



## **Banana Shire Community Plan 2017 – 2027**

Endorsed by Council - 24 May 2017



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

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## i - Mayoral Message

It gives me great pleasure to present the Banana Shire Council's Community Plan.

The Banana Shire Community Plan is the strategic plan that compliments the twelve placed based plans that have been developed for each of our communities.

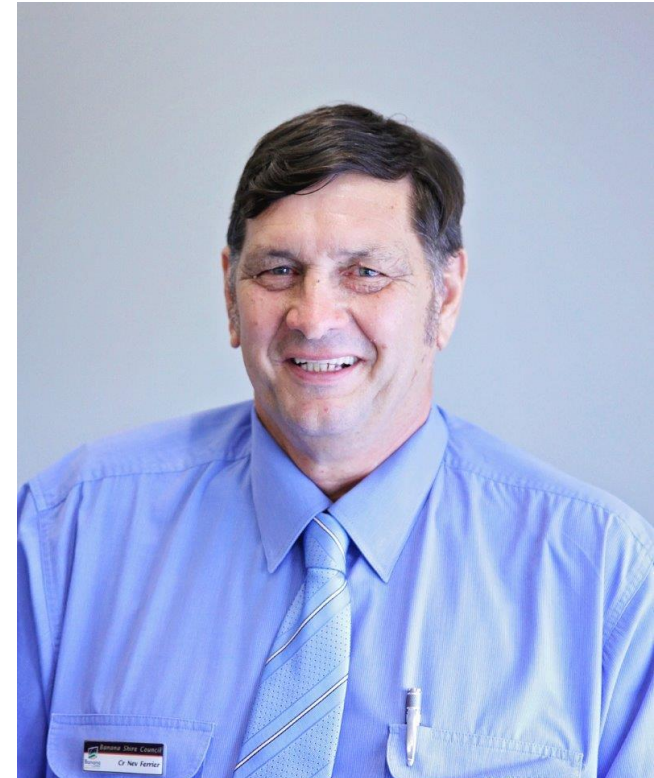
This is the first major review of the plan since it was endorsed in 2012. This plan pulls together the great ideas, suggestions and feedback on what makes our region great and what will make it even better in the future.

The Community Plan will help to guide Council decision making to ensure we grow our region in line with community expectations. The plan will ensure that we identify those things that make our region so special and work hard to protect and enhance them. The plan looks at all areas of our community and region from the economy and the environment to public safety and recreation. It outlines the strengths of our region and some of the challenges that we expect to face over the ten year life of the plan.

Banana Shire has had the reputation of being an economically sound area for many years. However, these developments will bring many challenges in ensuring sustainable development and maintaining and enhancing the amenity of the Shire. I encourage all new and existing industries to use this plan and other planning documents as part of their understanding of community needs and aspirations to ensure that our communities continue to prosper, maintain their liveability within a sustainable framework.

I look forward to everyone that has a connection to our Shire continuing to have input into the plan and working in partnership to truly make Banana, the Shire of Opportunity.

*Cr. Nev Ferrier  
Mayor Banana Shire Council  
February 22, 2017*





## **ii - Introduction**

Banana Shire Council has prepared a Community Plan to gain a clear appreciation of the needs and priorities of its residents; to provide a framework for future development and growth of the region; and to comply with its statutory obligations. The Community Plan creates a vision for the community which is critical considering population increases and the need to plan for strong, sustainable growth.

The Community Plan is Banana Shire Council's key planning document. It sits above all other planning processes of Council, including strategic land use planning and corporate planning. It will inform priority infrastructure plans and planning scheme development, while helping to better manage the competing pressures of, for example, economic development and environmental protection. It will also ensure that the lifestyle needs and aspirations of the community are met.

Community planning involves the creation of integrated short, medium and long range plans to achieve a vision for the future. Community engagement is essential to help develop that vision. Community Plans acknowledge the long-term implications of many of the decisions of local government today and ensure the needs of the next generation are recognised.

The Community Plan is a whole-of-government approach to planning. It addresses all areas of community life which affect the lifestyle of Banana Shire's residents such as health, economic development, education, infrastructure and environment.

It identifies key issues and concerns of the community, regardless of which level of Government is responsible for delivering programs and services. A significant outcome of the Community Plan is identifying changes required in the role of the Banana Shire Council to ensure that the desired future is achieved.

The Community Plan will assist with developing the Central Queensland Statutory Plan and State Government Planning Instruments.

This Community Plan is a key strategic planning document for Council. It supports business planning, asset management decisions and the 10 year financial plan.

It provides Council and the community with a clear direction to move forward; builds foundations for a sustainable future for communities within Banana Shire Council's region; builds community engagement and participation; provides strong community and Council ownership; provides a clear link with the state government's community planning model and enables Council to take advantage of future Federal, State and industry funding initiatives.

## iii - Community Engagement

### **Engagement Undertaken**

Information for the 2012 plans was obtained from:

- 26 Community workshops
- 16 Group meetings
- 10 Individual discussions
- 453 Survey respondents and
- 32 Written submissions

The engagement process was promoted in and via:

- Letterbox drops, BSC Web Page, Central Telegraph, Councillors and staff, The Focus, Town Newsletters, Dawson View, Chatter Box – Baralaba, Two Rivers – Wowan, Messenger – Moura, Community Development Newsletter and Emails to School principals.
- The “Banana Shire Business Network”, Community Development Network, round one attendees, agricultural shows and events at Moura, Taroom, Theodore, Biloela, Wowan and Baralaba

Information for the 2017 review was obtained from:

- 14 Community Workshops
- 235 Survey responses
- 120 Individual discussions

The review was promoted via:

- ABC Capricornia
- Commercial Radio Advertising
- Central Telegraph advertising and editorial
- Facebook
- Community newsletters

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## **Direction**

### ***Amenity***

Banana Shire offers diverse lifestyle options. It is this diversity that we celebrate and promote. Through the development of appropriate facilities and services our shire will develop:

- Preservation of our heritage
- Appropriate infrastructure and services to support people's needs across the region

### ***Social***

Building Our Shared Future, a cultural vision, includes the following statement relating to strong communities: *"A shared community journey, where our past is revered, our present is strengthened, and our future is forged through living creatively together in a bountiful and vital location."*

As a community, we want to understand and celebrate who we are within the local, national and international context – respecting one another, our different cultures, heritage and traditions, and valuing all people of many different backgrounds.

We Strive for:

- Everyone living and working in the Banana region to have the chance to be part of community life
- Opportunities for people to be educated, trained and be employed
- Our community to be caring and inclusive, adaptive and resilient, working together to create a strong and distinctive sense of identity and civic pride.

### ***Environment***

To manage the unique natural resources, ensuring a healthy and sustainable environment where the community's social, physical and economic well-being is enhanced for present and future generations.

### ***Economic***

Supporting the retention and development of a diverse range of businesses and industries will provide long term economic benefit to the community. This will be achieved through:

- Investing in our community through sound, economic strategies
- Promoting and creating employment prospects for all
- Promoting and encouraging strong economic growth
- Supporting the diversification of our economic base

### ***Infrastructure***

Planning and delivering effective and efficient infrastructure services:

- Effectively plan, deliver and maintain infrastructure networks and infrastructure services
- Promote a safe and efficient infrastructure network

## **Shire Vision**

“To improve the quality of life for our communities, through the delivery of efficient, effective and sustainable services and facilities”.

## ***Our Mission Statement***

Our Council is committed to promoting and striving for continuous improvement in all that we do, for the benefit and growth of the whole of our Shire.

