

**SE 5.3**

**SOCIAL CASE STUDY  
AREAS**

**FINAL REPORT**

**QUEENSLAND CRA/RFA STEERING COMMITTEE**

**SE 5.3**  
**SOCIAL CASE STUDY**  
**AREAS**

**DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL  
RESOURCES: CRA UNIT**

**DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES  
AND ENERGY: SOCIAL ASSESSMENT  
UNIT**

**QUEENSLAND CRA/RFA STEERING COMMITTEE**

**For more information contact:****Regional Forest Assessments, Department of Natural Resources**

Block C, 80 Meiers Road  
INDOOROPILLY QLD 4068

phone: 07 3896 9836  
fax: 07 3896 9858

**Forests Taskforce, Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet**

3-5 National Circuit  
BARTON ACT 2600

phone: 02 6271 5181  
fax: 02 6271 5511

© Queensland Government 1998© Commonwealth of Australia 1998  
Forests Taskforce Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet

This work is copyright. Apart from fair dealing for the purpose of private study, research, criticism or review as permitted under the Copyright Act 1968, no part of this document may be reproduced by any means without the joint permission from the Joint Commonwealth and Queensland RFA Steering Committee.

This project has been jointly funded by the Queensland and Commonwealth Governments. The work undertaken within this project has been managed by the joint Queensland / Commonwealth CRA RFA Steering Committee and overseen by the Social and Economic Technical Committee.

**Disclaimer**

The views and opinions expressed in this report are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Queensland and Commonwealth governments. The Queensland and Commonwealth governments do not accept responsibility for any advice or information in relation to this material.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Thanks to members of the various SEQ communities, and local organisations, who gave their time and effort to be involved in the community consultation for the social assessment of the SEQ RFA. Your involvement is important to the social assessment process and is appreciated by the joint State, Commonwealth Social Assessment Team.

The text and analysis in chapter three was written by Dr David King and Tim Meassham.

Thank you to Tyron Venn for the production of the graphs used in chapter three.

Editing was carried out by the SEQ RFA Social Assessment Team.

# CONTENTS

<b>SE 5.3 SOCIAL CASE STUDY AREAS.....</b>	<b>I</b>
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	v
CONTENTS.....	vi
LIST OF TABLES .....	ix
LIST OF FIGURES .....	ix
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY .....	x
<b>1. CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION.....</b>	<b>13</b>
1.1. INTRODUCTION.....	13
1.2 METHODS .....	14
<b>2. CHAPTER TWO: HISTORY OF SELECTED CASE STUDY TOWNS .....</b>	<b>19</b>
2.1. INTRODUCTION.....	19
2.2. HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY OF CASE STUDY TOWNS.....	19
2.2.1. Builyan/ManyPeaks.....	19
2.2.2. Maryborough.....	20
2.2.3. Wondai .....	21
2.2.4. Brooweena.....	22
2.2.5. Gympie .....	22
2.2.6. Linville .....	23
2.2.7. Woodford .....	23
<b>3. CHAPTER THREE: DEMOGRAPHIC DESCRIPTION, COMMUNITY VISION AND SERVICE CAPACITY OF CASE STUDY TOWNS .....</b>	<b>25</b>
3.1. SUMMARY OF CASE STUDY TOWNS.....	25
3.1.1. General Characteristics.....	25
3.1.2. Town Character and Community Visions.....	25
3.1.3. Service Capacity.....	26
3.2. INTRODUCTION AND METHOD .....	26
3.3. CASE STUDY TOWNS – DEMOGRAPHICS.....	28
3.3.1. Introduction .....	28
3.3.2. Age Structure.....	28
3.3.3. Place of Birth and Ethnicity .....	29
3.3.4. Education.....	31
3.3.5. Income.....	32
3.3.6. Housing .....	37
3.4. COMPARING COMMUNITY VISIONS.....	40
3.4.1. Twelve Towns in South East Queensland .....	40
3.4.3. Dynamic Cities and Conserving Country Charm.....	41
3.4.5. Forests and Visions .....	42

<b>3.5. COMMUNITY VISIONS BY TOWN.....</b>	<b>43</b>
3.5.1. Maryborough.....	43
3.5.2. Cooroy.....	44
3.5.3. Wondai.....	44
3.5.4. Beaudesert.....	45
3.5.5. Gympie.....	45
3.5.6. Conondale .....	46
3.5.7. Woodford .....	46
3.5.8. Dingo.....	46
3.5.9. Brooweena .....	46
3.5.10. Eudlo .....	47
3.5.11. Builyan/Many Peaks .....	47
3.5.12. Linville.....	47
<b>3.6. SERVICE CAPACITY SUMMARY.....</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>3.7. SERVICE CAPACITY BY CASE STUDY TOWN.....</b>	<b>49</b>
3.7.1. Maryborough.....	49
3.7.2. Wondai.....	50
3.7.3. Eudlo .....	50
3.7.4. Gympie.....	51
3.7.5. Beaudesert.....	51
3.7.6. Conondale .....	52
3.7.7. Woodford .....	52
3.7.8. Builyan/Many Peaks .....	53
3.7.9. Dingo.....	53
3.7.10. Linville.....	54
3.7.11. Cooroy.....	54
3.7.12. Brooweena (limited data available).....	55
<b>4. CHAPTER FOUR: COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS AND FOCUS GROUPS.....</b>	<b>58</b>
<b>4.1. INTRODUCTION AND METHOD.....</b>	<b>58</b>
<b>4.2. CASE STUDY TOWN COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS .....</b>	<b>60</b>
4.2.1. Maryborough Community Workshop.....	60
4.2.2. Builyan/Many Peaks Community Workshop .....	63
4.2.3. Gympie Community Workshop.....	65
4.2.3a Cooloola Shire Council issues.....	67
4.2.3b Gympie Chamber of Commerce meeting .....	68
4.2.4. Cooroy Community Workshop .....	69
4.2.5. Linville Community Workshop.....	71
4.2.6. Woodford Community Workshop.....	72
4.2.7. Wondai.....	74
<b>5. CHAPTER FIVE: CONCLUSION AND FUTURE USE OF DATA .....</b>	<b>78</b>
<b>5.1 CONCLUSION .....</b>	<b>78</b>
<b>APPENDICES.....</b>	<b>79</b>
Appendix 1. Project Specification.....	79
Appendix 2. Maryborough Workshop Write-up .....	83
Appendix 3. Builyan Many Peaks Workshop Write-up .....	91
Appendix 4 Gympie Workshop Write-up .....	97
Appendix 5 Minutes from Focus Group with Cooloola Shire Council .....	104
Appendix 7 Cooroy Workshop Write-up .....	111
Appendix 8 Linville Workshop Write-up.....	117
Appendix 9 Woodford Workshop Write-up.....	127
Appendix 10. Wondai RFA Committee Meeting 22/1/1998 Minutes.....	134

Appendix 11 Wondai RFA Committee Meeting 18/12/1998 Minutes .....	137
Appendix 12 Closure of the Proston Sleeper Mill.....	143
<b>REFERENCES.....</b>	<b>146</b>
<b>ABBREVIATIONS.....</b>	<b>148</b>

## LIST OF TABLES

Table 1.1. Assessment Methods for Case Study Towns .....	18
Table 3.1. The South East Queensland Region.....	27
Table 3.2 Age Groups in Case Study Towns .....	29
Table 3.3. Aboriginality and Overseas Born in Case Study Towns; 1996.....	29
Table 3.4. Place of Birth in Case Study Towns; 1996.....	30
Table 3.5. Education in Case Study Towns; 1996.....	31
Table 3.5a. Education in Case Study Towns; 1996 .....	32
Table 3.6. Income Groups in Case Study Towns; 1996.....	32
Table 3.6.a. Income Groups in Case Study Towns; 1996.....	33
Figure 3.5. Percentage of Population with Weekly Incomes Between \$300 and \$999 .....	35
Figure 3.6. Percentage of Population with Weekly Incomes Greater than \$1000.....	36
Table 3.7. Dwelling Ownership in Case Study Towns; 1996 .....	37
Table 3.8. Caravans and Improvised Dwellings etc. in Case Study Towns; 1996 .....	37
Table 3.9(a). Maryborough, Cooroy, Wondai, Beaudesert, Gympie, Conondale.....	38
Table 3.9(b). Woodford, Dingo, Brooweena, Eudlo, Builyan/Many Peaks, Linville .....	39
Table 3.10 Case Study Town Contextual Data .....	49
Table 3.11 Summary of Service Capacity by Case Study Town.....	56
Table 4.1: Summary of Findings of Community Workshops.....	77

## LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 3.1. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Population as a percent of town total.....	30
Figure 3.2. Place of Birth in SEQ region .....	31
Figure 3.3. Percentage of Population with Weekly Incomes Between \$0 and \$119 (SOURCE ABS: 1996).....	33
Figure 3.4. Percentage of Population with Weekly Incomes Between \$120 and \$299 .....	34
Figure 3.5. Percentage of Population with Weekly Incomes Between \$300 and \$999 .....	35
Figure 3.6. Percentage of Population with Weekly Incomes Greater than \$1000.....	36
Figure 3.7. Income category breakdown for the SEQ Region .....	36

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report has been prepared for the joint Commonwealth/State Steering Committee which oversees the Comprehensive Regional Assessment (CRA) of forests in the South East Queensland Regional Forest Agreement (RFA) region.

The Comprehensive Regional Assessment provides the scientific basis on which the State and Commonwealth Governments will sign a Regional Forest Agreement (RFA) for the forests of the South East Queensland CRA region. This agreement will determine the future of the region's forests, providing a balance between conservation and ecologically sustainable use of forest resources.

The aims of the project are, for a range of selected case study towns, to:

- construct a comprehensive baseline socio-demographic profile
- provide a profile of the service delivery capacity
- examine the potential responses of local communities to changes in forest use and management.

A selection of social case study town reviews have been conducted throughout the SEQ RFA region to collect baseline data to assist in predicting the potential impacts and response of communities to a change in forest use and management. A comprehensive selection process was used to identify case study areas which are representative of a range of communities in the region. The selection was a three-stage process and resulted in the preliminary selection of 15 towns. A review of DPI-Forestry resource data and consultation with local government refined these 15 case study towns to 12. A further eight towns were then selected for primary qualitative data collection via community workshops and focus groups.

Chapter two of this report provides a brief outline of the geography and history of some of the case study towns where historical information was readily available. These include Builyan and Many Peaks, Maryborough, Brooweena, Gympie, Cooroy, Wondai, Linville and Woodford.

The consistent themes in the histories of the case study towns are:

- their heritage connection to the timber industry and the use of local State forests
- major changes since settlement in the towns' services and economic base such as dairy, cattle, mining, timber, agriculture with most smaller towns experiencing an early expansion and then a reduction in population size and services available
- larger towns such as Gympie and Maryborough developed to be larger regional service providers with a diversified economy.

Chapter three of this report outlines the demographic characteristics of the 12 case study towns of Gympie, Maryborough, Linville, Brooweena, Beaudesert, Wondai, Woodford, Cooroy, Builyan Many Peaks, Conondale, Eudlo and Dingo. The following points provide a summary of the findings.

### General Characteristics

- The overall impression is of stable rural populations.
- There is a sharp separation between youthful populations and ageing populations. Towns are either one or the other.

- The towns show relatively little ethnic diversity in their populations.
- Post secondary school attendance is very low.
- Incomes are generally low, with high proportions in low-income categories.
- Figures for rental housing are much lower than for the region as a whole and full home ownership much higher.
- Proportions of people dwelling in caravans and improvised dwellings are generally quite high, especially in the smallest of the towns.

#### Town Character and Community Visions

- Each of the 12 towns made some mention of the forecast population increase for the region.
- For some towns this was seen as advantageous, for others a cause for concern.
- The towns of Maryborough, Gympie, Beaudesert and Wondai saw increased populations as an opportunity to develop new and existing industries and businesses.
- The towns of Cooroy, Eudlo and Linville showed clear evidence that the character of their towns was at risk from population increase and related development.
- Eudlo, Cooroy and Wondai have incorporated restrictions on building materials, building height, colours and design features to maintain the country streetscape of the towns.
- The towns of Woodford, Conondale and Gympie specifically indicated that a historical connection to forests and the forestry industry is integral to the community vision.
- Today the towns of Woodford, Conondale and Gympie are characterised by a commitment to sustainable farm forestry, revegetation of logged areas and softwood plantations.
- The protection of forests for scenic and environmental reasons was further detected in the documents of Wondai, Beaudesert, and Linville.
- The towns of Wondai, Beaudesert and Gympie identified an interest in encouraging forest based tourism and recreation.

#### Service Capacity

- Doctors per 1000 people ranged from 0.38 in the shire of Duaringa to 1.76 in Noosa in 1995. The average doctor ratio for the South East Queensland region was 1.09 doctors per 1,000 people in 1995.
- Many towns indicated a need to continually monitor needs for medical services as part of their overall commitment to updating infrastructure.
- Councils were reluctant to acknowledge spare capacity in all services.
- The Local Government Areas (LGAs) for each town have widely ranging public housing capacity, from a total stock of 0 in Woocoo Shire to 1045 in Maroochy.
- Maryborough, Wondai and Cooroy have public housing within the town.
- All towns except Conondale have primary education facilities.
- Six towns have facilities for secondary education. These were Cooroy, Maryborough, Gympie, Woodford, Wondai, and Beaudesert.
- Of the 12 towns, Gympie, Maryborough and Cooroy have tertiary education facilities.

Chapter four provides summaries of the community workshops and focus groups held in seven of the case study towns; Maryborough, Gympie, Linville, Cooroy, Builyan/Many Peaks, Woodford and Wondai. Representatives attended the social assessment workshops from a wide range of community ‘interests’ including sawmill workers, logging contractors, local government representatives, graziers, apiarists, conservationists, landcare, farm foresters, tourist operators, retail and trade and the human services sector.

The workshops scoped general issues of concern for the local communities about the RFA as well as inquiring into the significant events in the recent history of the area and the vision participants

had for their towns' future. The workshops also discussed the community's perceptions of potential social impacts from a range of hypothetical resource use scenarios.

General issues raised included a high concern about job losses in the timber industry, the viability of the timber industry in the future, the need for effective management of State forests, socio-economic hardship in rural areas and youth having little incentive to stay in their home towns. In general there was recognition by all participants, of the importance of the timber industry to the overall vitality of their local community.

Visions for the futures of these communities held by workshop participants included a sustainable timber industry utilising farm forestry and plantations, balanced with the protection of the environment and biodiversity. Other visions for towns' futures included a small potential for tourism benefits and improvement in service provision to their areas. However, most participants felt that tourism was not going to replace the timber industry in their area as a new local industry base.

Workshop participants were generally concerned about the possible impacts of a reduction in the availability of State forest resources in terms of the job losses in the forest user sectors and the flow-on economic impacts to the town's economy. Most participants recognised however, that there is a need to manage forests in an ecologically sustainable manner to ensure the long term viability of the timber industry and timber dependent communities.

The project report concludes that the case studies provide considerable insight into the sensitivity of forest dependent communities to changes in forest use. The project identifies several key issues to be considered in creating options for the Regional Forest Agreement. These issues include:

- recognising the important of the economic and cultural heritage ties of communities with forests and forest based industries
- the ability of some forest users to adapt to change is limited by their relatively low level of education and a highly specific skills base
- other community services are adversely effected when job losses cause people to move towns or seek welfare support services
- forest dependent communities of the SEQ region want to see economically and ecologically sustainable and well managed forests and forest industries.

# 1. CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

## 1.1. INTRODUCTION

The South East Queensland Regional Forest Agreement (SEQ RFA) is currently being negotiated between the Commonwealth and State Governments and stakeholders. The SEQ RFA will draw on a Comprehensive Regional Assessment (CRA) of the many values of the forests of the region, including the social values of the forests.

This report forms part of a social assessment of the SEQ RFA region with particular emphasis on the communities and groups, which are dependent on the use of the state forests of the region for production purposes. The emphasis on these communities and groups reflects the need within the development of the RFA and after the signing of the RFA to consider the social impacts of changes in the use and management of state forests on the communities and groups which rely on current forest use patterns.

The *Social Case Study Areas* report forms part of a series of four social assessment reports for the South East Queensland Regional Forest Agreement, Comprehensive Regional Assessment phase. The other three reports include *SE 5.1 Post Impact Studies Analysis*, a literature review of forest use decisions and social impact assessment. *SE 5.2 Regional Social Profile* provides a baseline socio-demographic profile of the SEQ RFA region including stakeholder identification and profiling. *SE 5.4 Business Dependency Survey* – outlines the linkages between state forests, industry use and local communities. The report identifies the social catchments based on forest use, forest user businesses and employees household and business expenditure.

The purpose of this project as outlined in the CRA/RFA Project Specification (see attachment 1) is to provide baseline social data for a range of communities likely to be impacted by changes in forest use. This baseline data will assist a generalised assessment of the social impacts for similar communities.

The objectives of the project are to:

- identify and consult stakeholders in the RFA process
- construct comprehensive baseline profiles
- develop broad-based community responses to changes in forest use;
- assess and predict the impacts of alternative forest resource scenarios
- evaluate the impact of past changes in resource use.

This report will, for a range of communities, outline demographic and population trends and service sector profiles and examine the potential response of local communities to changes in forest use and management. The report is presented in a number of chapters.

Chapter one 'Introduction and Methods' describes the context the purpose of this report. The chapter also describes the methods and sources used to prepare this report. It also outlines the case study towns and the process used to select communities for inclusion in this report. A map of the region showing case study towns is also included.

Chapter two outlines a brief history on a selection of case study communities and aims to provide some context for further discussion on case study towns.

Chapter three provides a socio-demographic profile of case study towns including a discussion on service capacity and local community visions.

Chapter four presents the outcome from a series of community workshops, which discussed the past, present and futures of local communities and potential impacts from a range of broad forest use scenarios, in addition to focus groups held in Gympie and Wondai;

Chapter five is the conclusion to the report.

There are a number of appendices attached, most of which are summarised in the body of the report.

## **1.2 METHODS**

A selection of social case study towns has been conducted throughout the SEQ RFA region to collect baseline data to assist in predicting the potential impacts and response of communities to a change in forest use and management. The selection of these case study areas for the social assessment has involved a process that considers a range of community types throughout the region

The project included both desk top data analysis and primary qualitative data collection through consultation with communities and stakeholder groups. The project used a range of data collection methods including, community workshops and focus groups, for the collection of primary qualitative data to assist in understanding how communities predict and perceive the impacts, both positive and negative, of changes in forest use and management.

Secondary data sources such as ABS census data have been used to construct a comprehensive socio-demographic baseline profile of selected case study communities. Local government planning documents and community service directories were used to assist in identifying local community visions and the community and services infrastructure. A more detailed description of the methodology used in the socio-demographic profile is contained in chapter three.

The report will first outline the process for the selection of case study towns and then provide a brief overview of the history selected case study towns. This is followed by a presentation of a socio-demographic description of each town including a discussion of the community services and social infrastructure and their perceived capacity.

An assessment was undertaken to determine which towns should be the focus of primary qualitative data collection. Primary qualitative data collection is resource and time intensive due to constraints in the project budget and time line. Seven towns were chosen. These towns are:

- Gympie
- Maryborough
- Builyan Many Peaks
- Woodford
- Cooroy
- Linville
- Wondai

In these communities, social assessment workshops or focus groups were conducted with a cross section of local community interests.

The determining factors or the criteria for the refinement process in the selection of towns for workshops and focus groups are:

- the towns, or local mills, level of dependence on crown native hardwood resources
- the level of employment in forest user industries such as saw mills, logging contractors, beekeepers and graziers with permits or leases to access state native hardwood forests
- the level of forest user based household and business expenditures.

The information required for the above criteria became available as some preliminary data analysis from project *SE 5.4 Business Dependency Survey* became available.

A comprehensive selection process was used to identify case study areas which are representative of a range of communities in the region. The selection was a three stage process and resulted in the preliminary selection of 15 towns.

### **Stage One – Classification of Communities**

The initial stage of the process involved the selection of case study areas based on a broad assessment of community characteristics.

(a) Firstly, communities within the South East Queensland region with greater than 200 population were identified. This identification made use of information collected in the ABS Census 1991.

Communities with less than 200 population were not captured in this classification process. These communities generally have strong linkages to a larger service centre and their role can be considered in association with social case studies of these larger communities. However, those small communities, of less than 200 population, which have a hardwood mill were included in a separate category and the impacts on these specific communities of a change in forest use were also assessed.

(b) Secondly, communities of the region were categorised by function based on assessment and analysis of the following indicators:

- major employment sectors (economic function) within individual communities (ABS 1991)
- population size (ABS 1991)

- location of community facilities such as schools (Education Queensland) and general locational characteristics
- proportion of residents with age greater than 55 years (>30 per cent identified as significant proportion – ABS 1991)
- and the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population (ABS 1991).

The following classifications of communities, based on previous studies of the range of community types present throughout Australia, were used in the selection process. This was in addition to the localities <200 population with a mill processing hardwood timber.

Metropolitan areas – areas within the Brisbane metropolitan area. These areas were broken down into statistical local areas (suburbs) for case studies and the assessment of social impacts.

Major regional centres – characteristics of these centres include: a diverse economic base; populations greater than 10 000; a regional service role; and the provision of higher order goods and services.

Rural service centres – these include service centres and their satellites with characteristics including: dominant service role and employment in service and community sectors; lower level services and facilities; and population less than 10,000. Within this classification it is recognised that the centres such as Kingaroy, Beaudesert and Gatton with greater than 2500 – 3000 population have a greater economic diversity and regional role. This difference has been included in the selection of case study areas.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities – centres with dominant numbers of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people.

Primary Production and Processing Centre – characteristics include: dominance of primary production and processing activities; narrow employment base; and associated services and facilities.

Resort, Tourism or Retirement Community – characteristics include: prominent tourism and recreational sector; high proportions of retirees; location in coastal areas or their immediate hinterlands for lifestyle reasons and population less than 10 000.

(c) Thirdly, the possible impact on individual communities of a change in forest use was investigated. The following indicators were collapsed to assess the possible level of impact and are for the purpose of case study selection only:

- ability of communities (on LGA basis) to cope with change based on the SEIFA (ABS 1991) index of social disadvantage. The benchmark which was used for assessment of disadvantage was those local government areas identified as being below the median level for the SEQ region
- significance of employment in forestry or forestry associated activities taken through assessment of: proportion of employment in the agriculture and forestry (as defined by ABS) industry for individual communities relative to the State average
- secondly specific employment in logging, forestry and services to forestry by LGA relative to the State average. This data was gathered from the ABS INDP industry for employed persons 1991
- proximity to hardwood timber mills.

## **Stage 2 – Selection of Preliminary Case Study Areas**

Using this assessment, preliminary case study areas were selected that represented the range of community type and level of linkage to the forest industry. Those communities which were identified as having limited or no linkages to the forest industry (related to use of state native forests and the location of mills) are not considered as locations for case studies due to the need to discuss

the effects of a change in forestry use with individual communities. Indirect linkages to other communities in the region will be determined in other studies such as the business dependency study.

Key informants were invited to add value to review the selection of preliminary case study areas. At this stage additional information from these groups about the role of these communities in relation to the forest industry, current issues and general background about the locations were sought. Key informants included DPI–Forestry, DoE, CRA team and Social Impact Assessment Unit and regional social planners – DFYCC.

The following case study areas have been selected:

- Gympie
- Maryborough
- Beaudesert
- Cooroy
- Wondai
- Eidsvold Conondale
- Builyan
- Brooweena
- Dingo
- Laidley
- Eudlo
- Woodford
- Bundamba (Ipswich)
- Linville

### **Stage 3 – Presentation of the Preliminary Case Study Areas to the Social and Economic Technical Committee**

Presentation of the preliminary social case study areas, and an overview of the background selection process, to the stakeholder represented Social and Economic Technical Committee (SETC) for discussion.

At SETC there was discussion about the inclusion of tourism based towns. It was suggested that the social case study areas (as identified above) should include areas likely to experience the positive *economic* impacts of change in the use of native forests such as tourism/resort towns.

It was decided that an assessment of recreation and eco-tourism issues would be undertaken through a separate dedicated economic project SE4.1 Forest Recreation and Ecotourism Assessment and Economic Assessment. That project aims to identify tourism/recreation opportunities that may follow from a change in forest use.

This resulted in 15 case study towns being identified for further analysis. A review of DPI–Forestry resource data and consultation with Local government authorities refined these 15 case study towns to 12. The three towns of Laidley, Eidsvold and Ipswich were excluded from further analysis due to a low level of SEQ State forest resource use and a lack of interest expressed by the local governments in the SEQ RFA and its possible outcomes for them.

However, Eidsvold warrants further discussion. Eidsvold is a small rural community with a history and heritage involving the timber industry. The community strongly identifies as a ‘timber

community’, and has an active Forest Protection Society (FPS) branch. Eidsvold is approximately 30 km west of the SEQ RFA region. Eidsvold has two mills, a sawlog and sleeper mill. Of the State forest allocation zone that the sawlog mill draws resource from only nine per cent of the allocation zone is within the SEQ RFA region. Therefore the mill draws a small amount, of its total log through put, from State forests in the SEQ region. Based on the level of dependence on the crown resource in the SEQ region, the SEQ RFA will have comparatively minimal affect on Eidsvold. However, Eidsvold is a community that is sensitive to changes in the use and management of State forests primarily to the west of the SEQ region.

**Table 1.1. Assessment Methods for Case Study Towns**

<b>Case study town</b>	<b>Focus groups</b>	<b>Social assessment workshop</b>	<b>Socio-demographic profile</b>	<b>Historical overview</b>	<b>Community vision review</b>	<b>Service capacity assessment</b>
Gympie	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Maryborough		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cooroy		✓	✓		✓	✓
Wondai	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Woodford		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Linville		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Conondale			✓		✓	✓
Builyan/Many Peaks		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Brooweena			✓	✓	✓	✓
Dingo			✓		✓	✓
Eudlo			✓		✓	✓
Beaudesert			✓		✓	✓

# 2. CHAPTER TWO: HISTORY OF SELECTED CASE STUDY TOWNS

## 2.1. INTRODUCTION

The following section provides a brief outline of the geography and history of some of the case study towns where historical information was readily available. These include Builyan and Many Peaks, Maryborough, Brooweena Gympie, Wondai, Linville and Woodford.

The consistent themes in the history of the case study towns are:

- their heritage connection to the timber industry and the use of local State forests
- major changes since settlement in the towns services and economic base such as dairy, cattle, mining, timber, agriculture with most smaller towns experiencing an early expansion and then a reduction in population size and services available. Larger towns such as Gympie and Maryborough developed to be larger regional service providers with a diversified economy.

## 2.2. HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY OF CASE STUDY TOWNS

### 2.2.1. Builyan/ManyPeaks

#### **Geography**

Builyan and Many Peaks are located at the end of the Boyne River Valley, about one and a half hours drive from Gladstone. Builyan and Many Peaks are separate towns, but they are described as one because of their proximity to each other. Builyan/ Many Peaks serves as the local centre for people living in the district and has a primary school, hotel and general store with post office facilities.

#### **European History**

There are several major historical events that have taken place in the Builyan/ Many Peaks area which have shaped the communities of the Boyne River Valley.

The first Europeans to enter the Boyne valley were lead by W.H. Walsh in 1853, who took up the whole valley for grazing purposes. The valley is hemmed by rugged mountain ranges, which made it particularly difficult to access in the early days of European settlement.

In 1906 the Mount Morgan Company took over the Many Peaks Copper mine, which changed the Boyne Valley forever. A huge increase in population, and the railway accompanied the expansion of the copper mine. The railway opened the Boyne Valley, which led to an increase in the timber trade and made dairying a viable industry. In 1910 Many Peaks had 1280 people, 14 fewer than Gladstone, and the timber from the surrounding hills was cut and milled for building and for railway sleepers (McDonald, 1988:315). The mine ceased operations in 1918 and boom felt by the whole Valley slowed.

Timber cutting began in the Builyan Many Peaks area in the early 1900s. Hoop pine was cut commercially as early as 1897 in what is now the Bulburim State Forest and transported by wooden railway to mills in the valley (McDonald, 1988:282). A railway going up the Boyne Valley was completed around 1909 and the first logs were railed out in the same year. Changing demand for timber in the valley necessitated mills to move frequently. One mill was moved from Many Peaks to Barrimore in 1918, where it operated until 1930. In 1940 it was moved back to Builyan and became Builyan Sawmills Pty Ltd. Another mill was moved to the area from near Miriam Vale and became Boyne Valley Sawmilling Co. This mill operated in Builyan for over 50 years until it closed, leaving Builyan Sawmills Pty Ltd as the only mill in Builyan (McDonald, 1988:283).

After the First World War returned soldier settlement occurred in the Boyne Valley at Ubobo. This created a large demand for timber for house construction. Sawmills moved to the area from Miriam Vale and Many Peaks. The soldier settlements proved to be unsustainable mainly due to lack of capital and land and these properties were eventually bought, amalgamated and turned into dairy farms. The dairy farms produced cream for the Port Curtis Dairy factory in Gladstone throughout the Second World War. By 1985 there were only four dairy farmers in the Boyne Valley (McDonald, 1988:283).

Grazing and timber are the two industries presently in the area. Builyan Sawmills Pty Ltd employs 19 people in the mill and 8–10 outside, all of whom live in the area.

### **2.2.2. Maryborough**

#### **Geography**

Maryborough is situated on the Mary River, 40 km from its mouth, and about 260 km north of Brisbane. The population of Maryborough is 25 530 and it is one of the regional centres for the Wide Bay district. Tuan State Forest is located south of the city and, since cessation of logging on Fraser Island it has become, Maryborough's most significant forestry area. The forest, which is predominantly plantation is 27 252 hectares and the principle species planted was slash pine. There are also some native hardwood State forests surrounding Maryborough. Logs from the forests are milled in the Maryborough district, while quantities of pulpwood are transported to Gympie for manufacturing into particleboard.

#### **European History**

The first European settlement around Maryborough occurred in 1847. George Furber built a store and a wharf on the Mary River in order to export wool from the hinterland that had opened up for grazing during the decade (Powell 1998:230). In 1850 the town of Maryborough was surveyed and the first school was built in 1862 (Powell 1998:230). The timber industry grew in Maryborough throughout the 1860s and William Pettigrew started a sawmill in 1863 and punted the first Kauri pine logs from Fraser Island to the mill the same year (Kowald 1996:13). During the 1860s sugar farming commenced in the Mary Valley which led to a sugar mill being built. Walkers Engineering Ltd. was established in 1868 to supply mining equipment to the Gympie gold fields and subsequently diversified into heavy manufacturing (Maryborough City Council Strategic Plan

1985–1990). In the 1870s large quantities of timber, especially cedar was being felled on the Blackall and Conondale Ranges and some of this timber was floated down the Mary River and milled in Maryborough (Kowald 1996:13). The town of Maryborough grew rapidly for its first 30 years and by 1879, Maryborough was a busy port and Queensland's second most important centre. Despite William Pettigrew going bankrupt in 1893 other mills opened to exploit the timber resources on Fraser Island and surrounding areas (Powell 1998:132). Hyne & Son established their first mill in 1879 and another company Wilson Hart and Co. was established in 1866. Together they were granted a timber block on Fraser Island in 1904, which had an estimated three million super feet of millable timber (Powell 1998:132). In 1919 H. McKenzie from Sydney built a sawmill on Fraser Island to supply fitches for the Sydney market, but by 1925 the mill was no longer available concern and McKenzie sold the equipment, tramlines and wharves (Kowald 1996:29). Timber operations on Fraser Island continued despite this setback with an estimated annual harvest of seven million super feet (Maryborough Historical Society 1976:187). Up until 1992, when logging activities ceased, all timber harvested on Fraser Island went to sawmills located in Maryborough (Maryborough Historical Society 1976:187). The railway reached Maryborough in 1881, which linked it to Gympie and in 1891, the railway connecting these towns to the southern markets was completed (Kowald 1996:24).

Maryborough continued to be a town with diversified industries well into the 20<sup>th</sup> century. During World War 2, Walkers Engineering Ltd built ships for the navy and continues to build locomotives and carriages for railways around Australia.

The sugar industry continues to be important, and the quick expansion of residential and tourist activities in Hervey Bay has also been important for the economy of Maryborough. The timber industry is still an important part of Maryborough's economy despite the cessation of logging on Fraser Island.

### **2.2.3. Wondai**

#### **Geography**

Wondai is situated approximately 250 km north west of Brisbane on the Bunya Highway. The town is surrounded by agricultural land and State forest to the south east. Wondai is the major town in Wondai Shire and provides some essential services to the local people. Kingaroy is the major service centre for the district.

#### **European History**

Pastoralists arrived in the Wondai district in the 1840s and several large homestead runs controlled the Wondai area for about 50 years, before Acts for closer settlement were introduced and the railway line established. The Mondure run, whose original area was 350 square miles, was one of the properties that was broken up in the early 1900s. Small agricultural farms were subdivided and the new settlers started to grow crops and dairying was encouraged. Wondai did not exist until 1902, when it became the first railway station in the area. Soon a thriving township which served as a ration supply depot for farmers and teamsters hauling timber from Wooroolin, Memerambi, Crawford, and Coolabunia sprang into existence. In 1915, a hospital that served a large area of the South Burnett was opened in Wondai (Touring in the South Burnett, August 1996: 23). Wondai and the timber industry have existed hand in hand since 1902. The township was established in State Forest 101 (SF 101) and is close to SF 12. The timber industry has been one of the more stable industries in the Wondai district, and the economy of the township has always been centred on forestry and the mill (Percy Iszlaub, 1998, pers. comm., 23 Jan.).

## **2.2.4. Brooweena**

### **Geography**

Brooweena is approximately 45 km west of Maryborough and south of a large area of State forest. The major centre for Brooweena is Maryborough, but the town does serve as a local centre for the people living in the area.

### **European History**

The first Europeans to settle in the area around Brooweena were pastoralists in the 1850s (Harvey 1988:176).

The timber industry has played a very important role in the history of Brooweena. The timber industry in the Wide Bay region started in the 1860s, with mills built in and around Maryborough. In the early days, timbergetters from Brooweena were cutting cedar, hoop and kauri pine, which had to be transported by bullock and horse teams to mills in Maryborough (Harvey 1988:176). On 29 July 1889, the Mungar to Brooweena section of the Gayndah Branch Railway was opened (Harvey 1988:180). This heralded a new era for the timber industry in the Brooweena district and on the opening day, the siding at Brooweena was already overflowing with logs. Many of the railway workers settled around Brooweena and started farms based on dairying and timber. The 1920s saw major changes in the Brooweena district. The Banks brothers introduced motorised transport, and Talbot Lahey, whose Gayndah sawmill burnt down in 1923, decided to build a sawmill in Brooweena. The mill opened in 1924. A planing mill was added in 1932, and steam drying kilns were installed in 1940 (Harvey 1988:184).

In 1967 the plant converted to electricity and the mill was expanded in 1971 to provide railway sleepers. The mill has been operating for over 70 years and still employs local people. Other smaller mills operated in the 1930s and 1950s mainly producing railway sleepers. Another hardwood mill still operates, but draws timber from private land.

## **2.2.5. Gympie**

### **Geography**

Gympie is situated on the upper reaches of the Mary River 160 km north of Brisbane and about 40 km inland. The Mary River valley is a rich agricultural, pastoral and timber area to the north west and south of Gympie. North east of Gympie is a large area of State forest and national park. In geographic terms, Gympie is the focus of the timber industry in South East Queensland, with large areas of plantation forests to the north east and south west (Kerr 1998:99). There are also large areas of native hardwood State forest and private forests surrounding Gympie.

### **European History**

Graziers originally settled the area around Gympie in the 1840s. The town of Gympie grew after James Nash discovered gold there in 1867. The gold rush in Gympie changed the nature of the Queensland economy, which had previously been reliant on pastoral production (Cooloola Regional Development Bureau 1997:1). The gold mining increased the demand for mining equipment, which led to increased industrialisation, particularly in Maryborough. The massive increase in population associated with the gold rush made food production a high priority. Agriculture started slowly but by the late 1890s the country surrounding the town was recognised as good farming land (Holthouse 1973:198). By 1903, Gympie was proclaimed a town and most of the surrounding district was agricultural land (Holthouse 1973:198). Gold production began to fall off during the first decade of

the 1900s, but agricultural production and the timber industry were able to take up the slack. The Wide Bay Cooperative Dairy Association formed in 1906 and dairy farmers supplied milk to the Gympie butter factory, which became the largest in the southern hemisphere (Holthouse 1973:189; Cooloola Regional Development Bureau 1997:1). The Mary River Valley proved to be productive farmland that still produces a variety of crops. Most of the gold mining finished around 1925, and although new mines started in 1969 and 1970 they have not produced large amounts of gold (Holthouse 1973:198).

