



# **ATTACHMENTS TO MINUTES GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING**

**27 MARCH 2019**



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## **NON-BINDING MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

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## **NON-BINDING MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

Between

**Motorcycling Australia (MA)**

and

**Southern Downs Regional Council (SDRC)**

### **1. Purpose**

- 1.1 The purpose of this Non-Binding Memorandum of Understanding (this MOU) is to confirm the agreed terms for the establishment and operation of a collaborative arrangement between MA and SDRC aimed at developing links and creating new opportunities and benefits for the Southern Downs region around the annual events for the Australian Superbike Championships (ASBK) staged at the Morgan Park facility in Warwick (the proposed project).

### **2. Objectives**

- 2.1 Each party agrees to collaborate in a spirit of mutual understanding and to develop a closer working relationship.
- 2.2 In particular, MA and SDRC agree to work collaboratively to conceive, consider and potentially develop initiatives associated with the proposed project. The scope of the collaborative arrangement may encompass initiatives such as the following:
  - The development of visitor and racetrack facilities on the site, as well as the undertaking of regular guided tours of the facility.
  - The establishment infrastructure on or nearby to the site, with the facilities being free to use for the general public.
  - Consider the provision of support for funding applications that would be of benefit to each of the parties
- 2.3 If the parties do determine that they wish to pursue specific initiatives associated with the proposed project, they will enter into a separate written agreement in relation to each and every specific collaborative activity undertaken.
- 2.4 Any specific initiatives ultimately pursued by the parties will, as a general rule, be led by MA and supported by SDRC.
- 2.5 Any information exchanged between the parties with respect to this MOU is confidential and must not be disclosed by the recipient.
- 2.6 Each party will respect the name and reputation of the other. A party shall not make a press or other announcement or release information relating to this MOU and the

matters the subject of it without the written approval of the other to the form and manner of the announcement or release.

### **3. Key SDRC Deliverables**

- Print media through Southern Downs Mail and Southern Downs Email.
- Posters and social media promoting the event at key public areas.
- Promotional banners through main thoroughfares to be considered.
- Billboards leading into town to be considered.
- Local promotions.
- Local radio where possible.
- Local tourism what's on promotions via digital platforms, websites and social media.
- Financial where applicable and agreed to support for promotional opportunities.
- Support with local promotional activation involving some teams and riders.

### **4. Key ASBK Deliverables**

- Tours free of charge through the "paddock" for local community groups, schools on Friday, including meet and greets.
- Play SDRC tourism content leading into the Live Stream TV broadcast.
- TVC opportunity to support local tourism and industry.
- Interview opportunity with the Mayor highlighting the value of the ASBK to the local community.
- Money Can't Buy experience – Pillion Rides, great for local competitions.
- Ad in the ASBK program.
- Welcome message in the ASBK program from the Mayor.

### **5. Period**

- 5.1 This MOU shall commence on the date of the last signing by a party and shall, subject to clause 3.2, continue for a period of three (3) years from that date.
- 5.2 Either party may withdraw from this MOU by giving the other 12 weeks' notice in writing.
- 5.3 This MOU may be amended or varied from time to time, provided that such amendment or variation is evidenced in writing and signed by the parties.
- 5.4 The parties will meet to review the operation and effectiveness of this document on each anniversary of the commencement date.

## **6. Non-Binding**

- 6.1 While the parties are committed to using their best endeavours to achieve its purpose, this document is not intended to create binding or legal obligations on the parties. Nothing in it shall be construed as creating any legal relationship between the parties and its provisions do not create rights, obligations or duties for either party. It is intended to be a statement of intent to foster genuine and mutually beneficial cooperation.

Signed on behalf of **Motorcycling  
Australia** by **Martin Port**  
**MA Operations Director**  
**Motorcycling Australia**, in the  
presence of:

.....  
**Witness**

.....  
**Name of Witness**

Signed on behalf of **Southern Downs  
Regional Council**  
**ABN 59 788 792 851** by **Mayor**  
**Southern Downs Regional Council**, in  
the presence of:

.....  
**Witness**

.....  
**Name of Witness**



## Rates Concession Policy

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<b>Policy Number:</b>	PL-FS076
<b>Department:</b>	Corporate Services
<b>Section:</b>	Finance
<b>Responsible Manager:</b>	Manager Finance & Information Technology
<b>Date Adopted:</b>	28 June 2017
<b>Date to be Reviewed:</b>	28 June 2019
<b>Date Reviewed:</b>	27 March 2019
<b>Date Rescinded:</b>	

