



# Lockyer – Our Valley, Our Vision

Community Plan 2017–2027



REGIONAL COUNCIL



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Lockyer Valley Regional Council acknowledges the contribution of the Community Plan Reference Group in the development of the *‘Lockyer – Our Valley, Our Vision’ Community Plan 2027*.

# INTRODUCTION

'Lockyer – Our Valley, Our Vision' Community Plan 2027 details the community's vision for the Lockyer Valley to the year 2027. It is a plan that describes the type of region our community aspires to live in, in the future. The Community Plan establishes clear outcomes for our community that will guide priority actions that need to be undertaken over the next ten (10) years by a wide range of stakeholders.

'Lockyer – Our Valley, Our Vision' Community Plan 2027 was built from the foundations of the 'Lockyer – Our Valley, Our Vision' Community Plan 2012–2022 developed in 2011 and outlines strategic objectives for the seven themes from that Plan:

- Lockyer Community
- Lockyer Leadership
- Lockyer Farming
- Lockyer Business
- Lockyer Livelihood
- Lockyer Planned
- Lockyer Nature.

The development of the plan followed an engagement process which provided the community with the opportunity to be involved and express their opinion. This engagement has provided robust evidence based strategic direction providing confidence that the Community Plan provides a blueprint to create a vibrant, self-sustaining community. The Plan will assist in shaping the future of the Lockyer Valley and enable us to collectively respond to emerging challenges and opportunities.

'Lockyer – Our Valley, Our Vision' is a whole of community plan, in which all levels of government, business, educational institutions, community groups and individuals have an important role to play.

## COUNCIL HAS THE FOLLOWING ROLES:

COUNCIL ROLE	DESCRIPTION
<b>Provider</b>	Delivering services
<b>Funder</b>	Funding other organisations to deliver services
<b>Regulator</b>	Regulating some activities through local law or policy
<b>Partner</b>	Forming partnerships and strategic alliances with other parties in the interests of the community
<b>Facilitator</b>	Assisting others to be involved in activities by bringing groups and interested parties together
<b>Advocate</b>	Promoting the interest of the community to other decision makers and influencers





# A PLAN INFORMED BY THE COMMUNITY

In August 2016, a Community Plan Reference Group was formed after an expression of interest was issued to the community. Eighteen members from different localities and sectors in the community formed the group which met five times between August and December 2016.

The Draft Plan was open for public inspection from 16 to 31 January 2017. This gave the community an opportunity to review the draft plan and provide comments. A review of the responses received was undertaken and changes were made to the plan where appropriate.

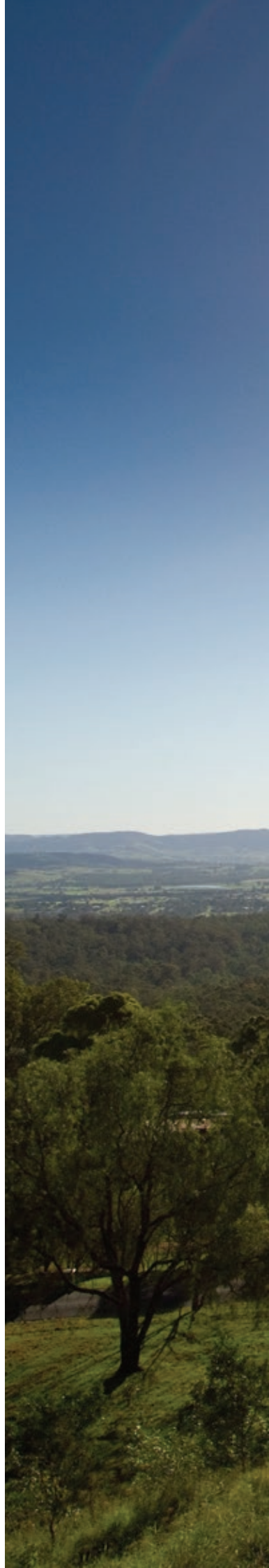
The Community Plan was adopted at the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 24 May 2017.

The Lockyer Valley Regional Council, as the custodian of the Community Plan, commend 'Lockyer – Our Valley, Our Vision' Community Plan 2027 as a vision for our community, as set by our community. To this extent 'Lockyer – Our Valley, Our Vision' Community Plan 2027 belongs to us all, Council, the community and our stakeholders who all play a part in making our region a better place.