Gympie was, and still is, the focus of the timber industry in southeast Queensland (Kerr 1998:99). In the past, there were hundreds of mills within a 100, perhaps even a 50 km radius of the town (Kerr 1998:99). These mills cut a variety of native timbers from the area. Initially timber cutters concentrated on harvesting native softwoods and as technology increased, and stocks of softwood species decreased, native hardwood species were cut and milled.

The 20<sup>th</sup> century has seen a shift in the timber industry with a greater emphasis on plantation resources. The plantation of exotic pine species between Gympie and Maryborough has maintained the timber industry's importance for Gympie.

## **2.2.6. Linville**

### **Geography**

Linville is situated on the western bank of the Brisbane River, up stream from Lake Wivenhoe. It is approximately 100 km north west of Brisbane, and approximately 30 km from Toogoolawah, which is the major centre for the area. Linville has a large timber yard, general store, post office and a historic hotel.

### **European History**

European settlement began in the Linville area in 1880s near the junction of Greenhide Creek and the Brisbane River about a kilometre from Linville's present site. Stockyards for the Colinton run were built and a small private settlement called Nine Mile grew near them. In 1889 the Nine Mile receiving station opened and in 1901 a school was built and the town plans lodged. The favoured name for the town was Linton but postal authorities objected on the basis that the name was being used in Victoria. A compromise was reached and the receiving office was changed to Linville in 1905. In 1910 the receiving office became a post office and the railway reached Linville (Esk Shire Council Website–Linville page: [http://www.peg.apc.org/~esk/town\\_linville.htm](http://www.peg.apc.org/~esk/town_linville.htm)). Linville became a major sawmilling centre because of its proximity to the Blackbutt Range and initially being the railhead (Kerr 1998:67). Several mills were operating close to Linville in the 1910's but in 1931, the *Esk Record* implied only that one mill was operating (Kerr 1998:67). In the 1940s Patersons Pty Ltd of Toowong, who also owned a mill in Moore were listed as having a mill in Linville (Kerr 1998:68). In 1983, the mill employed 13 workers, and took pine from Warick and hardwood from Kingaroy and Mundubbera (Kerr 1998:68). The town continues to be highly dependent on the sawmill to provide employment.

## **2.2.7. Woodford**

### **Geography**

The town of Woodford is 22 km west of Caboolture and approximately 80 km from Brisbane. The town is situated on the D'Aguilar Range near the Stanley River, which is a tributary of the Brisbane River. The Glass House Mountains are visible from the town and Somerset Dam is approximately

50 km to the west. Woodford is close to Beerburrum and Stony State Forests and a number of national parks.

### **European History**

The first Europeans that settled the area were graziers. The Archer brothers established the 'Durundur' station in 1841 on the banks of the Stanley River. They moved to Gracemere Station north of the Fitzroy River because Durundur was unsuitable for sheep. The property was sold to John McConnell in the mid-1850s. In 1864, Henry Wood arrived at Durundur and after ten years became McConnell's partner in his pastoral company (Woodford State School 1953: 12). While manager at Durundur, Wood was a member of the Legislative Council, a prominent force in the first export of frozen meat from Brisbane and a breeder of fine Arabian horses (Woodford State School 1953: 12).

The Durundur station was broken up in 1868 under an act for closer settlement, but prominent individuals in the area quickly took up the resumed land (Woodford State School 1953:12). Wood had earlier secured the services of George Mason and in 1874 McConnell, Wood and Mason went into partnership to cut and sell red cedar logs from the Conondale section of the old property (Woodford State School 1953: 12). The logs were either carted to Caboolture or floated down the Mary River while in flood. During 1879 the remainder of the Durundur lease was resumed and land facing the Brisbane road near Stanley River was divided into blocks which formed the nucleus of Woodford (Woodford State School 1953: 17). Woodford, named after Henry Wood, was proclaimed a township in 1885.

In the 1880s cattle prices dropped and dairying began (Woodford State School 1953: 18). During the 1880s Woodford gained a post office, school, police station, public hall, hotels and a regular coach service to Brisbane (Woodford State School 1953: 18). The town was built close to the Stanley River and water from the 1893 flood rose 11 feet inside the local store. This flood was partly responsible for the relocation of the town to its present site (Woodford State School 1953: 21). In 1904 the butter factory was built and by 1909 the railway reached Woodford.

In the 1950s the principle industries were dairying, timber and fruit growing (Woodford State School 1953:23). In 1950 the butter factory manufactured 1 105 000 lbs of butter and received 588 000 gallons of milk from surrounding farms (Woodford State School 1953:24). In the 1950s Woodford's three saw mills cut over 1 000 000 super feet of predominately native hardwood species and they occasionally cut beech and cedar (Woodford State School 1953:23).

In 1992, the butter factory closed, but diversification of rural industries has taken off in Woodford. The town has become popular with tourists and rural residential developments have increased in the area. The Woodford Correctional Centre was opened in 1997 and employs 250 people.

# 3. CHAPTER THREE: DEMOGRAPHIC DESCRIPTION, COMMUNITY VISION AND SERVICE CAPACITY OF CASE STUDY TOWNS

## 3.1. SUMMARY OF CASE STUDY TOWNS

This section outlines the demographic characteristics of the 12 case study towns of Gympie, Maryborough, Linville, Brooweena, Beaudesert, Wondai, Woodford, Cooroy, Kilkivan, Builyan Many Peaks, Conondale, Eudlo and Dingo.

The following points provide a summary of the findings.

### 3.1.1. General Characteristics

- The overall impression is of stable rural populations.
- There is a sharp separation between youthful populations and ageing populations. Towns are either one or the other.
- The towns show relatively little ethnic diversity in their populations.
- Post secondary school attendance is very low.
- Incomes are generally low, with high proportions in low income categories.
- Figures for rental housing are much lower than for the region as a whole and full home ownership much higher.
- Proportions of people dwelling in caravans and improvised dwellings are generally quite high, especially in the smallest of the towns.

### 3.1.2. Town Character and Community Visions

- Each of the 12 towns made some mention of the forecast population increase for the region.

- For some towns this was seen as advantageous, for others a cause for concern.
- The towns of Maryborough, Gympie, Beaudesert and Wondai saw increased populations as an opportunity to develop new and existing industries and businesses.
- The towns of Cooroy, Eudlo and Linville showed clear evidence that the character of their towns was at risk from population increase and related development.
- Eudlo, Cooroy and Wondai have incorporated restrictions on building materials, building height, colours and design features to maintain the country streetscape of the towns.
- The towns of Woodford, Conondale and Gympie specifically indicated that a historical connection to forests and the forestry industry is integral to the community vision.
- Today the towns of Woodford, Conondale and Gympie are characterised by a commitment to sustainable farm forestry and revegetation of logged areas.
- The protection of forests for scenic and environmental reasons was further detected in the documents of Wondai, Beaudesert, and Linville.
- The towns of Wondai, Beaudesert and Gympie identified an interest in encouraging forest-based tourism and recreation.

### **3.1.3. Service Capacity**

- Doctors per 1000 people ranged from 0.38 in the shire of Duaringa to 1.76 in Noosa. The average doctor ratio for the South East Queensland region was 1.09 doctors per 1000 people.
- Many towns indicated a need to continually monitor needs for medical services as part of their overall commitment to updating infrastructure.
- Councils were reluctant to acknowledge spare capacity in all services.
- The LGA's for each town have widely ranging public housing capacity, from a total stock of 0 in Woocoo Shire to 1045 in Maroochy.
- Maryborough, Wondai and Cooroy have public housing within the town.
- All towns except Conondale have primary education facilities.
- Six towns have facilities for secondary education. These were Cooroy, Maryborough, Gympie, Woodford, Wondai, and Beaudesert.
- Of the 12 towns, Gympie, Maryborough and Cooroy have tertiary education facilities.

## **3.2. INTRODUCTION AND METHOD**

This social profile is of the case study towns as listed above in the South East Queensland region as it is defined in table 3.1 below. The sub regions are used as the basis of some government and departmental statistics, in which case the sub regional totals are the sum of all of the Local Government Areas in the sub region. However, in the Australian Bureau of Statistics census the Local Government Areas are a major unit of analysis. There is no census boundary corresponding to the sub region, so census data have been reproduced and analysed by Local Government Area.

**Table 3.1. The South East Queensland Region**

<b>Sub region</b>	<b>Local Government Areas</b>
Boonah–Warwick	Beaudesert, Boonah, Warwick
Brisbane	Gold Coast, Ipswich, Brisbane, Redland, Redcliffe, Pine Rivers, Logan
North Coast	Caboolture, Caloundra, Maroochy
Kilcoy	Kilcoy
Noosa	Noosa
Kilkivan	Kilkivan
Gympie	Cooloola
Maryborough	Tiaro, Woocoo, Maryborough, Hervey Bay, Biggenden
Kolan–Isis	Kolan, Isis
Bundaberg	Bundaberg, Burnett
Builyan–Gladstone	Calliope, Miriam Vale, Gladstone, Rockhampton
Eidsvold–Monto	Eidsvold, Monto, Perry
Mundubbera–Gayndah	Mundubbera, Gayndah
Murgon–Wondai	Murgon, Wondai
Yarraman–Toowoomba	Crows Nest, Nanango, Kingaroy, Rosalie
Gatton	Gatton, Laidley, Esk
Duaringa	Duaringa

The data for this study have been derived from secondary sources, such as council documents, but principally from Australian Bureau of Statistics databases, especially the census. The final release of the 1996 census data is due in July 1998, therefore some of the economic and employment tables are not yet available. The study has used 1991 census data as indicators for these economic items. Use of the 1991 census presents some minor problems in that Local Government Areas have been changed, with new councils having come into being. Similarly there are minor problems in identifying all of the 12 case study towns. Six of the towns, Dingo, Builyan/Many Peaks, Brooweena, Linville, Conondale and Eudlo do not exist in the ABS data as separate and identifiable towns. They do not occupy all of a collection district, but have been located from their coordinates into the collection district that contains them. A collection district is the workload of one census collector and is supposed to contain an average 200 households (and thus about 600 persons). In reality they vary from this ideal size, although it is unlikely that any of the six smallest towns had populations in excess of 1000, as they would then have been formally defined as urban areas or localities, and could have been accessed from the ABS Urban Centre Locality boundaries. Thus the case study towns identified are indicative rather than precise for the six smallest places. The collection districts that are identified contain those places as well as other outlying houses or communities. In each case, maps suggest that these towns are likely to dominate the population of each of the collection districts so identified. Because the case study towns consist of between one and several collection districts it is not possible to map them thematically in the same way as the Local Government Areas. On a map of all 12 towns the collection districts in Maryborough and Gympie would be too small to show up.

This social profile is structured into three main sections: the demographic and socio-economic profile, community visions, and service capacity.

The community visions section also deals with the 12 case study towns, but provides a summary of the documents as they relate to these places, as well as individual summaries for each town. The final section on service capacity etc. uses a number of additional tables of data on the regions and Local Government Areas.

### **3.3. CASE STUDY TOWNS – DEMOGRAPHICS**

#### **3.3.1. Introduction**

The case study towns vary considerably in size and complexity, from Maryborough, a large town with significant diversity, to the very small rural settlements of Builyan/Many Peaks, Dingo, Brooweena, Linville and Conondale. These latter five places are not in fact classified by the ABS as urban places, although like most such small places of fewer than 1000 people they still function as rural service centres. Inevitably, the population characteristics are reflected in this contrast.

The first section on the towns deals with their basic demographic and socio-economic profiles, with the later section examining more detail in the community visions.

The indicators used in this profile are:

- levels of education and qualifications
- income
- housing, type, ownership, purchasing, and rental
- age
- Australian born and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population.

These indicators provide information in determining the extent to which people in an area may be sensitive to change and potential job losses. It has been shown in similar social assessments of forest users (such as in the World Heritage listing of the Wet Tropics area: see SE 5.1 for further detail), that individuals who have a highly specific skills base, such as workers in the timber industry, and no post-secondary qualifications are those most likely to feel the impact of job losses. These people are most likely to have difficulty finding alternative employment. Housing ownership also provides insight into the ability of people to relocate to other areas.

The income indicator suggests general levels of affluence in a community. The indicators relating to home ownership and purchasing may suggest patterns of willingness or reluctance to invest in the local area. This may be a reflection of the general economic climate of an area.

The age indicators show the level to which an area has a higher or lower than average proportion of its population in age groups, which usually do not constitute part of the workforce.

The information in this section has been compiled from data from the 1996 census undertaken by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. Census data is the best and most comprehensive available for the purposes of demographic profiling. However, it must be noted that statistical data of this kind is never completely accurate. For this reason, information in this section should be taken as more indicative than absolute.

#### **3.3.2. Age Structure**

Based on relative comparisons Brooweena and Conondale are experiencing a small baby boom, Builyan/Many Peaks, Brooweena and Eudlo a boom in primary age children, with secondary school children also significant in Builyan, Eudlo and Woodford. By contrast there is a high ageing population in Beaudesert, Cooroy, Dingo, Gympie, Maryborough and Wondai. This sharp separation underlies other socio-economic characteristics.

**Table 3.2 Age Groups in Case Study Towns**

Town name	Aged 0 to 4 years persons. Percent of total persons	Aged 5 to 9 years persons. Percent of total persons	Aged 10 to 14 years persons. Percent of total persons	Aged 60 & over persons. Percent of total persons	All other age cohorts
Beautesert	7.5	6.6	9.9	18.1	57.9
Builyan/Many Peaks	7.9	10.2	11.2	9.8	60.9
Brooweena	14.0	11.2	5.6	2.8	66.4
Conondale	16.9	7.3	2.4	9.7	63.7
Cooroy	5.7	7.8	8.4	23.1	55.0
Dingo	7.4	4.7	9.8	20.8	57.3
Eudlo	5.9	9.8	13.1	9.3	61.9
Gympie	7.3	7.6	8.3	21.3	55.5
Linville	8.0	8.3	8.3	12.2	63.2
Maryborough	7.3	7.0	7.6	21.7	56.4
Wondai	8.3	6.9	7.0	24.8	53.0
Woodford	7.6	10.0	9.5	10.9	62.0
Regional average	7.6	7.9	8.5	16.4	59.6

(Source ABS: 1996)

### 3.3.3. Place of Birth and Ethnicity

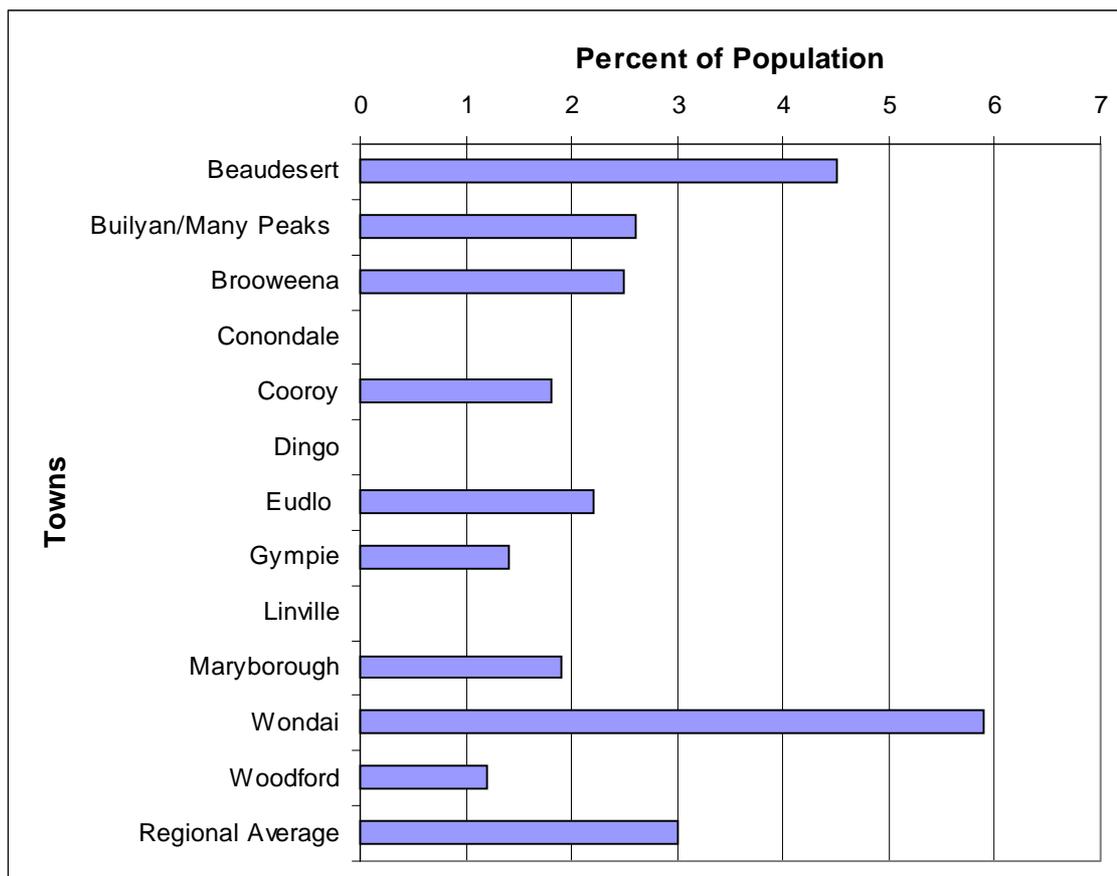
The proportion of Aboriginal people in the population is low in most places, being highest in Beautesert and Wondai as shown in table 3.3 and figure 3.1. It should be noted that the response rate for Aboriginal people is lower than for the rest of the population. There is often an undercount of Aborigines in the main census, and ABS census data is not truly indicative of numbers of Aboriginal people.

**Table 3.3. Aboriginality and Overseas Born in Case Study Towns; 1996**

Town name	Percent of Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander persons	Percent of total persons born overseas	Percent of rest of population
Beautesert	4.5	6.2	89.3
Builyan/Many Peaks	2.6	7.2	90.2
Brooweena	2.5	5.1	92.4
Conondale	0	7.5	92.5
Cooroy	1.8	12.4	85.8
Dingo	0	10.3	89.7
Eudlo	2.2	13.4	84.4
Gympie	1.4	7.2	91.4
Linville	0	8.5	91.5
Maryborough	1.9	6.9	91.2
Wondai	5.9	5.5	88.6
Woodford	1.2	11.7	87.1
Regional average	3.0	11.2	85.8

(Source ABS: 1996)

**Figure 3.1. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Population as a percent of town total**



(Source ABS:1996)

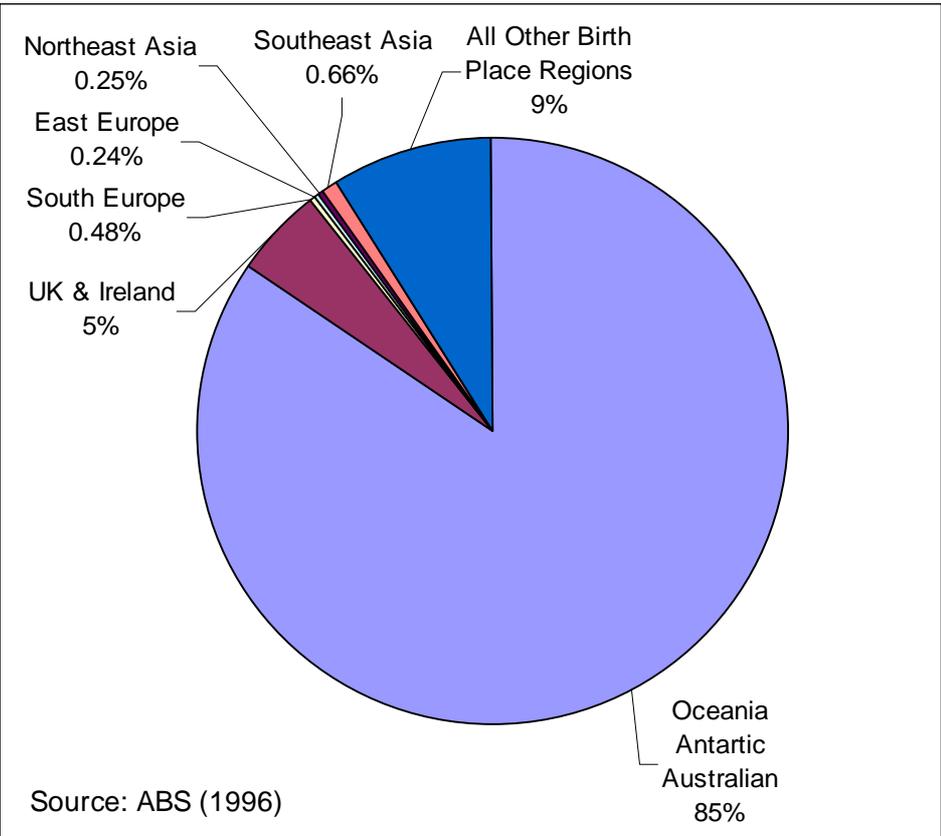
The overseas born are highest in Cooroy, Woodford, Eudlo and Dingo, but as the populations of these places are small this does not necessarily represent a diverse or multicultural community. Table 3.4. breaks down birthplace by region of the world. UK and Irish born are dominant. No other place of birth region is significant in any place.

**Table 3.4. Place of Birth in Case Study Towns; 1996**

LGA name	Oceania Antarctic Australian persons as percent of total persons	UK & Ireland persons as percent of total persons	Southern Europe persons as percent of total persons	All other regions of birth as percent of total persons
Beaudesert	89.5	2.8	0.1	7.6
Builyan/Many Peaks	73.8	4.7	1.6	19.9
Brooweena	95.0	2.5	0.0	2.5
Conondale	91.5	3.4	0.0	5.1
Cooroy	84.0	6.7	0.5	8.8
Dingo	76.6	6.6	0.0	16.8
Eudlo	78.5	7.4	0.5	13.6
Gympie	89.4	3.0	0.1	7.5
Linville	81.9	6.6	0.9	10.6
Maryborough	90.0	2.9	0.3	6.8
Wondai	88.7	3.2	0.0	8.1
Woodford	83.2	6.4	0.0	10.4
Regional average	84.57	4.8	0.5	10.1

(Source ABS: 1996)

**Figure 3.2. Place of Birth in SEQ region**



**3.3.4. Education**

The number of people attending non-state schools is very small and insignificant. The proportions of students at different types of schools correspond to the age cohorts outlined in the demography table. TAFE uptake is low, except in Maryborough and Conondale. University attendance is everywhere insignificant, with the highest rates in Eudlo and Linville.

**Table 3.5. Education in Case Study Towns; 1996**

Town name	Percent of pre-school persons	Percent of infants–primary govt	Percent of infants–primary Catholic	Percent of infants–primary non-govt	Percent of infants–primary total	Percent of persons at secondary govt
Beaudesert	1.2	7.6	1.8	0.3	9.7	7.0
Builyan/Many Peaks	0.0	12.3	0.0	0.0	12.3	4.6
Brooweena	2.6	16.7	0.0	0.0	16.7	0.0
Conondale	2.4	9.6	0.0	0.0	9.6	2.4
Cooroy	1.5	10.3	0.6	0.6	6.4	7.3
Dingo	1.7	6.3	0.0	0.0	6.3	6.9
Eudlo	1.5	13.4	0.5	0.9	14.7	9.1
Gympie	1.4	9.0	1.1	0.6	10.8	5.3
Linville	1.7	10.4	0.0	0.0	10.4	6.7
Maryborough	1.3	8.0	1.4	0.2	9.5	5.8
Wondai	1.5	8.6	1.4	0.4	10.5	4.6
Woodford	1.5	14.0	0.2	0.0	14.2	5.2
Regional Average	1.5	9.4	1.0	0.6	11.0	5.2

(Source ABS: 1996)

**Table 3.5a. Education in Case Study Towns; 1996**

Town name	Proportion of population (in percent) at secondary school	Proportion of population (in percent) at T.A.F.E	Proportion of population (in percent) at uni and other tertiary	Proportion of population (in percent) not attending an educational institution
Beaudesert	8.4	1.1	1.0	61.9
Builan/Many Peaks	4.6	0.0	1.5	64.7
Brooweena	0.0	0.0	0.0	64.0
Conondale	2.4	2.4	0.0	71.2
Cooroy	7.3	1.1	0.8	64.1
Dingo	7.8	0.0	0.0	71.0
Eudlo	10.8	1.7	2.6	44.8
Gympie	6.4	1.4	1.1	62.9
Linville	6.7	1.7	2.0	60.4
Maryborough	6.4	2.6	1.2	63.6
Wondai	4.9	1.6	0.7	65.8
Woodford	5.9	1.3	0.6	57.1
Regional Average	6.5	1.4	1.7	77.9

(Source ABS: 1996)

### 3.3.5. Income

The lowest category of personal income of \$0 to \$119 is most highly represented in Builan/Many Peaks and Dingo, with both these places also topping the second lowest category of \$120 to \$299 a week. All of these towns show high proportions in the low income categories, and with the exception of Brooweena, low proportions in the high income category of \$1,000 or more a week.

**Table 3.6. Income Groups in Case Study Towns; 1996**

Town name	Male income from nil to \$119 as percent of total male	Female income from nil to \$199 as percent of total female	Persons income from nil to \$119 as percent of total persons	Male income from \$120 to \$299 as percent of total male	Female income from \$120 to \$299 as percent of total female	Persons income from \$120 to \$299 as percent of total persons
Beaudesert	5.9	11.2	8.6	32.8	48.4	40.6
Builan/Many Peaks	7.1	22.2	26.1	57.1	37.0	49.3
Brooweena	7.1	8.1	11.4	14.3	51.4	31.6
Conondale	0.0	14.3	16.7	50.0	50.0	50.0
Cooroy	5.3	13.0	9.5	40.6	57.8	49.8
Dingo	12.2	8.3	22.3	58.5	57.6	58.1
Eudlo	8.8	17.5	17.3	37.3	38.9	38.2
Gympie	5.6	10.8	8.3	36.7	49.7	43.6
Linville	10.9	10.3	16.7	39.9	42.9	41.3
Maryborough	5.3	11.9	0.8	39.1	50.8	45.2
Wondai	5.5	13.9	9.8	35.0	48.3	41.7
Woodford	4.7	14.1	9.6	35.4	45.0	40.4
Regional average	6.3	13.2	9.7	33.4	43.5	38.4

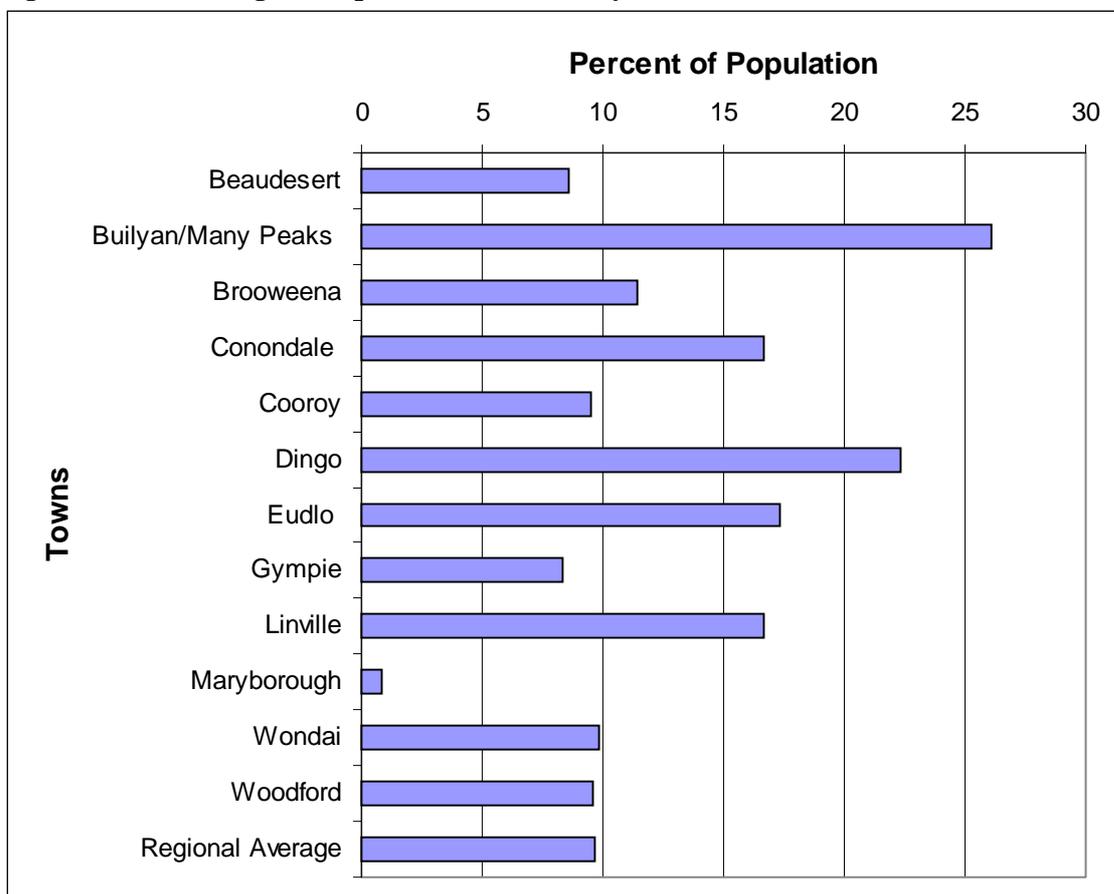
(Source ABS: 1996)

**Table 3.6.a. Income Groups in Case Study Towns; 1996**

Town name	Male income from \$1000 & over as percent of total males	Female income from \$1000 & over as percent of total female	Persons income from \$1000 & over as percent of total persons
Beaudesert	2.4	0.2	1.3
Builyan/Many Peaks	3.6	0.0	2.2
Brooweena	14.3	16.2	15.2
Conondale	6.2	0.0	3.3
Cooroy	0.8	0.0	0.4
Dingo	0.0	2.1	1.0
Eudlo	1.6	0.0	0.7
Gympie	3.9	0.8	2.3
Linville	2.2	0.0	1.1
Maryborough	3.0	0.5	1.7
Wondai	2.7	0.5	1.6
Woodford	2.3	0.0	1.1
Regional average	4.8	0.9	2.9

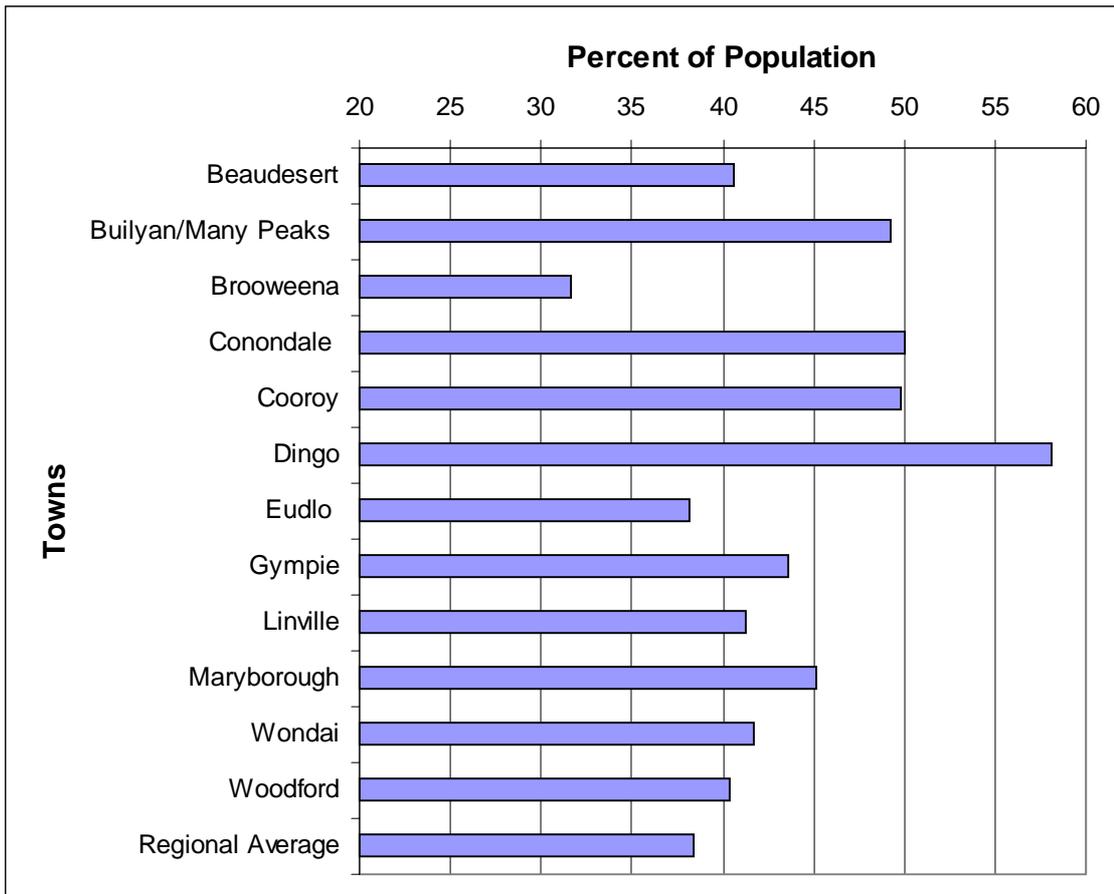
Note: Columns do not add to 100 per cent as male and females percentages have been calculated separately.  
(Source ABS: 1996)

**Figure 3.3. Percentage of Population with Weekly Incomes Between \$0 and \$119.**



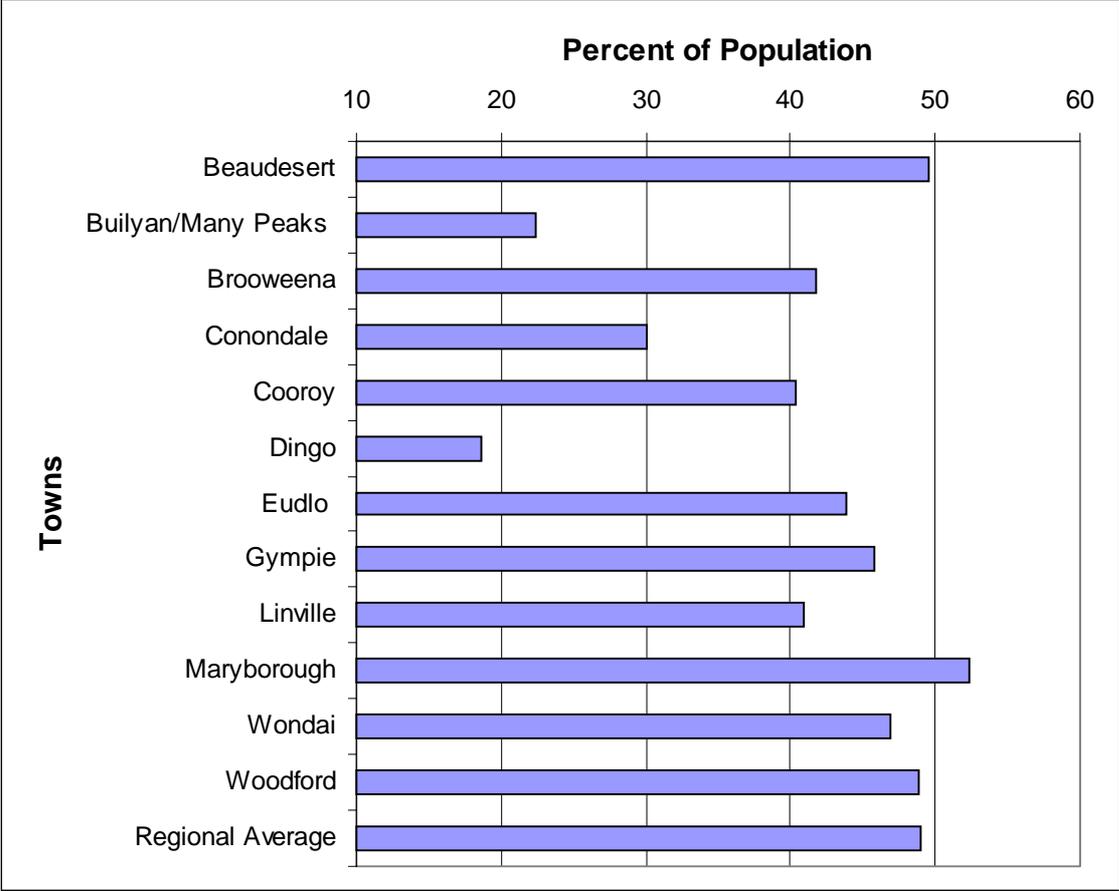
(SOURCE ABS: 1996)

