

2022 - 2027

**SOUTH BURNETT  
AGRICULTURAL  
STRATEGY**

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

*We wish to acknowledge the contributors to the South Burnett Agricultural Strategy: the landholders, producers, community groups, community members and industry groups.*

*Adopted 14 December 2022*

*Images: Nancy Jayde Photography  
Design: Push Pull Marketing, PR and Events*



South Burnett Regional Council is committed to delivering for the South Burnett Region and each individual industry, which includes agriculture.

As a region that offers world-class food, our agricultural industry has largely been operating with their own knowledge, grit, and determination.

This strategy sets out to assist in agricultural leadership and provide support for the sector so it can grow, and take advantage of the Ag2030 targets.

We acknowledge that infrastructure supports for this industry are lacking, so we continue to lobby to both State and Federal governments to meet our needs in basic ways. We are advocating for bridges that can carry our trucks and highway access routes that allow this industry to import and export effectively.

As Agriculture is not Council's core service provision, we thank BIEDO for being our partner in Agricultural industry, and in building this strategy.

This strategy is our way forward in Agriculture, and together we will grow it.

**Mayor Brett Otto**  
**South Burnett Regional Council**



Our agricultural industry is one of the most diverse in Queensland. Therefore, it is no surprise that delivering on a comprehensive strategy to meet all of the diverse needs just cannot be done.

However, what we can do is ensure that the South Burnett has the right steering documents in place to ensure that our region can work with Government stakeholders, and access appropriate funding that is available to the sector. This is precisely the intention of this document.

We firmly believe that the Burnett Inland is Queensland's next biggest food bowl, with phenomenal agricultural production and food manufacturing facilities, and the cultural movement to celebrate the foods that the Burnett Inland produces is an important resource.

BIEDO will continue to advocate for agriculture and encourage the industry to use this document to its advantage. We also encourage agricultural businesses to individually contact us, so that we can support and connect your business to these strategy outcomes.

**Kristy Board**  
**General Manager BIEDO**

## HOW WAS THIS STRATEGY DEVELOPED

The South Burnett Agricultural Strategy was developed by and made possible thanks to Building Better Regions Fund Community Investments Stream.

The South Burnett Agricultural Strategy was developed by South Burnett Regional Council and BIEDO in reference to key government strategies.

## ABOUT THE SOUTH BURNETT AGRICULTURAL STRATEGY

The South Burnett Agricultural industry is a strong contributor to the local economy. This strategy is about recognising the importance of agriculture to the economy and wellbeing of the region and, to help Council and community stakeholders to develop initiatives that match up with the government's 2030 \$100b gross targets.

Agriculture is the 2nd largest employer in the South Burnett at 11.7% and source of economic value in the South Burnett Region. The South Burnett area comprising the original shire districts of Kingaroy, Nanango, Wondai, and Murgon has a diverse employment in the health care and social assistance sector being the largest at 14.5%.

The South Burnett has faced significance challenges in the last decade including extreme weather events, aging population, skills shortages and variable commodity prices.

These challenges have had far reaching effects on agricultural producers causing excess food wastage, soaring delivery costs pandemic induced workforce shortages and unpredictable outlawing of export markets and more.

The South Burnett Agriculture strategy was identified in Council's 2021-2026 Regional Development Strategy as a pathway for Council to support the Agriculture sector in exploring opportunities in intensification, diversification and regeneration. Which our region can start to align themselves to the major 2030 strategy.

In line with Australian Government Ag2030 this Strategy consists of seven (7) pillars.

- Trade and Exports
- Biosecurity and Resilience
- Stewardship
- Supply Chains
- Water and Infrastructure
- Innovation and Research
- Human Capital

Key recommendations to improve profitability, sustainability, wellbeing, and resilience of agribusinesses in the South Burnett are considered under each outcome, and then applied against the key pillars of



## SOUTH BURNETT SNAPSHOT

The South Burnett with its mix of red volcanic soils, arable creek flats and forest grazing, is one of the most diverse agricultural areas in Queensland producing a wide range of high value primary production commodities.

Beef production is the most predominant agricultural in the industry having a hold of approximately 58.12% of farms. However, other intensive and semi intensive industries continue within the region including, peanuts, grain crops, dubsia, tree crops and viticulture. The South Burnett has attracted and retained several value-adding agribusiness that complement and value add to the locally produced commodities. These businesses have chosen the South Burnett due to the strategic location within their industry's respective supply chain and availability to local trades and services.

Adapting to an ever changing production system, agricultural producers in the region are working harder than ever, under unprecedented external pressures to be able to meet the opportunities that are before them.

The geographic position of the South Burnett shares significant opportunity with the agriculture sector to value-add, export and grow its output. However, in a shared experience with regional Australia, it also means there are infrastructure, communications, planning and policy red-tape that doesn't easily enable the sector to profitably reach ready plates in Australia, and across the globe.

### WE WILL

"Support and advocate for the development of an expanded and diversified agricultural economy."

