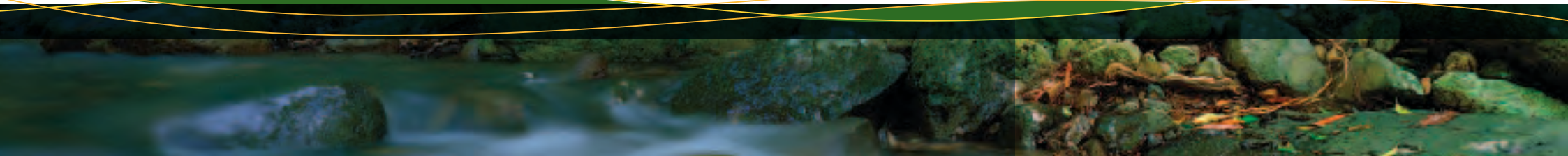




Capricorn Coast Regional Council & Rockhampton Regional Council a Partnership Approach for Sound Regional Governance

Unity and strength with community of interest representation

De-amalgamation Submission to the Queensland Boundary Commissioner
August 2012



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CCIM Message

The two primary objectives that will be achieved by restoring an independent Capricorn Coast Regional Council are as follows.

The first is to restore the fundamental and basic democratic rights of every community to make their own decisions about determining their future, and setting their own priorities while considering the broader Regional context.

The second, and equally important, is delivering a better model of Local Government to provide for sound decision making, while empowering our business, industry and primary producers with a better focussed and a more inclusive 'grassroots' foundation from which to promote and enhance regional economic growth and prosperity.

These combined objectives will ensure the proposed Capricorn Coast Regional Council area can realise and optimise its full potential in partnership with the greater Rockhampton area. Importantly this will also allow our community and the region to play a more pro-active role in assisting the new LNP State Government deliver its 'four pillar' policy for growing and revitalising the overall Queensland economy.



Preface

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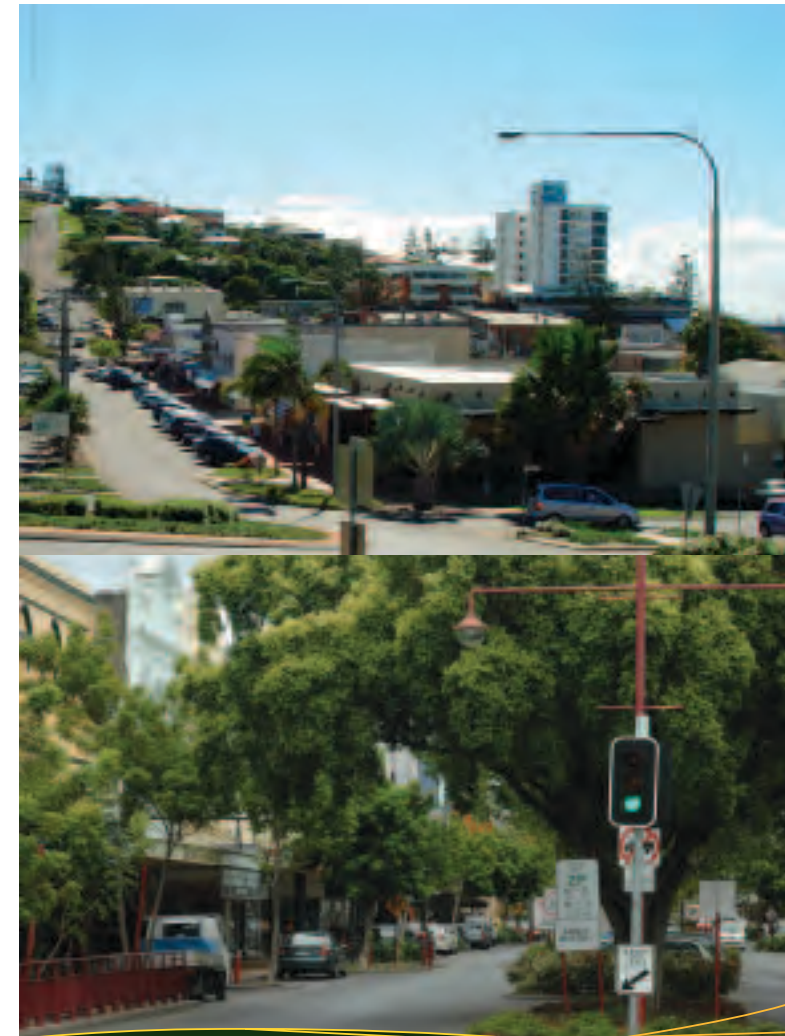
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A Better Model for Regional Governance

Having two Councils working in partnership, Livingstone/ Capricorn Regional Council and Rockhampton Regional Council, is by far the 'better' model for Regional Governance and future well-being and economic prosperity in Central Queensland.

In regions such as ours where there are common regional communities of interest as well differing and diverse local communities of interest, it has been internationally recognised that having two Councils (Twin Cities Model) working collaboratively provides for sound 'regional' decision-making in areas of economic development and strategic infrastructure planning and provision, while promoting regional cultural diversity and defining unique communities.

A classic example of this on a larger scale in the South-East Corner of Queensland would be the City of Brisbane and the City of the Gold Coast. Each supports the other economically while maintaining strongly defined economic, social and cultural independence.



The Regional Growth Centre

Prior to the forced amalgamations Livingstone Shire (Capricorn Coast) was recognised nationally as a vibrant rapidly growing 'sea-change' community with solid and consistent growth well above the State statistical average.

As anticipated, the forced amalgamation has resulted in a Rockhampton Regional Council dominated by Rockhampton Councillors. This has seen the new Council either scrap, sideline or delay many of the critical social infrastructure and economic development projects previously in train under LSC. The effect of these actions has not only impacted negatively on the current community, but will also limit the Capricorn Coast's ability to realise its full economic and growth potential into the future, thereby impacting negatively on the overall economic growth of the wider region.

This already noticeable downward trend in Livingstone's forecast growth has been evidenced by recent OESR growth statistics showing a marked decline in growth from 3.2% and 3.8% in 2006 and 2007, to 1.7% and 1.5% in 2010 and 2011 respectively. While some of this decline may be attributed to an over-arching downward trend in growth state-wide, this is the first time in more than two decades the Livingstone Shire area has actually fallen below the State average.

De-amalgamation will ensure this downward trend does not continue, and Livingstone/Capricorn Coast is put back on-track where it needs to be to support and contribute to the health of the wider regional economy.

Currently the Livingstone/Capricorn Coast Region population is estimated at approximately 35,400 people. On these figures it is both sustainable and has the potential to meet the forecast growth targets of 59,000 by 2031.

This solid and consistent growth has always defined Livingstone/Capricorn Coast as the population and lifestyle growth centre of the region. As a major urban hub the Capricorn Coast also meets all the criteria for 'city status' in its own right, and has for many years been the subject of National and International attention being consistently rated as one of the top ten national 'sea change' destinations and investment 'hot-spots'. This status must be pro-actively protected and maintained.

Livingstone/Capricorn Coast's strategic economic importance to the region's economy is evidenced not only by its historic strong growth, but just as importantly by solid development investment. These developments have encompassed a diverse mix of residential, commercial, major integrated tourist facilities, and over the past decade a significant expansion of light and medium industry.



Business, Tourism, General Industry Case and Community Support

The business case for managing the exceptional development and investment growth on the Capricorn Coast through Livingstone being independent remains compelling.

The business and economic case is further reinforced by a recognition of the importance of also retaining the Capricorn Coast's established identity as the tourist and recreation hub for the region.

The support of the broader community for remaining independent was also clearly demonstrated by the overwhelming results of a shire-wide poll conducted by Council's electoral returning officer prior to amalgamation showing less than 16% support for amalgamation and strong support for remaining independent. This was again reinforced last year with a petition requesting de-amalgamation which over a four month period attracted more than 10,500 signatures.

Creating Opportunities for Regional Business Units, Shared Services, and Innovation

Two Councils working in partnership would let each Council realise their full individual potential, while providing a range of 'best of both worlds' opportunities for regional cooperation through possible joint management in areas where real economies of scale can be realised. Separating regional functions will also provide for retention of local decision-making

on community issues and 'local area' town planning matters. Importantly it will maintain the flexibility and innovative approaches to local service delivery for which Livingstone Shire had previously received both State and Federal recognition and awards.

Regional Leadership

Livingstone/ Capricorn Coast has previously played a pro-active role in local government reform within the Central Queensland region. Those reforms involved sweeping reviews of Council processes, procedures and policies. They included structural reforms in the areas of economic development, community development and engagement, and a lead role in initiating 'joined-up government' projects, with State and other Local Governments.

Livingstone Shire was the first Local Government to take a seat on the Regional Development Board, and also championed the joint membership of our Local Tourist Organisation/Chamber of Commerce and the Regional Tourist Authority which was subsequently adopted as a regional model.

Livingstone Shire played a defining leadership role in calling for and hosting the Regional Water Forum that led to the development of the Central Queensland Water Study. While in the area of regional waste management Livingstone Shire once again played a prominent and proactive role toward establishing of a jointly owned and managed regional landfill and recycling facility. This remains a work in progress.

Community of Interest

Possibly the most important key element of this submission is the importance of preserving and enhancing our social fabric, unique communities of interest and sense of place. This is best encapsulated in the following comment provided by the Livingstone Youth Council in 2007.

"As a Youth Council and the future leaders of tomorrow we strongly contest the suggestion that LSC should amalgamate with Rockhampton and surrounding shires. Not only are we avid supporters of the sense of community but also the direction that the LSC is heading. Youth Council's motto is 'dedication to our generation' and we believe that LSC gives us the support for this motto to be a reality."

Sadly the Livingstone Youth Council and National Award winning youth library were early casualties of the amalgamation process.

Response to Boundary Commission Questions

(Note: This section has been prepared in consultation with Dr Robert Kelso PhD, who has had more than 30 years experience in Public Sector Management, Regional Development, and Policy Development for Local, State and Federal Governments.)

How can I measure whether service delivery will be maintained or enhanced?

An historical analysis of service delivery costing and outcomes, which were clearly benchmarked for LSC commissioned studies prior to amalgamation, indicate that a return to pre-amalgamation practices would result in a net improvement. These are outlined in the detailed submission attached. Enhancement and optimal service delivery to a community relies not only on the availability of resources, but equally on a keen understanding and focus on community aspirations and specific needs, and a direct accountability regarding response to communities of interest needs within a regional context.

Prior to amalgamation Livingstone Shire Council had undertaken comprehensive reviews of existing service levels to ascertain what was affordable and would be required to meet the needs of both a rapidly growing Coastal community and our geographic spread of rural areas. These reviews remain relevant as they had a long-term focus and included detailed surveys of community needs, preferences, and a comprehensive facilities needs analysis in relation to sport and recreation infrastructure needs.

The Rockhampton Regional Council has equalised service levels across the region, to the benefit of disadvantaged areas such as Mount Morgan. However, this does not meet the different community expectations or aspirations in the coastal communities. Livingstone/ Capricorn Coast Region communities, especially the population growth centres on the Capricorn Coast, are unique, vibrant and rapidly growing. These growing communities have different service requirements and associated new infrastructure needs to the already established Rockhampton City area with different economic and development trends and needs.

The competing needs of Rockhampton City versus the needs of the growing coastal urban centres and rural areas, has resulted in diversion of resources and development opportunities to Rockhampton, with aging infrastructure and a backlog of asset replacement requirements. This is one of the key reasons why an independent Council with a specific focus on growth, tourism, light industry, mining and agricultural development is essential. A council with its headquarters and long term interests embedded in the major population centre of the Capricorn Coast will be better able to focus on providing a well-served and diversified economic base, as well as a lifestyle destination to attract and enhance regional growth and prosperity.

From an operational perspective the former Livingstone area continues to have the size, financial capacity, and available skilled workforce to meet the service delivery needs of its growing and diverse community. All necessary Council administrative infrastructure is still in place with Council Chambers, administration offices, customer service centres, and works depots operational and functioning.

There is no reason to expect that there would be any reduction in service delivery with an orderly transition to an independent Capricorn Coast Regional Council. On the contrary, returning to locally managed and focussed service delivery tailored specifically to the Capricorn Coast needs, expectations and standards will enhance service delivery. Areas of service decline that have been identified by the community include:

- a. Water quality and pricing
- b. CBD Maintenance and Security
- c. Coastal and beach management
- d. Urban and Rural Road maintenance
- e. General park maintenance
- f. Community Development and Support Services
- g. Youth Services



A new Capricorn Coast Regional Council will also be better able to facilitate the delivery of the objectives of the Government's four pillars policy.

Overall, there is an inherent tension within the current Rockhampton region between the need to replace aging infrastructure in Rockhampton and the coastal need for infrastructure to service a growing community.

This was predicted by renowned commentator, Bernard Salt, who stated:

My interpretation is that the different focus of these municipalities would therefore be best served through the retention of Livingstone as a separate municipality, and the merging of Rockhampton, Mount Morgan and Fitzroy, as these municipalities have similar needs in terms of infrastructure spending.

A merger between Livingstone and Rockhampton would see decision-making power tipped in Rockhampton's favour with the possibility of holding twice the votes of Livingstone, due to number of councillors drawn from each municipality.

The specialised needs of Livingstone in terms of its economic focus are likely to be overlooked in this case.

Forcing Livingstone and Rockhampton to tussle over infrastructure funding for what is essentially different communities would be of benefit to neither municipality over the longer term.

How can I determine whether the regional economy or economic development will not be adversely affected by a de-amalgamation?

Queensland is a diverse state both geographically and economically. While the economic outlook is generally positive it is reasonable to say there are political and administrative challenges facing the State and Local Governments. These include:

- ▶ Managing the inherited debt.
- ▶ The 'multi-speed' economy, particularly the discrepancies between the mining resource sectors and other sectors of the economy.
- ▶ The city-country divide.
- ▶ The growing demands from non-metropolitan communities for a greater say in decision-making and a greater share of the wealth they produce – royalties for regions.
- ▶ The growing desire for improved lifestyle options and a greener, cleaner environment.
- ▶ A demand for locally situated and locally delivered services from Local Governments.

All of the above factors are relevant in the demographic, political and economic future of the Livingstone/ Capricorn Coast Regional Council area.


The significance of these points are explained below.

Rockhampton and the Capricorn Coast are distinctively different communities with different economic bases. Both communities, by necessity, require a different focus for their continued economic growth and social development.

From this perspective, where there have been competing interests for funding or economic development opportunities, a gain for the coast has often been considered as a loss for Rockhampton City which would prefer to retain the status quo as the dominant regional centre. This is not consistent with developing a more diverse regional approach to economic development so that the benefits to all communities are optimised.

The electors and business community in Livingstone inherited the burden of costs associated with renewing aging infrastructure in Rockhampton. At the same time previously planned and necessary new infrastructure projects for the Capricorn Coast have been shelved due to redirection of resources. Funds raised from higher rates rises in coastal areas (due to the Coasts higher values and equalised rates) have been transferred to maintenance and replacement programs in Rockhampton. The direct result has meant the loss of projects vital to providing the necessary infrastructure and services to optimise and grow the Capricorn Coast regional economy.

The impact of the resources industries (the multi-speed economy) has been particularly noticeable on the Capricorn Coast. Many western mining venture workers



are choosing to locate their families in the coastal towns of Yeppoon and Emu Park so they can experience the recreational and environmental benefits of the region during their days off work. This segment of the population tends to be younger and with a relatively high disposable income. Livingstone Shire had a balanced mix of industry, residential and rural elements. Livingstone Shire successfully bridged the 'city-country' divide. Many residents take advantage of the easy access to employment in Rockhampton but choose, for lifestyle reasons, to live in the rural parts of the former Livingstone Shire which in turn benefits and enhances both Local Government economies.

The Bowen Basin and surrounding regions produce a substantial percentage of Queensland's wealth. A growing percentage of the western projects'

workforce are choosing to establish their family homes on the coast. Many of these families have moved to the region for lifestyle reasons. Previously, most coast residents had to accept the reality

of having to travel to Rockhampton to access many services. Today those who have come from metropolitan backgrounds are less tolerant of lower levels of government or private sector services. These higher income families have contributed to the growth of service industries (home services, child care, health) on the Capricorn Coast. This will see demand for services on the coast being progressively met without any loss of economy to the traditional Rockhampton base.

The attractions of a 'clean green' environment have contributed to the growth of the coastal urban centres. Yeppoon and Emu Park have long been the traditional holiday destinations for Rockhampton and central western families. With the advent of modern transport, the dream of living at the beach became a reality for many families. Improved transport and communications now make it an attractive option to live at the beach and work elsewhere. But these residents bring a different set of expectations and demands for local government services which needs to be specifically tailored to suit the coast community.

In conclusion if Livingstone/Capricorn Coast Regional Council is returned to its former boundaries, it will continue to enjoy a strong economic base with a well balanced mix of manufacturing and processing industries (meat, metals, maintenance and construction) as well as primary production (beef and fruit), tourism resorts, service industries, high quality sporting and recreational facilities, a major military training facility, Correctional Centre and first class educational institutions. Similarly Rockhampton will continue to enjoy economic prosperity and growth, based around their role as a transport and logistical hub as well as a service centre for the expanding resources sector and associated medium, general and heavy industry.

Other questions that may be considered with respect to economic sustainability of both the region and the de-amalgamated local government, including the remaining local government, are:

Q Is the local government area benefiting from the growth in the national and state economies?

A The simple answer to this question is "yes". However, the contraction in tourism and export industries has had the effects of stalling those sectors of the economy. Major investments in offshore ventures such as the GKI project are less likely while the dollar remains above parity. Also, primary industries exposed to the high dollar remain under threat from cheap imports.

Much of the recent growth is a spin-off from the resources sector and is a reflection of small to medium businesses which have secured contracts with multi-national companies. A less obvious industry sector is the military (Shoalwater Bay) and corrective services (Etna Creek) establishments which continue to provide employment and service opportunities for local contractors and suppliers regardless of fluctuations in the economic cycle.

Q In some cases one area of the regional council may be benefiting from significant growth, while the remainder is not. If there is a de-amalgamation how will growth patterns impact on the financial sustainability of both areas?

A While the Coast has and will continue to enjoyed long-term growth prospects, so too will Rockhampton with projected solid growth in the Gracemere area in particular. The proposed de-amalgamation would not disadvantage either Local Government area in this respect. In many ways, the previous RCC was 'sandwiched' between two culturally disparate entities. On the northern and eastern boundaries was Livingstone Shire and to the west, Fitzroy. Fitzroy Shire included the major cattle saleyards, land zoned for major industrial expansion, Stanwell power station and the major highways to the western regions and coalfields. Rockhampton's historic development owed much to its control over the major rail networks and it is continuing role as a transport and logistics hub. De-amalgamation will provide an opportunity for each area to focus on advancing their respective growth opportunities while building on their diverse economic strengths. From both a rate-base perspective and economic development perspective there would be no negative impact in relation to financial sustainability. Previous QTC analysis confirmed this with both areas rated as 'Moderate with a developing outlook', and a recent QTC analysis of RRC as 'Moderate with a neutral outlook'. The Financial Section of this submission also confirms this position.

Q Is the local government area a strongly diversified economy (mix of service, manufacturing, processing, mining and agricultural) or is it exposed to a single industry (e.g. cattle or coal mining)? Please note that a good mix of industries assists local governments with long-term financial sustainability.

A An overview and analysis of data from key sources such as OESR regional profile information, latest Census Data, and QTC assessments clearly demonstrate that both Rockhampton and Livingstone areas are strongly diversified economies. De-amalgamation would leave both Local Government entities within the average across nearly all economic indicators. More importantly, a natural co-incidence of interests with the western and Rockhampton city constituencies would ensure that mutual benefits would flow from most economic planning schemes. Likewise, freed from the competition for resources, the Capricorn Coast based council would be able to focus on value-adding and building on its specific economic strengths.

Q Does the proposed local government have a town which is the centre for the region and which people gravitate to do their business?


A Yes, Yeppoon, with a population base of 17,500, has well established and diversified business, tourist, commercial and industrial precincts. The town centre has also retained the previous government infrastructure and would require minimal investment to return to fully independent Local Government operations.

Q What are the demographics of the area?

A While Rockhampton city has experienced steady growth and incremental change over the past four decades, the coast and northern approaches have grown at significantly higher rates and generally well above the State average. Some of this can be explained by the physical geography of the region where the Fitzroy flood plain has restricted Rockhampton city expansion. The other explanation is found in the differences between traditional blue collar industries in Rockhampton (the meatworks and the railways) versus a more progressive sea-change and tree-change population drift away from the historic Rockhampton city boundaries. The demographic profiles are best explained by the statistical profile found in the OESR regional profiles. See Appendix A3.

Q What are the incomes of residents? Where residents have high incomes they are better able to absorb rate increases and pay for the provision of services.

A As would be expected in a 'sea change' lifestyle coastal community, the OESR Regional Profile based on latest Census data, shows the Livingstone regional area as having an equal or greater percentage of higher income earning households than the state statistical average. See Appendix A3.



Q What sort of issues should be raised when discussing whether the de-amalgamating council and the remaining council will be financially sustainable?

A If the previous council boundaries and structures are returned then on past practice both Rockhampton and Capricorn Coast Regional Council will be able to deliver services and maintain infrastructure over the long term. If a de-amalgamation occurs, financial sustainability for both entities will improve as inter-regional competition will be reduced.

Q If there are increased costs resulting from the de-amalgamation, does the ratepayer base have the capacity to absorb the increase in costs?

A Apart from the expected limited one-off costs, the detailed financial modeling provided in this submission clearly shows that there would not be any significant increases in costs with regards to service delivery. One-off de-amalgamation costs will be covered within a clearly defined budget cycle.

Q Do adequate economies of scale exist at both the de-amalgamated local government and the remaining local government to ensure that the cost of service delivery is not prohibitive to ratepayers?

A The detailed financial modeling provided in this submission clearly demonstrates service delivery can be adequately funded out of current rate levels for both Local Government areas.

Q Can the de-amalgamated local government absorb the costs of de-amalgamation without the local government and the ratepayer being placed under stress?

A The detailed financial modeling provided in this submission clearly demonstrates that the de-amalgamated local government can absorb those costs. The other determining factor will be the competence of the elected representatives and appointed officials of both councils. On past experience, once again the answer would be “yes”.

Q Why are ‘in-house’ or standard delivery model for a de-amalgamated council being considered instead of an out-sourcing or shared services model?

A It may be possible to reduce some costs through service agreements. The largest cost relates to new ICT systems. RRC has installed state-of-the-art commercial systems which allow multiple entities. This would enable cost effective service provision through RRC even allowing for a profit and risk margin. However, the financial analysis has been based on an ‘in-house service delivery model’ as required by the guidelines.

Bernard Salt - A Precipis

KPMG Summary by Bernard Salt Why Livingstone Shire Should Remain Independent

Financial Sustainability

Financial sustainability reviews were conducted this year for both Livingstone Shire and Rockhampton City by the Queensland Treasury Corporation. From these reviews the economic viability of Livingstone Shire was revealed to be on par with that of Rockhampton City. Both generated a "Moderate, developing" rating.

My interpretation is that the different focus of these municipalities would therefore be best served through the retention of Livingstone as a separate municipality, and the merging of Rockhampton, Mount Morgan and Fitzroy, as these municipalities have similar needs in terms of infrastructure spending.

We consider this to be a better arrangement than fusing together four municipalities into a population centre of 137,000 by 2026.

Ultimately, an expanded Rockhampton will contain around 83,000 people at a time when the Shire of Livingstone will contain around 54,000.

Decision Making and Priorities

Rockhampton is an inland regional centre that has evolved over 100 years. It is an administrative centre as well as a workplace destination for a broad region. It services the surrounding agricultural region as well as the mining community.

The Shire of Livingstone, on the other hand, evolved rapidly in the latter decades of the 20th Century based on new lifestyle models. These new lifestyle models include the concept of retirement as well as the notion of downshifting where city-based residents sell out and move to cheaper premises in a lifestyle location.

The fundamental difference between Rockhampton and Livingstone is evident in the demographic composition and in the rate of growth that is expected from each community over the next 20 years. Given these demographic variances, the economic trajectories of these two municipalities are also likely to be increasingly varied overtime.

A merger between Livingstone and Rockhampton would see decision-making power tipped in Rockhampton's favour with the possibility of holding twice the votes of Livingstone, due to number of councillors drawn from each municipality.

The specialised needs of Livingstone in terms of its economic focus are likely to be overlooked in this case.

Forcing Livingstone and Rockhampton to tussle over infrastructure funding for what is essentially different communities would be of benefit to neither municipality over the longer term.

Cultural separation of cities and community of interest

When considering the issue of amalgamations, it is important to ensure that the amalgamated local government areas are based around a common community of interest rather than merely population.

Not only is there a demographic imperative for the separation of Rockhampton and its flanking inland municipalities from Livingstone, but there are also social and cultural reasons why these two municipalities should remain quite separate.

There is a far greater community of interest between the residents of Rockhampton, Fitzroy and Mount Morgan than there is with these places collectively and the Shire of Livingstone

Benchmark to Geelong

The issue of council amalgamation was put into effect in Victoria in 1993. At that time, the Greater Geelong region was comprised of nine separate municipalities. In fact the inception of the Geelong Regional Commission in 1977 recognised the greater Geelong community when planning control was vested in the commission for nine local municipalities.

With the amalgamations of 1993, which also coincided with the dissolution of the Geelong Regional Commission, it could have been expected that these nine municipalities would be fused into a single City of Greater Geelong. However this was not the case.

The reason why Surf Coast retained independence from the larger city of Geelong is because it was considered that the two urban centres retained a population base with different communities of interest. Geelong is a major provincial city; Surf Coast is a lifestyle location that is set to capture further population growth in the future.

There are direct comparisons between the experience of the Surf Coast in 1994 and the experience of Livingstone in 2007. The Shire of Livingstone's council offices at Yeppoon are located 41.5 kilometres from the centre of Rockhampton by road. Livingstone is located further from Rockhampton than Surf Coast is from Geelong.

There is a community of interest that binds the population living on the Capricorn Coast between Yeppoon and Zilzie that is similar to the community of interest that binds the population living on the Surf Coast between Torquay and Lorne.

The Surf Coast model has operated successfully and independently for more than a decade, proving the legitimacy to Jeff Kennett's original rationale as to why that community should not be incorporated within the City of Greater Geelong.



Appendix A1 - Full Report - KPMG/Bernard Salt

Conclusion

There are several measures by which it is appropriate for the Shire of Livingstone to retain its independence in the current amalgamation process. I argue that there is sufficient critical mass in the existing and future population base of Livingstone for it to remain an independent municipality. By 2030, the Shire of Livingstone is projected to contain around 59,000 people.

However, the main reason why the Shire of Livingstone should retain its independence is the fact that the local population base has a different community of interest to the population base of inland Rockhampton. The value and legitimacy of this cultural separation of communities has been proven in the Victorian case relating to the separation of Surf Coast from Geelong.

As a consequence, I strongly urge the Local Government Reform Commission to ensure that the Shire of Livingstone remains independent of any amalgamation now and in the foreseeable future.

Capricorn Coast - A Regional Growth Centre

The Capricorn Coast is a rapidly growing 'sea-change' and 'tree-change' community which has over time consistently experienced between 2.5% and 3.5% growth pa. According to the latest OESR projections (see Appendix A3) this growth trajectory will see the current coastal population of approximately 35,000 reach 59,000 people or greater by 2030.

This positive growth will underpin the Capricorn Coast Regional Council's vital role in supporting the LNP's 'four pillar' policy. In this region this includes significant expansion of the coal industry, supporting services such as construction and fabrication industries, tourism, and agriculture sectors. The Capricorn Coast Regional Council area has been playing a vital role by providing an attractive destination to encourage much needed skilled professionals and general labour force to relocate to this region.

Prior to amalgamation, diverse range master-planned residential, commercial, and industrial developments were either underway or in the planning stages. This will ensure the Capricorn Coast and the wider region is well positioned to meet the challenges and realise the full economic potential of this projected growth. In dollar terms, these projects have been estimated to generate \$8.4 billion in private investment and more than \$200 million in public investment over a 15 year forecast

period. If appropriately managed and pro-actively encouraged the flow-on from this massive level of investment will bring immense economic benefits of the entire region, and contribute to the State and National economy by potentially generating more than 3000 direct jobs per year and 2500 indirect jobs per year over the next 15 years.

