Scenic Rim

COMMUNITY PLAN
2011-2026

Revised 2018

SCENIC RIM

A VISION AND PLAN
FOR OUR REGION'S FUTURE

SCENIC RIM
Regional Council

MAP

Mt Forbes

Mutdapilly

Peak Crossing

Mt Walker

Bremer River

Warrill View

Harrisville

Rosevale

Roadvale

Kalbar

Aratula

Tarome

Mt French NP

BOONAH

Dugandan

Gleneagle

Tamborine

Tamborine Mountain

Bromelton

BEAUDESERT

Albert River

Canungra

Cunningham's Gap

Moogerah Dam

Mt Alford

Logan River

Kooralbyn

Laravale

Coomera River

Main Range NP

Kerry

Beechmont

Croftby

Tamrookum

Maroon Dam

Maroon

Christmas Creek

Binna Burra

Carneys Creek

Mt Maroon NP

Rathdowney

Hillview

O'Reilly's

Lamington

Mt Barney National Park

Mt Chinghee NP

Lamington National Park

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MAYOR'S MESSAGE

It is my pleasure to present the updated Scenic Rim Community Plan 2011-2026.

This plan was initially developed following consultation with Scenic Rim residents and business operators during 2010 as a vision shared by Council and the community for the future of our region. Further community consultation in early 2018 has ensured that our Community Plan continues to reflect community needs and aspirations.

We regard the Community Plan as the collective voice of our Scenic Rim community, guiding our five-year Corporate Plan and our annual Operational Plan and shaping our strategies for effective service delivery throughout the region.

The Community Plan provides a framework for monitoring and review of outcomes and priorities to assess our progress in realising the shared vision for the Scenic Rim.

As such, the review that was the Community Plan Pulse Check of early 2018 identified the need for some minor revisions and additions to recognise the changes that have occurred as our region has continued to grow and develop during the past five years.

Although seen through a new lens, the Community Plan nevertheless maintains the focus that we believe is so important for the future of our community.

We recognise the vision of the Scenic Rim community embedded in the Community Plan and regard it as a valuable document to provide long-term direction for the growth and development of the region.

Cr Greg Christensen
Mayor, Scenic Rim Regional Council

ABOUT THE SCENIC RIM COMMUNITY PLAN

The Scenic Rim Community Plan 2011 - 2026 provides a shared vision and plan for the region's future. Developed together with the community, the Scenic Rim Community Plan will guide Council, other levels of government and community action on issues including the environment, economic development, social wellbeing, infrastructure and governance.

Council will directly consider the expectations of the Community Plan in its decision making processes and use the Plan as a guide to advocate for the Scenic Rim community at other levels of Government and with other stakeholders. We remain committed to advocating for the implementation of a long term vision for the area which recognises the unique beauty, heritage and landmarks as reflected in the plan.

Council has prepared the Scenic Rim Community Plan following extensive community consultation. It represents an amalgam of views from residents, visitors, businesses and community organisations. Accordingly, the plan should be read together with the Community Consultation Reports.

The plan includes a vision statement that provides an expression of what we want our future community to be like. Seven themes reflect the vision and give a focus for action. Each theme includes outcomes describing the future state we are seeking and priorities that tell us where to put our effort. Scattered throughout the plan are thoughts and ideas from community members who shared their views about the future of our region.

Council looks forward to continuing to work with all levels of government and the Scenic Rim community to implement this vision and plan for the future.

OUR REGION

Located in South East Queensland, the Scenic Rim boundaries stretch from Peak Crossing and Gleneagle in the north down to the New South Wales border, and from Tamborine Mountain in the east, to Cunningham's Gap in the west.

The region is framed by mountain ranges including the Main Range, Mistake Range, McPherson Range and Teviot Range. It also encompasses valleys including Christmas Creek, Fassifern, Warrill, the Albert River, Logan River, Coomera River and the Bremer River Valleys and three dams, Lake Maroon, Lake Moogerah and Wyaralong Dam.

Scenic Rim covers 4,256 square kilometres and is home to approximately 39,000 people. Most residents of this rapidly growing region live in the towns of Beaudesert, Boonah, Canungra, Kalbar, Kooralbyn, Rathdowney, Tamborine Mountain and Aratula.

Agriculture, native forest and national parks are the dominant land uses. The Brisbane to Sydney railway line and two interstate highways pass through the region which is well-serviced with community infrastructure including over 1,700km of roads.

With a growing economy and a gross regional product of over $1,200 million, the Scenic Rim boasts low unemployment. Retail trade is the dominant employer, closely followed by manufacturing, construction and agriculture, forestry and fishing.

The region values its rural, natural and **Indigenous** heritage and has a growing arts and tourism sector. Scenic Rim is recognised for its biodiversity and contains World Heritage Listed Rainforest, one fifth of Queensland's plant species and more than 200 rare or threatened plants and animals.

OUR HERITAGE

Long before Europeans arrived, **Indigenous** people lived with and cared for this land using laws and practices handed down by their ancestors. Historical documents mention the Mununjali, Yugambeh and Ugarapul peoples and describe how they traded resources and interacted with relatives and other family groups through a complex network of trails that criss-crossed the region.

Adventurer, naturalist and tourism pioneer, Arthur Groom, coined the phrase Scenic Rim in the mid-twentieth century to describe the chain of mountains which wrap around the valleys between Brisbane and Tamborine Mountain.

This imposing rim of mountains dates back millions of years to a time when many were active volcanoes. Their legacy, Australia's most accessible World Heritage Listed Rainforests and rich alluvial soils continue to be the region's lifeblood.

Scenic Rim's physical landscape has long made an impression on visitors.

