



Taroom & District 2017/2027 Place Based Plan



The Taroom & District Place Based Plan is a controlled document.
 Please visit the Banana Shire Website at <http://www.banana.qld.gov.au/index.php/71> and ensure you have the latest copy prior to using or referencing the document.

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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

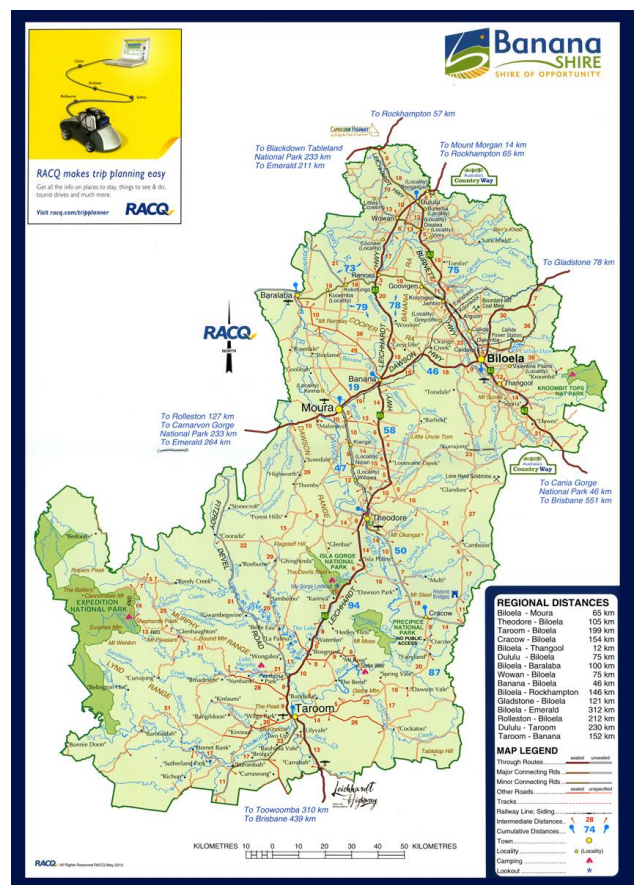
planning/consultancies currently in progress;

- 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 Taroom
- Section 5 – Future Directions



LOCATION

Taroom is located 198 kilometres southwest from Biloela and 466 kilometres northwest from Brisbane.

Please refer to the RACQ Trip Planner http://www.racq.com.au/travel/Maps_and_Directions/trip_planner

HISTORY

In 1844, Prussian born explorer and scientist Ludwig Leichhardt and his party of eight set out on a journey from Jimbour Station on the Darling Downs to Port Essington on the Northern Territory coast. During the 14-month trek, Leichhardt passed through what is now the Taroom area. In travelling between Wandoan and Taroom and areas to the north, the explorers had to become proficient at battling through dense scrub and conquering hills, gullies and steep gorges.

Leichhardt crossed the nearby river, naming it the Dawson and moved on to Lake Murphy. He then headed north-west, passing what is now Expedition National Park.

Early settlers came from the New England and Hunter River areas of New South Wales. They took up land in 1845, only one year after the explorer Leichhardt travelled through on his epic journey north.

At first, the settlers tried to graze sheep, but soon cattle grazing became the main industry. Grain growing and timber became important as well.

DESCRIPTION

Nestled on the Dawson River, Taroom is richly endowed with natural attractions, a thriving rural sector and a wide range of quality community and business facilities. Natural attractions in the area include the Isla Gorge, the Precipice and the Expedition National Parks. These destinations showcase spectacular eroded sandstone areas.

The Glebe Weir, located in the area, is a popular boating, fishing and camping spot.

The name Taroom is believed to be an aboriginal name meaning pomegranate or lime tree. A Coolabah tree in the main street is branded with the letters LL – scored in the

bark by explorer Ludwig Leichhardt in 1844 on his overland trek from Dalby to Port Essington. A large sandstone monument stands in the park beside the Council Chambers.

Taroom has a rare “steel wings” windmill of unusual design, being one of only six models ever erected. Along with a windmill in Jerilderie in the Riverina, the fully restored windmills are the only two known working examples in the world. They are designed so their fan is contained and spins within the fully pivoting frame.

Executive Summary of Key Census Results

In the 2011 Census, there were 873 people in Taroom district, of these 48.7% were male and 51.3% were female. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people made up 2.6% of the population compared with 2.3% indigenous persons in Australia. Taroom has a population of approximately 630 people within the town.

