

GAYNDAH

Community Development Plan



June 2020

Foreword

I am Gayndah. I am said to be 'the oldest town in Queensland'.

I have stood proudly astride the magical Burnett River for nearly two centuries, I have been tendered, nurtured and loved by generations of my people, of all trades and professions and pursuits who have moulded me to the great country community I now am. I have been visited by endless droughts, the floods have also visited my lands, as have the triumphs, the disappointments, the pursuits of greatness, and the challenges of my journey.

And now as you read, my journey will be enriched by the generosity of Rural Aid Australia and Australia's own Peter Kenyon. I have been fortunate to be selected for the benefits of the Rural Aid Package, and the benefits and wisdom of Peter. The engagement of Peter and his team and the community Gayndah will keep me strong and growing for many years to come, with the adoption of the great ideas and plans put forth.

I see Peter's work as a map for ensuring that I continue to be your loved home, for without you the people of Gayndah I am very little.

Just give me your time and your love and your labours and we both shall be fine for generations to follow, for it really is all for you, the readers of this story and the people of myself.

Definitely a compulsory read.

Yours,

GAYNDAH

Acknowledgements



The formulation of this Community Development Plan was initiated and funded by Rural Aid as part of their 'Ten Towns' Makeover Initiative, of which Gayndah was a winner. Facilitation of the community engagement process and preparation of the Plan was undertaken by Peter Kenyon from the Bank of I.D.E.A.S. and assisted by Tracy Alder and Jen Curnow Trotter from Rural Aid and a passionate Gayndah community team comprising John Zahl (Convener), Andrew Bryant, Jo Dowling, Dael Giddins, Amanda Wenck and Steve Hickey. Special thanks to so many Gayndah community members and staff from North Burnett Regional Council who gave so generously of their time, wisdom and skills.



Finally, the Plan acknowledges the traditional custodians of country - the Wakka Wakka people and their significant contribution to our community past, present and future.

Our Story



The township of Gayndah is situated on the Great Dividing Range, 323 km north west of Brisbane. Settled in 1849, Gayndah lays claim to the being 'the Oldest Town in Queensland'. The 2016 ABS Census recorded 1981 residents in the town.

The district has a long connection with the Wakka Wakka Aboriginal people. European explorations occurred from 1843, settlement from 1847 and a town declared in 1848. Gayndah grew to be a regional town of similar size to Brisbane and competed with it to become the capital of Queensland when it became a separate colony from New South Wales in 1859. In 2008, the Gayndah Council was amalgamated into the North Burnett Regional Council, whose major administrative office was subsequently located in the township of Gayndah.

Gayndah's horse racing heritage is incredibly significant - the site of the first Queensland Jockey Club in the mid 1850's, Queensland's first Derby in 1868 and the first Ladies Side

Saddle Race in 1880. The historic track is still active today and gazetted for two major horse races each year.

Agriculture and grazing have been the dominant industries of the district. The town is the centre of one of Queensland's largest citrus-growing areas. The town has long connection to tourism with the first Orange Festival being held in 1957. The district is also home to some of the major cattle studs in Queensland.

The town is currently recovering from major floods in 2010/11 and 2012/13, and six years of drought conditions. These realities have negatively impacted the viability of many businesses and seen the closure of 19 businesses in the last five years. However, Gayndah had a long tradition of being a 'can-do' enterprising community, and these resilient qualities are being reflected in the desire of our residents to design and implement a positive community and economic future.

Our Vision

A vibrant friendly community where heritage, growth and lifestyle proudly combine.



Our Goals

- Maintaining and continually expanding our lifestyle and employment options and opportunities.
- Actively pursuing new economic and entrepreneurial opportunities that strengthens and diversifies our local economy.
- Encouraging a strong, innovative, customer-focused, profitable and collaborative business environment.
- Developing and promoting our community as a desirable place to stop, stay, experience and reside.
- Preserving and maintaining our significant heritage buildings and landmarks as Queensland's Oldest Town.
- Involving, supporting and empowering our young people.
- Maintaining our strong sporting traditions, clubs and facilities.



Our Guiding Values

The following eight guiding values provide the context for our community's identified actions and initiatives, namely –

- Sense of community – ensuring all community members experience a deep sense of connection, inclusion, and contribution.
- Collaboration – committing to a high level of community and stakeholder cooperation, partnership, and networking.
- Safety – maintaining high levels of community safety, freedom, low crime rate and wellbeing.
- Local loyalty – fostering a strong sense of commitment and practical support to the local community and its institutions and businesses.
- Pride – encouraging pride and times of celebration relating to our heritage, uniqueness, and achievements.
- Respect for environment and wildlife – valuing and protecting our unique natural environment and its diverse and prolific wildlife.
- Respect for heritage – appreciating our unique heritage, stories, traditions and cultures and their importance in community and economic development.
- Rural lifestyle – retaining our unique sense of country way of life, local connections rural landscapes.