## WHY IS AN AGRICULTURAL STRATEGY NEEDED

This strategy seeks to link local outcomes to Australian Government ag2030 Roadmap pillars so that the South Burnett is strategically aligned with state and federal agriculture policy, and Council's strategic priorities of:

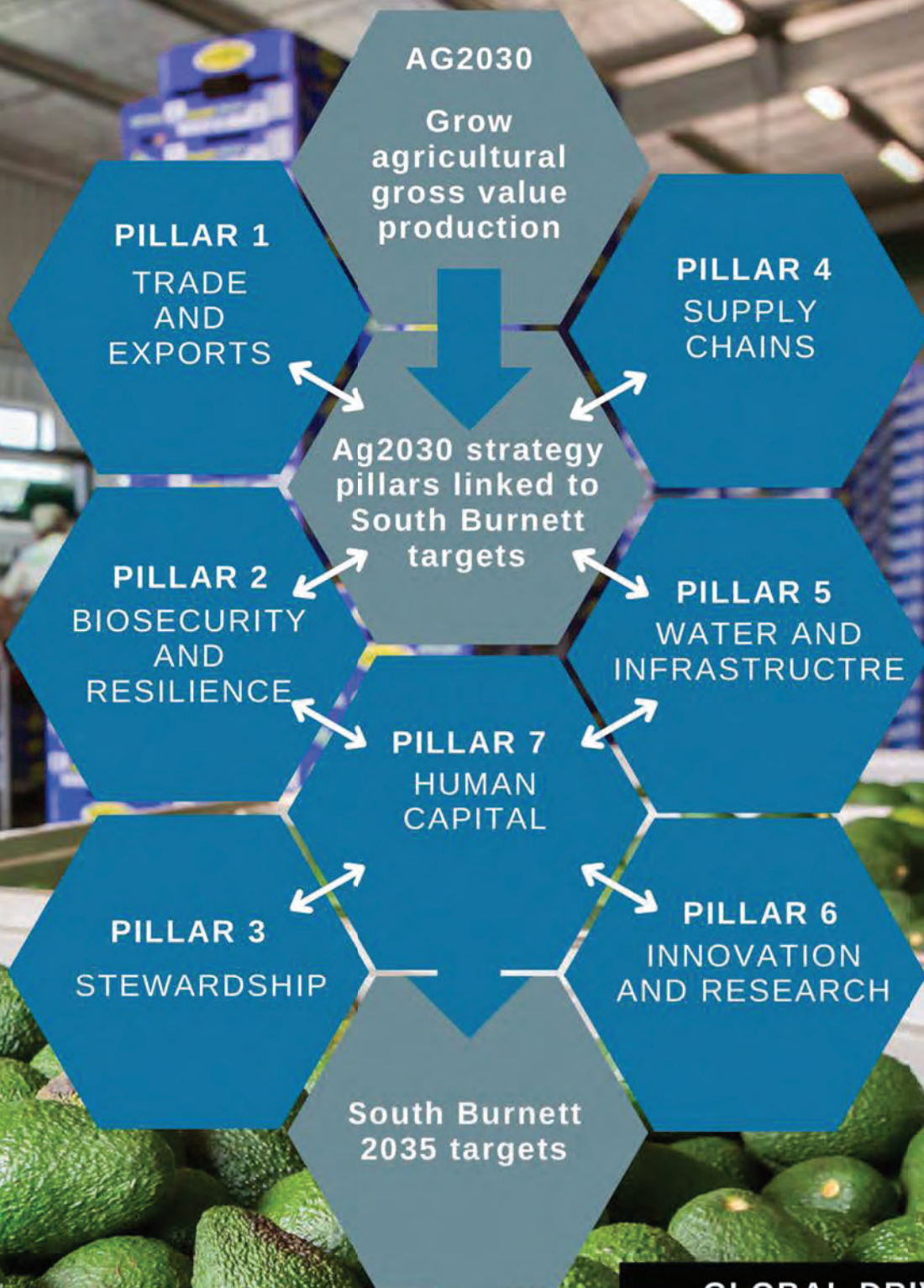
1. Enhancing Liveability and Lifestyle
2. Providing Key Infrastructure for our Towns and Villages
3. Growing our Region's Economy and Prosperity
4. Safeguarding our Environment, and
5. Organisational Excellence

The South Burnett agricultural community is strong, and is a key contributor to the Australian Agriculture supply chain.

Our agricultural community is very diverse in its outputs and varies across businesses and landholders in their stages of business and development.

To ensure that each section of the community is able to focus on their output, this strategy seeks to provide clarity so that government, non-government, communities and individual stakeholders can share priorities in growing agricultural outputs; acquiring, managing and building assets, and community wellbeing.

This strategy does particularly point out the ongoing biosecurity and disaster threats facing our region's agriculture industry. This strategy seeks to prioritise this work, and data inputs required to meet advocacy needs, given it's significant impact on the economy.



### HOW DO WE ACHIEVE THIS?

- ADDRESS REGIONAL NEEDS IDENTIFIED IN 7 PILLARS
- USE EXISTING LOCAL RESOURCES AND NETWORKS TO ACHIEVE TARGETS

### GLOBAL DRIVERS AND TRENDS

- + AUSTRALIA IS A PREMIUM SUPPLIER
- + ENVIABLE PEST AND DISEASE STATUS
- + NEW FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS, BUT WITH COMPETITION
- INCREASING COSTS IN TRADE
- GLOBAL PRICING FOR AUSTRALIAN PRODUCTS PRICE DECLINE SINCE 1950
- AUSTRALIA'S VARIABLE CLIMATE







# TOGETHER WE CAN

## **Pillar 1 Trade and Exports**

Strengthen agricultural ties with major and emerging export markets by delivering new trade and market access for producers and reducing red tape.

## **Pillar 2 Biosecurity and Resilience**

Safeguard South Burnett from disasters including weather events, exotic pests and diseases to reduce costs to our producers and keep our market access open. This includes having access to robust, current and localised data for lobbying.

