Blueprint 2030:

Livingstone Shire Council

Economic Growth and Investment Strategy





Council acknowledges and pays respect to the Darumbal and Woppaburra people as Traditional Custodians of the land within Livingstone. Council also acknowledges and pays its respects to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who now reside within this area.

The Livingstone Shire Council Blueprint 2030 commits to honouring the history and ongoing contributions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to the Livingstone region and the fundamental role they play in shaping our region.



Contents

Welcome	4
The Economics	6
The Location	7
The Priorities	8
The Plan	10
The Projects	16
The Pathway to Housing Solutions	18
The Benefits	20
The Economic Development Team	22









Welcome

We've known it for generations, but the secret is definitely out. Livingstone Shire is one of the most desirable places to live, work and play in Queensland. Home to an idyllic coastal lifestyle, and a stunning rural backdrop, we really do have it all.

As one of the fastest growing regional areas in Queensland, having experienced the benefits of regionalisation through population growth and investment into infrastructure, Livingstone Shire is perfectly positioned to continue this growth into the future.

Located just a short 30-minute drive from the major regional City of Rockhampton, Livingstone Shire is also a quick hour-long flight to Brisbane and beyond, making the region a hotspot for families to call home. We're home to a unique professional workforce ecosystem, with remote workers choosing to embrace our lifestyle and in turn, employers choosing to base their business where their talent resides. It's an enviable lifestyle, and our economy is thriving with the diversity of business and industry across the region.

We're invested in making our community and region better, fostering stronger connections with State and Federal Government to help deliver results for Livingstone Shire. Our investment into the future means we are setting the region up for economic success. We have a continued focus on strategic projects such as The Gateway Industrial Park, The Homemaker Retail Centre and renewed focus on advocating for the revitalisation of key precincts across our shire that are essential for our growth and development.

The adoption of Livingstone Shire Council's Blueprint 2030 demonstrates our commitment to delivering for our community. It is an action focused document that outlines the priorities for Livingstone Shire, whilst retaining the community values and lifestyle that we are celebrated for.

We are dedicated to achieving great outcomes for the Livingstone Shire Community and are pleased to be able to present our plan to maintain Livingstone as the best place to live, work and invest in Australia!

Andrew Ireland

Mayor - Livingstone Shire Council

The Economics



39,125

Population, increasing to **55,740** by 2041

\$1.6B

Gross Regional Product

3.8%

Economic growth annually, with continued strong growth forecast



11,500

jobs

3.6% unemployment



3,000+

Local small businesses



Land & property

Abundant affordable quality serviced industrial land and comparatively low property costs



17.8°C to 27.1°C

Average daily temperature range

938mm

Average annual rainfall



capability and a track record in delivering major projects.





A coastal lifestyle

with pristine beaches, tropical islands, rainforest, national parks and vibrant urban communities.



Connected

by road, rail, sea and air to major Australian and international markets



Shoalwater Bay The Location Byfield National Park 40 Min Yeppoon Rosslyn Bay The Caves Kinka Beach Emu Park **Surf Lakes** Mt Archer Keppel Sands National Park Rockhampton Brisbane 1 Hour

The Priorities



Agriculture & food technology

Livingstone Shire will become the Central Queensland Hub for agriculture and value-added food product manufacturing. Growth in farmgate, farmtoplate food and agritourism experiences will increase visitation..



Modern manufacturing

Manufacturing is one of the largest industry valueadd contributers to our economy. Council continues to enable industry growth via its investment in The Gateway and Industry Park, which is fast becoming the preferred location for new industries and modern manufacturing enterprises to establish and grow.

.....



Tourism

Livingstone Shire has a reputation as a 'must experience' destination based on its diversity in tourism product/experiences? The realisation of gamechanger projects such as the revitalisation of Great Keppel Island and Surf Lakes will increase accommodation options and experiences for any taste and budget.





Construction and infrastructure services

Livingstone Shire plays an enabling role in the attraction of major national and global companies by providing concierge services for investment inquiries, ensuring adequate land is available, zoned and serviced and partnering to provide business capacity building opportunities.



Defence and military training

The Shoalwater Bay Military Training Area, already a world class training facility, has significant opportunity to scale to support an ADF School of Armour, combat supply storage and maintenance hub and advanced training, experimentation and mission staging with allied forces.



Energy transition

Livingstone Shire is home to many specialist mining workers. As the transition to the new generation of renewable technologies occurs we will aggressively pursue these opportunities to establish in region. Constituting a diversified energy economy and ensuring a future for our specialist workers.



The Plan – Six Core Economic Development Activities underpin the action plan for Livingstone Shire's economic growth.

