



SOUTHERN DOWNS REGIONAL COUNCIL GENERAL MEETING OF COUNCIL

LATE AGENDA ITEMS
Wednesday, 28 August 2019

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12. INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES REPORTS

12.5 Stanthorpe CBD Vehicle Parking Study

Document Information

 Southern Downs REGIONAL COUNCIL	Report To: General Council Meeting	
	Reporting Officer:	Meeting Date: 28 August 2019
	Director Infrastructure Services	ECM Function No/s: 30.16.03

Recommendation

THAT Council endorse the public display of the regulated car parking as per Option 2 (Attachment 2) within the CBD area of Stanthorpe for a period of four (4) weeks. Following consultation a report will be presented to Council with final recommendations. Chamber of Commerce to be formally notified of the proposed regulated parking changes for final consultation and feedback.

Report

A parking study (Attachment 4) has been completed for the CBD area of Stanthorpe to investigate current and future parking within high demand parking areas. In addition, the study has developed a parking management strategy which will assist with fair and equitable use of parking for all residents and businesses in the area.

Car use within Stanthorpe dominates other transport modes with over 90% of trips being undertaken with a person as a driver or passenger of a car. Currently, Council receives a number of requests from the public in relation to the lack of public parking availability in the Stanthorpe Central Business District (CBD). Therefore, given the high car usage and number of public requests, it is anticipated that Council will need to consider strategies to manage car parking demand and usage.

The following methodology was utilised to create a Traffic Study Report for the CBD area of Stanthorpe:

- Review of background materials and previous study findings
- Investigate existing parking provisions and behaviour through collection of parking utilisation and duration of stay survey data.
- Analyse data to determine peak and average parking use and turnover.
- Undertake a site visit to determine the existing parking provisions, restrictions, signage details and locations. Identify any parking opportunities, operational issues and parking constraints whilst on site.
- Identify special user groups which may warrant consideration including provision for People With Disabilities (PWD) parking, loading zones, tourist parking, recreation vehicles and cars with caravans.
- Undertake stakeholder consultation
- Prepare a detailed parking management strategy to be implemented to better manage high occupancy parking areas within the CBD and to mitigate potential parking issues

Scope Area

The study area shown in Figure 1 comprises of approximately 432 parking spaces. A breakdown of parking within each street segment is shown below in Table 1. It is understood that on-street parking provisions have not changed significantly since the previous parking study conducted in 2012, with the exception of the off-street carpark within Rogers Street which was recently completed in 2017. From the supply shown in Table 1, it is identified that the majority (94%) of parking within the CBD is unrestricted. Time regulated spaces, PWD provisions, taxi and loading zones each account for approximately 1% of the total supply, with RV / Caravan spaces accounting for approximately 2% of the total supply.



Figure 1 - Segment Plan of Scope Area

Table 1 – Current Parking Supply

Location			Parking Type						
Street	Segment	Segment Ref.	Unrestricted	Time Restricted	PWD	RV and Caravan	Taxi	Loading Zone	Total
High Street	Davadi Street to Lock Street	1	25						25
	Lock Street to Victoria Street	2	51					1	52
	Victoria Street to Railway Street	3	12					2	14
Maryland Street	Railway Street to Folkestone Street	4	108		4		1	1	114
Rogers Street	Railway Street to Folkestone Street	5	30			9		1	40
Railway Street	Creek Street to Rogers Street	6	14						14
	Rogers Street to Maryland Street	7	8						8
	Maryland Street to Matthew Street	8	22	3			2		27
	Matthew Street to Davadi Street	9	18						18
Davadi Street	Railway Street to Baker Street	10							0
	Lock Street to Railway Street	11							0
	High Street to Lock Street	12	11						11
Victoria Street	Lock Street to High Street	13	29	1					30
Rogers Street – Off-Street Carpark	-	A	77		2				79
Total			405	4	6	9	3	5	432

Public/Business Consultation

An electronic questionnaire survey was available to the public for people to provide their parking experiences via the SDRC social media website. This survey was open for a week starting from

Tuesday 21st May 2019. The survey had 170 respondents and comprised of 16 questions about parking within Stanthorpe.

