The extent to which the community plan will be implemented and aspirations achieved, therefore, is directly related to the extent to which community partners will agree to assume responsibility for implementing strategies that are within their respective area of responsibility.

We have tried to involve as many residents and community, government, business and industry organisations as possible in the development of the community plan so the plan will reflect their unique perspective, ideas and concerns and to increase

the likelihood that they will come on board as community partners to help implement the plan. However, it will be up to each community partner to decide which strategies within their sphere of influence they will implement.

(v) Managing community expectations
By applying a multidimensional planning approach with a number of steps including planning within constraints we hope to avoid the production of "shopping lists" to minimise the risk of raising unrealistic community expectations that their "wish list" will magically materialise. Other strategies were employed to manage community expectations including clear explanations and discussions about these matters at community planning workshops.

However, many of the aspirations and strategies are very ambitious and it is hoped that over time and during annual review processes, we will be able to present more detailed costings and other relevant information in relation to specific aspirations, goals and strategies that will enable more informed community decisions to be made.

(vi) Community plan is meaningful and outcome oriented
The community plan was developed by a community development and "bottom up" approach in an effort to increase the likelihood that the plan will be meaningful to people and outcome oriented.

Place-based community planning was conducted in 20 towns and districts across the 64,768 sq kms that comprises the Tablelands Regional Council area. In 7 of these towns, specific Indigenous community engagement was conducted. The priority community aspirations identified in the 20 towns and districts are the foundation of the community plan. Comprehensive community engagement was conducted at the regional level and a combination of town/district and regional issues informed the development of the higher level regional aspirations and strategies.

The community planning process has focussed on inviting people to imagine how they would ideally like their town to be in 10 years time; invited them to talk about what they believe are the most important issues facing their town, district and region over the next 10 years and to think about what needs to be done to address or achieve these.

Much of the community plan is devoted to reflecting these priority aspirations, at the town/district or regional levels, and to outlining the action that needs to happen, who could take this action and when it could be done.

Limited public funds tend to be allocated to those items where it can be demonstrated that they are community priorities and people tend to make the time to help address issues when they are perceived as the most important ones affecting their community. Therefore, there is a strong focus within the plan on identifying the priority or most important aspirations and the actions required to achieve these priority issues.

(vii) Aligned with other planning processes
To avoid duplication and to increase the likelihood of achieving outcomes and securing funding for projects identified in the community plan, the Tablelands Community Plan has been aligned with key regional, state and national planning processes such as Tropical North Queensland Regional Economic Plan, Regional Development Australia Far North Queensland and Torres Strait Road Map, and the Queensland Government's Regionalisation Strategy. Within Council, the long term community plan is aligned with the new planning scheme for land use planning, the long term asset management plan and long term financial plan.

(viii) Action learning approach
The action learning approach we adopted enabled great flexibility and allowed the project to evolve as we began conducting the community planning and gained new insights. Reflecting on the lessons we were learning was invaluable as was the constructive feedback from within the project team, Council Officers, Councillors, Community Plan Reference Group members and the wider community. The flexible action-learning approach enabled us to change our planning approach as required which we believe delivered untold benefits to the project process and outcomes.

(ix) IAP2 framework applied
We acknowledge the IAP2 Australasia, The International Association for Public Participation, Community Participation Framework which has informed this community planning process.

(x) User-friendly community plan
Our intention has always been to prepare a user-friendly community plan that will be useful to all community partners. A key user-friendly concept is the preparation of the town/district and regional "posters" to depict the vision, priority aspirations and strategies identified and developed by people during the community planning process.

Each town/district will receive a large colour copy of the community plan for their town/district to display locally. We have also tried to make the community engagement tools user-friendly, especially the surveys, community voting stalls and town/district community planning workshops, and employed a local Graphic Designer and a local Indigenous Artist to help with this.

Diagram 8.2
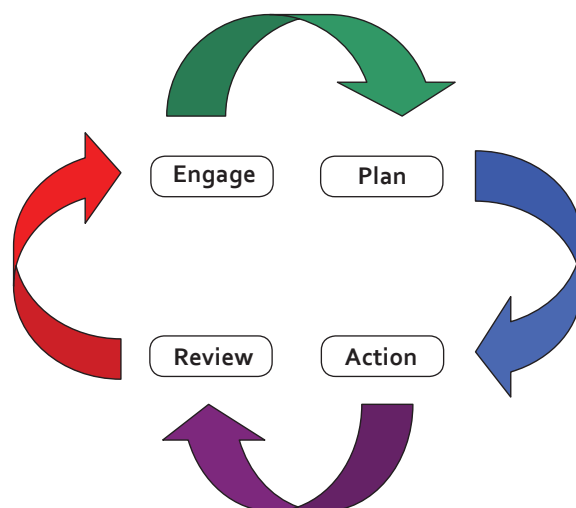
The action-learning approach adopted throughout the community planning project made it possible to change direction when required in response to new learnings and community feedback

8.6 Unique regional characteristics influence community planning process

The community planning framework and engagement strategy were developed to suit the unique characteristics of the Tablelands region including:

- Many small towns and districts dispersed across our vast region of 64,768 sq kms with no or limited public transport
- High cultural diversity of the regional population with more than a third of the residents in some towns identifying as Indigenous
- High proportions of people who are culturally and linguistically diverse in some communities
- Low regional socio-economic status as determined by the ABS Socio-Economic Indices for Areas
- An ageing population
- High proportion of young people aged 18-25 leaving the region

8.7 Community planning approaches

It was clear that we needed to engage across distance, culture, age and gender to prepare the community plan. Therefore, the following community planning approaches and processes were implemented:

- Place-based community planning with residents in 20 towns/ districts
- Place-based Indigenous community planning in 7 towns/ districts
- Youth action planning
- Community of interest planning with 3 sectors
- Regional Planning with a focus on the Tablelands within the broader Far North Queensland, national and global context

8.8 Town/District community planning

Place-based community planning was conducted in 20 towns/ districts across the region and Indigenous community planning was conducted in 7 of these. Place-based community planning is referred to here as town/district community planning.

The following 20 towns/districts were selected for place-based community planning due to the size of the population, community complexity and geographic location:

- Atherton/Tolga
- Biboohra
- Chillagoe
- Dimbulah
- Herberton
- Irvinebank/ Watsonville
- Julatten
- Kairi/Tinaroo
- Koah
- Kuranda
- Malanda
- Mareeba
- Millaa Millaa
- Mt Garnet
- Mt Molloy
- Mutchilba
- Ravenshoe
- Speewah
- Walkamin
- Yungaburra

8.8.1 Town/District community engagement strategy

The following 69 town/district community engagement events and activities were conducted in the above 20 towns and districts from August 2010 to July 2011 in which approximately 7,400 people or 23% of the population aged 15 years and over participated:

- 10 town/district surveys
- 5 Indigenous town/district surveys
- 4 survey and project information stalls
- 23 community voting exercise stalls
- 20 community planning workshops
- 7 Indigenous planning workshops

Varying levels of community engagement were conducted in different towns/districts depending on the size, location and complexity of the community.

In the larger, more complex towns and districts we conducted a broader range of community engagement events and activities. For example, in Mareeba, the largest service centre in the Tablelands, we conducted ten community engagement events and activities:

- one town survey
- one door to door Indigenous town survey
- six community voting stalls
- one Indigenous planning workshop
- one community planning workshop

A Mareeba community plan poster and a Mareeba Indigenous community plan poster was developed by people participating in these engagement strategies.

At the other end of the spectrum, one community engagement event, a community planning workshop, was held in Kairi/ Tinaroo due to the smaller size of the district. Holding a community planning workshop was the minimum level of engagement offered across the 20 towns/districts. The different levels of community engagement conducted in the 20 towns/ districts is summarised in Table 8.1 (page 136).

8.8.2 Town/District community planning process

The aim of the town/district community engagement strategy was to provide residents with multiple ways to have a say about what they think are the important issues facing their town or district for the next 10 years. The focus was on facilitating residents to identify and prioritise community issues in their town or district and to develop actions to address these.

We asked people to think about what is important for their town/ district over the next 10 years and plan how they can achieve or address these in terms of:

- **Vision**: How do they want their town and district to be in 10 years time? What do they value now and want to retain? What would they like to be different and how could it be better?
- **Issues**: What needs to change? What needs to stay the same?
- **Assets**: What are the important community assets that can help achieve what they think is important for their town/ district over the next 10 years? This covers "soft" assets such

Table 8.1   Community Engagement Strategies in 20 Towns/Districts

20 Towns/Districts	Community Engagement Strategies						
	Research Community Issues	Town/ District survey	Community voting exercise	Community planning workshop	Indigenous Survey	Indigenous community planning workshop	Community Participation Rate**
Atherton/Tolga	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	26%
Biboohra	✓	–	–	✓	–	–	NA
Chillagoe	✓	–	–	✓	–	✓	NA
Dimbulah	✓	✓	✓	✓	–	–	30%
Herberton/ Wondecla	✓	✓	✓	✓	–	–	25%
Irvinebank/ Watsonville	✓	–	–	✓	–	–	NA
Julatten*	✓	✓	✓	✓	–	–	22%
Kairi/Tinaroo	✓	–	–	✓	–	–	NA
Koah	✓	–	–	✓	–	–	NA
Kuranda	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	33%
Malanda	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	20%
Mareeba	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	26%
Millaa Millaa	✓	✓	✓	✓	–	–	40%
Mt Garnet	✓	–	–	✓	–	✓	NA
Mt Molloy*	✓	✓	–	✓	–	–	22%
Mutchilba	✓	–	–	✓	–	–	NA
Ravenshoe	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	35%
Speewah	✓	–	–	✓	–	–	NA
Walkamin	✓	–	–	✓	–	–	NA
Yungaburra	✓	✓	✓	✓	–	–	24%

*One survey was conducted for the district of Mt Molloy/Julatten but a community planning workshop was held in each district with each district developing a town/district community plan. The community participation rate for Mt Molloy and Julatten is a combined district rate as the ABS population data is not available for each smaller district

**Number of people who participated in the town/district community planning process as a proportion of the town/district population aged 15 years and over

as groups and organisations as well as "hard" assets such as buildings and "natural" assets such as rivers, clean and green landscapes, walking tracks.