Research, Strategic Planning and Information Brokerage

Livingstone Shire Council is a broker of information between Council, other tiers of government, key institutions, industry, and the community, researching and disseminating information on the economy, policy development and strategic planning.



Concierge Services to Promote and Support Local Businesses

Livingstone Shire Council, in its role as economic development information-broker or 'concierge', liaises with business and industry as well as representative organisations and peak industry bodies to understand local needs and priorities and addresses those priorities through planning, program and project delivery.



Image: Alicia, Real Photography

Land Use Planning, Regulation and Community Enhancement

Livingstone Shire Council endeavours to maintain a regulatory and land use planning environment that is as supportive of business opportunity and investment as possible. Council understands that a liveable community is essential for attracting and retaining the regional workforce and as such also supports its towns and villages through general placemaking, master planning, development control, place activation, landscaping, urban improvements and community enhancement programs.



Marketing, Promotion and Investment Attraction

Livingstone Shire Council facilitates investment by promoting what the local area and wider region has to offer prospective investors in a strategic and targeted fashion. Working in collaboration with Capricorn Enterprise as the lead regional tourism organisation, it promotes the Capricorn Coast's 'tourism offer' as well as identifying local infrastructure investment needs through an informed approach to destination management.



Provision of Local Infrastructure and Services

Council collaborates with regional stakeholders to ensure that the fundamental enablers for investment and economic development are addressed by planning for and providing regionally significant infrastructure in an informed, planned and co-ordinated manner. Livingstone Shire Council, in conjunction with State and Federal Government agencies, regional development organisations and infrastructure and service providers collectively establish and maintain the 'enabling environment' for economic activity.



Economic Development Advocacy and Partnerships

Livingstone Shire Council and its partners in industry, government and the non-government sector provide a unifying voice for communities and businesses when lobbying State and Federal Governments on key economic and infrastructure issues. Council plays a key role in these efforts through identifying strategic priorities and preparing business cases to inform government funding for key projects.





Support Livingstone Shire's Businesses to Re-invest, Innovate and Prosper

FORMALISE AND RESOURCE A 'BUSINESS INVESTMENT CONCIERGE' ROLE, to be provided by Council. Allocate human and financial resources to the establishment and operation of a dedicated and staffed virtual business help desk, providing local businesses with access to available business information and advisory services.

REVIEW THE PLANNING SCHEME and associated Council regulatory processes to enable a merit-based (Return-On-Investment) entrepreneurial and accelerated approach to the review of community-significant construction projects and development proposals.

ENGAGE WITH LIVINGSTONE SHIRE'S BUSINESSES

through the Capricornia Chamber of Commerce, to inform a program for planning, hosting and attending selected business events, networking functions, business awards, trade shows, conferences and training programs that meet the needs of the Shire's existing businesses.

DESIGN AND DELIVER PROGRAMS to support the Capricorn Coast's tourism and hospitality sector through a diversity of support measures, including, for example, continued investment in place improvements to enhance and activate public spaces, facilitating retail pop-ups and supporting strategic promotional campaigns which have the collective buy in of local businesses.

COLLABORATE WITH POTENTIAL PARTNERS to

explore the feasibility of establishing a Business Start-up Program and Workspace in Yeppoon to support prospective and establishing local entrepreneurs. Identify potential workspace locations and program funding sources.

Connect businesses to relevant State and Federal government programs for business development and mentoring for intending and newly established businesses.

IN COLLABORATION with the Queensland Local Content Leaders Network (QLCLN), explore existing local content / local buy programs to improve Livingstone Shire Council's support for and promotion of local procurement objectives. Continue to support local business and industry through a procurement process that adds a 'local buy' rating during evaluation.

EXPAND PARTNERSHIPS WITH CQ UNIVERSITY

to identify and implement pathways for training and research opportunities for local agricultural producers.

Create a partnership with industry bodies Queensland Farmers' Federation, National Farmers' Federation, Ag-Force and Growcom to progress advocacy at the State and Federal Government levels.

PARTNER WITH LOCAL MEAT PRODUCERS AND

PROCESSORS to enhance Beef Capital of Australia brand awareness, particularly with local restaurants and identified export sectors.

Pursue additional beef industry related events and research in the region to consolidate the beef capital reputation beyond the single triennial event. Livingstone could host many of these.



Attract New Investment in Livingstone Shire's Priority Industry Sectors

IN COLLABORATION WITH CAPRICORN ENTERPRISE

and with the support of Trade and Investment Queensland, establish an investment enquiry protocol for Livingstone Shire, articulating roles, responsibilities and processes for managing and registering investment enquiries to ensure a professional, efficient and one-stop process for responding to prospective investors.

