

LOWOOD FUTURES STRATEGY

NEWSLETTER - DECEMBER 2024 - ISSUE 1



Stay up to date on your town's future

Welcome to the first edition of the Lowood Futures Strategy Newsletter.

This quarterly newsletter is produced by Somerset Regional Council to keep the Lowood community up to date as we progress the Lowood Futures Strategy.

The project is an urban renewal strategy for Lowood and includes establishing a community hub, green botanic core, new car parks, footpath upgrades, improved connectivity to the Brisbane Valley Rail Trail, and access to the Brisbane River for recreational experiences.

Lowood Futures is a collaboration between Council and the community. An informed and engaged



community is key to the success of this project.

We're seeing development come on board in Lowood, and we want to be proactive in our approach to keep our town vibrant, refreshed, and growing with the community.

This project will harness and enhance what is already great about Lowood, it's history and values.

**Jason Wendt, Mayor,
Somerset Regional Council**



**A collaboration between
Somerset Regional
Council and the Lowood
community.**

For more information about the Lowood Futures Strategy:

(07) 5424 4000

mail@somerset.qld.gov.au

[somerset.qld.gov.au/major-projects](https://www.somerset.qld.gov.au/major-projects)

Lowood Customer Service Centre - 1 Michel Street, Lowood

Stage one - more carparks

Progress Report

The Lowood Futures Strategy is split into five broad stages. The first stage is the construction of two new carparks.

The first carpark, pictured top right, is planned for a site between Railway Street and Station Street.

The concept design for the carpark is complete with construction drawings nearing completion.

Council has received \$830,000 to build the Station Street Carpark under the SEQ City Deal program.

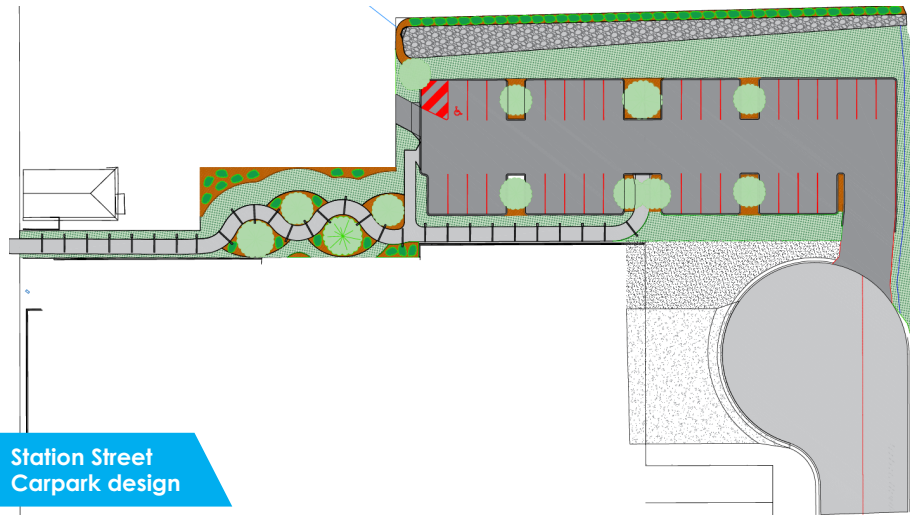
Construction will begin in mid 2025.

This carpark will give Railway Street workers and Lowood visitors a new and convenient place to park.

The second carpark on Railway Street, pictured bottom right, will complete stage one of the project.

This carpark is being designed. It will include the Lowood bus stop, and provisions for recreational vehicle parking and horse floats.

This carpark will also serve as an entry point to the Brisbane Valley Rail Trail.



Meet the Lowood Futures Advisory Committee

The Lowood Futures Advisory Committee held its first meeting on Thursday, 3 October 2024.

The committee includes Somerset Regional Council Mayor Jason Wendt, Deputy Mayor Helen Brieschke, Councillor Michael Bishop, Council officers and

community representatives Aaron Heck, Elizabeth Butterworth, Graeme Lehmann, Jean Bray, Tony Sherlock and Susan Pitkin.

