

Community Futures Task Force 2008 - 2009

Community Futures Task Force

Annual Report 2008 - 2009

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Chair's Introduction	1
2. About the Community Futures Task Force	2
2.1 Purpose	2
2.2 Terms of Reference	2
2.3 Membership	2
2.4 Community Futures Task Force Unit	3
3. Addressing Immediate Effects	4
3.1 Information and Referral	4
3.2 Counselling Services	5
3.3 Business Support	6
3.3.1 Business Assistance	6
3.3.2 Worker Assistance	6
3.4 Farm Business Support	6
4. Maximising Long Term Opportunities	7
4.1 Community Development Activities	7
4.1.1 Community Futures Fund	8
4.2 Economic Futures	8
4.2.1 Business Development	8
4.2.2 Primary Industry Futures	9
4.2.3 Tourism Development	10
4.3 Land Use and Infrastructure Planning	10
5. Engaging the Community	12
6. Providing Linkages	13
7. Future Directions	14
8. Appendices	15
Appendix A Members of the Community Futures Task Force	15
Appendix B Community Futures Fund: Approved Applications 2008-2009	16
Appendix C Community Futures Task Force: Outcomes	19

The Community Futures Task Force Annual Report 2008–2009

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ISSN 1835-372X

Copies of this publication can be obtained by contacting 1800 133 258 or at www.communityfutures.qld.gov.au

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1. CHAIR'S INTRODUCTION

2009

The Community Futures Task Force was established by the Queensland Government in July 2006 to address the human impacts of the announcement to build dams at Traveston Crossing and Wyaralong. The then Premier, the Honourable Peter Beattie, and the then Deputy Premier, the Honourable Anna Bligh, committed to ensuring people and their families and communities affected by the dam proposals would be treated fairly and compassionately. Premier Bligh and the Minister for Infrastructure and Planning, the Honourable Stirling Hinchliffe, have continued this commitment.

I hold the position of independent Chair of the Community Futures Task Force, which includes the heads of Queensland Government agencies, representatives of the three local government areas affected by the dam projects (Gympie, Sunshine Coast and Scenic Rim Regional Councils), and the Chief Executive Officer of Queensland Water Infrastructure Pty Ltd (QWI).

In July 2006, the Community Futures Task Force was intended to have a three-year term to 30 June 2009. This term was based on expected timeframes for Queensland and Australian Government assessments of the Traveston Crossing and Wyaralong Dam proposals.

On 8 October 2008, the Coordinator-General provided his assessment of the Wyaralong Dam project. On 25 November 2008, the Australian Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts approved the project. Since the conclusion of the Wyaralong Dam project assessment, Councillor John Brent (Mayor, Scenic Rim Regional Council), and QWI, have been briefed on Task Force member agency projects for the community affected by the Wyaralong Dam project. Task Force member agencies are now working directly with the Scenic Rim Regional Council and QWI to finalise Task Force activities for this community.

The complexity of the Traveston Crossing Dam project has meant that the assessment process is yet to be completed. In this context, I am pleased that the Queensland Government has extended the Community Futures Task Force until 31 December 2009, with the view that the services of the Task Force remain available to the communities affected by the Traveston Crossing Dam project at the time of the decision and in the months

immediately following. This extension is to be within existing funding arrangements.

During 2008-2009 the focus of much of the work of the Community Futures Task Force has been on restoring the social capital of the communities affected by the dam projects. This has included building the capacity of local community groups; supporting links between community groups and local government; strengthening the relationships between community groups and state government agencies; completing Task Force-aided projects, including planning their transition to agency core business; and, where appropriate, encouraging linkages between agency projects and QWI.

Through my visits to the affected communities, including the schools and various community groups across the Mary Valley, I am confident that the Community Futures Task Force has helped maintain social capital in these communities. Community members have expressed to me their appreciation for the efforts by Departments and member agencies, over the past three years, to assist them in dealing with the social and economic impacts of the 2006 announcement of the proposed dams.

In the coming months, and until its conclusion in December 2009, the Task Force will focus its efforts on providing information and ongoing support to individuals, completing existing projects, supporting the transition of service provision to core businesses functions of agencies, and assisting the Mary Valley community adjust to a decision announcement.

I am pleased to present this report for 2008-2009 as an account of the work of the Task Force and its member agencies. Please note that the financial statements of these agencies are reported separately in their Annual Reports.



Major General Peter Arnison AC, CVO (Ret'd)
Chair
Community Futures Task Force

2. ABOUT THE COMMUNITY FUTURES TASK FORCE

2008 -

2.1 Purpose

The Community Futures Task Force (the Task Force) was established in July 2006, as an independent body to work with those communities affected by the Queensland Government's proposals to build the Traveston Crossing and Wyaralong dams.

2.2 Terms of Reference

1. Address the immediate effects that the decision to build the dams has had on affected communities, and develop strategies in relation to:
 - the impact on health and wider social issues
 - the impact on business and industry continuity
 - the prospects for regional industry adjustment.
2. Develop strategies to maximise the longer term opportunities presented by the proposed dam developments, to enable the communities to position themselves for a better future by:
 - identifying the social, economic and land use impacts of the proposals on individuals, businesses, community social infrastructure and the broader communities
 - developing short-term and long-term action plans to assess and manage the social, economic and land use implications of the proposals on individuals, businesses, community social infrastructure and the broader communities.
3. Engage the community in the Task Force work program and provide regular community information by way of the One Stop Shop, visits, the newsletter, the website and the 1800 number.
4. Provide linkages between individuals, communities, businesses, local governments, the Australian Government, and the Queensland Government to address issues and impacts as appropriate.