## ***Our Values***

- Advocacy for our people
- Effective and responsive leadership
- Integrity and mutual respect
- Honesty, equity and consistency in all aspects of Council’s operations
- Quality of service to our citizens
- Work constructively together, in the spirit of teamwork
- Sustainable growth and development

## ***Positioning Statement***

“Shire of Opportunity”

## ***Progressive Region***

Enhance and promote Banana Shire as a progressive region to fulfil community aspirations

- Develop an identifiable cultural precinct that links existing cultural assets
- Develop strategies to raise awareness and increase use of existing cultural and entertainment facilities
- Identify and facilitate entertainment and cultural opportunities that bring economic and social benefits to the area
- Promote and facilitate education and training pathways for lifelong learning
- Provide an environment conducive to employees wanting to live and work in Banana Shire.

## **Banana**

The small rural township of Banana is located 45kms west of Biloela, 150kms south of Rockhampton and 582kms northwest of Brisbane.

### **History**

The town of Banana derives its name from the days when cattle were valuable for hides and tallow. Herds were wild and difficult to handle, yards were few and small. Stockmen used working bullocks as decoys to lead the wild cattle to pens. One renowned decoy was a huge dun coloured bullock named 'Banana'. After Banana's death, his body was taken to a nearby gully that became known as 'Banana's Gully'. When a town developed in the vicinity, it took the name of the gully and when the first Council sat there in 1880 the Shire was named after the town.

### **Vision**

Banana is a residential community that supports the promotion of its town as an affordable and safe place to live, while providing services to the surrounding rural industries. Banana sees opportunities in attracting light industry to the town and residents identify with the opportunities to build on the heavy transport service sector and tourism.

Follow this link for the Placed Based Plan <http://www.banana.qld.gov.au/index.php/71>

## **Baralaba**

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

### **History**

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

### **Vision**

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

Follow this link for the Placed Based Plan <http://www.banana.qld.gov.au/index.php/71>

## **Biloela**

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 northwest of Brisbane, 145km southwest of Rockhampton, 127 km from Gladstone. It sits 173 metres above sea-level.

## History

The Gaangalu 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 as did further government assistance with the opening of a Primary School. The primary infrastructure of the town was developed between 1930 and 1941 which 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 and by 1952 numerous retailers opened stores as the local 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.

## Vision

The vision for Biloela 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 Biloela is recognised as a regional centre by all levels of government thereby attracting investment

Follow this link for the Placed Based Plan <http://www.banana.qld.gov.au/index.php/71>

## Cracow

The small township of Cracow is located 154km southeast of Biloela, 259km South of Rockhampton and 475km northwest of Brisbane.

## 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.

## Vision

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.

Follow this link for the Placed Based Plan <http://www.banana.qld.gov.au/index.php/71>

## Dululu

The small township of Dululu is located 75km north of Biloela, 70km southwest of Rockhampton and 609km northwest of Brisbane.

## History

Dululu, the Aboriginal word for “Soft”, was formerly known as Bunerba but was renamed by the Railway Department in 1915 due to confusion with “Buneru” located 9km west of Wowan. Coaches travelled through Dululu and rested their horses overnight at Lanson’s Lagoon, 11km along the Leichhardt Highway

towards Westwood. This was the watering hole used by horse drawn coaches travelling to and from Rockhampton where horses were rested, watered and changed over.

In the early days cream was brought to Dululu's railway station three times a week on its way to the Wowan Butter Factory. During this time the hotel was being rebuilt after a fire completely gutted the original building in 1934.

### **Vision**

Dululu is a vibrant village that affords its residents the lifestyle opportunity they desire. Dululu supports and promotes its partnership with Wowan in maintaining the health and community services, including the primary school. Dululu sees its future as a rural village of choice.

*Follow this link for the Placed Based Plan <http://www.banana.qld.gov.au/index.php/71>*

## **Goovigen**

The township of Goovigen is located approximately 43km from Biloela in Central Queensland.

### **History**

Goovigen (Aboriginal for Box Tree) was originally set up as a supply depot for the railways. It now forms an intricate part of the rich agricultural area.

### **Vision**

Goovigen is a residential community that supports the promotion of their town as an affordable and safe place to live, while providing services to the surrounding rural industries. Goovigen sees the future sustainability of the community through the opportunities in attracting young couples with families to live in the community. Tourism development, especially attracting travellers, is seen as being a benefit to existing businesses.

*Follow this link for the Placed Based Plan <http://www.banana.qld.gov.au/index.php/71>*

## **Jambin**

The township of Jambin is located 29km northwest of Biloela, 113km south of Rockhampton and 617km northwest of Brisbane.

### **History**

Jambin (Aboriginal for Echidna) was originally set up as a supply depot for the railways. It now forms an intricate part of the rich agricultural area.

### **Vision**

Jambin, home of the echidna, is a friendly, residential community that supports the promotion and development of its rural industries, school, post office and hotel and embraces its past and looks towards a progressive future.

*Follow this link for the Placed Based Plan <http://www.banana.qld.gov.au/index.php/71>*



## **Moura**

The town of Moura is located 170 km southwest of Rockhampton, 185km west of Gladstone, 617km northwest of Brisbane via the Leichhardt Highway and 65km from Biloela.

### **History**

Moura took its name from the Pastoral Holding of the same name. This property was taken up in 1854 by Mr C. Marshall who had been a paymaster in Wellington's Army while engaged in battles in Portugal. Some of the battles were fought near Moura in South East Portugal. It is possible that Mr Marshall named his property after the town. Moura was laid out in 1936 on a typical grid pattern.

### **Vision**

Moura will be a dynamic, vibrant and supportive community that embraces and celebrates its past while driving towards the future. With strong, positive ties to both the Resource and Rural industries, Moura will create a strong future for its residents. Moura will build and support sustainable business and light to medium industry sectors that will be a catalyst for future growth. Moura will grow and prosper with a population that lives in Moura permanently and works locally.

Follow this link for the Placed Based Plan <http://www.banana.qld.gov.au/index.php/71>

## **Taroom**

Taroom is located 198 km from Biloela, 340 km from Rockhampton, 339 km from Toowoomba, 466 km from Brisbane.

### **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 the former Taroom Shire area. At one camp, he blazed his initials on a Coolabah tree. Situated in the main street of Taroom, it is now known as the 'Leichardt Tree', although the initials have long since grown over.

Early settlers came from the New England and Hunter River areas of New South Wales and 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, with grain growing and timber becoming important as well. Today, Taroom has a population of around 600 and is a thriving country town.

### **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.

Follow this link for the Placed Based Plan <http://www.banana.qld.gov.au/index.php/71>

## **Thangool**

The town of Thangool is located 12km south of Biloela, 153km south of Rockhampton and 577km northwest of Brisbane.

### **History**

Originally part of the large ***Prairie run***, Thangool was named in 1924 with the name being a derivative of the aboriginal word “tangoor”, meaning opossum. The town was surveyed in 1925 and shops were established soon after. The Callide Valley railway line was extended to Thangool before its final extension to Lawgi in 1931. A cotton boom in the 1930’s allowed the town to support two hotels, two butchers, two bakers, a picture theatre, a cordial factory, a blacksmith and a bank. A district aerodrome was laid out on the showgrounds in 1938 and serves as the Shire’s Main Airport.

### **Vision**

The Thangool community is working towards the continued development of the community including:

- residential growth
- development of the Thangool airport as an aero-industrial precinct
- continued development of Thangool State School
- seeking opportunities for vacant business land and buildings

Follow this link for the Placed Based Plan <http://www.banana.qld.gov.au/index.php/71>

## **Theodore**

The town of Theodore is located 105km southwest of Biloela, 210km southwest of Rockhampton and 525km northwest of Brisbane.

### **History**

Theodore, a rural town of approx. 450 people is on the junction of the Dawson River and Castle Creek. It is named after Edward ‘Red Ted’ Theodore, a past Premier of Queensland and was originally named Castle Creek. It was promoted as the nation’s “first model garden town” and established as an administration centre for the Dawson Irrigation Commission. Theodore’s ‘garden city’ plan is exemplified by its wide palm-tree lined avenues and a boulevard as the main thoroughfare. The town was administered by the Irrigation Commission until 1958, when it was incorporated into Banana Shire.