### REVISION RECORD

Date	Version	Revision description
19 June 2018	2	Reviewed – Invasive Pest Control rebate adjusted and Public amenities on leased government property rebate added
27 March 2019	3	Reviewed tank rebate

**Rates Concession Policy**

**Policy no: PL-FS076**

**Updated: 27 March 2019**

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## **1 Policy Background**

Council must levy rates, fees and charges and requires payment of such rates, fees and charges within the specified period. It is Council's policy to levy and pursue the collection of all outstanding rates and charges diligently but with due concern for the following:

- financial hardship which may be faced by some members of the community;
- Economic development of the region; and
- Cultural, environmental, historic, heritage or scientific significance within the region.

Chapter 4, Part 10 of the *Local Government Regulations 2012* allows local governments to grant a ratepayer a concession for rates or charges.

Section 121 only allows the following types of concessions:

- a) A rebate of all or part of the rates or charges;
- b) An agreement to defer payment of rates or charges;
- c) An agreement to accept a transfer of unencumbered land in full or part payment of the rates or charges.

## **2 Purpose**

This policy aims to identify target groups and establish guidelines to assess requests for rates and charges concessions in order to alleviate the impact of rates and charges.

This policy has been developed to ensure consistency in the determination of concessions for rate and charges with respect to Chapter 4, Part 10 of the *Local Government Regulations 2012*.

In considering the application of concessions Council will be guided by the principles of:

- The same treatment for ratepayers with similar circumstances.
- Transparency by making clear the requirements necessary to receive concessions.
- Flexibility to allow Council to respond to local economic issues.

Consideration may be given by Council to granting a class concession in the event all or part of the Southern Downs Regional Council area is declared a natural disaster area by the State Government.

## **3 Scope**

This policy applies to any person, group or organisation seeking rebates and concessions for rates and/or charges.

The scope of this policy is limited to rate concession types under section 121(a) and 121(b) of the *Local Government Regulations 2012* being:

**Rates Concession Policy**

Policy no: *PL-FS076*

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- a) A rebate of all or part of the rates or charges; and/or
- b) An agreement to defer payment of rates or charges.

It does not include concessions allowed under a separate policy, including:

- PL-FS068 – Home Haemodialysis Water Allowance; and
- PL-FS035 – Relief from Water Consumption Charges Policy.

This policy supersedes any previous ongoing concessions granted by Council.

## **4 Legislative Context**

- *Local Government Regulation 2012* – Chapter 4, Part 10

## **5 Policy Details**

Rate concessions are considered for the following ratepayers categories.

### **5.1 Not-For-Profit/Charitable Organisations**

Pursuant to sections 120(1)(b)(i), section 121(a), and section 122(1)(b), (4), (5) and (6) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council grant a concession to approved organisations whose objectives do not include the making of profit and who provide services to their membership and the community.

The granting of rate concessions under this section ends two years after the current application is approved; upon change of ownership; or upon the change of the purpose for which the property is used (as determined by an authorised Council Categorisation Officer) whichever is the sooner. Subsequently a new application for rate concession is required to be submitted.

#### **5.1.1 Eligibility**

Not-For-Profit/Community Organisation – An Incorporated body who:

- Does not include the making of profit in its objectives;
- Does not charge a fee for service;
- Is located within the Council area and the majority of its members reside in the Council area;

- Does not receive income from gaming machines, gambling activities and/or from the sale of alcohol in an organised manner (e.g. bar with regular hours of operation with permanent liquor license);
- Is the owner, lessee or life tenant of the property and is the incorporated bodies main grounds/base/club house or residence;
- Has, either solely or jointly with a co-owner, the legal responsibility for the payment of rates and charges which are levied in respect of the property;
- Is not a religious, State or Federal body or entity or educational institution recognised under State or Federal statute or law;
- Does not receive any dividends or other income from shareholdings in any other entity; and
- Does not pay any monies to board members or any other financial incentive to such including but not limited to share entitlements.

Council will not allow any rate concession where there is either an actual or perceived competitive advantage obtained by the 3rd party through Council allowing such a concession.