2.3 Membership

The Task Force maintains a leadership and coordination role and ensures the activities of member agencies are achieved in a timely and effective manner. Major General Peter Arnison acts as an independent Chair of the Task Force and was appointed to chair the Task Force until 31 July 2009.

As a decision on the Traveston Crossing Dam had not been made prior to the end of the 2008-2009 year, the Queensland Government agreed to extend Major General Arnison's appointment, and the term of the Task Force, until 31 December 2009.

The Task Force includes:

- representatives of the three regional councils affected by the Traveston Crossing and Wyaralong Dam projects
 - Gympie Regional Council
 - Sunshine Coast Regional Council
 - Scenic Rim Regional Council
- heads and other senior representatives of Queensland Government agencies
 - Department of Infrastructure and Planning
 - Department of Communities
 - Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation
 - Department of Transport and Main Roads
 - Department of Education and Training, and
- the Chief Executive Officer, Queensland Water Infrastructure Pty Ltd (project proponent).

Members are listed at **Appendix A**.

2.4 Community Futures Task Force Unit

The work of the Task Force is supported by a small team, the Community Futures Task Force Unit (Task Force Unit). During 2008-2009, the Task Force Unit comprised 9.6 full-time equivalent officers, managed by an Executive Director.

The costs associated with the Task Force are met from a one-off allocation by the Queensland Government, made in 2006. This funding allocation is administered from the operating budgets of the respective member agencies.

The Task Force Unit's costs are administered by the Department of Infrastructure and Planning. However, to preserve the independence of the Task Force Unit, its operations are overseen by the Task Force Chair and it is not recognised in the Department's organisational structure.

The role of the Task Force Unit is to:

- undertake individual and community consultation
- produce and distribute information on behalf of the Task Force for community members
- support community and economic development initiatives
- assist in the coordination of cross government responses and projects
- administer the Task Force's Community Futures Fund
- provide secretariat services for the Task Force meetings.

The work of the Task Force Unit will continue until 31 December 2009.

3. ADDRESSING IMMEDIATE EFFECTS

2008 -

Addressing the immediate concerns of individuals through case management, and the provision of information, is a high priority of the Task Force.

During 2008-2009, individual demand for emotional support and information to address the impacts of the 2006 announcement to build the Traveston Crossing and Wyaralong Dams was relatively low.

3.1 Information and Referral

Individual and community consultations continued during 2008-2009, both in person and through a dedicated 1800 number (1800 133 258).

The Community Futures Task Force website (www.communityfutures.qld.gov.au) continued to provide updated information about member agency activities,

services and projects. The website was also expanded to include some information resources for the affected communities, prepared by member agencies.

In 2008-2009, the Department of Communities maintained a full-time presence in the Mary Valley through the Kandanga One Stop Shop (KOSS). Departmental KOSS staff progressed a range of community development initiatives; coordinated Lifeline counselling; and provided referral to Government and non-Government providers for Mary Valley residents.

Since the KOSS was established in 2006, there have been over 5,000 community contacts in relation to the proposed Traveston Crossing Dam. In 2008-2009, 1,600 community contacts were recorded, comprising 11% for referrals/information and 89% for community development projects.

Mary Valley Government Agent Program office established

The Mary Valley Government Agent Program (MVGAP) was implemented in 2008-2009, as a special project to address some social impacts of the proposed Traveston Crossing Dam and ensure an additional level of Queensland Government service to the affected communities.

The MVGAP is based on the Queensland Government Agent Program (QGAP) model. In addition to the unique impacts of the proposed dam, the Mary Valley communities share many of the circumstances experienced by other regional communities that enjoy QGAP services.

The Task Force Unit worked with Smart Service Queensland and community leaders to establish the MVGAP in the Kandanga Post Office. MVGAP provides information, assistance and advice on all Queensland Government, and some Australian Government services. The MVGAP commenced in February 2009 and will operate until August 2010.

In the first four months of operation the MVGAP service was well utilised by community members. For the state election in March 2009, MVGAP offered the newly introduced 'pre-polling' service which was utilised by many local residents.

In addition to providing improved access to Government information and services, MVGAP contributes to skilling local residents, training in Business Certificate III opportunities, and mentoring opportunities through links with other QGAP agencies.

The Department of Communities and the Task Force Unit provided resources to allow the MVGAP to operate for an 18 month period. QWI has agreed to fund the MVGAP service beyond its current end date of August 2010, should the Traveston Crossing Dam be approved and construction have commenced by this date. The Department of Communities has agreed to continue funding the MVGAP should there be a delay in the commencement of construction.

3.2 Counselling Services

During 2008-2009, Lifeline counsellors based at the KOSS had 212 new clients and conducted 602 personal and financial counselling sessions. This is comparable to the number of counselling sessions conducted by Lifeline counsellors based at the KOSS in 2007-2008.

