



HEALTH AND WELLBEING PLAN 2015 - 2020

July 2015

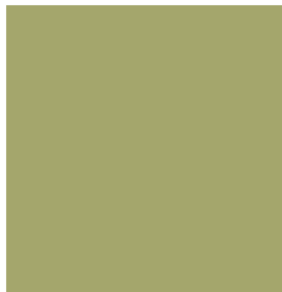




Table of contents

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|----------|----------------------------|-----------|
| <i>Project introduction</i> | <i>1</i> | <i>Policy and planning</i> | <i>13</i> |
| Background | 1 | What we have | 13 |
| Achievements and challenges | 1 | The next five years | 13 |
| Report structure | 2 | Recommendations | 15 |
| Implementation strategy | 2 | <i>Partnerships</i> | <i>17</i> |
| <i>People</i> | <i>3</i> | Existing networks | 17 |
| Who we are? | 3 | Advocacy issues | 17 |
| The past five years | 4 | Recommendations | 19 |
| The next five years | 4 | <i>Performance</i> | <i>21</i> |
| Recommendations | 6 | Quantitative measures | 21 |
| <i>Place</i> | <i>9</i> | Qualitative measures | 22 |
| What we have | 9 | | |
| The past five years | 9 | | |
| The next five years | 10 | | |
| Recommendations | 11 | | |

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Summary

In 2010 Scenic Rim Regional Council prepared two strategic plans - a Social Plan 2010-2020 and a Sport and Recreation Plan 2010-2020. Both plans recommended a review in 2015. As the two plans shared many common goals and objectives, the review has resulted in the merging of the two documents into the Scenic Rim Health and Wellbeing Plan 2015-2020 which better reflects the social, health, sport and recreation needs of the region. The two original plans will remain important resources to track trends and overall performance.

Achievements and challenges

Population growth figures released by the ABS in March 2015 confirm that the Scenic Rim region remains the second fastest growing LGA in SEQ and the fourth fastest State wide as a percentage of the population. This further reinforces the importance of having effective plans and strategies to address the needs of a growing population while protecting the health and wellbeing of our local community.

Research shows that volunteering and sport participation rates have increased in the Scenic Rim over the past five years and access to health services has improved. We have good support networks in times of need and we value the importance of friendly and socially connected communities. However, we also face some challenges such as declining health and wellbeing outcomes for early childhood years in some parts of the region plus a higher incidence of chronic disease for some older members of the population.

Key themes and recommendations

People

Continue to deliver effective programs that connect our communities and deliver improved health and wellbeing outcomes, including grants programs, volunteer appreciation events, Savvy Wise and Well, family friendly events, Youth Leadership, Be Healthy and Active, school holiday programs, library programs, cultural activities, community directory, training and skill development workshops and participation at Interagencies and network groups.

Place

Community infrastructure provides important spaces for connecting people and delivering essential community services, programs and events. However one of our biggest challenges is maintaining infrastructure to meet legislative requirements and local demands. With strong policies, plans and the appropriate resources, Council can deliver many social and economic benefits by providing safe, accessible and vibrant spaces for people to gather and connect. So it is important to continue investing in the community through infrastructure such as sports facilities, pathways and footpaths, community centres, parks and playgrounds, public halls, libraries, skate parks and cultural centres. By far, the most effective infrastructure investment that Council can make to improve the health and wellbeing of residents is pathways and footpaths.

Policy and planning

It is important that all Council plans and policies incorporate health and wellbeing factors so that existing and new infrastructure appropriately reflects the needs and aspirations of the Scenic Rim community.

Partnerships

Some issues are beyond the capacity of Council but we have an important role to play in advocating on the broader issues that have an impact on the local community. Areas of concern include domestic violence, mental health, drug and alcohol abuse, affordable and subsidised housing, plus emergency and crisis accommodation for at risk populations. Service providers are also reporting that changes and uncertainty around the continuation of funding will lead to further challenges to deliver programs locally. Strong leadership, effective partnerships, support from external organisations and improved communication will be essential here.

Performance

Measuring the success of actions is important, as is annually reviewing data to measure any changes in priorities.

Project introduction

Background

In 2010 Scenic Rim Regional Council prepared, in conjunction with local community groups and representatives, two strategic plans:

- Social Plan 2010 - 2020
- Sport and Recreation Plan 2010 - 2020.

The Social Plan focused on the social, health and wellbeing aspects of the region while the Sport and Recreation Plan focused on the provision of sport and recreation facilities and programs across the region with a clear view to increase active participation.

Both plans recommended a major review occur at the half way point by 2015. This report is the outcome of that review. As the two plans shared many common goals and objectives, the review highlighted the need to merge both plans, thus creating this Scenic Rim Health and Wellbeing Plan 2015 - 2020.

The two original plans will remain important resources for Council and the community. They contain valuable consultation information and data to track trends and overall performance.

Profile of region

The Scenic Rim region is a peri-urban community in South East Queensland. It borders the major urban areas of Ipswich, Brisbane, Logan and the Gold Coast whilst fostering a country lifestyle afforded to regional and rural communities. Its location offers many benefits of being close to a metropolitan area while balancing the pressures of urban sprawl, protecting the environmental qualities of the area and providing services to residents - all with limited resources and capacity to deliver.

In 2011, Scenic Rim boasted a population of over 36,000. The population is geographically dispersed across towns and villages with Beaudesert, Tamborine Mountain and Boonah the three largest centres supporting a population of over 15,000 collectively. Other key communities in the region include Beechmont, Canungra, Rathdowney, Kooralbyn, Kalbar, Aratula, Warrill View, Peak Crossing and Harrisville.

The population is projected to increase to over 80,000 by 2041. There will be challenges in meeting this growth while protecting the character of the area.

Achievements and challenges

There have been a number of achievements from the previous plans, including:

- the development of significant community infrastructure, including:
 - Aratula Community Sports Centre
 - Tamborine Mountain Sports Complex
 - Boonah hydrotherapy pool
- the funded sport and recreation officer position
- dedicated Council funding to address key action in the plans
- development of the Be Healthy and Active program
- improvements in communication between Council and local service providers, especially through interagency meetings
- extensive trialing of community transport options and the development of the Scenic Rim Transport community based initiative
- increased number of workshops and training available to local clubs
- increased participation at local clubs
- increased partnerships and promotion of existing activities coordinated by local organisations
- increase in the number of local events and activities to support community participation.

Some of the challenges, however, have been:

- many of the actions in the plans are beyond the capacity of Council or community organisations to deliver, and these actions were largely not executed
- there is more competition between service providers as State and Federal Government funding decreases or changes focus
- changing local, state and federal policies, agencies and structures
- emerging issues that were not a focus in the 2010 plans, including domestic violence, mental health, and drug and alcohol abuse.



Moriarty Park, Canungra

Report structure

There was considerable duplication between and within the original two reports as information crossed both research areas, and a number of recommendations shared common threads relevant for many communities.

As such a more streamlined structure has been developed and this report is categorised into five major themes:

1. People
2. Place
3. Policy and planning
4. Partnerships
5. Performance.

People

This theme describes current demographic and social indicators within the Scenic Rim and key issues that residents are facing.

Place

Place relates to infrastructure, buildings and spaces required to develop a strong, inclusive community.

Policy and planning

Policy and planning relates to the frameworks required to support the People and Place themes.

Partnerships

Partnerships relate to topic areas and key issues that are generally beyond the capacity and role of Council to achieve without agency support and advocacy.

Performance

The report concludes with a summary of overarching performance tools to help measure the overall health and wellbeing of residents.

