



# Cracow & 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 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 Cracow
- Section 5 – Future Directions



## LOCATION

The small township of Cracow is located 154km southeast of Biloela, 259km south of Rockhampton and 475km 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

Cracow was once a prosperous gold mining town. Gold was discovered in 1850, with the Golden Plateau N.L. Company operating the mine from 1936 to 1976. The town has recently been given a new lease of life with the re-opening of the gold mine in 2003.

## DESCRIPTION

Cracow is a small town with a rich history in the area and strong ties to the surrounding communities. Visitors are able to tour the town on foot and experience the past through the main street and local hospital. While a number of these buildings are empty the local hotel is a great place for a hot meal, a cold drink and a host of memorabilia.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF KEY CENSUS RESULTS

In the 2011 Census, there were 196 people in Cracow and environs, of these 51.0% were male and 49.0% were female. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people made up 3.6% of the population.

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, COMMUNITY HEALTH & WELFARE SERVICES

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

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

Cracow residents access the majority of their community health and welfare services from Theodore. The Banana Shire Mobile Library Service visits fortnightly and the Cracow Rural Fire Brigade are active in the community.

## EDUCATION

To fulfil Cracow's education needs, the local schools in Theodore are utilised:

- Early Childhood Centre
- Theodore State School
- Theodore State School P&C Association

## COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

The Cracow Community Centre Association Inc. is one of the most active organisations in Cracow, faithfully serving the community through its centre.

## SPORT & RECREATION

Sports and recreation groups are well represented within the Cracow community:

- Cracow Community Tennis Courts
- Cracow Horse Sports Association Inc.
- Miners Golf Club



## Achievements and Assets of Cracow

### RECOGNISED COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENTS

#### Assets

- Re-opening of the mine by Evolution
- Imparja TV - installed by Evolution Mine
- Helicopter pad for emergencies - installed by Evolution Mine
- Jupiter's funding for the Cracow Community Centre
- Toilet block at the Cracow Community Centre
- Cracow Community Centre open every 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday for a community get together
- Bitumen completed to Theodore
- Bitumen completed to Eidsvold

- Australia Day celebrations
- Cracow's involvement in the Centenary Rally
- The Mining Museum
- Cracow Cemetery

#### **Natural Assets**

- The gold in the ground
- Dawson River

#### **Cultural & Heritage Assets**

- Cracow Community Centre
- Cracow Hotel
- Historical buildings
- Fire Brigade

#### **Social Assets**

- Friendliness

## **Future Directions**

### **COMMUNITY IDENTITY & VISION**

#### **Vision for Cracow**

The community sees its future identity as “a friendly mining town with a thriving tourism industry offering opportunities to present and new residents”. The Cracow community is a small and safe place where people can enjoy their chosen lifestyle.

### **COMMUNITY PLAN**

#### **Community**

The primary concern for the town is the sole reliance on the mine. This reliance, combined with Cracow's smaller population, enhances the vulnerability of the community.

However, due to the willingness of Evolution Mine to assist the community, it is quite possible to ensure that Cracow continues to exist for many years to come. It is advisable that other options for sustainability in the area are encouraged, such as the development of tourism.

Cracow also has the opportunity to become a support centre for the construction of the Nathan Dam and the rail line.

To ensure Cracow's survival for the generations to come, strong community leadership needs to be cultivated as well as a dedicated community committee with the goal to progress Cracow.

#### **Tourism**

The completion of the sealing of the highway from Eidsvold has increased the number of travellers passing through Cracow. Cracow has the opportunity to attract more tourists and encourage them to stay overnight.

Cracow's scenic location combined with its rich history makes it a truly viable tourist destination. To this end there is a variety of steps that can be taken:

- Develop promotional and marketing initiatives for tourism development
- Develop directional and informational signage including names of all major river and creek crossings and local facilities such as the cemetery
- Upgrade creek crossings in the area where needed
- Create heritage/history walks
- Purchase and preserve many of the historical buildings in the town
- Promote Cracow as historic and RV friendly
- Develop services such as fuel, shop and cafe
- Develop the Cracow lookout
- Ensure Cracow is a hub for the Nathan Dam
- Develop further caravan spaces and waste dump facilities
- Support the development of the old hospital into tourist accommodation and education and events centre
- Install a town clock
- Continue the upgrading of the Cracow Cemetery

Due to the local museum being a cultural and community asset, it is important to ensure that the future of the museum is secure. As such it has been suggested that in the future when the mine closes, control of the museum goes to either the Council or the Cracow community.

