



Baralaba & District 2017/2027 Place Based Plan



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AMENDMENT		DETAILS OF AMENDMENT	AMENDED BY
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DISCLAIMER

The information that has been collected and entered into this document reflects the input from community members from Biloela and the Banana Shire. In adopting this plan the Banana Shire Council does not commit to completing all or any of the mentioned projects. It does however commit to working with the community and within its fiscal management systems to create sustainable communities of the future.

The following planning document was developed on behalf of the Banana Shire Council by Economic Development Services – Central Queensland.

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Introduction

Purpose

This Place Based Plan is intended to help the community, elected representatives, service providers and government agencies better understand the diverse nature of the individual towns that make up the Banana Shire and the possible social, economic and environmental issues they may face now and in the future. Also, this plan aims to develop a long-term strategy for the growth and development of the Banana Shire. This growth and development will be considered in a wide range of areas that are mentioned in this document. These areas such as Arts, Sports and Youth are considered to be integral to the development of the shire and its occupants.

Methodology

The Banana Shire Council has identified that a “Place Based” Plan is required in each of the Shire’s twelve towns. This will allow us to develop a positive trend regarding population growth as well as fulfilling the potential of the individual community’s economic and social future.

From the development of the “Place Based” plans the Banana Shire Strategic Community Plan will be developed.

In summation, the consultation process will include:

- Gathering of and referral to available ABS statistics;
- Discussion of related issues and policy with Government Departments and key stakeholder representatives;
- Meetings with representatives from regional organisations that have economic development roles;
- Attendance at meetings, networking or speaking to local leaders and community groups;
- Research/referral to a variety of historical literature;
- Research/referral to a variety of regional strategic planning consultancies currently in progress;
- Community Engagement processes with residents in the Shire;
- Related Internet Search.

Structure of Document

This document is structured into a number of discrete parts, which are:

- Section 1 – This section provides a general introduction to the document
- Section 2 – Town Overview
- Section 3 – Social Profile
- Section 4 – Achievements of Baralaba
- Section 5 – Future Directions



LOCATION

The town of Baralaba is located 160km southwest of Rockhampton, 96km northwest of Biloela and 667km northwest of Brisbane.

Please refer to the RACQ Trip Planner [http://www.racq.com.au/travel/Maps and Directions/trip_planner](http://www.racq.com.au/travel/Maps_and_Directions/trip_planner)

HISTORY

Baralaba, Aboriginal for Land of the Blue Mountain, was once an important coal mining area. In 1901 seams of good coal were found near the town and in 1921 Mt Morgan Gold Mining Company began operations from the Dawson Valley Colliery with coal being railed to the Mt Morgan smelters. The mine closed in May 1969 and coal exploration recommenced in 2004. Beef/stud cattle, grain and rapidly expanding irrigated crop farming now maintain the town and district.

DESCRIPTION

Baralaba is a pleasant country town with a wide main street divided by a median strip covered in lawns, attractive shade trees and shrubbery. It is situated on the Dawson River and surrounded by fertile farming and grazing land. The Neville Hewitt Weir on the Dawson River is a popular recreation area. The weir was opened in 1976 and boasts excellent fishing and the best water for boating and skiing in the Dawson Valley.

Executive Summary of Key Census Results

In the 2011 Census there were 479 people in Baralaba and environs, of these 51.8% were male and 48.2% were female. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people made up 4.4% of the population.

Detailed census data is available via the ABS and Queensland State Government OSER.

www.abs.gov.au
www.oser.qld.gov.au



Social Infrastructure

Visit the following link and enter the town name for an up to date list and contact details of organisations and community groups.

www.mycommunitydirectory.com.au/Queensland/Banana

GOVERNMENT SERVICES

Baralaba boasts a number of government services which are accessed regularly by local residents as well as residents of surrounding areas.

- Australia Post
- Banana Shire Mobile Library Service
- Baralaba No.2 Rural Fire
- Baralaba No.5 Rural Fire
- Dawson Rural Fire Brigade
- Kokotungo District Rural Fire Board
- Police Service
- Queensland Rural Fire & Rescue Service – Baralaba Branch
- Queensland Ambulance Service & Local Ambulance Committee
- SES - Baralaba Branch

EDUCATION

Baralaba services local educational needs through:

- Baralaba State School
- Baralaba State School P&C Association.