Lifeline counsellors at the KOSS administer emergency assistance funding on behalf of the Department of Communities to Mary Valley families or individuals facing financial hardship. During 2008-2009, the Department provided emergency assistance funding totalling \$2,336. The assistance provided was between \$150 per individual and the maximum level of \$700 per family to five Mary Valley clients (individuals and families).

In addition, during 2008-2009 Lifeline conducted 27 community education workshops. The workshops were consistent with the increased focus of the Task

Force on supporting activities to strengthen the affected communities.

Information, referral and counselling services were offered to the community affected by the Wyaralong Dam through the Scenic Rim Regional Council and Fassifern Community Centre at Boonah. Since 2006 there have been 250 community contacts in relation to the Wyaralong Dam, with 97 contacts received in 2008-2009.

Since March 2007, there have been no requests for counselling from those affected by the Wyaralong Dam project. The Department of Communities will continue to liaise with the Scenic Rim Regional Council and Fassifern Community Centre to ensure that enquiries received from the public are referred to the relevant agency in a timely way.



The Kandanga One Stop Shop

3.3 Business Support

3.3.1 Business Assistance

The Queensland Government's Business Adjustment Scheme was established in November 2006 to assist eligible businesses that have experienced negative impacts due to the proposed Traveston Crossing and Wyaralong dams.

The scheme is administered by QRAA (the Queensland Rural Adjustment Authority) on behalf of the Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation.

In 2008-2009, a total of 29 applications for assistance were received through the scheme, with more than \$1M (excluding GST) in funding approved to successful applicants. This represents a significant increase from the 18 applications received in 2007-2008 with approved funding of \$0.65 M (excluding GST). There was a steady increase in the number of applications received in the second half of 2008-2009.

The number of applications received by fund type during 2008-2009 (and a comparison with 2007-2008 figures) follows:

Fund type	Applications received 2007-2008	Applications received 2008-2009
Business Advice	7	13
Business Restructure	8	13
Business Exit	3	3
Total	18	29

There have been no applications received from businesses based in the region of the Wyaralong Dam project.

The needs of businesses located in the inundation area of the dam projects are addressed through land purchasing activities undertaken by QWI.

3.3.2 Worker Assistance

Through the Worker Assistance Program, the Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation provided access to training, job preparation, relocation and wage subsidy assistance for eligible workers who lost their jobs as a result of the Government's decision to build the Traveston Crossing and Wyaralong dams.

As at 30 June 2009, service providers received \$3,806 for training and job preparation for ten applicants under the Worker Assistance Program. This includes one application during 2008-2009. All applicants have been from the Mary Valley area.

3.4 Farm Business Support

The Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation (Queensland Primary Industries and Fisheries) case manager assisted 93 clients in 2008-2009 with business advice, information and support in the area of the proposed Traveston Crossing Dam. This figure rose from 29 in 2006-07 and 40 in 2007-2008.

Queensland Primary Industries and Fisheries (QPIF) hosted four land and water management and equine behaviour workshops targeting owners of small scale horse properties. These workshops were successful in promoting sustainable property management in the Mary Valley region.

QPIF also hosted an agriculture industry networking function at Kandanga. This function informed primary producers about the trends in agriculture and the impact of the Global Financial Crisis on farm business.

QPIF facilitated a ginger industry development workshop, to identify key issues and to prioritise action to address future supply deficits and quality control issues.

There continues to be no contact from producers in the Wyaralong region.

4. MAXIMISING LONG TERM OPPORTUNITIES

During 2008-2009 the focus of the Task Force, in partnership with QWI, was on strengthening the communities affected by the dam projects to manage the future impacts of the pending decisions.

For Mary Valley communities this has meant building the capacity of local community groups; supporting links between community groups and local government; strengthening the relationships between community groups and government agencies; completing Task Force initiated projects, or planning their transition to agency core business; and encouraging links between agency projects and QWI, as appropriate.

For the communities affected by the Australian Government decision to approve the Wyaralong Dam, this has meant ensuring that the Scenic Rim Regional Council and the project proponent, QWI, were fully briefed on projects that had been initiated by the Task Force to ensure that future projects build on existing achievements.

4.1 Community Development Activities

Community development was a key focus of Task Force member agency activities during 2008-2009. This included improving the capacity of local community groups to undertake their own community development projects as well as Task Force member agencies directly managing community development activities.

The Task Force has supported maintenance and growth of social capital of the Mary Valley, including encouraging the continuation of self sustaining community based activities after the conclusion of the Task Force in December 2009. To this end, the Task Force Unit acted as a point of reference for the members of several Mary Valley village-based groups, as they sought to establish Mary Valley Connect Incorporated. Now established, Mary Valley Connect Incorporated is working towards building a positive future for all villages within the Mary Valley, regardless of a decision on the proposed Traveston Crossing Dam.

The work of Mary Valley Connect Incorporated is complemented by the recently formed Mary Valley

Chamber of Commerce. Both groups have presented to Task Force meetings.

In 2008-2009, the Community Development and Engagement Officer based at the KOSS worked with the community on more than 10 community development projects. These projects aimed to build the vitality and capacity of the community and have included: Friends of Kandanga 2009 Calendar; Kandanga Heritage Ball and Moveable Historical Narrative; Mary Valley Community Skills/Resources Audit; Mary Valley Bus Shelter and Cycle Paths Project; Mary Valley Artists Gallery; Oral History Project; Imbil Main Street Revitalisation; Imbil Business/Community Hub; Transition Town and Social Enterprise projects; Horticultural Work Placement/Community Gardens; Community Halls projects and recreational and artistic activities for local youth.