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

To support Taroom's thriving population, there are numerous government services available to the public:

- Ambulance
- Banana Shire Council - Taroom
- Fire Brigade
- Library
- Police
- Post Office
- SES
- Taroom Courthouse
- Qld Government Agent (QGAP)

EDUCATION

Taroom is home to a variety of educational facilities:

- Kindergarten
- Taroom State School
- Taroom State School P&C

COMMUNITY HEALTH & WELFARE SERVICES

To find contact details and addresses of available health services visit the following link: <http://www.nhsd.com.au/>

The health and welfare of the community is the focus of a handful of dedicated groups such as:

- Leichhardt Villa Retirement Village
- St Vincent de Paul Society
- Taroom Doctor Surgery
- Taroom HACC Services
- Taroom Health & Hospital Service
- Taroom Local Ambulance Committee
- Toowoomba South Child Safety Service Centre - DOCCS
- Taroom Cancer & Palliative Care Group

COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

The devotion of Taroom's residents to the community as a whole can be seen in the various organisations in the area:

- Taroom Historical Society
- Taroom Senior Citizens Club Inc
- Taroom Shire Landcare Group Inc
- Taroom Show Society
- Upper Dawson Branch WPSQ

ARTS & CULTURE

The arts in Taroom are represented by the Taroom Arts and Crafts group.

SPORT & RECREATION

Taroom has a passion for sports that can be seen in the wide array of available clubs and organisations in the area:

- Dawson Jockey Club
- St Patrick's Campdraft
- Taroom & District Fishing & Restocking Club Inc
- Taroom Amateur Swimming Club Assoc
- Taroom Bowls Club
- Taroom Golden Horseshoe Inc
- Taroom Golf Club
- Taroom Polocrosse
- Taroom Pony Club
- Taroom Rodeo Club
- Taroom Scout Group
- Taroom Tennis Club
- Taroom Wandoan Cricket Club
- Wildlife Preservation Society

RELIGION

The spiritual needs of the community are met by a dedicated and faithful group of religious organisations:

- Anglican Church
- Catholic Church

SERVICE GROUPS

There is a collection of groups that provide services to Taroom:

- Taroom District Development Assoc Inc.
- Taroom Lions Club
- Taroom RSL

Achievements and Assets of Taroom

RECOGNISED COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENTS AND ASSETS

Natural Assets

- River
- The Leichhardt Tree
- Glebe Weir
- Expedition National park
- Precipice National Park
- Isla Gorge National Park
- Coal
- Gas
- Excellent cattle country
- Prime agriculture land
- Lake Murphy
- Protected wetlands
- Palms Creek

Built Assets

- Show Grounds and Sports & Recreation Complex
- Race Course
- Golf Course
- River Walk
- Bowls Club
- Hospital
- Swimming Pool
- Town Hall
- School
- Museum
- Visitor Information Centre

Future Directions

COMMUNITY IDENTITY & VISION

Taroom is striving to be a community that is continually achieving. It is a community that provides services to thriving grazing, farming and resource industries. Taroom residents are focused on the protection and growth of their grazing and agricultural land and recognize the benefits of attracting service industries to town as well as identifying with the opportunities to build on tourism.

Taroom is a supportive residential community that encourages the promotion of their town and district.

COMMUNITY PLAN

The community sees the following projects as part of achieving its community identity:

- The Leichhardt Centre
- Continued improvement within the town, including channelling and kerbing, parks and sporting facilities
- National Parks managed and developed to attract more visitors
- Sealing of the Fitzroy development road
- Youth centre/youth activities
- Youth worker
- Improve linkages with the rest of the Shire in mail services
- Improve access to media services
- Develop sporting opportunities with a focus on encouraging youth participation
- Develop a Childcare Centre

It should be ensured that all projects are planned with view to long term viability.

Tourism

The Taroom community has a fantastic opportunity to benefit from tourism in the area as there is a high volume of caravaners that regularly pass through the town. By embracing this industry, Taroom has the opportunity for growth. The reestablishment of the Caravan Park or camping at the showground or race course is critical to encourage overnight stays.

Taroom has two excellent motels that offer travellers wonderful service.

Attractions

Prime tourist attractions in the area are the path of Ludwig Leichhardt and the local National Parks. By promoting these as attractions, as well as ensuring their maintenance and development, Taroom would be able to draw more tourists to the area and ensure they stay longer. However, these areas need work. The road access to the National Parks is unsuitable for many vehicles, restricting the potential number of visitors to the area.