CURATE A WELCOME TO LIVINGSTONE DOCUMENT

to be combined with business concierge services. Utilise new Discover Capricorn social media channels to market and promote key messages to target audiences.

In Council's capacity as a business investment concierge, engage with Trade and Investment Queensland and other key agencies to ensure Livingstone Shire's priority industry sectors and investment priorities are clearly articulated and communicated to prospective investors from interstate and overseas.

ADVOCATE FOR NEW INVESTMENT in Livingstone Shire through Council's supportive regulatory and planning system, its business information and advisory services support functions and its advocacy role.

Seek out private investment in food manufacturing and establish Livingstone Shire as one of the primary centres for food manufacturing innovation and production in Queensland.

DESIGN AND DELIVER A STRATEGY focused on placemaking, wayfinding, signage and interpretation to prominently acknowledge and celebrate Livingstone Shire's Traditional Owners, their culture and their relationship to the landscape and its components.

COLLABORATE WITH KEY STAKEHOLDERS to

develop action plans to deliver major investment project proposals including the Great Keppel Island Rejuvenation Project, Capricorn Integrated Resort and Keppel Bay Convention and Sporting Hub. Identify the barriers, solutions, cost/benefits, key players, necessary resources and advocacy needs to implement key projects.

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH CQROC, advocate to the Australian Government and other key stakeholders the key messages in the Central Queensland Defence Plan: Implementation Plan.

CONTINUALLY RESEARCH, MONITOR AND

ASSESS Livingstone Shire's priority projects, to inform regularly updated, targeted and tailored advocacy documents for presentation to the State and Federal governments. Regularly updated advocacy documents should outline project needs, opportunities, priorities for investment and the overall business case, that is, the anticipated social and economic benefits to the communities of the Shire and region.



Enable Growth through Investment in Livingstone Shire's Strategic Infrastructure

CONTINUE TO INVESTIGATE, PLAN FOR, RELEASE AND PROMOTE the availability of quality, serviced industrial land in Livingstone Shire to meet the anticipated requirements of existing and emerging new industries.

AS MEMBERS of the Central Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils (CQROC) collaborate to progress regionally significant game changing infrastructure.

CONTINUE TO ENGAGE WITH SURF LAKES
CAPRICORN COAST by providing ongoing planning,
promotional and advocacy support for enabling
access infrastructure for the proposed Capricorn
Coast Wave Pool Resort.

INVESTIGATE AND PRIORITISE INTERNET
CONNECTIVITY shortfalls and mobile phone
blackspot areas and use the information to partner
with government agencies and service providers
to ensure that high-quality mobile phone and
Internet coverage is provided to all communities of
Livingstone Shire.

CONTINUE TO PRESS STATE AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FUNDING AGENCIES to ensure alignment of business cases for priority physical and community infrastructure projects with agency priorities and funding opportunities.

PRO-ACTIVELY ENGAGE WITH THE RENEWABLE ENERGY SECTOR AND KEY AGENCIES including the Australian Renewable Energy Agency Trade and Investment Queensland and the Queensland Department of Energy and Public Works to leverage Livingstone Shire's suitability as a location for renewables and industry support services.

INVESTIGATE CURRENT AND FUTURE DEMAND FOR COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES in proximity to the Bruce Highway and the Northern Corridor suburbs of The Caves, Glenlee, Rockyview, Glendale and Etna Creek.



Promote Livingstone Shire's Appeal as a Place in Which to Live, Work and Prosper

ESTABLISH A DEDICATED DISCOVER CAPRICORN COAST SOCIAL MEDIA CHANNEL across Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn for Council's Economic Development Unit to deliver frequent, clever, topical messages to key target audiences including local businesses, residents and visitors.

SECURE THE GOVERNMENT FUNDING AND LOGISTICAL SUPPORT NEEDED TO DELIVER MAJOR INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS including the Yeppoon Town Centre Rejuvenation Project, Great Keppel Island Revitalisation, Causeway Lake restoration and redevelopment, regional boat ramps and the expansion of Rosslyn Bay Harbour. These projects are important catalysts for investment across all sectors of the local economy.

PROGRESS STAGE 2 OF THE CAPRICORN COAST HOMEMAKER CENTRE PROJECT to free-up commercial land in the centre of Yeppoon, to allow expansion of the Homemaker Centre creating new opportunities for big box retail opportunities and associated employment.