It has become evident since amalgamation that much of the focus and momentum for these projects vital to maximizing the region's economic potential has been lost and urgently needs to be put back on track. This is a recurring message coming from both the business and development sectors based within the previous Livingstone Shire boundaries.

Under the current amalgamated structure, and due to the unequal weighting of political representation, the Regional Council is unable to provide the focussed pro-active management and strategies required to adequately address and facilitate the diverse needs, and sheer geographic size, of the previous four local Government areas. Of greatest concern is the fact that the Capricorn Coast in particular, where the major proportion of regional growth is forecast to occur, has been most affected by RRC's inability to perform in this regard.

De-amalgamation will allow a Capricorn Coast Regional Council to restore that vital specialist focus and management necessary to regain our economic momentum so the Capricorn Coast and the greater region's full potential can be realised.



Financial Viability Analysis

Summary

The financial summary and key financial ratios show that both CCRC and the remaining RRC would have sound finances after a de-amalgamation.

Modelling also shows that both Councils will be in a surplus position following de-amalgamation.

The remaining RRC would also be financially sustainable, and would have predominantly operating surpluses in the years modelled.

However, all modelling of the future involves assumptions about future decisions of the elected Councils. The potential variability of such decisions, and outcomes of negotiations between the Councils, could have a positive or negative effect on the forecast financial outcomes.

Financial Modelling

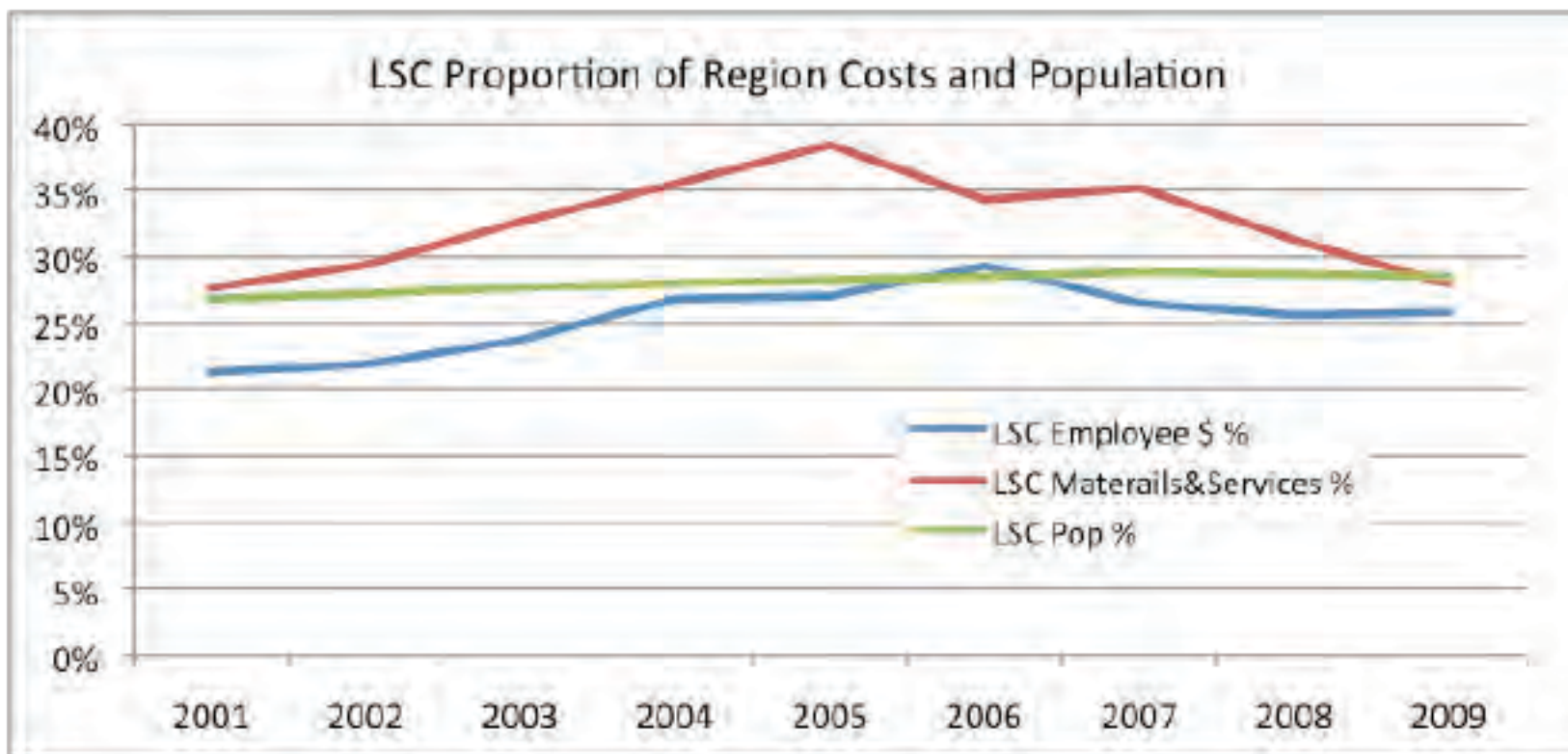
This section and financial analysis has been prepared by David Spearritt, Director of ORION Consulting Network Pty Ltd. David provided extensive consulting support to the former Livingstone Shire on service levels reviews and strategies to make the Shire more financially sustainable. He also advised Rockhampton Regional Council (RRC) during the first two years after the amalgamation, identifying a range of amalgamation savings opportunities.

RRC adopted a Mayoral recommendation to support the de-amalgamation review by providing financial data to Mr Spearritt, within the end-of-financial-year time constraints. We acknowledge the high quality financial data provided by Council officers and their professional expertise and support. This has enabled robust modelling of the likely financial impacts on both a de-amalgamated Council and the remaining Council. Assumptions regarding allocating items between the two areas have been agreed with Council officers for reasonableness. However, responsibility for interpretation of the data and the financial modelling remains with the authors of this submission.

A detailed financial spreadsheet model has been provided to the Boundaries Commission, and RRC.

RRC financial systems enable assets (and related depreciation) to be identified by geographic area, except for water and sewerage which is identifiable by scheme. Rate ledgers are identifiable by former Council areas, and capital expenditure is identified by Electoral Division. (Divisions 1, 2 and 3 closely align with the former LSC boundary). This means that accurate data is available on key financial measures. Operating costs are not identified by area. However most of the service delivery in the Capricorn Coast is still delivered from the Yeppoon depot, due to the distance between Rockhampton and Yeppoon. The main change in service delivery since amalgamation has been the re-location of indoor staff by function, and the servicing of Rockhampton suburbs in the former LSC area from the Rockhampton depot. The modelling assumes that staff would be split between the two areas in proportion with the population at that time, estimated at 30 percent. This would need to be a full vertical slice or the organisational structure, up to the Senior Manager level. It would need to include three senior managers who would become Directors of the new Council. Although this would be a challenging process, RRC has had several restructures since amalgamation to reduce operating costs, including a recent change which reduced 75 positions in a vertical slice across the organisation. Therefore, Council has an established process, and no positions would need to be made redundant.

The graph below shows that up to 2005, Livingstone Shire had higher than its population share of costs in the RRC region. However, following the QTC reviews which recommended cost reduction, and subsequent service reviews, materials and services costs were brought in line with the Livingstone share of the population, and employee costs were below that proportion. Therefore, where costs or revenue items cannot be accurately identified, we have assumed that the estimated population proportion for 2014-15 would be appropriate.



Financial Summary (\$m)

Capricorn Coast Regional Council

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Net Rates	\$55.7	\$59.7	\$63.4	\$67.4	\$71.6
Fees & Charges	\$5.0	\$5.2	\$5.4	\$5.6	\$5.8
Rental Income	-	-	-	-	-
Interest	\$1.1	\$1.1	\$1.1	\$1.1	\$1.1
Recoverable Works	\$1.3	\$1.4	\$1.4	\$1.5	\$1.6
Grants & Subsidies	\$6.6	\$6.9	\$7.3	\$7.7	\$8.2
Other Income	\$1.0	\$1.1	\$1.1	\$1.2	\$1.3
Total Operating Revenue	\$70.6	\$75.3	\$79.8	\$84.5	\$89.6
Labour	\$29.6	\$31.3	\$33.1	\$34.9	\$36.9
Materials	\$19.9	\$21.2	\$22.5	\$23.9	\$25.4
Extra Councillors & CEO	\$0.7	\$0.7	\$0.8	\$0.8	\$0.8
Depreciation	\$14.2	\$14.6	\$15.0	\$15.4	\$15.8
Interest Expenses	\$4.7	\$5.3	\$5.9	\$6.7	\$7.6
Extra Bulk Water	\$1.0	\$1.0	\$1.1	\$1.2	\$1.2
De-amalgamation costs (operating)	\$0.5	\$0.2	\$0.1	\$-	\$-
Total Op Expenses	\$70.6	\$74.2	\$78.4	\$82.9	\$87.8
Net Result	\$0.1	\$1.1	\$1.4	\$1.7	\$1.8
Capital Spending	\$40.9	\$44.1	\$47.7	\$51.5	\$55.8
Cash Held	\$20.4	\$20.6	\$20.7	\$20.8	\$21.0
Assets	\$672.2	\$689.9	\$709.1	\$730.1	\$753.0
Debt	\$71.9	\$80.9	\$91.2	\$103.0	\$116.3

Rockhampton Regional Council (Balance)

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Net Rates	\$122.5	\$130.6	\$138.0	\$145.7	\$153.9
Fees & Charges	\$25.6	\$27.0	\$28.5	\$30.1	\$31.7
Rental Income	\$2.6	\$2.7	\$2.8	\$2.9	\$2.9
Interest	\$3.6	\$3.7	\$3.8	\$3.9	\$3.9
Recoverable Works	\$12.6	\$13.1	\$13.7	\$14.2	\$14.8
Grants & Subsidies	\$20.0	\$21.0	\$21.9	\$23.0	\$24.0
Other Income	\$3.2	\$3.3	\$3.4	\$3.5	\$3.5
Total Operating Revenue	\$190.2	\$201.4	\$212.0	\$223.1	\$234.8
Labour	\$73.2	\$76.3	\$79.5	\$82.9	\$86.4
Materials	\$54.5	\$57.1	\$59.9	\$62.7	\$65.8
Depreciation	\$49.2	\$52.6	\$56.2	\$60.0	\$64.2
Interest Expenses	\$12.3	\$14.2	\$16.1	\$18.2	\$20.4
Extra Water Costs	-\$1.0	-\$1.0	-\$1.1	-\$1.2	-\$1.2
Total Op Expenses	\$188.4	\$199.2	\$210.7	\$222.8	\$235.6
Net Result	\$0.5	\$1.2	\$0.7	\$0.1	-\$0.7
Capital Spending	\$89.2	\$93.5	\$98.0	\$102.8	\$107.7
Cash Held	\$49.9	\$57.3	\$64.9	\$72.8	\$81.0
Assets	\$2,106	\$2,147	\$2,189	\$2,232	\$2,276
Debt	\$218	\$248	\$280	\$315	\$352

Key Financial Ratios

Capricorn Coast Regional Council

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Operating Margin	0.1%	1.5%	1.8%	2.0%	2.0%
Cash expenses Cover (Months)	4.3	4.1	3.9	3.7	3.5
Interest Cover (EBITDA)	4.1	4.0	3.8	3.5	3.3
Capex/Depreciation	288%	303%	319%	335%	352%
Gearing (Debt/Assets)	10.7%	11.7%	12.9%	14.1%	15.4%

Rockhampton Regional Council (Balance)

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Operating Margin	0.3%	0.6%	0.3%	0.0%	-0.3%
Cash expenses Cover (Months)	3.8	3.7	3.5	3.2	2.8
Interest Cover (EBITDA)	5.0	4.8	4.5	4.3	4.1
Capex/Depreciation	181%	178%	175%	171%	168%
Gearing (Debt/Assets)	10.3%	11.5%	12.8%	14.1%	15.5%

The Financial Summary and Key Financial Ratio analysis assumes that Bulk Water Charges from RRC to CCRC, which would need to be negotiated between the Councils, have based it on a cost plus methodology, not on payment for unused capacity.

The analysis assumes that no equity is transferred for Rockhampton Airport or the regional waste facility equity not included. If this were to be included it would improve CCRC's financial position and reduce RRC's.

Details of assumptions regarding all allocations of cost, revenues, assets, liabilities and staff, as well as future projections, are detailed in the financial model.

De-amalgamation Costs

The guidelines for de-amalgamations require the de-amalgamating Council to pay for all de-amalgamation costs of both the new and remaining Councils. This includes the postal ballot (referendum on the de-amalgamation) and the 2014 election of the new Council. The following costs have been estimated for de-amalgamation, and included in the financial forecasts. All costs have been projected to 2014 or 2015 as applicable. Where applicable, the costs have been based on the rigorous assessment in 2009 of the Amalgamation costs by Queensland Treasury Corporation (QTC). Average assessed costs for establishing Council within the 30,000 to 40,000 population range have been used, excluding Scenic Rim which was a very complex amalgamation. Some cost items identified by QTC have not been included, such as staff redundancies and additional payroll tax, since these would not be relevant in a de-amalgamation. Councillor costs are based on the determination of the Local Government Remuneration and Disciplinary Tribunal (LGRDT).

It may be possible to reduce some of these costs through service agreements. The largest cost relates to new ICT systems. RRC has installed state-of-the-art commercial systems which allow multiple entities. This would enable cost effective service provision to RRC even allowing for a profit and risk margin. However, the analysis has been based on an 'own service delivery model' as required by the guidelines.

It may also be possible to conduct the first election as a postal ballot, which would be a lower cost than that assumed.

Cost Item	Estimate	Methodology
Councillors	\$490,000	LGRDT Salary Determination by Council size
CEO	\$220,000	Average CEO salary 30-40,000 pop
2013 Poll	\$13,000	\$0.50 per elector (postal ballot)
2014 Election	\$100,000	\$4.00 per elector (Polling Booth election)
ICT Systems	\$875,000	QTC assessment of amalgamation costs
Buildings & Relocations	\$160,000	QTC assessment of amalgamation costs
Change Management	\$50,000	QTC assessment of amalgamation costs
Statutory Plans	\$90,000	QTC assessment of amalgamation costs
Branding	\$75,000	QTC assessment of amalgamation costs
Reform Process	\$40,000	QTC assessment of amalgamation costs
Other (insurance etc)	\$115,000	QTC assessment of amalgamation costs
Total	\$2,228,000	(\$58 per capita, or approx. \$20/yr over 3 yrs)

Livingstone/Capricorn Coast Regional Council Profile in the Regional Context

The key issue for Livingstone/Capricorn Coast that was fundamentally overlooked in the previous State Government's rushed amalgamation process was the need to give due and appropriate consideration to identifying and addressing issues associated with communities of interest, acknowledging that these will exist at both a local, regional and broader levels within and across Central Queensland.

While acknowledging the new Boundary Commissioner's Terms of Reference in relation to economic sustainability, this submission also seeks to reinforce the importance of those communities of interest, as well as our communities' on-going commitment to ensuring infrastructure planning and service delivery remain key issues to be addressed against the background of population growth and community development across the broader geographic area.


What was also overlooked in the amalgamation process was the need to comprehensively and objectively assess whether cohesive and well diversified communities like Livingstone/Capricorn Coast were sufficiently independent to warrant any change to the existing Local Government boundaries, acknowledging Livingstone's existing capacity and the future growth challenges faced as a sea change community.

To establish an independent perspective on the matters outlined our original 2007 submission engaged KPMG and Bernard Salt, recognized across Australia and internationally for his expertise in providing well researched and detailed demographic commentary. Additional independent commentary on economic matters was also provided through MacroPlan Australia. This information has been retained as a bench-mark and added to in this submission.

The fact that in 2007 the Shire's population had been projected to almost double over the next 20 years clearly indicated that there needed to be a distinctly different local government and planning focus than our neighbouring Rockhampton City Council which, over a similar timeframe was, and still is, forecast to only have a much more modest level of growth. An independent Livingstone/Capricorn Coast Regional Council remains much better option to manage the growing pains associated with this continued level of forecast population increase. The past experience and proven track-record of LSC in consistently addressing on-going associated growth issues over the preceding decade is testament to that fact.

In contrast Rockhampton Regional Council has predominately continued to focus on Rockhampton city's on-going challenges of dealing with aging infrastructure and has not put in place any specific





growth management strategies to address the challenges faced by the vibrant and rapidly growing Capricorn Coast community. This has been highlighted in the direction currently adopted where little or no provision has been made for advancing critical community infrastructure such as new libraries, previously planned Cooe Bay Swimming and Aquatic Complex, continuation of the revitalization of the previous long-term plans for Yeppoon and Emu Park CBD areas, Yeppoon's multi-story carpark, advancement of the Yeppoon Foreshore Redevelopment Project, or advancing the strategies outlined in the 2007 MacroPlan report to enhance the Coast's commercial and light industrial capacity and future potential.

The centralisation of services, in particular Local Government infrastructure services, has historically been shown to result in real reductions in the level and quality of services especially for smaller communities and rural areas. Once again this has been the experience in our region. In trying to put in place a 'one-size fits all' service delivery model the current Council has failed to address the basic needs of some communities or come to terms with the reality that different levels of service are required to meet the differing needs of diverse communities.

A factor that must also be considered is that while Rockhampton city is currently the region's primary centre that may not remain the case. With Livingstone/Capricorn Coast forecast to continue to have up to three times more growth within the next two decades the Capricorn Coast needs in respect of community infrastructure and services will be considerable.

Another key issue has been the unequal level of democratic representation. In effect previous Livingstone/Capricorn Coast communities currently have a minority say on matters affecting their lives including the provision of services, roads, sport and recreation facilities, youth services, the arts and how and where rate revenue is being spent.

The introduction of a postage stamp rating model has resulted in Livingstone/Capricorn Coast residents, who represent approximately 29% of the Rockhampton Regional Council's total population, being required to fund on average 37% of total rates revenue. In real dollar terms this equates to \$840 per head of population compared to an average of \$598 per head in the combined Rockhampton, Fitzroy and Mount Morgan balance area.

In 2007 Livingstone Shire Council was assigned a financial sustainability rating of moderate with a developing outlook by the QTC, the same rating given to Rockhampton. With the projected growth in Livingstone/Capricorn Coast there can be no doubt our economic sustainability is assured. Similarly with prudent financial management and the projected residential and industrial growth in Gracemere Rockhampton's sustainability is also assured. This was backed up by another recent QTC 'moderate' rating and our own independent viability assessment.

The proposition that we put to the Campbell Newman LNP State Government and Boundary Commissioner is that long-term financial sustainability was never an issue here. What must however be recognised and addressed through de-amalgamation is the realignment and reinstatement of genuine communities of interest to ensure Livingstone/Capricorn Coast is appropriately positioned and empowered with a more focussed local government structure that will ensure it remains a vibrant rapidly growing 'sea-change' community, and is afforded the level of self-determination and specialist focus on growth management needed to realise its full economic potential as the region's premier lifestyle, recreation and tourism hub.



Economic Development

This section was prepared in consultation with the Capricorn Coast Business Alliance. It provides an economic overview in both the 'pre' and 'post' amalgamation context.

The Capricorn Coast Business community have come out solidly seeking a review of the amalgamation of the former Livingstone Shire with Rockhampton. The President of the Capricorn Coast Business Alliance Inc. indicated their members clearly support a review of the amalgamation and the possibility for a de-amalgamation.

CCBA President Gary Kerr said a recent survey of their membership showed over 95% of members support requesting the new State Government to review and analyse the arguments for and against de-amalgamation, as well as provide an accurate assessment of all costs involved including the financial, economic and social benefits.

"It has become very obvious that the level of services on the Capricorn Coast has dropped significantly, particularly around the Yeppoon Central Business District and lack of industrial land development and costs of doing business, particularly Council rates for business have increased significantly."

"Our members are concerned that their ability to compete and remain sustainable is being severely compromised, particularly given there is significant competition from business in Rockhampton that are not experiencing the same pressures."

Economic Overview

The Capricorn Coast and the wider Rockhampton Region have been on separate and divergent economic development trajectories since the middle 1970's. A number of influences contributed to this pattern of development, most notably, the increase in domestic and international tourism, the growing numbers of workers commuting from the coast to employment in Rockhampton and, most recently, high income jobs in the resources sector. In the past decade, high income FIFO and DIDO workers have chosen the 'sea-change' lifestyle opportunities which the coastal communities offer. This has contributed to a demographic shift to a younger, wealthier and better educated population along the coastal fringe of the Capricornia region.

The previous historic dependent economic relationship between Rockhampton and the growing populations in Yeppoon and Emu Park has irrevocably changed. The Capricorn Coast communities are now economically self-sustainable. Coast residents are no longer dependent upon Rockhampton for education, retail or professional services. Prior to amalgamation, the Livingstone Shire was pursuing an orderly and sustainable development process with financial strategy to achieving balanced budgets and conservative expansion plans. Following amalgamation there has been a shift to a Rockhampton-centric model of administration and control. This has

resulted in an informal trend to try to direct new, and in some cases existing business and economic development away from the coast resulting in a transfer of jobs and future opportunity to Rockhampton and Gracemere thereby effectively seeking to relegate the role of the Capricorn Coast back to that of a 'dormitory' suburb of Rockhampton. This is not only detrimental to the long-term interests of the Capricorn Coast community but will also prove detrimental to the longer-term interests of both the State and Regional economies. The solution to address this backward trend is to return the autonomy of coastal communities to once again enable and empower them to play a pro-active role in value-adding to the strength and diversity of the regional economy in partnership with Rockhampton.

This section demonstrates the economic benefits of re-establishing the 'regional partnership' model to facilitate optimum regional economic development through restoring an independent Capricorn Coast Regional Council.

Evidence for this is provided from a number of highly reputable sources, including Bernard Salt, specialist Economist, Planners and Property Analysts - MacroPlan, PIFU and OESR as well as examining the experiences over the last four years post amalgamation.

KPMG – Bernard Salt’s Report

The previous Livingstone Shire Council commissioned the internationally renowned demographer, analyst and author of the book “The Big Shift”, Bernard Salt (Partner KPMG) to examine the economic and community impacts of amalgamation verse alternate options to achieve the optimum economic and service delivery outcomes for both the Capricorn Coast and Rockhampton regions.

The relevant comments in relation to economic development issues are:

Within Queensland, the recent rise of Hervey Bay has resulted in that community effectively usurping the regional-centre role of Maryborough. The same relationship that applied between Nambour and Maroochydore was evident between Maryborough and Hervey Bay. The formerly dominant inland town was gradually marginalised by a stronger, faster growing and more dynamic community evolving on the coast.

The same logic applies to the relationship between Rockhampton and Livingstone. Rockhampton is an inland regional centre that has evolved over 100 years. It is an administrative centre as well as a workplace destination for a broad region. It services the surrounding agricultural region as well as the mining community at Mount Morgan. The population base of this single local area is sufficiently large, at 61,000 currently, to dominate the region now embraced by Fitzroy and Mount Morgan. The issue with Rockhampton is that its scope for future population growth is limited.

The Shire of Livingstone, on the other hand, evolved rapidly in the latter decades of the 20th Century based on new lifestyle models. These new lifestyle models include the concept of retirement as well as the notion of downshifting where city-based residents sell out and move to cheaper premises in a lifestyle location. The fundamental difference between Rockhampton and Livingstone is evident in the demographic composition and in the rate of growth that is expected from each community over the next 20 years.

Given these demographic variances, the economic trajectories of these two municipalities are also likely to be increasingly varied overtime. A merger between Livingstone and Rockhampton would see decision-making power tipped in Rockhampton’s favour with the possibility of holding twice the votes of Livingstone, due to number of councillors drawn from each municipality. The specialised needs of Livingstone in terms of its economic focus toward tourism are likely to be overlooked in this case.

Since amalgamation this has been clearly evidenced by the loss of the local tourist association that was forced to merge with the Rockhampton based regional tourism organisation. From that point there has been a marked decline in local tourism development and targeted investment promotion. This has contributed to and compounded the impact of the GFC resulting in an overall downturn in commencement of significant new tourism accommodation and facilities investment on the Capricorn Coast.

Financial sustainability reviews were conducted this year for both Livingstone Shire and Rockhampton City by the Queensland Treasury Corporation. From these reviews the economic viability of Livingstone Shire was revealed to be on par with that of Rockhampton City: both generating a “Moderate, developing” rating. My interpretation is that the different focus of these municipalities would therefore be best served through the retention of Livingstone as a separate municipality, and the merging of Rockhampton, Mount Morgan and Fitzroy, as these municipalities have similar needs in terms of infrastructure spending. Forcing Livingstone and Rockhampton to tussle over infrastructure funding for what is essentially different communities would be of benefit to neither municipality over the longer term.

Since amalgamation, the Capricorn Coast community has been increasingly subsidising Rockhampton and other western communities in the council boundaries at the expense of deferring or shelving previously planned economic development and community infrastructure needed to enhance and attract economic and tourism investment to the Capricorn Coast. This is evidenced in the 2012/13 council budget where the Capricorn Coast, which comprises 29.8% of the population, is contributing over 37% of Council’s rates income, while new capital works (excluding the Capricorn Coast water pipeline (a project commenced under the former LSC) has averaged less than 29% of Council’s new capital expenditure.

OESR Commentary

Bernard Salt's analysis was supported by the Government's Officer of Economic and Statistical Research (OESR). According to the OESR (2007):

The strength of the Retail Trade and Accommodation, Cafes and Restaurants sectors is indicative of strong tourism activity in the Shire. Livingstone Shire is on the Capricorn Coast, and includes the major tourist centres of Yeppoon and Great Keppel Island. In June quarter 2006, there were 20,783 overnight visitors to the Shire, an increase of 1.7 per cent on June quarter 2005. Visitor nights increased by 6.4 per cent over the same period, undertaken in the Shire, accounting for 72 per cent of the value of agricultural to 58,035. Additionally, the Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries sector accounts for a substantially higher share of employment in Livingstone Shire than for Queensland as a whole (11.4 per cent compared with 4.9 per cent). In 2001, beef cattle grazing was the largest agricultural activity production. Fruit and vegetable growing were also significant, accounting for 11 per cent and 8 per cent respectively.

The Shire also has a very strong Education sector, particularly in Yeppoon, which has a large range of state schools, private colleges, and a campus of the Central Queensland Institute of TAFE. The largest manufacturing sector in the Shire is Food manufacturing. The Australian Meat Holdings abattoir is located in the Shire, although for practical purposes it would generally be considered to be part of the greater Rockhampton area. The border between Rockhampton City and Livingstone Shire is somewhat arbitrary from an economic analysis viewpoint, with some activity that might normally be attributed to Rockhampton being technically included in Livingstone Shire.

OESR Economic Outlook

*Livingstone Shire's economy is relatively diverse, with a solid long-term outlook, albeit with some challenges in the short to medium term. **Jobs in the Shire are strongly linked to exports such as tourism and beef, but there is also a relatively large base of stable employment and incomes in population-based services like education and health.***

Services employment (including construction) will continue to benefit from the Shire's attractiveness to migrants and tourists. A number of projects aimed at tourists, retirees and other new arrivals are under way or being planned, with the Seaspray residential community near Emu Park, the Great Barrier Reef International Resort in Yeppoon, and Keppel Views residential development near Yeppoon being a few of the larger ones.(OESR).

The authoritative OESR recognised the importance of these developments on the regional economy and its growth, which in turn requires strong Council support with infrastructure, facilities and a general pro-development Council.


