



CENTRAL HIGHLANDS' TOP 6

Key projects for regional prosperity

01

AUDIT REGIONAL WATER SECURITY

Success looks like ...

A comprehensive audit of water resources in the Central Highlands region and a long-term plan for a sustainable water supply to support economic and population growth.

A safe, secure and reliable water supply is essential for the health and wellbeing of the Central Highlands' community and to support regional economic growth and development.

Alarming, forecasting is showing that water demand is likely to reach or exceed the council's current urban water allocations in less than 10 years.

Without data and a long-term strategy to address future water supply issues, the

community will be burdened with tighter water restrictions, and industrial and agricultural investment confidence in the region will wane.

Regular, prolonged drought conditions and indications of climate change effect on the region mean that council must prioritise the investigation all the potential water supply sources to drought-proof the region and learn how to manage its water resource in the most equitable and sustainable way.



OUTCOME SOUGHT

\$300K to undertake a comprehensive audit of all surface and groundwater sources, including residual mine voids and coal seam gas bores.



OUTCOME SOUGHT

\$26.12M staged over an agreed period of time to complete the project.

YAMALA ENTERPRISE AREA FEEDER ROAD NETWORK

Success looks like ...

A fit-for-purpose road network to access the Yamala Enterprise Area from the south so that heavy vehicles can avoid the unsuitable, constrained intersection of the Gregory and Capricorn Highways in Emerald.

Success for the multi-million-dollar Yamala Enterprise Area (YEA) depends on a safe, functional network of feeder roads from the southern end of the region.

The Yamala feeder roads network will significantly facilitate transport logistics to the YEA, which is 25 kilometres east of Emerald.

This facility represents a premium opportunity to enable the region's resource

and agribusiness sectors to deliver product and freight in a global market via the northern Australian supply chain.

And, through road-to-rail intermodal and bulk commodity facilities connecting to the major ports of Brisbane, Gladstone, Mackay and Townsville, it is a prime location for a diverse range of commercial and industrial-style businesses.

02

03

SEAL THE FITZROY DEVELOPMENT ROAD

Success looks like ...

A fully sealed north-south transport link between Taroom and Daringa traversing the Central Highlands local government area.

The Fitzroy Development Road from Daringa to Taroom has 136 kilometres of unsealed road between Bauhinia, in the far south of the Central Highlands region, to Daringa, in the far east of the region, and south, from Bauhinia to Taroom, in the Banana Shire local government area.

This is the only significant internal transport link within the Central Highlands local government area that remains unsealed and represents the first part of the north-south transport route alternative to the Bruce Highway to northern Australia.

The road surface is in poor condition, which causes tyre punctures and, as a result, drivers are using the table drain in places.

Council has been limited in its ability to carry out maintenance grading on the road due to the lack of water supply.

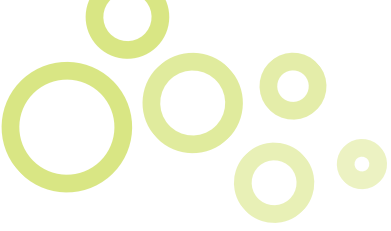
This road link north is a direct route to the major centre of Rockhampton for people living in the southern Central Highlands region; is a local school bus route; and is also integral to the agricultural supply chain.



OUTCOME SOUGHT

\$80M to seal 106 kilometres of the Bauhinia to Taroom section of the Fitzroy Development Road.

\$18M to seal 34 kilometres of the Bauhinia to Daringa section of the Fitzroy Development Road.



04

RAISE A BUSINESS CASE FOR VINCE LESTER BRIDGE

Success looks like ...

A completed business case for the project to raise the Vince Lester Bridge in Emerald.

The council and the Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads agree in principle to raise the Vince Lester Bridge as a primary evacuation route for Emerald.

However, the project has stalled because council is required to fund a business case for the project, the cost of which is not allowed for in its long-term financial forecast.

Raising the Vince Lester Bridge will improve public safety by providing a safe evacuation route and ensuring access to the airport and the hospital in the event of a flood.

In a repeat of the 2010-11 flood, 380 previously inundated residential and commercial buildings will not experience over-floor flooding.

Making the community more resilient to flooding improves the availability of reasonable flood insurance cover for residents, provides surety for business investors, and increases the liveability of the town, attracting more people willing to relocate to the Central Highlands.



OUTCOME SOUGHT

\$1.8M to complete a business case for the project to duplicate and raise the Vince Lester Bridge.



OUTCOME SOUGHT

\$140K to undertake a business case, as per the next step in the Project Assessment Framework, to support the construction of a new crossing at a slightly higher flood immunity level

UPGRADE THE BEDFORD WEIR CROSSING

Success looks like ...

An upgraded crossing of the Bedford Weir.

The Bedford Weir floodway and bridge were constructed in the 1970s. It is a one-lane, two-way crossing that requires traffic in one direction to give-way to the other. Recent assessment indicates the asset has an expected life of only five to 10 years.

When Bedford Weir overtops, the crossing is closed until the water recedes and repairs are made. It can be closed for six to seven weeks each year.



The proposal is to upgrade this local road and crossing to improve flood immunity, increase flood resilience, and rectify the design to meet Austroads standards.

The road is used regularly by locals to travel north to the coast and to transport cattle or grain to meatworks or grain depots north and south of the crossing.

The road is popular in tourist season, particularly for campers enjoying the council-operated Bedford Weir campground.

06

REVITALISE THE LAKE MARABOON RECREATION AREA

Success looks like ...

A revitalised recreation area for Central Highlands' local and tourists to enjoy.

The Lake Maraboon recreation area is a popular spot for boating, fishing, swimming and water sports close to the major centre of Emerald.

The Fairbairn Dam (Lake Maraboon), 19 kilometres south of Emerald, has been a recreation staple of the area for 47 years since the dam was completed.

It is considered a regional level park, but the facilities have greatly deteriorated over

time and visitors are favouring nearby waterways, such as Bedford Weir and Theresa Creek Dam.

Community groups that have a specific interest in the dam include: the sailing club, state emergency service, water-ski club, and fish restocking group.

Commercial business interest include: the Lake Maraboon Caravan Park and the Camp Fairbairn Outdoor Education Centre.



OUTCOME SOUGHT

The acquisition of some freehold land on the Lake Maraboon foreshore from Sunwater.