Should an applicant only have part ownership of the property the Council remission is similarly reduced.

### **5.1.2 Applications**

Applications will only be accepted on the appropriate form. The form must be completed by the applicant and must be supported by any information required to assist in the decision making process. Such information includes:

- The organisation's constitution;
- Tax status;
- Most recent audited Financial Statements;
- Number of paid and unpaid (i.e. volunteers) labour; and
- Primary activities carried on by the organisation.

Eligibility for a concession is assessed by Council biennially prior to the issue of the first rate notice each financial year (generally June/July). Organisations not provided

with a concession, and believe they meet the relevant criteria, may apply for approval at any time. If an application is approved by Council, concessions are applied from the beginning of the current rating or utility notice period, depending on the rates or charges receiving the concession (concessions are not applied retrospectively).

### 5.1.3 Amount of Rebate

#### 1. Senior Citizens Clubs

Levies	Rebate Level
General Rates	N/A - Exempt under Rates Exemption Policy
Separate Rates/Charges	0%
Special Rates/Charges	0%
Water Access Charges	50%
Water Consumptions Charges	0%
Waste Water Charges	50%
Cap	N/A

#### 2. Showground Related Organisations

Levies	Rebate Level
General Rates	N/A - Exempt under Rates Exemption Policy
Separate Rates/Charges	0%
Special Rates/Charges	0%
Water Access Charges	50%
Water Consumptions Charges	0%
Waste Water Charges	50%
Cap	N/A

#### 3. Sporting and other not for profit organisations which rely mainly on volunteer labour, excluding properties used as a shop, office, gallery, sales area or other commercial activity.

<b>Levies</b>	<b>Rebate Level</b>
General Rates	N/A - Exempt under Rates Exemption Policy
Separate Rates/Charges	0%
Special Rates/Charges	0%
Water Access Charges	50%
Water Consumptions Charges	0%
Waste Water Charges	50%
Cap	N/A

4. Community/Charitable organisation which relies mainly on paid labour

<b>Levies</b>	<b>Rebate Level</b>
General Rates	25%
Separate Rates/Charges	0%
Special Rates/Charges	0%
Water Access Charges	0%
Water Consumptions Charges	0%
Waste Water Charges	0%
Cap	\$1,000

5. Rural Fire Brigade

<b>Levies</b>	<b>Rebate Level</b>
General Rates	N/A - Exempt under Rates Exemption Policy
Separate Rates/Charges	0%
Special Rates/Charges	0%
Water Access Charges	100%
Water Consumptions Charges	0%
Waste Water Charges	100%
Cap	N/A

## **5.2 Public Amenities on Leased Government Property**

Pursuant to sections 120(1)(c), section 121(a), and section 122(1)(b), (5) and (6) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council grant a concession by way of a rebate of wastewater charges where a property is levied more than three (3) pedestals subject to the conditions below:

- The land is owned by a government entity or government owned entity; and
- The land is leased to another person/organisation; and
- The wastewater charges are levied to the lessor; and
- The lessor passes the wastewater charges onto the lessee; and
- The wastewater amenities are available for use by the general public without the lessee providing access.

The lessee must provide evidence of the following:

- the lessor requiring the lessee to pay the wastewater charges;
- the wastewater charges being paid by the lessee;
- that the wastewater amenities are to be made available to the public outside of the lessee's control

Upon receipt and approval of the evidence noted above, Council will allow a rebate of 100% of the wastewater charges over the first three (3) pedestals.

## **5.3 Permits to Occupy Pump Sites and Separate Pump Site Assessments**

Pursuant to sections 120(1)(c), section 121(a), and section 122(1)(b), (5) and (6) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council grant a concession by way of a rebate of 50% of the general rate subject to the conditions below:

- A permit to occupy for a pump site has been issued;
- The permit to occupy is not valued with other rateable land; and
- Where the total assessable area is 25 square meters or less.

## 5.4 Leased Council Vacant Land

Pursuant to sections 120(1)(c), section 121(a), and section 122(1)(b), (5) and (6) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council grant a concession to lessees of Council land by way of a rebate of 100% of the general rate and separate charges subject to the conditions below.

1. The land is owned or held as Trustee by Council; and
2. The land is leased to another person; and
3. The land is vacant; and
4. The land is not used for any business or commercial/industrial purpose (excluding a grazing lease); and
5. The land is not valued with other rateable land held by the lessee.