ADVOCATE FOR GOVERNMENT FUNDING TO SUPPORT THE NEXT PHASE OF THE CAUSEWAY RESTORATION AND REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT in support of restoring Causeway Lake as a major regional recreation asset underpinning the Capricorn Coast's appeal as a place in which to live, work and play. Funding is needed to commission due diligence and final design studies (including an overall business case). Following this work, considerably more funds will be needed to execute the findings of these reviews.

SECURE GOVERNMENT FUNDING SUPPORT FOR THE YEPPOON AQUATIC CENTRE PROJECT as a catalyst project underpinning the town's lifestyle appeal.

PARTNER WITH THE STATE GOVERNMENT AND CQUNI TO DEVELOP A COLLABORATIVE PROGRAM

that precisely articulates Livingstone Shire's existing and emerging skills gaps by engaging with established local businesses, representative industry organisations, government agencies and the region's education and training providers. Once identified, create a relocation campaign to address these gaps adaptable across all industries.

WORK WITH RELEVANT GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROVIDERS and the Central Queensland region's resource sector companies regarding current expansion and development projects, to map current and anticipated skills requirements and identify potential training programs to support employment opportunities for Livingstone Shire residents

IN RESPONSE TO THE FINDINGS OF LIVINGSTONE'S 5 YEAR HOUSING DEMAND ANALYSIS, prepare a Capricorn Coast Housing Strategy documenting priorities for investment. This strategy will outline the priorities for investment and actions that will facilitate increased supply of housing, greater diversity of housing options, working in partnership with private sector partners to increase the supply of affordable and social housing units.

The Projects

Livingstone Shire Council is committed to pursuing and advocating for "game changing" projects across our region. A game changer project is considered to be a project which will have significant economic, social and community outcomes for the region. These projects are a collaboration between our surrounding local government areas, state and federal government and are designed to bolster investment and improve quality of life for residents and visitors to Livingstone Shire.

Capricorn Coast Homemaker Centre

The Capricorn Coast Homemaker Centre Masterplan was developed by Council in 2016 to ensure the optimal development of a prime, central-Yeppoon site and to accommodate uses not currently in the market.

The success of Stage One and general regional growth has prompted other large-format retailers and developers to enquire after future stages of the Homemaker Centre and Council is exploring development of subsequent stages.

Yeppoon Aquatic Centre

The Yeppoon Aquatic Centre will be a year-round health and wellbeing aquatic destination, featuring the best in fitness aquatic facilities, a new 50m competition pool, new administration/amenities building, showers and change rooms, learn to swim capabilities, café, amenity and accessibility upgrades, a grassed spectator area, car parking and landscaping improvements.

Pathways between the complex and neighbouring sporting facilities are part of the plan. Aquatic centres are important for enhancing social cohesion and improved health and wellbeing. These centres mean more to communities than just a place to swim; they provide an essential service as a hub for people to come together. The Australian government under the Community Development Grants Programme has provided an in-principle commitment of \$13 million to the project.

Gateway Business & Industry Park

The Gateway Business and Industry Park is a 56-hectare master-planned industrial precinct developed by Council, strategically located adjacent to the connecting road between Yeppoon and Rockhampton. The precinct was developed to address a market shortage of suitable land.

The Gateway includes a variety of premium lots ranging in sizes from 2,000 sqm through to 2.3 hectares. Lots are being delivered in stages and can be tailored to meet requirements for different sized business.

Rail Trail Extension

The Capricorn Coast Pineapple Rail Trail (Braithwaite Street to Yeppoon Road)has been developed on a section of disused rail corridor that connects Yeppoon to the neighbouring city of Rockhampton. Council and the community would like to see the trail extended along the balance of the rail corridor to create a truly outstanding asset for long distance walkers, runners and cyclists. The trail cuts through a diversity of landscapes and is considered to be one of the best undeveloped rail trail opportunities in Queensland.

Livingstone Shire Council has developed a master plan for the balance of the rail trail, acknowledging the immense draw that this would provide to locals and active visitors. Importantly, it would provide a massive boon to several small attractive rural communities intersected by the trail.





Livingstone Shire Council are determined to increase and improve housing supply across the region. As a Council, we are continuing to advocate across all levels of government to support housing supply and affordability in regional Australia. Livingstone Shire Council has committed to ongoing measures which will address the housing crisis and provide sustainable residential growth into the future.

Actions taken by Council to support housing Supply:



Council commissioned the Housing Demand Analysis in 2021, which identified issues around supply and diversity of housing stock in Livingstone Shire and provided potential solutions.



Identification of Council-owned land suitable for disposition as housing, and subdivision of existing council owned land to enable sale for residential housing lots.



Development of a draft housing strategy to guide future Council consideration of options regarding the extent of Council actions that might be taken to address the crisis.



