



MAREEBA COMMUNITY TASKFORCE ACTION PLAN 2021-23



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Contents

1. INTRODUCTION - THE COMMUNITY TASKFORCE	1
PURPOSE	1
PRINCIPLES	1
TERM.....	1
MEMBERSHIP	1
ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES	2
MEETINGS.....	2
REVIEW.....	2
2. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT	2
INAUGURAL TASKFORCE MEETING	2
PRIORITIES FOR ACTION	3
NEXT STEPS	3
3. MAREEBA COMMUNITY TASKFORCE ACTION PLAN	4
1. PRIORITY OUTCOME: IMPROVED HEALTH SERVICES	4
2. PRIORITY OUTCOME: IMPROVED TRANSPORT CONNECTIVITY.....	5
3. PRIORITY OUTCOME: ATTRACT AND RETAIN A SKILLED WORKFORCE	6
4. PRIORITY OUTCOME: AFFORDABLE HOUSING	7
5. PRIORITY OUTCOME: IMPROVED COMMUNITY SAFETY	8

1. INTRODUCTION - THE COMMUNITY TASKFORCE

PURPOSE

The Mareeba Community Taskforce is a joint initiative of the Mareeba Chamber of Commerce and Mareeba Shire Council to continue to promote Mareeba's prosperity and wellbeing.

It is a means of achieving coordinated positive community actions and outcomes by:

- Bringing business, government, and community representatives together to identify gaps, priorities, solutions, and opportunities.
- Supporting and coordinating local actions to improve economic growth and community wellbeing.
- Coordinating actions for advocacy at all levels of government and industry.

The Taskforce is an effort to unite the community to tackle the big community issues that can seem insurmountable, but through partnership and collaboration we can try to make a difference.

Some of the big issues to be tackled over 3 years are:

- Growing the economy
- Overcoming disadvantage
- Creating healthy, active communities

PRINCIPLES

The Taskforce is:

- Collaborative
- Inclusive
- Action and outcomes-focused
- Responsive to opportunities and issues

TERM

The Terms of Reference are effective from 6 September 2021 and will be ongoing until terminated by agreement by the membership.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership is optional with groups to opt in or out, depending on the issue/opportunity. Members are drawn from:

- | | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| ▪ Government agencies | ▪ Indigenous services | ▪ Volunteer community groups and individuals |
| ▪ Businesses | ▪ Traditional Owners | ▪ Service clubs |
| ▪ Industry bodies | ▪ Education and training | ▪ Sporting groups |
| ▪ Community service sector | ▪ Employment agencies | ▪ Arts and cultural groups |
| ▪ Police and justice | ▪ Health services | ▪ Environmental groups |

ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

Mareeba Shire Council and Mareeba Chamber of Commerce resource the annual meeting including providing the venue, catering and secretariat support. Jointly they coordinate the implementation of actions.

Members:

- act in accordance with collectively agreed approaches
- provide advice in their areas of knowledge and expertise
- contribute feedback and ideas that support responding to identified opportunities/issues

MEETINGS

The Taskforce meets annually but can be activated throughout the year as required. The Taskforce can be convened as a whole, or activated in Working Groups in response to a particular issue or opportunity.

REVIEW

The Terms of Reference will be reviewed annually.

2. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

INAUGURAL TASKFORCE MEETING

The inaugural meeting of the Mareeba Taskforce was held 6th September 2021 to bring together representatives across business, industry, community and government sectors to tackle the big issues:

- Growing Mareeba's economy
- Overcoming disadvantage, including youth justice and vulnerable families
- Creating healthy active communities

Hosted by the Mareeba Chamber of Commerce and Mareeba Shire Council, the meeting was attended by 60 representatives from industry and business, government and community-based services, volunteer sporting, arts and cultural groups and clubs, service clubs and involved residents.

The forum opened with a presentation by Cr Angela Toppin, Mayor of Mareeba Shire Council on the state of Mareeba's economy and wellbeing, followed by the Mareeba Police, Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs, Mulungu and Ngoonbi Indigenous organisations providing updates on youth justice initiatives.

