

THE FUTURE IS OURS

Quilpie Shire Community Plan 2021

.....

Adavale

Cheepie

Eromanga

Quilpie

Toompine





Mayors Message

“The future is ours.... the residents of Adavale, Cheepie, Eromanga, Quilpie and Toompine”.

On behalf of the Quilpie Shire Council, I am very proud to deliver the Quilpie Shire Community Plan 2021.

The future is ours the residents of Adavale, Cheepie, Eromanga, Quilpie and Toompine.

I thank you all for your contribution to the consultation undertaken in getting this community plan developed.

We need to keep moving in the right direction to ensure our community grows and strengthens. It is vital however that growth is supported by appropriate infrastructure, both social and physical, and those vital services such as education, health, transport and communications are sustainable.

The Quilpie Shire Council is committed to ensuring an all-inclusive approach to community planning is taken. This is not the end of the process; this is the beginning. We value strong community involvement and we all have a role to play. I encourage you to get on board and be involved in ensuring the ongoing success of our community, the place we live, work and play. The future is ours!

Dave Edwards

Mayor, Quilpie Shire Council



Introduction

The communities of Adavale, Cheepie, Eromanga, Quilpie and Toompine all contribute to the overall identity of the Shire to make it ‘Simply Unique’.

Through the identification of various themes and the establishment of outcomes, the Quilpie Shire Community Plan 2021 defines the future for the Shire. The plan documents the vision of the community for the future, as well as the strategies required to achieve that vision.

The Quilpie Shire Community Plan 2021 covers the Quilpie Shire Local Government area. The unique characteristics of the communities that make up the Shire each deliver individual strengths to the overall identity of the Shire.

Through consultation with the community, and the identification of various themes, community outcome areas have been determined. Delivery within the outcome areas will ensure the vision, as determined by the community, will ensue. The outcome areas contain priorities and goals which are considered essential for the Vision to be realised.

The Quilpie Shire Community Plan 2021 is a blueprint for residents, businesses and government, to ensure the uniqueness of the Shire is maintained while allowing for growth and enhancement. It will assist with future planning, both within the Shire and by those seeking to undertake partnerships with the Shire, such as governments and industry. It will ensure the Vision identified by the community is fully regarded in planning for the future of our unique Shire.

Community Plan Development

Quilpie Shire Community Plan 2021 was developed through consultation with the community, together with the review of existing plans:

- Sport and Recreation Plan and Needs Study
- South West Regional Plan (Queensland Government)
- Asset Management Plan – Road Network
- Asset Management Plan – Building and Structures
- Integrated Environmental Management System

Segmentation of Community Stakeholders was undertaken to ensure all elements of the community were included in the process.

Open consultation forums were held in the following locations:

- Adavale
- Cheepie
- Eromanga
- Quilpie
- Toompine

Individual interviews were also undertaken to ensure representation of specific issues relating to:

- Education (including childcare)
- Industry
- Business
- Council
- Cultural Areas
- Aging Community
- Health

Through the process of community consultation and interviews together with robust discussion and identification of areas of concern for the future of the Shire, a wide range of suggestions and opinions were collected. These enabled clear identification of specific themes.

Validation of identified themes was undertaken using repeat consultation forums in each of the five locations together with further interviews with specific interest groups.

An overall Vision Statement was developed and validated through presentation with council and community.

The Vision for the Quilpie Shire acknowledges what is valued by the community today, and what is desired to ensure the community prospers, experiences an appropriate level of growth, improves vital services and maintains the treasured lifestyle.

Making it Work through Ongoing Community Participation

Continued community engagement is vital to the ongoing success of the Community Plan. Throughout the process of consultation for the Community Plan, participants identified both a need and a desire for ongoing engagement.

To be successful in the implementation of the Community Plan, it has been recognised that ongoing support and participation across all five communities is essential. Throughout the process of consultation for the development of the Community Plan, areas for operational action were identified throughout the Shire. It was determined that the development and continuous improvement of a robust Community Engagement framework would ensure opportunities for participation by the community were maximised. Additionally, areas of communication would be identified ensuring an informed community.

