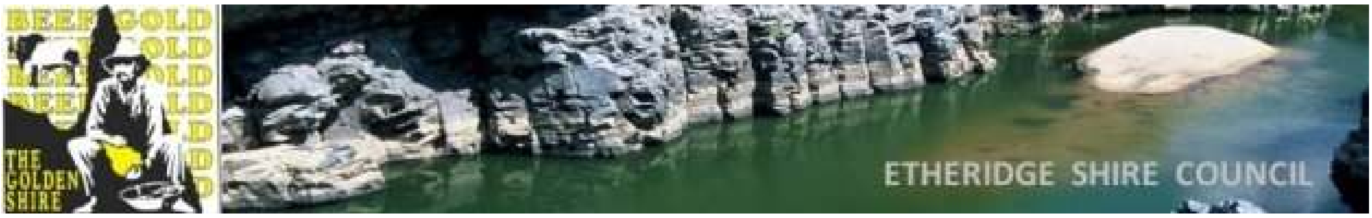


ADDENDUM

Meeting: General Meeting

Date: Wednesday 15th February 2023

Location: **Council Chambers, Georgetown**

Commencing: **9.00am**

Councillors: Cr B Hughes, L Royes, J Haase, T Gallagher, C Barns

Open Session
Addendum Attached

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

CONFIDENTIAL

Local Government Act 2009

The principles (s4(2)) of the Act are:

- Transparent and effective processes, and decision-making in the public interest
- Sustainable development and management of assets and infrastructure, and delivery of effective services
- Democratic representation, social inclusion and meaningful community engagement
- Good governance of, and by, local government
- Ethical and legal behavior of councilors and local government employees

S.275 – Local Government Regulation 2012

275 Closed meetings

(1) A local government or committee may resolve that a meeting be closed to the public if its councillors or members consider it necessary to close the meeting to discuss –

- Appointment, dismissal or discipline of a CEO or a BCC senior executive employee
- Legal advice obtained by the Council or legal proceedings involving the Council
- Matters that may directly affect the health and safety of an individual or group
- Negotiations relating to a commercial matter involving the Council
- Negotiations relating to the taking of land by the Council under the *Acquisition of Land Act 1967*
- A matter required to be kept confidential under a law of, or formal arrangement with, the Commonwealth or a State
- Industrial matters affecting employees
- The Council budget
- Rating concessions

(2) A resolution that a meeting be closed must state the nature of the matters to be considered while the meeting is closed.

(3) A local government or committee must not make a resolution (other than a procedural resolution) in a closed meeting.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

General Meeting	15th February 2023
Subject	Appointment to the Aged Care Advisory Committee
Classification	Open
Author	Andrew McKenzie, Director Corporate Services

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In January 2023, Council accepted a recommendation from the Aged Care Advisory Committee Meeting to call for expressions of interest to fill a vacancy on the Committee.

By the closing date for expressions of interest, only 1 submission had been received, that of Ms Valerie Gray of Forsayth.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council appoint Ms Valerie Gray to the Aged Care Advisory Committee.

BACKGROUND

The Aged Care Advisory Committee is charged with the role of assisting Council to identify and resolve issues affecting aged services within Etheridge Shire. The Committee has been in existence for some years. In recent times, Etheridge Cares has assumed responsibility for Aged Care Services in the Shire, allowing the Committee to focus upon the Georgetown Independent Living Facility for the Aged.

A vacancy recently arose after Colleen Henry resigned from the Committee. The vacancy was advertised late January, with the closing date for expressions of interest closing Friday 10th February. By the closing date, only one EoI had been received – that of Ms Valerie Gray. Ms Gray is a resident of Forsayth and has a keen interest in aged care services.

LINK TO CORPORATE PLAN

Corporate Aim No. 3: Quality Social Infrastructure makes the shire a desirable place to live.

BUDGET & RESOURCE CONSIDERATIONS

N/A

CONSULTATION

Committee Chair, Greg Ryan was consulted in formulating this report & recommendation.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

Nil

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Nil

RISK ASSESSMENT

CONSEQUENCE					
LIKELIHOOD*	**Insignificant 1**	**Minor 2**	**Moderate 3**	**Major 4**	**Catastrophic 5**
A (Almost certain)	H	H	E	E	E
B (Likely)	M	H	H	E	E
C (Possible)	L	M	H	E	E
D (Unlikely)	L	L	M	H	E
E (Rare)	L	L	M	H	H

OUTCOME

Risk is assessed as Low: Likelihood of a risk event is Rare, and the likely consequence is Insignificant

Report Prepared By:	**Report Authorised By:**
Andrew McKenzie, Director Corporate Services	Ken Timms, Chief Executive Officer
Date: 13th February 2023	Date:

Etheridge Shire Council

General Meeting	15th February 2023
Subject	Independent Living Facility and Staff Housing Projects
Classification	Open
Author	Andrew McKenzie

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At its recent briefing Council received a progress update on the Georgetown Independent Living Facility for the Aged and Green Street Staff Housing project. Both projects have reached the point where Council must resolve to formally commit to the next stage for the projects and authorise the Chief Executive Officer to apply for loans to fund their construction.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council: -

1. Commit to the construction of: -
   a. Stage 1 of the Georgetown Independent Living Facility for the Age (6 x 2-bedroom houses); and
   b. Green Street Staff Housing Project (6 by 2 bedroom houses);

   At an estimate total project cost of $6M.

2. Investigate and pursue funding sources for both projects to minimise the cost to ratepayers; and

3. Apply for loans through the Queensland Treasury Corporation to fund the balance of the construction costs.

BACKGROUND

When framing its 2022/23 Budget, Council committed funds to the planning & design stages of the following projects: -

1. Georgetown Independent Living Facility for the Aged, comprising: -
   - A Master Planned, 3 stage (initial) development,
   - Each stage providing for five or six, 2 or 3 bedroom independent living residences.
   - Stage 1 being 6 x 2-bedroom residences.
   - Shared communal facilities in later stages.

2. Green Street Staff Housing, comprising: -
   - 6 x 2-bedroom residences.

At Council's briefing held Wednesday 8th February, Council was informed that both projects had reached the critical point of requiring a decision to proceed to the procurement and construction phase for both projects. Such decision would also require Council's decision upon the number of residences to build and how the projects would be funded, that is, through loans.

LINK TO CORPORATE PLAN

Corporate Aim No. 3: A diversified economic development ensures a prosperous shire.

Outcome 3.1: A variety of land and housing options for the community.

Corporate Aim No. 4: Quality social infrastructure makes the Shire a desirable place to live.

Outcome 4.2: An invigorated community with a variety of multi-age services.

BUDGET & RESOURCE CONSIDERATIONS

Council allocated $1,000,000 in its 22/23 Budget to the Independent Living Facility ($400,000 Council Funds and $100,000 NW Mineral Province grant), and Staff Housing ($500,000). The total costs for both projects is estimated at $6M.

Georgetown Independent Living Facility for the Aged: So far, Council has effectively fully committed / expended the NW Mineral Province grant through, survey, master planning, town planning and legal consultancies. Additional costs have been incurred through civil design and geotechnical consultancies. Preliminary project costs have been estimated, leading to a project budget of $3M to complete stage 1. It is proposed that Council will apply (and hopefully obtain) grant funding, for some of the construction costs to offset Council's contribution to the project. Otherwise Council will be funding the construction through own source revenue and loan funding in the 23/24 budget. The split between grant, own source revenue and loan will be better determined when formulating the 23/24 budget.

Green St Staff Housing Project: Council acquired the land in November 2021. Council allocated $500,000 to 'staff housing' in its 22/23 budget. From this allocation, Council purchased two houses in Low Street. Planning & design costs for the Green Street Staff Housing Project have exceeded the staff housing budget allocation and will be addressed once we perform a budget review. That said, the construction costs for the 6, 2 bedroom residences is also estimated at $3M.

We have identified a number of grant programs that may assist in reducing Council's / ratepayers costs. Dr Sheila Peake (Griffith University) has been engaged to assist with grant applications. While we hope to secure grant funds to reduce our contribution to both projects, Council ought to consider that we may be unsuccessful and may need to fully fund the projects. To this end, we propose that Council apply for a loan to cover most of the capital costs. The final amount of the loan undertaking and Council's own source revenue contribution will be determined when Council considers in 23/24 Annual budget. For clarity, Council would only draw down the amount it needs to complete the projects from the loan.

CONSULTATION

Both projects have benefited from specialist consultancies: surveyors / town planners, architects and civil designers.

The Aged Care Advisory Committee has also contributed to the vision and design of the Independent Living Facility.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

Preston Law have been retained to look after the legal issues affecting the Independent Living Facility.

Council has substantially complied with the conditions attaching to the NW Mineral Province grant.

Town Planning, building and civil design compliance is being addressed through various consultancies, which also helps spread enterprise risk.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Provision was made in the 2022/23 Borrowings Policy to seek loan funding for housing projects.

RISK ASSESSMENT

CONSEQUENCE					
LIKELIHOOD*	**Insignificant 1**	**Minor 2**	**Moderate 3**	**Major 4**	**Catastrophic 5**
A (Almost certain)	H	H	E	E	E

B (Likely)	M	H	H	E	E
C (Possible)	L	M	H	E	E
D (Unlikely)	L	L	M	H	E
E (Rare)	L	L	M	H	H

OUTCOME

Risk assessment: Moderate - possible likelihood of minor consequence.

Report Prepared By:	**Report Authorised By:**
Andrew McKenzie, Director Corporate Services	Ken Timms, Chief Executive Officer
Date: 11th February 2023	Date:

Etheridge Shire Council

Workshop	15th February 2023
Subject	Mosquito Control
Classification	Open
Author	Andrew McKenzie

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council has investigated aerial treatment (fogging) as a means of mosquito control. Contacting the supplier that services Normanton & Croydon (Dana Quirk) the cost of a fogging service is $2,200 per visit.

Further investigation has been completed into different methods of control.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council engage the services of Mr D Quirk to fog for mosquitos in Georgetown on the following frequency at a cost of $2,200 per visit: -
   - Twice weekly;
   - Weekly;
   - Fortnightly; or
   - Monthly
2. Engage the services of a suitably qualified professional to develop an integrated mosquito management plan to guide Council's activities.

BACKGROUND

Council considered this matter at its recent workshop, where the following report was presented and discussed.

> *"Mosquitos are recognised as vector for malaria, dengue fever and other public health risks. State and Local Government share responsibilities for managing public health risks, including mosquito control. Queensland Health has overall responsibility. Local Government has responsibility for breeding grounds / harbourages.*
>
> *In 2014, LGAQ updated a Mosquito Management Code of Practice (attached). The Code of Practice can be summarised: -*
>
> 1. *Mosquitos are part of the natural environment and various works undertaken to control mosquitos may have adverse impacts upon the environment.*
> 2. *Control activities need to be cognisant of the General Duty of Care under the Environmental Protection Act – that is, no harm must be done to the prevailing environment without an authority.*
> 3. *Mosquito management is not just about application of insecticides, other measures include habitat management an biological control.*
> 4. *There are over 220 species of mosquitos.*
> 5. *Mosquitos breed by laying eggs. Different species have different breeding cycles – some breed within 24-48 hours of eggs being laid, others, eggs may lie viable but dormant until rain.*
> 6. *Mosquito larvae require water for the larval stage of the life cycle.*
> 7. *Mosquitos can travel kilometres from their breeding location.*

8. *It is recommended that an integrated mosquito management plan be developed to have an all encompassing approach to mosquito control (refer to page 15, and table 3 of the Code of Practice). An integrated mosquito management plan has the following: -*
    a. *Direct control measures*
        i. *Chemical control to complement and assist natural and other mosquito control mechanisms,*
        ii. *Biological control to keep mosquito populations within acceptable limits*
        iii. *Habitat modification*
            Manipulation of wetlands to reduce their capacity for mosquito breeding. The emphasis is on enhancing ecological processes and predator populations.
        iv. *source reduction*
            removal / eradication of breeding sites (usually associated with human habitation)
    b. *Indirect measures*
        i. *Public education and awareness (refer to articles published in Inform – person, house, environment)*
        ii. *Development planning*

The two usual means of chemical control are: -

1. *Pellets: spread into pools, containers or ecosystems used as breeding grounds. Care is required to ensure dosage is correct for the volume of water, and poses no harm to other marine life, pets or people.*
2. *Fogging is a means of chemical control. It reduces a carrier (usually water) and chemical to a vapour. Fogging is designed to kill adult mosquitos on contact. Its success is dependent upon contact with mosquitos. Unless the vapour gets into mosquito habitats, it will not have any meaningful impact upon mosquito populations. Fogging will not disrupt breeding cycles, eggs or laval stages. It is of limited efficacy and provide a respite for he duration of the fine mist – essentially the length of time it takes for the vapour to evaporate.*

To sue chemical control, a person must be qualified with an ACDC accreditation. There is some doubt whether they also require a pest controllers licence."

Following discussion at the workshop, contractor Dana Quirk & Croydon Shire Council were contacted for a quotes. Mr Quirk has come back with a quote of $2,000 for a single visit to do 2 morning and 2 afternoon treatments.

LINK TO CORPORATE PLAN

Corporate Aim No.2: A sustainable environment of natural assets, water, waste water and waste management.

Outcome 2.3 Best practice natural environment and pest management.

Strategy 2.3.3: Minimise the potential of disease outbreaks through implementation of an integrated mosquito management program.

BUDGET & RESOURCE CONSIDERATIONS

Mr Quirk has quoted $2,200 for a single visit for 2 treatments (morning & afternoon) on consecutive days.

CONSULTATION

Tropical Public Health Unit, Qld Health

Environmental Health Officers

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

Environmental Protection Act imposes a general environmental duty of care upon persons.

Chemical Distribution is regulated by the Agricultural Chemical Distribution Control Act

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

To defend against claims / prosecution of breach of general environmental duty of care, Council must comply with the Mosquito Control Code of Practice and develop an integrated mosquito management control plan.

RISK ASSESSMENT

CONSEQUENCE					
LIKELIHOOD*	**Insignificant 1**	**Minor 2**	**Moderate 3**	**Major 4**	**Catastrophic 5**
A (Almost certain)	H	H	E	E	E
B (Likely)	M	H	H	E	E
C (Possible)	L	M	H	E	E
D (Unlikely)	L	L	M	H	E
E (Rare)	L	L	M	H	H

OUTCOME

Report Prepared By:	Report Authorised By:
Andrew McKenzie, Director Corporate Services	Ken Timms, Chief Executive Officer
Date: 14 February 2023	Date:

Economic Development Strategy – Etheridge Shire Council

Background paper

Amendment History

Version:	Date:	Who:	Amendments:
1.0 Draft	12/01/2022	Belinda Down	Initial draft
1.1 Draft	13/02/2023	Feiko Ruedisulj	QA
1.2 Draft			
2.0 Draft			
2.1 Draft			

Contents

1.0 Background

1.1 Purpose

This paper forms the first stage of a project being undertaken by Etheridge Shire Council and supported by the Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning (DSDILGP) to develop the Etheridge Shire Council Economic Development Strategy and associated action plan for the Shire of Etheridge.

The aim of the economic development strategy is to support council and the community to grow the economy in a strategic and planned manner. The economic development strategy identifies a vision, key opportunities, and short to medium term actions which have been developed in consultation with all levels of government, business, industry and the community.

1.2 Methodology

The World Bank defines local economic development as "building up the economic capacity of a local area to improve its economic future and the quality of life for all. It is a process by which public, business and non-governmental sector partners work collectively to create better conditions for economic growth and employment generation".

An economic development strategy can support local governments and their communities to manage their existing resources and work with others to create new jobs and stimulate economic activity. An economic development strategy also assists communities to move from the current situation towards a preferred future position.

A shared understanding of the key drivers of change in a community and how this can shape future actions. The development of this background paper and the economic development strategy is a cooperative approach by:

- collaborating with local leaders to target local issues
- identified local economic development strengths and challenges by reviewing the existing status of the region and using available data
- detecting the highest priority areas supporting regional jobs growth
- delivering with local leaders a plan of action so the whole region knows what to do, when and how.

Information in this background paper will be consolidated into a succinct public facing Economic Development Strategy. To maintain broader engagement, the community will have the opportunity to provide input into a draft strategy prior to presentation of the strategy to council for adoption.

1.3 North West Queensland Economic Diversification Strategy

In November 2015, the Queensland Government supported the establishment of a North West Minerals Province (NWMP) Taskforce to identify issues affecting the province's mining industry and to help plan a strategic way forward.

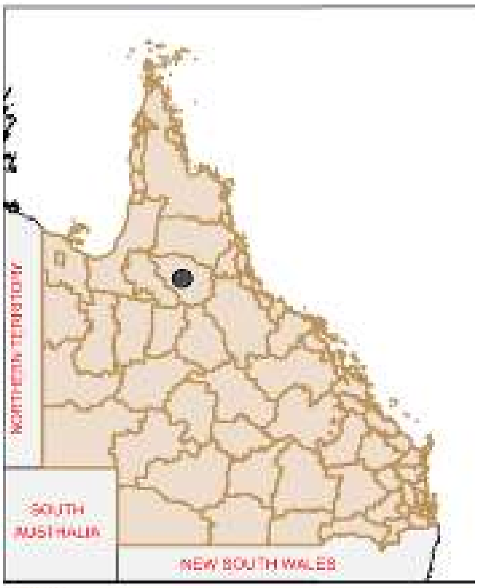
A Strategic Blueprint for Queensland's North West Minerals Province was developed to build on the work of the taskforce. The objective of the Blueprint is to facilitate a smooth economic and social transition for businesses and communities in light of expected lower mining output levels in the medium term, towards a stronger and more diversified economy over the longer term by building on existing economic and community strengths.

In 2019, DSDILGP released the ***North West Queensland Economic Diversification Strategy*** (NWQEDS). The NWQEDS aligns with the government's strategic plan to leverage the North West's competitive advantages and identifies a range of opportunities across the resources, agriculture, tourism, business and industry sectors which have the potential to support long-term sustainable growth in North West Queensland.

In November 2019, DSDILGP released the **NWQEDS Implementation Plan 2019-2021.** Supporting the development of economic development plans is one of the outcomes of the NWQEDS Implementation Plan.

In November 2022, DSDILGP released a new **Implementation Plan to 2025** for the NWQEDS supported by new funding.

2.0 Overview



The Shire of Etheridge, a local government area in Far North Queensland covers an area of 39,199 square kilometres and has existed as a local government entity since 1882. The major town and administrative centre of the shire is Georgetown. Other communities within the Shire include: Forsayth, Einasleigh, Mount Surprise, Kidston and Oak Park.

Prior to European settlement the area was home to the Ewamian, Tagalaka and Gugu Badhun People Aboriginal people.

Nestled on the banks of the Etheridge River, the Georgetown township is located 400 kilometres south west of Cairns, is 788 kilometres North east of Mount Isa and 373 kilometres east of the Gulf of Carpentaria. Etheridge Shire has a population of 724 persons (ABS ERP 2021). Predominantly rural, with rich mining and pastoral industries, the Etheridge Shire holds a strategic location within the NWMP.

Accessible by road, rail and air, Etheridge provides a vital link in the Mount Isa to Townsville rail corridor connecting mining, agricultural and broader regional activity in Queensland's North West to the Townsville Port. Etheridge provides its residents and surrounding properties access to a wide range of essential and specialist health, hospital and medical facilities, education and family services and community facilities.

Etheridge Shire's economy is built upon strengths in the agriculture, tourism and mining industries, with diverse infrastructure strategically planned to attract and support development. With a strong business environment and land available for a wide variety of commercial and industrial uses Etheridge has room for growing business.

2.1 Community facilities and services

A broad range of community facilities and services are supported by the Etheridge Shire Council including:

Georgetown airstrip	Oak Park Race Club and Racecourse
Mount Surprise airstrip	Georgetown Green's Park
Georgetown Hall	Heritage Park – Outdoor Fitness
Mt Surprise Hall	Peace Monument Garden
Einasleigh Hall	Forsayth Caschafor Park
Gregg Bethel Memorial Oval	Einasleigh Park
Georgetown Multi-Purpose Sports Facility	Einasleigh Tennis Court
Etheridge Shire Council Library	Mount Surprise Playground and Pump Track
Community Libraries in Forsyth, Einasleigh and Mt Surprise	TerrEstrial Visitors Centre Information Centre and Museum
Georgetown Swimming pool	Charleston Dam community facilities (to be developed)
Etheridge Football oval	
Einasleigh Tennis Court	
Cemetery	

2.2 Transport services

Georgetown and Mount Surprise have sealed airstrips and have no direct commercial flights. If you have your own aircraft permission to utilise these strips can be obtained from the Etheridge Shire Council.

QantasLink has passenger services to Normanton.

The Savannahlander rail departs Cairns weekly, through the Kuranda Range to Forsayth and back on a 4-day tour. There are options for short tours and visits to Cobbold Gorge and Undara.

Mt Surprise and Georgetown are serviced by three return trips a week by Trans North Bus service. This service links Cairns on the East Coast to Karumba in the Gulf of Carpentaria. This service also links the Savannahlander rail service to allow travellers to explore our region more thoroughly.

There is no public transport available.

2.3 Accommodation

The accommodation capacity in Etheridge Shire sleeps ? people, made up of hotel and motel accommodation, cabins and rooms. There are 7 motels/hotels and 12 facilities that are RV parks, cabins and Showground camping. There are also at least 8 farm/station stays. The region has a major shortage of tourism and residential accommodation due to mining companies buying up current facilities to accommodate their FIFO workers.

Accommodation is frequently booked out from April through to October. Free camping sites are also available at the Charleston Dam, Cumberland Chimney and Dam, and Kidston Dam.

Source: Unearthing Etheridge: Tourism Directions Paper

2.4 Impact of COVID-19

Employment	Output	Value Added	Wages and Salaries
In Etheridge, prior to COVID-19 and the introduction of social lockdown measures to manage the pandemic, total employment across all local industry sectors was estimated at 356 million. For June 2021, total employment is estimated at 359 million, a rise of 0.8%. Across Australia, the median rise in employment over this period was 0.8%. When compared with other LGAs and unincorporated areas, Etheridge is ranked 296 out of 540 areas in Australia with; - 295 areas in Australia experiencing higher impact. - 244 areas in Australia were less impacted	In Etheridge, prior to COVID-19 and the introduction of social lockdown measures to manage the pandemic, total output across all local industry sectors was estimated at $9.439 million. For June 2021, total output is estimated at $9.805million, a rise of 3.9%. Across Australia, the median rise in output over this period was 2.2%. When compared with other LGAs and unincorporated areas, Etheridge is ranked 492 out of 540 areas in Australia with; - 491 areas in Australia experiencing higher impact. - 48 areas in Australia were less impacted.	In Etheridge, prior to COVID-19 and the introduction of social lockdown measures to manage the pandemic, total value added across all local industry sectors was estimated at $4.465 million. For June 2021, total value added is estimated at $4.777 million, a rise of 7%. Across Australia, the median rise in value added over this period was 4.1%. When compared with other LGAs and unincorporated areas, Etheridge is ranked 516 out of 540 areas in Australia with; - 515 areas in Australia experiencing higher impact. - 24 areas in Australia were less impacted.	In Etheridge, prior to COVID-19 and the introduction of social lockdown measures to manage the pandemic, total wages and salaries across all local industry sectors was estimated at $1.730 million. For June 2021, total wages and salaries is estimated at $1.755 million, a rise of 1.4%. Across Australia, the median rise in wages and salaries over this period was 0.9%. When compared with other LGAs and unincorporated areas, Etheridge is ranked 451 out of 540 areas in Australia with; - 450 areas in Australia experiencing higher impact. - 89 areas in Australia were less impacted.