# WHERE THE COMMUNITY PLAN FITS

'Lockyer – Our Valley, Our Vision' Community Plan 2027 details our community vision for the Lockyer Valley Region to the year 2027. It is a plan that articulates the type of region our community expects in the future.

The Community Plan comprises long term aspirations of our community. To help realise the aspirations of our community, Council develops a five year Corporate Plan, which articulates the actions Council will take to work towards the type of region our community want. The Community and Corporate Plans then guide the development of our organisation's annual Operational Plan.





## THE LOCKYER VALLEY – WHO ARE WE?

Lockyer Valley is rated among the top ten most fertile farming areas in the world. Affectionately known as the South East Queensland food bowl, this prime agricultural area is laden with features. We have 2,272 square kilometres of rich land that includes the Great Dividing Range, national parks, reserves, creeks, lakes, parks, two nature parks and many waterways and green open spaces.

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the Lockyer Valley region as the Ugarapul and Ugarapul People. It has also been identified that the Laidley region was home to the Kitabul People, but little information is known about the family group and their history within Lockyer. Importantly, the region is still home to many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with 2.9% of the population identifying as Indigenous.

The Lockyer Valley Regional Council Estimated Resident Population for 2015 is 38,798, with a population density of 0.17 persons per hectare. According to the 2011 Census, 3,896 people in the Lockyer Valley hold post school qualifications and 12.3% of the population are born overseas. With 21% of people 15 years and over volunteering, we are above the State average for giving back to the community.

Since 1897, the University of Queensland Gatton Campus has been nestled within our region with staff and students researching or studying agriculture, animals, veterinary science and the environment.

Our region is also serviced by twenty-six public and private schools, twenty-three early childhood education services, fourteen long day care providers, two hospitals and over forty-five community run organisations. We also have over 2,900 businesses operating in the Lockyer Valley.

One of our biggest future challenges is managing the expected population and residential growth predicated for the region. It is projected that by 2031 approximately 57,225 people will call the Lockyer Valley home which will require a significant increase in dwellings to accommodate the growth.

Gatton has been identified as the principal rural activity centre in the region for future growth in the business, retail and commercial, government and health sectors. Laidley and Plainlands will grow to provide local services to supplement the role of Gatton.

Significantly, the Lockyer Valley has been positioned as a leading agricultural production zone in Australia.



# 2.4%

AVERAGE ANNUAL POPULATION GROWTH RATE OVER TEN YEARS+

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# 5,613

PEOPLE UNDERTAKE VOLUNTARY WORK IN THE LOCKYER VALLEY+

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# 188km<sup>2</sup>

OF NATIONAL PARKS IN THE LOCKYER VALLEY+

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# 252.7km<sup>2</sup>

OF PROTECTED PARKS AND FOREST IN THE LOCKYER VALLEY+

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# 177

NEW LOTS DEVELOPED IN THE 12 MONTHS ENDING 30 JUNE 2016+

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# \$1,163,923

2016 PLUMBING AND BUILDING ESTIMATED COST FOR CONSTRUCTION IN THE LOCKYER VALLEY

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# 1/4

OF THE BRISBANE RIVER CATCHMENT IS REPRESENTED BY THE LOCKYER VALLEY

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# \$307,980

OF SORGHUM GROWN BY LOCKYER VALLEY FARMERS^

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# >2,000kms

OF STREAM NETWORK IN THE LOCKYER VALLEY

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# \$4.3m

WORTH OF HERBS ARE GROWN ANNUALLY IN THE LOCKYER VALLEY^

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# 50%

OF THE CATCHMENT IS COVERED BY NATIVE VEGETATION

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# \$9.340m

WORTH OF CUT FLOWERS GROW BY NURSERIES PER YEAR^

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# 75%

OF QUEENSLAND'S  
BROCCOLI PRODUCTION<sup>^</sup>

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# \$17.6m

POULTRY<sup>^</sup>

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# \$132,286

10% OF QUEENSLAND'S  
PECAN PRODUCTION<sup>^</sup>

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# 26

SCHOOLS BASED IN  
THE LOCKYER VALLEY<sup>+</sup>

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# 14

LONG DAY CARE SERVICES  
HOMED IN THE LOCKYER VALLEY<sup>+</sup>

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# 23

CHILDHOOD EARLY EDUCATION  
SERVICES HOMED IN THE  
LOCKYER VALLEY<sup>+</sup>

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Fact Sources: <sup>+</sup>QGSO; <sup>^</sup>Id Profile.