Implementation strategy

For each theme a number of recommendations are made. Each recommendation identifies:

- ☐ key stakeholders
- ☐ Council's role
- ☐ measure of success (or key performance indicator)
- ☐ timeframe
- ☐ priority.

Actioning recommendations will vary depending on the level of influence and capacity to deliver. Council's role in actioning recommendations has been categorised under five headings:

1. Funder - fund other organisation(s) to deliver
2. Provider - fund and execute recommendation
3. Partner - forge strategic alliances
4. Facilitator - assist/encourage others to be involved
5. Advocate - promote interests of local residents/agencies.



Middle Park, Tamborine

People

Scenic Rim is experiencing significant growth and community change. According to ABS data released in March 2015, population growth figures confirm that the Scenic Rim region remains the second fastest growing LGA in SEQ and the fourth fastest state wide as a percentage of the population.

Table 1 summarises the projections currently informing the preparation of the draft Scenic Rim Local Government Infrastructure Plan (LGIP).

Table 1. Forecast population for Scenic Rim

| Year | Scenic Rim population |
|------|-----------------------|
| 2011 | 37,437 |
| 2014 | 39,463 |
| 2016 | 40,964 |
| 2021 | 45,704 |
| 2026 | 51,963 |
| 2031 | 59,656 |
| 2036 | 68,917 |
| 2041 | 81,985 |



Who we are?

At a strategic level, it is noted that the Scenic Rim is experiencing, and will likely to continue to experience, an ageing population. This, however, does not mean that there are less children and young families. This is certainly not the case. When considering raw data (numbers of people) it is clear that the total number of children and families will increase.

As this report is interested in the health and wellbeing of residents, health data was reviewed in more detail. Much of this data is available only at local government area level with some data available at SA2 (statistical local area). Benchmarking Scenic Rim's health status occurred against similar other local governments, these being Southern Downs Regional Council, Lockyer Valley Regional Council, South Burnett Regional Council and Somerset Regional Council.

Wealth indicators

The community, generally, is not considered wealthy, although there may be pockets of wealth.

According to ABS data and the Public Health Information Development Unit (Australia wide), there is considerable rental and mortgage stress across the whole region (35.8% of households in Tamborine/Canunga SA2, 34% in Beaudesert SA2 and 21.2% in Boonah SA2).

In Beaudesert SA2, almost one-quarter of households receive Government funding for housing support (23.3%, 2012).

Living expenses in the region are increasing at double the amount that income is increasing. This is likely to place further strain on households. Consultation with service providers across the region indicate concern for people moving to the area on the premise that it is cheaper (and whilst rent is cheaper than adjacent urban areas), the cost of living and travel (for employment and services) is likely to be higher.

Health indicators

One area that both statistically and anecdotally has seen marked improvements; is access to core health services. However, the following points were noted from the statistical review from the benchmarking analysis:

- ☐ vaccinations and access to health services has improved over the past five years
- ☐ peoples' fair or poor self-assessed health status is lower than other like areas (based on two surveys)
- ☐ incidences of chronic disease are higher in Boonah SA2
- ☐ health and well-being risk factors (such as physical inactivity and smoking) are higher in Beaudesert except for obesity which is higher in Boonah and Tamborine/Canungra SA2s
- ☐ generally, Tamborine/Canungra SA2 have better health indicators overall
- ☐ there is less private health insurance coverage in Beaudesert SA2.

Social indicators

From a social perspective, the following statistics were noted:

- ☐ Beaudesert SA2 has a higher number of youth not learning or earning (10% difference to other SA2s and higher than benchmarked Councils)
- ☐ AEDI (early childhood) indicators are extremely worrying for children's development vulnerability and physical health and wellbeing vulnerability (double in Beaudesert SA2 to rest of LGA and benchmarked areas, with the exception of Nanango SA2 in the South Burnett Regional Council area)
- ☐ lower motor vehicle ownership in Beaudesert
- ☐ there is potentially higher risk of social isolation in Boonah SA2 but much less allied health, HACC and care counselling services.

The data also indicated some positive outcomes. In particular that:

- ☐ volunteerism is generally high across the region
- ☐ most adults appear to have a good network of support in crisis situations
- ☐ peoples' feeling of safety (walking alone in dark) was good.

The past five years

Achievements in social outcomes for residents over the past five years include:

- ☐ improved access to health professionals
- ☐ improved access to aged care services
- ☐ reopening of health services at Beaudesert Hospital, especially the birthing suite
- ☐ increased public transport connections and timing of services; especially between Beaudesert and Browns Plains
- ☐ community transport and information initiatives.

Community groups and members also commented on:

- ☐ Council's continued support, especially recognition of volunteers and the community grants program
- ☐ better communication between service providers through the interagency networks
- ☐ attempts to develop a community transport system
- ☐ more events and programs to get people active and part of the community
- ☐ dramatic improvement in communication between community groups and Council with many organisations commenting on this element and noting that Council is trying to do a lot with limited resources.

The next five years

In addition to demographic, health, wellbeing and social data research undertaken, interviews with local service providers and clubs provided valuable on-the-ground information regarding emerging trends and issues faced by community.

It is noted that many of these issues are not the core function/role of Council, but are important to monitor. As such, some discussion is listed under partnerships. These include: mental health, domestic violence, drug and alcohol abuse and emergency and welfare housing.

Healthy and active

A number of chronic diseases and health related issues can be mitigated through improved eating and increased physical activity.

Not only will investment in programs to get people physically active lead to savings in the health system but it is also likely to:

- ☐ foster social connections between residents and service providers
- ☐ Improve sharing of information and encourage people to help out one another
- ☐ embed community pride and a strong sense of community
- ☐ promote general collaboration and partnerships between organisations
- ☐ lead to stronger, more resilient communities.

Whilst only in its second year, there has been strong support for the Be Healthy and Active program. The design of this program reflects best practice in terms of park activation and accessible participation. Whilst still in its infancy, the program has great potential to encourage people to become (and stay) active. Some ideas to keep the program responding to community needs but also engendering physical activity outside the events include:

- ☐ encouraging local sport and recreation providers to have an increased role
- ☐ linking participants to local clubs post-program
- ☐ ensuring a wide range of activities are offered to all ages and demographics
- ☐ offering subsidies to local providers that offer free activities as part of the program
- ☐ establishing more partnerships
- ☐ celebrating success stories
- ☐ enhancing the existing Be Healthy and Active program.

Sport and recreation

Sport and recreation clubs are often considered the backbone to smaller communities. Clubs not only provide a service to the community but also contribute to the wellbeing of residents.

80% of sporting organisations interviewed have experienced an increase in membership or participation in the past five years. This is a dramatic improvement on the data from five years previous where approximately 35% of clubs experienced growth. However, based on the data available it is difficult to ascertain whether the growth is increasing in terms of participation as a percentage of the total population and not just the raw number of people. Regardless, the number of groups experiencing member growth is encouraging.

There has been a shift in key issues that sporting clubs are faced with. The number one issue is the ongoing maintenance cost of facilities, this was the same in 2010. However, currently clubs are finding insurance costs equally troubling - this may be a common problem of general operational costs.

Many clubs reported operating on a very tight budget to keep joining fees as low as possible. Whilst noble in many respects, it means that clubs are often not putting aside adequate funds for general upkeep nor saving for major projects. It also means that they are unlikely to be in a financial position to meet their leasing/licencing agreement obligations regarding facility maintenance.