The journals of early European explorers are full of glowing references to the region's natural beauty.

European explorers and settlers searched for timber and established pastoral properties. Captain Patrick Logan, commandant of the penal settlement at Moreton Bay (Brisbane) was the first European explorer to enter the Scenic Rim in 1827 on an expedition to find a route to Mt Warning and Byron Bay.

At the same time, Allan Cunningham was on his expedition which led to the European discovery of the Darling Downs and Spicer's Gap. Cunningham returned in 1829 when he ascended Cunningham's Gap.

The region's settlements were subject to the extremes of nature including severe drought (e.g. 1877 - 1878) and major floods (in 1887, 1893, 1926 and 1954). Despite these challenges, many distinct communities formed around growing industries including dairy, agriculture and horticulture.

ORIGIN OF TOWNS

Aratula - Fassifern's youngest town, originated around 1915. It began life as Carter's Gate and was later renamed Aratula.

Beaudesert - Squatters took up land around Beaudesert in 1842. In the early 1870s, the area was surveyed as a town to service expanding agricultural settlements. By the late 1880s, Beaudesert emerged as the district's principal commercial and administrative centre.

Beechmont - In the 1870s timber-getters and selectors worked their way up the Nerang River to Beech Mountain. Small-scale sawmilling developed in the twentieth century and dairy farms were established on the slopes of Beech Mountain in 1925. Tourism was also important with cabins available at Binna Burra Mountain Lodge from 1933.

Boonah - Boonah can trace its origins to the opening of the Blumberg Brothers store in 1882. The name 'Boonah' was first applied to the railway station and hill behind the store. Following the 1887 floods, most businesses relocated to higher ground and the present commercial and administrative centre was established by 1900 to service surrounding rural enterprises.
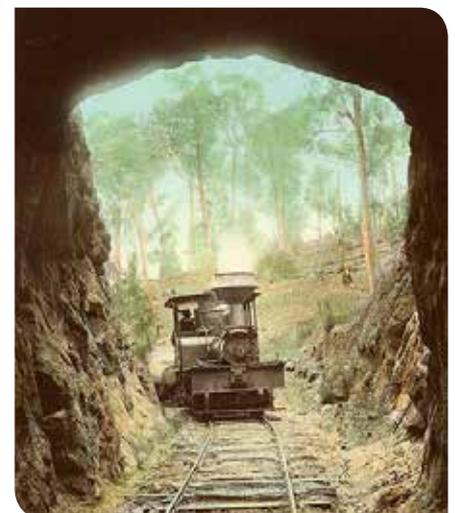
Canungra - Canungra was not formally surveyed until 1915, however a settlement developed in the 1880s around the Lahey Brothers' Sawmill. The town also served emerging communities at Beechmont and Tamborine Mountain after the Canungra Branch Railway opened in 1915. The military area now known as the Kokoda Barracks was established in 1942.

Harrisville - The area around Harrisville was opened for selection during the 1860s. The town probably originated with the building of the Royal Hotel in 1875. A railway branch line built in 1882 was a further incentive to development.

Kalbar - German settlers arriving during the 1870s played a major role in establishing Kalbar. One of them, August Engels, built a small store in 1877 and the town developed around this enterprise.

Kooralbyn - Kooralbyn formed part of John 'Tinker' Campbell's 'Tamrookum' pastoral run until the 1870s when it was divided into the 'Tamrookum' and 'Kooralbyn' properties. 'Kooralbyn', said to mean 'Place of the Copperhead Snake', has a long association with horse-breeding and equestrian sports.

Mt Alford - Mt Alford was previously called Reckumpilla until renamed after Thomas Alford who came to manage Coochin Coochin Station. The homestead settlement began in the early 1870s and the township in the 1880s. The Mt Alford School opened on 4 April, 1888.

Peak Crossing - William Watson took up Peak Mountain Station in 1868. The town of Peak Crossing was later established near Purga Creek at the crossing of Old Warwick, Harrisville and Fassifern Valley Roads, starting with a primary school in 1871.

Rathdowney - Rathdowney developed during the early 1900s as a small centre to service local farming districts. The Beaudesert Tramway was extended to Rathdowney in 1911 allowing it to become a district centre.

Roadvale - In the late 1800s and early 1900s, Roadvale was one of the most densely populated towns in the Fassifern region. Most of the town was destroyed by fire in 1915 and it never again reached its former size.

Rosevale - Churches play an important role in the early history of Rosevale: including the Lutheran (1881), Roman Catholic (1889) and Church of Christ (1896). Dairying was Rosevale's main industry and a cheese factory was purchased in September 1917. Production ceased in 1929, although the building was used as a cream-receiving depot until 1943.

Tamborine Mountain - Tamborine Mountain was opened to selection in 1875. Due to difficulties accessing the mountain, its population remained small until the early 1900s. From 1918 to 1925, rapid land subdivision occurred including the 1920-1921 creation of North Tamborine and Eagle Heights.

Tamborine - Tamborine village (originally spelt Tambourine) developed in the 1870s around a store, post-office and St Mary's chapel. It was the administrative centre for the former Tambourine Shire. The railway line to Canungra which opened in 1915 also passed through the village.

Warrill View - Warrill View started life in 1843 as a sheep run called Rosebrook, later renamed Normanby, which included amongst its owners George Thorn who briefly served as Queensland Premier. Close proximity to the emerging centre of Harrisville resulted in only limited development of the planned town until the 1930s when it was renamed as Warrill View.

Reference: Greg Czechura, *Heritage Guide to the Scenic Rim,* Queensland Museum in partnership with Scenic Rim Regional Council, 2010.

