



SOMERSET SOCIAL PLAN

MARCH 2023

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY

I'd like to begin by acknowledging the Traditional Custodians of the country on which we meet. Further, we embrace and promote the Somerset Region's heritage to incorporate all cultures, their beliefs and aspirations.



Somerset Social Plan 2023

Disclaimer

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INTRODUCTION

The Somerset Regional Council Social Plan is a roadmap to improve and sustain social wellbeing, and to ensure the best possible outcome for the region's community.

To make sure it advances towards a future that is relevant to the Somerset communities, the Social Plan has been developed with and for the Somerset communities. There has been a high level of engagement with community leaders, residents, and service providers who each provided valuable inputs to ensure that the Social Plan responds to local needs. The Social Plan promotes an ordered and systematic approach to enhance social wellbeing and quality of life through a range of strategies. Some of the strategies are the responsibility of Council and many others will require partnerships with other Governments, non-Government agencies and residents to make them work.

The Social Plan aspires to:

- > guide continued improvement in the quality of life, health, and wellbeing for everyone in the Somerset community;
- > build a consensus and commitment and help guide future decision-making and investment in the Somerset; and
- > provide an evidence-based platform for Council, community, Governments, and non-Government agencies to advocate for additional resources to meet the needs of the Somerset community.



Background Research

Review of strategic documents
Audit of facilities and services
Demographic profile including population projections and social trends



Community Consultation

Community survey
Pop-up events
Focus groups and one-on-one interviews
Service provider questionnaire
Councillor workshops



Draft Social Plan

Combines background research and community consultation findings and outcomes relevant for the Social Plan
Public Comment on Draft
Feedback sought from the community and key stakeholders



Final Social Plan

Finalisation of the Social Plan based on feedback

How was the Social Plan developed?

The Plan is derived from several different sources of evidence. The evidence that underpins the plan is a balance of demographic data including population projections, a review of strategic policy and planning frameworks and community and service provider insights through consultations that identified current and emerging social needs and potential solutions for the Somerset region.

Relationship to existing council strategic direction

The Social Plan is one of a suite of strategic documents that inform and guide the operations of the Somerset Regional Council to achieve the Council vision which is that:

The Somerset region, with its unique identity and proud heritage, is vibrant, cohesive, and connected, providing the foundations for a prosperous rural lifestyle.

Diagram 1 shows how the Social Plan fits with the other Council plans and strategies.



Diagram 1: Planning Framework for Somerset Social Plan



ROLE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN SUPPORTING LIVEABLE COMMUNITIES



The role of council in building a liveable community

Council is the level of government closest to our community and therefore plays an important role in championing and supporting connected and liveable communities. Council's core responsibility is to provide essential services and increasingly, undertake a wide range of community planning and development activities to respond to community needs and expectations. Overtime, as the role of Council continues to evolve, collaborative 'whole-of-community' partnerships that connect and build the communities capacity to respond to local issues and finding solutions will become increasingly important.

Caption: Location Information

Level of Government

Responsibility

Government Revenue/
Public Funding (LGAQ)

Federal

General taxation and economic matters
National security (defence)
Communications (postal, telecommunications, broadcasting)
Welfare and social services
Provides funding to both state and local government

80%

State

Education (Primary and Secondary School)
Health (Hospitals, Community Health Centres)
Emergency & Safety (police, ambulance, fire, prisons)
Conservation and environment
Roads, railways and public transport
Disaster Recovery
Public works and affordable/social housing
Community services
Sport and recreation
Consumer affairs
Strategic planning guided by State Planning Policy and Regional Plans

16%

Local

Local roads and infrastructure
Parks maintenance and pools
Water and sewerage
Waste collection
Animal management (e.g. pet registration)
Urban planning (local planning schemes), building services and protection of heritage buildings or vegetation
Local laws for advertising signage, food businesses, large community events and other matters
Disaster Management
Parking management
Community facilities such as meeting halls, libraries and malls management
Complaints about neighbours

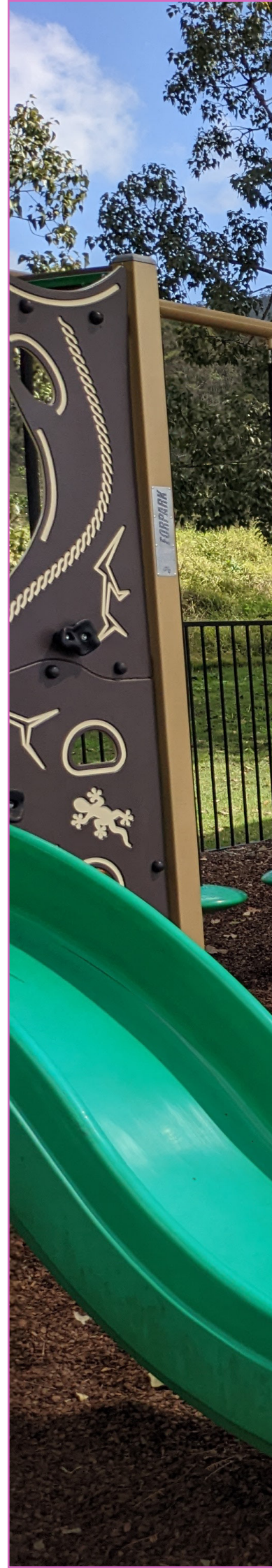
3%

What does council already do?

Somerset Regional Council already contributes and makes investment into the social wellbeing of the community through the following:

Roles	What Council does
Plan for the community	We work with the community to ensure community needs are anticipated and met, now and in the future. <i>Example: Preparation of the Social Plan</i>
Deliver and manage infrastructure and some key services	We develop and manage both natural (parks and green space) and built assets and infrastructure (roads, waste, community facilities, sport and recreation), and the delivery of effective services (library, community development) in accordance with the Local Government Act 2009 (Qld). <i>Example: Local swimming pools and libraries</i>
Support and facilitate the delivery of programs/activities	We support and facilitate services and activities that promote health and wellbeing in the community by bringing people together. This, together with a strong economy and environment, supports our vibrant community. <i>Example: Council provides Community Wellness Hubs as locations for visiting service providers to meet with and support community members</i>
Advocate for the needs of our community	We advocate on behalf of the community regarding state and federal issues (i.e. health, housing, transport, education, disaster recovery). <i>Example: Advocating to the Primary Health Networks for better mental health and services for young people</i>
Partner strategically	We form partnerships and work together with our community and key stakeholders on various projects/events to achieve liveable communities and suitable outcomes <i>Example: Mad Hatter's Tea Party and Teddy Bears Picnics</i>
Provide customer support and information	We provide a range of information and services to help people in the community to connect and stay informed. <i>Example: Councils customer services officers</i>

The Social Plan identifies strategies and opportunities that fall within the scope of these roles.





OUR PEOPLE & COMMUNITIES

History of Somerset

Prior to the first European settlement in 1841, the area was occupied by the Kabi Kabi, Dungibara, Jagera, Yuggera Ugarapul, and Jinibara Aboriginal people. Post-European settlement, the Somerset region has a long history of agriculture, pastoralism, and timber production; with agriculture being concentrated on the fertile soils of the floodplains and timber production both on private land and in state forests. Beef cattle replaced sheep in the 1850s as the dominant rural industry. Dairying was also a major industry of the region, supporting condensed milk factories including a large factory at Toogoolawah (Source: Kerr 1988).

The Somerset Regional Council was formed on 15 March 2008 following an amalgamation of the Councils of Esk Shire and Kilcoy Shire. The Somerset local government area (LGA) is an hour west of Brisbane and neighbouring LGA's include Lockyer Valley, Ipswich City, Brisbane City, Moreton Bay, Sunshine Coast, Gympie, South Burnett and Toowoomba. Somerset Regional Council covers the largest land area of all south east Queensland Councils.

Our Significant Townships/ Communities

Across the Somerset region the established townships are socially, culturally, and geographically diverse. These factors all influence how communities connect with each other and contributes to the collective identity of the Somerset region. The region's five main townships include Esk, Kilcoy, Fernvale, Lowood and Toogoolawah, which are hubs for a diversity of communities dispersed throughout the region. The five towns remain the centres for delivery of services including shopping, education and community services, for the population of the region. The region's smaller villages also play important roles in the social and economic lives of the region's residents.



GYMPIE
REGIONAL
COUNCIL

NOOSA
SHIRE
COUNCIL

SOUTH
BURNETT
REGIONAL
COUNCIL

SUNSHINE
COAST
REGIONAL
COUNCIL

SOMERSET

REGIONAL

COUNCIL

Diagonal Highway

Kilcoy

Lake Somerset

Toogoolawah

Somerset Dam

Esk

Bassendean Valley Highway

Lake Wivenhoe

Lowood

Fernvale

MORETON
BAY
REGIONAL
COUNCIL

Caboolture

TOOWOOMBA
REGIONAL
COUNCIL

BRISBANE
CITY
COUNCIL

Brisbane

LOCKYER
VALLEY
REGIONAL
COUNCIL

Warrego Highway

Ipswich

IPSWICH
CITY
COUNCIL

SCENIC
RIM
REGIONAL
COUNCIL

LOGAN
CITY
COUNCIL



Esk

Population - 1,230 Median Age - 59
First Nations - 3.3% Born Overseas 18.5%

Esk is best known for its stunning backdrop of Mount Glen Rock. It is located 100 km north-west of Brisbane and 63 km north of Ipswich. Lake Wivenhoe lies to the east of Esk. Pipeliner Park and the town is a welcome stop for people using the Brisbane Valley Bike Trail due to the number of popular café and restaurants.



Fernvale

Population - 3,193 Median Age - 34
First Nations - 6.5% Born Overseas 12.6%

Fernvale is located 35 km west of central Brisbane and 20 km north-west of Ipswich. Situated in the south-east of the Brisbane Valley, Fernvale is a rapidly developing rural township. The town acts as a centre for the adjacent areas of Fairney View, Vernor and Wivenhoe Pocket.



Kilcoy

Population - 2,351 Median Age - 37
First Nations - 3.1% Born Overseas 31.8%

Kilcoy is a rural town which services the surrounding district and is known for its beef cattle. The township is located along the D'Aguiar Highway, 94 kilometres north west or an hour from the Brisbane CBD and to the north of Lake Somerset. The town is best known for the Yowie and pays homage to the Yowie legend at Yowie Park with a statue located near the Visitor Information Centre.

Lowood

Population - 3,873

Median Age - 39

First Nations - 6.9%

Born Overseas 10.6%

Lowood originated as a railway town and many of the original buildings have been repurposed and still stand today. Lowood is a rural town located 40 km west of Brisbane and 25 km north-west of Ipswich. Proximity to Ipswich and the subsequent subdivision of dairy farms for rural/residential living has seen population growth in the township over the last few years. The railway line was closed in 1993.



Toogoolawah

Population - 957

Median Age - 59

First Nations - 4.8%

Born Overseas 10%

Toogoolawah is a rural town in the Brisbane Valley situated about 75km northwest of Brisbane in the Brisbane Valley. The nearest more populous town is Kilcoy which is 25km away. Toogoolawah is popular for gliding and parachuting and is home to the Condensery, Somerset's regional art gallery and salesyards.



Somerset Community Profile

The Social Plan considers the socio demographic data (based on ABS Census 2021) and health and wellbeing indicators (Social Health Atlas, PHIDU 2021) for the Somerset region. The below is a summary of selected data for the Somerset community. Detailed information for individual townships as well as comparison between similar LGAs for selected indicators can be found at Appendix B.

Community Health & Wellbeing

Disadvantage & Volunteering

	Somerset	QLD
SEIFA	929	997
Volunteer	14.6%	14.1%

Disability

	Somerset	QLD
Needs assistance due to disability	8.3%	6.0%
Disability support pensioners	9.2%	4.9%
National Disability Insurance Scheme participants	2.5%	2.1%

AEDI - Developmentally Vulnerable Children

	Somerset	QLD
Vulnerable on one or more domain 2021	28.9%	24.7%
Vulnerable on two or more domain 2021	16.3%	13.2%

Youth Health

	Somerset	QLD
People aged 0 to 14 years who reported they had one or more long-term health conditions	12.7%	9.0%
People aged 0 to 14 years who reported they had a mental health condition	4.0%	2.7%

Homelessness

	Somerset	QLD
no. of people homeless (2016)	97	21,715
People on the State Government Social Housing Reegister as of June 2022	15	45,958

Top 3 Long Term Health Conditions

	Somerset	QLD
Mental Health	12.0%	9.6%
Arthritis	8.8%	8.8%
Asthma	8.5%	8.5%

Mortality

	Somerset	QLD
Median age at death of persons 2016 to 2020	76	80
Deaths from suicide and selfinflicted injuries, 0 to 74 years	2.8 per 10,000	1.5 per 10,000
Youth mortality: Deaths of persons aged 15 to 24 years	6.7 per 10,000	4.2 per 10,000

Medical Professionals

	Somerset	QLD
General Medical Practitioners	8.4 per 10,000	12.9 per 10,000
Nurses	44.5 per 10,000	142.8 per 10,000
Dentist	2.3 per 10,000	8.7 per 10,000

Receiving Government Benefits

	Somerset	QLD
People receiving an unemployment benefit	10.1%	7.7%
Young people aged 16 to 21 receiving an unemployment benefit	9.8%	7.4%
Low income, welfaredependent families (with children)	7.5%	5.7%

Who we are

Population

	Somerset	QLD
Population 2021	25,057	5.1M
Population 2041	39,017	
Median Age	45	38

Diversity

	Somerset	QLD
First Nations	4.7%	4.6%
Born Overseas	13.5%	22.7%
Households where a non-English language is used	6.1%	15.6%

Family Composition

	Somerset	QLD
Couples without children	45.5%	40.3%
Couples with children	37.0%	41.2%
One parent family	16.3%	16.8%

Households

	Somerset	QLD
Family households	73.8%	71.0%
Lone person households	23.0%	24.7%
Average household size	2.6	2.5

Our Economy

Income

	Somerset	QLD
Low income households (Less than \$650 gross weekly income)	20.3%	16.4%
High income households (More than \$3000 gross weekly income)	13.4%	21.9%
Median weekly household Income (\$/weekly)	\$1,312	\$1,675

Employment

	Somerset	QLD
Unemployment rate	5.3%	5.4%
Learning or earning at ages 15 to 24	78.9%	83.7%

Method of Travel to Work

	Somerset	QLD
People who travelled to work by public transport	1.1%	4.1%
People who travelled to work by car as driver or passenger	69.1%	65.4%

Motor Vehicle

	Somerset	QLD
Households without a car	2.4%	5.7%
Households with one or more cars	28.3%	35.5%
Households with two or more cars	37.8%	37.5%

How we live

Renters

	Somerset	QLD
Rented	20.7%	33.1%
Renting CHP & State Housing Authority	2.1%	9.9%
No. of Social Housing	39	61,277
Median rental payments (weekly)	\$300	\$365
Households receiving rent assistance from the Australian Government	26.5%	26.3%
Households in rental Stress	34.9%	32.3%

Homeowners & Mortgage Holders

	Somerset	QLD
Homeowners	38.2%	29.1%
Mortgage holders	36.8%	34.4%
Median mortgage payments (monthly)	\$1,500	\$1,733
Households in mortgage stress	13.7%	11.9%

A Snapshot of our Social Assets & Spaces

The Somerset is rich in social assets that act as connectors and attractors for our community. Social assets such as libraries and schools can provide focal points for community activity and places for people to meet and connect. Likewise, social assets can act as an attractor which encourages people to live in or visit a particular area. Refer to Appendix A for full list of social assets.