The outcome-focussed forum provided the opportunity to identify the local actions and advocacy actions to promote Mareeba's economic growth and community wellbeing.

Following the facilitated discussion, participants voted on the top high-level priorities they believe would make a real difference to the community over the next 12 months.

PRIORITIES FOR ACTION

The priority actions identified by the voting exercise were:

1. Improving health services
2. Improving transport connectivity
3. Attracting and retaining a skilled workforce
4. More affordable housing
5. Community safety and youth support

NEXT STEPS

- All of the input provided at the forum was valuable and has been written up and is available in its raw form to interested parties.
- The Taskforce will prepare an Action Plan focussing on the five top level priority actions and attract state and federal government buy-in, where required. The Mareeba Task Force Action Plan is outlined on the following pages.
- A Mareeba Taskforce Community Forum will be held in late 2022 to reivew the priority actions and outcomes achieved. A Progress Report will be prepared to share with the wider community.

3. MAREEBA COMMUNITY TASKFORCE ACTION PLAN

1. PRIORITY OUTCOME: IMPROVED HEALTH SERVICES

Health services are improved to meet the needs of a growing rural population in the Mareeba district with high risk of chronic disease, ageing faster than Australia and experiencing high socio-economic disadvantage

Priority Actions	Organisation	Timing
Develop advocacy material to lobby for improved primary health care services	Mareeba Shire Council	Completed
Lobby for improved primary health care services: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand current health services and facilities and visiting medical specialists, dental, counselling and allied health professionals to service the region and Cape York Bring the health services to the people with expanded outreach and visiting services Review funding models for rural and remote GP and specialist medical services Delivery of culturally competent health services Expand mental health care and alcohol and other drugs services Improved technology, support and training for telehealth service delivery 	Mareeba Shire Council Mareeba Chamber of Commerce	Continuing
Attract and retain medical officers for GP and hospital positions and nursing and allied health professionals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mareeba Health Professional Workforce Alliance established 	Mareeba Chamber of Commerce & Primary Health Network	Commenced
Provide input to new strategies by Queensland and Federal Governments to attract and retain skilled rural GPs.	Mareeba Shire Council	Commenced
Explore new models and partnerships for improved health services: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish the Mareeba & Community Family Health Centre Company Implement the Mareeba & Community Family Health Centre Business Plan Transition the Mareeba Medical Clinic to community management 	Mareeba & Community Family Health Care	Completed Continuing Completed

2. PRIORITY OUTCOME: IMPROVED TRANSPORT CONNECTIVITY

Transport connectivity is improved to facilitate the resilience of key routes between Mareeba and the Gulf of Carpentaria, Cape York, the Atherton Tablelands and Southern Australia, while also focusing on active recreation and commuting options for residents and visitors.

Priority Actions	Organisation	Timing
Develop advocacy material to lobby for improved transport connectivity	Mareeba Shire Council	Completed
Advocate for road improvements for Cairns to Mareeba access: Kuranda range improvements and / or alternative route; Inclusion of the Kennedy Highway Cairns to Mareeba, including Kuranda Range Road, in the National Highway	Mareeba Shire Council Mareeba Chamber of Commerce	Continuing
Advocate for untethered funding to Council for progressive sealing of the entire length of Ootann Road and recognition of Ootann Road as a Road of Strategic Importance	Mareeba Shire Council	Continuing
Support actions to deliver the Mareeba Bypass to reduce heavy-vehicle traffic through the main street and improve agricultural sector productivity. Actions include: finalising planning study for northern section, commence feasibility/route planning study of southern section, and commence construction	Mareeba Shire Council	Continuing
Continue to promote the availability of leased sites at the Mareeba Airport Aviation Park	Mareeba Shire Council	Continuing
Support the development and implementation by Department of Transport and Main Roads of the Mareeba Walking Trail Network Plan for commuters resulting in improved liveability and active recreation	Department of Transport and Main Roads (DTMR)	Commenced
Develop Mareeba Rail Trail Stage One as a commuter trail from Centenary Park to Airport	Mareeba Shire Council	Commenced

3. PRIORITY OUTCOME: ATTRACT AND RETAIN A SKILLED WORKFORCE

Improved focus on attracting and retaining a skilled workforce to support industry objectives, meet the demands of a growing rural population and keep pace with a quickly changing world to ensure future economic sustainability and liveability.