OUR IDENTITY

Scenic views and natural environment

The name Scenic Rim says it all. The scenic mountain ranges, native forests, waterways, dams, and rural farmland are the region's greatest asset and highly valued by residents, visitors and businesses. These natural assets are fundamental to the region's prosperity, attractiveness as a place to live and visit, and the wellbeing of its communities.

Country heritage and rural lifestyle

Our rural lifestyle is consistently identified as one of the region's best attributes. Residents and visitors love the heritage and character of our towns and villages, the open spaces, our service oriented business community and the easy to move around towns. Residents also benefit from relatively affordable housing and a choice of rural living options that are increasingly scarce in urbanised South East Queensland.

Friendly caring and connected community

Strong social networks, a smaller population and rural lifestyle create a friendly and caring community. Long-term residents, many with links to the region's heritage, complement residents attracted to the region's environment and lifestyle. Visitors instantly recognise the friendly nature of our community.

Vibrant, creative and productive

Our highly productive rural industries continue to grow and adapt, providing employment and helping to manage our landscape. The growing community of artists scattered across the region and concentrated in areas like Boonah and Tamborine Mountain generate opportunities and make our region vibrant and engaging. A diverse range of businesses and industries create wealth in our communities; serving residents and the broader region.

"Small rural towns and beautiful views"

"Lovely older homes and friendly people"

"Great environmental features and incredible wildlife"

"You can still find good manners and politeness"

"Lifestyle choices - you can live on a mountain, in a valley, near people or isolated"

A region of diverse communities

All our communities have a unique character. Beaudesert is a growing centre that retains a relaxed rural feel and is surrounded by productive farms. Nearby is Bromelton, with its industries, farms and large privately owned industrial estate that is well-connected to highways and the interstate railway.

Rathdowney is a quiet and friendly village that serves as a gateway to Scenic Rim wilderness areas. The Albert and Logan River Valleys support primary production, tourism and are home to attractive small communities such as Hillview and Tamrookum.

Kooralbyn offers a rural residential and leisure-orientated lifestyle in a natural setting.

Tamborine and its surrounds provide relaxed living with easy access to urban areas. Lamington, Binna Burra and Tamborine Mountain are renowned for their national parks and scenic beauty. The Mountain is also home to a vibrant and creative residential community, diverse local businesses and productive small farms.

Canungra is a thriving village attracting tourists and residents seeking a rural lifestyle. Beechmont is a small and active mountain top community.

Boonah is a bustling rural town that retains its traditional character. A nearby network of rural villages including Kalbar, Mt Alford, Harrisville, Peak Crossing, Maroon, Rosevale and Roadvale are all embedded in this important agricultural, recreation and tourism area. The villages of Warrill View and Aratula provide services to their communities and travellers.

"Relaxed country feel with no hustle and bustle"

"Genuine people"

"A culturally rich environment and superb artistic community"

"A wonderful and unique place for my children to grow up"

"Country atmosphere, space, mountains and scenery"

A CHALLENGING FUTURE

The Scenic Rim's future is challenging, with emerging competing priorities, demands and shifts in industry and employment. These changes will necessitate a better understanding of new industries and their relationship to the footprint of our region. Issues that need careful management include:

A growing population - Scenic Rim's population is forecast to nearly double by 2031 to just over 80,000 people. This rapid growth will place demands on infrastructure, services and natural resources. Some towns and villages will expand as new housing is built.

Maintaining local employment - New jobs and innovation will be needed to maximize employment opportunities. Most of our employed residents travel outside the region to work. We need to create diverse and rewarding local employment and training opportunities. Jobs growth in agriculture and tourism is important but will not be enough. Our challenge is to ensure that new businesses and industry centres providing employment are compatible with our environment and lifestyle.

Protecting the environment - As South East Queensland grows, Scenic Rim's environment and rural landscape will be increasingly valued. While our region has approximately 50,000 hectares of national parks, parks and reserves, increased conservation efforts and better management is needed to protect our landscape, animals and plants. More work is needed to reduce waste, improve energy efficiency and reduce carbon emissions.

Sustaining our rural sector - Our rural industries face threats from urban encroachment, mining, floods, drought and competition for water supplies as well as changing markets and economic conditions. Rural industry is vital to our economy, lifestyle and landscape and requires our support.

High impact industry growth - The world's ever increasing resource demand is generating renewed interest in the region. Impacts from coal mining, coal seam gas exploration and high impact primary production could put our environment, lifestyle and rural and tourism industries at risk. It remains unclear if coal and coal seam gas industries, which require State Government approval, will seek to develop in our region and there is an increase in interest in the Scenic Rim as an intensive farming area.

Public transport - A call for improved public transport is driven by rising vehicle costs, environmental concerns, and the evident social and economic disadvantage experienced by those without access to a car. Providing reliable, convenient and frequent public transport in such a low density rural region will be expensive. Questions remain about who should pay and whether demand is sufficient for a viable service.

Maintaining community infrastructure - Council manages nearly $700 million in community assets including roads, bridges and parks. Funding levels will need to increase to maintain current service standards into the future. Other levels of government face similar challenges. We need to consider what community infrastructure we can afford, our priorities and how to fund them.

A changing age profile - By 2031, a higher proportion of younger (age 0-14) and older people (age 65+) in our community will bring new opportunities and change demand for services, infrastructure and housing. Our lifestyles are also changing with growing levels of inactivity and obesity impacting on health.

Cost of living - Increasing standards and expectations, competition for

resources and changes in the economy are impacting on daily living costs. How we manage future growth will impact on housing affordability and whether we can retain a diverse and inclusive community.