• **Opportunities**: What are the future opportunities to capitalise on for their town/district?

• **Obstacles/Constraints**: What is stopping them or limiting them from achieving what is important for their town/district?

The steps in the town/district community planning approach were:

• **Research community issues** by gathering what we thought we knew about each of the 20 identified towns/districts in terms of issues, assets, opportunities and constraints. We conducted extensive desk top research of existing reports, plans and data bases on a broad range of topics for each of the 20 towns/districts.

• **Survey** to validate and prioritise the issues identified from the community research exercise. A specific town survey was developed for each of the 10 larger towns/districts.

Each survey listed the main 20 or so issues identified from the research for the respective towns. Residents were asked to add other important issues to the list and to tick the 5 issues they believed were the most important.

The 10 town surveys were self-administered and available online at Council's website; delivered to the letter boxes or mail boxes of residents by Australia Post; available at key locations around the town or district; distributed via service clubs and other local networks and emailed to people and organisations on town/district contact lists.

• **Community voting exercises** were held in each town where a survey was conducted to provide an alternative means for residents to have a say and identify the most important issues affecting their town/district. Lists of the same issues that were in the town survey were printed on large sheets in the same order they appeared on the survey and presented on display boards outside a prominent town location that many residents frequented such as the local supermarket, post office or community markets.

A Council Officer invited residents to add issues to the list and to "vote" for their 5 most important issues by placing a coloured dot beside the issue. Multiple community voting exercises were held in the larger towns.

A higher level of assistance from the researcher was available to participants during this community engagement exercise than the town survey. The Council Officer could explain issues when requested and provide information about the community planning project and encourage people to participate.

- **Prioritising the community issues** in the larger towns was achieved by analysing the survey and community voting exercise results. The results from both strategies were organised in frequency tables and presented as charts to clearly indicate the most common or frequent community issues that residents had identified as being the most important. These data sets were not combined or added together, but the relative ranking order of issues was compared and contrasted across data sets to analyse for convergence. In most of the towns there was a high level of convergence between the top 4 or 5 issues. In Kuranda, it was necessary to include the top 6 Indigenous community issues to achieve congruence between the data sets.

Prioritising the community issues in the smaller towns and districts where a survey had not been conducted was incorporated into the town workshop process. The list of community issues identified by the desk top research was presented, participants were invited to validate and add to the list and then vote on the ones they believed were the most important.

- **Community planning workshops** were conducted in each of the 20 towns/districts. In those towns where a town survey and community voting exercise had been conducted, the results of the town survey and community voting exercises were presented to identify the most important issues. In those smaller communities where a town survey had not been conducted, the priority aspirations were identified at the workshop by conducting a community voting exercise with workshop participants. The votes were tallied during the workshop thereby determining the priority list of community issues at the workshop.

The community plan workshop process held in each of the 20 towns/districts provided residents with the opportunity to develop a long term vision for their town/district; to identify the assets, opportunities and constraints for their town/district; and to plan actions to address the priority community issues and aspirations. Most of the workshops also gave residents the opportunity to identify and prioritise specific local road infrastructure issues which have been used to inform priorities within Council's asset management plans.

- **Town/District Poster**. A poster depicting the vision, priority aspirations and strategies was developed from the workshop material. Each of the 20 communities will be provided with a large colour community plan poster for their town/district that can be displayed prominently in the community.

8.8.3   Indigenous community planning

Indigenous community planning was conducted in the following 7 towns/districts in the region:

- Atherton
- Malanda
- Ravenshoe
- Chillagoe
- Mareeba
- Kuranda
- Mt Garnet

Six towns were selected because they had a significant Indigenous population (8% or more of the town population identified as Indigenous) and Malanda was included as a specific request was made by several Indigenous residents.

The Indigenous community planning applied the same community planning framework and similar steps to the town community planning process outlined above. The points of difference were:

- Indigenous Facilitators were contracted to take the lead role in the Indigenous community planning and three Facilitators were hired, each responsible for specific towns/districts.

- No Indigenous specific community voting exercises were held, however, the Indigenous town survey was conducted door to door in Mareeba, Kuranda and Atherton. In Malanda and Ravenshoe, the survey was distributed through family and organisational networks. Indigenous residents were encouraged to participate in the mainstream community planning process that was also happening in their town/district.

- An Indigenous planning workshop was held prior to the community planning workshop in those towns where the Indigenous community planning was taking place and posters have been prepared from the respective workshop material.

- The Indigenous town poster will sit alongside the community town poster. Some Indigenous residents attended the mainstream community planning workshop in their town and shared information about their vision and priorities in an effort to align both planning processes.

Communities with a high population of Indigenous residents had additional workshops which focussed on the needs and aspirations of the Indigenous community.

Town/District community participation rates

We provided multiple ways for people to participate in developing a community plan in the 10 larger towns/districts and we wanted some indication that the respective community engagement strategies were achieving a reasonable level of community participation so we benchmarked these larger towns and districts for community participation.