The greatest factor holding tourism back in Cracow is the lack of a service station in town. The construction of a service station

will give travellers a greater sense of security when travelling from Eidsvold.

Other factors that impact on tourism are the overall aesthetics of the town as well as the lack of services.

## **Aesthetics**

Suggestions put forward by the community for improving the aesthetics of the town range from a general cleanup of the town to obtaining permission to mow private allotments where required. Also worth considering are actions designed to maintain the historical and heritage value of Cracow.

## **Housing & Population**

Housing is another issue that requires action. Currently, there is a reliance on houses to be built in the area as the few houses available for rental are either unsuitable or in need of repair.

Water is also a concern for the area, with the local water system's ability to affordably support future needs being one of the primary issues. In relation to this, the future availability of water in the area is paramount.

## **Facilities**

Facilities in the area need consideration as they are either lacking, as in the case of shops and service stations, or in need of repair and upgrades in the case of local roads such as Fifth Avenue.

A minimum standard of access for residents, such as gravel roads, has to be acknowledged. Where required, upgrades should be undertaken as well as development of dust suppression methods for rural roads.

Evolution Mine has taken steps in the area to upgrade and install various facilities. The old Bowls Club green has been redeveloped into a multipurpose activity area.

Other work suggested by the community includes:

- Repair footpaths along highway
- Develop street and community lighting
- Ensure RAFD strip is serviceable after the construction of the Surat Rail line
- Seal First, Fourteenth and Sixteenth Streets

## **Services**

Services are a concern in Cracow as many basic services are only available in the town of Theodore, which is quite a distance away. Distance has a great impact in the area, especially in regards to Health Services.

Due to the ageing population, ensuring there are accessible services is a high priority. Services that exist in the area would benefit from funding and assistance for example the local Meals on Wheels.

Other service concerns for the town are:

- The dump and in particular maintaining the service in the future when the mine closes
- Developing a future plan for the dump as it may run out of land by 2021
- The availability of radio and TV media is patchy in the town
- The potential effect of digital TV and the shutting down of analogue stations

Local Government services in the area should meet current standards. This includes:

- Mowing
- Weed control
- Library services
- Improved maintenance of Council land
- Rubbish services
- Medical services including emergency, in home and special needs
- Mail service and cost of this service

It has been suggested that, through funding of a variety of HAAC agencies, a person could be placed into Cracow on a fulltime basis to offer a variety of services to the community. Currently, the mine is undertaking home assist services.

## **Cracow Sports Reserve**

The continued development of the sports reserve will build on the tourism strategy by providing events and alternative caravan/camping facilities. To do this the following projects need to be considered:

- Upgrading showers and toilets
- Upgrading water supply
- Marketing and promotion of the April "Horse Sports" event

### **Nathan Dam**

The proposed construction of the Nathan Dam will bring more opportunities to the Cracow community. The proximity of the town to the location of the dam would allow Cracow to provide services for the construction personnel and then on completion of the project provide support and services to visitors to the recreation facilities that are planned on the eastern side of the dam.

### **Future**

It is important to acknowledge the impending changes of the Evolution Mine and begin to plan for the future. It has been stated that the

mine has approximately three years before the gold runs out.

Banana Shire Council and the community need to be involved in the “Legacy Planning” the Evolution Mining is going to undertake.

Although approximately 2% of Cracow’s population works at the mine, it is important to note that there is a variety of services and facilities run or maintained by Evolution and this will need to be taken over by Council or community groups at some stage. Examples of these are the caravan facilities, dump, water and town mowing.