**Figure 3.4. Percentage of Population with Weekly Incomes Between \$120 and \$299**



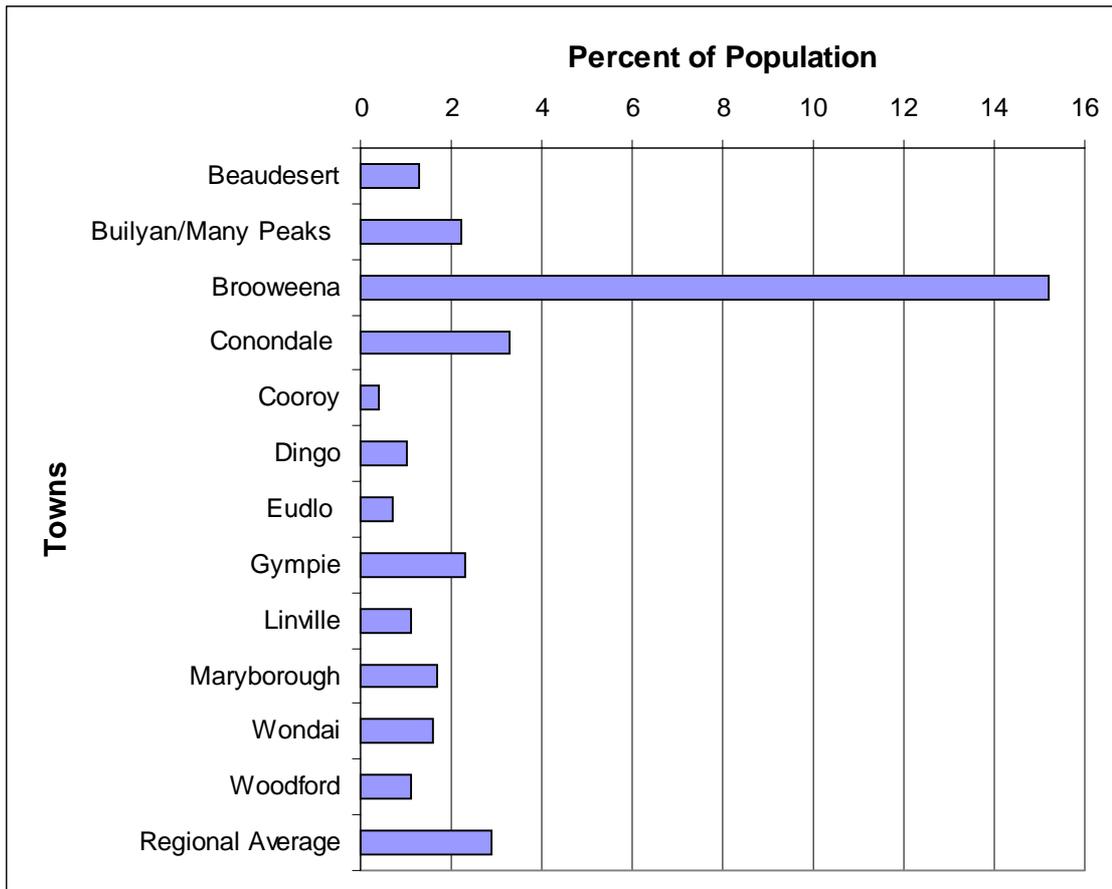
(Source ABS: 1996)

**Figure 3.5. Percentage of Population with Weekly Incomes Between \$300 and \$999**



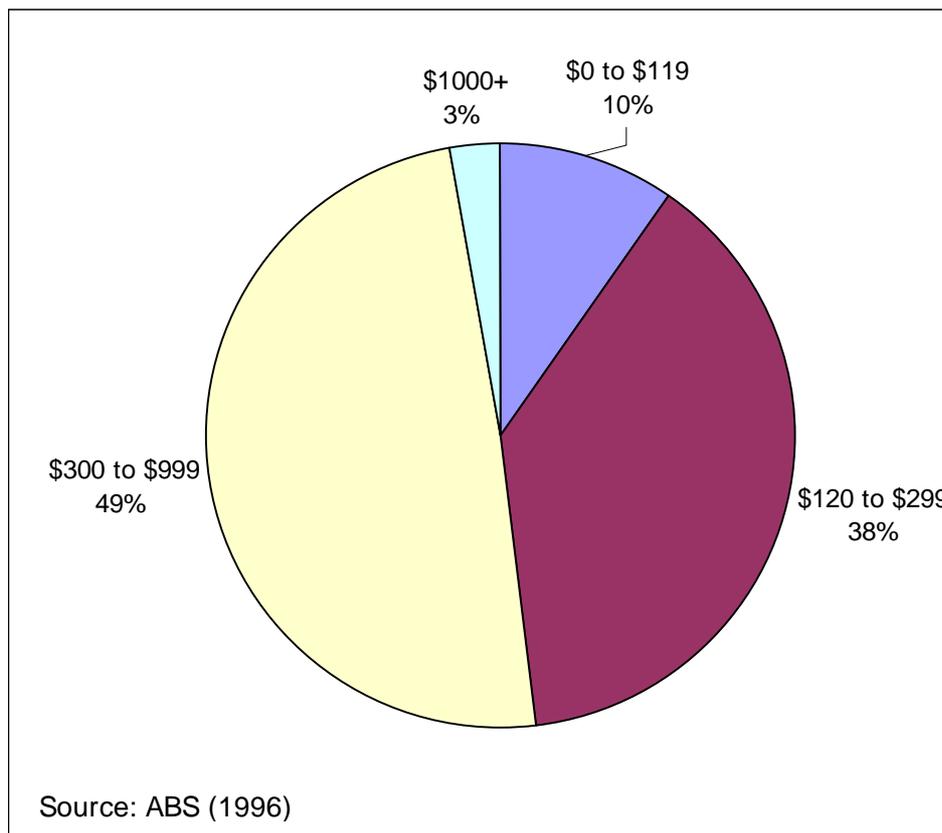
(Source ABS: 1996)

**Figure 3.6. Percentage of Population with Weekly Incomes Greater than \$1000**



(Source ABS:1996)

**Figure 3.7. Income category breakdown for the SEQ Region**



### 3.3.6. Housing

The level of fully owned housing is generally quite high in the case study towns, especially in relation to the category of houses being purchased. This is in contrast to the major urban centres, where house prices are also very much higher. The numbers of people in rental accommodation are highest in Cooroy and Gympie, but low in Builyan/Many Peaks, Brooweena, Dingo, Eudlo and Linville. There are very high proportions of unoccupied dwellings in Brooweena, but compared with the general proportions in the region, unoccupied dwellings are also high in Linville, Eudlo, Dingo, Conondale and Builyan/Many Peaks. This represents either a visitor pattern or out migration or both.

**Table 3.7. Dwelling Ownership in Case Study Towns; 1996**

Town name	Total fully owned percent of total	Total being purchased percent of total	Total rented percent of total	Total occupied as percent of total	Total un-occupied as percent of total
Beaudesert	38.7	14.1	33.6	91.2	8.8
Builyan/Many Peaks	35.4	18.2	3.0	74.7	25.3
Brooweena	24.2	0.0	4.5	60.6	39.4
Conondale	40.6	18.8	10.9	75.0	25.0
Cooroy	43.8	16.6	27.6	93.4	6.6
Dingo	41.0	17.9	9.2	81.5	18.5
Eudlo	42.8	34.3	8.5	90.0	10.0
Gympie	40.7	19.1	27.3	91.3	8.7
Linville	36.7	25.4	7.9	79.7	20.3
Maryborough	43.7	23.3	19.0	91.0	9.0
Wondai	46.1	17.7	23.0	91.4	8.6
Woodford	36.8	34.3	14.9	92.5	7.5
Regional average	39.3	21.1	20.8	88.0	12.0

Note: Columns do not add to 100% as categories are derived from different totals.  
(Source ABS: 1996)

The proportion of people living in caravans is very high in Builyan/Many Peaks, and fairly high in Linville. Improvised dwellings constitute high proportions of all housing in Conondale and very high proportions in Dingo compared to the regional average.

**Table 3.8. Caravans and Improvised Dwellings etc. in Case Study Towns; 1996**

Town name	Other persons dwelling in caravans as percent of total persons	Other persons living in improvised dwellings as percent of total persons	Percent of persons living in all other dwellings
Beaudesert	1.7	0.1	98.2
Builyan/Many Peaks	25.1	0.0	74.9
Brooweena	0.0	0.0	100.0
Conondale	0.0	2.5	97.5
Cooroy	0.5	0.0	99.5
Dingo	1.4	6.0	92.6
Eudlo	0.7	0.0	99.3
Gympie	0.9	0.0	99.1
Linville	3.4	0.0	96.6
Maryborough	1.3	0.0	98.7
Wondai	0.0	0.0	100.0
Regional average	2.3	0.5	97.2

(Source ABS: 1996)

## SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY VISIONS

**Table 3.9(a): Maryborough, Cooroy, Wondai, Beaudesert, Gympie, Conondale**

<b>Vision/town</b>	<b>Maryborough</b>	<b>Cooroy</b>	<b>Wondai</b>	<b>Beaudesert</b>	<b>Gympie</b>	<b>Conondale</b>
<i>Arts &amp; cultural development/ heritage aspects</i>	Seek increased funding for regional arts groups & historical societies. Historical area re-development	Conserve 'historic, archaeological or Aboriginal items, sites or places.....'.	Not mentioned	Not mentioned	Emphasise heritage of town and surrounding area – <i>Wood Works Forestry and Timber Museum</i> ; Upper Mary St 'Heritage Precinct' redevelopment.	No specific mention
<i>City/town identity/ image</i>	Measures to transform visual appeal of city.	Maintain character of town by preserving specific stands of rainforest.	Encourage development 'sympathetic' to existing building lines and the streetscape.	Not mentioned	See above. + environmental corridors.	Street scaping project to reflect town's forestry heritage.
<i>Economic &amp; regional development</i>	Co-operative regional development. Major shopping centre.	Limit commercial development in areas outside existing commercial centre.	Expand on agricultural base by encouraging population growth. Encourage and protect long term viability of extractive resource industries.	Encourage service and home based industries, as well as non-resident recreation and tourism.	Nature based tourism; farm forestry; secondary timber products.	Farm forestry potential.
<i>Resource management &amp; the natural environment</i>	Waste management review, pollution control/abatement.	Conserve areas noted for environment and forestry values; Farm forestry.	Protect agricultural lands and forest reserves to maintain scenic appeal.	Conservation of 'extractive resources'. Conservation of natural character of nearby elevated forest areas.	Wildlife corridors, revegetation programs, cat management schemes.	Commitment to forested environment.
<i>Recreation &amp; sport</i>	Provision of community facilities, e.g. swimming pool, improved parks and gardens	Not mentioned	Nature-based recreation in forest reserve areas, within environmental carrying capacity.	Not mentioned for local community.	Not mentioned.	Not mentioned.
<i>Residential areas</i>	Not mentioned.	Zoning arrangements to prevent 'intrusive uses' in established residential areas	Retain a 'rural residential' lifestyle whilst encouraging urban growth.	Not mentioned.	Not mentioned.	Not mentioned.

**Table 3.9(b): Woodford, Dingo, Brooweena, Eudlo, Builyan/Many Peaks, Linville**

<b>Vision/town</b>	<b>Woodford</b>	<b>Dingo</b>	<b>Brooweena</b>	<b>Eudlo</b>	<b>Builyan/Many Peaks</b>	<b>Linville</b>
<i>Arts &amp; cultural Development/ Heritage Aspects</i>	Not mentioned	Not mentioned	Not mentioned	Not mentioned	Not mentioned	Areas of historical and heritage significance in built environment. Art and cultural development a major issue.
<i>City/town identity/ image</i>	Not mentioned	Not mentioned	Not mentioned	Based on 'village character' and presenting 'attractive and interesting places' to residents and visitors.	Not mentioned	Maintenance of rural village character.
<i>Economic &amp; regional development</i>	Reduced cattle grazing and forestry. Employment through correctional centre. Most recent enterprises herb gardening and hydroponics.	Pastoral and agricultural, coal mining in Blackwater, tourism.	Based on cattle grazing, dairy farming & sugar cane farming. Enhancing tourism potential but no mention made of proximity to Mt Walsh National Park.	Mainly tourism	Moving from rural base to become part of industrial base around City of Gladstone. Tourism.	Not specifically addressed, other than through sustainable management of timber and mineral resources.
<i>Resource management &amp; the natural environment</i>	Not mentioned	Not mentioned	Not mentioned	Range of public and private land use solutions to protect environmental and aesthetic resources.	Not mentioned	Management of timber resources in a sustainable manner.
<i>Recreation &amp; sport</i>	Not mentioned	Not mentioned	Not mentioned	Not mentioned	Not mentioned	Not mentioned
<i>Residential areas</i>	Not mentioned	Not mentioned	Not mentioned	Not specifically mentioned	Not mentioned	Not mentioned

## **3.4. COMPARING COMMUNITY VISIONS**

### **3.4.1. Twelve Towns in South East Queensland**

This section focuses on the main themes that emerged from textual analysis of the council documents available for the 12 towns.

### **3.4.2. Pro-development or 'Closed Door'**

The documents reviewed for each of the 12 towns made some mention of the forecast population increase for the region. For some towns, this was seen as advantageous. The corporate plan for Wondai clearly states 'the council has implemented various strategies to encourage people to move to the Shire' and the philosophy of Maryborough City Council was to 'develop progressive policies to encourage continuing development and growth.' A specific policy of the same council was to actively pursue a major shopping complex (Maryborough City Council Corporate Plan (MCCCP) 1997–2002 p9). Whether such a policy is the result of an already increased population or a draw card to attract people to the area, it is a reflection of Maryborough's approach to population trends.

A similar commitment to population growth is evident in the towns of Wondai and Woocoo Shires, in the form of policies to continually update infrastructure such as sewerage and roads to cater for projected population growth (Maryborough City Council Corporate Plan 1997–2002 p9, Wondai Shire Council Corporate Plan 1996–1998 p 13, Woocoo Shire Council Corporate Plan 1997–2002 p8).

Of the 12 towns analysed, three have clearly included industrial development in the community vision. Maryborough aims to attract new enterprises by promoting itself as a 'smart industrial city' based on advanced technology. In the town of Wondai the council has made low cost land available specifically to attract new industries. This strategy is part of the overall goal of encouraging economic development of the town and shire (Wondai Shire Council Corporate Plan 1995–1998 p 8 Wondai Shire Town Planning scheme 1994 p 9). The Cooloola Shire Council Corporate Plan 1997–2002 (p10) indicates that industrial development is encouraged for the town of Gympie, with specific reference to secondary products for the forestry industry.

In Cooroy, an inherently different philosophy applies to industrial development. Development is aimed at meeting the needs of existing residents rather than encouraging an industrial future for the town (Planning Scheme for Noosa: Development Control Plan No.2 – Cooroy section 3.2). Commercial development, as with industrial development, has been targeted for rigid control, in order to meet the needs of the community without detracting from the character of the town.

Whilst the dominant theme which emerged from council documents reviewed for this report was one of inevitable development in the form of population growth and industrial expansion, some towns clearly identified a threat to quality of life for existing residents resulting in the need to control development. Noosa Shire Council has clearly voiced the fear that population increase could 'place in jeopardy' the quality of life which attracts people to the region (Noosa Corporate Plan June 1996 p 4). In town planning documents this position has resulted in zoning certain areas of Cooroy to prevent high-density housing and preserve the character of established neighbourhoods. However, the notion of 'closing the door' is not absolute. In other parts of the

town, 'orderly' residential growth is encouraged and provided for in the form of subdivisions for multi-dwelling developments. The notion of 'orderly' development is also integral to the community vision of Beaudesert. Aimed at 'balancing progress with the philosophy of closing the door' some areas have been zoned for encouraging industry whilst others are 'protected' from population growth (Beaudesert Shire Council Corporate Plan 1995–1999 p 6).

As opposed to orderly or controlled development, a minority of towns clearly identified the need to have a minimal development policy. Having witnessed the loss of 'good quality agricultural land' to urban expansion, the Shire of Maroochy voiced the need for protection of towns in rural areas (Maroochy Shire Council Strategic Plan 1996 4 p 39–46). Eudlo is listed as a town for which the zoning plan ensures the maintenance of the 'cohesive character' of the community (Maroochy Shire Council Strategic Plan 1996 p 47). The rural town of Linville with a population of 300 is in a similar situation. The Esk Shire Council has noted population growth as a significant issue across the shire and is concerned that such growth may become a burden on existing residents (Council of the Shire of Esk Corporate 1995 Plan p 12). The response of the council has been to zone certain areas for coping with this trend (Urban Expansion Areas) whilst discouraging population increase in rural villages which are aimed at providing services to adjacent rural areas. The latter is the case for Linville. One of the ways this is hoped to be achieved is by providing limited infrastructure to rural villages whilst providing 'full physical and social infrastructure to urban expansion areas and recovering the costs from future residents' (Esk Shire Council – Long Term Community Plan pp1–8, Council of the Shire of Esk Corporate 1995 Plan p 12).

### **3.4.3. Dynamic Cities and Conserving Country Charm**

For most of the towns considered, the documents reflected a need for a dynamic council to guide the town through changing times. Maryborough city council emphasised terms such as 'innovative', 'modern' and 'progressive' for describing the vision of the community. This vision has manifested itself in the form of commitment to improving library facilities and support for cultural groups as well as revising economic development plans to make greater use of educational institutions. The goal of establishing a major shopping centre has been already mentioned in discussing population increase. This is another example of Maryborough Council's response to changing community needs.

Similar approaches to change were evident for the town of Gympie in Cooloola Shire. Like Maryborough, the council employed terms such as 'innovation' and 'creativity' to describe the community vision. In the eastern part of the Shire, the council envisages maximising benefit from the success of the sunshine coast region by pushing the State and Federal Governments for improved transport connections to this area. Gympie, being inland, does not come in for quite the same treatment, but a commitment to benefiting from regional change is nonetheless evident. The location of Gympie relative to the sunshine coast and Brisbane is seen as an advantage in attracting increased visitors to the shire. The niche Gympie has picked in the regional tourist potential emphasises the historic aspects of the town. Thus the dynamic response of Cooloola Council is to enhance the *traditional* aspects of the town of Gympie for tourism purposes (Cooloola Shire Planning Scheme – Strategic Plan p 58–60).

Other towns that can be associated with a general community vision of dynamic councils responding to changing circumstances are Eudlo, Builyan/Many Peaks, Wondai and Beaudesert. This does not necessarily mean, however, that the communities embrace change outright. Of these towns, Beaudesert and Eudlo clearly identify a general need to take measures to protect some

aspects of their communities from changing circumstances (Beaudesert Shire Council Corporate Plan 1995–1999 p 6–7, Wondai Shire Council Corporate Plan 1995–1998 p 1, Calliope Shire Council Corporate and Operational Plan undated p9–10). The towns of Eudlo and Wondai have indicated a specific need to protect the built environment (in the form of streetscape) from incompatible development. The response of their councils has been to develop policies on design details such as colour and texture of materials, landscaping as well as the usual restrictions on height and street frontage (Maroochy Shire Strategic Plan 1996 p 47, Wondai Shire Planning Scheme 1994 p 9).

Another town, which pays careful attention to protecting the ‘country town’ streetscape, is Cooroy. Like Eudlo and Wondai building materials, use of verandahs and landscaping are controlled to conserve the amenity of the town (Shire of Noosa Strategic Plan 1997 p 35). As part of the Noosa Shire, Cooroy is characterised by the general vision of working to conserve an attractive lifestyle in the face of population increase. Contrasting with Maryborough, the Noosa Shire vision is one ‘devoid of symbols of big city life’ and retaining individual community identities (Noosa Corporate Plan June 1996 p 5). Looking at Cooroy specifically, the Development Control Plan aims at protecting the ‘fragile, country town character’ from ‘population growth’ and ‘development pressure’ (Qld Govt. Gazette 5.6.92 No. 55 section 1). Other towns that shared this fear included the town of Linville. The difference between Linville and Cooroy is that the council of the former doesn’t discourage further development per se, rather it aims to redirect it to other parts of the shire (Esk Shire Council – Long Term Community Plan 1998 p 6).

### **3.4.5. Forests and Visions**

A number of councils’ documents referred specifically to forests and the forestry industry being integral to the community. For the towns of Gympie, Woodford, Conondale and Eudlo logging of native forests has been a foundation industry. Today these activities have been greatly reduced, being replaced by softwood plantations, sustainable farm forestry and revegetation of logged areas. Nonetheless, a sense of forestry heritage is retained in these towns. The councils of these towns recognise the many roles of native forests as sources for timber production, wildlife habitat, recreation and landscape values. They also recognise the function of forests in maintaining catchment condition. Similarly, for the town of Cooroy forestry has historical significance, and the remaining forests today are a large part of what defines the community. Here too, farm forestry is encouraged where it is compatible with the goal of conserving land designated as ‘Rural Conservation’ (Shire of Noosa Strategic Plan p 41).

The protection of forests for scenic and environmental reasons was further detected in the documents of Wondai, Beaudesert, and Esk Shires. Wondai includes forested areas in the Natural Resource Protection component of its Planning Scheme. The scheme recognises the scenic and recreational value of these areas to the community and notes the difficulty of harvesting forest products on steep gradients sustainably. The council aims to protect vegetation integral to a regional system of wildlife corridors and for other aspects of maintaining biodiversity (Wondai Shire Town Planning Scheme 1994 p 15). Beaudesert considers the ‘forested character’ of the region to be integral to the Shire’s image and important for recreational and environmental reasons (Beaudesert Shire Council Strategic Plan part A p 8). Maroochy Shire Council’s strong commitment to environmental protection provides implicit protection of the natural environment surrounding Eudlo (Maroochy Shire Council Corporate Plan 1997–2000 p9–11). The Council of the Shire of Esk’s designation of areas for timber reserves, catchment protection and nature areas

provides similar protection for the town of Linville (Strategic Planning Provisions: Shire of Esk Sections 1.3 to 1.9).

The towns of Wondai, Beaudesert and Cooloola have made specific mention of forest and nature based tourism as being desirable.

## **3.5. COMMUNITY VISIONS BY TOWN**

### **3.5.1. Maryborough**

The city aims to be recognised for quality and excellence whilst maintaining a dynamic and environmentally attractive town. Emphasis is given on combining historic charm with modern facilities for the community (Maryborough City Council Corporate Plan 1997/2002 p. 6). The plan identifies 16 strategic issues, each with several strategies to deal with them. The following is a summary of strategic issues relevant to community visions. Underlying all goals is the theme of promoting Maryborough as a 'modern, progressive city.'

#### **Arts and Cultural Development:**

The council aims to encourage community involvement in cultural activities and lobby the State and Federal Governments for increased funding for regional arts groups and historical societies. The council aims to redevelop some historical areas of town in a way that is relevant to current citizens but retains 19th century charm.

#### **City Identity**

The council aims to transform the visual appeal of the city through landscaping and by appointing project groups on specific tasks such as entry points to the city. The proposed upgrade of airport facilities demonstrates a will to increase the tourism potential of the city. The council stresses its encouragement of community participation.

#### **Economic and regional Development**

The MCCCCP (p8) indicates a strong push to encourage the development of modern industry and businesses both within the town and the region in general. Planning goals make specific mention of 'actively pursuing' the establishment of a major shopping centre as part of a general vision of anticipated population growth. The council aims to foster regional development by cooperating with other local governments in the Fraser region as well as State tourism and development agencies.

#### **Resource Management and the Natural Environment**

The council aims to review waste management methods and monitor potential sources of pollution. It includes greater use of public transport and responsible use of natural resources as part of its environmental vision. No specific mention is made of forest resources.

#### **Recreation and sport**

The council aims to foster recreation and sport within the community by providing facilities such as upgraded swimming pools and improved parks and gardens. No mention of forest-based recreation is made.

### **3.5.2. Cooroy**

Cooroy is a rural community with a strong affinity with the countryside surrounding the town. The forests of the district assist in defining the identity of the town. Other aspects of the community character include family oriented, relaxed outdoor lifestyle and a strong sense of history (Noosa Strategic Plan p158). Cooroy is careful to preserve this 'attractive but fragile country town character' (Planning Scheme for the Shire of Noosa: Development Control Plan No. 2 s.1). The council aims to provide for orderly residential and light industrial growth without compromising this character that is under threat from rapid population increase.

Community visions can be grouped accordingly:

#### **Environmental Conservation and Farm Forestry**

Part of the vision of the town is to conserve areas noted for their environmental and forestry values. These areas are seen to be part of the character of the locality and are restricted to certain low density forms of rural settlement. Farm forestry is considered an appropriate use of these areas (Noosa Strategic Plan p41).

#### **Vegetation and the country town character**

The Development Control Plan for Cooroy aims to preserve all existing 'significant vegetation'. The preservation of specific stands of rainforest is considered vital to maintaining the character of the town. Planting local forest species in other public and private areas is encouraged.

#### **Residential areas**

The Development Control Plan emphasises zoning arrangements so as to prevent 'intrusive uses' in established residential areas. The town is proud of its 'older style timber dwellings' with iron roofs and encircling verandahs (Noosa Shire Strategic Plan p33). Size and height restrictions on buildings help protect the character of the town.

#### **Controlling Commercial Development**

Areas outside the existing commercial centre will not be rezoned, thus limiting commercial development. Existing commercially zoned areas will have minimum and maximum size restrictions to suit the needs of the council and maintain the charm of the town. New buildings will have to be compatible with existing architecture.

#### **General Social Principles of the Shire**

The shire aims to incorporate public consultation in the planning process. In addition, it recognises the need to conserve 'historic, archaeological or Aboriginal items, sites or places, and involve the community in cultural heritage issues in general (Noosa Shire Strategic Plan p 161).

### **3.5.3. Wondai**

The town shares the shire's rural image and aims to expand upon its agricultural base by encouraging population growth. The community vision is focused on retaining a 'rural residential' lifestyle whilst encouraging some urban growth and increases to industry and commercial activities.

The council aims to 'conserve and enhance' the existing character of the town centre through encouraging development that is 'sympathetic' to existing building lines and the streetscape (Wondai Shire Town Planning Scheme 1994 p 9). In the industrial district, the council encourages

growth and diversification of industry and values the potential this can have for local employment. Encouraging extractive resource development is seen as desirable, with an emphasis on protection for the long term viability of these industries.

The town is surrounded on one side by agricultural land, the preservation of which is seen as integral to the vision of the community (Wondai Shire Town Planning Scheme 1994 p 14). The town is surrounded on the other side by forest reserves, equally viewed as requiring protection (Wondai Shire Town Planning Scheme 1994 p 16). Development of lands adjacent to the forest reserves is encouraged provided its impact on the reserves is minimal. The community recognises the scenic value of both agricultural lands and those in their natural state and aims to conserve their scenic appeal.

Nature-based recreation in forest reserve areas is encouraged provided it is within the environmental carrying capacity of these areas.

#### **3.5.4. Beaudesert**

Whilst the shire of Beaudesert generally wants to preserve its rural heritage, the town of the same name wishes to encourage service industries to meet forecast population increases (Beaudesert Shire Council Strategic Plan part A p 17). The town also encourages home based industries that are seen to be compatible with the town's country lifestyle and unlikely to impact upon the natural setting of the town.

Part of the community vision is linked to the nearby elevated forest areas. The conservation of the natural character of these areas is part of the general vision of the shire. The use of the town as a base for day trippers and other tourists to natural areas is seen as desirable. The values of these areas are linked to their scenic, ecological and recreational qualities.

The conservation of extractive resources is seen as important to the entire shire and specifically to certain local areas (Beaudesert Shire Council Strategic Plan part A p 18). Extraction of these resources is subject to environmental impact studies concentrating on maintaining the availability of these resources in the future, the economic impact on local communities and the cautious use of haulage routes (Beaudesert Shire Council Strategic Plan part A p18).

#### **3.5.5. Gympie**

Gympie is viewed as both a modern urban centre and a link to the gold and timber-processing heritage of the surrounding area (Cooloola Shire Council Draft Planning Scheme p 59). Whilst on the one hand the council aims to promote the orderly development of industry and business in the town, it aims to maintain and emphasise the heritage of the town and the surrounding area. An example of the town's desire to 'enhance' its sense of history is the redevelopment of the Upper Mary Street 'heritage precinct' (Cooloola Shire Council Operational Plan 1997–1998 p 13). Conversely, the council encourages the town's potential to provide modern industry such as secondary timber products. One existing link to the timber-processing heritage of the area is the *Wood Works Forestry and Timber Museum* on the northern outskirts of the town.

Tourism is seen as a fundamental to the prospering of the town. In order to encourage heritage tourism, bed and breakfast accommodation has been specifically indicated as suitable for the town (Cooloola Shire Council Draft Planning Scheme p59). Being the larger of the settlements in the

shire, Gympie has been called upon to project an image that will attract visitors to the whole shire. This involves visually replicating the same commitment as the rest of the shire to environmental concerns, (most notably the protection of biodiversity through establishing wildlife corridors connecting areas of significant remnant vegetation). At a community level in and around Gympie this has been represented in the form of revegetation programs and cat management schemes.

Gympie is expected to serve as part of the general goals of encouraging nature based tourism in National Parks and Forestry Reserves (Cooloola Shire Council Operational Plan 1997–1998 p 11) and the fostering of sustainable farm forestry (Cooloola Shire Council Draft Planning Scheme p56).

### **3.5.6. Conondale**

This small rural town is close to the Mary River. This mountainous region has a rural and forestry background. Pride in the town's forestry heritage is captured in the street-scaping project carried out in the early 1990s. No specific mention of this town was made in the planning documents available from Caloundra Shire. The community values its forested environment. Much of the surrounding area is considered suitable for farm forestry.

### **3.5.7. Woodford**

This town's origins are rural, including cattle grazing and forestry. These industries continue today, but are much reduced. The largest single employer in the town today is the Woodford Correctional Centre. The town dairy closed some years ago, but the sawmill continues to provide livelihood for some town residents. Herb gardening and hydroponics are the most recent enterprises in the town.

### **3.5.8. Dingo**

No local government planning documents analysed for this report contained material relevant to the town of Dingo, however some information was available on the general vision of the shire. The shire encourages the expansion of its pastoral and agricultural industries and the controlled development of coal mining in Blackwater (Duaranga Shire Community Service Directory and Tourist Guide p2). The towns of Blackwater, Bluff and Dingo are close to Blacktown Tableland National Park that is seen as a tourist attraction (Duaranga Shire Community Service Directory and Tourist Guide p 4).

### **3.5.9. Brooweena**

The shire prides itself on its 'good solid farming tradition', principally cattle grazing, dairy farming and sugar cane farming, yet recognises the need for a 'modern and progressive attitude' for the future (Woocoo Shire Council Corporate Plan 1997–2002 p 3). The vision of the council includes fostering economic development and employment opportunities. The general view of the shire is to encourage and prepare for increased population and to foster 'balanced development' so as to improve an already high rate of unemployment. Whilst enhancing tourism potential is recommended as a strategic issue, no specific plan is proposed to achieve this. The Corporate Plan makes no reference to Forest recreation, forestry or the proximity of Brooweena to Mt Walsh National Park.

### **3.5.10. Eudlo**

The main vision of Maroochy Shire is to be the ‘most environmentally responsible, caring, enterprising and dynamic community in Australia’ (Maroochy Shire Council Corporate Plan 1997–2000 p5). The emphasis on conservation of the natural environment is stronger than that of planned development of industry and businesses. Maroochy Council aims to give a diverse range of options to all residents concerning housing, industry and commercial developments, rather than favour any single industry or firm (Maroochy Shire Council Strategic Plan 1996 p 4.) The protection of the tourism industry has nonetheless been identified as having implications for urban design, visual amenity and sufficient land for other economic activity (Maroochy Shire Council Strategic Plan 1996 p 4).

Classed as a rural town on the railway corridor, Eudlo is part of the Maroochy Shire ‘Visual Amenity’ strategy aimed at presenting ‘attractive and interesting’ places to residents and visitors (Maroochy Shire Council Strategic Plan 1996 p 46–47). Part of the vision for these towns is to let the style of buildings be ‘subservient’ to the surrounding natural environment, and present an appealing ‘village character’. In rural towns, the council aims to preserve the ‘broad-acre’ style of low-density housing.

The ‘village charm’ of Eudlo is to be preserved through restrictions on building height, scale and form, as well as the colour and texture of materials used in buildings (Maroochy Shire Council Strategic Plan 1996 p 47). As a rural town, Eudlo is expecting to feature landscaping using natural vegetation typical of the region, with the overall goal of linking the built and natural environment (Maroochy Shire Council Strategic Plan 1996 p 48).

The Shire’s general view on conservation is that National Parks are insufficient to protect the natural environments of the shire. Thus, both public and private land requires a range of land use solutions to ensure the ‘protection of environmental and aesthetic resources of the shire’ (Maroochy Shire Council Strategic Plan 1996 p 5).

### **3.5.11. Builyan/Many Peaks**

This small rural town includes a general store and facilities for petrol sales, vehicle repairs, a school and post office (Calliope Shire Council Corporate and Operational Plan Draft version 4.1 p 4). It services the surrounding rural area, which is part of a shire moving from a rural to an industrial base surrounding the City of Gladstone. Whilst industrial expansion is expected to continue, some growth is anticipated in tourism and retirement markets for this region. No mention of forests, forestry or forest-based recreation/tourism was detected in either the corporate plan or Town Planning Scheme for the Shire. However, the Council has commissioned a study of Krombit Tops to identify future tourism potential in that forest area.

### **3.5.12. Linville**

Linville is a small, historic village based on pastoral origins. It is part of the shire of Esk that has as a general community vision of preparing for future development of the shire (Esk Shire Council Long Term Community Plan 1998). This involves improving transport and better management of natural resources. Whilst the general community encourages ‘continuous and sustainable development’ of the shire, a restriction has been placed on development of Linville in order to

maintain its rural village character (Council of the Shire of Esk Corporate Plan 1995–1998, Esk Shire Council Long Term Community Plan 1998).

Industrial development of the shire overall is secondary to preserving the rural amenity of the area (Esk Shire Council Long Term Community Plan 1998). Management of timber and mineral resources in an ecologically sustainable manner is part of the vision of the whole shire. The protection of the natural environment is important to the community for reasons of biodiversity and scenic value. Particular note is made of areas of historical and heritage value in the built environment. Both art and cultural development are identified as ‘major issues affecting the shire’ (Council of the Shire of Esk Corporate Plan 1995–1998 p6).

Population change is identified as a particular issue for the shire. Migration from Southern States to the ‘affordable country-style living’ of the region is identified as not only a source of population *increase*, but population *change*. One of the visions of the shire in general is to cater for population expansion in a way that maintains the Shire’s ‘clean, pleasant lifestyle’, and that the migration does not become an ‘undue burden on existing residents’. One way the Council sees this as a problem is as a strain on infrastructure within the shire (Council of the Shire of Esk Corporate Plan 1995–1998 p 12)

### **3.6. SERVICE CAPACITY SUMMARY**

This section on service capacity concentrates on medical services, doctor numbers and hospitals, education services, primary, secondary and tertiary, public housing and other specific services available within the town. Information on service capacity was taken from council planning documents, council profiles and interviews with the councils’ social and community planning staff for twelve towns, as well as data collected by the joint State and Commonwealth social assessment team.

Doctors per 1000 people ranged from 0.38 in the shire of Duaranga to 1.76 in Noosa. Many towns indicated a need to continually monitor needs for medical services as part of their overall commitment to updating infrastructure. Councils were reluctant to acknowledge spare capacity in all services. The LGAs for each town have widely ranging public housing capacity, from a total stock of 0 in Woocoo Shire to 1045 in Maroochy. Maryborough, Wondai and Cooroy have public housing within the town. All towns except Conondale have primary education facilities. Six towns have facilities for secondary education. These were Cooroy, Maryborough, Gympie, Woodford, Wondai, and Beaudesert. Of the 12 towns Gympie, Maryborough and Cooroy have tertiary education facilities.

### 3.7. SERVICE CAPACITY BY CASE STUDY TOWN

**Table 3.10 Case Study Town Contextual Data**

Case study town	Total population	Labour force population (14–60 year olds) as a percentage proportion of the total population	Unemployment rate (%)	Proximity to regional service centre
Beaudesert	3734	57.9	15.13	40 km to Southport
Builyan / Many Peaks	150	60.9	4.05	80 km to Gladstone
Brooweena	228	66.4	16.67	45 km to Maryborough
Conondale	317	63.7	13.95	30 km to Nambour
Cooroy	1970	55.0	11.07	15 km to Noosa
Dingo	140	57.3	3.95	45 km to Blackwater
Eudlo	588	61.9	9.40	15 km to Maroochydore
Gympie	10813	55.5	13.24	Is a regional centre
Linville	117	63.2	7.89	30 km to Toogoolawah
Maryborough	21286	56.4	13.82	Is a regional centre
Wondai	1330	53.0	9.04	25 km to Kingaroy
Woodford	1621	62.0	13.97	25 km to Caboolture

#### 3.7.1. Maryborough

##### Health

Maryborough has one public and one private hospital. Public health facilities have a capacity of 138 beds. Staff members responsible for community development at the council are of the opinion that the current public health facilities are under-resourced, but do not anticipate any changes to the current capacity. There is one private health facility in the town. The Local Government Area (Maryborough) had 1.16 doctors per 1000 people in 1995 and the sub region (Maryborough) had 1.38 doctors per 1000 people.

