



# **Biloela & District 2017/2027 Place Based Plan**



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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 Health, Education, Arts, Sports and Youth are 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:

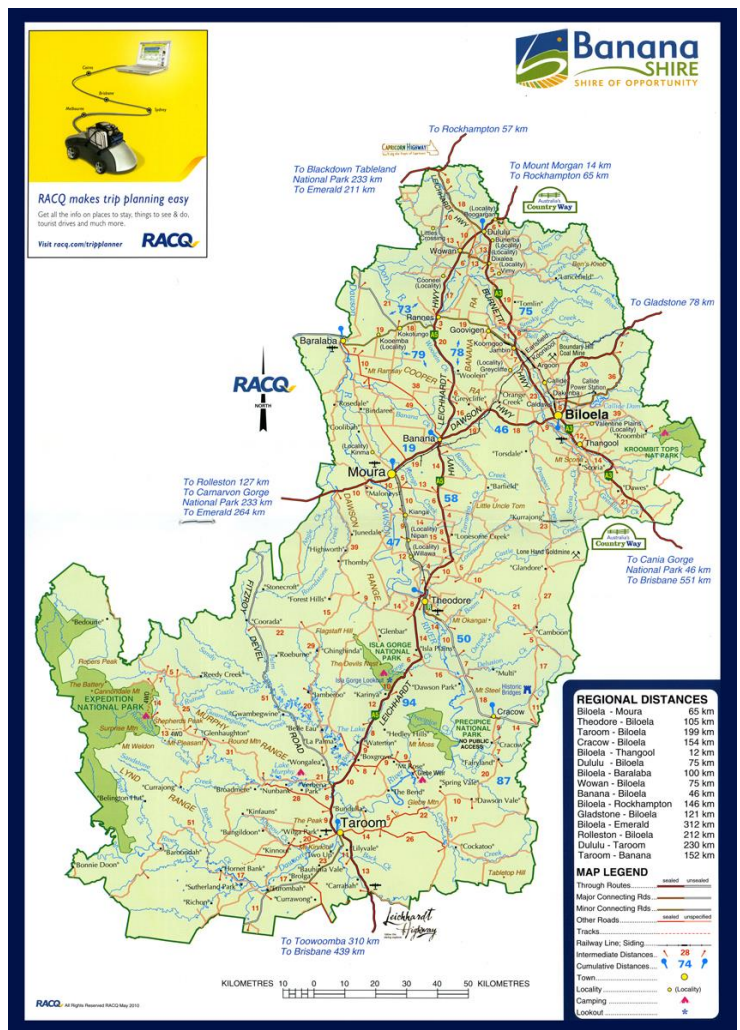
- Gathering of and referral to available ABS statistics
- Discussion of related issues and policy with Government Departments and key stakeholder representatives
- Meetings with representatives from regional organisations that have economic development roles
- Attendance at meetings, networking or speaking 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 Biloela
- Section 5 – Future Directions



## LOCATION

Biloela is a rural service centre located in central eastern Queensland's Callide Valley at the junction of the Burnett and Dawson Highways 594 km North-West of Brisbane, 145km South-West of Rockhampton 127 km from Gladstone. It sits 173 metres above sea-level.

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

The Gaangulu tribe, who inhabited the region prior to European settlement, named the area Biloela after their totem: the white cockatoo. The town was gazetted in 1924 and the railway arrived the following year. Government assistance continued with the opening of a Primary School.

The primary infrastructure of the town was developed between 1930 and 1941. This ranged from the School of Arts to many of the local churches, the courthouse, hospital and local newspaper. In 1946 the Council Offices were transferred to Biloela from Wowan and by 1952 numerous retailers had opened stores as the meatworks had commenced operation. By 1965 the Callide Dam was completed creating an assured water supply for the area. Since then the town has continued to grow increasing its population significantly.

## DESCRIPTION

Biloela is located approximately 594km north-west of Brisbane. It is the administrative centre of the Banana Shire. Today Biloela is a modern town characterised by well-established businesses and a thriving service industry which caters for not only Biloela but other towns in the region.

It continues to have a strong working relationship with Gladstone and Rockhampton. Due to its location at the intersection of the Dawson and Burnett

Highways, the town is well supplied with accommodation and eating facilities.

Biloela's economy is extremely diverse and is driven by many different areas of industry. The area around the township has a very healthy agricultural base with a wide variety of crops grown. It is also home to a very successful beef and intensive livestock producing industry.

The beef production supports Teys Australia Meatworks which employs many residents in the community. CS Energy and the Batchfire Callide Mine are major industries which drive growth in Biloela and the surrounding area.

Batchfire Callide is a major Queensland coal mining operation with a production capacity of around 13 million tonnes a year and has supported the Biloela economy for 70 years.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF KEY CENSUS RESULTS

In the 2011 Census, there were 5885 persons usually resident in the town of Biloela. It is estimated that 1153 persons reside in the immediate environs. 51% were males and 49% were females. Of the total population in Biloela 4% were Indigenous persons, compared with 2.5% Indigenous persons in Australia.