Our Challenges

Like most small rural communities, our community faces and needs to respond creatively to a series of demographic, social, economic and environmental challenges, including –

- Ongoing drought conditions.
- Population and business loss.
- Communication limitations.
- Small customer base.
- Online shopping and lack of support for local businesses.
- Appearance of Mainstreet.
- Heritage appearances not reflecting the reputation of being 'Oldest Town in Queensland'.
- Mainstreet parking limitations.





Gayndah's community is a desirable place to stop, stay, experience and reside.

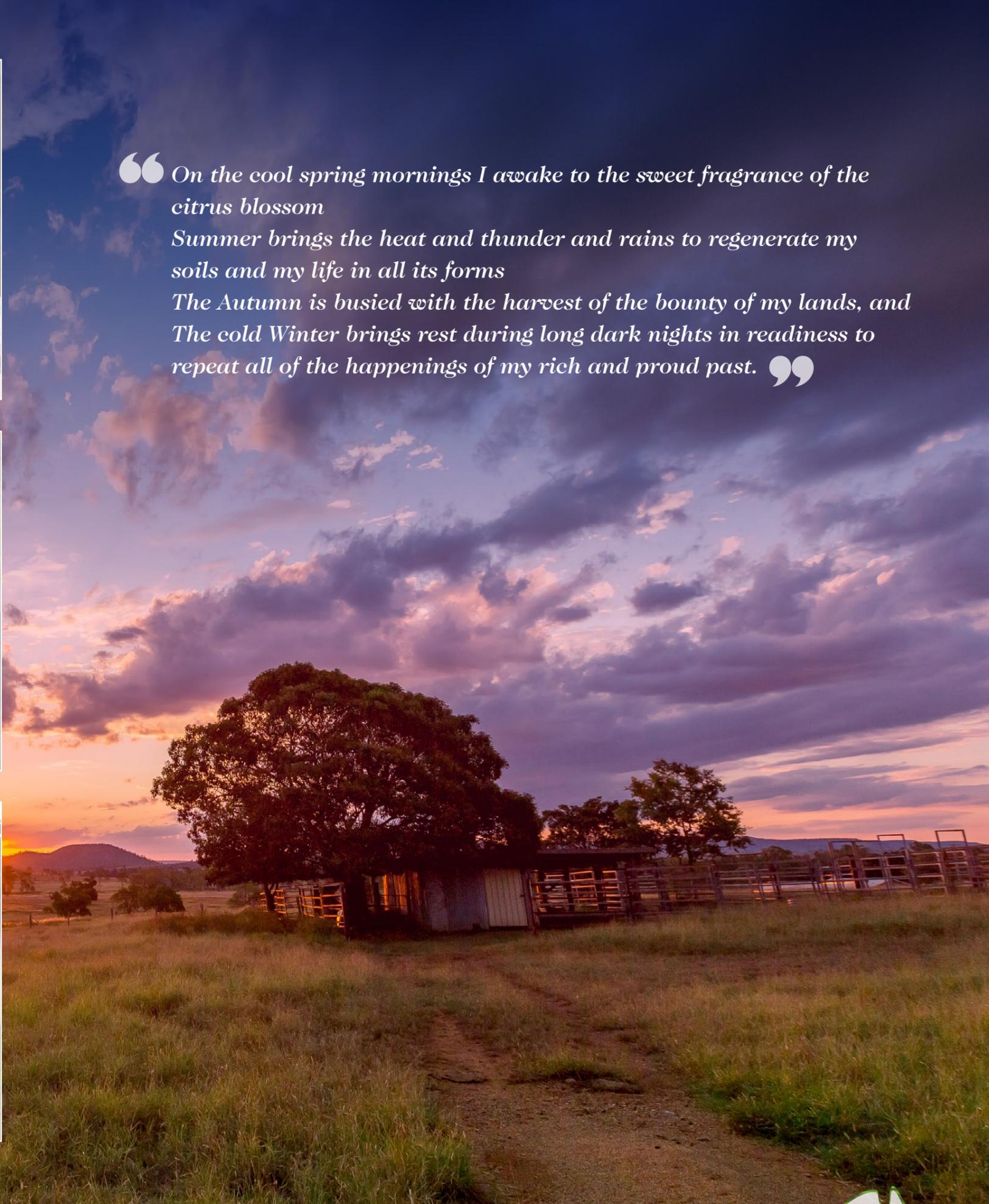
“ On the cool spring mornings I awake to the sweet fragrance of the citrus blossom
Summer brings the heat and thunder and rains to regenerate my soils and my life in all its forms
The Autumn is busied with the harvest of the bounty of my lands, and
The cold Winter brings rest during long dark nights in readiness to repeat all of the happenings of my rich and proud past. ”



