

Regional Vision

This Regional Vision presents a view of what the Wide Bay Burnett region will be like in the future. It has been written as if we have already reached the year 2020.

The elements of the Vision are not listed in order of priority, and each is considered to be of equal importance in the overall Vision for the Wide Bay Burnett.

Our Vision for the Wide Bay Burnett . . .

The quality of our region's relaxed, balanced lifestyle is widely known and distinguishes the Wide Bay Burnett from other places in Queensland and Australia.

It is characterised by ready access to a well managed natural environment which underpins a robust regional economy. This in turn supports better employment opportunities, a range of community services, and a choice of affordable housing options that satisfy the community's needs.

People choose to live in or visit the Wide Bay Burnett because it has a strong sense of community and a distinct identity based on the ability of the region to manage its natural resources, settlement pattern, and economy.

Natural Resource Management in 2020

The use and management of natural resources balances the needs of the population in accordance with the principles of ecologically sustainable development.

The environment has been protected and enhanced as a result of strategic planning and the encouragement of best environmental management practices. This has resulted in safeguarding the quality of our productive soils, air and water, and maintaining the biodiversity of ecosystems.

The wise use of natural resources such as land, water, forests, minerals and fisheries contribute to the prosperity of the region.

People and Settlement in 2020

Developments in the region meet standards of best practice in the design and delivery of community services, utility and transport infrastructure.

Settlement is planned to ensure it is in harmony with natural systems and does not encroach on natural resources that are important to the region's economy and environment.

The region is designed with community security, safety and accessibility in mind.

The Wide Bay Burnett's cultural significance to the indigenous community is recognised and valued, enabling indigenous people to retain their cultural identity and links with culturally significant areas.

The people of Wide Bay Burnett comprise a balanced mix of age, skills and ethnic origin. There is a significant focus on the health and wellbeing of people in the region including appropriate and affordable cultural, recreational and sporting facilities and ready access to good quality health services for all ages from neonatal to the oldest residents and visitors.

Residential and commercial developments are appropriately located and designed to minimise potential impact on the environment, to protect identified good quality agricultural land, to minimise urban sprawl and to maximise opportunities for energy savings.

There remains a choice of lifestyles in the Wide Bay Burnett region, with a balance between rural and urban residential living opportunities at a range of different scales.

The arrangement and density of commercial and residential development is conducive to providing an effective public transport and freight system for the movement of people and goods both within and between centres, and throughout the region.

The richness of the Wide Bay Burnett's heritage is recognised and the conservation of natural features, individual buildings and streetscapes contributes to the character and identity of the region's centres and rural areas.

Innovative service design, the use of technology and a highly integrated approach to service delivery has enhanced access to services throughout the community and has proved to be of great benefit to the rural based community.

The Region's Economy in 2020

The link between a healthy environment and a healthy economy is widely understood and appreciated.

All community members accept that they have significant ownership in the future of the region and willingly contribute their input to local issues. Community groups work co-operatively and collaboratively for the good of the whole region. The extensive expertise of people in the region is used to regularly plan and implement improvements for the region in response to local and world events, both economic and natural.

Opportunities offered by technology have enabled agriculture to diversify to include a wide range of primary production activities and the processing of produce into a range of high quality products for domestic and international consumption.

The region has embraced technology. Communications technology in particular has been instrumental in removing the barriers of distance between the Wide Bay Burnett's people, producers, manufacturers and their markets. All community members are able to access government services and education at all levels on demand and at reasonable cost.

Modern transport systems underpin the efficient movement of the region's people and products within the region and facilitate exports to other destinations in Queensland, Australia and beyond.

Industries based on natural resources, such as forestry and tourism, are also major contributors to the region's wealth. These industries have been developed with particular regard to ensuring that the natural resource systems on which they rely are managed sustainably. Through careful conservation and management, adequate water supplies are available at a reasonable cost to support the region's economy.

There are new opportunities for employment as a result of the region's leaders fostering smart economic development based on the region's competitive advantage, and supported by a greater number of places in higher education and targeted training opportunities.