



## Agriculture & Food Technologies

Agriculture is a longstanding strength of the Capricorn Coast. Capricorn Coast is the only location in Australia with the ability to grow pineapples year-round and is well-known for its production of Pure Gold Pineapples. Pure Gold Pineapples are developed from the Hawaiian Gold and come in a variety of sizes known as the “Pure Gold Family” to ensure availability all year round. The investment of \$5.8 million (from Australian Government) towards a high-pressure processing plant in Yeppoon will create 26 ongoing jobs and the opportunity for excess or lower grade fruit, particularly pineapples to get to market.

Cattle production is the most valuable agricultural activity in the region, comprising approximately 70% of all agricultural production by value. Central Queensland University is one of the only four Australian Universities to achieve the Commonwealth’s highest possible research ranking in Agricultural and Vet Sciences, and to achieve top ranking in Agriculture and Farm management. Livingstone Shire Council works closely with Central Queensland University to identify partnerships for training and research opportunities for local producers.

By 2050, food supply is predicted to increase 60% to meet global demands, with 85% of this production increase expected to be driven by increased yields and cropping intensity, highlighting the critical role of agricultural technologies to level with demand. Securing Capricorn Coast to become a premier supply and service centre for a broad range of agricultural product and produce.

### Facts



Total Value:  
**\$91 million** (2018/19)



Supported Jobs:  
**621** (2018/19)



Largest Commodity Produced:  
**Livestock Slaughter**





## Opportunities

The challenge now, is to take advantage of the area's exceptional natural assets (climate and high quality soil) to maximise production. This relies on acting on the value-adding opportunities available, including:

- » Development of farm-to-plate dining experiences and fostering food and agri-tourism opportunities
- » Expanding beef-fattening capacity through feedlot production in the region's north
- » Expanding tropical fruit and pineapple producing operations
- » Leveraging the Rookwood Weir project (once complete) to ensure water supply meets the needs of the agricultural industry
- » Expanding organic and permaculture production
- » Realising the potential of the role of technology in agriculture as a domestic and global market opportunity through the introduction of AgTech initiatives, attraction of a new breed of cattle producer, tech savvy processes, efficient water use, sustainable farming and introducing high value finishing grass and grains into operations.

## How to Invest - Where to Now?

Livingstone Shire Council offers support to projects where the nature and scale of the investment will stimulate significant economic and community benefits, job creation and value-add to the entire regional economy.

- » **Investment advice and in-kind support** are available through a variety of resources. Livingstone Shire Council can provide advice in regard to economic and demographic trends, grant opportunities and provide economic impact modelling to validate business case and grant development for projects.
- » **Flexible planning scheme** to make it easier to invest in the Capricorn Coast region. Improved measures encourage new business in centres with reduced levels of assessment allowing business to get on with business. If you're in a dedicated business zoned area, this scheme will allow you to attract tenants, within the scope of approved uses, without having to consult council every step of the way.
- » The Livingstone Shire's planning scheme allows for the accommodation of forecast population growth, with urban development expanding in proximity to established urban localities focussed around Yeppoon and Emu Park. Planning for growth will ensure cost effective and sequential provision of infrastructure.
- » **Free general planning and property advice** and access to pre-lodgement discussions for developers offering access to a range of experts across council departments.

If you are interested in a confidential discussion on the investment opportunities available, contact: