



Wowan & District 2017/2027 Place Based Plan



The Wowan and 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.

AMENDMENT		DETAILS OF AMENDMENT	AMENDED BY
No.	Date		*Initials/Date
Draft 9	16/09/2011	Final Draft	
Final	23/11/2011	Endorsed by Council	PJC-23/11/2011
Reviewed	30/04/2013	Phill Casey & Melinda Petty	
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Final		Endorsed by Council	
Reviewed	08/11/2016	Phillip Casey	
Draft	16/11/2016	Phillip Casey	
Final	24/05/2017	Endorsed by Council	

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” Community 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:

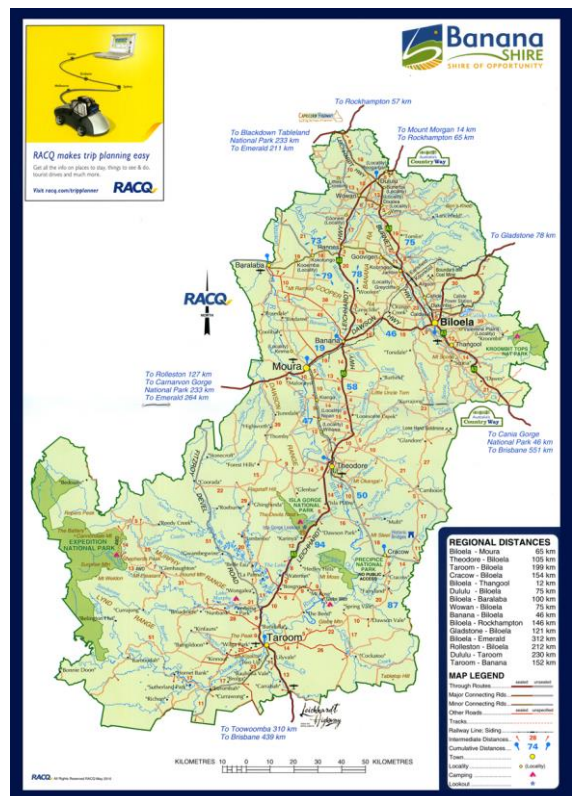
- Gathering of and referral to available ABS statistics;
- Discussion of related issues and policy with Government Departments and key stakeholder representatives;
- Meetings with representatives from regional organisations that have economic development roles;
- Attendance at meetings, networking or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



LOCATION

The town of Wowan is located 82km southwest of the city of Rockhampton, 72km north of Biloela and 609km northwest of Brisbane.

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

HISTORY

Wowan was the first town established on the Dawson Valley Railway Line. The name is of Aboriginal origin meaning scrub turkey and was given by the Railway Department on the 16th October 1912. W.H. Flowers surveyed the township some eighteen months later.

Dry land cotton was the Valley's first commercial crop used to cater for a shortage of cotton in the British Mills after World War One. Australia's first Cotton Growers Association was Wowan's Dawson Valley Branch. This organisation was instrumental in persuading the British Australia Cotton Association to open a ginnery in Wowan in 1922. Plummeting prices forced the closure after just one season despite processing one million pounds of seed cotton in its first year.

In 1927 the Wowan Show Society held its first event giving the Society the proud record of being the first show in the Dawson & Callide Valleys (excluding Banana show in 1868).

As the result of a far-sighted group of locals who worked tirelessly for the area, Wowan had the Shire's first butter factory and cotton ginnery. The same energy and desire is evident amongst the people of Wowan and its surrounds today.

The list of recognised Community achievements is long and varied with the Multipurpose Centre one of many success stories made possible due to the drive and energy of the local community.

DESCRIPTION

Perched on the bank of Pocket Creek, Wowan is rich with native flora and fauna. Wowan is bordered by mountains to the south and west with Mt Wheal being the largest.

Wowan offers visitors the opportunity to experience the friendly rural lifestyle that the residents enjoy. There are a wide variety of leisure activities including golf, bowls, cricket and gliding.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF KEY CENSUS RESULTS

In the 2011 Census there were 233 persons usually resident in Wowan. 51.9% were males and 48.1% were females. Of the total population in Wowan 7.7% were Indigenous persons, compared with 2.3% Indigenous persons in Australia.