Source: REMPLAN COVID-19 impacts explorer; June 2021

3.0 Related documents and key organisations

This paper has been informed by several existing plans and reports as referenced below.

3.1 Etheridge Shire Council Corporate Plan 2021-2025

Core strategic aims include:

1. A sustainable transport network that meets community needs
2. A sustainable environment of natural assets, water, waste water and waste management
3. A diversified economic development ensures a prosperous shire
4. Quality social infrastructure make a shire a desirable place to live
5. Best practice corporate governance and organisational excellence.

Under Aim 3 the key outcomes are defined as:

3.1 The Shire having a variety of land and housing options for the community

3.2 A Diversified economic base including rural, tourism, mining and support services.

A new planning scheme was adopted by council in 2020. Further information can be found **here**.

The Economic Strategy to be developed, is to complement the current Action plan. Each of the themes to be developed will support a set of strategic action items and an implementation plan to be delivered over the next five years, with yearly monitoring and adjustment where required.

The Economic Development Strategy for Etheridge Shire Council developed by Etheridge Shire and supported by DSDILGP.

Further information can be found at: **Etheridge Shire Corporate Plan**

3.2 Etheridge Shire Council Tourism Strategy – Unearthing Etheridge – The Master plan

Unearthing Etheridge: The Master Plan is a 10-year strategic planning document for Etheridge Shire which aims to position the Shire as a unique destination for domestic and international visitors seeking memorable experiences in the Australian outback. This project also aims to assist Etheridge Shire in positioning tourism as a key pillar of the regional economy.

24 actions and 5 key projects have been identified to contribute to the realisation of the design objectives (consolidation, place activation, heritage conservation, co-creation) besides the overarching development of four foundation strategies.

Further information can be found at: **Etheridge Tourism Strategy - Unearthing Etheridge - The Master Plan**

3.3 Etheridge Shire Council Operational Plan 2022-23

The annual Operational Plan sets out the activities council will undertake during the year to deliver the outcomes of the Corporate Plan.

Further information can be found at: **2022-23 Operational Plan (Etheridge.qld.gov.au)**

3.4 Gulf Savannah Development – Remote Area Board

Gulf Savannah Development (GSD) is the facilitating organisation for the Gulf Savannah Region that drives economic development projects and initiatives for the benefit of its stakeholders. It is also the central representative body that actively advocates for the people, businesses, and organisations in the area. GSD's primary goal is to bring together people, ideas, and resources to deliver impactful projects that ensure the future sustainability of the Gulf Region

Queensland has five RABs, representing 60 per cent of Queensland:

- South West Regional Economic Development
- Central Western Queensland Remote Area Planning and Development Board

- GSD
- Mount Isa to Townsville Economic Development Zone (MITEZ)
- Torres and Cape Indigenous Councils Alliance.

Since 2016, the Queensland Government has been proud to support the five RABs under the RAB Program. Supporting these has delivered economic and employment opportunities, improving life for our most remote Queensland communities.

3.5 Sustainable Communities Local Action Plan

Under the NWQEDS Implementation Plan, the Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors engaged Queensland Council of Social Services (QCOSS) to work with a diverse range of stakeholders in each local government area (LGA) to develop Local Action Plans and an overarching Province Wide Community Strategy supporting the delivery of integrated and appropriate services.

"Snapshot" documents have been developed for each LGA. It outlines various issues / challenges and current or potential actions to enhance community capacity to drive community wellbeing in the face of economic challenges. It includes feedback received from engagement possible with key stakeholders prior to COVID-19 restrictions.

3.6 North West Queensland Economic Development Practitioners Group

The role of the North West Queensland Economic Development Practitioner Group (NWQ EDPG) is to bring together economic development practitioners to increase knowledge and expertise in economic development planning enabling the sharing of knowledge of major regional projects and emerging opportunities. The NWQ EDGP is part of *Initiative 1.2 - Strengthen economic development planning across the province* (NWQ Economic Diversification Strategy Implementation Plan 2025)

This will be achieved through:

- participating in bi-monthly meetings
- a bi-annual economic development forum, hosted by DSDILGP
- sharing knowledge of major regional projects and emerging opportunities
- being a positive advocate for the economic development and community resilience of North West Queensland.

The intent of the NWQ EDPG is to:

- develop the skills, knowledge and ability of economic/community development officers/practitioners within each Shire of the NWQ region.
- address the identified topics/areas from members to assist in their development and growth as economic development practitioners.
- enhance each Shires ability to develop, manage and progress economic development opportunities within their respective areas.

The NWQ EDPG group meet bi-monthly, and an Economic Development Forum will be held each year in region.

3.7 North West Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils

The **North West Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils (NWQROC)** is a voluntary regional organisation of councils representing North West Queensland. The NQWROC 2018-2021 Strategic Plan has identified six regional priorities to make North West Queensland a region attractive for people and businesses to live, work and invest in with the same levels of service as is experienced in more populated areas.

The six strategic priorities are:

- effective political and stakeholder engagement including effective working relationships with native title and Traditional Owners and regional industry representative bodies
- supporting regional and economic development of the state's north west through building relationships with GSD and working with industry representative bodies to support the region's agricultural and beef industries; road and transport infrastructure; bio-security responsibilities (weed and pest animal management); Regional Tourism Organisations; the Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) and Traditional Owners
- developing regional infrastructure, transport networks and workforce capability

- protecting the region's environment, natural assets and adapting to climate change
- provision of equitable health, medical and educational services
- affordable access to telecommunications and broadband service.

3.8 Far North Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils

The **Far North Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils (FNQROC)** was established in 1992 and represents 12 member councils from Hinchinbrook to Cooktown in Far North Queensland inclusive of Hope Vale.

This area covers 1,235 km of the eastern seaboard with a land area of 252,542 sq km and a population of approximately 280,330. Gross regional product is $16.75 billion.

Its role is to foster cooperation and resource sharing between councils and effectively advocate regional positions and priorities. They also work closely with regional partners and stakeholders.

The five strategic priorities are:

- Transport
- Water and Energy
- Environment
- Social Infrastructure
- Communication.

FNQROC's **regional positions and priorities statement** (August 2022) outlines priorities for sustainable economic growth and development for Far North Queensland.

3.9 North West Queensland Regional Roads Group

Council is a member of the North West Queensland Regional Roads and Transport Group (RRTG). The RRTG is established under the Roads and Transport Alliance (RTA), a cooperative governance arrangement between the Department of Transport and Main Roads (DTMR), the LGAQ and local governments. The RRTG is responsible for managing Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme (TIDS) expenditure.

The objectives of the Road and Transport Alliance are to:

- maximise the economic, social and environmental benefits of joint investments
- achieve maximum efficiencies through collaboration and innovation in network planning, program development and delivery
- improve technical skills through training, technology and knowledge transfer
- optimise safety
- maximise the investment on Queensland's Road and transport network.

Members include Burke Shire, Carpentaria Shire, Cloncurry Shire, Croydon Shire, Etheridge Shire, Flinders Shire, Mornington Shire, McKinlay Shire, Mount Isa City and Richmond Shire councils.

3.10 Far North Queensland Regional Roads Group

The **FNQ Regional Roads and Transport Group** is a part of the RTA, which is a cooperative governance arrangement between LGAQ, on behalf of all Queensland local governments, and DTMR to invest in and regionally manage the Queensland transport network. The Alliance was established in 2002 to create a more collaborative and coordinated approach to road management and investment.

In general, the underlying governing principles of the RRTGs, with the support of their Technical Committee's (TC), are to continuously improve the Local Roads of Regional Significance (LRRS) network for the travelling public, and improve the knowledge, decision making, capability and efficiency of the members.

RRTGs are responsible for:

- Determining the "Local Roads of Regional Significance"
- Adopting and operating asset management practices
- Managing regional funding and investment
- Establishing and utilising regional investment strategies in road network planning and prioritisation

- Adopting and implementing practices for works program development including investment strategy development and project prioritisation procedures
- Adopting policy to increase joint purchasing and resource sharing and maximise the potential benefits from this initiative
- Reviewing and planning for improved capability across Transport and Local Government workforces
- Introducing change management procedures that will provide continuous guidance on achieving targets of the Roads Alliance.

General meetings are held bi-monthly comprising of members of FNQROC, DTMR, RTA and LGAQ.

3.11 WQAC Housing Solutions Study

Released September 2021, the **WQAC Housing Solutions Study** reveals housing in demand in North West Queensland.

Representing the 22 councils of the Western Queensland, WQAC commissioned the Regional Australia Institute to develop the study to understand and quantify issues with housing throughout the region, and ultimately identify solutions that best meet the region's needs.

Similar to other infrastructure deficits in Western Queensland (such as roads, water and digital communications), the availability and diversity of quality housing stock is a key barrier to growing the economic and social potential of Western Queensland. In turn, this situation also constrains the growth potential of the State and Nation which relies on the productivity of regions such as Western Queensland to generate wealth for re-distribution.

… the quality of available housing is a significant and widespread problem. This was highlighted as a particular issue in the Mount Isa, Burke, Barcoo, Etheridge, Longreach, Murweh, McKinlay, Etheridge, Carpentaria and Paroo LGAs. It is a significant handbrake on local economic growth and development for the mid-sized and smaller LGAs in particular – a considerable barrier to staff attraction and retention.

- Western Queensland towns have a unique combination of characteristics that unfortunately conspire against new home building and renovating: Small populations – either growing very slowly, holding steady, or even shrinking
- Low volumes of sales
- Remote locations
- Low housing sales prices relative to minimum average build costs.

The current difficulty for Etheridge Shire is that it has availability of land and the housing demand, but the current supply chain inputs and skilled labour shortages are making residential builds not viable. The fact it is difficult to locate builders, there is reduced access to finance or positive valuations makes private developments non-existent.

3.12 Inland Queensland Roads Action Plan

The Regional Development Australia Townsville and North West Queensland Committee initiated the concept of an inland roads project based on consultations with local governments and the success of the DTMR Bruce Highway Action Plan in securing nearly $9 billion in funding commitments over 10 years.

The Inland Queensland Roads Action Plan (IQ-RAP) was developed through a collaborative partnership of 49 organisations across regional Queensland. The purpose of the plan is to achieve more strategic, long term planning and funding for inland roads to form a stronger network, better safety outcomes, more efficient supply chains, greater resilience to cope with weather events and to sustain regional communities and industries.

3.13 National Freight Data Hub

The Regional Development Australia Townsville and North West Queensland Committee initiated the concept of an inland roads project based on consultations with local governments and the success of DTMR's Bruce Highway Action Plan in securing nearly $9 billion in funding commitments over 10 years.

The IQ-RAP was developed through a collaborative partnership of 49 organisations across regional Queensland. The purpose of the plan is to achieve more strategic, long-term planning and funding for inland roads to form a stronger network, better safety outcomes, more efficient supply chains, greater resilience to cope with weather events and to sustain regional communities and industries.

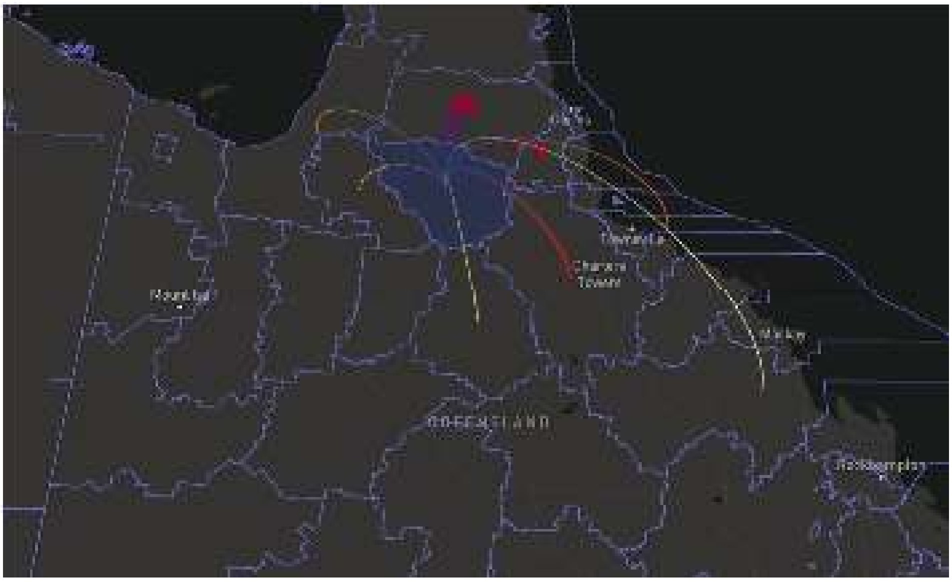
In May 2021, the Australian Government committed $16.5 million over four years to establish the **National Freight Data Hub**. The Hub will be a federated data sharing network with an initial focus on governments providing better access to their data; facilitates data exchange, including by establishing data standards; and promotes leadership and innovation.

By making high quality and timely freight data more widely available, the Hub will enhance the collection and access to freight data across all modes to:

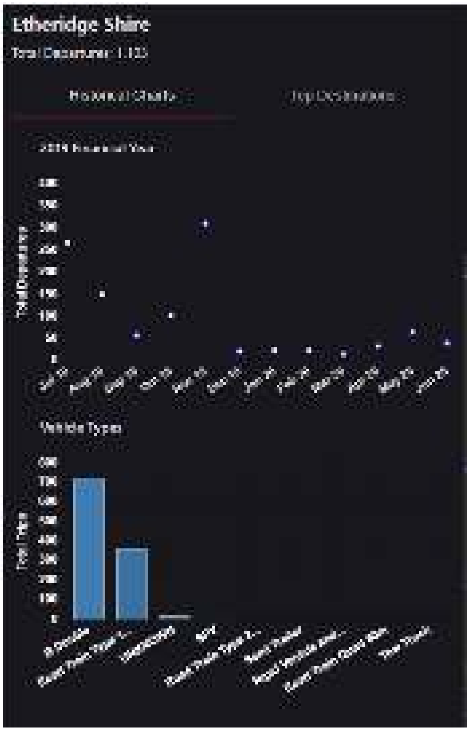
- improve strategic planning for infrastructure and transport network investment and other decisions,
- improve the capture and sharing of freight data to support day to day operations, and
- evaluate how the freight system is performing and what actions we can take to improve it.

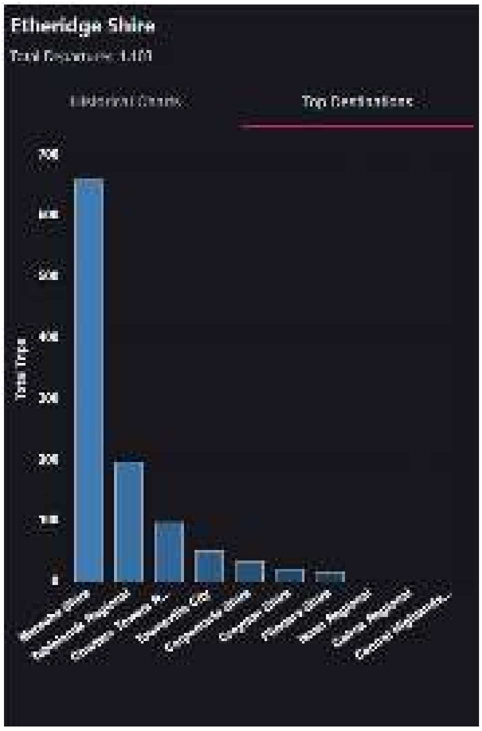
The **National Freight Data Hub prototype website** showcases existing freight data provides an early demonstration of the value of improved freight data. The prototype website includes:

- Insights: Explore freight data through interactive maps and graphs to identify trends and patterns.
- Projects: Discover the work underway to improve freight data in Australia. Explore current projects being undertaken across governments and industry and learn more about the effort it takes to collect, curate and analyse the data we need, and the gaps and limitations of the data we have.
- A freight data catalogue: Find data using the first curated and searchable national freight data catalogue for Australia. Help us to improve the catalogue by nominating high-quality open datasets for inclusion.



Source: National Freight Data Hub, Truck movements by Local Government Areas





Source: National Freight Data Hub, Truck movements by Local Government Areas

3.14 North West Queensland Regional Transport Plan 2019

The **North West Queensland Regional Transport Plan** (2019) outlines a shared direction for shaping the region's transport system over the next 15 years.

The Plan was developed in consultation with local government and key stakeholders, with input from customers and industry. DTMR will continue to work in partnership with all levels of government, the community and industry to implement the Plan and achieve shared goals for the region. The Plan covers all modes of transport with a focus on the networks and services in the region, and the inter-regional and international connections that are vital to North West Queensland's social and economic prosperity.

DTMR is currently developing the North Queensland Regional Freight Plan in response to short-term actions set out in the Far North Queensland, Northern Queensland, and North West Queensland **Regional Transport Plans** and as a key deliverable under the **Queensland Freight Action Plan**.

The project aims to:

- deliver an integrated multi-modal freight plan that considers current and emerging challenges and needs for the North Queensland Region
- clearly articulate the current and forecast future freight tasks across various export and domestic supply chains for the North Queensland freight transport network (for all modes)
- identify key barriers and priority improvements (infrastructure and non-infrastructure) for the freight transport network to support safer and more efficient movement of freight across North Queensland with a view to advancing the region's economic potential
- set out strategic directions and recommendations to influence and inform future actions towards developing the region's freight transport system consistent with state-wide directions set out in the **Queensland Freight Strategy** and Queensland Freight Action Plan.

The project is currently in the planning investigation phase with a final plan expected to be released in mid-late 2022. The release will happen now in 2023.

3.15 Queensland Resources Industry Development Plan

The **Queensland Resources Industry Development Plan** has been created by government, industry and communities. It sets out a pathway for a resources industry that will continue to create jobs and prosperity for generations to come – responsibly and sustainably.

The plan sets out a clear 30-year vision for Queensland's resources industry: to be a resilient, responsible and sustainable resources industry that grows as it transforms.

Government and industry will need to work cooperatively so that, by 2050, Queensland's resources industry will be recognised globally as an environmental, social, and governance (ESG) leader, a global supplier of new economy minerals, and a creator of high-quality, high-wage jobs and careers.

The plan outlines global challenges and changes facing the resources industry, opportunities for industry growth and diversification, and the collaboration and commitments required by government and industry in order to achieve this vision.

The plan identifies 6 key focus areas where government and industry need to take action:

- Grow and diversify the industry
- Strengthen our ESG credentials and protect the environment
- Foster coexistence and sustainable communities
- Ensure strong and genuine First Nations partnerships
- Build a safe and resilient future workforce
- Improve regulatory efficiency.

3.16 Far North Queensland Regional Plan is underway which will finally update the Gulf Regional Plan 2000

Etheridge Shire will be included in Far North Queensland region.

Statutory Regional Plans are long-term strategic documents that guide land use planning for state and local governments. They also indicate and set direction through contemporary policy frameworks and spatial representation how our regions will grow and respond to change over time.

They support economic growth, development and liveable communities while protecting natural resources and reconciling state interests outlined in the State Planning Policy.

The purpose of a regional plans is to:

- set state policy frameworks to deliver defined outcomes in the region
- guide local government land use decisions (reflected in local planning schemes)
- guide investment for governments and industry
- prioritise key infrastructure
- help manage conflicts and priorities between land uses
- maintain and protect our natural environment.

3.17 Regional Development Australia TNQ Economic Development Strategy

The TNQ Economic Development Strategy will provide a 20-year strategy which identifies key priority development areas and infrastructure projects canvassing land-use perspectives, emerging growth industries and considerations for population growth and liveability. The Strategy will inform government investment decisions.

A project identified as part of this strategy is the Etheridge Shire Ag Precinct Proposal. The Project will establish appropriate protocols, on a regional basis, covering water allocation, vegetation management, environmental clearances, native title and cultural heritage as well as the implementation of best practice agricultural management. The concept is the creation of an agricultural and water precinct of State significance with preapprovals across tenure water vegetation management, native title future acts and cultural heritage. The proposal is an opportunity to implement best practice land management and provide wide ranging and lasting indigenous economic participation, training, and employment opportunities.

For more information see - **https://www.rdatropicalnorth.org.au/etheridge-shire-ag-precinct-proposal/**

3.18 Our North, Our Future: 2021-2026

Developing Northern Australia and realising its economic opportunities requires the collective efforts of all levels of government, the private sector, and communities. Working together will secure the north's strong and sustainable future. Priorities include:

- Indigenous economic growth – building capacity and supporting business and entrepreneurs
- energy – affordability and supporting infrastructure
- supply chain infrastructure – roads, rail, airports, storage, and logistics
- communications – black spots and bandwidth
- water infrastructure – to support agriculture, industry development, and water security
- affordable insurance – to support households and business
- critical minerals – value-add and diversification
- tourism recovery – bouncing back after COVID-19
- workforce training and education – addressing critical skills shortages and labour supply, and
- social services – focusing on housing, health, and aged care.

Our North, Our Future is the Government's 20-year framework to guide policy makers and investors in building a strong, prosperous, resilient northern economy.

Our North, Our Future: 2021-2026 'Targeted Growth' plan for the next five years is focused on further economic development by maximising investment and creating a path forward for greater private sector investment.

The Australian Government has committed $9.3 million to develop Master Plans to accelerate **Regions of Growth** and grow the Northern Australian economy.

The Master Plans will set out the strategic direction for efficient economic development. They will deliver a 20-year blueprint for the economic development of a region, supported by five-year action plans and regular progress reports. Master plans will anchor resources and investment from across all levels of government to maximise the long-term public benefit of regional planning and development. Existing and planned projects will continue in parallel to the master planning process.

The first three priority Master Plans will focus on locations within three Regions of Growth corridors:

- Mount Isa to Townsville
- Beetaloo Basin to Katherine to Darwin
- Broome to Kununurra to Darwin.

An investment pipeline will be mapped out by mid-2022 and by late 2022, the Australian Government and northern jurisdictions will have identified preferred infrastructure investments.

Each Master Plan will identify core transformational infrastructure investment for the region such as water infrastructure, energy, minerals, or logistics infrastructure. Prioritising efforts through Master Plans will create positive spill over effects into surrounding areas. This will grow ancillary services and improve the prospects of greater private sector investment.

NOTE: **Project Cairns to Northern Territory Border Corridor Upgrade - Gulf Developmental Road (Croydon – Georgetown) – Pavement Strengthening and Widening** is a project being funded under the federal program of Roads of Strategic importance. Cost is $12.1 – in an 80:20 split between Federal and State – the Federal government will fund $9.65M and Queensland Government will fund $2.41M. The project is due to commence early 2023 and be completed in early 2024. There is also the second works along the Cairns to Northern Territory Border corridor upgrade, part of the Roads of Strategic Importance (ROSI) initiative. The project will strengthen and widen approximately 12.3 km of the Gulf Developmental Road between Mount Garnett and Croydon. The total cost is $21.5M - $17.M from Federal Government and $4.3M from State Government.

This project will progressively strengthen and widen priority single seal sections of the Gulf Developmental Road between Croydon and Georgetown. This project has been added to the Cairns to Northern Territory Border corridor under the ROSI initiative at the 2022-23 Budget. It complements another project on the corridor that is strengthening and widening the road between Mount Garnet and Croydon. These projects are progressively improving the efficiency and safety of the corridor, particularly for freight vehicles.

3.19 Priority sector roadmaps and strategies (Queensland Government)

DSDILGP has developed a **range of industry roadmaps and strategies** to support several priority areas.

Emerging and priority sectors with global growth potential have been identified. We are working closely with industry to develop these 10-year roadmaps and action plans and strategies for each sector.

