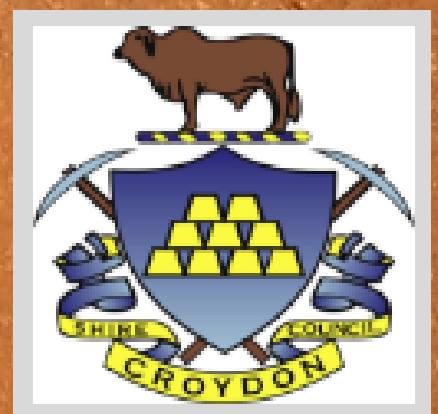


Croydon Shire Council

Priority Economic Projects



Foreword by Mayor

The Croydon Shire is a place of enormous opportunity. Recent events are providing our community with a new growth horizon, where both our traditional industries (such as cattle and tourism) and new industries (such as renewable energy, health and irrigated horticulture) have strong growth prospects.

My commitment as Mayor for Croydon Shire is to work diligently for the Croydon community and our external partners to address the key challenges and deliver on those priorities in our economic plan.



Message from CEO



Local government plays an important role in economic development and collectively advocating for opportunities and policy change. Croydon Shire has clear direction to continue to grow and become more self-sufficient and a progressive place to invest, visit and live. Identified below are projects we feel are catalysts to make this happen in the Shire.

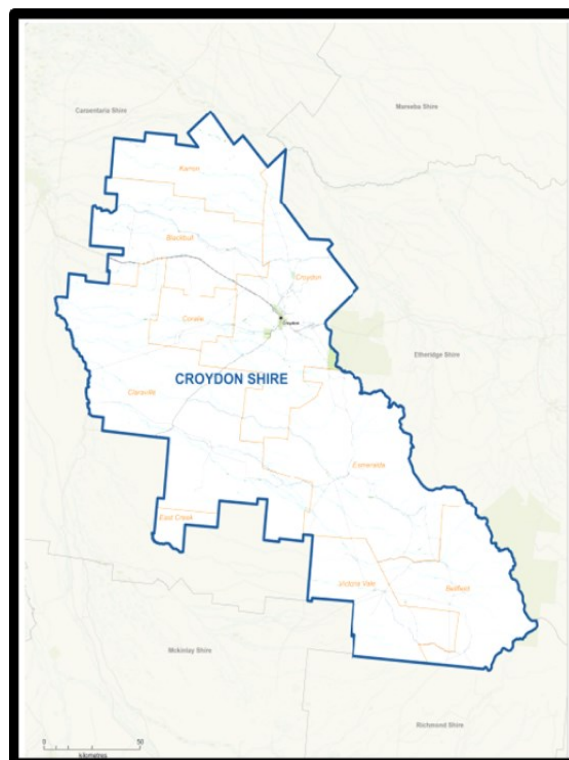
I am excited to be working with our external partners such as State and Federal agencies to implement strategies and actions that will ultimately deliver a diverse economic base for Croydon Shire and that will create more jobs, a larger population and more local services and businesses.

The Shire of Croydon is a local government area in western Queensland, Australia. The shire, administered from the town of Croydon, covers an area of 29,498 square kilometres (11,389.2 sq mi). The area was originally settled as part of a gold rush in the 1880s, and at one time had a population of 7,000. The current population is 296 people.

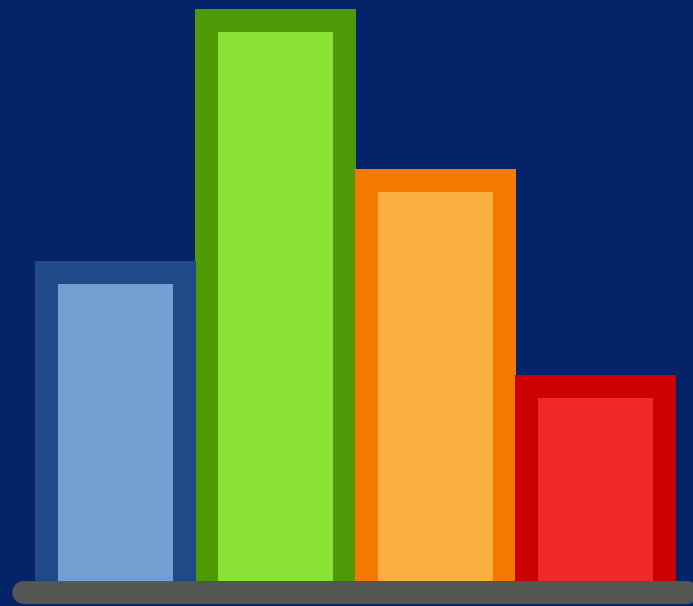
Croydon Shire is prosperous cattle producing region which is physically linked to major centres by a network of roads and tourism rail known as the Savannah way.