The limited tourism data available for Livingstone Shire suggest that recent outcomes have been higher than state and national averages. The broader outlook for tourism is mixed, however, and there is a risk that the Shire will find it difficult to maintain its relatively strong results. The Australian Government's Tourism Forecasting Committee (TFC) predicts average growth in national domestic visitor nights of only 0.5 per cent

per annum for the period 2006 to 2015. The outlook for the international visitor sector may be more positive, with the TFC forecasting average growth of international visitor arrivals of 5.5 per cent per annum nationally for the period 2006 to 2015. However, it should be noted that since the TFC forecasts were produced, international visitor arrivals have been lower than expected. (OESR)

This demonstrates the importance of Council support to achieve above average tourism growth, and the fact that tourism cannot be taken for granted. Over the last four years the Rockhampton dominated Council has clearly demonstrated its focus on Rockhampton and neglected tourism development on the Capricorn Coast

Population growth in Livingstone Shire has been relatively strong, although a little below the DLGP projections – perhaps because of the economic effects of the drought. In the longer term, the population growth rate could be expected to increase again, in line with DLGP projections of rates well in excess of 2 per cent per annum for the next decade. With the popularity of Yeppoon and surrounds as a retirement destination, the age structure of the Shire's population will be a variable of interest in the future, as large numbers of retirees generate increasing demands for health and aged care services, and appropriate infrastructure. (OESR).

This demonstrates the need for tailored services and facilities to attract such people into the former Shire that provided well above normal service levels in relation to human services, and this was reflected in



the different staff mixture in the two larger Councils. Rockhampton had more outdoor staff than indoor, because its focus is on physical infrastructure. By contrast, the former Livingstone Shire had more indoor staff than outdoor (notwithstanding the huge roads network it services), due to the demand for human services. Rockhampton City's submission to the Amalgamation Commission indicated it was oblivious to these needs.

Tourism

The Capricorn Coast is likely to experience significant tourism growth over the next 20 years. The business and economic case for 'Twin cities/Councils' approach has been further reinforced by a recognition of the importance of also retaining the Capricorn Coast's established identity as the tourist and recreation hub for the region.

As at 2007, there were a number of significant developments and tourism projects underway or 'in the pipeline' which are likely to increase the profile of the region as a tourist destination and increase visitor numbers to the region. These included:

- ▶ Great Keppel Island will undergo a multi-million dollar upgrade by the Sydney-based investment group Tower Holdings.
- ▶ Great Barrier Reef International Resort and Seaspray Developments at Zilzie Bay – The construction of these major integrated tourism and residential projects at Zilzie Bay, on the southern end of the Capricorn Coast, are changing the scale and nature of tourism in the area. These projects cover several square kilometres of land area on the coastline and include golf course developments, retail and shopping precincts, accommodation and leisure attractions.

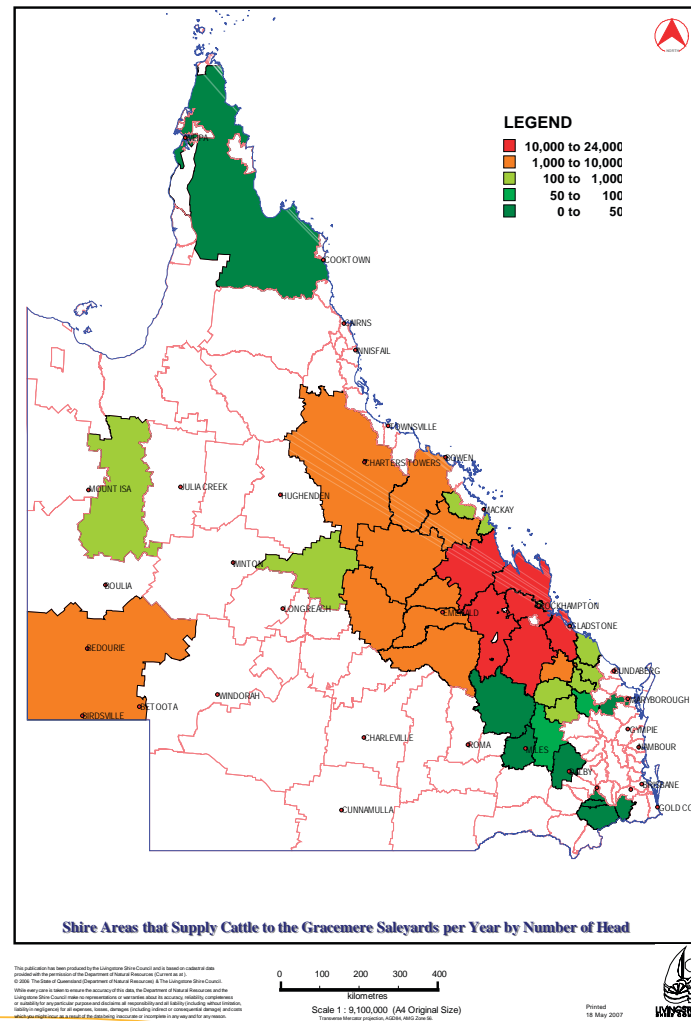
Other planned developments have not yet proceeded. These include:

- ▶ Keppel Bay Marina – Residential Development comprised of several stages of tourist and residential development. Future stages include a one hectare resort site approved for 180 room resort, commercial tourism business precinct and further residential/ tourist accommodation to a total of 301 individual residences.
- ▶ Strand Hotel Redevelopment – Mixed commercial (hotel and retail) and around 80 residential and tourist apartments. Estimated cost is \$52 million.
- ▶ Capricorn Resort - Plans foreshadowed by the Iwasaki Sangyo Company to upgrade and significantly expand the Capricorn International Resort facilities currently employing more than 350 equivalent full-time staff. While no firm estimates are available it is likely that this expansion would be in the order upwards of \$200 million.

There is considerable potential for the tourism industry in the Capricorn Coast to expand significantly over the next 20 years. As the tourism industry matures demand for further industrial land is also likely to increase significantly from businesses servicing activities related to the tourism industry.

Beef Industry

As noted by OESR, a key component of the former Livingstone Shire's economy is associated with the beef industry. Although there is a connection between the beef industry and Rockhampton, the beef economic interest connected with Rockhampton extends well beyond the previous four Council areas, and includes most of Central Queensland. This is shown in the following map of cattle sales catchment.



Population Trends and PIFU Future Projections

The growth patterns of Rockhampton and the Capricorn Coast have been vastly different over many decades. Over the last 15 years, the Capricorn Coast population growth rate has been consistently two to three times that of Rockhampton.

Indeed, Rockhampton's population growth rate has been significantly below that of similar regional cities such as Mackay, Townsville, Cairns and Gladstone. In fact, Rockhampton was the largest regional city in Regional Queensland in the year 1900 whereas it is now lagging well behind the similar regional cities. The classification of Rockhampton as one of ten disadvantaged communities in Australia by the Federal Government is a testament to this lack of growth and Rockhampton's deeply ingrained 'conservatism' and unwillingness to embrace growth and change..

On the other hand, the Capricorn Coast has experienced significant growth, averaging 2% plus growth per year from 1996. This compares to Rockhampton's average growth of 0.7% per year for the same period.

PIFU 2031 population projections show the Livingstone/ Capricorn Coast population will reach 59,101 representing a growth rate of 2.6% against the overall 1.8% State growth rate, and more than twice the growth rate of the combined Rockhampton/Gracemere/Mt Morgan areas at 1.2% (.6% below the State growth rate). This once again highlights the need for a Capricorn Coast Regional Council that can focus



on the growth management needs independent of the less dynamic Rockhampton Regional Council which will continue to grow at a much slower rate and will therefore have differing and competing priorities with those of the Capricorn Coast.

When one looks more closely at the growth patterns within the Livingstone Statistical Area the need for growth management strategies becomes even more evident with Yeppoon growing at 2.7% from 17,638 to 30,300 and Emu Park growing by 5% from 4,637 to 12,233. This demonstrates the importance of reinstating the former Livingstone/Capricorn Coast's key role as a discrete coastal growth area, with targeted service delivery and responsive tourist, industrial, agricultural and environmental initiatives.

PIFU also recognises that of the largest Eastern Regional Queensland cities "most of projected regional growth will occur in adjacent Council areas such as Livingstone Shire adjacent to Rockhampton City".

According to PIFU, projected growth rates for the Capricorn Coast are also expected to, in most cases, exceed those of other high growth LGAs for the same period. Examples include areas such as Whitsunday Regional Council (2.2%), Frazer Coast Regional Council (2.3%), Mackay Regional Council (2.2%), and Gladstone Regional Council (2.9%).

QTC Commentary

Rockhampton faces strong competition for population from Livingstone Shire, which offers a coastal lifestyle and had positive net migration over the past decade. However, this does not have a great impact on Rockhampton's labour supply and services demands as a significant number of Livingstone and Fitzroy residents work in Rockhampton.

The QTC comment that "Rockhampton faces strong competition for population from the former Livingstone Shire" highlighted the community's concerns that an amalgamated Council dominated by 70% of its voting power from the Rockhampton urban area would resist putting major investment in coastal development which it viewed to be in direct competition with the regional centre, or if there were limited investment funds available for competing projects. These concerns have proved to be well-founded.

When it comes to choosing between investing in Rockhampton or the Capricorn Coast it was unrealistic to expect that Rockhampton Divisional Councillors, who effectively hold the controlling votes, would support the development of coastal facilities ahead of Rockhampton and their own Divisional areas. This is happening despite the population growth forecast by PIFU. The argument put forward is that the Coast community can make the 100km round trip to Rockhampton to access their centralised facilities. Clearly this is not a tenable situation for a rapidly growing Coastal city or one which will encourage 'sea-change' migration to choose our region ahead of areas where community facilities are more readily available.

"Seaspray Residential Community is a master planned development which will be home for 2,000 residents. The development set new development standards in Livingstone Shire and created one of Queensland's newest national parks. Seaspray was achieved through the flexible and cooperative approach by the Livingstone Council and their willingness to engage and be part of not only the planning process but the design process." – source: Director, Seaspray Development (Finalist in the National HIA 2006 Greensmart Awards – 'Estate of the Year')

Economic Planning

This section describes economic features at a local, sub-regional and regional level, and draws on various specialist consultancy studies commissioned by the former Livingstone Shire Council.

Central Queensland Regional Economy

The Business Industry Scoping Study Review (BISS) undertaken by Spiller Gibbons Swan (SGS) Economic and Planning consultancy has been summarised in the sections below and provides an overview of the Central Queensland economy:

- Based largely on extractive industries (notably coal, alumina, magnesite and limestone) and associated manufacturing and processing activities. Despite experiencing some relative decline in recent years, agriculture, such as cotton, cattle, grains and fruit production, remains a substantial contributor to the Central Queensland economy; Other closely related sectors of economic activity include power generation and transport, warehousing and

distribution; 'Spin off' wealth generating activities by these sectors which serve the needs of the region's population include retailing, business services, health and education. Retail trade remains the largest provider of jobs in Central Queensland;

- ▶ Agriculture production includes fruit production, beef and cotton; Tourism activity in the region is focussed on the coastline and nearby islands, however, there is also some inland tourism activity with agri-tourism and cultural tourism attractions scattered throughout Central Queensland.

Rockhampton Sub-Regional Economy

Livingstone/Capricorn Coast is part of the Rockhampton subregion, which is part of the Fitzroy Region. The Rockhampton sub-region also comprises the previous local government areas of Rockhampton, Fitzroy and Mt. Morgan.

The Business Industry Scoping Study Review (BISS) undertaken by Spiller Gibbons Swan (SGS) Economic and Planning consultancy identifies that:

- ▶ There has been significant expenditure and commitment to expenditure on strategic infrastructure in the Rockhampton sub-region's key sectors of economic activity. Rockhampton is a major service hub for industrial activity throughout the wider region, with much of the recent and planned activity focussed on transport, warehousing and distribution, education, R&D and community services. Substantial investments in major metal product processing activities are also planned for the Rockhampton area.

Livingstone – within a Sub Regional and Local Economic Context

The following overview is an extract from research and analysis undertaken in May 2007 by consultants, MacroPlan Dimasi, who are specialist Economists, Planners and Property Analysts:

"The recent research undertaken has predicted that the significant economic growth being experienced across the Shire will continue, driving further development in the tourism and retail sectors and a constant increase in the population. Livingstone Shire is predicted to become a thriving and self-sustainable regional centre by 2021 as it continues to grow as one of the most significant destinations in Queensland. MacroPlan Australia has described the local economy as being 'young [emerging] and dynamic'; one that can respond to change as the Shire shifts from being a local community centre to a thriving 'coastal based regional hub'.

In 2021, the Livingstone Shire will be strategically located within the Capricorn Coast which is set to become the most important tourist destination in Central Queensland. Livingstone Shire's central civic and business centre, Yeppoon, will be a thriving regional centre which will provide 24/7 services and be the central tourist hub and haven for an established community comprising of permanent residents, remote and mobile workers, resource workers and migrants from SEQ and the Eastern Sea board of Australia.

The Capricorn Coast, and in particular Yeppoon, will be perceived as a premium quality tourist destination nationally and internationally with its access to the Great

Barrier Reef and exotic islands including Great Keppel Island. The relatively temperate climate provides the ideal environment for both permanent and transient communities and encourages the substantial growth of the Livingstone Shire as a 'coastal based regional hub'. The Shire is committed to creating main street focussed town centres that meet the needs of a growing community. The town centres will be based on a complex hierarchy that will accommodate a mix of uses that are integrated to enhance the experience of visitors and residents.

MacroPlan Australia believe that the Livingstone Shire will have established itself as a unique and self-sustaining regional destination with an interwoven offering of employment, tourism and lifestyle opportunities for a growing and diverse community."

Additionally, the Business Industry Scoping Study Review (BISS) undertaken by SGS identifies that:

- ▶ Livingstone has the capacity to confirm and then pursue its place in the regional economy; Livingstone Shire is predominantly a service sector economy.
- ▶ **The strength of the area's retail trade and other service sectors is based on the shire's high and continuing rate of population growth. This in turn, is based on the employment opportunities provided locally and in the wider region and the appeal of the Capricorn Coast as a place to live for those people working in the wider region (i.e. Rockhampton).**

Livingstone – Local Economic Trends

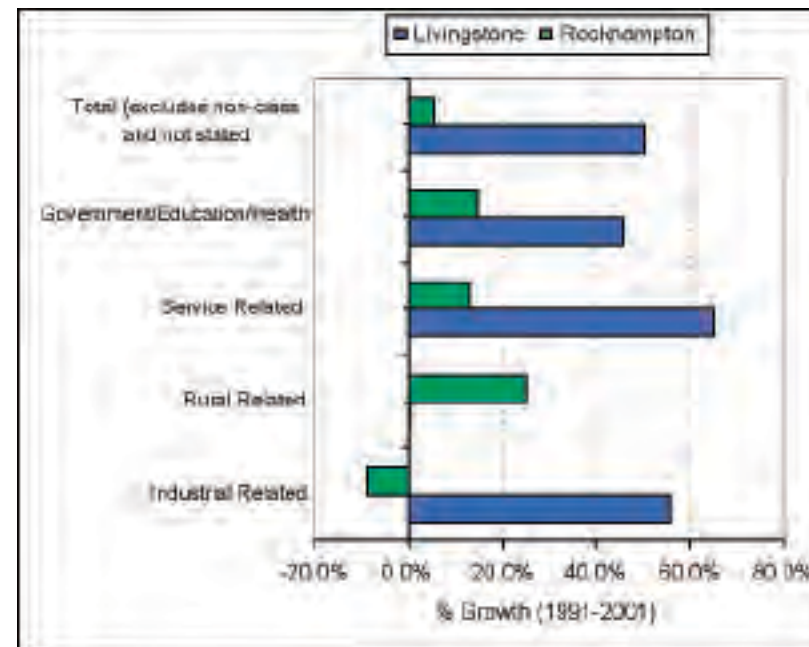
MacroPlan Australia identified that: "Livingstone Shire is experiencing significant development pressures across all sectors, which is often experienced in newly 'discovered' coastal lifestyle communities. The Shire's economy is 'young and dynamic' and is predicted to maintain significant periods of sustained growth as the economy shifts to a thriving coastal tourism hub."

Figure-3 highlights the significant growth that has been experienced across the industrial, service and government related industries within Livingstone Shire, during a time where Rockhampton has experienced significantly lower levels of growth. The focus of Rockhampton in 'rural' related industries, which supports their role as an in-land hub is also highlighted (Source: MacroPlan Australia Pty Ltd).

Data in this section demonstrates significant differences in the industrial and economic features of the Rockhampton and Livingstone communities.

"... that Rockhampton is a 'mature' economy supported by an established and stable population. The role and function of these two Shire's is distinctively different with Rockhampton providing an in-land link, whilst Livingstone has a distinct coastal focus. This relationship is similar to that seen on the Fraser Coast, between Maryborough and Hervey Bay." (Source: MacroPlan Australia, 2007)

Figure-3 Industry Trends 1991 - 2001 – Livingstone and Rockhampton Comparison





Conclusion – Economic Issues

The clear evidence from the above authoritative sources shows that the Capricorn Coast is emerging as a major regional centre in its own right. The previous Rockhampton City Council has shown a history of unwillingness to pro-actively support development on the coast, which is seen to be in competition with its own development.

Since amalgamation, the electoral structure of divisions of the Rockhampton Regional Council has resulted in the former Livingstone's coastal and rural areas being represented by only three (3) out of 11 Councillors.

Since amalgamation it is clearly evident that major investment in community infrastructure on the coast and rural communities is being regularly out-voted in favour of centralised facilities and services in Rockhampton.

Rockhampton, Fitzroy and Mount Morgan have a strong imperative to focus the finances on repairing the backlog of aging infrastructure, rather than new infrastructure and facilities in the growth areas.

It has become evident that amalgamation has been detrimental to the best interest of the rapidly growing Capricorn Coast community. The primary issue, as identified by Bernard Salt, is having two competing population centres in the same Council when one centre holds the overwhelming power and control over where major investment will occur.

Resource allocation has been focussed predominately on Rockhampton. In comparison, the coastal growth areas have tended to be starved of capital investment, which over time will make the region less attractive for new 'sea-changers' compared to alternative coastal areas in Queensland or interstate.

This means that whilst the coastal areas will continue to grow, it will be at a slower pace which will be to the detriment of both the Capricorn Coast and the overall region. The 2011 census data has shown that growth has already slowed from the PIFU high series which can, in part, be attributed to the negative impact of amalgamation.

Optimum Service Delivery

Optimal service delivery to a community relies upon a keen understanding and focus on community aspirations and specific needs. The Rockhampton Regional Council model has tried to adopt a 'one size fits all' approach that has not delivered well on either community expectations or aspirations.

This also has an economic downside for the region with the Capricorn Coast's future growth is being compromised by RRC's demonstrated minimal commitment to servicing future growth, tourism and new community infrastructure investment on the Capricorn Coast. The end result will be that the Capricorn Coast will be less attractive for both tourists and new residents, therefore the potential for optimizing economic prosperity will progressively be diminished.

The Livingstone/Capricorn Coast community, especially the coastal population growth centres, are a unique community, and a rapidly developing region in their own right. Naturally these growing communities have different service requirements and associated new infrastructure needs to places like Rockhampton which are currently in their mature phase.

Over the four years prior to amalgamation Livingstone Shire Council had undertaken comprehensive reviews of existing service levels to ascertain what was affordable and would be required to meet the needs of both a rapidly growing Coastal community and our geographic spread of rural areas (see page 33). These reviews included extensive community consultation, a sophisticated survey of community preferences, comprehensive roads and infrastructure studies, and facilities needs analysis in relation to sport, recreation and other community infrastructure needs.

The postage-stamp model RRC is now being imposed across the Rockhampton Regional Council area on the Capricorn Coast has either paid little attention, or at best 'lip-service', to those studies and necessary forward planning. RRC has not been prepared or able to tailor the necessary services, or provide the specific resources and level of infrastructure investment needed to address the previously identified needs and unique issues of the Coast's growing community.

Optimal service delivery for the Capricorn Coast will require higher levels of capital investment and higher than average human service provision to service the needs of the 'sea change' community which is attracted to and migrating to the region.

These service levels (infrastructure, community and human services) are necessary to maintain the attractiveness of our area to both existing and new residents, and to continue driving the economic growth in the region.

Regrettably since council amalgamations in 2008 there has been a significant drop in community infrastructure investment to support the Coast strong population growth. In fact, the only significant community infrastructure investment on the Capricorn Coast since amalgamation has been projects advanced by the former Livingstone Shire. These projects include the Yeppoon Town Hall, Cooee Bay Tennis Courts, All Abilities Playground and the Barmaryee Sporting Complex.

Capacity to Service Urban and Rural Areas

Given the unique urban and rural diversity of the Livingstone/Capricorn Coast area, LSC had established systems and procedures to ensure efficient servicing across the Shire.

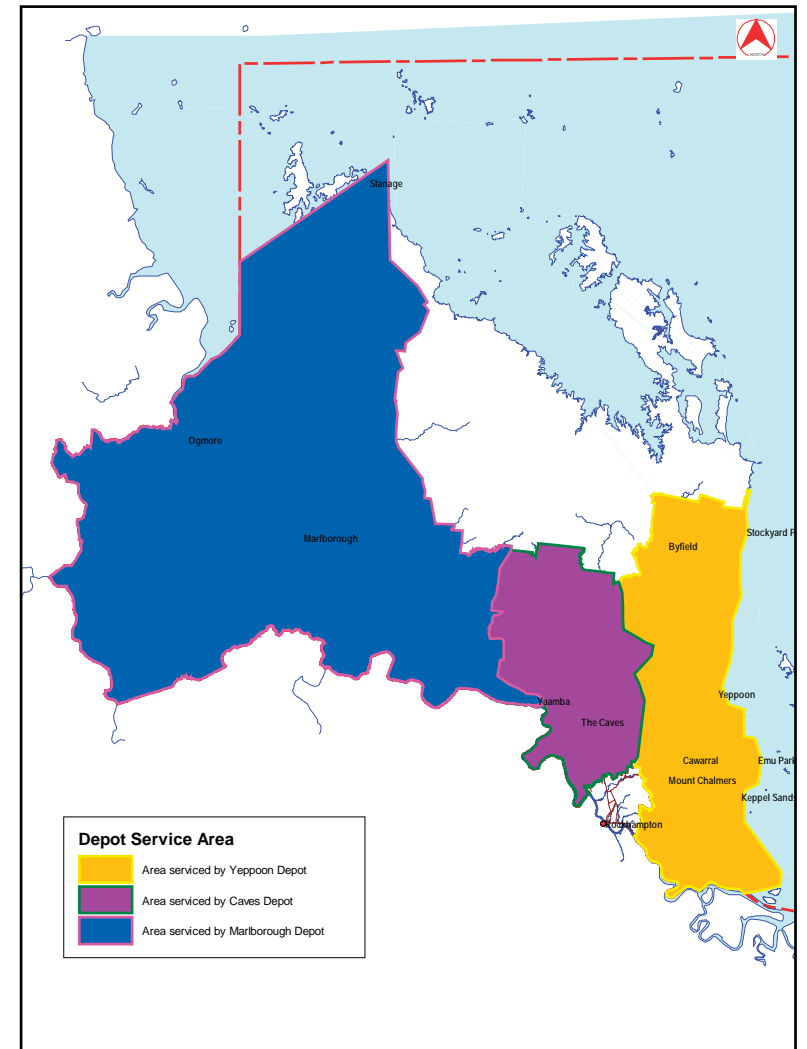
In the area of rural road network maintenance and efficiency LSC had built a solid reputation of balancing community service levels and priorities predominantly around the traditional services such as road maintenance and refurbishment.

Depots to service the requirements of the 11,775 sq km remain in place with adequate capability of achieving acceptable economy and efficiency in meeting the growing expectations of the community. Previous independent assessments of Council activities undertaken through an asset management improvement strategy identified LSC compared very favourably in respect of rural road maintenance against an average of other relevant Queensland Councils – demonstrating a productivity capacity to do more work at less cost and in less time on the basis of comparative work practices.

Optimal Service Level Summary

The optimal service delivery for the Capricorn Coast will require high levels of capital investment to service the needs of the sea change community which is attracted to and migrating to the region.

The Rockhampton City region and the Capricorn Coast region have different optimum service levels and would better service their respective communities as separate local governments.



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Council Depot Service Areas

0 10 20 30
 kilometres
 Scale 1 : 850,000 (A4 Original Size)
Transverse Mercator projection, AGDA, AMG Zone 56.

Printed 17 May 2007

The following is a snapshot of areas where RRC is either failing to deliver for the current needs, or appropriately planning for future growth on the Capricorn Coast.

Sport and recreation

The most obvious example in this area is the proposed master-planned redevelopment of the Cooee Bay Swimming Pool Complex absolutely necessary to meet the needs of the Coast community. This planned project was identified as a priority project in a State funded comprehensive facilities needs analysis of the Capricorn Coast with concept plans were unveiled in 2007. Since the amalgamation in 2008 those plans have been shelved and the project is currently now not even on the RRC forward-planning horizon.

In contrast RCC has committed \$17M to the redevelopment of Rockhampton's Southside Pool effectively using up all the available funds from Local, State, and Federal Government sources on a single facility that, while a welcomed addition in the region, is a 100k round trip away from the Capricorn Coast community and schools. RRC is now saying that the priority must be to reduce debt and is not prepared to commit any further funding to meet either the current needs or growth requirement for swimming facilities on the Capricorn Coast.

Another example is the Barmaryee Multi-sports Complex which will collectively service around two thousand Touch Football, Junior and Senior Rugby League participants. This project was recommended to start in 2008 but was put on hold by RRC unnecessarily for more than two years. It is currently now under construction but is still unlikely to be fully operational until mid-2013.

Playground Equipment

Playgrounds across the region were removed as part of a safety audit at the start of the amalgamated Council. This year the playground replacement program is being suspended. When this was decided the one neighbourhood playground that had already been purchased for installation at St Faith's Park in Yeppoon was immediately redirected to Rockhampton.

This brings into question the way projects are being prioritised when more than \$3M in funding has been put into upgrades of the Rockhampton Zoo.

Libraries, Arts and Culture

There has been a very similar story with previously planned library infrastructure. The planned new Capricorn Coast Civic Library in Yeppoon has been shelved, and the national award winning youth library co-located at the Verbyl Youth Centre in Yeppoon was closed when Council decided not to refill the position of Youth Librarian in 2009.

The new Civic Library was to be a key element of CBD revitalisation plan and a 'corner-stone' project of our planned 'cultural precinct'. The other major component of that precinct was to be a multi-purpose arts space and gallery which has also been scrapped.

Once again in contrast over \$3M was spent refurbishing the North Rockhampton Library and School of Arts building in Rockhampton.

Youth Services

The youth services previously delivered by LSC have been progressively under-resourced and downgraded with RRC now positioning to sell-off the previously national award winning Verbyl Youth Centre.

Pre Amalgamation Service Level Reviews

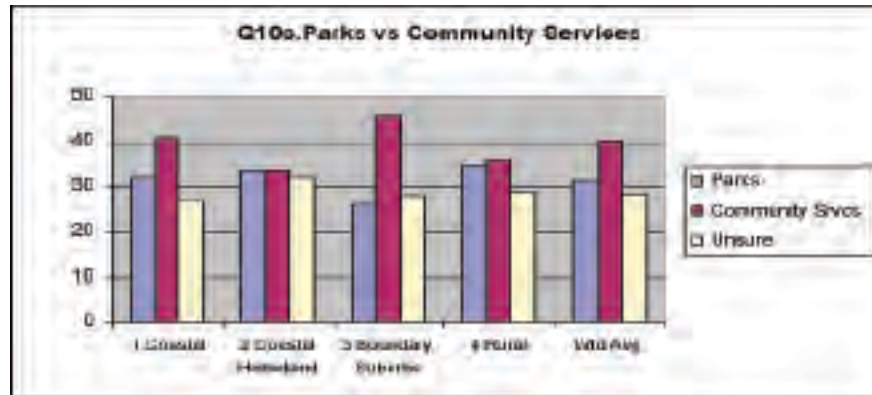
In June 2006, Livingstone Shire Council commissioned specialist consultants, Sinclair Knight Merz (SKM), to undertake a community survey to ascertain which Council services are most important to the community. This survey was part of an organisational service level review to improve service delivery levels.

Council defined its discrete communities of interest into four geographical areas to canvass survey respondents - coastal; coastal hinterland; boundary suburbs, and rural areas. This enabled a proportionate spread of community views from randomly selected residents.