- Aerospace – supporting the state's innovative aerospace industry while creating high paid, sustainable jobs of the future
- Beef processing – supporting growth of the beef processing industry is part of our plan for a flourishing Queensland manufacturing sector
- Biofutures – working towards a $1 billion sustainable and export-oriented industrial biotechnology and bioproducts sector
- Biomedical – creating a regionally integrated and globally competitive biomedical industry hub
- Defence Jobs Queensland – create a smart, connected and efficient defence sector within the State
- Hydrogen – driving the development of a competitive renewable hydrogen industry supporting the transition to a low-emission economy
- METS – getting ready for the mining equipment, technology and services (METS) sector's next wave of growth
- Resource Recovery – accelerating projects that divert waste from landfill, reduce stockpiling and create jobs
- Superyacht Strategy – our vision is for Queensland's share of the global superyacht sector to increase by 10% by 2023.

3.20 Advance Queensland – innovation for a Future Economy 2022-2032 Roadmap

Innovation is critical for driving a return to growth for Queensland's economy and jobs.

The **Advance Queensland initiative** has laid the foundation for innovation to happen in Queensland. It has supported the creation, scale up and international success of many Queensland researchers, innovators and businesses.

Our vision is for Queensland to become a leading and sustainable world-class innovation economy. To fulfil this vision, we have set out six priority outcomes. We have also established the objectives critical to achieving each outcome.

The **Innovation for a Future Economy 2022-2032** Roadmap is for everyone in Queensland's innovation ecosystem. It will help drive a strong, resilient and inclusive Queensland economy.

- Capital attraction – important for early start-ups to get off the ground and for mature companies with good products and services to scale up
- Research collaboration and commercialisation – improving research-business collaboration and increasing expenditure on research and development and commercialisation outcomes are important for a thriving innovation economy
- Talent, skills and new technologies – innovation is critical to growing Queensland's key priority industries and a high growth economy
- Innovative and sustainable solutions – Queensland's start-ups and small and medium sized enterprises can help government address big challenges through innovative sustainable solutions and can provide support for major events such as Brisbane 2032.
- Innovation precincts and places – we need to develop our innovation precincts and places across Queensland so researchers, innovators and businesses can collaborate and turn ideas into innovative products and services
- Connected and inclusive innovation ecosystem – inclusivity and diversity are critical for building a sustainable Queensland Innovation ecosystem. This requires targeted support for our regional, female and First Nations Innovators.

3.21 Tropical North Queensland (TNQ) Destination Tourism Plan 2021

The TNQ Destination Tourism Plan has been produced to provide prospective investors with an understanding of tourism in our region and its potential to grow. Tourism is a $3.2 billion export business in TNQ that employs one in seven people. The destination's unique value proposition is having two World Heritage areas side by side. The Great Barrier Reef is alongside the world's oldest rainforest and both are less than a day's drive from the Australian outback. The oldest living culture on earth calls these diverse landscapes home.

As a not-for-profit member-based Regional Tourism Organisation, Tourism Tropical North Queensland (TTNQ) is the Regional Tourism Organisation responsible for marketing Tropical North Queensland to Australia and the world. The destination is known as Cairns & Great Barrier Reef in the international marketplace. TTNQ is funded by members, local and state governments. Cairns Regional Council is the major funding partner providing $2.4 million which accounts for 45% of TTNQ's revenue for 2019/20. It is the only council that directly contributes to marketing the destination and does this in recognition of the benefits that job growth and visitor expenditure bring to the Cairns regional economy.

Tropical North Queensland has 25 local government areas who also develop Tourism. These areas are supported by their Local Tourism organisations. These Councils include:

• Aurukun Shire Council • Burke Shire Council • Cairns Regional Council • Carpentaria Shire Council • Cassowary Coast Regional Council • Cook Shire Council • Croydon Shire Council • Doomadgee Aboriginal Shire Council • Douglas Shire Council • Etheridge Shire Council • Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council • Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire Council • Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council • Mapoon Aboriginal Shire Council • Mareeba Shire Council • Mornington Shire Council • Napranum Aboriginal Shire Council • Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council • Pormpuraaw Aboriginal Shire Council • Tablelands Regional Council • Torres Shire Council • Torres Strait Island Regional Council • Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council • Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council • Weipa Town Authority

Tourism and Events Queensland (TEQ) provides 17% of TTNQ's funding or $904,000 for 2019/20. Industry co-operative funding accounts for 16.5% of the budget at $871,500. Membership provides 11.5% of funding or $607,000, TEQ provides 7.5% or $400,000 to fund our business events bureau and Cairns Airport gives $130,000 or 2.5% of our funding. More than half of TTNQ's members are in the Cairns region with 66% ($397,675) of member revenue coming from Cairns, 7% ($39,150) from the Northern Beaches and 3% ($17,250) from Palm Cove. Port Douglas and Daintree members contribute 17% ($101,425), the Tablelands contributes 3% ($16,300) with an additional $1,400 from Kuranda, the Cassowary Coast 2% ($14,900), Cooktown, Cape York and the Torres Strait 1% ($7,450), and the Outback 1% ($6,900).

Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan

The Queensland energy system is transforming, with more renewable energy powering homes and businesses than ever before. Over the last decade, Queensland has built a thriving renewable energy sector. In 2015, there was around 7% renewable energy. Since then, the amount of renewable energy produced in our state has tripled, with 1 in 3 households now generating electricity on their rooftop. More than 21% of Queensland's electricity needs are now met with cleaner energy. This has built a multibillion-dollar renewable industry that powers more jobs across our state.

The **Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan** outlines how Queensland's energy system will transform to deliver clean, reliable and affordable energy to provide power for generations.

This plan is for every Queenslander, our economy, as well as our industries, households, businesses, workers, and communities. It sets out actions that will:

- provide confidence to investors and capital markets
- deliver clean, reliable and affordable energy to households and businesses
- give certainty and deliver better outcomes to our workers and communities
- unlock opportunities for industry and more investment.

4.0 Community consultation

To ensure this strategy accurately reflects the needs and priorities of the region, consultation was undertaken to explore the current economic climate, future priorities and key issues. To engage a broad cross-section of stakeholders from the community and to ensure their views are considered in development of the strategy, the consultations included:

- workshops in Etheridge on x with x attendees
- business surveys with x responses
- one on one consultations were required for all engagement with business survey respondents

As a result of consultation and research, below is a considered list of strengths, challenges and opportunities.

4.1 Strengths / Challenges / Opportunities

Strengths	
	-
	-
	-
	-

Challenges	
	-
	-
	-
	-

Opportunities	
	-
	-
	-
	-

4.2 Business survey

In xxxxxx, council undertook a short survey of businesses in Etheridge Shire. The purpose of the survey was to seek information about the level of trade and challenges businesses faced. Attachment X provides an overview of the survey results.

While there were x responses received, these included government departments and not for profit organisations. Summary results included:

- X
- X
- X
- X
-

4.3 Engagement with Traditional Owner groups

Engagement Tagalaka people - **https://www.tagalaka.com/who-we-are**

- Patrick Wheeler – local aboriginal tourism operator

5.0 Statistical analysis

A range of data sources were accessed to provide an understanding of the characteristics of the Etheridge shire economy. This data forms an evidence base for the key actions of the Economic Development Strategy.

5.1 Regional Australia Institute InSight

The Regional Australia Institute Ltd (RAI) is a public company limited by guarantee and is an approved research institute. The RAI has developed a data analysis tool called **InSight**, an online interactive map of regional competitiveness. The 10 themes and 71 indicators used focus on the economic drivers that determine longer-term competitiveness. InSight assesses all the main areas in which governments influence a region's economic outcomes. More detail regarding methodology is available in the **User Guide**.

Measure			Rank
Technological readiness - *Access and utilisation of new technologies*			10
Indicators	**Value**	**Nat. rank**	
Internet connections	47.70	10	
Employment in technology-related industries	3.40%	7	
Employment in ICT and electronics	0.00%	8	
Mobile Coverage	0%	10	
Mobile internet	1	10	
Broadband coverage	2.22	10	
Infrastructure and Essential Services - *Access to infrastructure, transport and services*			10
Indicators	**Value**	**Nat. rank**	
Access to tertiary education services	2.01%	7	
Access to technical or further education services	0.80%	10	
Access to allied health services	2.44%	10	
Access to primary education services	28.9	10	
Access to secondary education services	197.34	10	
Distance to Airport (replaces Aviation infrastructure)	273	10	
Distance to Port (replaces Port infrastructure)	255.1	9	
Distance to a medical facility (replaces Access to hospital)	38.8	9	
Road infrastructure	22.1	9	
Rail infrastructure	32	8	
Business Sophistication - *Capacity of business to respond to competitive pressures*			10
Indicators	**Value**	**Nat. rank**	
Economic diversification	0.11	10	

Measure			Rank
Exporters, importers, wholesalers	0.00%	6	
Income source - own business	($20,111)	10	
Access to local finance	0.00%	9	
Economic Fundamentals - *The general economic climate of a region*			6
Indicators	**Value**	**Nat. rank**	
Wage/labour costs	$40,168	9	
Business turnover	$187,984	1	
Number of hours worked	31.7	1	
Building approvals - residential	$0	10	
Building approvals - non-residential	$0	10	
Value of industrial buildings	$19,658	3	
Value of Commercial buildings	$0	10	
Innovation - *Innovative capacity and outputs through R&D and business dynamism*			5
Indicators	**Value**	**Nat. rank**	
Research and Development – Science		7	
Science and Engineering qualified	7.40%	7	
Research and development managers	0	5	
Registered research service providers	0	2	
Patent applications	3.3	4	
Business Dynamo		4	
Business entries	7.00%	7	
Owner-Managers	26.30%	2	
Trademark applications	9.1	5	
Knowledge-intensive business services	3	5	
Human Capital - *The capabilities and skills of workforce of a region*			9
Indicators	**Value**	**Nat. rank**	
University qualification	4.60%	10	
Technical qualification	19.60%	8	
High school completion	27.60%	10	
Early childhood development	0.00%	0	

Measure			Rank
Primary School Literacy and Numeracy	449	4	
Secondary School literacy and numeracy	0	0	
Learning or Earning	0.00%	0	
Workforce Skill	0.5	5	
Adult Learning	0.70%	10	
Natural Resources - *Availability and use of natural resources*			3
Indicators	**Value**	**Nat. rank**	
Agriculture	39.3%	1	
Mineral and energy resources	2.65%	2	
Timber resources	0.00%	3	
Commercial fishing and aquaculture	0.00%	6	
Coastal access	242.2	9	
National park	84.5	9	
Labour Market Efficiency - *Use of the potential regional workforce by the economy*			4
Indicators	**Value**	**Nat. rank**	
Unemployment rate	6.10%	7	
Youth unemployment	0.00%	0	
Participation rate	64.30%	5	
Skilled labour	40.20%	3	
Welfare dependence	20.40%	3	
Long Term Unemployment	3.80%	5	
Demography - *The characteristics of the local population*			9
Indicators	**Value**	**Nat. rank**	
Population size	819	10	
Population growth rate	-1.09%	8	
Population density	0	10	
Population turnover	39.90%	6	
Senior dependency ratio	31.80%	7	
Young dependency ratio	29.80%	5	
Institutional Foundations - *Administrative support for regional development*			1

Measure			Rank
Indicators	**Value**	**Nat. rank**	
Presence of Major Organisations	16	2	
Local Economic Development Support	0.4	8	
Local Government Discretionary Expenditure	$2,129	1	
Volunteer Activity	27.50%	3	
Community Skills Base	7.40%	10	
Leadership Capacity	40.10%	3	
Public Service Workforce	5.90%	1	

Source: Regional Australia Institute, *[In]Sight for competitive regions: Economic fundamentals*, Regional Australia Institute, Canberra.

5.2 Demographic and employment profile

5.2.1 Population

The estimated resident population (ERP) figure is the official population estimate. For sub-state geographies, ERP figures are updated annually using a model which includes administrative data that indicate population change, such as registered births and deaths, dwelling approvals, Medicare enrolments and electoral enrolments. Data are updated annually with a release approximately nine months after the reporting period. The next planned update is in April 2023. Etheridge Shire has had an average annual negative growth rate of 2% over five years.

LGA / State	As at 30 June (number)			Average annual growth rate (percentage)	
	2011	**2016**	**2021pr**	**2011-2021pr**	**2016-2021pr**
Etheridge	929	807	724	-2.45	-2.01
Queensland	4,476,778	4,845,152	5,217,653	1.5	1.5

Source: ABS, Regional population, various editions

Estimated Resident Population (ERP)

export reset

Year (ending June 30)	Number	Change in number	Change in percent	FNQROC region change in percent
2006	869	–	–	–
2007	902	+33	+3.80	+2.45
2008	915	+13	+1.44	+2.74
2009	927	+12	+1.31	+2.30
2010	923	-4	-0.43	+1.45
2011	929	+6	+0.65	+1.07
2012	897	-32	-3.44	+1.43
2013	864	-33	-3.68	+1.34
2014	840	-24	-2.78	+0.78
2015	818	-22	-2.62	+0.65
2016	807	-11	-1.34	+0.83
2017	792	-15	-1.86	+1.16
2018	773	-19	-2.40	+0.09
2019	747	-26	-3.36	+0.73
2020	732	-15	-2.01	+0.88
2021	724	-8	-1.09	+0.19

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Regional Population Growth, Australia (3218.0). Compiled and presented in profile.id by .id (informed decisions).

5.2.2 Population projections

The 2018 edition of the Queensland Government population projections are generated by applying assumptions regarding future trends in the components of population change (fertility, mortality and migration) and the latest planning and development intelligence available. Data presented in this topic are based on the medium series.

LGA / State	As at 30 June (number)						Average annual growth rate (percentage)
	2016(a)	2021	2026	2031	2036	2041	2016-2041
Etheridge	819	763	741	725	708	691	
Queensland	4,848,877	5,261,567	5,722,780	6,206,566	6,686,604	7,161,661	1.6

Source: Queensland Government Population Projections, 2018 edition (medium series)

5.2.3 Population by age

The ERP figure is the official population estimate. For sub-state geographies, ERP figures are updated annually using a model which includes administrative data that indicate population change, such as registered births and deaths, dwelling approvals, Medicare enrolments and electoral enrolments. Data are usually updated annually with a release approximately 12 months after the reporting period, however in August 2022, the ABS will release historical estimates rebased to 2021 Census.

LGA / State	Age Group									
	0-14		15-24		25-44		45-64		65+	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%

Etheridge	127	17.5	65	9	178	24.6	179	24.7	175	24.2
Queensland	989,461	19.0	651,113	12.5	1,416,854	27.2	1,295,777	24.8	864,448	16.6

Source: ABS, Regional population by age and sex, 2021

5.2.4 Median age

The median age is the age at which half the population is older and half is younger. These median age estimates have been calculated by the ABS and Queensland Treasury using single year of age estimated resident population data. Data are updated annually with a release approximately 12 months after the reporting period. The next planned update is in September 2023.

LGA / State	As at 30 June (years)			Change (years)
	2011	2016	2021pr	2012-2021pr
Etheridge	43.5	45	43.8	.3
Queensland	36.6	37.0	38.4	1.8

Source: ABS 3235.0, Population by Age and Sex, Regions of Australia unpublished data and Queensland Treasury estimates

5.2.5 Aboriginal peoples and / or Torres Strait Islander peoples

Based on the 2021 Census of Population and Housing question about Indigenous status where each person is asked to identify whether they are of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander origin. This is based on persons by place of usual residence.

LGA / State	Indigenous persons					Non-Indigenous persons		Total persons (b)
	Aboriginal	Torres Strait Islander	Both (a)	Total Number	%	Number	%	Number
Etheridge	42	3	4	46	6.4	585	81.9	714
Queensland	193,408	21,772	22,122	237,303	4.6	4,635,042	89.9	5,156,138

(a) Applicable to persons who are of ‘both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin’.
(b) Includes Indigenous status not stated.
Source: ABS, Census of Population and Housing 2021, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples Profile – I02

5.2.6 Homeless persons

Homelessness is a lack of one or more elements that represent ‘home’. When a person does not have suitable accommodation alternatives, the ABS defines someone as homeless if their current living arrangement:

- is a dwelling that is inadequate,
- has no tenure, or if their initial tenure is short and not extendable, or
- does not allow them to have control of, and access to, space for social relations.

These counts are based on place of enumeration

LGA / State	Homeless persons		Total persons
	Number	Rate (a)	Number
Etheridge	24	195	1,231
Queensland	21,715	45.6	4,760,598

(a) Rate per 10,000 persons
Source: ABS, Census of Population and Housing, 2016, Place of Enumeration Profile – G03 and ABS 2049.0, Census of Population and Housing homelessness, 2016

5.2.7 Internet access

Internet access has been derived from the 2016 Census of Population and Housing question 'Does any member of this household access the internet from this dwelling?'. This is based on occupied private dwellings by place of enumeration.

LGA / State	Internet accessed from dwelling		Internet not accessed from dwelling		Total dwellings (c)
	Number	%	Number	%	Number
Etheridge	290	47.4	131	21.4	612
Queensland	1,387,499	83.7	224,855	13.6	1,656,831

(a) Records whether any member of the household accesses the internet from the dwelling. This includes accessing the internet through a desktop / laptop computer, mobile or smart phone, tablet, music or video player, gaming console, smart TV or any other devices. It also includes accessing through any type of connection e.g. ADSL, fibre, cable, wireless, satellite and mobile broadband (3G/4G).
(b) Excludes 'visitors only' and 'other non-classifiable' households.
(c) Includes internet access not stated.

Source: ABS, Census of Population and Housing, 2016, General Community Profile – G37

5.2.8 Highest level of schooling

Highest year of school completed has been derived from the 2021 Census of Population and Housing question 'What is the highest year of primary or secondary school the person has completed?'. This information is based on persons aged 15 years and over by place of usual residence.

LGA / State	Did not go to school, or Year 8 or below		Year 9 or 10 or equivalent		Year 11 or 12 or equivalent		Total
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number
Etheridge	52	8.8	212	35.7	243	40.9	594
Queensland	178,101	4.4	989,350	24.6	2,554,330	63.6	4,017,211

Source: ABS, Census of Population and Housing, 2021, General Community Profile - G16

5.2.9 Non-school qualification

Non-school qualification information describes the highest non-school qualification (e.g. bachelor's degree, diploma) completed as stated in the 2021 Census of Population and Housing. This information is based on persons aged 15 years and over by place of usual residence.

LGA / State	Bachelor degree or higher (b)		Advanced diploma or diploma		Certificate (c)		Persons with a qualification (d)		Total persons
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	
Etheridge	45	7.5	41	6.8	130	21.7	315	52.5	600
Queensland	918,468	21.9	395,615	9.4	927,894	22.1	2,618,666	62.5	4,191,812

(a) Includes persons aged 15 years and over with a qualification within the scope of the Australian Standard Classification of Education. (b) Includes bachelor degree, graduate diploma, graduate certificate and postgraduate degree. (c) Includes Certificate, I, II, III and IV and Certificates not further defined responses. (d) Includes inadequately described and not stated level of education responses. Source: ABS, Census of Population and Housing, 2021, General Community Profile - G43 and G49

5.2.10 Employment

Etheridge is eligible for the Community Development Program (CDP) which is the Australian Government's remote employment and community development service. CDP supports job seekers in remote Australia to build skills, address barriers and contribute to their communities through a range of flexible activities. It is designed around the unique social and labour market conditions in remote Australia and is part of the Australian Government's agenda for increasing employment and breaking the cycle of welfare dependency. CDP offers a broad range of flexible activities to increase participants' skills and contribute to their community.

In Etheridge Shire, CDP is delivered by TRACQS. TRACQS was developed in 2019 to become a leading Community Development Program (CDP) provider and to deliver quality pre and post-employment and training services to both Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians across the Western Tablelands of Far North Queensland.

The Department of Social Services (DSS) is the Australian Government's lead agency in the development and delivery of social policy, and is working to improve the lifetime wellbeing of people and families in Australia. The data are sourced from the DSS Payment Demographic dataset and are updated quarterly. The next planned update is in March 2023

Table 19 Department of Social Services payments[(a)], Etheridge (S) LGA and Queensland, September quarter 2022

LGA / State	Payment type									
	Age pension		Carer allowance		Disability support pension		Family tax benefit A		Jobseeker	
	recipients	rate[(b)]	recipients	rate[(c)]	recipients	rate[(c)]	recipients	rate[(d)]	recipients	rate[(e)]
Etheridge (S)	91	52.0	12	2.0	22	3.7	55	108.3	19	4.9
Queensland	515,673	59.7	130,532	3.1	165,713	4.0	314,482	59.4	172,990	5.9

Refer to the explanatory notes for additional information.

(a) Payments by geographical region are based on the recipient's geocoded address.
(b) Rate per 100 persons aged 65 years and over, as at 30 June 2021. Person counts are based on estimated resident population (ERP).
(c) Rate per 100 persons aged 16 years and over, as at 30 June 2021. Person counts are based on ERP.
(d) Rate per 100 families with children under 15 years, as at 30 June 2021. Counts of families with children under 15 years are derived by Queensland Treasury using 2021 Census counts of families with children under 15 years and usual resident persons, along with ERP aged 15 to 64 years.
(e) Rate per 100 persons aged 22 to 64 years, as at 30 June 2021. Person counts are based on ERP.

Source: ABS, *Census of Population and Housing, 2021, General Community Profile - G05*; ABS, *Census of Population and Housing, 2021, General Community Profile - G29*; ABS, *Regional population by age and sex, 2021*; Department of Social Services, Payment Demographic Data

Shift-share analysis

In the Etheridge Shire, the strongest regional competitive effect between 2015/16 and 2020/21 was experienced in Agriculture.