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

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

www.abs.gov.au

www.oser.qld.gov.au

GOVERNMENT SERVICES

Wowan is the proud home of a range of government services:

- Banana Shire Council Mobile Library Service - Wowan
- Dumpy Creek Rural Fire Brigade
- Pheasant Creek Rural Fire Brigade
- Police Service
- Queensland Ambulance
- Wowan Post Office
- Wowan Rural Fire Brigade

EDUCATION

Wowan provides quality education for children from Prep to Year 6 through:

- Wowan State School
- Wowan State School P&C group

COMMUNITY HEALTH & WELFARE SERVICES

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

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

The wellbeing of the Wowan community is supported by an array of Health and Welfare services:

- Dundee Retirement Units Community Inc. - Wowan
- Wowan/Dululu Local Ambulance Committee
- Wowan/Dululu Multi-Purpose Centre

COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

No community would be complete without dedicated organisations providing much appreciated expertise to the area:

- Wowan Agricultural Society
- Wowan/Dululu Community Volunteer Group Inc.
- Wowan Playgroup

SPORT & RECREATION

Wowan is the proud home of many sport and recreational organisations:

- Wowan Bowls Club Inc.
- Wowan Campdraft Committee Inc.
- Wowan Card Group
- Wowan Golf Club Inc.
- Wowan Hack & Pony Club
- Wowan Touch Football, Netball & Soccer Club

RELIGION

The spiritual needs of the Wowan community are met by a small but passionate group of religious organisations:

- Anglican Church
- Wowan Catholic Church

SERVICE GROUPS

No community would be complete without enthusiastic service groups:

- Wowan & District Progress & Cultural Society Inc
- Wowan Masonic Lodge
- Wowan RSL
- Wowan/Dululu Landcare

Achievements of Wowan

RECOGNISED COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENTS

People

- Friendship
- Helpfulness
- All work well together

Services

- Good services

- Can access services from Rockhampton, Biloela and Gladstone
- Have most services such as ambulance, doctor, golf and bowls club
- Church and shop
- Sport for all ages

Community

- Unity
- Peaceful
- Lifestyle
- Wildlife
- Quiet
- Tranquil
- Progressive
- Lots to do

Future Directions

COMMUNITY IDENTITY & VISION

Vision for Wowan

Today: Wowan is a supportive, safe and affordable community that has a strong focus on its elderly population and history.

Future: Wowan's focus for the future is to maintain its health and community services, including its primary school, through the attraction and retention of a holistic demographic mix including younger families and retirees. Wowan residents see the benefit of travellers stopping in the town and supporting their existing businesses. They also see the opportunity in attracting new resource industries to use Wowan as a residential dormitory town.

COMMUNITY PLAN

Infrastructure

While the infrastructure of Wowan faces numerous challenges, it also offers multiple opportunities for the enhancement of the area.

Local roads in the area require upgrading, repairs or sealing.



Water is another issue of great importance to the Wowan community. The town water quality is substandard with many residents reporting damage to personal infrastructure such as piping and hot water systems.

A potential solution to this issue is the installation or subsidisation of rainwater tanks.

The river, while being an integral and iconic part of the community, has a number of issues surrounding it.

Flood control methods need to be considered and put into place. Cleaning of Dee River, Pocket Creek and Black Gully including the removal of leucaena is critical.

Tourism

Wowan has the potential to be a stop-over of choice for tourists. To achieve this, a variety of steps could be taken including:

- Being acknowledged as an RV friendly town via the organisations that undertake such judgements
- Improving local signage
- Supporting the local Historical Society and Tourism Advisory Committee
- Embracing the history of the town
- Partnering with the town of Dululu and pooling resources

Community

As with all communities, the facilities, services and opportunities in the area are of high importance when attempting to attract and retain families and residents. To encourage the growth of the area, services such as aged care, youth facilities and activities, as well as the retention of emergency services needs to be a priority and receive funding when required.

The availability of housing and the opportunity to build or purchase property in the area is also a concern for the community. With many empty houses in the area, the purchase of houses needs to be encouraged. A possible solution is partnering with Cockatoo Mine and the Council.