##### Education

Primary and secondary schools for the current population adequately service Maryborough. At present the two secondary schools have spare capacity and as such allow for population increase in these areas without additional secondary schools needing to be built. A site for a third high school is being considered for future population increase outside the area of these two schools. Two additional primary schools have been planned to accommodate forecast urban expansion.

##### Housing

The subregion made up of Maryborough, Biggenden, Woocoo, Tiaro and Hervey Bay has a total public housing stock of 817. Of these, 410 are in the town of Maryborough. This is made up of 92 seniors' units, 20 one bedroom houses, 93 two bedroom houses, 173 three bedroom houses, 28 four bedroom houses and 4 greater than four bedroom houses. The council believes that this service is essentially adequate, however, there is pressure on accommodation for older citizens due to the relatively high rate of elderly people compared with the regional average.

##### Other services

Aged hostel accommodation was perceived as adequate by the town council, however, waiting lists were longer than satisfactory for nursing homes. Other services for the aged included Meals on Wheels. The council claims to be having problems securing funding for public transport. This was particularly seen as a problem for the aged. Youth services are minimal and the council is aiming to employ a youth development officer to address this situation. In the past, youth centres have been created but each time they have folded due to lack of permanent funding. The current 'Mansfield' centre for youth is at risk of going the same way. The same applies to a youth information service

that has recently been established. A counselling service is available, but is presently only for females over the age of 16.

### **3.7.2. Wondai**

#### **Health**

There is one public hospital with a capacity of 17 beds. This service has been under-utilised in recent times, however, the council is confident that the reasons for this no longer apply, and that the hospital will promptly return to full use. In addition to the hospital, there are two health practices, one with a single doctor and one with doctors and additional medical services. There is no private hospital in the shire. The Shire (Wondai) had 0.49 doctors per 1000 people and the sub region (Murgon–Wondai) had 0.78 doctors per 1000 people in 1995.

#### **Education**

There are 11 primary schools in the shire, of which one is in the town of Wondai. Secondary education is available to Year 10 through the secondary department of the Wondai State School. Whilst the Council acknowledges the school is unlikely to increase enrolments, it believes the school is not at risk from closure. The council is unaware of any plans to build new schools in the town of Wondai.

#### **Housing**

Mostly in the town of Wondai, the Shire has a total public housing stock of 19 out of the sub region total of 43. These are made up of 6 two bedroom cottages and 13 three bedroom cottages. No seniors' units were recorded in 1997.

#### **Other Services**

The council described two types of services for the aged. It claims to support approximately 20 units for the elderly who are able to care for themselves. In addition, there are facilities attached to the hospital for the aged who are no longer able to care for themselves. What the council sees as lacking is a level in between, such as hostels or nursing homes, where some care is provided, but the patients maintain a degree of independence. The nearest such facility is at Kingaroy, some 30 km from the town of Wondai. A community health worker has recently been employed, visiting different parts of the community to increase awareness of health issues in Wondai. There are no services for youth.

### **3.7.3. Eudlo**

#### **Health**

The town of Eudlo has no medical services within the town. Some medical services are available at the nearby town of Palmwoods. The nearest public hospital is Maroochydore. The combined public health capacity of Maroochy Shire is 301 beds. In addition, there are three private health institutions in the Maroochy Shire. The LGA (Maroochy) has 1.44 doctors per 1000 people, and the Sub region (North Coast) had 1.11 doctors per 1000 people in 1995.

#### **Education**

There is a State School in Eudlo providing primary education. Currently the council perceives that enrolments are decreasing, but that the school is not at risk from closing. The nearest secondary school is at Nambour.

## **Housing**

Part of the vision of Eudlo is to have a sufficient supply of affordable housing in a style which maintains the amenity of the town (Maroochy Shire Strategic Plan 1996 p 3). The council was unaware of public housing in the town. For the LGA of Maroochy a total of 1045 public housing dwellings existed in 1997, made up of 312 senior's units, 145 one bedroom houses, 280 two bedroom houses, 256 three bedroom houses, 43 four bedroom houses and 9 houses with greater than four bedrooms.

## **Other Services**

The town has a community hall which is used for public meetings and social/recreational events. The town is serviced by a mobile library and there is a youth group aimed at 'keeping the kids in the town'. Childcare is available at the neighbouring town of Woombye.

### **3.7.4. Gympie**

#### **Health**

The town has a public hospital with a capacity of 128 beds. It is the only public hospital in the Cooloola Shire. There are two private health facilities. There was no indication from the council as to whether these facilities are adequate or not. In 1995 Gympie had 0.87 doctors per 1000 people. The sub region (North Coast) had 1.11 doctors per 1000 people.

#### **Education**

Gympie has a campus of the Cooloola–Sunshine Institute of TAFE. There is also an open learning centre. There are several primary schools. Secondary education is available at two State high schools and two private high schools. The council did not indicate whether current capacity was sufficient or not. No mention of new schools was found in planning documents for Cooloola Shire.

#### **Housing**

The Gympie sub region has a total of 562 public housing properties, of which 264 are within the LGA (Cooloola). These are made up of 34 seniors' units, 12 one bedroom houses, 65 two bedroom houses, 141 three bedroom houses, 10 four bedroom houses and 2 greater than four bedroom houses.

#### **Other Services**

Gympie is serviced by Meals on Wheels and the Red Cross. The shire is considering employing a community development officer. Services for the aged in Gympie include hostels, nursing homes and a retirement centre. The council holds the opinion that the regionalisation of Federal services has resulted in reduced representation, particularly for labour market programs. For example, the relocation of the office of DEETYA out of the shire has meant that youth employment schemes have been more difficult to access for the people of Gympie.

### **3.7.5. Beaudesert**

#### **Health**

There is one public hospital in Beaudesert with a capacity of 38 beds. There are plans to rebuild it in order to upgrade its overall facilities. The council expects there will be no increase or decrease to the capacity of the rebuilt hospital. There are two private hospitals in the sub region (Boonah–Warwick). The LGA had 0.83 doctors per 1000 people in 1995, and the sub region had 0.63.

## **Education**

The town itself has one state primary school and one state high school. These are currently considered to provide adequate services. A new primary school has recently been constructed in the Flagstone estate some 30 km north of the town. This northern part of the shire is undergoing considerable growth and a new high school is envisaged for this area in the future. Other growing parts of the Shire include Tambourine Mountain, which is in the process of constructing a new high school. Beaudesert has two international high schools.

## **Housing**

The council is not in a position to encourage private housing through incentive schemes. The total public housing stock for the Shire is 123, which is made up of 12 seniors' units, 8 one bedroom houses, 17 two bedroom houses, 80 three bedroom houses and 6 four bedroom houses. The total public housing stock for the sub region is 234.

## **Other Services**

Other services are very limited for Beaudesert. Public transport is a problem, and there were no youth services. There is an aged person's home and aged persons' retirement village.

### **3.7.6. Conondale**

#### **Health**

There are no hospital facilities in Conondale. The nearest hospital is at Maroochydore. Caloundra, the LGA that is responsible for Conondale, has 2 public health institutions with a combined capacity of 53 beds. Caloundra Shire has 1.21 doctors per 1000 people and the North Coast sub region has 1.11 doctors per 1000 people.

#### **Education**

There are no schools in the town. Primary and Secondary education are available in the neighbouring town of Maleny. The distance is approximately 20 km and there is no public transport.

#### **Housing**

The LGA of Caloundra has a public housing stock of 791 made up of 195 seniors' units, 82 one bedroom houses, 17 two bedroom houses, 80 three bedroom houses, 39 four bedroom houses and 4 greater than four bedroom houses. The council is unaware of any of these being within the township of Conondale.

#### **Other Services**

No other services were found for the town. There is an information centre at Maleny which may offer some service to the people of Conondale.

### **3.7.7. Woodford**

#### **Health**

The town has a doctor and an ambulance station. The nearest hospital is at Caboolture, which has a capacity of 120 beds. Caboolture shire had 1.38 doctors per 1000 people and the North Coast sub region has 1.11 doctors per 1000 people in 1995.

### **Education**

Primary education is available at Woodford State School. There was no indication whether its capacity needs to increase or decrease. The first 3 years of secondary education are available at the Woodford State School. For the remainder of secondary studies, the nearest school is Caboolture State High School.

### **Housing**

Housing is provided for employees of the Woodford Correctional Centre, which is a significant employer in the town. Caboolture Shire has a public housing stock of 1864 made up of 262 seniors' units, 103 one bedroom houses, 226 two bedroom houses, 1120 three bedroom houses, 135 four bedroom houses and 18 greater than 4 bedroom houses. The council is unaware of any public housing within Woodford itself.

### **Other Services**

There is a public bus service to Caboolture, which is mainly for school children.

## **3.7.8. Builyan/Many Peaks**

### **Health**

There is a public health service based in an old hospital building. Though small, this service is perceived as adequate. It is not expected either to expand or decrease in the near future. In 1995 Calliope Shire had 0.6 doctors per 1000 people and the sub region (Builyan–Gladstone) had 0.84 doctors per 1000 people.

### **Education**

The community has a small primary school, in which enrolments are low. The capacity is currently adequate, and possibly even superfluous. The nearest high school is in Gladstone, which is approximately two hours' drive away.

### **Housing**

Most housing in the town is of 'older' cottage style. The LGA has a public housing stock of 49, made up of 10 seniors' units, 8 two bedroom houses, 26 three bedroom houses, 4 four bedroom houses and one greater than four bedroom house.

### **Other Services**

There are no other services in the community. The council has surveyed the community and surrounding areas for service provision and found no demand for other services. An example of this was to introduce a bus service to bring citizens into Gladstone on a weekly or fortnightly basis. The plan was rejected due to lack of demand.

## **3.7.9. Dingo**

### **Health**

There is a clinic that is an annex to the hospital at Blackwater. It is located in a council building. The staff includes a permanent nurse and fortnightly visits from a doctor based in Blackwater. The service is widely used and residents are content with the service. The service has a strong outpatient's commitment. Duinga Shire (and sub region) had 0.28 doctors per 1000 people in 1985.

## **Education**

Due to an overall decline in the population of the surrounding area, the school has had low enrolments. Current enrolments are approximately 40 students. The staff includes a principal, two teachers, teacher aids and a secretary. The council expects enrolments to increase in the future, and sees no risk of the school closing.

## **Housing**

Housing is provided by the logging industry for sawmill workers. Most housing is single, detached cottage style. There is no public housing in Duaringa Shire.

## **Other Services**

Lifeline runs a rural support service to the region. The service makes regular visits to Dingo. The council is unaware of the need for any other services.

### **3.7.10. Linville**

#### **Health**

The nearest medical facilities are at Kilcoy hospital. The combined public health facilities of Esk Shire have a capacity of 30 beds. The sub region of Gatton–Toogoolawah has a total capacity of 75 beds. There are no private hospitals in the sub region. Esk Shire had 0.62 doctors per 1000 people in 1985, and the sub region had 0.66 doctors per 1000 people.

#### **Education**

The community is serviced by a small primary school. No indication of the capacity of this service was available. The nearest secondary school is Toogoolawah State High School approximately 30 km south of Linville.

#### **Housing**

Housing is predominantly detached cottage type dwellings. The Shire of Esk identifies unsafe and illegal dwellings to be a problem in the Shire. The public housing stock for the shire is 19, made up of 4 seniors' units, 7 two bedroom houses, 7 three bedroom houses and 1 four bedroom house. The council indicated that none of these are in Linville.

#### **Other Services**

There is a bus that runs a single daily service from the north of the shire to the south of the shire. There is also a weekly bus for residents to do shopping at Ipswich, however this is at risk from folding due to lack of funding. There is one day's respite care per month for the aged. This service is considered inadequate partly due to the fact that nearly half the residents in Linville and the surrounding community are over 55 years old.

### **3.7.11. Cooroy**

#### **Health**

Cooroy has one private hospital. It is currently being considered for expansion to compete with public hospital facilities in the region. The council is encouraging the development of a medical precinct to provide additional medical services to the town. A public hospital is planned for the nearby town of Noosaville. Noosa Shire had 1.76 doctors per 1000 people and the north coast sub region had 1.11 doctors per 1000 people in 1995.

## **Education**

The Cooroy State Primary School is currently meeting the needs of the community. Strategic Planning has identified that increased population may necessitate an additional primary school for Cooroy in the future. A new primary school is planned for Noosaville and the town of Pomona is expected to expand its primary school to include a secondary department.

## **Housing**

The area is undergoing significant pressure from population increase. New houses are restricted in terms of style to retain the character of established parts of the town. In other areas, a variety of housing styles is encouraged by the council. Public housing is limited, but the council aims to increase public housing in the future. Noosa Shire has a total public housing stock of 296, made up of 76 seniors' units, 10 one bedroom houses, 60 two bedroom houses, 129 three bedroom houses, 20 four bedroom houses and 1 greater than four bedroom house.

## **Other Services**

Aged services include Blue Nursing and a nursing home. There is one youth program for the whole shire. A counselling service for victims of domestic violence is available.

### **3.7.12. Brooweena (limited data available)**

## **Health**

The shire of Woocoo has no hospital. Only basic medical services are available to the shire. There were 0.87 doctors per 1000 people in the shire in 1995. This compares to the sub regional average of 1.38 per 1000 people.

## **Education**

There is no high school in Brooweena.

## **Housing**

There is no public housing recorded in Woocoo Shire.

## **Other Services**

The Shire of Woocoo identified the need to upgrade community halls across the Shire. (Woocoo Shire Council Corporate Plan 1997 – 2002 p 11)

**Table 3.11 Summary of Service Capacity by Case Study Town**

<b>Town/service</b>	<b>Health</b>	<b>Education</b>	<b>Housing</b>	<b>Other</b>
Maryborough	1 public hospital – 138 beds; 1 private hospital; 1.16–1.38 doctors per 1000.	Adequate primary and secondary school capacity for current population, with sufficient spare secondary school capacity to allow for some population increase.	817 public dwellings, 410 in town of Maryborough. Mixture of one, two three, four and more bedroom dwellings.	Adequate aged hostel capacity, but inadequate nursing home capacity. Meals on Wheels, minimal youth services, funding commitment for public transport.
Wondai	One 17 bed public hospital. 0.49–0.98 doctors per 1000	11 shire primary schools, one in town. Year 10 high school facility at Wondai State School.	19 public dwellings in town, comprised of mix of 2&3 bedroom dwellings.	20 aged persons' units. Geriatric care facility at hospital. Nearest aged care residential facility at Kingaroy.
Eudlo	Nearest medical service at Palmwoods. Nearest public hospital at Maroochydore.	One State primary school. Nearest secondary school at Nambour.	No public housing in town.	Community hall; mobile library.
Gympie	One 128 bed public hospital. 0.87–1.11 doctors per 1000.	Two State high schools, several primary schools. Campus of Cooloola–Sunshine Institute of TAFE.	562 public dwellings, comprising of mix of aged person's units, one, two, three, four and more than four bedroom dwellings.	Aged care hostels, nursing homes and a retirement centre. Meals on Wheels and Red Cross.
Beaudesert	One 38 bed public hospital. 0.83 doctors per 1000.	One State primary and one State high school. Two international high schools.	123 public dwellings, comprising mix of seniors' units, one, two, three and four bedroom dwellings.	Aged persons' nursing home and retirement village.
Conondale	Nearest hospital at Maroochydore. Shire doctor ratio of 1.21 doctors per 1000.	Nearest schools in Maleny.	No public housing in town.	N/a.
Woodford	Nearest hospital at Caboolture. One doctor and an ambulance station. Shire ration of 1.38 doctors per 1000.	One primary plus one Year 9 high school.	No public housing in town. Some housing provided for employees of correctional centre.	Public bus service to Caboolture, mainly for school children.
Builyan/Many Peaks	Public health service in old hospital building. Shire ratio of 0.6 doctors per 1000.	One small primary school. Nearest high school in Gladstone.	49 public dwellings, comprising mix of seniors' units, two, three, four and more than four bedroom dwellings.	No demand.
Dingo	Clinic, staffed by permanent nurse, with fortnightly visit from Blackwater doctor. Shire ratio of 0.28 doctors per 1000.	One small primary school.	Housing provided by logging industry for sawmill workers. No public housing in town or shire.	Regional Lifeline service.
Linville	None in town, with nearest medical facilities at Kilcoy Hospital. Shire ratio of 0.62 doctors per 1000.	One small primary school. Nearest secondary school at Toogoolawah.	No public housing in town.	Some bus connections to neighbouring centres.
Cooroy	One private hospital. Shire ratio of 1.76 doctors per 1000.	One State primary school.	Limited public housing in town.	Blue Nursing Home. One shire youth program. Domestic violence counselling service.
Brooweena	Shire ratio of 0.87 doctors per 1000.	No high school.	No public housing.	N/a

# 4. CHAPTER FOUR: COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS AND FOCUS GROUPS

## 4.1. INTRODUCTION AND METHOD

The following section presents the outcomes from a series of community workshops and focus groups, which were held in a range of case study communities.

The main aim of the overall social assessment for the South East Queensland Regional Forest Agreement (SEQ RFA) is to develop descriptive socio-economic ‘snapshots’ of selected communities which may be affected by the planning and policy decisions as a result of the SEQ Regional Forest Agreement. As discussed in chapter 1, the main aim of this particular report is to provide baseline data on a range of communities likely to be affected by changes in forest use. In addition, this report aims to examine broad based community responses to changes in forest use including an assessment of the potential impacts of alternative hypothetical forest resource use scenarios.

Part of the process for the collection of data to meet the aim of the project involved conducting a series of social assessment workshops. The workshops aimed to discuss the past, present and futures of local communities, highlight community values on a particular issue, and to determine local communities’ perceptions on the nature and significance of potential social impacts from changes in forest use and management. In addition, the workshops provided an avenue for community involvement in the social assessment process.

In recognition of the varying perspectives and values within the communities concerned, a representative selection of community interests who are either involved in forest activities and/or have related interests in forest use and management in the area were invited to the workshops. The social assessment workshops, where possible, included representatives from the following interest:

- human services
- retail and trade/ chamber of commerce
- logging contractors
- sawmill workers
- sawmill managers

- beekeeping industry
- graziers
- conservationists
- farm forestry
- tourism industry
- National Parks and Wildlife
- Integrated Catchment Management (ICM)
- landcare
- local government representatives
- Department of Primary Industries – Forestry
- Regional and Economic Development Bureau

As the above list indicates, participants at the workshops included not only local residents and residents of the surrounding area, but also service providers, local and State government representatives, local community groups and other organisations and individuals who have significant expertise or local knowledge of the area.

Stakeholder peak body organisations on the RFA reference panel, where appropriate, were contacted to nominate participants for the workshops. For other community interests which are not represented on the reference panel local networks were used to identify participants for the workshops.

A total of six workshops were conducted across the SEQ RFA region in townships identified as sensitive to changes in forest use and management. These areas are Woodford, Linville, Builyan/Many Peaks, Maryborough, Gympie and Cooroy.

The approach employed in the social assessment workshops is based on the focus group method. It is a discussion-based interview that produces a particular type of qualitative data, and involves the simultaneous use of multiple respondents to generate data, which is focused and relatively staged.

At the workshops, participants were asked a specific number of set questions relating to their community and their perception of the impacts of changes in forest use and management will have on their community.

The workshop was divided in two sessions. The first section sought to gather information about participants' attitudes about their town/area, including events that are perceived to be significant to the community and their visions for their community. In the second part of the workshop, participants were asked about their perception of the impact of changes in forest use and management on their community.

Responses to each question were recorded on butchers paper and discussed briefly in a plenary session. Workshop participants wrote, on forms provided, their response to each of the questions and these were collated and included in the workshop documentation. Scribes were also present at each workshop to record issues and other additional information raised during the workshop. For detailed information on workshop outcomes, please refer to appendices.

The workshop questions are outlined below:

**Part A: Community’s attitudes, significant events and visions**

1. How do you feel about living in (town/area) or the surrounding area? Positive and negative aspects.
2. What have been the most significant events in your community since 1980, and how has this community managed these events?
3. What are some of the visions you have for your town/community?

**Part B: Perceived potential social impacts from hypothetical resource scenarios – Positive and Negative Impacts.**

1. What do you think would happen to (town/area) and the surrounding area *if there is no change in forest use and management as it has been for the last few years?*
2. What do you think would happen to (area/town) and the surrounding area *if there was a decrease in the availability of State forest resources?*
3. What do you think would happen to (area/town) and the surrounding area *if there was an increase in dedicated conservation estate?*

What do you think would happen to (area/town) and the surrounding area *if there was an increase in the availability of State forest resources?* (Question 4 was only included at the request of participants in one of the workshops).

At the completion of the workshop, participants were asked to complete an evaluation form. The feedback would allow adjustments and improvements to be made for future workshops. Participants were also informed that the outcomes from the workshop would remain with the social assessment team until participants had agreed on the final wording. Draft write-ups of the workshops were sent to participants for comment and or approval.

An outcome from one of the workshops was a request for the workshop questions to be left at a local community library for broader community input into the social assessment workshop. Results from the survey have been incorporated appropriately in the social assessment report for the RFA.

## **4.2. CASE STUDY TOWN COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS**

### **4.2.1. Maryborough Community Workshop**

The Maryborough community workshop was held at the training hall of Maryborough City Hall on May 19 between 6 and 8pm. Seventeen representatives from the local community participated in the workshop session.

#### **General issues**

The general issues raised by the Maryborough workshop participants included:

- The loss of Fraser Island for logging purposes. This meant losing one industry (timber) but gaining another (tourism). Demand for timber did not cease after the closure of Fraser Island to logging and red iron bark has had to be found on the mainland, encouraging imports.
- Lack of co-operation amongst local tourist facility operators. The tourism industry in Maryborough suffers because tourist operators are too interested in their private businesses and fail to recognise the benefits of mutual promotion.
- Desire to maintain a sustainable timber industry recognising the need for long term planning which will benefit the community.
  - Harvesting of trees must complement re-growth rate if the industry is to be sustainable.
  - There is a need to encourage farmers to plant more trees and improve harvesting practices.
  - The RFA, being a 20 year plan, allows proper planning and negotiation between the two governments on how native forests of the SE Queensland region can best be used and managed for the future.
- Certainty of harvest on private land. Fear of not being able to harvest timber led to excessive cutting of timber in some situations.
- Concerns about further restrictions to the timber industry, which has undergone considerable changes recently. It was suggested that an industry that has already lost so much cannot afford to lose any more.
- Perception that Maryborough is a retirement area but it is not.
- There is a trend towards a decrease in personal and household incomes.

## **Workshop questions**

### **How do you feel about living in Maryborough or the surrounding area?**

Participants felt that there were both positive and negative aspects to living in Maryborough and the surrounding area. Participants thought that the area had great schools and was a good place to raise kids. The great lifestyle, agreeable climate and proximity to the coast, national parks and other towns and cities were all thought to be positive aspects to living in the area.

Participants also thought that there was a sense of community identity and a sense history. They felt that living in the area offered them opportunities for a variety of leisure and sporting activities, good health services and educational opportunities. Some workshop participants felt, however, that there were insufficient education and training opportunities available. Participants identified conservative attitudes against change and parochialism as negative aspects to living in their community

Some participants were concerned that there were high levels of crime and poverty in the area, yet others thought that there were good employment opportunities due to the number of mills and diverse rural employment opportunities in the area. The loss of self esteem for the unemployed was also of concern.

It was thought that there was a growing environmental awareness in the community and that the remaining biodiversity in the area ought to be protected. It was also mentioned that the smaller towns in the region had suffered because government services had been removed.

**What have been the most significant events in your community since 1980, and how has this community managed these events?**

Some of the most significant events mentioned by participants which affected the area included the closure of several schools from the late 1980s onwards and the closure of brickworks, meatworks and timber mills which have led to fewer jobs being available in the region. The loss of transport and other services have been events that have significantly affected the area in a negative way. An event that was seen as having greatly affected the local population was the loss of Fraser Island for logging purposes on December 19, 1991. Participants argued that this event had effects on both individuals and flow-on effects to other parts of the community. The event forced career changes for many members of the community and it was felt that there was no accountability for compensation paid to those affected. Another effect of the loss of Fraser Island for logging was that the value of logs on private land increased to nearly double and there was an increase in imports of red iron bark on the mainland. The change in Local Government Area boundaries in the area was also seen as a significant event for the community because of its effects on service provision for further details see Appendix 2.

**What are some of the visions you have for your town/community in the future? How will these contribute to the local area?**

The visions for the future described by workshop participants included having certainty about the future of their forest industries. It was thought desirable by some to see a reduction in conservative attitudes that limit opportunities for industries, particularly hospitality, to expand. Other visions included the establishment of a primary production research institute and the continuation of silviculture practices in relation to forest management. Some participants hoped to see an increased motivation within the community to address lack of enterprise and infrastructure in the area.

Participants wanted to secure a safe and happy lifestyle in their area. Some had a vision for steady planning among industries and governments working together for the future of the general community. Part of the vision of participants was to have continued access to all native forests including national parks for beekeepers and for some participants there was a desire to see no reductions to current timber allocations. Participants wished to see a greater emphasis on hardwood plantations and on value adding and there was also a suggestion that there could be a major agro-forestry industry established, based on private land.

**What do you think would happen to Maryborough and the surrounding area if there was a decrease in the availability of State forest resources?**

The workshop participants saw both positive and negative possible outcomes of the hypothetical scenario. Some thought that such a scenario would provide more impetus for agro forestry and consequently assist in the protection of biodiversity. Some felt that the situation would lead to more and better planning of timber industry activities. They felt that in the long term, the timber industry would become more sustainable than at present and that this scenario would provide greater impetus for value adding. Some felt that sustainable forest industries are the key to a sustainable economy in the region.

Others were concerned that this scenario would lead to a loss of jobs for timber industry workers and that there would be flow-on welfare dependence issues arising for those people. Fewer

employment opportunities would be available for unskilled workers and there was concern that there would be increased pressure on private resources and an increase in imports and also a loss of available apiary sites. It was thought that it would be necessary to re-skill mill workers and that the costs of this needed to be considered.

Some participants thought that this scenario would mean that there could be a more diverse use of forests for both industries other than timber and for recreational purposes. Some thought that for long term job security, there should be a move towards increased processing of timber products rather than exporting raw material and importing processed product in order to create more jobs and boost the local economy.

#### **4.2.2. Builyan/Many Peaks Community Workshop**

The community workshop held for Builyan/Many Peaks occurred on May 18 1998 at the Builyan Community Hall between 6 and 8pm. Eleven members of the local community from various interested groups attended the meeting.

#### **General issues**

Participants raised several issues in this discussion relating to:

- The impacts of tourism. If there were to be an increase in tourism, its social and environmental impact would need to be considered and managed.
- Hardwood timber allocation. There was a perception that local State forest had been well managed in the past and the reduction in resource allocation would cause suffering among the local community. Changes in allocations had effects on the prices of timber and had closed several mills.
- Big players in the timber industry are taking advantage of good local management of local State forests and are moving into local allocation zones and taking resources.
- Freehold timber growers concern over right to harvest. If right of harvest could not be assured there would be a furore of cutting in anticipation of imposed changes to forest use and management. It was suggested that incentives for private land holders to develop 'best practice' be introduced in the form of tax rebates.
- The need to develop guidelines which are balanced between production and conservation.
- Community needs to have control of timber and land: there needs to be acknowledgment of the planting and maintenance of forests being carried out and their benefit to the community.
- The RFA process ought to consider how and for what purpose land owners use free hold land and should seek to optimise mix industries and potential for increased productivity. The RFA should also encourage people with leasehold land to plant timber.
- National Competition Policy (Hilmer Report) seen as 'overkill' and will probably affect some people adversely.

#### **Workshop questions**

##### **What do you feel about living in Builyan/Many Peaks or the surrounding area?**

Participants identified the simple country environment and lifestyle of their area as well as the down-to-earth values mixed with contemporary ideas as being positive aspects to living there.

However, some also noted that there was a tendency towards narrowmindedness and an unwillingness to 'venture' out amongst members of the community. The area was described as having traditional values, being good grazing land, being safe and having the locational advantage of being close to major cities but still far enough away to maintain rural characteristics. Some thought that the location of the town was problematic because it is a long distance from anywhere else.

Participants felt that it was good that they had their own local services including health services, the fire brigade, the police and that these services were supported by other services in cities. It was noted, however, that there had been a loss of services in the area due to contraction of local industries. It was also thought that there was inadequate road and rail infrastructure.

It was thought to be a terrific place to raise children and some participants indicated a strong affection for, familiarity, and identity with the place. Participants indicated that they were dedicated to value adding to the valley and land. The high biodiversity in the forests and ecosystems was identified as a positive aspect of their area. There was also a perceived potential to bring trades to the town.

A negative aspect identified of living in the area was the uncertainty of the timber industry causing people to delay making economic decisions in regards to advancing the community. The socio-economic status of the community was seen to be reasonably low and highly reliant on primary industries: timber, grazing and dairy. The cost of living was thought to be high and employment prospects few. It was also thought that there was too much government negative interference and that governments should be keeping small towns viable.

### **What have been the most significant events in your community since 1980, and how has the community managed these events?**

Participants at the workshop identified the end of dairying in the late 1950s, as being a highly significant event in the area, as it was the catalyst for population decline. Another significant event was the loss of the rail service in the late 1960s due to changes in the timber industry. Other significant events included: the construction of Awonga dam in 1968 and its subsequent negative effect on the local water quality, the beginning of logging in 1971, the loss of services to the area beginning with the butcher and barber in 1972, and the decentralisation of the mail system which has resulted in mail delays. For further details see Appendix 3.

### **What are some of the visions you have for your town/community for the future?**

The future visions for Builyan from the workshop participants included a continuation of a sustainable and renewable timber industry. It was hoped that there would be a re-evaluation of the values and uses of our natural resources and that there could be an increase in low impact tourism. There was a desire for improved roads and infrastructure and for taxes to be put back into the community. Part of the vision included encouraging growth and bringing trade and people back into the community. They hoped to maintain their established traditional community. Some hoped that the local sawmill would be sustained to see out the rest of their working lives whilst others hoped to assist with the reduction of the greenhouse effect. Others hoped to see the opening up the area for both tourism and for logging.

Participants identified a strong sense of connection with Kroombit Tops area and sought a balanced use of the area for both industry and recreation.

### **What do you think would happen to Builyan/Many Peaks and the surrounding area if there was a decrease in the availability of State forest resources?**

The workshop participants thought that Builyan would need to diversify in terms of local industry if it were to survive longer term. It was thought that this scenario would at least provide some certainty regarding available resources to base an industry around, and allow for some decisions to be made. Participants thought that there would be a significant loss of jobs and a subsequent loss of services in this case scenario. It was thought that this in turn would lead to the gradual demise of the community within four or five years. The scenario would increase the potential for some tourism and also protect biodiversity. It was supposed that big companies would take over small saw millers and monopolise the market. It was also thought that the timber industry would be likely to become import-reliant for resources from South East Asia where the forests are less sustainably managed, with negative global and environmental repercussions.

### **4.2.3. Gympie Community Workshop**

The social assessment workshop for the Gympie area took place on May 22, 1998 at the Gympie Civic Centre between 6 and 9.30pm. Fourteen individuals representing local government, retail and trade, forest industries, Regional Development Corporation, farm foresters, landcare and conservation interests took part in the workshop.

#### **General Issues**

Some of the general issues raised related to the following:

- There was concern that there was no funding for upgrading of current sewerage facilities and the negative implications that this may have for the environmental quality.
- Timber industry efficiency. Increasingly efficient technology was having a negative effect on levels of employment available in the timber industry.
- Globalisation of trade had implications for the timber industry.
- That the level of value to cost (value adding) of timber products ought to be increased; for example, utilising timber for cabinet making versus utilising it for telephone poles.
- Loss of areas for logging to national parks would impact on productivity of the timber industry.
- Instability of primary production markets meaning that farmers have to subsidise their income by other means.

### **How do you feel about living in Gympie or the surrounding area?**

Generally respondents felt that their area was good to live in because of its rural lifestyle and proximity to urban amenities. The physical environment was highly valued aesthetically and participants thought that there was good potential for eco-tourism. Respondents commented that their area had strong community structures and services and was free from the superficiality found in big cities.

Concern was expressed however, at the few employment prospects available in the area. High unemployment was identified as contributing to the social problems experienced by youth, problems with law and order, and of low self esteem. It was also noted that some infrastructure and services have relocated out of the area. The control of such services was now felt to be outside of the community.

The increase in population in the area was seen to be creating additional pressure on available resources and services and the media image of the area was seen to be poor and unlikely to attract investors.

Some felt that people in the area had a tendency to be reactionary rather than visionary and parochial rather than holistic. There was a sense that the community was not taking advantage of existing resources and expertise and as a result, the potential for advancing the area was being lost. A problematic issue for the local government was the amalgamation of shires and its funding implications. As the area is classified as neither urban nor rural, the shire is caught in the middle of specific Federal and State funding criteria. Present funding is considered to be inadequate to accommodate changes.

### **What have been the most significant events in your community since 1980, and how has this community managed these events?**

The significant events identified by the participants included the establishment of a large company (Laminex) in the area in 1988, the amalgamation of shires in the late 1980s which meant that the area was defined as neither urban nor rural. The World Heritage listing of Fraser Island was considered to be significant, as was the loss of land available for grazing. Loss of employment in industry and the relocation of government departments and services also featured as significant events. Drought and the available quantities of water and the formation of the Mary River catchment in 1994 were also mentioned.

Other significant events included local shows and expos and horse riding events, the re-opening of the historic railway and the floods of 1992 which were seen to have brought the community together. Changes in forest management and timber production have recently negatively affected the Gympie community. (Further information is available in the Appendix 4.)

### **What are some of the visions you have for your town/community for the future?**

The participants generally had visions for their community that included an economically viable and ecologically sustainable timber industry that had a high emphasis on value adding. There was also a vision that the area could become the centre for farm forestry in the South East Queensland region. There was a desire to see a stabilisation of softwood plantations and to increase the number of plantations on private land. Some saw the opportunity for utilising pulp as an environmentally friendly energy source.

Part of the vision included the protection of forests of high value in terms of their biodiversity and commitment to the value of the natural environment as a fundamental asset. There was also an emphasis on improving silviculture and other forest management techniques as well as improving the water allocation management.

A stable and sustainable population in the area with greater economic opportunities for youth to encourage them to remain in the area was an important part of the vision for some. Improved service delivery, a diversification of industry, and an increase in tourism and its economic benefits were seen as means by which the area could be improved.

Some participants hoped for recognition and encouragement of small businesses in the area and efficient use of local capital leading to increased community ownership.

### **What do you think would happen to Gympie and the surrounding area if there was a decrease in the availability of State forest resources?**

While a loss of available State forest resources was viewed negatively in terms of its effect on the timber industry and dependent communities, such as loss of employment, and a decline in market expectations, it was also recognised that such a move would encourage a move towards better silviculture practices. Other positive impacts of such a situation included the increased potential of eco-tourism, farm forestry and plantation timbers. It was suggested that employment may be created in forest management roles. It was also seen that the impact could be a very negative impact for apiarists if they were denied access to forests in reserve as they would have to travel further to find suitable places for their bees to collect pollen. The impact for apiarists could be quite positive if access to protected forests were assured.

Other negative impacts mentioned were the possible move toward non-renewable resources as replacements for timber, the loss of access to forests for recreational purposes and loss of income and viability for other forest users such as graziers.

In addition to the social assessment workshop, two focus groups were held in Gympie with the Cooloola Shire Council and Chamber of Commerce. The following is a brief outline of the issues raised.

#### **4.2.3a Cooloola Shire Council issues**

A focus group was conducted on 11 December 1997 with the Cooloola Shire Council. A number of issues were raised at the focus group.

Cooloola Shire Council's view as expressed by Mayor Mick Venardos is that:

- 'Bottom line is that there must be a guarantee that native hardwood timber industry in this community is not affected in any way including where people are forced out of the industry by government decisions.
- Concern about potential social and economic impact on shire's residents and that the RFA threatens the social infrastructure of the area.'
- The compensation package for Fraser Island did not produce any full time jobs and people waited years for compensation. It was argued at the focus group that Fraser Island is now badly managed compared to when logging was being carried out particularly in relation to fire management and road maintenance.
- Farm forestry was seen as being affected by the RFA through uncertainty of future harvest rights and whether any mills will be operating when the trees are ready for harvest in 20 – 30 years time.

- The councillors stated that the key industries in the Cooloola Shire are dairying, beef, gold, small crops and timber, all of which are suffering decline. They argued that the RFA social and economic assessment should place changes in the timber policy in the context of decline in other rural industries.
- The councillors believed that flow on effects from the RFA would devastate Gympie and Cooloola Shire.

In relation to the private resource Cooloola Shire argued that due to a fear of government intervention on private land and high level of confusion that:

- People are destroying private forests now and this will have a great impact on future industry and the availability private resource.
- Private land holders cutting timber at a smaller size (landscape sleepers) then saw miller preferred. Prefer the timber left for another 15 years so can be processed as saw logs.