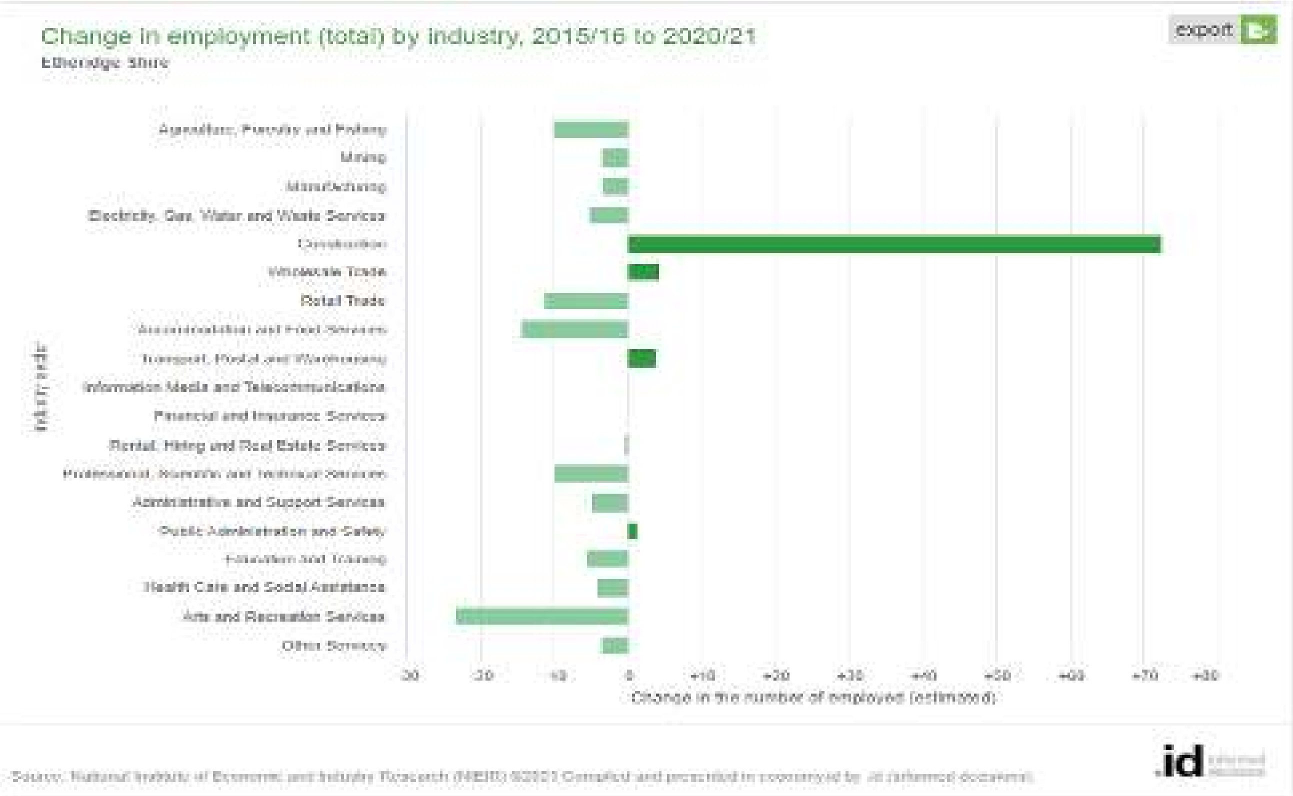
Employment (total) by industry

reset export

Etheridge Shire	2020/21			2015/16			Change
Industry	Number	%	Etheridge Shire	Number	%	Etheridge Shire	2015/16 - 2020/21
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	173	40.4	40.4	183	41.2	41.2	-10
Mining	12	2.8	2.8	15	3.5	3.5	-3
Manufacturing	0	0	0	3	0.7	0.7	-3
Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services	0	0	0	5	1.1	1.1	-5
Construction	97	22.7	22.7	25	5.5	5.5	+73
Wholesale Trade	5	1.2	1.2	1	0.2	0.2	+4
Retail Trade	13	3.0	3.0	24	5.4	5.4	-11
Accommodation and Food Services	25	5.9	5.9	40	9.0	9.0	-14
Transport, Postal and Warehousing	12	2.8	2.8	8	1.8	1.8	+4
Information Media and Telecommunications	0	0	0	0	0	0	--
Financial and Insurance Services	0	0	0	0	0	0	--
Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services	0	0	0	0	0.1	0.1	+0
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	2	0.4	0.4	11	2.6	2.6	-10
Administrative and Support Services	1	0.2	0.2	5	1.2	1.2	-5
Public Administration and Safety	64	15.0	15.0	63	14.2	14.2	+1
Education and Training	15	3.4	3.4	20	4.5	4.5	-5
Health Care and Social Assistance	6	1.5	1.5	10	2.3	2.3	-4
Arts and Recreation Services	0	0	0	23	5.2	5.2	-23
Other Services	3	0.7	0.7	6	1.4	1.4	-3
Total industries	427	100.0	100.0	444	100.0	100.0	-17

Source: National Institute of Economic and Industry Research (NIEIR) ©2021. Compiled and presented in economy.id by .id (informed decisions). NIEIR-ID data are adjusted each year, using updated employment estimates. Each release may change previous years' figures. Learn more
Please refer to specific data notes for more information.

Source: .economy.id.com.au/fnqroc/employment-by-industry



Source: . economy.id.com.au/fnqroc/employment-by-industry

Employment by industry

Employment by industry has been derived from the 2021 Census of Population and Housing data. A person's industry of employment was classified based on responses to a range of questions from the Census and is applicable to persons aged 15 years and over who work. This is based on place of usual residence.

The top five industry subdivisions of employment for Etheridge were:

1. Agriculture (44.5%)
2. Public Administration (14.4%)
3. Accommodation (7.4%)
4. Preschool and School Education (6.2%)
5. Construction (4.2%)

Industry	Etheridge (S) LGA		Queensland		Specialisation ratio
	Number	%	Number	%	Number
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	157	44.5	62,444	2.6	17.41
Mining	0	0.0	55,486	2.3	0.00
Manufacturing	0	0.0	140,285	5.7	0.00
Electricity, gas, water and waste services	9	2.5	28,814	1.2	2.16
Construction	15	4.2	222,234	9.1	0.47
Wholesale trade	0	0.0	57,743	2.4	0.00
Retail trade	6	1.7	226,468	9.3	0.18
Accommodation and food services	26	7.4	175,850	7.2	1.02
Transport, postal and warehousing	9	2.5	115,870	4.7	0.54
Information media and telecommunications	0	0.0	23,379	1.0	0.00
Financial and insurance services	0	0.0	62,436	2.6	0.00
Rental, hiring and real estate services	0	0.0	42,931	1.8	0.00
Professional, scientific and technical services	3	0.8	164,129	6.7	0.13
Administrative and support services	9	2.5	81,926	3.4	0.76
Public administration and safety	51	14.4	150,358	6.2	2.35
Education and training	22	6.2	216,015	8.8	0.71

Health care and social assistance	4	1.1	375,511	15.4	0.07
Arts and recreation services	0	0.0	37,550	1.5	0.00
Other services	5	1.4	95,768	3.9	0.36
Total(a)	**353**	**100.0**	**2,444,090**	**100.00**	**1.00**

(a) Includes inadequately described and not stated responses.
(b) Source: ABS, Census of Population and Housing, 2021, General Community Profile – G54 and unpublished data

Employment by occupation

Employment by occupation has been derived from the 2021 Census of Population and Housing data. A person's occupation of employment was classified based on responses to a range of questions from the Census and is applicable to persons aged 15 years and over who work. This is based on place of usual residence and has been captured in below table.

The top five occupation sub-major groups of employment for Etheridge were:

1. Farmers and Farm Managers (28.0%)
2. Farm, Forestry and Garden Workers (12.7%)
3. Cleaners and Laundry Workers (4.8%)
4. Carers and Aides (4.5%)
5. Education Professionals (4.0%)

Occupation	Etheridge (S) LGA		Queensland		Specialisation ratio
	Number	%	Number	%	Number
Managers	126	35.7	305,755	12.5	2.85
Professionals	33	9.3	523,395	21.4	0.44
Technicians and trades workers	35	9.9	333,915	13.7	0.73
Community and personal service workers	21	5.9	301,039	12.3	0.48
Clerical and administrative workers	21	5.9	309.376	12.7	0.47
Sales workers	7	2.0	211,439	8.7	0.23
Machinery operators and drivers	31	8.8	166,739	6.8	1.29
Labourers	75	21.2	246,394	10.1	2.11
Total(a)	**353**	**100.0**	**2,444,090**	**100.0**	**1.00**

(a) Includes inadequately described and not stated responses.

Source: ABS, Census of Population and Housing, 2021, General Community Profile – G60 and unpublished data

Workforce breakdown

This report shows the number of employed people who reside and work within Etheridge Shire.

Industry Sector	Work and live in Etheridge (S) (2021 Release 3)	
	Jobs	%
Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing	140	52.2%
Public Administration & Safety	57	21.3%
Construction	19	7.1%
Education & Training	19	7.1%
Administrative & Support Services	12	4.5%
Accommodation & Food Services	7	2.6%
Retail Trade	6	2.2%
Professional, Scientific & Technical Services	4	1.5%
Electricity, Gas, Water & Waste Services	3	1.1%
Health Care & Social Assistance	1	0.4%
Mining	0	0.0%
Manufacturing	0	0.0%
Wholesale Trade	0	0.0%
Transport, Postal & Warehousing	0	0.0%
Information Media & Telecommunications	0	0.0%
Financial & Insurance Services	0	0.0%
Rental, Hiring & Real Estate Services	0	0.0%
Arts & Recreation Services	0	0.0%
Other Services	0	0.0%
Total	268	100.0%

This report shows the number of employed people who work in Etheridge Shire and reside elsewhere.

Industry Sector	Work in Etheridge (S) (2021 Release 3), live elsewhere	
	Jobs	%
Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing	69	32.1%
Accommodation & Food Services	63	29.3%
Construction	22	10.2%
Public Administration & Safety	15	7.0%
Mining	11	5.1%
Transport, Postal & Warehousing	9	4.2%
Administrative & Support Services	9	4.2%
Other Services	7	3.3%
Electricity, Gas, Water & Waste Services	4	1.9%
Education & Training	4	1.9%
Health Care & Social Assistance	2	0.9%
Manufacturing	0	0.0%
Wholesale Trade	0	0.0%
Retail Trade	0	0.0%
Information Media & Telecommunications	0	0.0%
Financial & Insurance Services	0	0.0%
Rental, Hiring & Real Estate Services	0	0.0%
Professional, Scientific & Technical Services	0	0.0%
Arts & Recreation Services	0	0.0%
Total	215	100.0%

Of those who work in Etheridge, and live elsewhere:

17.7% 38 jobs Croydon	13.0% 28 jobs Tablelands	6.5% 14 jobs Brisbane	5.6% 12 jobs Cairns	4.7% 10 jobs Moreton Bay	3.7% 8 jobs Gold Coast

Source: REMPLAN 2021 Release 3

Unemployment

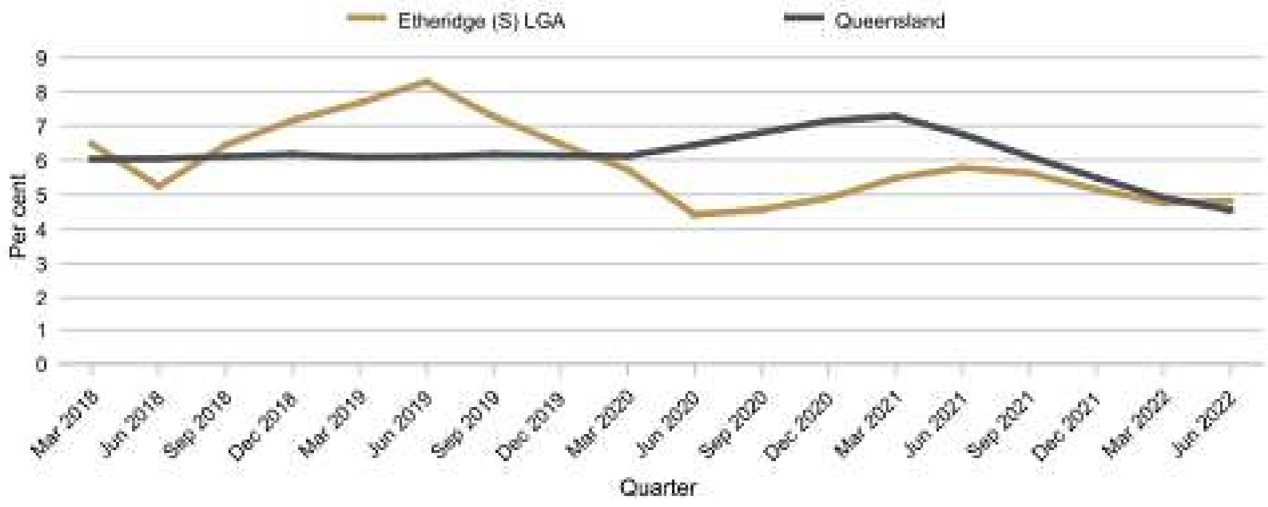
Estimates of unemployment and labour force are produced by the Australian Government National Skills Commission. The estimates are calculated by utilising administrative data such as Centrelink Newstart and Youth Allowance (Other) recipients as well as ABS labour force estimates. Data are updated quarterly with a release approximately 3 months after the reporting period. The next planned update is in February 2023.

LGA / State	Unemployed	Labour Force	Unemployment rate
	Number		%
Etheridge	19	395	4.8
Queensland	128,979	2,833,277	4.6

(a) Based on a 4-quarter smoothed series.

(a) The quintiles are population based and derived at the Queensland level (state-based quintiles and not national based quintiles).

Source: ABS 2033.0.55.001 Census of Population and Housing: Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA), Australia, 2016, (Queensland Treasury derived)



(a) Based on a 4-quarter smoothed series.

Source: Jobs and Skills Australia, *Small Area Labour Markets Australia*, various editions

Apprentices / Trainees

As at 28 October 2022, Etheridge Shire has 12 Apprentices and 2 Trainees in training (2022-23 reporting period). The top 2 courses by participating students are:

- Certificate III in Light Vehicle Mechanical Technology
- Certificate III in Business
- Diploma of Early Childhood Education and Care
- Certificate III in Electrotechnology Electrician
- Certificate III in ESI – Distribution Overhead.

Source: Department of Employment, Small Business and Training

Index of relative Socio-Economic disadvantage

According to the Queensland Government Statistician's Office Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) is a summary measure of the social and economic conditions of geographic areas across Australia. SEIFA, which comprises a number of indexes, is generated by ABS from the Census of Population and Housing. In 2016 an index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage was produces, ranking geographical areas in terms of their relative socio-economic disadvantage. The index focuses on low-income earners, relative lower education attainment, high unemployment and dwellings without motor vehicles. Low index values represent areas of most disadvantage and high values represent areas of least disadvantage. This is based on persons by place of usual residence.

LGA / State	Quintile 1 (most disadvantaged)	Quintile 2	Quintile 3	Quintile 4	Quintile 5 (least disadvantaged)
			%		
Etheridge	33.7	66.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
Queensland	20.0	20.0	20.0	20.0	20.0

(a) The quintiles are population based and derived at the Queensland level (state-based quintiles and not national based quintiles). Source: ABS 2033.0.55.001 Census of Population and Housing: Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA), Australia, 2016, (Queensland Treasury derived)

6.0 Economic analysis

6.1 Key propulsive sectors

The industry sectors which are the key drivers of the Etheridge (S) Region's economy in terms of regional exports, employment, value-added and local expenditure on goods and services (backward linkages) are detailed below.

Industry Sectors	Backward Linkages	Exports	Employment	Value-Added	Total
Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing	☑	☑	☑	☑	4
Mining	☑	☑			2
Manufacturing					0
Electricity, Gas, Water & Waste Services	☑				1
Construction	☑	☑	☑	☑	4
Wholesale Trade					0
Retail Trade					0
Accommodation & Food Services		☑	☑	☑	3
Transport, Postal & Warehousing	☑				1
Information Media & Telecommunications					0
Financial & Insurance Services					0
Rental, Hiring & Real Estate Services				☑	1
Professional, Scientific & Technical Services					0
Administrative & Support Services					0
Public Administration & Safety		☑	☑	☑	3
Education & Training			☑		1
Health Care & Social Assistance					0
Arts & Recreation Services					0
Other Services					0

The industry sectors above which correspond to a ☑ in the table above are amongst the top 5 (of 19 sectors) contributors to economic activity in the Etheridge (S) Region in relation to backward linkages, exports, employment, and value-added.

Value-Added - represents the marginal economic value that is added by each industry sector in a defined region. Value-Added is calculated by subtracting local expenditure and expenditure on regional imports from the output generated by an industry sector. Value-Added by industry sector is the major element in the calculation of Gross Regional Product.

Employment - the key social outcome of economy development; employment data represents the number of people employed by businesses / organisations in each of the industry sectors in the Etheridge (S) Region.

Regional Exports - represents the value of goods and services exported outside of the Etheridge (S) Region that have been generated by local businesses / organisations. Another way of defining exports is as an inflow of money into the region, i.e. Motels have an inflow of money from people who live outside the region's boundaries thus they are earning export equivalent dollars.

Backward Linkages - details the industry sectors which spend the most on locally sourced intermediate goods and services per dollar of output. These industry sectors may not necessarily make the largest contributions to the Region's economy at present however due to well-developed local supply chains these sectors have a significant capacity to deliver broad based economic benefits for the region.

Across these measures of economic activity, the key propulsive drivers of the Etheridge (S) Region's economy, in **descending order from most significant**, are:

Industry Sectors	Total
Construction	4
Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing	4
Public Administration & Safety	3
Accommodation & Food Services	3
Mining	2
Electricity, Gas, Water & Waste Services	1
Transport, Postal & Warehousing	1
Rental, Hiring & Real Estate Services	1
Education & Training	1
Arts & Recreation Services	0
Financial & Insurance Services	0
Manufacturing	0
Retail Trade	0
Health Care & Social Assistance	0
Wholesale Trade	0
Administrative & Support Services	0
Professional, Scientific & Technical Services	0
Other Services	0
Information Media & Telecommunications	0

Source: REMPLAN 2021 Release 3

The major key propulsive sectors in the Etheridge (S) Region have been identified as:

- Construction
- Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing

6.2 Value-added - productivity

This report presents value-added by industry sector, per worker, in Etheridge (S).

Value-Added data represents the marginal economic value that is added by each of the industry sectors in a defined region. Value-Added can be calculated by subtracting local expenditure and expenditure on regional imports from the output generated by an industry sector, or alternatively, by adding the wages and salaries paid to local employees, the gross operating surplus and taxes on products and production. Value-Added by industry sector is the major element in the calculation of Gross Regional Product / Gross State Product / Gross Domestic Product. Economic productivity measures output relative to labour, capital or any other resource. It is typically calculated for the economy in its entirety, as ratios of value-added to employment and to hours worked. Labour productivity may be further broken down by sector to examine trends in labour growth, wage levels, education and experience of the workforce, supply chain logistics and technological improvement.

Industries and regions' productivity is a key factor in attracting investment and creating jobs.

Average productivity in Etheridge (S) in terms of value-added per worker is estimated at $0.116 million. Value-Added per worker by local industry sector is detailed below.

	Etheridge (S) (2021 Release 3)
Industry Sector	**$M / worker**
Electricity, Gas, Water & Waste Services	$0.409
Mining	$0.280
Construction	$0.183
Public Administration & Safety	$0.137
Professional, Scientific & Technical Services	$0.115
Administrative & Support Services	$0.106
Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing	$0.106
Transport, Postal & Warehousing	$0.098
Education & Training	$0.077
Health Care & Social Assistance	$0.074
Retail Trade	$0.062
Accommodation & Food Services	$0.058
Other Services	$0.056
Manufacturing	$0.000
Wholesale Trade	$0.000
Information Media & Telecommunications	$0.000
Financial & Insurance Services	$0.000
Rental, Hiring & Real Estate Services	$0.000
Arts & Recreation Services	$0.000

Source: REMPLAN 2021 Release 3

6.3 Gross regional product

GRP Expenditure Report

GRP Expenditure Method	$M
Household Consumption	$29.984
Government Consumption	$14.302
Private Gross Fixed Capital Expenditure	$11.784
Public Gross Fixed Capital Expenditure	$3.537
Gross Regional Expenses	**$59.606**
plus Regional Exports	$106.653
minus Domestic Imports	-$95.589
minus Overseas Imports	-$5.877
Gross Regional Product	**$64.793**
Population	714
Per Capita GRP	$0.091
Per Worker GRP	$0.134

The Gross Regional Product for Etheridge (S) was calculated using the Expenditure method.

GRP is the total value of final goods and services produced in the region over the period of one year. As can be seen from the table, this includes exports but subtracts imports.

GRP can be measured by adding up all forms of final expenditure

- consumption by households
- consumption by governments
- additions or increases to assets (minus disposals)
- exports (minus imports)

This calculation does not include intermediate expenditure as this would lead to double counting (the wheat and flour in a loaf of bread)

Source: REMPLAN 2021 Release 3

GRP Income Report

GRP Income Method	$M
Wages & Salaries	$25.935
Gross Operating Surplus	$33.259
Net Taxes - Products & Services	$4.450
Net Taxes - Production	$1.149
Gross Regional Product	**$64.793**
Population	714
Per Capita GRP	$0.091
Per Worker GRP	$0.134

The Gross Regional Product for Etheridge (S) was calculated using the Income method.

GRP can be measured by adding up all incomes

- earned by individuals (wages and salaries)
- earned by firms (gross operating surplus or profits)
- collected by governments (taxes on products or services)

6.4 What resources are worth to the Etheridge Shire

As there was no specific data for Etheridge Shire – data was used from Far North Queensland region, the North West region and the Federal electorate of Kennedy.

Source: Queensland Resources Council, Economic Contribution Data, 2020-21


What are resources worth to the
NORTH WEST REGION?
QUEENSLAND resources COUNCIL
2020-21
FINANCIAL YEAR
TOTAL ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTION*
$2 BILLION
Gross Regional PRODUCT
40% of North West's TOTAL GRP
11,618
LOCAL JOBS SUPPORTED
BY QLD'S RESOURCES SECTOR
72% of North West's TOTAL EMPLOYMENT
DIRECT SPENDING
$420 MILLION in WAGES
5,455 JOBS
$711 MILLION spent across
628 Local BUSINESSES
84 Charities & SPORTS CLUBS
$2.5 BILLION in ROYALTIES
shared across Queensland to help fund:
EDUCATION
ROADS
HEALTH
LAW & ORDER
Using only 0.1% of Queensland
*Annual industry expenditure is collated and the flow-on benefits to the Queensland community are then modelled by an independent expert.
© Queensland Resources Council 2021

Source: Queensland Resources Council, Economic Contribution Data, 2021-22

Note: Data queried with Queensland Resources Council. Same members have responded for 2021-22 and 2020-21 reporting periods. Data indicates companies are spending significantly less in their operations, with a smaller drop in employment/salaries. Once the supply chain and consumption induced jobs are modelled on that—the drop is quite large. That's consistent with the broader trend across metals more generally this year. QRC suspect it might be a by-product of tight labour markets and COVID, with a few metals' members reporting it was difficult to attract workers.

6.5 Local sales

This report shows the value of goods and services produced in Etheridge (S) which are sold to local industry sectors as input into production and for value-adding.

Local Sales data represents the value of goods and services produced in the region which are sold to local industry sectors as intermediate inputs into production and for further value-adding. The total value of local sales for an industry sector relative to exports provides insights into the degree to which the industry is dependent on local demand versus demand from outside of the region.

The total local sales estimate for Etheridge (S) is $21.066 million.

All industry sectors in Etheridge (S) ranked by Local Sales

	Etheridge (S) (2021 Release 3)	
Industry Sector	$M	%
Construction	$5.313	25.2%
Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing	$5.271	25.0%
Electricity, Gas, Water & Waste Services	$4.094	19.4%
Administrative & Support Services	$2.020	9.6%
Transport, Postal & Warehousing	$1.316	6.2%
Public Administration & Safety	$0.899	4.3%
Professional, Scientific & Technical Services	$0.817	3.9%
Accommodation & Food Services	$0.513	2.4%
Other Services	$0.388	1.8%
Mining	$0.281	1.3%
Retail Trade	$0.124	0.6%
Education & Training	$0.017	0.1%
Health Care & Social Assistance	$0.015	0.1%
Manufacturing	$0.000	0.0%
Wholesale Trade	$0.000	0.0%
Information Media & Telecommunications	$0.000	0.0%
Financial & Insurance Services	$0.000	0.0%
Rental, Hiring & Real Estate Services	$0.000	0.0%
Arts & Recreation Services	$0.000	0.0%
Total	$21.066	100.0%

Source: REMPLAN 2021 Release 3

6.6 Local expenditure

This report shows the value of intermediate goods and services purchased by industry sectors within Etheridge (S).

Local Expenditure data represents the value of intermediate goods and services purchased by local industry sectors within the region. A high level of local expenditure on intermediate goods and services proportionate to total output is indicative of well-developed local supply chains and that any expansion in this sector would typically deliver broad based benefits for the region's economy.

The total local expenditure estimate for Etheridge (S) is $ 21.066 million.