Table 2. Issues facing sporting clubs

| Issue | Priority in 2010 | Priority in 2015 |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| Cost of maintaining facilities | 1 | 1 |
| Insurance costs | 4 | 1 |
| Declining number of volunteers | 3 | 2 |
| Lack of qualified coaches or officials | 7 | 3 |
| Difficulty accessing grant funding | 2 | 4 |

Note: Priority in order of importance as stated by local clubs, with 1 being the most important.

Libraries, arts and culture

Access to arts, culture and life-long learning will remain important to Scenic Rim. Council is well-prepared in identifying and prioritising these needs through recently adopted strategies.

Events and programming will continue to play an important part in activating these spaces and attracting people, both from a visitor perspective and a potential volunteer perspective.

Community involvement remains pivotal to the successful operation of these facilities. Community driven projects often lead to the greatest rewards. Investment in Vibrant and Active Towns and Villages (VATV) initiatives particularly those relating to arts and culture projects, are likely to have increased social benefits.

Barriers to participation

Understanding the geographical, physical and emotional barriers for residents to actively contribute to the social fabric of communities is important. These barriers potentially impede on a person's desire to be part of any community program, event, activity or part of a community club/organisation.

In 2010, transport was identified as a significant issue. Interestingly, it was not raised as often as part of this review. Admittedly, access to other forms of transport have improved which may account for this. Furthermore, the investment in the SRT initiative demonstrated that transport may not be the only barrier.

Other barriers that have been identified by Council officers and/or community groups include:

- ☐ age barriers - some people may not think they fit in due to their age, whether it be too young or too old. Certain activities and events may have age-based connotations that need not exist (for example the thought that only older people play lawn bowls)
- ☐ gender, cultural or language barriers - some activities experience much lower take-up rates by particular genders, religious groups and people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. It can therefore be difficult to target and engage with these groups
- ☐ personal image barriers - some people may be self-conscious of their level of ability or their public appearance. Whilst this may sound trivial, it is particularly common in smaller towns where people know each other
- ☐ fear of the unknown - many people feel uneasy about being involved in community celebrations when they are unsure of what to expect (this is often common for people with some mobility issues who may not be familiar with the location of the event)
- ☐ nobody to go with - some people are hesitant to participate or join an activity by themselves
- ☐ access to suitable time and financial or support resources to be active - this may include financial resource to pay for the activity, access to child care or other resource to dedicate the time, or overall time constraints to be physically active.

Social inclusion and cohesion

Community celebrations and socially inclusive programs are an effective way to strengthen communities and build resilience; they bring organisations and residents together to celebrate in a unified way. Scenic Rim Regional Council supports a number of events locally which encourages participation across all demographics. Volunteering Queensland reports that best practice for retention of volunteers is 'Volunteer Recognition and Volunteer Inclusion'.

There are many methods that can help overcome barriers to participation, strengthen local organisations, lower the risks of social isolation and strengthen the fabric of community life. Some of these include:

- ☐ encourage 'bring a friend' type activities. Sometimes this gives people an excuse to talk to a neighbour, but also may help the neighbour overcome their barrier of participating
- ☐ formally (or informally) requesting assistance from community members
- ☐ sharing information across community organisations to assist in identifying pockets of the community that may be at risk
- ☐ activating spaces and places that are well located and clearly visible yet are potentially underused (some play parks for example)
- ☐ facilitating meetings between community organisations
- ☐ providing affordable and accessible activities and events that celebrate and connect communities.



Volunteers thank you celebration, Boonah Culutral Centre

Recommendations

| # | Recommendation | Stakeholders | Council's role | Measure of success | Action year | Priority |
|---|--|---|----------------------------------|---|------------------|----------|
| 1 | <p>Continue to offer socially inclusive and accessible programs and events, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Be Savvy, Wise and Well <input type="checkbox"/> civic events (such as Australia Day, ANZAC Day services etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> cultural centre programs <input type="checkbox"/> library programs (such as Best Start, storytelling and Friends of the Library programs). <p>Investigate opportunities to link local community organisations together at events and to promote services available locally.</p> | Council, community sector, general public | Part facilitator / part provider | Number of events coordinated, people attending events, qualitative data from feedback | Ongoing | High |
| 2 | <p>Continue to support events and programs that foster social connections for young people, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> pool parties <input type="checkbox"/> school holiday activities <input type="checkbox"/> BMX and skate demonstrations and mini-comps <input type="checkbox"/> Battle of the Bands <input type="checkbox"/> youth leadership <input type="checkbox"/> mentoring programs <input type="checkbox"/> cultural and library initiatives. | Council, community sector, general public | Part facilitator / part provider | Number of events coordinated, people attending events, qualitative data from feedback | Ongoing | High |
| 3 | <p>Continue to support the Be Healthy and Active program. At the end of each season, undertake an evaluation of the program to help determine successes and learnings. Some items to consider as part of the program review should be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> diversity of activities and events, both geographically and demographically (with particular focus on at risk vulnerable populations identified by health indicators available) <input type="checkbox"/> community's capacity to pay (sometimes people may not value things that are free, and if a charge was associated then it could exclude target groups from participating) <input type="checkbox"/> encourage local organisations to run events <input type="checkbox"/> consider trialing a membership-style program (in year five or beyond) to test people's commitment to stay active/involved <input type="checkbox"/> consider running the program for a longer duration so that people get in the habit of committing time to activities with a succession plan to link them to local organisations. | Council, service providers, sport and recreation groups, community sector | Part facilitator / part provider | Increase in the number of events and increase in the number of participations each year | 2015 and ongoing | High |
| 4 | Continue to deliver and promote activities that recognise and acknowledge volunteers and continue to investigate ways to minimise disincentives to volunteering. | Council, service providers, sport and recreation groups, community sector | Part facilitator / part provider | Number of programs and events to support and recognise contributions made by local volunteers | 2015 and ongoing | High |

| # | Recommendation | Stakeholders | Council's role | Measure of success | Action year | Priority |
|----|--|---|----------------------------------|---|------------------|------------------|
| 5 | Facilitate a program of education and training for community groups across the Scenic Rim, focussing on identified training needs, such as: <input type="checkbox"/> volunteer management <input type="checkbox"/> grant funding <input type="checkbox"/> insurance. | Council, service providers, sport and recreation groups, community sector | Part facilitator / part provider | Number and range of training sessions available | 2015 and ongoing | Medium |
| 6 | Review and enhance the online information relevant for new residents. This page (and links) should be designed so that it can be printed and continued to be available at Council customer contact centres and libraries. | Council, community organisations | Facilitator partner | Online information enhanced, training for staff, number of hits on webpage and social media links | 2017 | Medium |
| 7 | Develop a strong social media presence through the establishment of an 'active Scenic Rim' or similar page to communicate information specifically around health and wellbeing matters. | Council | Provider | Development of dedicated social media for health and wellbeing matters | 2017 | High |
| 8 | Update community organisation contact information and make available to public via a range of mediums for the purpose of helping to connect residents with existing community organisations. | Council, community organisations | Facilitator | Up to date contact information developed and reviewed annually | 2017 | Medium |
| 9 | Encourage community not-for-profit organisations to develop plans so that there is a clear line-of-sight between their aims and objectives and the delivery of services, programs and infrastructure (especially when they are custodians of significant infrastructure). While the plans may be the end output, the communication process and information shared along the way is most beneficial to community organisations. Some considerations to action this recommendation include: <input type="checkbox"/> promoting the benefits of writing plans at volunteer celebrations and events where community organisations are present <input type="checkbox"/> emailing organisations promoting the benefits, and providing links to where further information can be found <input type="checkbox"/> conditioning some community organisations that come to Council seeking support to have a business plan as a requirement <input type="checkbox"/> subsidising access to online training materials in unique instances (although most of this is available free). | Council, community organisations | Advocate | Number of plans provided to Council. Quality of information and extent of content in plans | 2016 and ongoing | Medium |
| 10 | Actively seek feedback and advice from community organisations and residents as part of the delivery of services and events so that the overall health and wellbeing of residents is measured. | Council | Facilitator | Datasets collected, collated and analysed annually | 2017 | High and ongoing |



Place

'Place' for the purpose of this report are areas and facilities to support *community* life.

