

LIVINGSTONE SHIRE COUNCIL

Federal Election Priority Projects

2025



Foreword

MAYOR ADAM BELOT



Sunshine, Coastal Vibes and Hinterland Serenity

– We do have it all and the world is noticing.

Livingstone Shire is a truly remarkable place to call home or stay for a holiday. To preserve our lifestyle and nurture our great communities we need support in the form of key infrastructure and region building projects.

Let's Go Livingstone!

As we approach the federal election, I am excited to present Livingstone Shire Council's advocacy document, outlining our key priorities for the region. The Capricorn Coast region is thriving, boasting an enviable lifestyle and work-life balance, with a strong and resilient community that has weathered the challenges of COVID-19.

With a population of nearly 42,000, a gross regional product of \$1.93 billion, and over 3,000 businesses, we are one of the fastest-growing areas outside southeast Queensland. Our progress is a testament to the strength and determination of our community.

To build on this growth, we must secure funding for key region-building projects.

These initiatives are crucial for ensuring ongoing prosperity, enhancing our infrastructure, and supporting our vibrant local economy.

Our advocacy document highlights three 'game-changing' initiatives that require support from the federal government. These projects will help us continue to thrive and pave the way for a bright future for all residents of Livingstone Shire.

I invite you to join us in advocating for these critical projects, which will shape the future of our region. Together, we can ensure that Livingstone Shire remains a wonderful place to live, work, and visit.



Our Visitor Economy

AT A GLANCE



922,000
VISITORS
(883,000 domestic, 39,000 international)



2.7 MILLION
TOTAL DOMESTIC NIGHTS
(Average 3.2 nights per stay)



\$809 MILLION
OVERNIGHT VISITOR SPENDING
(\$885 average per visit)



289,000
TOTAL INTERNATIONAL NIGHTS
(Top 5 international markets: UK, Germany, NZ, Netherlands, France)



2,500
CURRENT ROOMS



\$2.4 BILLION
QUEENSLAND CRUISE SHIP
ECONOMIC OUTPUT
(Up 49.7% from 2023 to 2024)

TOWARDS TOURISM 2032 TARGETS



1,219
ADDITIONAL ROOMS (+50.2%)



1 MILLION
ANNUAL ROAD USERS (+54%)



8,228
ADDITIONAL MONTHLY
AIRLINE SEATS (+26%)



\$835 MILLION
OVERNIGHT VISITOR SPENDING



Investment in Critical Trunk Road Infrastructure

PRIORITISING THE DELIVERY OF ROBUST ROAD NETWORK

Livingstone Shire Council is committed to addressing the housing shortage created by strong demand to live and work on the Capricorn Coast.

Resources and Readiness

It is now critical to bring forward enabling infrastructure and overcome “roadblocks” to facilitate sensible, efficient, resilient supply of a diverse range of residential, industrial, and commercial products. Council has identified the need to commence the major Trunk Road, East West Connector as soon as possible.

Current Support & Commitment

Livingstone Shire Council

- Prioritised road infrastructure in planning with budget allocation of \$500,000
- Commenced consultation with road corridor property owners
- Seeking pathways to fast-track approvals for residential developments
- Partnering with affordable housing providers by supplying underutilised Council-owned land for development

Queensland Government

- Provided preliminary support through funding for road projects aligned with State infrastructure goals

Objectives and Outcomes

The project will:

- Replace the “gull wing” intersection at Neill’s Road with a signalised 4-way intersection, improving traffic flow
- Connect to the Gateway Business and Industry Park, offering direct access to Rockhampton
- Alleviate congestion on Tanby Road and Scenic Highway, reducing future upgrade costs

- Reduce pressure on the Jordy Drive intersection and separate commercial and industrial traffic
- Establish a road link from Yeppoon Rockhampton Road to Tanby Road, identified in multiple studies and the Strategic Framework of the Planning Scheme
- Provide road access to the emerging Hidden Valley community

Ask and Action

We seek a \$25 million commitment to:

- Investigate, design, and document the initial stages of the East West Connector
- Upgrade Neils Road-Yeppoon Rockhampton Road intersection to a signalised 4-way
- Construct the first stage of road to connect to the Gateway Business and Industry Park

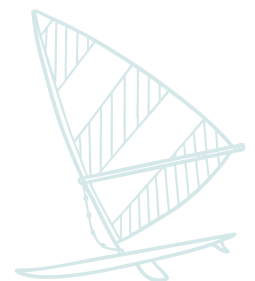
Alignment

- Aligns with the Strategic Framework of Livingstone’s Planning Scheme, Central Queensland Regional Plan, and Livingstone Community Plan 2050
- Supports the Queensland Infrastructure Strategy, emphasizing resilient and efficient transport networks for regional growth, safety, and economic productivity

Economic Benefits

Construction Phase (over a 2 year period)

- \$47.55 million in output
- \$15 million value added



Yeppoon Town Centre Revitalisation

STAGE 2

The Yeppoon Centre Revitalisation Project will foster a thriving commercial hub, supporting local businesses, enhancing liveability, and showcasing Yeppoon's unique character.