A global community - Our region is influenced by global and national issues and trends. We need to consider challenges such as climate change, peak oil, food and water security, and technological developments and telecommunication connectivity in terms of their impacts and opportunities for our region. We must ensure our own actions make a positive global contribution.
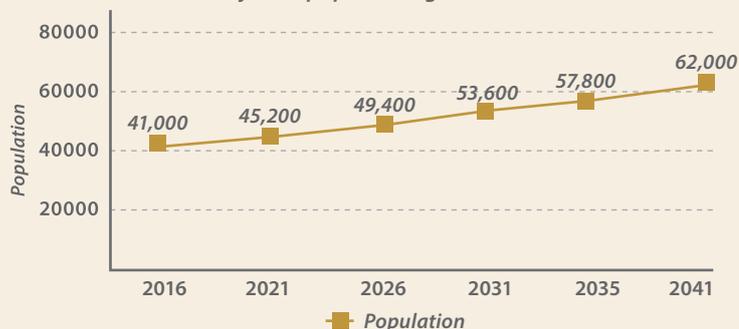
Part of South East Queensland (SEQ) - Proximity to this large urban area provides benefits such as diverse services, employment and education choice, and a ready market for products. However, urban expansion and demand for natural resources could impact upon our lifestyle and challenge our control over the region's future. We need to firmly establish our future role in SEQ.

> "Developing our towns in a way that allows more people to live here without losing our country atmosphere"
>
> "Providing high standard basic services to all ratepayers including safe roads"
>
> "Ensuring business and industry go ahead to sustain future employment"

Projected population growth 2016 – 2041

A note about population growth…

Although there are diverse views, many in our community are concerned about population growth. Scenic Rim population projections are based on State Government forecasts of natural population increases (births minus deaths) and net migration to the region.

Net migration rates depend on overseas and interstate migration and factors like housing availability and the region's attractiveness as a place to live. As Queensland continues to grow, limited land availability in SEQ and our great lifestyle make Scenic Rim increasingly attractive for new residents.

Government policy can influence population growth through planning controls on new residential land and investment in community infrastructure like roads, hospitals and public transport which make locations more attractive to residents. The State Government's *Shaping SEQ South*

East Queensland Regional Plan 2017 establishes policy that is influencing Scenic Rim's future population by establishing an urban footprint to manage the location of new development and by setting a target of 10,000 new dwellings from 2016 to 2041. Council is obligated by legislation to abide by the SEQ Regional Plan and must service the expected level of growth.

Although there are negative impacts, growth brings benefits such as more services, infrastructure, employment options, housing choice and economic growth. As a community we must decide if these benefits outweigh the impacts. We also need to consider the implications of any government policy aimed at reducing growth rates in our region.

What is the optimum size of our region's population? Ultimately, that is a matter that the community must decide.

COMMUNITY VIEWS

We asked our community to share their ideas about the future of the Scenic Rim and this plan reflects what we heard. Over an eleven month period, Council carried out over 60 consultation activities across the region including:

- Postcard surveys, telephone polls and on-line surveys

- Displays at local markets, shows, shopping centres and in town centres

- Meetings and workshops with the community, business and environment sectors

Thousands of people of all ages contributed their views towards this plan. A Draft Community Plan released in August 2011 attracted a positive response and many improvements suggested by the community are incorporated in this final plan.

Existing information about community views, local challenges and future opportunities also helped shape the plan. This included examining past consultation and planning activities such as the Boonah Rural Futures Project and Beaudesert Whole of Shire Planning Project.

Two Community Consultation Summary Reports are available and provide full details of all consultation activities and what was said. These reports should be read in conjunction with this plan.

What you like about the Scenic Rim...
- natural environment and scenery
- rural lifestyle and character
- quiet and relaxed lifestyle
- quality of life
- friendly people
- sense of community

What is most important to you...
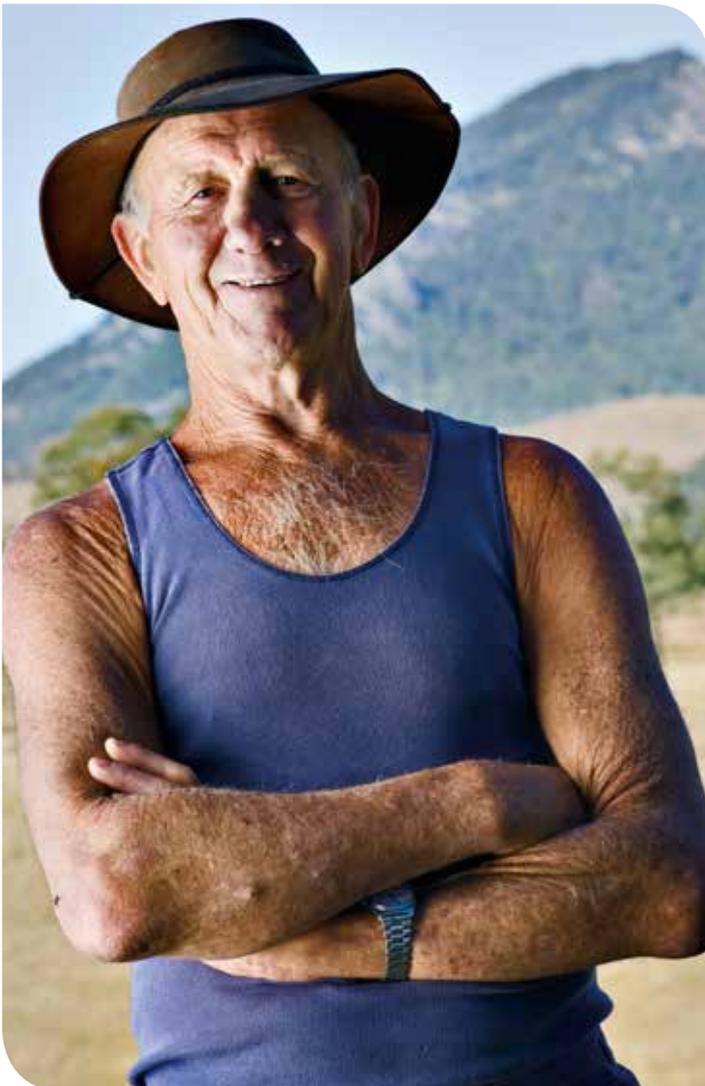- natural environment and parks
- scenic rural landscape
- lifestyle and liveability
- sense of community
- roads and bridges
- consultation and participation in decision making