Mary Valley Sports Expo

The Mary Valley Sports Expo was organised by the Task Force Unit and local sporting club members as a way of showcasing the huge variety of clubs and sports in the Mary Valley. It was also an opportunity to encourage people to join clubs, either playing sport or volunteering their time and energy to supporting club activities.

The day was very successful with 24 clubs and over 200 people in attendance. Local groups reported an increase in club membership and people's awareness of sports and activities in the Mary Valley. This will be maintained by the development and distribution of a sporting directory.

Sport and Recreation Services, Department Communities, held a Locker Room Forum where two Gold Medal Olympians (Duncan Free – rowing and Justin Anlezark – shotputting) and a sports nutritionist gave motivational and informative speeches. Over 60 people participated in this event.



4.1.1 Community Futures Fund

The Task Force established the Community Futures Fund (the Fund) in March 2007 to support community and sporting groups in the areas affected by the proposed Traveston Crossing and Wyaralong Dams.

The Fund assists eligible community groups to continue providing services, and to alleviate concerns about ongoing viability. The Fund has also supported projects, events and celebrations that helped maintain strong community spirits and involve as many of the local community as possible, such as show society balls, bush dances, choirs and arts festivals.

The most significant outcome for the Fund is that community groups within the area affected by the dam projects have remained viable.

From establishment to 30 June 2009, 137 grants had been approved under the Fund at a total of \$432,880. As at 30 June 2009, \$264,267 had been paid to successful applicants, with the balance awaiting completion of appropriate milestones and invoice documentation.

Projects supported by the Fund in 2008-2009 include:

- Amamoor State School Parents and Citizens Association - Olympic Games Night
- Brooloo Hall Committee Group Incorporated - Community Garden and Associated Support Techniques
- Dagon Community Group Incorporated - Installation of Toilet Facility at Dagon Station
- Mary Valley Connect Incorporated - Mary Valley Sports Expo
- Mary Valley State College Parents and Citizens Association - School Community Theatre Restaurant

A complete list of projects approved in 2008-2009 is at **Appendix B**.

The Fund ceased accepting applications on 30 June 2009.

4.2 Economic Futures

The Employment, Industry Development and Innovation and QPIF service areas of the Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation (DEEDI) are jointly undertaking an Economic Futures Project to address the immediate impacts of the proposed dams' announcement on farm and non-farm businesses, and to maximise medium to long-term economic development opportunities within the affected communities.

Tourism Queensland (TQ) is also making an important contribution to the economic futures of the affected communities by supporting tourism development, as well as tourism marketing and training initiatives in the Mary Valley and Scenic Rim.

4.2.1 Business Development

During 2008-2009, member agencies focused their business development activities on: assisting industry and business to focus on growth and expansion; developing businesses operating in the tourism sector; initiating and project managing studies to support local industry and business development; and developing sustainable regional businesses.

DEEDI worked with business and industry to develop business capacity and capability and complete Business Capability Statements to optimise their prospects for gaining contracts to supply goods and services to the proposed dam project.

Departmental officers conducted nine business development workshops; held over 65 one-on-one meetings with business operators; and continued the delivery of a Mentoring for Growth program in the region affected by the proposed Traveston Crossing Dam. (The program assists businesses in high/rapid growth mode by providing access to a panel of business mentors who can help to address commercial challenges.)

A key local business development initiative is the Mary Valley Business Retention and Expansion Project (MV BEAR) implementation. Working in close collaboration with DEEDI and key regional stakeholders, the Mary Valley Project Coordinator is supporting projects focussed on agri-business development; village renewal; regional business profiling; the development of a Mary Valley website; business eco-sustainability development; skill sharing and mentoring; regional branding; a Mary Valley tourism project; business incubation and small business mentoring.

With support from the Task Force Unit and DEEDI, the preliminary work commenced on a Review of the Mary Valley Tourist Experience, which will develop strategies to maximise the tourist experience for visitors, economic outcomes for businesses and social outcomes for community organisations.

While demand for assistance from businesses in the vicinity of the proposed Wyaralong Dam remained low, the Queensland Government continued to support the regional economy through the Scenic Rim Regional Council's Boonah and District Futures Project. Although not a project of the Task Force, member agencies are provided with regular updates to ensure connections with Task Force-auspiced projects.

Through this project the Boonah and District Enterprise Board was established. A similar body is being considered for the entire Scenic Rim Regional Council area.

4.2.2 Primary Industry Futures

QPIF's contribution to the Economic Futures Project aims to identify the medium to long term food and fibre economic development opportunities and maximise their exploitation by agribusinesses from within and outside the affected communities.

During 2008-2009, QPIF implemented programs to strengthen existing Mary Valley rural businesses. This included running a Building Rural Leaders program aimed at improving leadership and fostering collaboration and cooperation between local community and rural industry groups in the Mary Valley region.

QPIF initiated the development of a floriculture precinct project for the Mary Valley, by identifying opportunities for investors to establish, or relocate, business to the region.

QPIF also released a number of publications to facilitate investment attraction in the Mary Valley region. These publications have been made available to key stakeholders, and also promoted on a dedicated website www.dpi.qld.gov.au/cps/rde/dpi/hs.xsl/16_12696_ENA_HTML.htm.