All industry sectors in Etheridge (S) ranked by Local Expenditure

	Etheridge (S) (2021 Release 3)	
Industry Sector	**$M**	**%**
Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing	$9.130	43.3%
Construction	$3.493	16.6%
Electricity, Gas, Water & Waste Services	$2.984	14.2%
Public Administration & Safety	$2.065	9.8%
Mining	$1.304	6.2%
Accommodation & Food Services	$0.895	4.2%
Transport, Postal & Warehousing	$0.367	1.7%
Administrative & Support Services	$0.264	1.3%
Rental, Hiring & Real Estate Services	$0.258	1.2%
Education & Training	$0.112	0.5%
Professional, Scientific & Technical Services	$0.082	0.4%
Other Services	$0.049	0.2%
Retail Trade	$0.043	0.2%
Health Care & Social Assistance	$0.021	0.1%
Manufacturing	$0.000	0.0%
Wholesale Trade	$0.000	0.0%
Information Media & Telecommunications	$0.000	0.0%
Financial & Insurance Services	$0.000	0.0%
Arts & Recreation Services	$0.000	0.0%
Total	$21.066	100.0%

Source: REMPLAN 2021 Release 3

6.7 Regional imports

This report shows the value of intermediate goods and services which are imported into Etheridge (S) by industry sectors.

Regional Imports data represents the value ($) of goods and services imported into the defined region by businesses / organisations in each of the industry sectors. Another way of defining imports is as an outflow of money from the region, i.e. A local business outsourcing accountancy services to a firm in another region which results in an outflow of money thus they are importing services. No distinction is made between domestic and international imports, and no indication is given as to the type of imports.

The total regional import estimate for Etheridge (S) is $ 64,762 million.

All industry sectors in Etheridge (S) ranked by Regional Imports

	Etheridge (S) (2021 Release 3)	
Industry Sector	**$M**	**%**
Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing	$29.110	44.9%
Construction	$9.210	14.2%
Accommodation & Food Services	$6.407	9.9%
Mining	$6.360	9.8%
Public Administration & Safety	$5.085	7.9%
Electricity, Gas, Water & Waste Services	$3.559	5.5%
Administrative & Support Services	$1.226	1.9%
Rental, Hiring & Real Estate Services	$1.202	1.9%
Transport, Postal & Warehousing	$0.860	1.3%
Education & Training	$0.518	0.8%
Other Services	$0.500	0.8%
Professional, Scientific & Technical Services	$0.405	0.6%
Retail Trade	$0.219	0.3%
Health Care & Social Assistance	$0.102	0.2%
Manufacturing	$0.000	0.0%
Wholesale Trade	$0.000	0.0%
Information Media & Telecommunications	$0.000	0.0%
Financial & Insurance Services	$0.000	0.0%
Arts & Recreation Services	$0.000	0.0%
Total	$64.762	100.0%

Source: REMPLAN 2021 Release 3

6.8 Summary table

This table shows the contribution by each industry sector in Etheridge (S) (2021 Release 3) to output, employment, wages and salaries, sales within this region, exports, expenditure within this region, imports, value-adding.

Summary	Output $M	Employment Jobs	Wages and Salaries $M	Local Sales $M	Regional Exports $M	Local Expenditure $M	Regional Imports $M	Value-Added $M
Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing	$60.313 40.9%	209 43.3%	$4.059 15.7%	$5.271 25.0%	$54.952 51.7%	$9.130 43.3%	$29.110 44.9%	$22.074 35.8%
Mining	$10.743 7.3%	11 2.3%	$1.376 5.3%	$0.281 1.3%	$10.267 9.7%	$1.304 6.2%	$6.360 9.8%	$3.079 5.0%
Manufacturing	$0.000 0.0%	0 0.0%	$0.000 0.0%	$0.000 0.0%	$0.000 0.0%	$0.000 0.0%	$0.000 0.0%	$0.000 0.0%
Electricity, Gas, Water & Waste Services	$9.409 6.4%	7 1.4%	$0.846 3.3%	$4.094 19.4%	$4.675 4.4%	$2.984 14.2%	$3.559 5.5%	$2.865 4.6%
Construction	$20.190 13.7%	41 8.5%	$3.904 15.1%	$5.313 25.2%	$9.909 9.3%	$3.493 16.6%	$9.210 14.2%	$7.487 12.1%
Wholesale Trade	$0.000 0.0%	0 0.0%	$0.000 0.0%	$0.000 0.0%	$0.000 0.0%	$0.000 0.0%	$0.000 0.0%	$0.000 0.0%
Retail Trade	$0.632 0.4%	6 1.2%	$0.241 0.9%	$0.124 0.6%	$0.025 0.0%	$0.043 0.2%	$0.219 0.3%	$0.370 0.6%
Accommodation & Food Services	$11.394 7.7%	70 14.5%	$2.564 9.9%	$0.513 2.4%	$9.428 8.9%	$0.895 4.2%	$6.407 9.9%	$4.092 6.6%
Transport, Postal & Warehousing	$2.107 1.4%	9 1.9%	$0.527 2.0%	$1.316 6.2%	$0.397 0.4%	$0.367 1.7%	$0.860 1.3%	$0.880 1.4%
Information Media & Telecommunications	$0.000 0.0%	0 0.0%	$0.000 0.0%	$0.000 0.0%	$0.000 0.0%	$0.000 0.0%	$0.000 0.0%	$0.000 0.0%
Financial & Insurance Services	$0.000 0.0%	0 0.0%	$0.000 0.0%	$0.000 0.0%	$0.000 0.0%	$0.000 0.0%	$0.000 0.0%	$0.000 0.0%
Rental, Hiring & Real Estate Services	$7.390 5.0%	0 0.0%	$0.000 0.0%	$0.000 0.0%	$1.252 1.2%	$0.258 1.2%	$1.202 1.9%	$5.930 9.6%
Professional, Scientific & Technical Services	$0.948 0.6%	4 0.8%	$0.338 1.3%	$0.817 3.9%	$0.034 0.0%	$0.082 0.4%	$0.405 0.6%	$0.461 0.7%
Administrative & Support Services	$3.723 2.5%	21 4.3%	$1.873 7.2%	$2.020 9.6%	$1.533 1.4%	$0.264 1.3%	$1.226 1.9%	$2.234 3.6%
Public Administration & Safety	$17.036 11.5%	72 14.9%	$8.233 31.7%	$0.899 4.3%	$13.023 12.3%	$2.065 9.8%	$5.085 7.9%	$9.887 16.0%
Education & Training	$2.396 1.6%	23 4.8%	$1.530 5.9%	$0.017 0.1%	$0.491 0.5%	$0.112 0.5%	$0.518 0.8%	$1.766 2.9%
Health Care & Social Assistance	$0.346 0.2%	3 0.6%	$0.184 0.7%	$0.015 0.1%	$0.028 0.0%	$0.021 0.1%	$0.102 0.2%	$0.223 0.4%
Arts & Recreation Services	$0.000 0.0%	0 0.0%	$0.000 0.0%	$0.000 0.0%	$0.000 0.0%	$0.000 0.0%	$0.000 0.0%	$0.000 0.0%
Other Services	$0.940 0.6%	7 1.4%	$0.258 1.0%	$0.388 1.8%	$0.194 0.2%	$0.049 0.2%	$0.500 0.8%	$0.391 0.6%

Source: REMPLAN 2021 Release 3

6.9 Tourism

Output report with Tourism sector

This report shows the gross revenue generated by businesses and organisations in Etheridge (S). The estimated output generated by tourism for each industry sector has been deducted and consolidated into a separate tourism sector. The total output estimate for Etheridge (S) is $147,568 million. All industry sectors ranked by output.

All industry sectors in Etheridge (S) ranked by Output

	Etheridge (S) (2021 Release 3)	
Industry Sector	**$M**	**%**
Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing	$60.312	40.9%
Construction	$20.190	13.7%
Tourism	$17.415	11.8%
Public Administration & Safety	$17.036	11.5%
Mining	$10.743	7.3%
Electricity, Gas, Water & Waste Services	$9.409	6.4%
Ownership of Dwellings	$4.903	3.3%
Education & Training	$2.396	1.6%
Transport, Postal & Warehousing	$2.107	1.4%
Professional, Scientific & Technical Services	$0.948	0.6%
Other Services	$0.929	0.6%
Retail Trade	$0.583	0.4%
Health Care & Social Assistance	$0.345	0.2%
Accommodation & Food Services	$0.154	0.1%
Administrative & Support Services	$0.098	0.1%
Manufacturing	$0.000	0.0%
Wholesale Trade	$0.000	0.0%
Information Media & Telecommunications	$0.000	0.0%
Financial & Insurance Services	$0.000	0.0%
Rental, Hiring & Real Estate Services	$0.000	0.0%
Arts & Recreation Services	$0.000	0.0%
Total	$147.568	100.0%

Output attributable to Tourism

This report shows the gross revenue generated by businesses and organisations in Etheridge (S) to service demand generated by tourists to the area. The total value of tourism related output is estimated at $17,415million.

All industry sectors in Etheridge (S) ranked by Tourism related Output

	Etheridge (S) (2021 Release 3)	
Industry Sector	**$M**	**%**
Accommodation & Food Services	$11.240	64.5%
Administrative & Support Services	$3.625	20.8%
Ownership of Dwellings	$2.487	14.3%
Retail Trade	$0.049	0.3%
Other Services	$0.011	0.1%
Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing	$0.002	0.0%
Health Care & Social Assistance	$0.001	0.0%
Mining	$0.000	0.0%
Manufacturing	$0.000	0.0%
Electricity, Gas, Water & Waste Services	$0.000	0.0%
Construction	$0.000	0.0%
Wholesale Trade	$0.000	0.0%
Transport, Postal & Warehousing	$0.000	0.0%
Information Media & Telecommunications	$0.000	0.0%
Financial & Insurance Services	$0.000	0.0%
Rental, Hiring & Real Estate Services	$0.000	0.0%
Professional, Scientific & Technical Services	$0.000	0.0%
Public Administration & Safety	$0.000	0.0%
Education & Training	$0.000	0.0%
Arts & Recreation Services	$0.000	0.0%
Total	$17.415	100.0%

Employment

This report shows the number of employees whose place of work is located within Etheridge (S).

The estimated employment generated by tourism for each industry sector has been deducted and consolidated into a separate tourism sector.

The total employment estimate for Etheridge (S) is 483 jobs.

This report shows the number of jobs in each industry sector in Etheridge (S) which service demand generated by tourists to the area.

The total tourism related employment estimate for Etheridge (S) is 89 jobs.

All industry sectors in Etheridge (S) ranked by Employment

Industry Sector	Etheridge (S) (2021 Release 3) Jobs	%
Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing	209	43.3%
Tourism	89	18.4%
Public Administration & Safety	72	14.9%
Construction	41	8.5%
Education & Training	22	4.6%
Mining	11	2.3%
Transport, Postal & Warehousing	9	1.9%
Electricity, Gas, Water & Waste Services	7	1.4%
Other Services	7	1.4%
Retail Trade	6	1.2%
Professional, Scientific & Technical Services	4	0.8%
Health Care & Social Assistance	3	0.6%
Accommodation & Food Services	1	0.2%
Administrative & Support Services	-1	-0.2%
Manufacturing	0	0.0%
Wholesale Trade	0	0.0%
Information Media & Telecommunications	0	0.0%
Financial & Insurance Services	0	0.0%
Rental, Hiring & Real Estate Services	0	0.0%
Arts & Recreation Services	0	0.0%
Ownership of Dwellings	0	0.0%
Total	483	100.0%

All industry sectors in Etheridge (S) ranked by Tourism Employment

Industry Sector	Etheridge (S) (2021 Release 3) Jobs	%
Accommodation & Food Services	69	77.5%
Administrative & Support Services	20	22.5%
Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing	0	0.0%
Mining	0	0.0%
Manufacturing	0	0.0%
Electricity, Gas, Water & Waste Services	0	0.0%
Construction	0	0.0%
Wholesale Trade	0	0.0%
Retail Trade	0	0.0%
Transport, Postal & Warehousing	0	0.0%
Information Media & Telecommunications	0	0.0%
Financial & Insurance Services	0	0.0%
Rental, Hiring & Real Estate Services	0	0.0%
Professional, Scientific & Technical Services	0	0.0%
Public Administration & Safety	0	0.0%
Education & Training	0	0.0%
Health Care & Social Assistance	0	0.0%
Arts & Recreation Services	0	0.0%
Other Services	0	0.0%
Ownership of Dwellings	0	0.0%
Total	89	100.0%

Source: REMPLAN 2021 Release 3

6.10 Tourism expenditure

Visitor average expenditure profile

Tourism Research Australia (TRA) currently produces a wide range of tourism research information at the national, state/territory and regional level.

Data is gathered from the two primary surveys conducted by TRA – the International Visitor Survey (IVS) and the National Visitor Survey (NVS).

The Regional Tourism Profiles have been developed to assist the tourism industry, tourism researchers, planners and policy makers, and to provide comprehensive tourism activity data for the whole of Australia.

The Regional Tourism Profiles use expenditure estimates from TRA's regional expenditure modelling process for international, domestic overnight and domestic day visitors. All expenditure estimates exclude purchases of capital goods such as motor vehicles.

Visitor Profile

The visitor profile data specific to Etheridge (S) follows:

Visitor Profile	Domestic Day	Domestic Overnight	International
Average stay (nights)	-	3.00	4.00
Average spend per trip ($)	$133	$295	$584
Average spend per night ($)	-	$105	$132

Source

Tourist Expenditure Profile data sourced from

- Tourism & Events Queensland March 2020 Tropical North Queensland Regional Tourism Profile - Domestic Day Visitors. TRA 2019 Etheridge (S) Local Government Area Tourism Profile - Domestic Overnight & International Visitors.

Distribution of Tourist Dollar

"Comprising the activities of persons travelling to and staying in places outside their usual environment for not more than one consecutive year for leisure, business and other purposes not related to the exercise of an activity remunerated from within the place visited."

For each dollar spent by a tourist in Etheridge (S), it is estimated that typically $0.65 is spent on accommodation and food services, $0.21 on administrative and support services and $0.14 on ownership of dwellings.

All industry sectors in Etheridge (S) ranked by portion of $1 spent by tourist

	Etheridge (S) (2021 Release 3)	
Industry Sector	**$**	**%**
Accommodation & Food Services	$0.65	64.5%
Administrative & Support Services	$0.21	20.8%
Ownership of Dwellings	$0.14	14.3%
Retail Trade	$0.00	0.3%
Other Services	$0.00	0.1%
Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing	$0.00	0.0%
Health Care & Social Assistance	$0.00	0.0%
Mining	$0.00	0.0%
Manufacturing	$0.00	0.0%
Electricity, Gas, Water & Waste Services	$0.00	0.0%
Construction	$0.00	0.0%
Wholesale Trade	$0.00	0.0%
Transport, Postal & Warehousing	$0.00	0.0%
Information Media & Telecommunications	$0.00	0.0%
Financial & Insurance Services	$0.00	0.0%
Rental, Hiring & Real Estate Services	$0.00	0.0%
Professional, Scientific & Technical Services	$0.00	0.0%
Public Administration & Safety	$0.00	0.0%
Education & Training	$0.00	0.0%
Arts & Recreation Services	$0.00	0.0%
Total	$1.00	100.0%

Percentage of sector output supported by Tourism

In the Etheridge (S) economy it is estimated that demand for goods and services by visitors supports the following percentages of total industry sectors' output. The industry sector most supported by visitor demand is Accommodation and Food Services. It is estimated that visitor demand supports 98.6% percent of total output for this sector.

Industry Sector	Etheridge (S) (2021 Release 3) %
Accommodation & Food Services	98.6%
Administrative & Support Services	97.4%
Ownership of Dwellings	33.7%
Retail Trade	7.7%
Other Services	1.2%
Health Care & Social Assistance	0.3%
Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing	0.0%
Mining	0.0%
Manufacturing	0.0%
Electricity, Gas, Water & Waste Services	0.0%
Construction	0.0%
Wholesale Trade	0.0%
Transport, Postal & Warehousing	0.0%
Information Media & Telecommunications	0.0%
Financial & Insurance Services	0.0%
Rental, Hiring & Real Estate Services	0.0%
Professional, Scientific & Technical Services	0.0%
Public Administration & Safety	0.0%
Education & Training	0.0%
Arts & Recreation Services	0.0%

Source: REMPLAN 2021 Release 3

7.0 Key opportunities

Etheridge Shire seeks opportunities to expand, grow and diversify the economy beyond the anticipated growth in mining to be less reliant or impacted upon through single sector activity.

The prosperity of the Shire will be determined not just by the amount of resource extraction, but supported growth of:

- the beef cattle industry
- expansion of current services to support the mining and transport sectors
- opportunities created through water capture and irrigated cropping
- growth in outback tourism.

Focusing on the strengths of the economy provides an avenue to facilitate economic growth. Based on the economic analysis and community feedback the following key industries have been identified as opportunities for Etheridge Shire:

- Agriculture
- Tourism
- Business and industry
- Resources or renewable energy resources.

7.1 Agriculture

The beef cattle industry is a significant contributor and an integral component of both the Etheridge and Queensland economy. As with mining, the cattle industry is supported and facilitated with Etheridge Shire's third largest industry being freight and transport – predominately in the delivery of cattle to the Port of Townsville.

Opportunities exist with potential future irrigated agricultural development and saleyards development. Masterplan for saleyards under development.

7.1.1 North West Agricultural Study and Implementation Plan

North West Queensland's population has been declining for several decades. This has had a flow-on effects for the region's industries, businesses and communities. *A Strategic Blueprint for Queensland's North West Minerals Province* identified agriculture as a sector with real potential to grow and diversify the regional economy.

The **North West Agricultural Study and Implementation Plan** for enhancing agricultural production and employment in North West Queensland was completed in December 2018.

Key initiatives progressed through the **NWQEDS Implementation Plan 2019-2021** included targeted investment in new catalytic projects using analysis from the North West Agricultural Strategy and use the momentum and interest created to:

- progress fodder production and cropping trials
- enhance enabling supply chain infrastructure
- leverage supporting research and development effort.

7.1.2 Potential future irrigated agricultural development

Council has undertaken planning and consultation to investigate ways to enhance the value of agricultural production in the Shire for the benefit of the residents, the region, and the nation through the sustainable capture and utilization of the water resource and identifying a process of regulatory preapproval across the region. This follows decades of work by many organisations including Regional Development Australia Tropical North (RDATN) and GSD, to better realise the agricultural potential of the Shire and surrounds in a sustainable way. The Gilbert River Agricultural project has morphed into the Etheridge Shire Agricultural and Irrigation Precinct.

Planning undertaken to date by RDATN and council has identified an opportunity to develop this Precinct, with preliminary work identifying potential economic benefits of around $700 million per annum. They are looking at the growth of Cotton and Sorghum and Cattle production as well as peanuts, avocados, bananas, citrus, fodder crops rotation grain crops and mangoes.

7.1.3 Beef cattle

The grazing industry, especially beef is important to the Shire in terms of Gross Value Product. The cattle value currently is $500 million to the region with 40,000ha of grazing leases. There are also flow on benefits such as employment and other services such as transport to support the industry. Northern grazing properties allow for the low-cost production of cattle through breeding on vast grazing pastures. The beef cattle industry in the Shire is primarily a breeding operation in which weaners leave the shire to be grown and finished elsewhere or cattle are grown to a slightly older age to meet market specifications as live cattle export to Southeast Asia. Currently many live cattle are exported through the Port of Townsville and Port of Karumba. The dry hot conditions of Northern Queensland create a climate more suited to Bos Indicus breeds such as Brahman cattle. Their drought and tick resistant qualities allow them to remain productive in long dry seasons, However, their meat is of a lower value in the Australian domestic market and as stated above they are often exported live as feeder cattle to Asia markets. There is information in the **Queensland Beef Supply Chain.**

There are grazing properties of varying size in the shire. Many of these properties are owned or operated by corporate or large family companies use the properties as breeding properties before transhipping to more suitable properties (usually in central or southern Queensland) for finishing and growing.

NOTE: There is great concern and anger amongst landholders who have seen 132 primary production blocks rise by an average of 191.7 per cent across the board although urban land values have generally reduced by 26.7 per cent.

The **North West Agricultural Study and Implementation Plan** acknowledges North West Queensland has an opportunity to produce more high quality, high value cattle. The region has a demonstrated capacity to stock cattle at higher densities than other similar regions in Australia. There are significant opportunities for additional dryland fodder production to support backgrounding operations and for further emphasis to be placed on the region's 100% pasture-fed position. Other opportunities for growth include increasing land productivity, improving herd genetics, management practices and supply chain efficiency and targeting high value, stable markets. Work on the beef industry in Queensland is ongoing.

Regional pastoral or beef enterprises are improving efficiency and productivity through consolidation into fewer, larger farms.

7.2 Tourism

Local Tourism Organisation – Savannah Way

Etheridge features on one of the major touring routes on the tourism drive Savannah Way and is positioned on the major drive routes from Cairns through the Gulf to Normanton. The Local Tourism Organisation (LTO) is the **Savannah Way**.

The Region is reliant on the drive-tourism through the **Savannah Way.**

Established in December 2007, Savannah Way Limited is a not-for-profit, membership-based, limited by guarantee, Australian public company.

Its role is to promote the Savannah Way brand, create awareness of and generate travel and tourism to The Savannah Way route from Cairns in TNQ to Broome Western Australia, via Katherine in the Northern Territory.

Savannah Way Limited works with small businesses and communities along the route through sustainable tourism and network support including tourism promotion, road signage, brochure and merchandise distribution, agent and media contact and links stakeholders with the market (and each other), as well as assisting regional development through research, projects, training and consultation.