Early Childhood & Education

- 11 Early Learning Centres
- 16 Primary Schools
- 3 Secondary Schools
- 4 Other Learning Centres

Health

- 2 Hospitals
- 12 Medical Centres
- 4 Doctors
- 7 Dentists
- 3 Mental Health Services
- 3 Aged Care
- 3 Community Wellness Hubs

Safety & Emergency

- 5 Police Stations
- 3 Ambulance
- 13 Rural Fire Services
- 4 SES Groups

Community spaces

- 23 Halls and Centres
- 4 Libraries
- 9 Art Gallery/ Space
- 5 Museums/ Historical Groups
- 1 Civic Centre

Sport and Recreation

- 3 Swimming Pools
- 3 Sports Centres
- 8 Showgrounds/ Recreation Grounds/ Sports Parks



LISTENING TO OUR COMMUNITY

At the outset, the Social Plan was developed with openness and a curiosity about the experiences and perspectives of residents and service providers who work for community wellbeing for the Somerset region.



The engagement process included a blend of traditional in-person and contemporary online engagement activities that captured input from community members and stakeholders. These activities allowed broad engagement across the Council area while also being responsive to local needs. During the engagement we received community and stakeholder feedback and ideas from a total of 366 people.

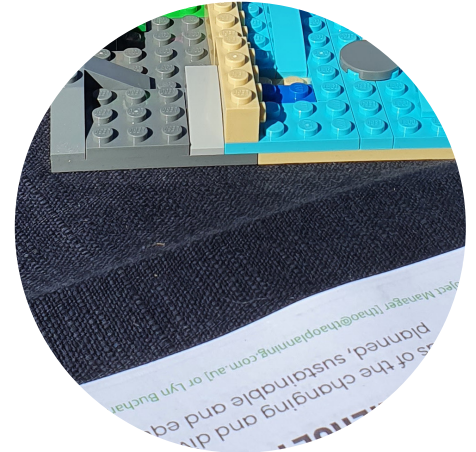


174 community survey responses
124 community members who engaged with the project team at pop-ups

30 stakeholders who attended focus groups or one-on-one interviews with the project team

23 service provider questionnaire responses

15 attendees at the Councillor workshop



As part of the process for developing the Social Plan, we listened to what the community told us about the strengths of the region, issues and challenges for Somerset as well as opportunities and potential solutions. A Consultation Summary Report can be found at Appendix C. The detailed Consultation Report is also available and provides the full details of the consultation activities and should be read in conjunction with the Social Plan.

The feedback from the community has been used to inform the preparation of the Social Plan.



Who we heard from

Survey responses were received from the following groups:

Gender

Woman	78.36 %	105
Man	17.16%	23

Age

Under 18	0%	0
18-24	1.49%	2
25-34	6.72%	9
35-44	17.91%	24
55-64	26.87%	36
65+	31.34%	42

Person with a disability

Yes	23.13%	31
No	70.15%	94

Length of time in the community

Less than one year	10.46%	16
1-5 years	23.53	36
5-10 years	15.69%	24
10-20 years	20.26%	31
20-30 years	13.73%	21
30-50 years	9.8%	15
More than 50 years	6.54%	10

First Nations

No	85.82%	115
Yes, Aboriginal	5.22%	7
Yes, Torres Strait Islander	0%	0
Yes, both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander	1.49%	2

Spoke language other than English

Yes	9.7%	13
No	85.82%	115

Township

Lowood	24.14%	42
Kilcoy	22.41%	39
Esk	20.11%	35
Toogoolawah	11.49%	20
Fernvale	9.77%	17
Harlin	2.87%	5
Moore	2.3%	4
Linville	1.72%	3
Somerset Dam	1.72%	3
Coominya	1.72%	3
Minden	1.15%	2
Glamorgan Vale	0.57	1

OUR SOCIAL PLAN



A Vision for the Social Plan

From the consultation, it was clear that our community values the country feel and rural lifestyle of the Somerset. The vision for the social plan is captured in the following statements:

The Social Plan will enforce the Somerset region as a safe, friendly, diverse and connected community that is accessible to all. Through the Social Plan we will maintain the peaceful rural character while ensuring community wellbeing and a sustainable future for all who choose the region as home.

To achieve the vision, we have identified a number of strategies around eight themes.



The strategic opportunities and challenges facing our community over the next 20 years is reflected in 8 key themes:

- > Theme 1 – Community Identity & Social Cohesion
- > Theme 2 – Community Health & Wellbeing
- > Theme 3 – Transport & Mobility
- > Theme 4 – Diverse & Inclusive Communities
- > Theme 5 – Aging in Place
- > Theme 6 – Supporting Families, Children & Young Adults
- > Theme 7 – Housing Affordability & Availability
- > Theme 8 – Community Resilience & Recovery

Key themes

Opportunities and challenges have been derived from the available data, research and consultations undertaken for the development of the Social Plan. The Social Plan outlines strategies to address these challenges and leverage opportunities over the next decade.

Theme 1 – Community Identity & Social Cohesion

Objective

Our liveability is improved through our ongoing support for our community to organise and work to enhance social cohesion

Why is it important for Somerset

A sense of community creates a shared faith that everyone is committed to creating a better Somerset. It creates a sense of belonging, identity and trust while fulfilling the needs of the community in terms of a support network, conversation, and inspiration. It creates positive experiences with others to promote residents to feel involved and live in the town longer. Social cohesion plays an important role in building community resilience and can take many forms. Feeling a sense of belonging is fundamental to social cohesion. In turn, feelings of belonging can foster volunteering and community involvement. Volunteering can take different forms such as the local parent who organises a local playgroup, a police officer who coaches the local football club or volunteers who come together each year to organise an event like a community Christmas party.

The number of volunteers in the community is a measure of community engagement and social connectedness. Community involvement keeps local towns functioning by connecting people and creating a sense of ownership and identity in the local area. Greater levels of community involvement will bring greater levels of community investment both socially and fiscally promoting the sense of community and creating an environment the community can be proud of. A socially sustainable community is one with many connections and a high level of volunteering. Across the Somerset there are high rates of people who volunteer in the community. The communities with the highest rates of volunteering are Esk (19.9%), Toogoolawah (19.8%) and Linville (18.0%), which are significantly higher when compared to the Somerset region as a whole (14.6%) and the State (14.1%). Although the Somerset has high rates of volunteering in specific towns, it appears that the overall level of volunteering has declined over time (decrease of 4.7% over the last 5 years). The loss of volunteering affects emergency services and disaster responses, community groups such as Lions, neighbourhood watch, and sports organisations that help run events and raise funds for the community. From a community point of view, social activities and the cohesion that takes place by community coming together is lost or significantly reduced without volunteers, this in turn has implications for the liveability and wellbeing of a community.



What our community said

“Decline in volunteer participation has definitely been a trend which has impacted our service”

“Like other areas of Australia, Somerset has a declining number of volunteers and some organisations report difficulty in recruiting new volunteers. There were volunteer restrictions during and after the Covid lockdowns that influenced the rate of volunteering and some volunteers have not returned to their volunteer roles. The ageing of the volunteer base is a challenge”.

What's already happening

- > The Club toolkit link on the Council's website has information to support volunteers.
- > Free use of Council facilities for not for profit organisations.
- > Recognition and rewards for Somerset's outstanding volunteers.

Examples from other places

- > Western Downs Regional Council rewards and promotes volunteering through a volunteer portal promoting volunteer opportunities across the region and reimbursement of the costs for community-management committees using Council facilities and annual community-nominated volunteer awards ceremony.

Our strategies for improving community identity and social cohesion

STRATEGIES OR OPPORTUNITIES	ACTIONS
CS1 Promoting the Somerset regional identity through signage and visual cues that reflects the lifestyle, culture and natural environment that make it an attractive place to live and work	CS1.1 Continue to undertake, monitor and maintain beautification works in all towns CS1.2 Raise the Somerset profile as a desirable destination to live and work through curated local stories such as video blogs and other engaging story-telling with resident professionals
CS2 Support local businesses and community to create welcoming places	CS2.1 Support local traders and businesses through the chambers of commerce and regular networking opportunities CS2.2 Create gathering places around retail precincts as part of any redevelopment for residents and to attract shoppers throughout the region
CS3 Encourage, promote and provide opportunities and appreciation for volunteerism	CS3.1 Continue to support community organisations that provide services in the region through interagency meetings CS3.2 Facilitate volunteering through website page where people can choose volunteer activities that suit them and help achieve personal goals and where groups can list their request CS3.3 Implement a volunteer incentive program for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professional development courses • Mentoring to learn a skill • Discount at local business • Social/networking events and awards
CS4 Create awareness of community development initiatives, activities, services, programs	CS4.1 Develop a Marketing and Promotional strategy for community development including but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dedicated link on Councils website • Regular e-newsletter • Up-to-date monthly community events calendar CS4.2 As part of the marketing strategy advertise Council facilities, services and activities to improve utilisation and participation

COUNCIL'S ROLES	TIMEFRAMES <i>Ongoing</i> <i>Short - 1-3 years</i> <i>Medium - 3 - 5 years</i> <i>Long 5 + years</i>	KEY PARTNERS	LINKS TO RELEVANT COUNCIL STRATEGIES/ PLANS/ACTIVITIES
» <i>Provide</i> ----- » <i>Facilitate</i> -----	» <i>Short</i> ----- » <i>Short</i> -----	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chambers of Commerce • Business • Community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic Development Strategy • Cultural Strategy
» <i>Support & Facilitate</i> ----- » <i>Provide (subject to funding)</i> -----	» <i>Ongoing</i> ----- » <i>Medium</i> -----	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chambers of Commerce • Business • Community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic Development Strategy • Cultural Strategy
» <i>Support & Facilitate</i> ----- » <i>Provide</i> ----- » <i>Facilitate</i> -----	» <i>Ongoing</i> ----- » <i>Short</i> ----- » <i>Short</i> -----	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community • Businesses 	-
» <i>Provide</i> ----- » <i>Provide</i> -----	» <i>Short</i> ----- » <i>Short</i> -----	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community • Businesses 	-

Theme 2 – Community Health & Wellbeing

Objectives

Our liveability is improved through the continued investment in health and wellbeing services and programs that are accessible and affordable

Why is it important for Somerset

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO) the circumstances in which people are born, grow, live, work and age, including the health system, greatly affect their health status and outcomes. An examination of socio-economic factors shows that there is a social gradient of health in which those with a lower-socio-economic status also have greater health problems. Across the Somerset there are signs of socio-economic disadvantage and vulnerability. Consequently, this has led to poor health and wellbeing outcomes for some in the community. The following are factors that contribute to poor health and wellbeing:

- > The median household income in the Somerset region (\$1,312) is well below the Queensland average (\$1,675).
- > There are more low-income households who earn less than \$650 a week in the Somerset (20.3%) than in Queensland (16.4%).
- > There is a higher proportion of low income, welfare dependent families (7.5%) living in Somerset when compared to Queensland (5.7%).
- > A higher proportion of households in the Somerset (13.7%) compared to Queensland (11.9%) are in mortgage stress.
- > There is a higher proportion of people on unemployment benefits when compared to the State.
- > The proportion of young people aged 15 to 24 either learning or earning is well below the State average with more young people aged 16 to 21 receiving an unemployment benefit when compared to the State.
- > There are more developmentally vulnerable children in the Somerset when compared to Queensland.
- > Mental health is the number one long term health condition in the Somerset region where 12% of the population reported having a mental health condition, which is a lot higher than the State (9.6%).
- > There is a much higher proportion of people with a disability in the Somerset (8.3%) than the State (6.0%).
- > The proportion of children aged 0 to 14 years who reported that they have a mental health condition (including depression and anxiety) in Somerset (4.0%) is higher than the proportion for Queensland (2.7%).
- > The Somerset region has a much lower rate of medical practitioners, nurses and dentist than the rest of Queensland.
- > The median age of death in the Somerset is 76 years of age compared to 80 years of age for State.