## **Pillar 3 Stewardship**

Ensure South Burnett farmers are rewarded for their stewardship of land and water, are working towards international standards of Environmental and Social Governance and, that the sector is encouraged and able to represent themselves, participate in and talk about policies like Climate Action, Land Use and Renewable Energy.

## **Pillar 4 Supply Chains**

Ensure that we have fair, strong, and resilient supply chains where everyone is treated equally, is accessible and pays their fair share.

## **Pillar 5 Water and Infrastructure**

Support South Burnett farmers, rural and regional communities with water and infrastructure when and where it is needed.

## **Pillar 6 Innovation and Research**

Modernise South Burnett's agricultural innovation system to drive improvements in collaboration, productivity and competitiveness.

## **Pillar 7 Human Capital**

Enable South Burnett people and their linked supply chain with the opportunity, network, support, infrastructure, and skills to do their jobs.



**PILLAR 1**  
**TRADE AND EXPORTS**

# WE WILL

**SUPPORT AND ADVOCATE FOR THE STRENGTHENING AND OF AGRICULTURE TIES WITH MAJOR AND EMERGING EXPORT MARKETS BY DELIVERING NEW TRADE AND MARKET ACCESS FOR PRODUCERS.**

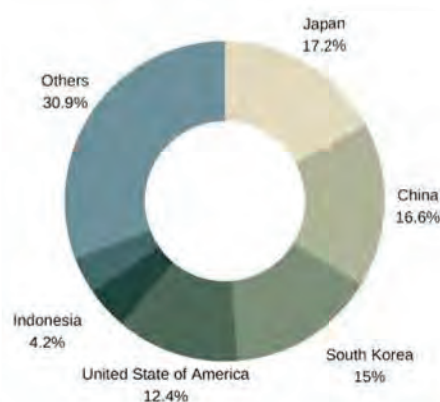
With around 70% of agricultural production exported it follows that one of the greatest ways to grow the industry is by better access to these markets.

With a diverse range of small volume products from the South Burnett suitable largely for niche markets there is an added need for representation and support.

For the size of the South Burnett region, the ability to trade and export plays a significant role in the economy. The strategy identifies the need to identify new business opportunity, but more importantly support existing businesses within their changing dynamics to ensure they are represented in policy decisions and government briefings.

Trade and Exports will play a pivotal role in the strategy to increase the gross value of agricultural production to \$100b by 2030.

**IN 2021-22, QUEENSLAND EXPORTED OVER \$10.7 BILLION WORTH OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PRODUCTS. THIS IS 26 PER CENT GREATER THAN IN 2020-21 AND 18 PER CENT GREATER THAN THE AVERAGE OF THE PAST 5 YEARS.**



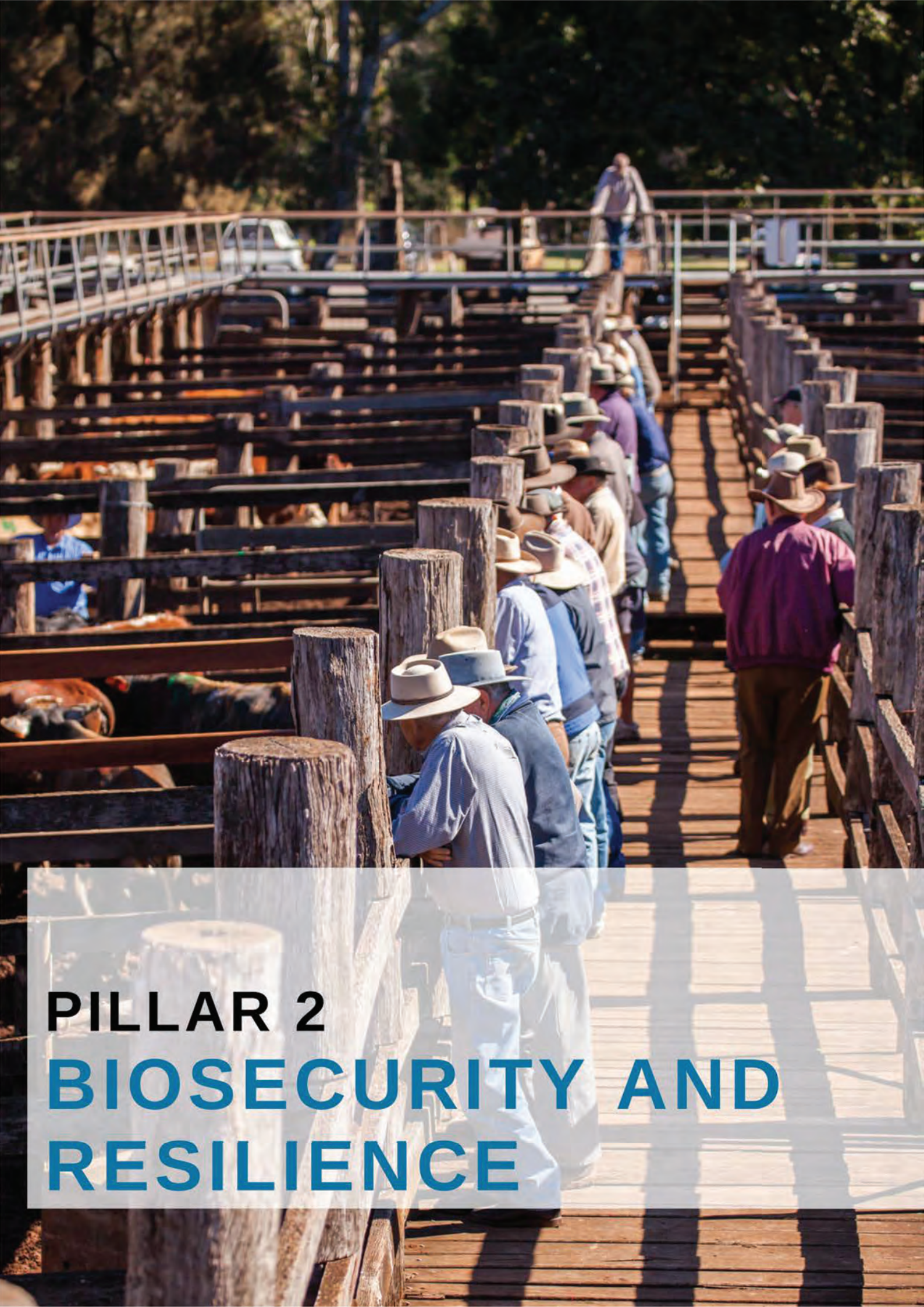
**EXPORT VALUE BY COUNTRY QUEENSLAND AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS FY 2022 SNAPSHOT**  
100% = 10.72BN

