3.25 Speewah

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
2012 - 2021

(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

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
2012 - 2013

(ii) Request information about plans to improve TV reception and coverage.   Community, Optus, Telstra, Australian Government, TRC

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

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.