Gayndah's goal is to always involve, support and empower our young people.



Gayndah is home to the first Queensland Jockey Club (mid 1850's), Queensland's first Derby in 1868 and the first Ladies Side Saddle Race in 1880.



Our Assets

Social Networks

Service groups - Rotary, Lions, RSL, Men's Shed, CWA, Masons.

Gayndah Development Association.

Historical Society, Rail Trail Group, Gayndah Railway Heritage.

Sporting clubs- jockey, golf, rugby league (seniors and juniors), tennis, netball, touch football, swimming, archery, little athletics, lawn bowls, cricket.

Scouts, Guides, MS Club.

Gardening Group.

Community Radio.

People

Rural lifestyle.

1800 residents.

500+ backpackers resident in community over a 3-6 month period.

Friendliness and welcoming community.

Safety and low crime rate.

Dr Jillian Kenny, Dr Henry Ung.

Connection with Army (2nd Combat engineer Regiment).

Blue Gum Farm.

Physical

Water skiing, boating and recreational fishing opportunities.

Burnett River, Gayndah Riverwalk.

Scenic rural land farming landscapes.

Claude Wharton Weir, public boat ramp and park facilities.

Archer's Lookout - the "Duke and Duchess" twin hills.

McConnell Lookout (Mt Gayndah).

Heritage infrastructure - including a set of heritage listed buildings - Mellor's Drapery, State School, Soldiers Memorial Hall (art deco style), Racecourse and the Ideraway Upside Down Bridge.

Abundant and visible wildlife.

Parks - Zonhoven Park, Lions Park (includes Skate Park), Jaycees Park.

Sports grounds complex

Racecourse Complex.

Showgrounds Complex.

Gayndah to Mundubbera Alternative Scenic Drive.

Pioneer Place and Native Botanical Gardens.

Citrus plantations - visual green impact.

Institutions

North Burnett Region Council.

Hospital and community health services.

Police.

Gayndah aerodrome - Ted Kirk Field.

Education- Burnett State College, Gayndah State School, St Josephs Primary School, Pre-school.

Emergency services - QFES, SES, Rural Fire Brigade, Ambulance.

Disaster management centre

Brian Pastures Research Station (AMLC and Agforce)

Queensland Government Services - Court House

Community service providers - Bridges, NEADO.

People

Gayndah Development Association, BIEDO, RDA.

Key agricultural industries- citrus, beef, dairy, piggeries.

Tourism sector - 3 hotels, 5 motels, 2 caravan parks, 9 dining outlets, 20 - hour free camping location, Gayndah Bush Camp facility for Backpackers and Travelers.

Retail sector - supermarkets, pharmacy, banking, post office, fuel outlets, butchers, clothing shops, cafes, furniture and furnishing, hardware

Service sector - doctors, dentist, real estate offices

Manufacturing sector - engineering works

Part of the largest citrus area in Southern hemisphere.

Roadside fruit stalls.

Slack Sawmill.

Culture, Stories & Sources of Pride

Ban Ban Springs - the Traditional site for the Wakka Wakka People and is guarded by the Rainbow Serpent.

Local Indigenous connection and culture.

Recognition as the 'Oldest Town in Queensland'.

Gayndah Museum and Information Centre - including the renowned static and live display of the history of the Queensland lungfish - 'Ceratodus'.

Gayndah Art Gallery.

Big Orange. Citrus shaped town clock.

Horse race heritage.

Gayndah bear folklore.

Race meetings - twice annually and attract 500+ race goers and mobilise 50 volunteers.

Rail heritage and the Gayndah Railway Station complex, Upside Down Bridge Ideraway.

First Queensland Jockey Club, Queensland's first Derby and the first Ladies Side Saddle Race.

Events - Monthly Markets, two race meetings per year, Gayndah Silver Whip Campdraft, Family Fishing Competition, Agricultural Show, Gayndah Street Party, Gayndah Citrus Kick Off Festival, biannual Orange Festival.

Mellor's Drapery - one of the few buildings in Australia which still uses a 'flying fox' to deal with transactions.

Unique vertical street signs.

Our Strategies & Actions

Theme One

Main Street Appeal

ACTIONS

1

1. Develop and implement a 'Mainstreet Beautification Plan' which includes -

- Reinstating a 'Mainstreet Streetscape Policy'.
- Rejuvenating garden beds, nature strips and planter boxes.
- Refreshing signage.
- Planting citrus trees.
- Creating more seating areas.
- Painting planter pots bright orange.
- Introducing a 'Hanging Baskets Scheme'.
- Painting planter pots bright orange.
- Introducing a regular tree and plant watering program.

Timeframe: Immediate and ongoing.

2. Reinforce 'Queensland's Oldest Town' image by -

- Developing and promoting a 'Heritage Town Walk'.
- Restoring heritage frontages.
- Creating historic displays and interpretive signage.
- Introducing old fashioned solar lighting.
- Encouraging greater use of Council heritage fund.

Timeframe: Short term

3. Improve parking and pedestrian movement by -

- Designating an easy parking area for caravans.
- Painting clear lines for parking.
- Creating a truck stop/RV stop at Barambah Recreation Reserve.
- Building bike racks.
- Repairing and enhancing footpaths.
- Improving shop access and mobility.
- Introducing some pedestrian crossing points.
- Advocating for a heavy vehicle by-pass.

Timeframe: Immediate and ongoing.

4. Wi-fi main street.

Timeframe: Short term.

5. Develop and implement a 'Ask Me, I am a Local' scheme.

Timeframe: Immediate.

6. Foster greater 'streetlife feel' through -

- More business activity on pavements.
- More mainstreet community events.
- More alfresco dining.
- Encouraging coffee and food shops to stay open longer.

Timeframe: Immediate.

LEAD GROUPS

North Burnett Regional Council
Gayndah Development Association

OTHER PARTNERS

Business community, BIEDO, Historical Society

Theme Two

Pool Enhancement

ACTIONS

2

1. Enhance the Pool complex as a key community 'hub space' through immediate Pool physical improvements -

- Extending Pool area by realigning the fence.
- Exploring heating the Pool for all year use.
- Creating wave Pool attractions.
- Introducing a slide.
- Adapting the Pool for physically challenged people.
- Enhancing privacy at Pool by planting dense shrubbery.
- Building barbecues and picnic tables.
- Add gym to the pool complex.

Timeframe: Short term.

2. Hold events at the Pool -

- Running outdoor films.
- Introducing beach volley.

Timeframe: Immediate and ongoing.

LEAD GROUPS

North Burnett Regional Council

OTHER PARTNERS

Swimming Club

Theme Three

Youth Retention & Attraction

ACTIONS

3

1. Formulate a 'Youth Retention and Attraction Plan' that focusses on -

- Enhancing meaningful child and youth civic engagement.
- Increasing youth recreation options.
- Identifying local youth training and jobs options.
- Identifying youth leadership opportunities.
- Maintaining regular contact with young people after they leave the community.
- Implementing a campaign to target the return of the 25-40-year-old cohort.

Timeframe: Immediate.

2. Establish an after-school youth drop-in centre.

Timeframe: Short term

3. Instigate immediate youth recreation option infrastructure including -

- Providing shade at the Skate Park.
- Building a half basketball court.

Timeframe: Immediate.

LEAD GROUPS

North Burnett Regional Council
Gayndah Development Association

OTHER PARTNERS

Rotary Club, Lions Club

Our Strategies & Actions

Theme Four Tourism Development

ACTIONS

- 1. Formulate a comprehensive 'Tourism Action Plan' which incorporates key elements, including -**
 - Audit of existing tourism product.
 - Opportunities for existing tourism product enhancement, including expansion of the Orange Festival, agri-tourism (including orchard tours, cattle property visits, development of more citrus related local products).
 - Identification and development of new tourism product, including building on the horse and racing heritage, Indigenous tourism.
 - Enhancement of marketing, customer service, town storytelling and operator networking.

Timeframe: Immediate.

- 2. Establish physical infrastructure that enhances visitor appeal including -**
 - Establishing a free overnight camping area near the CBD.
 - Creating an interesting Gayndah 'Selfie Spots' including main street and main lookouts.
 - Developing a rail trail from Gayndah to Mundubbera.
 - Enhancing the Claude Wharton Weir with gas barbecues, children's playground, more shade.
 - Erecting bird and wildlife interpretative signage at the river and main lookouts.
 - Locating a tourism flyer stand in every business.