Welcome to the SOMERSET REGION

Somerset
REGIONAL COUNCIL

RU OK?
A conversation
Could change a life
10 September 2020

What our community said

The community is grateful for the health and wellbeing hubs though, they identify that more promotion and a greater range of services is needed to optimise these as sites for local service provision.

The health and wellbeing Hubs in the Somerset are places for visiting service providers to meet with resident/clients.

What is already happening?

- > A rural collaborative group has been established to support older Somerset residents.
- > Working with local police to better inform the most vulnerable and provide them with information and information packs.
- > Developing a dementia support group at a Wellness Hub to help connect patients and their carers to be less isolated.
- > Establishment of a community-led in-home aged care service to support seniors in their homes.
- > Morning teas at the Wellness Hubs that are open to anyone, as a meet and greet.
- > Library has some programs and there is an opportunity to expand those to health topics with visiting experts who could also visit the Hubs.
- > Council is an auspice for the State funded community development officer. The recent expansion of funding in that program will be used to further support Council's youth and community development functions.

Examples from other places

- > The North Burnett Regional Council Advocacy Action Plan is a 4-year prospectus that sets out Council's priorities, funding needs and partnership opportunities. The Advocacy Plan is a call to partners to work with Council to address that community's priorities in transport, aged care, First Nations tourism, water reliability, and mobile coverage. North Burnett Regional Council – Advocacy Action Plan.

Our strategies for improving health and wellbeing

STRATEGIES OR OPPORTUNITIES	ACTIONS
<p>HW 1. Promote community service navigation (both council and other) through existing and new council facilities</p>	<p>HW 1.1 Complete a network of hubs by building the Toogoolawah Gateway</p> <p>HW 1.2 Consolidate existing and expanded services in Lowood into a new purpose-built community hub</p> <p>HW 1.3 Prepare a masterplan for establishing a community hub and neighbourhood centre in Esk e.g. for Councils sites in Esk</p> <p>HW 1.4 Activate the Kilcoy Wellness Hub with diverse activities that respond to community need e.g. playgroup, food bank, others</p> <p>HW 1.5 Explore opportunities for using space in the Fernvale Visitor Information Centre as a community hub</p> <p>HW 1.6 Promote the spaces within council facilities as Community Wellness Hubs for outreach services in the Somerset region</p>
<p>HW 2. Implement strategies to attract and retain more health professionals to service the growing population</p>	<p>HW 2.1 Work with schools to facilitate workshops and forums on health-related career paths for young people to encourage them to study and stay local</p> <p>HW 2.2 Schools to work with existing health providers (e.g. GPs, Hospital, Dentist) for student placement experience</p> <p>HW 2.3 Schools to work with Universities to promote undergraduate studies/pathways for health professionals and look at opportunities to provide scholarships for students in rural communities</p> <p>HW 2.4 As part of CS1 – Promoting the Somerset – prepare a Somerset wide marketing campaign around the attractiveness of rural communities and lifestyles for health professionals</p> <p>HW 2.5 Explore opportunities to work with relevant federal and state government authorities to have rural health workforce initiatives and programs in our region</p>
<p>HW 3. Advocate for and encourage local programs and services to prevent mental illness and social isolation</p>	<p>HW 3.1 Work with service providers to implement community visitor scheme, community-based social and leisure activity</p>
<p>HW 4. Promote health and wellbeing through sporting and recreation activities</p>	<p>HW 4.1 Continue to develop Sport and Recreation infrastructures on a community needs basis</p> <p>HW 4.2 Work with Sport and Recreation Clubs to improve capacity and capability</p> <p>HW 4.3 Promote community engagement activities amongst Council facility lessees</p>

COUNCIL'S ROLES	TIMEFRAMES <i>Ongoing</i> <i>Short - 1-3 years</i> <i>Medium - 3 - 5 years</i> <i>Long 5 + years</i>	KEY PARTNERS	LINKS TO RELEVANT COUNCIL STRATEGIES/ PLANS/ ACTIVITIES
» <i>Provide (subject to funding)</i> » <i>Provide (subject to funding)</i> » <i>Provide (subject to funding)</i> » <i>Provide</i> » <i>Provide</i> » <i>Support & Facilitate</i>	» <i>Short</i> » <i>Short</i> » <i>Medium</i> » <i>Short</i> » <i>Medium</i> » <i>Ongoing</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service Providers • State Agencies • Community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lowood Futures
» <i>Support & Facilitate</i> » <i>Support & Facilitate</i> » <i>Support & Facilitate</i> » <i>Facilitate</i> » <i>Support & Facilitate</i>	» <i>Ongoing</i> » <i>Short</i> » <i>Ongoing</i> » <i>Short</i> » <i>Ongoing</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary Health Networks • Service Providers • State Agencies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tourism Strategy
» <i>Support & Facilitate</i>	» <i>Ongoing</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary Health Networks • Service Providers • Surrounding LGA • Community organisations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Library programs • Community development
» <i>Provide (subject to funding)</i> » <i>Provide</i> » <i>Provide</i>	» <i>Ongoing</i> » <i>Ongoing</i> » <i>Ongoing</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community 	-

Theme 3 – Transport & Mobility

Objectives

Our liveability is improved through our connected communities (internally and externally) and travel options that are safe, efficient, affordable and accessible

Why is it important for Somerset

Being able to get around is fundamental to a good quality of life. In the Somerset region, there are limited public transport services and the existing services are generally designed for residents who commute from the south to Ipswich or from the north to Caboolture for work. Those residents who live in the centre of the Council area or who are at a distance from the main road corridors must get to the bus stops on-route to access the major centres by public transport. Outside of these few commuter services, there is no public transport within the Council area (for example from Toogoolawah to Kilcoy) for movement within the region. Those who do not have access to a car or a licence and who need to travel outside of these hours are reliant on others for lifts or simply cannot access services, particularly education, medical services and part-time employment. As well connecting to the larger centres for employment and higher order services, local movement and mobility is also important. Quality pathways (wide, shared and accessible) can connect residents from their homes to their towns and also allow ease of movement within the town.

Limited public transport access in rural communities like the Somerset leads to social isolation and disadvantage; however provision of public transport to these areas is made difficult by low population densities and high infrastructure and service costs. It is noted that the lack of transport is an ongoing challenge for the region and has been an ongoing issue for many years.

What our community said

“Ipswich Community Youth Service (ICYS) identifies transport availability as a major issue for young Somerset residents that constrains their access to essential services. In an unusual step, the ICYS provides what they call an ‘ICYS Uber Service’. This means that the young Somerset residents who participate in ICYS programs are provided with the transport needed to access services they would otherwise not be able to access. These young people are some of the most vulnerable residents in Somerset and without ICYS providing the transport, they have no way of getting to the supports they need. Those supports include: attending the transport department to get a licence, transport to schools, access to inpatient facilities in Brisbane, training in Ipswich and other services. ICYS say that they see a need in Somerset to ‘build people’s capacity to move around’ through improved public transport and having transport services built into funding agreements as transport is essential for Somerset residents to get to the services needed for a good quality of life.”

“Service providers are at capacity. Often community members are forced to assist with transport, many of whom are elderly and at risk themselves”.

“Constant requests coming through to council from older persons about how to get to medical appointments, when the limited-service providers for community transport are frequently at capacity. Reports by Lowood High that students are unable to easily attend appointments in Ipswich due to limited transport options and parents unable or not willing to assist. This also impacts shorter trips, eg a person who needs to get to an appointment in Lowood when they live in Coominya and have lost their driver’s license e.g. to attend an AODs appointment.”

What is already happening?

- > Working with hospital and health services to offer more services locally or via telehealth to reduce the need to travel.
- > Working with Mable regarding a locally led community support service for older people. Using Mabel and Trilogy Aged Care the service is locally based and can provide transport, home maintenance and other services supported through My Aged Care packages. This will address transport for that older cohort.
- > PCYC Breaking the Cycle Program to assist young drivers obtain their license.
- > Council undertakes maintenance and enhancements to paths for walkers, cyclists and others in the towns.

Our strategies for improving transport and mobility

STRATEGIES OR OPPORTUNITIES	ACTIONS
<p>TM 1. Enhance the public and community transport services from Kilcoy to Caboolture and Toogoolawah to Ipswich (through Esk, Lowood, Fernvale) for a more frequent and reliable connection to major centres.</p>	<p>TM 1.1 Advocate for an additional daily service to and from Toogoolawah, passing through Lowood/Fernvale and an additional daily service to and from Kilcoy to Caboolture</p> <p>TM 1.2 Encourage transport services such as driver support program</p> <p>TM 1.3 Advocate with Queensland Transport to subsidise ride share service</p>
<p>TM 2. Ensure our towns are easy to get around and well connected through integrated mobility that allows access for all in the community</p>	<p>TM 2.1 Review the availability and position of cross-overs and disability car parks at key locations (e.g. to local shops and services), install shared pathways for e-scooters and bikes, pedestrians, and mobility scooters, develop quality pathways to connect residential and relevant employment areas to town centres</p> <p>TM 2.2 Provide and maintain roads, bridges and other road infrastructure to allow safe and easy movement around our towns including community education</p> <p>TM 2.3 Plan and build direct walking and cycling pathways (walking and cycling) as a means for people to easily connect to places and to encourage active transport e.g. refer to Council principle walk/cycle network</p>

Examples from other places

- > The Beaudesert RSL Subbranch established a Community Service (for veterans and general community) for transporting 'non-urgent' patients to medical appointments as requested by the Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS). Volunteer drivers organise the time of pickup and return home with the client. The service continued during the Covid-19 crisis. Transport Section - Beaudesert RSL Sub Branch.
- > North Burnett Regional Council, under contract with the Queensland Government (Translink), provides the North Burnett Transport Service in the region. The service provides affordable transport options to assist residents and visitors wishing to travel to larger regions such as Bundaberg and Maryborough, with stops at Base Hospitals, train stations, transit centre and local shopping centres. The return service caters to tourists wishing to travel to the region. North Burnett Regional Council - North Burnett Transport Service.
- > Safe Driver program – Lowood's Bendigo Bank contributed \$25 per student – the student contributed as well. The program rang for 2 years before COVID.

COUNCIL'S ROLES	TIMEFRAMES <i>Ongoing</i> <i>Short - 1-3 years</i> <i>Medium - 3 - 5 years</i> <i>Long 5 + years</i>	KEY PARTNERS	LINKS TO RELEVANT COUNCIL STRATEGIES/ PLANS/ACTIVITIES
» <i>Advocate</i> » <i>Advocate</i> » <i>Advocate</i>	» <i>Ongoing</i> » <i>Ongoing</i> » <i>Ongoing</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Qld Transport • Non-Government service providers • Taxi • Contractors 	-
» <i>Provide</i> » <i>Provide</i> » <i>Provide (subject to funding)</i>	» <i>Short to Medium</i> » <i>Ongoing</i> » <i>Ongoing</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Qld Transport 	-

Theme 4 – Diverse & Inclusive Communities

Objectives

Our liveability is improved through our inclusiveness and collective identity through the acceptance and sharing of our various cultural background traditions, sexuality, age, gender and ability

Why is it important for Somerset

An inclusive community is one that celebrates and promotes its diversity. The proportion of the population born overseas in 2021 accounted for 13.5% of the Somerset population and the township with the highest numbers is Kilcoy (31.8%). Around 6% of the Somerset community speak another language at home (as well as English) and in Kilcoy, about 23.4% of the population speak a language other than English. The multicultural community in Kilcoy is predominantly people from the Philippines (21.9%) and many of those are employed at Kilcoy Global Foods. Approximately 4.7% of the Somerset population identified as First Nations (Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander). When compared across the townships, most First Nations people (as a proportion of the population) are living in Coominya (9.6%), Lowood (6.9%) and Fernvale (6.5%).

The increasing cultural diversity within the region indicates the need for culturally-inclusive and responsive services. Moreover, considerations should be given to the potential need for culturally appropriate and multi-purpose community facilities and spaces that can accommodate certain ceremonial, cultural or social activities and events. There are opportunities to strengthen, support and celebrate the cultural diversity in the Somerset.

What our community said

The limited disability support services have resulted in families moving away from the area to improve the life chances of their children living with disability.

The libraries are important places for people from diverse backgrounds who move to the Somerset to connect to their community. In particular, the Kilcoy library provides a safe place for new residents to navigate the services and supports needed to settle into town. The libraries are also important places for connection. The Wednesday craft morning at the Kilcoy library has brought 'mums into the library' and works to include by connecting them to each other and their community.

What is already happening?

- > Story time in the Somerset libraries includes stories of First Nations people.
- > Art in the Heart Welcome to Country ceremony.
- > Engagement with First Nations people in Council's planning.
- > Collaborative projects have been aimed at increasing acceptance amongst primary school aged children and their families through the Kilcoy Cares books and activities.
- > Through the Brisbane North Primary Health Network (BNPHN) have met with Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) workers from the World Wellness Group. Assisting them to connect with key people to facilitate a regular presence at the Kilcoy Hub.
- > Kilcoy Global Foods has a new community liaison position.
- > The community held the Kilcoy Mass Kara Festival, and Council is planning to hold the Kilcoy Multicultural Festival 2023.