# PILLAR 1

# TRADE AND EXPORTS

## LOCAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT

1. Support local businesses to identify opportunities and facilitate linkages for advanced and entry exporters.
2. Regularly meet with federal and state policy makers to ensure the region is briefed and able to make adequate representation to tiers of Government.
3. Meet with peak trade and advocacy and export bodies like Trade Investment Queensland, Toowoomba and Surat Basin Enterprises (TSBE).
4. Prioritise export supply chain route infrastructure that reflects industry needs, especially on heavy transport routes.
5. Support industry intelligence sharing opportunities.
6. Work towards better linkages with Wellcamp Airport, Bundaberg Port and other export facilities.



**PILLAR 2**  
**BIOSECURITY AND**  
**RESILIENCE**

# WE WILL

***SAFEGUARD SOUTH BURNETT FROM DISASTERS INCLUDING EXOTIC PESTS AND DISEASES TO REDUCE COSTS TO OUR PRODUCERS AND KEEP OUR MARKET ACCESS OPEN. THIS INCLUDES HAVING ACCESS TO ROBUST, CURRENT AND LOCALISED DATA FOR LOBBYING.***

Effective biosecurity management addresses the spread of pests, animal diseases and weeds which can affect the environment and the economy.

The current emphasis nationally is on the animal diseases Foot and Mouth, Lumpy Skin Disease and African Swine Fever, and every attempt must be made to ensure producers are fully informed and have updated biosecurity plans. With 70% of agricultural production exported it is essential that Australian industries retain the clean green image so important to our economy

The South Burnett has diverse geographical features which lends to infestations of pests such as feral pigs, wild dogs and feral deer, all of which have the potential to spread disease and add to the distribution of noxious weeds. Biosecurity is the responsibility of everyone and, whilst there are regulatory requirements at an individual farm level, it is imperative that this is complimented in government policy, support and advocacy.

Resilience is also critical for agriculture to be able to cope with climate variability and disasters, causing significant human, environment and infrastructure risk to the sector. Resilience also now includes the ability to work during economic shocks, especially given Australia's linkage to the world market.

In recent history, circumstances beyond the control of the agriculture industry, in Australia and across the world have significantly impacted the Agricultural industry, in some cases stopping industries and jamming supply chains overnight.

Having access to robust, current and localised data is a problem that the South Burnett affects all outcomes in this report. Whilst this affects agriculture across pillars, this strategy notes this issue particularly in Pillar 2, as the South Burnett is particularly affected when lobbying for emergency relief money and disadvantaged when presenting briefing cases to decision makers at short notice and under complex circumstances; with real social and economic cost felt at the beginning of the supply chain.

# PILLAR 2

# BIOSECURITY AND RESILIENCE

## LOCAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT

1. Be an active stakeholder in Industry led information sessions for producers to keep them informed of relevant threats and resilience programs.
2. Assist with individual property resilience and pest management planning, and maintain and enhance an equipment loan program for both weed and pest animal control.
3. Coordinate and publicise baiting programs for wild dogs and feral pigs both to prevent the spread of exotic diseases and limit the economic damage they inflict.
4. Maintain critical and strategic cattle dipping facilities and promote them to the community.
5. Work with industry and Government Scientific Organisations to apply evolving biological controls to current and emerging pest weeds and animals.
6. Facilitate a coordinated group to implement protections for South Burnett producers from disasters, pests and diseases and ensure the strength of the economy.
7. Promote resilience planning and risk management strategies and resources to industry.
8. Include agriculture in Disaster Management and resilience planning, and that satellite imaging and relevant data inputs are always up to date.
9. Support industry and industry advocacy groups to share information on government led changes to policy, regulation and legislation.
10. Put together a key stakeholder group to identify data gaps in South Burnett Agricultural biosecurity and disaster management & resilience.
11. Ensure the agriculture sector are included in community disaster education and resilience programs.