This essential infrastructure supports thriving cattle and tourism industries and a safe and connected shire community. The town of Croydon is a regional service centre providing essential business, accommodation, recreational and community services for shire residents and visitors alike. Currently 34.1% of population are employed in Agriculture. Interestingly 35.7% are employed in Public Administration and Safety.

Croydon's heritage utilising and Lake Belmore continue to be highly valued and utilised by residents and appreciated by visitors to our shire. Croydon residents value their cultural identity and lifestyle and come together to celebrate the best of bush living through regular community events. New residents are embraced by a community which is outward looking, and community groups provide leadership in all facets of community life



Statistic



40.5
Years

Employment

129

**Local
Jobs**



**Unemployment
Rate**

4.3%

Population

269



**Indigenous
Population
28.6%**

Largest Employing Industries

**Public Administration and
safety - 35.7%**

**Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing
- 34.1%**

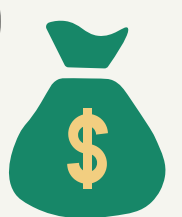
Construction

Accommodation and Food

Education and Training

**Gross Regional
Product**

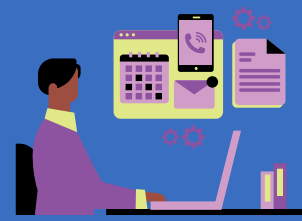
\$15,302.00



KEY REGIONAL EXPORTS

TOTAL EXPORTS
\$22,531,000

TOP 3 EXPORTS



PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

AGRICULTURE



ACCOMMODATION AND FOOD SERVICES

KEY REGIONAL IMPORTS

TOP 3 IMPORTS

AGRICULTURE



PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

ACCOMMODATION AND FOOD SERVICES



TOTAL IMPORTS
\$13,230,000

PROPERTY MARKET

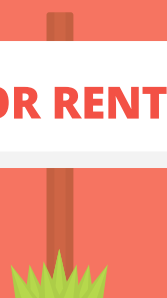
HOUSE PRICE
\$0 MEDIAN PRICE



SALES
12 VACANT LAND SALES
4 RESIDENTIAL SALES

RENTAL
\$0 MEDIAN WEEKLY RENTAL

FOR RENT



RESIDENTIAL BUILDS
\$0 RESIDENTIAL BUILDING APPROVALS, 2022

COMMERCIAL BUILDS
\$0 NON-RESIDENTIALS BUILDING APPROVALS, 2022



VACANT LAND PRICE
MEDIAN VACANT LAND SALE PRICE \$6,900

COMMERCIAL BUILDS
\$0 NON-RESIDENTIAL BUILDING APPROVALS, 2022



Croydon Shire Council Priority Projects

Gilbert River Bridge

Croydon Shire Council Corporate Plan Strategy- 1.2.5 Gilbert River Bridge

What: Raise and double lane the Gilbert River Bridge due to safety concerns and economic and social impact. Croydon Shire, Etheridge Shire, and Carpentaria Shire seek support of TMR to revisit a business case to do the above project based on economic and social impact to those abovementioned Shire Council areas.

Why: Bridge is deemed as being deficient in the Heavy Vehicle Productivity report – Far North Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils Regional Roads investment strategy 15 May 2021. Current situation – Bridge is old and one lane and floods a minimum of nearly 10 days per year cutting of Croydon township from food, medical and other supplies.

From the 26th of December 2022 to 20th of January 2023 the road between Croydon and Georgetown was closed for 12 days and open 14 days due to the Gilbert River crossing.