The survey outcomes clearly demonstrated the different needs, priorities and values of the region's coastal community of interest compared to the Rockhampton urban/boundary fringe and rural communities. Key community survey findings and weighted averages are evidenced in this section.

Figure 4-1 shows that community services have a particularly high level of importance in the Shire, compared with traditional services.

Figure 4-1 Community Service Priority – Parks or Community Services



Source: Livingstone Shire Council Community Survey (Sinclair Knight Merz, 2006)

Figure 4-2 Shows great variation on preferences for various service levels in Livingstone Shire, which would not be appreciated by an urban dominated Greater Rockhampton City Council which is proposed by Rockhampton City.

Figure 4-2 Reallocation Priorities

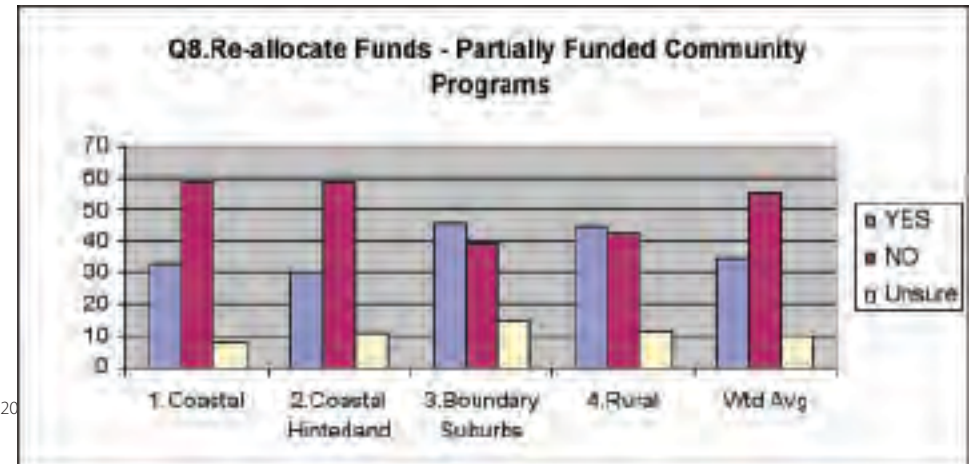


Figure 4-3 demonstrates that there is a huge diversity of service need in Livingstone Shire. Rockhampton Regional Council has not appreciated these differences, and has attempted to provide a one size fits all approach to service delivery

Figure 4-3 Community Priority - Water, Sewerage and Waste

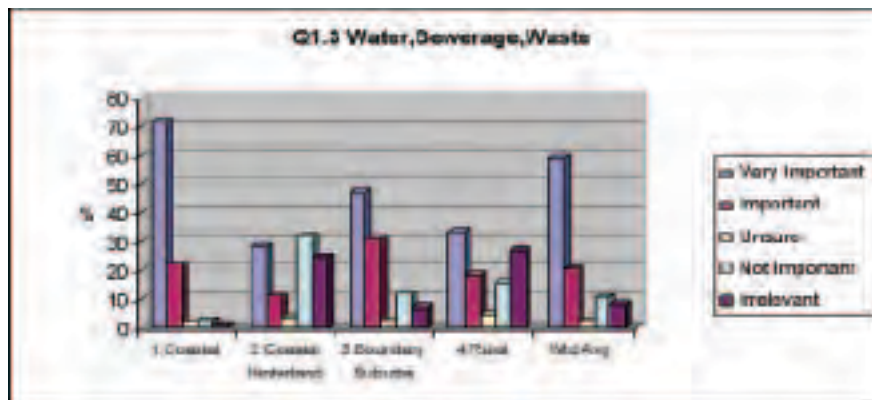
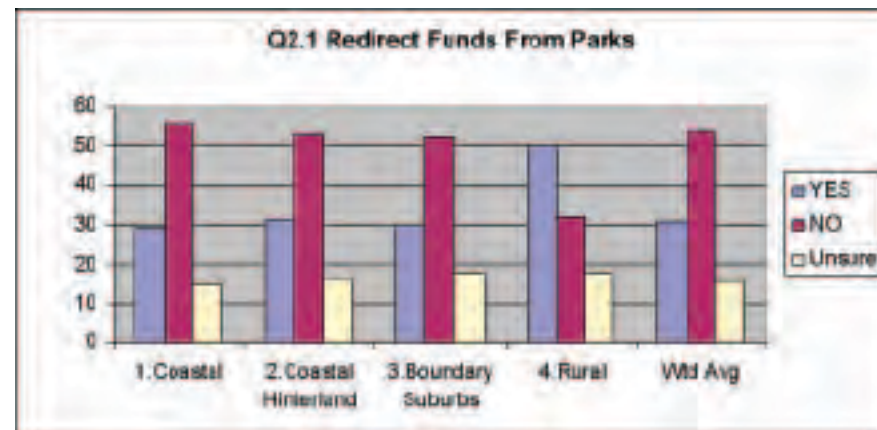


Figure 4-4 highlights different community opinions between urban and rural areas. The amalgamated Rockhampton Regional Council has seven (7) out of eleven (11) Councillors based in the urban areas of Rockhampton City who have little experience or in-depth appreciation of rural issues.

Figure 4-4 Community Priority – Parks



Optimum Governance Model

This section outlines the optimum Local Government model for the current Regional Council area. This would see the former Livingstone Shire Council area de-amalgamated from Rockhampton Regional Council to once again become an independent Local Government entity.

The reformed CCRC would comprise six Councillors and Mayor in line with current Local Government requirements for a Category 4 Council. It is suggested that the reformed Council be undivided as it was previously under the Livingstone Shire Council.

While a 'stand-alone' reformed Livingstone Shire Council would be viable, it is envisaged that with goodwill and a partnership approach there would be significant opportunity to explore resource-sharing, business unit opportunities, and options where economies of scale and synergies can be identified. Similarly joint arrangements which existed prior to amalgamation in areas such as Regional Economic Development, Tourism Promotion, Environmental Management, and long-term Regional Waste Management Strategies could and should be re-established.

This model would provide the opportunity for each Council to specialise and focus on their individual economic and community strengths while working in partnership in areas that require a united regional approach to optimise desired outcomes. The overall result would be a stronger and more diversified regional governance model based around genuine communities of interest and a shared vision for the region's future.

Historical Context - Electoral Representation

Livingstone Shire had a history of divisional elected representatives up until the 1991 Local Government Elections when it moved to an undivided local government. This was supported by worldwide trends that have seen many countries particularly across eastern Europe move away from electoral districts.

Prior to amalgamation, over the duration of the previous four local government elections (since 1991) the number of undivided Local Governments in Queensland had moved from 24 Councils to 66 Councils, indicating almost half of all local governments at the time had moved to an undivided basis.

With an undivided local government, particularly in a rural and regional area, the community are less parochial and the elected members better represent the whole of the local government public interest in accordance with the Local Government Act.

Current Context - RRC Electoral Representation

Contrary to Local Government Reform Commission recommendations divisional arrangements were forced through Cabinet by the former Labor member for Rockhampton. Public statements from the State Member at the time confirmed the move was designed to entrench disproportionate representation in favour of Rockhampton. The resulting divisional system ensured six of ten Councillors would come from Rockhampton City and give them effective control over a Rockhampton City focussed council. The major downside has been the primary growth area, the emerging city of the Capricorn Coast which with rural hinterland already has a population of 35,000, is now being inappropriately managed as just another outer suburb of Rockhampton.

Partnering With Other Levels Of Government

Livingstone Shire had a long and successful history of partnering with other State, Federal, and other Local Governments to support the development of both the Capricorn Coast region and broader cross-regional interests. This would continue under the proposed de-amalgamated Council structure.

Council Name

It is suggested that a reformed Livingstone Shire Council be renamed Capricorn Coast Regional Council or similar to better reflect the geographic area and regional identity.

It is strongly believed that changing the name and the status of the Council will also help promote our area, and will be more recognisable. This will in turn assist in attracting investment as the name of Livingstone is not well known outside Central Queensland, nor is it how the community generally identifies itself. There are no businesses or community groups which use this name, in contrast many organisations use the name "Capricorn Coast". The name "Capricorn" was first used in the region by Captain James Cook in his logs in 1770. In 1969, the then Queensland Minister for Lands declared the "Capricorn Coast" as a tourist region name.

Population Growth and City Status

According to the latest OESR Information the Livingstone Area had a population estimated at 35,422 as at 30 June 2011, and is projected to grow to more than 59,000 by 2031. This represents an average growth rate of 2.6% compared to the projected State average of 1.8% over the corresponding period.

The Capricorn Coast area has for some time qualified for city status with a total population of more than 25,000 population (currently 35,000 approx), more than 15,000 people in an urban centre with minimum population density of 150 people per square kilometre (currently 21,000 approx Yeppoon to Emu Park), and with commercial, industrial, health and public sector services available for the region.



Communities of Interest

Communities of Interest Profile

The Livingstone Shire /Capricorn Coast Region is a unique area. It is made up of a mixture of a major coastal urban centre, scattered communities and wide spread geographical areas that take in coastal, island, and rural areas with various types of diversified economic activities and production (ie grazing, horticulture, mining, fishing, tourism and light industry), infrastructure and community lifestyles.

The Shire can be broken into four main communities of interest consisting of:

- Coastal & Island Communities (Yeppoon, Emu Park, Keppel Sands and Great Keppel Island).
- Hinterland Communities, (Cawarral, Byfield, Mt Chalmers, Coowonga).
- Rural Communities (Stanage Bay, Marlborough, The Cave, Yaamba, Ogmoo).
- Fringe Communities (Glenlee, Glendale, Sandringham, Rockyview and Nerimbera).

This paper attempts to provide a snapshot on some key characteristics of each of the above communities of interest within the shire area.

Communities of Interest

1. Coastal & Island Communities

Although being made up of a wide cross section of people from different cultural, socio-economic backgrounds, the coastal communities of Yeppoon, Emu Park and Keppel Sands have a number of key features, which link them together. These include:

- An appreciation of the coastal lifestyle and beach atmosphere,
- Interest in Capricorn Coast environmental and social issues,
- Interest in proposed developments (whether for or against),
- Access to Yeppoon as the central service / retail hub, and
- Growing Social Capital, as evidenced by active community group participation, volunteerism and civil pride.

Yeppoon

Yeppoon is the major urban and central service centre in the Livingstone/Capricorn Coast Region. It has a broad socio-economic demographic, and is a rapidly developing area, which is evidenced by the number of residential approvals, business and industrial growth. Over the last decade the community has attracted franchise stores such as Kentucky Fried Chicken, Subway, Dominoes, Eagle Boys, Brumbies and McDonalds, in addition to long established pre-existing businesses. In 2008 a second major shopping centre, Yeppoon Central, was constructed which included Big W, Woolworths and a diverse range of franchise and speciality retail outlets. This year the original major shopping centre, Keppel Bay Plaza, has reinvested in a major renovation which has incorporated a Country Target department store.

This significant investment and expansion of retail facilities is a reflection of the level of growth and confidence in the Capricorn Coast as an emerging city. It has also decreased the frequency of residents travelling to Rockhampton.

Residents in Yeppoon tend to be in favour of a stronger focus on economic development to provide long-term local employment to themselves and their children and an enhanced private service sector. The community, however, is also quite environmentally and social justice focused. Some common areas that

unite the community therefore include protection and preservation of the foreshore, limits of building heights which are unsympathetic to the natural landscape, and participation in local celebrations and events.

The people in Yeppoon have a high sense of Civic Pride. For example, they express the need for improved infrastructure in the built environment such as beach access, park and sporting facilities. They also express the need for locally operated and managed human services, in particular youth and aged care services.

There is a high level of volunteerism in the community, coupled with a high number of viable community groups. These groups are involved in diverse activities ranging from community service, sport and recreation, education, religion/spiritual, welfare support, arts and culture, environment, general hobbies and social interaction.

In relation human services, the community has a one-stop government shop, police station, court house, ambulance, fire station, one public and one private hospital, SES regional controller, local disaster management group, a recently expanded TAFE campus, community development centre, community health services, tourist information centre, aged and disability services including accommodation facilities, education and child care services.

It is also important to make note of Yeppoon's and the Capricorn Coast's key attraction that being the wonderful array of beaches in and around Yeppoon such as Bangalee, Farnborough, Cooee Bay, Lammermoor,

Rosslyn Bay and Kemp Beach. These beach areas are well utilized by local residents, visitors, as well as domestic and international tourists.

Emu Park

This community has been quite active in voicing their viewpoints around such things as building heights and development in general. There is a strong call from a wide section of the community to maintain a seaside village atmosphere. Other expressed needs include, a youth centre/service, additional meeting venues, transport, implementation of the foreshore plan and the Bell Park Management Plan.

In relation to community groups and social infrastructure Emu Park has a library, a hall, a museum, an art gallery, sporting grounds, several parks and playgrounds and public toilets, aged and disability services, primary school, childcare service and kindergarten and a Council owned caravan park and swimming pool which is leased to private operators.

Emu Park CBD has in recent years undergone a revitalization, which has included construction of a major IGA Supermarket and establishment of a Bendigo Community Bank. This has had a positive spin off by an increased sense of civic pride, establishment of new businesses and a number of existing businesses undergoing face lifts.

The community has regular significant community events and ongoing weekly activities that are facilitated by different groups. There demonstrates a high degree of social cohesion

The community has an increasing level of aged persons. However, due to a number of new residential developments targeting younger families, the demographics and issues for the community are changing. Future service needs for Emu Park will therefore undergo further change as the area becomes more populated and the needs of retired people start to compete with the needs of families and young people.

Emu Park is a location which attracts tourists particularly 'grey nomads', some of which visit the community each winter. These tourists tend to not only holiday in the community but also engage in a number of community group activities such as sport and recreation and craft.

Another key feature of this community is that people tend to do their major grocery shopping in Yeppoon rather than travelling to Rockhampton. Emu Park's secondary school students also travel to Yeppoon to attend Yeppoon High School or the private secondary schools of St Ursula's (girls) and St Brendan's (boys).

Keppel Sands

Keppel Sands is characterised as having an ageing population. However, the school has approximately 15 children. In relation to business / industry, Keppel Sands contains a post office, take away shop, general store, hotel and caravan park.

The Tanby Bypass Road has made a significant difference in relation to the frequency of Keppel Sands residents who now travel regularly to Yeppoon to undertake their retail shopping.

The community has a strong interest in maintaining the foreshore and making it accessible. Prior to amalgamation LSC Council had worked with the community to install new beach furniture, construct a new boat ramp and to provide repairs to the groyne which was installed as part of a beach restoration project.

Keppel Sands is a proactive community, which is made up of people and several community groups that have been willing to take action and develop partnerships with their local Council and other key stakeholders to achieve their goals and vision. What this community tends to value is community driven processes to achieve identified outcomes.

The community has had a number of active community groups such as localised Emergency Services, Keppel Sands Community Advancement League, the P&C Association, Rural Fire Service, Quilters Circle and the Volunteer Coast Guard. There are regular community events such as community garage sales, relay for life, and community picnic days. Generally Keppel Sands is a self managed independent community.

The nearby community of **Joskeleigh** is well known as an enclave of the regions South Sea Island community. It is steeped in history and has a fascinating past, with direct links to the original South Sea Islanders who were blackbirded and brought to Queensland in the late nineteenth century.

In a move to promote greater understanding and knowledge of the community, the Queensland Government and Livingstone Shire Council both adopted

formal Recognition Statements in 2000. The statement acknowledged social and economic disadvantage suffered by the community as well as their unique contribution to the State and Shire's development and cultural landscape.

Both the State Government and LSC also assisted the Joskeleigh SSI community in establishing a museum to celebrate and remember their history and contribution to the rich social fabric of our community.

Great Keppel Island

Keppel Island consists of a resort (currently closed for major redevelopment), holiday homes, back packers accommodation, restaurants, water sports such as sailing and cruises. Industry on Great Keppel Island has historically revolved around tourism. In relation to known community groups, there is Friends of Great Keppel, the Woppaburra Land Trust and a Rural Fire Service.

This Island community's lifestyle is impacted by the fact that they are living in a significant cultural and environmental area. Identified issues for Island residents include rubbish removal, all weather access to their homes, emergency services and of course concerns for the marine habitat (re coral bleaching) and preservation of the unique eco system.

Keppel Bay has links with Roslyn Bay, due to the island to mainland passage and with Yeppoon for retail shopping and supplies and essential human services.

Currently Tower Holdings is undergoing an EIS process

for their GKI Revitalisation Plan. The essence of the GKI Revitalisation Plan is to create a multi billion dollar, low rise eco-tourism resort with international hotel and resort facilities, golf course, reef interpretive centre, and both holiday and residential accommodation.

2. Hinterland Communities

The hinterland Communities have a number of distinct features and characteristics such of which include:

- ▶ All have distinct identities, history and culture.
- ▶ Contain one or more active volunteer community groups that help keep people connected.
- ▶ Travel to Yeppoon and/or other coastal areas for different services (re education, retail)
- ▶ Cover a diverse range of industries.
- ▶ Have features or issues that are distinct to their particularly community/location.

Cawarral

The unique thing about this community is that it is an area which is characterized by large blocks (40 to 100 acre blocks) and that it has predominately two main types of family units consisting of dual income families with children and the other cohort being retired couples who have either recently chosen to retire in the area or who have lived in the area for many years. There are also a number of people who choose to work from home such

as artists, hobby farmers, small crop growers and other smaller businesses owners.

Working people and/or those with children tend to have a commuter culture through the weekday, with people either travelling to Yeppoon and/or Rockhampton areas.

Community organisations established within this Cawarral include the Rural Fire Service, Hall Committee and the local School P & C. All three groups act as a central conduit connecting people in the area together. The infrastructure issues for this area include such things as school crossing road safety and community facilities planning. The types of services that the community tends to request are localized services to meet the needs of the older and younger generations.

The Bush Fire service is extremely important to the community, as the Cawarral area is classified as a high fire prone area. In 1999 there was a large bush fire in the area, and the fire trucks from other areas could not get in to assist. As a result of this incident it was realized that this community needed its own service, with its own equipment. LSC provided land to construct a new fire shed, and also provided assistance with funding identification and submission writing and resolving community conflicts around fire levy issues and the proposed location of the new fire shed. LSC also covered the insurance for the Local Hall Committee however RRC has elected to now only partially assist with those costs.

LSC had also established a partnership with the Cawarral residents, where it supplied parks and garden equipment (re tractor and slasher) and training for

volunteer operators and the community subsequently did the grass slashing / park maintenance. Council established similar arrangement in the Stanage Community.

Byfield

Byfield has an estimated population of about 250 people and is surrounded by the Byfield State Forest. Generally, this area is described as consisting of people who have chosen to live an alternative type of lifestyle, with a higher tendency for reclusive forms of living. Arts, environmental, and social justice issues tend to be areas of high importance within this community.

Byfield has a State School and library service. The main community groups include the Byfield Hall committee and the P & C. Industry in the area consists of small arts and crafts businesses, the Ferns Hideaway (holiday/ weekend retreat and licensed venue), hobby farms with tropical fruits, and the commercial picking of the Byfield fern which is exported overseas. The area also attracts a number of tourists and local day-trippers due to its unique environment and the picnic and camping facilities at Red Rock, Water Park and Stoney Creek.

Mt Chalmers

Mt Chalmers is a small community which suffered the impacts of a school closure in 2005. It has an active Community Museum Historical Society.

LSC is worked actively with Education Queensland and the local community to retain community

infrastructure by way of maintaining part of the former school premises (re oval and principals residence) for community group purposes.

Coowonga

Coowonga has a school, rural fire service and the Coowonga folk club. Most of the blocks in this area are 100 acres or larger. There is some crop farmers (re mangoes), some grazing land and the Crocodile Farm which is a tourist attraction.

Coowonga has an all tides boat ramp to access Coorooman Creek, which is used by recreational fishers, Fisheries and Wildlife and the Water Police. This area is also contains environmentally sensitive marine habitat.

3. Rural Communities

Livingstone Shire Rural communities have many common characteristics which separates them from larger City and urban sprawls. Some of these include:

- ▶ All have distinct rural identities and a rich history and culture.
- ▶ Contain one or more active volunteer community groups that keep the people connected.
- ▶ Possess a resilience to continue despite having less services and infrastructure than urban areas.
- ▶ Cover a diverse industry base from grazing to tourism.

- ▶ Have rural specific issues and concerns.
- ▶ Do not necessarily want to be represented by a predominately City Based / focused Council.

A common myth within the Central Queensland region is that you need to go through Rockhampton to get to the Northern rural areas. This is not the case, you can access these areas via the Artillery road. LSC undertook significant improvements by sealing the road with assistance of federal funding. This has enhanced traffic safety and linkages across the Shire.

Stanage Bay (rural / coastal)

Stanage Bay is located 225kms north of Yeppoon and 100kms from the Bruce Highway intersection. Stanage Bay consists of rural grazing properties and a seaside village.

Stanage is a remote community, consisting of approximately 40 permanent residents. It has an ageing population, with the majority of residents in their late 60's or older and only five children believed to be living in the area. 120 families, however, have homes in the area and approximately 20,000 people per year visit the area, to enjoy the beaches, camping, fishing, sailing and its close proximity and access to nearby Islands.

Access into Stanage Bay is via gravel road, which may be impassable during wet periods. Being an isolated area the community is well aware that in the event of high rainfall, a natural disaster or a major incident at Shoal Water Bay military training facility, it will largely need to rely on its own local emergency services and resources.

Community groups in Stanage include; the Stanage Township Organisation, the Rural Fire Service, the SES and Coast Guard. An annual fishing competition is held each year which attracts a large number of people.

Issues for the community include protecting the turtle habitat and increasing community infrastructure services. As native title has not been resolved for the area, required community infrastructure such as public toilets and camping facilities can not be developed. Uncontrolled camping however is believed to be threatening the turtle habitat and the health and wellbeing of local residents. This would therefore be some key issues which unite the community.

LSC always provided assistance in developing social infrastructure and had also assisted with such things as the Visiting Services Building, the helipad waiting area (for injured / seriously ill people) and the Rural Fire Service compound. LSC had a partnership with this community in relation to providing parks and gardens equipment (re tractor and slasher) and training to community volunteers. Council also assists with the rubbish tip and water supply (town dam for emergency water supplies), Library services and provided assistance through the Living IT project, by way of the provision of a community computer with internet access, community webpage for local organisations and IT training for interested residents.

Marlborough

Marlborough is located 145 kilometres north of Yeppoon. This community has approximately 150 people, which includes the township and surrounding farming area. It

is a vibrant community that has managed to maintain its services despite the trend of rural decline.

The local Industry base includes grazing, mining, tourism and small business. Businesses include one hotel, caravan park, three garages, a shop and one motel. Recent commercial development has included the opening of a mine for Crysophase. The community is also working to develop a tourist attraction highlighting crysophase.

This community has an outstanding number of community groups given its size. Community services include the local Ambulance Station, Police Station, SES, State Primary School, Rural Fire Services, a Council depot and community library. The town has a number of community facilities such as a swimming pool, public amenities, 2 Halls, a park, museum and rodeo grounds.

The township is a popular overnight stop for caravanning / motor home tourists. Annual events include the rodeo, show, camp drafting and pony club.

What links Marlborough people together is their community spirit and sense of place. The community has a distinct rural identity, which separates it from larger urban areas such as Rockhampton.

The Caves

The Caves is located approximately 50kms from Yeppoon. It has a definable town centre, which includes a hotel, shop, town hall, public toilets and a garage. The Caves is a primary stopping spot for the grey nomads and other tourists.

Tourism is one of the local industries, with tourists visiting the Capricorn Caves and Mt Etna. These areas are unique, with remarkable limestone formations and the rare bent winged bat. People therefore travel to 'The Caves' area as a specific tourist destination stop. The other main industry in the area is primary production / grazing. The Capricornia Correctional Centre is also based in the area.

The Caves has several active community groups such as The Caves Agricultural and Progress Association, Lions Club, SES, Rural Fire Service and P & C Committee. Horse riding is big in the area and the community has a number of events such as horse shows, camp drafts and the agricultural show.

Yaamba

Yaamba is a rural community located approximately 85kms from Yeppoon. It has one hotel, a garage and a roadhouse. Community facilities include the Yaamba and District Community Park which has toilets, an overnight camping area, picnic tables, playground and a driver reviver stand. Travellers regularly use this park, as an overnight camping stop. Yaamba is also a key SES service centre in relation to the provision of jaws of life equipment for the Bruce Highway.

Ogmore

Ogmore is situated off the Bruce Highway about 20km north of Marlborough. Ogmore's population is declining and there is currently no known children residing in the area. Mail is delivered to approximately 55 residences in the area.

Ogmore suffered a decline in business when its only hotel closed down and there are currently no known shops in the area. In relation to community facilities, the area has one hall that houses the library, bank and postal office (open one morning a week for three hours), a visiting services and emergency services building, and the bicentennial Park and Ogmore Sports Grounds. The main industry in the area is cattle production/grazing.

LSC maintained services to this community by way of rubbish collection, water, and parks and gardens provision and maintenance. Council also employed a local person to undertake these outdoor maintenance duties and assisted the community to develop the former school premises into a community centre and museum.

Despite low population numbers, the community maintains a strong sense of community spirit and sense of place. This is demonstrated by active community group participation in the Hall Committee and the Parks & Recreation Committee.

Ogmore has strong linkages to Marlborough, with some locals being active members of Marlborough based community groups.

4. Urban Rockhampton Fringe Communities

With the exclusion of Nerimbera, some of the common characteristics of Rocky Fringe Communities include:

- ▶ Urban residential lifestyles

- ▶ No known active community groups based in the locations, to bring people together and thus shape community identity.
- ▶ Their close proximity to the Rockhampton City (this point applies to Nerimbera too)

Glenlee, Glendale, Sandringham, Olive Estate, Parkridge and Rockyview

These areas are park residential estates that are close to the Rockhampton City limits. Public / community amenities include a sports ground with tennis courts, barbeque and pavilion at Glenlee Park. Glendale has 'Sondra Lena' Park which has accessible toilets (the only accessible ones between Rockhampton and Marlborough), picnic facilities, playground equipment, tennis courts and cricket nets, it is also a memorial for Police Officer Sondra Lena who was killed nearby.

The people living in these estates are mainly older retired people whose families have grown or young families with children and/or with teenagers. There was a Glenlee Park Association but this disbanded some years ago.

Nerimbera

Nerimbera had a state primary school which closed a few years ago. The community groups included the P & C association and an active rural fire service. Industry consists of a quarry, meat works and grazing land.

Linkages Across All Areas

Although there are some distinct differences between each of the communities and community of interest areas across the shire, there are also a number of factors and characteristics, which connect Shire communities together.

Some of these include:

Level of Access, Relationships and Partnerships with Council

LSC had taken a lead role in ensuring that outer lying communities across the Shire had access to Council and Council Services. Council had implemented a number of key projects and strategies (re community forums, employment of Community Liaison Officer, Cr portfolios, community reference groups) to ensure that communities across the Shire could make requests, provide their viewpoints and seek assistance from Council. Most of these strategies were discontinued post amalgamation.

Lifestyle choices & Community Identity

Livingstone Shire has its own identity, which is distinct and unique.

People may shop or access services in Rockhampton but this does not mean that they identify with the Rockhampton community.

The population growth and economic development currently taking place in Livingstone Shire, and in particular the Capricorn Coast has significantly reducing the traditional service link that existed between the Shire and Rockhampton City. People moving into the Livingstone area from other regions and States do not necessarily have any cultural link to Rockhampton.

Diversity of Industry, Locations and infrastructure

As previously highlighted, Livingstone Shire is made up of diverse communities and geographical areas that take in coastal, island, urban and rural areas and various types of industry and infrastructure. Providing quality local government services and representation across such broad range of areas and issues requires a high level of expertise, in-depth understanding and partnerships with key sector groups and local organisations.

Other Community and Service Linkages

Livingstone Shire has a high rate of community participation by way of the number of established community groups and the frequency of locally managed events, services and activities. Right across the Shire, there are active community groups, who are willing and able to articulate and voice their issues. Instead of avoiding controversial issues, LSC had identified the importance of engaging with the key community groups and residents to work out solutions and actions. This does not necessarily happen now under RRC.