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

[www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)

[www.oser.qld.gov.au](http://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](http://www.mycommunitydirectory.com.au/Queensland/Banana)

### **GOVERNMENT SERVICES**

Biloela proudly boasts a vast range of government services that strive to maintain and improve the way of life of the community:

- Banana Shire Council
- Qld Police Service
- Qld Ambulance Service
- SES - Biloela Branch
- The Government Agency (QGAP)
- Banana Shire Council Library
- Biloela Court House
- Biloela Fire Brigade
- Biloela Post Shop
- Centrelink
- Prospect Creek Rural Fire Brigade
- Banana Shire Council Community Resource Centre
- Dakenba Rural Fire Brigade
- Orange Creek Rural Fire Brigade
- Valentine Plains Rural Fire Brigade
- Veteran's Welfare Service

### **EDUCATION**

As a central point for the Banana Shire, Biloela boasts the largest range of educational services in the area:

- Biloela Community Kindergarten Association Inc
- C & K Coo-Inda Community Kindergarten
- Biloela Reading & Writing for Adults
- Biloela Special Education Unit
- Biloela State High School
- Biloela State High School P & C Association
- Biloela State Primary School
- Biloela State Primary School P & C Association

- C & K Biloela Childcare Centre
- Biloela Early Learning & Child Care Centre
- Central Qld University Biloela Campus
- Mount Murchison State Primary School
- Mt Murchison State Primary School P & C Assoc. Inc
- Prospect Creek State Primary School
- Redeemer Lutheran P-10 School
- Redeemer Lutheran P-10 School PFA
- St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School
- St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School P & F Assoc. Inc
- GAGAL (BEST Centre)

### **COMMUNITY HEALTH & WELFARE SERVICES**

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

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

As Biloela is the largest town within the Banana Shire, it is well provided for by Health and Welfare services:

- Amcal Max Chemist
- Anglicare Central Queensland - Biloela
- Australian Breastfeeding Association - Biloela Group
- Biloela Family Dental
- Biloela Discount Chemist
- Banana Health Service - District Office
- Banana Shire Support Centre
- Biloela & District Meals on Wheels Association Inc.
- Biloela Dental Clinic (Hospital)
- Biloela School Dental Clinic
- Biloela Hospital
- Biloela Medical Centre
- Biloela Vet Clinic
- Blue Care Callide Valley
- Community Health – Child Health Services
- Community Health – Nursing
- Community Indigenous Health
- Community Health - Occupational Therapy
- Community School Based Youth Health Nursing
- Community Health – Social Worker

- Community Health – Speech Pathology
- Community Health – Visiting Services
- Community Employment Options Inc.
- CQ Rural Practice
- David Cox Dental
- Gladstone Child Safety Service Centre - Department of Communities - Child Safety
- Endeavour Respite Centre
- Gladstone District Youth Achievement Plan
- Griffith Oxley Clinic
- Wahroonga Retirement Village
- Community Resource Centre
- QML Pathology
- Sullivan Nicolaides Pathology

## COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

As with many communities, many of the residents in the area are dedicated to a variety of organisations:

- Banana Shire Historical Society Inc
- Biloela ANZAC Memorial Club Inc
- Biloela Area Visual Arts (BAVA)
- Biloela Embroidery Group
- Biloela Garden Lovers
- Biloela Girl Guides & Brownie Support Group Inc
- Biloela Horticultural Society
- Biloela Scout Group
- Callide Dawson Machinery Preservation Club Inc
- Callide Dawson Poultry Club
- Callide Dawson Woodworkers Club Inc.
- Callide Valley Agricultural & Pastoral Society Inc
- Callide Valley Doll Collectors
- Callide Valley Rock & Gem Club Inc
- Country Valley Toastmasters
- Flying Arts
- Philippine/Thai Association Meet
- Mens Shed

## THE ARTS

The Arts are well represented in the Biloela community with numerous supporting associations:

- Banana Shire Art Gallery Association Inc

- Banana Shire Community Arts Association Inc
- Biloela & Area Handicraft Cultural Group
- Biloela & District Band Inc
- Biloela Arts Council Inc
- Biloela Eisteddfod Society Inc
- Biloela Patchwork Club Inc
- Biloela Potters
- Regional Arts Development Fund
- Biloela Snappers – Photographic Club

## SPORT & RECREATION

Biloela boasts many active sporting and recreational groups:

- Callide Valley Hack & Pony Club Inc
- Biloela Rifle Club
- Biloela Shotokan Karate Club
- Callide Valley Auto Club Inc
- Callide Valley Tuesday Ladies Tennis
- Biloela Amateur Swimming Club
- Football Biloela & District Inc
- Biloela Bowls Club Inc
- Biloela Croquet
- Biloela Dirt Riders Inc
- Biloela Golf Club Inc
- Biloela Indoor Bowls Club
- Biloela Junior Cricket Association Inc
- Biloela Little Athletics Centre Inc & Biloela Athletic Club
- Biloela Netball Association Inc
- Biloela Panthers Rugby League Football Club Inc
- Biloela Police Citizens Youth Club (PCYC)
- Biloela Rugby Union Club Inc
- Biloela Valleys Football Club Inc
- Biloela Croquet Club
- Callide Dawson Cricket Association
- Callide Dawson Flying Group Inc
- Callide Dawson Pistol Club Inc
- Callide United Football Club Inc
- Callide Valley District Darts Association Inc
- Callide Valley Hack & Pony Club Inc
- Callide Valley Indoor Bowls Association Inc
- Callide Valley Junior Rugby League
- Callide Valley Tennis Association Inc
- Callide Valley Touch Association Inc
- Callide Dawson Clay Target Club Inc



- Callide Valley Native Fish Stocking Association Inc
- Biloela Aquatic Centre
- Magavalis Sports Club Inc
- Sakura Ryu Jujitsu – Biloela Branch
- St Joseph's Indoor Bowls Club
- South Pacific Taewon-Do
- Sporting Shooters Association of Australia
- Twin Valleys Motorcycle Club Inc
- Valleys Soccer Club Inc
- Sailability in the Bush
- Biloela Bushrangers Triathlon Club

- RSL of Australia Biloela Sub Branch
- Rural Hinterland Visitor Information Centre
- St. Vincent de Paul Centre

Follow the link below to access the current list of community organisations and contact details.