The survey responses comprised of 14 (8%) responses from business owners, 144 responses from Stanthorpe residents (85%) and 12 responses from visitors / tourist (7%). The following is a summary of responses from business owners and resident / visitors

The overall findings of the electronic questionnaire survey area as follows:

- Parking needs for businesses and residents / visitors are suited to short stay with the majority of respondents indicating that less than 1 hour is sufficient for their needs. However, it was identified that the mix of car parking could be improved. There are also concerns over introducing metered parking or too constrained time limited parking impacting businesses within Stanthorpe.
- Parking generally meets the needs of business owners for customers and supplies / deliveries, however, residents / visitors indicate that finding a parking space in the CBD is difficult. Staff parking (long-stay) was acknowledged as not meeting the needs of businesses.
- A high number of respondents suggested that improvements to PWD provisions and accessibility are needed for the CBD. A number of respondents also suggested pram parking provisions could be considered.
- Longer vehicle parking provisions were considered lacking.
- Parking surface, the number and locations of taxi zone and loading zones were generally not an issue for respondents.
- Directional wayfinding and consistent parking signage was of concern to a number of respondents.
- Lack of enforcement of parking spaces and driving behaviour within the CBD is of concern.
- Lack of parking for bikes and motorcycles to encourage alternative modes of transport

The Stanthorpe Chamber of Commerce (CoC) were also consulted during Draft Report form and Option analysis. Feedback provided by the CoC was taken on board and utilised in refining the final regulated parking option selection.

Car Parking Survey

A parking survey was undertaken within the Stanthorpe CBD area for the 13 on-street segments within the CBD (Figure 1) and the off-street parking facility in Rogers Street. Each on-street segment consists of parking on both sides of the street.

The parking surveys were undertaken between Tuesday 21st May 2019 and Monday 27th May 2019 for the following parking periods:

- Weekdays 8am to 6pm
- Saturday 8am to 2pm

The surveys consisted of both occupancy and duration of stay undertaken at hourly intervals across the day parking periods. A summary of the collected data is shown in Table 2.

Table 2 – 2109 Maximum peak parking demand

Zone	Parking Supply	Typical Weekday Maximum Average		Saturday Maximum	
		Utilisation	Available spaces	Utilisation	Available spaces
Maryland Street (Railway – Folkestone)	112	98%	2	95%	6
High Street (Railway – Davadi)	95	78%	21	51%	46
Victoria Street	30	103%	-1	50%	15
Railway Street (Maryland – Davadi)	43	74%	11	49%	22
Railway Street (Maryland – Creek)	22	86%	3	59%	9
Davadi Street (High – Baker)	11	82%	2	27%	8
Rogers Street	40	63%	15	40%	24
Roger Street off-street carpark	79	47%	42	20%	63
Total	432	78%	95	55%	193

A summary of the survey results are below:

- The busiest street by parking utilisation was High Street/Maryland Street (Railway to Folkestone) and Victoria Street. The busiest time was typically 10am-12 noon.
- The off-street carpark within Rogers Street was typically well below capacity throughout the day.
- In general, weekday parking occupancy was typically higher than Saturday peak periods with the exception of High Street (Railway to Folkestone).
- Most streets within the study area were observed to primarily consist of short-term parking. High Street and Davadi Street were observed to have the lower percentage of long stay vehicles.
- Rogers Street, Victoria Street and the off-street carpark within Rogers Street were observed to have the highest percentage of vehicles utilising long stay parking (2+ hours).
- Typically, 70% of the global percentage of parking bays stay less than 1 hour across all surveyed streets.

Additional calculations were then completed on High Street and Maryland Street (as this is the main parking areas in the CBD) and also Victoria Street (as this had a high occupancy of 100%). These results are shown in Table 3 and Table 4.