COMMUNITY HEALTH AND WELFARE SERVICES

To find contact details and addresses of available health services visit the following link:

<http://www.nhsd.com.au/>

Baralaba has a richly diverse range of services dedicated to the health and welfare of its community:

- Baralaba Aged Care Association
- Baralaba Dental Clinic
- Baralaba Hospital
- Baralaba Hospital Auxiliary Inc.
- Baralaba Private Clinic
- Gladstone Child Safety Service Centre - Department of Child Safety

COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

Baralaba is home to a number of community organisations:

- Baralaba & District Historical Society Inc.
- Baralaba Agricultural & Pastoral Society Inc.

- Baralaba Patch & Stitch Group
- Baralaba Playgroup Association
- Baralaba Senior Citizens Club

ARTS

Art groups in Baralaba include:

- Baralaba Dawson River Artists
- Flying Arts Art Group

SPORT AND RECREATION

Baralaba is host to a number of sporting groups:

- Aerobics
- Baralaba Bowls Club
- Baralaba Cricket Club
- Baralaba Golf Club Inc.
- Baralaba Netball Association
- Baralaba Old Time Dance Club
- Baralaba Panthers Junior Rugby League Football Club
- Baralaba Pony Club
- Baralaba Swimming Club
- Baralaba Tennis Club
- Bottle Tree Campdraft Association
- Silver Cup Campdraft Committee
- The Baralaba Recreation & Fish Stocking Committee

RELIGION

The spiritual needs of the Baralaba community and surrounds are well catered for by the local religious organisations:

- Baralaba Anglican Church
- Bible Study Group
- Catholic Church
- Baralaba Uniting Church

SERVICE GROUPS

Baralaba is a central point for numerous service groups for the area:

- Baralaba & District Progress Association Inc.
- Baralaba Benleith Water Board
- Baralaba Landcare
- Baralaba Masonic Lodge
- Queensland Country Women's Association (QCWA) - Baralaba



Achievements and Assets of Baralaba

RECOGNISED COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENTS AND ASSETS

- Aged care units
- School P – 10
- Hospital
- Landcare office
- Airstrip
- Helipad
- Police Station
- Ambulance
- Sporting facilities
- Playground

Natural Assets

- Profitable cattle country
- The Dawson River

Built Assets

- Baralaba Weir
- Riverside Park



Future Directions

COMMUNITY IDENTITY AND VISION

Identity

Baralaba is an urban town that is growing to accommodate the mining and rural activities in the area. The Baralaba community places great value on its youth and elderly as well as those who are visitors to the area. Baralaba prides itself on being a safe and friendly community that celebrates its history and

looks forward to a prosperous and liveable future.

Vision

Baralaba strives to be a community that is safe and friendly, vibrant and prosperous. The community places great value on its youth and elderly, recognising them as their future and history. Baralaba will grow to accommodate growth in local industries and continue to support the surrounding areas.

COMMUNITY PLAN

Infrastructure & Facilities

Required upgrades to the town's facilities are:

- The repair, upgrade and construction of local footpaths
- Development of guttering and kerbing in the town
- Sealing of car parks at facilities such as the Landcare Office
- Upgrades to the Water Treatment Plant for both current and future requirements
- Upgrades to the current sewerage system to allow for future increases in population
- Investigate the cost of converting the town from its current septic system to a sewerage system
- Build a heavy vehicle parking area to reduce the number of trucks in the main part of town
- Upgrade netball courts
- RSL Hall requires painting

The necessity of many of these upgrades comes from the need to ensure that the infrastructure and facilities of Baralaba make it a viable place for people to live as the local mines expand.

Other community facility concerns raised were the signage and accessibility of the local emergency phone as well as appropriate lighting on local boat ramps.

Housing

A plan for new house construction is of great importance. To attract families of mining personnel to the town homes need to be available. It is vitally important a balance of available houses for families and Single Person Quarters be maintained. A plan for

100 new homes over 20 years would give Baralaba sustainable growth.

Lifestyle

Baralaba has a great lifestyle and it needs to be promoted by all residents and organisations.

Water

An analysis of both water usage and water quality in the town is necessary with the possibility of improving the current water infrastructure such as plumbing. Consideration is needed regarding the use of raw water in truck wash down facilities.

Storage and access of water needs long-term consideration, as an increase in Baralaba's population due to local mining operations is inevitable and quality water will need to be accessible.