Our aim was to have 20% of the population aged 15 years and over in each of the larger 10 towns/districts participate in developing their town community plan. If we hadn't achieved this benchmark, we were committed to returning to the community to conduct another suitable event for public participation. However, the community participation benchmark of 20% was achieved in the ten benchmarked towns/districts with rates ranging from 20% to 40%.

Therefore, in those 10 towns/districts where the benchmark was met, we can be reasonably confident that the town/district community plan was developed with input by at least one fifth of the town/district's population, so is fairly representative of the views of residents especially with respect to the identification of the priority community issues and aspirations.

Achieving these benchmarks was possible due to the community voting exercises which enabled us to reach some of the "silent majority" as this strategy was very popular with residents and allowed a large number of people to participate in a relatively short time. We drew a large boundary around the town to include significant tracts of surrounding district to ensure we reflected a true picture of the size of local population we were benchmarking. We had to use 2006 Census data for the town and district populations and the regional population as the estimated resident populations are not available for all towns and districts. We appreciate that the Tablelands population has increased.

Table 8.2   Town/District Community Participation

Town / District	Community Participation (persons)*	Town/District Population aged 15 yrs and over (ABS Census 2006 Usual Residents)	Community Participation Rate**
Benchmarked Communities			
Atherton/Tolga District	1952	7379	26%
Atherton/Tolga Indigenous	104	334	31%
Dimbulah District Biboohra	352	1152	30%
Herberton/ Wondecla District	380	1534	25%
Julatten / Mt Molloy District	232	1052	22%
Kuranda District	673	2039	33%
Kuranda Indigenous	264	247	107% ^
Malanda District	627	3201	20%
Malanda Indigenous	45	87	52%
Mareeba District	2111	8220	26%
Mareeba Indigenous	306	1061	29%
Millaa Millaa District	214	531	40%
Ravenshoe District	694	1945	35%
Ravenshoe Indigenous	78	160	49%
Yungaburra District	311	1305	24%
Smaller Communities Not Benchmarked			
Biboohra District	46	312	NA
Chillagoe District	75	286	NA
Chillagoe Indigenous	30	31	NA
Irvinebank/ Watsonville	15	306	NA
Kairi/Tinaroo Dam District	28	739	NA
Koah	24	291	NA
Mt Garnet District	47	735	NA
Mt Garnet Indigenous	14	735	NA
Mutchilba	13	NA	NA
Speewah	53	671	NA
Walkamin	30	579	NA
Total	**7875***	**32,277**	**24%**

*The total number of people participating in each town/district community engagement includes those who completed a regional survey. Note that the total town/district community participation rates in Table 8.6 do not include town/district residents who completed a regional survey.

**Number of people who participated in the town/district community planning process as a proportion of the town/district population aged 15 years and over and number of Indigenous participants as a proportion of the Indigenous population aged 15 yrs and over

^ 107%, indicates that more Kuranda Indigenous residents participated in the community planning than there are residing in the district. However, Kuranda residents regard the ABS population data as an undercount and estimate that there are about 1200 Indigenous residents in the Kuranda district, providing a community participation rate of at least 20%

The community participation rates for each of the 10 benchmarked towns/districts are presented below, along with the number of people who participated in the community engagement held in each of the 20 towns/districts and the number of Indigenous residents who participated in the Indigenous planning events and activities.

8.9 Regional Planning

The regional planning process provided the opportunity for the community to express their views about the important issues facing the Tablelands region for the next 10 years and how they would like the region to progress.

Our aim was for the community plan to have depth and creativity - to capture the higher level innovative and creative ideas and solutions to capitalise on regional opportunities and overcome significant challenges as well as those "bread and butter" issues in towns and districts such as potholes, better health services and more BBQs in parks.

It was also about providing the opportunity to develop a stronger sense of the "Tablelands" as a region and to capitalise on advantages that could arise by conceptualising and collaborating at this broader regional level.

8.9.1 Regional engagement events and activities

The following 20 regional engagement events and activities were held from September 2009 to September 2011 in which approximately 3,500 people participated:

- Regional survey conducted September to October 2009
- Youth survey and six youth forums conducted October to November 2009
- Three sector planning workshops held October to November 2010
- Four regional voting stalls held November 2010 to July 2011
- Series of three Think Tank Workshops held Aug 2011
- Social media strategy (Facebook)
- Regional Summit held Sept 2011

The following Table (Table 8.3) summarises the numbers of people who participated in each of the regional planning events and activities.

8.9.2 Regional survey

In 2009 Council commenced the development of a new planning scheme to replace those administered by the four former shires of Atherton, Eacham, Herberton and Mareeba. Community engagement for the new planning scheme and the long term community plan was aligned to avoid duplication. Consequently, a regional survey, the TRC Postcard Survey, was conducted in September - October 2009. The data from the regional survey has been used to inform the development of the new planning scheme and the long term community plan.

8.9.3 Youth action planning

Also at this time, Council conducted comprehensive youth engagement from October - November 2009. A grant from the Dept of Communities enabled a youth survey and youth forums to be held in the five towns of Ravenshoe, Malanda, Atherton, Mareeba and Kuranda culminating in a regional forum at Tinaroo. The priority issues and other information provided by young people through this process were used to inform the development of the Tablelands Community Plan. Follow up youth engagement events and activities are being held in early 2012 and these will be used to review and update the long term community plan.