Examples from other places

- > Western Downs Regional Council (WDRC) has a Human Rights Policy. That policy states that 'Western Downs Regional Council is committed to protecting and promoting human rights, and to building a culture within Council that respects and promotes human rights and as such will respect, protect and promote human rights in our decision making and actions... Councillors and Council employees are required to act and make decisions in a way that is compatible with human rights'. **ECM_4139145_v1_Human Rights - Council Policy (wdrc.qld.gov.au)**
- > Dementia friendly locations (through the National Dementia-Friendly Communities program) encourage people with dementia and their carers to visit with confidence. Small changes such as to signage can assist people with dementia and their carers to feel safe when visiting the Somerset region.
- > Many Australian Local Governments have Reconciliation Action Plans (RAP) that guide the Council and its communities in acknowledging and promoting First Nations people. Reconciliation Australia provides templates and support for developing RAPs. Queensland Councils that are advancing their Reconciliation Action Plans include Central Highlands, Charters Towers, Logan, Scenic Rim, South Burnett and others and the list is growing. Microsoft Word - **Operational Plan 2021-2022 Quarter Three Progress Report V0.4_CLEAN (scenicrim.qld.gov.au), p. 72**

Our strategies for improving diverse and inclusive communities

STRATEGIES OR OPPORTUNITIES	ACTIONS
<p>DI 1. Encourage a welcoming and inclusive Somerset community by working with businesses and community</p>	<p>DI 1.1 Join the Welcoming Cities network and work towards an 'Established' accreditation</p> <p>DI 1.2 Promote and encourage activities and events that bring the community together and raise awareness of the different cultures in the Somerset</p> <p>DI 1.3 Continue to create opportunities for cultural connectedness by acknowledging cultural days of significance such as NAIDOC Week, Reconciliation Week and Harmony Day</p> <p>DI 1.4 Continue to support local community groups and organisations to run culturally appropriate events and programs through Council's community grants program and the subsidised use of Council facilities</p> <p>DI 1.5 Work with Reconciliation Australia to develop a Reconciliation Action Plan to continue Councils dialogue with First Nation people and formalise Councils role in reconciliation</p> <p>DI 1.6 Continue to network and build relationships with diverse communities</p> <p>DI 1.7 Aspire to all access towns for those living with disability and include facilities such as inclusive playground, mobility paths and activities that support the participation of all ages and abilities</p> <p>DI 1.8 Consult with disability service providers and associations such as Disability Sports Australia to create a Disability Inclusion Action Plan</p> <p>DI 1.9 Provide a range of communication processes to better reach members of the community who speak languages other than English e.g. make key information available in other languages and formats on request</p> <p>DI 1.10 Promote employment services that specialise in connecting older workers with age-friendly jobs</p> <p>DI 1.11 Ensure Council staff, particularly front-line staff, are aware of and trained in trauma-informed principles and practices</p>

COUNCIL'S ROLES	TIMEFRAMES <i>Ongoing</i> <i>Short - 1-3 years</i> <i>Medium - 3 - 5 years</i> <i>Long 5 + years</i>	KEY PARTNERS	LINKS TO RELEVANT COUNCIL STRATEGIES/ PLANS/ACTIVITIES
» <i>Provide</i>	» <i>Short</i>		
» <i>Support & Facilitate</i>	» <i>Ongoing</i>		
» <i>Support & Facilitate</i>	» <i>Ongoing</i>		
» <i>Support & Facilitate</i>	» <i>Ongoing</i>		
» <i>Provide</i>	» <i>Medium</i>		
» <i>Support & Facilitate</i>	» <i>Ongoing</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community • Businesses • Service Providers 	-
» <i>Provide (subject to funding)</i>	» <i>Short to medium</i>		
» <i>Provide</i>	» <i>Short</i>		
» <i>Support & Facilitate</i>	» <i>Ongoing</i>		
» <i>Support & Facilitate</i>	» <i>Short</i>		
» <i>Provide</i>	» <i>Ongoing</i>		

Theme 5 – Ageing in Place

Objective

Our liveability is improved through supporting our ageing population and vulnerable residents to continue to live in the region

Why is it important for Somerset

Across the Somerset region there are signs of an ageing population. The median age across the region is 45 compared to 38 across Queensland. The population that is 80 years and over will double in the next 20 years. Many of these older residents will desire to stay living in the Somerset area, close to family, friends, and familiar places for as long as possible. Although, many of these older residents are at risk of social isolation, especially in the communities of Linville, Moore, Toogoolawah and Esk. Social isolation is one of the biggest challenges for older people and there is a need for support services to assist people with life transitions to offset the consequences of social isolation and associated mental and physical health decline.

The availability of mental health services and facilities is an issue across the whole of Queensland but more so in rural areas like the Somerset. It has been reported that there has been increasing requests by mental health services to connect clients into community groups due to isolation. Compounding this is the lack of public transport, cost of fuel and increased cost of living in Somerset. This will be a concern into the future as increasing lone person households and lack of transport lead to increased social isolation and loneliness. In addressing this issue, adaptability and flexibility are key to any response with a need for greater dialogue to break down the inter-generational barriers. Volunteering is seen to keep older people active as long as possible and to foster peer-to-peer support.

An ageing population has much to offer the Somerset community, though there are also challenges associated with an ageing population such as transport, mobility and the need for more health and in-home and residential support services for these residents and their families to ‘age in place’ for as long as possible. The older population presents many opportunities and challenges including the following:

- > The growing older population will place stress on current community facilities, health services, aged care facilities and other related social services. The increased level of service and provision of a holistic range of facilities required by the older population will enable people to ‘age in place’.
- > Programs and services will be needed for older people, especially those that address issues relating to social isolation.
- > Each new generation of older people are becoming increasingly healthier, active, and productive. Retirement is progressively becoming

What our community said

a more active period of people's lives and retired people are more likely to engage in meaningful pursuits, such as volunteering once they leave the workforce. They are also more active community members and are more likely to be part of clubs and attend musical concerts, art galleries and theatres and read and visit libraries more often than young people.

- > Retirement presents opportunities for people to take a greater interest and devote more time to practice recreational and leisure pursuits. This has implications for the planning of community, cultural, and sport and recreation facilities as demand and usage of these facilities is sure to increase in proportion to the ageing population.

An ageing population will place pressure on health services and facilities into the future, requiring hospital upgrades, adequate aged care and the provision of community-based health clinics to meet demand. Outlying regions like the Somerset are particularly vulnerable to limited health infrastructure and facilities. The Somerset region has only 8.37 GPs per 10,000 persons compared to 12.9 per 10,000 for Queensland.

Although there are a significant number of aged care services that deliver aged care packages to parts of the Somerset region, most are located outside the region and as such, these services are impacted by travel costs, particularly in servicing areas to the north of the region. There are also growing challenges with workforce availability and reliability, with many finding it easier to attract workers in the metropolitan areas. If residents are unable to access an aged care package, they may be eligible to receive the Commonwealth Home Support Program which is grossly underfunded in Somerset, in many cases resulting in no service availability. An alternative model of delivering care is required to fill this gap and address what is becoming a growing need.

Aging in place in Somerset can be a challenge for many older persons, particularly for those who don't have family living nearby. In parts of the region, there are more than 30% of residents in the over 65 years age bracket. Many of these people have lived in the region for a long time and have long term friends, most of whom are aging themselves. These residents can find themselves very vulnerable, particularly if their mobility or health declines. Moving closer to family is often not an option or in many cases is not the preferred option, as they want to stay in the community they love and where their friends are nearby. Similarly, people who have moved to the region in the last few years, experience their own challenges and may not have the capacity to move back to larger centres due to affordability and/or the desire to stay in a safe, friendly community for their personal wellbeing.

What is already happening?

- > Government funding available to support older persons age in place.
- > Annual Seniors Week/Month activities which usually include a free event and expo at Esk. During COVID, four mini concerts were held in various parks to continue to provide activities.
- > Movement to music, light aerobic exercises, aqua aerobics.
- > Women's Groups, craft groups and activities, Men's Shed.
- > Creation of resource kits for distribution by police when making welfare checks.
- > Formal tech savvy lessons at libraries, as well as informal assistance.
- > Cuppa and Chats with guest speakers.

Our strategies for improving ageing in place

STRATEGIES OR OPPORTUNITIES	ACTIONS
<p>AP 1. Promote active aging in the community and aging in place through programs and activities that support people to safely and confidently stay in their own homes and be part of the community</p>	<p>AP 1.1 As part of the Housing Study, investigate the need for independent living units and retirement homes</p> <p>AP 1.2 Ensure Council's land use planning controls encourage an adequate supply and mix of housing options that are accessible and affordable and support ageing in place</p> <p>AP 1.3 Encourage universal design principles in local building design requirements</p> <p>AP 1.4 Investigate 'Seniors Beyond Driving' workshops (i.e. workshops that provide information about mature drivers, driving / transit options and how to plan for a person's retirement from driving)</p> <p>AP 1.5 Provide internet, computer and technology (ICT) workshops, and activities that promote ICT skills, for older people within the region</p>
<p>AP 2. Work towards making Somerset dementia friendly</p>	<p>AP 2.1 Review the Dementia Australia toolkit and checklists and consider how these can be integrated into Council's systems and processes to improve the environment for people with dementia and to deliver dementia-friendly towns</p> <p>AP 2.2 Deliver information sessions and community education campaigns to raise awareness and understanding of dementia</p>
<p>AP 3. Recognise and utilise the skills and talents of older members of the community</p>	<p>AP 3.1 Work with schools and seniors group to establish an 'Adopt a Senior' program to facilitate connections and encourage intergenerational knowledge sharing</p> <p>AP 3.2 Deliver a series of 'come and try' activities where volunteers (older or younger residents) run activities for older people based on a skill that they have</p>

Examples from other places

- Community Visitor Scheme (CVS) - The CVS arranges volunteer visits to older people to provide friendship and companionship. Visits are available to anyone receiving government-subsidised aged care services.

COUNCIL'S ROLES	TIMEFRAMES <i>Ongoing</i> <i>Short - 1-3 years</i> <i>Medium - 3 - 5 years</i> <i>Long 5 + years</i>	KEY PARTNERS	LINKS TO RELEVANT COUNCIL STRATEGIES/ PLANS/ACTIVITIES
» <i>Provide (subject to funding)</i>	» <i>Short</i>		
» <i>Provide</i>	» <i>Short to Medium</i>		
» <i>Support & Facilitate</i>	» <i>Ongoing</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Housing Providers • Developers • State Agencies • Advocacy Bodies (QShelter) 	-
» <i>Support & Facilitate</i>	» <i>Short to Medium</i>		
» <i>Provide (subject to funding)</i>	» <i>Short</i>		
» <i>Provide</i>	» <i>Medium</i>		
» <i>Provide</i>	» <i>Short</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service providers • Community • Businesses 	-
» <i>Support & Facilitate</i>	» <i>Medium</i>		
» <i>Support & Facilitate</i>	» <i>Medium</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service providers • Community • Businesses 	-

Theme 6 – Supporting Families, Children & Young Adults

Objective

Our liveability is improved through supporting and engaging the younger members of our community and ensure they have opportunities to participate in community life

Why is it important for Somerset

The Somerset region is home to many young people and some in the community are facing challenges around their mental health and wellbeing. Young people in regional areas experience barriers related to accessing appropriate education opportunities, employment, social inclusion, reduced participation opportunities and lack of engagement in civic life, while struggling to get access to basic services, specialist support services and infrastructure. These challenges can result in young people having to move away from their community.

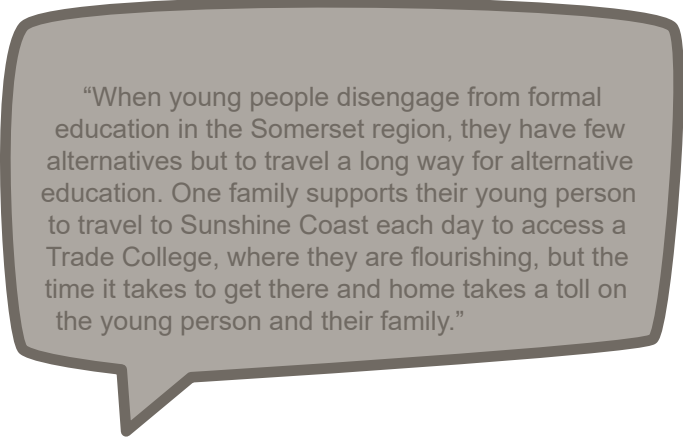
Mental health amongst young people has been an issue in parts of Somerset for some years. Around 4% of children aged 0 to 14 years reported that they have a mental health condition (including depression and anxiety). Youth suicide in the Somerset area is at twice the rate of the rest of the state. It has been reported by West Moreton Heath (2018) that the area around Lowood and Fernvale had the fifth highest youth suicide rate in Australia. In a survey conducted by Council, which heard the voices of 46% of young people in the Lowood and Fernvale community, lack of employment opportunity followed by inadequate transport were raised as significant issues.

The proportion of young people aged 15 to 24 either learning or earning in the Somerset is well below the State average with more young people aged 16 to 21 receiving an unemployment benefit when compared to the State. Youth disengagement appears to be located around the Lowood and Kilcoy townships. In Kilcoy, the lack of alternative education pathways has been identified as a major barrier for those youths that do not fit into mainstream schooling. There is potential for a flexi-school, alternative education or similar approach in the region. Employment opportunities for young people in the region is also seen as a major challenge, with many unable to obtain worthwhile employment within the area resulting in them eventually moving away.

For some young people, the lack of ‘something to do’ is seen as problematic leading to risks of antisocial behaviour. There are fewer young people participating in regular sporting clubs/activities due to a variety of reason such as financial cost, transport to and from and time poor parents. A survey of students at the Kilcoy High School indicated that some young people thought there was not enough recreation facilities and things to do (19.3%) as well as the lack of shops and transport in the area (18.3%).

There are more developmentally vulnerable children in the Somerset when compared to Queensland. Children that are vulnerable in one or more domains in Somerset accounted for 28.9% compared to 24.7% for Queensland. Similarly, children that are vulnerable in two or more domains in Somerset (16.3%) is also higher when compared to Queensland (13.2%). This may correlate with the high percentage of children in low-income welfare dependent families in the Somerset (7.5%) compared to the Queensland average (5.7%).