Community and urban planners often talk about the 'The Third Place'¹ where the first place is home, the second being work or school; the third place describes the social surrounds and other places people need or desire. Oldenburg (1989, 1991) says these places are 'anchors' of community life and suggests that they ought to be:

- ☐ affordable (preferably free) to access
- ☐ be highly accessible (walking distance to home or work)
- ☐ contain regulars; people that regularly congregate there
- ☐ are welcoming and comfortable
- ☐ encourage a mix of new and old friends
- ☐ where possible, have food/drink.

The theory of the Third Place only goes some of the way to describe important places for this study. Place also describes the infrastructure to connect people to the third place as well as needing to define places that support overall health and wellbeing. The third place should also include consideration of CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) and ecological sustainable design (ESD) principles.

What we have?

Council infrastructure to support the health and wellbeing of residents includes:

- ☐ public parks for picnicking, playing and gathering for family and community celebrations
- ☐ outdoor and indoor sporting facilities
- ☐ libraries
- ☐ community halls, scout and guide halls and other service provider buildings
- ☐ visitor information centres
- ☐ cultural centres and art galleries
- ☐ pools
- ☐ skate parks
- ☐ walking and cycling infrastructure
- ☐ roads.

Council community facilities and infrastructure are among the most important in offering spaces for essential community services, programs and events.

¹ Based on Ray Oldenburg's book *The Great Good Place*. (1989, 1991)

Other important community places, not normally provided by Council include:

- ☐ medical facilities (hospitals, medical clinics etc.)
- ☐ schools and education facilities
- ☐ main roads
- ☐ natural areas including national parks, state forests, waterways and water bodies (lakes and dams)
- ☐ privately managed gyms
- ☐ privately owned sporting facilities and showgrounds.

All of these facilities support community groups, agencies and residents and contribute greatly to ensuring safe, strong and resilient communities.

Whilst the cost of developing and maintaining facilities is a burden to locals (and to Council), there are a range of benefits and savings to the community by ensuring these facilities are offered so that local communities are socially connected and physically active. For example, financial estimates of the direct cost of physical inactivity for six chronic health conditions (coronary heart disease, stroke, colon cancer, type 2 diabetes, breast cancer and mental health) was \$377 million per annum in Australia; but could be as high as \$1.4 billion per annum (0.15% of GDP) based on a study commissioned by Medibank Private (2006/07).

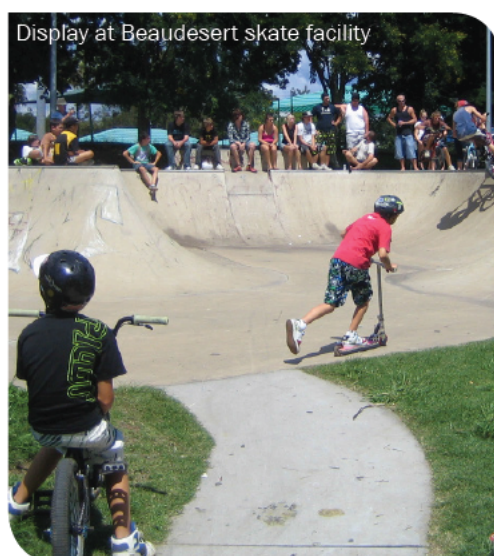


Be Healthy and Active family fun and movie night, Boonah

The past five years

There has been a number of improvements and new places developed in the past five years. Some of the major accomplishments include:

- ☐ development of the hydrotherapy pool in Boonah
- ☐ development of the new community and sport facility in Aratula (with new synthetic floor being installed in 2015)
- ☐ new skate/scooter facility in Kalbar
- ☐ upgrades to the Zamia Theatre
- ☐ New deck to the Beaudesert Library
- ☐ upgrades at Kalbar Showgrounds when AFL club relocated there
- ☐ stage one completion of the Tamborine Mountain Sporting Complex (Long Road)
- ☐ new Mens' Sheds
- ☐ opening of Wyaralong Dam for community and recreational use
- ☐ upgrades to a variety of sporting facilities including Coronation Park, Selwyn Park, Everdell Park, Mavor Park, Moriarty Park, Wyaralong Dam and Rathdowney and District Memorial Grounds
- ☐ upgrades to community centres
- ☐ development of the new community hall at Graceleigh Park, Beechmont
- ☐ upgrades to parks, including new play equipment and shade structures
- ☐ upgrades to pool facilities including installation of water play elements at Beaudesert Pool.



Display at Beaudesert skate facility

The next five years

One of the biggest challenges will be to maintain existing infrastructure to a suitable standard to meet legislative requirements and local demands.

Council has, over the past five years, done considerable work understanding the pressures of asset management of its core infrastructure. However, additional work is still required in terms of extending the scope to all community infrastructure on Council land and to assess the whole-of-life cycle costs of providing such infrastructure. This is discussed more in the policy and planning theme.

Walk/cycle facilities

Walk/cycle paths are considered one of the most influential infrastructure items that connect people locally and encourage physical activity. Walking and cycling continue to be the most preferred physical activity options for all areas of Australia, with no trend to support a shift in this fact. There are some important design considerations in developing a strong path network that is:

- ☐ easy to access by being sited in places that connect where people live to their work/school and to community hubs
- ☐ safe to use - this includes consideration of visibility from nearby roads and properties and being lit where appropriate
- ☐ free from obstacles
- ☐ meets the needs of a variety of users - paths can attract a wide range of users. It is important that consideration is given to use of paths by all users, including people that are mobility impaired, young people and parents with prams
- ☐ attractive and desirable by having shade, sited with views (e.g. along creeks), lit in areas where required from either a safety or community use perspective, following contour lines where possible (avoiding hills),
- ☐ contributes to a broader network of circuits.

Consideration should also be given to paths and trails that connect outside townships to nearby points of interest and/or nearby towns.

Parks

Parks not only contribute to the appeal of a town but are also important places for gathering, meeting and being physically active. Scenic Rim Regional Council is privileged to have a good supply of land for public parks.

The challenge, from an infrastructure perspective, will be ensuring that parks are well used. Research indicates that the attractiveness of a park is not measured by its size or the money invested in it. Based on surveys of over 20,000 park visitors over seven years², below is a list of key factors that most impact park use (in order of impact):

- ☐ weather and climate
- ☐ aspect
- ☐ location and accessibility
- ☐ park amenity, facilities and features
- ☐ park events; time and day of the week
- ☐ park maintenance
- ☐ time available to general public to use
- ☐ life cycle
- ☐ parks promotion.

From this research, it is important that Council considers not only the assets installed in parks but also the operational maintenance (mowing, cleaning), overall design (accessibility, local, aspect) and programming to increase use. Consideration of who the users are (catchment of people in the area) is also important.

Interviews with children and young families anecdotally suggest that the range of play opportunities in parks is limited to toddlers and young children (even though these age cohorts represent a small percentage of the local population).

It is noted that Council is currently embarking on a Parks Strategy to assist addressing some of these issues.

Sports facilities

Whilst Council owns and manages the vast majority of sports infrastructure across the Scenic Rim, many of the improvements to this infrastructure occurs due to the time

and resources invested by the volunteer sporting community.