For further details see Appendix 5.

#### **4.2.3b Gympie Chamber of Commerce meeting**

To summarise the feeling of the Chamber:

There must be an understanding that the town is critically dependent on a viable timber industry, which means the sustainability of the current industry. If there are any cut backs in the timber industry, people do not have anywhere to go as other primary industries are on the skids

The Chamber argued that the Forestry training college (in which the State government has invested money) and museum (heritage) shows the importance and place of the forestry industry in the region.

The Chamber expressed concerns about focusing on farm forestry and plantations as the only way to preserve the industry. They believe that we need to look at alternative ways to use and manage what we have got. For example rather than looking at compensation, look at possible new industries like value adding. Chamber is in favour of, and supports pine plantation, but stressed that pine plantation is a different industry which is less labour intensive and therefore provides fewer employment opportunities and requires different skills. Plantation industry is defiantly not the answer to the down turn in native hardwood industry.

The Chamber had concerns regarding management of State forests and national parks:

- DPI–Forestry needs to focus on both the management of harvesting and growth rates and renewed silviculture generally.
- They saw Fraser Island as a good example of timber industry management and self regulation. The timber industry’s management practices provided for Fraser Island to be in a condition to be World Heritage Listed.
- Concern about management issues (safety and fire): associated with a decline in the level of maintenance of undergrowth and roads (which are not maintained to the same levels in national parks as in the State forests).

- Another issue raised was the loss of government jobs and services.
- 280 jobs lost in railway in last five years with approx 28 people employed today.
- 500 jobs in forestry have been lost in the past 20 years.
- a large number of government services have been leaving town in the past five years.

The Chamber argued that there is a very fine, inter-connected network of businesses and services in the area that would be greatly impacted by changes to the timber industry.

In relation to compensation, the Chamber:

- did not necessarily even want to consider that there will be a need for compensation because there should be no change to current status.
- sees compensation as a trade-off for not having lasting employment and would sooner see jobs preserved than have new ones created that do not last.

For further details see Appendix 6.

#### **4.2.4. Cooroy Community Workshop**

The community workshop was conducted in the boardroom at the Cooroy RSL on May 21, 1998, between 6pm and 9pm. Twelve representatives from a broad range of stakeholders, community groups and government departments attended the workshop. The following is a summary of outcomes from the Cooroy workshop.

##### **General issues**

Some general issues raised were:

- NSW beekeepers using SEQ State forests during drought
- Time lines for project. The RFA process was considered too short, and also some discussion on interim forest management arrangements (IFMA).
- Local or regional Department of Natural Resources participation is happening for RFA process.

##### **Workshop Questions**

###### **How do you feel about living in Cooroy or the surrounding area?**

The responses to this question fell into a number of positive and negative themes. The respondents thought that the small rural community atmosphere, the proximity to major centres and services, the environment and a connection to the forest industries were all positive aspects of living in Cooroy. The participants thought that the town had a diverse laid back community, which is good for raising a family. In addition, various comments were made about the town's potential, with most participants indicating that they think Cooroy has a great deal of potential.

The participants also identified a number of negative aspects of living in Cooroy, which can be grouped into themes. Issues surrounding employment, the effects of town planning and population growth were the negative themes identified during the workshop. Concerns were raised

surrounding the uncertainty faced by mills at a time when there is increasing demand for timber resources accompanying the population growth.

**What are some of the visions you have for your town/community in the future? How will these contribute to the local area?**

The participants at the workshop generally had a number of visions for the future of Cooroy. The visions fall into a few common themes. A strong common theme is the need to create work opportunities in order to maintain a stable community in the future. Maintenance and upgrading of rural education facilities and courses, the need for all sections of the community to work together and to limit population growth are other common visions identified. The need to create stable sustainable work opportunities for the people of the area was recognised and the timber industry is seen as a viable industry capable of achieving this goal. Promotion of non-government plantation resources and community involvement in forest management were some of the visions held by the workshop participants.

**What have been the most significant events in your community since 1980, and how has this community managed these events?**

The workshop participants identified local annual and weekly events such as the Eumundi markets as being significant to their community. Other significant events included competitions and expos held in the area. Events that had significantly affected the area were closures of mills (Pomona Mill, 1989), loss of railway services, an increase in population and the development of farm forestry programs in the 1990s. Other major events included the raising of public awareness about ecologically sound industry practice and the declaration of Cooloola State Park in 1992. In 1997, the Pomona Timber festival was established and the sugar industry had an upsurge in 1998, Pomona Furniture secured a \$2 million contract for the Sydney Olympics. For more details, see Appendix 7.

**What do you think would happen to Cooroy and the surrounding area if there was a decrease in the availability of State forest resources?**

The Cooroy workshop participants had many ideas about the possible effects of this scenario. Some of the possible positive effects included the creation of government initiatives to find more land for plantations and government incentives for land holders to plant more trees. It was thought that such a scenario would increase the emphasis on value added forest products and have the potential to increase conservation areas in State forest. It was thought that the scenario would encourage more sustainable native forest management given that current practices had proven to be unsustainable and create a focus on new secondary industries.

The negative impacts of the scenario related generally to the job losses that might occur and the flow on effects of this. Most workers in the timber industry lack transferable skills to find alternative employment and there would be significant impacts on their families and the community if these people were no longer receiving a wage. A negative economic impact of the scenario was thought to be the costs of cross industry training. Possible negative environmental impacts mentioned included the substitution of non-sustainable material such as steel and plastic where timber might previously have been used. Some participants were also concerned about the potential threat of fires appropriate fire management regimes were not implemented. There was also concern that this scenario would lead to an increase in imports of timber products, which would add to the national deficit.

#### **4.2.5. Linville Community Workshop**

The workshop was conducted at the Linville Community and Progress Hall on Thursday, 14 May 1998, between 6.00pm and 9.30pm. A total of 10 representatives from Linville and the surrounding area attended the workshop.

#### **General Issues**

General and related issues were raised during this workshop. They were:

- Forest management practices. Most participants were happy with the way forests are managed, except that natural regrowth is not sufficiently encouraged. However, concern was expressed regarding the management of State forests if logging ceases. Concerns that excessive logging of mature trees will have negative impacts on wildlife habitats and be detrimental to the bee keeper industry were expressed.
- Allocation and review of allocation process: seeking to enhance silviculture practices, which could lead to better wood production and the maintenance of ecologically sustainable forests.
- Participants had concerns about changes and the impacts these will have on their community:. These included increased transportation costs for logs, current trend indicating falling wages and increased unemployment, and further restrictions on availability of timber.
- Concern about negative impacts of the IFMA. Mill 'locked out' of Squirell Creek and moved to another area. The quality of timber has decreased and the species mix, particularly Ironbark is not available to meet customer's demands.
- Role of local council to promote growth in area and retention of timber on freehold land.
- Alternative uses for unused timber such as for woodchips, pulp or for energy production that is environmentally friendly.
- Plantations should include furniture timber like silky oak as well as construction timber.
- Better utilisation of existing markets

#### **Workshop Questions**

##### **How do you feel about living in Linville or the surrounding area?**

Participants outlined both positive and negative aspects of living in their community. Linville was described as a good rural place to live because of its position both in terms of its climate and its proximity to major centres.

The area was seen as important for primary production which 'feeds Brisbane'. Many participants' comments reflected strong attachment to the area. Some were born in the area, while others have lived there for a long time. Social and health services were perceived as being adequate, despite recent losses in services due to population decline. However, some participants indicated that some facilities such as hospitals and high schools are not available in Linville or the surrounding area.

Participants also indicated that the community was experiencing a decline due to continuing drought and overall reduction of trade prices within the area. This situation was made more difficult because of the lack of major industries in the area and the lack of diversification to compensate for increased levels of unemployment. Consequently young people moved from the area to seek employment elsewhere.

### **What have been the most significant events in your town/community since 1980, and how has the community managed these events?**

Annual events such as ANZAC day, Remembrance Day and Picnic races and the Mt. Stanley muster featured as significant events for the workshop participants. Other events that were seen to be significant related to the loss of services to the area due to a decline in local population. A high school at Toogoolawah became able to provide senior high school education in 1985, which meant that young people did not have to leave the area for their education. The establishment of the 'Alkira' nursing home in 1988 in the area was seen very positively because it provided employment and allowed for older people to remain in the area. Drought and rural decline over the past ten to fifteen years were also seen as being very significant to the area. See Appendix 8 for further details.

### **What are some of the visions you have for your town/community in the future?**

Participants had a vision for the future of their area as being a 'showcase' of how to manage land sustainably for primary production including timber, stock, water, conservation, and recreation and tourism. There was a desire to see a strong forestry industry based on both State forests and farm forestry for the future including efficient use of all forest products and value adding processes. The retention of the character of Linville and the Linville lifestyle was seen as a positive vision for the future and one that could be capitalised upon in tourism and by promoting the timber industry. Diversification of industry, including grape growing, deer hunting, as well as training are suggested ways to keep young people in the area. Some of the participants hoped that there would never be wood chipping in their area or in any areas of the SEQ RFA. Better management of water resources for irrigation, fish stocks and recreational purposes was also part of their community vision.

### **What do you think would happen to Linville and the surrounding area if there was a decrease in the availability of State forest resources?**

Whilst participants expressed grave concerns about the continued viability of the community if the reduction in State forests available for logging occurred, due to job losses, fewer jobs being available in the industry, adverse effects on population and hence, service provision. However, positive impacts were also recognised. There was acknowledgment that the farm forestry and plantation timber industries could be encouraged and enhanced by such a move and that the tourism potential of the area may be increased. It was also recognised that such a situation would force forward planning on the part of the timber industry. Concern was expressed however, about the management of forests for weeds, feral pests and fires. Beekeepers were concerned that access to native forests may be denied to them if the forests are put into a reserve. If this were to be the case, their businesses would become less viable due to a need to travel great distances to get to suitable forested areas. If access to forest areas were maintained in this scenario, the outcomes for beekeepers would be positive.

#### **4.2.6. Woodford Community Workshop**

The workshop was conducted at the Supper Room of the Woodford Hall on Wednesday 13th May 1998, between 6pm and 9.30pm. A total of 13 representatives from Woodford and the surrounding area attended the workshop. The following is the summary of outcomes from the workshop.

#### **General Issues**

In brief, some of the issues were:

- Time constraints. Participants indicated that the two hour period allocated for the workshop was insufficient given that issues relating to RFA are very important issues affecting their future and that of their community.
- Compensation is perceived as a ‘pay off to disappear’ and needs to be adequately addressed to ensure that it is appropriate.
- National Forestry Policy Statement (NFPS). This and other government policies have caused uncertainties and concerns among members of the community about the future of their town.

## **Workshop Questions**

### **How do you feel about living in Woodford or the surrounding area?**

In response to this question, workshop participants generally indicated that community cohesion and support for one another was one of the most positive aspects about their community. Members of the community were described as hard working, with strong family ties and values. The area was seen as a good place to raise children because of the security afforded and relaxed lifestyle. Most also saw Woodford as a ‘unique’ and ‘individual’ place, and it was described as a ‘paradise’.

However, the majority of participants at the workshop indicated that uncertainties about the future prospects of their community (due to the RFA, Native Title, etc) led to diminishing morale and confidence within the community. The recent influx of people from other areas affecting the strain on local services, the lack of transport and lack of professional support services in the community, were all seen to have negative effects on the community and their way of life.

Finally, participants were concerned about the number of people (especially young people), leaving the area in search of employment. Many would like to see the maintenance of the timber industry, and the establishment of other value adding industries in the area to address some of the unemployment issues in the area.

### **What are some of the visions you have for your town/community in the future? How will these contribute to the local area?**

The participants at the workshop had a number of visions for their community. These can be summarised and categorised into two main themes – that of maintaining and expanding the timber industry (with value adding seen as one answer to future viability), and finding a balance between conserving their natural environment and servicing the economic needs of the community.

In relation to forestry, many believed that resource security, together with value adding products, and the establishment and development of joint ventures between relevant industries and governments were essential to achieve this goal. Some participants suggested the use and promotion of forests for tourism and other events (like the folk festival), and diversification into other industries such as winery and cottage industries. However, many participants would also like to have environmental considerations incorporated into the development of these industries. Overall, there appeared to be an acknowledgment among participants that there was a need for the community to work together in addressing these issues.

### **What have been the most significant events in your community since 1980, and how has the community managed these events?**

Most participants at the workshop indicated that the closure of various primary industries including sawmills, combined with ongoing drought, resulted in the overall decline of their town. Many people left the area seeking employment, whilst those fortunate enough to retain their jobs, have had to accept some changes (such as wage cuts etc.).

However, events such as the relocation of the folk festival from Maleny to Woodford and the Woodford annual show and the reopening of the Woodford Correctional Centre, assisted in addressing some of the town's economic issues. For further detail, see Appendix 9.

### **What do you think would happen to Woodford or the surrounding area if there was a decrease in the availability of State forest resources?**

Most participants saw the demise of their community as one of the most negative possible impacts of this scenario. For example, the closure and winding down of businesses and timber operators would not only lead to unemployment for those working in the industry, but would have a flow-on effects for the rest of the community. The timber industry would be reluctant to make further investment into their operation because of uncertainty for the future of their business. In the long term this may lead to inequity of outcomes for smaller businesses which could not afford outlays required to remain competitive.

Many participants were concerned about the subsequent effects on the social structure of their community, especially in relation to family break-ups.

## **4.2.7. Wondai**

### **Introduction**

The approach used to engage the Wondai community, with a view to gaining a better understanding of the community's broad-based responses to changes in forest use and management varied from the standard community workshop approach used in other communities. The consultation approach varied due to the unique manner by which the Wondai community 'mobilised' to respond to the SEQ RFA.

In response to a public meeting held in Wondai in September 1997 to the Wondai Regional Forest Agreement Committee (WRFAC) was established. The WRFAC draws its participants from Wondai and Murgon Shire Councils, Chamber of Commerce and range of local businesses including bank managers, motel and food store proprietors and timber industry interests such as sawmill owners and employees and logging contractors.

The WRFAC level of interest in the RFA process is exemplified by the fact that the WRFAC undertook a survey of business and social life in Wondai. This undertaking is seen by the WRFAC as a local level initiative, which aims to identify the linkages between forest user business and employees to local business, service providers and suppliers

The RFA social assessment team participated in two meetings with the WRFAC during December 1997 and January 1998. Refer to Appendix 10 and 11 for further details.

The following outlines key issues raised by the WRFAC, including historical association of Wondai's timber industry and the community's response to changes in forest use and management.

#### General issues identified by WRFAC

- The fundamental role of forestry in the history and development and future vision of Wondai
- The proximity of State Forest (SF) 12 to the Wondai township has given the community a sense of custodianship and stewardship toward SF 12, and intimate knowledge of SF 12's user and management needs
- The continual operation of the Wondai sawmill is integral to the continuation of Wondai township itself
- Associated with the above outlined relationship is the significance of SF 12 to the mill and therefore of SF12 to Wondai

#### **Wondai Community – self perception**

Wondai sees itself as a bush community, greatly affected by city-based (political) decisions (e.g. fuel, guns, Native Title), more so than urban areas. The Wondai community views their forest or timber heritage as integral to the further development and on-going life in Wondai. The establishment of the township is seen as a community effort and not one of government and there are strong community ties. For example some infrastructure expansions, the subsidies and costs are carried by the Wondai public and Shire Council.

There is a strong concern regarding fear of losing harvesting rights on private land.

The Wondai community expects compensation for any loss of income through a change in State forest use. This applies to mill and mill workers as well as the general business community. There is recognition of precedents for such compensation in Queensland.

#### **Wondai's association with Forestry**

Wondai township was established as part of SF 101 in 1903 and the economy of the town has always been centred on forestry and the mill. Specific management practices and techniques have ensured continuity of supply, such as a high recovery rate and value adding processes such a planing and an impregnation treatment plant. The mill is seen as a stable part of the community, which provides the opportunities for youth employment and ensuring that young people stay within their community.

Investment into upgrading the hardwood milling technology at the mill to date is approximately ¼ million dollars and further upgrade is seen as essential to compete in the national and international markets. However, further investment is on hold until uncertainty engendered by the Interim Forest Management Agreement (IFMA) and the RFA is resolved.

The mill is also seen as the economic centre of the town and as providing stability into the future with export of local timber product to Japan and New Zealand. Continuity of species mix (especially spotted gum) is vital to the operations of the mill and the continued supply to market demand and solidifying the export exchange. SF 12 is seen as critical to ensuring long term supply of appropriate species mix to continue the marketing and export initiative.

## **Changes in forest use and management**

Discussion on potential social impacts from a change in forest use and management centred on the potential impacts from a decrease in forest resources available if access to SF 12 was not available. The WRFAC advised that there is no other crown timber resource available, as all sales have been worked over, except for SF12.

WRFAC are of the understanding that SF 12 was included in the IFMA due to a belief that there is a rare species of wattle or that there is a perception that SF12 has retained sufficient 'high' natural value.

SF 12 is seen as critical to the future of the mill and its export initiatives. If there is an ongoing decrease or total exclusion from SF 12 then the viability of the mill, and subsequently Wondai, would be threatened. WRFAC expressed concern that if SF 12 is 'locked up' for conservation purposes, without a rigorous fire regime, then there will be a real fire safety threat to Wondai.

The WRFAC maintains that if SF 12 is not available for logging and community use, the mill, the community and the social life of Wondai will be affected.

## **Proston Mill closure**

The WRFAC highlighted the neighbouring town of Proston and the mill closure and the impacts on that town. The social assessment team interviewed one of the logging contractor resident in Proston and the Mayor of Wondai. Please refer to Appendix 12 for further information.

Proston Sleeper Mill (PSM) was owned and operated by Queensland Railway (QR) as a sleeper mill until its closure in 1970. The PSM processed around 600 sleepers per day and employed around 80 people who nearly all lived in Proston in QR supplied housing.

In summary, Mayor Percy Iszlaub outlined one of the critical elements in Proston survival as a rural community, which was local leadership and positive government intervention. The Queensland Government decision to build the Boondooma Dam just outside of Proston was important to provide an alternative source of employment for dispossessed mill workers and other rural people. The phasing out of the PSM contributed to minimise the negative impacts on Proston. In addition the support of Proston township by the Wondai Shire Council (WSC), and its investment in infrastructure and financial assistance have been fundamental to the on-going viability of Proston.

**Table 4.1: Summary of Findings of Community Workshops**

Town/issue	Feelings about town	Visions for town	Impact of reduction in State forest resources
Maryborough	Positive lifestyle, community identity, leisure sporting activities etc. Negative in terms of conservatism, parochialism, crime, poverty levels.	Certainty in future of forest industries. Primary production research institute. Hardwood plantations, major agro-forestry industry.	More impetus for agro-forestry, better protection of biodiversity. Better planned, more sustainable timber industry. Negative employment effects.
Builyan/Many Peaks	Positive about country lifestyle, good place for children etc. Positive environment aspects. Negative about uncertainty facing timber industry, low, primary industry dependent socio-economic status of community. Narrow employment base.	Sustainable timber industry, low impact tourism, population renewal.	Loss of jobs and services. would force diversification of local industry.
Gympie	Positive about rural lifestyle, proximity to urban amenities, good physical environment. Negative about poor employment base, parochial community attitudes, loss of advancement opportunities.	Viable and sustainable timber industry, farm forestry, protection of high conservation value forests, tourism, industry diversification, stable population, retain more young people.	Bad for timber industry, local employment, increased reliance on non-renewable resources as timber substitutes. Increased potential for tourism, farm forestry and plantations.
Cooroy	Positive about rural atmosphere, proximity to services, diverse, relaxed community, good family environment. Negative about poor employment base, uncertainty for timber industry, excessive population growth.	Work opportunities, non-government plantations, upgrading of rural education facilities.	Job losses, lack of alternatives for affected individuals, non-renewable timber substitutes,. More sustainable native forest management, emphasis on value adding, more plantation development.
Linville	Positive about rural setting, good services. Negative about decline stemming from drought and reduction in trade prices.	Showcase for sustainable rural land management, prospects for tourism. Industry diversification.	Grave concerns for continued community viability, due to job losses etc. Lower level of forest management for feral pests, weeds, fires etc. Encouragement of plantations, farm forestry etc.
Woodford	Positive about community cohesion, strong family ties and values, good for children, relaxed lifestyle. Negative about factors reducing community certainty, plus influx of people from other areas.	Expansion of timber industry, plus finding balance between environment and economic needs of community. Resource security, value adding, forest based tourism, industry diversification.	Possible demise of community due to loss of jobs, wind back of business investment etc.

# 5. CHAPTER FIVE: CONCLUSION AND FUTURE USE OF DATA

## 5.1 CONCLUSION

The Social Case Study Areas report has focused on providing a socio-demographic profile including description of current service delivery for a range of case study towns. In addition, the report explores local communities' perceptions of potential impacts from a change in forest use and management. The report has highlighted that the SEQ RFA region, including the selected case study towns, contains a range of diverse communities. These communities exhibit different characteristics, which may result in a diversity of local community responses to changes in forest use and management.

Several key issues emerge from the report that may need to be considered in the development of RFA options for forest use and management, these include:

- recognising the importance of the economic and cultural heritage ties of communities with forest and forest based industries
- the ability of some forest users to adapt to change is limited by their comparatively low level of education and highly specific skills base
- other communities services are adversely effected when job loss causes people to move towns or seek welfare support services
- forest dependent communities of the SEQ region want to see economically and ecologically sustainable and well managed forests and forest industries.

The case study areas report forms part of a range of reports for the 'assessment or data gathering phase' of the RFA. Some of the socio-demographic data used in this report will also be used in the 'integration or option development phase' of the RFA. Potentially some of the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) data presented in this report may form part of a social index, which is being developed for use during the development of draft RFA options. In addition to this the baseline data used in the case study report will also be used during the 'social impact assessment phase' after draft RFA options have been developed. This baseline data will be used to assist in predicting the type and range of potential social impacts which may occur as a result of changes in forest use and management.

## APPENDICES

### Appendix 1. Project Specification

#### CRA/RFA PROJECT SPECIFICATION

PROJECT NAME:	Social Case Study Areas
PROJECT IDENTIFIER:	SE5.3
LOCATION/EXTENT:	Case Study areas within SEQ bioregion
ORGANISATION/S:	DPIE–SAU                      DNR–CRA
CONTACT OFFICERS:	Dr Sheridan Coakes, Ms Laurel Johnson
POSTAL ADDRESS:	Dr Sheridan Coakes Department of Primary Industries and Energy Social Assessment Unit GPO Box 858 Canberra ACT 2601
	ph:                      (06) 271 6667 email:                  sheridan.coakes@dpi.gov.au fax:                      (06) 272 3021
	Ms Laurel Johnson Department of Natural Resources 80 Meiers Road, Block C Indooroopilly Qld 4068
	ph:                      (07) 38969601 email:                  johnsol@dpi.qld.gov.au fax:                      (07) 3896 9858
LINKAGES/DEPENDENCIES:	SE5.1, SE5.2, SE5.4, PI5.1
TYPE OF STUDY:	Social Assessment

---

#### 1. OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT

- To identify and consult stakeholders in the RFA process.
- To construct comprehensive baseline profiles of selected case study areas.
- To develop broad-based community response and development options for consideration in the RFA process.

- To assess and predict the impacts of alternative resource use scenarios on the social environment in each case study area, including a no change option.
- To evaluate the impacts of past changes in resource use on a selection of communities.

## 2. BACKGROUND

The purpose of the social case study assessments is to provide baseline social data for a range of communities likely to be impacted by changes in forest use. This baseline data on a range of communities will assist a generalised assessment of social impacts for similar communities. This which will enhance decision making in the initial design of the reserve system and will afford local communities the opportunity to participate in the RFA process.

## 3. SCOPE OF THE PROJECT

This project will provide detailed profiles of a representative selection of case study areas within the RFA area. Socio-demographic, community infrastructure, employment (including disaggregated industry sector data as possible) and social well-being data will be collected. In addition, communities within case study areas will be asked to assess the impacts of a number of resource scenarios and to develop community options for consideration in the RFA. The selection of a representative range of case study areas is necessary to separate the range of impacts experienced due to changes in resource availability from other qualitative stressors currently being experienced in rural areas.

## 4. METHODOLOGY

### Sampling

A sample of south east Queensland communities will be selected which represent the social and economic diversity of the south east Queensland forest region. This sample will enable findings to be extrapolated to a regional level and to separate impacts of changes in resource availability from other qualitative stressors currently being experienced in rural areas. Case study areas will be selected according to population size, diversity of economic base and geographic location. In addition, some areas will be selected which have encountered changes in resource and particularly forest use in the past to evaluate impacts.

The methodology proposed follows very closely the approach that is outlined in the Social Assessment Unit's Methods Paper presented at the Multilateral meeting of 2 April 1996 and implemented in other CRAs.

A range of data collection methods will be employed to ensure maximum input from RFA stakeholders in communities.

### Data Collection Methods

#### Networking and Participant Observation:

Stakeholders involved in the CRA/RFA process will be identified and a networking approach will be employed to identify and make contact with stakeholders at state, regional and local levels. The Forest Community Coordinator for Qld will document these interactions by compiling extensive field notes.

#### Action Research:

An action research model will be employed to collect the localised community infrastructure data in each case study area. The model affords the community ownership of their data and allows active

participation in the assessment process. Data will be collated for each case study area and cross-validated using primary and secondary data sources.

Focus Groups

Within case study areas, focus groups will be conducted with those groups within the community which have the potential to be most severely impacted. These groups may include: youth, aged, parents of young children, migrants, indigenous groups, low income families, unemployed etc.. The purpose of these groups will be to develop an equity matrix which estimates the social benefits and costs experienced by various groups.

Community Workshops

It is anticipated that two rounds of workshops be conducted in each case study area. The first round of workshops will be used to collect baseline data. Representatives from industry and community sectors will be invited to attend these workshops. Major stakeholders will be consulted on the extent of participants.

The second round of workshops will be used to disseminate the findings of the social assessment process to those communities who have actively participated in the process.

5. CRITICAL PATH

Outcomes/Outputs

- baseline, descriptive report for social case study areas of SEQ
- improved understanding of the social impacts of changes in forest use predicted across the RFA area
- maps of forest use and related economic and employment activity.

Reporting

- monthly reporting on project progress to Technical Committee
- regular reporting on project to Project Manager CRA Qld.

Milestones (\*) and Timetable

Task description	Duration (w,d)	Earliest/ actual start	Actual finish	Task dependencies diagram	Who	Link to payment Yes/No amount
In consultation with stakeholders identify case study areas *	1 week			Data from project 2 	L Johnson	
Consult community reps on case study process and seek support for selected areas	3 weeks				L Johnson	
Desk top data collection and analysis—CDATA, other local community sources, Council Strategic Plans etc.	6 weeks				L Johnson	
Community workshops with industry and service providers to identify	4 weeks				L Johnson	

services capacity and thresholds *						
Identify community values, vision, objectives for future of case study areas *	4 weeks				L Johnson	
Focus groups for most severely affected groups	4 weeks				L Johnson	
Community workshops to disseminate findings	2 weeks				L Johnson	
Preparation of draft social assessment report for case study areas *	4 weeks				L Johnson	
Finalisation of report	3 weeks				L Johnson	

## 6. BUDGET

Commonwealth	In kind:	\$ 90 000.00
Queensland	In kind:	\$ 40 500.00
	Cash:	\$ 30 000.00
<b>TOTAL:</b>		<b>\$160 500.00</b>

## 7. PAYMENT DETAILS

Consultant to be paid per consultancy agreement.

## 8. PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

- adequate and positive community feedback on processes and reports
- timely completion of social case studies report
- comprehensive data set collected

## 9. QUALITY CONTROL

- regular project reporting to the Social and Economic Technical Committee and CRA Queensland team
- peer review and guidance from the Social Impact Assessment Unit of the Queensland Department of Families, Youth and Community Care

## Appendix 2. Maryborough Workshop Write-up

DRAFT

### SOUTH EAST QUEENSLAND REGIONAL FOREST AGREEMENT

#### SOCIAL ASSESSMENT WORKSHOPS

##### 1. BACKGROUND

The purpose of social assessment is to develop descriptive socio-economic ‘snapshots’ of selected communities which may be affected by the planning and policy decisions to be made as a result of the South East Queensland Regional Forest Agreement. Part of this process involved conducting Social Assessment workshops, which aimed to highlight community values on a particular issue, and determine the nature and significance of potential social impacts on these communities. The workshops also provided an avenue for community involvement in the social assessment process.

A representative selection of community groups who are involved in forest activities and/or have related interests in the forest use and management in the area were invited to the workshops. They included representatives from the timber industry, farm forestry, logging contractors, saw mill employees and saw mill managers, beekeepers, graziers, conservationists, tourism industry, National Parks and Wildlife, Integrated Catchment Management (ICM), landcare, local government representatives and the Department of Primary Industries–Forestry.

Information collected and gathered at the Social Assessment Workshops will be used as part of the report for the Regional Forest Agreement (RFA) SE5.3 Case Study Towns. This will in turn be used in the ‘impact assessment phase’ of the RFA, where the social assessment team will draw on the collated information when analysing the potential social impacts of draft options in the social impact assessment phase.

The following describes the issues raised in the social assessment workshop conducted recently. Participants are invited to make comments on the documentation of this write-up, and/or provide any other information that had not been included in this write-up but was raised during the workshop. In particular, dates of significant events were not always recorded. It would be much appreciated if participants could assist us by filling in the gaps.

We would like to thank participants once again for their valuable contribution. If you require further information, please contact Lila-Jo Leaders on (07) 3896 9601, or Bronwen Burke, the Forest Community Coordinator on (07) 3896 9517.

## MARYBOROUGH AREA:

### SOCIAL ASSESSMENT WORKSHOP: 19 MAY 1998

#### 2. LIST OF CATEGORIES OF PARTICIPANTS

##### Category

Local Government  
Human Services  
Mill manager  
Mill worker  
Contractor  
Beekeeper  
Grazier  
DPI Forestry  
Farm Forestry  
Landcare  
Conservation  
ICM  
Dept. of Environment  
Principal (Brooweena School)  
P & C and Sawmiller

##### Staff:

Bronwen Burke  
Michaeli Fulton  
Lila-Jo Leaders

#### 3. GENERAL ISSUES

- Loss of Fraser Island for logging purposes. Some participants were concerned that similar situation could occur in this region
- Adequate timber in forests for harvesting; timber workers wanted to be left alone to do their job
- Some participants felt that the forests have been sustainability and properly managed and that there should not be a reduction in the availability of resources for the timber industry
- Variations to the definition of 'sustainability'. For example, other participants suggested that Fraser Island's timber sustainability was due to its inaccessibility. There is a need to manage forests in Maryborough in a more sustainable manner for future generation
- Need for long term planning which will benefit the community. Harvesting of trees must complement re-growth rate
- RFA 20 year plan – allows proper planning and negotiation between the two governments on how native forests of the SE Queensland region can best be used and managed for the future
- Percentage of timber harvested from Crown land and from private land
- Concerns about further restrictions to the timber industry, which has undergone considerable changes recently – suggested that *an industry that has already lost so much can't lose any more.*
- Loss of access to timber resources and the negative flow-on impacts to rest of the community
- Fear of not being able to harvest timber led to excessive cutting of timber in some situations
- There is a need to encourage farmers to plant more trees and improve harvesting practices

- Hardwood forests should be/can be sustainably managed and should not be decreased
- Fraser Island – loss of one industry (timber) but gain another (tourism)
- Look at true social cost of locking up land – land which is not managed adequately is a cost to the community – cost of management
- Perception that Maryborough is a retirement area but it is not
- Trend towards a decrease in personal and household incomes
- Demand did not cease after closure of Fraser Island. Red iron bark has to be found on mainland. May encourage imports
- The closure of Fraser Island has created a great loss for majority of people who live locally

#### 4. WORKSHOP QUESTIONS

##### 4.1 Question 1: *How do you feel about living in Maryborough or the surrounding area?*

###### Positive Aspects

- Great schools
- Good place to raise kids
- Great lifestyle
- Low crime rate (children safety)
- Agreeable climate
- Plenty of jobs – good skill base for those who are prepared to work
- Close to national parks (world heritage listed)
- Pleasant geographical area to live and convenient to other towns and cities
- Variety of industries
- Sense of community identity
- Sense of history
- Proximity to coast – Hervey Bay and Sandy Straits
- Small community
- Diverse rural employment
- Opportunities for a variety of leisure and sporting activities
- Good health services
- Good education opportunities
- Large area of crown land in the region
- Good recreational facilities, for example, fishing and camping
- Adequate jobs in Maryborough for young people because of the number of mills
- Not overcrowded
- There is still some biodiversity in the Maryborough area – it needs to be protected
- Access to Brisbane while living in a rural environment
- There is a growing environmental awareness within the community

###### Negative Aspects

- Reluctance to spend money
- No access to education and training opportunities
- High proportion of people in the Wide Bay/Maryborough area living in poverty and also high number of people with low household incomes. The area also have low number of professionals (1996 ABS Census)
- High in crime per head of population

- High unemployment and movement within the area – cheap rent
- Distance from services – (parts & maintenance)
- Smaller communities such as Brooweena, will be impacted more adversely by government’s decision. These communities experienced heavier social impact than larger towns e.g. Maryborough which have more industries to support them
- Smaller communities are more reliant on social and community services. Therefore, any changes will have far devastating effects on the area and the life of the community. For example, the effects of reduction of rail services led to loss of jobs, and impacted on the rest of the community such as the local school, store etc.
- Economic rationalism and decentralisation of services by government further affect industries and people in the area
- Artificial inflation on land prices due to population pressures causes negative return and has a major impact on primary producers / graziers
- Resistance to change
- Young people leave the area to find work elsewhere. Most never return
- Loss of industry
- Not enough opportunities for youth
- Loss of government departments
- No job security
- Loss of community services which were difficult to reinstate
- Loss of self esteem by the unemployed
- Low growth over last 20 years
- Too much individualism in hospitality industry to be ‘good hosts’
- Future uncertainty
- Maryborough was called the timber town once – now it is losing its forests and being discriminated against for it
- Parochialism
- Increased cost of housing
- Low socio-economic demographics
- Conservative attitudes – against change

#### 4.2 SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

Question 2: *What have been the most significant events in your community since 1980, and how has this community managed these events?*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Events</b>
	150 years – Maryborough’s Sequa Year – year long celebration
1988	Closure of school (Brooweena)
1992	Arama closure
	Loss of local transport services – affected the community (Brooweena)
1994	Loss of meat works in Maryborough – 400 workers – significant debt left in community. Flow on impacts on livestock agents and suppliers, service industries and transport
19 Dec 1991	Loss of Fraser Island: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Personal / individual impacts and the flow-on effects to other parts of the community</li> <li>- career changes for many members of the community</li> <li>- no accountability for compensation paid to those affected</li> <li>- value of logs on private land increased to nearly double</li> <li>- increased import of Red iron bark on Mainland</li> </ul>
1988	Munna Creek School closure
1990	Railway closures.