[www.mycommunitydirectory.com.au/Queensland/Banana](http://www.mycommunitydirectory.com.au/Queensland/Banana)



## RELIGION

The religious needs of the Biloela community are taken care of by a devoted group of organisations:

- Anglican Parish of Callide Valley
- Assemblies of God
- Biloela District Baptist Church
- Callide Valley Chaplaincy Service
- Church of the Nazarene
- Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses
- Presbyterian Church
- Redeemer Lutheran Church
- Seventh Day Adventist Church
- St. Joseph's Catholic Church - Callide Valley Parish
- Uniting Church
- Living Word Fellowship

## SERVICE GROUPS

The residents of Biloela are taken care of by the many service organisations found in the area:

- Apex Club of Biloela Inc
- Association of Civilian Widows Queensland Branch Inc - Biloela
- Biloela Promotion Bureau Inc / Biloela Information Centre
- Endeavour - Biloela Branch
- Biloela Enterprise Inc
- Callide Dawson Chamber of Commerce
- Grevillea Masonic Lodge
- The Lions Club of Callide Valley
- Biloela Probus Inc
- Cancer Council Queensland
- Queensland Heritage Park
- Rotary Club of Biloela Inc

## ACHIEVEMENTS AND ASSETS OF BILOELA

### RECOGNISED COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENTS & ASSETS

#### People

- Friendly
- Family
- Friendships
- People and family connections
- Acceptance

#### Services & Facilities

- Employment opportunities
- Community health care
- Excellent retail and service sector
- Excellent sporting and event facilities
- Various education facilities

#### Community

- Safe environment
- Small and personal
- Secure

- Easy going rural lifestyle
- Locality
- Close knit community
- Support of the community



## FUTURE DIRECTIONS

### COMMUNITY IDENTITY & VISION

#### VISION FOR BILOELA

The vision for Biloele is to grow to 10,000 people by 2040. This will be achieved through:

- leadership supporting the growth and development of business and industry across the Banana Shire
- building on the lifestyle opportunities through amenity and infrastructure development
- attracting and retaining government services through building collaborative partnerships
- ensuring that the lifestyle of the residents is foremost in our planning
- ensuring that Biloele is recognised as a regional centre by all levels of government thereby attracting investment

### COMMUNITY PLAN

#### GOVERNMENT SERVICES- HEALTH, EDUCATION & GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

Due to the vision to reach a population of 10,000 in the next 30 years, ensuring efficient, practical government services is of the utmost importance.

#### HEALTH

The following issues identified by residents need to be addressed as they will limit the growth and sustainability of Biloele and the Banana Shire:

- The implementation of Biloele as a hub for the surrounding area by Queensland

Health will assist in ensuring that specialist services are available in the area

- The availability of adequate numbers of General Practitioners and Allied Health personnel to cater for the needs of the area has been identified as an issue. Supporting the implementation of current Primary Health Care solutions is imperative for the attraction and retention of medical personnel to the area
- Ensuring the availability of continuing medical services working with children such as Child Psychologists and Therapists
- Continue to support the Community Resource Centre in delivering resources and services to the community
- The lack of Drug and Alcohol Abuse Education and Prevention, and Suicide Prevention services

It is recommended that reviews of the health & welfare services required for meeting the ever-changing needs of Biloele and surrounding areas are undertaken on a regular basis.

#### EDUCATION SERVICES

For Biloele to grow and thrive access to quality education services is imperative. Parents want their children to receive a high-quality education and this can influence families to relocate to larger towns especially when secondary school requirements are being considered, so it is of great importance that a wide range of subjects and opportunities are available.

Student safety is a concern for the community and as a result it would be worthwhile taking steps to ensure local road conditions such as speed limits, bus zones, parking and signage is appropriate.

There are a variety of groups in the community that would benefit from

improvements to educational services and support.

- Adult Literacy Programs
- Mature Age Learning opportunities
- Defensive Driver Training opportunities
- Suicide Prevention Program
- Drug and Alcohol Abuse Education and Prevention Program
- Migrant Services
  - Language and cultural support for people from non-english speaking backgrounds arriving in the area
  - Early intervention services for school aged children from migrant families

Other available Services:

- improve course variety at the local CQU
- promote available GAGAL (BEST Centre) training courses and services

## **HOUSING AND ACCOMMODATION**

The introduction of a variety of housing would assist in increasing the population of Biloela as well as offering options to those already living in the area. Increase of rural residential land would encourage greater opportunities.

Considerations of more flexible housing choices to create viable options to deal with the future increase of Biloela's population are:

An increase in the number of -

- Nursing home spaces
- Supervised housing
- Independent Living Units
- Community housing

Development of suitable housing for young, single professionals is an opportunity for the developers that will assist in shaping Biloela into a community of choice for newcomers.

## **POLICING**

Introduction of 24-hour policing as well as increasing the police interaction with the

community was requested to facilitate positive contact between the community and local police. This could include an increased school presence and "walking the beat".

The ageing infrastructure also needs attention.

## **GOVERNMENT OFFICES**

While the government agencies in the Biloela area do an excellent job, improvements could be made in numerous areas that would not only enhance Biloela as a community now, but would also prepare the area for an increase in population.

- The opening hours of the government agency was a common theme in all discussions
- The reduction of government agencies such as the DAF services and Sun Water is also a concern

## **COUNCIL OPERATIONS**

One of the main issues raised was the lack of information provided to the community regarding decisions.

The cost of rates in the Shire was raised as a concern. It was voiced that the discounts given to pensioners are insufficient in comparison to the increasing cost of living. Increasing the discount was seen as an opportunity for the Council to assist pensioners in the community.

## **YOUTH**

Youth issues were also a common theme throughout the Shire and especially in Biloela. Issues raised include:

- Low understanding of the actual services that are provided to young people
- School Chaplaincy
- Drug and alcohol education
- Defensive Driving Programs
- Events for teenagers
- Health issues e.g. Suicide Prevention

- Non-sporting activities such as orienteering and youth coffee shop

Facilitating events to discuss issues and solutions for the youth would be of great benefit especially if the youth themselves and their families have the greatest say and were given the opportunity to drive the solutions.

## **DISABILITY SERVICES**

The Community Resource Centre delivers much needed services to persons with a disability and their families. The ongoing development and maintenance of current facilities is important to the continuity of our lifestyle within the Shire. The Sailability in the Bush program is an important activity that continues to deliver opportunities. Other issues that need to be considered are:

- What happens to young people with a disability after they leave school
- Life skills development
- Learning activities
- Projects that initiate meaningful employment
- Supported employment opportunities
- Supported living accommodation program
- Extension of “Young Aussie” group
- Respite care

Disability access for all of the community needs greater consideration; for example:

- Patterned footpaths make it difficult for people with Parkinson’s Disease to be able to move about
- More seating
- Better footpath networks
- Hand rails on steps and stairs
- More disability parking
- Hydro therapy pool
- All abilities water fountain play area

## **OLDER RESIDENTS**

Services and infrastructure for our ageing population, both in the town and in the rural areas, is a concern. A plan regarding the future requirements of our elderly needs to be addressed:

- Support an increase in independent living

- Increased care within retirement villages
- In home services
- Respite care and activities for the elderly on weekends

## **CULTURAL DIVERSITY**

Biloela celebrates its cultural diversity as it has always been attractive to migrating families. During settlement migrants from Russia, Greece, Italy and Germany made Biloela district their home. Today the community welcomes migrants from many countries including Brazil, Vietnam, China and Burma.

To be able to attract and retain new residents employment must be made available. The reliance on industry has been too great and new ideas need to be established, especially in agriculture. As previously indicated language skills are imperative to ensure success for the families involved.

## **COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE**

The infrastructure of Biloela has multiple challenges that, when addressed, will improve the community’s chances of reaching the proposed population of 10,000 in the next 30 years.

Facilities such as the Civic Centre, PCYC, Magavalis Sporting Complex and the Banana Shire Regional Art Gallery all need to be upgraded and promoted. The ongoing support for the Men’s Shed is a high priority in the community.

It has been suggested that a cost-effective method of promoting fitness within the community would be a commitment to continuing the current and future development of walking and cycling tracks and the provision of multiple outside gyms. This would also offer a high level of facilities to visitors and potential residents.

To improve the safety and lifestyle of those in Biloela, street lighting needs to be improved.

The establishment of an “Aquatic Centre” including disability access, water park feature as well as the provision of hydrotherapy for 12 months of the year has great support in the community.

The Magavalis Sporting Complex could be utilised and promoted for larger scale events in the area such as regional competitions and finals. The installation of outdoor exercise stations near the Magavalis Sports Complex is a potential improvement of the town’s facilities.

The continued development of the Banana Shire Regional Art Gallery is important to the community. Residents expressed their belief in the importance of the Gallery as a home for Council’s art collection and art, and a venue for cultural events.

Hosting festivals and events would encourage greater community connectedness and cultural understanding. Biloela has a number of excellent venues, the Heritage Park, PCYC, The Civic Centre and Lion’s and Melton Parks that can be accessed for a range of activities.

## **PARKS AND GARDENS**

Upgrades and maintenance of the current gardens as well as the addition of new gardens could be considered as they fulfil the purpose of impacting the aesthetics and feel of the area. For these gardens, the use of drought resistant plants as well as the use of recycled water could ensure the prevalence of attractive, yet manageable gardens.

There is a number of small parks scattered across Biloela that need to be assessed for usage and cost effectiveness. Suggested solutions involve the amalgamation of park land and reducing the total number of parks in the area to allow resources to be concentrated on improving a few instead of maintaining them all.

The sale of small parks to create more housing in the area could potentially fund the improvement of the remaining parks.

It was suggested a “Celebration Tree” could be planted. This would be available for use for community events. This could be included along with giant chess sets, aviaries, and botanic gardens as possible additions that would encourage interaction within the community, especially cross generational and cultural collaboration.

Being the larger parks in Biloela, the continued development of Lion’s Park, Melton Park and Possum Park can be considered a priority by Council. Continued irrigation and planning would be of great benefit to the community utilising the parks.



Kariboe St 11/11/11 @11am

## **CALLIDE STREET RAIL PRECINCT**

With the closure of the railway in Biloela there are a number of possibilities for the land - high density housing, parkland, waterpark or community recreation space. The community needs to be engaged to develop plans for possible future uses of the area.

## **BILOELA LAWN CEMETERY**

The Biloela Lawn Cemetery is an extremely important part of the parks management in the community. It is believed that the area needs to have a higher priority in the maintenance schedule as well as the following developments and upgrades:

- Outdoor chapel and gardens
- Gravesite directory
- Parking and drive way

## **ROADS AND TRANSPORT**

Urban and rural roads require constant planning for maintenance and upgrading.

- The ongoing development of the CBD is necessary
- The current and future state of Council and Main Roads must be addressed
- The use of roads as a heavy transit route through Biloela is a concern and the development of a heavy vehicle diversion is required
- The timely maintenance of routes utilised by school buses must be undertaken
- The upgrading of the road from Gladstone to Biloela opens economic and social opportunities
- Transport issues related to accessing health care

## **WATER (DOMESTIC)**

Conservation and sustainable use by the community, proper industry use and general auditing of water usage would improve the situation in Biloela and ensure the limited supply of water available lasts for the future.

The use of water captured in retention basins and use of recycled water for irrigation of parks is a potential solution that fits with the overall management and conservation of water.

## **HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE**

With the upgrading of the Biloela Hospital and the relocation of Community Health to the Hospital Complex, the pathway to continual upgrades has commenced. As Biloela develops its services as a Health Hub the hospital will need to continue to develop around the community's needs.

## **TOURISM**

Tourism in the area has the potential to be a great boon to the community. To ensure the

constant stream of visitors to the area certain steps can be taken.

The addition of attractions and facilities to the area such as a Botanical Garden, cycling routes and facilities like bike racks would be of benefit. There would be a two-fold benefit with the attraction of tourists and a potential increase in employment opportunities.

The improvement and maintenance of various tourist attractions in the area such as Kroombit Tops National Park, Mt Scoria and the redeveloped Mine Lookout need to be undertaken.

The continued development of the Callide Dam recreational area and the attraction of a caravan park developer are critical additions to the tourism development in the shire.

There are real opportunities for the tourism industry in Biloela and the Banana Shire:

- The development of a cluster project that works with communities developing their tourism product including:
  - Camping and overnight stay providers
  - Operators of current and future attractions specifically the Qld Heritage Park, Moura Miners Memorial and the Ludwig Leichardt Centre in Taroom
  - Dawson River and Callide Dam promotional collaboration, including events, competitions and recreational pursuits
  - Provision of event management services by the Banana Shire Council to support the organisations building on their events
  - Installation of reinforcement signage, that aligns with current websites
  - Working with caravan park owners to look at the changing industry and promote themselves and Biloela as a "Hub" for exploring the region
  - Farm & Eco Tourism

- Promotion of the Civic Centre as a destination for conferences family events and weddings
- Promote the area's history and highlight the work being done at the Qld Heritage Park by placing old machinery in specific locations around Biloela

## **AESTHETICS**

Ensuring that the town's overall facilities are maintained is important. The overall feel of the town would improve and this would encourage more visitors to stop.

The beautification and continued improvement of town entrances should be undertaken. Town entrances such as the Thangool-Biloela entrance need continual upgrading and maintenance to ensure a good impression is made.

The growth and renewal of the town centre can be fostered through the development of strategies that encourage the renewal of the town centre streetscape.

## **PARKING**

Lack of parking is an important consideration for both visitors and locals, especially for longer vehicles. This creates problems as many visitors have caravans.

Potential parking areas are the unused land owned by Qld Rail at the centre of town.

## **SKATE PARK**

After hosting a discussion with the youth currently utilising the Biloela Skate Park, the following information was gathered about what they would like to see done to their area in the future. Current usage of the facilities sees an average attendance of 30 to 40 people on a weekday afternoon and 60 or more people on weekends. People from outside of the Banana Shire also utilise the park at times.

Requests came in two essential forms; facilities requests and upgrade/equipment requests. The creation of a family friendly area around the skate park would include the installation of:

- Rubbish bins
- Toilets
- Seating area
- Shade structures
- BBQ
- Trees
- Irrigation system to keep the grass green and appealing

The remainder of the requests where for additions to the park itself:

- Extend the Skate Park
- More ramps
- Steel half pipe
- Table tops in extension
- Enclosed bowl with spine
- Foam pit (indoor)
- Stairs set
- Vert wall and mega ramp
- Removal of middle rail
- Roll in
- Dirt jumps/track adjacent to park
- Longer flat rail
- Pyramid/lip
- Manual pad
- "Boob" – small hill
- Shade over the skate area

Other requests were that repairs be undertaken to remove cracks in the park and cleaning up of the surfaces.

## **SHOPPING LOCALLY**

Biloela retailers will always need to be aware of the competition that comes from Rockhampton and Gladstone. The perceived price difference between the larger urban areas and Biloela and Banana Shire will always be an issue. It is important to encourage the use of local shopping by residents as opposed to travelling outside the Shire. However, certain actions can be undertaken to mitigate any impact.

The Callide Dawson Chamber of Commerce is driving the development of the business sector within Biloela by implementing:

- A review into what businesses and services Biloela is lacking and the viability of attracting them to town
- That all business development includes consideration for the towns of Thangool, Jambin, Goovigen
- A review of business and development opportunities and promote and implement

### **NICHE BUSINESSES**

An important economic driver is the unique niche businesses in the Shire and encouraging the development of niche industries would greatly benefit the commercial viability of the area and ensure population growth.

There are many examples within the Shire, including the Squab Industry supplying Sydney and Melbourne, the Herb industry supplying Gourmet Garden, Native Tree Seeds exporting to the world and grain and seed being exported internationally to strong markets.

It is acknowledged that there is potential for the development of the export of many of the Shire's products and commodities.

While Council recognises the need to expand the product base of the Shire and advocates for the development, it is also aware that these developments must be commercially driven.

### **BUSINESS RELATIONSHIPS**

The relationship between industry, agriculture and the mines within the Banana Shire is of the utmost importance. By cultivating good relationships between these groups, we can ensure that activities undertaken within Biloela benefit the area. Part of this is the potential for greater assimilation of new employees from major industries into the community.

### **RURAL FUTURE**

Due to the location and industry of Biloela, it is understandable that the "rural future" of the area is of utmost importance to the community.

Key issues are:

- Retention and use of prime agricultural land for farming
- Availability and security of water
- Access to Research, Development and Extension.
- The condition of rural roads
- Commercial access for transporting commodities

### **WATER (COMMERCIAL)**

Water and the quality of water impacts Biloela and local industry. Farming (underground aquifers and irrigation) and future upgrades to Teys Australia Meatworks is dependent on the availability of water. It is also important that:

- Greater water storage and management methods are developed to ensure our industries are protected
- The construction of the Nathan Dam is considered; as doing so will result in the increased total amount of water available in the area
- The raising of existing barrages in the Dawson such as Glebe, Taroom, Theodore, Baralaba and Moura would benefit these communities through an increase in available water
- It is acknowledged that water is critical for expansion in the Banana Shire
- The management of water and the Callide Dam by Sunwater is critical to Socio Economics and safety of the community

### **ENVIRONMENT**

The environmental and cumulative impacts on the area from industry growth were raised as a concern. Also, Council's Weed and Pest Management Plan and the Environmental Management Plan were raised as positive



outcomes for Council and the knowledge that Council is committed to their continual review.

### **ECONOMIC STRATEGY**

To protect Biloela as a hub of commerce and industry Banana Shire Council and the business, industry and tourism sectors need to come together to create and implement an Economic Development Strategy.

## 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

### Public Transport

Banana Shire Council recognises that innovative solutions to public transport need to be found. With some of the highest vehicle ownership in the state, 784 vehicles per 1000 people, transport systems need to look beyond the obvious.

<i>Transport</i>	<i>Activity/ Task</i>	<i>Council's Role</i>	<i>Stakeholders</i>
Review Transport needs within the Banana Shire	Survey Banana Shire residents regarding their transport needs and frequency. Include the needs of Moura and Monto residents accessing GAGAL and the BEST Centre	Advocate	Banana Shire Council Qld Government
	Develop innovative solutions to transport issues, including the support of services provided by BlueCare	Advocate	Banana Shire Council Development Organisations Qld Government Australian Government BlueCare
	Develop planning, regarding a heavy vehicle bypass, due to the increase in heavy traffic after the Calliope Range upgrade	Provider	Banana Shire Council Qld Government Australian Government

### Magavalis

Magavalis Sporting Complex could be utilised and promoted for larger scale events in the area such as regional competitions and finals

<i>Magavalis Sporting Complex</i>	<i>Activity/ Task</i>	<i>Council's Role</i>	<i>Stakeholders</i>
Develop Magavalis Sporting Complex into a regional standard sporting facility	Continue the development of the Magavalis Sporting Complex as per the Magavalis Master Plan and centralise the majority of sports to the complex	Provider Partner	Magavalis Sports Club Banana Shire Council Appropriate State Sporting Bodies Australian Government Qld Government
	Undertake access plans, including the construction of a bike/walkway from Dawson Estate, including fitness circuits	Provider Partner	Banana Shire Council Qld Government

### Walkways and Bikeways

Walkways and Bikeways are an intricate part of health and fitness within the community.

<b>Walkways and Bikeways</b>	<b>Activity/ Task</b>	<b>Council's Role</b>	<b>Stakeholders</b>
Continue the development of the walkway and bikeway systems within Biloela	Consider the connection of Biloela and Thangool via the old railway reserve	Partner	Banana Shire Council Qld Government
	Extend Callide Street bike way to Teys Australia for employees and residents safety	Provider	

### Biloela Skate Park

Undertake community engagement to ensure that the skate park remains a focal point for young people within the community.

<b>Biloela Skate Park</b>	<b>Activity/ Task</b>	<b>Council's Role</b>	<b>Stakeholders</b>
Undertake a full review of the current skate park use, facilities and future options to bring the facility into line with regional standard	Undertake repairs to the facility	Provider	Banana Shire Council
	Conduct community consultation regarding the expansion and upgrade of the facility	Provider Partner	Banana Shire Council Facility users Youth workers QPS
	Develop expansion plans including shade, water fountain, seating etc	Provider	Banana Shire Council
	Apply for funding to complete works	Provider	Banana Shire Council

### Elderly Residents

Biloela is fortunate to have a large and active elderly population; it is evident that not a lot is understood about the holistic needs of our older residents.