Council provided the committee with the first stage of the project plans, including the Station Street landscape concept plan.

These plans will set the precedence for the rest of the project.

The committee noted concerns around community engagement for the Lowood Futures Strategy, and Council has responded by creating this project newsletter, and will continue sharing updates through various channels.

The committee will meet again on Thursday, 6 February 2025.



Place Project Manager

Somerset Regional Council's Place Project Manager is Matthew McGoldrick.

If you would like to chat with Matthew about the project, phone 5424 4000.

Our plan for a brighter and greener future for Lowood



Town Centre

The Lowood Futures Strategy Concept Master Plan seeks to transform the town centre into an area that the community can be proud of, with a green character, activities and spaces that create a friendly atmosphere. Somerset Regional Council engaged AECOM Australia Pty Ltd to deliver the Master Plan in consultation with the Lowood community.

Not to scale

Green Botanic Core

Creating a people-focused centre with open space at its core will build upon Clock Park and recent plantings to establish a green botanic character throughout the town centre. The Green Botanic Core could include trees, landscaping, barbecue areas, playgrounds and an event lawn.

New Connections

Creating a new east-west connection between Michel Street and the Lowood Showgrounds via Station Street will improve connections and reinforce the people-focused centre.

Car Parking

Relocating and formalising public car parking in the Town Centre will support the creation of the people-focused Green Botanic Core while providing convenient access to destinations around town. New car parking would also be established as new development or refurbishment occurs in the Town Centre.

Youth Activity Area

Create and enhance spaces and activities for young people in the Town Centre.

Brisbane Valley Rail Trail

Harness the visitor attraction of the Rail Trail by creating places for people to stop and spend time in Lowood, and by enhancing crossings for the safety and comfort of all users.

Development Opportunities

Utilising existing available land for future retail, dining, office and short-term accommodation opportunities, allowing development to happen over time. New buildings would include awnings and materials that complement the existing character of Lowood. Buildings adjoining the Green Botanic Core, including on government-owned land on Railway Street, will address and activate the open space.

Lowood Train Station

Celebrating the railway history of Lowood provides inspiration for the Concept Plan, with Lowood Train Station as a central marker in the Town Centre.

Community Hub

A potential new building to bring government services together into one place and provide a hub for the local community with flexible spaces that can be used for different purposes, including a disaster management centre.

Greater connectivity to the Brisbane Valley Rail Trail

Outside the town centre, Somerset Regional Council plans to improve footpath connectivity within Lowood.

Current plans include creating footpaths connecting the rail trail to Lowood's outer residential land.

One route may connect the BVRT to residential land along Forest Hill Fernvale Road, out towards Jensen's

Swamp Environmental Reserve, and back along Klibbe Road and Summerville Road.

A second route would go north of the BVRT around the Lowood Showground and south around the Lowood Lookout.



Greening Lowood town

Somerset Regional Council has plans to plant about 500 mature trees within the town centre, along the Brisbane Valley Rail Trail, and on footpaths throughout Lowood.

This project is supported by the Commonwealth Government through the Disaster Ready Fund.

The open nature of Lowood's town centre presents a unique space for the community and visitors.

A green botanic core in town creates a civic centre for businesses and a place worth dismounting for rail trail riders.



Council purchases land to progress Lowood Futures Strategy

Somerset Regional Council approved the purchasing of a 1060sq m lot in Lowood between Railway Street and Clock Park to progress the project during its 27 November ordinary meeting.

Previously, Council leased the land from the Department of Transport and Main Roads.

Somerset Mayor Jason Wendt said purchasing the land was a priority for Council in progressing its plans for Lowood's town centre.

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This is a small but important investment into the future and betterment of Lowood.

Council will continue to update the community on progress for the Lowood Futures Strategy.

~ Mayor Wendt ~

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