Table 3 – 2019 Average duration of stay percentages per day (day with highest occupancy)

Street	Number of non-regulated spaces	Duration	Total vehicles	% of vehicles
Maryland Street and High Street (Victoria Street to Folkestone Street)	120	<1hr	616	84%
		1-2hr	85	12%
		2+hr	30	4%
		Total	731	100%
High Street (Davadi Street to Victoria Street)	76	<1hr	211	78%
		1-2hr	39	14%
		2+hr	22	8%
		Total	272	100%
Victoria Street (High Street to Lock Street)	30	<1hr	32	45%
		1-2hr	9	13%
		2+hr	30	42%
		Total	71	100%

Interpretation of the results from Table 3 are below:

- Maryland has the highest number of motorists parking with 731 vehicles over the day. This equates to an average turn over per space of 6.1 vehicles per day.
- High Street has an average turn over per space of 3.6 vehicles per day
- Victoria Street has an average turn over per space of 2.4 vehicles per day

Table 4 – 2019 Average duration of stay during peak occupancy

Street	Number of non-regulated spaces	Duration	No. of vehicles	% of vehicles
Maryland Street and High Street (Victoria Street to Folkestone Street)	120	<1hr	72	60%
(Friday - 98% occupancy – occurs at 12pm)		1-2hr	26	22%
		2+hr	20	16%
		Total	118	98%
High Street (Davadi Street to Victoria Street)	76	<1hr	34	45%
(Wednesday - 78% occupancy – occurs at 12pm)		1-2hr	16	21%
		2+hr	10	12%
		Total	60	78%
Victoria Street (High Street to Lock Street)	30	<1hr	5	17%
(Thursday - 100% occupancy – occurs at 11am)		1-2hr	3	10%
		2+hr	22	73%
		Total	30	100%

Interpretation of results from Table 4 are below:

- If a 1 hour parking limit is implemented for Maryland Street, 46 spaces would be available, if a 2 hour parking limit is implemented then 20 spaces would be available. The 1 hour limit is recommended to provide more benefit and encourage additional turnover.

- 22 of the 30 spaces in Victoria Street are used by longer parking durations (2+hour). Therefore a 2 hour time limit would be recommended here to free up these bays.
- It is suggested to install the 1/4P (15 minute parking) spaces for quick drop in parking trips (such as to the post office, bank, fast food, etc.) to encourage higher turnover at key locations).

Parking Management Strategies

There have been 3 short term parking strategies designed from the collected and analysed data. These 3 Options are shown in Attachment 1, 2 & 3.

The short term strategy outcomes are initiatives that could be implemented initially at minimal cost. Options 2 & 3 will provide the most benefit to the current CBD parking arrangement, by freeing up more spaces during peak demand. Option 3 is the most efficient of the 3 due to the high turnover from the 1 hour parking implemented, however will be restrictive to those local business that usually provide a service that requires >1hr for completion.

The number of PWD spaces within the area has been increased in all options. Due to the steepness of the existing kerbing and roadway within the CBD area, each PWD space will need to be assessed singularly in regards to construction.

Budget Implications

The 3 options noted above are varying in cost of construction. Estimates for each are shown below:

Option 1 - \$8,000 excluding construction works of PWD ramps

Option 2 – \$15,000 excluding construction works of PWD ramps

Option 3 – \$15,000 excluding construction works of PWD ramps

Policy Consideration

Corporate Plan – Grow

1.11 Clarify community expectations prior to establishing community service obligations in relation to water, waste water, roads etc. to prioritise the levels of service.

Community Engagement

Regulated car parking as per Option 2 (Attachment 2) within the CBD area of Stanthorpe to be put on public display for community consultation for a period of four (4) weeks, with feedback from the Chamber of Commerce and Community to be compiled and considered, with the final proposed car parking changes to be reported back to Council for endorsement.

Legislation/Local Law

If regulated parking is implemented within the Stanthorpe CBD, car parking duration may need to be enforced by Council Local Laws Officers or Queensland Police Services. Without administration of the new parking regulation changes, the effectiveness may be restricted.

