

DRAFT

BUNYA MOUNTAINS COMMUNITY PLAN

2025



SOUTH BURNETT
REGIONAL COUNCIL

Bunya Mountains

Located 56 kms ~~north-east south-west~~ of Kingaroy, the Bunya Mountains shelters the world's largest stand of ancient bunya trees. The Bunya Mountains play a significant role in Aboriginal culture. The traditional custodians from across Queensland and northern New South Wales would historically gather to feast and celebrate the bounty of the bunya nut harvest.

The 2021 census showed a population of 110 for the area. Residents are serviced by a convenience store, ~~1 restaurant and 2 cafes~~. ~~There are also a number of restaurants on the mountain.~~ The village is predominately holiday homes with occupancy at peak times exceeding that of a small community. ~~The annual visitation rate is approximately 200,000 visits per annum (QPWS).~~

As a tourist destination, the Bunya Mountains plays a significant role in attracting visitors with benefits to the communities of the South Burnett, Toowoomba and Western Downs districts.



Acknowledgement

We acknowledge and respect the Wakka Wakka and Auburn Hawkwood people, the traditional owners of this land that we live, work and play and respect their cultures, their ancestors and their elders past, present and future generations.

Short Term (1 - 4 years)

- Upgrade waste signage across region (Capital Projects Plan).
- Child friendly play equipment (nature-oriented play area).
- The concept plan for Allan Stirling Memorial Park upgrades is completed, including fully accessible walking track, carpark, interactive signage, enviro toilet.
- Redesign of industrial bin location and create carparks at the Bunya Avenue Entrance to the park.
- Additional toilets - Locations to be considered include Fishers Lookout, Allan Stirling Park, Russell Park and Rifle Bird Park. Fishers Lookout and Rifle Bird Park are in WDRC area.
- ~~Formal lookout area at Mount Mowbullen (Fishers Lookout).~~ This is WDRC area and the formal lookout is already in place.
- Continue current interest and support of BMCAI (Bunya Mountains Community Association Inc).
- A Community meeting/gathering place and place of refuge (in disaster), is established for social interaction, meetings, resident and visitor cultural and environmental education, forums, and workshops.
- Community social events are delivered to enhance social connection, cohesion, build resilience, keep the history alive, support opportunities to learn about the environment and enhance cultural consciousness/awareness.
- Cedarvale Museum is considered, promoted and supported as one of the South Burnett Regional Council Museum's. Digitise early European history and artifacts held by the South Burnett Museum including Cedarvale.
- Bunya Nut Festival revival. Triennial year celebration of big fall of nuts.
- Secure a recognition from Transport and Main Roads that the access roads to the Bunya Mountains are a higher priority (than the present low priority.)
- An EV Charging Station is established in Dandabah for electric vehicles.
- The Bunya Mountains Local Disaster Management Sub-Plan is kept up to date and ready to be implemented.
- Routine maintenance/roadside control for all vegetation to stop encroachment to keep it safe.
- Plan for roadside lantana and cactus removal.
- SBRC feral pig control in Bunya Mountains.
- Advocate for free entertainment once per month

Medium Term Continued (4 - 8 years)

- Gazetted Stock Routes - **Explore options** and open up to create walking tracks including bikes and horses (potential for tourism). **Work in collaboration with the BPAC Songlines Project.**
- **Develop a walking historical** ~~Establish a tourism~~ **trail, association brochure and QR code for enjoyment discovery** that includes historical (Indigenous and European) tales, environmental unique features of Bunyas.
- A data set of housing/accommodation, visitor and population numbers by type, trends/ peak periods, are available for advocacy and grant application processes.
- Telecommunications infrastructure is enhanced to ensure accessibility and reliability that meets community expectations.
- Establish a natural environment monitoring regime to assist in the management of the impacts of visitors/recreational users/residents and preserve the unique Bunyas environment.
- Explore remote business opportunities to encourage more full time residents who are able to work from the Bunyas.
- Tourism promotions of the Bunyas include environmental, cultural and historical reference messages.

Long Term (Over 8 years)

- Investigate options for accommodation for hospitality and rangers to encourage workers to live in the Bunyas and lessen the travel in and out each day.
- Whilst promoting visitation, ensure that future development proposals do not negatively impact upon the natural environment.



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