Greater understanding of the field capacity demands and future demands is required. When this work is complete (see action in Policy section), Council will be in a better position to assess the demand for new outdoor fields and courts based on robust evidence.

Improvements to sports infrastructure over the next five years is likely to focus on upgrades to existing facilities rather than major investment in additional, new infrastructure. Where possible, improvements should occur in partnership with local sport and recreation providers.

Based on conversations with local sporting organisations, the following is a preliminary list of priorities order alphabetically:

- ☐ Aratula Sporting Complex - install field lights for a second touch field and kitchen upgrades
- ☐ Beaudesert Golf Club - upgrade irrigation systems
- ☐ Beaudesert Junior and Senior Rugby League - develop a clubhouse at RS Willis Park
- ☐ Beaudesert Netball - upgrade netball courts at Mavor Park and upgrade court lighting so all courts are lit
- ☐ Beaudesert Pony Club - increase safe storage capacity
- ☐ Beaudesert Rugby Union and Cricket - build a clubhouse facility at Everdell Park (rugby union) and develop an additional cricket oval
- ☐ Coronation Park - laser level and top dress field at Coronation Park
- ☐ Graceleigh Park - resurface tennis courts for multipurpose use and upgrade field surface and lighting
- ☐ Hayes Oval (Fassifern Rugby League) - support developments at site including upgrading the amenities block.
- ☐ Kalbar Showgrounds - continue developing sports infrastructure for AFL
- ☐ Moriarty Park - upgrade field surface
- ☐ Selwyn Park - upgrade the tennis courts, increase field 2 size, upgrade major clubhouse, upgrade field lighting and improve ingress/egress and car parking
- ☐ Wyaralong Rowing Facility and Wyaralong Mountain Bike Park.

² Parks Base, 2013. State of the sector report: urban parkland provision.

Libraries and cultural services

Similar to sporting infrastructure, libraries, cultural centres, art galleries, theatres and other places of cultural exchange offer important services for residents and visitors. They are vibrant hubs facilitating communal creative development and expression.

These buildings are no longer just places to loan a library book or look at art but they are more and more becoming community centres that respond to individuals' and groups' needs. For example, library personnel teach computer programs, coordinate craft sessions, run storytime, mentor young people and much more. With almost half of the residents of the LGA as members, libraries offer the opportunity to not only encourage residents to embark in lifelong learning but also the opportunity for Council to connect with the community in a meaningful way.

Landmarks

Council has committed resources into the Vibrant and Active Towns and Villages (VATV) project. Investment in community landmark infrastructure will be identified through the VATV process.

Recommendations

| # | Recommendation | Stakeholders | Council's role | Measure of success | Action year | Priority |
|----|---|---|------------------------------|---|------------------|----------|
| 11 | Invest in and extend footpath networks in all main towns and villages. The development of a comprehensive path network is likely to have the most health and wellbeing benefits of all infrastructure improvements. Priority should be given to segments that complete circuits or create links between residents and key hubs (schools, town centres). | Council, general public | Provider | Measure linear metres of new paths installed/upgraded annually | 2015 and ongoing | High |
| 12 | Continue to implement key actions from the Arts and Culture Policy. | Council, cultural sector | Provider | Cultural programs delivered | 2015 and ongoing | High |
| 13 | Support partnerships to seek funds to upgrade local infrastructure to meet community needs and to improve access (e.g. sporting code requirements, public halls, community facilities). | Council, community groups, local sporting organisations | Partner | Investment and improvements to sports fields, clubhouses and ancillary sports infrastructure and community infrastructure | 2015 and ongoing | Medium |
| 14 | Upgrade libraries (as per actions in the Scenic Rim Regional Libraries Strategic Plan (2015-2019) to create more welcoming and versatile learning and community spaces at local libraries. | Council | Provider | Upgrades to all libraries complete per plan | 2015 to 2019 | High |
| 15 | Continue to implement actions from the master plans for Coronation Park, Boonah; Jubilee Park, Beaudesert; Youngman Park, Tamborine Mountain; Bicentennial Park, Boonah; and Long Road, Tamborine Mountain. | Local community groups, Council, general public | Provider, funder and partner | Master plans implemented | Staged | High |
| 16 | Skate facilities are important places for young people to participate in physical activity and to congregate. Continue to upgrade these spaces as part of park improvement practices. | Council, young people, Queensland Police | Provider | Upgrades implemented | 2016 and ongoing | High |
| 17 | Support the community to find a suitable place to develop a men's shed in Beaudesert. | Council, local organisations | Advocate | Men's Shed developed | 2017 | Medium |

| # | Recommendation | Stakeholders | Council's role | Measure of success | Action year | Priority |
|----|--|---|----------------|--|------------------|----------|
| 18 | <p>Undertake a market analysis or feasibility study to determine the demand for new community infrastructure. The study(ies) should include potential partners/owners. Research to date has indicated that there may be sufficient demand for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> indoor sports centre in Beaudesert (there is potential to also offer a range of other services from such a facility) <input type="checkbox"/> youth centres in Beaudesert, Boonah and Tamborine Mountain <input type="checkbox"/> aged care/respice centres <input type="checkbox"/> emergency and crisis housing in Beaudesert and Boonah. <p>It is important that these investigations incorporate good social planning and placemaking principles.</p> | State and federal government agencies, Council, local service providers | Advocate | Partnerships reached and infrastructure delivered (following adequate planning and public input) | 2017 and ongoing | High |
| 19 | Investigate options to redevelop the Vonda Youngman Community Centre into a precinct with the skate facility and Geissmann Oval to create a diverse, user-friendly community centre and hub. | Council, community | Facilitator | Plan developed and decision made whether upgrade is warranted and to what degree | 2019 | Medium |

Policy and planning

Council can play a regulatory role in creating supportive environments for residents to be healthy, active and socially connected. This can be achieved through policy (planning schemes, local laws) or through research and planning (strategic plans, master plans for parks, feasibility studies for new infrastructure, business planning etc.). Scenic Rim is considered a peri-urban environment. Whilst close to major urban centres of Brisbane, Gold Coast and Ipswich and part of the South East Queensland region, Scenic Rim enjoys a rural/regional lifestyle. Scenic Rim has a lower revenue generating ability than its neighbours yet residents generally have similar expectations in regard to access to infrastructure and services (for the same cost).

What we have

A number of Council policies and plans were reviewed as part of this project. Strategic plans reviewed include:

- ☐ Community Plan 2011-2026
- ☐ Corporate Plan 2013-18
- ☐ Operational Plan 2014-15
- ☐ Social Plan 2010-2020
- ☐ Sport and Recreation Plan 2010-2020
- ☐ Be Healthy & Active program 2015
- ☐ Footpaths and Bikeways Strategic Plan 2011-2015
- ☐ Road Safety Strategic Plan 2010-2014
- ☐ Draft Biodiversity Strategy 2015-2025.

Council policies read include:

- ☐ Community Engagement Policy 2014
- ☐ Community Grants Policy
- ☐ Customer and Community Satisfaction Survey Policy
- ☐ Library Services Policy
- ☐ Public Arts and Collections Policy
- ☐ Visitor Information Centre Policy
- ☐ Asset Management Policy
- ☐ Complaints Management Policy
- ☐ Council Media Policy
- ☐ Meetings and Other Forums Policy
- ☐ Social Media Policy
- ☐ Community Leasing Policy
- ☐ Community Project Works on Council Land Policy
- ☐ Council Controlled Cemeteries Policy
- ☐ Disaster Management Policy
- ☐ Resumption of Land Policy
- ☐ Arts and Culture Policy.