**ON AVERAGE 2.5 MILLION CONTAINERS, 19,000 COMMERCIAL VESSELS AND 115.3 MILLION MAIL ARTICLES ARRIVE IN AUSTRALIA EACH YEAR**

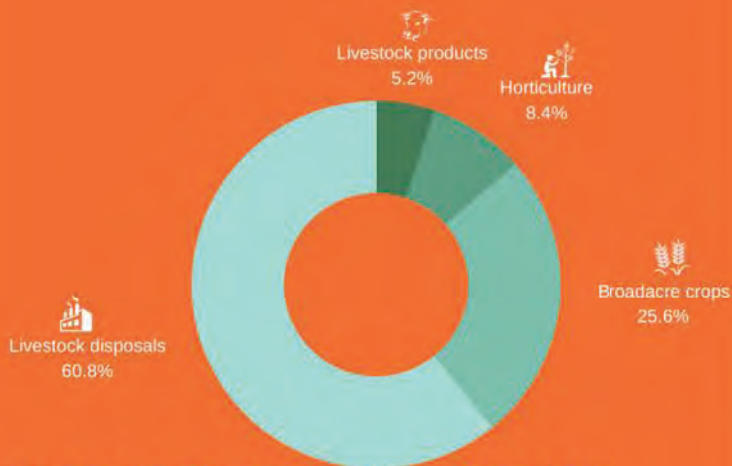


**SOUTH BURNETT**  
**THE DATA SNAPSHOT**

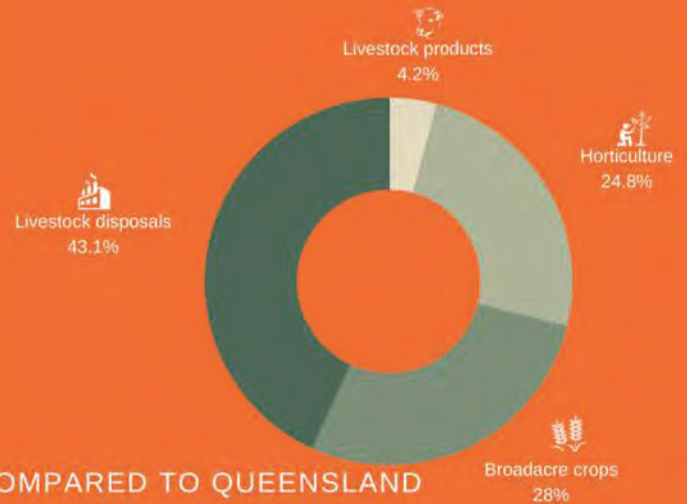


# What we produce

## SOUTH BURNETT AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY AT A GLANCE GROSS VALUE OF PRODUCTION (GVP) - FY2023



WHAT THE SOUTH BURNETT PRODUCES



COMPARED TO QUEENSLAND

### GROSS VALUE OF PRODUCTION - SOUTH BURNETT



Livestock disposals

**\$121.31M**



Livestock products

**\$10.29M**



Horticulture

**\$16.81M**



Broadacre crops

**\$51.05M**

Total South Burnett GVP **\$199.47M**

% of total Qld output **1.15%**

Australian farmers receive low levels of government support



Government support of Australia's agricultural sector is very low compared to the 37 member countries of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and other major emerging agricultural producers (Greenville 2020). The average level of support (as a share of gross farm receipts) for all countries was 15.1% between 2018 and 2020, compared to Australia at just 2.5%

# Land use - South Burnett LGA



## South Burnett Land Use

Nature conservation	Intensive horticulture
Managed resource protection	Intensive animal production
Other minimal use	Manufacturing and industrial
Grazing native vegetation	Residential and farm infrastructure
Production native forests	Services
Plantation forests	Utilities
Grazing modified pastures	Transport and communication
Cropping	Mining
Grazing irrigated modified pastures	Waste treatment and disposal
Perennial horticulture	Lake
Land in transition	Reservoir/dam
Irrigated cropping	River
Irrigated perennial horticulture	Channel/aqueduct
Irrigated seasonal horticulture	Marsh/wetland

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COORDINATE SYSTEM:  
HORIZONTAL DATUM: GDA 1994

MAP PRODUCTION  
25 October 2022  
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Planning GIS team from information provided by  
officers of DAF and other Queensland  
Government agencies.  
Contact: [AgricultureSpatial@daf.qld.gov.au](mailto:AgricultureSpatial@daf.qld.gov.au) for  
more information.

DISCLAIMER: This map is compiled from  
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therein.

Disaster\_20221006\_QLUMP for South Burnett  
LGA\_V2\_20221025 (toyner)





**PILLAR 3**  
**STEWARDSHIP**

# WE WILL

***ENSURE SOUTH BURNETT FARMERS ARE REWARDED FOR THEIR STEWARDSHIP OF LAND AND WATER, ARE WORKING TOWARDS INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL GOVERNANCE AND, THAT THE SECTOR IS ENCOURAGED AND ABLED TO REPRESENT THEMSELVES, PARTICIPATE IN AND TALK ABOUT POLICIES LIKE LAND AND WATER USE AND RENEWABLE ENERGY.***

58% of Australia's land mass is managed by agricultural producers it is appropriate that their stewardship of land and water is acknowledged and supported.

Community expectations around climate change are increasing the pressure on land managers to maintain an increasingly biodiverse and well managed natural resource base for the benefit of everyone which warrants recognition and appropriate assistance.

Good land management is not about locking it up, but adopting sustainable practices that maintain adequate ground cover and vegetation whilst continuing with agricultural production.

At the same time, for the industry to stay relevant to modern terms, phrasing and practices, it is the desire of this strategy to strike the balance, and skill the industry in international standards such as environmental and social governance so that the sector is confident to discuss and represent their point of view, participate and provide feedback in key policies and to be able to identify against these principles so they don't lose out on market share.

A growing number of producers are implementing practices such as minimum till to protect their land and enhance its productivity, but are limited in their efforts by often conflicting government regulations.

This strategy seeks for the industry to be recognised for their work, and given support in voice and practice, so that they can reasonably plan, discuss, provide feedback, and implement sustainably practices that are policy driven.