These publications include:

- ***Mary Economic Region: Agricultural Resource Guide***
This Guide promotes the resources of the region including land suitability, water availability, and infrastructure support to assist current and future investors with decision making.
- ***Your future, your choices: Making farming decisions in a time of change***
This guide assists landowners make informed decisions about future options in agriculture.
- ***A snapshot of Queensland specialist dairy manufacturing industry***
Identifies the issues, opportunities and threats confronting this sector, a significant proportion of which is located in the Sunshine Coast hinterland.
- ***Ginger Industry Report***
A situation analysis for the industry that identifies trade opportunities and threats confronting this sector.

4.2.3 Tourism Development

A new destination management officer was appointed by Tourism Sunshine Coast on 1 May 2009. TQ has contributed additional funding for the officer to work on key Mary Valley projects including the signage project and identity project.

TQ in partnership with the Queensland Tourism Industry Council (QTIC) prepared and delivered a training schedule for the Mary Valley, which included:

- AussieHost Workshops in July and September 2008, with over 15 attendees.
- Partnering with DEEDI and other agencies to present at a clean, green and profitable seminar which 22 operators attended.
- Mary Valley Long Lunch where over 26 operators met with representatives from TQ, QTIC, DEEDI, Tourism Sunshine Coast, Cooloola Regional Development Bureau, Small Business Solutions, Mary Valley Connect Incorporated and Mary Valley Chamber of Commerce.
- Nine businesses participated in business mentoring with Small Business Solutions at a heavily subsidised rate.

TQ promoted the Mary Valley and its operators through the South East Queensland Country Guide and South East Queensland Country Club Magazine.

The Scenic Rim Tourism Action Plan was released in December 2008, as part of the Brisbane Regional Tourism Investment and Infrastructure Plan. The Plan identified a number of priority projects for the Scenic Rim. On the advice of the Steering Committee for the Scenic Rim Tourism Project, the following two projects were identified as priorities and were allocated funding:

- Farm and Nature Tourism Study, being completed by Southern Cross University, with the support of Ipswich City Council and Scenic Rim Regional Council.
- A Regional Wine Tourism Project, which will be completed in conjunction with the Queensland Wine Industry Association, the Scenic Rim Wine Industry

Association, the Gold Coast Hinterland Wine Industry Association, Ipswich City Council and Scenic Rim Regional Council.

TQ worked with QTIC to prepare and deliver a training schedule for the Scenic Rim, which included:

- Scenic Rim Industry Long Lunch which provided over 50 operators with the opportunity to meet with representatives from QTIC, DEEDI, TQ, Brisbane Marketing, Wine Industry Development, and Virgin Blue/Blue Holidays.
- A Service Excellence in the Scenic Rim Forum which enabled discussion on the importance of developing a culture of service excellence in the Scenic Rim.
- Scenic Rim Long Morning and Afternoon Teas where operators were presented with information on marketing opportunities for the Scenic Rim, useful information on how to promote their business, and the latest in environmental and sustainable business strategies for tourism industry operators.
- Small Business Mentoring provided by Small Business Solutions.

In late 2008, TQ, in conjunction with Brisbane Marketing and Virgin Blue and Blue Holidays, promoted the Scenic Rim in key target markets of Sydney and Melbourne. This was the first Scenic Rim dedicated interstate marketing campaign to be conducted.

4.3 Land Use and Infrastructure Planning

The Land Use and Infrastructure Planning Study for the proposed Traveston Crossing Dam will assist in informing local and state planning instruments for the Mary Valley region. This will include investigating the impacts of the proposed dam on existing land uses and settlement patterns in addition to identifying and assessing options for locating future land uses and infrastructure.

During 2007 - 2008, planners from the Department of Infrastructure and Planning reviewed information provided through public consultations to draft a document to reflect the planning implications of the Traveston Crossing Dam.

In 2009 the Department of Infrastructure and Planning is reviewing the draft Land Use and Infrastructure Planning Study to produce policy recommendations based on the scenario that Stage 1 of Traveston Crossing Dam proceeds, as proposed in the current Environmental Impact Statement.

Departmental planners will involve Gympie and Sunshine Coast Regional Councils so that the Land Use and Infrastructure Planning Study will also usefully inform Councils' planning processes.

Answers to Frequently Asked Questions on the Planning Study are available at www.communityfutures.qld.gov.au.

The Department of Infrastructure and Planning prepared background material to identify the direct and indirect impacts of the Wyaralong Dam project on existing land uses, settlement patterns and infrastructure, and to identify strategies to maximise opportunities within the context of the SEQ Regional Plan.

This background material was used to inform land use and infrastructure planning activities of the Boonah and District Futures Plan and the review of the SEQ Regional Plan 2009–2031.

5. ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY

2008 -

In 2008-2009, the Task Force Chair and officers of member agencies made regular visits to the affected regions to meet with community members, community organisations, business leaders and regional councils.

The Task Force Unit conducted individual and community consultation, both face-to-face and via a dedicated 1800 number.

The Department of Communities, through the Kandanga One Stop Shop, worked with Mary Valley residents and organisations on community-based projects.