## 5.5 Invasive Pests Control Special Rate

Pursuant to sections 120(1)(d), section 121(a), and section 122(1)(b), (5) and (6) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council grant a concession to all ratepayers levied with Invasive Pests Control Special Rate ('the special rate'), by way of rebate of 100% of the special rate, subject to compliance by the ratepayers with the conditions below. The concession is granted on the grounds that the concession will encourage the economic development of all or part of Council's local government area. The conditions applicable to this grant of concession are as follows: -

1. In accordance with the Invasive Pests Control Scheme ('the Scheme') adopted by Council at its 2017/2018 budget meeting and amended at its 2018/2019 budget meeting, all ratepayers levied with the special rate will receive a Proposed Control of Works Form;
2. The ratepayer must fully complete and return the Control Works Form to Council within 60 days of its receipt;
3. In the event that Council does not receive the completed Control Works Form within 60 days after its receipt by the ratepayer, the rebate of the special rate will be limited to the period beginning on 1 July 2018 and ending on the due date for the return of the form, with the balance of the special rate becoming due and payable from the day after the due date for the return of the form, calculated by reference to the following formula: -

No. of days from day after due date for return of form to 30 June 2019 x amount of special rate as levied

365

4. If a completed and returned Control Works Form does not identify any invasive weeds or pest animals (collectively referred to as "invasive pests") on the rateable land the subject of the special rate, and a subsequent inspection of the rateable land by an authorised person of Council reveals the existence of invasive pests, the rebate of the special rate will be limited to the period beginning on 1 July 2018 and ending on the date of inspection by the Council authorised person, with the balance of the special rate becoming due and payable from the day after the inspection, calculated by reference to the following formula: -

No. of days from day after date of inspection to 30 June 2019 x amount of special rate as levied

365

5. If a completed and returned Control Works Form is returned and identifies invasive pests on the rateable land the subject of the special rate: -

- a. The Control of Works Form must detail The list of proposed control works to be completed no later than 30 April 2019 (which may also include a timetable for future works not extending beyond 30 April 2020) that the landholder will undertake to remove the invasive pests.
- b. The ratepayer must undertake the proposed control works specified in, and in accordance with the timetable identified by, the Control Works Form.
- c. If a subsequent inspection of the rateable land by an authorised person of Council reveals that the ratepayer has not undertaken the proposed control works specified in, or in accordance with the timetable identified by, the Control Works Form, the rebate of the special rate will be limited to the period beginning on 1 July 2018 and ending on the date of inspection by the Council authorised person, with the balance of the special rate becoming due and payable from the day after the inspection, calculated by reference to the following formula: -

No. of days from day after date of inspection to 30 June 2019 x amount of special rate as levied

365

## 5.6 Water Tank Rebate

Pursuant to sections 120(1)(d), section 121(a), and section 122(1)(b), (5) and (6) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council grant a concession to ratepayers levied with a Water Utility Access Charge ("the water access charge"), by way of a rebate of 100% of a water access charge for a property for a set period, subject to compliance with the conditions below. The concession is granted on the grounds that the concession will encourage the economic development of all or part of Council's local government area. The conditions applicable to this grant of concession are as follows:

1. The property is included in the differential general rating categories of:
  - a. Residential 1; or
  - b. Residential 2.
2. A ratepayer installs a reticulated water tank which is plumbed to their dwelling for the following:
  - a. Outdoor use only; such as gardening, car/house/driveway washing and swimming pool filling/top up via a hose tap.
  - b. Both outdoor and indoor use; where it also supplies specific internal plumbing fixtures which are toilets and cold water washing machine tap. Should these internal fixtures be connected to a rainwater supply, an automatic continuous supply of reticulated mains water must be achieved to these fixtures via either a pressure pump with an automatic switching device or an approved mains water trickle top up system at the rainwater tank in the event of no available rainwater.

All rainwater tanks need to be installed to a minimum health and safety standard under the Queensland Development Code (as per Table 1 of the applicable QDC). These standards account for water quality protection, such as mosquito and vermin control, minimising the potential for contamination with mains water supplies, ensure water marked approved materials for tank design, connection and construction are used, have appropriate signage, and appropriate hazard rated backflow prevention installed where required. Where a rainwater tank is voluntarily connected for indoor use to an existing house or building, this work must be installed by a licenced plumber. The plumber must lodge a Form 4 – Notifiable work for Plumbing with the Queensland Building Construction Commission.