# PILLAR 3

# STEWARDSHIP

## LOCAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT

1. Maintain a close connection with agricultural producers through joint Agriculture industry information meetings to keep landholders advised of grants and projects which will reward their stewardship of the land.
2. Advocate for simplified regulatory requirements to support a wider adoption of better land practices.
3. Cooperate with the Federal Government's initiatives, E.g. Soil Carbon Innovation Challenge.
4. Continually review new stewardship market opportunities, which could enable private sector investment and an increased return to producers.



**PILLAR 4**  
**SUPPLY CHAINS**

# WE WILL

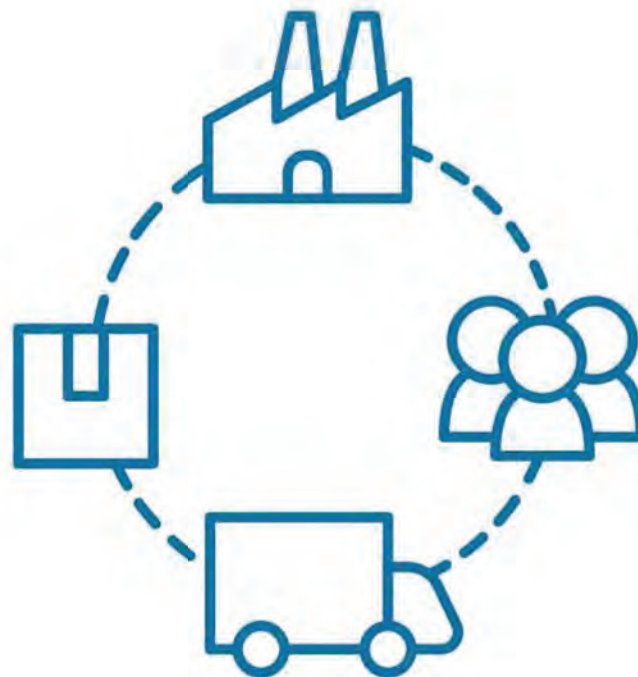
**SUPPORT FAIR, STRONG AND RESILIENT SUPPLY CHAINS THAT ARE ACCESSIBLE TO ALL EXISTING AND EMERGING BUSINESSES. WE WILL ADVOCATE FOR EQUALITY AND TRANSPARENCY IN THE SUPPLY CHAIN TO ENSURE EVERYONE PAYS THEIR FAIR SHARE.**

**WE WILL ADVOCATE FOR INVESTMENT IN INFRASTRUCTURE THAT SUPPORTS THE CURRENT SUPPLY CHAIN FLOW AND PREPARES FOR FUTURE MARKET CHALLENGES.**

With increasing competition world-wide, Australian producers need to capitalise on their product's reputation for quality and safety, and ensure it is streamlined access to export markets.

Transport and handling facilities can be a point of congestion in the supply chain. Better utilisation of access, support for higher productivity and lower costs for the handling of both import and export products will support a resilient supply chain.

To be effective, supply chains must be innovative and fair to all parties. They must also be allowed to move with the least resistance given that Australia is a prominent exporter of high quality agricultural products.



# PILLAR 4

# SUPPLY CHAINS

## LOCAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT

1. Support existing and new local industries experiencing difficulties accessing supply chain routes.
2. Work with industry to to advocate for efficiency in supply chains
3. Work with State and Federal authorities to invest in road infrastructure and advocate for investment in new infrastructure and supply chain solutions.



A photograph of a riverbank with large, gnarled trees and their reflection in the water. The trees have thick, twisted trunks and dense green foliage. The water is calm, reflecting the trees and the sky. The overall scene is a natural, serene landscape.

**PILLAR 5**  
**WATER AND**  
**INFRASTRUCTURE**

# WE WILL

## *SUPPORT SOUTH BURNETT FARMERS AND COMMUNITIES TO GAIN ACCESS TO WATER AND COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE.*

The South Burnett's high-quality soils, favourable climate, and proximity to markets, the South Burnett will be unable to reach its full agricultural potential without access to affordable and reliable water supplies.

The Barker Barambah Water Supply Scheme supplied by the Bjelke-Petersen Dam and run by Sunwater, along with smaller surface and underground resources, provide the bulk of the irrigation water. Reliability of supply remains an issue with irrigators with medium-priority allocations going through long periods of low-to-no water availability.

While the ability to irrigate cotton and other crops on areas adjacent to the main watercourses is significant, both water quantity and quality restrict production on the fertile elevated red soils to largely dryland operations.

Water is of critical importance to the South Burnett agricultural sector, with competing use demands from manufacturing and domestic supply. In view of the competing priorities, a continuing review of water resources and new water allocation options is necessary.

With overall caps on the amount of new water that can be utilised in the South Burnett, there are opportunities to re-allocate water use for better efficiency. Much of this centres around the current and future water from the Boondooma dam which currently supplies Tarong Power Station. If Boondooma water became available for domestic and industrial use, Gordonbrook dam could be released for agricultural production, along with the underground aquifers currently used by Nanango township.

Access to communication and internet still remains a challenge for the South Burnett, with Blackspots still plaguing the region, especially on agricultural land. This hampers the ability of the region to embrace the efficiencies of technology and ability to unlock land potential.

Roads, and road networks continue to transport all agricultural product out of the South Burnett region with no other means of transport available. To unleash Agricultural products, and the ability to expose the ability of agricultural investment in the region, supply chain routes should be evaluated and prioritised.