Other agencies, notably DEEDI, have regular contact with Mary Valley farm and non-farm business operators. For example, during 2008-2009: DEEDI officers conducted nine business development workshops; held over 65 one-on-one meetings with business operators; and engaged with QWI, Australian Industry Engineering Manufacturing

Network, Construction Skills Queensland, and local TAFE staff to present four Business Capability and Capacity Development Awareness Raising Forums (with 253 attendees).

Also, DEEDI (QPIF) had regular contact with Mary Valley agribusiness operators and others through its property and water resource management workshops for horse owners, a Building Rural Leaders training program, brokering trial plantings of native floriculture on land leased back from QWI, and consultation on a range of publications aimed at stimulating new agribusiness investment.

In the Mary Valley, stakeholders from Mary Valley Connect Incorporated and the Mary Valley Chamber of Commerce were consulted on a regular basis concerning the progress of business development initiatives, including the tourism training and marketing projects.

Aged care needs analysis improved service delivery

The Task Force Unit developed a project to assist Mary Valley senior citizens remain in their homes for as long as possible, through linking those in need with available services. This project was initiated after listening to the concerns of local seniors.

The Task Force Unit partnered with the Department of Communities, Queensland Health (Health and Community Care) Sunshine Coast and Blue Care Sunshine Coast, to shape a project aimed to address seniors' and their families' aged care needs, as well as assist them cope with a period of change and uncertainty associated with the Traveston Crossing Dam proposal.

A Mary Valley aged care needs analysis report was completed in February 2009. The Task Force Unit has supported Mary Valley Connect Incorporated to lead implementation of the report's recommendations.

An aged care forum was held in Gympie in May 2009 which gathered together over 30 regional and local service providers and the Gympie Regional Council to discuss the report's findings and recommendations. Mary Valley Connect Incorporated now has access to the expertise and knowledge from service providers required to assist them implement key recommendations relating to improved information access and service delivery at a local level. Service providers also have a better understanding of the needs of the Mary Valley and gaps in service levels.

6. PROVIDING LINKAGES

As well as engaging directly with people in the affected communities and with community groups, the member agencies of the Task Force work to support connections between individuals, community groups, and between the agencies themselves. These connections help strengthen the resilience of individuals, groups and businesses, and ensure that agencies cooperate in providing appropriate and timely services.

During 2008-2009 member agencies continued to work cooperatively with Regional Councils of the communities affected by the dam projects. For example, DEEDI worked closely with Gympie Regional Council to develop the Gympie Region Investment Prospectus; and two successful regional business networking events.

Following the approval of the Wyaralong Dam, member agencies commenced working directly with the Scenic Rim Regional Council and QWI to finalise these projects.

During 2008-2009, regional intra-governmental consultation continued through monthly meetings of the Maroochydore-based Regional Services Forum (RSF). The RSF, chaired by the Department of Communities, also draws the participation of human service agencies regardless of whether or not they are Task Force member agencies, to ensure that the affected regions are appropriately served by the Queensland Government.

In addition, DEEDI chairs regular meetings of the Economic Profile and Futures Outlook Officers' Liaison Group. These meetings facilitate communication and collaboration between agencies on economic projects and issues for the Wyaralong Dam project and the proposed Traveston Crossing Dam.

7. FUTURE DIRECTIONS

2008 -

The Community Futures Task Force will cease on 31 December 2009. Task Force member agencies are working to ensure that the affected communities will receive access to a level of service consistent with the objectives of the Task Force at the time of a decision on the Traveston Crossing Dam and in the months immediately following.

Until 31 December 2009, the Task Force, and until 30 June 2010, individual member agencies will be focusing efforts on providing case management as required, completing existing projects, supporting the transition of service provision to core businesses functions of agencies, and assisting the Mary Valley community adjust to a decision announcement, should this occur within this period.

Locally based Lifeline counselling services, community development support, and farm and non-farm business support remains available until 30 June 2010.

Projects that are currently underway by member agencies that are to continue in 2009-2010 include:

- Mary Valley Tourism Experience Review
- Mary Valley Farm and Nature Based Tourism Project
- Gympie Industrial Land Demand Study
- Investment Prospectus for Gympie Regional Council Area
- Mary Valley Tourism Identity project
- Mary Valley tourism signage strategy and implementation
- Review of Land Use and Infrastructure Planning Study for the proposed Traveston Crossing Dam
- Scenic Rim Farm and Nature Based Tourism Project
- Scenic Rim Wine Tourism Project

The future form of some other projects will depend on whether or not the Traveston Crossing Dam proceeds.

The Community Futures Task Force process has identified and highlighted the service needs of the affected communities to Government, and has strengthened the linkages between Government agencies and the communities. Strengthened community groups are now better equipped to continue working with the Government well into the future.