### **Vision**

Theodore is striving to be a community that is continuously achieving through local leadership. It is a community that provides services to the agricultural and resource industries.

Theodore is a community that supports the continued delivery of high quality health and aged care services promoting wellbeing for the town and district. Theodore community is building on the opportunities that tourism can bring to the community and is committed to this process.

Follow this link for the Placed Based Plan <http://www.banana.qld.gov.au/index.php/71>

## **Wowan**

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

### **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 16<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **Vision**

Wowan is a supportive, safe and an affordable community that has a strong focus on its elderly population and history. 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 sees the benefit of travellers stopping in the town and supporting their existing businesses. Wowan also sees the opportunity in attracting new resource industries in using Wowan as a residential dormitory town.

*Follow this link for the Placed Based Plan <http://www.banana.qld.gov.au/index.php/71>*

# 2.0 GOVERNANCE & ASSETS

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## Governance

Ensure that Council demonstrates leadership and is accountable to its community through transparent and inclusive decision making processes and delivering outcomes:

- Engage with the community in line with the “Community Engagement Policy”
- Be an active participant in forums that have outcomes for the community
- Develop and maintain strong networks and strategic alliances at the regional, state and national level
- Promote excellence in our leadership and organisational management
- Pursue excellence as an organisation through transparent and accountable governance
- Deliver professional, strategic and operational leadership and management
- Provide effective and efficient organisational and departmental administration services

An important part of the strategic planning for the Shire is the methods that are utilised. In particular, the development of the Community and Regional Plans must be considered, with particular attention paid to the necessity of extending the vision of the plan. An example of this is:

- Opportunities for all communities to voice opinions, needs to be offered through community engagement. The timelines of engagement are important as that provides genuine opportunity for the community to influence any projects and allows Council to gain an understanding of what each community aspires to. This means that communication is vital, as is recognising and valuing the input received.
- Throughout this process, it’s worth noting that there are a handful of areas where care needs to be taken. In particular, ensuring that the process is faithful in engaging the disengaged will help ensure a varied and useful community response as will being mindful of over - consultation. It is important that the sharing and public access of research and regional data and information is improved, along with audits of existing plans that impact the community.

### ***Banana Shire Council Policies***

Council operations are controlled by the Local Government Act 2009 and regulations and through a local law and policy structure. All policies can be located on the Banana Shire Council website at <http://www.banana.qld.gov.au/index.php/75?sq=policy>

### ***Queensland Local Government Act 2009***

The purpose of this Act is to provide for—

- (a) The way in which a local government is constituted and the nature and extent of its responsibilities and powers; and
- (b) A system of local government in Queensland that is accountable, effective, efficient and sustainable.

The Local Government Act 2009 can be located at <http://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/LEGISLTN/ACTS/2009/09AC017.pdf>

## Local Government Principles

(Local Government Act 2009 Section 4 (1) & (2))

Council is required to be:

1. accountable
2. effective
3. efficient and
4. sustainable

### Local government principles underpin this Act

- (1) To ensure the system of local government is accountable, effective, efficient and sustainable, Parliament requires—
  - (a) Anyone who is performing a responsibility under this Act to do so in accordance with the local government principles; and
  - (b) Any action that is taken under this Act to be taken in a way that—
    - (i) is consistent with the local government principles; and
    - (ii) provides results that are consistent with the local government principles, in as far as the results are within the control of the person who is taking the action.

The **local government principles** are—

- (a) Transparent and effective processes and decision-making in the public interest; and
- (b) Sustainable development and management of assets and infrastructure, and delivery of effective services; and
- (c) Democratic representation, social inclusion and meaningful community engagement; and
- (d) Good governance of, and by, local government; and
- (e) Ethical and legal behaviour of councillors and local government employees.

## Asset Management

The Asset Management Plan will be developed to provide timeframes and actions for achieving the objectives of the Council's Asset Management Policy. Appropriate management of community assets is a key Council obligation. A comprehensive Asset Management Strategy will allow the Council to accomplish its policy goals and give the community a clear indication of what is required to effectively manage community assets.

The assets of the Banana Shire Council include traditional infrastructure such as water, sewage, roads and bridges, footpaths, recreational facilities and parks, halls, buildings, equipment and plant; as well as more unique assets such as our signs, art works and public art.

The Asset Management Plan is to demonstrate responsive management of assets (and services provided from assets), compliance with regulatory requirements, and to communicate funding required providing the required levels of service.

The Asset Management Plan is to be read in conjunction with the following associated planning documents:

- Banana Shire Planning Scheme
- 10 year Community Plan
- Corporate Plan
- Annual Operational Plan
- Long-term Financial Plan
- Annual Budget

Council also has three separate and distinct roles in developing or supporting community assets: one as developer; two as consent authority and three as the asset manager. Particular care must be exercised to ensure the three roles are clearly separated.

## ***Risk Management***

Risk management is a key performance and governance consideration.

Council's commitment to risk management is reflected in the goals and objectives listed below:

- We aim to use the world's best practice in risk management to support and enhance our activities, in all areas of Council
- We will ensure risk management is an integral part of all our decision-making processes
- We will use a structured risk management program to minimise reasonably foreseeable disruption to operations, harm to people and damage to the environment and property
- We will identify and take advantage of opportunities as well as minimising adverse effects
- We will train our personnel to implement risk management effectively
- We will strive to continually improve our risk management practices

## ***Disaster Management***

Banana Shire Council operates under the Disaster Management Plan, during significant disaster and emergent events, and depending on circumstances, the Local Disaster Coordination Centre (LDCC) may be activated.

Should this be the case, notification will be provided through the media and our Customer Service Centre.

The LDCC can be contacted by phoning 4992 4027 or 4992 3511 (*NOTE: this number will only be activated in the event of an emergency*).

Road conditions 131940

Contact SES for flood and storm damage on 132 500.

In life threatening situations, always call 000.

The Disaster Management Plan can be located at <http://www.banana.qld.gov.au/index.php/78?sq=disaster>

Emergency Action Guide [http://www.banana.qld.gov.au/docs/misc\\_docs/Emergency\\_Action\\_Guide.pdf](http://www.banana.qld.gov.au/docs/misc_docs/Emergency_Action_Guide.pdf)

## ***Shire Statistical Profile***

A full regional profile is available from the Office of Economic and Statistical Review by following this link <http://statistics.oesr.qld.gov.au/qld-regional-profiles> and selecting Banana from the list and clicking create.

The latest profile will be created for you including 38 topics, examples being Estimated Resident Population, Population by Age, Medium Age, Population of Urban centres.

# 3.0 AMENITY

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## Amenity

Banana Shire offers diverse lifestyle options. It is this diversity that we celebrate and promote. Through the development of appropriate facilities and services our Shire will develop:

- Preservation of our heritage
- Appropriate infrastructure and services to support people's needs across the region

## Art & Culture

<i>Rationale</i>	<i>Strategy</i>	<i>Council Role</i>	<i>Stakeholders</i>
Improve access to cultural activities	Ensure that libraries, art galleries and information centres are set up in appropriate positions within the community, ensuring cultural precincts' are considered for each community	Advocate Partner	RADF Committee BSC Chambers of Commerce, Development & Progress Assoc.
	Where cultural infrastructure is not open every day, ensure they are included with other facilities to actively share costs and build on current visitor numbers	Advocate	RADF Committee BSC Chambers of Commerce, Development & Progress Assoc
To articulate the shires 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	Advocate	RADF Committee Local Arts Organisations and Artists on a project by project basis
	Support the ongoing development and implementation of the Banana Shires Stories Project	Advocate	RADF Committee Local Arts Organisations and Artists Chambers of Commerce, Development & Progress Assoc, Community organisations
	Encourage greater participation of indigenous people in art and cultural projects		
	Develop a Public Art Policy for the Banana Shire	Provider/Partner	RADF Committee Local Arts Organisations and Artists

## Community Aesthetics

The aesthetics of the community are very important to residents. When people use community spaces and facilities, they feel part of a community and develop a sense of place. These two elements are important in promoting well-being as they can form part of an individual's identity, increase an individual's perceived quality of life and motivate people to be even more active and to participate in the community.

<i>Rationale</i>	<i>Strategy</i>	<i>Council Role</i>	<i>Stakeholders</i>
The improvement of community aesthetics, especially the town entrances will facilitate a good first impression	Develop entrance plans for each community in the Shire	Provider /Partner	BSC Chambers of Commerce, Development & Progress Assoc
	Consider community aesthetics and community connections in all development	Advocate Provider Partner	

## History

<i>Rationale</i>	<i>Activity/ Task</i>	<i>Council's Role</i>	<i>Stakeholders</i>
Banana Shire has a very rich history, supported by historical associations across the shire. Many of their activities provide tourism product within their communities	Increase the recording, protection and appreciation of the Shire's history	Advocate	Historical organisations BSC

## *Pastimes*

Pastimes or hobbies are an important part of the lifestyle options within the community. The Banana Shire "My Community Directory" will assist new and established residents to locate organisations. Individual hobbyists are not listed due to privacy issues.

Pastimes, hobbies and interest groups are well catered for across the shire. Many fall under art and culture where others can be described as a hobby. Organisations like the Callide Dawson Machinery Preservation Club can be classed a hobby, historical and tourism.

**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)

## *Places*

Banana Shire has twelve defined communities, and many localities or places of interest that are very important.

<i>Rationale</i>	<i>Activity/ Task</i>	<i>Council's Role</i>	<i>Stakeholders</i>
The individual identity of each of the defined communities and localities is an important part of Banana Shire's History and Future	Maintain the development of the twelve Place Based Plans	Provider/Partner	BSC Chambers of Commerce, Development & Progress Assoc, Qld Government Australian Government
	Recognise each individual locality within the shire		
	Recognise the traditional owners within the shire through appropriate signage		

## Sport & Recreation

Sport and recreation are very important lifestyle options in the Shire with over 230 sport and active recreation organisations within the area. Sport and recreation have been split into two defined sections:

- **Sport** – Active recreation that is overseen by competition rules
- **Active and Passive Recreation** – Recreation will be looked at in two subgroups:
  - **Active Recreation** – Active recreation that is both organised, social and adhoc e.g. playgrounds. Including organisations like Scouts, Guides, walking and cycling clubs
  - **Passive Recreation** – Parks and gardens that can be accessed for quiet reflective pastimes

### Sport and Recreation Policy

The Banana Shire Sport & Recreation Policy relates primarily to the management areas of Sport & Recreation reserves that are Council owned or which Council acts as a trustee for the Qld Government. It also provides guiding principles to support the benefits of Sport & Recreation across the Shire.

Develop a leadership and strategic role for Council.

- To provide optimal use of the land and buildings and to maximize community benefit
- To formalise tenure arrangements between Council as the landholder or trustee and user groups, so that business may be conducted in an organized manner
- Promote community involvement and participation in Sport & Recreation across the Shire

### Key Themes:

- Addition of walkways, footpaths, cycle paths, water area access, outdoor exercise equipment
- Recreation Facilities on water courses and impounds
- Shaded areas and parks, upgrade to memorial parks and gardens
- Site maintenance management plans
- Country Racing

<i>Rationale</i>	<i>Activity/ Task</i>	<i>Council's Role</i>	<i>Stakeholders</i>
As recreation facilities are an integral part of every community, it is important that effort is put into ensuring the future of these assets	Development of management plans for current and future maintenance of Council owned facilities	Provider/Partner	All sporting organisations BSC Qld Government Australian Government Service Organisations
	Ensuring timely upgrades to the variety of facilities to improve their overall usage	Provider /Partner	
	Prioritise facilities such as Sporting, Youth areas and Aquatic centres for upgrades	Provider/Partner	
	Facilitate co-use of facilities	Provider/Partner	

<i>Rationale</i>	<i>Activity/ Task</i>	<i>Council's Role</i>	<i>Stakeholders</i>
	Develop sun smart sporting facilities. Increase the provision of shaded areas at sports facilities, parks, open spaces, pools and where people gather	Advocate Partner	
	Ensure disability access for all facilities	Advocate Partner	
	Upgrade and maintain local memorial parks and gardens	Advocate Provider Partner	
	Continue to develop walkways and footpaths as well as cycle paths and outdoor exercise equipment	Provider/Partner	
	Continue to plan the upgrades of boat ramps	Advocate	
Country Racing has reduced significantly over the past decade. Taroom and Thangool have good infrastructure that needs supporting	Support the continuation of country racing at Taroom and Thangool	Advocate	Dawson Jockey Club Thangool Race Club Qld Government Qld Racing
The Shire has excellent access to water recreation via the Dawson River and Lake Callide	Continue the support of the establishment of recreation facilities at strategic locations	Advocate Partner	Qld Government BSC Sunwater

## National parks

The Banana Region has several National Parks and Environmental Reserves within the Shire. These parks deliver many opportunities to attract visitors to the Shire and build a sustainable tourism industry.

- Kroombit Tops National Park via Calliope
- Mt Scoria Environmental Reserve 7 km South-West of Thangool
- Isla Gorge National Park 35 km South of Theodore
- Expedition National Park 75 km West of Taroom and
- Precipice National Park 70 km North of Taroom
- Cania Gorge National Park 85km South-East of Biloela

Visit <http://sandstonewonders.com/?s=Expedition+national+park>

<i>Rationale</i>	<i>Activity/ Task</i>	<i>Council's Role</i>	<i>Stakeholders</i>
To encourage the use of National Parks	Seek funding to commission a naturalist and photographer to produce small guide booklets on local scenic areas and species of native flora and fauna for distribution among locals and tourists	Advocate	Banana Shire Council Tourism Advisory Committee Conservation Groups Qld Government Australian Government
	Continue to increase awareness of the local national parks to encourage tourism	Advocate	Banana Shire Council Tourism Advisory Committee Outback Qld Parks and Wildlife
	Upgrade access to all National Parks and Environmental Reserves	Provider Advocate	Banana Shire Council Outback Qld Parks and Wildlife

## Showgrounds and Recreation Reserves

Banana Shire has a number of showgrounds and recreation reserves throughout the Shire. A clear understanding of the uses of these assets and the organisations and Council management policies needs to be obtained. 10-year planning processes need to be encouraged so these plans can be added to the community planning process.

<i>Rationale</i>	<i>Activity/ Task</i>	<i>Council's Role</i>	<i>Stakeholders</i>
The development of 10-year planning documents for all showgrounds and recreation reserves is important to the long term provision of recreational activities	Hold 10-year planning information workshops with all showground committees	Partner Advocate	Show ground committees BSC Qld Government Australian Government
	Seek support funding to assist organisation to develop planning documents and provide training on reviewing and updating		

## 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, in 2014 there were 880 vehicles per 1000 people, transport systems need to look beyond the obvious.

<i>Rationale</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 of those needs	Advocate	BSC Qld Government
	Develop innovative solutions to transport issues	Advocate	BSC Qld Government Australian Government Development Organisations

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## Social Wellbeing

### **People**

Building Our Shared Future, a cultural vision, includes the following statement relating to strong communities: “A shared community journey, where our past is revered, our present is strengthened, and our future is forged through living creatively together in a bountiful and vital location.”