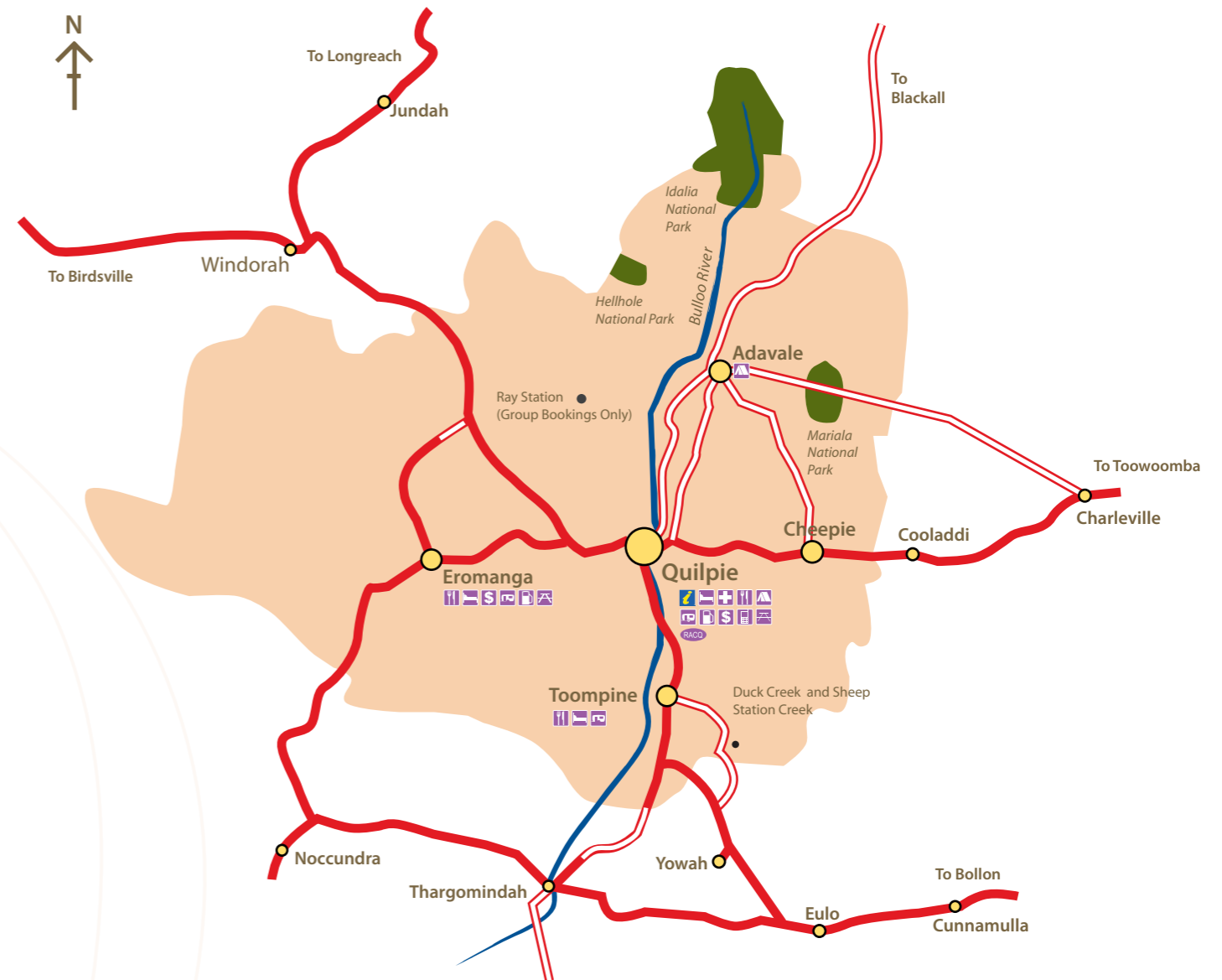
The communities of Quilpie Shire recognise the value of ongoing active participation to ensure the vision is realised. The future is ours.....



OUR VISION FOR OUR FUTURE

We cherish our lifestyle and the uniqueness of our community.