The first stages of the Community Plan began in 2009 with the Regional Postcard Survey and a series of youth forums

Table 8.3   Regional Engagement

Regional Engagement Strategy	Number of Participants
Regional Postcard Survey	646
Youth action planning	912
Sector planning workshops: Remote Families, Disability Sector, Community Services Sector	167
Regional voting exercises:Rabobank Field Day, Atherton Show and Mareeba Rodeo, Disability and Carers Expo	1335
Think Tanks	312
Regional Summit	189
Facebook page members	102
Total	**3663**

8.9.4 Regional voting exercises

Four regional voting exercises were held at prominent regional events to increase the participation of people with younger families; people with a disability and their carers; and farmers and those with an interest in the agricultural industry.

A two day stall was held at the Rabobank Field Day at Walkamin which is a major regional rural agricultural event held every 2 years. People were invited to identify and prioritise the most important issues facing the Tablelands rural sector for the next 10 years.

Voting stalls were held at the Atherton Show and the Mareeba Rodeo to capture community feedback about family related issues.

A community voting exercise was conducted at the Disability and Carer Expo in Atherton that was well attended by people with a disability, carers and service providers.

8.9.5 Social media strategy

A Facebook page was set up to facilitate community participation via social media. This strategy enabled Council to connect with those not readily able to attend workshops and who preferred to use this medium to provide comments and ideas. The Facebook page for community participation was not heavily promoted so received a modest following.

Information posted on the TRC Community Participation Facebook page was used to inform the development of the regional aspirations.

In addition the project webpage, the Community Plan team created a Facebook page to provide additional feedback using photographs and videos from workshops and events.

8.9.6 Community of interest planning with 3 sectors

The initial project plan entailed addressing regional planning issues by means of engaging with 13 sectors to develop a sectoral community plan that would depict the priority issues identified by the sector, a long term vision for their sector; and actions to address the priority issues. The sectors identified were:

• Seniors

• Multicultural Seniors

• Youth

• Business and Tourism

• Primary Industries

• Environment

• Health

• Community Services

• Arts and Culture

• Sport and Recreation

• Families on Remote Properties

• Safe Communities

• People with a Disability and Carers

However, after conducting 3 sector planning workshops (Remote Families; Community Services; and People with a Disability and Carers), we were concerned that the higher level regional issues and innovative future strategies were not being identified and addressed. The sectoral approach was highlighting the issues and aspirations of specific sectors, rather than the region as a whole.

Whilst this sectoral information was important to capture, it was becoming clear it would not deliver the higher level regional priorities required to inform long term planning by Council and other community partners. Members of the Community Plan Reference Group were also concerned about the silo approach to community planning that the sector planning was reinforcing and were worried that some important regional issues such as economic development might not get raised as they did not fit neatly into any one sector but ranged across sectors. If this eventuated, then it was likely that Council would not meet the legislative requirements of covering economic, social, environment and governance areas in the Tablelands Community Plan.

Therefore, after further discussions with the Community Plan Reference Group, it was decided to change approach and adopt a more holistic and creative regional planning approach that would allow issues affecting the region as a whole to be addressed. We would adopt a community education and deliberative approach to facilitate the development of innovative and creative responses to critical regional issues.

The three sector plans developed from each sector workshop are presented in this report. The sector material was also used to inform the development of regional aspirations and strategies.

8.9.7 Think tank workshops

We changed direction to conduct a series of three Think Tank workshops for the regional planning and the aim was to provide the opportunity for people to gain a deeper understanding of the key issues impacting on the Tablelands now and in the future and to stimulate thinking amongst the community around the possible challenges and opportunities that might arise from external, worldwide impacts and trends on the social, economic, cultural and environmental "domains" of Tablelands community life over the next 10 years.

The most significant worldwide driving forces (global drivers) were considered, by the Tablelands Community Reference Group, to be:

• Population growth, migration and ageing

• The rising prevalence of preventable chronic diseases

• Climate change

• Technological change

• Globalisation and localisation

• World population growth, urbanisation and rising living standards in China and India

Some background information outlining the scope of discussion and some data relevant to each of these "global drivers" was presented in the form of briefing notes for participants before each of the Think Tanks.

The intention was to provide stimulating, thought-provoking information along with the opportunity for guided analysis and deliberation of the significant issues and impacts to generate innovative regional strategies to guide the future prosperity of the Tablelands. This background information was further developed by guest speakers who were invited to give their perspective on how one or more of the global drivers affect the Tablelands.

Each of the six global drivers and their impact with each of the five "domains" of Tablelands community life were considered over the course of the three Think Tanks, as illustrated by the Regional Domains and Global Drivers Matrix (Table 8.4).

More than 320 people participated in the three Think Tanks that were held over a 3 week period generating an almost overwhelming volume of information that was later analysed. The key themes emerging from the challenges, opportunities and actions identified by participants informed the development of the key goals, outcomes and strategies categorised under the regional aspirations of:

• Good Governance

• Economic Vitality

• Sustainable Resource Management

• Social Inclusion and Wellbeing

• Cultural Vibrancy

• Visionary Infrastructure

The regional aspiration of "Visionary Infrastructure" was added as the development of appropriate infrastructure to support the goals of the other five regional aspirations was considered so important that it needed to be highlighted.