The Gilbert River closure affects Etheridge, Croydon and Carpentaria shires and residences by:

- 1- Reducing freight vehicles - some trucks and operators won't transport to Georgetown only.
- 2- Affecting essential services access such as Ergon and Telstra.
- 3- Affecting the ability of specialised tradespeople from accessing and carrying out works- such as electrician and carpenters, plus materials supply for these projects
- 4- Road closures reduce the volume of travellers to the region.
- 5- Specific to Carpentaria the closure of the Gilbert River Bridge reduces the freight that can get through to the shire and causes increases in freight costs to go around the long way (via Cloncurry). Systems are set up to ferry freight across the Norman if it is flooded however the freight is required to get through Croydon first.
- 6- Affects emergency services and health worker access.

Cost: \$25M to upgrade from single to dual lane carriageway – Heavy Vehicle Freight Networks – Far North Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils Regional Roads Investment Strategy 15 May 2021



Realignment of Qld Government Road

Croydon Shire Council Corporate Plan Strategy - 1.2.4 Strongly lobby the Department of Main Roads to realign the dangerous corner at Samwell and Sircom Streets.

What: In 2018 Croydon Council applied to Queensland Department of Transport and Main roads (TMR) for support to upgrade the intersection on the corner of Samwell and Sircom Streets, Croydon due to the intersection being the only road train route through Croydon and a main Roads asset, as well as being deemed dangerous by local users and local pedestrians. It was expected that TMR would apply for funding under the Black Spot Federal Funding Scheme or the Roads of Significant Importance, funding but decided it was not a priority and the project did not proceed.

Why: Croydon Shire Council is not only concerned for the safety of road user at the intersection but also for the surrounding residences, cyclists, and pedestrians. The Samwell Street side of the intersection is a private residence and the Sircom Street side of the intersection houses two (2) sets of two (2) units that primarily house pensioners and senior citizens. Council installed cement bollards at the front of pension unit residences, prior to 2000, as the intersection was identified as a major road safety concern.

Qld Police (QPS) have deemed it also to be a risk. Correspondence from QPS states that they have identified the intersection to be dangerous due to the fact it has a 45-degree angle and creates a tight right turn. Heavy vehicles such as B Doubles cannot make the turn, or they detour and go through the town's business centre. QPS also stated it would be safer for motorists and pedestrians if the intersection was redesigned with 90-degree angles.

Cost: \$1.5M for engineering and earthworks. Project was sensitive due to heritage sandstone being located near the corner of the intersection.

Doppler Radar Project

Croydon Shire Council Corporate Plan Strategy - 4.9.2 Weather Radar

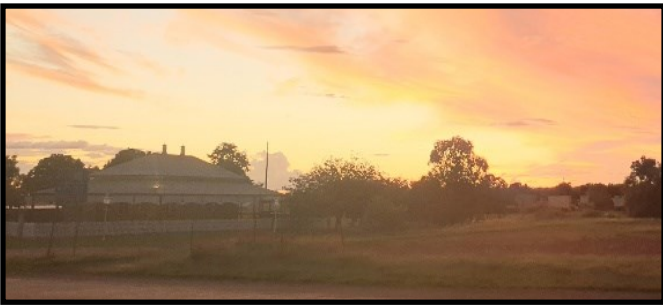
What: Croydon Shire Council is proposing to prepare a detailed business case and feasibility study, including economic study and benefit analysis to allow advocacy for a doppler weather radar station within the Croydon Shire. This aligns with Croydon Council's Corporate Plan and Local Disaster Plan and has the full support of the District Disaster Management Group and neighbouring councils.

This project will result in a comprehensive study document which will assist with advocating for a doppler weather radar station to enable early warning of cyclones, rainfall, and severe storms within a very remote and severely disadvantaged region (ARIA/SEIFA).

Why: Croydon area and our neighbours, namely Carpentaria Shire, Mornington Island, Kowanyama and Pormpuraaw Aboriginal Shire Councils, and the area of the Gilbert River mouth are blind spots. These areas are all, historically, in the cyclone tracking area due to their proximity to the gulf. Occasionally, cyclones have sat dormant in the Gilbert River mouth area prior to regrouping and moving on. Currently the above councils have found it difficult to track these events which could pose threats to lives/health and infrastructure, business, agriculture and freight.

Benefit: enable adequate tracking of cyclones and severe weather events to ensure multiple communities are prepared and have as much reduced risk as possible.