You're concerned about...
- protecting the environment
- managing growth and development
- preserving lifestyle
- inadequate public transport
- poor roads
- inadequate community planning
- coal mining and coal seam gas extraction

OUR VISION

By 2026, Scenic Rim will be a network of unique rural communities embedded in a productive and sustainable landscape.

We will enjoy a high quality rural lifestyle in self-reliant communities that provide a choice of quality local food, products, services and recreation opportunities. Our residents will have affordable transport options and ready access to the broader South East Queensland region.

Our community will support sustainable farms, businesses and industries that are compatible with our environment and lifestyle and provide rewarding employment and prosperity for residents. Residents will benefit from the region's productive farmland, stunning natural environment and character filled towns and villages which attract tourists and visitors and provide ecosystem services for the broader South East Queensland community.

Scenic Rim will be an inclusive, caring and creative environment with healthy and active residents. The region will provide a happy, safe and nurturing environment for children and families.

We will participate in planning and managing our communities and act to ensure the Scenic Rim is enhanced for future generations.

SPECTACULAR SCENERY AND HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT

The natural environment and rural landscape of the Scenic Rim is unique and our most treasured asset. Our residents, businesses and visitors are seeking to protect our environment and rural landscape from pressing threats and the challenges of growth. The Scenic Rim community sees its productive and healthy natural environment as essential for our future lifestyle, wellbeing and prosperity.

Outcomes

- Scenic views and vistas are protected
- Diverse rural industries continue to be healthy and productive
- Natural assets are cared for and degraded areas restored
- The services provided by our ecosystems are valued
- Waste, energy and resources are sustainably managed
- Systems are resilient and have adapted to climate change
- A sustainable rural sector

Priorities

- Supporting respectful co-existence and helping rural industries to prosper, innovate and adapt
- Protecting and improving valuable farmland and rural water supplies
- Encouraging production and consumption of local food
- Managing development that could impact on views and vistas
- Protecting, enhancing and managing natural areas and corridors
- Restoring waterways, protecting biodiversity of flora and fauna and retaining habitat
- Controlling weeds and pests, improving soils and planting trees
- Adapting to a changing climate
- Reducing resource consumption, lowering our carbon footprint and moving to renewable energy
- Learning to benefit from the services our ecosystems provide to others
- Understanding and working within the carrying capacity of our environment
- Ensuring responsibility for environmental management is shared
- Ensuring ecological sustainability is considered in all decisions
- Stopping activities such as coal mines and coal seam gas extraction that irreversibly damage our natural environment

"Preserve nature's beautiful spacious places for all to enjoy"

"Be different - We have walked in the forest, seen Quolls and Koalas. Do not pave paradise"

"Green and clean"

"Keep the natural environment intact"

"Be a leading shire in sustainability"

"Retain our farms"

SUSTAINABLE AND PROSPEROUS ECONOMY

A diverse and resilient economy is essential for wellbeing. Residents value the personal service and contribution that locally owned businesses make to our community and lifestyle. Residents are seeking development that provides local employment options, retains services and makes a positive contribution to wellbeing, the environment and the character of towns, villages and rural community. Our communities want a strong economy based upon rural and tourism industries and the Scenic Rim's highly valued lifestyle and landscape.

Outcomes

- A diverse economy built upon localisation principles
- Rewarding local employment options available for residents
- Agriculture and tourism are a centrepiece of the economy and supported by emerging industries
- Beaudesert and Bromelton established as employment hubs
- Business, industry and local communities have certainty and control over their economic future
- Our region captures the opportunities that arise from our unique location

Priorities

- Encouraging local investment and supporting local business
- Creating conditions that attract business and industry compatible with our lifestyle and environment
- Building business and industry that diversifies our economy and provides new and rewarding employment options
- Respecting local community aspirations and natural assets in building the economy of towns, villages and rural communities
- Establishing infrastructure and creating built environments that attract and encourage business growth in our towns and villages
- Community participation in planning our towns to minimise regulation and provide certainty for business, industry and the community
- Creating pathways to local employment for the region's youth and disadvantaged
- Building a skilled and motivated workforce for local business
- Working towards self containment
- Developing opportunities to export our products and services
- Helping rural based industries grow and diversify
- Working together to understand and manage conflicts between recreation, tourism, agriculture, industrial, residential and commercial uses
- Not accepting industries that through their scale and adverse impacts would put our region's lifestyle or environment at risk

"Give food production a priority status"

"Look after small industry - don't allow all new development and regulations of cities to push people away"

"Ensure the agriculture, beef, equine and tourism industries work together and help each other"

"Foster ecotourism - this is a sustainable resource that will appreciate in value"

"Encourage more business"

"Create more local jobs"

OPEN AND RESPONSIVE GOVERNMENT

The Scenic Rim community expects ethical local government that supports and represents its community at all levels of government. Residents want government to deliver affordable services efficiently and equitably. All levels of Government are expected to take a long term view and strike a balance between often competing interests. Communication, transparency and participation in decision making are highly important. Our communities value their self- reliance and look to government for leadership, firm but fair regulation and support for local initiatives.