The development and construction of a **Ludwig Leichhardt Centre** would serve to attract visitors to the area. It would also celebrate the town's part in the history of the

surrounding regions, assisting in maintaining the heritage and historical values of Taroom and district.

Other options for encouraging tourism in the area include the development of water based recreational activities including:

- Boat ramp adjacent to the old bridge in Taroom
- Amenities at Glebe Weir
- Improving signage for Isla Gorge and Martins Range

Cemetery

The town cemetery, which contains numerous historical gravesites, requires irrigation to ensure the aesthetics of the area.

Parks

The Ludwig Leichhardt Park is a potential area for upgrades to improve both the aesthetics and facilities of Taroom such as:

- Refurbishment of the War Memorial in the park
- Outdoor gym and exercise equipment adjacent to the skate park and pool

Footpaths

The installation and repair of walkways, including kerbing and channelling in the town, need to be considered.

Facilities

Upgrades to the town's facilities could be considered to improve the town's attraction to residents and visitors. Actions to be considered are:

- The beautification of the Central Business District
- Upgrades to the town refuse facilities such as anti-litter fencing
- Additional public seating
- Upgrade streets to curb-to-curb bitumen
- Ongoing development of the key sporting facilities including the Race Course, Golf Club and Show Grounds

Aerodrome

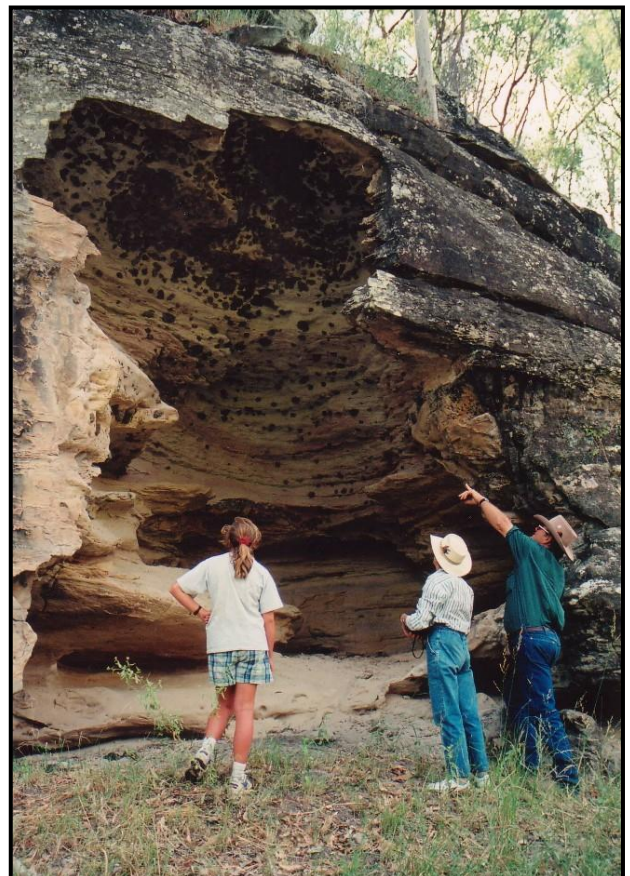
The future of the Taroom Aerodrome and Taroom Airstrip was raised by residents of Taroom. It has been expressed that both facilities are important to the socio- economic wellbeing of Taroom and District.

Men's Shed

The Men's shed needs a permanent location. Currently the very popular service is using a building at the showgrounds that belongs to another organisation.

Historical Projects

The Taroom Historical Society is undertaking a number of projects within the community especially the Historical Trail.



Infrastructure

Water

A resource that is of great importance to the area is water. The Nathan Dam project could be reconsidered for completion as the water this would bring to the surrounding areas would be of great assistance in ensuring future sustainability.

It is vital that the area's water supply and sewerage system is capable of providing for future development, as well as meeting applicable standards. In this regard, ensuring the proper use of water, including treated water, is important and steps towards this becoming an operational standard are worthwhile taking.

Roads

Roads are highly important to a rural town like Taroom. Both industry and individuals rely upon them so their continued maintenance and upgrade is highly important. A positive step for the area would be to ensure that a minimum standard of gravel roads in the area is developed. The extension of the bitumen road network, including maintaining and extending rural dust suppression and bitumen seals would be beneficial.