As a community, we want to understand and celebrate who we are within the local, national and international context – respecting one another, our different cultures, heritage and traditions, and valuing all people of many different backgrounds.

We Strive for:

- Everyone living and working in the Banana region to have the chance to be part of community life
- Opportunities for people to be educated, trained and be employed
- Our community to be caring and inclusive, adaptive and resilient, working together to create a strong and distinctive sense of identity and civic pride
- Social initiatives supporting communities with the greatest needs given priority

### **Young People**

<i>Rationale</i>	<i>Strategy</i>	<i>Council Role</i>	<i>Stakeholders</i>
Understanding and delivering services in partnership with young people is paramount to the social wellbeing of the Banana Shire	Undertake a youth study to gain a clear understanding of the services being delivered and identify any gaps	Advocate	Qld Government Australian Government Qld Education Qld Health Interagency groups PCYC

## ***Older Residents***

<i>Rationale</i>	<i>Strategy</i>	<i>Council's Role</i>	<i>Stakeholders</i>
Services and infrastructure for our ageing population, both in the towns and in the rural areas, is a concern.	Undertake an older residents study regarding the future requirements of our elderly	Advocate	BSC Qld Government Australian Government Qld Education Qld Health Interagency groups HACC Blue Care Endeavour
	Support the increase in independent living and in home services		
	Increase respite and activities for the elderly on weekends		

## ***People with a Disability***

An important step to be taken in all of the communities in the Shire is that of disability access. While progress has been made in many areas, much work is still to be done with access to public services, facilities and amenities needing to be maintained or installed where necessary.

<i>Rationale</i>	<i>Strategy</i>	<i>Council Role</i>	<i>Stakeholders</i>
People with disabilities should be able to access appropriate services and support	Engage with people with disabilities, their families and carers to gain an understanding of the service needs with the Shire	Advocate	BSC Callide Dawson Special Needs Group Inc. Qld Government Australian Government Employment programs / training providers Qld Education Qld Health Non-School Organisations Endeavour
	Maintain and continue the development of the Community Resource Centre and its services	Advocate Provider	
	Ensure that accessibility issues are addressed in developments	Provider	

## Community Safety

<i>Rationale</i>	<i>Strategy</i>	<i>Council Role</i>	<i>Stakeholders</i>
Community safety and wellbeing is a high priority for both the Council and community	Support and development for Neighbourhood Watch groups	Advocate	Neighbourhood Watch Safety House Committee QPS
	Support and development for "Safety Houses" in strategic locations for children should be considered		
	Upgrade and maintenance of street lighting	Provider/Partner	BSC Ergon Qld Government Australian Government
	Continue maintenance and development of walk and cycle ways, including lighting		
	Installation of CCTV security cameras		

## Indigenous People

The Banana Shire Council area comprises traditional lands of the Bidjara People (West of the Lynd Range), Darumbal People (North of the Gogango Creek), Gaangalu People (Callide Valley & Northern Dawson Valley), Wadja (West of the Dawson River in the Moura Region), the Wulli-Wulli People (Theodore & Cracow Region), Wakka Wakka People (Theodore & Cracow Region) and the Iman People (Taroom Region) The Gaangalu People's land covers over 60% of the shire. *Please note those regions described are not definitive.*

## Community Development

Significant programs need to be developed in partnership with all four traditional land owner groups, the three levels of government and the community in developing programs that support indigenous people within our communities. All programs need to be funded for a minimum of five years to ensure continuity in the supply of services.

<i>Rationale</i>	<i>Strategy</i>	<i>Council Role</i>	<i>Stakeholders</i>
Create community development programs that build on individual capacity and resilience of indigenous people across the Banana Shire	When establishing indigenous programs/initiatives ensure they have a minimum timeline of five years	Advocate	Qld Government Australian Government Gaangalu People Wulli-Wulli People Wadja People Iman People BSC
	Support business development programs that provide indigenous people with sustainable futures		
	Facilitate the ILUA's for Banana Shire	Partner	

## Working Together

<i>Rationale</i>	<i>Strategy</i>	<i>Council Role</i>	<i>Stakeholders</i>
Continue the development to build partnerships between indigenous people, the community, council, industry and business	Facilitate employment programs that mentor indigenous people into employment	Advocate	Gaangulu People Wulli-Wulli People Wadja People Iman People Banana Shire Council Resource companies Qld government agencies Employment/ training providers Australian Government GAGAL Community Elder groups Neighbouring clan groups
	Maintain programs to encourage indigenous families to be involved in their children's education		
Build on existing and look for opportunities to develop new projects and programs that builds cultural recognition within the Banana Shire Communities	Walking on country – cultural studies, involvement in NAIDOC		
	Facilitate the establishment of a keeping place and cultural centre		
	Documenting and recording our stories, existing language and cultural practices		
	Documenting and developing Indigenous Heritage sites of significance		
	Recognition of our indigenous heritage through naming and signage		

## Indigenous Health

<i>Rationale</i>	<i>Strategy</i>	<i>Council Role</i>	<i>Stakeholders</i>
Develop specific health intervention programs that ensure improvement in indigenous health	Establish Indigenous Men's Group	Advocate	Gaangalu People Wulli-Wulli People Wadja People Iman People Qld Health Community health Qld Education PCYC Qld Government Australian Government
	Encourage youth groups to attract indigenous youth		
	Increase the provision of mental health services to indigenous people		
	Community education on good health choices		

## People from Other Countries

<i>Rationale</i>	<i>Strategy</i>	<i>Council Role</i>	<i>Stakeholders</i>
Banana Shire communities have a welcoming ethos for new residents, especially people from other countries	Ensure that programs to support new residents are funded, especially language studies	Advocate	Australian Government Qld Government
	Celebrate our cultural diversity	Advocate	PCYC Service groups

## ***Education***

### **Key Themes:**

- Adult learning and professional development courses
- Expanded tertiary training such as first year university subjects. TAFE, GAGAL, Traineeships and Apprenticeships
- Opportunity for training and training facilities supported by local industry
- Support for cultural and language training for residents from non-English speaking backgrounds

There is an opportunity in the area for training to be offered by local industry. Partnering with the various industry companies in the area would assist in creating opportunities for locals to begin training that could lead to:

- New careers
- Alternative career opportunities
- Career progression

<i>Rationale</i>	<i>Strategy</i>	<i>Council Role</i>	<i>Stakeholders</i>
Greater understanding of the needs of education providers is required to deliver appropriate services	<p>Develop an education strategy that includes all providers</p> <p>Continue to support the development of early education within the region</p>	Advocate	<p>Australian Government</p> <p>Qld Government</p>

## ***Health***

### **Key Themes:**

- Insufficient staff, funding and infrastructure
- Quality and availability impacts growth
- Need to attract specialist services
- Recognition of certain areas as primary hubs to attract staff and funding
- Increase consistency of staff and cooperation between staff
- Disability access
- Fitness promotion and facilities
- Development of Biloela as a “Health Hub”

There are a variety of issues faced by the Shire in regards to medical services:

- Attraction of health professionals including doctors, nurses and Allied Health professionals
- Lack of facilities and infrastructure
- Aging infrastructure
- Impact on services due to workforce issues
- The potential increase in population
- The increase of the ageing population

To find solutions to these problems, more staff, including specialists, need to be attracted to the area and steps taken to retain them. While there are many ways in which this can be achieved, examples are:

- Ensuring that current and future staff are afforded the opportunity of professional development
- Encouraging skills diversification
- Offering incentives to medical staff and their families
- Developing local scholarships
- Developing tax incentives
- Developing a ‘Fly-In : Fly- Out’ method for accessing specialist services

Even before more staff are attracted to the area, it is vital that steps are taken to ensure that they are encouraged to remain by ensuring reasonable workloads, availability of leave opportunities and the provision of adequate accommodation.