Cost: \$150K National Emergency Management Agency application – administered by Queensland Reconstruction Authority funding co contribution - Business case for Croydon Shire Council along with (for and on behalf of) neighbouring Local Government Areas (Carpentaria Shire, Mornington Island, Kowanyama, and Pormpuraaw Aboriginal Shire Councils)



Mountain Bike Trail network Development

Croydon Shire Council Corporate Plan Strategy - 1.1 Promotion of tourism and creation of International standard sports tourism product

What: Croydon shire have commissioned a Concept plan, a Masterplan, and a business case for a mountain biking trail network in the Shire.

Croydon's 100 km trail network is to attract tourists that identify as mountain bikers and travel long distances to ride large trail networks. International visitors who are interested in the Croydon Mountain bike trail network as an Australian outback mountain biking experience, and are travelling specifically to Croydon and staying for multiple days to ride and experience all the trails in the network, the nature of the Shire, the rich mining History, the Historical precinct and the Historic Gulflander train and nearby attractions of Lake Belmore and possible events.

Why: The project will expand the Croydon Shire tourism product offering and have good economic flow on effects to the region. It will also assist Croydon and the region to leverage the Olympic Games sporting projects/events and visitation that Queensland will experience leading into 2032 and beyond.

Benefit: A new tourism asset that is unique to the region. It will increase visitation to the region therefore bringing more visitor spend on food, accommodation, retail. The business case states that the construction phase would produce 16.6 FTE jobs. For the operations phase the plan is stating that the region would benefit from 10.3FTE jobs in the first year of operation up to 15.6FTE in 10 years of operation. The Benefit Cost Ratio sits at 2.7 with a 7% discount.

Cost: The total cost for 100km of trails totals approx \$3.8M but can be done in stages as it covers 20 trails of varying degree of difficulty. Each trail is costed separately.

Water Park

Croydon Shire Council Corporate Plan Strategy 1.1.10 sport and rec facilities for tourism and 4.2 community infrastructure for locals

What: Splash park - a public recreation area, for water play that has little or no standing water. It will eliminate the need for lifeguards or other supervision. The water is either freshwater, or recycled and treated water, that is typically treated to at least the same level of quality as swimming pool water standards. It can be surfaced in textured non-slip concrete or in crumb rubber.

Why: the construction of a splash park will improve community use of the current swimming pool facility as small children will be able to safely play and participate while others are utilising the larger deeper swimming pool. Groups attending could include sport and recreation groups, after school care groups, childcare groups, local State School, community groups and families and visitors to the region.

Benefit: It will benefit the health of the local community and provide a product for visiting families and tourists particularly in the hotter months.

Cost: The total cost of project is \$559,454 – application through Minor Infrastructure program, Queensland Department of Tourism Innovation and Sport funding - \$369,999 and contribution by Croydon Shire Council - \$189,455.

Housing and available land

Croydon Shire Council Corporate Plan Strategy - 4.6 Adequate housing and available land

What: Creation of local housing – residential, community and an industrial land precinct

Why: There is a lack of community and residential housing for Croydon Shire locals, and the deficit inhibits the Shire to be able to attract families and workers to the region. It also delays future growth and development for the Croydon Shire.

Croydon Shire Council is therefore applying to Queensland Department of Resources to release State Government land, to purchase, and then create local housing and a local industrial precinct.

Having available freehold land will attract business investment and Council will be able to attract workers through housing offers as well as provide local community housing.

Benefit: The benefits to the Shire will be immense. Croydon Shire has decreased in population numbers over the last 10 years and having land available for housing will attract families back to the region, as well as provide a catalyst for potential investment for businesses and council workers.

Cost: Currently the Croydon Shire Council is applying to Queensland Department of Resources and land release is imminent.



Education

Croydon Shire Council Corporate Plan Strategy - 4.3 maintaining a level of education services

What: Review teacher/student ratio – look at remoteness as a factor

Why: Croydon Primary School has reduced in number by one student and therefore will have to reduce in teacher numbers by 1 due to the current Qld Teacher/Student ratio scheme.

Benefit: Education is extremely important for the Shire and Croydon Shire Council wants to support measures to improve educational outcomes for the Croydon community. The Council wants to continue to invest in up skilling its workforce and offering traineeships which build job-readiness through an organizational learning strategy. Croydon Shire Council also encourages and supports a community culture of education, up skilling, and lifelong learning.



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