Timeframe: Short to medium term.

- 3. Instigate feasibility studies into identified tourism opportunities including-**
 - Residential Airpark - house and hangar arrangement linked to the Ted Kirk Field.
 - Conversion of Ideraway Homestead into history information and interpretative centre.
 - A paddle boat and canoe hire service on the river.

Timeframe: Short to medium term.

LEAD GROUPS

**North Burnett Regional Council
Gayndah Development Association**

OTHER PARTNERS

**BIEDO, RDA, Historical Society, Rail Trail Group,
Gayndah Railway Heritage**

Theme Five Signage & Entrances

ACTIONS

- 1. Design and implementation of a 'Signage/Town Entrance Strategy' including -**

- Developing an agreed town identity/brand.
- Undertaking of an audit of existing signage and entrances.
- Formulating and implementing of standardised, quality, and attractive signage within the mainstreet and all town entrances.
- Removing or updating of old outdated signs.
- Using trees and shrubs to screen industrial sites.
- Encouraging homes and businesses on approaches to town to smarten their appearance.

Timeframe: Short term

LEAD GROUPS

North Burnett Regional Council

OTHER PARTNERS

Gayndah Development Association

Theme Six Community Hub Developments

ACTIONS

- 1. Create or enhance existing spaces, events and interests that brings residents together to share, learn and enjoy, including the following possibilities -**

- Reinventing a Community Hub Space to replace the loss of the YMCA and its former activities.
- Developing a Creative Hub Space - music, video, recording.
- Re- introducing an afterschool Youth Drop-in Facility that engages youth leadership involvement.
- Improving the Town Hall as a community meeting space - introduce air conditioning, develop as a cinema space...
- Enhancing the Pool and its environments as a community hub space including gym.
- Enhancing the Claude Wharton Weir as a community and family recreational space (gas barbecues, children's playground, more shade).
- Finding excuses to host regular community get-togethers and celebrations.

Timeframe: Short to medium term

LEAD GROUPS

**North Burnett Regional Council
Gayndah Development Association**

OTHER PARTNERS

Swimming Club, Rotary Club, Lions Club

Our Strategies & Actions

Theme Seven

Business Retention & Expansion

ACTIONS

1. Evolve a local entrepreneurial development support eco-system that can facilitate and assist local enterprise ideas and opportunities become reality through connection to mentoring, workspace, information, networks and finance.

Timeframe: Short to medium term.

2. Actively explore through feasibility studies new economic opportunities that build upon community assets of location, airport, citrus and interest in renewable energies.

Timeframe: Short to medium term.

3. Instigate a 'Buy-local Campaign'.

Timeframe: Immediate

4. Develop a local customer service program for local business employees that incorporates a 'Ask Me, I am A Local'.

Timeframe: Short term

LEAD GROUPS

North Burnett Regional Council

OTHER PARTNERS

Gayndah Development Association, BIEDO, Burnett Catchment Group, RDA

Theme Eight

Lifestyle Enhancement

ACTIONS

8

1. Continue the development of the Riverwalk as the priority physical enhancement initiative including -

- Completing Stage 2 (to Riverview Caravan Park) and Stage 3 (to the Swimming Pool)
- Creating a bush tucker trail with interpretation.
- Establishing a beach area for launch of canoes, rafts and rowing boats.

Timeframe: Immediate to medium term

2. Develop a 'Lifestyle Promotional Campaign' to attract new residents including- Internet and print media campaign.

Establishing a 'Welcoming' committee, kit and events.

Timeframe: Immediate and ongoing

3. Undertake a 'Community Skill and Passion' Audit'.

Timeframe: Immediate to medium term

4. Introduce new initiatives that strengthen and connect community including -

- A community garden.
- Off leash dog park at the Showgrounds.
- Fencing of playgrounds.
- A Rowing Club.
- A local transport support service.

Timeframe: Immediate to medium term

LEAD GROUPS

Gayndah Development Association

OTHER PARTNERS

Rotary Club, Lions Club, Gardening Group, Indigenous community, North Burnett Regional Council

Gayndah

QUEENSLAND

Gayndah was established in 1848 and was in competition to become Queensland's capital up against Ipswich and Brisbane.

Gayndah is the centre of Queensland's largest citrus growing area.

Gayndah is home to just under 2000 community passionate people.

Gayndah's youth run a great number of its community organisations, with the quiet guidance of the elders.