Other actions that could be taken are:

- Lobbying for Biloela to be seen as a primary hub for the region which will increase services in all areas of the Shire by attracting funding and staff
- Ensuring the improved consistency of remuneration across all health districts in the area
- Encouraging cooperation between existing services in the Shire and developing a consistency in medical staff for patients

In the end, the quality and availability of medical services impacts on the current and future population of the Shire.

Consideration should be given to future planning of medical services in the area. Upgrades and new health infrastructure will be of great importance in the years to come as will the investigation of alternate models of service delivery. Identifying problems specific to the area will allow planning to be undertaken to ensure that these are identified and appropriately responded to. An example of this is the need for greater support for Mental Health services in the area due to a statistically higher incidence of mental health issues in rural communities. Support for the growing needs of children by ensuring the availability of professional services including child psychologists and therapist is also an identified need.

Due to the remoteness of the area in relation to larger cities, patient travel is important. In particular, emergency transport and long distance transport are issues. Solutions suggested are:

- The use of Angel Flights
- A travel subsidy scheme
- Use of tele-medical services which would benefit from funding and training

Promotion of fitness can have beneficial impacts in many areas in the Shire. Not only does promoting fitness indicate the progressive health focus of the Council, but it also decreases the impact on available medical services. Suggestions for encouraging fitness by the general population include promotion and encouragement of personal fitness and the introduction of free outdoor gyms equipment in public areas.

<i>Rationale</i>	<i>Strategy</i>	<i>Council Role</i>	<i>Stakeholders</i>
Accessible health services and a healthy community are critical to the sustainability of the region.	Address medical workforce and availability issues and lobby for recognition of Biloela as a hub for surrounding areas	Advocate	Qld Government Australian Government Health/Medical Practitioners BSC CQ Rural Health (formerly CQRDGP)
	Support the implementation of current Primary Health Care solutions	Advocate	
	Promote health and fitness within the region through the provision of facilities and services	Advocate Partner	
	Improve hospital services and infrastructure	Advocate	
	Continue to support the RFDS		



## ***Affordable Housing (Including Social Housing)***

Affordable housing in the Shire is and will remain an issue while investment in housing is low. The growth within the Shire will support the development of affordable housing projects.

There are a number of affordable housing projects within the Shire. However, there is no real strategy in being able to address the issues.

<i>Rationale</i>	<i>Strategy</i>	<i>Council Role</i>	<i>Stakeholders</i>
Demographically affordable housing is a major issue within the Shire. Many residents are forced to relocate due to the lack of appropriate housing	Ensure appropriate housing is available for older residents and people with a disability	Advocate	Qld Government Australian Government Qld Health All service related NGO's supplying services into Banana Shire BSC Banana Shire Support Centre QCWA Development & Progress Assoc.
	Consideration is given to the affordability and availability of both land and housing for all sectors in the community		
	Encourage investment in a range of housing within the Banana Shire		
	Undertake an audit of affordable housing stock, government, community and privately managed housing		
	Gain a better understanding of the housing issues and develop a shire-wide affordable housing strategy including density and location		

## Service Gaps

<i>Rationale</i>	<i>Strategy</i>	<i>Council Role</i>	<i>Stakeholders</i>
Understand the service gaps across the Shire	Undertake a "Social Services Gaps Analysis" for Banana Shire	Advocate	Australian Government Qld Government Qld Health All service related NGO's supplying services into Banana Shire

## Resilience

<i>Rationale</i>	<i>Strategy</i>	<i>Council Role</i>	<i>Stakeholders</i>
<p>Resilient Communities have strengths, skills and abilities which help achieve their goals and overcome adversity. Amongst the most important of these are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Social skills</b> such as communication skills, a sense of humour and being responsive to other people.</li> <li>• <b>Problem solving skills</b> such as planning, help seeking, critical and creative thinking.</li> <li>• <b>Autonomy</b> ie a secure sense of one's identity, self - worth and ability to cope.</li> <li>• <b>A sense of purpose and confident desire</b> for the future e.g. having personal goals and values and a sense of faith and connectedness with others.</li> </ul>	Facilitate project planning and funding submission workshops	Advocate	Australian Government Qld Government Community organisations Funding Bodies BSC
	The education of office bearers in meeting procedures		
	The education of groups regarding their legal responsibilities		
	The education of community group leaders in facilitative strategies for group management		
	Facilitation of leadership and governance programs		

# 5.0 ENVIRONMENT

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## ***Environment***

To manage the unique natural resources, ensuring a healthy and sustainable environment where the community's social, physical and economic well-being is enhanced for present and future generations.

### ***Climate Change***

It is important to ensure that proper care is taken for the future and a holistic and responsible approach is taken towards climate change in regards to all facets of lifestyle, business and industry.

<i><b>Rationale</b></i>	<i><b>Strategy</b></i>	<i><b>Activity/ Task</b></i>	<i><b>Council Role</b></i>	<i><b>Stakeholders</b></i>
Climate change is an important issue affecting all aspects of Council's operations	The Shire will become climate change aware	Climate change is considered in Council's operations	Provider	BSC
		Climate change is considered in new developments and existing operations	Advocate	Industry Developers
		Installation of solar power on Council and Community infrastructure	Provider	BSC

## ***Pest Management Plan***

Pest plants and animals are seen as major factors which have the ability to degrade our natural resources and cost Queensland millions of dollars each year in lost productivity alone. Previously, these impacts have been addressed through the formation of individual Local Government Area Pest Management Plans. These plans addressed pest problems on a local Shire basis and helped to preserve production and environmental values by taking a proactive approach to controlling pest species. As we know, pest species do not recognise administrative boundaries and therefore, planning for pest species must be addressed across these boundaries and on all lands including State Agencies, Local Government and privately owned land.

Historically, pest management planning and practices within the Banana Shire have been undertaken by Council, other government agencies and individual stakeholders, operating separately to address pest problems. Although similarly prescribed working practices in controlling, containing and reducing priority pest species populations have been utilised by all stakeholders, provisions to facilitate a holistic approach to pest management have not always been achievable. Through the approach of **'Consultation & Partnership', 'Integration' and 'Commitment'**, current pest management planning will involve a collaborative effort between all stakeholders, in order to enhance a coordination of resources and strategic direction for the area.

It is envisaged that through the coordination of pest management knowledge and resources, including economically viable options and best management practices for pest management, stakeholders will become more aware and educated about pests, thereby promoting and facilitating a commitment to controlling, containing and reducing the identified pests and identification and destruction of potential pests. The objective through this coordination, commitment and effort is to reduce long term economic, social and environmental impacts of pest plants and animals to ensure the continued productivity in the diversity of industries throughout the Shire.

Follow this link to the [Pest Management Plan](#)

<i>Rationale</i>	<i>Strategy</i>	<i>Activity/ Task</i>	<i>Council Role</i>	<i>Stakeholders</i>
Pest management is critical to primary industry and lifestyle of the Banana Shire operations	Maintain a collaborative effort between all stakeholders, in order to enhance a coordination of resources and strategic direction for the area	Monitor and evaluate the PMP regularly	Provider	BSC Community Capricorn Pest Management
		Communicate the activities undertaken within the plan effectively	Provider	BSC Industry

## Environmental Management Plan

The purpose of the Environmental Management Plan (EMP) is to provide appropriate environmental protection to achieve Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD) within the framework of existing legislation and environmental management policies.

A Community Consultation Plan (CCP) has also been developed to provide a planned, strategic approach to effectively involve key stakeholders and the community in the development of the BSC's EMP. Outcomes from community consultation will be incorporated into this Draft EMP to produce a final EMP for Banana Shire.