What our community said



“When young people disengage from formal education in the Somerset region, they have few alternatives but to travel a long way for alternative education. One family supports their young person to travel to Sunshine Coast each day to access a Trade College, where they are flourishing, but the time it takes to get there and home takes a toll on the young person and their family.”

What is already happening?

- > Teddy Bears Picnic and Mad Hatter's Tea Party including free activities and opportunities to meet support services in a soft entry manner.
- > Playgroups.
- > Storytime, Baby Bounce, Lego Club, craft and other activities at libraries.
- > Youth leadership camps.
- > Youth Week activities.
- > School holiday programs.
- > Youth resource cards.
- > Mental health training for community members.
- > School Support Services Expos/Wellness Day.
- > Lowood Young Person's Wellbeing Expo with entertainment.
- > Supporting the Youth Leadership Program.
- > The high schools participate in an Emerging Elders camp to foster their First Nations students as leaders.
- > Construction of sports and recreation facilities in the region.

Examples from other places

The BUSY Schools offers an alternative schooling approach for disengaged students to assist them to work towards completing a Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) and continue into a career path or further education. The BUSY Schools can take the time to provide individual support to students who would otherwise struggle in the traditional schooling system and offers the following:

- > Access to ongoing career support.
- > Individualised Learning Plan.
- > Work readiness skills and preparation.
- > Individualised timetables to suit each BUSY Schools student.
- > No fees and we supply uniform items, textbooks, stationery and food.
- > Supportive and understanding teachers and staff.
- > Assisted vocational or tertiary education pathways.
- > Industry introduction, visits and work experience.
- > Small classroom and teaching environment.



Our strategies for improving Supporting Families, Children & Young Adults

STRATEGIES OR OPPORTUNITIES	ACTIONS
<p>FCY 1. Strengthen collaboration between council and service provider</p>	<p>FCY 1.1 Prepare a Somerset Youth Development Strategy</p> <p>FCY 1.2 Recruit a full time Somerset Youth and Community Development Officer on a fixed term contract</p>
<p>FCY 2. Increase opportunities for alternative education and training</p>	<p>FCY 2.1 Partner with others to establish alternate education solutions for youth who find school routines challenging, seek vocational education and/or have disengaged from formal schooling</p> <p>FCY 2.2 Partner with education providers including TAFE QLD to improve the availability of training opportunities for young people in the Somerset community</p>
<p>FCY 3. Young people in the Somerset have opportunities to gain skills and experiences to encourage employment and entrepreneurship</p>	<p>FCY 3.1 Work with local businesses to establish a centralised information portal for possible job and intern opportunities that become available and ways to advise the local community</p> <p>FCY 3.2 Work with schools to provide regular motivational speakers at both primary and secondary school level</p> <p>FCY 3.3 Increase awareness of school-based apprenticeships and training</p> <p>FCY 3.4 Support and encourage youth who are entrepreneurial with their ideas to achieve outcomes with business mentors available to assist</p> <p>FCY 3.5 Establish a local annual youth entrepreneurial award to recognise the contribution and impact of young people</p>
<p>FCY 4. Young people in the Somerset have access to safe places and spaces including a range of programs and activities</p>	<p>FCY 4.1 Provide safe spaces and activities for young people to interact socially</p> <p>FCY 4.2 Work with young people (potentially through the Youth Leadership group) from each community to develop a program of activities for each Town and implement a low-cost Youth Development Program or similar</p> <p>FCY 4.3 Collaborate with sporting clubs to look at opportunities around structure and non-structured sport to increase participation</p>
<p>FCY 5. Ensure young people and their families have access to information and supports available for mental and physical wellbeing</p>	<p>FCY 5.1 Create awareness of and support initiatives that address suicide risk and mental health issues</p> <p>FCY 5.2 Promote youth involvement in community activities and decision making and regularly run a youth survey to monitor wellbeing to understand their concerns and priorities</p> <p>FCY 5.3 Identify and address issues in relation to youth homelessness including crisis and transitional accommodation as part of Housing Study</p> <p>FCY 5.4 Expand the range and frequency of connection and information activities for families with young children (such as teddy bears picnic) to each major town</p>

COUNCIL'S ROLE	TIMEFRAMES <i>Ongoing</i> <i>Short - 1-3 years</i> <i>Medium - 3 - 5 years</i> <i>Long 5 + years</i>	KEY PARTNERS	LINKS TO RELEVANT COUNCIL STRATEGIES/ PLANS/ACTIVITIES
» <i>Provide</i> » <i>Provide</i>	» <i>Short</i> » <i>Short</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools • Service providers • Youth Leaders 	-
» <i>Advocate</i> » <i>Advocate</i>	» <i>Short to Medium</i> » <i>Short to Medium</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools • Service providers • State Agencies 	-
» <i>Facilitate</i> » <i>Advocate</i> » <i>Advocate</i> » <i>Advocate</i> » <i>Support & Facilitate</i>	» <i>Short</i> » <i>Short</i> » <i>Ongoing</i> » <i>Ongoing</i> » <i>Medium</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools • Businesses • Community • Service providers • State Agencies 	-
» <i>Provide (subject to funding)</i> » <i>Support & Facilitate</i> » <i>Advocate</i>	» <i>On Medium</i> » <i>Short</i> » <i>Medium</i>	-	-
» <i>Advocate</i> » <i>Provide</i> » <i>Advocate</i> » <i>Provide (subject to funding)</i>	» <i>Ongoing</i> » <i>Ongoing</i> » <i>Short to Medium</i> » <i>Ongoing</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools • Early childhood providers • Service providers 	-

Theme 7 – Housing Affordability & Availability

Objective

Our liveability is improved with access to affordable housing opportunities that match our community's need

Why is it important for Somerset

The availability of affordable housing for different stages of life is fundamental to the growth of regional communities. Without affordable housing, it is more difficult to attract service providers and workers to live in regional towns. Housing affordability is currently an issue across Australia's cities, regions, and rural areas. The unprecedented post-Covid internal movement of Australians to rural and regional areas has put new and unexpected strain on those housing markets, including the Somerset region.

Of rental households in the Somerset, 34.9% are in housing stress, this is comparable to Queensland (32.3%). Housing stress is when over 30% of the household income (rental or mortgage costs) is spent on housing. Communities with the highest proportions of rental households in housing stress are Esk (45.9%), Toogoolawah (45.6%) and Lowood (40.4%). Around 26.5% of households are receiving rent assistance in the Somerset. A higher proportion of households in the Somerset (13.7%) compared to Queensland (11.9%) are in mortgage stress. The area with the highest mortgage stress in the Somerset is Linville with 30.8% of households in stress.

In Esk and Toogoolawah, there is a need for affordable housing for older people. In Kilcoy there is a lack of affordable rental stock due to the pressure from the expanding Kilcoy Global Foods. There is evidence of some elderly people living in caravans on rural properties and families living in tents, throughout the region. Recently three houses have been destroyed by fire further impacting on availability. Houses throughout the region are being purchased by owner occupiers with very limited rental available. People who have lived in the area for years are being forced to leave and, in some cases, living in houses which need considerable work to be habitable.

Over the last decade, there has been an increase in the number of people who are homeless in the Somerset (32% increase). Around 0.4% (or 39) of Somerset housing is social housing (much lower than Queensland at 3.3%) and they are in the communities of Toogoolawah, Lowood and Esk. As of June 2022, there were 15 people (5 x single persons and 3 x single parents with 7 x children) on the State Governments social housing register wishing to reside in the Somerset region. Four of these people were flagged as homeless. The average waiting period is around 25 months with the longest wait time being 55 months and the shortest being 7 months.

Many families are now homeless. These include existing families who have been asked to leave, as well as new people moving into the area. Increasing number of reports of families being referred to caravan parks as a last option and paying up to \$500/week for accommodation that is not fit for purpose. Young families including some with children under six months and new babies are having to reside at caravan parks.

What our community said

"Historically an issue due to limited rental stock and older person's on unemployment benefits not having adequate income. Many elderly folk are living in inappropriate and illegal "granny flats", there are some families sharing houses, with some renting garages. This problem has increased exponentially, as it has in other areas. Homeless people camping on riverbanks have been evicted by Council due to public pressure. Many itinerant caravaners overstaying in 20 hour camping spots or rotating in the region. Massive growing problem in Somerset, due to rental houses being sold and becoming owner occupiers, reducing rental stock and forcing people to leave the area. ...

"Lack of housing for workers and high rents mean that many who work for Kilcoy Global Foods do not live in the Somerset region. Many workers drive in - drive out, and this is not ideal especially on long shifts where workers must drive home to Ipswich/ Redcliffe after shift. To support their workforce to find accommodation locally, Kilcoy Global Foods will develop accommodation on site for workers".

... recent severe weather event has increased the problem. Although not a lot of houses were inundated to the point where they were uninhabitable, many caravans and cabins at Atkinson Dam suffered water inundation due to their poor state of repair. This was made evident by several residents. Some of these have managed to move out, but many struggling to live in challenging conditions."

What is already happening?

- > Mayor wrote to Minister for Housing and Public Works regarding seniors' accommodation in Esk and Toogoolawah – collected many letters of support from community groups to support.
- > Discussion with Community Housing Providers.
- > Global Foods in Kilcoy looking to build accommodation for their workers.

Examples from other places

- > **Toowoomba Regional Housing Strategy** - provides the background research and investigations undertaken to determine the role Toowoomba Regional Council should play to ensure the housing market in Toowoomba delivers on objectives of affordability, diversity, and certainty, in the supply of housing for the projected demand in all sectors of the market. The strategy is unique to Toowoomba region, focuses on the specific needs of the individual communities within the region, and priorities the actions and initiatives Council should undertake in the next 10 years.
- > **Lockyer Valley Housing Analysis** - The Housing Analysis is intended to assist Council with the preparation of a housing needs assessment as outlined in the State Planning Policy 1/07: Housing and Residential Development (SPP 1/07). A housing needs assessment assists in indicating a range of appropriate housing options that respond to identified housing needs.
- > **Gold Coast Homelessness Action Plan** - Outlines the City's roles, responsibilities, and strategic responses to homelessness. The actions in this plan balance the needs of the whole community, and acknowledge that any effective response will require the continued support of partner agencies, local service providers, and the Gold Coast Homelessness Network.

Our strategies for improving housing affordability and availability

STRATEGIES OR OPPORTUNITIES	ACTIONS
<p>HA 1. Plan and advocate for diverse housing options in the Somerset region</p>	<p>HA 1.1 Undertake a Housing Study to determine the housing needs of older persons and persons with a disability to allow them to age and stay in the Somerset region</p> <p>HA 1.2 Explore opportunities to partner with Community Housing Providers and State Housing Providers to deliver social and affordable housing</p>
<p>HA 2. Work with others to reduce the number of people experiencing homelessness in the Somerset</p>	<p>HA 2.1 As part of the Housing Study include consideration for crisis & emergency accommodation</p> <p>HA 2.2 Encourage support services to outreach from Councils Community Wellness Hubs</p> <p>HA 2.3 Provide information at Councils community centres and libraries about assistance available for people experiencing homelessness</p> <p>HA 2.4 Consider establishing a Homelessness Network with housing providers, state agencies, community organisations and local businesses to raise awareness (could be a subset of Interagency Network)</p> <p>HA 2.5 Consider a Public Space Management Protocol, this may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve in-house procedures and deliver training to Council officers to manage reporting and referral pathways for people sleeping rough in public places and Council owned facilities • Develop a fact sheet for internal and external stakeholders, including the public, on reporting and support mechanisms <p>HA 2.6 Advocate to the Queensland Government for funding and resources for additional assertive outreach and specialist case management services</p>

COUNCIL'S ROLES	TIMEFRAMES <i>Ongoing</i> <i>Short - 1-3 years</i> <i>Medium - 3 - 5 years</i> <i>Long 5 + years</i>	KEY PARTNERS	LINKS TO RELEVANT COUNCIL STRATEGIES/ PLANS/ACTIVITIES
» <i>Provide (subject to funding)</i> » <i>Strategic Partnerships</i>	» <i>Short</i> » <i>Medium</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service Providers • NGO • State Agencies • Advocacy Bodies (QShelter) 	-
» <i>Provide (subject to funding)</i> » <i>Support & Facilitate</i> » <i>Provide</i> » <i>Support & Facilitate</i> » <i>Provide</i> » <i>Advocacy</i>	» <i>Short</i> » <i>Ongoing</i> » <i>Short</i> » <i>Short</i> » <i>Short to Medium</i> » <i>Ongoing</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service Providers • NGO • State Agencies • Advocacy Bodies (QShelter) 	-

Theme 8 – Community Resilience & Recovery

Objectives

Our liveability is improved through strengthening our sustained ability to prevent, prepare, respond to, and recover (PPRR) from natural disasters and adverse events including drought, bushfire, floods, and pandemics

Why is it important for Somerset

Over the past 10 years, the Somerset region has seen some extreme weather events. From long droughts to the brutal bushfires in 2019 followed by severe and widespread flooding that occurred in 2022 on the backdrop of the COVID 19 pandemic. These events are traumatic and impact everyone involved, from those who have lost loved ones, been otherwise directly affected, to those facing the loss of homes and property, to those who are helping with the massive clean-up effort. In this light, building the resilience of the community to withstand, adapt to, and recover from adversity will help our communities become safer and stronger.

It is well documented that extreme natural disasters can have significant consequences for communities and individuals. The immediate impacts of a natural disaster or event include loss of human life, damage to property, and deterioration of health conditions. As communication links and infrastructure such as power supply, roads and bridges are damaged and disrupted, some economic activities may come to a standstill, people are forced to leave their homes and normal life is disrupted.

