

3.16 Mareeba

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](#)

(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](#)

(ix) Lobby for increased services for chronic health disease and need to plan for increasing aged population.

[Community, Aged Care Providers, Queensland Health](#)

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](#)

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](#)

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](#)

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](#)