3. The ratepayer completes the form "Application for Water Tank Rebate"
4. With the above application, the ratepayer provides evidence of the purchase of the water tank/s and works carried out to plumb the water tank/s into their dwelling. This evidence must include:
  - a. A tax invoice for the purchase of the water tank/s stating the size of the tank/s and the property details where the tank/s was delivered to. If two or more of tanks are being purchased, they must all be recorded on the one invoice; and
  - b. A tax invoice from a licensed plumber who plumbed the water tank/s into the dwelling stating the works that were done and the property details where the works were carried out.
5. The rebate will not be allowed on pre-installed tanks. This includes where the existing tank is plumbed for any degree of household usage or not.
6. The rebate can only be applied once per property.

Upon receipt and approval of the evidence noted in point 4 above, Council will allow a rebate of 100% of a water access charge levied on the property for the full financial year regardless of when the evidence is provided. In the event of multiple meters installed on a property and thus multiple water access charges levied, the rebate will only be allowed for a single water access charge of the smallest meter size (i.e. If a property has two 20mm and one 25mm meters, the rebate will only be allowed on a single 20mm access charge).

The extent of the rebate is based on the size of the installation as follows:

- Tank/s with capacity greater than or equal to 5 Kilo litres will receive the rebate for 5 financial years;
- Tank/s with capacity less than 5 Kilo litres do not attract a rebate
- Where a body corporate of a group of strata title residences installs a communal tank, the capacity requirement is on a pro rata basis for the number of dwellings connected to the tank (i.e. Individual dwelling rate is assessed based on communal tank capacity divided by the number of dwellings plumbed to it for household use).

## 5.7 Financial Hardship

Pursuant to sections 120(1)(c), section 121(b), and section 122(1)(b), (5) and (6) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council may grant a concession to ratepayers who are having difficulty in paying their rates in one of the following circumstances:

1. Major medical situation; or
2. Unusual and severe circumstances.

The concession is granted by way of deferral of all interest charges and legal recovery from the date of application until 30 June of the current financial year subject to compliance by the ratepayers with the conditions below.

1. The property is included in one of the following differential general rating categories:
  - a. Residential 1;
  - b. Residential 2;
  - c. Residential 3; or
  - d. Residential 4.
2. The ratepayer completes the form "Hardship Application for Rates Deferral"
3. The deferral of interest charges and legal recovery expires annually and the ratepayer must make a new application if the major medical situation continues;
4. The levied rates and charges on the property are still required to be paid in full;
5. The nature of applications for concession is generally determined on a case-by-case basis against the principles outlined in this policy.

### 5.7.1 Major Medical Situations

Where a ratepayer is having difficulty in paying their rates due them and/or associated persons (spouse/children/parents) suffering from one of the following major medical situation:

- Illness involving long term hospitalisation;
- Incapacitation;
- Major trauma (e.g. accident);
- Life threatening illness (e.g. terminal cancer); or

- **Emergency operation**

The concession is granted by way of deferral of all interest charges and legal recovery until 30 June of the current financial year, subject to compliance by the ratepayers with the conditions below:

1. The patient resides permanently at the nominated address within the Southern Downs Regional Council area;
2. The ratepayer must complete and submit an application for deferral concession with the following details:
  - a. Details of the relevant major medical situation as listed above;
  - b. The date and duration of the major medical situation; and
  - c. Supporting letter/statement by doctor/medical practitioner confirming the major medical situation.

Any application made for a deferral concession under major medical situations may be approved by the Chief Executive Officer or Manager of Finance and Information Technology.

### **5.7.2 Unusual and severe circumstances**

Where a ratepayer is having difficulty in paying their rates due to them and/or associated persons (spouse/children/parents) suffering from unusual and severe circumstances. These may include:

- Sudden and unexpected loss of income;
- Sudden and unexpected major expenditure;
- Other unusual and severe circumstance, such as being within a drought declared area.