Evidence from the 2011 Brisbane flood disaster indicates that the pre-disaster context and the 'structural conditions of a neighbourhood' (Wickes, et al, 2015, p. 330) before the disaster is critical to post-disaster community recovery. For example, research shows that those communities with:

- > Concentrations of vulnerable groups (such as a high percentage of older people and children) – the Somerset is an aging population;
- > Residential instability (high resident mobility) – newer communities such as Lowood with high rentals and resident mobility;
- > High levels of cultural diversity – Kilcoy has a relatively large multicultural community; and
- > General community disadvantage (high proportion of unemployed people, renters and low-income households) which is evidence in the Somerset, are less likely or much slower to recover to their pre-disaster functioning, after an event.

As expected, those communities that are best able to recover and adapt are those with a stable population (low resident mobility with longer term residents), higher levels of social advantage, high levels of volunteering and emergency plans that are frequently exercised.

Beyond the known economic costs, it is well recognised that natural disasters have wide-ranging social impacts that can persist for the rest of people's lives. Building resilience needs to incorporate measures to ensure social and psychological wellbeing. Research tells us that there is often a delayed impact associated with loss of life, damage and loss of property and as a consequence, residents begin to present with mental health problems well after the event. Mental health problems are known to diminish over time but can also increase as well, depending on the extent of disaster and recovery time.

Common mental health problems following disaster include depression, anxiety disorders such as post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), generalised anxiety disorder (GAD), panic disorder (PD) and simple phobias, and complicated grief and substance misuse. These disorders may be newly developed in the aftermath of a disaster or may represent exacerbations of existing or remitted mental health disorders. After a disaster, guilt, anger, physical pain associated with mental stress, sleep and related problems can exist alongside, or independently of, pre-diagnosed conditions (Burke, S. 2011).

What our community said

In the resident survey, some residents (particularly in the north) raised concerns about flooding and their limited knowledge (when they first moved to the area) of the flash flooding that can occur quickly during a weather event.

"In mid November 2019 we experienced a fast travelling bush fire heading towards Esk township. We live near the golf course and so were in the potential impact zone. The fire raced towards town showering embers in all directions. We are two elderly people here on our own and have lived here for 16 years. Our home is on acreage, and we have a few animals. The nearby undergrowth was parched from a very dry couple of years. The rural fire brigade and SES volunteers made door knocks to residents in the path of the fire. My husband and I were very stressed at the closeness of the fire to our property. There was no emergency evacuation centre set up in town for this bush fire and people in Esk were all told to leave with emergency alerts on their mobiles. I waited until late afternoon and took my pets to a friend's home at Gatton and returned the next day. My 70 year old husband decided to stay to defend our home. Luckily by morning the fire was brought under control and our property was safe".

What is already happening?

- > Somerset Local Disaster Management Plan 2022.
- > Somerset Regional Council Local Recovery Plans.
- > Flood Recovery Newsletters.
- > Somerset Local Disaster Management Group.

Our strategies for improving Community Resilience and Recovery

STRATEGIES OR OPPORTUNITIES	ACTIONS
<p>CR 1. Lead post-pandemic recovery responses and plan to build resilience to better respond to future emergencies and crisis situations</p>	<p>CR 1.1 Develop information packs for new community members around flood and fire risks and disaster response and resources</p> <p>CR 1.2 Undertake engagement (workshops and surveys) with community on response and recovery processes and identify vulnerable groups</p> <p>CR 1.3 Prepare individualised disaster response plans for vulnerable residents</p> <p>CR 1.4 Audit emergency evacuation spaces in the Somerset to ensure disaster-proof locations and readiness in case of emergency</p> <p>CR 1.5 Include community members in training and response to emergency situations such as scenario-based training</p> <p>CR 1.6 Co-design art initiatives with community members to provide an opportunity for communities to express their recovery and resilience journey</p> <p>CR 1.7 As part of broader volunteering program (CS 3), recruit and build the capability of community disaster volunteers</p> <p>CR 1.8 Implement resilient leaders training for Council staff</p>

Examples from other places

- > Some Councils undertake preparedness training, including scenario-based disaster training with community members. Other Councils recruit and train Community Disaster Volunteers (such as Councillors and other community leaders) who can play an important role in quickly organising their local communities to enact plans and respond during a disaster.



COUNCIL'S ROLES	TIMEFRAMES <i>Ongoing</i> <i>Short - 1-3 years</i> <i>Medium - 3 - 5 years</i> <i>Long 5 + years</i>	KEY PARTNERS	LINKS TO RELEVANT COUNCIL STRATEGIES/ PLANS/ACTIVITIES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » <i>Provide</i> <hr style="border-top: 1px dashed black;"/> » <i>Advocacy</i> <hr style="border-top: 1px dashed black;"/> » <i>Strategic Partnerships</i> <hr style="border-top: 1px dashed black;"/> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » <i>Short to Medium</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community • Business • State Agencies • Qld Disability Network • Other Councils 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Somerset Local Disaster Management Plan 2022 • Somerset Regional Council Local Recovery Plans

IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING & EVALUATION

The Social Plan provides direction for the whole of community and it will require a ‘whole-of-community’ approach led by a wide range of internal and external stakeholders, including various council departments, government and non-government organisations, community and volunteer groups.

The implementation of the Social Plan will be based on the following principles:

- > The Social Plan will be implemented in partnership with networks, organisations and groups who contributed to its development, and with the broader community.
- > The Social Plan will operate in conjunction with other key Council strategic documents to guide work across the Somerset to improve liveability for the community.
- > Progress against the Social Plan will be monitored, with annual reports made to Council and the community on their achievement.

There are three critical high level strategic actions that are needed at the outset to deliver on the objectives of the Social Plan:

1. Establish an Action Group to deliver on the Social Plan objectives facilitated by Council. The Action Group members will be determined based on priorities at the time and should comprise multi-sectoral and cross-Government representation. The aim of the action group is to advance each of the themes through prioritisation, project development, and shared resourcing.
 - > Prepare Terms of Reference for Action Group to include information on roles, membership, terms of appointment, meeting schedule and other protocols
 - > Seek Expression of Interest for membership of Action Group
2. Develop a 5-year prospectus to communicate Council's priorities to the community, non-Government, Government and industry and other potential partners and investors.
3. Allocate operational budget as required for implementation.



APPENDIX A

SOMERSET COMMUNITY FACILITIES

ID	FACILITY	ADDRESS	TOWN/ SUBURB	Type
1	Mayfield Nature Kindergarten	1509 Pine Mountain Road	Wanora	Early Learning Centres
2	Country Kids Play and Learning Centre	43 Gardner Street	Toogoolawah	Early Learning Centres
3	Kilcoy Kindergarten	65 Taylor Street	Kilcoy	Early Learning Centres
4	Lowood Early Education Centre	9 Park Street	Lowood	Early Learning Centres
5	Esk and District Kindergarten	26 South Street	Esk	Early Learning Centres
6	Good Start Early Learning	4 Davillea Court	Fernvale	Early Learning Centres
7	Hart Family Day Care	PO Box 210	Toogoolawah	Early Learning Centres
8	Lowood and District Community Kindergarten	31 Daniel Street	Lowood	Early Learning Centres
9	NCC Early Learners	52 Taylor Street	Kilcoy	Early Learning Centres
10	Country Kids Play and Learning Centre	43 Gardner Street	Toogoolawah	Early Learning Centres
11	Toogoolawah Kindergarten Association	17 Abbotsford Street	Toogoolawah	Early Learning Centres
12	Clarendon State Primary School	507 Clarendon Road	Clarendon	Primary Schools
13	Coominya State School	7 Cornhill Street	Coominya	Primary Schools
14	Esk State School	49 East Street	Esk	Primary Schools
15	Fernvale State School Special Education	1605 Brisbane Valley Highway	Fernvale	Primary Schools
16	Fernvale State School	1605 Brisbane Valley Highway	Fernvale	Primary Schools
17	Glamorgan Vale State School	750 Glamorgan Vale Road	Glamorgan Vale	Primary Schools
18	Harlin State School	8521 Brisbane Valley Highway	Harlin	Primary Schools
19	Kilcoy State School	47 Royston Street	Kilcoy	Primary Schools
20	Linville State School	16 George Street	Linville	Primary Schools
21	Lowood State School Special Education Program	Peace Street	Lowood	Primary Schools
22	Lowood State School	Peace Street	Lowood	Primary Schools
23	Minden State School	1032 Lowood-Minden Road	Minden	Primary Schools
24	Mount Kilcoy State School	251 Jenkinsons Road	Mount Kilcoy	Primary Schools
25	Mount Tarampa State School	9 Profkes Road	Mount Tarampa	Primary Schools
26	Patrick Estate State School	816 Mahon Road	Patrick Estate	Primary Schools
27	Prenzlau State School	357 Prenzlau Road	Prenzlau	Primary Schools
28	Tarampa State School	18 Manthey Road	Tarampa	Primary Schools
29	Toogoolawah State School	Gardner Street	Toogoolawah	Primary Schools
30	Kilcoy State High School	Seib Street	Kilcoy	Secondary Schools
31	Lowood State High School Special Education Program	38 Prospect Street	Lowood	Secondary Schools
32	Lowood State High School	Prospect Street	Lowood	Secondary Schools
33	Toogoolawah State High School	76 Old Mount Beppo Road	Toogoolawah	Secondary Schools
34	Stanley River Environmental Education Centre	3856 Esk-Kilcoy Road	Hazeldean	Other Learning Centres
35	Sunday Creek Environmental Centre	Sunday Creek Road	Jimna	Other Learning Centres
36	Glengarry Education Centre	370 Watsons Road	Mount Tarampa	Other Learning Centres
37	Lions Camp Duckadang	117 Avoca Creek Road	Avoca Vale	Other Learning Centres
38	Esk Hospital	30 Highland Street	Esk	Hospitals
39	Kilcoy Hospital	19 Brown Street	Kilcoy	Hospitals
40	Health Matters Fernvale	1455 Brisbane Valley Highway	Fernvale	Medical Centres
41	Brisbane Valley Medical Services	17 Highland Street	Esk	Medical Centres
42	Kilcoy General Practice	Brown Street	Kilcoy	Medical Centres
43	Somerset Medical Esk	213-215 Ipswich Street	Esk	Medical Centres
44	Stellar Medical	8 Michel Street	Lowood	Medical Centres
45	Main Street Medical	95 Main Street	Lowood	Medical Centres
46	Banks Creek Medical Centre	10 Bank Creek Road	Fernvale	Medical Centres
47	Kilcoy Medical Centre	Cnr William & Kennedy Streets	Kilcoy	Medical Centres
48	Fernvale Medical Centre / Stellar Medical	1500 Brisbane Valley Highway	Fernvale	Medical Centres
49	Somerset Medical Toogoolawah / Stellar Medical	18-20 Fulham Street	Toogoolawah	Medical Centres

ID	FACILITY	ADDRESS	TOWN/ SUBURB	Type
50	Complete Dentistry	30 William Street Kilcoy	Kilcoy	Dentist
51	Esk Dental Centre - Dental Care	197 Ispwich Street Esk	Esk	Dentist
52	Fernvale Dental	1455 Brisbane Valley Highway Fernvale	Fernvale	Dentist
53	Lowood Dental Surgery	12 Railway Street Lowood	Lowood	Dentist
54	Tasha's Therapeutic Counselling	25 Drem Street Toogoolawah	Toogoolawah	Mental Health Services
55	Somerset Psychology Service	5 Michel St Lowood	Lowood	Mental Health Services
56	Fernvale Aftercare	58-64 Clive Street	Fernvale	Mental Health Services
57	Aloaka Kilcoy Care Centre	52 Taylor Street	Kilcoy	Aged Care Facilities
58	Alkira Aged Care Facility	2 Charles Street	Toogoolawah	Aged Care Facilities
59	Anglicare Kilcoy Community Service	16 Kropp Street	Kilcoy	Aged Care Facilities
60	Glenwood Aged Care Facility	Main Street	Lowood	Aged Care Facilities
61	Tarampa Lodge	449 Lowood Minden Road	Tarampa	Disability Accommodation
62	Our House Respite and Community Centre	27 Gardner Street	Toogoolawah	Disability Respite
63	Mercy Community Lowood Hub	24 Railway Street	Lowood	Community Hub
64	Stepping Stones Community Wellness Hub	9 Heap Street	Esk	Community Wellness Hub
65	Kilcoy Community Wellness Hub	Kropp Street	Kilcoy	Community Wellness Hub
66	Moore Police Station	21 Main Street	Moore	Police
67	Kilcoy Police Station	13 Rose Street	Kilcoy	Police
68	Toogoolawah Police Station	Gardner Street	Toogoolawah	Police
69	Lowood Police Station	145 Main Street	Lowood	Police
70	Esk Police Station	Highland Street	Esk	Police
71	Lowood Fire and Rescue Station	Main Street	Lowood	Fire Service
72	Rural Fire Brigade - Fernvale	Brisbane Valley Highway	Fernvale	Fire Service
73	Wivenhoe Pocket Rural Fire Service	Wivenhoe Pocket	Wivenhoe Pocket	Fire Service
74	Kilcoy Fire Station	17 McCauley Street	Kilcoy	Fire Service
75	Rural Fire Brigade - Biarra-Eskdale	664 Esk Crows Nest Road	Esk	Fire Service
76	Rural Fire Brigade - Moore	Service Road	Moore	Fire Service
77	Rural Fire Brigade - Villeneuve	1351 Neurum Road	Villeneuve	Fire Service
78	Rural Fire Brigade - Hazeldean	LOT 1 Esk Kilcoy Road	Hazeldean via Kilcoy	Fire Service
79	Rural Fire Brigade - Mt. Brisbane	339 Stanley Pocket Road	Mt. Brisbane	Fire Service
80	Rural Fire Brigade - Toogoolawah	Cressbrook Street	Toogoolawah	Fire Service
81	Rural Fire Brigade - Eskdale	Rebea Stud via Biarra	Esk	Fire Service
82	Lowood Ambulance Station	11 Peace Street	Lowood	Ambulance
83	Toogoolawah Ambulance Services	50 Fulham Street	Toogoolawah	Ambulance
84	Kilcoy Ambulance Station (might be permanently closed)	9 Kennedy Street	Kilcoy	Ambulance
85	Lowood SES Group	17 Lindemans Road	Lowood	State Emergency Services (SES)
86	Esk SES Group	22 Heap Street	Esk	State Emergency Services (SES)
87	Kilcoy SES Group	67 Taylor Street	Kilcoy	State Emergency Services (SES)
88	Toogoolawah SES Group	Abbotsford Street	Toogoolawah	State Emergency Services (SES)
89	Anglican Church Hall	2 Mangerton Street	Toogoolawah	Halls/Community Centres
90	Coronation Hall	2 Short Street	Somerset Dam	Halls/Community Centres
91	CWA Hall Lowood	Main Street	Lowood	Halls/Community Centres
92	Fernvale Community Hall	Banks Creek Road	Fernvale	Halls/Community Centres
93	Kay Avery Place	13 Kennedy Street	Kilcoy	Halls/Community Centres
94	Linville Hall	George Street	Linville	Halls/Community Centres
95	Moore Soldiers Memorial Hall	Main Street	Moore	Halls/Community Centres
96	Toogoolawah and District Progress Association Inc	111 Cressbrook Street	Toogoolawah	Halls/Community Centres

