

RECOVERY PLAN OUTLINE

WHAT WE PLAN TO DO

Council's Recovery Objectives:

1. Immediate relief and recovery activities to ensure community has access to essential services in accord with Health Department direction.
2. Council has processes in place to minimise the risk to our staff and customers, and are prepared to respond to any further outbreaks in our community.
3. Respond to requests from state agencies for assistance.
4. Immediate relief and ongoing recovery activities to ensure community has access to psychosocial support services through existing service providers such as Lifeline & Red Cross.
5. Immediate relief and ongoing recovery activities to ensure community has access to financial support services through State Lead Agencies.
6. Recovery activities ensure businesses have access to / are accessing financial support services to restore/rebuild their businesses.
7. Funding streams are identified to support community organisations and not-for-profits.
8. Identify and promote funding opportunities to stimulate tourism across the region.
9. Implement process to reopen council owned facilities/recreational areas.
10. Community organisations and not-for-profits restore operations as permitted and transition towards traditional operating levels and practices.
11. Recovery projects are focused on reinvesting and growing local economy.

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Objectives for our Region:

1. Residents and businesses are informed and following current Health Directives.
2. Residents and businesses are minimising the risk of community transmission and are prepared for potential further outbreak.
3. Businesses restore staff as permitted and transition towards traditional operating levels and practices.
4. Recovery activities ensure businesses have access to/ are accessing, financial support services to restore/rebuild their businesses.

MEASURES OF SUCCESS

Human and Social:

1. Community and business members follow Federal/State Government directives.
2. Coordinated support visits to all areas identified where human and social impacts have been identified and referrals made to relevant partner agencies where required.
3. Media broadly used to update community and offer alternate service delivery
4. Community members have returned to work.
5. Children have returned to school.
6. Community members have accessed financial assistance where available.
7. Community members have accessed psychosocial support where required.
8. Community and visitors support and participate in community events.
9. Funding secured to support community recovery and resilience strategies.
10. Initiatives developed to build community.

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Economic:

1. Financial, training and advisory support provided and accessed by businesses.
2. Positive growth in building and development approvals.
3. Government funding secured for employment generating projects.
4. Businesses restore staff as permitted and transition towards traditional operating levels and practices.
5. Gross Regional Product (GRP) and growth maintained at pre-COVID-19 comparison levels against Queensland GRP.

HOW WE PLAN TO DO IT

Human and Social:

1. Support where required relevant agencies and stakeholders to:
 - a. coordinate support visits to all areas across the region to assess human and social impacts;
 - b. facilitate the provision of emergency hardship payments where eligible;
 - c. provide access to psychosocial support services when required;
 - d. transition community members from social distancing back to “new normal” interaction;
 - e. re-open schools.
2. Assist short, medium and long-term recovery, and be a conduit to support services as required.
3. Regularly discuss issues and trends with Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors, Care Goondiwindi and Community Advisory Network Chairs.
4. Develop a funding program to help community groups and clubs with administrative costs during period of inactivity.
5. Provide training to clubs and community groups on alternative technologies to enable meetings and club activities to continue.
6. Distribute relevant information to clubs and community groups in relation to COVID-19 and transitioning back to activity.
7. Reopen community facilities as soon as practically safe to do so.

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Economic:

1. Access from Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning analysis of data as to industry and geographic areas most impacted by the pandemic to inform local recovery measures.
2. Stimulate immediate employment creation through bringing forward Council funded “shovel-ready” infrastructure projects of varying scale able to be delivered by a diversity of local contractors.
3. Amend Council purchasing policy to better ensure that any goods or services available locally are purchased locally.
4. Provide direct stimulus to specific industry where practical through fee relief.
5. Encourage community and industry activity through reducing Council fees associated with development and construction.
6. Support the delivery of the Southern Queensland Country Tourism Industry Recovery Plan to stimulate short to medium term visitation.