<i>Elderly Residents</i>	<i>Activity/ Task</i>	<i>Council Role</i>	<i>Stakeholders</i>
Understand the services needed for our older residents	Undertake a need study for older residents especially respite services	Advocate	Banana Shire Council Qld Government Australian Government
	Develop services such as In Home Services, Independent Living Units availability and activities/respite availability	Advocate	NGO's Qld Government Australian Government
	Shopping transport service within Biloela and surrounds	Advocate	BlueCare Anglicare
	Promote and support Wahroonga Retirement Village	Advocate	Banana Shire Council Wahroonga

### Community Aesthetics

Throughout the community planning process, community aesthetics has been a major issue. The attractiveness of Biloela is of the utmost importance to community members, *"a community that looks good is a community that we can all be proud of"*

<i>Community Aesthetics</i>	<i>Activity/ Task</i>		<i>Stakeholders</i>
Review current Banana Shire Council operational status and community involvement in maintaining and beautifying Biloela	Develop an "adopt a town" approach where community organisations and individuals adopt an area within their communities	Advocate	Banana Shire Council Service groups and development organisations
	Develop entrance plans for Biloela and partner with service organisations to instigate and manage themes	Provider Partner	

### Community Amenity

Biloela has excellent amenities within the community, planning for the next 30 years with the population vision in mind is important for sustainable growth.

<i>Community Amenity</i>	<i>Activity/ Task</i>	<i>Council's Role</i>	<i>Stakeholders</i>
Evaluate the current state of amenities in the area and partner with the community to develop plans and procedures to improve or maintain	Address issues and opportunities regarding public amenities and services	Provider Partner	Banana Shire Council Community Organisations Businesses Service Clubs Biloela Enterprise
	Improve communication between user groups, community and Council regarding available funding	Advocate	
	Facilitate organisations to develop strategic and business plans with 5, 15 & 30-year outlooks	Advocate	
	Use and develop local facilities and events to create and improve the sense of community	Advocate	

### Business Development

Small business in Biloela is a key component to the development of services and product delivery. Working in conjunction with major industry Biloela can grow the profitability of small business within the community.

<i>Business Development</i>	<i>Activity/ Task</i>	<i>Council's Role</i>	<i>Stakeholders</i>
Develop a business development strategy to reduce the amount of business leakage from the community	Establish an "Invest Biloela" and industrial land use strategy	Advocate	Banana Shire Council Callide Dawson Chamber of Commerce Biloela Enterprise
	Conduct a review into what businesses and services Biloela is lacking and the viability of attracting them to town	Partner	
	Ensure that all business development includes consideration for the towns of Thangool, Jambin, Goovigen	Advocate	
	Review business development opportunities, promote and implement		
	Develop an economic development strategy for Biloela and the Callide Valley	Partner	
Consider new and diversified business opportunities that increase employment	Consider and undertake pre-feasibility studies on identified projects that will assist in developing employment for new residents All projects need to consider processing and supply chains	Partner Advocate	Banana Shire Council Callide Dawson Chamber of Commerce

opportunities			Biloela Enterprise
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### Community Infrastructure

Community infrastructure balanced with asset management is an ongoing issue for community organisations and the Banana Shire Council.

<i>Infrastructure</i>	<i>Activity/ Task</i>	<i>Council's Role</i>	<i>Stakeholders</i>
Create plans and procedures including community partnerships to improve or maintain the current state of infrastructure	Continue to develop outdoor facilities, footpaths, lighting, walking/cycling tracks including disability access	Provider	Banana Shire Council
	Audit and improve road signage and naming, aesthetics of roadside, road development and parking	Provider	
	Develop continual planning processes for the development of passive and active recreation facilities such as outdoor gym equipment	Provider	
	Develop local water access and preservation plans	Provider	
	Develop local park infrastructure policies and procedures	Provider	
	Lobby for improvements and upgrades to the hospital and related health facilities	Advocate	Primary Health Network Biloela Health Systems Action Group
	Engage with the community to develop plans for the vacant railway land on Callide Street adjacent to the CBD	Provider	Banana Shire Council
	Advocate for improvements in Biloela re capital works and maintenance of State & Federal infrastructure	Advocate	Banana Shire Council Qld Government Australian Government
	Facilitate communication processes between the community, Council and relevant authorities regarding health, education, roads, water and emergency services	Advocate	Banana Shire Council Qld Government Australian Government

	Improvement of disability access to businesses, kerbs, parking etc	Provider Partner	Banana Shire Council Biloela Enterprise
	Continue the development of the Biloela Lawn Cemetery including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outdoor chapel and gardens</li> <li>• Gravesite directory</li> <li>• Parking and driveway</li> </ul>	Provider Partner	Banana Shire Council

### Waste Management

<i>Recycling</i>	Activity/ Task	Council's Role	Stakeholders
Investigation of innovative recycling programs	Waste recycling is an issue with the Shire due to its population and size. The development of innovative programs that assist the community to recycle and reuse are needed.	Provider Partner Advocate	Banana Shire Council

### Water Management

Water availability will be an ongoing issue. Good management systems are required to lessen the burden on rate payers and water managers.

<i>Water Management</i>	Activity/ Task	Council's Role	Stakeholders
Work with the local community, stakeholders and governing bodies to develop long term, sustainable planning and policies	Complete the plans for the Magavalis Recycled Water project and seek funding to construct	Provider	Banana Shire Council Qld Government
	Develop, implement, review and promote Banana Shire Council Water Management Policy	Provider	Australian Government



## Housing

Affordable housing is a recognised issue across the region and Biloela growth will continue to be hampered by the lack of demographically affordable accommodation. The need to supply homes for all sectors of our demography is a must to ensure that Biloela has a strong social fabric.

<i>Housing</i>	<i>Activity/ Task</i>	<i>Council's Role</i>	<i>Stakeholders</i>
Identify and respond to housing issues and opportunities	Work with the State and Australian governments to improve service processes and accessibility to accommodation	Advocate	Banana Shire Support Service Community Groups
	Encourage corporate investment into community housing projects	Advocate	Banana Shire Council Banana Shire Support Service Community Groups
	Encourage the continued development of all sustainable accommodation options		
	Address available housing and housing regulation alteration, nursing home and Independent Living Units support issues		
Investigate the construction of emergency housing for “at risk” youth	Advocate	Banana Shire Support Service	

## Tourism

Biloela has an estimated 92,000 visitors annually; however, tourism is not a major industry within the area. The Callide Valley has great potential to attract more visitors especially for longer stays.

<i>Tourism</i>	<i>Activity/ Task</i>	<i>Council's Role</i>	<i>Stakeholders</i>
Partner with the community to develop present and future plans to encourage tourism in the area	Promote and maintain condition and accessibility of local attractions and services	Partner	Banana Shire Council Biloela Tourism Strategy Group
	Ensure the recognition, implementation and review of the Banana Shire Tourism Strategy – “Sandstone Wonders”	Provider	
	Develop and support a professional and co-ordinated service from local information centres	Provider	
	Encourage festivals and rural tourism	Advocate	

	Greater attraction program for the conference market, utilising the Civic Centre and available accommodation.	Provider	
	Promote and support the annual tractor trek, building on the success through attracting more visitors	Partner	Qld Heritage Park
	Redevelopment of the Callide Mine Look Out	Partner	Batchfire Callide Mine
	Continue to map and promote every historical marker and tourist attraction	Partner	Biloela Enterprise

### Arts and Culture

<i>Arts and Culture</i>	<b>Activity/ Task</b>	<b>Council's Role</b>	<b>Stakeholders</b>
To articulate the community's cultural aspirations and Council's role in supporting and promoting them with a view to enhancing the Shire's reputation as a hub of creativity and a great place to live and invest.	Facilitate the setting of local priorities in regards to arts and cultural projects that tell local stories of people, places, events and the social, cultural and political issues they face as communities	Advocate	RADF Committee Local Arts Organisations and Artists on a project by project basis
	Support arts and cultural projects that address the local priorities established above	Partner	RADF Committee Local Arts Organisations and Artists on a project by project basis
	Support the ongoing development and implementation of the Biloela Stories Project	Advocate	RADF Committee Local Arts Organisations and Artists Chambers of Commerce
	Development of a <i>Celebration Tree</i> and a variety of other community assets that embrace the array of cultures found in Biloela	Advocate	Banana Shire Council Biloela Enterprise
	Develop a Public Art Policy for the Banana Shire	Provider	RADF Committee

	Banana Shire Council to Purchase one piece of Student Art annually		Local Arts Organisations and Artists
	Continue the development of the Banana Regional Art Gallery		

### Services

Biloela is the main service centre for the shire and for communities in neighbouring shires. The development of Biloela as a service hub will be critical to the continued growth of the town.

<b>Services</b>	<b>Activity/ Task</b>	<b>Council's Role</b>	<b>Stakeholders</b>
Partner with the community and service providers to identify and respond to issues and opportunities in the area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Address Health Services workforce and availability issues</li> <li>Lobby for recognition of Biloela as a "Health" hub for surrounding areas</li> <li>Ensure the availability of continuing medical services working with children such as Child Psychologists and Therapists</li> <li>Continue to support the Community Resource Centre in delivering resources and services to the community</li> <li>Lobby for and support implementation of Drug and Alcohol Abuse Education and Prevention and Suicide Prevention services</li> </ul>	Advocate	Primary Health Network BHSAG Biloela Medical Centre Oxley Clinic Qld Government Australian Government
	Support the implementation of current plans and solutions for Primary Health Care issues	Advocate	CQ Rural health Biloela Medical Centre Oxley Clinic Qld Government Australian Government
	Regularly review the health & welfare services required for meeting the ever-changing needs of Biloela and surrounding areas	Advocate	BHSAG Primary Health Network Biloela Interagency Qld Government Australian Government

	Address the service needs of primary producers through the development of a primary production strategy	Advocate	Qld Government Australian Government
	Meet current and future need by offering packages to attract the required workforce such as housing or spouse employment packages or incentives	Advocate	Biloela Enterprise
	Continue to improve and develop disability access standards in Biloela	Advocate	Qld Government Australian Government Community Resource Centre
	Develop educational service strategy for Biloela and the Banana Shire with particular focus on the expansion of secondary and tertiary education opportunities	Advocate	Qld Government Australian Government
	Introduce 24-hour policing as well as increase police interaction with the community	Advocate	QPS Qld Government
	Develop communication between Community and Government groups and the wider community via a community reference group that takes on projects to improve service delivery, especially the Interagency group	Provider	Banana Shire Council
	Continue providing the Sailability Program at Lake Callide supporting with storage facilities and the purchase of boats and equipment	Advocate	Sailability in the Bush CQ Inc Banana Shire Council Disability Services

### Men's Shed

<i>Men's Shed</i>	Activity/ Task		Stakeholders
Continue the development of the Men's Shed	Support the growth and development of the "Men's Shed" and the provision of services	Advocate	Community Groups CV Woodworkers Banana Shire Council