Material gathered from all of the regional and town/district planning events and activities also informed the goals and strategies for each of the six regional aspirations.

All of the community input recorded at the three Think Tank workshops is available on request.

Think Tank Workshop 2, Kairi. The three Think Tank workshops worked with small groups to discuss the challenges posed by six global drivers against each of the six regional aspirations.

Table 8.4   Think Tanks Matrix: Regional Domains and Global Drivers

	Economic Vitality	Sustainable Resource Management	Social Inclusion and Wellbeing	Cultural Vibrancy	Good Governance
Population growth, migration and ageing	Population growth, migration and ageing x Economic Vitality Challenges Opportunities Actions	Population growth, migration and ageing x Sustainable Resource Management Challenges Opportunities Actions	Population growth, migration and ageing x Social Inclusion and Wellbeing Challenges Opportunities Actions	Population growth, migration and ageing x Cultural Vibrancy Challenges Opportunities Actions	Population growth, migration and ageing x Good Governance Challenges Opportunities Actions
Rising prevalence of preventable chronic diseases	Rising prevalence of preventable chronic diseases x Economic Vitality Challenges Opportunities Actions	Rising prevalence of preventable chronic diseases x Sustainable Resource Management Challenges Opportunities Actions	Rising prevalence of preventable chronic diseases x Social Inclusion and Wellbeing Challenges Opportunities Actions	Rising prevalence of preventable chronic diseases x Cultural Vibrancy Challenges Opportunities Actions	Rising prevalence of preventable chronic diseases x Good Governance Challenges Opportunities Actions
Climate Change	Climate Change x Economic Vitality Challenges Opportunities Actions	Climate Change x Sustainable Resource Management Challenges Opportunities Actions	Climate Change x Social Inclusion and Wellbeing Challenges Opportunities Actions	Climate Change x Cultural Vibrancy Challenges Opportunities Actions	Climate Change x Good Governance Challenges Opportunities Actions
Technological Change - Adapting to a changing resource base	Technological Change x Economic Vitality Challenges Opportunities Actions	Technological Change x Sustainable Resource Management Challenges Opportunities Actions	Technological Change x Social Inclusion and Wellbeing Challenges Opportunities Actions	Technological Change x Cultural Vibrancy Challenges Opportunities Actions	Technological Change x Good Governance Challenges Opportunities Actions
Globalisation vs. Localisation	Globalisation vs. Localisation x Economic Vitality Challenges Opportunities Actions	Globalisation vs. Localisation x Sustainable Resource Management Challenges Opportunities Actions	Globalisation v Localisation x Social Inclusion and Wellbeing Challenges Opportunities Actions	Globalisation v Localisation x Cultural Vibrancy Challenges Opportunities Actions	Globalisation v Localisation x Good Governance Challenges Opportunities Actions
World population growth, urbanisation and rising living standards in China and India	World population growth, urbanisation and rising living standards in China and India x Economic Vitality Challenges Opportunities Actions	World population growth, urbanisation and rising living standards in China and India x Sustainable Resource Management Challenges Opportunities Actions	World population growth, urbanisation and rising living standards in China and India x Social Inclusion and Wellbeing Challenges Opportunities Actions	World population growth, urbanisation and rising living standards in China and India x Cultural Vibrancy Challenges Opportunities Actions	World population growth, urbanisation and rising living standards in China and India x Good Governance Challenges Opportunities Actions

At the completion of all the workshops, draft versions of the community and sector plans, regional vision and aspirations were presented for comment at the Regional summit, Atherton, 2011

8.9.8   Regional summit

One month after the final Think Tank workshop, the regional summit was held that was attended by at least 190 people. It evolved into a large community workshop with the aim of bringing it all together. It was essentially a validation exercise of the town/district community plans, the regional aspirations and the regional vision that had been prepared from all of the previous community engagement events and activities.

Six regional aspiration plans, 3 sector plans, 20 town/district community plans and 7 Indigenous community plans were presented at the regional summit for people to comment on, add to and validate. A draft regional vision was presented for community comment and feedback.

Feedback from the regional summit was used to finalise the regional vision and town/district posters. The additional information allowed the regional aspiration posters to be developed further by adding a vision for each aspiration, along with the goals, outcomes and strategies to achieve the regional vision for each regional aspiration.

8.9.9 Community engagement and community participation overview

The different community engagement events and activities conducted at both the town/district and regional levels involved different levels of community participation in terms of effort and skill required by participants and targeted different audiences as summarised in Table 8.5 .

Different community engagement strategies also led to quite different numbers of people participating in respective events and activities and these are presented on the following page.