# PILLAR 5 WATER AND INFRASTRUCTURE

## LOCAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT

1. Progress the 25-year Economic Roadmap as a priority further to the National Water Infrastructure Development Fund (NWIDF) Water Feasibility Study.
2. Continue to explore opportunities to secure domestic and industrial water for the regions communities and agricultural.
3. Continue to support development of the Barlil, West Barambah and Joe Sippel Weirs which will to provide water security to agricultural production in the Barker-Barambah scheme area.
4. Investigate Recycled Water access opportunities.
5. Support industry and community stakeholders to undertake a connectivity survey of the region to underpin advocacy for increase in connectivity, technology and innovations.
6. Continue to advocate for Internet access through newest technology with key community stakeholders
7. Advocate for Blackspot funding for rural communities



**PILLAR 6**  
**INNOVATION AND**  
**RESEARCH**

# WE WILL

*SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGE TO MODERNISE SOUTH BURNETT'S AGRICULTURAL INNOVATION SYSTEM TO DRIVE IMPROVEMENTS IN COLLABORATION, PRODUCTIVITY AND COMPETITIVENESS.*

South Burnett agricultural are proactively seeking opportunities to adopt new technology. These new technologies will help overcome the reliance on dryland productions and the connectivity issues faced.

The adoption of satellite-controlled tractor auto steer systems in contoured paddocks in conjunction with moisture saving strip till has greatly improved row crop production, and this technology continues to find application in precision spraying and harvesting applications.

Intensive piggeries utilise automatic feed out and health monitoring technology to improve productivity and meet biosecurity and animal welfare issues.

The South Burnett has a long history of developing new technology for local application that has been adopted by the wider sector. The region's agriculture sector are solution focused, seeking new innovation to support their ability to meet future production challenges.

The local DAF Bjelke-Petersen research station continues to use greenhouses and trial plots to advance plant breeding and entomology so that the South Burnett can produce using dryland summer cropping.



# PILLAR 6 INNOVATION AND RESEARCH

## LOCAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT

1. Find stories of farming innovation to publish and publicise.
  2. Encourage and support entrepreneurs and innovators to connect with the region's agriculture sector.
  3. Support and advocate for the development of a diversified agricultural economy based on innovation and research.
  4. Continue to advocate and promote the value of local DAF research stations and facilities
  5. Support the development of a regional innovation ecosystem focused on Ag Tech.
- 



**PILLAR 7**  
**HUMAN CAPITAL**

# WE WILL

***ELEVATE THE SOUTH BURNETT REGION TO BE A COMMUNITY OF CHOICE BY ENHANCING THE LIVABILITY AND LIFESTYLE WITH LINKS TO NETWORK, EDUCATION AND SKILL DEVELOPMENT.***

The national trend from 2016 shows that farmers remain the most common occupation in agriculture with 56% of agricultural workers are farmers and farm managers. The South Burnett is in alignment with this national trend.

In 2016 the national trend saw labour for agriculture was sourced from Higher skilled employees at 16%, Lower skilled employees at 29% and unpaid family workers at 18%. There are some exceptions in the industry i.e., horticulture and tree crops which have seasonal demand for casual labour. This means that the industry faces challenges in which many are at risk of burn out, family succession challenges and mental health.

The South Burnett Region is no exception to the national trend of an aging owner-operator workforce with the 2016 median age being 56 and of particular note for the local sector that median age for the beef industry is in excess of 60. However, the new generation of farmers are more likely to have higher post secondary education with the most likely qualification in agriculture and environmental science, engineering, management and commerce.

Along with the above there is also a need for long term concessional funding to enable the next generation of farmers to establish their own primary production business or support family succession arrangements. Therefore as older owner operators transition out of the industry, the next generation are more likely to approach their business with different perspective, financial goals and management approaches.

The agriculture sector will be seeking opportunities in professional development to help the sector realise the human potential of themselves, their businesses and their communities. These are a priority of recommendation in this strategy.

The mental health and wellbeing of the work force and the South Burnett community is critical to success and measures need to be taken to ensure this is addressed.



# PILLAR 7

# HUMAN CAPITAL

## LOCAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT

1. Encourage leadership and professional development to agribusinesses and agricultural sector employees.
2. Support the local agriculture community to seek assistance with succession planning.
3. Advocate for young producers to create informal networking groups to support the building of connections, sharing information and professional development opportunities.
4. Maintain close links with the horticultural, tree crop and seasonally labour intensive industries to ensure that there is advocacy for local led community services to support short term increase in population.
5. Supporting crisis services that support the agricultural industry that meet crisis needs, provide next-steps information and host social recovery events.
6. Facilitate events that build on community involvement with particular emphasis on the physical and mental wellbeing of producers.
7. Work with local service providers and the agricultural community to find pathways for local unskilled labour to fill seasonal work requirements.
8. Advocate and pursue opportunities for post secondary education within the region



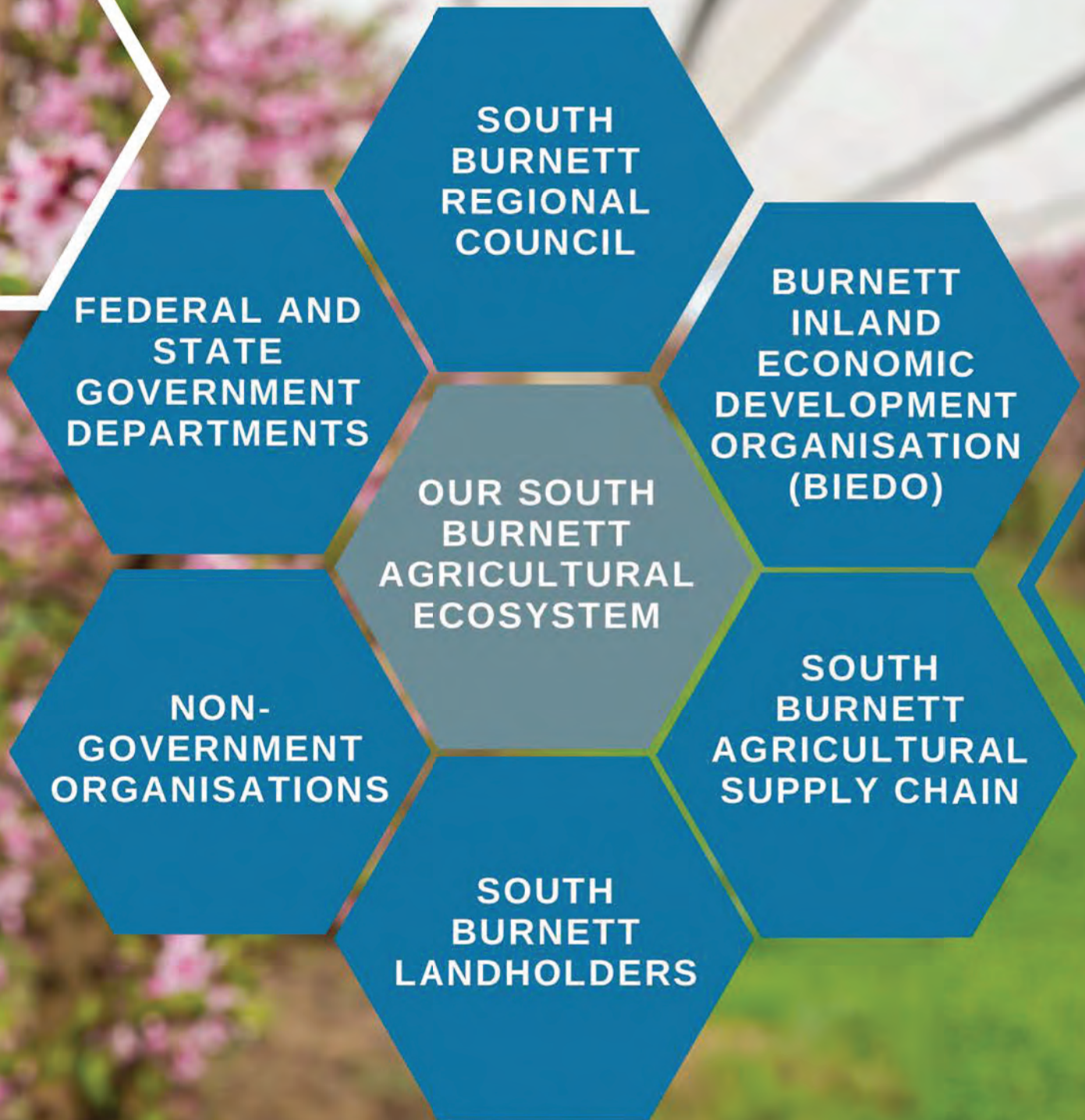
# THE FUTURE OF SOUTH BURNETT AGRICULTURE

This strategy has been put together to guide the South Burnett in making decisions for Agriculture. This is a high-level understanding that identifies local needs of our industry, and then sets forward and identifies the bridging activity to keep the region striving for the pillars of the ag2030 RoadMap.

As the region is so diverse, we acknowledge that this strategy cannot identify what every landowner needs. We do note though that this document should be able to be applied in the industries own context, no matter the agricultural niche.

Strong agriculture industries are dependent on reliable and resilient supply chains, ecosystems that promote and encourage research and innovations, a dependable high skilled service industry and a diverse and resilient community.

Working towards Ag2030 with the Federal Government will help achieve that outcome.



## REFERENCES

Below is a list of documents used for form this strategy. We encourage stakeholders to also read these documents as they can help further inform specific and targeted agriculture strategy.

- Wide Bay Burnett Food and Agribusiness Strategy
- Australian Government Ag2030
- 'Growing for Queensland'
- South Burnett Regional Council's Draft Corporate Plan
- 25-year Economic Roadmap
- National Water Infrastructure Development Fund (NWIDF)
- Water Feasibility Study
- National Water Infrastructure Development Fund (NWIDF) Water Feasibility Study – North and South Burnett Options Analysis
- Biofutures Roadmap and Action Plan June 2022
- Mackay Future Foods BioHub
- Western Burnett Agriculture Strategy
- Time is Now Report here
- Queensland Low Emission Roadmap Draft
- Qld Climate Action draft
- Environmental and Social Governance standards

### Websites:

- Snapshot of Australian Agriculture 2022  
<https://www.agriculture.gov.au/abares/products/insights/snapshot-of-australian-agriculture-2022#australian-farmers-receive-low-levels-of-government-support>
- South Burnett Regional Council Economic Profile  
<https://economy.id.com.au/south-burnett/>
- Department Agriculture and Fisheries, Data Farm  
<https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/strategic-direction/datafarm>
- Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES)  
[https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/australian.bureau.of.agricultural.and.resource.economics.and.sci/viz/AMR\\_v9\\_A3L/Dashboard1](https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/australian.bureau.of.agricultural.and.resource.economics.and.sci/viz/AMR_v9_A3L/Dashboard1)