The hinterland and Coastal communities in the Shire particularly have a number of established linkages, such as:

- ▶ Yeppoon being a key service and business hub for different communities.
- ▶ Cawarral people take their kids to Emu Park for childcare.
- ▶ A number of families in different coastal and hinterland communities send their children to secondary school in Yeppoon.
- ▶ People frequent private clubs/ businesses and public spaces such as beaches, sport and recreational facilities, parks and picnic areas across the coast and hinterland areas. (and also in rural areas)
- ▶ People attend and participate in different community events, celebrations and activities.

Amalgamation Impacts on Community Services

The following is an overview from a former LSC/RRC community worker of how Community Development has been down-graded in Livingstone post amalgamation.

Post amalgamation there has been a significant reduction across the board in service delivery and responses to community needs. There has been a similar downgrading in regard to local community planning, pro-active community engagement and enhancing communities of interest. Resources have been progressively redeployed or centralised to service Rockhampton City. This has seen the socially and economically disadvantaged, aged, CALD, Indigenous, and community volunteers significantly disadvantaged.

Following amalgamation there was a resource shift to a whole of region response but often with less resources provided. Already stretched Coast based community development and youth development staff were required to work across the entire region with considerable travel to try to service the outlying communities in Gracemere, Mount Morgan and Rockhampton further reducing support hours to the LSC community.

Over time this has reached critical levels with many support services no longer provided at all. Positions were not back-filled as staff were moved, promoted or resigned, and resourcing to the Community Development section has been progressively reduced.

Operational and strategic managers were required to relocate to the Rockhampton office despite the lack of office space, telephones and computers.

The significant issue in terms of service provision was that the Yeppoon services the Verbyl Youth Centre, Community Development Centre and Strengthening Family Connections were no longer able to draw on these resources to support their direct service provision.

The following are some of the areas affected.

Enhancing Youth Access and Service Provision (Partnerships)

Since amalgamation the former national award-winning Verbyl Youth Centre has been progressively downgraded and starved of resources.

The innovative Youth Library function ceased when RRC removed the youth librarian which in turn created staff shortages and dramatically impacted on operations and opening times. Inconsistency of opening at advertised times led to a corresponding drop in youth attendance and moves are underway to sell-off the building. Under RRC there is little hope that Verbyl will ever be restored to the National Award-winning status it previously achieved.

Enhancing Community Networks and Access to Services

The Community Development Center (CDC) had previously been the vibrant hub of community activities and provided affordable access and opportunity for community developing and fostering cohesion and growth of social capital.

Along with resources being severely reduced, costs to the community have been significantly increased, in many cases beyond users' capacity to pay. The removal of the Community Development Officer (CDO) from the CDC at Rockhampton has resulted in a huge loss of social capital as volunteers do not have the support to pursue projects and funding opportunities which enhance livability and communities of interest. This is totally unacceptable as the CDO position was previously funded specifically for the LSC community by the Department of Communities.

Recognising the value and contributions of Older People

There is a major inequity in service delivery between Rockhampton and Cap Coast. In this area there has been a similar reduction in resources, sponsorships and previously available services made unaffordable.

In contrast the elderly citizens groups in Rockhampton have two council owned, operated and fully maintained buildings, and are allowed to keep all revenue raised from rental of the facility which is understood to be considerable.

An issue of great concern to the CDC tenants at the point of amalgamation was the ceasing of the mail service, this did not occur at previous RCC venues.

As with Verbyl the centre has been under-staffed since amalgamation and is likely to face the same slow death as Verbyl.

Enhancing Council's Service Delivery issues based consultation

Communities of interest issues based consultations no longer occur, and previously established community reference groups ceased to be supported at amalgamation.

Strengthening our community pride and awareness through celebrations and events

Events have been progressively moved to or focussed around Rockhampton. Most previous in-kind support and small grants are no longer provided for many local groups. Without a dedicated CDO there is now little or no support to assist the community develop events and new projects. Over-time this has seen reduced local community participation and currently much of the previously available social capital is either not being utilized, or has been greatly diminished as a result.

Livingstone Shire Council Social Planning Initiatives

Multicultural Needs Analysis: Project not undertaken by RRC although a funding requirement. A large whole of region communities of interest based social plan project was undertaken however there have been no resources allocated for any implementation programs.

Building Livingstone's Communities

Some outreach visits still occur, however once again there have been virtually no new projects generated since amalgamation. The community website was also closed down.

Shared Community Development Philosophy and Strategy

This was an enormous achievement for LSC. Current RRC direction is program based. The community development Unit has been downsized and renamed community programs.

Needs Identification for Families and Community Action & Advocacy

Resources not available for SFC to continue this area of planning and development.

Community Development Centre

With the closure of the James street offices and moving the admin and Verbyl staff into the already crowded CDC office the admin volunteers area funded through the Department of Communities was converted to staff space. This program was a partnership with Community Employment Options.

Learning opportunities in Livingstone LSC RTO which auspiced Capricorn Coast volunteer literacy program funded by State Government was closed and funding relinquished. This program trained and supported 30 volunteer tutors, employed a part-time teacher and assisted approximately 60 people to develop their literacy skills per annum.

Multicultural program

The key days of significance to develop positive community attitudes to people from CALD backgrounds and refugees now occur predominantly in Rockhampton. The Community Relations Officer no longer provides services outside Rockhampton although two days of the Department of Communities funding was allocated to LSC and direct services were provided until amalgamation.

Harmony day is now celebrated in Rockhampton. Once again predominately only people connected with the Rockhampton Multicultural group attend. Harmony day in LSC was celebrated on Yeppoon beach front with a wonderful mix of cultures and a strong attendance from the general community

Community groups joined together with LSC to celebrate significant events throughout the year. They now have no one to go to and as they are not generally incorporated and RRC does not provide any funding or auspice for unincorporated groups. LSC applied small amounts of funding and auspice for these groups and derived considerable community benefit in return.

Indigenous partnerships

With assistance from LSC community development staff in 2009 the first NAIDOC on the coast celebration was held. Many other initiatives such as the bush tucker garden children's group and other celebrations of significance to the Durumbal people were supported by LSC.

With the removal of the community development presence there was no one to take the lead in marshalling council and community resources to assist and the coast NAIDOC ceremony did not occur in 2012. The bush tucker garden has not been maintained although 200 Indigenous elders and people attended the opening ceremony and 8 separate community groups worked together to make it a possibility.

Currently there is no one located in Yeppoon to assist the indigenous community.

Community development positions.

LSC has had a long history of a community development presence operating from the CDC. Currently RRC employs an Access and Equity Officer, Social planner, and two community development officers all located in Rockhampton

The two community development positions remaining have been targeted to move to the communications section leaving no community development officer positions and virtually no services for the LSC LGA communities.

Community Development Centre

The Community Development Centre has approximately 56 permanent tenants and many more one-off users. Approximately 6000 visits are recorded each quarter. The rooms have been booked to capacity and a conservative estimate of revenue raised based on an average of \$1.10 per service user is \$26,000

Recently there was an increase in fees from \$1.10 per person to \$15.00 per hour for the use of the rooms at the community development centre. Response to community concerns regarding cost has been "Council is in the business of raising revenue."

In contrast the Walter Reid Centre in Rockhampton has 17 tenants who pay a peppercorn rent to have exclusive use of allocated space, a pigeon mail service. Council also pays a caretaker \$40,000+ to live on site rent free.

Environmental Management

This section identifies environmental issues and highlights that Livingstone Shire has a unique and diverse environment that also separates its identity from other areas within the Rockhampton region and broader Central Queensland. It demonstrates the focus and depth of innovative initiatives Livingstone Shire Council was able to implement through pro-active engagement with our community, State and Federal agencies. Much of this level of community interaction and positive environmental outcomes has been either lost or significantly diminished through the amalgamation process. Specialist officers previously employed by LSC are now being required to cover too great an area without the requisite level of resources and time to achieve the outcomes that had earned Livingstone an award-winning reputation as a leader in environmental management and community engagement.

Coastal Management

Livingstone Shire Council and Community were extremely proud of their coastal environment and worked closely together in protecting and preserving one of its greatest and most important assets.

Council had installed an environmental management team to provide assistance to educational programs, promote wider community awareness and involvement, carry out coastal and riparian rehabilitation and maintain a healthy sustainable coastal environment.

Tidiness and Litter Abatement

‘Friends of the Beach’ coastal community groups had been successfully integrated with Council’s Coastal Rehabilitation Program. Participants were actively encouraged to become stewards for their nominated beach with activities including litter collection, weed removal, planting and maintenance in conjunction with LSC officers.

Council’s efficient customer request system was convenient for residents and visitors to have prompt service carried out for litter or weed eradication with officers providing extra assistance with tools, working groups and environmental advice.

The annual Clean Up Australia Day found hundreds of volunteers helping collect unsightly and unwanted waste along the many beaches and around the adjacent surrounds.



Visitor Friendliness and Hospitality

A positive step to manage coastal and nearby amenities had been adopted by Council with communications between departments in keeping beach and recreational facilities tidy and clean. Access ways to the beach were promptly serviced and an initiative to plant and maintain accesses was in place providing for more visitor friendly services.

Beaches were regularly checked by Local Law Officers for stray animals or unwanted vehicles which may pose a threat to public or environmental resources.

Rehabilitation of degraded sites continued to enhance the natural aesthetics and appeal of the coast's unique environment. signage was installed on rehabilitation sites directing visitors to take care and respect the area whilst works are carried out.

Cultural and Natural Heritage Activities

The annual Planet ARK Tree Planting Day was very well attended with volunteer participation and planting sites growing in size each year. Each site had maximum preparation works carried out to encourage greater community participation.

Council's continuing partnerships with EPA and NRM had piloted weed management and rehabilitation programs to assist each other with the management of adjoining land issues.

The Livingstone Shire Council / Community Nursery supplied native plants for rehabilitation programs and schools with Council continuing to set up partnerships with the community and other agencies which saw the installation of approximately 25,000 + native plants along the coast annually.

Community Interaction

`Friends of the Beach` program has been successful in raising awareness and assisting community volunteers in the rehabilitation of various sites along the coast. This was also extended to a nearby riparian area and has seen the formation of the `Friends of Fig Tree Creek`. Regular planting days are organised by Council staff who prepare many of the sites prior to the day to encourage wider participation by community. This has been fostering ownership of sites with community volunteers maintaining and in cases extending them. Council hosts working groups such as Community Jobs Program, Life Be In It and Green Corps which have assisted the community in various joint projects.

Resource Conservation and Waste Management

Litter collection bags were regularly distributed to volunteer and school groups whose coastal restoration activities included rubbish collection and weed removal. Bags were picked up with litter and weeds being disposed of in the appropriate waste receptacles at the Recycling Centre.

Areas which had been treated for weed infestations were promptly replanted with native plants to combat further outbreaks.

Youth Activities

Coastal Management Officers provided regular contact with school and environmental groups. Groups meet at a designated rehabilitation site on a weekly or monthly basis and perform site maintenance. Council's employment of a Coastal Officer with horticultural and educational qualifications further assisted in the enhancement of programs with school based curriculums. Students were given holistic and interactive tasks which maintain a growing partnership between educational institutions and Council. Council had embraced this with regular involvement in programs run at the North Keppel Environmental Education Centre, Yeppoon High School, Sacred Heart Primary, Emu Park Primary, Keppel Sands State School, Farnborough State School and Nerimbera State School. There was also direct involvement from most schools in the Shire with the Reef Guardian Program.



Environmental Innovation

Sand fence installation along sections of severely eroding shoreline on Farnborough Beach had helped stabilise the erosion and was reversing the effect by using this technique and installing native dunal plant species.

Mulch bale wall instalment along with sand replenishment at Zilzie Beach had helped protect and build up sand dunes aiding this fragile shoreline.

Instalment of a bollard system along the badly eroded Alligator Bay Turtle Rookery had stopped 90% vehicular movement over the site with signage being erected to inform and educate visitors about the area. The planting of 1000 trees and a Spinifex program also assisted in the management and rehabilitation of this site.



Local Government Leadership Within The Community

In addition to specific coastal management, there were a range of community leadership initiatives that provided unique characteristics for this community, many of which had received formal recognition as outlined.

LSC had taken the initiative with the promotion and awareness of its coastal environment and played a leading role in the sustainable management of its coastal resources. Opportunities for the community to become directly involved through regular interactive community forums hosted by councillors and staff were pro-actively created. Coastal rehabilitation guides and weed booklets were regularly supplied free of charge to community and schools. Direct assistance was also given to the community by dedicated council staff from plant identification to coastal management advice. Council's role in awareness of local government responsibilities was focused in its many environmental workshops and school visits.

Interactive coastal management with other government agencies was also actively providing strong links to enhance and promote a more sustainable approach in the protection of the coast's many valuable assets.

Livingstone Shire Council and Community Achievements

2004 and 2005 KABC Clean Beach Challenge

- ▶ Alligator Bay – 2005 Protection of the Environment Award – Regional Title, State Title and National Finalist
- ▶ Farnborough Beach – 2004 Litter Prevention Award – Regional Title - 2004 Resource Conservation and Waste Management Award – Regional Title and State Finalist
- ▶ Beautiful Beach and Sandy Reef Beach – 2005 Resource Conservation and Waste Management Award – Regional Title and State Finalists
- ▶ Yeppoon Main Beach – 2004 Cleanest Beach – Regional Title and State Finalist



- ▶ Lammermoor Beach – 2005 Young Legends Award – Regional Title and State Finalist
- ▶ Statue Bay – 2004 Young Legends Award – Regional Title, State Title and National Title
- ▶ Emu Park – 2005 Community Action Award – Regional Title and State Finalist
- ▶ Zilzie Beach – 2005 Beach Spirit Award – Regional Title and State Finalist
- ▶ Keppel Sands – 2004 Community Action Award – Regional Title and State Finalist

Other beaches in the Livingstone Shire which had achievements in prior years and/or had rehabilitation works carried out in partnerships with community volunteers, individuals, groups, council, EPA and other agencies included Kemp Beach, Mullambin Beach, Cooee Bay, Shelleys Beach, Kinka Beach, Big Dune Surfing Reserve, Nine Mile Beach.

While the focus demonstrated had been of a coastal nature, there remained a broader regional priority in respect of the rural lands within the Shire and the adjoining rural Shires where Council had taken a lead role.

These are further expanded within the next section where planning and strategy had played an even more important role.

Environmental Planning

Council was involved in the development and implementation of the “Pest Management Strategy for the Capricorn Region”. It provided a framework for integrating pest management with regional resource management objectives.

The Group had a major role in co-ordinating pest management throughout the Capricorn region, building strong partnerships and linkages with stakeholders and funding providers and ensuring the delivery of appropriate and effective education.

It had linkages to the National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality, the National Strategy Conservation of Australia’s Biological Diversity, the Queensland Biodiversity and Natural Resource Management Strategy and the State Conservation Strategy. It also linked to the National Pest Animal Species Threat Abatement Plans, the Weeds of National Significance Strategies, the Parthenium Weed Strategic Plan and the Draft Mimosa pigra Strategic Plan.

Some of the Group’s key stakeholders included Agforce, Landcare, EPA, local Indigenous groups, Main Roads, Queensland Rail and DPI-Forestry.

Council had developed the “Livingstone Shire Council Pest Management Plan” to meet the requirements of the Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002. The Plan ran for three years and provided support to the Capricorn Pest Management Group’s strategy for

a regional approach to pest management. There was an annual work plan which clearly identified the various pest management activities that would occur.

The Plan was an informative reference for landholders responsible for land management and demonstrated Council’s commitment to pest management.

The Plan was as a result of the consultation through the Capricorn Pest Management Group and included all the regional local authorities, government departments, indigenous groups, community groups and utilities.

In addition, Council had facilitated the “Livingstone Remnant Vegetation Study” where partnerships were forged between the community and other key stakeholders including: Greening Australia, Natural Heritage Trust, Central Queensland University, the



Capricorn Conservation Council and many others.

This study was a community venture in co-operation with funding through Livingstone Shire Council under the "Save the Bush" component of the National Landcare program by the Australian Nature Conservation Agency (Environment Australia).

Many people and groups came together in a united way to put together the report and strategies. Open Days were held and the community was widely consulted. 190 sites were surveyed and 828 different plant species were identified.

The outcome was the development of an overlay to the existing GIS system highlighting endangered or vegetation of significance that should be protected from development. This ensured the environmental values of the Shire are preserved for future generations. Council used this in its development assessment process in consultation with the vegetation staff.

LSC forged strong alliances with the community, government departments and other local authorities in ensuring the environmental values in the Shire were maintained for future generations.

LSC was pro-actively committed to maintaining and improving the health of its community through the integration of sustainable development principles and environmental health practice. Council supported the WHO Commission on Health and Environment which stated "that no development can be called sustainable if it inflicts damage to human health and well-being."

The capacity to form partnerships with other Councils and agencies was demonstrated through LSC's commitment to a range of MOU's (Memorandum of Understanding) across a span of environmental matters.

- ▶ Capricorn Mosquito Management Committee - LSC was a partner with Fitzroy Shire and Rockhampton City in undertaking mosquito control particularly along the Fitzroy River and delta region .
- ▶ Reef Guardian Program - LSC played a lead role on the steering committee to establish the Reef Guardian Council program, and was the first Council in the region to enter into an MOU with the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) to instigate actions to protect the reef.
- ▶ The Environmental Protection (Water) Policy - LSC entered into an MOU with the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) to administer the sections of the policy relating to the protection of environmental values from certain sources of contamination including sediment runoff, waste, concrete and other such materials particularly from development.
- ▶ Greening Australia - for projects and joint ventures of mutual interest.



Natural Resource Management and Wetlands

The broad geography of the catchments within the Central Queensland area presents a range of challenges due to its size. The use of sub-regions has provided a more practical and manageable area to directly manage local catchment issues.

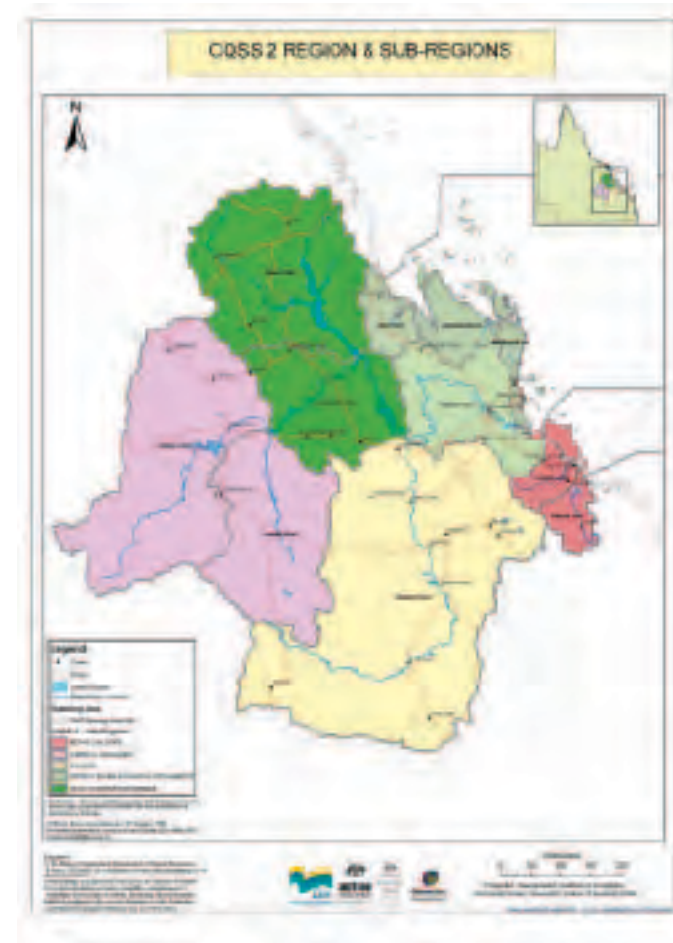
The map beside outlines the broader catchments with LSC active in the Fitzroy River and Coastal Catchments Sub-region.

The identified area on the above map shows the water catchment of the Fitzroy River. This catchment represents the area that was addressed in the Fitzroy River & Coastal Catchments Inc. (FRCC) Natural Resource Plan. This Plan provided guidance for the delivery of Federal and State Government funding programs for environmental outcomes.

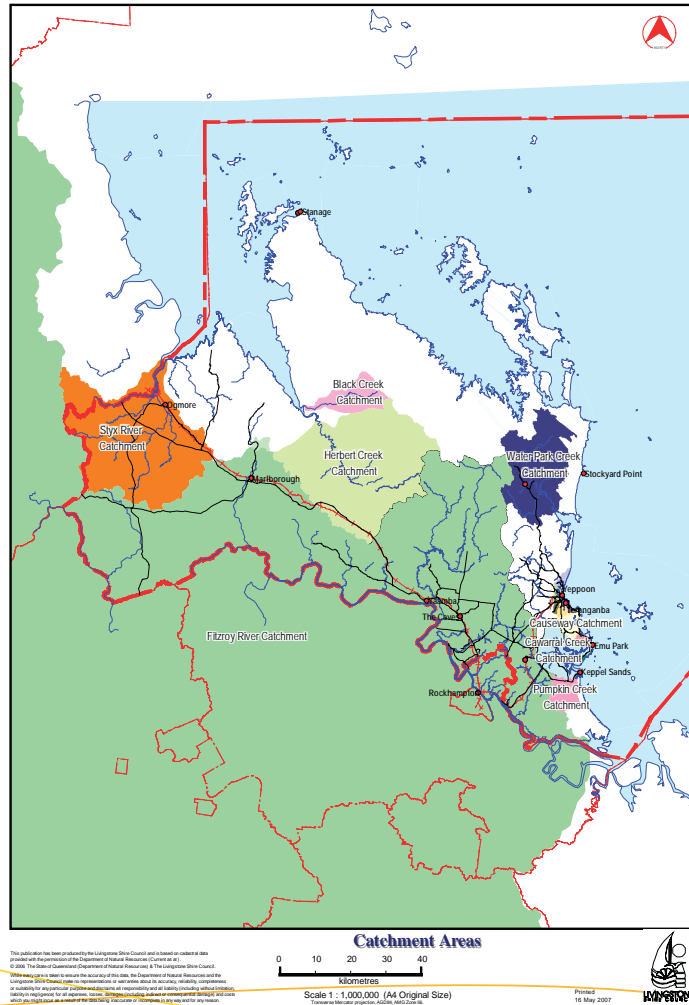
The Fitzroy River & Coastal Catchments region includes the catchment areas of the Fitzroy River and Coastal Catchment areas of Broadsound and Capricorn coast. This includes the Fitzroy & Styx River, Shoal Water, Broadsound Coast, Water Park Creek and Capricorn Coast catchment areas. The region encompassed the local government areas of Livingstone Shire, Fitzroy Shire, Rockhampton City and portions of Broadsound, Calliope, Mt Morgan, Banana and Duaranga Shires that contributed to the catchment area of the Fitzroy River.

A range of initiatives had been undertaken with this broader area of which LSC made up a significant area.

The Fitzroy River and Coastal Catchments Natural Resource Management Plan provided a larger picture for the natural resource planning for Central Queensland. It had been developed to identify priority areas and potential cations for improving natural resource management. Council is one of the key stakeholders in the implementation of the strategies and action. LSC had been a keen participant in the development of the plan. At that time the plan formed an important part of future investment decisions under the National Action Plan (NAP) for Salinity and Water Quality, Natural Heritage Trust Extension (NHT2) and other commonwealth, state and local investment sources and programs. It formed a valuable tool when considering regional planning issues and reflected the level of LSC's commitment to natural resource management.



Livingstone Shire Catchment Areas



Livingstone Shire Council Catchments

At present the Water Park Creek catchment area can supply the majority the Capricorn Coast's urban water supply needs, which equates to about 70% of the Shire's demand. The balance demand is met through water sourced from groundwater, with the exception of water supply for the Caves/Rockhampton corridor that is serviced from Rockhampton Regional Council infrastructure. The Shire has two declared sub-artesian basins, known as 'Highlands' (inland near Marlborough) and 'Farnborough' (along the coast including the area encompassing the Capricorn International Resort and Water Park/Sandy Creeks). LSC's planning married with the State's interests in monitoring and limiting intensification of development that would potentially impact on the catchment and groundwater resources.

Livingstone Shire Council Wetlands

The extensive area of wetlands along the Capricorn Coast, including the internationally important Shoalwater and Corio Bays area (listed under Ramsar Convention) is of national environmental significance. Coupled with the nearby state forest and national park, these wetlands offer significant scope for increased tourist visitation to experience these natural features and to participate in recreational activities that do not diminish the value of these features. The LSC planning scheme provided for the development of appropriate tourist facilities throughout the Shire.

The intrinsic qualities and values of the shire's wetlands, coasts and open space systems are significant elements of the natural environment and visual landscape. Retention of these assets in their natural state to sustain the ecological systems they support is desirable. Accessibility to these areas for the enjoyment of the community is also desirable for reasons of human well-being provided such access does not lead to unacceptable devaluing of systems.

In summary, it is suggested that the diversity and uniqueness of the natural environment and ecosystems is sufficiently independent to demonstrate that whilst there are broad linkages a commitment to the environment through an independent Livingstone/Capricorn Coast Regional Council will better support long term sustainability and more effective and focused environmental management.

Appendices

- A1 KPMG / Bernard Salt - Case for Livingstone Shire
- A2 Macro Plan Australia - Livingstone Shire Council / Regional Positioning and Advantage
- A3 OESR Regional Profile



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Mr. Peter Franks
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Our ref Livingstone07-DeliverableBJS-0522-MAL

22 May 2007

Dear Peter,

Case for independence for Shire of Livingstone

The purpose of this letter is to provide a summary of the research completed by KPMG regarding the possible amalgamation of local government areas within Queensland and elsewhere. I make the point that when considering the issue of amalgamations, it is important to ensure that the amalgamated local government areas are based around a common community of interest, rather than merely on the aggregation of population to a scale that is deemed efficient.

My views on the matter follow my tracking of population levels by local government area across Australia and New Zealand using databases that extend back to 1976.

Background to amalgamations

It is my understanding that the Queensland State Government established a Local Government Reform Commission in April 2007 to make recommendations regarding the amalgamation of local government areas throughout Queensland. It is broadly expected to reduce the total number of local government areas within the state from 157 to between 60 and 70.

The issue of council amalgamations has been evident in various states, and in New Zealand, over the last 20 years. **Table 1** shows the results of some comparable local government amalgamation schemes in other Australian states and New Zealand dating back to 1989. In 1989, New Zealand collapsed its 217 Territorial Authorities (or "TAs") to 72 such areas. The average population base within these TAs is now 57,000 whereas if the old structure had been retained then the average population per local area would now be 19,000.

In 1993, the Victorian Government under Premier Jeff Kennett reduced 210 local government areas to 79. The average population base across Victoria's municipalities today is 64,000. Had the old structure been retained, then the average population per municipality would today be 24,000.

An amalgamation process took place throughout South Australia in 1995 where 118 local government areas were collapsed to 68. The average population across South Australia's municipalities today is 23,000.

A more modest amalgamation process was initiated in New South Wales in 2004 which reduced the number of local government areas from 172 to 152. The average population across New South Wales municipalities is now 45,000.

The current amalgamation process under consideration in Queensland would result in the average population base of local government areas increasing from 26,000 to 62,000 (based on 65 local government areas). The planned number of local government areas across Queensland will result in an average population per municipality that is consistent with the scale of municipalities in Victoria (64,000), and in New Zealand (57,000).

It should also be noted that while the average population base for Queensland municipalities after amalgamation is 62,000, the actual population of municipalities will rise and fall around this figure.

The Shire of Livingstone

The Local Government Reform Commission is currently reviewing the scope for the amalgamation of council areas in the region around Rockhampton and Livingstone. It is understood that the Commission will consider the amalgamation of Rockhampton with the municipalities of Livingstone, Fitzroy and Mount Morgan. A map of these municipalities is located in **Figure 1**. This amalgamation will result in the formation of a single municipality with a population base of 104,000 at June 2006. **Table 2** shows historical and forecast estimated resident population for each of these and other similar municipalities in Australia.