## **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>Future</i>   | <i>Activity/ Task</i>  | <i>Council's Role</i> | <i>Stakeholders</i>  |
|---|--|-----------------------|--|
| Investigate, identify and action key priorities in relation to the future of the community. | Develop transition plan for inevitable mine closure which includes services and facilities provided by the Mine                                    | Advocate              | Cracow Community Centre Association Inc.<br>Banana Shire Council<br>Evolution Mining<br>Theodore District Health Council |
|   | Find solutions to the issue of health services being some distance away and acquire funding for existing services eg. HACCC, Respite and Aged Care | Advocate              |  |
|   | Develop and support community leadership working closely with Evolution on the development of the town   | Advocate              |  |

| <i>Facilities</i>  | <i>Activity/ Task</i>   | <i>Council's Role</i> | <i>Stakeholders</i>  |
|--|---|-----------------------|--|
| Partner with the community to identify and develop areas that are of key importance to the community's growth. | Develop facilities and services such as the service station, shop and cafe                                    | Advocate              | Cracow Community Centre Association Inc.   |
|  | Develop local paths such as a path from the bowls green to the museum and footpaths running along the highway |                       |  |
|  | Develop community facilities eg. street lighting  | Partner               | Banana Shire Council<br>Ergon  |
|  | Ensure a minimum standard of roads within the town  | Provider              |  |
|  | Ensure RAFF strip remains accessible  | Advocate              | Banana Shire Council<br>Evolution Mining, Surat Rail                             |
|  | Upgrade the Cracow Sports Reserve   | Advocate              | Cracow Horse Sports Association Inc.<br>Banana Shire Council<br>Evolution Mining |
|  | Fire Shed upgrade and quick fill facilities   | Advocate              | EMQ  |

|  |   |          |  |
|--|---|----------|--|
|  |   |          | Banana Shire Council<br>Evolution Mining |
|  | Continue the upgrading of the Cracow Cemetery | Provider | Banana Shire Council                     |
|  | Expansion of the RSL facilities               | Advocate | RSL<br>Banana Shire<br>Evolution Mining  |

| <b>Tourism</b>   | <b>Activity/ Task</b>  | <b>Council's Role</b> | <b>Stakeholders</b>   |
|--|--|-----------------------|---|
| Undertake the development of planning and the identification of key areas that need to be addressed in partnership with the community. | Embrace Cracow's potential for tourism via its scenic location, history and town aesthetics                  | Advocate              | Cracow Community Centre Association Inc.<br>Banana Shire Tourism Advisory Committee<br>Evolution Mine |
|  | Develop Cracow as a tourist stopover of choice   | Advocate              |   |
|  | Expand caravan and tourism facilities  | Advocate              |   |
|  | Develop promotion and marketing initiatives for tourism  | Advocate              |   |
|  | Ensure Cracow is a hub for Nathan dam  | Advocate              |   |
|  | Investigate Cracow's official status as RV friendly by installing a dump site                                | Advocate              |   |
|  | Develop the local museum's tourism viability and establish a succession plan for the future                  | Advocate              |   |
|  | Create heritage/history walks and investigate purchasing and preserving the historical buildings in the town | Advocate              |   |
|  | Improve local and connecting roads and directional signage   | Partner<br>Provider   | Cracow Community Centre Association Inc.<br>Banana Shire Council                                      |

| <b><i>Businesses, Services and Industry</i></b>  | <b><i>Activity/ Task</i></b>   | <b><i>Council's Role</i></b> | <b><i>Stakeholders</i></b>  |
|--|--|------------------------------|---|
| Develop plans to ensure services required meet the needs of local industry stakeholders and the community. | Improve local media access and services  | Advocate                     | Cracow Community Centre Association Inc.                            |
|  | Develop emergency, medical and home assist services  | Advocate                     | Cracow Community Centre Association Inc.<br>Theodore Health Council |
|  | Develop Council services such as mowing, rubbish removal, weed control and the continuation of the mobile library  | Provider                     | Banana Shire Council  |
|  | Develop plans for the future and operation of the dump   | Provider                     |   |
|  | Develop facilities and services such as the service station, shop and cafe   | Advocate                     | Private Investor<br>Evolution Mine                                  |
|  | Consider business opportunities that can be developed on the mine site when the resources are depleted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rehab development and caretaking</li> <li>• Tree crops</li> </ul> | Advocate                     | Evolution Mine<br>Banana Shire Council                              |