7. Support businesses with training and information sessions to support them to adapt operating models and access assistance.
8. Food and hospitality operators supported to reopen and mechanisms to enable increased seating/service capacity explored and implemented where possible.
9. Create and implement specific Digital Marketing Campaign for region.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: What we have done so far – a list of GRC Community & Economic Development Activities/Initiatives

WHAT WE HAVE DONE SO FAR

GRC Community & Economic Development Activities/Initiatives	
1	Sought data from state, federal agencies to identify trends and those most impacted by the pandemic to inform local recovery measures.
2	Provided communication and tools to assist community groups and businesses, access relevant information about health directives funding availability, and economic stimulus packages.
3	Partnered with Queensland Police Service to implement technology solutions to local border closure problems impacting local businesses and employees.
4	Stimulate immediate employment creation through identifying “shovel-ready” infrastructure projects of varying scale able to be delivered by a diversity of local contractors.
<i>a</i>	Council identified \$28.2m of ‘shovel-ready’ projects to lobby state and federal government on job creation projects for the local region.
<i>b</i>	Advocacy to State and Federal governments on behalf of local businesses with ‘shovel ready’ projects that could stimulate job creation and the economy
<i>c</i>	Rapid response to prioritise projects for COVID-19 federal funding for roads and community infrastructure
<i>d</i>	Rapid response to prioritise projects for the additional COVID-19 Works for Queensland funding to councils
<i>e</i>	Participate in regular meetings with Queensland Department of State Development and other LGAs to monitor impacts of COVID-19 and identify best practice recovery activities.
5	Provide direct stimulus to specific industry through fee relief.
<i>a</i>	All food licences waived for 2020 calendar year
<i>b</i>	Waived 2020-21 pedestal fees for all local hotels, motels and sporting clubs
<i>c</i>	Rental fees on Council owned land reduced
<i>d</i>	Waived 2020-21 rates for local sporting clubs and community groups
<i>e</i>	Refunds processed for all requests of cancelled Council facility bookings
6	Provided direct stimulus to community groups through additional grants available to stimulate local spend and address the expected downturn in sponsorship and household income.
7	Council delayed due date of annual rate payments for period Jan – Jun 2020.
8	Encourage community and industry activity through reducing Council fees associated with development and construction by 50%.

GRC Community & Economic Development Activities/Initiatives	
9	Support businesses with training and information sessions to support them to adapt operating models and access assistance.
<i>a</i>	Council delivered three webinars to businesses and residents
<i>b</i>	Council coordinated a grant writing webinar to support local businesses applying for business grants
10	Economic support package for households through reduction in compliance fees e.g. animal registrations
11	Amended Council's purchasing policy to better ensure that any goods or services available locally are purchased locally if under \$5,000 in value.
12	Advocacy and investigation into COVID-19 issues impacting region (e.g. border closures, boarding school access for border students, electricity rebate for border residents)
13	Established process to follow-up planning and building enquiries to promote greater activity in the local economy
14	Partnered with Southern Queensland Country Tourism to support the tourism industry heavily impacted by COVID-19
<i>a</i>	Attended fortnightly meetings with SQCT and other LGAs
<i>b</i>	Support the delivery of the Southern Queensland Country Tourism Industry Digital Recovery Plan to stimulate short to medium term visitation.
<i>c</i>	Facilitated networking and mentoring activities for the tourism sector
<i>d</i>	Established an EDM for tourism operators to share industry information and COVID-19 updates
15	Establishing a COVID-19 recovery digital tourism campaign including the establishment of digital social platforms for this activity
16	Investing in priority projects including:
<i>a</i>	Development of a Macintyre River Tourism Precinct Master Plan
<i>b</i>	Investment in public art – completion of the Yelarbon Silo Art Viewing area
<i>c</i>	Development of Goondiwindi Region Art Trail brochure
<i>d</i>	Review of Goondiwindi Visitor Information Centre operations
<i>e</i>	Texas Country Music mentoring
<i>f</i>	Implement a mentoring program for local tourism operators to assist in their recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic
17	Maintained regular contact with Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors, Care Goondiwindi and Community Advisory Network Chairs, to discuss issues and trends.

GRC Community & Economic Development Activities/Initiatives	
18	Established Facility Use Compliance Agreements for the public hire of Council Facilities including Community Centres, Halls and Sporting Centres.
19	Distributed relevant information to clubs and community groups in relation to COVID-19 and transitioning back to activity e.g. checklists, government guidelines, signage to be displayed at venues, etc.