Based on official projections prepared by Queensland's Population & Information Forecasting Unit (taking into account the use of high series population forecasts in the Fitzroy Statistical Division), the amalgamated municipality based in Rockhampton would contain a population base of 137,000 by 2026. The population base of the proposed municipality based around Rockhampton is already well above the average for the state as a whole following the amalgamation process, let alone taking into account the high level of population growth projected for this area over the next 20 years.

An alternative structure for this area would involve the amalgamation of Rockhampton with Fitzroy and Mount Morgan and the retention of the Shire of Livingstone as an independent municipality.

In this arrangement, the population base of Rockhampton-Fitzroy-Mount Morgan would rise from 74,000 currently to 83,000 by 2026. The population of the Shire of Livingstone would rise from 29,000 currently to 54,000 by 2026.

In this scenario, two municipalities are formed out of an area that is currently served by four. These two municipalities are projected to contain population levels by the mid 2020s that is

consistent with the average population base for all municipalities proposed following the amalgamation process.

Ultimately, an expanded Rockhampton will contain around 83,000 people at a time when the Shire of Livingstone will contain around 54,000. We consider this to be a better arrangement than fusing together four municipalities into a population centre of between 104,000 (now) and 137,000 (by 2026). This outcome would take the expanded Rockhampton LGA to a population base close to double the state average.

Cultural separation of cities

Not only is there a demographic imperative for the separation of Rockhampton and its flanking inland municipalities from Livingstone, but there are also social and cultural reasons why these two municipalities should remain quite separate.

The eastern seaboard of Australia evolved as a series of settlements along the inland highway corridor in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. These towns developed as service centres for the administration of surrounding farmlands. As a consequence, local government areas developed around towns often located 20-30 kilometres inland. Examples of such municipalities include places like Caloundra, Maroochydore and Noosa.

The Shire of Caloundra, for example, was originally known as the Shire of Landsborough with council offices headquartered in the town of Landsborough on the Bruce Highway. In the late 20th Century, it became apparent that population shifts towards the coast were pulling the centre of gravity of this shire towards the coast. The shire was renamed Caloundra and the local government offices were relocated in 1968 to the township of Caloundra on the coast.

The Shire of Maroochy has always been headquartered in the inland town of Nambour. However, the population base of this shire is now overwhelmingly focussed on the coastal strip between the Mooloolah and Maroochy Rivers. The council offices remain in Nambour but the demographic and cultural focus of this shire has now shifted to the coast.

The subtle shift from inland to coastal municipalities along the eastern seaboard is evident beyond Queensland. For example, the City of Great Lakes in New South Wales was formerly headquartered in the inland town of Stroud but is now located on the coast at Forster.

The council offices of the Shire of Tweed moved in the late 20th Century from Murwillumbah to Tweed. Elsewhere within the Northern Rivers region, the inland City of Lismore retains a separate identity to the distinctive coastal settlements and municipalities of Byron and Ballina.

Within Queensland, the recent rise of Hervey Bay has resulted in that community effectively usurping the regional-centre role of Maryborough. The same relationship that applied between Nambour and Maroochydore was evident between Maryborough and Hervey Bay. The formerly dominant inland town was gradually marginalised by a stronger, faster growing and more dynamic community evolving on the coast.

The same logic applies to the relationship between Rockhampton and Livingstone. Rockhampton is an inland regional centre that has evolved over 100 years. It is an administrative centre as well as a workplace destination for a broad region. It services the surrounding agricultural region as well as the mining community at Mount Morgan. The population base of this single local area is sufficiently large, at 61,000 currently, to dominate the region now embraced by Fitzroy and Mount Morgan. The issue with Rockhampton is that its scope for future population growth is limited.

The Shire of Livingstone, on the other hand, evolved rapidly in the latter decades of the 20th Century based on new lifestyle models. These new lifestyle models include the concept of retirement as well as the notion of downshifting where city-based residents sell out and move to cheaper premises in a lifestyle location. The fundamental difference between Rockhampton and Livingstone is evident in the demographic composition and in the rate of growth that is expected from each community over the next 20 years.

Given these demographic variances, the economic trajectories of these two municipalities are also likely to be increasingly varied overtime. A merger between Livingstone and Rockhampton would see decision-making power tipped in Rockhampton's favour with the possibility of holding twice the votes of Livingstone, due to number of councillors drawn from each municipality. The specialised needs of Livingstone in terms of its economic focus toward tourism are likely to be overlooked in this case.

Financial sustainability reviews were conducted this year for both Livingstone Shire and Rockhampton City by the Queensland Treasury Corporation. From these reviews the economic viability of Livingstone Shire was revealed to be on par with that of Rockhampton City: both generating a "Moderate, developing" rating. My interpretation is that the different focus of these municipalities would therefore be best served through the retention of Livingstone as a separate municipality, and the merging of Rockhampton, Mount Morgan and Fitzroy, as these municipalities have similar needs in terms of infrastructure spending. Forcing Livingstone and Rockhampton to tussle over infrastructure funding for what is essentially different communities would be of benefit to neither municipality over the longer term.

There is a far greater community of interest between the residents of Rockhampton, Fitzroy and Mount Morgan than there is with these places collectively and the Shire of Livingstone.

Benchmark to Geelong

The issue of council amalgamation was put into effect in Victoria in 1993. At that time, the Greater Geelong region was comprised of nine separate municipalities. In fact the inception of the Geelong Regional Commission in 1977 recognised the greater Geelong community when planning control was vested in the Commission for nine local municipalities.

With the amalgamations of 1993, which also coincided with the dissolution of the Geelong Regional Commission, it could have been expected that these nine municipalities would be fused into a single City of Greater Geelong. However this was not the case. The nine municipalities were re-organised into three local areas:

- Borough of Queenscliff retained its independence as a council with just over 3,000 residents. This was largely because it was accepted (after protest) that this community was different to the balance of the greater region. Queenscliff had evolved as a seaside retirement location for Melbourne's elite since the late 19th Century.
- City of Greater Geelong was formed by the amalgamation of the municipalities of Geelong, Newtown, Geelong West, Corio, South Barwon, Bellarine, and parts of Bannockburn and Barrabool. Maps illustrating the 1993/1994 Geelong-Surf Coast local government amalgamations are located in *Figure 2 and 3*. This collection of municipalities comprises urban Geelong with its manufacturing base as well as much of the Bellarine Peninsula.
- Surf Coast Shire was formed in 1994 from parts of the municipalities of Barrabool and Winchelsea. Six months following the amalgamation, the Torquay/Jan Juc section of the former South Barwon municipality (then located in the Greater City of Geelong) was handed over to the Surf Coast Shire, in recognition that these towns more naturally aligned with the community of interest along the Surf Coast.

The council offices of Surf Coast Shire are located at Torquay which is 22 kilometres south of the Geelong CBD by road. Surf Coast today contains a population base of 24,000; the equivalent base for the City of Greater Geelong is 208,000. By 2026, Surf Coast will contain 30,000 people, most of whom will be based less than 25 kilometres from the centre of Geelong.

The reason why Surf Coast retained independence from the larger city of Geelong is because it was considered that the two urban centres retained a population base with different communities of interest. Geelong is a major provincial city; Surf Coast is a lifestyle location that is set to capture further population growth in the future.

This view that the Surf Coast contained a very different community to the city of Geelong was made explicit by Premier Jeff Kennett who said at the time that the "amalgamation of the Shire of Barrabool and Winchelsea and the coastal part of the City of Greater Geelong would create a new municipality based on common interest ...".

There are direct comparisons between the experience of the Surf Coast in 1994 and the experience of Livingstone in 2007. The Shire of Livingstone's council offices at Yeppoon are located 41.5 kilometres from the centre of Rockhampton by road. Livingstone is located further from Rockhampton than Surf Coast is from Geelong.

There is a community of interest that binds the population living on the Capricorn Coast between Yeppoon and Zilzie that is similar to the community of interest that binds the population living on the Surf Coast between Torquay and Lorne. The Surf Coast model has operated successfully and independently for more than a decade, proving the legitimacy to Jeff Kennett's original rationale as to why that community should not be incorporated within the City of Greater Geelong.

Conclusion

There are several measures by which it is appropriate for the Shire of Livingstone to retain its independence in the current amalgamation process. I argue that there is sufficient critical mass in the existing and future population base of Livingstone for it to remain an independent municipality. By 2030, the Shire of Livingstone is projected to contain around 59,000 people.

However, the main reason why the Shire of Livingstone should retain its independence is the fact that the local population base has a different community of interest to the population base of inland Rockhampton. The value and legitimacy of this cultural separation of communities has been proven in the Victorian case relating to the separation of Surf Coast from Geelong.

As a consequence, I strongly urge the Local Government Reform Commission to ensure that the Shire of Livingstone remains independent of any amalgamation now and in the foreseeable future.

Yours faithfully



Bernard Salt
Partner

This Letter Report is delivered subject to the agreed written terms of KPMG's engagement with Livingstone Shire Council dated 22.5.07. These procedures outlined constitute neither an audit nor a comprehensive review of operations. No warranty of completeness, accuracy or reliability is given in relation to the statements and representations made by, and the information and documentation provided by, Livingstone Shire Council consulted as part of the process. KPMG has indicated within this report the sources of the information provided. We have not sought to independently verify these sources unless otherwise noted within the report. The forecasts that have been used in this study are based on assumptions about circumstances and events that have not yet transpired and are therefore subject to variations that may arise as a result of future occurrences. As a result, KPMG cannot provide any assurance that these forecasts will be achieved. KPMG is under no obligation in any circumstance to update this report, in either oral or written form, for events occurring after the report has been issued in final form. The findings in this report have been formed on the above basis. This report is provided solely for the benefit of Livingstone Shire Council and is not to be copied, quoted or referred to in whole or in part without KPMG's prior written consent. Other than our responsibility to Livingstone Shire Council, neither KPMG nor any member of employee of KPMG undertakes responsibility arising in any way from reliance placed by a third party on this report. Any reliance placed is that party's sole responsibility.

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Table 2	Estimated resident population 1976-2026

Figure 1

QLD Local Government Area boundaries, 2006

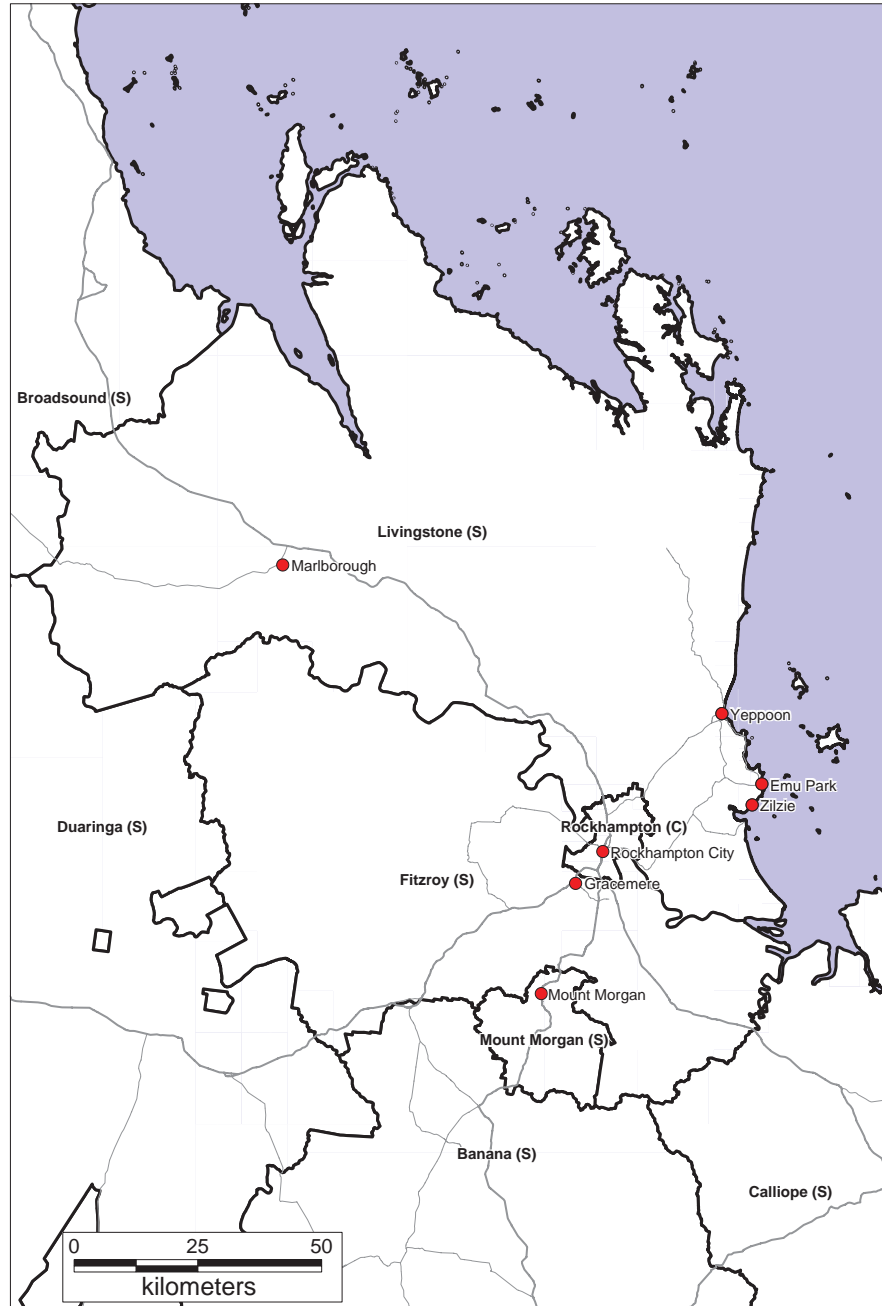


Figure 2

Victorian Statistical Local Area boundaries, 1993 (pre amalgamation)



Figure 3 Victorian Statistical Local Area boundaries, 1994 (post amalgamation)



Table 1

Historic schedule of amalgamations in Australia and New Zealand

	Year	Municipalities		Population 2006	Municipalities	
		Pre amalgamation	Post amalgamation		Pre amalgamation	Post amalgamation*
Queensland (proposed)	2007	157	60-70	4,053,444	25,818	62,361
New South Wales	2004	172	152	6,827,694	39,696	44,919
Victoria	1993	210	79	5,091,666	24,246	64,451
South Australia	1995	118	68	1,540,793	13,058	22,659
Tasmania	1993	46	29	488,948	10,629	16,860
New Zealand	1989	217	72	4,139,500	19,076	57,493

Note:

* Queensland figure based on 65 municipalities

Source: KPMG Property Advisory Services; Australian Bureau of Statistics; Local Government Associations of Australia

Table 2

Estimated resident population 1976-2026

	1976	1981	1986	1991	1996	2001	2006	2011 (f)	2016 (f)	2021 (f)	2026 (f)
Livingstone	11,597	13,010	15,278	18,042	23,156	26,368	29,460	33,989	39,734	46,408	53,728
Rockhampton	53,769	54,240	57,871	60,067	59,857	58,924	60,730	61,542	62,573	63,864	65,190
Fitzroy	3,629	4,920	6,584	8,281	9,820	9,990	10,605	11,303	12,287	13,788	15,138
Mount Morgan	3,731	3,320	3,303	3,278	2,964	2,943	2,979	2,980	2,995	3,016	3,047
TOTAL	72,726	75,490	83,036	89,668	95,797	98,225	103,774	109,814	117,589	127,076	137,103
Surf Coast	10,350	10,690	12,485	15,560	17,845	20,872	24,195	24,503	26,121	27,814	29,502
City of Greater Geelong	153,947	160,350	170,054	181,277	183,728	194,478	207,515	213,431	221,938	231,018	240,346
Borough of Queenscliffe	3,214	3,200	3,320	3,281	3,453	3,276	3,230	3,204	3,181	3,164	3,154
TOTAL	167,512	174,240	185,859	200,118	205,026	218,626	234,940	241,138	251,240	261,997	273,002
Hervey Bay	8,850	12,250	18,960	27,787	38,809	43,298	54,457	61,553	68,692	77,457	86,875
Maryborough	22,694	22,250	23,748	24,587	24,841	25,125	25,919	26,354	26,763	27,142	27,499
TOTAL	31,544	34,500	42,708	52,374	63,650	68,423	80,376	87,907	95,455	104,599	114,374
Ballina-Byron	25,293	34,250	42,086	52,821	61,270	67,848	70,988	90,500	100,600	110,700	-
Lismore	30,869	34,550	37,505	42,219	43,551	43,064	44,032	55,600	58,600	61,500	-
TOTAL	56,162	68,800	79,591	95,040	104,821	110,912	115,020	146,100	159,200	172,200	-
Burnett	9,064	10,710	11,942	15,619	20,952	23,891	27,856	32,432	36,915	41,579	46,333
Bundaberg	36,595	36,420	38,660	41,790	43,562	44,551	47,451	50,109	52,540	55,052	57,596
TOTAL	45,659	47,130	50,602	57,409	64,514	68,442	75,307	82,541	89,455	96,631	103,929

Note:

(f) forecast

Source: KPMG Property Advisory Services; Australian Bureau of Statistics; QLD DLGP; VIC DSE; NSW TPDC

Livingstone Shire Council | Regional Positioning & Advantage



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REPORT

May 2007

PREPARED FOR LIVINGSTONE SHIRE COUNCIL

MACROPLAN AUSTRALIA PTY LTD
SYDNEY | MELBOURNE

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‘The Livingstone Shire is uniquely placed to become the most important tourist destination in Central Queensland with Yeppoon growing to become a coastal based regional centre’

1 Snapshot

Livingstone Shire is predicted to become a thriving and self sustainable regional centre by 2021 as it continues to grow as one of the most significant destinations in Queensland.

MacroPlan Australia has described the local economy as being 'young and dynamic', one that can respond to change as the Shire shifts from being a local community centre to a thriving 'coastal based regional hub'.

The recent research undertaken has predicted that the significant economic growth being experienced across the Shire will continue, driving further development in the tourism and retail sectors and a constant increase in the population.

In 2021, the Livingstone Shire will be strategically located within the Capricorn Coast which is set to become the most important tourist destination in Central Queensland. Livingstone Shire's central civic and business centre, Yeppoon, will be a thriving regional centre which will provide 24/7 services and be the central tourist hub and haven for an established community comprising of permanent residents, remote and mobile workers, resource workers and migrants from SEQ and the Eastern Sea board of Australia.

The Capricorn Coast, and in particular Yeppoon will be perceived as a premium quality tourist destination nationally and internationally with its access to the Great Barrier Reef and exotic islands including Great Keppel Island. The relatively temperate climate provides the ideal environment for both permanent and transient communities and encourages the substantial growth of the Livingstone Shire as a 'coastal based regional hub'.

The Shire is committed to creating main street focussed town centres that meet the needs of a growing community. The town centres will be based on a complex hierarchy the will accommodate a mix of uses that are integrated to enhance the experience of visitors and residents.

MacroPlan Australia believe that the Livingstone Shire will have established itself as a unique and self sustaining regional destination with an inter-woven offering of employment, tourism and lifestyle opportunities for a growing and diverse community.

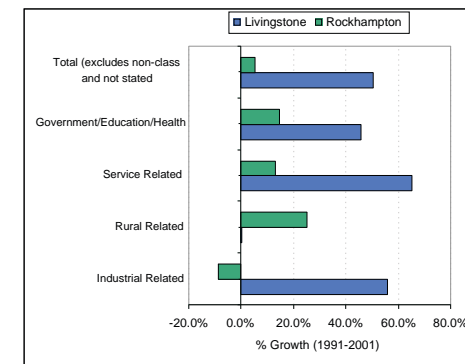
2 Community Profile

Economy

Livingstone Shire is experiencing significant development pressures across all sectors, which is often experienced in newly 'discovered' coastal lifestyle communities. The Shire's economy is 'young and dynamic' and is predicted to maintain significant periods of sustained growth as the economy shifts to a thriving coastal tourism hub.

The following table highlights the significant growth that has been experienced across the industrial, service and government related industries within Livingstone Shire, during a time where Rockhampton has experience significantly lower levels of growth. Also highlighted is the focus of Rockhampton in 'rural' related industries, which supports their role as a in-land hub.

Figure 1. Industry Trends - 1991 to 2001



Source: MacroPlan Australia, 2007

These figures support the notion that Rockhampton is a 'mature' economy supported by an established and stable population. The role and function of these two Shire's is distinctively different with Rockhampton providing an in-land link, whilst Livingstone has a distinct coastal focus. This relationship is similar to that seen on the Fraser Coast, between Maryborough and Hervey Bay.

Context

Livingstone Shire is located in the Central Queensland region of Capricorn (which includes Rockhampton). More specifically, Livingstone is located on the Capricorn Coast with Yeppoon being recognised as the central business district.

The Shire is the 'gateway' to the Great Barrier Reef, with direct access from Roslyn Bay to one of the more popular destinations of Great Keppel Island.

Offering distinct coastal lifestyle opportunities the Shire is attracting a growing number of permanent residences who have been drawn to the area previously for tourism who have since realised the social and economic benefits of locating in the area.



Livingstone Shire is a unique and diverse community. The key indicators outlined in the table below identify the following characteristics of the Livingstone Shire community:

- Above average household size
- Average wealth
- A high percentage of 'white collar' workers
- An aging population
- High number of coupled family with no children
- High proportion of home owner/purchaser

Figure 2. Livingstone & Rockhampton Community Profile: Key Indicators

2011 Census of Population and Housing	Livingstone LGA	Rockhampton LGA	Macro Database	Regional Queensland	Queensland
Demographic Indicators					
Population and Households					
Persons	27,017	80,302	1,828,482	2,826,126	3,095,135
Households	9,350	21,706	608,150	704,676	1,265,721
Average Household Size	2.77	2.69	2.77	2.69	2.71
Socio-Economic Snapshot					
Income and Wealth					
Average Household Income	\$14,207	\$14,851	\$53,253	\$44,713	\$48,056
<small>variation from regional average</small>	-7.0%	-1.9%			
Average Income Per Capita	\$22,807	\$22,808	\$26,710	\$23,535	\$24,763
<small>variation from regional average</small>	-4.4%	-2.7%			
SEIFA Rating - Economic Resources (Wealth)	945	858	1,818	848	907
<small>variation from regional average</small>	3.0%	3.0%			
Worker Type					
White-Collar	30%	26%	28%	28%	27%
Blue-Collar	32%	34%	28%	35%	32%
Self-Collar	24%	20%	33%	30%	33%
Demographic Snapshot					
Age Distribution					
0-14	22%	21%	21%	21%	21%
15-24	12%	11%	11%	12%	14%
25-34	11%	12%	11%	12%	14%
35-44	10%	14%	10%	10%	15%
45-54	10%	12%	14%	14%	14%
55-64	12%	9%	8%	10%	10%
65+	14%	16%	11%	13%	12%
Family Types					
Coupled family with children	43%	43%	47%	47%	45%
Coupled family without children	42%	35%	38%	48%	37%
One parent family	14%	20%	16%	16%	16%
Other family	1%	2%	2%	1%	2%
Tenure Type					
Owner/Purchaser	70%	65%	68%	67%	67%
Renter	25%	34%	32%	32%	33%
Dwelling Type					
Separate House	94%	80%	98%	96%	97%
Semi-detached	2%	2%	5%	8%	5%
Flat, Unit, Apartment	5%	6%	7%	8%	6%
Birthplace					
Australian	93%	90%	78%	85%	82%
Overseas	1%	1%	22%	15%	18%

The 'Tenure type' indicator outlines that comparatively a large number of people within the Shire are permanent residents, which is supported by a high occupancy rate of 85%. This is different to many establishing coastal communities that have a large number of holiday homes, thus a lower occupancy rate.



The 'Worker Type' indicator shows a difference in the Livingstone and Rockhampton communities. Rockhampton has a higher percentage of blue collar workers, which supports Rockhampton's role as an industry based regional centre. Conversely, Livingstone has a greater number of white collar workers in service sectors.

3 Regional Positioning

3.1 Population

The population within the Livingstone Shire is projected to grow significantly over the period to 2021. Importantly, Livingstone Shire continues to have a high dwelling occupancy rate, which highlights that the basis for growth is more than tourism.

The table below highlights the projected population growth of the Livingstone Shire and Rockhampton City. Comparatively, Livingstone Shire is projected to experience a significant stronger 'annual % change' from a reasonable population base than Rockhampton. The population change experienced by these both these Shires will see the emergence of two very distinct population centres, being Rockhampton City and Yeppoon.

Figure 3. Population: Livingstone & Rockhampton 2006 - 2021

	2006	2011	2016	2021
Livingstone	29,191	32,990	37,240	41,881
Annual % change	2.1%	2.5%	2.5%	2.4%
Rockhampton	60,433	61,188	61,876	62,699
Annual % change	0.5%	0.2%	0.2%	0.3%

Source: Planning Information and Forecasting Unit (PIFU): Medium series data, March 2007

Supporting these figures is the strong growth experienced in the number of 'dwelling approvals' in Livingstone Shire, which is in contrast to the declining trend within Rockhampton. The following table demonstrates the difference in recent 'dwelling approvals'. It is noted that the composition of dwelling type in Livingstone has seen an increasing number of dwellings other than houses being developed highlighting that there is a shift toward providing a diverse range of housing options.

Figure 4. Dwelling Approvals: Livingstone & Rockhampton 2002 - 2006

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Livingstone	257	359	290	287	481
Rockhampton	165	268	241	252	214

The consistent and stable population growth projected by PIFU will ensure significant increases in the economic activity experienced within the Shire. This population growth will be driven by a number of factors, including:

- High amenity living
- Lifestyle
- Tourism
- Access to employment, services & facilities

These drivers are likely to result in a progressive shift in Livingstone Shire's demographic profile from a progressively aging population to attracting families, higher income households and achieving a greater retention rate of workers.

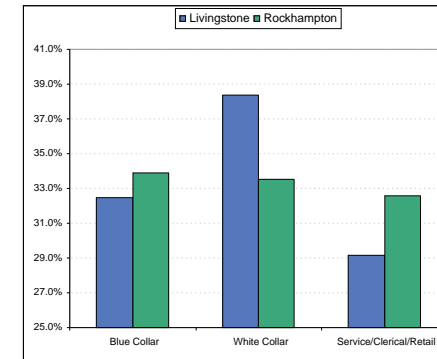
3.2 Employment Structure

In coming years, migration to the area will be further assisted as a number of employment generating projects and large scale and diverse residential developments are completed.

The current community profile and population growth will support Livingstone Shire's role as the 'tourist service centre' of the Capricorn Region. Building on this unique role and function is essential in maintaining the Shire's importance in a region dominated by heavy industry and resources. This will ensure that Livingstone Shire we play a niche role in supporting, servicing and sustaining the other areas within the region and the national tourism market.

The following table highlights the differences between the Livingstone and Rockhampton workforces and empathizes the focus on the trained white collar community.

Figure 5. Employment Mix



Source: MacroPlan Australia, 2007

Industry

The Central Queensland region¹ encompasses the coastal region from Bundaberg to Mackay, along with the associated hinterlands extending west to the border with the Northern Territory. It consists of six major economic zones: Capricorn (which includes Rockhampton), Gladstone, Mackay, Bundaberg, Central Highlands and the Central West.

The Central Queensland region has experienced fundamental changes to its industry value chain in recent times due to strong population growth and the resource boom. Historically, Rockhampton was the major industrial service centre for Central Queensland, providing value adding activities and key transport linkages with export regions.

Rockhampton's role has changed with the emergence of alternative regional service centres such as Gladstone, Mackay and Bundaberg. Mackay and Bundaberg are both based on the sugar industry and Gladstone services the coal industry. Mackay is also an emerging service centre for the coal industry.

¹ Defined in the Central Queensland Regional Economic Development Organisation (CREDO) audit.



In understanding the industrial market in which Livingstone Shire competes, the Shire has taken the necessary steps to establishing a sustainable platform for economic growth and prosperity. The Shire has undertaken significant strategic planning and facilitated development that is focussed on establishing service and light industries that provide niche specialised services to the larger industries in the region. Significant areas have been identified in both Yeppoon and Emu Park that will provide improved access to employment opportunities and direct access to both the townships and the broader regional road network.