It is noted that Council is currently reviewing its Planning Scheme and preparing a Parks Strategy.

The next five years

To improve the health and wellbeing of residents additional research is required as well as a review/update of some policies and plans.

Planning scheme

The planning scheme will guide development and new infrastructure. There are many planning scheme inputs that can help influence the health and wellbeing of the local community.

It is important that the planning scheme protects land for sport, recreation and other important community infrastructure.

The following resources are considered to contain useful industry best practice tools and information to consider in developing planning schemes (in addition to those listed in the coming 'parks planning' and 'active transport' sections):

- ☐ National Heart Foundation of Australia, Planning Institute of Australia and the Australian Local Government Association, 2009. Healthy spaces and places: a national guide to designing places for healthy living
- ☐ National Heart Foundation of Australia, 2004. Healthy by design: a planners' guide to environments for active living
- ☐ Queensland Government, National Heart Foundation of Australia and Local Government Association of Queensland, 2010. Active healthy communities- a resource package for local government to create supportive environments for physical activity and healthy eating.
- ☐ National Heart Foundation of Australia, 2010. Blueprint for an active Australia (2010 - 2013)
- ☐ National Heart Foundation of Australia, 2009. The built environment and walking
- ☐ Urban Land Development Authority, 2011. Park planning and design, ULDA guideline no. 12
- ☐ Queensland Government, Sport and Recreation Queensland, 2003. Open space for sport and recreation: planning principles and implementation notes for local government

- ☐ Queensland Government, Local Government Association of Queensland and Redland City Council, 2013. Activity based open space planning toolkits (parts 1 and 2).

Specific to protecting sufficient and appropriate land for public parks (sport parks and recreation/play parks) there is much debate on the effectiveness of land quantity standards alone (usually expressed as a hectare per 1,000 population rate).

Recent research undertaken by ROSS Planning using three different methodologies to test the minimum standard for sport based on State participation averages for the main traditional oval, field and court sports indicated that a very minimum of 1.8ha/1,000 people is required on average in Queensland. This is based on the assumption that a summer tenant is able to use the space in the off-winter season. This calculation may be higher or lower for Scenic Rim depending on how active the community is and the distribution of sports across the region.

A number of qualitative inputs should be considered in determining demand for recreation (non sport) parks. As mentioned in the Place section, the size of land is unlikely to be as important as the quality of land (flood immunity, slope), its siting (access to residents, legibility, road frontage) and most importantly how attractive it is for users (cleanliness, quality and diversity of infrastructure).

The whole-of-life costing should also be a consideration. Often communities prefer larger, more attractive recreation parks over smaller, local parks. Whole-of-life costing for most areas shows that more, smaller parks are more expensive to maintain and are not used as heavily as larger, more embellished parks.

It is imperative that these inputs be considered when developing the desired standards of service for parks.

Asset auditing

Quality and diversity of park assets was one topic raised in the 2010 Sport and Recreation Plan. As such, a number of recommendations were set regarding undertaking asset condition audits of sporting and park infrastructure as well as recommendations suggesting that play and picnic park infrastructure not necessarily be replaced with like infrastructure. These recommendations remain important considerations because they provide an opportunity to better understand the preferred use of parks and to create diversity of play and picnic settings across park networks.

Mobility and connectivity

Development and promotion of walking and cycling is likely to provide the greatest health benefit to residents (and visitors). The existing Footpaths and Bikeways Strategic Plan 2011-2015 needs to be reviewed. The review should also consider and evaluate the condition of the existing network and its quality from a mobility and connectivity perspective.

Resources that may be beneficial to consider as part of the review are:

- ☐ Australian Local Government Association, Bus Industry Confederation, Cycling Promotion Fund, National Heart Foundation of Australia and International Association of Public Transport, 2010. An Australian vision for active transport
- ☐ Moving People 2030 Taskforce, 2010. Moving Australia 2030: A transport plan for a productive and active Australia
- ☐ National Heart Foundation of Australia, 2011. Neighbourhood walkability checklist
- ☐ Australian Human Rights Commission. Disability Standards and Guidelines.

Leasing and licencing

Council's Community Leasing Policy provides an important framework for managing many of Council's community facilities. The majority of these facilities in Scenic Rim are managed by volunteers and it is important that our community leaseholders are in the best possible position to meet their leasing obligations while still delivering the important programs and activities that contribute a positive benefit to the Scenic Rim community. Striking that balance can be a challenge, particularly when many of our local clubs lack the financial capacity to pay for maintenance on buildings and sporting infrastructure. Many community organisations in the Scenic Rim, particularly sporting clubs struggle to navigate the nature of their lease agreements which can often lead to confusion around key issues such as maintenance responsibilities. Whilst some improvements have been made to the existing Community Leasing Policy to address these issues from a community planning perspective, it is recommended that Council continue to review the leasing policy so that community facilities continue to provide safe, accessible and affordable places for social interaction and community participation.

This review should occur following the asset management audit review so that decisions and outcomes can be made based on evidence available.

Resource allocation

Council invests time, money and human resources into infrastructure and in supporting local organisations deliver programs.

There have been a number of benefits noted in the sport and recreation sphere since Council funded the sport and recreation officer position. Most clubs noted that communication with Council had improved dramatically, the vast majority of clubs are now able to state that participation in their sports have increased and that they were operating more efficiently. Investment in capital infrastructure was also a notable difference across review periods, as were the increased number of clubs submitting grant applications.

Table 3 summarises the number and types of grant projects funded through Council's community grants scheme. Applications for new equipment are the most often requested and funded. The grants are heavily subscribed and as such Council can only part fund the application.

Table 3. Summary of community grants funding

| Description | 2009/10 | 2010/11 | 2011/12 | 2012/13 | 2013/14 | 2014/15 |
|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Number of applications | 116 | 117 | 117 | 154 | 109 | 118 |
| Applications not funded | 14 | 10 | 3 | 8 | 2 | 16 |
| Applications funded or partly funded | 102 | 107 | 114 | 146 | 107 | 102 |
| Amount requested (\$) | 335,149 | 366,676 | 310,094 | 368,878 | 243,351 | 255,572 |
| Amount funded (\$) | 137,545 | 136,336 | 138,312 | 155,144 | 142,346 | 119,407 |
| Project type (number funded): | | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Capacity building | 23 | 14 | 17 | 28 | 17 | 8 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Equipment | 45 | 48 | 52 | 80 | 43 | 59 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Minor capital | 18 | 22 | 22 | 20 | 30 | 26 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Major event | 16 | 19 | 23 | 18 | 17 | 9 |