## HOW TO READ THIS PLAN

This plan has been designed to show the community vision for each theme and the strategic objectives for each theme. The common issues identified through community engagement under the seven themes set the future direction, strategic objectives and articulates the end result the community wants to see.

### THEME

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The themes identified in the 2012 Community Plan have been retained for this plan and demonstrate the key areas of direction for the community.

### FUTURE DIRECTIONS

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The key strategic focus areas align to community aspirations that guide achievement of the vision.

### STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

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The end result of what the community want. Strategic outcomes are listed under each theme and future direction.



# LOCKYER COMMUNITY

## FUTURE DIRECTIONS

Our healthy community welcomes the spirited diversity found within our region.

Times of hardship highlight our resilience. Our high standards support our quality of life and vibrancy while providing a dynamic and safe place full of opportunity.

We strive to build on who we are and all that our region has to offer by connecting business, the community and government.

## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

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- We encourage the development of community spirit.
- We have access to arts, cultural and sporting programs.
- There are festivals and events that bring us together.
- People are involved in issues that affect them.
- Community decision making is inclusive.
- We share an open expression of cultural heritage.
- We provide support to new and emerging communities.
- There are programs to promote cultural diversity.
- We can access health services.
- We can access youth and community services, facilities and activities.
- We have disaster, community safety and resilience programs.
- We take a prevention approach to health issues.
- There are crime reduction programs.
- We engage partnerships to improve connections between businesses, associations, the community and government.
- We focus on connections between tourism, agriculture, healthy lifestyles.

## EXAMPLES OF WHO CAN BE INVOLVED:

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- Council
- Individual community members – neighbours talking to each other
- Local businesses – ensuring inclusive hiring practices
- State Government Agencies, specifically those with responsibilities around health services, education, planning and justice
- Non-government Agencies
- Local community groups
- Schools
- Church and religious groups.



# LOCKYER LEADERSHIP

## FUTURE DIRECTIONS

Our leaders are visionary and seek coordinated outcomes for the benefit of the whole community.

## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

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- Community organisations are connected and supported.
- The community is actively and strategically engaged by Council.
- Community organisations are sustainable.
- Council responds in a timely manner to the needs and requests of the community.
- The activities of community groups are widely promoted within the community.

## EXAMPLES OF WHO CAN BE INVOLVED:

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- Council
- Individual community members
- Local community groups
- Local businesses
- Local State and Federal Government Members of Parliament
- Non-government Agencies.



# LOCKYER FARMING

## FUTURE DIRECTIONS

As custodians we manage our water and land assets to ensure our farming future.

We pride ourselves on our innovation and clean, green reputation.

We work together to support our farmers of current and future generations.

## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

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- Rural land and resources are managed appropriately.
- There are career pathways in farming.
- We encourage innovation and research in farming and supporting industries.
- Facilitate best management practices and processes for employment.
- Support succession planning for farming families.

## EXAMPLES OF WHO CAN BE INVOLVED:

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- Council
- Local businesses
- Business networks
- Training providers.



# LOCKYER BUSINESS

## FUTURE DIRECTIONS

Our business community is a thriving and inclusive network where it is easy to do business.

We create opportunities and encourage innovation that inspires business confidence and collaborative partnerships.

## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

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- There is a diverse range of job opportunities.
- We have strategies that identify and encourage new business investment.
- Local businesses are supported.
- Our rural land provides sustainable economic development.
- We can access infrastructure to enable business operation and growth.
- There is collaboration amongst businesses and one voice in seeking outcomes.
- We encourage innovation.
- The unique attributes of the region are used to promote the region.
- It is easy to do business.
- We seek to leverage tourism and recreational visitor opportunities.
- We respond to regional population growth and the opportunities presented.

## EXAMPLES OF WHO CAN BE INVOLVED:

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- Council
- Business networks
- Business Groups
- Developers
- Local Businesses
- Federal and State Government
- Non-government Agencies.



# LOCKYER LIVELIHOOD

## FUTURE DIRECTIONS

We are a community where lifelong learning opportunities exist.

Our quality education facilities are highly regarded and provide diverse career pathways.