Building on their role in the region economy as a niche industry service and support provider will provide the long term security necessary to drive future investment and population growth.

Importantly, minimising the extent of heavy industry within the Shire contributes to establishing the environmental setting that is important to the Shire's residents and visitors and provides the basis for sustained growth opportunities.

Tourism

Livingstone Shire provides the gateway to Australia's tourism mecca, the Great Barrier Reef.

With the opportunity to further leverage off the national and international significance of the area the potential for increased tourism in the area can not be understated.

Livingstone Shire's coastline is likely to experience significant tourism growth over the next 20 years. There are a number of significant developments and tourism projects underway or in the pipeline which are likely to further increase the profile of the region as a tourist destination.

Growth in the tourism industry is likely to drive demand for industrial land from businesses servicing activities related to the tourism industry and a growing population as the Shire gains greater national exposure.

The lifestyle led demand for residential land, which has been experienced in other parts of Australia will see the completion of a number of high amenity developments, such as Great Keppel Island Resort, **Great Barrier Reef International Resort at Zilzie Bay and Keppel Bay Marina.**

Lifestyle Employment

Livingstone Shire offers significant lifestyle opportunities and benefits for business. The regions lifestyle opportunities, such as coastal location, climate and gateway to Great Keppel Island, distinguish Livingstone Shire as an employment destination from other places in Central Queensland.

The lifestyle advantages driven by the coastal and environmental setting of the Shire will increase demand for employment based development as businesses seek to offer employee lifestyle benefits and locate close to growing regional markets requiring additional services.

The Shire's offer of employment and coastal lifestyle is notably different to Rockhampton. In line with the Shire's population and tourism growth, significant growth has been experienced in all of Livingstone Shire's occupation categories, including industrial, service and government related sectors, suggesting that people and businesses have been drawn to Livingstone.

4

Urban & Regional Structure

The future of the towns within Livingstone Shire will see strong population growth occurring based on the growing popularity of the Shire as a tourism and service centre. Both Yeppoon and Emu Park will establish themselves as the key central business districts and population hubs.

4.1

Urban Structure

The retail pressure that is currently being experienced in the Emu Park and Yeppoon town centres is evidence of the markets expectation that the Livingstone Shire will continue to offer their community access to a range of services and facilities.

Emu Park

Emu Park is an increasingly appealing residential destination that has experienced high levels of lifestyle and retail development pressures. Being located strategically on the coast within easy commuting distance to the Shire's main commercial hub of Yeppoon has driven this development pressure and will be a key driver in attracting further investment to the town.

Emu Park will become the southern commercial and employment hub of Livingstone Shire, which serves a local population and smaller rural catchment.

Yeppoon

By 2021 Yeppoon's population will have grown significantly with substantial residential development occurring within the designated growth corridors and within the Town Centre and Ocean front areas.

Maintaining the Central Business District focus of Yeppoon will strengthen the Shire's development.

Yeppoon will continue to be the commercial, civic and employment hub of the Shire that services the broader Livingstone Shire community. As Yeppoon develops into a 'regional' centre there will be even less need for the local community to seek goods and services from outside Livingstone Shire.

The strategic planning undertaken for Yeppoon will facilitate the continued growth of Yeppoon with a substantial allocation for employment land development, retail growth and population expansion being identified.

4.2

Regional Structure

Livingstone Shire is distinctly different from Rockhampton and has a very different role & function when analysed in a Central Queensland region context. Rockhampton is a mature economy based on a traditional service role for the core population base and hinterland areas. Employment in Rockhampton focuses around cattle farming (agriculture), transport and mining related activities.

The rise in popularity and momentum driving the growth of Livingstone Shire has led to a need to rethink the traditional regional model of one large city (Rockhampton) and a number of surrounding townships.

Further, the distinct differences between the drivers of the coastal community of Yeppoon (Livingstone) and those within Rockhampton demonstrate the need to maintain the development and promotion of twin cities within the Capricorn Region.

The 'Twin City' model would allow for targeted offerings to the particular communities of interest, ensure the focussed administrative management and clearly maintain the existing regional focus. Livingstone would grow as a coastal region whilst Rockhampton would grow as a heavy industry provider and portal to central Queensland.

These key cities will be supported by the growth of the surrounding townships, such as Emu Park to ensure a varied experience for current and future residents.

The risk inherent risk of amalgamating the Local Government Areas is that the administrative 'focus' is changed and the attention required to continue to encourage the growth of Livingstone Shire as a national tourist destination and tourist service centre or the protecting the agricultural industries surrounding Rockhampton against other development pressures could be lost. This loss of focus could lead to the loss of drive needed to realise the potential of these communities.

The Fraser Coast experience offers a relevant case study of how there has been a significant shift from an in-land regional centre toward the development of a coastal tourism and population hub. Maryborough (in-land township) has historically been the civic and administrative hub of the region and Hervey Bay (coastal township) was a small coastal township providing a gateway to a number of tourist attractions, including Fraser Island. However, in more recent times there has been a significant population shift from Maryborough to the coast as Hervey Bay has become increasingly popular and has offered a complete range of services and facilities. Hervey Bay is now the key population growth centre in the region. The issues that have arisen in this region are caused by the fact that there are very distinct differences in the needs of the local communities, the services and facilities that are offered and the levels of tourism and investment.

Levels of public investment as a stimulus for private investment also vary heavily between communities that have varied roles & functions within a broader region, such as the Capricorn and Sunshine Coasts. Mooloolaba provides a key example of high levels (4:1 return) of private investment being generated from initial public investment, which has been successful due to the already natural appeal of the surrounds. By removing the central focus from a community such as Yeppoon the risk of losing both the public and private investment is high and the ability of the communities to grow threatened.

5

Livingstone Shire - 2021

In an administrative environment that encourages the strategic growth Yeppoon and Emu Park the Livingstone Shire will continue to grow economically, socially and environmentally.

In 2021, the Livingstone Shire will be strategically located within the Capricorn Coast which is set to become the most important tourist destination in Central Queensland. Livingstone Shire's central civic and business centre, Yeppoon, will be a thriving regional centre which will provide 24/7 services and be the central tourist hub and haven for an established community comprising of permanent residents, remote and mobile workers, resource workers and migrants from SEQ and the Eastern Sea board of Australia.

The Capricorn Coast, and in particular Yeppoon will be perceived as a premium quality tourist destination nationally and internationally with its access to the Great Barrier Reef and exotic islands including Great Keppel Island. The relatively temperate climate provides the ideal environment for both permanent and transient communities and encourages the substantial growth of the Livingstone Shire as a 'coastal based regional hub'.

Livingstone will have established itself as a unique and self sustaining regional destination with an inter-woven offering of employment, tourism and lifestyle opportunities for a growing and diverse community.

The risks of not maintaining a strong administrative focus that encourages the growth of the unique and diverse Livingstone Shire community may include:

- Undermining of the significant strategic planning that has occurred within the Shire for the Shire
- Reducing the level of public and private investment and service delivery
- Impacting on the Shire's ability to significantly contribute to the Capricorn and Central Queensland regions
- Impacting on the social fabric of the existing and future communities degrading Livingstone Shire's ability to harness strong inter-governmental relationships and better communities

Queensland Regional Profiles

Lsc Region

Lsc Region has been derived
using statistical area level 2s

Profile generated on 31 July 2012

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REGION OVERVIEW

The Lsc Region comprises the six statistical area level 2s of Emu Park, Glenlee - Rockyview, Rockhampton Region - East, Rockhampton Region - North, Shoalwater Bay and Yeppoon. It has a total area of 11,780.4 km², or 0.7 per cent of the total area of the state. Lsc Region has an average daily temperature range of 17.8 °C to 27.1 °C and on average it receives 920 mm of rainfall each year.

Demography

As at 30 June 2011, the estimated resident population of the region was 34,708 persons, compared with 4,580,282 persons in Queensland.

As at 30 June 2010, 19.7 per cent of persons in the region were aged 0 to 14 years, 66.4 per cent were aged 15 to 64 years and 13.9 per cent were aged 65 years and over.

As at 30 June 2031, the population for the region is projected to be 59,101 persons.

At the time of the 2011 Census, the region had 1,109 persons who stated they were of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin, representing 3.4 per cent of the total population.

At the time of the 2011 Census, the region had 3,401 persons who stated they were born overseas (10.4 per cent of the total population) and 27,084 persons who stated they were Australian-born (83.2 per cent of the total population).

At the time of the 2011 Census, the region had 597 persons born overseas who stated that they spoke a language other than English at home (17.5 per cent of the overseas-born population).

At the time of the 2011 Census, there were a total of 8,825 families in the region. Couple family with no children was the dominant family type (4,037 families). There were 1,159 one-parent families, accounting for 13.1 per cent of all families in the region.

Society

As at 29 February 2012, the region had a total of 12 early childhood education and care services.

At the time of the 2011 Census, the region had 11,065 persons aged 15 years and over whose highest level of schooling was year 11 or 12 (or equivalent), representing 44.6 per cent of all persons aged 15 years and over.

At the time of the 2011 Census, the region had 1,374 persons in need of assistance with a core activity, representing 4.2 per cent of the total population.

At the time of the 2011 Census, the region had 5,035 volunteers aged 15 years and over, representing 19.3 per cent of total persons aged 15 years and over.

As at 30 June 2011, the region had 5 aged-care service providers with a total of 272 places in operation.

As at 30 June 2010, the region had 3 police stations, 3 ambulance stations, 2 fire stations, 16 schools and 2 hospitals.

Economy

At the time of the 2011 Census, the region had 9,057 persons aged 15 years and over who stated their total personal weekly income was less than \$400, representing 34.7 per cent of all persons aged 15 years and over.

Industry and Development

At the time of the 2011 Census, the region had 11,370 occupied private dwellings. Of these private dwellings, 9,938 were separate houses, 366 were semi-detached and 662 were apartments. 35.1 per cent of the occupied private dwellings in the region were fully owned, 35.0 per cent were being purchased and 26.2 per cent were being rented.

At the time of the 2011 Census, the region had 8,635 occupied private dwellings with an internet connection, or 76.0 per cent of all occupied private dwellings.

At the time of the 2011 Census, the region had 613 occupied private dwellings with no motor vehicles, or 5.4 per cent of all occupied private dwellings.

In 2010–11, there were 2,859 registered businesses in the region. Of these businesses, 2,764 were small businesses, 92 were medium businesses and 3 were large businesses. The region contained 1,365 businesses with a turnover under \$100,000, 1,389 businesses with a turnover between \$100,000 and \$2 million, and 105 businesses with a turnover of \$2 million or more. The Construction industry had the largest number of businesses in the region, with 673 businesses or 23.5 per cent of the total number of businesses.

Environment

As of 2010, the total park and forest estate in terms of National Park, State Forest, Timber Reserve and Forest Reserve in the region was 758.7 km².

ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION

As at 30 June 2011, the estimated resident population of Lsc Region was 34,708 persons, compared with 4,580,282 persons in Queensland. The population of Lsc Region increased by 511 persons between 30 June 2010 and 2011, which was a population growth rate of 1.5 per cent, compared with 1.7 per cent increase for Queensland.

Within the region, the largest increase in population occurred in Yeppoon Statistical Area Level 2 (SA2), up by 273 persons in the year to 30 June 2011, accounting for 53.4 per cent of all growth in Lsc Region. The fastest growing statistical area level 2 between 30 June 2010 and 2011 was Rockhampton Region - East, Emu Park, Yeppoon, Rockhampton Region - North and Shoalwater Bay SA2 (1.6 per cent).

Table 1 Estimated resident population by statistical area level 2, Lsc Region, 2006, 2010 and 2011p

Statistical area level 2	Estimated resident population as at 30 June			Average annual growth rate	
	2006	2010	2011p	2006–2011p (a)	2010–2011p
	— number —			— % —	
Emu Park	3,988	4,739	4,814	3.8	1.6
Glenlee - Rockyview	4,367	4,906	4,949	2.5	0.9
Rockhampton Region - East	2,995	3,264	3,316	2.1	1.6
Rockhampton Region - North	4,507	4,198	4,265	-1.1	1.6
Shoalwater Bay	10	12	12	3.8	1.6
Yeppoon	14,749	17,078	17,351	3.3	1.6
Lsc Region	30,616	34,197	34,708	2.5	1.5
Queensland	4,090,908	4,505,433	4,580,282	2.3	1.7
Lsc Region as % of Queensland	0.7	0.8	0.8

p = preliminary . . = not applicable

(a) Average annual growth rate.

Note: Based on Australian Bureau of Statistics, Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS), July 2011.

Data for 2010 and 2011p have been concorded from Statistical Local Areas (ASGC 2011) to Statistical Areas (ASGS 2011) using a population based concordance.

Data are updated annually with an approximate delay of 9 months after the reporting period. It is anticipated the next update will be in August 2012.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Regional Population Growth, Australia*, 2010–11, cat. no. 3218.0 and unpublished data

POPULATION BY AGE AND SEX

As at 30 June 2010 in Lsc Region, 19.7 per cent of persons were aged 0 to 14 years, 66.4 per cent were aged 15 to 64 years and 13.9 per cent were aged 65 years and over.

Within the region, Rockhampton Region - East, Yeppoon, Shoalwater Bay, Rockhampton Region - North and Emu Park Statistical Area Level 2 (SA2) recorded the highest proportion of children aged 0 to 14 years (19.9 per cent), while Glenlee - Rockyview SA2 recorded the lowest proportion (18.6 per cent). For the working-age population aged 15 to 64 years, Glenlee - Rockyview SA2 had the largest proportion (73.0 per cent) and Shoalwater Bay, Rockhampton Region - North, Emu Park and Rockhampton Region - East SA2 recorded the lowest (65.2 per cent). Emu Park, Rockhampton Region - East, Rockhampton Region - North, Yeppoon and Shoalwater Bay SA2 had the highest proportion of persons aged 65 years and over (14.8 per cent) and Glenlee - Rockyview SA2 recorded the lowest (8.4 per cent).

Table 2 Estimated resident population by age by statistical area level 2, Lsc Region, 30 June 2010p

Statistical area level 2	Population by age									
	0-14		15-24		25-44		45-64		65+	
	number	%	number	%	number	%	number	%	number	%
Emu Park	946	19.9	646	13.6	1,062	22.4	1,389	29.3	704	14.8
Glenlee - Rockyview	916	18.6	676	13.7	1,491	30.3	1,421	28.9	412	8.4
Rockhampton Region - East	652	19.9	445	13.6	732	22.4	957	29.3	485	14.8
Rockhampton Region - North	838	19.9	572	13.6	941	22.4	1,231	29.3	624	14.8
Shoalwater Bay	2	19.9	2	13.6	3	22.4	3	29.3	2	14.8
Yeppoon	3,409	19.9	2,329	13.6	3,827	22.4	5,008	29.3	2,537	14.8
Lsc Region	6,763	19.7	4,670	13.6	8,055	23.5	10,010	29.2	4,763	13.9
Queensland	901,542	20.0	644,985	14.3	1,278,876	28.3	1,121,066	24.8	567,381	12.6
Lsc Region as % of Queensland	0.8	..	0.7	..	0.6	..	0.9	..	0.8	..

p = preliminary .. = not applicable

Note: Based on Australian Bureau of Statistics, Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS), July 2011.

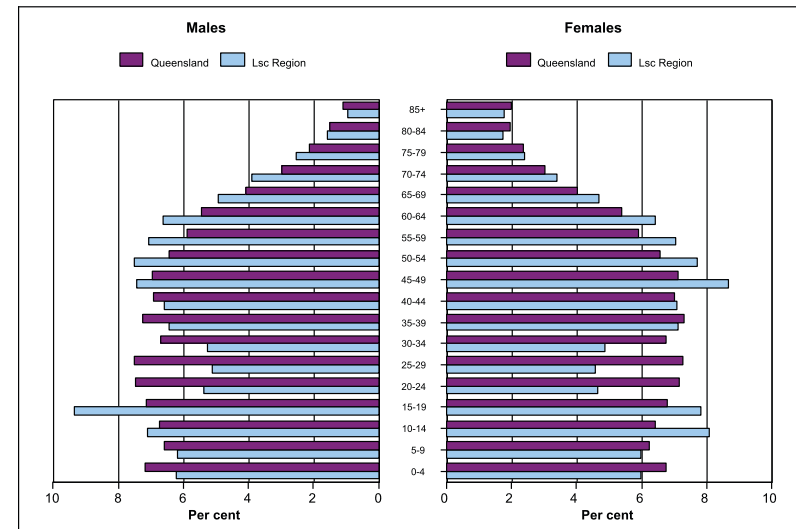
Data for 2010p have been concorded from Statistical Local Areas (ASGC 2011) to Statistical Areas (ASGS 2011) using a population based concordance.

Data are updated annually with an approximate delay of 12 months after the reporting period. It is anticipated the next update will be in September 2012.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Population by Age and Sex, Regions of Australia*, 2010, cat. no. 3235.0

The following figure highlights the differences in age groups between Lsc Region and Queensland as at 30 June 2010.

Figure 2 Population by age group and sex, Lsc Region and Queensland, 30 June 2010p



p = preliminary

Note: Based on Australian Bureau of Statistics, Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS), July 2011.

Data for 2010p have been concorded from Statistical Local Areas (ASGC 2011) to Statistical Areas (ASGS 2011) using a population based concordance.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Population by Age and Sex, Regions of Australia*, 2010, cat. no. 3235.0

POPULATION PROJECTIONS

As at 30 June 2031, the population for Lsc Region is projected to be 59,101 persons. The population for the region is projected to increase by an average annual growth rate of 2.6 per cent over the 20-year period between 2011 and 2031. In comparison, the population for Queensland is projected to increase by an average annual growth rate of 1.8 per cent over the same period.

Within the region, the largest increase in population is projected to be the Yeppoon Statistical Area Level 2 (SA2), up by 12,662 persons over the 20-year period between 2011 and 2031. The SA2 with fastest-growing population between 2011 and 2031 is projected to be Emu Park SA2, with an average annual growth rate of 5.0 per cent.

Table 3 Projected population (a) by statistical area level 2, Lsc Region, 2011 to 2031

Statistical area level 2	Projected population as at 30 June					Average annual growth rate
	2011	2016	2021	2026	2031	2011 to 2031
	— number —					%
Emu Park	4,637	6,360	7,274	9,652	12,233	5.0
Glenlee - Rockyview	4,994	5,564	6,221	6,976	7,916	2.3
Rockhampton Region - East	3,367	3,409	3,433	3,555	3,692	0.5
Rockhampton Region - North	4,716	4,722	4,733	4,783	4,840	0.1
Shoalwater Bay	70	82	93	106	120	2.7
Yeppoon	17,638	20,625	24,564	27,275	30,300	2.7
Lsc Region	35,422	40,760	46,318	52,346	59,101	2.6
Queensland	4,611,491	5,092,858	5,588,617	6,090,548	6,592,857	1.8
Lsc Region as % of Queensland	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.9	.

.. = not applicable

(a) Data are based on a medium series.

Note: Based on Australian Bureau of Statistics, Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS), July 2011.

Data are updated twice every five years. It is anticipated the next update will be in June 2013.

Source: Queensland Government population projections, 2011 edition (medium series), Office of Economic and Statistical Research, Queensland Treasury and Trade

INDIGENOUS POPULATION

At the time of the 2011 Census, Lsc Region had 1,109 persons who stated they were of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin. Indigenous persons made up 3.4 per cent of the total population (compared with 3.6 per cent in Queensland).

Of the 1,109 persons usually resident in the region who stated they were of Indigenous origin, 919 persons stated they were Aboriginal, 122 persons stated they were Torres Strait Islander, and 68 persons stated they were both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander.

Within the region, Yeppoon Statistical Area Level 2 (SA2) contained the largest number of Indigenous persons (595), followed by Glenlee - Rockyview SA2 (195).

Table 4 Number of persons by Indigenous status by statistical area level 2 (a), Lsc Region, 2011

Statistical area level 2	Aboriginal	Torres Strait Islander		Total Indigenous	Indigenous proportion	Non-Indigenous persons (c)	Total
		Both (b)					
	— number —			%	— number —		
Emu Park	135	8	10	153	3.4	4,006	4,542
Glenlee - Rockyview	157	30	8	195	4.3	4,119	4,488
Rockhampton Region - East	94	3	0	97	3.1	2,831	3,129
Rockhampton Region - North	59	4	6	69	1.7	3,649	4,024
Shoalwater Bay	0	0	0	0	0.0	7	10
Yeppoon	474	77	44	595	3.6	14,897	16,371
Lsc Region	919	122	68	1,109	3.4	29,509	32,564
Queensland	122,896	20,094	12,834	155,824	3.6	3,952,707	4,332,740
Lsc Region as % of Queensland	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.7	..	0.7	0.8

.. = not applicable

(a) Based on place of usual residence.

(b) Applicable to persons who are of 'both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin'.

(c) Includes Indigenous status not stated.

Note: Based on Australian Bureau of Statistics, Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS), July 2011.

Census data have 'introduced random error' to ensure no data are released which could risk identifying individuals. As such, cells containing very small counts should be treated with extreme caution.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Census of Population and Housing, 2011, Indigenous Profile - I02*

COUNTRY OF BIRTH

At the time of the 2011 Census, Lsc Region had 3,401 persons who stated they were born overseas (10.4 per cent of the total population) and 27,084 persons who stated they were Australian-born (83.2 per cent of the total population). In Queensland, 20.5 per cent of the population were born overseas and 73.7 per cent were Australian-born.

Within the region, Yeppoon Statistical Area Level 2 (SA2) contained the largest number of overseas-born persons (1,997), followed by Emu Park SA2 (525).

Table 5 Number of persons by birthplace by statistical area level 2 (a), Lsc Region, 2011

Statistical area level 2	Born in Australia		Born in ESB countries (b)		Born in NESB countries		Total born overseas		Total persons (c)
	number	%	number	%	number	%	number	%	number
Emu Park	3,657	80.5	390	8.6	135	3.0	525	11.6	4,544
Glenlee - Rockyview	4,033	89.8	186	4.1	93	2.1	279	6.2	4,490
Rockhampton Region - East	2,691	86.0	166	5.3	60	1.9	226	7.2	3,129
Rockhampton Region - North	3,313	82.3	238	5.9	136	3.4	374	9.3	4,024
Shoalwater Bay	8	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	8
Yeppoon	13,382	81.7	1,429	8.7	568	3.5	1,997	12.2	16,371
Lsc Region	27,084	83.2	2,409	7.4	992	3.0	3,401	10.4	32,566
Queensland	3,192,115	73.7	478,290	11.0	410,346	9.5	888,636	20.5	4,332,738
Lsc Region as % of Queensland	0.8	..	0.5	..	0.2	..	0.4	..	0.8

.. = not applicable

ESB = English-speaking background NESB = non-English-speaking background

(a) Based on place of usual residence.

(b) Includes the UK, Ireland, Canada, USA, South Africa and New Zealand.

(c) Includes 'Inadequately Described', 'At Sea', 'Not Elsewhere Classified' and 'Not Stated' responses.

Note: Based on Australian Bureau of Statistics, Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS), July 2011. Census data have 'introduced random error' to ensure no data are released which could risk identifying individuals. As such, cells containing very small counts should be treated with extreme caution.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Census of Population and Housing, 2011, Basic Community Profile - B09*

PROFICIENCY IN SPOKEN ENGLISH

At the time of the 2011 Census, Lsc Region had 597 persons born overseas who stated that they spoke a language other than English at home (17.5 per cent of the overseas-born population). In Queensland, 36.0 per cent of the overseas-born population spoke a language other than English at home.

Of the overseas-born persons in the Lsc Region who stated that they spoke a language other than English at home, 65 persons stated that they spoke English not well or not at all. This was 1.9 per cent of the overseas-born population of Lsc Region, compared with 5.2 per cent in Queensland.

Within the region, Yeppoon Statistical Area Level 2 (SA2) had the largest number of overseas-born persons who spoke English not well or not at all (43), followed by Rockhampton Region - North SA2 (12).

Table 6 Proficiency in spoken English of overseas-born persons by statistical area level 2 (a), Lsc Region, 2011

Statistical area level 2	Speaks English only		Speaks other language at home and speaks English				Persons born overseas (c)		
	number	%	Very well or well	%	Not well or not at all	%	Total (b)	number	
Emu Park	466	88.6	54	10.3	6	1.1	60	11.4	526
Glenlee - Rockyview	193	68.7	50	17.8	4	1.4	88	31.3	281
Rockhampton Region - East	203	90.2	22	9.8	0	0.0	22	9.8	225
Rockhampton Region - North	310	82.4	54	14.4	12	3.2	66	17.6	376
Shoalwater Bay	0	..	0	..	0	..	0	..	0
Yeppoon	1,635	81.9	309	15.5	43	2.2	361	18.1	1,996
Lsc Region	2,807	82.5	489	14.4	65	1.9	597	17.5	3,404
Queensland	565,544	63.6	269,847	30.4	45,927	5.2	319,949	36.0	888,635
Lsc Region as % of Queensland	0.5	..	0.2	..	0.1	..	0.2	..	0.4

.. = not applicable

(a) Based on place of usual residence.

(b) Includes proficiency in English not stated.

(c) Excludes persons who did not state their country of birth.

Note: Based on Australian Bureau of Statistics, Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS), July 2011. Census data have 'introduced random error' to ensure no data are released which could risk identifying individuals. As such, cells containing very small counts should be treated with extreme caution.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Census of Population and Housing, 2011, Basic Community Profile - B11*

FAMILY COMPOSITION

At the time of the 2011 Census, there were a total of 8,825 families in the Lsc Region. Couple family with no children was the dominant family type (4,037 families). There were 1,159 one-parent families, accounting for 13.1 per cent of all families in the region (compared with 16.1 per cent in Queensland).

Within the region, Yeppoon Statistical Area Level 2 (SA2) contained the largest number of families (4,401), followed by Emu Park SA2 (1,250). Yeppoon SA2 recorded the highest proportion of one-parent families (15.5 per cent), followed by Emu Park SA2 (14.2 per cent).

Table 7 Family composition by statistical area level 2 (a)(b), Lsc Region, 2011

Statistical area level 2	Couple family with no children (c)		Couple family with children (c)		One-parent family	%	Total (d) number
	— number —		— number —				
Emu Park	664		395		178	14.2	1,250
Glenlee - Rockyview	450		639		68	5.9	1,162
Rockhampton Region - East	427		358		100	11.2	890
Rockhampton Region - North	540		439		131	11.7	1,118
Shoalwater Bay	4		0		0	0.0	4
Yeppoon	1,952		1,733		682	15.5	4,401
Lsc Region	4,037		3,564		1,159	13.1	8,825
Queensland	453,102		491,200		184,547	16.1	1,148,179
Lsc Region as % of Queensland	0.9		0.7		0.6	..	0.8

.. = not applicable

- (a) Based on place of usual residence.
 (b) Includes same-sex couple families.
 (c) Children are defined as children aged under 15 years or dependent students aged 15 to 24 years.
 (d) Includes other families.

Note: Based on Australian Bureau of Statistics, Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS), July 2011.
 Census data have 'introduced random error' to ensure no data are released which could risk identifying individuals. As such, cells containing very small counts should be treated with extreme caution.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Census of Population and Housing, 2011, Basic Community Profile - B25*

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE SERVICES

As at 29 February 2012, Lsc Region had a total of 12 early childhood education and care services, compared with 2,739 in Queensland. The most common early childhood education and care services in the region were long day care services with 6 services, followed by kindergarten services with 4 services.

Within the region, Yeppoon Statistical Area Level 2 (SA2) had the largest number of early childhood education and care services (9), followed by Emu Park SA2 (3).

Table 8 Count of early childhood education and care services by type by statistical area level 2, Lsc Region, 29 February 2012

Statistical area level 2	Family day care	Kindergartens	Long day care	School aged care	Limited hours care	Child care & family support hubs	Total early childhood education & care services
Emu Park	0	1	2	0	0	0	3
Glenlee - Rockyview	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rockhampton Region - East	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rockhampton Region - North	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Shoalwater Bay	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Yeppoon	0	3	4	2	0	0	9
Lsc Region	0	4	6	2	0	0	12
Queensland	93	392	1,560	640	44	10	2,739
Lsc Region as % of Queensland	0.0	1.0	0.4	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.4

Note: Based on Australian Bureau of Statistics, Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS), July 2011.

