

3.12 Kuranda

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 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



Kuranda Community Planning Workshop, 28th 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.

3.12.1 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, Ngonbi Co-operative Society](#)
- (ii) Review sewerage connection fees for low income residents of top Kowrowa. [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, Ngonbi 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, Ngonbi 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](#)

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](#)

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](#)

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](#)
- (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](#)
- (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](#)

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](#)
- (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

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](#)
- (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](#)

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](#)
- (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](#)
- (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](#)

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.