	Tansey School closure
Ongoing	General ongoing changes within the community
	Reduction of government spending per capita basis despite increased in population
	Changes to boundaries – – affect service delivery. – Many members of this community do not feel affinity with those in Bundaberg after changes to boundaries were made. Government should be thinking more about <i>catchment</i> which is more appropriate rather than <i>boundaries</i> when making decisions about this matter
Ongoing	Increased in the number of retirees in the area: implications for future services for this group
	Closure of Wilson Hart/Tinana sawmills
	Closure of Maryborough Brickwork
	Closure of Baldwin Transformer Manufacturers
	Maryborough bypass and new bridge over Mary River
	Closure of progress joinery works
	Closure of milk factory
	Drought
	Flood
	Loss of government services in the area: TAFE, Telstra, FYCC

#### 4. VISIONS

Question 3: *What are some of the visions you have for your town/community in the future? How will these contribute to the local area?*

- Profitable land use / grazing industries
- Community leaders – value adding on available resources (timber, sugar) primary production related industry
- Support for innovators
- The establishment of a primary production research institute
- Reduction in conservative attitude which limits opportunities for industries particularly hospitality, to expand.
- Increased motivation within the community to address the overall lack of entrepreneurship and lack of infrastructure
- Certainty about the future of our industry
  - there is a need to develop co-operative approach to increase opportunities
- Increased hospitality industry which will benefit the community as a whole
- Celebration of another 150 years as a community
- Secure a safe and happy lifestyle
- More hardwood (spotted gum) plantation which grows well and have resource security
- More emphasis on hardwood plantation
- Establish a major agro-forestry industry based on private land
- Steady economic growth
- Stable population
- Steady planning by industries and government and working together for the general community
- Continuation of silviculture practices – positive impact of silviculture of hardwood in 1920–1960s is now being rewarded by the quality of product being harvested. The cessation of this practice will have a notable impact in the next 30 years
- Continued access to all native forests including national parks for beekeepers
- No reductions to timber allocations – if they reduce timber resource allocations, the community will eventually die

## 5. HYPOTHETICAL RESOURCE SCENARIOS

5.1 Scenario 1: *What would happen to Maryborough and the surrounding area if there were no change in forest use and management as it has been for the last few years?*

<b>Positive impacts</b>	<b>Negative impacts</b>
Be able to plan forward on basis of existing resource – all forestry users	No change will be forced on the community
Increased confidence for industry investment	There will be no/little incentive for sustainable management of forests
Job security for mill workers	Slow death for timber industry as is happening
Security of timber for the consumers	Stagnation – lack of alternative visions
Chance for the industry to self regulate – industry can forward plan	Private land would continue to be cleared at an alarming rate
Current industry practices examined and recognised as being 'right'	Gradual demise to the industry due to loss of privately owned forest through clearing for alternative uses
Chance to examine and restructure industry	Continuation of job loss within the timber industry due to lack of incentives to change
Chance to self-govern sustainable timber cutting and allowing trees to mature	Gradual net loss of supply / mill closure
Chance to set up a regional organisation of industry	Environmental degradation
More land could be planted for agro forestry	Increased drought / flood
Hardwood industry could continue to thrive and value add their products	Water quality problems in streams
Job security for mill workers and forestry	Increased pressure from conservationists due to urban development land use
Positive impact on spending in the community and investment by industry	Scapegoats would be found
With resource security businesses could plan and people (workers) could get on with their lives and hopefully live happily secure	Will eventually force changes to hardwood and tree regrowths
	In the long term there would be loss of biodiversity in native forest reserves
	Production is more limited because regrowth is slower than in plantations.
Business/companies investment coming in to M'boro	Provides less incentive to plant plantations.
Every person involved in the timber industry would be able to continue their businesses and update machinery when needed	
Continued access to available apiary sites	
Continuation of income for all within the timber industry and other related industries	
Any global change will be gradual spreading the effects over years	
Many locals would derive comfort from no change	
Businesses would be happy	
There would be no notable changes in supply position	
In the short term existing jobs would be retained	

5.2 Scenario 2: What do you think would happen to Maryborough and the surrounding area if there was a decrease in the availability of State forest resources?

Positive impacts	Negative impacts
More impetus for agro forestry	Decrease in the viability of the range of industries
Increased protection for biodiversity – depending on circumstances	Loss of jobs
Value of private land could increase	Increased pressure on private resource – ‘could’ be unsustainable
More and better planning of industry	Increased imports
Re-skilling of mill workers	Management forced to give notice to employees – cutback will lead to family breakdown and dislocation
Increased use of forests for other purposes – more diverse use of forests	Cost of retraining mill workers
Assuming ‘State forest resources’ refers to native forest (i.e. not plantation) forestry would have to increase planting of hardwood plantations	Welfare issues relating to the loss of employment for mill families
Long term – forestry industry would become more sustainable than present	Reduction of employment opportunities for timber workers in alternative work environments
Sustainable forest industry is key to sustainable economy in region	Loss of timber source
For long term job security – there should be a move towards increased processing of timber products rather than exporting raw material and importing processed product. This will create more jobs and boost the local economy	Impact seriously on other industries, jobs and cash flow
Increased tourism	Increased unemployment
Increased environmental awareness	Social division in community
Increased recreation	Less opportunities for unskilled workers
Increased prices will provide the incentive to regenerate more viable products	Increased pressure on freehold timber – increased royalty
	Loss of jobs
More impetus for value adding	Some short term social impacts due to the need to deal with change
Value of private timber / grazing / beekeeping could increase	More pressure on private forests
Timber would always be there even if logging ceased	Total economic effects not great due to large local dependence on exotic pine plantations
	Loss of apiary sites
	Loss of economic viability
	No positive impacts unless they found a way to utilise more of the tree, e.g. chip the crowns
	People would slowly move away in search of employment
	Break-up of family unit
	Industry would be unsustainable and would cause hardship and closures for those in the industry– unthinkable
	Shift of capital from the region
	Increase in private timber sales could be unsustainable in long term
	Education issues: children affected by the flow-on effects
	Slow death of town

5.3 Scenario 3: What do you think would happen to Maryborough if there was an increase in dedicated conservation estate?

Positive impacts	Negative impacts
Increase in eco tourism	High fire hazards due to closeness of rural residential to the forests – With more residential development occurring, the management of forests will be more difficult. Different climatic conditions between this region and other parts (for example, Sydney) will have different resource implications in terms of management of forests and the species within each forests
Protection of biodiversity, water resources and catchment areas – in long term this results in less problems caused by soil degradation and erosion which are costly to repair later on	Other management issues: control of weeds, feral animals etc. Who will manage and pay for the management of the forests once logging stops.
Better planning and management	Loss of access for grazing, beekeeping and timber use
Increase in employment in controlling noxious weeds etc.	More flies and other unwanted pests
More opportunities for passive nature based recreation	Do not want any more national parks
More impetus for agro forestry if timber production is lost	Poor management of forests as we have seen evidence of on Fraser Island. Will it be the same here?
More impetus for value adding	Short term social impact due to the need to deal with change
OK if it wasn't one-sided	Loss of apiary sites
	Resource would be lost – not good for a dynamic forest
	Generally government does not spend a lot of money on management of the conservation estate
	Less overall employment
	Reduction in economic activity
	Higher social cost in environmental weed and pest control
	Closure of mills
	Cost to community for retraining retrenched workers
	Increased in health and welfare issues
	Cost to community for maintenance of forests
	Education issues: what will happen to our children's education and the impacts of changes to them?
	More private timber sales: not sustainable in the long run

## **Appendix 3. Builyan Many Peaks Workshop Write-up**

DRAFT

### **SOUTH EAST QUEENSLAND REGIONAL FOREST AGREEMENT SOCIAL ASSESSMENT WORKSHOPS**

#### **Background**

The purpose of social assessment is to develop descriptive socio-economic ‘snapshots’ of selected communities which may be affected by the planning and policy decisions to be made as a result of the South East Queensland Regional Forest Agreement. Part of this process involved conducting social assessment workshops that aimed to highlight community values on a particular issue, and determine the nature and significance of potential social impacts on these communities. The workshop also provided an avenue for community involvement in the social assessment process.

A representative selection of community groups who are involved in forest activities and/or have related interests in forest use and management in the area were invited to the workshops. They included representatives from the timber industry, farm forestry, logging contractor, saw mill employees and saw mill managers, beekeepers, graziers, conservationists, tourism industry, National Parks and Wildlife, Integrated Catchment Management (ICM), landcare, local government representatives and the Department of Primary Industries – Forestry.

Information collected and gathered at the social assessment workshops will be used as part of the report for the Regional Forest Agreement (RFA) SE 5.3 Case Study Towns. This will in turn be used in the ‘impact assessment phase’ of the RFA, where the social assessment team will draw on the collated information when analysing the potential impacts of draft options in the social assessment phase.

The following describes the issues raised in the social assessment workshop conducted recently. Participants are invited to make comments on the documentation of this write-up, and/or provide any other information that had not been included in this write-up but was raised during the workshop. In particular, dates of significant events were not always recorded. It would be greatly appreciated if participants could assist us by filling in the gaps.

We would like to thank participants once again for their valuable contribution. If you require further information, please contact Lila-Jo Leaders on (07) 3896 9601, or Bronwen Burke, the Forest Community Coordinator on (07) 3896 5917.

BUILYAN/MANY PEAKS : SOCIAL ASSESSMENT WORKSHOP:  
18<sup>th</sup> MAY 1998

2. LIST OF CATEGORIES OF PARTICIPANTS

Category

Human services  
Local government  
Retail and trade/progress association  
Mill worker  
Contractor  
Beekeeper  
Grazier  
DPI-Forestry  
Farm forestry  
Conservation

Staff Present:

Bronwen Burke  
Michaeli Fulton  
Lila-Jo Leaders

3. GENERAL ISSUES

- Government reform made it difficult for industries to compete against each other (Hilmer). It is an overkill and will probably affect some people adversely
- Surveys for graziers were difficult to answer as these were designed more for the timber industry
- Hardwood allocation had been well managed in the past
- Reduction in resource allocation recently creates sufferings among local community despite the fact that the sawmills have been well managed
- Big players were perceived as taking advantage of good local management
- Subsidies: unsure how the system works
- Prices of timber being influenced by changes to allocation and closure of certain mills
- Increases in prices: current system not working efficiently
- No return to old auction system
- Nervousness amongst people who hold freehold land – furore of cutting in anticipation of imposed changes to forest use and management – second industry option
- No certainty of harvest
- Incentives for private land holders to develop ‘best practice’, for example tax rebates
- Process needs to look at how and for what purpose land owners use free hold land – optimising mix industries and potential for increased productivity
- Balanced use of forest – difficult to see how RFA objectives can balance the differences
- Leasehold planting and forestry clearing – Government needs to encourage people with leasehold land to plant timber

- Promotion of small scale forest plots
- Planting and maintenance of forest will benefit the community. Need to be acknowledged that these activities are being carried out
- Community needs to have control of timber and land
- Definitions varied about what considered to be ‘rubbish’ or otherwise
- Guidelines need to be developed which are balanced between production and conservation
- Tourism: who will pay for the impacts of tourism and destruction to the environment from these activities?

#### 4. WORKSHOP QUESTIONS

##### 4.1 Question 1: *What do you feel about living in Builyan/Many Peaks or the surrounding area?*

###### Positive Aspects:

- Simple country environment and lifestyle
- Down-to-earth values mixed with contemporary ideas
- Traditional values
- Welcoming nature of the community
- Friendly and laid back community
- Good grazing land
- Safe
- Similar ideals on use of resources – which in turn generates positive social outcomes
- Close to major cities but still far enough to maintain rural characteristics
- Have own local services – health, fire brigade, police and backed by other services in cities
- Terrific place to raise children – great achievers amongst youth raised here
- Love it here – have not lived anywhere else
- Honesty and trust amongst members of the community: Only recently (3 or 4 years) that we need to lock our homes and hotel
- Caring community – supporting each other
- Dedicated to value adding to the valley and land
- Motivation to work together
- High biodiversity in the forests and ecosystems
- Quiet
- Pleasant climate and landscapes
- Productive river flats and clean water
- Have potential to bring trades to the town

###### Negative Aspects:

- Uncertainty of timber industry caused people to delay making economic decisions in regards to advancing the community for example, improving water supply
- Loss of services due to contraction of local industries
- Inadequate road and rail infrastructure
- Need for local services to be improved and sustained
- Regional growth needs to be encouraged
- Need the core of mill workers to hold the town together – the ‘magnet’ of the town
- Limited recognition of need to retain established community

- Uncertainties of employment situation even for schoolteachers due to fluctuation in enrolment figures etc.
- Socio-economic status reasonably low and highly reliant on primary industries – timber, grazing and dairy
- Tendencies towards narrowmindedness and unwillingness to `venture' out – most likely due to socio-economic situation
- Decreasing population
- Higher living costs
- Very little employment prospects
- Lack of services
- Too much government interference: should be keeping small towns viable
- Long distance from/to anywhere
- Lawn mower stolen – happened only recently

#### 4.2 SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

Question 2: *What have been the most significant events in your community since 1980, and how has the community managed these events?*

Date	Event
Late 50s early 60s	Closure of dairy farms from 56 to 3, mainly the result of management practices. Catalyst for the decline in population.
1968/70	Construction of Awonga Dam – Affected the condition of river and supply of fish (especially mullet). Currently no fish to be found, but the size of eels increase.
Late 1960s	Loss of rail services due to changes within/to the timber industry. Flow on effects – major downturn in nearly all aspects of town situation.
1973	Road went in.
1977	First logging.
Ongoing	Drought.
1972	Loss of butcher and barber in the area.
Ongoing	Significant loss of services in the area.
	Decentralisation of the mail system –resulted in mail delays.
	Local foresters demoted.

*How has the community managed these events?*

Resilient nature of the local community: A lot of people within the community grew up together. Consequently, most feel the need to maintain and sustain their community and their lifestyle. There was a strong sense of community cohesiveness among local members and a strong desire to maintain the viability of their community.

#### 4.3 VISIONS

Question 3: *What are some of the visions you have for your town/community for the future?*

- Value adding to the community. There is a need to re-evaluate the values and uses of our natural resources
- Encourage growth and bring trade and people back to community due to proximity to big cities

- Mill growth to encourage people and trade back to the community
- Sawmill sustained to see out the rest of working life
- See a continuation of our sustainable and renewable timber industry
- Assisting with the reduction of greenhouse effect
- Maintaining a sustainable resource base
- Leave the forests open so others can access them
- Low impact tourism– people use forest for recreational use such as bushwalking
- More security for local industries
- Better living conditions (improved roads and infrastructure)
- Taxes paid back into the community
- Increase in population
- Biodiversity: some practices do not have the positive impacts as envisaged, but we still need to find the balance between maintaining economic viability of the town and preserving its natural environment and resources
- Opening up the area for tourism and for logging – access
- A return of logging under better supervision and management practices
- Balanced use of Kroombit Tops both for industry use and recreational use
- Best species are locked in scientific area
- Sustain and maintain an established traditional community
- Potential impacts of the Hilmer report.

## 5. HYPOTHETICAL RESOURCE SCENARIOS

5.1 Scenario 1: *What would happen to Builyan/Many Peaks and the surrounding area if there was no change in forest use and management as it has been for the last few years?*

<b>Positive impacts</b>	<b>Negative impacts</b>
Continued growth /regrowth of managed forests.	No increase/very little improvement in government services.
Maintenance of efficiency in most processes (utilising local 'Passions').	The industry would not grow under current condition.
Services remain the same.	Hardly any
Infrastructure improved/upgraded.	No incentive for local adaptation and change.
Developed processes to cope with changes in the community to ensure that all stakeholders would experience 'long term rewards' for their efforts.	Biodiversity may have been lost.
The industry would stay as is.	Irreversible eco-impacts, as 'mining' of estate is occurring at an unacceptable level. It would be necessary to modify eco-system to sustain production.
Strengthened local and broader field networks (social, industrial and economic).	
Sustainability would still be there.	
Builyan would maintain the status quo for a while but would probably need to diversify in terms of local industry if it were to survive longer term.	
Might keep jobs in mill a little longer.	

5.2 Scenario 2: *What do you think would happen to Builyan/Many Peaks and the surrounding area if there was a decrease in the availability of State forest resources?*

Positive impacts	Negative impacts
	Reduction in population.
Sensible management of resources.	Industry closures –loss of jobs and loss of services.
Cheaper housing.	Government will legislate us out of business.
Restoration of a particular eco-system.	Big companies will take over small saw millers and monopolise the market.
	Big players influencing government on local issues.
Potential for tourism.	Fire management: high fire danger.
At least there would be some certainty regarding available resources to base an industry around, and some decisions could be made.	Waste of local expertise in a very historic trade.
Situation would remain the same until another industry developed for example, tourism, hobby farms etc.	Would encourage the industry to become import reliant for resources from South East Asia where the forests are less sustainably managed. This will have global and environmental repercussions in the long term, and will reduce the value of the Australian dollar
Better conservation of resources.	Dissolution of traditional established communities.
Opportunity to promote resource conservation and heal past damage and achieve balance between production and conservation.	Generation of negative attitudes.
Increased biodiversity, tourism, visitors etc,	Overall pressure on the local community
	Closure of mill.
	Community would gradually die within four to five years.

5.3 Scenario 3: *What do you think would happen to Builyan/Many Peaks and the surrounding area if there was an increase in dedicated conservation estate?*

Positive impacts	Negative impacts
Increased tourism.	Smaller employment base.
Employment of rangers.	Forestry not interested in maintaining roads.
	Fire management becomes important.
	National Parks become a major fire hazard – Given a few years, the regrowth would have choked the tracks. Dry summers and electrical storms would result in fires which would burn for months. The end result would be a complete loss of useable timber.
	Urbanisation destroying the areas.
	Non-sustainability of beekeeping industry if access to forests is stopped.
	The town would gradually die
	Closure of local industries

## Appendix 4 Gympie Workshop Write-up

DRAFT

### SOUTH EAST QUEENSLAND REGIONAL FOREST AGREEMENT

#### SOCIAL ASSESSMENT WORKSHOPS

##### 1. BACKGROUND

The purpose of social assessment is to develop descriptive socio-economic ‘snapshots’ of selected communities which may be affected by the planning and policy decisions to be made as a result of the South East Queensland Regional Forest Agreement. Part of this process involved conducting Social Assessment workshops, which aimed to highlight community values on a particular issue, and determine the nature and significance of potential social impacts on these communities. The workshops also provided an avenue for community involvement in the social assessment process.

A representative selection of community groups who are involved in forest activities and/or have related interests in forest use and management in the area were invited to the workshops. They included representatives from the timber industry, farm forestry, logging contractors, saw mill employees and saw mill managers, beekeepers, graziers, conservationists, tourism industry, National Parks and Wildlife, Integrated Catchment Management (ICM), landcare, local government representatives and the Department of Primary Industries – Forestry.

Information collected and gathered at the social assessment workshops will be used as part of the report for the Regional Forest Agreement (RFA) SE5.3 Case Study Towns. This will in turn be used in the “impact assessment phase” of the RFA, where the social assessment team will draw on the collated information when analysing the potential social impacts of draft options in the social impact assessment phase.

The following describes the issues raised in the social assessment workshop conducted recently. Participants are invited to make comments on the documentation of this write-up, and/or provide any other information that had not been included in this write-up but was raised during the workshop. In particular, dates of significant events were not always recorded. It would be greatly appreciated if participants could assist us by filling in the gaps.

We would like to thank participants once again for their valuable contribution. If you require further information, please contact Lila-Jo Leaders on (07) 3896 9601, or Bronwen Burke, the Forest Community Coordinator on (07) 3896 9517.

## GYMPIE AREA:

### SOCIAL ASSESSMENT WORKSHOP : 20 MAY 1998

#### 2. LIST OF CATEGORY OF PARTICIPANTS

##### Category

Local government  
Retail and trade/COC  
Mill manager  
Mill worker  
Contractor  
Beekeeper  
Grazier  
DPI–Forestry  
Forestry  
Landcare  
Conservation  
Dept. of Environment  
Dept. of Environment (Maryborough)  
Regional development

##### Staff Present:

Bronwen Burke  
Michaeli Fulton  
Lila-Jo Leaders  
Lindy Sivyer

#### 3. GENERAL ISSUES

- No funding for upgrading of current sewerage facilities – implications for the environment
- Amalgamation of Shires and changes to boundaries resulted in the area as being defined as neither ‘rural’ or ‘urban’
- Implications for rural rate base and community structure. Situation compounded by a rise in the number of people within the region by 40 per cent
- Impact of technology on workers
- Globalisation of trade – implications for industries
- Fuel prices up – importance of regional self sufficiency
- Markets instability – Some farmers have to subsidise their income by other means
- Better use of timber – cost/value for example, utilising timber for cabinet making versus utilising it for telephone pole
- Loss of areas to logging to national parks

## 1. WORKSHOP QUESTIONS

### 4.1 Question 1: *How do you feel about living in Gympie or the surrounding area?*

#### Positive Aspects

- Rural lifestyle
- Access to city conveniences
- Full time employment
- Climate
- Country lifestyle – free from superficiality
- Small town community feel
- Sustainable forest management
- Close to Brisbane / coast but not too close to intrude on our lifestyle
- Wide variety of products
- Strong community structures and services
- Population large enough without being overwhelming
- Direct community interaction
- Low cost living
- Ecologically valuable
- Diverse income base
- Low population pressure / density
- Lots of potential – tourism / eco tourism
- Good aesthetics (forests, hills etc)

#### Negative Aspects

- High unemployment
- Low wages
- Mainly primary industry-based
- Little or no value adding products
- Up to now it was a safe National Party seat (since 1957)
- Increased social problems mainly due to increased unemployment especially among youth. Resulted in increased demand for services such as social security / health and welfare and affected law and order situation in the area
- Low socio-economic leads to low self esteem
- Council had to focus resources on youth law and order agencies – implications for other services
- Infrastructure loss. Ambulance, Energex, fire brigade services can be accessed but not locally
- Control of services outside of local community
- Education Department and support facilities relocated to Maryborough/ Kingaroy
- Increase in population creates additional pressure on available resources and services
- Community not taking advantage of existing resources / expertise –loss of potential for area
- Population resists changes often by refusing to look at solutions or similar examples from outside the area – reactionary rather than visionary
- Introspective – tendency to be parochial than holistic
- Poor media image of the area – implications to attract potential investments into the area
- Amalgamation of shires – funding implications. Rates equity/rural/urban. Shire caught in the middle of specific Federal and State funding criteria. Funding not enough to accommodate changes

## 4.2 SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

Question 2: *What have been the most significant events in your community since 1980, and how has this community managed these events?*

Date	Event
1988	Establishment of Laminex
	Amalgamation of Shires – area defined as neither rural nor urban. – Funding implications for programs and services, e.g., sewerage - affected community infrastructure - Implications on rate base
Ongoing	Loss of grazing area/land
	World Heritage listing of Fraser Island
	National Competition Policy
	Mechanisation of industries and loss of employment
1994	Formation of Mary River catchment: – external pressures impacting on water quantity
Ongoing	Drought – highlights community resilience to difficult situations
	Gympie Muster – demonstrates community spirit – 15 years
	Kilkivan Horse ride – strong community support and input
	Endurance ride – Kenilworth – 900 horses (critical stakeholders)
1998	Heritage railway – Gympie to Imbil
	Resurgence of gold mining
	Resurgence of the Showground – attracts / hosts convention centre
1998	Vintage Classic Car expo (1 off)
	3 major car rallies per year in the region on State forests
	Relocation of state/federal government departments – loss of Department of Education, Telstra, – Gympie Hospital downgraded, loss of training for nurses
	Cessation of silviculture treatment practices by DPIE – native forests
1998	Loss of proposed prison
	Stabilisation of softwood forest plantation processing industries – Boral
	Floods – brought the community together

## 4.3 VISIONS

Question 3: *What are some of the visions you have for your town/community in the future? How will these contribute to the local area?*

- Stabilisation of softwood plantations
- Full time employment for members of the community
- Become the centre of a dynamic and sustainable forest timber industry
- Become the centre of farm forestry in South East Queensland
- Being able to draw timber resources from all national park – Fraser Island
- Change in sitting local member
- Utilising pulp for environmentally friendly energy source
- Greater plantation on private land
- Protection of high value vegetation
- Development of co-op for value adding products and industries and keeping benefits in landowners' hands. This will increase community confidence
- Incentives from government for value adding to primary products. This will address some of the unemployment issues in the area

- Commitment to the value of natural environment as fundamental asset
- Recognition of natural resource as a valuable asset
- Proper and early identification of changes to our landscape for better planning and management (in a sustainable manner)
- Define the environment flows of Mary River – water allocation management plan
- Achieve sustainable population and standard of living
- Appreciation of water quality – quality before quantity
- Enhanced silviculture practices
- Greater understanding about the suitability of soil for growth of tree species
- Increased tourism and economic benefits to the region
- Better standard of service delivery
- Increased diversification of industry based in the region
- Greater economic opportunities for youth
- Retaining the youth in the local community for a more balanced structure
- Regional sufficiency to alleviate some of the problems within the area. This is difficult to achieve due to current and prevalent economic rationalism values
- Greater recognition of local small business and use of their capital
- Greater linkages between local industries and the effective and efficient use of local capital leading to increased community ownership
- Role of government agencies to be limited to support to agents in local community rather than policing, regulatory, overseeing
- Recognition and protection of high value remnant vegetation / environmentally sensitive areas for posterity

## 5. HYPOTHETICAL RESOURCE SCENARIOS

5.1 Scenario 1: *What would happen to Gympie if there were no change in forest use and management as it has been for the last few years?*

Positive Impacts	Negative Impacts
Increased confidence in community – provide some certainty	Smaller log size without increased silviculture practices
Incentives to upgrade mills and value adding products	No long term growth – no incentive to move ahead
Steady increase in employment linked to silviculture practices	Gradual decrease in timber resources
With existing resource present users remain 'happy'	Continuation of uncertainty
Short term mill confidence – viability	Cost to graziers – accountability
Maintenance of recreation – as in horse riding – supplements tourism / employment	Less jobs
	Decline in quantity and quality of native forests
	Decline in biodiversity – genetic stock quality (Provenance)
	Continuing decline in water quality and flow consistency
	Continuation of stripping of natural resources due to non-sustainable practices
	Continuing decline in economic viability as profits from value adding of resource benefits Brisbane or other central populations

5.2 Scenario 2: *What do you think would happen to Gympie and the surrounding area if there was a decrease in the availability of State forest resources?*

<b>Positive impacts</b>	<b>Negative impacts</b>
Encourage move towards silviculture practices	Decline in market expectations
Allows State forests to regenerate	Loss of employment and employment potential and the impact on local businesses (flow on impacts)
Providing access to State forests is continued, native forest is still a vital resource for the beekeeping industries. Beekeepers need access to all types of forests their beekeeping activities	Decrease in hardwood mill source of income
Will create a balance between conservation and production	Links between farm forestry, saw mills and the markets, will be affected
Increased in relative value of timber resources	Increased transport costs for beekeepers
Assist in the development of farm forestry and plantation timber	Increased social decay – inability to pay rates arrears
Provide opportunity for eco-tourism	Very little compensation for loss of livelihood
Possible employment of redundant workers from timber industry in the management of forests for conservation values – for example in fire management, weed control etc. – Effective utilisation of existing skills and knowledge of forests held by industry workers, especially logging contractors	Decreased biodiversity
	Will encourage a move towards non-renewable resource industries/practices or products such as plastic, steel etc.
	Loss of income and viability for other related enterprises such as agricultural and grazing
	Loss of recreation areas – loss of tourism
	Honey resources would decrease
	Fewer hives available for the larger plantations
	Beekeepers would need to move further afield

5.3 Scenario 3: *What do you think would happen to Gympie and the surrounding area if there was an increase in dedicated conservation estate?*

<b>Positive Impacts</b>	<b>Negative Impacts</b>
Increased biodiversity	Potential loss to local business
Re-evaluation of the assets we have	Decrease in overall economy
Protection of SEQ most biodiverse area (small protection)	Loss of beekeeping access to conservation estates
Realistic value of existing asset (timber resource) which is slow/hard to replace	Increased need for resources for forests management such as fire management, weed and feral pest control
Improvement in overall catchment health	Downturn in recreational activities – horse riding, camping etc
Increase in tourism / recreation and business – possible with government funding of local community	Loss of grazing leases
Increased resources to provide pollination for crops	Increased area for drug growing
Wildlife corridors, remnant vegetation would be preserved and enhanced	

5.4 Scenario 4: What do you think would happen to Gympie and the surrounding area if there was an increase in the availability of State forest resources?

Positive Impacts	Negative Impacts
Increase in availability of state forest resources	No need for increased CES office size
Greater opportunities for timber and associated industries, agriculture and recreational uses to expand	Increased pressure on access to conservation estate for forest resources
Would stop all this rot	Beekeepers must be allowed access
Massive expansion as long as silviculture practices are continued	Grazing not permitted
Felling must be strictly monitored to preserve areas of heritage value	Loss of ecological process– plant and animal diversity
More employment	Possible increase in saltation of creeks and river if no ecologically sustainable forest management practices are in place
Give timber industry the resource it had 10 years ago	
Improvement in economic viability of industries	
Greater certainty of supply of forest resource	

## Appendix 5 Minutes from Focus Group with Cooloola Shire Council

### COOLOOLA SHIRE COUNCIL RFA FOCUS GROUP MEETING – Minutes 11 December 1997

#### General issues

Cooloola Shire Council's view as expressed by Mayor Mick Venardos is that:

- Bottom line is that there must be a guarantee that native hardwood timber industry in this community is not affected in any way including where people are forced out of the industry by government decisions.
- Concern about potential social and economic impact on shire's residents and that the RFA threatens the social infrastructure of the area

DPI-Forestry Code of Practice and DPI Forestry five year allocation review are happening at the same time – impacts of all three (including RFA) processes will be felt at the same time.

- No SIA or compensation for Code of Practice or Allocation review

#### RFA agenda and objectives:

- Senator Hill stated at the Greenhouse summit in Japan that land use management practices would be put on the agenda.
- This is interpreted that Australian forests would be locked up and the timber industry wound back so that Australia can burn more fossil fuel.
- Australian position at the Greenhouse summit supports community perception that the RFA is a forgone conclusion.

Need to have other high impact towns like Imbil highlighted on the A4 map.

#### Fraser Island:

- Considered a pristine rainforest the question is – how did it become pristine? Answer, it is pristine due to controlled and regulated logging on the island.
- People affected by changes on Fraser Island are still waiting for compensation or only received it in the last 12 months.
- Not one permanent job was created, only part time jobs.
- Warren Truss (Federal Member = good person to get feedback from).
- Fraser Island is now badly managed: roads in a poor condition and risk of fire.
- DPI-Forestry management was better (had the equipment and staff on site).

Nothing to show that there will be a 200 mile impact radius around mills in the Gympie area

Farm forestry:

- Mills will close down because of current changes, and farm forestry won't be of any use in terms of maintaining businesses and skills (passed down from generation to generation) because farm forests won't be ready to harvest for 20–30 years.
- Farm forestry initiatives are impacted on by the RFA as there is uncertainty over future of saw mills, and therefore the potential for loss of markets for processing farm forestry products.
- Certainty of harvest in the future is not guaranteed by governments.

Montreal process says that Australia's forestry practices are sustainable.

One of the shortfalls for the timber industry is the lack of public education about the processes involved in the industry.

Section 12.2 of the Cooloolo Shire Council's Draft Planning Scheme provides the forestry history of and future forestry plans for the area.

Impacts of RFA changes will be devastating in terms of flow-on effects. For example for every contractor that goes under they take with them sub contractors.

Beef, dairying, timber, small crops and gold are the key industries in the area, and all of these industries have declined or are currently suffering a decline or de-regulation (dairying) which is also greatly affecting the local and regional economy, as well as people's confidence in spending and investing in the area.

- The only new government building in the area in the past five years is the new CES.

Re-training is not possible because there are no viable remaining industries in the area.

- People have been employed in the timber industry for their strong backs, but they didn't usually do so well at school, so there won't be any jobs for them outside of the timber industry.
- Different skills required to work in soft wood mills as it is highly mechanised and hardwood mills are labour intensive.

There are actually a number of flow-on effects to the softwood industry, and so any changes in the native forest industry will also create uncertainty in the softwood industry.

- decrease investment
- all people in town are directly affected by the timber industry.

Local government is the last link in the chain of RFA decision-making, and this seems very unbalanced.

- This is re-enforced by the current ineffectual arrangement with the LGAQ, with the local government representative not consulting or giving information to the Cooloolo Shire Council.
- LGAQ didn't give advice regarding position on the Reference Panel.
- Cooloolo Shire Councillors have had no communication with LGAQ.

Concern regarding the 'obscene speed' that socio-economic assessment is being implemented in the RFA process – many more resources and more time given to the 'soft, furry' elements.

Cooloola Shire Council officially request an extension of time for socio-economic assessments to be completed.

Still waiting for public meeting feedback – people are not happy with this government hold-up while government is determined to stay with the same time-frame in terms of sign off dates at the same time.

Timetable is of concern for option development – SIA team need to come back and tell council what they have found out and what they think about options.

Concern about the Reference Panel – lack of community interests represented (FPS only community focused representative, and these are not comprehensive).

DPI–Forestry Code of Practice social impacts also need to be identified and dealt with.

Fear of tree preservation guidelines in future on private land.

Already a shortfall in private resource because of fear of government intervention on private land – not any clear messages about who is affected, what it means etc. Very high level of confusion and concern in the area:

- People destroying private forests now will have a great impact on future industry private resource availability
- Private land holders cutting timber at a smaller size (landscape sleepers) then saw miller preferred. Prefer the timber left for another 15 years so can be processed as saw logs.

Government IMA decision making – already conflict regarding allocations.

Robertson Brothers: have to import timber from NZ now, and will have to import completely in 10 years time.

Town population: 10000

Rural population: 20000

Total population: 32000

NAFI and FPS groups meet regularly in the Gympie area.

257 timber workers in the area who will be affected by any changes, as well as:

- transport company
- tyre company
- fuel suppliers
- engineering shops
- if these shops close, then other shops will follow.

If any more people become unemployed, consumer confidence and spending will decrease again and affect the entire town.

There are 6 shops that are dependent on timber in Gympie:

- at the same time the dairy industry is undergoing de-regulation – RFA needs to consider the impacts of all of the trends affecting the area, not just RFA or timber.

Councillors feel extremely passionate about this issue.

## Expectations

### Expectations in relation to the Social Impact Assessment process

- Need an extension of time for social assessment
- SIA team comes back with options to do SIA: not enough to just have public meetings or 6 week time to respond.
- Want the Federal and State Ministers to be available at the public meetings to tell the community about the RFA options.
- SIA team to go and speak to Imbil Chamber of Commerce (Julie Walker), and Tin Can Bay Chamber of Commerce (Des Quince).

### Expectations in relation to the RFA

- Come back without locking up the forests.
- Continuity of what we have now – without interruption.
- Resource security to enable timber industry to continue at its current level.
- Avoid shortfall in private resource in future.
- Right of harvest guaranteed on private land now and in future.
- That the comprehensive regional assessment process within RFA considers re-growth management as the right to harvest.
- Consider all aspects of government regulation and policy together when coming up with the plans for the RFA (code of practice, tree clearing guidelines, RFA etc).

### Agreed actions:

- Send draft minutes to Council to sign off on and return to SIA team.
- SIA team to integrate the outcomes of the minutes into their Regional Social Profile and Case Studies projects.
- Expectations will be passed on to RFA project managers.
- Council would like the Cooloola level mill worker survey results.

## Appendix 6. Minutes From Focus Group with Gympie Chamber of Commerce

### GYMPIE AND DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE RFA INFORMATION AND ISSUES MEETING – Minutes 11 December 1997

#### ISSUES

Concern that the timber industry is the only viable primary industry left out of the beef, small crop and gold industry and if there's any cut back in the timber industry it will affect the whole town.

Are there any programs to avoid unemployment that is, to plant the trees that are cut down

Concerns with focus on farm forestry as the answer

- encourage people to plant hardwood timbers however the impact of the RFA on saw mills may mean the loss of mills and the ability to process the timber
- can't rely on having harvest certainty in 30 years time and security of harvest needs to be urgently addressed
- loss of skills/skill transfer in the meantime as industry and businesses close down, and people die in the meantime.

Farm forestry supported by council as one strategy for future among many others – still issues for what to do now.

Fear of future which is filled with uncertainty.

Concern regarding management of State forests:

- DPI-Forestry needs to focus on both the management of harvesting and growth rates and silviculture generally
- Emphasis on management has dropped and DPI-Forestry need to look at silviculture practices
- 20-year management plans don't mean much if don't manage growth.

Flow-on effects are going to make the impacts of the RFA much more than people realise.

Chamber of Commerce view that:

- the only commodity price that has increased is timber in last 10 years;
- a huge decline in Timber Industry in the foreseeable future will mean the town will suffer dramatically;
- flow on effect of impacts = x7.

Loss of government jobs

- 280 jobs lost in railway in last five years with approx 28 people employed today
- 500 jobs in Forestry lost in last 20 years
- large number of government services leaving town in past 5 years

Timber workers find it difficult to diversify into other industries.

Toyota is a large supplier of 4WDs, servicing and parts.

- Toyotas, chainsaw, ball bearing, engineering shops, tyre outlet, fuel suppliers will all be affected by any changes to the timber industry.
- Financiers and banks also impacted.
- Very fine, inter-connected network of businesses and services.

One local accountant reports that generally businesses are not doing well in the area.

RFA public meetings cast doubt and uncertainty in everybody's minds and consumer confidence to spend in the town was affected.

Dairy industry de-regulation cast a downturn in people's expectations and minds.

Many issues relating to 'COMPENSATION':

- do not necessarily even want to consider that there will be a need for compensation –should be no change to current status
- compensation is a trade-off for not having lasting employment and sooner see jobs preserved then have new ones created that don't last
- look at providing long term benefit if considering compensating people for loss of jobs, family businesses, lifestyles etc.
- terrible to consider offering people who have always been involved in a way of life and job, 'compensation', when they don't want to change.
- Sustainability of incentives is a major concern.
- it is impossible to compensate people not directly involved in, but dependent upon, the timber industry.

'Timber workers and sawmillers badly managing forests is like a dairy farmer shooting his cows.'

Fraser Island:

- good example of timber industry management and self regulation. It was timber industry's management practices which provided for Fraser Island to be in a condition which enabled World Heritage Listing
- more timber on Fraser Island when World Heritage Listing than in 1915 when logging started.
- general feeling among the timber industry that the quality and quantity of timber had improved under pre-existing harvesting regime.

Forestry training college (which the State government has invested money in) and museum (heritage) shows the importance and place of the forestry industry in the region

- part of heritage (identity).