The aim of this EMP is to provide a plan not just for Council, but for the whole community to work towards achieving an environmental sustainable lifestyle where current and future generations can prosper. It is intended that this EMP will be reviewed and updated to enable it to evolve and improve as actions are implemented and/or legislation and community perspectives change.

Environmental based goals, objectives and actions have been developed for a range of Council corporate activities as well as environmental elements. Corporate activities presented within this EMP include planning and development, sustainable procurement, environmental impact assessment, property and asset management, emergency preparedness and response, knowledge, skills and training, environmental performance evaluation, regional organisations and industry associations and legislative compliance. Environmental elements presented include air, biodiversity, heritage, land management, noise and vibration, waste management and water. Other environmental aspects included within this EMP include education and community activities, as well as site based management plans.

<i>Rationale</i>	<i>Strategy</i>	<i>Activity/ Task</i>	<i>Council Role</i>	<i>Stakeholders</i>
Environmental management is important to the community	The environment is managed sustainably, preserving biodiversity, whilst allowing businesses to remain economically viable	Areas of environmental significance are protected and biodiversity is maintained	Advocate	FBA Landcare Capricorn Pest Management Community
		The community is actively involved in promoting and supporting ways to preserve and improve our natural environment	Advocate	
		Good quality agricultural land to be protected	Advocate	
		The effects of the resource industries are minimised	Advocate	
		Develop environmental management plans for all Council's projects	Provider	BSC Community
		Monitor and evaluate the EMP and communicate the outcomes and activities to the community	Provider	

# 6.0 ECONOMIC

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## ***Economic***

Supporting the retention and development of a diverse range of businesses and industries will provide long term economic benefit to the community. This will be achieved through:

- Investing in our community through sound, economic strategies
- Promoting and creating employment prospects for all
- Promoting and encouraging strong economic growth
- Supporting the diversification of our economic base

### ***Business and Industry including Retail and Services***

<i>Rationale</i>	<i>Strategy</i>	<i>Activity/ Task</i>	<i>Council Role</i>	<i>Stakeholders</i>
Small business, including the service and retail sector, is the largest employer in the Shire, with the highest number of resident employees	Provide business and industry with the opportunities to participate in the development of the Shire	Investigate opportunities to increase training for young people	Advocate	Chambers of Commerce Development & Progress Assoc
		Encourage effective methods to attract staff for small business	Advocate	
		Promote industrial land (where available) in the three main industry towns, Biloela, Moura & Taroom	Advocate/Partner	Chambers of Commerce, Development & Progress Assoc BSC
		Invest in both people and the community to develop and attract staff	Advocate	
		Promote the benefits of living in the Shire	Partner	
		Develop methods to ensure local businesses compare favourably to the resource industry as employers	Advocate	
		Delivery of business networking opportunities	Partner	
		Develop strategies to encourage employees in all sectors to reside in the Shire.	Advocate	
		Undertake business gaps analysis across the Shire		



## Tourism

Banana Shire facilitates the Banana Shire Tourism Advisory Committee. The committee has been active in developing the Banana Shire Tourism Strategy Sandstone Wonders. [www.sandstonewonders.com](http://www.sandstonewonders.com)

<i>Rationale</i>	<i>Strategy</i>	<i>Activity/ Task</i>	<i>Council's Role</i>	<i>Stakeholders</i>
Tourism is an important sector in the economic mix of the Banana Shire. The ongoing development is important to the sustainability of the Shire.	Support the development of the tourism industry	Continuation of the Banana Shire Tourism Advisory Committee and partnering with other communities	Advocate	Qld Government Australian Government Outback Qld Tourism Assoc Banana Shire Council
		Targeted promotion of specific locations and events		
		Tourism is taken into consideration during the development and maintenance of infrastructure, specifically roads	Partner	BSC Qld Government Australian Government
		Improve signage – directional and informational		
		Continue support of information centres and encourage practices that bring people to the area	Partner	
		Ensure that art, cultural and historical centres and museums are promoted		
		Review the Tourism Strategy with specific investigation into conference facilities and accommodation	Partner	
Continue to support the Leichhardt, Burnett and Dawson Highway Committees	Partner	Leichhardt Highway Assoc Country Way Assoc Chambers of Commerce BSC		

## Niche Businesses/Products/Markets

<i>Rationale</i>	<i>Strategy</i>	<i>Activity/ Task</i>	<i>Council's Role</i>	<i>Stakeholders</i>
<p>Development of "niche" businesses was identified as a way of expanding the business sector within the Shire</p> <p>The development of the Herb and Squab industries are testament to sustainable industry growth within the niche business sector</p>	Support innovative industries	Investigate ways to support new niche businesses to set up in the Shire, including heavy vegetable production and processing	Advocate	<p>BSC</p> <p>Qld Government</p> <p>Australian Government</p> <p>Development associations</p>

## Primary Industries

- Critical industry for long term sustainability
- Research, development and extension
- Roads and accessibility

<i>Rationale</i>	<i>Strategy</i>	<i>Activity/ Task</i>	<i>Council's Role</i>	<i>Stakeholders</i>
Primary Industries are a major contributor to the region's economy, providing over 20% of the region's employment	Support a viable and productive primary industry sector	Be actively involved in State Government decision making to mitigate potential risks to the industry	Advocate	<p>BSC</p> <p>Qld Government</p> <p>Australian Government</p> <p>AgForce</p> <p>Qld Resource Council</p>
		Lobby for the continuation of research, development and extension services within the region		
		Work with the mining industry to rehabilitate disturbed land into productive grazing country		

## *Resource Industries*

### Key themes:

- Sustainable growth
- Industry contribution to infrastructure
- Industry commitment to communities

<i>Rationale</i>	<i>Strategy</i>	<i>Activity/ Task</i>	<i>Council's Role</i>	<i>Stakeholders</i>
Banana Shire is a resources rich area	Work with resource industries to deliver sustainable outcomes	Work with industry to encourage them to use local suppliers	Advocate	Business/Industry BSC Qld Government Australian Government Resources Industries Community Groups LGAQ Qld Resource Council
		Encourage businesses to be registered on ICN		
		Work with industry to encourage workers to reside within the Shire		
		Encourage industries to invest in local communities with a long term sustainable out look		
		Gain continued support from resource industries to ensure Building Our Regions funding is granted to the hire		

## *Land Development*

<i>Rationale</i>	<i>Strategy</i>	<i>Activity/ Task</i>	<i>Council Role</i>	<i>Stakeholders</i>
To facilitate economic development and employment growth, the region needs a generous supply of urban and industrial land so that there are ample development opportunities to meet the full range of possible needs.	Encourage the private sector to ensure the correct balance of land is available for development	Continue to review Council development approval processes	Provider	Qld Government Australian Government Private sector - Developers BSC
		Lobby State and Federal Governments to reduce red tape and cost of development to business	Advocate	
		Continue to assist developers to meet statutory requirements while creating development that is sustainable	Provider/Partner	

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THANGOOL - BILUELA  
**AERODROME**



Banana Baralaba Biluela Cracow Dululu Goovigen Jambin Moura Taroom Thangool

# **Infrastructure & Planning**

## **Key Themes:**

Planning and delivering effective and efficient infrastructure services:

- Effectively plan, deliver and maintain infrastructure networks and infrastructure services
- Promote a safe and efficient infrastructure network

## **Planning**

### **Key Themes**

- Ensure sound planning processes which are sensitive to our environment and reflect communities' aspirations
- Ensure sustainable planning for our community's future
- Foster and grow healthy, vibrant communities
- Integration of plans between all levels of government
- Managing growth to ensure liveability, prosperity and sustainability
- Regional Planning extended to a 50 year vision to facilitate the shift in industry focus
- The inclusion of communities 'sub plans' need to be a component of Place Based Plans
- Working with Councils within the region