Outcomes
• Residents and businesses participate in leading and managing their communities
• Government serves and supports the community
• Services are value for money and contribute to community wellbeing
• Government is transparent, invites participation and encourages constructive debate

• Regulation is minimalist and balances individual and community needs
• Levels of government work together and with others in the community interest
• Local community aspirations are respected

Priorities
• Engaging local communities including Indigenous people, children and young people in decision making on issues that affect them
• Delivering the basic services needed for community wellbeing and keeping them affordable
• Streamlined, firm and fair regulation of issues that matter with incentives for good practice
• Supporting the aspirations and maintaining the identity of local communities
• Protecting the community's investment in infrastructure and minimising whole-of-life costs
• Building understanding and trust between community and government through information, honesty and transparency

• Understanding community expectations, delivering services that meet these and government leading by example
• Fair and equitable distribution of government resources across our region
• Supporting and developing leaders in the community

"Support communities through proper consultation before making decisions"

"There is an opportunity for our council to set a standard in our region"

"Don't follow the path of others but make the effort and lead the way in sustainability"

"Keep rates and living costs at an affordable level"

RELAXED LIVING AND RURAL LIFESTYLE

A diversity of housing in towns, villages and rural areas provides for relaxed living. Residents enjoy quality facilities and services and ready access to larger South East Queensland communities. The region's rural landscape, parks, waterways and spacious residential living support an active outdoor lifestyle. Our residents expect that future residential growth continues to make a positive contribution to our rural lifestyle.

Outcomes
- The region's rural character and heritage is maintained
- A growing population is accommodated within the limits of the region's capacity
- A choice of housing is available to residents
- Development is respectful of our rural lifestyle, town character and natural environment
- The region retains its landscape, open spaces and green corridors
- Facilities and spaces are available and encourage outdoor recreation

Priorities
- Ensuring urban activities are contained within the established urban footprint
- Activities and buildings complement and blend with the rural environment
- Supporting residents and businesses to maintain and manage the rural landscape
- Building streets and urban areas that complement and blend with the rural environment
- Providing a diverse range of affordable housing in our towns and villages including housing suitable for all ages
- Ensuring new residential development includes open space, larger lots, paths connecting people to places and housing styles that reflect our rural character and lifestyle
- Agricultural land is protected from fragmentation and development
- Effective planning that engages the community, provides for our future needs and protects the environment and rural lifestyle

> **"**Keep it rural and not become a suburb of Ipswich and Brisbane**"**
>
> **"**Retain the look and feel of what we all love**"**
>
> **"**Restrictions on architecture - ugly suburban brick homes don't cut it out here**"**
>
> **"**Provide land for families that don't want to raise their children on 400 square metre blocks**"**
>
> **"**Encourage families to live south of Beaudesert to help maintain viability of schools and bus runs**"**

VIBRANT TOWNS AND VILLAGES

Character filled towns and villages that serve the needs of their communities are a major asset to our region. Thriving main streets remain a feature of our towns and villages and are highly valued by residents, visitors and businesses alike. Distinct edges to our towns and villages, which are surrounded by farmland or forests, provide a sense of arrival. Heritage housing and buildings are often at the heart of our towns and villages.

Outcomes
- Towns and villages are appealing, welcoming and serve their communities
- Beaudesert is built into a modern centre that respects its country heritage
- Tamborine Mountain and Beechmont are sustained as productive green sanctuaries and creative environments
- Boonah and Canungra evolve into thriving rural towns and hubs for recreation, tourism and sustainability
- Kooralbyn, Kalbar, Harrisville and Peak Crossing continue to provide relaxed rural living in a natural setting

- Rural villages are strengthened, retain their heritage character and provide a range of basic services

Priorities
- Understanding, protecting and enhancing those things our residents and visitors value about the character and heritage of our towns and villages
- Protecting unique individual character and heritage values in our towns and villages across the region
- Creating attractive, pedestrian friendly and active engaging places and spaces in town centres
- Encouraging a mix of growth and development to invigorate town centres, create employment and attract and sustain high quality education and health services
- Protecting unique character and heritage values across the region through community pride and managing development
- Protecting creative, quality lifestyles and unique natural environments by carefully managing tourism,

controlling development and protecting valuable productive and natural environments
- Supporting the community in owning, developing and delivering initiatives that drive vibrant towns and villages
- Bringing our towns and villages alive through events, activities and celebration
- Supporting modest growth in the region's rural villages to sustain and reinstate local business and services
- Plans to revitalise and restore individual areas of the Scenic Rim are achieved through targeted plans for town centres and village spaces

> **"Plan carefully to avoid loss of character"**
>
> **"Keep what we have and love - character housing, scenic landscapes, village life, no traffic lights"**
>
> **"Protect and preserve Boonah's "Old Town" historic values"**

ACCESSIBLE AND SERVICED REGION

Roads are the backbone of our community. Residents, businesses and visitors rely on the road network to move around the region. Our community is demanding better and safer roads and seeking transport alternatives like walking, cycling, and public transport including rail. Many believe that quality public transport and more active travel would provide economic, social and environmental benefits for our community.

Quality communications infrastructure is also important to residents and businesses with many seeking the employment and lifestyle opportunities provided by high speed broadband. Attractive and functional parks and community facilities are regarded as essential to our lifestyle and for attracting tourists.