The promotion of the drive route is undertaken in co-ordination with LTO partners and members, including:

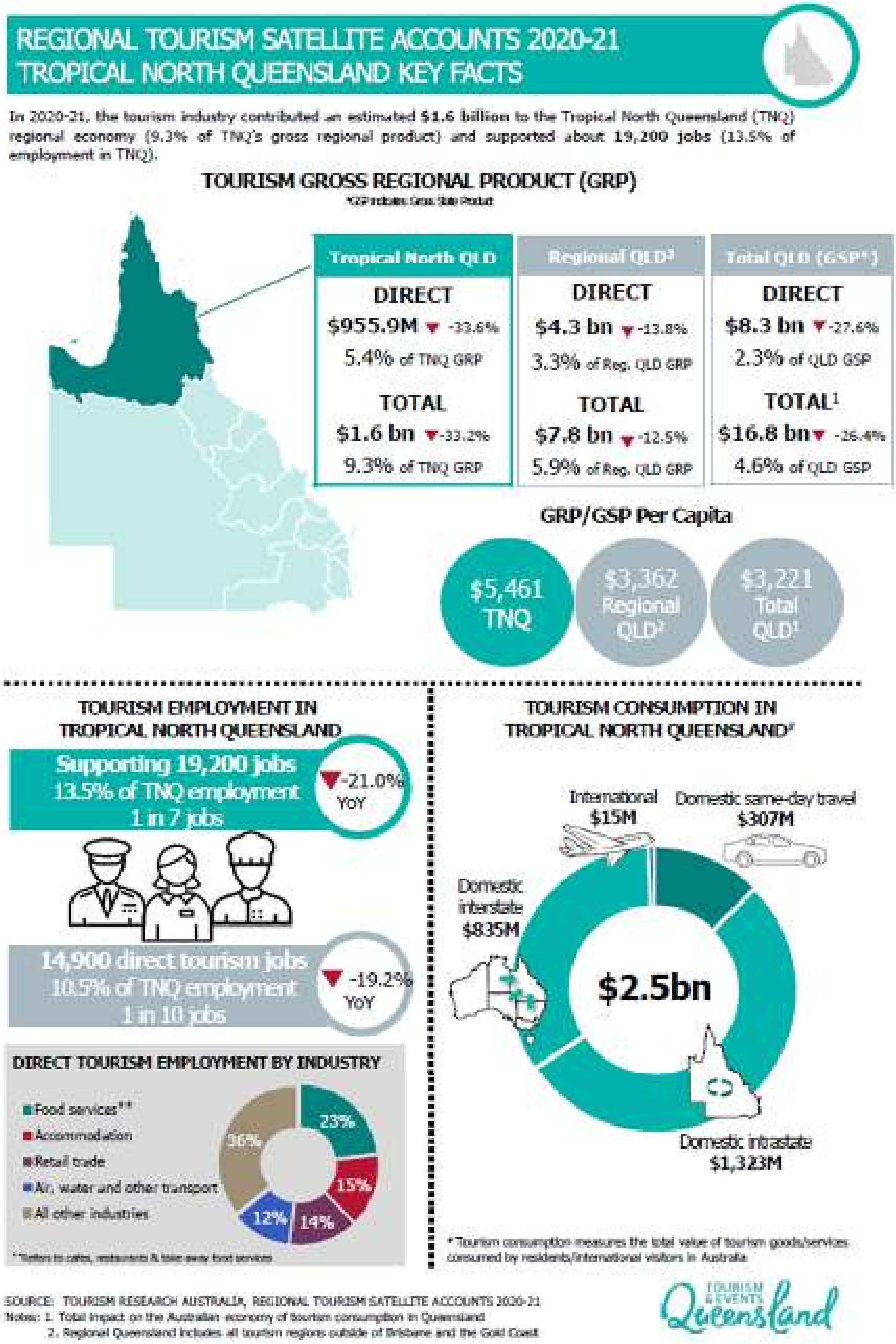
- Tourism and service businesses
- State, Regional and Local tourism organisations
- Local, State and Territory Government agencies
- Community, Environment and Development organisations

Regional Tourism Organisation – TTNQ

Savannah Way is a member and comes under the auspices of TTNQ, as the Regional Tourism Organisation, brings together the industry and community as the custodians of a destination and a suite of brands with a long and proud history of involvement in the visitor economy TTNQ's role has evolved from a destination marketing organisation to include being an advocate for the industry and a platform builder to deliver cost-effective marketing activities. Our team remains agile to opportunities, now focusing on regaining international market share while holding our share of the domestic market and working with the industry to deliver the world's best visitor experiences. See **Tropical North Queensland Destination Tourism Plan 2021**.

It identifies the Tourism infrastructure priorities for Etheridge Shire as the following:

- Road sealing along the Savannah Way main route – dual carriageway completion
- Talaroo Hot Springs
- Terrestrial Centre Upgrade



Source: TTNQ LGA tourism profile 2019

REPORT SELECTIONS: State/territory selection: All | Local Government Area selection: Etheridge (S)

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA PROFILES, 2019

ETHERIDGE (S), QLD

AREA POPULATION: 793

TOURISM BUSINESSES

	TOTAL
Non-employing	7
1-4	5
5-19	4
20+	0
Total	18

DOMESTIC OVERNIGHT

	VISITORS	NIGHTS
Interstate	14K	29K
Intrastate	32K	101K

TOP INTERNATIONAL MARKETS

COUNTRY OF RESIDENCE	VISITORS	NIGHTS
New Zealand	np	np
Germany	np	np
Netherlands	np	np

KEY TOURISM STATISTICS FOR ETHERIDGE (S)

	INTERNATIONAL	DOMESTIC OVERNIGHT	DOMESTIC DAY	TOTAL
Visitors ('000)	4	46	np	61
Nights ('000)	17	130		147
Average nights	4	3		3
Expenditure (M)	$2	$14	np	np
Spend per trip	$584	$295	np	np
Spend per night	$132	$105		$108
Spend per night comm accom	$250	$156		$166

TOURISM STATISTICS INSIGHTS

Click themes to display data

Reason | Travel party | Age group | Accommodation

Visitors	INTERNATIONAL	DOMESTIC OVERNIGHT	DOMESTIC DAY	TOTAL
Holiday	4K	30K	np	37K
Visiting friends and relatives	np	np	np	np
Business	np	np	np	np
Other	np	np	np	np

Data based on a four year average from 2016 to 2019.
'np' = Data is not publishable as the survey error is too high for most practical purposes.

Source: [Local Government Area Profiles | Tourism Research Australia]

Regional Visitors Comparison

Regional Comparison

Year Ending June 2022

Domestic regional comparison

Total Visitors	Visitors	Year % Chg	Change vs 2019	Nights	Year % Chg	Change vs 2019	Length of stay	Nights change	Change vs 2019	% Proportion of Travel Purpose: Holiday %	VFR %	Business %	% Share of Total Visitors
Brisbane	5,809,000	3.0%	-26.0%	18,213,000	9.7%	-23.1%	3.1	0.2	0.2	31%	40%	19%	27%
Gold Coast	3,190,000	5.7%	-22.9%	11,777,000	3.5%	-28.9%	3.7	0.1	-0.3	55%	31%	10%	15%
TNQ	2,061,000	6.9%	-7.8%	11,452,000	21.8%	2.4%	5.6	0.7	0.5	57%	19%	18%	9%
Sunshine Coast	3,870,000	3.7%	-4.4%	13,527,000	1.0%	-7.0%	3.5	-0.1	-0.1	59%	31%	6%	10%
SGBR	2,065,000	-1.6%	-10.8%	7,394,000	-4.3%	-18.3%	3.6	-0.2	-0.3	39%	28%	27%	10%
SQC	2,259,000	10.7%	3.1%	6,210,000	0.6%	5.3%	2.7	-0.3	0.1	34%	40%	20%	11%
Townsville North Queensland	1,156,000	23.1%	-10.9%	4,366,000	11.7%	-6.0%	3.8	-0.4	0.1	39%	27%	30%	5%
Outback Queensland*	779,000	10.8%	30.9%	3,890,000	-12.2%	30.8%	5.0	n/a	-0.2	37%	18%	30%	4%
Whitsundays*	811,000	8.8%	26.3%	3,717,000	9.1%	31.1%	1.6	n/a	0.2	73%	n/a	n/a	4%
Fraser Coast*	752,000	0.6%	-0.7%	2,373,000	1.8%	-2.0%	3.2	n/a	-0.2	48%	35%	n/a	4%
Mackay*	1,189,000	3.0%	13.8%	5,797,000	3.6%	5.9%	1.0	n/a	0.1	27%	12%	57%	5%
Total Queensland	21,700,000	4.8%	-18.2%	88,670,000	7.0%	-13.9%	4.1	0.2	0.1	43%	33%	20%	100%

* Three-year trend change %

Notes/Sources:

TNQ= Tropical North Queensland; SGBR = Southern Great Barrier Reef and SQC = Southern Queensland Country

In 2012, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) changed the way it reports regional statistics. Essentially, the ABS moved from using political boundaries such as local government areas to a framework based on population centres, called the Australian Statistical Geographic Standard (ASGS). Statistical Area 2s (SA2s), which represent one level of the ASGS, replace local government areas (LGA) previously used to define tourism region boundaries. SA2 boundaries closely resemble that of the former tourism region boundaries (defined by LGA boundaries) in Queensland with any differences not being material.

The data included in this report is sourced from the National and International Visitor Surveys (NVS & IVS) conducted by Tourism Research Australia (TRA). These are large and comprehensive surveys that provide valuable data on a national, state, and regional level. The variable nature of travel, combined with sampling variability (which all surveys are subject to) means that regional results need to be viewed as indicative only. It is likely that not all segments of the region will experience the changes noted on a regional level.

Tourism Research Australia has transitioned NVS sampling to 100 per cent mobile phone interview (from 50 per cent mobile phone/50 per cent landline) to reflect current phone usage trends. The change in methodology has seen a break in series so please use caution when comparing 2019 to previous year's results.

2017 and 2018 estimates have been revised to align with the latest release of ABS population projections and will differ slightly from previously published estimates.

Source TTNQ

7.2.1 Etheridge Shire Council Tourism Strategy

Released June 2022,

Etheridge Tourism Strategy - Unearthing Etheridge - The Master Plan includes:

- Shire overview of natural and cultural resources, infrastructure and workforce and summary of opportunities
- Master Plan with vision and design, concepts and timelines and 3 phases.
- Key projects identified including
- Signage and Landmarks,
- Georgetown strengthening
- Cumberland Lagoon bird hide and boardwalk.
- Charleston Dam activation
- Einasleigh activation.

This strategy should be considered when developing the overall Economic Development Strategy for Etheridge Shire.

7.2.2 North West Queensland Digital Visitor Survey Report

As a deliverable in the *A Strategic Blueprint for Queensland's North West Minerals Province*, the Department of Innovation and Tourism Industry Development commissioned the **North West Queensland Digital Survey Report** in 2019. The aim of the report was to provide key information and market insights to inform the future direction and growth of the tourism industry in North West Queensland.

Through the application of the 'Location Insights Population Movement Data' and other data sources, a multifaceted view to visitation trends was developed. The data indicated in North West Queensland visitation continues to be heavily driven by the domestic intrastate market. The overall North West Queensland visitation is composed of 77% intrastate, 21% interstate, and 2% international visitation. This confirms intrastate visitation remains a vital market to the North West Queensland tourism economy. This is likely due to proximity, accessibility and cost in comparison to other states and regions. The origin visitation profile is likely to represent a mix of leisure and business travellers.

Further analysis was undertaken on visitors from beyond areas within close proximity and it was found Mount Isa and the Mount Isa region attracted the most interstate visitation followed by Carpentaria. The highest interstate visitation was from the Northern Territory.

The persona of visitors to the Gulf is:

- closest to the average Australian, young, educated, outer suburban families are working full time to pay off their expensive separate house
- well educated, above average income, fulltime working and confident couples/married.

The international visitor numbers to North West Queensland remain a small component of the overall visitation and therefore do not represent an opportunity to grow market share.

The North West Queensland Digital Survey Report includes recommendations focus on increasing the visitation numbers and length of stay. The following initiatives in the NWQEDS Implementation Plan respond to these recommendations:

- develop a pipeline of tourism products
- increase the economic benefit of tourism.

7.2.3 Events

Major events in the NWMP attract large numbers of national and international visitors to the region making the packaging and promotion of these events critical to maximise attracting visitors while providing the best opportunities to experience what the region can offer.

This includes smaller events from not for profits, councils and community groups who also play a key role in extending visitor stays in region.

Current methods of event scheduling led to further promotion to regional stakeholders to ensure greater market exposure is accessed. This is completed through engaging with Tourism peak bodies including Tourism Events Qld (TEQ) The TEQ Queensland Destination Events Program is a way of regions such as Etheridge Shire, extending the flow on effects of the economic, marketing and social benefits into their area, They also can engage with Outback Queensland Tourism Association (OQTA), TTNQ and Australian Tourism Data Warehouse (ATDW).

The ATDW is a centralised national database feeding information to 300 websites. Venues and events are listed on the database which can be seen across websites all over Queensland and Australia, maximising exposure and putting events in front of millions of potential visitors in a consistent measure.

Smaller events are also recognised as an important role in the retention and attraction of tourists. Majority of councils utilise their own community events calendar/notice board and social media to assist with the scheduling of events.

Here is the latest list of event for the Etheridge Shire:

7.2.4 Private tourism operators

Etheridge Shire does have at least 19 privately owned accommodation businesses including motels, hotels, resorts, RV parks, Cabins and camping facilities. There are also 8 identified farm stays and station stays. The major attractions are the Cobbold Gorge, Talaroo Hot Springs, the Undara Lava Tubes and the Savannahlander train journey.

7.2.5 New and enhanced tourism products

Included in the NWQEDS Implementation Plan 2019-2021 was the delivery of a pipeline of tourism projects which saw several projects progressed to an investment ready stage. The NWQEDS Implementation Plan to 2025, includes initiatives designed to increase the economic benefit of tourism.

Tourism projects supported under the NWQEDS 2019-2021 include:

- Planning and design work associated with the redevelopment of John Flynn Place
- Interpretative signage

The **Tourism Industry Reference Panel** was established in March 2021 to review Queensland's visitor economy, identify opportunities to accelerate the tourism industry's recovery, and seek input from industry to help shape and deliver long-term success in the sector. Through its engagement with Queensland tourism industry, the Panel considered two key scenarios – to maintain 2019 share through to 2032, or to restore and maintain the peak market share through to 2032. This presents a difference of $12 billion in visitor expenditure to Queensland. The

Tourism Industry Reference Panel's **Final Action Plan** signals the start of the next chapter to help future-proof Queensland's visitor economy in a more positive tale after COVID-19.

Adventure tourism is identified as opportunity for Etheridge Shire.

7.2.6 Remote Area Board (RAB) tourism projects

GSD and MITEZ have collaborated to deliver the Indigenous and Regional Tourism Pipeline of Projects Investments Report, which should be released early 2023.

The purpose of the Indigenous and Regional Tourism Pipeline of Projects Investment Report is to:

- Identify and grow sustainable non-Indigenous and Indigenous regional cultural tourism experiences to ensure ongoing employment for First Nations Australians and the wider community
- Increase trade and consumer confidence in the delivery of these new products to create demand, grow local economies and extend visitor length of stay
- Encourage private sector investment to create jobs and drive growth

GSD delivered the Gulf Station Stay Manual in 2020 and numerous branding strategies and tourism surveys in 2017-2018. GSD currently is funded by Queensland Government $150,000 until June 2023 to deliver economic and employment opportunities.

7.3 Business and industry

Business counts by employment size

As at 30 June 2022, Etheridge Shire has 206 businesses, with 81.8% of these classified as small businesses (19 or less employees)

The top five industry categories are:

1. Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing (64.6%)
2. Construction (7.8%)
3. Accommodation and food services (7.3%)
4. Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services (4.9%)
5. Transport, postal and warehousing (3.4%)

(a) Includes inadequately described and not stated responses. Source: ABS 8165.0, Counts of Australian Businesses, including Entries and Exits, various editions

Non-employing		1-4 employees		5-19 employees		20-199 employees		200+ employees		Total
Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	
138	67%	49	23.8	13	6.3	6	2.9	0	0	206

Source: ABS 8165.0, Counts of Australian Businesses, including Entries and Exits, various editions 30 June 2022

$0 to less than $50K		$50K to less than $100K		$100K to less than $200K		$200K to less than $500K		$500K to less than $2M		$2M or more		Total
Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	
32	15.4	22	10.6	31	14.9	47	22.6	59	28.4	17	8.2	208

Business counts by turnover range

Source: Department of Employment, Small Business and Training 30 June 2021

Businesses by sector – 2021 vs 2020

Etheridge Shire - total registered businesses	2021			2020			change
Industry	Number	%	% Queensland	Number	%	% Queensland	2020 to 2021
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	139	66.8	8.9	132	65.0	8.9	+7
Mining	3	1.4	0.4	0	0	0.4	+3
Manufacturing	3	1.4	3.7	3	1.5	3.7	0
Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services	0	0	0.3	0	0	0.3	0
Construction	18	8.7	17.2	16	0.9	17.2	0
Wholesale Trade	0	0	3.0	3	1.5	3.0	-3
Retail Trade	3	1.4	6.0	5	2.5	6.0	-2
Accommodation and Food Services	18	8.7	4.0	15	7.4	4.0	+3
Transport, Postal and Warehousing	5	2.4	7.5	6	3.0	7.5	-1
Information Media and Telecommunications	3	1.4	0.8	3	1.5	0.8	0
Financial and Insurance Services	0	0	4.0	0	0	4.0	0
Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services	8	3.8	11.8	8	3.9	11.8	0
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	4	1.9	12.3	7	3.4	12.3	-3
Administrative and Support Services	4	1.9	4.5	3	1.5	4.5	+1
Public Administration and Safety	0	0	0.3	0	0	0.3	0
Education and Training	0	0	1.5	0	0	1.5	0
Health Care and Social Assistance	0	0	6.9	0	0	6.9	0
Arts and Recreation Services	0	0	1.3	0	0	1.3	0
Other Services	0	0	5.3	0	0	5.3	0
Industry not classified	0	0	0.1	0	0	0.1	0
Total business	208	100.0	100.0	203	100.0	100.0	+5

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Counts of Australian Businesses, including Entries and Exits, 2016 to 2021 Note: Non-employing businesses includes sole proprietors where the proprietor does not receive a wage or salary separate to the business income. .id (informed decisions)
Please refer to specific data notes for more information

Source: .idcommunity | economic profile, data source: ABS

8.0 Economic enablers

8.1 Roads

Industry Sectors	Total
Construction	4
Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing	4
Public Administration & Safety	3
Accommodation & Food Services	3
Mining	2

Source: Key propulsive drivers REMPLAN

In addition to connecting communities, the road network is intrinsically linked to economic outcomes. Etheridge's key propulsive drivers are reliant on road infrastructure.

Council is a member of the FNQ RRTG which is a cooperative governance arrangement between DTMR, LGAQ and local governments to invest in and regionally manage Far North Queensland's transport network.

Through the FNQ RRTG, Etheridge sees the Federal ROSI program as vital to the region.

The ROSI program should enable the full efficiency outcomes for High Productivity Vehicles. Of note for the region are the road train links utilising Burke Developmental Road, Gulf Developmental Road, Ootann Road and Hann Hwy.

They also see a priority, a dedicated Federal funding program aimed at increasing high productivity vehicles (HPV) access to and from gazetted transport routes with a regional focus on Ootann Road and Richmond-Croydon Road being local government owned road train routes. This would improve the following deficiencies in the following situations:

a. **Primary Production** – Deficiencies in roads which connect from the heavy vehicle network to primary production locations to processing centres for example. farms to feedlots, sugarcane to mills, mine sites to refinement facilities.

b. **Improved Connectivity** – Deficiencies in roads which provide a connection between two existing heavy vehicle routes and would benefit freight if access is improved.

c. **Community Access** – Deficiencies in roads that provide a singular road freight lifeline to vulnerable communities.

As identified in the **Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program 2022-23 to 2025-26** Far North, council's Road upgrade priorities include:

- Burke Developmental Road (Etheridge-Normanton), Dan Lynch Bridge, strengthen bridge and widen to two lanes (North West)
- Flinders Highway (Julia Creek-Etheridge), Canal Creek, replace bridge (North West)
- Etheridge – Dajarra Road, Malbon Creek floodway, upgrade culvert and approaches (North West)
- Gulf Developmental Road (Croydon - Georgetown) (Package 4), strengthen and widen pavement
- Gulf Developmental Road (Croydon - Georgetown), widen pavement
- Gulf Developmental Road (Georgetown - Mount Garnet) (Package 1), strengthen and widen pavement
- Gulf Developmental Road (Georgetown - Mount Garnet), 2021 Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements reconstruction works
- North Head Road, pave and seal

According to **North West Queensland Regional Transport Plan** (released 2019) there will be an increased demand for road freight.

From 2016 to 2026, Queensland's Road freight tonne-kilometres are forecasted to grow by 28.3 per cent to 62.0 billion tonne-kilometres. Trucks and road trains make up a relatively high proportion of all traffic on the North West Queensland region's freight routes and highways.

Mining and agriculture industries rely on freight-efficient vehicles, network access, and direct and reliable access to ports and markets, sometimes over significant distances. The freight industry is using larger and more freight efficient vehicle combinations (also referred to as high productivity freight vehicles) to meet demand and improve productivity, but uptake can be limited due to inconsistent road conditions, and network connectivity and reliability. Expansion of mining and agriculture activity is a key economic development objective for the region. More road freight activity will generate more challenges for road safety and road maintenance. The feasibility of new mining and agriculture ventures might depend in some cases on investment in road network improvements to support access for higher productivity vehicles.

Variability of road network standards

Road network standards vary significantly across the North West Queensland region creating several challenges including limited ability to support freight efficient vehicle combinations. Network inconsistencies, such as narrow pavement widths, poor flood immunity, roughness and bridge load limits affect industry connections linking key production areas to markets and supply chains. These connections are often a combination of state, local and privately owned network managed under varying standards and funding arrangements. There is also a lack of alternative routes when flooding cuts off the road network. This impacts the economic productivity of the region for the tourism, mining and agriculture sectors, and for general commercial activities with high cost of freight and access to specialist labour and services.

Freight efficiency can be impacted by the weakest link in the transport connection between production and market. The weakest link in the network is often the 'first and last mile' connecting production areas and the road freight network. First and last mile issues restrict the size of vehicles used to transport freight and limit the use of high productivity freight vehicles. High productivity freight vehicles deliver greatest benefits if they are for the entire end-to-end journey as the costs of breaking down and assembling vehicles can easily exceed line haul savings if the larger vehicle cannot be used for the whole journey.

8.2 Gulf Rail

The Normanton to Croydon railway line runs 151 km in a roughly south-east direction from Normanton to Croydon, in the Gulf Country of North-west Queensland. The line, carried for most of its length on Phillips's patent steel sleepers, runs over level country and crosses a number of streams by low level bridges. It has stations at each end of the line with several stopping places in between. The buildings at Normanton railway station are located at the edge of the town on a very level site which makes the buildings stand out sharply against the skyline. The surviving buildings comprise the station building with its attached carriage shade, the goods shed, water tank, vertical boiler and some relatively modern buildings such as the Officer in Charge's house at the Landsborough Street crossing.

The Etheridge Railway line, which branches off the Mareeba-to-Chillagoe railway at Almaden and heads south for 229 km to Forsayth via Mount Surprise and Einasleigh, was built between 1907 and 1910 by the Chillagoe Railway and Mining Company as a private railway line. The same company constructed the railway line from Mareeba to Chillagoe and Mungana between 1898 and 1901. The Etheridge line was built cheaply, with lighter rails and fewer earthworks than the Chillagoe line, to supply ore to the Chillagoe Company's under-utilised Chillagoe smelters. The Chillagoe Company was part of the business empire of John Moffat, and between 1880 and 1914 much of the economic activity of North Queensland was driven by the railways and mining towns created by Moffat's enterprises. The remaining built infrastructure at stations along the Etheridge Railway provides examples of the type of buildings erected by the Chillagoe Company for its railway network.

Both lines today are used for tourism travel only. The Savannahlander rollingstock comprises of three 2000 class railmotor units – 2026, 2028 and 2053. 2026 and 2028 were built in 1963 and 2053 was built in 1971. While the exterior of the units are in (almost) original condition the interiors have been modified for the Savannahlander service. 2026 and 2028 have had the bulkhead separating the driver from the passengers removed so passengers now have a driver's eye view of the track ahead along with a change in decor to give the interior an outback feel. 2053 has been modified to improve accessibility.

Underuse of existing infrastructure

The road network is the primary transport network for the movement of freight, even where rail could provide an alternative. Stakeholders (consulted as part of the North West Queensland Regional Transport Plan) indicated the rail network's 'user pays' model makes it difficult for rail transport to be price competitive. Therefore, rail is potentially underused and there could be opportunity to shift some of the road freight tasks to rail.

The rail line between Mount Isa to Townsville is vulnerable to flooding, Investment in this line (including provision of additional services) depends on a significant increase in the need to transport products and commodities out of the region, which has an unclear future in the current global market.

Rail network planning

The Australian Government's *Our North, Our Future: White Paper on Developing Northern Australia* identified the potential benefit of a rail link between Mount Isa and Tenant Creek as a way of unleashing development opportunities in the region. In response to the white paper, the Northern Territory and Queensland Governments agreed to work together to undertake the preliminary planning to assess the economic feasibility of the connection.

The link would provide rail access from the Northern Territory to the Port of Townsville, and link Mount Isa with the AustralAsia rail link between Darwin and Adelaide which may provide potential benefits for the region's mining and agriculture industries.

8.3 Etheridge Rail facilities

Etheridge Railway was listed on the Queensland Heritage Register on 16 February 2009.