8. APPENDICES

2009

Appendix A - Members of the Community Futures Task Force

Chair	
Major General Peter Arnison AC, CVO (Ret'd)	
Members	
Cr Ron Dyne	Mayor, Gympie Regional Council
Cr Bob Abbott	Mayor, Sunshine Coast Regional Council
Cr John Brent	Mayor, Scenic Rim Regional Council
Colin Jensen	Coordinator-General, Department of Infrastructure and Planning
Gary White	Deputy Director-General, Department of Infrastructure and Planning – Planning Group
Linda Apelt	Director-Director, Department of Communities
Brian Coulter	Deputy Director-General, Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation
Rob Setter	Associate Director-General, Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation (Primary Industries and Fisheries)
Alan Tesch	Associate Director-General, Department of Transport and Main Roads
Julie Grantham	A/Director-General, Department of Education and Training
Graeme Newton	Chief Executive Officer, Queensland Water Infrastructure Pty Ltd
Steve Mill	Executive Director, Community Futures Task Force

Appendix B - Community Futures Fund: Approved Applications for 2008-2009

Organisation Name	Project Name	Purpose of Project
Amamoor State School P&C	Olympic Games Night	Provide a social event for the community
Mary Valley Show Society	Mary Valley Scarecrow Festival	Encourage the community to work together on a social event
Mary Valley Show Society	Imbil Village Artist Community Gallery Project	Promote art within the local community
Mary Valley Show Society	Mary Valley Inc Application	Assistance with incorporation and insurance
Mary Valley Show Society	Arts Festival	Provide an arts festival for the local community
Kandanga Public Hall Association	Imbil A capella Choir 2008	Provide a social event for the community
Mary Valley State College P&C	Safety Netting Project	Enable students to play indoor ball sports with safety
Mary Valley Show Society	Imbil Children's Christmas Party 2008	Provide a social event for Mary Valley families
Friends of Kandanga Group	Promotional Banners	Advertising and promoting the activities of the Kandanga Information Centre
Mary Valley RSL Youth Group	Four Weeks Gymnastics Training for youths	Provide a positive youth activity for the community
Imbil and District Red Cross Branch	Melbourne Cup Luncheon	Help the Red Cross to support the community
Mary Valley Show Society	MV Business Directory	Help prepare the Mary Valley Business Directory
Dagun State School	School Camp	Assist youth education with both historical and environmental learning
Brooloo Hall Committee Group	Community Garden	Assist preparation and planning for a community garden
Mary Valley Connect	Website www.themaryvalley.com.au	Provide community with up to date information in the Mary Valley
Volunteering Sunshine Coast	Catering at the Submission Writing Training	To assist organisation to become more self sufficient and sustainable in the community
Amamoor State School	School Choir	Provide choir with resources
Amamoor State School	Family Ten Pin Day	Promote family unity through recreational activities
Amamoor State School	Guitar Lessons	Provide students access to music tutor and provide a musical resource in the school for families
Dagun Community Group	Installation of Toilet Facility at Dagun Station	Help provide a toilet facility including access for disabled people
Mary Valley Connect	Community Directory	Assistance with advertising and production of community directory
Kandanga and District Amateur Swimming Club	Swimming Instructors	Ensure the district has swimming instructors

Community Futures Task Force

2009

Organisation Name	Project Name	Purpose of Project
Kandanga Public Hall Association	Painting inside Kandanga Public Hall	Help maintain an important community facility
Kandanga and District Amateur Swimming Club	Help Alleviate costs associated with insurances.	Help alleviate costs associated with insurances, affiliation and accounting costs
Kandanga and District Amateur Swimming Club	Outfit the children with a uniform	To help local children feel part of a club and build self esteem
Widgee Mary Valley Lions Club	Applied First Aid Certificate for Teenagers	Helping teenagers become skilled in delivery of applied First Aid
Mary Valley State College	Personal Development and Anti Bullying Project	Reinforce positive behaviour
Kandanga and District Amateur Swimming Club Inc	Apply First Aid Courses	Help new swimming coaches get first aid certificates
Mary Valley Connect	Reprint MV Business Directory	Enable residents and business owners to seek local goods and services
Friends of Kandanga Group	Carols By Candle Light	Provide a social night for local community
Kandanga and District Amateur Swimming Club	Fundraising event	Help attract more families to teach water safety skills and swimming
Friends of Kandanga Group	Publication Newsletter	Helping to produce a monthly booklet to keep the community informed of events
Kandanga and District Amateur Swimming Club	Swimming Teacher Training	Teach water safety skills and swimming to Under 4 year olds
Kandanga and District Amateur Swimming Club	Purchase of Swimming Equipment	Help replace old equipment
Mary Valley Connect	Mary Valley Sports Expo	Material to help promote, present and demonstrate activities to the wider community
Mary Valley Connect	Mary Valley Ag-Industry Networking Project	Provide cross industry networking and provide opportunity to contact government agencies
Mary Valley RSL Youth Group	MV Sports Expo Stand	Raising awareness of youth club & encouraging participation in sporting activities
Mary Valley RSL Youth Group	Circus Activities	Raising awareness of youth club
Kandanga and District Amateur Swimming Club	Apply First Aid Course	Help attract more families to teach water safety skills and swimming
Kandanga and District Amateur Swimming Club	End of Season trophy and Ribbons	Help build self esteem and give young athletes something to aspire to
Friends of Kandanga Group	Transcribing Oral History	Help record and preserve stories from the past
Mary Valley State College P&C	School Community Theatre Restaurant	Give the community and students the opportunity to participate together in theatre restaurant
Imbil Branch Queensland Country Woman's Association	In the Pink Pamper Day	Increase QCWA profile in community and provide a social event
Mary Valley State College	Chaplaincy Students at Risk Program	Help students gain self esteem and a sense of achievement