We look to develop skills and generate job opportunities for all.

## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

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- There are opportunities for lifelong learning.
- People are supported through all of life's stages.
- We encourage and support multiple specialised training organisations.
- Agriculture is promoted as a career path.
- People have access to employment information and support.

## EXAMPLES OF WHO CAN BE INVOLVED:

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- Council
- State Government Agencies
- Educational institutions
- Training providers
- Business networks
- Non-government service providers.



# LOCKYER NATURE

## FUTURE DIRECTIONS

Our natural assets are valued and protected to sustain our unique rural lifestyle.

## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

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- We seek support to protect and enhance our natural assets.
- We access and share land management knowledge.
- We encourage nature based recreation.
- We showcase our natural assets.
- We use innovation to sustainably manage our catchments.
- There are a range of incentives to encourage responsible land management.
- We collaborate to achieve harmony between conservation and farming.
- We have strong partnerships between nature and agricultural groups.

## EXAMPLES OF WHO CAN BE INVOLVED:

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- Individual community members – neighbours talking to each other and sharing information
- Local businesses – showcasing best practice in environmental management
- State Government Agencies
- Non-government Agencies
- Schools
- Community groups.





# LOCKYER PLANNED

## FUTURE DIRECTIONS

We have unique, well connected communities.

We have places and spaces that bring together people.

Local services match the needs of the community.

Our built infrastructure is designed and constructed to enable access for all.

## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

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- We can access health care.
- We have connected walking and cycling paths.
- We can access public transport.
- We can access affordable housing.
- We promote sustainable economic development.
- We support planning for whole of life community facilities.
- We have open spaces that are welcoming and safe for public gathering.
- Our urban design helps build connection to place and community.
- Opportunities for complementary industries are planned for.
- Costs of development are regularly reviewed.
- We can access reliable broadband and mobile networks.
- We have innovative solutions for planning challenges.
- Our road network provides adequate access to our region and beyond.
- We celebrate the unique character of our places.

## EXAMPLES OF WHO CAN BE INVOLVED:

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- Council
- State Government Departments, specifically those with responsibilities around transport, planning and human service delivery
- Local businesses
- Non-government Agencies
- Transport providers (public and private)
- Developers.



## NEXT STEPS FOR THE COMMUNITY PLAN

Having a plan which states the long term objectives of the community is important. Acting on those objectives is more important. The information in this Plan will be fed into the Council planning process and inform our key priorities and outcomes.

## COUNCIL'S ROLE IN MANAGING THE COMMUNITY PLAN

Council is committed to ensuring that the Community Plan is a useful vision document for the community, partners and Council. With the strategic objectives set from the Community Plan engagement, Council reviewed many other strategic documents to form the Corporate Plan 2017-2021 which is a collection of outcomes and actions that will contribute to the achievement of the community vision. Council will also:

- Report Council's progress against the outcomes of the Community Plan every twelve months in Council's Annual Report
- Review the Community Plan after five years
- Undertake actions outlined in Council's five-year Corporate Plan to support the community's vision.

## MEASURES FOR SUCCESS FOR THE COMMUNITY

How will we know if we're on the right track to our 2027 vision? It is important to measure our progress and ensure that the activities we are completing will take us in the right direction.

There are a number of ways to track our success, and a series of measures will be used to help us evaluate our progress against this Plan. These may include:

- State and Federally funded projects delivered in the community
- Healthy Waterways Report Card
- Socio Economic Index for Areas (SEIFA) Index
- Volunteer numbers
- Unemployment levels
- Number of new businesses
- Gross Regional Product
- Lockyer Growers Annual Report
- Council's Annual Report.

## HOW OUR COMMUNITY CAN GET INVOLVED

- Get involved in various consultations that Council conducts. A good place to start is via our online engagement portal: [lockyervalley.qld.gov.au/our-services/community/Pages/Community-Engagement](https://lockyervalley.qld.gov.au/our-services/community/Pages/Community-Engagement)
- Volunteer with a community group or sporting club and contribute to community life
- Apply for a community grant
- Work with your neighbours to improve your neighbourhood
- Be a good citizen.





For more information phone **1300 005 872**,  
email [mailbox@lvrc.qld.gov.au](mailto:mailbox@lvrc.qld.gov.au) or visit [www.lockyervalley.qld.gov.au](http://www.lockyervalley.qld.gov.au)