Roads

One of the most important upgrades to Baralaba's infrastructure and facilities would be the upgrade of local roads. The condition of the roads and location of the bridges has an immense impact on tourism, commerce, emergency services and the day to day lives of residents. Some of the local roads and bridges identified are:

- Baralaba-Banana Road
- Rannes Road
- Olinda Road
- Baralaba Bridge
- Don Bridge

Other roads that require upgrades are:

- Bears Lagoon Road
- Coolum Road
- All weather access to the Dump access road and Airport access road

In their current condition, the roads are highly dangerous in wet weather and many are impassable during flooding. Another reason behind the need for this update is the recently increased use of the local roads and highways by freight trucks. A potential solution for this is the reclassification of the Banana-Baralaba Road and the Banana Intersection as a Main Road.

Signage

The addition of flood warning signs to local roads is advisable as it benefits both locals and visitors to the area. A suggested method of implementing this is the use of folding road signs that can be openly displayed during flooding and folded up during dryer times. This would ensure that the public are informed in an efficient manner of any potential flooding.

Health

The Baralaba Community has a wonderful new hospital and it is committed to ensuring that the hospital and Ambulance are maintained in the community

Council Services

As the Council's library service is of great importance to the community and relied upon by many of the residents, it needs to be consistent and increased.

In relation to this, the availability of internet and Council services should be considered with opportunities to access these services offered to the community.

Ensuring improvements in communication methods between the community and Council and the simplification of Council processes is very important.

Showgrounds

An issue that was identified is the upgrading of the Showgrounds complex. This is considered to be of high importance as this is the most commonly used facility by the community. There are a variety of actions to be taken:

- Upgrades to the arena's fencing
- A new cut out arena
- A new wash down bay and pit
- Better lighting to make it a more user friendly facility
- Developing a management plan which would prioritise the needs for the facility and allocate a caretaker for the management and maintenance of the site

Landcare

Baralaba Landcare is a very important part of the Baralaba Community. As well as facilitating Landcare activities, it delivers information services to tourists, supplies a home and gallery to the Dawson River Artists and provides meeting and training facilities.

Baralaba Landcare receives part funding for its activities however there is a need for ongoing funding support from the community, industry and government to continue to supply these invaluable services to the community.

TOURISM & PROMOTION

Events

Baralaba has the potential to draw on existing events and attractions of the area to develop tourism further and to promote Baralaba in a positive way as a great place to visit.

Tourism opportunities in the area are events such as the Saratoga Fishing Classic and the potential of the River Festival being held in partnership with Moura, Theodore and Taroom.

Attractions

Use of local environmental attractions of the area such as sport fishing (Saratoga) and bird watching are an excellent example of potential tourism attractions.

There are further options for tourism draw cards in the area such as:

- River Walks
- River Park development
- Displays of the old coal mine equipment
- Myella Farm Stay

Promotion

Promotion of Baralaba is already in place interstate and across Banana Shire. However, it was identified that more could be done locally including developing an accredited information centre (currently based at the Landcare Office) and directional signage within the community for tourists.

BUSINESS & INDUSTRY

Roads

A primary concern for the future of business and industry in Baralaba is the state of the local roads. Due to the location of the town, the use of freight is a necessity which causes vulnerability in the area due to the river system that divides the town.

Upgrading local roads between Banana and Baralaba as well as upgrading local bridges would reduce this vulnerability and increase the efficiency of current industry as well as encourage the creation of new industry. Related to this issue is the lack of public transport available in the area.

Improved road networks and upgrades to roads surrounding Baralaba would improve the accessibility of the town.

Niche Businesses

As the area is heavily reliant on the local mining industry, improvement of local facilities would serve to attract new businesses, which focus on the local industries, into the area. Businesses that could be developed for the area are:

- Safety equipment and clothing for both rural and mining industries
- A motel in the town with facilities for business travellers
- Restaurants and late night / early morning eateries catering for shift workers
- Small businesses such as a café, hairdresser and laundromat

Creating these businesses would encourage people to spend their money in Baralaba

which would bring an amount of stability to the town.

The addition of new businesses into the area would also encourage people to move to Baralaba.



RURAL FUTURES

Although Baralaba has had the longest mining history in the shire, it has been the rural industries that have maintained the economic viability of the town for the past 30 years. It is rural production and the future development of agriculture that will be a major sustaining factor in the future of Baralaba, the Dawson Valley and the Banana Shire.