Recommendations

| # | Recommendation | Stakeholders | Council's role | Measure of success | Action year | Priority |
|----|---|--|----------------|--|------------------|----------|
| 20 | Measure the progress of this plan and review actions annually. The Advisory Committee should review and decide on what data to track the health and wellbeing from the suggested list on pages 17 and 18. | Council, advisory committee | Facilitator | Annual review of progress and report to Council | 2015 and ongoing | High |
| 21 | Continue to review existing plans and policies to ensure the open space network meets the needs of the current and future population and provide clear forward direction for parkland provision. | Council, community | Provider | Open space plans and policies reviewed and standards of service agreed | 2015 and ongoing | High |
| 22 | Understanding the use and capacity of existing sports infrastructure may assist in determining appropriate land standards. Consider field capacity analysis (not just land use) which applies academic methodologies to local areas, using local data. | Council | Provider | Field capacity analysis complete and data used to inform planning scheme recommendations | 2015 and ongoing | High |
| 23 | Council should continue and promote the use of its personnel to identify potential funding sources for community organisations. | Council | Facilitator | Number and investment in community infrastructure from external grants. Number of groups that leverage Council funding with external funding | 2015 and ongoing | Medium |
| 24 | Continue to collaborate across Council departments when reviewing annual budgets and maintenance plans for sport, recreation and community development to identify potential gaps and opportunities and to assist in funding for the development and management of facilities and program provision. | Council | Funder | Annual review of resources occurs as part of budget process | 2015 and ongoing | High |
| 25 | Continue to review all existing policies, especially the Community Leasing Policy so that community and sporting organisations are consistently informed and updated on issues such as fees, charges, maintenance responsibilities and support mechanisms. This ongoing body of work will ensure that Council's community facilities are safe, accessible and affordable. | Council, sport and recreation clubs, community organisations | Provider | Community leasing and other policies reviewed | Ongoing | High |
| 26 | Update the Footpaths and Bikeways Strategy that prioritises connections for both on-road and off-road walking and cycling opportunities. | Council, community organisations | Facilitator | Strategy updated and action plan implemented | 2015 and ongoing | High |

| # | Recommendation | Stakeholders | Council's role | Measure of success | Action year | Priority |
|----|---|--|---------------------|--|------------------|----------|
| 27 | Complete a thorough asset condition audit of all Council owned/managed sports facilities and community infrastructure, including all buildings (clubhouses, amenities blocks, public halls), field surfaces, and ancillary assets (lighting, picnic facilities). | Council | Provider | Asset condition audits completed of community infrastructure owned by Council | 2019 | High |
| 28 | Continue to review Council's grants programs following a review of other grant schemes to ensure they best meet the needs of local community. Additionally, promote the ability for clubs to seek and use Council's financial support to subsidise applications to other funding bodies (especially Sport and Recreation Services). | Council | Funder | Review of grant programs and recommendations implemented | 2015 and ongoing | Medium |
| 29 | Ensure that asset replacement procedures incorporate key considerations such as optimising use, avoiding duplication, diversity of play, sharing resources and providing better opportunities for all members of the community to socially connect and actively participate. | Council | Provider | More diversity of park assets, especially play equipment for a variety of ages and abilities | 2019 and ongoing | Medium |
| 30 | Develop a disability action and mobility plan that assesses the aspirations, interests and needs of people with a disability. | Council | Provider | Plan prepared and adopted by Council | 2018 | Medium |
| 31 | Encourage and seek shared use of fields, club facilities and resources between sport, recreation and other organisations (e.g. schools, community hall management groups). This should be considered as part of the ongoing review of the community leasing and other relevant policies. | Council, education providers, community organisations | Facilitator | Sharing of facilities | 2018 | Medium |
| 32 | Seek funding to develop an Outdoor Recreation Strategy (that also includes a recreation trails plan) to guide Council regarding costs, design, feasibility and priorities for trails development and to encourage outdoor recreation activities in a sustainable manner. The strategy should link with Council's Tourism Strategy, South East Queensland Outdoor Recreation Strategies and National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing Strategic Plan. | Council (potentially in collaboration with surrounding LGAs), State Government | Provider or partner | Outdoor Recreation Strategy developed | 2020 | Medium |
| 33 | Develop a Physical Activity Strategy (potentially inhouse) that ties together a number of National and State targets in relation to tackling such areas as obesity, healthy eating and other initiatives to improve general health and well-being of individuals and communities (possible partnerships with state and federal health programs). | Council, general public | Facilitator | Physical Activity Strategy developed. | 2020 | Medium |

Partnerships

Many of the issues identified in this report are beyond the capacity and role of Scenic Rim Regional Council and individual local service providers and/or clubs to deliver.

This section brings together a collection of key issues and possible recommendations for other key agents to consider and action (potentially) jointly.

Many of the achievements listed in previous sections have been possible through improved communications and collaboration across groups. Success in the future will also depend on this.

Existing networks

The following lists includes existing networks that have been pivotal in sharing information, resources and working together to achieve common goals:

- ☐ Social Plan Steering Committee
- ☐ Sport and Recreation Plan Steering Committee
- ☐ Beaudesert Interagency Network
- ☐ Fassifern Interagency Network
- ☐ HACC Interagency (Beaudesert)
- ☐ Community Health and Hospital Reference Groups
- ☐ Western Scenic Rim Mental Health Network
- ☐ Greater Beaudesert Mental Health Network
- ☐ Youth Leadership Network
- ☐ Boonah Shire Disability Network
- ☐ Beaudesert Disability Network.

Across these networks, it is believed that the major issues raised in other sections of this report are adequately covered. It is recommended that the Social Plan Steering Committee and the Sport and Recreation Plan Steering Committee be merged as a result of combining these two plans.

Advocacy issues

Physical and mental health

Whilst there has been a marked improvement to access to medical services across the region, service providers, schools and residents have all identified that the mental health support is lacking. The newly formed mental health networks should aim to undertake an audit of issues, services and gaps in provision. This information will allow Council and community groups to be better informed to the extent of the issues and identify solutions to address gaps. Council's role will continue to focus on facilitating discussions and advocating where possible.

There appears to be a negative stigma and misunderstanding of mental health generally across the region. A very recent survey of local year 11 students revealed that students were misinformed about what mental health was and that they demonstrated a lack of compassion towards people experiencing mental health symptoms.

Whilst there are a number of campaigns in place to help overcome myths regarding mental health, more is potentially needed. Greater awareness of issues and local support available is likely to be the first step in tackling the issue, as is understanding the barriers for people to receive support and treatments (transport, access to services).

According to the Report of the National Review of Mental Health Programmes and Services (2014) "it is clear the mental health system has fundamental structural shortcomings. The overall impact of a poorly planned and badly integrated system is a massive drain on people's wellbeing and participation in the community".

Housing

Monitoring the housing stock will be important as the population targets are reached. Ensuring housing is supplied at a similar rate to demand is challenging. A number of comments from service providers and residents relate to housing supply; these are categorised between emergency housing, subsidised housing and affordable housing.

Emergency or crisis housing

There is some emergency housing provided locally, primarily in Beaudesert. Service providers have indicated that there is currently some unmet demand, however, they indicate that demand is likely to increase over the next ten years. Crisis housing is often used by people experiencing homelessness, by young people at risk and victims of domestic violence.

Subsidised housing

It is reported that there are 168 government houses in the Scenic Rim; 152 is public housing and 16 is community housing managed by service providers. Mununjali Housing & Development Company indicate that there is some homelessness, couch surfing, sleeping rough and overcrowding; with considerable wait times for Government housing to become available, particularly for Indigenous families. They expect this issue to worsen in the next five years and influencing housing supply will be one of their main priorities from an advocacy perspective.

Affordable housing

Affordable housing is often influenced through planning scheme controls and processes.

Health awareness

Health literacy (including mental health literacy) will be one area requiring some consideration. Health data for Scenic Rim indicates there is room for considerable improvement in health statistics for preventable diseases and conditions. Lead health agents have also identified this as an issue. Improving health literacy could be one task for health interagency networks to tackle and seek solutions. Some support from Council may be required.

Transport

SRT played a significant role in addressing transport and access issues. Community-based organisations have also played a role in contributing to improved transport access (RSL, HACC).

The demand for community based transport has waned. However, where possible Council will need to continue advocating for improvements to:

- ☐ public transport
- ☐ medical and mental health transport.

Whilst there may still be a role for community transport models to meet demand, this is more likely to occur in localised areas through existing service providers.