Priority Actions	Organisation	Timing
<p>Explore new models and partnerships for improved health services and workforce attraction and retention:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish the Mareeba Health professional Workforce Alliance (MHPWA) with funding by PHN 	<p>Mareeba Community & Family Health Care</p> <p>Primary Health Network (PHN)</p>	Completed
Promote the liveability of Mareeba and the Shire to attract workers to fill skill gaps and shortages	<p>Mareeba Shire Council</p> <p>Mareeba Chamber of Commerce</p>	Commenced
Partner with the Queensland Department of Small Business and Training and Chamber of Commerce and Industry Queensland (CCIQ) to support small business in Mareeba	<p>Mareeba Chamber of Commerce</p> <p>Mareeba Shire Council</p>	Continuing
Support initiatives to increase access to housing to enable businesses to attract and retain staff	All	Continuing

4. PRIORITY OUTCOME: AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Housing affordability and accessibility is improved to deliver sustainable benefits to health, employment and well-being in the community.

Priority Actions	Organisation	Timing
Explore and develop innovative models, including public/private partnerships, for increased social housing stock that meets community needs including for seniors, singles, Indigenous families and disability accommodation.	Mareeba Community Housing Company FlexiChoice NDIS Sector Community Housing Providers Developers Mareeba Shire Council Mareeba Chamber of Commerce Department of Communities, Housing & Digital Economy	Continuing
Advocate for a coordinated local, state and federal government strategy to improve housing affordability and accessibility	All	Commenced
Support the development of more residential blocks	Mareeba Shire Council	Continuing
Review Council development processes, fees and charges	Mareeba Shire Council	Commenced
Review the Mareeba Shire Council Planning Scheme with community and business	Mareeba Shire Council	Commence 2023
Advocate for the development of a new modern statutory Regional Plan which is supported and accountable to both local and state government and provides a clear strategic direction to support economic and population growth and facilitates affordable housing and increased social housing options	Mareeba Shire Council Mareeba Chamber of Commerce	Commenced

5. PRIORITY OUTCOME: IMPROVED COMMUNITY SAFETY

The community works together in positive ways for improved community safety encompassing adequate policing, appropriate judicial outcomes, and sustainable funding to support the needs of the community's most vulnerable to deter criminal activity and improve community safety

Priority Actions	Oranisation	Timing
Facilitate community collaboration for improved community safety	Mareeba Shire Council	Commenced
Improve access to positive youth activities and support services for youth engagement and empowerment, especially after hours access by youth	Community service providers and volunteer groups Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs Mareeba Shire Council	Commenced
Advocate for adequate funding for family and youth support services	Community Services Sector Mareeba Shire Council Mareeba Chamber of Commerce	Continuing
Advocate for adequate policing resources and appropriate judicial and legislative change and outcomes including an effective Liquor Accord	Mareeba Shire Council Mareeba Chamber of Commerce	Continuing
Develop a community support services map to improve communication between agencies and assist in case management.	Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships	Commenced
Improve case management processes for well coordinated intensive case management for young people: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a SMART Panel for serious offenders Review Case Management for Young People (CCYP) processes 	Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs Queensland Police Service Queensland Education Indigenous Services Community Services Youth Empowered Towards Independence	Commenced

	Mareeba Community and Family Health Care Primary Health Network	
Establish a Mareeba Aboriginal Community Group to engage with young people	Aboriginal Elders and residents	Commenced
Encourage community support for alternative school programs to re-engage children back into education or employment	Queensland Education Community Services Mareeba Shire Council Mareeba Chamber of Commerce	Commenced
Design and develop Parks and Open Spaces for improved community safety	Mareeba Shire Council	Commenced
Promote Small Town Big Heart values by encouraging local leaders to mentor/tell stories that include belonging, ownership and encourage engagement with services	All	Commenced