Water storage and managing water use will be the catalyst for growth in Baralaba and the Dawson Valley. The Nathan Dam will be critical to the development of the area's agriculture and will also serve as a flood management tool.

COMMUNITY PLANNING ENGAGEMENT AND FUTURE PLANNING

The ongoing process of updating and ensuring that the community owns the community plan will be undertaken following the timeline below.

Planning Chart



ACTION PLANS

<i>Infrastructure and Facilities</i>	<i>Activity/ Task</i>	<i>Council's Role</i>	<i>Stakeholders</i>
Review Council's current operational status and create partnerships with stakeholders to achieve these goals	Repair and upgrade of footpaths, guttering and kerbing	Provider Partner	Banana Shire Council Baralaba Progress Assoc.
	Sealing of car park at Landcare Office		
	Upgrades to current sewerage system		
	Investigate cost of converting from septic to sewerage		
	Build a heavy vehicle parking area		
	Paint RSL Hall		
	Accessibility of local emergency phone		
	Lighting on the boat ramp		
	Investigate showgrounds development plan	Advocate	Baralaba Show Society Banana Shire Council
	An analysis of water usage and water quality with a possibility of upgrading current infrastructure	Partner	Banana Shire Council
	Investigate the development of a 20 year plan for new housing to encourage mining personnel's families to relocate to the area	Provider	Banana Shire Council
	Improve communication between Council and the community	Provider	Banana Shire Council
	Continuation and improvement of Council services e.g. Mobile Library and offer access to internet services	Provider	Banana Shire Council
	Acquire funding support for the Baralaba Landcare community activities	Advocate	Baralaba Landcare Baralaba Progress Assoc.
	Upgrade Netball Courts	Partner	Banana Shire Council Baralaba Progress Assoc.
Upgrade the Return Services Memorial	Partner	Banana Shire Council Baralaba Progress Assoc.	
Upgrade the Queen Elizabeth Coronation Flag Pole	Provider	Banana Shire Council	

		Partner	Baralaba Progress Assoc.
	Upgrade the BBQ at the Ski Garden	Provider Partner	Banana Shire Council Baralaba Progress Assoc.
	Continue to develop the playground	Provider Partner	Banana Shire Council Baralaba Progress Assoc.

Business and Industry	Activity/ Task	Council's Role	Stakeholders
Investigate the potential for partnerships between industry stakeholders and Council to encourage the development of industry in the area	Improve local road conditions including all weather access Upgrade and maintain road condition, bridges and flood warning signs	Provider	Banana Shire Council TMR
	Investigate and alleviate impact of road issues, such as condition and accessibility on local industry and services	Provider Partner	Baralaba Progress Assoc. Banana Shire Council
	Attract businesses aimed at local industry, residents and visitors	Advocate	Baralaba Progress Assoc. Banana Shire Council
	Develop training facilities for local industries	Advocate	Cockatoo Coal Baralaba Progress Assoc. Banana Shire Council
	Research the potential for a gas fired or solar power station in area with a focus on green energy	Advocate	Baralaba Progress Assoc. Banana Shire Council

Tourism and Promotion	Activity/ Task	Council's Role	Stakeholders
Develop partnerships between the community, individual stakeholders to undertake research and action to ensure the growth of tourism and promotion for the area.	Draw on existing events to attract tourism such as the Saratoga Fishing Classic and River Festival	Advocate	Baralaba Fish Stocking Assoc
	Develop the local river walk and continue river park development	Partner	Baralaba Fish Stocking Assoc Banana Shire Council
	Use the attraction that the local environment delivers for tourist attractions such as the river and bird watching	Advocate	Baralaba Progress Assoc
	Investigate and develop mining displays of old equipment	Advocate	Baralaba Progress Assoc
	Accredit current information centre and promote sale of local artwork	Advocate	Baralaba Progress Assoc
	Develop local directional signage	Partner	Baralaba Progress Assoc
Rural Futures	Activity/ Task	Council's Role	Stakeholders
Identify key action priorities in relation to the rural future of the community.	Manage current and future water storage and use	Partner Partner	Baralaba Progress Assoc. Banana Shire Council Sunwater
	Investigate the future of the Nathan Dam	Advocate	Baralaba Progress Assoc. Banana Shire Council
	Develop flood management tools	Provider Partner	Baralaba Progress Assoc. Banana Shire Council
	Support the further development of rural production and agriculture in the area	Advocate	Baralaba Progress Assoc. Banana Shire Council