<i>Rationale</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Activity/ Task</i>	<i>Council Role</i>	<i>Stakeholders</i>
Due to the aspiration of increasing the population in the Shire's larger communities and sustaining the smaller communities, it is worth noting the importance of holistic planning.	Capitalise on growth within a sustainable development framework	Take steps to maintain and develop "liveable" communities in partnership with industry	Provider/Partner	Banana Shire Council Qld Government Industry
		Lobby Government to involve Council and the community at the "Terms of Reference" (TOR) stage of every development	Advocate	Qld Government Australian Government Community Groups LGAQ
		Ensure that the cumulative impacts that potential developments will have on communities are fully considered and actioned	Advocate	Industry BSC Qld Resource Council

## Social Infrastructure

### Key themes:

- Diversity of social needs
- Long term planning
- Location
- Density

<i>Rationale</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Activity/ Task</i>	<i>Council Role</i>	<i>Stakeholders</i>
When planning for the future of the Shire, it is imperative that consideration is given to the social infrastructure required by the community.	Sustainable infrastructure for all residents	Facilitate the expansion and growth of essential services to support people in their community. Examples of these services are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Youth services and facilities</li> <li>• Services for seniors</li> <li>• Accessible accommodation for people with disabilities</li> <li>• Aged care services and facilities</li> <li>• Child care facilities</li> <li>• Accessibility planning</li> </ul>	Advocate	BSC Australian Government Qld Government Developers DILGP Dept of Communities Community Groups Business & Industry

## Telecommunication

<i>Rationale</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Activity/ Task</i>	<i>Council Role</i>	<i>Stakeholders</i>
Information Technology or communications within the shire is significant to the growth of the shire	Upgrade infrastructure to provide coverage to the whole of the shire	Lobby NBN to ensure that all Banana Shire communities have the services that will attract growth	Advocate	Australian Government Qld Government BSC NBN Telstra Industry & Businesses
		Continue to lobby for improvement in mobile coverage		BSC

## ***Business and Industry***

### **Key themes:**

- Continual upgrading of infrastructure
- Long term planning
- Understanding the need and impact of the resource industry

<i>Rationale</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Activity/ Task</i>	<i>Council Role</i>	<i>Stakeholders</i>
The future of business and industry in the area is critical for sustainable growth	Business Development and Expansion	Encourage diversification of industry and business	Advocate	BSC Developers Chambers of Commerce Development & Progress Assoc Qld Government Australian Government
		Develop plans for the future beyond mining	Advocate	
		Ensure population increases are based on sustainable employment	Advocate	
		Initiate community trust funds to ensure the final impact of industries in the area is positive	Advocate	
		Attract investment for complimentary businesses as well as encouraging local businesses to maximise on local resource growth	Advocate	
		Develop an “Invest Local Program”	Advocate	
		Develop, implement and monitor the Banana Shire Economic Development Strategy	Partner	



## Strategic Planning

### Key themes:

- Integration of plans between all levels of government
- Regional Planning extended to a 50-year vision to facilitate the shift in industry focus
- The reference of community 'project plans' need to be a component of Place Based Plans
- Three levels of government (Local, State & Federal)
- Working with Councils within the region

<i>Rationale</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Activity/ Task</i>	<i>Council Role</i>	<i>Stakeholders</i>
Local, regional, state and national planning need to be intertwined	Holistic planning	Be active in all aspects of strategic planning	Advocate	BSC Developers DILGP Chambers of commerce, Development & Progress Assoc. Qld Resources Council

## Amenities

### Key Themes:

- Enhance and build on our lifestyle and sense of community
- Facilitate the ongoing development of services to reflect caring and supportive communities
- Plan and deliver a range of services to meet the needs of our diverse communities
- Provide facilities and services which enhance quality of life within the Shire

<i>Rationale</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Activity/ Task</i>	<i>Council Role</i>	<i>Stakeholders</i>
Community infrastructure builds communities	Infrastructure that meets community needs	Support the communities in the development of identified appropriate amenities	Provider Partner	BSC Qld Government Australian Government Industry

## Aerodromes

<i>Rationale</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Activity/ Task</i>	<i>Council Role</i>	<i>Stakeholders</i>
Aerodromes within the Shire are critical to the development of the region's resources industries	Continue to upgrade the Thangool and Taroom aerodromes to meet industry needs	Continue to upgrade Thangool aerodrome to meet the need of aircraft and relevant regulations.	Partner	Australian Government Qld Government BSC Industry & Businesses CASA Community Qld Resource Council
		Investigate the development of Aero Industry development at Thangool		
		Upgrade the Taroom aerodrome, including sealing to accommodate larger aircraft.		

## Roads

### Key Themes:

- Aesthetics – town, entrances, rubbish etc
- Bitumen network extension and gravel road condition
- Bridges
- Cumulative impact
- Driver behaviour
- Heavy transport bypass routes
- Intersections and hazard zones

<i>Rationale</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Activity/ Task</i>	<i>Council Role</i>	<i>Stakeholders</i>
Planned infrastructure that meets the economic and social needs of the communities.	Banana Highway Intersection	Construct new Dawson/Leichhardt Highway intersections at Banana	Provider Advocate Partner	BSC Australian Government Qld Government Community Road Safety Management Working Group
	Road safety	Identify intersections that require the additional signage and slip lanes		
		Investigate speed limits and enforcement methods, especially school zones and bus routes		

<i>Rationale</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Activity/ Task</i>	<i>Council Role</i>	<i>Stakeholders</i>
		Ensure appropriate flood signage installation and maintenance on all Shire roads		
		Undertake road safety audits and risk assessments		
		Undertake road safety awareness campaigns		
	Aesthetics	Improve town entrances to reflect a better image of the community		
Storm water management a key issues in all communities	Storm Water	Continue to progress the storm water strategy	Provider Partner	BSC Developers Qld Government Australian Government
		Develop water retention and reuse system as part of storm water management, including water quality monitoring		

## Water & Sewage

### Key Themes:

- Better implementation of sewerage, septic and grey water systems
- Increased capacity of clear water tanks
- Infrastructure, water quality and impact on infrastructure
- Nathan and Callide dams
- Supply and long term storage, purchasing of rain water tank subsidisation
- The community's ability to fund upgrades of water and sewage assets
- Upgrades to sewerage systems – in line with town growth
- Water treatment plants
- Water usage and allocation for industry and private use

<i>Rationale</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Activity/ Task</i>	<i>Council Role</i>	<i>Stakeholders</i>
Due to the uncertainty of the water supply in the area, the recycling of this valuable resource is extremely important.	Continual development of sustainable water practices	Upgrade all STPs to Class A+	Provider Partner	BSC Developers Qld Government Australian Government
		Research all options for waste water management, recycling and reuse	Advocate	BSC Qld Government Australian Government
		Encourage the community in the collection and use of rainwater	Advocate	BSC Qld Government Australian Government SunWater
		Lobby for the completion of the Nathan Dam & Pipelines	Advocate	
		Investigate Council owned storage methods to ensure a secure water supply for the future	Partner	
		Ensure that water from the proposed Nathan Dam is made available to Banana Shire communities and industry	Advocate	

## Waste

### Key Themes:

- Antilitter fences
- Community education
- Creating energy from waste
- State charges on waste
- Waste management system and central recycling

<i>Rationale</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Activity/ Task</i>	<i>Council Role</i>	<i>Stakeholders</i>
Waste management is a critical service within the Shire	Encouraging the community to take responsibility in the reduction of waste spread throughout the Shire	Continue education programs about the impacts of improperly disposed waste	Advocate Provider	BSC Qld Government Australian Government Industry LGAQ CQROC
		Upgrade and promote recycling collection points within the Shire		
		Lobby government to institute waste minimisation program instead of applying charges		
	Waste Management	Participate in regional waste management strategies	Provider Partner	

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