Organisation Name	Project Name	Purpose of Project
Kandanga and District Amateur Swimming Club	Coaching Clinics - October and January	Build self esteem and give young athletes something to aspire to
Mary Valley Show Society Inc	Miss Showgirl Awards Ball	Provide a positive social event for local community
Mary Valley Connect	Website update	Provide community with up to date information in the Mary Valley
Kandanga Bowls Club	60 Years Anniversary	Help the community celebrate of 60 years of bowling
Mary Valley Connect	Print Shop - purchase a duplexer and a extra paper tray	Offer affordable and professional printing and graphic design services to community groups and business in the Mary Valley
Imbil District Amateur Swimming Club	Swimming Club Trophy Award Night	Help build self esteem and give young athletes something to aspire to
Mary Valley RSL Youth Group	Ten Pin Bowling Excursion	Providing young people with positive and safe activities on Friday nights
Kandanga Rural Fire Brigade	Install Remote Control Self Guiding Hose Reel	To increase efficiency and safety in a fire event
Mary Valley Show Society	Near North Coast Sub Chamber Ball 2009	Showcase the Mary Valley to a wider community
Kandanga Tennis Club	Repair Damaged Court	Make the court safe for the community to play on
Friends of Kandanga Group	Introductory MYOB course	Increase efficiency at the Kandanga Information Centre
Mary Valley Connect	Sustainability Project	Assist with insurance costs
Mary Valley Show Society	Mary Valley Annual Country Show Sponsorship - 2009	Assist with costs of providing a positive social event for the local community
Mary Valley Show Society	Mary Valley Annual Art Festival - 2009	Presenting 300 works of art in the Mary Valley township of Imbil
Mary Valley Chamber of Commerce	Website Design and Implementation	To benefit the Mary Valley community by enabling them to access information
Dagun State School	Canberra Trip	Students learning about Parliament, Australian history and national culture
Mary Valley Show Society	Imbil Community News Printing Support	Provide the community with up to date information in the Mary Valley
Kandanga Bowls Club	Kitchen Equipment and Signage for Meals	Provide members and guests with improved facilities to encourage more community participation
Kandanga Tennis Club	Fund Raising Activities	Maintain and improve community club facilities
Mary Valley Show Society	Community Christmas Party 2009	Help celebrate the community and local families
Mary Valley Show Society	Cent Auction	Provide a social event for the local community
Mary Valley Show Society	Imbil Public Hall Toilet Relocation	Help install a unisex toilet with disability access
Dagun Community Group	Shade Cover: Dagun Station	Help replacement of shade cover for picnic area

Community Futures Task Force

2009

Organisation Name	Project Name	Purpose of Project
Imbil Mary Valley Scout Group	Water Safety Equipment	Help provide water safety equipment for canoeing
Brooloo Indoor Bowls	Indoor Bowls Invitation Day	Help bring the community closer together by encouraging new memberships
Mary Valley RSL Youth Group	Noosa Movies Trip	Rewarding local youth with a social event
Mary Valley RSL Youth Group	Horse riding camp	Help build team work and group dynamics with young people
Mary Valley RSL Youth Group	Gymnastics Training	Help provide strength, fitness and teamwork with young people
Friends of Kandanga Group	Q150 Ball	Celebrate the anniversary of Q150
Amamoor State School P&C	Purchase Roller Blades	Provide recreation for after school care students

Appendix C - Community Futures Task Force: Outcomes

Community Futures Task Force members have delivered the following initiatives:

- Kandanga and Boonah One Stop Shops
- Locally based Lifeline counselling
- Mary Valley based Community Development Worker
- Community Futures Fund
- Enhanced Chaplaincy support to all Mary Valley schools
- Community Futures Task Force 1800 number, website and newsletter
- Kandanga Cemetery Community Consultation
- Support for Kandanga Information Centre
- Historical Booklets covering regions affected by the proposed dams
- Community Archive Workshops
- Mary Valley Volunteers Support Project
- Mary Valley Aged Care Needs Analysis and Education
- Mary Valley Community Transport Needs Analysis
- Business Adjustment Scheme for business affected by the dam proposals
- Economic Futures Project Studies
 1. Scoping Economic Futures – Traveston Crossing Region (ACIL Tasman)
 2. Economic Development Strategy - Traveston Crossing/Mary Valley Area (PriceWaterhouseCoopers)
 3. Draft Scoping Economic Futures – Wyaralong Region report (Core Economics)
 4. Food and Fibre Futures Study (QPIF)
 5. Dairy Paper (Futures)
 6. Boonah and District Shire Futures Project
 - Mary Economic Region: Agricultural Resource Guide
 - Mary Valley Building Rural Leaders Program
 - Mary Valley Business Expansion and Retention Program
 - Support for local businesses to register for possible work on proposed dam projects
 - Development advice and support for local businesses
 - Tourism Training and Skills Development in Mary Valley and Scenic Rim
 - Imbil Recreation Area Concept Master Plan and Feasibility Study
 - Support to establish Mary Valley Connect Incorporated- a whole of Mary Valley representative community group
 - Construction of a new Vic Olsen Bridge
 - Construction of new public toilets and parking area in Kandanga's Main Street (Funding for toilets - 50% Gympie Shire Council and 50% QWI (\$150,000 in total))
 - Construction of new Bus Verges at Olliers and Sanders Road - to improve safety for School children. (Funding totalling \$92,345 shared equally between DTMR and QWI)
 - A MVGAP office in the Mary Valley

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