We value inclusion and meaningful participation in the community and are committed to strengthening all we value to ensure our future is sustainable.



| | |
|-------------------------|--------|
| QUILPIE TO CHARLEVILLE | 209 KM |
| QUILPIE TO CHEEPIE | 74 KM |
| QUILPIE TO ADAVALE | 96 KM |
| QUILPIE TO BLACKALL | 317 KM |
| QUILPIE TO WINDORAH | 246 KM |
| QUILPIE TO EROMANGA | 108 KM |
| QUILPIE TO TOOMPINE | 74 KM |
| QUILPIE TO THARGOMINDAH | 187 KM |
| QUILPIE TO YOWAH | 195 KM |
| QUILPIE TO CUNNAMULLA | 294 KM |
| ADAVALE TO CHARLEVILLE | 187 KM |
| ADAVALE TO CHEEPIE | 102 KM |

| | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|--|------------------------|
| | ACCREDITED VISITOR INFORMATION | | CARAVAN PARK |
| | FOOD | | FUEL |
| | ACCOMMODATION | | ATM/EFTPOS |
| | HOSPITAL/AMBULANCE | | NEXT G MOBILE COVERAGE |
| | REST AREA | | RACQ SERVICE |
| | CAMPING | | SEALED ROAD |
| | | | UNSEALED ROAD |

History of Community

A colourful history of strength and persistence permeates the culture and characters of Quilpie Shire.

In 1878, famous cattle drover, Patsy Durack said “Cattle Kings ye call us, then we are Kings in Grass Castles that may be blown away upon a puff of wind.” This sums up the pioneering spirit and tentative hold on the land. Today the theme ‘Kings in Grass Castles’ can be found throughout the Shire.

Each of the five locations which make up Quilpie Shire have had an enormous influence on the community and lifestyle experienced today. Each sent sons to war to fight for our great nation. Each contributed to the establishment of the State of Queensland. Each has and continues to contribute to the economic prosperity of the State of Queensland and the Nation.

There are stories of the first settlers; family names such as Tully, Durack and Costello. Stories of struggles of flood, drought and hardship of isolation. Stories of prosperity through opal mining and grazing.

Our future is bright with untold opportunity.



Quilpie

Population: 654

Quilpie is the service centre for the shire, which covers 67,482 square kilometres. It has all the necessities and many luxuries expected by the locals and visitors. Around the world, Quilpie is known as the home of the boulder opal. However, there is much more to this location. The artistic talents of local artists, both established and emerging are rich. Inspiration is drawn from the beautiful surrounds enjoyed by visitors and locals.



Adavale

Population: 25

Toward the end of the 19th Century, Adavale was one of the most important towns in western Queensland with steady trade for the hotels and businesses as a result of the activity at the nearby opal fields. Originally the railway was planned for Adavale, however a government decision to change the planned railway line route saw Quilpie become the hub. Rich with history, Adavale has some of the most beautiful scenery in the Shire.



Cheepie

Population: 1

As a change station for Cobb & Co, Cheepie was fundamental to the success of the Shire during its years of establishment. At its peak, Cheepie had a police station, blacksmith, railway station, tent boarding houses, butcher shop, bakery and two organic vegetable gardens. Cheepie was the hub for transport and communications at the turn of the century.



Eromanga

Population: 45

Eromanga has been known for many years as the furthest town from the ocean in Australia, as well as for producing around 1.5million barrels of oil per year. The early history of Eromanga is rich and its story is well told at the Object Theatre and Rustic Outdoor Machinery Museum. Today, Eromanga is vital to the history of the nation as the newest paleontological frontier in Queensland. Eromanga is home to some of the newest specimens.



Toompine

Population: 2

The sign at this old Cobb & Co staging post says it all: Toompine – the pub with no town. The outback pub at Toompine is over 100 years old. There are excellent opportunities for fishing and yabbing not far from the hotel.



The communities of Adavale, Cheepie, Eromanga, Quilpie and Toompine all contribute to the overall identity of the Shire to make it 'Simply Unique'.

VISION OUTCOMES

Our Communities

- A Cohesive Community
- An Empowered and Creative Community
- Attractive and Tourism Orientated Towns
- Well Promoted Towns

Our Wellbeing

- Affordable Living
- Access to Excellent Education Opportunities
- Accessible and Dependable Health Facilities and Services
- Remaining Connected Through Transport Services

Our Natural Environment

- Limiting Climate Change Impacts
- Protected Ecosystems, Biodiversity and Water Resources

Our Infrastructure

- Infrastructure that Supports Growth
- Keeping Connected through Effective and Efficient Transport Solutions
- Keeping Connected through Effective and Efficient Communications Solutions

Our Economy

- Enhanced Business and Industry Investment
- Skilled Workforce

Our Governance

- Meaningful and Inclusive Community Engagement
- Effective and Ethical Governance
- Sustainable Management



Our Communities

The communities of the Quilpie Shire enjoy a relaxed and easy lifestyle sharing it with family and friends. The community values the inclusion of children and youth, and believes it vital that activities are offered to ensure the best possible lifestyle is available to the younger population. It is eager for their youth to feel that a long-term lifestyle in the community is not just an option, but an attractive option.

Quilpie is proud of the lifestyle it offers residents and visitors and enjoys showcasing the community to the outside world through general tourism, events and exhibitions. The community is rich with established and emerging artists undertaking patchwork, metal work, jewellery, painting, mosaics and furniture construction and repair. These activities are undertaken at both a personal and professional level.

It is important that the entire community, regardless of personal circumstance, feel supported in their pursuit of recreational activities. Recreational activities are determined as those activities adopted by community members that enhance their lifestyle, and are inclusive of a broad range of interests from team and individual sporting activities to cultural, intellectual and educational activities.

Tourism delivers much vibrancy to the lifestyle of the community. It is therefore a valued part of everyday life and an ideal opportunity to showcase the uniqueness of the Shire.



| Outcomes | Priorities | Measuring our progress |
|---|---|--|
| A Cohesive Community | Value of family and friends is recognised and enhanced | The Quilpie Shire is a place of caring, friendly and supportive people where all residents have access to a rich and rewarding community life, regardless of circumstances, family type, age or place of residence |
| | A fully integrated, multicultural community is encouraged | |
| | The importance of a relaxed lifestyle is recognised and free from unnecessary and excessive regulation | |
| | A community where individuals demonstrate commitment to the vision through their personal choices and actions | |
| | A community which embraces and values young and old | |
| An Empowered and Creative Community | Community members feel free and supportive in the undertaking of recreational activities as determined by personal choice and preference | The talents and achievements of community members are supported and celebrated |
| | Access to programs to enable full participation in recreational activities is available as a priority | |
| Attractive and Tourism Orientated Towns | The unique aspects of the Quilpie Shire are recognized with a view to maximising the benefits of tourism | Residents actively participate in their communities resulting in a sense of pride which is showcased externally |
| Well Promoted Towns | Opportunities are available to promote all towns within the Quilpie Shire to a broad audience for the overall good of the Shire and its residents | The five individual communities seek to support each other rather than compete, for the good of the overall Quilpie Shire Community |

Our Wellbeing

A fully functioning community needs to be a fully serviced community. The quality and access to education and health services needs to be in line with metropolitan areas if the wellbeing of communities is to be maintained.

The communities of Quilpie Shire value their older residents. It is expected that residents of the Quilpie communities are able to transition to retirement while still maintaining the lifestyle they have enjoyed throughout their lives. Accessibility and affordability of services such as health care and transport for our aging population and people with disabilities is critical.

Currently, the communities of the Quilpie Shire have good access to quality education. It is of great importance that communities of the Quilpie Shire are able to maintain a level of education offered in metropolitan areas to ensure the best opportunities are provided for our children and youth. Children and youth in isolated communities such as those in the Quilpie Shire should not be penalised due to location. It is imperative that the best opportunities and full access to education and learning programs be offered.

The residents of the communities of the Quilpie Shire have different needs and desires in terms of housing. Housing availability is a concern for the community. A variety of housing options should be available to current residents and for those wishing to make the Quilpie Shire their home. A 'one size fits all' solution is not in line with maintaining a lifestyle for which we are entitled. Additionally, cost should not prohibit the availability of attractive and suitable housing.



| Outcomes | Priorities | Measuring our progress |
|--|--|--|
| Access to Varied and Affordable Housing | Provision of a diverse range of affordable housing options | Developers, housing organisations, special initiatives, and a range of proactive land and social policies ensure an adequate supply of affordable housing for low and moderate income earners and those at risk of financial and social hardship |
| | Ensuring residential development reflects the rural character and lifestyle | |
| | A choice of housing is available to residents | Equally, it is acknowledged that the provision of executive style housing is key to the achievement of attraction and retention of staff for many employers |
| Access to Excellent Education Opportunities | Education programs available to students in metropolitan areas are adapted to be equitable | Proactive representation be made to government departments responsible for the provision of programs and opportunities for the inclusion of the Quilpie Shire in all opportunities |
| | Access to programs to enable full participation in educational activities is available | |
| Access to Appropriate and Suitable Childcare | Consideration of extracurricular activities is undertaken | Government partnerships are encouraged and managed |
| | Child care options are considered in line with the working needs of parents and carers | |
| Appropriate Community Spaces | Accessible and dependable health facilities and services | |
| | Facilities and spaces are available for outdoor and recreational activities | |

Our Natural Environment

The natural environment and landscape is key to our lifestyle. We have valuable natural resources unique in many ways to our area. These include opals, oil and an abundance of artesian water.

The discovery and exploitation of artesian water enabled previously barren lands to be taken up, stocked and settled. This permitted more secure and intensive stocking, enabled stock to travel along watered stock routes rather than river courses, facilitated stock breeding and reduced costs associated with the pastoral business. The artesian water supply of a century ago is part of who we are.

Of all the opal varieties, the Quilpie shire is famous for the Boulder opal. This is found as thin veins occupying cracks and cavities in nodules of siliceous concretionary ironstone, which occur in the beds of sandstone at varying depths. The boulders can vary between spherical or elongated and can be a few inches to more than two meters in length.

The Eromanga oil and gas basin is known for producing a staggering million and a half barrels of oil each year. Santos has been involved in exploration of this area since 1962. Today, the Cooper/Eromanga Basin is the largest onshore resource exploration project with an active exploration program maintained.

The recent discovery of two titanosaur dinosaurs which are estimated to have been at least 26 meters in total body length are of increasing interest and vital to the success of our future. Titanosaurs were among the largest living animals of all time. The Palaeontology is of significant importance to the future success and opportunities of the Quilpie Shire.

The Quilpie Shire is rich with natural landscape wonders such as Mariala National Park, Hellhole National Park and Idalia National Park. These National Parks are home to treasured wildlife and fauna. We celebrate our natural environment through our artistic contributions.



| Outcomes | Priorities | Measuring our progress |
|--|---|--|
| Limiting Climate Change Impacts | A regional approach to climate change which aims to collectively manage our environmental footprint | Our community understands the importance of managing the impacts of climate change Residents, businesses and government reduce the risk of adverse consequences on people and the environment |
| | Waste, energy and resources are sustainably managed | |
| | The exploration of alternative energy options and its community benefits | |
| Protected Ecosystems, Biodiversity and Water | The services provided by our ecosystems are valued | The community uses the natural assets wisely with a view to retaining their value for future generations |
| | The communities care for their natural environment | |
| | Support the use of best practice environmental management through practice, education and awareness | |
| Paleontology / Geology / Archeological and Natural History Record Preservation | Support and enhance the mission and work of the Outback Gondwana Foundation. "To discover, preserve and display Outback Australia's dinosaur and fossil heritage, cultural heritage and natural history, in their native environment for the education and enjoyment of all." | The community is aware of the value of the paleontology / geographical and archeological assets found in the Shire and encourages access and promotion of the global community with respect to their value |

Our Infrastructure

Our infrastructure is fundamental to the success of our communities. We rely on sound infrastructure to support growth and deliver vital economic benefits to our area.

Well-maintained roads are essential to maintaining our lifestyle. Residents, businesses, visitors and tourists depend on our road network. We expect the road infrastructure of the Quilpie Shire to be of the utmost quality and reliability with full maintenance plans to support it. The conditions of our roads are paramount to the safety of our people.

It is important that we remain connected to the world outside the Quilpie Shire. This dictates that our access to roads, air travel and alternative means of transport is vital. We rely on efficient and effective transport solutions to maintain our lifestyle.

Of equal importance to our connectivity and safety is the provision of effective and efficient world-class communications. In order to keep up with innovation and technology utilised the world over, it is essential that our infrastructure support these developments. In a world that requires association with technology, it is important those technologies are available to our communities through the provision of appropriate infrastructure.