Other actions regarding roads in the area that would be worth undertaking are:

- Concreting of creek crossings such as Clamatis Creek, Currajong Road, Broadmere Road and Ghinghinda Road
- Alternative heavy vehicle routes such as Sawpit Lane
- Enhancement of existing heavy vehicle parking adjacent to Dawson Street
- Improvement of the traffic island/intersection at Wolsey/Yaldwyn Streets
- Upgrade of the intersection at Cracow Rd/Wandoan Road to divert trucks accessing the industrial area away from the School
- Provision of name signage of all major river, creek and water crossings

- Upgrade of line marking within the town

The Fitzroy Development Road has been identified by the community as a key transport corridor. It requires upgrades and improvements.

Rural Futures

The economy of Taroom and the surrounding area is based on agriculture, particularly grazing. It is imperative that steps are taken to ensure the future of the industry and the town.

A variety of actions are required:

- Identification of strategic cropping land
- Protection of grazing land
- Ensure the availability of residential and industrial land
- Evaluation of lease changes regarding grazing in forestry country
- Support of rural and agricultural research and development
- Maintain the operation of the local clearing dip
- Addition of a weighbridge at the Cattle Yard

Resource Industry Strategy

The community would like a Resource Development Strategy developed for Taroom. As an existing community that is servicing the rural sector, any resource industry development will change the community dramatically. Areas to be considered need to include:

- Construction Camps are constructed on site in areas that will leave lasting benefit, e.g. Show Grounds or the Race Course
- Ideally no Single Persons Quarters
- 1, 2, & 3 bedroom permanent accommodation units constructed in the community to ensure operational employees have the opportunity to be part of community life.
- The community needs to be well informed by industry and government to take advantage of these opportunities



Government Services

To make sure Taroom continues to be a vibrant, growing community, the quality and availability of various government services needs to be ensured. In particular:

- Health services
- Police services
- Education

Media Services

The delivery of local media is in need of evaluation as much of what is received in Taroom is different from the rest of the Banana Shire. For example, the Taroom area receives ABC Radio broadcasts from Roma, Longreach and Toowoomba while the rest of the Banana Shire's broadcasts come from Capricornia.

It is critical for the ABC to create a half hour news service that will cover disasters and be broadcast simultaneously on Capricornia, Longreach, Roma & Southern Qld. This difference in coverage is a major issue that needs to be addressed.

Employment

Employment is of great concern to the area, as without suitable employment the town is unable to grow or even retain residents. Therefore, it is important to consider employment opportunities.

The creation of traineeships and apprenticeships, especially for the youth, would be very beneficial to the area.

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>Tourism</i>	Activity/ Task	Council's Role	Stakeholders
Partner with the community to develop present and future plans to encourage tourism in the area	Undertake full engagement and develop initiatives to embrace the tourism potential of the area	Advocate	Taroom District Development Assoc. Banana Shire Council Tourism Advisory Committee
	Ensure tourism is considered in all infrastructure planning	Partner Advocate	Banana Shire Council Taroom District Development Assoc.
	Develop, maintain and promote tourism drawcards utilising local history, assets and attractions, especially the National Parks	Advocate	Taroom District Development Assoc. Parks & Wildlife
	Refurbish the Council Chambers into the Ludwig Leichhardt Centre and community space while maintaining current Council services. Contact Council for The Ludwig Leichhardt Centre project overview	Partner Advocate	Banana Shire Council Taroom District Development Assoc.
	Complete the Historical Trail	Partner Advocate	Taroom & District Historical Society
	Ensure all web sites used to attract visitors are up to date.	Partner Advocate	Banana Shire Council Taroom District Development Assoc.

<i>Facilities</i>	Activity/ Task	Council's Role	Stakeholders
Create plans and procedures, including community partnerships, to improve and maintain the current state of facilities	Ensure the future development of public facilities including upgrades and maintenance is undertaken through holistic planning, including sporting, active and passive recreation facilities	Partner Advocate	Banana Shire Council Taroom District Development Assoc.
	Install outdoor gym equipment	Provider	
	Develop town aesthetics plans, including the CBD	Partner Provider	
	Continue the upgrade of Ludwig Leichhardt Park	Partner	

		Provider	
	Investigate the construction of a Childcare Centre	Advocate	
	Undertake refurbishment of the Pool	Partner	
	Construct pathways and viewing platform at Gilberts Lookout	Partner	