Outcomes
- A well-maintained road network that meets community needs
- Affordable and flexible transport options available to residents and visitors
- Inviting, attractive and functional streets, paths, parks and community facilities

- Access to reliable, affordable, high speed communications
- Infrastructure and services keep pace with growth and changing needs and are compatible with our environment
- Investment in community infrastructure and levels of service reflect the community's capacity and willingness to fund them

Priorities
- Maintaining and upgrading the existing State and local road network
- Pursue creative and flexible public and community based transport solutions that service towns and villages with a priority of meeting the needs of those with limited access to private transport such as youth and aged
- Pursue public transport services between the region's towns and villages and major urban centres
- Building infrastructure that supports safe walking and cycling and increased accessibility
- Improving access and the attractiveness of towns and villages by managing traffic, heavy vehicles and parking

- Providing facilities and services for visitors and tourists
- Ensuring community infrastructure is appropriate for our environment, contributes to attractive and functional places, and serves multiple purposes
- Rationalising or reinvigorating poorly used infrastructure and services
- Ensuring new infrastructure needed to support residents, visitors and a growing economy is provided in time and is funded by those who benefit most
- Providing access to affordable high speed internet

"Have strong infrastructure to prepare for the growth ahead"

"Repair our roads and clean up our waterways"

"A rail link to Brisbane"

"Affordable public transport to Ipswich and Brisbane"

"Be a leader in developing bike tracks and paths"

HEALTHY, ENGAGED AND RESOURCEFUL COMMUNITIES

Our residents enjoy strong social networks and friendly communities with a long history of people working together. Residents aspire to retain these characteristics by building creative and inclusive communities that offer a wide range of events, activities and support services. Quality local health services and facilities for our changing population and people with disabilities are critical. Residents are also seeking further local education and training opportunities aligned with our future economy.

Outcomes
• Strong social interaction and a sense of connectedness

• Healthy and active people

• A life-long learning community with opportunities to thrive

• A community that celebrates its identity, culture and diversity

• A friendly and inclusive community

• A community that embraces and values young and old

• A community that displays commitment to the vision through choices and actions

Priorities
• Providing opportunities for learning and education aligned with the region's future economy and emerging technologies

• Maintaining affordability and addressing disadvantage

• Strengthening social interaction, building partnerships and connectedness through activities and infrastructure

• Creating a better lifestyle and delivering services for the aging population

• Building an active and healthy community through sport, parks, community gardens and recreation

• Attracting and maintaining quality health and social services that meet the needs of families, the aged and people with disabilities

• Celebrating and recognising the diversity of our culture and **Indigenous** traditions and encouraging artistic and creative expression

• Creating a sense of identity and belonging

• Retaining safe communities through policing, pride, design, and community involvement

• Providing access to transport and education as enablers to help address disadvantage

• Supporting individuals to contribute towards achieving the community's vision

• Providing affordable activities, services and public spaces that meet the needs of the community

"More free events by the Council to engage local communities"

"Modern exercise equipment in parks for the grown-ups"

"Encourage more artists and creative people in the community"

"Disability and age friendly parks, open spaces and built environments"

MAKING IT HAPPEN

Achieving the vision and outcomes requires all of us to focus on the priorities and take action. Some actions could be as simple as shopping locally, saying hello or walking to school. Other more complex actions will take time and require collaboration between government, business and community.

This long term plan deliberately includes outcomes we can aspire to. It may not always be immediately apparent how to achieve or fund them. To create the future we want, the whole community must work together to find solutions.

The Scenic Rim Community Plan will guide decision making by all levels of government, business, community groups and individuals. The entire community has a shared responsibility to promote the vision, support action and remind us when we lose focus or stray from the desired path.

Importantly, this Plan provides a clear sense of what will or won't be welcome in the Scenic Rim.

Businesses looking to establish or grow know what the community expects and can make better decisions about their future. Community organisations that focus on plan priorities can be confident of our support. All levels of government will know what services are important to you and how to best invest in the community's future.

Council's Role

Council's role is to support the community to achieve its vision. The Scenic Rim Community Plan is an optional statutory plan under the Local Government Act 2009 and guides Council's strategic, operational and financial decisions based on the overall aspirations of the community. Importantly, it sets direction for Council land use planning, infrastructure provision and service delivery, and identifies areas for Council advocacy on State and Federal issues.

Council's Corporate Plan outlines Council's five year plan for implementing aspects of the Community Plan. The Operational Plan and annual Budget will set out what Council will do towards achieving the Corporate Plan on an annual basis. Likewise other Council programs and plans including the Planning Scheme will inform and be informed by the community plan *(Figure 1 - following page)*.

"Support Indigenous elders who still have knowledge from the living past traditional lifestyles"

"Infrastructure and entertainment for young adults"

"Create more education opportunities through new learning centres"

"Have a good working hospital to cater for growth"

Council planning framework
(figure 1)

SCENIC RIM COMMUNITY PLAN

The community's long term vision for the region

LONG TERM FINANCIAL PLANS

Approach to financial management that ensures long term sustainability

CORPORATE PLAN

Values and strategies to deliver the community's vision

ASSET MANAGEMENT PLANS

How community assets will be managed and maintained

OPERATIONAL PLAN

Services and initiatives Council will deliver in the current year

PLANNING SCHEME

Manages growth, plans and secures new infrastructure

ANNUAL BUDGET

Revenue and expenditure to deliver Operational Plan

ANNUAL REPORT

Reports progress on Corporate and Operational Plans

CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM

10yr infrastructure construction, renewal and maintenance program

To implement the Scenic Rim Community Plan Council will:

- Align Corporate and Operational Plans with the community's vision
- Provide and invest in services and community infrastructure that contributes towards the vision
- Lead and support the community in taking action to realise the vision
- Communicate, advocate and represent the community's vision
- Build and maintain effective processes to engage the local community

including the local **Indigenous** community.