Domestic violence

In 2013-14, there was 66,016 occurrences of domestic and family violence reported to Queensland Police. This equates to over 180 incidents being reported every day across the State. 17 homicides relating to domestic and family violence occurred in Queensland in 2012-13. On average across Australia, one woman is killed by her partner every week. The annual cost of domestic and family violence to the Queensland economy is estimated to be between \$2.7 billion and \$3.2 billion¹.

Unfortunately, no localised data was able to be sourced to accurately record the impact of domestic violence. A number of service providers² raised that the number and severity of domestic violence instances seems to be rising dramatically. This is reflective of national trends which should be a matter of concern for the Scenic Rim community. Legislative reform is needed to address the criminal nature of domestic violence and more funding and resources should be allocated to front line agencies such as women's refuges and domestic violence centres. Funding should also be invested in preventative measures such as education and awareness campaigns.

1 *Special Taskforce on Domestic and Family Violence in Queensland, 'Not Now, Not Ever' 28 February 2015*

2 *Mununjali Housing & Development Company; Beaudesert State High School; Boonah State High School; Boystowns Women's Refuge*

Drug and alcohol use

Anecdotally, many parts of the region are reporting that drug use and dependency is increasing with illicit drugs now more prevalent in many households. There is often a correlation between drug use, mental health and domestic violence.

Service providers working with young people have noted the rise in drug use and that harder drugs are being used by young people.

Service delivery/funding

Whilst there has been improvements to the range and access to health services locally, there are a number of issues facing service provision. Service providers report that changes and uncertainty around the continuation of funding regimes leads to challenges for programs/tenure. Local service providers also report that they have concerns about larger outreach organisations obtaining the grants resulting in a decline of services available locally (meaning that more services will be provided through outreach programs or that locals will need to travel to access services).

Recommendations

| # | Recommendation | Stakeholders | Council's role | Measure of success | Action year | Priority |
|----|--|---|---------------------------|--|------------------|----------|
| 34 | Create a Advisory Committee to oversee and report on the progress of this Plan. This committee will replace the two existing committees (Sport and Recreation Plan committee and Social Plan committee). Consideration should be given to the scope of the committee and the structure of the committee to ensure adequate representation is achieved. | Council, community sector, service providers, sport and recreation, education sector | Facilitator | Committee formed | 2015 | High |
| 35 | Advocate for more e-health services to be available. Encourage a pilot program in local high schools connecting students to health professionals via Skype or other electronic means. This would also address access issues for a geographically dispersed community. | Council, State Government, interagency networks | Advocate | Range of e-health services increased with uptake by local community. Pilot program run and data reviewed | 2015 | Medium |
| 36 | Continue to facilitate partnerships to develop a range of social, literacy and physical activity programs for target groups. | Council, community organisations, businesses, service providers | Provider then facilitator | Physical activity programs delivered with annual review | 2015 and ongoing | High |
| 37 | Continue to provide a hub of information and advocate for improved transport options across the region. | Council, Translink, State Government | Advocate | Regularity of public transport services and options available | Ongoing | High |
| 38 | Collaborate with local networks to assess gaps in mental health services and solutions for improving services and educating residents. | Council, service providers, interagency networks, health and hospital boards, primary health networks | Advocate | Gap assessment and action plan prepared | 2016 | High |
| 39 | Collaborate with local networks to assess gaps in health services and solutions for improving services and health literacy. | Council, service providers, interagency networks, health and hospital boards, primary health networks | Advocate | Gap assessment and action plan prepared | 2016 | High |
| 40 | Continue to advocate for more affordable and social housing programs and housing supply to meet local demands. | Council, State Government | Advocate | Housing stock increased. Waiting times decreased | 2016 | High |
| 41 | Continue to advocate for increased emergency and crisis accommodation. | Council, State Government | Advocate | Crisis/emergency accommodation availability increased | 2017 | High |

| # | Recommendation | Stakeholders | Council's role | Measure of success | Action year | Priority |
|----|--|--|----------------|---|-------------|----------|
| 42 | Continue to advocate for education and awareness campaigns and programs on issues including: drug use, domestic violence, bullying and mental health for young people. | Interagencies | Advocate | Education and awareness forums and programs coordinated and delivered. Feedback reviewed | 2017 | Medium |
| 43 | Continue to partner with local service providers to coordinate and showcase health and wellbeing opportunities/programs with the view of improving health literacy in the community. | Council, interagency networks, health and hospital boards, primary health networks | Facilitator | Forum coordinated, feedback gathered and reviewed | 2020 | Medium |



Performance

Measuring the success of actions is important, as is annually reviewing data to measure any changes in priorities.

It is recommended that this become one of the tasks the Advisory Committee undertakes annually.

The review of information is important to ensure that resources are not ineffectively assigned and to monitor changes in the overall health and wellbeing of residents.

Resources that should be reviewed as part of this process, noting that some updates will not be available each year are listed in this section.

Quantitative measures

Listed below is a set of quantitative measures that will assist in gathering evidence to measure the health and wellbeing of residents:

- ☐ demographic data available from ABS and the Queensland Government
- ☐ population projection data available from the Queensland Government (noting changes in data sets over time)
- ☐ data from the Public Health Information Development Unit (Australia-wide) with particular focus on the datasets that measure health and wellbeing and report on changes in data in preventable health outcomes through healthy eating and exercise. A list of useful datasets available through this resource to monitor are:
 - financial stress from mortgage or rent
 - early childhood development: AEDI, Physical health and wellbeing - developmentally at risk
 - SEIFA Index of Relative Socio-economic Disadvantage
 - persons who disagree/strongly disagree with acceptance of other cultures cohesion
 - access to services datasets (medical, transport, connectivity)
 - estimates of self assessed health
 - estimates of chronic disease
 - high or very high psychological distress levels (K-10)
 - preventable health risk factors (smoking, alcohol consumption, physical inactivity, overweight and obese statistics) and composite analysis of this data
 - persons living with a disability
 - suicide rates
 - GP and health services
 - HACC service client data
 - aged care data, including number of aged care beds available
- ☐ courthouse and police data on various crimes and instances focussing on social issues including domestic violence
- ☐ data from community surveys. These could be from a variety of sources and it is recommended that Council collect and collate information across as many sources as possible.

This is likely to include:

- resident satisfaction surveys (these should be developed considering LGAQs 'Community Wellbeing Indicators: Measures for Local Government') so that the data can be benchmarked against other Councils using the same approach
- surveys from participants of the Be Healthy and Active program
- ☐ sport participation data from local providers. Collection of this data should occur annually as part of local clubs' reporting framework to Council (alternatively the dataset could be maintained through the Sport and Recreation Officers and updated following discussions with clubs). It should be noted that this data is likely to consider three different sets of data:
 - membership data (number of people playing in formal competition)
 - social participation data (number of people participating but not necessarily part of the formal competition)
 - other regular use of the facility (outside sport)
- ☐ sport participation benchmarking should occur against two nationally recognised participation survey datasets:
 - Exercise, Recreation and Sport Survey (ERASS)
 - Australian Bureau of Statistics' participation in sport and physical recreation
 - *If participation data for local sports is drastically different or below that of the State averages, sport development solutions may need to be applied
- ☐ attendance rates (or estimates) at Council's events.

Qualitative measures

The success of many recommendations in this report will need to be based on qualitative data from community groups and residents:

- ☐ feedback from service providers, validated through discussions at the different interagency networks
- ☐ feedback from community surveys
- ☐ through discussions at Council events (reported as part of the event review).



Zamia Theatre, Tamborine Mountain