ID	FACILITY	ADDRESS	TOWN/ SUBURB	Type
97	Anglican Church Hall - Esk	85 Ipswich Street	Esk	Halls/Community Centres
98	Coominya Public Hall Inc.	27 Main Street	Coominya	Halls/Community Centres
99	CWA Hall Esk	Heap & Nelson Place	Esk	Halls/Community Centres
100	Esk RSL Hall	Ipswich Street	Esk	Halls/Community Centres
101	Glamorgan Vale Community Hall	Glamorgan Vale Road	Glamorgan	Halls/Community Centres
102	Kilcoy Memorial Hall and Cultural Centre	18 Kennedy Street	Kilcoy	Halls/Community Centres
103	Lutheran Church Hall Esk	43 Park Street	Lowood	Halls/Community Centres
104	Mt Beppo Hall	Mt Beppo Road	Toogoolawah	Halls/Community Centres
105	St Mels Church Hall	88 Ipswich Street	Esk	Halls/Community Centres
106	Toogoolawah RSL Hall	33 Cairns Croft Street	Toogoolawah	Halls/Community Centres
107	Mercy Lowood Early Years Place	Peace Street	Lowood	Halls/Community Centres
108	CWA Hall Kilcoy	33 Rose Street	Kilcoy	Halls/Community Centres
109	Fernvale Lions Community Hall	Clive Street	Fernvale	Halls/Community Centres
110	Esk Library	19 Heap Street	Esk	Libraries
111	Kilcoy Library	15 Kennedy Street	Kilcoy	Libraries
112	Lowood Library	Cnr Main & Michel Streets	Lowood	Libraries
113	Toogoolawah Library	Gunyah Street	Toogoolawah	Libraries
114	The Condensary - Somerset Regional Art Gallery	29 Factory Road	Toogoolawah	Art Galleries/Art Space
115	Glen Rock Gallery	82 Ipswich Street	Esk	Art Galleries/Art Space
116	Kilcoy Courthouse Art Gallery	Yowie Park Hope Street	Kilcoy	Art Galleries/Art Space
117	Nash Gallery and Café	212 Ipswich Street	Esk	Art Galleries/Art Space
118	Rivendale Gallery	2/197 Ipswich Street	Esk	Art Galleries/Art Space
119	Supper Room Art Gallery	9 Main Street North	Moore	Art Galleries/Art Space
120	The Open Door Gallery	45 Railway Street	Lowood	Art Galleries/Art Space
121	Two Galahs Gallery	14 Fulham Street	Toogoolawah	Art Galleries/Art Space
122	Toogoolawah History Museum	Cressbrook Street	Toogoolawah	Museums and Historical Groups
123	Bellevue Homestead & Vineyard	1 West Road	Coominya	Museums and Historical Groups
124	Jimna Visitor Centre and Museum	4 Currawong Street	Jimna	Museums and Historical Groups
125	Esk Station	20 Highland Street		Museums and Historical Groups
126	Kilcoy Hall of History	Yowie Park Hope Street	Kilcoy	Museums and Historical Groups
127	Somerset Civic Centre	35 Esk-Hampton Road	Esk	Civic Centre
128	Apostolic Church Mt Beppo	7 Ostrofski Road	Mt Beppo	Places of Worship
129	Brisbane Valley Uniting Church	Abbotsford Street	Toogoolawah	Places of Worship
130	Fernvale Community Church	6 Clive Street	Fernvale	Places of Worship
131	Lowood - Brisbane Valley Lutheran Parish	4-6 Russell Street	Lowood	Places of Worship
132	New Season's Church	East Street	Esk	Places of Worship
133	Seventh-day Adventist Church Kilcoy	76 William Street	Kilcoy	Places of Worship
134	St Agnes Anglican Church	Ipswich Street	Esk	Places of Worship
135	St Brendan's Catholic Church	Cnr Church & Prospect Street	Lowood	Places of Worship
136	St Joseph's Catholic Church	5 King Street	Somerset Dam	Places of Worship
137	St Mels Church Hall	88 Ipswich Street	Esk	Places of Worship
138	Toogoolawah and District Baptist Church	Gardner Street	Toogoolawah	Places of Worship
139	Caboonbah Udenominational Church	49 Eskdale Road	Toogoolawah	Places of Worship
140	Fernvale-Lowood Uniting Church	1503 Brisbane Valley Highway	Fernvale	Places of Worship
141	Luthern Church Esk	4 Russell Street	Esk	Places of Worship
142	Seventh-day Adventist Church Esk	Hill Street	Esk	Places of Worship
143	St Agatha's Catholic Church	Eskdale Road	Toogoolawah	Places of Worship
144	St Andrew's Anglican Church	Cnr Mangerton & Gunyah Street	Toogoolawah	Places of Worship
145	St Francis Xavier Catholic Church	Gatton Connection Road & Main Street	Coominya	Places of Worship
146	St James Anglican Church Lowood	56 Prospect Street	Lowood	Places of Worship
147	St Michael's Catholic Church Kilcoy	Kennedy Street	Kilcoy	Places of Worship
148	Trax Chrisitan Church	41 Railway Street	Lowood	Places of Worship

ID	FACILITY	ADDRESS	TOWN/ SUBURB	Type
149	Fernvale Visitor Information Centre	1483 Brisbane Valley Highway	Fernvale	Visitor Information Centres
150	Kilcoy Visitor Information Centre	41 Hope Street	Kilcoy	Visitor Information Centres
151	Esk Visitor Information Centre	82 Ispwich Street	Esk	Visitor Information Centres
152	Jimna Visitor Centre and Museum	4 Currawong Street	Jimna	Visitor Information Centres
153	Fernvale Indoor Sports Centre	32 Banks Creek Road	Fernvale	Sports Centre/Gyms
154	Fernvale Outdoor Gym	Fernvale Memorial Park	Fernvale	Sports Centre/Gyms
155	Kilcoy Indoor Sports Centre and Gym	Corner of Mary and Hope Streets	Kilcoy	Sports Centre/Gyms
156	Lowood Outdoor Gym	159 Main Street	Lowood	Sports Centre/Gyms
157	Kilcoy Aquatic Centre	Corner of Mary and Hope Streets	Kilcoy	Swimming Pools
158	Lowood Swimming Pool	Main St	Lowood	Swimming Pools
159	Toogoolawah Swimming Pool and Community Gym	Factory Road	Toogoolawah	Swimming Pools/Gym
160	Lowood Recreation Complex	23 Lindemands Road	Lowood	Showgrounds/Recreation grounds/ Sports Park
161	Esk Recreation Grounds Incorporating Esk Racecourse Showgrounds Campdraft Arena Golf Course	35 Esk Hampton Road	Esk	Showgrounds/Recreation grounds/ Sports Park
162	Fernvale Recreation Grounds Incorporates Col Powell Park Fernvale Community Hall Fernvale Indoor Sports Centre and Stumer Park	32 Banks Creek Road	Fernvale	Showgrounds/Recreation grounds/ Sports Park
163	Kilcoy Recreation Grounds Incorporating the Racetrack Showgrounds Campdraft arena Rodeo Arena and Polocrosse Fields	26 Showgrounds Road	Kilcoy	Showgrounds/Recreation grounds/ Sports Park
164	Lowood Showgrounds	Station Street	Lowood	Showgrounds/Recreation grounds/ Sports Park
165	Toogoolawah Showgrounds	30 Ivory Creek Road	Toogoolawah	Showgrounds/Recreation grounds/ Sports Park
166	Fernvale Sports Park	31 Brouff Road	Fernvale	Showgrounds/Recreation grounds/ Sports Park

APPENDIX B

DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

Indicator	Year	Lowood	Fernvale	Coominya	Esk
POPULATION					
Estimated Resident Population (no.)	2021	3,873	3,193	513	1,230
Average Household Size - Persons Per Dwelling (no.)	2021	2.6	3	2.5	2
AGE					
Median Age (no.)	2021	39	34	50	59
0-4 years	2021	5.7	7.6	2.6	2.7
5-9 years	2021	7.7	10.3	5	3.5
10-14 years	2021	8.2	9.3	6.8	4
15-19 years	2021	6.8	6	6	4
20-24 years	2021	5.6	4.1	3.8	3
25-29 years	2021	5.2	5.9	2.6	2.9
30-34 years	2021	5.6	7.8	2.4	3
35-39 years	2021	5.8	8.1	5.6	3.6
40-44 years	2021	4.9	6.9	6	4.3
45-49 years	2021	5.5	6.8	8.4	4.9
50-54 years	2021	6.3	5.8	8.4	6.4
55-59 years	2021	6.8	5.6	7.4	8.7
60-64 years	2021	6.8	5	12.2	9.7
65-69 years	2021	5.7	4.5	7.8	12.1
70-74 years	2021	5.8	3.4	7.8	12.2
75-79 years	2021	3.7	1.7	3.8	8.8
80-84 years	2021	2.4	0.9	2.8	3.6
85 years and ove	2021	1.5	0.4	0.8	2.6
60+	2021	25.9	15.9	35.2	49.0
70+	2021	13.4	6.4	15.2	27.2
80+	2021	3.9	1.3	3.6	6.2
0-9	2021	13.4	17.9	7.6	6.2
DIVERSITY					
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples (%)	2021	6.9	6.5	9.6	3.3
Born Overseas (%)	2021	10.6	12.6	13.6	18.5
Households where a non-English language is used (%)	2021	5.9	5.1	3.1	4.0
HOUSEHOLDS					
Family Households	2021	71.7	82.0	72.4	60.2
Lone Person Households	2021	25.3	15.9	24.5	36.0
Couple with Children (%)	2021	34.6	48.0	34.2	20.0
Couple without Children (%)	2021	38.7	34.0	39.7	61.6
One Parent Families (%)	2021	1.4	17.7	4.8	1.4
Indicator	Year	Lowood	Fernvale	Coominya	Esk
HOUSING TENURE					
Home Owner (%)	2021	29.7	22.6	43.1	50.6
Mortgage Holders (%)	2021	30.5	50.6	42.6	23.5
Rented	2021	36.8	24.6	11.8	20.5
Rent - Real Estate Agent (%)	2021	72.4	84.9	30.4	64.8
Rent - CHP and State housing authority (%)	2021	4.7	0	0	2.5
HOUSING COST					
Median mortgage payments (monthly) (\$)	2021	\$1,292	\$1,625	\$1,196	\$1,101
Median rental payments (weekly) (\$)	2021	\$295	\$350	\$250	\$260

Toogoolawah	Kilcoy	Linville	Moore	Somerset LGA	QLD
957	2,351	133	286	25,057	5,156,138
2.1	2.7	1.8	2.1	2.6	2.5
59	37	59	53	45	38
3.6	5.3	0	3.4	4.8	5.7
4.7	6.2	0	5.8	6.5	6.4
3.8	7.3	2.9	5.4	7	6.6
4.4	5.9	5.1	3.1	6	6.1
2.9	3.7	2.2	2	4.2	6.3
3.3	5.5	2.2	5.4	4.5	6.7
3.2	10.4	2.9	5.4	5.3	6.9
2.1	10.4	4.4	5.8	6.1	6.9
4.7	6.4	2.2	3.1	5.4	6.4
5.1	5.4	6.6	3.4	6.5	6.6
6.4	4.2	8.8	10.9	7.2	6.5
6.1	5.3	11.7	6.8	7.3	6.1
9.2	5.5	16.8	3.7	7.7	5.8
10.1	5	16.1	10.9	7	5.1
10.1	5.4	10.9	12.9	6.5	4.6
8.5	3.3	5.1	9.5	4.3	3.3
6.8	2.2	2.2	2.4	2.3	2.1
5.1	2.7	0	0	1.4	1.9
49.8	24.1	51.1	39.4	29.2	22.8
30.5	13.6	18.2	24.8	14.5	11.9
11.9	4.9	2.2	2.4	3.7	4
8.3	11.5	0	9.2	11.3	12.1
4.8	3.1	5.3	2.4	4.7	4.6
10	31.8	12	10.8	13.5	22.7
2.6	23.4	0.0	7.3	6.1	15.6
59.4	69.4	46.6	57.6	73.8	71
37.3	24.6	49.3	39.8	23.0	24.7
26.3	44.3	36.7	29.7	37.0	41.2
54.1	39.1	60	59.5	45.5	40.3
20.0	16.4	13.3	16.2	16.3	16.8
Toogoolawah	Kilcoy	Linville	Moore	Somerset LGA	QLD
48.9	33.4	40	56.9	38.2	29.1
21.7	30	18.6	24.4	36.8	34.4
24.3	32.9	22.9	13.8	20.7	33.1
68	73.7	18.8	70.6	60.4	21.9
8.7	0	0	0	2.1	9.9
\$1,000	\$1,300	\$631	\$1,003	\$1,500	\$1,733
\$265	\$342	\$175	\$213	\$300	\$365