- Work with other levels of government, business and community organisations on priorities and aspirations for the Community as set out in this Plan
- Ensure regulation and land use planning reflect community outcomes
- Ensure Council's own actions reflect the vision
- Monitor and report on progress
- Review and refresh the Community Plan regularly with the community.

High demand for infrastructure and services and limited revenue means that Council will never be able to achieve desired outcomes on its own. Council must work to ensure other levels of government, business and community organisations contribute to achieving the outcomes of the Plan.
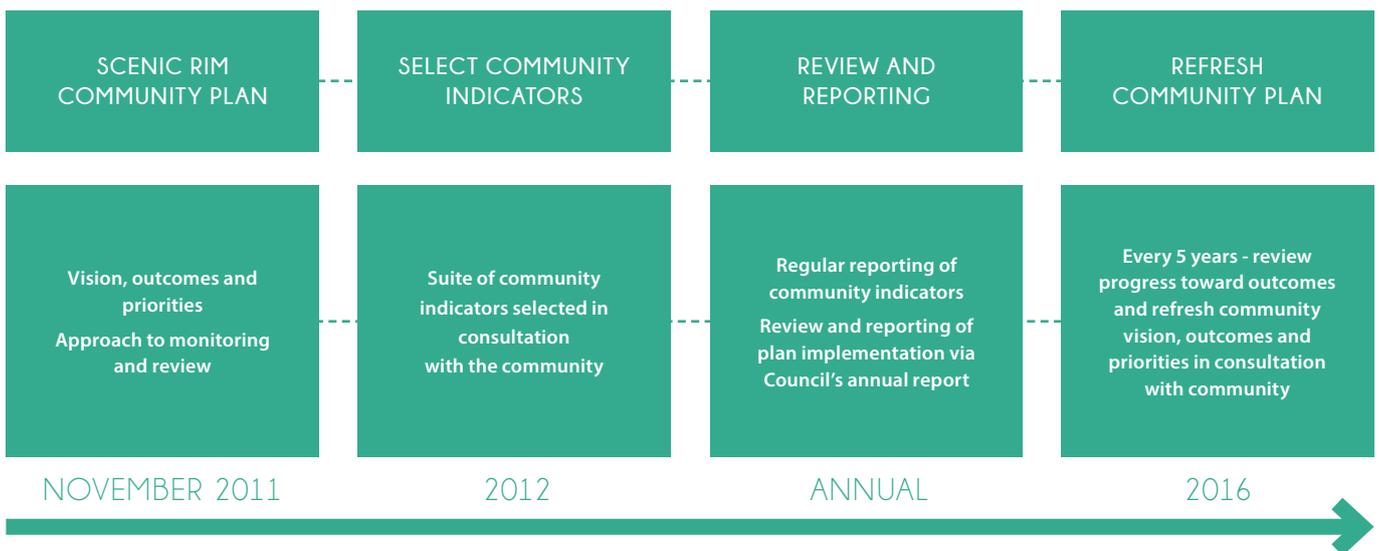
State-wide Context
The Scenic Rim Community Plan is informed by State Government plans and strategies. One of the most important is the SEQ Regional Plan 2009 – 2031. Council planning must be consistent with this plan. Matters considered when developing the Community Plan were:

Monitoring and review framework
(figure 2)

SCENIC RIM COMMUNITY PLAN	SELECT COMMUNITY INDICATORS	REVIEW AND REPORTING	REFRESH COMMUNITY PLAN
Vision, outcomes and priorities Approach to monitoring and review	Suite of community indicators selected in consultation with the community	Regular reporting of community indicators Review and reporting of plan implementation via Council's annual report	Every 5 years - review progress toward outcomes and refresh community vision, outcomes and priorities in consultation with community
NOVEMBER 2011	2012	ANNUAL	2016

- Predicted population and dwelling targets
- Regional land use pattern including urban footprint and regional landscape and rural production areas
- Designated employment nodes (including Bromelton Industrial Estate)
- Desired regional outcomes

Other particularly important State plans include the SEQ Natural Resource Management Plan 2009-2031, SEQ Infrastructure Plan and Program 2010-2031 and Connecting SEQ 2031.

Council expects, and will strongly advocate for, other levels of government to carefully consider and address the Scenic Rim Community Plan when reviewing these existing plans or making decisions that affect our community. The State Government has a particularly important role to play in helping us achieve our vision.

Measuring Progress and Refreshing the Vision
To achieve our vision we need to know if actions are taking us in the right direction.

The first step will be to select meaningful indicators that help measure the outcomes we are seeking. Once these are identified, Council will establish a baseline, regularly monitor progress and report to the community. Council will also report on the community's priorities.

A monitoring framework is outlined in *figure two*. Major reviews of the Community Plan to refresh the vision will be conducted at least every five years in consultation with the community.

THANK YOU

Council thanks the community members who contributed their ideas to this plan. Many individuals, groups and businesses committed time, energy and enthusiasm by providing feedback, completing surveys, attending workshops and writing submissions. Council enjoyed hearing the diverse and often passionate views about the future of our region.

Council also thanks the community members who recognised the importance of this plan and encouraged others to contribute their views. By sharing our views and listening to others we take the first steps towards creating a future we can all enjoy.

Council looks forward to working with you in implementing our plan for the future.

YOUR FEEDBACK IS ALWAYS WELCOME!

Council will review this plan on a regular basis. However, Council appreciates getting feedback at any time.

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