The Etheridge Railway, constructed by John Moffat's Chillagoe Railway and Mines Company between 1907 and 1910, was a significant component of an important, large-scale, privately built mining railway network in North

Queensland and is important in demonstrating the widespread development of mining and transport infrastructure in this part of the State

The Etheridge Railway line runs for about 230 kilometres from Almaden to Forsayth, and the section from Mount Surprise to Forsayth (included in the heritage boundary) is about 121 kilometres long. Built cheaply, the line rarely uses metal ballasting under the railway sleepers, and most sleepers are set directly onto the soil. Half of the sleepers are timber, and half are steel, due to a recent replacement project. Soon after heading south from Almaden, the rails change from 60 pounds per yard (30 kg/m) to 41.25 pounds per yard (20.46 kg/m), with a noticeable increase in noise and vibration. The line tends to follow the lie of the land, with small cuttings and embankments, although there are larger earth embankments and cuttings on the Newcastle Range section of the line, between Einasleigh and Forsayth. The formation of the line between Almaden and Mount Surprise (not included within the heritage boundary) does not follow its original gradient, due to its reconditioning between 1949 and 1951.

The surviving railway buildings, rails, sidings, turning forks, cattle yards, loading banks, stone pitched bridges and culverts, stone cuttings, sandboxes (for refilling the sand-dispensing units in front of train wheels), water tank, signage, and signals and points infrastructure at the Mount Surprise, Einasleigh and Forsayth railway stations and along the Etheridge Railway between Mount Surprise and Forsayth are significant.

The line today is used for tourism and on 2000 class railmotor trains the **Savannahlander** takes visitors from Cairns via Kuranda, Mareeba and through to Mount Surprise, Einasleigh and Forsayth Railway station. The train can take approximately 100 passengers per trip.

8.4 Light aircraft and airstrips

Georgetown and Mt Surprise both have sealed airstrips. Einasleigh has a gravel strip. There are no flights to and from these airfields though if you have your own aircraft permission to utilise these strips can be obtained from the council.

Einasleigh Airstrip • Latitude 18° 32'S • Longitude 144° 05'E • Elevation 1485 ft • Runway Bearing 351° 55 minutes 34 seconds • Sealed and Line Marked 1150m · • Strip width 15m (gravel) • Solar lighting	**Forsayth Airstrip** • Latitude S 18° 35.2 • Longitude E 143° 33.97 • Elevation 1390 ft • Runway Bearing N/A • Sealed and Line Marked1200m • Width 18 metres • The runway has a dip in the middle • Solar lighting
Georgetown Registered Airstrip • Latitude 18° 17'S • Longitude 143° 33'E • Elevation 995 ft • Runway Bearing 224° 17 minutes 25 seconds • Sealed and Line Marked 1158 m • Strip width 18m • PAL+AFRU126.7 Lighting System	**Mt Surprise Airstrip** • Latitude 18° 10'S • Longitude 144° 17'E • Elevation 1300 ft • Runway Bearing 222° 31 minutes 50 seconds • Sealed and Line Marked 1150 m • Strip width 15m • Solar Lighting

8.5 Water

Safe, secure and reliable water suppliers are an essential resource for Etheridge, not only for providing for the health and wellbeing of the community, but also providing opportunities for economic and community development. Council is the registered water service provider under the *Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008* for Georgetown and Forsayth's urban water supply and provides water supply services.

Council provides drinking water to two schemes located in Forsayth and Georgetown. Drinking water is sourced from Charleston Dam before it is treated and supplied to customers for consumption in Forsayth. Drinking water is sourced from Charleston Dam and Etheridge River before it is blended, treated and supplied to customers for consumption in Georgetown.

The purpose of the Charleston Dam is to supply town water to Forsayth via a pump and pipe arrangement and to Georgetown via release of stored water from the dam to replenish the riverbed and sand aquifers. Georgetown will extract water via an already operating spea system in the Etheridge River, downstream of the confluence with the Delaney River: Based on projected future demands, (demand and yield assessment conducted by others) a 6,700 ML storage volume provides 95% reliability of yield.

The Etheridge water supply system is comprised of several raw water supply sources with a total capacity of 11050ML, 2 treatment plants, 3 potable water reservoirs, pump stations, and 23km of water mains, with approximately 294 water connections. The water network can deliver up to 1 megalitres of water per day, with an approximate demand of KL per day.

Queensland is the second largest state in Australia and has a decentralised population with over 370 public water supplies some of which are extremely small and remote. Public water and sewerage services outside of Southeast Queensland are provided by 66 local governments. Many of these councils have agreed to participate in QWRAP and collaborate on management of providing services to their communities. Under Qld Water and the Queensland Water Regional Alliances Program the data shows that 246 households are connected to water supply. There are currently nine regions at various stages of participation.

FNQROC of which Etheridge is a member are working on identified priority issues such as:

1. Strategic Asset Management
2. Regional Demand and Supply Assessment
3. Legislative Requirements (Drinking Water Quality Management Standards and Environmental Management System)
4. Full cost pricing.

WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT and SUPPLY

Council is a Water Service Provider under the *Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008*.

Drinking Water Quality Management Plan (DWQMP)

Under the ***Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008*** council is required to develop and submit a **Drinking Water Quality Management Plan Annual Report** to the Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water in December each year. This report demonstrates the successful implementation of the approved plan.

State-wide Water Information Management (SWIM)

Each year, council collate and supply large amounts of data in a **SWIM Report** on water and sewerage services to State and Commonwealth agencies as required under the *Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008* and advised by the Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water.

Declared Water Service Areas

As a water service provider Etheridge Shire council must declare a service area such that any property owner within that declared area can reasonably expect to be able to connect to the service. See **declared service areas**.

Water Supply Services Customer Service Standards

As a water service provider, council must establish and promote customer service standards for the purposes of meeting the requirements of the Act (2008). See **customer service standards** here.

Water Meters

A water meters have been installed as part of a new water service connection and will remain the property of council. The meter is used as the basis of the consumption component of the water charges.

The water meter is usually located at the front of the property, on the far left or far right.

Other users of the bulk water supply sources

Agriculture

The Etheridge Shire has a strong pastoral industry, dominated by beef production.

Future projects - ETHERIDGE AGRICULTURAL PRECINCT As part of the Etheridge Agriculture Precinct the Gilbert River Irrigation Project Detailed Business Case (funded by the Maturing the Infrastructure Pipeline Program) was recently endorsed by council (20 May 2020).

The Detailed Business Case concludes that building a dam on the Gilbert River is technically feasible and economically viable. The project involves the development of the Gilbert River Dam for Irrigation (primarily) and Water supply (Climate resilience) with a storage of 323.577 ML together with a network distribution of 81.6km.

The Detailed Business Case identifies the project can support 17,990 hectares of new irrigated agriculture, assuming a crop mix of cotton, peanuts, avocados, bananas, citrus, fodder crops and mangoes.

The project will deliver: • Additional $85mil/year. • 370 FTE jobs during construction. • 2,285 FTE Operationally and ongoing 779 FTE directly related to agriculture, 1,506 FTE indirectly related i.e. provision of goods and services, transportation, processing, mechanical etc). The project has a benefit-cost ratio (BCR) of 1.15 based on P90 cost estimates.

Mining and industry

Etheridge shire has had a strong history of gold mining. Currently Einasleigh has consolidated tin mines mining, copper, lead and zinc, laneway resources mining gold and silver near Georgetown. There are also critical mineral Cobalt deposits identified near Forsayth. There are also potential exploration for molybdenum near Georgetown and current tantalum, niobium and lithium deposits around Georgetown being explored by Strategic metals Australia.

Future water demand

To enable well-founded water supply planning, it is essential to have a sound understanding of the possible changes to water demand that may occur in the future due to Etheridge's population growth, as well as future mining and other water uses.

Currently Etheridge looking at future water security through research with the CRCNA. A report was commissioned to Co-design Water security for Northern Australia Program. The project plan was developed with consultants and finalised in December 2022 and the work will be done over the next three years.

The Charleston Dam project which was a $20.7M project jointly funded by Australian government and council for $7.7M is an earth and rock wall dam will supply 100ML of water to Forsayth township and 500ML of water to Georgetown township. The project also will provide water treatment measures in the form of reservoirs in Forsayth and Georgetown and the construction of a recreation precinct.

It will therefore support future agricultural and clean energy developments and a tourism product for those communities and visitors.

8.6 Energy

Georgetown is part of the Ergon Energy Distribution Service area.- Awaiting some data on this section

Georgetown is a substation and current planning shows that it has a low risk of overloading.

See data from **Ergon Distribution Annual planning report 2018-2019 to 2022-2023**

Substation limitations are identified using the models and processes as described in **Section 5.3.1** and **Section 6.4**.

Table 21 shows the projection of substation statistics out to 2022-23. It also provides the forecast number of substations with load at risk (LAR) under contingency conditions (LARc).

Table 21: Summary of Substation Limitations

Region	Substation Type	LARc > 0MVA (Forecast Limitations)				
		2018-19	2019-20	2022-21	2021-22	2022-23
Northern	KIRK — Kirknie 66/11kV	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.6	0.6
Northern	GEOR — Georgetown BSP 132/66kV	0	0	0	0	0.1

Bulk supply point: Georgetown BSP (132/66kV)
Constrained: No

Substation	**GEOR - Georgetown (66/22kV)**	**Supply**	GEOR - Georgetown BSP

Description Region is Far North

Transformer size is 2x66/22kV 2MVA ONAN

Capacity of commissioned Embedded Generation (with Connection Agreements) is 0.0 MVA

Growth Rates 2022 W 0.0%, 2023 S -0.8% W -0.8%2024 S -0.7% W -0.7%2025 S -0.8% W -0.8%2026 S -0.7% W -0.7

Latest Peak Compensated Load 1.7 MVA on 01/11/2021 at 19:00

PEAK LOAD FORECAST AND CAPACITY	SUMMER					WINTER				
	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
NCC Rating (MVA)	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0
Contracted non-network (MVA)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
10 PoE Load (MVA)	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.7	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5
LARn (MVA)										
LARn (MW)										
Power Factor at Peak Load	0.98	0.98	0.98	0.98	0.98	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95
ECC Rating (MVA)	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0
50 PoE Load (MVA)	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5
50 PoE Load > 95% (MVA)	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Hours PA > 95% Peak Load	14	14	14	14	14	11	14	14	14	14
Raw LAR (MVA)										
Auto Trans Avail (MVA)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Remote Trans Avail (MVA)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Manual Trans Avail (MVA)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Mobile Plant Avail (MVA)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Shed(30min)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Shed(4Hour)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Capacity for Embedded Generation (MVA)	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Firm Capacity for Embedded Generation (MVA)	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
LARc (MVA)										
LARc (MW)										
Meets Security Standard	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Source: Ergon Energy

KIDSTON 131/6.6kV SUBSTATION		22KV EINASLEIGH FDR	
Zone Substation Id:	10030299	Asset Id:	10020669
Zone Substation Number:	KIDS	Asset No.:	2EIN
Remaining Capacity MVA:	23.70	Planning Category:	Rural
Summer Nameplate Capacity MVA:	39.60	Feeder Voltage:	22
Summer Secure Capacity MVA:	23.90	MVA Remaining:	0.500 to 1.000
Summer Peak Load MVA:	0.20	Voltage Constraint Information:	Voltage information is unavailable at the present time
Winter Nameplate Capacity MVA:	43.00		
Winter Secure Capacity MVA:	25.00		
Winter Peak Load MVA:	0.10		
Georgetown 131/66/22/6.6kV Substation		**22KV GILBERT RIVER FDR**	

Zone Substation Id:	10030300	Asset Id:	10020670
Zone Substation Number:	GEORGETOWN	Asset No.:	2GIR
Remaining Capacity MVA:	1.50	Planning Category:	Rural
Summer Nameplate Capacity MVA:	5.30	Feeder Voltage:	22
Summer Secure Capacity MVA:	3.00	MVA Remaining:	>1.000
Summer Peak Load MVA:	1.40	Voltage Constraint Information:	Voltage information is unavailable at the present time.
Winter Nameplate Capacity MVA:	6.00		
Winter Secure Capacity MVA:	3.00		
Winter Peak Load MVA:	1.50		

Under the Remote Area Board (RAB) program GSD are undertaking a Regional Electricity and Energy Supply Proposal and Gregory Options Analysis. Findings are expected to be completed 30 June 2023.

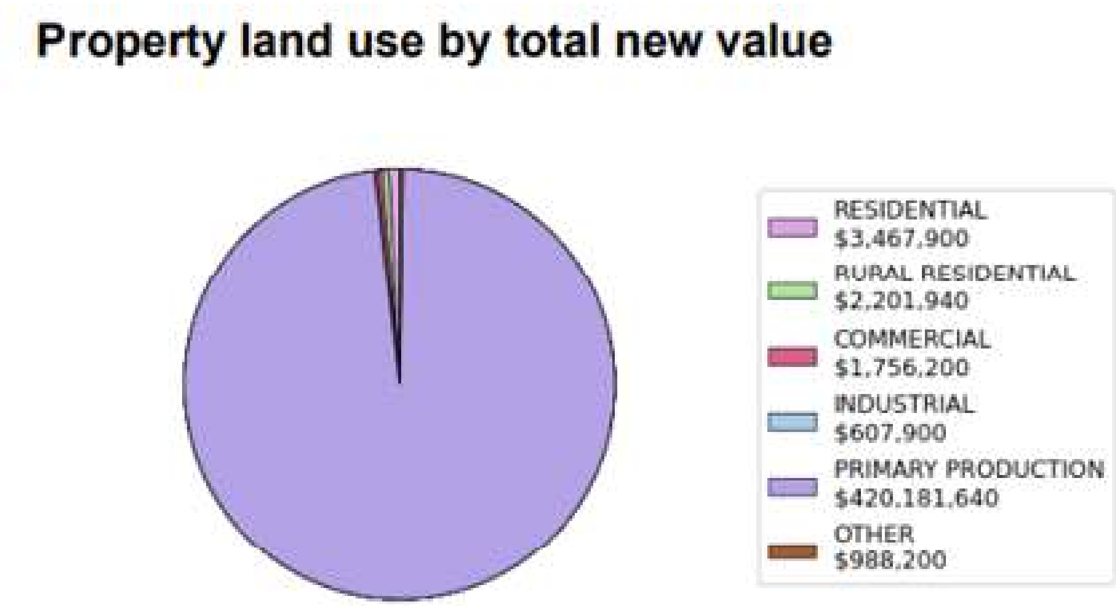
8.7 Land Values

Land valuations overview: Etheridge Shire Council On 31 March 2022, the Valuer-General released land valuations for 582 properties with a total value of $429,203,780 in the council area.

The valuations reflect land values on 1 October 2021 and show Etheridge Shire has increased by 180.6 per cent overall since the last valuation issued in 2019. This is due to the large increases in agricultural land.

Urban land values in the shire have generally reduced. There has been a limited demand within the residential market sectors of Georgetown, Einasleigh and Forsayth since the last valuation, with moderate to significant reductions in land values.

The exception being Mount Surprise where land values have moderately increased. The primary production market has increased significantly in value over the period since the last valuation was undertaken.



Residential land

Table 1 below provides information on median values for residential land within the Etheridge Shire Council area.

Table 1 - Median value of residential land

Residential localities	Previous median value as at 01/10/2018 ($)	New median value as at 01/10/2021 ($)	Change in median value (%)	Number of properties
Abingdon Downs	7,800	7,800	0.0	1
Einasleigh	12,500	10,500	-16.0	46
Forsayth	10,000	6,000	-40.0	48
Georgetown	16,000	11,500	-28.1	134
Mount Surprise	20,000	25,000	25.0	37
All residential localities	15,000	11,000	-26.7	266

Explanatory Notes:

- Residential land values have decreased significantly in Forsayth, while Georgetown and Einasleigh have decreased moderately. Georgetown is the central town of the shire and is slightly oversupplied with vacant residential land parcels comparative to demand. Demand is limited in Forsayth and Einasleigh.
- Mount Surprise land values have increased moderately, with its highway frontage and more easterly location attracting buyers.

Rural residential land

Table 2 below provides information on median values for rural residential land within the Etheridge Shire Council area.

Table 2 - Median value of rural residential land

Land Use	Previous median value as at 01/10/2018 ($)	New median value as at 01/10/2021 ($)	Change in median value (%)	Number of properties
Rural residential	22,750	25,000	9.9	54

Explanatory Notes:

- The rural residential lands surrounding Georgetown have seen minor increases in value over the three-year period since the last valuation was undertaken.

Other land uses

Table 3 below provides information on total land uses other than residential and rural residential land within the Etheridge Shire Council area.

Table 3 - Total land values of other land uses

Land use category	Previous total land value as at 01/10/2018 ($)	New total land value as at 01/10/2021 ($)	Change in total land value (%)	Number of properties
Commercial	1,712,200	1,756,200	2.6	35
Industrial	480,900	607,900	26.4	56
Primary Production	144,048,540	420,181,640	191.7	132
Other	242,300	988,200	307.8	39

Explanatory Notes:

- Commercial and industrial land values in the towns of Mount Surprise, Georgetown, Einasleigh and Forsyth have increased slight to moderately overall.
- Rural land values in Etheridge Shire have increased significantly with several drivers considered to be having an overall positive impact. These include the continued strength in beef and commodity prices, historically low interest rates, generally favorable exchange rate (USD) and overall confidence in the rural sector.
- Demand has been firm for productive grazing land across the State.
- Despite reasonable rainfall over the last 12 months, significant areas of Southern and Central Queensland remain drought declared. The Northern Queensland market however is currently viewed as possessing (comparatively) more secure annual rainfall patterns.

Source: https://www.resources.qld.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0015/1600044/etheridge-land-valuations.pdf

8.8 Digital connectivity

In 2016, 131 households in Etheridge (S) (21.4%) did not have an internet connection at the dwelling.

Please note: For the 2021 Census, the ABS dropped the question regarding household internet connection. This page shows data for the 2016 and previous Censuses only.

An internet connection is now an important utility for most households in Australia. It is increasingly required for accessing essential information and taking part in the digital economy. Australia-wide in 2016, nearly 80% of all households had internet access. However, this decreases with age – seniors are less likely to have internet access at home. The lack of internet access is likely to indicate a level of disadvantage and could be related to socio-economic factors, age, or geographical isolation.

Internet connectivity in Etheridge (S) should be looked at in conjunction with Household Type and Age Structure, as well as Education Levels.

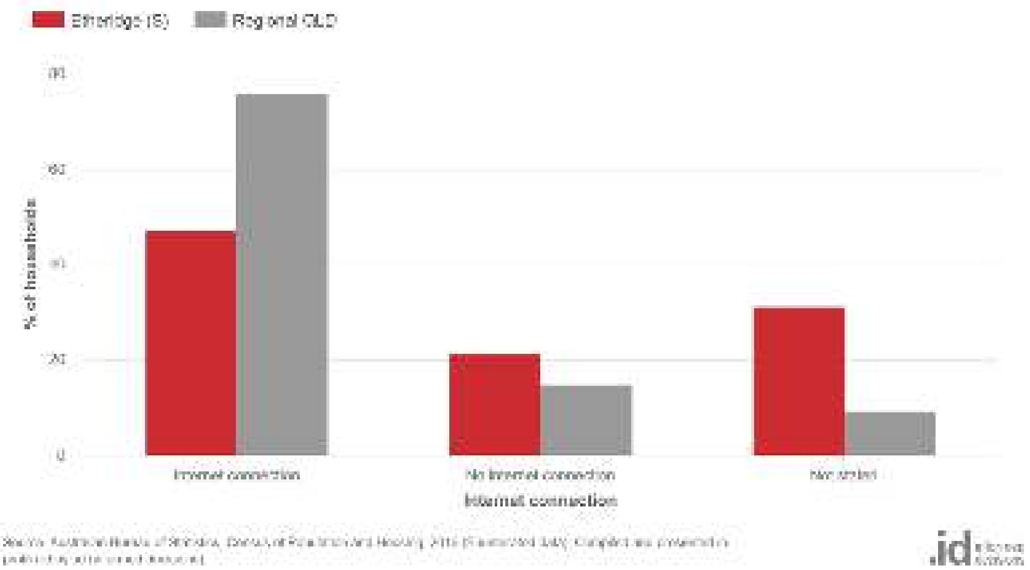
Type of internet connection

export reset

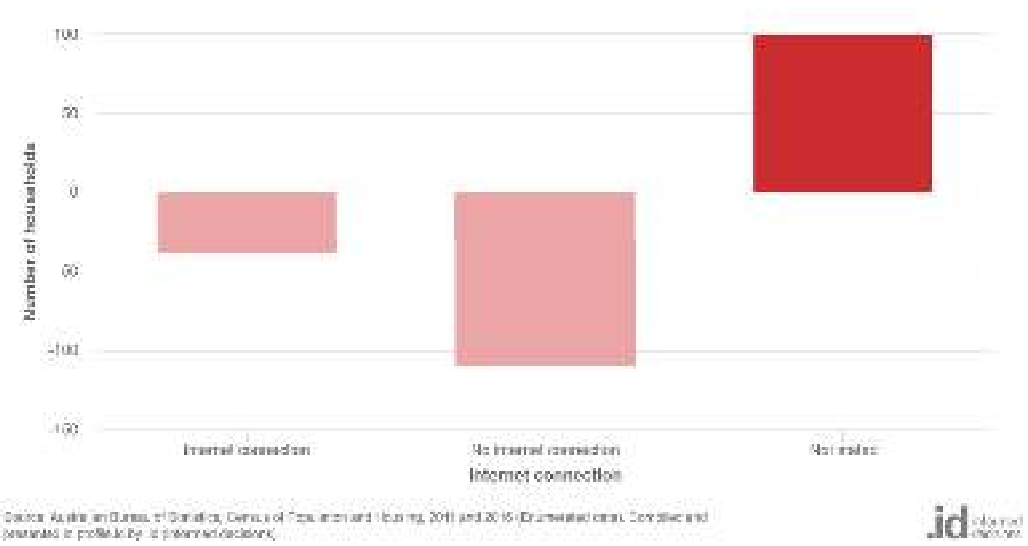
Etheridge (S) - Households	2016			2011			Change
Connection type	Number	%	Regional QLD %	Number	%	Regional QLD %	2011 to 2016
Internet connection	290	47.4	76.8	328	49.8	71.8	-38
No internet connection	131	21.4	15.0	240	36.4	20.2	-109
Not stated	191	31.2	9.2	91	13.8	8.0	+100
Total households	612	100.0	100.0	659	100.0	100.0	-47

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing 2011 and 2016. Compiled and presented by .id (informed decisions).
Please refer to specific data notes for more information

Type of internet connection, 2016



Change in type of internet connection, 2011 to 2016
Etheridge (S)



8.8.1 Digital disruption

Australia is on the cusp of the next wave of the industrial revolution. Like the previous technologically driven transformation, this revolution has the potential to radically upend business practices, change social arrangements and dramatically reshape the workforce. It is also likely to significantly improve the lot of households across the world while having profound implications for average Australian workers.

Emerging technologies are threatening to reshape the economy in very different ways to those of the past.

While increasing computational power and rapidly falling prices are encouraging greater use of computers, the capacity of machines to replicate aspects of human thought is set to reshape the labour market most radically. These advances mean that activities previously considered forever outside the scope of programming are increasingly being undertaken by computers. For instance, driving through traffic was thought to be a task for which humans would always have an absolute advantage over computers; Google has patented a driverless car and Rio Tinto has automated its entire Pilbara region operations.