The concession is granted by way of deferral of all interest charges and legal recovery until 30 June of the current financial year, subject to compliance by the ratepayers with the conditions below:

- The ratepayer resides permanently at the nominated address within the Southern Downs Regional Council area;
- The ratepayer must complete and submit an application for deferral concession with the following details:

- Details of the relevant unusual and severe circumstance;
- The date and duration of the circumstance; and
- Supporting information for Council to decide upon the application. This Information can include:
  - Gross income (household and commercial) – which includes: income from employment, pensions, other social security benefits, income from rental properties, other investment income, as well as deemed income (e.g. potential rental income from non-owner residents such as children that live at home and earn income but do not pay rent);
  - Assets (income producing assets);
  - Copies of Invoices of any major expenditure;
  - Details on advice sought from a Financial Counsellor.
- the application demonstrates unusual and severe difficulty rather than the usual frustrations and trials to which other ratepayers or similar organisations are subjected to from time to time;

Any application made for a deferral concession under unusual or severe circumstances must be approved at a General Council Meeting.

## 5.8 Other

Other remission or rate deferral requests will be assessed on their individual merits. Council reserves the right to limit rate increases under special arrangements made with Council pursuant to Section 116 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*.

## 5.9 Cost Report

At the budget meeting each year, a report must be prepared and presented to Council showing the cost of each concession granted per property for the current financial year and for the time since the concession was first granted.

## **6 Definitions**

Term	Meaning
Hardship	when payment of due rates and charge was made, the ratepayer would be left unable to provide for themselves, their family or other dependants the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Food;</li><li>• Accommodation;</li><li>• clothing;</li><li>• medical treatment;</li><li>• education; or</li><li>• other basic necessities.</li></ul>

## **7 Related Documents**

- PL-FS013 – Revenue Policy
- PL-FS057 – Debt Recovery Policy

## **8 References**

- Nil



Ideas and actions for a  
bigger and better region



*Southern Downs is a large region with diverse urban, rural and natural landscapes and characteristics. Shaping Southern Downs recognises that the region has distinctive regional and district centres, villages and rural communities based on its landscapes, character and economic strengths.*

*Each community can play its part to achieve our vision for Southern Downs and by working together ensure that the "whole will be greater than the sum of the parts".*

### Character Statement for the North

***At the heart of the North lies Allora, a vibrant country town with a strong sense of history, an old-time charming streetscape and heritage buildings. Vast agricultural plains fill the North while stunning wildflowers line the highway during Summer.***

#### Actions in the North

#### 2019 Progress Review

• Public and privately owned historic buildings in Allora will be restored	✓
• Entrance signs will be installed	...
• Main street upgrades will be undertaken	✓
• Wastewater infrastructure will be considered to support residential, commercial and industrial development	✓
• Develop plans to enhance the village of Goomburra	...
• Consideration will be given to events and marketing using heritage and the natural landscapes, such as sunflowers to attract more visitors	✓
• Identify options for restricting heavy vehicle passage through Allora	✓

### Character Statement for the South

***The Granite Belt has a mix of breathtaking natural landscapes, world class wineries and close knit communities with the flourishing town of Stanthorpe providing essential services. Surrounding areas are characterised by orchards, vineyards and rocky outcrops, all supporting a strong agriculture and tourism industry.***

#### Actions in the South

#### 2019 Progress Review

• Water security will be the focus and investment in water infrastructure will be substantial	✓
• Promote the Granite Belt as a distinct geographical area to differentiate its produce	✓
• Work with tourism businesses to develop products and experiences that exceed visitor expectations	✓
• Continue with the implementation of the Stanthorpe Streetscape	✓
• Continue with the implementation of the Wallangarra Urban Design	✓
• Food production will dominate the local economy	✓
• Housing in Stanthorpe and Applethorpe will be reviewed as part of the development of a broader town plan, promoting sustainable living	✓
• A learning hub will be established to facilitate an educated community	...
• Celebrate the diversity of the region through public art, events and cultural activities	✓
• Signage will recognize the character of the settlements and their history	...
• Encourage outdoor activities through the expansion of cycleways and pathways	✓
• Develop plans to enhance the smaller villages of Cottonvale, The Summit, Amiens, Applethorpe, Severnlea, Glen Aplin and Ballandean	...