Indicator	Year	Lowood	Fernvale	Coominya	Esk
Households in mortgage stress (%)	2021	11.6	12.6	10.8	12.9
Households in rental stress (%)	2021	40.4	35.9	26.1	45.9
INCOME AND WELLBEING					
Low income households (Less than \$650 gross weekly income) (%)	2021	23	9.9	19.6	33.5
High income households (More than \$3000 gross weekly income) (%)	2021	9.3	16.5	8.2	6.6
Median weekly household Income (\$/ weekly) (\$)	2021	\$1,154	\$1,759	\$1,138	\$847
Needs assistance due to disability (%)	2021	10.1	6.5	11.9	11.9
SEIFA Index of Disadvantage (no.)	2016	na	972	891	901
AEDI – increase in developmentally vulnerable children					
Vulnerable on one or more domain (%)	2021	na	na	na	na
Vulnerable on two or more domain (%)	2021	na	na	na	na
Top 3 long term health conditions:					
Mental Health (%)	2021	15.3	12	17.2	15.4
Arthritis (%)	2021	14.1	10.2	20.7	19.6
Asthma (%)	2021	13.1	10.8	14.4	12
Heart Disease (%)	2021				
TRANSPORT					
Households without a car (%)	2021	4.3	1.7	4	4.6
Households with one or more cars (%)	2021	34.3	26.8	29.1	48.1
Households with two or more cars (%)	2021	36.6	43.9	33.2	29.8
WORK & MOBILITY					
Unemployment Rate (%)	2021	9.5	4.5	10.4	4.9
Volunteers (%)	2021	12.3	10.8	7.7	19.9
Same address 5 years ago (persons aged 15 years and over) (%)	2021	56	59.7	69.1	62.2
Method of Travel to work					
People who travelled to work by public transport (%)	2021	1	1.3	2.9	0
People who travelled to work by car as driver or passenger (%)	2021	76.6	75.3	80.2	68.7

Toogoolawah	Kilcoy	Linville	Moore	Somerset LGA	QLD
18.5	13.1	30.8	13.3	13.7	11.9
45.6	21.1	18.8	29.4	34.9	32.3
35.1	17.0	41.1	32.8	20.3	16.4
4.8	16.0	5.4	8.6	13.4	21.9
\$885	\$1,401	\$693	\$900	\$1,312	\$1,675
14.9	6.9	12	5.9	8.3	6
889	885	849	866	929	997
na	na	na	na	28.9	24.7
na	na	na	na	16.3	13.2
13.7	7.9	19.8	10.8	12	9.6
21.3	8.8	20.3	22.4	8.8	8.8
10.9	7.7			8.5	8.5
		11.3	11.2	5.5	4.2
6.6	3.4	0	0	2.4	5.7
46.2	35.5	41.7	47.8	28.3	35.5
29.6	37.5	29.2	31.9	37.8	37.5
6	4.2	15	8	5.3	5.4
19.8	13.3	18	14.8	14.6	14.1
57.5	45.6	62.9	57.9	64.2	56
0	1.6	0	0	1.1	4.1
65	78.6	57.7	67.1	69.1	65.4

INDICATOR	UNIT	TIME PERIOD	SOMERSET
Population 2021	no.	2021	25,057
population 2041	no.	2041	39,017
Land area km3	no.	na	5,373
Total Medical Practitioners	Rate per 10,000 people	2020	148.4
General Medical Practitioners	Rate per 10,000 people	2020	8.4
Hospital Practitioners non-specialist	Rate per 10,000 people	2020	1.9
Specialist Practitioners	Rate per 10,000 people	2020	0.0
Specialist Practitioners in training	Rate per 10,000 people	2020	4.6
Total Nurses (Registered Nurses, Enrolled Nurses or Midwives, each person only counted once)	Rate per 10,000 people	2020	44.5
Total Dental Practitioners (includes Dentists, Oral health therapists, Dental hygienists, Dental therapists and Dental prosthetists)	Rate per 10,000 people	2020	2.3
Residential aged care places	Places per 1,000 population aged 70 years and over	2020	30.4
National Disability Insurance Scheme participants	ASR per 100	2022	2.5
Clients living alone - (CHSP) - My Aged Care	%	2020/21	32.6
Clients with carer (CHSP) - My Aged Care	%	2020/21	8.9
Indigenous clients (per total clients) (CHSP) - My Aged Care	%	2020/21	3.4
Non-English-speaking clients (CHSP) - My Aged Care	%	2020/21	5.2
Learning or Earning at ages 15 to 24	%	2021	78.9
Persons living in crowded dwellings	%	2021	5.8
Persons living in severely crowded dwellings	Rate per 10,000 people	2021	6.9
Housing suitability	%	2021	2.8
Households in dwellings receiving rent assistance from the Australian Government	%	2021	26.5
Social housing (rented dwellings)	no.	2021	39.0
Social housing (persons in rented dwellings)	%	2021	0.3
Age pensioners	%	2021	63.5
Age pensioners - Department of Veterans' Affairs	%	2021	1.4
Disability support pensioners	%	2021	9.2
Female sole parent pensioners	%	2021	6.0
People receiving an unemployment benefit	%	2021	10.1

	BURDEKIN	SCENIC RIM	SOUTH BURNETT	SOUTHERN DOWNS	QUEENSLAND
	16,692	42,984	32,996	36,290	5,156,138
	17,310	67,290	37,107	38,969	na
	5,044	4,243	8,382	7,108	na
	177.0	190.3	174.7	206.2	420.9
	11.8	13.8	10.4	11.3	12.9
	2.0	5.8
	..	1.4	2.5	2.0	15.0
	..	2.7	3.1	4.2	7.3
	77.9	65.3	96.8	106.5	142.8
	5.3	6.2	5.2	8.2	8.7
	60.9	60.8	55.6	76.8	72.6
	2.2	2.1	3.3	2.7	2.1
	22.4	28.1	43.6	40.7	36.8
	5.1	6.1	8.4	4.7	10.3
	6.9	2.4	4.6	2.2	3.5
	5.8	2.5	0.5	6.6	7.7
	79.3	82.1	74.3	80.2	83.7
	5.1	4.7	6.0	5.2	5.6
	14.9	4.6	14.0	18.0	16.6
	2.5	2.4	3.0	2.4	2.8
	19.4	24.6	24.6	24.7	26.3
	153.0	168.0	254.0	231.0	61,277.0
	2.5	1.0	1.7	1.3	2.9
	58.3	61.9	73.0	69.2	62.0
	0.9	1.0	1.4	1.2	1.1
	5.7	6.3	13.9	9.4	4.9
	4.8	4.5	7.3	6.7	4.2
	9.1	8.4	12.3	10.7	7.7

INDICATOR	UNIT	TIME PERIOD	SOMERSET	
JobSeeker unemployment beneficiaries	%	2021	10.1	
Young people aged 16 to 21 receiving an unemployment benefit	%	2021	9.8	
People receiving an unemployment benefit short-term	%	2021	1.0	
People receiving an unemployment benefit long-term	%	2021	9.1	
Low income, welfare-dependent families (with children)	%	2021	7.5	
Children in low income, welfare-dependent families	%	2021	17.1	
Health Care Card holders	%	2021	8.8	
Pensioner Concession Card holders	%	2021	31.8	
Seniors Health Card holders	%	2021	5.9	
People aged 0 to 14 years who reported they had a mental health condition (including depression or anxiety)	ASR per 100	2021	4.0	
Median age at death of persons 2016 to 2020	no.		76.0	
People aged 0 to 14 years who reported they had one or more long-term health conditions	ASR per 100	2021	12.7	
Deaths from suicide and self-inflicted injuries, 0 to 74 years	Average annual ASR per 10,000	2016-2020	2.8	
Youth mortality: Deaths of persons aged 15 to 24 years	Average annual ASR per 10,000	2016-2020	6.7	

	BURDEKIN	SCENIC RIM	SOUTH BURNETT	SOUTHERN DOWNS	QUEENSLAND
	9.1	8.6	12.2	10.7	7.8
	9.1	7.2	12.9	10.8	7.4
	1.0	0.9	1.2	1.0	0.8
	8.0	7.5	11.1	9.7	6.9
	5.0	6.0	7.5	6.1	5.7
	15.3	13.9	19.0	15.8	12.2
	7.6	7.6	10.7	9.6	8.1
	26.8	27.9	42.3	36.2	22.2
	11.1	9.5	6.9	9.1	9.7
	1.6	3.3	4.7	3.4	2.7
	80.0	81.0	78.0	81.0	80.0
	7.0	10.7	11.2	10.7	9.0
	2.3	1.4	3.3	2.2	1.5
	11.9	5.4	8.4	5.5	4.2

APPENDIX C

CONSULTATION SUMMARY



"The engagement process included a blend of traditional in-person and contemporary online engagement activities that captured input from community members and stakeholders"

CONSULTATION OUTCOMES

The purpose of this Consultation Summary is to provide a synopsis of the information and key findings that arose out of the consultation events. The consultation findings are based on the perceptions and views of those that participated in the engagement process.

● SOMERSET REGIONAL COUNCIL ● SOCIAL PLAN

People who filled in a survey

174

People who attended pop-ups

124

People who attended one-on-one meetings/ focus groups

30

People who filled in questionnaire

23

People who attended Councillor workshop

15

TOTAL PEOPLE ENGAGED

366

● CONSULTATION OUTCOMES ●

Strengths were identified in the following areas:

- **Regional character** (country feel, rural lifestyle, slow pace life)
- **The community** (friendly, sense of community, diversity)
- **Natural values** (environment/nature, wildlife, fresh air, open space)
- **Peaceful character** (peaceful, quiet, serene, stress free)
- **Quality of services** (Libraries, Condensery, Civic Centre, Wellbeing hub)

Comments regarding strengths

"Having lived here all my life, I enjoy the friendliness of the small town, the lakes, Glen Rock, yet near to many larger towns"

"Peace and quiet. Natural environment and abundant diverse wildlife. Sense of community"

"Strength through connections"

"The countryside, the sense of community. Getting outdoors"

CONSULTATION OUTCOMES

Vision: Key words and statements

"Community atmosphere"

"Well maintained transport networks"

"Work life balance supporting community"

"Great place for seniors to live"



"Community minded spirit"

"Work opportunities for younger generation"

"Better and safer roads and streets"

"Fun with lots of outdoor activities"

● CONSULTATION OUTCOMES ●

Main issues and challenges identified by community leaders & service providers:

- Lack of public transport
- Accessibility to health and wellbeing services (mental health)
- Lack of opportunities for young people
- Lack of housing affordability and supply
- Ageing population who desire to age in place
- Problematic service catchment and navigating services
- Declining volunteer and support for community groups and organisations
- Inclusiveness

Top 3 issues and challenges identified by residents:

- Lack of public transport & poor transport infrastructure
- Limited accessibility to health and medical services and facilities
- Limited access to higher order retail

Comments regarding issues and challenges

"Aging and living on acreage will be a problem in the not too distant future distance from family living elsewhere ..would like to remain in the community in suitable aged/independent living style accommodation..but none is available"

"Public transport, locally and to larger centres. Eg. health specialists"

"The lack of store options in the area along with some medical options are limited"

"There is no public transport, needs more shops, shelves are lacking in the grocery store"

● CONSULTATION OUTCOMES ●

Main opportunities, solutions & actions identified by community leaders & service providers:

- Promote and develop driver support programs
- More non-clinical services for health and well being (social prescribing) that reduce social isolation, support tele-health services
- More affordable and social housing including aged care and supported housing
- Activities for young people eg: skating rink, bowling alley, arcade, gym
- Explore alternative education for young people disengaging from high schools
- Closer liaison with community groups
- Capitalise on regional growth e.g tourist visits to the region
- Promote a regional identity for the Somerset to better connect the towns

Top 3 opportunities, solutions & actions identified by residents:

- Upgrade and improved transport infrastructure
- Upgrade/access to medical and care facilities
- Expanded services and shops

Comments regarding opportunities, solutions & actions

"Better medical, cheaper prices on EVERYTHING, more transport to and from major cities for when needed"

"Housing for new families wanting to move here for work. More modern cafes with consistent opening hours. Not just take away"

"Better education outcomes and choices"

"Better linkages between the towns and communities and community group"

● CONSULTATION OUTCOMES ●

Potential roles for Councils were identified in the following areas:

- **Community engagement** - More community engagement and community education, regular communication with Councillors
- **Planning role** - Managing planning and development for community expectations (lot sizes, flooding), audit Council buildings, activities and events for people with disability
- **Advocacy and promotion** - Providing more economic/industry support, assist people to navigate services and promote existing services, promote the strengths of the region
- **Partnering and facilitation** - State/federal for affordable housing, partner with community, connecting communities/businesses/services, recruit and support volunteering , advocate to improve public and community transport

Comments regarding potential roles for Council

"Council can 100% foster a unique view of the amazing townships and villages in the region. We need welcome signs, displaying names of the towns, representing the indigenous history, the pioneer spirit, and the rolling hills/ animals that call the area home"

"Create connection points, use volunteers as safe and trusted connection points"

"Constant feedback loops to the community"

"Can Council work with government for the release of land for housing"