Options

Council can:

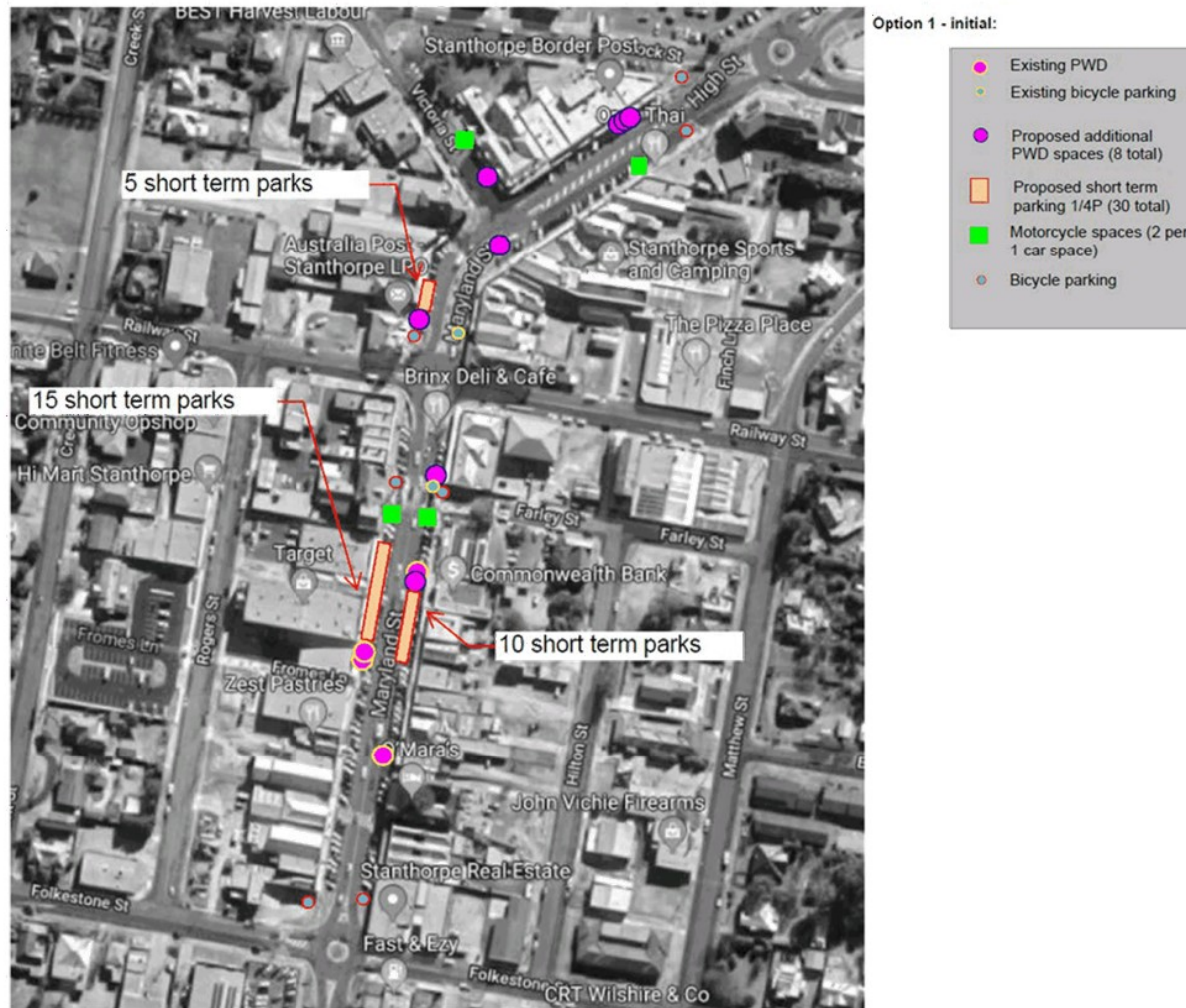
1. Endorse the public display of the regulated car parking as per Option 2 (Attachment 2) within the CBD area of Stanthorpe for a period of four (4) weeks. Following consultation a report will be presented to Council with final recommendations. Chamber of Commerce to be formally notified of the proposed regulated parking changes for final consultation and feedback.