| Outcomes | Priorities | Measuring our Progress |
|---|---|---|
| Infrastructure that Supports Growth | A well-maintained road network that meets community needs | Proactive representation be made to government departments responsible for the provision of funding programs and opportunities for the inclusion of the Quilpie Shire in all opportunities Government partnerships are encouraged and managed Companies undertaking business involving the inclusion of infrastructure do so with respect for the community and its values and vision |
| | Maintaining and upgrading the existing State and local road network | |
| | Sensitive planning, design and construction integrated with the characteristics of the Shire with attention to preservation of the elements of our regional identity and heritage | |
| Keeping Connected through Effective and Efficient Transport Solutions | Affordable, reliable and frequent air transport availability | Proactive representation be made to government departments responsible for the provision of funding programs and opportunities for the inclusion of the Quilpie Shire in all opportunities Government and private enterprise partnerships are encouraged and managed |
| | Affordable and flexible transport options available to residents and visitors | |
| | Establishing flexible public transport solutions that service communities | |
| | Demand reasonably priced, equitable and reliable freight services | |
| Keeping Connected through Effective and Efficient Communication Solutions | Access to reliable, affordable, high speed communications | Proactive representation be made to government departments responsible for the provision of funding programs and opportunities for the inclusion of the Quilpie Shire in all opportunities Government partnerships are encouraged and managed |
| | Services keep pace with growth and changing needs | |

Our Economy

A strong and booming economy is essential to our community and will lead to the anticipated and managed growth we desire.

Supporting our local businesses is vital to their success and the subsequent success of our communities. Our local businesses provide employment of our people and enable us to retain goods and services conveniently. We encourage tourists and visitors to our communities to support our businesses as well.

Investigating new and emerging opportunities for investment in our community is seen to be of significant value. We encourage dialogue, which may lead to those opportunities.

Our people are key to the strength of our economy. We welcome opportunities for skill development and career advancement. We acknowledge the value in employing locally but equally value and welcome new people to our community.

The uniqueness of our natural environment provides opportunities for tourism, which are vital to our economy. We identify our rich cultural contributions together with our emerging local leadership in the area of palaeontology as being areas where we can define a different offering to the tourist market. We build on the existing unique geology of our area and highlight the beauty found in our natural environment such as the landscapes, birdlife, flora and fauna.



| Outcomes | Priorities | Measuring our Progress |
|---|--|--|
| Enhanced Business and Industry Investment | We support our local businesses where we can | Government and private enterprise partnerships are encouraged and managed |
| | We work together to understand and promote value adding and shared opportunity between our local businesses | Organisations undertaking activity within the Shire are proactively encouraged to support the local economy, in turn receiving the support and partnership of the local community |
| | Encourage new business and welcome investment, which will enhance our communities and our lifestyles | |
| | Support the provision of land development, further commercial and industrial, to ensure the business investment in the community is achievable | |
| Tourism is Vital to the Health of our Local Economy | We support the introduction of tourism activities, which add to our local economy | Proactive representation be made to government departments responsible for the provision of funding programs and opportunities for the inclusion of the Quilpie Shire in all opportunities |
| | We look for 'value add' opportunities in our tourism to ensure competitiveness with other communities | Government and private enterprise partnerships are encouraged and managed |
| Skilled Workforce | We strive to provide opportunities for skill enhancement for our local workforce | Proactive representation be made to government departments responsible for the provision of funding programs and opportunities for the inclusion of the Quilpie Shire in all opportunities |
| | | Government and private enterprise partnerships are encouraged and managed |

Our Governance

The communities of the Quilpie Shire expect and are entitled to ethical government which supports and represents its communities as best it can. The community looks to Local Government to represent them in State and Federal Government forums to ensure opportunities for the community are fully explored.

The Quilpie Shire Council is committed to sustainable and responsible management in the areas of financial management, committed and responsive customer service and thoughtful and meaningful planning.

The community welcomes the introduction of a Community Consultation and Engagement framework to enable them to be become involved in a meaningful and regular way. Through the framework expectations can be met and communication enhanced. It is agreed that the community must take responsibility for their individual contribution to consultation and engagement by getting on board and being active participants.



| Outcomes | Priorities | Measuring our Progress |
|----------------------------------|--|---|
| Effective and Ethical Governance | Open and transparent leadership | Council has a good relationship with state and federal government departments and agencies as well as other regional councils It understands and represents the community's needs and is successful in advocating on behalf of the varied interests of the community |
| | Public access to meetings and full representation for our residents | |
| | Strong advocacy recognizing the value of our key regional stakeholders | |
| Sustainable Management | Sustainable and responsible fiscal management | Council's decision-making and reporting processes are transparent and accountable and its service delivery is efficient and based on a good understanding of the community's needs and views Leaders plan for the future and promote continuity by ensuring others are trained to take their places and represent future generations |
| | Committed and responsive customer service | |
| | Planning through consultation with communities | |



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