Investment attraction campaigns focused on eminent not for-profit community housing providers. Council has provided these entities with potential development sites will continue to pursue affordable and social housing opportunities.



Council has highlighted to the State several suitable well-positioned State-owned properties that could be further developed into suitable housing for the region.



Political lobbying for responses to the housing crisis, including submissions to LGAG, CQROC, State and Federal Government.

Benefits of Residential Investment in Livingstone Shire:



Construct secondary dwellings on residential house sites (< 80sm) without planning approval or infrastructure charges (subject to overlays).



Take advantage of deferred infrastructure charges for small ROL developments (1 year - 4 lots, 2 years - 5+ lots).



Access a free duty planner service for basic enquiries and a dedicated case officer for each Development Application.



Feel confident that 85% of development applications are processed within 25 business days or less. (statutory requirement is 35 business days).



Located just 40 minutes by car to Rockhampton CBD and a one-hour flight to Brisbane, Livingstone Shire is an accessible location for workers of all industries to call home.



Have confidence in a median rental yield of 5.3% and a rental vacancy rate consistently lower than 1%, combined with significant population growth - providing lucrative investment opportunity.

The Benefits



Home to a diverse agricultural industry with a growing economy in biodiversity, permaculture, and horticulture. Supported by an established beef industry, Livingstone Shire is a thriving hub for agricultural production and welcomes investment into value adding processing and agritourism.

deep breath

The thriving and vibrant business and retail centres of Yeppoon and Emu Park are surrounded by natural wonders. As a gateway to the Southern Great Barrier Reef, you can lose yourself on one of seventeen beaches on Great Keppel Island or venture North of Yeppoon and discover the beauty of the Byfield Rainforest.

Home to an engaged and vibrant community, Livingstone Shire comes together across the year to celebrate music, diversity, arts, sustainability, and culture, hosting numerous significant events across the region.

Tourism mecca

Perfectly positioned on the Southern Great Barrier Reef, the Capricorn Coast is rapidly becoming known as the holiday spot that has it all, boutique accommodation, thrilling experiences, farmgate to plate dining and more! Experience the full diversity of rainforest, coast, and country all in Livingstone Shire.

Defence ready

Home to Shoalwater Bay military training area, Livingstone Shire is uniquely placed to support a permanent Australian Defence Force. Partnering with our neighbouring local government areas, we can offer a holistic solution for Defence Force positioning.



Sunshine, sea breeze and coastal vibes

With population growth ahead of Central Queensland average, Livingstone Shire is a destination of choice for Australia's workforce to base their families. Enjoy all the amenities of a large regional city right at your doorstep, with the sparkling ocean less than 5 minutes from your front door. Livingstone Shire remains an affordable option to live, work and invest.



You'll be spoilt for choice, with something to cater for everyone.

Livingstone Shire boasts
numerous Primary and
Secondary educational
facilities, and benefits from
Central Queensland University
located just thirty minutes away
in Rockhampton. It is a region
that is quickly becoming known
for its family friendly atmosphere
and welcoming locals.

Connected to major cities via
Rockhampton airport, Livingstone
Shire is the perfect blend of
regional living and modern
convenience. A region that is
celebrated for its innovation
and growth while retaining
community pride and
connection.

Transport and logistics

A quick 30 minute car ride will get you to major Regional hub Rockhampton, and an hour flight will see you in Brisbane. With connectivity to major supply chains, Livingstone Shire means easy access to export, trade, health, and education opportunities.



Proactive and innovative industry collaboration

Enjoy a welcoming business community, open to collaboration and growing our region as a collective. Livingstone Shire Council work beside our local community to drive economic growth and long term investment for the benefit of the community. Partnerships between industry, government and regional economic organisations are prioritised, to support business and industry in the region.



The Economic Development Team

The Economic Development team are focused on driving Economic Growth in Livingstone Shire.

Economic Development in Livingstone Shire is multi-faceted, with the team working across industry development and engagement, improving liveability and wellbeing for our community, driving tourism, and building Livingstone Shire's profile as a thriving regional centre.

Our team are experts at stakeholder engagement, working seamlessly across all levels of government and private industry. As the concierge for new and existing business across the region we are here to make investing in Livingstone Shire a seamless process.

A diverse region, Livingstone Shire encompasses a versatile landscape. Located on the Southern Great Barrier Reef, our region is also home to lush rainforests, limestone outcrops and caves alongside lush productive farmland. It's a region that requires a dedication to promoting a strong tourism economy together with growing industry to pave the way for our future and Council's Economic Development team are here to enable this growth.

Contact the Livingstone Shire Council **Economic Development Team:**



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