Different community engagement strategies including workshops and surveys and were used to ensure different groups of people could participate throughout the planning process
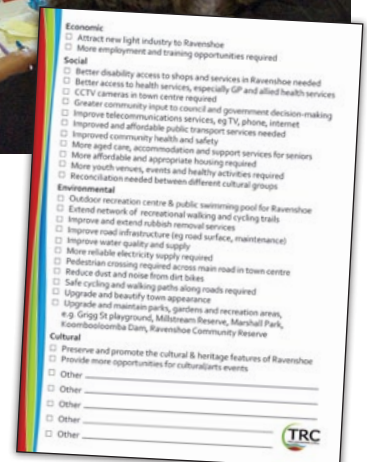

Community members reviewed the draft community and sector plans and provided post-it note feedback

Table 8.5   Community Engagement Strategies and Levels of Community Participation

Community engagement strategy	Type of community participation	Level of community participation	
Community and regional voting exercises	• Targets the silent majority • Requires less effort and skill to participate • Researcher on site to assist • More people tend to participate	Community voting exercises	**4211**
		Regional voting exercises	**1403**
		Subtotal	**5614**
Indigenous town surveys (conducted door to door, via family and organisational networks)	• Targets the silent majority • Requires less effort and skill to participate • Researcher on site to assist • More people tend to participate	**667**	
Town/district, regional and youth surveys (self-administered)	• Targets those willing to make some effort to have a say • Requires more effort and skill • No researcher assistance available • Less people tend to participate	Town/district surveys	1694
		Regional survey	646
		Youth survey	272
		Subtotal	2612
Community planning workshops in towns/districts; sector workshops; youth forums; Think Tank workshops; Regional Summit	• Targets "experts" and those "who make things happen" in their town/district • Requires more effort and skill to participate • Less people tend to participate	Town/district workshops	622
		Indigenous workshops	174
		Sector workshops	99
		Think tanks	312
		Regional summit	189
		Youth forums	640
		Subtotal	2036
Facebook page	• Targets those not readily able to attend face-to-face events • Targets those who prefer to provide feedback via Internet • Requires more resources to participate	102 facebook members	
Total community participation		11,031	

Table 8.6   Overall Community Participation in the Tablelands Community Plan

Community engagement strategy	Community Participation (Number of People)	Population aged 15 years and over (ABS Usual Residents 2006)	Community Participation Rate
Town/district community engagement	7368*	32,277	23%
Regional engagement	3663	32,277	11%
Total	**11,031**	**32,277**	**34%**

Number of people participating in the town/district community engagement does not include those who completed a regional survey. These are included in the Regional engagement total for this table.

Note that community participation rates in Table 8.2 does include town/district residents who completed a regional survey.

8.9.10 Highlighting the regional aspirations

After changing tack from the sector planning approach, the regional planning process became very open ended as it was designed to facilitate innovative and creative ideas and solutions to complex and multi-dimensional issues and challenges. During the regional engagement   process, it was not really possible to ask people to rank these as they were not fully developed until after this phase was completed. The regional planning events drew a smaller "expert" group of community members who were not representative of the regional population and none of the "sample" groups were random. Therefore, it was felt that a "voting" exercise to prioritise regional aspirations and issues would not deliver a very accurate rank order. There was also a sense by some at the regional events that all of the regional issues reflected in the six regional domains were equally important and needed to be incorporated to achieve a community plan with a "quadruple" bottom line.

However, some "Quick Wins" and "Big Ideas" have been highlighted by the Community Plan Reference Group in the spirit of offering guidance to those wanting some direction as to where they could be best placed to put some effort with respect to achieving regional aspirations and outcomes.

The Quick Wins and Big Ideas do not represent an exhaustive list, but are presented to encourage community partners to identify and implement other strategies they believe could be readily achievable - their own Quick Wins and to pull together specific goals,strategies and outcomes to create their own Big Ideas.

8.9.11 Quick wins

"Quick Wins" have been defined as those regional strategies that can be relatively easily implemented because:

• The strategy will be completed within 12 months
• An individual, group or organisation is already working on or has committed to implementing it, or it will be relatively straightforward to delegate the strategy
• Resources including funding are available to implement the strategy

Quick Wins are highlighted throughout the Regional Aspirations at Section 4.

8.9.12 The Big Ideas

Six "game changing ideas" have been identified that have the potential to:

• Position the Tablelands for ongoing and future prosperity
• Achieve the regional vision
• Enable those highly valued unique regional characteristics to be retained

Four of the Big Ideas focus on developing and positioning the Tablelands as a leading Tropical Rural and Remote Precinct in:

• Health and Wellbeing

• Sustainability

• BioBased Industries

• Cultural Diversity and Heritage

Two of the Big Ideas are "enabling strategies" - strategies that will enable the progression of the other Bid Ideas and also many of the other goals and strategies in the Tablelands Community Plan. These two Big Ideas focus on developing:

• Workforce Diversity

• A Tablelands Regional Identity and Branding

The community put forward a huge array of aspirations, ideas and strategies at the town/district and regional levels. Every effort has been made for these to be reflected in the town/district community planning and regional planning sections of this document. All of these community contributions have been analysed to identify some Big Ideas and the following factors guided this analysis. The Big Ideas are those that:

• Assist with achieving the regional vision
• Retain or enhance the highly valued regional characteristics
• Reflect those key ideas, themes or trends that have been raised repeatedly during the community planning process
• Are regionally significant
• Utilise our strengths and what we do well
• Highlight the region's "points of difference"
• Capitalise on our existing natural and other assets such as the region's location and expertise
• Capitalise on local, national and global opportunities for future progress and prosperity
• Overcome constraints that are or could hold the region back
• Do not require extensive and expensive immediate investment in infrastructure to facilitate the strategy such as a major road upgrade
• Align with key regional, state or national planning processes such as the Tropical North Queensland Regional Economic Plan and Regional Development Australia Far North Queensland and Torres Strait Road Map

9. Acknowledgements

Tablelands Community

The Tablelands Community Plan has been developed with input from approximately 11,000 people across our vast region. We thank each and every one of you for taking the time and making the effort to share your ideas, opinions, frustrations, excitement, dreams and aspirations and we hope you can see these reflected in the long term community plan for the Tablelands Region.

Community Plan Reference Group

We would like to thank the Tablelands Community Plan Reference Group for their guidance during the planning and production of the Community Plan. The members of this group are:

- Alan Lambert
- Virginia Berry
- Christine Doan
- Cr Fred Williams
- Cr Jenny Jensen
- Cr Rhonda Sorensen
- Darlene Irvine

- Debbie Lowrie
- Elisha McGuiness
- Eve Stafford
- Evizel Symour
- Gail Wason
- Judith Enoch
- Katrina Spies

- Kevin Thomasson
- James Leech
- Margaret Darveniza
- Neroli Stayt
- Dr Nicky Moore
- Penny Scott
- Peter Holden

- Peter Spies
- Robyn Boundy
- Sarah Rizvi
- Sharon Long
- Sheryl Rasmussen
- Steve Ripper
- Kathryn Edwards

The community reference group is open to the community and new members are welcome as the group will continue to provide information, advice and guidance during the implementation and review phases of the Plan. Membership of the reference group is drawn from a wide cross section of community and government. Members volunteered or were invited to become involved because of their expertise and interest in community planning.

Tablelands Regional Council Corporate and Community Planning Section

The Tablelands Community Plan is a project of the Corporate and Community Planning Section, Corporate Planning Performance and Risk Group, Tablelands Regional Council.

The Corporate and Community Planning Section team members are

Glenys Pilat
Senior Advisor Corporate
and Community Planning
Email: glenysp@trc.qld.gov.au
Tel: (07) 4043 4110

Joy Wii
Community Planning and
Development Officer
Email: joyw@trc.qld.gov.au
Tel: (07) 4043 4115

Anne Cunningham-Reid
Social and Community Planner
Email: annec@trc.qld.gov.au
Tel: (07) 4043 4118

Design, facilitation and technical support

James became involved with the community planning project by volunteering to be a member of the Community Plan Reference Group after returning to the region as a way to reconnect with his community.

It was not very long before James was contracted to provide a wide range of very specialist services to the project including graphic design, photography, social media and other internet and communications technologies, group facilitation skills and car driver to get us all home safe and sound late at night. The community plan would certainly not be what it is without James' contribution.

Contract Facilitators

We would like to acknowledge the invaluable assistance of our Contract Facilitators:

- Joann Schmider
- Judi Enoch

- Shaun Joseph
- Shelley Evans-Wild

- Di Pregl
- Michael Lawrence

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Our Indigenous facilitators, Judi, Shaun and Joann led the facilitation for the Indigenous community planning which enabled many Indigenous residents to have a say and get involved.

Regional Events Guest Speakers, Facilitators, Panel Members and Scribes

We would like to express our heartfelt appreciation for our voluntary Facilitators, Guest Speakers, Panel Members and Scribes at the Town/District workshops, Sector workshops, Think Tanks and Regional Summit:

- Alan Lambert
- Alexandra Raulli
- Alistair Hart
- Amanda Riches
- Belinda Moore
- Bernie McCarthy
- Bill Cuthbertson
- Bill Steen
- Brad McCulloch
- Cheryl Mathews
- Christine Doan
- Cr Chris Adams
- Cr Fred Williams
- Cr Jenny Jensen

- Cr Rhonda Sorensen
- Cr Shaaron Linwood
- Darlene Irvine
- Dean Davidson
- Dr Alan Clough
- Dr Alison Taylor
- Dr Allan Dale
- Dr Geraldine McGuire
- Dr Nicky Moore
- Eve Stafford
- Gail Wason
- Geraldine McGuire
- Graham Poon
- Ian Church

- Joe Moro
- Katrina Spies
- Kirsty Lamperd
- Margaret Darveniza
- Mark Watkins
- Matthew Hyde
- Mayor Tom Gilmore
- Michael Lawrence
- Neil Cliffe
- Nola Craig
- Patrick O'Neill
- Paul Want
- Peter Holden
- Ray Byrnes

- Robin Clark
- Robyn Boundy
- Ron Archer
- Sarah Rizvi
- Shiralee McHardie
- Sjoerd Aardema
- Steve Ripper
- Steve Verity
- Tate Jones
- Tracey Cuthbertson
- Warren Clarke
- Wendy Wii

Community Organisations

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Associate Professor Wendy Earles, Research Fellow Cairns Institute

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