Other opportunities for the town are:

- The strengthening of the relationship between Dululu and Wowan
- Improving communication between residents and Council

Wowan/Dululu Multipurpose Centre

The Multi-Purpose Centre commenced operation in August 1992 and is open four days a week. The Centre provides a reliable and compassionate service with respect and confidentiality, which focuses on community needs.

The Wowan/Dululu Multipurpose Centre offers the following services:

- Domiciliary nursing
- Respite care
- Home help/home maintenance
- Transport
- Doctor's clinic
- Immunisation clinic
- Child health services
- Well Women's clinic
- Allied Health services
- Bowen therapy
- Diabetes support group
- Community gym
- Computer lessons
- Newsletters
- Hoy
- Internet access
- Office services
- Room hire
- Sitting dance/exercise group
- Social outings



COMMUNITY PLANNING ENGAGEMENT AND FUTURE PLANNING

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

Planning Chart



ACTION PLANS

<i>Infrastructure</i>	<i>Activity/ Task</i>	<i>Council's Role</i>	<i>Stakeholders</i>
Investigate opportunities and issues related to infrastructure in the community and develop related plans and procedures	Improve road infrastructure including condition, drainage and upgrades	Provider	Banana Shire Council Wowan & District Progress & Cultural Society Inc.
	Develop guidelines regarding water in the area such as quality, availability, infrastructure, waste and drainage	Partner Provider	
	Investigate the supply and installation of rain water tanks to residents that can be paid off through their rate notice	Partner Provider	
	Continue the repair, replacement or installation of drainage infrastructure	Provider	
	Investigate the impact of flooding on infrastructure such as bridges and signage	Provider Advocate	
	Complete a flood mitigation plan including a drainage plan for the town Clean out all creeks to improve water flow especially the removal of leucaena especially in Black's Gully	Provider	

<i>Tourism</i>	<i>Activity/ Task</i>	<i>Council's Role</i>	<i>Stakeholders</i>
Review Council's current operational status & community involvement in improving facilities and promotion to encourage tourism	Continue the work improving the tourism potential of the area such as acknowledgement and promotion of the area as RV friendly, improve local signage and support local Historical Society	Advocate	Wowan & District Progress & Cultural Society Inc. Banana Shire Tourism Advisory Committee
	Continue the partnership with Dululu to share resources	Advocate	

Road safety	Activity/ Task	Council's Role	Stakeholders
Continue the upgrading and maintenance of roads in and around Wowan. Undertake a safety audit of all intersections especially those onto the Leichhardt Highway.	Install signage indicating children crossing highway, designate a crossing area	Advocate	Banana Shire Council TMR
	Trim trees that block vision on all streets intersecting with the highway	Provider	
	Upgrade drainage on the Dee River Road	Provider	
	Bitumen Wowan Westwood Road	Provider	

Community	Activity/ Task	Council's Role	Stakeholders
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Partner with the community to develop plans and procedures to improve the facilities and assets of the community	Ensure the continued provision of aged, youth and child health services and facilities	Advocate	Wowan & Dululu Multipurpose Centre
	Continue the provision of emergency services within the community	Advocate Partner	Banana Shire Council Wowan & District Progress & Cultural Society Inc. EMQ
	Upgrade street lighting	Advocate	Banana Shire Council Ergon
	Undertake planning for future population increase, understand what can be done and how the community can be involved to build on opportunities regarding housing and property availability	Advocate	Banana Shire Council Wowan & District Progress & Cultural Society Inc.
	Investigate the construction of a swimming pool to provide, Learn to Swim classes, hydrotherapy, community recreation etc.	Advocate	Banana Shire Council Wowan & District Progress & Cultural Society Inc.
	Work with Banana Shire Council and the Department of Environment and Heritage regarding the bat colony near the school	Advocate Partner	Banana Shire Council Wowan & District Progress & Cultural Society Inc. Wowan State School P&C

	Development of youth activities, e.g., skate park, swimming pool recreation and sporting	Advocate Partner	Banana Shire Council Wowan & District Progress & Cultural Society Inc.
	Bring water from the Dee River to the showgrounds and golf club	Advocate Partner	Banana Shire Council Wowan Agriculture Society Wowan Golf Club
	Lobby Telstra to complete the mobile phone tower and provide NBN	Advocate	Banana Shire Council Wowan & District Progress & Cultural Society Inc.