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**SHAPING  
SOUTHERN DOWNS**

✓ Completed in 2019  
... Work to be continued

## Character Statement for the West

*The West of the region features a string of quintessential country towns, with vast plains, tight knit communities and strong agricultural history found in this traditional rural setting.*

### Actions in the West

### 2019 Progress Review

• Town plans for Leyburn, Pratten and Karara will be developed to improve liveability	✓
• The Leyburn Sprints will be further developed into a more significant event	✓
• Identify and promote other events that can be conducted in this area of the Southern Downs	✓
• Improvements will be made to the Leyburn Water supply	...
• Themed signage will be erected at the entrances of Leyburn, Pratten and Karara	...
• In the longer term, plans for the best use of agricultural land in this area will be examined	...

## Character Statement for the East

*The eastern gateway to the Southern Downs is a scenic gem with rolling foothills, deep secluded valleys and dramatic waterfalls. A number of welcoming communities, including the bustling Killarney township, have access to retail, hospitality and professional services.*

### Actions in the East

### 2019 Progress Review

• Implementation of the Maryvale Urban Design Framework	✓
• Revision of the Killarney Town Centre Plan	...
• Develop plans to enhance the smaller villages of Emu Vale and Tannymorel	...
• Promotion of this area of the Southern Downs as a tourist destination, highlighting the natural environment and rural nature of the landscape	✓
• Signage for the villages will be completed	...
• Agriculture and heritage to be preserved	✓
• Condamine River Gorge to be managed sustainably	...
• Improved transport linkages	...

## Character Statement for the Centre

*The Centre is the region's main hub, with major city Warwick providing access to essential services including medical, retail, professional and education facilities. Sitting on the banks of the Condamine River, the thriving Centre features some of the State's finest original sandstone buildings. Surrounded by prime agricultural land, there is a strong industrial sector and international sporting facilities.*

### Actions in the Centre

### 2019 Progress Review

• The Warwick Bypass planning will be completed	...
• Industrial and commercial development to remain a focus to increase population	✓
• Main street development will continue to create a destination for residents and visitors	✓
• A mix of housing will create new products for new residents to consider	...
• Recycled water projects will be an exemplar to other local government agencies	✓
• An Urban Design Framework for Warwick will be completed	...
• Improve signage to encourage travelers to leave the highways and stop in the towns	...
• Encourage outdoor activities through the expansion of cycleways and pathways	✓
• Aim to have events conducted on a weekly basis as a means to attract visitors, enhancing the Morgan Park precinct	...
• Work with the rural sector to drought proof primary production properties	...
• Develop saleyards infrastructure	✓
• Develop plans to enhance the smaller villages of Yangan and Dalveen	...

# 6 ROLES OF THE COUNCIL AND THE COMMUNITY

## *In responding to the future, the Council will seek to:*

2019 Progress Review

• Develop a plan or urban design framework for each of the towns and villages in the municipality	✓
• Create masterplans for the central business districts or main streets of Warwick, Stanthorpe, Allora and Killarney	...
• Improve the quality and accessibility of open spaces across the region	...
• Renew or replace infrastructure that meets the expectations of the community in a timely manner	✓
• Advocate to all levels of government to ensure that the Southern Downs Region is front of mind in all decision making processes	✓
• Promote to residents the assets and opportunities available in the region	✓
• Maintain a high level of communication and consultation with all urban and rural communities in Southern Downs	✓
• Provide leadership in its own activities	✓
• Utilise its planning powers and resources wisely to regulate the activities of landowners, residents and businesses	✓
• Provide targeted services to support the community in partnership with the community, local businesses and other government agencies	✓
• Partner, support or seek to influence other agencies where Council shares responsibility	✓
• Demonstrate a high level of financial responsibility, recognizing the limited capacity of ratepayers to deal with successive rate rises, whilst also managing debt levels to improve the financial sustainability of the Southern Downs Regional Council	✓

## *In responding to the future, the community will seek to:*

- Promote a level of pride in different communities that supports an atmosphere of positivity and willingness
- Recognize innovation and success in the local communities
- Seek to develop capacity in the community by fostering resilience and ownership of issues
- Establish a welcoming environment that accommodates change in line with broader expectations and long term objectives of the region
- Provide leadership within the community
- Contribute and take an active role in putting forward ideas
- Communicate ideas and concerns directly with Council, Council Advisory Committees or other working groups



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**SHAPING  
SOUTHERN DOWNS**

✓ Completed in 2019  
... Work to be continued