<i>Business Services</i>	<i>Activity/ Task</i>	<i>Council's Role</i>	<i>Stakeholders</i>
Establish business development strategies to reduce the amount of business leakage from the community	Develop processes to ensure a positive impact on local businesses and employment opportunities	Advocate Partner	Taroom District Development Assoc. DEEDI Banana Shire Council
	Update and ensure local media such as ABC Capricornia is available to Taroom and district residents	Advocate Partner	
	Ensure that Taroom businesses gain opportunities from the resource industries and are included in procurement information sessions	Partner Advocate	
	Ensure that negative impact from resource industry is mitigated and opportunities for the community promoted	Advocate	
	Investigate what businesses need to be attracted to Taroom to ensure holistic service supply	Advocate Partner	

<i>Government Services</i>	<i>Activity/ Task</i>	<i>Council's Role</i>	<i>Stakeholders</i>
Partner with stakeholders, Council and the community regarding what are considered priorities in regards to government services.	Ensure the quality and availability of government services as well as the retention of these services	Advocate	Banana Shire Council QGAP

<i>Infrastructure</i>	<i>Activity/ Task</i>	<i>Council's Role</i>	<i>Stakeholders</i>
Engage with the community to identify key priorities and develop action plans	Maintain and upgrade local roads with specific attention to intersection at Cracow Rd/Wandoan Rd to divert trucks accessing the industrial area away from the school	Provider	Banana Shire Council Taroom District Development Assoc. TMR
	Identify issues particular to the area and lobby for funding and improvements for State and Federal owned roads	Advocate	
	Flood immunity on the Taroom Roma & Taroom Injune Highways		
	Lobby for bitumen on the Fitzroy Development Road. The upgrading of the road would bring economic benefit to Taroom		
	Heavy vehicle alternative route around Taroom		
	Continue the upgrades and expansion of the footpath network	Provider	
	Provide treatment to No.2 Bore to remove iron	Provider	
	Upgrade the sewage treatment plant		
	Undertake a study of current infrastructure and determine future needs for resource industries	Advocate Partner	
Upgrade lighting and sound in the town hall including a monitor in the foyer	Advocate Partner		
Support the development of a commercial kitchen at the Taroom Shire Cancer & Palliative Care Group	Advocate Partner		

<i>Rural Futures</i>	Activity/ Task	Council's Role	Stakeholders
Develop reference groups to identify and action key priorities in relation to the rural future of the community	Take steps to ensure the protection of agriculture industries in the area	Advocate	AgForce Banana Shire Council
	Support rural and agricultural research, development and extension	Advocate	

<i>National Parks</i>	Activity/ Task	Council's Role	Stakeholders
Ensure the development of processes and procedures that enhance mutual communication and community participation	Maintain infrastructure and facilities to encourage tourism	Advocate	Taroom District Development Assoc. Qld National Parks Banana Shire Council
	Lobby Government to protect National Parks from mining	Advocate	
	Continue the promotion and sustainable use of the National Parks within the Shire and region	Advocate	
	Upgrade access roads to National Parks to encourage visitors		

<i>Resource Industries</i>	Activity/ Task	Council's Role	Stakeholders
Ensure the development of processes and procedures that enhance mutual communication and community participation	Develop a resource industry working plan eg. housing	Advocate Partner	Taroom District Development Assoc. Banana Shire Council Resource Companies
	Work with resource companies and community to develop T.O.R. documents at the time of announcement	Advocate	
	Create an Industry Development Strategy to ensure all resource companies are aware of community aspirations and ongoing plans	Provider Partner	
	Establish a 5km mining buffer zone around Taroom	Advocate	

Community	Activity/ Task	Council's Role	Stakeholders
With the potential development within the community, ensure the community can access relevant information	Encourage new industries to establish information services/presence in the community	Advocate	Taroom District Development Assoc.
	Lobby the ABC to create a half hour news service that will cover disasters and be broadcast simultaneously on Capricornia, Longreach, Roma & Southern Qld	Advocate	Taroom District Development Assoc.
	Natural disaster plan with local knowledge and appropriate resources	Provider	Taroom District Development Assoc. Banana Shire Council
	Create a 10 day "Country Festival" during the September school holidays aimed at attracting families from the southeast corner	Advocate	Taroom District Development Assoc. Banana Shire Council
	Banana Shire Council commit to using local contractors first in building and maintenance.	Provider	Taroom District Development Assoc. Banana Shire Council
	Investigate opportunities for the creation of traineeships & apprenticeships		Taroom District Development Assoc.