Laminex Industries \$110 million plant in pine plantation

- Chamber is in favour of, and supports pine plantation, but it must be stressed that pine plantation is a different industry which is less labour intensive therefore has less employment opportunities and requires different skills. Plantation industry is definitely not the answer to the down turn in native hardwood industry.

Timber industry has a great value in tourism

- Fraser Island is an example of poor transition from forestry management to conservation management;
- Concern about management issues (safety and fire) associated with a decline in the level of maintenance of undergrowth and roads (which is not at the same level as in the past).

Need to consider wood chipping for timber lying on ground, as it is a waste.

- Need to look at value-adding industries associated with the timber industry
- Problem caused when wood chip licences stopped a few years ago and company's not allowed to chip scrap timber
- Mills in general are recycling everything possible

Need to start to look at alternative ways to use and manage what we have got.

Rather than looking at compensation look at possible new industries

Value adding:

- Locally hardwood timbers fashioned into high quality furnishing (Australian Heritage Timbers) and sold at Eumundi markets
- Due to tourists attending the markets and placing orders, the products are now being sold overseas.

A family a day come to live in this community – rural residential blocks.

- Only 1 in 3 will be employed
- Problems and benefits from people coming to the Gympie area for the lifestyle e.g. people are living on 5 acre blocks around Gympie, but there is no employment for people and this creates extra pressure on the jobs that are available.

DPI-F management regime and RFA

- Concern that timber industry work practices may be limited by the impact of DPI-F Code of Practice. For example new rules and criteria regarding harvesting on slopes.
- The cumulative impact of the RFA and DPI-F Code of Practice needs to be considered.
- Opportunity may exist for any area which is locked up due to the nature of the slope to form part of the conservation reserve required under the RFA

To summarise the feeling of the Chamber:

- Must be an understanding that the town is critically dependent on a viable timber industry, which means the sustainability of the current industry. If there are any cut backs in the timber industry, people don't have anywhere to go as other primary industries are on the skids

## EXPECTATIONS

- Tell someone to go back and cut the red tape
- come back to the community and feedback information and ask them about options
- learn from past and plan for future
- Farm forestry is encouraged
- public need to know what are fast growing timbers
- education public about the RFA process, and about native forest management and use generally
- education program to encourage farmers how to re-plant and harvest timber
- that the RFA has a thorough consultation process which involves talking to grass roots people, and that there is improvement in communicating information about the RFA to communities.
- Something needs to be done about the decline in the amount of hardwood timber available. This should involve an expansion of forests.
- Timber industry – needs to be understood through the education system

## **Appendix 7 Cooroy Workshop Write-up**

DRAFT

### SOUTH EAST QUEENSLAND REGIONAL FOREST AGREEMENT

#### SOCIAL ASSESSMENT WORKSHOPS

##### 1. BACKGROUND

The purpose of social assessment is to develop descriptive socio-economic ‘snapshots’ of selected communities which may be affected by the planning and policy decisions to be made as a result of the South East Queensland Regional Forest Agreement. Part of this process involved conducting Social Assessment workshops, which aimed to highlight community values on a particular issue, and determine the nature and significance of potential social impacts on these communities. The workshops also provided an avenue for community involvement in the social assessment process.

A representative selection of community groups who are involved in forest activities and/or have related interests in the forest use and management in the area were invited to the workshops. They included representatives from the timber industry, farm forestry, logging contractors, saw mill employees and saw mill managers, beekeepers, graziers, conservationists, tourism industry, National Parks and Wildlife, Integrated Catchment Management (ICM), Landcare, local government representatives and the Department of Primary Industries – Forestry.

Information collected and gathered at the Social Assessment Workshops will be used as part of the report for the Regional Forest Agreement (RFA) SE5.3 Case Study Towns. This will in turn be used in the “impact assessment phase” of the RFA, where the social assessment team will draw on the collated information when analysing the potential impacts of draft options in the social impact assessment phase.

The following describes the issues raised in the social assessment workshop conducted recently. Participants are invited to make comments on the documentation of this write-up, and/or provide any other information that had not been included in this write-up but was raised during the workshop. In particular, dates of significant events were not always recorded. It would be much appreciated if participants could assist us by filling in the gaps.

We would like to thank participants once again for their valuable contribution. If you require further information, please contact Lila-Jo Leaders on (07) 3896 9601, or Bronwen Burke, the Forest Community Coordinator on (07) 3896 9517.

## COOROY AREA:

### SOCIAL ASSESSMENT WORKSHOP : 21 MAY 1998

#### 2. LIST OF CATEGORIES OF PARTICIPANTS

##### Category

DPI-Forestry  
Beekeeper  
Tourism  
Noosa Park Association  
Farm forestry  
ICM  
Conservation  
Mill worker  
Local government  
Human Services  
Contractor  
Mill manager

##### Staff Present:

Bronwen Burke  
Michaeli Fulton  
Lila-Jo Leaders  
Anne Wisemen

#### 3. GENERAL ISSUES

##### 3.1 Brief discussion on the following issues:

- NSW beekeepers using SEQ State forests during drought
- Time lines for project, interim forest use management arrangements (IFMA)
- Local DNR participation is happening for RFA process

#### 4. WORKSHOP QUESTIONS

##### 4.1 Question 1: *How do you feel about living in Cooroy or the surrounding areas?*

##### Positive Aspects

- Laid back lifestyle
- Open space
- Clean air
- Good place to raise family
- Close to coast and Brisbane, but far enough to maintain our lifestyle

- Diverse community
- Country life style
- Parcel of rainforests within State forests – largely due to common sense management of ‘on-site’ state public servants who began to realise that once areas of rainforest are logged they are gone forever – no ifs, buts or maybes
- Good access to local community and health services
- Bursting with potential
- Central to other towns and work
- Good public transport from Cooroy to other centres nearby
- Good skill base – arts / crafts / furniture and general
- Environmentally aware community – landcare / permaculture
- Pioneering farm forestry 20–30 years ago – innovative in the field
- Community has strong links to timber tradition
- Forestry resource availability good – very diverse forest types – range of products and uses
- Enjoy working in the area
- Good sporting facilities and recreation opportunities
- Retirement / hobby farm settlements bringing new ideas to farming – fruit / vegetable etc.
- Strong sense of community
- Tourism increasing
- Dormitory town for coast industries
- Heaps of potential
- Rich fertile country
- Good rainfall
- Good community development programs
- Easy access to educational facilities and other essential services
- High level of interest in conservation, revegetation and farm forestry within the community

#### Negative Aspects

- High unemployment
- Land degradation – pest plant management problems
- Job uncertainty for youth
- Lack of community assimilation – wanting to change status quo
- Increased population – accelerated unemployment situation
- Increased population – pressures on infrastructure planning
- Changes to schools, town / settlements have led to loss of farming lands
- Transient nature of population – lack of community input / caring for home long term benefits
- New community changes the nature of existing community
- ‘Big city’ syndrome – cultural / socio-economic diversity and understanding
- Fast population growth in SEQ affecting and putting pressure on the natural features of our environment
- Increased in highway traffic – 1 truck a minute
- Dependency on saw mills with uncertain future
- Aging population
- Lack of town development plan beyond Noosa Shire Strategic Plan
- Loss of rural values due to unplanned development
- Population pressures and demands on timber resources
- Diverse community poses challenges for local government

## 4.2 SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

Question 2: *What have been the most significant events in your community since 1980, and how has this community managed these events?*

Date	Events
Annually	King of the Mountain – from 1956 started again 1979
Annually	Noosa Show
Weekly	Eumundi Markets (Wednesday and Saturday)
1 in 10 year	World class competition on Lake Cootharaba for catamaran sailing
1 in 3 year	National competition – catamarans
Late 70s	Amalgamation of dairy farms, then beef and now sub-divisions of lands
	Brick works major investment – 2 kilns – previously 150 employed now only 35
1980s	Loss of small family timber mills (close mills)
1981	Funeral march for forest – native land – exotic pines – DPI policy for Pomona influenced by this decline – Greens , industry (native) came together
Late 80s Hinterland Mid 80's in Centers	Population expansion – managing the event – pressure on management of natural resources
Late 80s	Public awareness – desire to improve economics – Increased in environmental groups in the area – green/brown
1986	Kin Kin horse race – annually in October
1989–90	Pomona saw mill closure
Early 1990s	Railway stations closed
1990	Development of Noosa Landcare and subsequent farm forestry program for community based program on private lands
1990–91	Butter factory bought by council and converted to TAFE / education / arts / crafts youth support centre
1991	Move of Noosa Shire Council chambers from Pomona to Noosa
1992	Boral timber dropped from 2 shifts back to 1
1992	Cooloolah State Park declared
1994	Bypass of Cooroy – people now come specifically to Cooroy
1994	Postponement of dam in Mary Valley
1994	Farming the future Expo conference
1995	Fine furniture expo at butter factory (in June/July annually)
1995	Loss of DPI–Forestry in Pomona
1997	Pomona timber festival
1997	Sugar industry took off – Noosa River Plains
1998	Main street upgrade
1998	Pomona furniture's \$2 million contract for Olympics

## 4.3 VISIONS

Question 3: *What are some of the visions you have for your town/community in the future? How will these contribute to the local area?*

- Maintain rural community and industry as is – with subsidy if required – better than no town
- Land care becomes involved with secondary schools and TAFE
- Establish a rural based adult education TAFE
- Become less dependent on primary production and move towards to skills based jobs
- Create a work in our rural shire, maintain jobs base in local area and reverse dormancy
- Develop alternative primary industries e.g. wildflowers, camphor laurel

- Joint ventures between industries in the area and bypassing government's involvement. This will provide incentives for handing responsibilities and plantation areas back into community. Government's role in production and regulation of industries to be avoided
- No traffic lights – flow of traffic
- The promotion of better work-related operations
- Sustainable well managed forest industry – to secure employment and draw visitors to the area
- All parties being able to work together
- Limit population growth and promote community development in rural area
- Community ownership of managing natural resources sustainably through experience and education
- Link unemployment with need for rural labor and workers
- Expansion in private forestry through tax and superannuation incentives e.g. NZ model

## 5. HYPOTHETICAL RESOURCE SCENARIOS

5.1 Scenario 1: *What would happen to Cooroy and the surrounding area if there is no change in forest use and management as it has been for the last few years?*

<b>Positive impacts</b>	<b>Negative impacts</b>
Security of supply – Local saw mills could upgrade their investment due to perceived greater viability	Current zoning places less emphasis on conservation values and more on wood production – harmful in the long run
Whatever changes are needed, there is an urgent need to get it right for industry – this is our last chance to do so	Industries will always need to be competitive – impact of economy of scale, timber flows will usually mean changes are required
Security of continuation for industry – allow value adding, explore new species	Doing nothing makes industry viability harder to achieve in the long term
Increased short term employment	The need for greater profit would lead to advances in mechanisation leading to less employment
Gradual improvement in quality of forests as land management improves	Timber flow – slow down
Status quo remains	Loss of sustainable timber (hardwood) industry as viability of logging decreases
	No change now will ensure death of timber industry later
	No progress
	Too many forested areas of the past are now not viable to be logged (Bonalbo–Boral closure)
	Not enough knowledge in industry – clouded or misleading information available to make informed comment about this matter
	Fewer and fewer trees available for or suited for milling – pressure would be placed on taking more and more
	Private owners of native forest would continue to be at a disadvantage when it comes to price
	This area will eventually bow to the population boom and emulate the Gold Coast Hinterland
	There must be change in forest management for the Cooroy region to gain global respect
	Changes for the wrong reasons

5.2 Scenario 2: *What do you think would happen to Cooroy and the surrounding area if there was a decrease in the availability of State Forest resources?*

Positive Impacts	Negative Impacts
Diversification of millers alternatives for wood supply – private land, farm forestry	Loss of balance in rural community – conservation and timber production
Create government initiatives to find more land for plantations and provide incentives to land holders to plant more trees	Impacts negatively on community viability and survival
Increase in employment – maintain industry through hardwood plantations	Substitution of non-sustainable material such as steel and plastic
Long term investment for the future generation	Unemployment would rise
Increase of value added forest products	Loss of income to businesses in the area
Potential increase of conservation areas in state forest	Loss of services
More sustainable native forest management – current practices proven to be unsustainable	Eventual closure of mill if unviable
Focus on new secondary industries	Decline in managed forests
Greater investment in technology and education	Potential loss to the whole community from fire etc.
Potential increase in knowledge base employment/skill	Depends on how great is the loss of resource
Improvement in forest quality	Prices will rise
	Increased import of timber products which will add to our current deficit account
	Costs of cross industry training
	Most workers in the timber industry lack alternative employment skills – impacts on their families and the community

5.3 Scenario 3: *What do you think would happen to Cooroy and the surrounding area if there was an increase in dedicated conservation estate?*

Positive Impacts	Negative Impacts
Tourism potential	Increased risk of workers being unemployed – not retrained
There are already conservation values on the forests. There is a need to share the forests between conservation values and those members of the community who rely on forests for their livelihood	Viability of mill removed
Increased habitat and water quality etc. and conservation areas in hinterland which is deficient at present	Family dislocation – social problems for community
Growth of farm forestry enterprises	A loss of forests is not an increase in conservation value
Less traffic	More crime
Less people in town and clubs	Loss of self respect of proud working class people
A better long term environment – if properly managed	Reduction of members in services clubs
A greater incentive to use land (private) for plantation instead of purely re-vegetation due to guaranteed set aside area for conservation	Retraining not easy for workers
Timber cutters would have to think	Added cost in management of forest
	They would cut down somewhere else

## Appendix 8 Linville Workshop Write-up

DRAFT

### SOUTH EAST QUEENSLAND REGIONAL FOREST AGREEMENT SOCIAL ASSESSMENT WORKSHOPS

#### 1. Background

The purpose of social assessment is to develop descriptive socio-economic ‘snapshots’ of selected communities which may be affected by the planning and policy decisions to be made as a result of the South East Queensland Regional Forest Agreement. Part of this process involved conducting social assessment workshops that aimed to highlight community values on a particular issue, and determine the nature and significance of potential social impacts on these communities. The workshops also provided an avenue for community involvement in the social assessment process.

A representative selection of community groups who are involved in forest activities and/or have related interests in forest use and management in the area were invited to the workshops. They included representatives from the timber industry, farm forestry, logging contractors, saw mill employees and saw mill managers, beekeepers, graziers, conservationists, tourism industry, National Parks and Wildlife, Integrated Catchment Management (ICM), landcare, local government representatives and the Department of Primary Industries – Forestry.

Information collected and gathered at the social assessment workshops will be used as part of the report for the Regional Forest Agreement (RFA) SE 5.3 Case Study Towns. This will in turn be used in the ‘impact assessment phase’ of the RFA, where the social assessment team will draw on the collated information when analysing the potential impacts of draft options in the social assessment phase.

The following describes the issues raised in the social assessment workshop conducted recently. Participants are invited to make comments on the documentation of this write-up, and/or provide any other information that had not been included in this write-up but was raised during the workshop. In particular, dates of significant events were not always recorded. It would be greatly appreciated if participants could assist us by filling in the gaps.

We would like to thank participants once again for their valuable contribution. If you require further information, please contact Lila-Jo Leaders on (07) 3896 9601, or Bronwen Burke, the Forest Community Coordinator on (07) 3896 9517.

LINVILLE AND THE SURROUNDING AREA: SOCIAL ASSESSMENT  
WORKSHOP: 14 MAY 1998

LIST OF CATEGORIES OF PARTICIPANTS

Category

Esk Shire  
Mill manager  
Mill worker  
Beekeeper  
Grazier  
DPI Forestry  
Farm forestry  
Conservation  
Esk Shire  
Landcare & ICM

Staff Present:

Bronwen Burke	DPIE
Laurel Johnson	DNR
Lila-Jo Leaders	DNR

GENERAL ISSUES

Forest Management:

- Most participants are happy with current forest management
- Squirrel Creek for example, is well managed

Some participants however, felt that the State forest was not adequately managed. Natural regrowth is not sufficiently encouraged due to current forestry management and practices. Excessive logging of mature trees particularly ironbark will be extremely detrimental to the beekeeping industry.

In Queensland, all ironbark species would constitute the second most important 'honey trees' to Napunyah (*E. Ochrophlia*) in Western Queensland.

Management of State forests if logging ceases: who will be responsible?

Changes to State forest management and its potential impacts on employment in the area

Excessive logging of mature trees affects habitat stress for wildlife.

Changes in management of freehold blocks would result in timber resources being milled, rather than wasted.

### Allocation and review of allocation process

- Allocation allowance: need to seek timber from private source
- Dead and dying timber could be utilised
- Review of timber cut within each zone and looking at enhanced silviculture practices could lead to better wood production and also at maintaining an ecologically sustainable forest
- Could also lead to higher quality mill products

### Concerns about changes:

- Shipping and transporting of logs from one location to another
- Falling wages
- Slower reproduction of timber
- Closure of other industries in the area
- Closure of State forests inappropriate given the current rate of high unemployment everywhere
- Further restrictions on availability of timber and additional costs for those in the timber industry
- Hardwoods are slow growing
- Hardwood plantations are subject to disease and pest factors not encountered in countries where they are grown as exotics

### Log quality:

- Reduced quality of timber for example, ironbark through IFMA
- Smaller size of timber through IFMA
- To compensate for the lower quality, may need timber from other sources for example, private source
- Plantation timber grown on clear felled areas may be of lower quality (Olympic Peninsula USA)

### IFMA:

- Creates uncertainty within the timber industry
- Some participants unhappy about IFMA

### Why deal only with State forests?

- Hardwood should be made more available
- Need to encourage free hold land holders to grow more agro-timber
- Natural re-growth not adequately encouraged due to current forestry practices
- Retain more natural regrowth

### Role of local council

- To promote growth in the area
- To promote demonstration of plantations and retention of timber on freehold land

### Closure of forests

- Taking away a vital economic generating activity in the area

- Access to forest after closure for example, for conservation purposes is vital for other users particularly for beekeepers and graziers

#### Alternative use for unused timber

- Utilise for other uses such as woodchips, pulp or for energy production (ethanol production) which can assist with the reduction of greenhouse effect. However, some species such as ironbark are not suitable as woodchips unless first barked
- Present method of thinning of regrowth timber discharges chemicals into soil and waterways – is wasteful and adds to the greenhouse effect when burnt
- Markets for timber and timber products
- Markets exist, the timber industry need to utilise them more effectively
- Value adding products must be seriously considered for industry to remain economically viable
- Plantations should include native furniture timbers (e.g. silky oak) as well as construction timbers

Role of Gatton College  
– Input into sustainability

### WORKSHOP QUESTIONS

#### 4.1 Question 1: *How do you feel about living in Linville or the surrounding areas?*

##### Positive Aspects:

- Good climate: 500 ft above sea level
- Close to centres but far enough from mainstream
- Close to markets: lower cost for transporting beef
- Safe and good road system
- Good grazing country – adequate rainfall and therefore not the need to supplement feed
- Safe grazing country
- Family contributes to the lifestyle, history and service in Linville
- Comfortable social lifestyle
- Good amenity – scenic area
- Friendly people
- My home town – born and raised here
- Job here: 5 minutes from work
- Always regard the area as my “home” although I don’t live here
- Convenient to other areas such as to Kilcoy and Brisbane
- Primary production area: “Feeds” Brisbane
- Good social and health services including back-up services such as Meal-on-Wheels and nursing home service
- Rural environment
- Q-Rail operates a twice weekly road delivery service to Linville
- Linville is sheltered from severe winds
- Need to supplement feed for cattle is limited to frosted and droughted pastures
- Reasonably convenient to Toowoomba and Sunshine Coast

- 50–70 km to medical and related practitioners, hospitals
- Less stress and pollution and noise of urban living
- STD and fibre optic Telstra services available

Negative Aspects:

- Not enough diversification
- Lack of major industries for employment of local people
- Rural decline due to drought and reduction of trade
- Lack of secondary industries and training
- Young people leaving because of lack of employment opportunities in the area. Consequently ‘the best and brightest move on for better opportunities elsewhere’
- Loss of services due to population decline
- Lack of competition in schools – not enough students to form sports teams
- Tourism in the area provides little or no economic benefit. Most are day trippers due to proximity to major centres. Cost to community in infrastructure and threat to rural lifestyle
- Less volunteers for fire fighting from population decline
- Primary School in Linville, up to 30 km for up river students
- Nearest public transport to and from Moore daily
- No mini bus for those unable to drive
- Unauthorised shooters leading to stock loss and wild fires
- Roadside river campers leave litter
- Hill country restricts mobile phone and TV reception
- Creeks and river distribute noxious weeds increasing due to less farmers on the land

Question 1: *How do you feel about living in Linville or the surrounding areas? (cont.)*

Negative Aspects:

- Increased pressure of operating and owning property in Linville due to declining trade, outside influence and drought
- Rises in rivers can cut the community off at times. This is due to raised concrete causeways below Cooyar Creek junction
- Long distance from medical and hospital services
- Long distance from high schools. High school in Toogoolawah is approximately 50 km away
- Local bus service to Ipswich operates fortnightly
- Community not very progressive in ideas
- Severe frosts come down river valley

## SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

Question 2: *What have been the most significant events in your town/community since 1980, and how has the community managed these events?*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Events</b>
Ongoing (started in 1963)	Mt Stanley Muster: annually except during drought years
Started in mid 1960s and ongoing	Loss of social services due to population decline: In the 1950s, adult population in Linville was around 250. Currently there are only 40 /60 adults living in this area. The decline was attributed to a number of factors such as the decline of dairy industries and the closure of the butter factory in Esk. Many people moved out of the area to seek of employment, thereby affecting social services provision and demand in the process
1975 (built over a period and still ongoing)	Lions Camp Duckadang (named after Aboriginal man): Constructed community hall and extended recreational facilities for groups up to 100
1977 (annual event)	Rise of Linville Picnic Races: The event was well organised.
Started in 1985	Downgrading of the Northern end Brisbane Valley Rail–line over 10 year period mainly due to poor service, which resulted in low public usage of the facility. Consequently, some job loss occurred (local track workers)
1985	Development of Toogoolawah High School: Years 11 and 12 added. Allow local students to continue their studies
Mid 1980s	Parent mill in Brisbane closed: Led to increase in fortune in Linville mill through inheritance of machineries etc. Since then, general upgrade of machineries occurred including rebuilding of the original sheds
Ongoing (prior to 1970s once every 7 years, now more frequent in the 1980s to 1990s)	Continuing Drought and declining terms of trade: Extended during the 1990s coupled with declining terms of trade have had adverse effects on rural businesses (particularly beef and grain). Reduction in terms of trade from 250 in 1973 to less than 100 today (National Australia Bank "Rural focus" figures) Reduced employment in rural areas Families need off farm employment to survive
1988 (opened in 1989/90)	Development of Toogoolawah Nursing Home– 'Alkira': – Big employer – Changed the lives of old people and their families. Before the nursing home was established, families were splitting up due to stress and aged people forced to move from community for care – Allows elderly people in the area to remain within the area. Previously they have to travel to Ipswich or the Sunshine Coast to access this service. Strain on families – Big money raised by local people. Therefore when nursing home was opened, it was debt-free – many staff are volunteers
1988	Bicentennial celebrations, especially New Year's eve celebration – unveiling of plaque. Brought community together (1000 people)
Ongoing	Cessation of flows in creeks and permanent waterholes due to drought. Place additional management difficulties on land holders already stressed by sparse grass and crop growth
Decline started in 1986	Decline of Moore Rodeo – event was perceived to be 'out of fashion'. Public response to the event declined over the years

1988	Bicentennial picnic at Mt Stanley Reserve. Many old residents returned
Ongoing	ANZAC Day Parade – Annually: Brought community together – school kids and ex-servicemen participate in parade and community shares morning tea at hall afterwards.
Ongoing	Decline in rural businesses: People are feeling despondent – ‘doing it tough’. Most businesses are family-owned and run, not multinationals. Today, most rural employers (such as farmers etc.) could not afford to employ workers given that most are operating on a ‘shoe-string budget’. In addition, farmers and others in rural industries are often forced to defer making decisions about improving their equipment or machineries due to financial constraints.
1993/4	Extensions and refurbishment of Esk hospital (70 km from Linville) range of service now available including detox, dental, physiotherapy, accident and emergency, helipad etc.
1998	Satellite receiving station for Energex established by Telstra 15 km above Linville
1997 ongoing	Ipswich community aid active in district
1998	Meals on Wheels from ‘Alkira’ delivered to Linville residents
1993	Legacy representative in Benarkin serving Linville and district
1996	Remembrance Day: Dedicated to the soldiers who fought for Australia and worked in establishing the plantations around Benarkin/Yarraman – ‘Patriotic to the past and the land’.

### 4.3 VISIONS

Question 3: *What are some of the visions you have for your town/community in the future?*

- Strong forestry industry based on both State forests and farm forestry
- Full use of all forest products (minimum waste, minimum environmental impact)
- Multiple use of forest lands for example, grazing, adventure activities and home stays
- Retention of character of Linville and Linville lifestyle, but without the economic stress
- Capitalising on the character and lifestyle of this area – promoting the timber industry, and techno-tourism for industry processing
- More visitors to the area especially weekend population – tourism growth
- Build dam on river above Linville to provide recreational and sporting area
- Build dam preferably up Cooyar Creek to retain road and phone access to Mt Stanley and not flood irrigation lands, river flow would be sustained and irrigation flow more reliable, fish stocks could be increased, camp facility on reserve could be improved at Monsildale junction, fish, eel and crayfish farming potential
- Timber industry be maintained and expanded to secondary industries – value adding
- Better use of unused timber for example; explore Ethanol plant potential in the area. Flow-on benefits – employment for the local community and reduction of greenhouse effect
- Subsidise training/regenerating etc. to keep young people in area
- More subsidies for diversification particularly for farm forestry – certainty of harvest
- Greater community cohesion
- Viable timber and beef industries to maintain healthy employment services and lifestyle within the community

- Diversification, not just based on forestry but can include wider range of farming in the region such as grape growing, deer hunting lodges
- More technology access for developing alternative industry such as internet
- Revitalise planting of trees to increase timber, create job opportunities and provide the incentives for others to invest in the area
- Make the region into a ‘showcase’ of how to manage land sustainably for primary production including: timber, stock, water, conservation, and recreation
- Maintain the viability of beekeeping industry in the region – wood chipping of State and private forests would destroy the beekeeping industry
- That there would never be wood chipping in this area or in any areas of the SEQ RFA
- The area remains as is
- Tourism opportunities which include interpreting local history and natural history, grazing and farming activities and environmental education tutor at Camp Duckadang
- Incorporation of Upper Brisbane River Catchment as Stage 3 of the Brisbane River Management Strategy – refer DEH as it is coordinating DPI and DNR aspects of total conservation of the catchment
- Forward planning to involve all segments including freehold land holders to establish overviews with regard to areas to be protected for agriculture, remnant forests, corridors, river systems, etc.

## HYPOTHETICAL RESOURCE SCENARIOS

5.1 Scenario 1: *What would happen to Linville and the surrounding areas if there is no change in forest use and management as it has been for the last few years?*

<b>Positive impacts</b>	<b>Negative impacts</b>
No change.	Timber exhausted or taken over by big players – Boral.
Cattle can continue grazing in forests.	Continue loss of youth.
Continue sustainable multi-use of forests.	Lack of employment diversity continues.
Long term on-ground conservation practices by local experienced stakeholders to ensure protection of natural asset.	It is a finite resource – slow growth.
With upturn in economy, more occupied housing – more employment.	May reduce forest reserve timber supply slightly.
Beekeeping continues.	General decline – property value affected.
We just plod along hoping that there is enough private wood to keep going.	Declining yields.
Town could still carry on with retirees	Declining population.
Small increase in employment in the event of better seasons and commodity prices.	Declining work opportunities.
Timber industry could still sustain its developed markets and endeavour to become more profitable.	Landholders will continue to burn each Spring thereby reducing vegetable mulch to retain soil moisture and excessive run off
Graziers livelihood perhaps remain viable.	Landholders especially absentees with off farm income will continue to poison trees with resultant loss of millable logs and habitat trees and erosion
Continued forestry employment.	Resident landholders not enough resources to enable timber to be sustainably managed (mill logs, fencing timber, wildlife habitat, rare species retention, grasslands)
Base for community remains intact.	
Alternative uses for timber thinnings and heads could increase employment in the area.	
Perceived stability.	

5.2 Scenario 2: *What do you think would happen to Linville and the surrounding area if there was a decrease in the availability of State forest resources?*

<b>Positive impacts</b>	<b>Negative impacts</b>
Promote farm forestry – different corporate values – selling their farm/asset on a staged basis – more capital value for farms.	Private buying of timber for mills.
Increase softwood plantations.	Reduce mill staff.
Forward planning – forces the issue.	Change to pine plantation licence for mill.
More private dollars (free holders).	May close mill.
Increase tourism and diversification.	Town would be greatly affected – ‘feel the pinch’.
Potential funds from governments.	Grazing becomes less viable without access to forest grazing leases.
No real positive impacts.	Decline in forestry as employer
Providing that beekeeping access to the forest continues, this industry would be enhanced.	No freehold guidelines for forest management. No certainty of guidelines being adopted to provide mill logs
More income for private landholders.	Increase illegal operations in State forests – less monitoring.
Private landholders could become more viable if Govt subsidised regrowth timbers	Destroy family-based businesses.
	Less jobs and jobs opportunities.
	Population loss – people seeking jobs elsewhere.
	Lack of use of valuable resource.
	Decrease in resource value due to lack of/poor management.
	Management problems – fire, weeds, and pests.
	Beekeepers become less viable – staff cuts.
	Continue loss of services.
	Community morale decline.
	Creates uncertainty within the community.

5.3 Scenario 3: *What do you think would happen to Linville and the surrounding area if there was an increase in dedicated conservation estate?*

<b>Positive impacts</b>	<b>Negative impacts</b>
Possible eco-tourism and others such as farm holidays, trail rides, and canoe trips down river.	Dramatic adverse effects on local timber industry and therefore the flow-on effect of unemployment not only in Linville but also the surrounding areas.
If beekeepers have continued access, more honey produce.	Tourism could impact on conservation values.
Maintain biodiversity, plants, animals and amenity.	There is no scenic tourism potential in Linville.
Potential ‘funds’ from governments.	Less viable production.
Funds from Govt could improve farmers management of timber and grasslands	Lack of utilisation of sustainable resource (timber).
More logs, therefore more production and more jobs in the long run. The town will grow.	End of town.
River flow would be more stable if forests were allowed to provide mulch to be incorporated in soil humus thus aiding water penetration instead of quick run-off.	Threat to schools and services.
Potential for deer hunting as a viable tourist activity – meat and other processing potential from deer farming.	Reduction in council rate base and services – possible devastation of local rate base in north.
No negative impacts if forestry yields sustained.	Severe impacts on grazing families who operate grazing leases in forests.
	Management problems – could destroy what it aims to protect. Management of fires, weeds, plants and feral animals

	Resource implications for management of conservation estate.
	Overall reduction in employment in rural areas.
	Older trees not removed to provide young active growth.
	No generation of employment from tourism based on forest reserve.

## Appendix 9 Woodford Workshop Write-up

DRAFT

### SOUTH EAST QUEENSLAND REGIONAL FOREST AGREEMENT

#### SOCIAL ASSESSMENT WORKSHOPS

##### Background

The purpose of social assessment is to develop descriptive socio-economic ‘snapshots’ of selected communities which may be affected by the planning and policy decisions to be made as a result of the South East Queensland Regional Forest Agreement. Part of this process involved conducting social assessment workshops, which aimed to highlight community values on a particular issue, and determine the nature and significance of potential social impacts on these communities. The workshops also provided an avenue for community involvement in the social assessment process.

A representative selection of community groups who are involved in forest activities and/or have related interests in forest use and management in the area were invited to the workshops. They included representatives from the timber industry, farm forestry, logging contractors, saw mill employees and saw mill managers, beekeepers, graziers, conservationists, tourism industry, National Parks and Wildlife, Integrated Catchment Management (ICM), landcare, Local government representatives and the Department of Primary Industry–Forestry.

Information collected and gathered at the social assessment workshops will be used as part of the report for the Regional Forest Agreement (RFA) SE 5.3 Case Study Towns. This will in turn be used in the ‘impact assessment phase’ of the RFA, where the social assessment team will draw on the collated information when analysing the potential social impacts of draft options in the social impact assessment phase.

The following describes the issues raised in the social assessment workshop conducted recently. Participants are invited to make comments on the documentation of this write-up, and/or provide any other information that had not been included in this write-up but was raised during the workshop. In particular, dates of significant events were not always recorded. It would be much appreciated if participants could assist us by filling in the gaps.

We would like to thank participants once again for their valuable contribution. If you require further information, please contact Lila-Jo Leaders on (07) 3896 9601, or Bronwen Burke, the Forest Community Coordinator on (07) 3896 9517.

WOODFORD AND THE SURROUNDING AREA: SOCIAL ASSESSMENT WORKSHOP:  
13 MAY 1998

LIST OF CATEGORY OF PARTICIPANTS

Category

Caboolture Shire Council  
Caboolture Shire Council  
Mill manager  
Mill worker  
Contractors  
Grazier  
DPI-Forestry  
Beekeeper  
Conservation  
CR ICM  
Landcare  
Farm forestry

Staff Present:

Bronwen Burke	DPIE
Jim Burgess	DNR
Laurel Johnson	DNR
Lila-Jo Leaders	DNR

3. GENERAL ISSUES

3.1 Introduction of Participant: Some Comments

A number of participants were not residents of Woodford. Some worked in the area while others have business and business connections in the area. Many expressed concerns about the potential impacts of change to the availability and use of forest resources in Woodford on their respective businesses and future employment prospects.

Other non-resident participants are actively involved in the preservation and maintenance of Woodford natural environment and would like to see a balance between conservation values and the continuation of timber industry in the area (vision).

Participants who live in Woodford and the surrounding area appeared to have strong attachment to the area especially in maintaining current rural lifestyle and values.

Representatives from local and relevant government departments were invited to provide information and/or clarification to participants on matters relating to their fields and areas of expertise (for example, human service provision, forestry issues, etc.)

## Other General Issues

Time constraints: Participants indicated that the two hour period allocated for the workshop was insufficient given that issues relating to RFA are very important issues and have the potential to affect their future and that of their community.

Concerns about the possibility of further Federal government constraints in the RFA process for example, not responding to extension of time until IFMA is signed.

Radius of the assessed area. Some participants suggested that future assessment workshops should encompass not only the immediate Woodford area but also the surrounding area such as the Stanley River Catchment, given that many participants are not living in Woodford, but will still be affected by decisions made for this area.

Questions were raised as to whether the local community will have further opportunity for input into the process.

Some participants raised concerns about community members outside the Woodford area who are likely to be affected by the RFA agreement but are not fully advised about the situation. For example, to date, there has been no public meeting or consultation in areas such as Kilcoy.

The maintenance of current leases. Participant indicated that most people with leases (for example, graziers with permits to State forests) would like to maintain their current leases and not extinguish them.

Compensation issues need to be adequately addressed. Past experience appear to suggest that compensation was inadequate, perceived as a means to 'pay off to disappear'.

Role of media in projecting negative image of the timber industry. There was an acknowledgment within the industry that there is a further need to send out a more positive image of the industry to the general community.

National Forestry Policy Statement (NFPS): According to this Policy Statement... *'In relation to climate change, the Governments acknowledge the need, identified in the National Greenhouse Response Strategy, to manage forests so as to maintain or increase their 'carbon sink' capacity and to minimise the emission of greenhouse gases from forest activities' (p.9)*. However, some participants questioned as to how this can be achieved since mature trees require less or extract less Carbon Dioxide from the environment than young actively growing trees. By locking up forests and disallowing mature trees from being cut, the achievement of this objective will be difficult.

## 4. WORKSHOP QUESTIONS

### 4.1 Question 1: *How do you feel about living in Woodford (and the surrounding areas)?*

Positive Aspects:

- Paradise
- Unique
- Positive work ethics among workers – willingness to work hard

- ‘My town’ – Born and bred here and therefore identify strongly with the land and surroundings. I don’t know any difference
- Provide consistent and long term employment for me
- Close knit community – providing support for each other
- Rural community. Close enough to the city without encroaching on our lives – the best of both worlds
- Strong sense of community cohesion
- Proud family heritage
- A good and secure place to raise children
- Rural lifestyle – friendly atmosphere, welcoming to others
- Well served by facilities, for example, community centre, community library
- I see Woodford as being ‘individual’ with its relaxed atmosphere, broad open main street, old timber buildings and timber shop fronts
- Has its own forest based industry

Negative Aspects:

- Diminishing morale due to IFMA. Policies made by bureaucrats affect community’s morale. We have no control about the decisions being made by governments. RFA is seen as a political exercise rather than a scientific one
- Reduced confidence among the community due to uncertainties from RFA, Wik, etc
- Low socio-economic status of the area. This relates to survey results showing the Woodford area has a lower average family income, higher number of pensioners payments on unemployment benefits than some other areas of the Shire
- Unacceptably high unemployment
- Few jobs opportunities
- No new industries
- Loss of young people
- Area being developed too quickly – changing from rural environment to suburbia

Question 1: *How do you feel about living in Woodford or the surrounding areas?*

Negative Aspects:

- New people coming into the area leading to increase pressure on existing services and higher unemployment
- Lack of transport
- Cut back in forest areas meant that fewer number of people can be employed in forestry/timber
- No local based human/social services in Woodford –
- Although there is strong social network in the community, which provides support to those needing help, some issues require independent and professional services. In this case, social networks are inappropriate given the close nature of the community and the need for privacy and confidentiality for those affected.