Indicated in a 2015 report, **Australia's Future Workforce?** around 40% of current Australian jobs have a high probability of being automated in the next 10-15 years. While we have seen automation replace some jobs in areas such as agriculture, mining and manufacturing, other areas where we are likely to see change are, for example, the health sector, which to date has remained largely untouched by technological change. Preparing the community for the workforce of the future will be a key to future prosperity.

Technological change is inevitable. The Australian economy successfully transitioned from an agricultural economy 100 years ago to one dominated by the manufacturing sector through to an economy where services and management occupations are the largest employers. The automation of jobs does not necessarily equate with any increase in average unemployment rates, since new jobs are often created.

9.0 Liveability

While this background paper relates to economic development it is acknowledged the liveability of an area impacts on economic growth.

Critical factors for liveable communities are:

- residents feeling safe, socially connected and included
- environmental sustainability
- access to affordable and diverse housing options linked via public transport, walking and cycling infrastructure to employment, education, local shops, public open space and parks, health and community services, leisure and culture

"liveability is about building stronger local communities and enhancing quality of life through action to improve the quality of local environments and the places where people live"

Cambridge English Dictionary

In striving for liveability and prosperity, the Etheridge Shire envisions:

- A strong and growing shire economy
- A self-sufficient, robust local economy
- Growing local jobs and enhancing local skills
- Encouragement of diversification and innovation
- Strengthened and broadened tourism opportunities.

A healthy, resilient community

- Creating places and spaces for all age groups
- Preserving and enhancing Etheridge Shire's rural lifestyle
- Maintaining a healthy and active community
- Supporting the provision of educational, social and community infrastructure.

A sustainable and well-managed environment

- Reducing the impact of weeds and pest animals
- Preservation of the Shire's biodiversity
- Respecting Aboriginal connections to country
- Sustainable planning and design
- Increasing provision of essential service infrastructure, including road networks and telecommunications services
- Increasing the sustainable use of energy and the use of renewable energy.

9.1 Crime and Justice

The number and rates of reported offences are collected by the Queensland Police Service. Data are updated annually. The next planned update is in August 2023.

LGA / State	Offences against the person		Offences against property		Other offences		Total	
	Number	Rate (a)	Number	Rate (a)	Number	Rate (a)	Number	Rate (a)
Etheridge	10	1,397	24	33,352	20	2,793	54	7,542
Queensland	67,432	1,282	245,090	4,659	211,623	4,023	524,145	9,964

From 1 July 2021 the QPS implemented a decision to enhance the consistent practice of recording criminal offences associated with domestic and family violence (DFV) investigations across the state within the QPS QPRIME computer system. When responding to and investigating a DFV occurrence, police across the state are now consistently recording all offences identified in the same incident in the QPRIME system. This means that regions will likely see a statistical increase in a number of DFV related offence categories – for example DFV related assault, strangulation or wilful damage. However, offences such as assault and wilful damage also occur in situations unrelated to domestic and family relationships. Furthermore, increases could also be attributed to other factors, such as an increase in crime and/or population growth.

(a) Rate per 100,000 persons. Source: Queensland Police Service

9.2 Housing

New housing stock is required in Etheridge shire and crucial to support the potential of economic and residential growth. With a significant FIFO worker population, even a modest percentage conversion to local residency would provide growth and flow on benefits for the local community.

Existing housing stock, where available, is typically not satisfying the standard required, relative to price point compared to the home locations of FIFO workers.

There is a strong desire from within the mining sector operators, local council and community to see a higher percentage of locally based workers, however a solution to the housing issue is required.

A combined strategy and partnership agreement between council, mine operators and potentially State Government may provide a way forward to encourage joint investment into the provision of new housing stock, which would likely, in turn lead to further external investment, and the encouragement of upgrades to existing dwellings.

Across each of the WQAC Local Government Areas, total residential building work approved per capita was worth an average of just $319 per annum over the three years to June 2020. In Greater Brisbane it was $2,676.

Regional Australia Institute Field Work Notes

- A housing shortage has slowly accumulated over the last 10 years – a tell-tale sign is that labourers and casuals are now struggling to find accommodation, whereas this wasn't the situation 10 years ago. Normally something would be available
- Another sign of the shortage is Ergon energy seeking to build an 'executive quarters' – rather than pay $150 a night for hotel/motel accommodation The population is ageing, and their housing needs are starting to change – council envisages
- that it will have to start developing independent-living style dwellings for those people who start to find their large homes too big to maintain and live in.
- Government housing is falling into disrepair, while private rental housing is generally 'subpar' in quality.
- The poor-quality housing is an issue for retaining essential government workers – people won't tolerate the quality of government housing for very long, contributing to high staff turnover (and the associated costs).

According to the WQAC study there were 11 blocks ready for housing development in Georgetown in 2021 and 18 blocks in pipeline to be ready for market in the next 3 years.

Etheridge Shire currently owns 21 houses in Georgetown for council staff. At least 48% of this stock are due for major renovations or rebuilds.

Source: WQAC Housing Solutions Study, September 2021

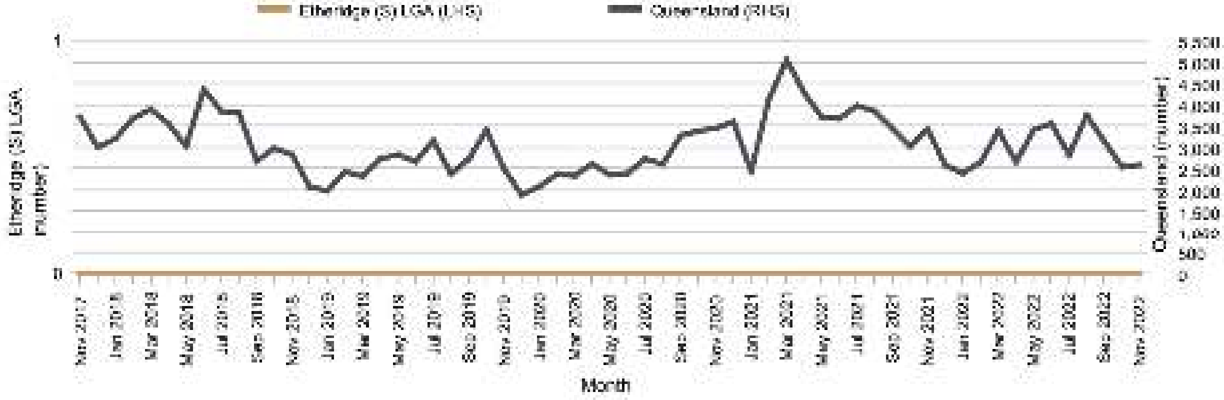
Housing development – Nil

Building approvals

The number of new houses approved in Etheridge (S) in the 12 months ending 30 November 2022 was 0 equating to 0 building value in residential building approvals

Information on building approvals is compiled by the ABS and are collected from sources such as local government authorities and other principal certifying authorities. The estimates for any month may be revised or corrected in later months. This can occur as a result of corrections made by a provider of data, the late provision of approval records and, occasionally, by approvals being identified after construction work has commenced. Data are updated monthly with a release approximately 2 months after the reporting period. The next planned update is in February 2023.

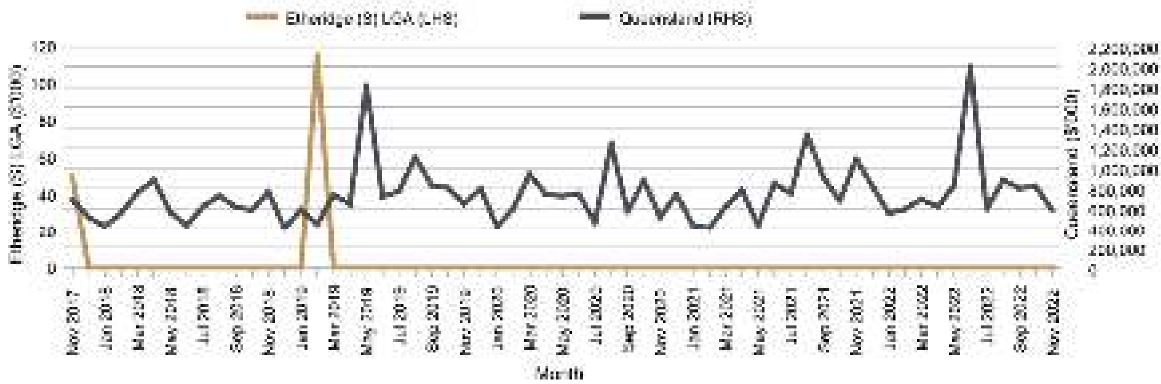
Number of residential building approvals



Source: ABS, *Building Approvals, Australia*, various editions

Value of residential building approvals

Value of non-residential building approvals



Source: ABS, *Building Approvals, Australia*, various editions

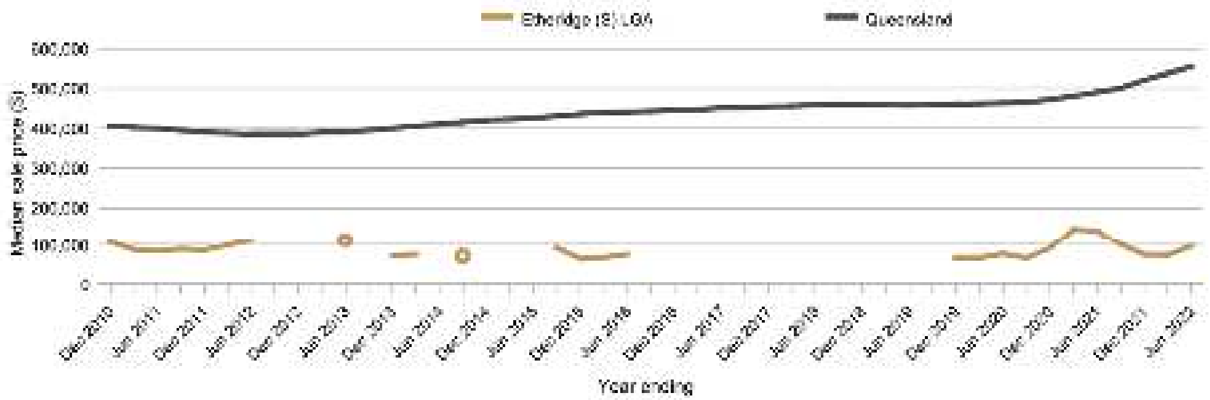
Residential dwelling sales

The median sale price in Etheridge in the 12 months ending 30 June 2022 was $97,000.

16 residential dwelling sales in the 12 months ending 30 June 2022.

Residential dwelling sales data are sourced from the Queensland Valuation and Sales (QVAS) database as collected and maintained by the Queensland Department of Resources. Medians are only calculated where there are ten or more sales over the time period. All figures are preliminary and are subject to further revision. Data are updated quarterly with a release approximately 4 months after the reporting period. The next planned update is in February 2023.

Median value of residential dwelling sales



New house and vacant land sales

0 new house sales in the 12 months ending 30 June 2022. A median new house sale price has not been calculated for Etheridge (S).

There were14 vacant land sales and a median vacant land sale price has been calculated for Etheridge at $17,500.

New house and vacant land sales data are sourced from the Queensland Valuation and Sales (QVAS) database as collected and maintained by the Queensland Department of Resources. Medians are only calculated where there are ten or more sales over the time period. All figures are preliminary and are subject to further revision. Data are updated quarterly with a release approximately 4 months after the reporting period. The next planned update is in February 2023.

Residential lot registrations

0 residential lot registrations in the 12 months ending 30 September 2022 plus 0 urban residential lot registration.

Lot registrations data provide an indication of the volume of new lots developed and intended for residential purposes. Once a subdivisional plan has been certified by local government, it is lodged with the Department of Resources (DR) for registration of title. For more information refer to the **Residential land development activity profiles**. Data are updated quarterly with a release approximately 2 months after the reporting period. The next planned update is in January 2023.

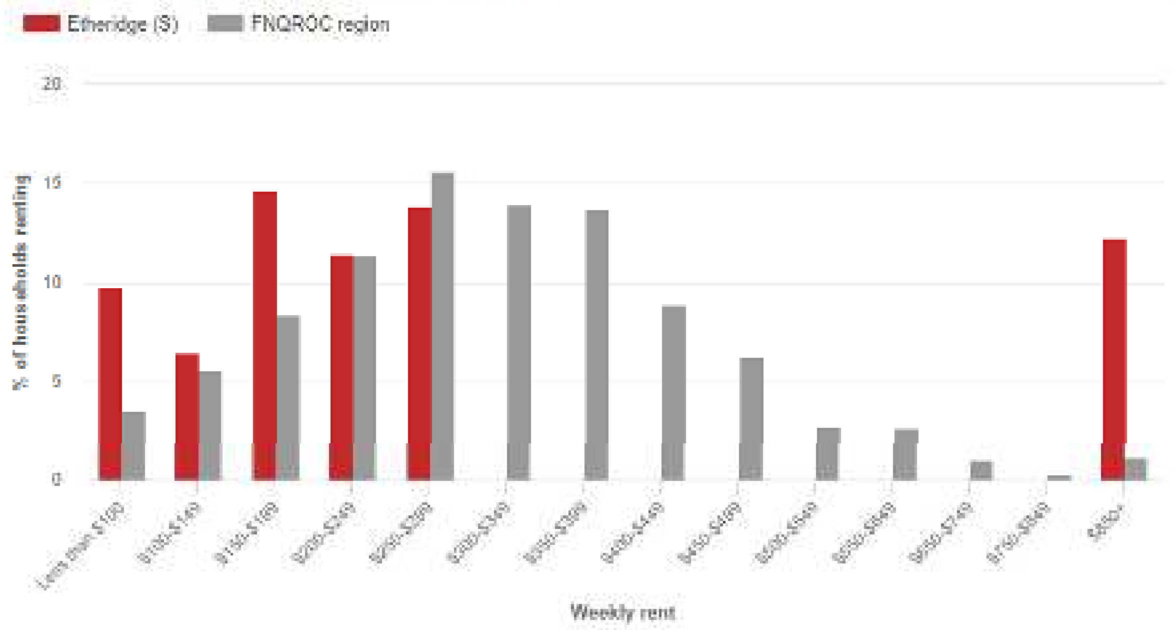
Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Queensland Treasury.

Housing rental

Limited availability of rental housing in Etheridge.

A website search on 25 January 2023 indicated 0 dwellings available to rent. In Etheridge (S), 12.2% of renting households were paying $450 or more per week in rent in 2021 and 42.3% were paying low payments of less than $250 per week.

Weekly housing rental payments, 2021



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing, 2021 (Enumerated data). Compiled and presented in profile.id by .id (informed decisions).

Housing tenure

In Etheridge (S), 57% of households were purchasing or fully owned their home, 15.8% were renting privately, and 0.4% were in social housing in 2021. Generally, there was strong household ownership in the Shire in comparison to Regional Queensland.

Housing tenure

Etheridge (S) - Households (Enumerated)	2021			2016			Change
Tenure type	Number	%	Regional QLD %	Number	%	Regional QLD %	2016 to 2021
Fully owned	361	50.5	31.0	254	42.3	29.2	+107
Mortgage	48	6.7	30.2	51	8.5	29.1	-3
Renting - Total	115	16.2	29.5	67	11.1	30.2	+49
Renting - Social housing	3	0.4	3.1	6	1.0	3.3	-3
Renting - Private	113	15.8	26.2	61	10.1	26.7	+52
Renting - Not stated	0	--	0.2	0	--	0.2	0
Other tenure type	69	9.7	2.3	39	6.5	2.3	+30
Not stated	121	16.9	7.0	190	31.6	9.2	-69
Total households	715	100.0	100.0	601	100.0	100.0	+114

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing 2016 and 2021. Compiled and presented by .id (informed decisions).

Please refer to specific data notes for more information

9.3 Health and aged care services

(CHHHS) operates the **Georgetown Primary Health Centre the Forsayth Primary Health Centre and the Einasleigh Primary Health Clinics**, providing rural and remote hospital services including a number of community health services such as immunisations, complex care coordination, wound care and telehealth.

The Royal Flying Doctor Service of Australia visits weekly to the Georgetown Primary Health Centre and Georgetown Primary Health Centre provides emergency rescue services with a hospital-based ambulance and they have a women's health nurse who visits twice a year.

Community health services provide an aged care assessment team, sexual health, chronic disease management, diabetes education, mental health, alcohol and drug service, school health, child and youth health, women's health, palliative care, physiotherapy, dietician and dental services.

Queensland Health has visiting Health Services including an Allied Health Team where the Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service regularly visit the Etheridge Shire with its Allied Health Team every 2-3 months. This team includes a Physiotherapist, Occupational Therapist, and Social Worker.

They also have an Oral Health Team from Atherton Hospital who visit the Etheridge Shire every 3-4 months and go to Forsayth and Georgetown.

There is also a Remote Clinics Nurse who is sent by Queensland Health to visit the more remote townships every fortnight on a trip from Ravenshoe to Greenvale.

Daily Care provides residential aged care services to 41 homes within 500km radius

Mt Surprise, Einasleigh, Forsayth, Georgetown and Croydon service providers supporting the Etheridge community include:

- North and West Remote Health and Wellbeing services (visiting)
- North and West Remote Health disability services (visiting)
- North and West Remote Health aged care services (visiting)
- Outreach Pharmacist
- Outreach Physiotherapist
- Cootharinga North Qld – aged care services
- Etheridge Cares/Trilogy Care – remote aged care – home care.

9.4 Childcare

Owned and operated by council, Little Gems Children's Centre provides long day care services with 21 places, operating 8:15am – 4.30pm Monday to Friday. The Centre has been providing quality childcare since 2013. This service is approved to provide education and care to children from birth to over preschool age, not including school children.

9.5 Education and training

Georgetown State School delivers classes from Prep to Year 6. The school employs 4 teaching staff, 3.8 and 5 part-time teaching staff and support staff which includes teacher aides, admin staff and grounds staff. Georgetown student hostel provides weekday accommodation for primary students who are not able to access primary school daily from their residence.

2021	45 enrolments	2020	45 enrolments	2019	29 enrolments

Forsayth School delivers classes from Prep to Year 6. The school employs 2 teaching staff and 2 non-teaching staff. The school was established during the Gold Rush days of 1895 and prides a rich past. Many of the present students are the second or third generation of people, who still live and visit the school, on occasions, telling of their days at the school when the school had over fifty students. Forsayth State School is a multi-age Prep to Year 6 school with all students learning in the one classroom. The school enjoys the provision of activities through the Active After School Communities program, engaging the students in two afternoons of sporting activities each week

2021	4 enrolments	2020	5 enrolments	2019	8 enrolments

Mt Surprise State School delivers classes from Prep to Year 6. The school employs 2 full time teaching staff and 6 non-teaching staff - includes teacher aides, admin staff and grounds staff. The school provides state delivered kindergarten, the LOTE Japanese through Cairns School of Distance Education.

2021	17 enrolments	2020	13 enrolments	2019	17 enrolments

Council for seven years has awarded a tertiary education scholarship of $5000 for local students towards Degrees in Planning, Civil Engineering, Nursing, Early Childcare or Accounting. The purpose is to try to retain qualified professionals in these fields in the region.

10.0 Enabling projects

Several projects have been identified as having a positive economic benefit on the Shire through jobs and population growth. Projects are not listed in any order of priority.

- Etheridge Shire – Masterplan
- New Water Reservoir – Georgetown
- Forsayth Water Treatment Plan
- Terrestrial Visitor Information Centre Expansion – Georgetown

The Etheridge Shire also has some priority projects which they are working on including the **Gilbert River Agricultural Scheme**; the Etheridge Agricultural Forum, **Geotourism** and **Charleston Dam as a recreational precinct. See here for more information on Charleston Dam** which was completed in 2022.

10.1 Council funding programs

Council's **Community Infrastructure Grant** is funded from council's Community Infrastructure reserve. Each financial year council will allocate $7,500 to the community infrastructure reserves for the communities of Georgetown, Forsayth, Einasleigh, Mt Surprise and Shire. The balance of the community infrastructure reserves is capped at $40,000 and will be carried forward each financial year

The **Community Infrastructure Grant** aims to provide financial assistance to community organisation's that wish to pursue the purchase, improvement, renovation or development of infrastructure which respond to local community needs and to make a positive contribution to community life in the Etheridge Shire region.

The purpose of this policy is to provide a framework which guides the administration of council's Community Infrastructure Grant Policy in a manner that is aligned to council's corporate strategic priorities and in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2009* and the *Local Government Regulation 2012.*

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Align with the goals of the Etheridge Shire Council Corporate Plan 2010-2017 (amended), specifically strategic priority 1.0 Community and Lifestyle: "To provide accessible lifestyle choices through the provision of recreational and public facilities and services that will enhance community health, happiness and connections"
- To support community-based groups and organisation which provide, activities and projects that enrich the diversity of cultural and social opportunities available to the residents located in the Etheridge Shire region.
- Improve the capacity and wellbeing of residents in the Etheridge Shire region
- Increase the capacity of community organisations to leverage other sources of funding for community projects

Council's **Economic Development Fund** aims to provide for eligible organisations or groups to conduct projects, activities and events that will result in a demonstrated economic benefit to the Etheridge Shire region. The fund is open to groups and organisations such as non for profits, collaborative partnerships, industry associations, industry clusters and chambers of commerce. The amount is up to $10,000 per application with 20% contribution from applicant.

Objectives:

- Enhance sustainability and planned economic development through immediate, medium- and long-term achievements.
- Provide opportunities for business success, economic development and economic diversity across the region.
- Expand organisations' capacity to provide ongoing services that directly influence our regional economy.
- Enhance community identity and pride and bring economic and tourism opportunities to the region
- Strengthen links with community organisations, businesses and other spheres of government, in areas of mutual interest.

Examples of projects:

- Business development or employment generating activities
- New industry feasibility studies
- Marketing or promotion of the region
- Industry events
- Projects which support investment attraction in the region
- Research or collaborative projects.

11.0 Consultation

Representatives of the following organisations were consulted and informed the contents of this document.

- Etheridge Shire Council
- Etheridge State School
- Etheridge Kindergarten
- Department of Agriculture and Fisheries
- Department of Employment, Small Business and Training
- Terrestrial information centre
-
- …..include additional organisations as consulted

12.0 References

Data Sources

- REMPLAN Economy
- REMPLAN COVID-19 Impacts Explorer
- Queensland Government Statisticians Office
- Australian Bureau of Statistics
- Regional Australia Institute
- Department of Employment, Small Business and Training
- .id economy.

Other documents

- **Etheridge regional water supply security assessment (rdmw.qld.gov.au)** Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy, 2019
- **Etheridge Unmanned Aerial Test Facility** AECOM, 14 November 2019
- **Etheridge Non-Network Options Report (ergon.com.au)** Ergon Energy 14 February 2020
- **Business Case – Etheridge Supply Reinforcement (aer.gov.au)** Ergon Energy 2020-25 Regulatory Period
- **Australia's Future Workforce?** CEDA (Committee for Economic Development of Australia) June 2015
- Etheridge Shire Council Disaster Management Plan
- Qld Beef Supply Chain
- RDA Gilbert River Project Implementation Proposal
- Gilbert River Irrigation Project business case
- Gulf Savannah and North West Outback QLD -Indigenous and Regional Tourism Investment - Pipeline of Projects Study - Action Plan and Project Report
- Regional Roads Investment Strategy
- Critical Minerals Projects in Australia 2020
- Regional Transport Plan Northern Qld 2020
- Regional Transport Plan Far North Queensland 2019
- Ergon Energy DAPR network maps.

Department of State Development,
Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning
Unit 1, 75 Camooweal Street PO Box 2221 Mount Isa Qld 4825
Tel (07) 4747 3900
NWQ@dsdilgp.qld.gov.au
www.dsdilgp.qld.gov.au