Data are updated twice yearly with an approximate delay of 1 month after the reporting period. It is anticipated the next update will be in September 2012.

Source: Office for Early Childhood Education and Care, Department of Education and Training

HIGHEST LEVEL OF SCHOOLING

At the time of the 2011 Census, Lsc Region had 11,065 persons aged 15 years and over whose highest level of schooling was year 11 or 12 (or equivalent) (44.6 per cent of all persons aged 15 years and over). This corresponded with 55.3 per cent in Queensland.

Within the region, Yeppoon Statistical Area Level 2 (SA2) had the highest percentage of persons with year 11 or 12 (or equivalent) as their highest level of schooling (48.2 per cent), followed by Rockhampton Region - North SA2 (42.3 per cent).

Table 9 Number of persons by highest level of schooling completed by statistical area level 2 (a), Lsc Region, 2011

Statistical area level 2	Did not go to school, or Year 8 or below	Year 9 or 10 or equivalent	Year 11 or 12 or equivalent		Total (b)
	— number —			%	number
Emu Park	354	1,364	1,482	40.8	3,631
Glenlee - Rockyview	205	1,159	1,401	41.6	3,371
Rockhampton Region - East	236	1,034	932	38.7	2,409
Rockhampton Region - North	272	1,194	1,317	42.3	3,114
Shoalwater Bay	3	7	0	0.0	10
Yeppoon	924	4,283	5,933	48.2	12,298
Lsc Region	1,994	9,041	11,065	44.6	24,833
Queensland	219,102	977,116	1,836,995	55.3	3,320,761
Lsc Region as % of Queensland	0.9	0.9	0.6	..	0.7

.. = not applicable

- (a) Based on usual residents aged 15 years and over who are no longer attending primary or secondary school.
 (b) Includes highest year of schooling not stated.

Note: Based on Australian Bureau of Statistics, Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS), July 2011.
 Census data have 'introduced random error' to ensure no data are released which could risk identifying individuals. As such, cells containing very small counts should be treated with extreme caution.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Census of Population and Housing, 2011, Basic Community Profile - B16*

CORE ACTIVITY NEED FOR ASSISTANCE

At the time of the 2011 Census, Lsc Region had 1,374 persons in need of assistance with a core activity, representing 4.2 per cent of the total population. In comparison, Queensland had 192,019 persons in need of assistance with a core activity, representing 4.4 per cent of the total population.

Within the region, Shoalwater Bay Statistical Area Level 2 (SA2) had the highest percentage of people in need of assistance (25.0 per cent). Glenlee - Rockyview SA2 had the lowest percentage of people in need of assistance (2.3 per cent).

Table 10 Number of persons with core activity need for assistance by statistical area level 2 (a)(b), Lsc Region, 2011

Statistical area level 2	Need for assistance		No need for assistance	Total (c)
	number	%	— number —	
Emu Park	299	6.6	3,887	4,543
Glenlee - Rockyview	102	2.3	3,782	4,489
Rockhampton Region - East	134	4.3	2,787	3,129
Rockhampton Region - North	161	4.0	3,530	4,023
Shoalwater Bay	3	25.0	6	12
Yeppoon	675	4.1	14,662	16,373
Lsc Region	1,374	4.2	28,654	32,569
Queensland	192,019	4.4	3,880,396	4,332,738
Lsc Region as % of Queensland	0.7	..	0.7	0.8

.. = not applicable

- (a) Based on place of usual residence.
 (b) Core activity need for assistance measures people with a profound disability or severe disability. People with a profound or severe disability are defined as needing help or assistance in one or more of the three core activity areas of self-care, mobility and communication because of a long term health condition (six months or more), a disability (lasting six months or more), or old age.
 (c) Includes core activity need of assistance not stated.

Note: Based on Australian Bureau of Statistics, Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS), July 2011.
 Census data have 'introduced random error' to ensure no data are released which could risk identifying individuals. As such, cells containing very small counts should be treated with extreme caution.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Census of Population and Housing, 2011, Basic Community Profile - B18*

VOLUNTEERS

At the time of the 2011 Census, Lsc Region had 5,035 volunteers aged 15 years and over. This represented 19.3 per cent of total persons aged 15 years and over in the region. In comparison, Queensland recorded 645,543 volunteers, 18.7 per cent of total persons aged 15 years and over.

Within the region, Shoalwater Bay Statistical Area Level 2 (SA2) had the highest percentage of volunteers (42.9 per cent). Yeppoon SA2 had the lowest percentage of volunteers (18.4 per cent).

Table 11 Volunteers by statistical area level 2 (a), Lsc Region, 2011

Statistical area level 2	Volunteer		Not a volunteer		Total (b)
	number	%	— number —		
Emu Park	706	18.8	2,655		3,751
Glenlee - Rockyview	669	18.8	2,265		3,554
Rockhampton Region - East	531	21.1	1,758		2,518
Rockhampton Region - North	739	22.9	2,110		3,234
Shoalwater Bay	3	42.9	0		7
Yeppoon	2,387	18.4	9,350		13,007
Lsc Region	5,035	19.3	18,138		26,071
Queensland	645,543	18.7	2,521,658		3,456,877
Lsc Region as % of Queensland	0.8	..	0.7		0.8

.. = not applicable

(a) Based on usual residents aged 15 years and over.

(b) Includes voluntary work not stated.

Note: Based on Australian Bureau of Statistics, Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS), July 2011.

Census data have 'introduced random error' to ensure no data are released which could risk identifying individuals. As such, cells containing very small counts should be treated with extreme caution.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Census of Population and Housing, 2011, Basic Community Profile - B19*

AGED-CARE SERVICES

As at 30 June 2011, Lsc Region had 5 aged-care service providers with a total of 272 places in operation. In comparison, Queensland had 1,048 aged-care service providers with a total of 44,856 places in operation. During 2010-11, the aged-care service providers in the region received \$10.4 million in Australian government recurrent funding.

Within the region, Yeppoon Statistical Area Level 2 (SA2) had the largest number of aged-care service places with 139, followed by Emu Park SA2 with 133.

Table 12 Aged-care services (a)(b) by statistical area level 2, Lsc Region, 30 June 2011

Statistical area level 2	Aged-care service providers	Number of places by care type			Total places	Australian funding (f)
		Community care (c)	Residential care (d)	Transition care (e)		
	number	— number —				\$m
Emu Park	2	13	120	0	133	4.7
Glenlee - Rockyview	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Rockhampton Region - East	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Rockhampton Region - North	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Shoalwater Bay	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Yeppoon	3	7	132	0	139	5.7
Lsc Region	5	20	252	0	272	10.4
Queensland	1,048	10,906	33,362	588	44,856	1,598.0
Lsc Region as % of Queensland	0.5	0.2	0.8	0.0	0.6	0.7

(a) Aged-care services subsidised by the Australian Government under the Aged Care Act 1997.

(b) Based on the location of the service, rather than the region in which the service is delivered. In some instances, aged-care service providers have provided the address information of their head office in place of address information of individual regional services. Users should be aware of this limitation when using these data.

(c) Community care provides a package of services to assist older people to remain living in their own homes.

(d) Residential care provides services through aged-care homes.

(e) Transition care provides a package of services to enable older people after a hospital stay to return home rather than prematurely enter residential care.

(f) Australian government recurrent funding for aged-care services in 2010-11.

Note: Based on Australian Bureau of Statistics, Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS), July 2011.

Data are updated annually with an approximate delay of 12 months after the reporting period. It is anticipated the next update will be in December 2012.

Source: Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing

EMERGENCY SERVICES, SCHOOLS AND HOSPITALS

As at 30 June 2010, Lsc Region had 3 police stations, 3 ambulance stations, 2 fire stations, 16 schools and 2 hospitals. In comparison, Queensland had 340 police stations, 262 ambulance stations, 243 fire stations, 1,734 schools and 271 hospitals.

Table 13 Emergency services, schools and hospitals by statistical area level 2, Lsc Region, 30 June 2010

Statistical area level 2	Police stations (a)	Ambulance stations	Fire stations (b)	Schools (c)	Hospitals (d)
			— number —		
Emu Park	1	1	1	1	0
Glenlee - Rockyview	0	0	0	1	0
Rockhampton Region - East	0	0	0	3	0
Rockhampton Region - North	1	1	0	4	0
Shoalwater Bay	0	0	0	0	0
Yeppoon	1	1	1	7	2
Lsc Region	3	3	2	16	2
Queensland	340	262	243	1,734	271
Lsc Region as % of Queensland	0.9	1.1	0.8	0.9	0.7

(a) Does not include Police Beats.

(b) Does not include Rural Fire Brigade.

(c) Includes both private and public schools.

(d) Includes both private and public hospitals. Excludes public dental and psychiatric facilities.

Note: Based on Australian Bureau of Statistics, Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS), July 2011.

Data are updated every two years. It is anticipated the next update will be in June 2013.

Source: Queensland Police; Department of Community Safety; Department of Education, Training and Employment; Queensland Health

TOTAL PERSONAL INCOME

At the time of the 2011 Census, Lsc Region had 9,057 persons aged 15 years and over who stated their total personal weekly income was less than \$400 (34.7 per cent of all persons aged 15 years and over). This was higher than the 34.6 per cent recorded in Queensland.

Within the region, Shoalwater Bay Statistical Area Level 2 (SA2) had the highest proportion of persons with a total personal weekly income less than \$400 (66.7 per cent), followed by Emu Park SA2 (38.2 per cent). Yeppoon SA2 had the highest proportion of persons who stated their total personal weekly income was \$2,000 or more (7.6 per cent).

Table 14 Number of persons by total personal weekly income by statistical area level 2 (a), Lsc Region, 2011

Statistical area level 2	Less than \$400 per week		\$400 to \$999 per week		\$1,000 to \$1,999 per week		\$2,000 or more per week		Total (b)
	number	%	number	%	number	%	number	%	
Emu Park	1,434	38.2	1,122	29.9	596	15.9	200	5.3	3,751
Glenlee - Rockyview	930	26.2	916	25.8	798	22.5	264	7.4	3,554
Rockhampton Region - East	923	36.6	766	30.4	468	18.6	141	5.6	2,521
Rockhampton Region - North	1,227	38.0	925	28.6	559	17.3	165	5.1	3,232
Shoalwater Bay	6	66.7	3	33.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	9
Yeppoon	4,537	34.9	3,734	28.7	2,542	19.5	988	7.6	13,007
Lsc Region	9,057	34.7	7,466	28.6	4,963	19.0	1,758	6.7	26,074
Queensland	1,195,059	34.6	1,095,509	31.7	689,495	19.9	191,236	5.5	3,456,877
Lsc Region as % of Queensland	0.8	..	0.7	..	0.7	..	0.9	..	0.8

.. = not applicable

(a) Based on usual residents aged 15 years and over.

(b) Includes personal income not stated.

Note: Based on Australian Bureau of Statistics, Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS), July 2011.

Census data have 'introduced random error' to ensure no data are released which could risk identifying individuals. As such, cells containing very small counts should be treated with extreme caution.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Census of Population and Housing, 2011, Basic Community Profile - B17*

DWELLINGS BY DWELLING STRUCTURE

At the time of the 2011 Census, Lsc Region had 11,370 occupied private dwellings. Of these private dwellings, 9,938 were separate houses, 366 were semi-detached and 662 were apartments. Separate houses represented 87.4 per cent of total occupied private dwellings in the region, compared with 78.5 per cent for Queensland.

Within the region, Shoalwater Bay Statistical Area Level 2 (SA2) had the highest percentage of separate houses (100.0 per cent), followed by Glenlee - Rockyview SA2 (98.7 per cent).

Table 15 Occupied private dwellings (a) by dwelling structure by statistical area level 2, Lsc Region, 2011

Statistical area level 2	Separate house	Semi-detached (b)	Apartment (c)	Total (d)	Separate houses
					as % of total
	— number —				%
Emu Park	1,481	70	38	1,699	87
Glenlee - Rockyview	1,224	0	3	1,240	99
Rockhampton Region - East	1,053	0	3	1,094	96
Rockhampton Region - North	1,280	4	4	1,326	97
Shoalwater Bay	4	0	0	4	100
Yeppoon	4,896	292	614	6,007	82
Lsc Region	9,938	366	662	11,370	87
Queensland	1,215,303	129,430	181,716	1,547,303	79
Lsc Region as % of Queensland	0.8	0.3	0.4	0.7	..

.. = not applicable

- (a) Excludes visitors only and other not classifiable households.
- (b) Includes row or terrace house, townhouse etc.
- (c) Includes flat, unit or apartment.
- (d) Includes other dwelling types and dwelling types not stated.

Note: Based on Australian Bureau of Statistics, Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS), July 2011. Census data have 'introduced random error' to ensure no data are released which could risk identifying individuals. As such, cells containing very small counts should be treated with extreme caution.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Census of Population and Housing, 2011, Basic Community Profile - B31*

DWELLINGS BY TENURE TYPE

At the time of the 2011 Census, Lsc Region had 11,371 occupied private dwellings. Of these private dwellings, 35.1 per cent were fully owned, 35.0 per cent were being purchased and 26.2 per cent were being rented. In comparison, 29.0 per cent of the total dwellings in Queensland were fully owned, 34.5 per cent were being purchased and 33.2 per cent were being rented.

Within the region, Shoalwater Bay Statistical Area Level 2 (SA2) had the largest percentage of fully owned private dwellings (100.0 per cent), followed by Rockhampton Region - North SA2 (46.6 per cent). The SA2 with the highest percentage of dwellings being rented was Yeppoon SA2 (34.0 per cent).

Table 16 Occupied private dwellings (a) by tenure type by statistical area level 2, Lsc Region, 2011

Statistical area level 2	Fully owned		Being purchased (b)		Rented (c)		Total (d)
	number	%	number	%	number	%	number
	Emu Park	638	37.6	472	27.8	518	30.5
Glenlee - Rockyview	413	33.3	716	57.7	85	6.9	1,240
Rockhampton Region - East	455	41.6	457	41.8	144	13.2	1,093
Rockhampton Region - North	618	46.6	464	35.0	193	14.6	1,325
Shoalwater Bay	5	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	5
Yeppoon	1,857	30.9	1,868	31.1	2,043	34.0	6,009
Lsc Region	3,986	35.1	3,977	35.0	2,983	26.2	11,371
Queensland	448,617	29.0	533,868	34.5	513,415	33.2	1,547,303
Lsc Region as % of Queensland	0.9	..	0.7	..	0.6	..	0.7

.. = not applicable

- (a) Excludes visitors only and other not classifiable households.
- (b) Includes dwellings being purchased under a rent/buy scheme.
- (c) Includes renting from a real estate agent, state or territory housing authority, renting from a person not in the same household, renting from housing co-operative/community/church group, other landlord type and landlord type not stated.
- (d) Includes other tenure type and tenure type not stated.

Note: Based on Australian Bureau of Statistics, Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS), July 2011. Census data have 'introduced random error' to ensure no data are released which could risk identifying individuals. As such, cells containing very small counts should be treated with extreme caution.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Census of Population and Housing, 2011, Basic Community Profile - B32*

INTERNET CONNECTION

At the time of the 2011 Census, Lsc Region had 8,635 occupied private dwellings with an internet connection, or 76.0 per cent of all occupied private dwellings. In comparison, 78.3 per cent of the occupied private dwellings in Queensland had an internet connection. Of the 8,635 internet connections in the region, there were 7,726 broadband connections and 470 dial-up connections.

Within the region, Shoalwater Bay Statistical Area Level 2 (SA2) had the highest percentage of occupied private dwellings with internet connections (100.0 per cent), followed by Glenlee - Rockyview SA2 (84.6 per cent). Yeppoon SA2 had the largest number of dwellings with broadband connections (4,101), followed by Emu Park SA2 (1,091). The highest number of dwellings with no internet connection was in Yeppoon SA2 (1,237).

Table 17 Internet connections in occupied private dwellings (a)(b) by statistical area level 2, Lsc Region, 2011

Statistical area level 2	No internet connection	Broadband	Dial-up	Total with internet connection (c)	Proportion with internet %	Total (d) number
Emu Park	407	1,091	71	1,223	72.0	1,698
Glenlee - Rockyview	153	974	43	1,048	84.6	1,239
Rockhampton Region - East	240	689	60	803	73.4	1,094
Rockhampton Region - North	249	871	93	1,019	76.9	1,325
Shoalwater Bay	0	0	4	4	100.0	4
Yeppoon	1,237	4,101	199	4,538	75.5	6,008
Lsc Region	2,286	7,726	470	8,635	76.0	11,368
Queensland	281,467	1,103,036	45,088	1,211,884	78.3	1,547,301
Lsc Region as % of Queensland	0.8	0.7	1.0	0.7	..	0.7

.. = not applicable

- (a) Excludes visitors only and other not classifiable households.
 (b) Where a dwelling has more than one type of internet connection only one is recorded.
 (c) Includes other internet connection.
 (d) Includes internet connection not stated.

Note: Based on Australian Bureau of Statistics, Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS), July 2011.
 Census data have 'introduced random error' to ensure no data are released which could risk identifying individuals. As such, cells containing very small counts should be treated with extreme caution.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Census of Population and Housing, 2011, Basic Community Profile - B35*

NUMBER OF MOTOR VEHICLES PER DWELLING

At the time of the 2011 Census, Lsc Region had 613 occupied private dwellings with no motor vehicles, or 5.4 per cent of all occupied private dwellings in the region. In comparison, 7.2 per cent of occupied private dwellings in Queensland had no motor vehicles.

Within the region, Yeppoon Statistical Area Level 2 (SA2) had the largest percentage of occupied private dwellings with no motor vehicles (7.7 per cent), followed by Emu Park SA2 (5.2 per cent). Glenlee - Rockyview SA2 had the largest percentage of occupied private dwellings with three or more motor vehicles (36.6 per cent), followed by Rockhampton Region - North SA2 (31.6 per cent).

Table 18 Number of motor vehicles per occupied private dwelling (a)(b) by statistical area level 2, Lsc Region, 2011

Statistical area level 2	No motor vehicles		1 motor vehicle	2 motor vehicles	3 or more motor vehicles	Total dwellings	
	number	%	— number —		%	number	
Emu Park	89	5.2	652	654	240	14.1	1,698
Glenlee - Rockyview	12	1.0	186	567	454	36.6	1,241
Rockhampton Region - East	15	1.4	267	453	321	29.3	1,095
Rockhampton Region - North	33	2.5	303	536	419	31.6	1,325
Shoalwater Bay	0	0.0	0	4	0	0.0	4
Yeppoon	464	7.7	2,153	2,242	942	15.7	6,009
Lsc Region	613	5.4	3,561	4,456	2,376	20.9	11,372
Queensland	110,842	7.2	547,575	575,736	267,083	17.3	1,547,306
Lsc Region as % of Queensland	0.6	..	0.7	0.8	0.9	..	0.7

.. = not applicable

- (a) Excludes visitors only and other not classifiable households.
 (b) Excludes motorbikes/scooters.

Note: Based on Australian Bureau of Statistics, Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS), July 2011.
 Census data have 'introduced random error' to ensure no data are released which could risk identifying individuals. As such, cells containing very small counts should be treated with extreme caution.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Census of Population and Housing, 2011, Basic Community Profile - B29*

BUSINESS COUNTS BY EMPLOYMENT SIZE

In 2010–11, there were 2,859 registered businesses in Lsc Region. Of these businesses, 2,764 were small businesses, 92 were medium businesses and 3 were large businesses. The percentage of small businesses in the region was 96.7 per cent, compared with 95.7 per cent for Queensland.

Within the region, Glenlee - Rockyview Statistical Area Level 2 (SA2) had the largest percentage of small businesses (99.0 per cent), followed by Rockhampton Region - North SA2 (98.1 per cent).

Table 19 Counts of registered businesses (a) by employment size (b) by statistical area level 2, Lsc Region, 2010–11

Statistical area level 2	Employment size			Total	Small businesses as a % of total
	Small	Medium	Large		
	— number —				%
Emu Park	274	15	0	289	94.8
Glenlee - Rockyview	290	3	0	293	99.0
Rockhampton Region - East	255	6	0	261	97.7
Rockhampton Region - North	609	12	0	621	98.1
Shoalwater Bay	0	0	0	0	..
Yeppoon	1,336	56	3	1,395	95.8
Lsc Region	2,764	92	3	2,859	96.7
Queensland	411,935	17,310	1,161	430,406	95.7
Lsc Region as % of Queensland	0.7	0.5	0.3	0.7	..

.. = not applicable

(a) It is not currently possible to account for those businesses which operate out of multiple locations, other than at their main location. This is particularly relevant for larger businesses, which commonly establish outlets in several or all states and many regions across Australia. The reason for this is that data pertaining to individual business locations are not currently available from the Australian Bureau of Statistics Business Register. Users should therefore be aware of this limitation when using counts of businesses included in this table.

(b) Businesses are defined as small (employing less than 20 people, including non-employing businesses), medium (employing 20 or more people but less than 200 people) and large (employing 200 or more persons).

Note: Based on Australian Bureau of Statistics, Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS), July 2011.

Data are updated annually with an approximate delay of 9 months after the reporting period. It is anticipated the next update will be in February 2013.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Counts of Australian Businesses, including Entries and Exits*, June 2007 to June 2011, cat. no. 8165.0

BUSINESS COUNTS BY TURNOVER RANGE

In 2010–11, there were 2,859 registered businesses in Lsc Region, compared with 430,406 businesses in Queensland. The region contained 1,365 businesses with a turnover under \$100,000 and 1,389 businesses with a turnover between \$100,000 and \$2 million. There were 105 businesses with a turnover of \$2 million or more (3.7 per cent compared with 5.4 per cent for Queensland).

Within the region, Yeppoon Statistical Area Level 2 (SA2) had the largest number of businesses (1,395), followed by Rockhampton Region - North SA2 (621). Yeppoon SA2 had the largest percentage of businesses with a turnover of \$2 million or more (4.7 per cent).

Table 20 Counts of registered businesses (a) by turnover range by statistical area level 2, Lsc Region, 2010–11

Statistical area level 2	Turnover range				Total	Businesses with turnover \$2m+ as a % of total
	\$0 to less than \$100k	\$100k to less than \$500k	\$500k to less than \$2m	\$2m or more		
	— number —					%
Emu Park	124	105	47	13	289	4.5
Glenlee - Rockyview	142	114	28	9	293	3.1
Rockhampton Region - East	146	76	36	3	261	1.1
Rockhampton Region - North	341	199	66	15	621	2.4
Shoalwater Bay	0	0	0	0	0	..
Yeppoon	612	534	184	65	1,395	4.7
Lsc Region	1,365	1,028	361	105	2,859	3.7
Queensland	200,447	149,481	57,342	23,136	430,406	5.4
Lsc Region as % of Queensland	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.7	..

.. = not applicable

(a) It is not currently possible to account for those businesses which operate out of multiple locations, other than at their main location. This is particularly relevant for larger businesses, which commonly establish outlets in several or all states and many regions across Australia. The reason for this is that data pertaining to individual business locations are not currently available from the Australian Bureau of Statistics Business Register. Users should therefore be aware of this limitation when using counts of businesses included in this table.

Note: Based on Australian Bureau of Statistics, Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS), July 2011.

Data are updated annually with an approximate delay of 9 months after the reporting period. It is anticipated the next update will be in February 2013.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Counts of Australian Businesses, including Entries and Exits*, June 2007 to June 2011, cat. no. 8165.0

BUSINESS COUNTS BY INDUSTRY

In 2010–11, the Construction industry had the largest number of businesses in Lsc Region, with 673 businesses or 23.5 per cent of the total number of businesses. Other industries with relatively large numbers of business counts included Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing (529 businesses or 18.5 per cent) and Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services (250 businesses or 8.7 per cent).

The highest specialisation ratios in the region occurred in the industries of Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services (1.90), Mining (1.81) and Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing (1.75).

Table 21 Counts of registered businesses (a) by industry (b), Lsc Region, 2010–11

Industry	Lsc Region		Queensland		Specialisation ratio (c)
	number	%	number	%	
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	529	18.5	45,446	10.6	1.75
Mining	23	0.8	1,914	0.4	1.81
Manufacturing	89	3.1	18,090	4.2	0.74
Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services	15	0.5	1,189	0.3	1.90
Construction	673	23.5	77,805	18.1	1.30
Wholesale Trade	49	1.7	13,959	3.2	0.53
Retail Trade	154	5.4	28,424	6.6	0.82
Accommodation and Food Services	125	4.4	15,698	3.6	1.20
Transport, Postal and Warehousing	166	5.8	25,919	6.0	0.96
Information Media and Telecommunications	7	0.2	3,011	0.7	0.35
Financial and Insurance Services	132	4.6	29,048	6.7	0.68
Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services	250	8.7	47,977	11.1	0.78
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	206	7.2	45,173	10.5	0.69
Administrative and Support Services	95	3.3	16,751	3.9	0.85
Public Administration and Safety	6	0.2	1,448	0.3	0.62
Education and Training	35	1.2	5,110	1.2	1.03
Health Care and Social Assistance	101	3.5	19,516	4.5	0.78
Arts and Recreation Services	25	0.9	5,289	1.2	0.71
Other Services	137	4.8	19,433	4.5	1.06
Not Classified	42	1.5	9,206	2.1	0.69
Total (d)	2,859	100.0	430,406	100.0	1.00

.. = not applicable

(a) It is not currently possible to account for those businesses which operate out of multiple locations, other than at their main location. This is particularly relevant for larger businesses, which commonly establish outlets in several or all states and many regions across Australia. The reason for this is that data pertaining to individual business locations are not currently available from the Australian Bureau of Statistics Business Register. Users should therefore be aware of this limitation when using counts of businesses included in this table.

(b) Industry of employment was coded to the ABS 2006 Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC). This has replaced the 1993 ANZSIC edition.

(c) The ratio of the percentage for the region to the percentage for Queensland.

(d) Includes inadequately described and not stated responses.

Note: Based on Australian Bureau of Statistics, Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS), July 2011.

Data are updated annually with an approximate delay of 9 months after the reporting period. It is anticipated the next update will be in February 2013.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Counts of Australian Businesses, including Entries and Exits*, June 2007 to June 2011, cat. no. 8165.0

PROTECTED AREAS - PARK AND FOREST ESTATE

As of 2010, the total park and forest estate in terms of National Park, State Forest, Timber Reserve and Forest Reserve in Lsc Region was 758.7 km², compared with 120,038.8 km² in Queensland. State Forests were the major component for the Lsc Region, accounting for 61.4 per cent of the total protected area within the region.

Within the region, Rockhampton Region - North Statistical Area Level 2 (SA2) had the largest total protected area in terms of National Park, State Forest, Timber Reserve and Forest Reserve (454.9 km²), followed by Shoalwater Bay SA2 (229.2 km²).

Table 22 Protected areas - park and forest estate (a)(b)(c) by statistical area level 2, Lsc Region, 2010 (d)

Statistical area level 2	National Park (e)	State Forest	Timber Reserve	Forest Reserve	Total
Emu Park	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.6
Glenlee - Rockyview	5.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.8
Rockhampton Region - East	48.9	17.7	0.0	0.0	66.5
Rockhampton Region - North	91.3	363.6	0.0	0.0	454.9
Shoalwater Bay	144.9	84.2	0.0	0.0	229.2
Yeppoon	1.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.7
Lsc Region	293.2	465.5	0.0	0.0	758.7
Queensland	85,937.1	30,842.5	1,812.0	1,447.1	120,038.8
Lsc Region as % of Queensland	0.3	1.5	0.0	0.0	0.6

Note: 1 km² = 100 hectares.

(a) Based on a GIS calculated spherical area and not the official gazetted area. GIS calculations reference the latitude/longitude projection and are based on the Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994 (GDA 94).

(b) Based on protected areas located above mean sea level. A relatively small area of national park is below mean sea level.

(c) Protected areas are based on the Estate Type.

(d) Source data current to 31 March 2010.

(e) Includes Conservation Parks and Resource Reserves.

Note: Based on Australian Bureau of Statistics, Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS), July 2011.

Data are updated every two years. It is anticipated the next update will be in June 2013.

Source: Queensland Department of Environment and Resource Management (Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service)