Resources and Readiness

As the most visited commercial destination in the region, along with the Foreshore, Normanby and James Street rate as the highest priority for place making enhancement. Irrespective of place making considerations, improvements to the town centre are crucial and will build on the \$53M investment in the Yeppoon in the Foreshore.

Current Support & Commitment

The Yeppoon Town Centre Revitalisation project has been a long-standing priority for the community, with extensive consultation and engagement undertaken over several years to shape the vision for a thriving town centre. Council engaged Place Design Group to develop concept plans. Council has demonstrated its ongoing commitment to the project's success with budget allocation in the forward works program for Stage 1 works, commencing 2025/26.

Objectives and Outcomes

- Create a pedestrian-friendly and accessible public space that promotes social interaction and community engagement, while strengthening community identity and sense of place.
- Enhance the economic viability of businesses in the area through improved amenity and aesthetic appeal.
- Incorporate sustainable design principles and green infrastructure to mitigate the urban heat island effect and improve environmental outcomes.

Ask and Action

To complete the vision for the Yeppoon Town Centre and Foreshore Redevelopment, Council is requesting a minimum of \$5 million in funding to deliver Stage 2 of the revitalisation project. This funding will build on the

momentum of Stage 1, to create a world-class destination for locals and visitors alike.

Alignment

The Yeppoon Town Centre Revitalisation project aligns with Livingstone Shire Council's Community Plan 2028 and supports several key strategies:

- Economic Development Strategy: enhancing local growth, attracting businesses and tourists.
- Infrastructure Plan: integrated planning and infrastructure priorities
- Environmental Sustainability Strategy: incorporating green infrastructure, energy-efficient design, and climate-resilient construction.

Shares the Regional Development Australia (RDA) Central Queensland regional plan's focus on:

- Enhancing regional economic growth through improved amenity and infrastructure
- Supporting tourism development and local businesses
- Incorporating sustainable design principles and environmental conservation

Australian Government's Regional Investment Framework

Our project supports the 'Investing in Places' focus theme by revitalising the town centre through environmentally responsible design, facilitating economic growth, regional development, and infrastructure investment.

Economic Benefits

Construction Phase (over a 1 year period)

- \$10 million in output
- \$3 million value added
- 24 local jobs per year

Great Keppel Island (Woppa) Masterplan

PRIORITISING THE DELIVERY OF SAFE, ALL ABILITIES ACCESS

The Great Keppel Island Masterplan is a transformative initiative aimed at revitalising and sustainably developing one of Queensland's most iconic destinations.

Resources and Readiness

A masterplan that envisions a vibrant, eco-friendly tourism and recreation hub that preserves the island's natural beauty while providing modern amenities and attractions. Following a two-year focus on accessibility, an initiative of the State government, equitable access should be at the core for supporting visitors to this stunning island.

Current Support & Commitment

Queensland Government:

- \$30 million commitment towards common-user infrastructure.
- \$500,000 to The Department of Transport and Main Roads/MSQ to undertake further technical studies for safer and more weather resilient maritime access as a Priority Action listed in the Master Plan.
- The Master Plan notes as the highest priority for future opportunities is to "deliver safer and more weather resilient maritime access to enhance accessibility and arrival and departure experience".

Project Reference Group

- Accessibility for all visitors was considered the highest priority during the planning phase of the Master Plan.

Livingstone Shire Council

- Wastewater Treatment Plant and Amenities: appointment of successful tenderer in December 2024 for design and construction.
- Arrivals Plaza and Amenities Project: tender for Design and Construction will be awarded by March 2025.
- Boardwalks Project: investigation and design development of three distinct boardwalk sites.
- Wayfinding Project: an initiative to enhance navigation and visitor experience by implementing a clear, cohesive signage system. Contract has been awarded.

Objectives and Outcomes

- Rapid commencement of construction projects and infrastructure upgrades
- An all-abilities access solution is crucial to the island becoming a more inclusive destination, attracting a broader range of visitors.
- Upgraded infrastructure, including utilities, transportation facilities, and public amenities, creating a conducive environment for attracting further private investment.

Ask and Action

- Implementation of the master plan fast-tracked delivery of the committed \$30 million along with additional funding to enhance the island's infrastructure.
- A minimum amount of \$80 million is sought to fund the construction of a jetty and barge ramp on Great Keppel Island.

Alignment

- The Livingstone Community Plan Towards 2050 commits to reviewing options for development at Great Keppel Island which balances stewardship of its environmental values and a desire to showcase its unique tourist potential.
- The Queensland Infrastructure Strategy promotes sustainable development, enhancing regional connectivity, and driving economic growth through strategic infrastructure investments.

Economic Benefits

Should GKI's potential future economic contribution be realised through the realisation of the GKI masterplan vision, the value of the tourism industry's contribution to the Capricorn Coast economy is expected to increase by 151.9% to \$137.4 million.

The increase in activity on GKI will also double the island's share of the broader Capricorn Coast tourism economy's contribution to GRP from 27.1% to 52.0%.



Version 1 February 2025