

2021-2026
SOUTH BURNETT

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT ACTION PLAN



SOUTH BURNETT
REGIONAL COUNCIL



Acknowledgement

We acknowledge and respect the Wakka Wakka and Auburn Hawkwood people, the traditional owners of this land that we live, work and play on and respect their cultures, their ancestors and their elders past and present and future generations.

Adoption by Council

The 2021-2026 South Burnett Regional Development Action Plan was adopted by Council on 13 December 2023.

Copies of the Regional Development Action Plan

Copies of the Regional Development Action Plan are available free of charge electronically on Council's website at www.southburnett.qld.gov.au or can be viewed at any Council Library or Customer Service Centre.

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SOUTH BURNETT
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THE ACTION PLAN

BUILDING UPON OUR STRENGTHS WHILE ENCOURAGING FURTHER DIVERSITY OF OUR ECONOMIC BASE PROVIDES A PLATFORM FOR FUTURE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT.



THE FOLLOWING REGIONAL ENABLERS PROVIDE THE HIGH-LEVEL DIRECTION FOR THE STRATEGY:



Appropriate supporting infrastructure



Streamlined Investment Support



Targeted sector investment



REGIONAL ENABLER ONE

THE SOUTH BURNETT REGION HAS APPROPRIATE INFRASTRUCTURE TO SUPPORT INDUSTRY, INVESTMENT AND LIVEABILITY.

STRATEGIES

- 1 Water is reliably delivered to support investment in agriculture and industry, and enable urban growth in our communities.

Action:

Council work with State agencies to increase allocation and infrastructure to support urban growth and intensification of food and agricultural industries

Council to work with university and research partners to investigate options of recycling water and water efficiency technology

- 2 Transport infrastructure and strategic freight networks to allow for the efficient movement of goods.

Action:

Council to complete a precinct plan for the Kingaroy Aerodrome

Council to provide interactive digital mapping of designated freight networks to support movement of goods

- 3 Digital communication quality, capacity and coverage supports liveability, investment in industry, and ag tech.

Action:

Council to work with NBN to update current digital connectivity mapping and have available on Council's website for investors and community

Council to advocate to service providers for greater level of service and competition in the digital connection market across all different mediums of access with a view to creating equitable access

Provide digital access in the community to support education and training for the community to support the workforce and existing businesses

4 Major investments in infrastructure are leveraged to deliver local content and jobs, supporting workforce attraction and retention.

Action:

Council to work with renewable energy proponents and other large infrastructure investors to provide housing solutions for their workforce to support long term employment and retention of a skilled workforce to the region

Council to invest in community infrastructure (community pools, parks, open space, public tourist assets) to enhance the liveability of the region to promote the region as the “full package” to support full family participation in the economy

Continued investment in streetscape aesthetic improvements

5 Projects that support future investment and community needs are known and investment ready.

Action:

Council to work with renewable energy proponents and other large infrastructure investor to co-invest in community assets to promote liveability outcomes in the region



REGIONAL ENABLER TWO



COUNCIL DELIVERS STREAMLINED INVESTMENT SUPPORT, AND PROMOTES WELL PLANNED GROWTH.

STRATEGIES

1 Clear investment information is available to prospective investors.

Action:

Establish a clear contemporary Regional identity with an associated direction

Council articulates through an investment prospectus the regions strengths, current industries and priorities of the region

Provide key stakeholder information for support to invest on Council's website

Provide information on Environmental Social and Governance (ESGs) opportunities in the region

2 Council's planning scheme identifies precincts for growth and supports appropriate development.

Action:

Council provides and maintains interactive mapping layers on its website that show current planning scheme layers and infrastructure (water, waste, digital connectivity)

Council to provide an officer to work as an intermediary to new, emerging and existing investors to support navigation through Council process for developing or expanding their business development

Council investigate the introduction of a Temporary Local Planning Instrument (TLPI) to lower the level of assessment for medium density development.



3 Council's planning scheme identifies and caters to future workforce needs and enables improved housing outcomes in our region.

Action:

Council to endorse the Local Housing Action Plan

Council to implement the Planning Scheme amendment

Land investigation review is completed and actioned

4 Council advocates and partners with stakeholders to position the South Burnett as a current and future energy hub.

Action:

Provide education to community and business on energy options

Council to employ a Regional Development officer with a focus on developing:

- Relationships with researchers and universities to partner with local businesses to promote adaptation and commercialisation of new technology

Re-design the South Burnett Energy Centre to incorporate renewable energy for community education

Investigate the potential for bioenergy industry becoming part of the region

Partner with State Government and neighbouring Councils to develop a Darling Downs and Wide Bay Burnett Regional Transformation Strategy and access funding for identified projects.





REGIONAL ENABLER THREE

COUNCIL ATTRACTS INVESTMENT, GROWING THE ECONOMY.

STRATEGIES:

- 1 Council attracts innovative agribusiness, professional services and high-quality tourism investment.

Action:

Council to employ a Regional Development officer with a focus on:

- Providing connectivity between current businesses, other tiers of Government, venture capitalist and professional services to promote business confidence and future investment
- Working with key stakeholders to develop an entrepreneur and innovation network with a view to supporting an eco-system of networking and introduction to outer region collaborators and investors

Provide an opportunity for local businesses to collaborate with Local and State Tourism organisations to build capacity in delivering high quality tourism investment

Council works with key health and education service providers to increase service level and reduce barriers to new employees to the region

- 2 Council leverages assets to drive investment and support a business environment conducive to growth.

Action:

Council to work with a community board to deliver a Regional University Hub

Council promotes the region's liveability assets with a view to offer a whole package for new employees to the region

Provide networks and information to existing businesses on the benefit of succession planning

3 Council effectively advocates to State and Federal Governments to ensure funding flows to key projects.

Action:

Utilise partnerships with BIEDO and Red Earth Community foundation to advocate for priority funding for pre-identified priority projects

Maintain relationships with liaison officers from State and Federal Departments to put forward project priorities

4 Council builds and maintains strategic regional partnerships to support, grow and drive the regional economy.

Action:

Council works with key stakeholders and government agencies such as State Development, Aus Industry, Toowoomba Surat Basin Enterprise (TSBE), BIEDO and local business development associations to create an eco-system of networking and collaboration

Council engages with the WBBROC, relevant agencies and industries as a Local Government partners for opportunities resulting from the Wide Bay Burnett Regional Plan 2023

5 Council identifies key stakeholders and investigates the creation of circular economy outcomes in the South Burnett.

Action:

Council to employ a Regional Development officer with a focus on developing:

- Education resources and information to the local business community on the role of the circular economy
- Identify current businesses in the region that will benefit from development of the circular economy
- Develop relationships with researchers and entrepreneurs to work with local businesses to encourage development of new technology that supports investment in technology that delivers circular economy outcomes

Advocate and promote the circular economy as a key economic driver for the region



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