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

Question 2: *What have been the most significant events in your community since 1980, and how has the community managed these events?*

Date	Events
	Mill Closures (Kilcoy, Jimna, Yedina, Witta, Elimbah) due to declaration of 2 national parks. Consequently: People drifted away Closure of services Businesses required to restructure and adapt to changes No control over decisions made by governments Community feels the need to 'soldier on' given that most businesses in the area are family-owned and run – Loss of employment and difficulties in finding alternative employment
1992/3	Closure of Cheese Factory: Reduced employment opportunities particularly for young people. Young people recognised the need for education to improve their employment prospects
Ongoing	Dairy Industry decline
1992	Closure of Woodford Corrective Centre: Closure led to many jobs being lost
Ongoing	Allocation cuts affecting local economies and other industries relying on forest resources. Also caused employment opportunities to diminish
Ongoing	Change of land use. Conversion to rural residential – brought new and different people into the area
Ongoing	Annual Show: Great local event. Well organised
1994	Beerburum Fires which impacted on local economies. Responses from fire services and community to deal with the situation brought community closer together
Ongoing	Threat to Kilcoy Abattoirs: Workers accepted pay cuts in order that the abattoirs remain open and viable. The sacrifice made by workers highlighted the concerns and willingness to maintain the viability of the area
1995/96	Relocation of Folk 'Feral' festival to Woodford creates temporary employment puts Woodford on the map potential uses of State forests as a base for other events
1997	Reopening of the Woodford Corrective Centre: The new building provided local jobs during construction; and employment and services provision since Spring 1997
	ADP Forests decision to quit their interest in local plantation pine: Sold to CSR for woodchips to Japan Land sold to developers for rural residential development. This was accompanied by major changes to the Caboolture Shire Council's Strategic Land Use Plan, allowing this development to expand the town area (and population) considerably

#### 4.3 VISIONS

Question 3: *What are some of the visions you have for your town/community in the future? How will these contribute to the local area?*

- Expanded forest base for timber production given that demand for timber is still increasing:
  - Hardwood key to future through Crown involvement but particularly private.
- Mosaic plantation.
- Security/certainty to permit long term planning
- A secure forest resource base
- 20 year Regional Forest Agreement with adequate compensation for those affected
- NO lost of forest areas due to RFA
- To be a productive community for our kids, jobs and future
- To be a self-sufficient town
- Maintain rural character of Woodford
- Use of forests for tourism for example, Wauchope (timber town), horse and wagon

- Become the wood chopping capital of Queensland
- Diversification into other industries, for example, winery and cottage industries
- Develop non-polluting industries to assist with employment opportunities
- Develop alternative opportunities in keeping with environmental guidelines and perspective
- That conservation considerations will prevail over economic rationalism or we won't have a future anyway
- We need to have a positive vision for healthy economic growth. We have ample forest resources to be able to do so
- When a community sees positive things happening around them, they are encouraged to be more active themselves. When there is doom and gloom, it flows through the whole community
- I am not a visionary, just a worker
- Many rural lots being planted to hardwoods under joint venture program
- The reopening of forest areas not only for logging but also as a tourist attraction
- To have more value adding products
- Expansion of areas being forested
  - Gullies to protect water catchments
  - Trees for timber production

## 5. HYPOTHETICAL RESOURCE SCENARIOS

5.1 Scenario 1: *What would happen to Woodford and the surrounding area if there were no change in forest use and management as it has been for the last few years?*

<b>Positive Impacts</b>	<b>Negative Impacts</b>
Increase value adding opportunities (profit)	No incentive to change and grow
Investment expansion	Lack of further investment: no job opportunities created
Job creation and employment potential	No security provided to industry, so families will get out as soon as they can see their way clear to do so
Unique resource/products e.g. Blackbutt peeling/plying	Prevent the timber industry from expanding
Access to Manuka honey –'medi-honey'	The 'slow' changes would continue and the industry would eventually go broke except for the few big ones. This slow change to the industry would result in management improvements, capital investment, re-investment, and value adding options
Limits transport cost particularly for beekeepers	Community becoming increasingly urbanised over time
Guaranteed certainty	
Silviculture opportunity	
Forests will be well managed. Existing national parks are poorly managed	
Stay as it has been except for the big ones	
Need for coordination of increased output with higher recovery of 'wood' into timber products will be recognised	
At least we would not be so worried about what is going to happen	
Pressure to diversify timber product markets	
Improve community health	

5.2 Scenario 2: *What do you think would happen to Woodford and the surrounding area if there was a decrease in the availability of State forest resources?*

Positive impacts	Negative impacts
None	Closure of businesses and winding down of current sawmill operations
Opportunity to show that conservation and timber production can coexist (when RFA is signed)	Loss of employment
End of conflict between members of community – if it (RFA) works	Despondency across the whole area
Could be opportunity for phased change	Loss of potential
Provided adequate compensation, including access to support programs are well managed (unlike Fraser Island), the exercise is an opportunity to show that it is possible, to achieve the objectives of the Agreement.	Could be a 'cliff face' situation
End of conflict if the RFA processes work.	Increased carbon dioxide. Matured trees absorb less carbon dioxide from the atmosphere than growing forests. In order to increase carbon dioxide absorption, young trees must be allowed to grow. Selective cutting of matured will greatly assist the process
	Inequity of outcomes for small players (less efficient players)
	Marginalise the future of our products and the local timber industry with consequent pressure on families to leave and seek alternative employment
	The final kick in the guts
	The process would be seen to be ineffectual and people would not be prepared to make further inputs into the planning process.
	Breakdown of social structure

5.3 Scenario 3: *What do you think would happen to Woodford and the surrounding area if there was an increase in dedicated conservation estate?*

Positive Impacts	Negative Impacts
Would require additional private forests. Existing State forests are already being managed for conservation values.	More land but with insufficient funds to manage properly
Would make the 'greenies' happy.	Increase in noxious weeds, fire, feral animals
Some local businesses will suffer, but others will benefit.	Lack of understanding of conservation values in conservation estate particularly among those in the timber industry. Currently logging practices in Queensland differ from other states, ie. selective logging rather than clearfelling – different outcomes
An opportunity would be provided to show that forestry and conservation could coexist, not be polarised forever.	Reduced overall employment opportunities for timber industry employees.
Would allow DPI-Forestry trees to grow more efficiently	Community use and access to forests decreases over time
	Further deterioration within the production and conservation debate within the community
	Loss of investment.

## Appendix 10. Wondai RFA Committee Meeting 22/1/1998 Minutes

### MEETING MINUTES FROM WONDAI RFA COMMITTEE

Meeting at the RSL in Wondai on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 1998

Present for Wondai RFA Committee (WRFAC):

Percy Iszlaub, Allan Keates, Ken Wardrop, Laurie Gardener, Laurie Martin, Michael Hedges, Mike Boison, Neil Smith

Present for RFA Team:

Laurel Johnson – Social Planner, Dept. Natural Resources (DNR) Queensland

Ellie Bock – Researcher/Social Planner Dept. Primary Industries and Energy (DPIE)  
Commonwealth

Apologies: Glenn Steinhardt, Bill Curran, Winston Burrows.

#### MAIN POINTS:

- WRFAC awaiting the outcome of IMA decision on SF 12
- Preliminary social and survey data distributed and discussed
- Request for additional explanation of the Forest and Timber Industry Employee Surveys to mill workers
- Proston data collection to proceed further and to contribute to the development of a historical case study of the town

Introduction of the Agenda which was accepted by meeting participants.

Minutes from initial WRFAC – RFA Team meeting (18/12/97) circulated and briefly outlined by Ellie Bock. A couple of corrections on titles and change of names. Otherwise no objection held to these minutes.

SF 12: In a few weeks a decision may be announced on the IMA position on SF 12. The IMA decision is an interim decision that will hold until the conclusion of the RFA process. Additional information on the decision, if known, will be available from Alf Said, Project Manager SEQ RFA in a couple of weeks' time.

*Laurie Gardener:* IMA had to be made to ensure allocation from within AZ for species mix purpose.

*Percy Iszlaub:* Wondai asked that the IMA adhere to AZs throughout the process.

*Laurie Gardener:* At the moment there is a stalemate between the State and the Commonwealth, and individual negotiations are happening with major players.

*Percy Iszlaub:* The activeness of this Committee has resulted in an exchange of letters at the Ministerial level. Wondai Shire Council has sent a letter to DNR asking that all angles be considered and referring to the meeting of the WRFAC.

Social Data: Introduction to the paper compiled on data collected to date for the Wondai area and the preliminary social values survey results. Presentation of a copy of the Environment and

Behaviour report prepared by Dr Mark Fenton on the social values telephone survey. There was concern raised that policy decisions may be influenced by people not from the local community.

Comments on Surveys: With reference to Forest and Timber Industry Employees, concern about the interpretation of the last few questions was raised. Laurel undertook to brief Wondai mill workers the next day about the survey and briefly explain questions.

Details about Proston: from Mike Boison  
In Proston's heyday there was:

- a butter factory (which then became the stockfeed mill, run by the same company)
- sawmill (commenced 1949)
- three garages, two of which were car dealerships
- 2 banks
- 2 butchers
- 1 baker
- the railway station personnel (6 railway men and 3 workers incl. station master)
- 2 billiard salons
- a picture theatre
- permanent Dairy Officer
- 1 dairy (whose owners also owned hardware store)
- resident chemist
- 2 general stores
- 2 drapers
- an electrical shop (also undertaking repairs)
- 1 pub
- newsagency
- sports store
- barber
- dentist
- 3 cafes
- 2 stock and station suppliers
- saw mill with 30 permanent workers and around 100 associated workers
- weekly stock sales

Now in Proston there is:

- no butcher
- no baker
- 1 pub
- newsagency
- visiting chemist once a week
- small café
- 1 general store (which holds no bulk and is only a convenience store)
- 1 fruit shop

Although there have been many farms in the surrounding areas, depression in the farm sector saw many farmers coming to work at sawmill.

Additional Proston details available from:

Bill Brown (manager of the butter factory and then of the feed mill)

Phone number: (07) 4685681 lives at Tingoora

**AGREED ACTIONS:**

- Laurel Johnson and Ellie Bock to further follow up on Proston as a case study of a mill closure and resultant community impacts, interviews conducted with Jack Hedges and to be held with Percy Iszlaub
- Laurel and Ellie to follow up Gordon Buchanan and arrange a focus group at Proston (if preferred location)
- Neil Smith to meet with Laurel Johnson and Ellie Bock to discuss and review WRFAC surveys
- Laurel and Ellie to attend mill and brief workers on the mill workers survey
- No time set for next meeting, await the outcome of IMA decision on SF 12

## **Appendix 11 Wondai RFA Committee Meeting 18/12/1998 Minutes**

### **WONDAI RFA COMMITTEE MEETING**

Wondai RSL 18/12/97 5pm – 7.45pm

Present for Wondai RFA Committee (WRFAC):

A. Keates, W. H. Curran, Ken Wardrop, Michael Hedges, J. Porter, N. Smith, M. Boison, K. Heritage, L. Martin, P. Iszlaub, L. Gardener, Winston Burrows. Various apologies tendered from those unable to attend.

Present for RFA Team:

Laurel Johnson – Social Planner, Dept Natural Resources (DNR), State

Ellie Bock – Researcher/Social Planner Dept Primary Industries & Energy (DPIE), C'wlth

#### **MAIN ISSUES IDENTIFIED BY WRFAC**

- The fundamental role of Forestry in the history, development and future vision of Wondai,
- The proximity of SF 12 to Wondai township has given the community a sense of custodianship and stewardship toward SF 12, and intimate knowledge of SF 12's users and management needs,
- The continual operation of Wondai mill is integral to the continuation of Wondai township itself, and
- Associated to the above outlined relationship is the significance of SF 12 to the mill and therefore of SF 12 to Wondai.

Welcome and Introductions – Percy Iszlaub, Mayor of Wondai Shire Council (WSC)

Discussion of Agenda – Laurel Johnson (L.J.)

The Agenda (see attached copy) was adopted by the Committee and meeting attendees.

General discussion followed on the formation, aims and current undertakings of the WRFAC.

The WRFAC has been formed recently in response to a public meeting on the SEQ RFA held in Wondai in September 1997. The WRFAC draws its participants from Wondai Shire Council (WSC), Murgon Shire Council, the Wondai Chamber of Commerce (COC) and local businesses. Key participants include councillors, sawmill owners and employees, mill contractors, motel proprietor, bank manager (NAB), the Chair of the COC, food store and groceries business proprietors (serving the forest industry and its workers), CEO of Murgon Shire Council, seed business proprietor, Wondai fuel depot proprietor. Other participants not present at the meeting include the deputy CEO of WSC and DNR – Forestry personnel from Murgon District office. It was stated that this committee should be recognised as an open and public committee.

Currently this committee is undertaking a survey of business and social life in Wondai to gather information and data specific to Wondai, hopefully this would be available in early to mid-January 1998. The survey is being coordinated by Neil Smith on behalf of the WRFAC. This undertaking was seen as a local level initiative, working from forest user businesses and employees to local businesses, service providers and suppliers.

General discussions on meeting objectives (see attached copy) were undertaken and there was general agreement on these.

### Community Consultation

L.J. detailed the contents of Information Package for the WRFAC, which included copies of:

- RFA Scoping Agreement
- Overheads (RFA explanatory and SA/SIA specific)
- RFA Info Kit
- List of Reference Panel members
- List of Steering Committee members
- Outline of Socio-economic (S.E) projects (CRA/RFA)
- Post Impact Studies Analysis (PISA – Project SE 5.1)
- Regional Social Profile (RSP – Project SE 5.2)
- (3) Social Surveys (Projects SE 5.3 and SE 5.4)

Discussion on timeframes, as WRFAC expressed concern with timeframe as set at present. L.J. explained the (QLD) State's concern about timeframes, mentioning the Premier's letter to the Commonwealth seeking re-negotiation of timeframes for RFA sign-off.

L.J. outlined the current SA and SIA projects being undertaken, outlined the communication strategy, project management (roles and functions of Technical Committees, Expert Panel, Reference Panel and Steering Committee) and current assessment projects. Briefly mentioned the current discussions on possible future sub-regional forums and/or RFA liaison officers.

L.J. outlined the extent of community consultation to date, explaining the aims and strategies of the three (3) social surveys currently being compiled, and the role and input of the Reference Panel into this process. Face to face surveys with mills (ABARE), two (2) workshops with beekeepers and the telephone survey (2000 participants appropriately dispersed throughout SEQ) completed to date.

Current Community Consultation: see RFA Consultation Program – Assessment Process OHP (attached).

Responses from WRFAC to the above outlined:

- good response to literacy strategy re. Mill Employee survey (Ken Wardrop – mill worker)
- concern expressed about lack of consultation with local businesses, not all businesses had been approached at this stage of our survey.
- SEQ RFA Information Package seen as being 1 – 2 months late (Neil Smith). *L.J.: RFA Info Kit itself in production for 6 months, due to the need for consultation with stakeholders.*
- Do assessments influence lines on maps or are these lines on maps already set? *L.J.: Assessment needs to feed into decision-making process and the Geographical Information System (GIS) tool*

- No research undertaken for the Interim Management Arrangement (IMA)? *L.J.: IMA proposed and fundamentally based on the science (muid by muid) through the use of vegetation maps and herbarium maps.*
- State Forest (SF) included in IMA, all access except logging granted. One forest in particular; SF 12, if included in the RFA will mean an estimated 90 per cent loss of resource for the Wondai mill, and is seen as absolutely crucial to the mill's continued operations.

Alternatives to the current SEQ RFA approach are desired by WRFAC, amongst these:

- an increased positive attitude from decision-makers towards the timber industry, and
- the discussion of hardwood plantation options, eg.: the use of Crown land to establish hardwood plantations

## 1. WONDAI TOWNSHIP – SELF PERCEPTION

- Forestry heritage seen as integral to the future development and on-going life in Wondai.
- Current forest management seen as being very good, SF 12 wood would be milled close to the harvest site for maximum benefit to the community in the local area – the IMA/RFA process is seen as being directly opposite to these practices.
- Wondai is seen as an integral part of Queensland and of Australia, the Wondai community sees itself as having strong community ties and heritage values.
- Establishment of the township is seen as a community effort, not one undertaken by government.
- Infrastructure expansion and contraction costs carried by Wondai public and the Shire Council, which believes it has an obligation to come together with the public and investors.
- Other public efforts are crucial to the town, including initiatives like Main Street and extending help within the community in difficult or crisis times. Recently the Kindergarten seemed about to fold, however the Council provided financial support and budget training which saw this crucial service continue.
- Private landholders wanting to manage their tree resources in a similar way to forestry – ask for management advice from logging contractors, and are interested in long term planning strategies, and have expressed a fear of losing harvesting rights on private land. Trees on private land are seen as a very valuable resource in the local area. Values of timber stands are seen as an integral part of property value, i.e:           milling = income                   trees = asset
- The Wondai community expect compensation for any loss of income through a change in state forest resource use, this applies to the mill and mill workers as well as to the general business community. There is recognition that there are precedents for such compensation in Queensland.
- A change in state native forest resource use which impacts on the primary employer in town is seen to have a major multiplier effect on Wondai's highly integrated local economy.
- Wondai sees itself as a bush community, greatly affected by city-based (political) decisions (fuel, guns, Native Title (Wik)) and more so than urban areas.
- There is currently a Native Title claim (QC 97/60) by the Wakka Wakka and Jindi people on areas in the vicinity of Wondai. This claim was submitted to the National Native Title Tribunal (NNTT) on 5<sup>th</sup> December 1997 (it has been verified by the NNTT that claim QC 97/60 was submitted and that it has been lodged with the NNTT).

## 2. HISTORICAL OVERVIEW OF FORESTRY ASSOCIATION & THE MILL

- Wondai township was established as part of SF 101 in 1903. The economy of the town has always been centred on forestry and the mill. Specific forestry management techniques have ensured a continuity of supply. The mill has a high recovery rate and is engaged in value-adding processes such as planing and timber impregnation treatment plant.

- The mill is seen as integral to Wondai, it is seen as (the most) stable part of the community, it is seen as transcending generations with young people coming into jobs at the mill after their parents and is seen to be keeping rural futures a viable option for young people (keeping them within their home community).
- The mill is seen as the economic centre of the town and is providing stability for the town into the future, e.g: through exporting products to other parts of Australia, New Zealand and Japan.
- The mill currently has 26 direct employees and 4 working directors. This number of permanent employees could not be created in rural communities through previous industry initiatives.
- Investment by the mill into milling technology has not been committed to date due to uncertainty engendered by the IMA and RFA processes. An investment of \$250 000 was made to update the mill's hardwood milling technology to the highest standards (with most of this money spent in local towns), however it is seen as necessary that this technology be updated again in order to be able to compete in intensely competitive national and international markets, and in order to fulfil marketing commitments established over the past 2 years.
- The mix of species (especially spotted gum) is seen as vital to the mill's operations and to the viability of continued supply to market demand. This has seen the evolution of a specialised product line, and given the time needed to solidify export exchange, is starting to bear fruit. For this to be continued, long term supply is seen as being crucial for the mill's future.
- The bulk of the mill's expenditure is estimated to be spent within Wondai's local economy.
- Specific to the IMA restrictions excluding the Wondai mill from harvesting in SF 12, the mill states that its required supply can be covered only for the next 12 months. After that period, access to SF 12 is seen as essential for the continued viability of the mill.
- Further, the mill views SF 12 as being species mix specific and close to the mill.
- There is a high expectation of compensation for not being allowed access to a SF where a sale has already been purchased, this is seen as applicable to the Wondai mill.

### 3. STATE FOREST 12 (SF 12)

SF 12 is located on the fringe of Wondai township. Sale documents were drawn up 30 years ago. There are no other certain Crown resources, as all other sales in the area have been worked over. SF 12 is seen by WRFAC as the future of the mill, if prior to IMA/RFA process the mill had applied for increase in allocation, on forestry advice, this would have been granted. There is a historical association of the mill to SF 12, with periodic well-managed access since the forestry was established in Wondai in 1907.

SF 12 was included in the IMA initially due to the belief that a rare species existed there (black wattle), leading to a reduction of sale and later total exclusion. This was scientifically discredited and another reason was stated-based on a perception that SF 12 had retained a sufficient 'high natural value' to warrant protection under IMA. However local forest users and bush fire officials maintain that this is deceptive, and that a rigorous fire regime and good management practices were the main reason for this 'high natural value'. The area had been logged for some time and it is claimed that inspection has proved no real rarity factor.

Winston Burrows stated that the maintenance of a rigorous fire regime was crucial to the safety of Wondai itself. He stated that in the past an area to the immediate south of the town had developed into a severe fire hazard due to 24 years of no fire management. Similar fears were held for SF 12 if the area were locked up for conservation purposes with no fire management regime. WRFAC maintains that if the SF 12 IMA decision is not reversed, the mill, the community and all social life will be affected.

SF 12 has been used to source poles, girder sales (also to NSW), fence posts and stockyard/round timbers for communities to the west and by beekeepers. SF 12 was last cut approx. 18/19 years ago. Currently there is no stock grazing activity except by Cherbourg residents, who use the SF predominantly for stockhandling training and educational purposes, over the past 3 years a tick eradication program in the area has led to the de-stocking of the SF. There is some recreational use of the SF by bird watchers, but no real use by bushwalkers and campers.

One of the biggest current users of SF 12 is the Australian Army, which uses the Wondai Rifle Range on an on-going basis. Seen as one of the best equipped rifle ranges in Queensland, it is used as a permanent base for the reserve forces of the 24<sup>th</sup> and 49<sup>th</sup> Battalions (Toowoomba /Brisbane Gatton UQ Regiment). The Army uses SF 12 for continual training as well as annual camps, with a permanent communications group active in the area. All these personnel utilise forestry tracks and the area is seen as providing good training scope and terrain. Also, the training grounds in SF 12 are adjacent to the hospital. Communication between Army personnel and logging contactors is good. The Rifle Club, Army and Forestry have an agreed set of rules for the area.

Other users include permit holders for fishing and bushwalking (available from Forestry) and private citizens with fuel wood licences

## THE LOCAL ECONOMY IN THE WONDAI AREA – FIVE EXAMPLES

### 1. Local Shoppers survey 1996

Conducted by Kevin Heritage, proprietor of the local food store in Wondai. The survey is based on the number of individual customers (2320) during one week in 1996 (norm being upward of 2200 p/wk).

*Highest proportion of shoppers in order of dominant category:*

- pensioners
- farmers
- social security recipients
- health workers
- sawmillers.

Of these, sawmillers were represented by approx. 19 families shopping per week, with an average sale of \$16.00 per total purchase. This accounted for an estimated 9% of the total volume spent per annum (\$175, 000 per annum).

*A lot of people shop outside of Wondai, those most loyal to Wondai were:*

- the Aboriginal people of the area
- pensioners
- blue collar workers

Must be realised that prices are dictated by wholesalers. If mill were to close, turnover reduces and prices will rise. This will have a snowball effect as other businesses may close or leave town as a result of residents shopping elsewhere.

### 2. Wondai Fuel Depot at present

The proprietor of the Wondai Fuel Depot Winston Burrows, estimates that his business will lose \$250 000 per annum should the mill close, with 2 jobs lost out of 5 jobs in total. If the depot were to close as a result of the mill closing, a further 4 families would be directly affected, job and

income-wise. This depot is the sole bulk fuel outlet in Wondai and any negative impact on its operations will have flow on effects for all fuel users eg: farmers, businesses, residents etc.

### 3. Meatworks near Wondai in the 1990s

There is a medium sized meatworks near Wondai that provides employment for a number of workers. These meatworks are subject to periodic shut down, and the community of Wondai acutely feels the loss of purchasing power that these employees have when the meatworks are not in operation. In addition the Wondai business community states that even a small decrease in average sales (such as those bought on by the fluctuating operations of the meatworks) has a substantial effect on overall turnover.

### 4. Closure of Proston Sleeper Mill in early 1960s

The closure of the Proston sleeper mill in the immediate vicinity of Wondai in the 1960s, was seen to have had a severe impact on the Wondai Shire. The Proston mill drew its resource from surrounding forests areas including “Melrose”, a sleeper harvesting area in SF 246. The cessation of many businesses in Proston town immediately after closure of the sleeper mill is seen by the local community as a historical example of what may happen in Wondai were the mill forced to close.

### 5. Local Multiplier Effects – Experiences of a Seed Distributor in the present

A local agricultural business distributes seed and agricultural supplies to the Wondai area. The viability of this business is enhanced through regular back-loading with the mill, ie: the mill transports its products to Brisbane and on the return trip agricultural supplies are brought to Wondai. This arrangement is seen as beneficial to both businesses – both state that they would have increased transport costs if the full cost of a return trip applied for each run. These local interlinkages are reinforced in another example given by the same seed distributor. Previously there was a tractor dealership across the road from his business whose customer’s conveniently purchased agricultural supplies from him on the same trip into town. When the dealership closed those customers often took their business to the locality of the nearest tractor dealership (outside of Wondai) and the impact was felt by his business, the seed distributor stating that this impact was greater than the drought, greater than the fall in commodity prices and greater than (multinational) agribusiness expansion.

### OTHER ISSUES

- Resourcing for WRFAC to undertake social research
- Agreement for WRFAC and RFA Team to share data

### **AGREED ACTIONS**

- RFA Team to distribute draft minutes of Focus Group to Neil Smith and Percy Iszlaub for their review
- RFA Team to return to Wondai late January 1998 to interview people re: Proston mill closure and to further inquire into Wondai mill/community dependency
- Neil Smith to supply RFA Team with list of contactors to the Wondai mill

## Appendix 12 Closure of the Proston Sleeper Mill

### PROSTON SLEEPER MILL (PSM)

Information and data collected from conversations with:

- Jack Hedges (22/1/98)
- Percy Iszlaub (23/1/98)

*Jack Hedges (22/1/98)*

Jack Hedges stated that he and his brothers were contactors employed by the Proston Sleeper Mill (PSM) and that the mill closed completely on 20<sup>th</sup> February 1970. His recollection was that this shutdown occurred gradually and not overnight. Approximately 8–10 years prior to the 1970 shutdown there was an indication that the mill had become unviable economically due to the costs to Railways of employing workers via using private contractors.

Jack Hedges has undertaken roading and cutting work in the Gronga/Planet Creek area, and sourced timber from the forest area called ‘Melrose’ and from private supply. The area in which the Wondai mill has been cutting (SF12) was cut in the 1950s to supply the PSM. Jack Hedges maintains that if used well, forestry can be a long term resource over generations.

The PSM was a ‘railway mill’ owned and operated by Queensland Rail for the exclusive production of sleepers for the railways. The mill used a mix of species including ironbark and various eucalypts. The mill was constructed so that sleepers produced could be directly deposited on the rails for further distribution. Queensland Rail then privatised the mill for economic reasons, the land on the railhead could be used for sleeper production, it being cheaper than the land where the established mill was situated.

In its heyday the PSM employed 40 men in the ‘big’ mill and about 16 men on the portable mills, with 20 relatively permanent contactors supplying the mills. The mill had about 37 trucks carting small quantities of timber and processed around 600 sleepers per day. The average day’s pay was based on a timber workers ‘quota’ of 15 pieces (sleepers) per man. Initially the majority of the mill’s supply came from freehold land (landowners clearing land), over time the mill’s supply of timber has come from both State Forests and private sources. The PSM was located in the centre of Proston. The present abandoned site has become a park and is located across the street from Proston State School. Most workers lived in government housing (supplied by the Railways) which was very basic, often these dwellings were self improved substantially over many years. Nearly all the workers and contractors working at the PSM lived in the town of Proston. The town had a grain store, a primary school, shops and a butcher. When the PSM closed contractors and workers left. Jack Hedges said that after it became clear that the PSM would close he moved to Wondai, initially carting timber to both Proston and Wondai, and then working for the Wondai Saw and Planing Mill.

A number of the PSM workers moved onto construction work at the new Boondooma Dam site, located just outside Proston, which saw some of them through to retirement. Jack Hedges is of the opinion that the Dam put Proston ‘back on it’s feet again’, and that the next generation of people will keep Proston going. By this is meant the influx of people into the region during the past 15 to 20 years, with an increase in the number of ‘blockies’ settling in the area. Despite the lack of industry in the area there has been little change in the population of the area, although there has been perceptible demographic change (ie. the perception that Proston has changed from a ‘man’s

town to a family town). The Murgon – South Burnett meatworks also provide for some employment in the area.

The main industry currently supporting Proston is the cattle industry. Cattle farms are handed down through families over the generations, and grain growing and wine cultivation are seen as possible future industries.

*Percy Iszlaub, Mayor of Wondai 23/1/98*

In conversation with Percy Iszlaub the above information gained from conversation with Jack Hedges was briefly gone over and summarised. Percy Iszlaub re-iterated the importance of constructing the Boondooma Dam and the establishment of the Murgon – South Burnett meatworks to the survival of Proston, as well as the crucial role of the political intervention to extend the life of the PSM for a further 5–7 years (early 1960's to 1970). In addition the support of Proston township by the Wondai Shire Council (WSC), and its investment in infrastructure and financial assistance have been fundamental to the on-going viability of Proston.

In late January 1998 there is to be discussion between WSC and the Queensland Premier at the Wondai history launch, about the future of the possibility of increased accommodation (recreational) facilities for tourism at the Dam. It is the intention of WSC to increase the capacity of the campsites and facilities at the Dam by two thirds (2/3rds), present capacity is around 100 persons. There is also a proposal to construct cabins and health and sanitation facilities at the Dam, due in the main to the high number of visitors to the area at Christmas and New Year. During this peak time there is a substantial overflow of visitors (and locals) into adjacent and neighbouring private properties, which although illegal is accepted. There are also plans to erect caretaker facilities, hire outlets and a kiosk in the vicinity of the camping area. At present Proston offers only limited accommodation to visitors at the pub, and limited services (eg. convenience store and petrol).

Boondooma Dam was established to supply the Tarong Power Station. This power station initially supplied one third (1/3rd) of Queensland's electricity (at present 28 – 30%) and was seen as the best dam site in South Burnett (first looked at in early settlement times 1850, had a huge gorge and a junction just before the present dam wall). The Dam was opened on 30/9/83 and was first filled on 2/5/83 – it took only seven days for the Dam to reach capacity from this date.

WSC would like to see the Dam become a major tourist attraction in the region and is working in conjunction with the South Burnett Regional Tourism Body. There is an annual fishing competition with around 800 entries and over 1000 people visiting the Dam over the weekend of the competition. This generates some revenue for Proston.

WSC has seen the need to be pro-active in Proston and sees its actions as desperate and remedial. The only bank building left in Proston has recently been bought by WSC and converted into a local library, there are no banking facilities in Proston at present. Proston itself has suffered a significant downturn over the past 4 years. This is seen as a very severe second recession after the first due to the PSM's closure. The main cause for this second recession was seen to be the closure of the town's stock feed mill and seed distributor 4 to 5 years ago. The hardware store that was associated with the feed mill closed within a year of this. At present Proston has:

- no bakery
- no bank

- no general store.

The Proston bus proprietor, initially subsidised by Woolworths from Kingaroy operates a free service for shoppers from Proston via Murgon, Wondai to Kingaroy. There has been a direct impact on Proston and Wondai (less of an impact on Murgon).

Despite these retail and rural infrastructure losses, WSC feels that Proston can become a 'comfortable lifestyle place'. For example in Proston a Queenslander can be bought for around \$25 000, whilst in Wondai a similar house would cost around \$45 000 to \$50 000. In particular WSC would like to see those that have become disillusioned or tired of city life coming to Proston for the 'quiet country life', which is seen as attractive to city people. Proston has a golf club and course and a new community swimming pool. Gardens Estate development (with town water) has recently been established to cater for the possible growth in rural residential demand.

Food prices in Wondai are within 3 per cent of food prices in Queensland (Kevin Heritage, Wondai food store). South Burnett has the ability to buy like Toowoomba and Sunshine Coast. Wondai lacks professional services, used to have a dentist and a solicitor, both of whom left 6 to 7 years ago. Wondai now only has a visiting solicitor. Wondai also needs to maintain its population otherwise it will lose its birthing clinic (the only one outside of Kingaroy in the South Burnett region) and its x-ray unit. The school's population is also very tenuous, any significant change may see the school lose staff and further restriction on circular. The mill is seen as crucial to the school's future.

## REFERENCES

### From Chapter Two

- Cooloola Regional Development Bureau (1997) *Profile of Cooloola Shire*. Cooloola Regional Development Bureau: Gympie.
- Harvey, L. (1988) *Pioneers and Progress*. Woocoo Historical Society: Brooweena.
- Holthouse, H. (1973) *Gympie Gold*. Angus and Robertson: Sydney.
- Kerr, J. (1998) *Forest Industry Heritage Places Study: Sawmills and Tramways South Eastern Queensland (Draft)*. Department of Environment: Brisbane.
- Kowald, M. (1998) *Historical Overview of the South East Queensland Biogeographic Region with particular reference to forested areas*. Department of Environment: Brisbane.
- Loyau, G.E. (1897) *The History of Maryborough*. Pole, Outridge and Co.: Sydney
- McDonald, L. (1988) *Gladstone... City that waited*. Boolarong Publications: Brisbane.
- Maryborough, Wide Bay and Burnett Historical Society (1976) *A History of Maryborough*.: The Historical Society. Maryborough.
- Mathews, T. (1995) *River of Dreams—A history of Maryborough and District*. Maryborough City Council: Maryborough
- Murphy, J.E and Easton, E.W (1950) *Wilderness to Wealth*. Smith and Patterson: Brisbane.
- Powell, J. (1998) *Travel Routes, Forest Towns and Settlements (Draft)*. Department of Environment: Brisbane.
- Fraser Coast –South Burnett Regional Tourism Board (1996) *Touring the Burnett*. Vol 12.
- Woodford State School. (1953) *Woodford Settlement – Development*. Woodford: s.n..

### From Chapter Three

- Beaudesert Shire Council *Strategic Plan Part A* 1996
- Beaudesert shire Council *Corporate Plan 1995/99*
- Calliope Shire Council *Corporate and Operational Plan* Draft version 4.1 (undated)
- Cooloola Shire Council *Draft Planning Scheme* (undated)
- Cooloola Shire Council *Corporate Plan 1997–2002/Operational Plan 1997–1998*
- Cooloola Regional Development Bureau *Profile of Cooloola Shire* 1997
- Council of the Shire of Esk *Corporate Plan 1995–1998*

Development Control Plan No. 2 Cooroy Qld. Govt. Gazette, 5 June 1992 No. 55 pp981–986

Duaranga Shire *Community Service Directory and Tourist Guide* 1997

Esk Shire Council Long Term Community Plan 1998  
[http://www.peg.apc.org/~esk/planning\\_Itcp.htm](http://www.peg.apc.org/~esk/planning_Itcp.htm)

Maroochy Shire Council *Corporate Plan 1997–2000*

Maroochy Shire Council *Strategic Plan* 1996

Maryborough City Council *Corporate Plan 1997–2002*

Noosa Shire *Strategic Plan* (Gazettal Copy) 1997

Noosa Shire *Corporate Plan* 1996

Town Planning Scheme for the Shire of Calliope Qld. Govt. Gazette 11.4.1991

Town Planning Scheme for the City of Maryborough, Qld. Govt. Gazette 22 December 1990 No. 121 p. 2025–2076

Wondai Shire Council *Corporate Plan 1995–1998*

Wondai Shire *Town Planning Scheme* 1994

Woocoo Shire Council *Corporate Plan 1997–2002/Operational Plan 1997–1998*

## **Sources**

All census based graphs and tables are derived from Cdata91, Cdata96 and IRDB96 using ABS data.

## ABBREVIATIONS

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
CAR	Comprehensive Adequate and Representative
CRA	Comprehensive Regional Assessment
DFYCC	Department of Families, Youth and Community Care
DNR	Department of Natural Resources
DPIE	Department of Primary Industries and Energy
DPI	Department of Primary Industries
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ESFM	Ecological Sustainable Forest Management
FPS	Forest Protection Society
IRDB	Integrated Regional Data Base
LGA	Local Government Area
MDF	Medium Density Fibreboard
RFA	Regional Forest Agreement
SEQ	South East Queensland
SEIFA	Socio-Economic Index for Areas
SIA	Social Impact Assessment
SIAU	Social Impact Assessment Unit