2. Endorse the public display of the regulated car parking as per Option 1 (Attachment 1) within the CBD area of Stanthorpe for a period of four (4) weeks. Following consultation a report will be presented to Council with final recommendations. Chamber of Commerce to be formally notified of the proposed regulated parking changes for final consultation and feedback.
3. Endorse the public display of the regulated car parking as per Option 3 (Attachment 3) within the CBD area of Stanthorpe for a period of four (4) weeks. Following consultation a report will be presented to Council with final recommendations. Chamber of Commerce to be formally notified of the proposed regulated parking changes for final consultation and feedback.
4. Does not endorse the public display of any of the options for regulated car parking within the CBD area of Stanthorpe.

Attachments

1. Attachment 1 - Option 1 Introduction of P1/4 areas and increase of PWD Parking [↓](#)
2. Attachment 2 - Option 2 Regulated Parking - 1/4P & 2P arease and increase in PWD Parking [↓](#)
3. Attachment 3 - Option 3 Regulated Parking - 1/4P, 1P & 2P areas and increase in PWD Parking [↓](#)
4. Attachment 4 - Stanthorpe CBD Parking Study (Excluded from agenda - Provided under separate cover)

Attachment 1 - Option 1 Introduction of P1/4 areas and increase of PWD parking



Attachment 2 - Option 2 Regulated parking – 1/4P & 2P areas and increase in PWD parking



5 short term parks

15 short term parks

10 short term parks

Stanthorpe Border Post

Victoria St

High St

Stanthorpe Sports and Camping

The Pizza Place

Brinx Deli & Cafe

Farley St

Commonwealth Bank

John Vichie Firearms

Stanthorpe Real-Estate

Fast & Ezy

CRT Wilshire & Co

Folkestone St

Matthew St

Hilton St

Yara's

Frome's Zest Pastries

Frome's

Target

Hi Mart Stanthorpe

Community Opshop

Australia Post Stanthorpe LP









Railway St

Finch St

Stanthorpe

Best Harvest Labour


Creek St

-  Existing PWD
-  Existing bicycle parking
-  Proposed additional PWD spaces (8 total)
-  Proposed short term parking 1/4P (30 total)
-  Motorcycle spaces (2 per 1 car space)
-  Bicycle parking
-  Proposed 1P area
-  Proposed 2P area

13. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT REPORTS

13.5 Senate Submission into Regional Jobs

Document Information

 Southern Downs REGIONAL COUNCIL	Report To: General Council Meeting	
	Reporting Officer:	Meeting Date: 28 August 2019
	Director Sustainable Development	ECM Function No/s: NA

Recommendation

THAT Council endorse the submission for the Federal Government's Senate Select Committee on Jobs for the Future in Regional Areas.

Report

On 31 July 2019, the Senate established the Select Committee on Jobs for the Future in Regional Areas to inquire and report on new industries and employment opportunities that can be created in the regions.

This report presents to Council a draft submission (Refer Attachment 1) for consideration and submission. The submission must be lodged by 6 September 2019 and will be placed on the public record. The committee is to report by 4 December 2019.

The terms of reference for the Senate Select Committee are below. The committee will inquire and report on the following matters:

- new industries and employment opportunities that can be created in the regions;
- the number of existing jobs in regional areas in clean energy technology and ecological services and their future significance;
- lessons learned from structural adjustments in the automotive, manufacturing and forestry industries and energy privatisation and their impact on labour markets and local economies;
- the importance of long-term planning to support the diversification of supply chain industries and local economies;
- measures to guide the transition into new industries and employment, including:
 - community infrastructure to attract investment and job creation;
 - the need for a public authority to manage the transition;
 - meaningful community consultation to guide the transition; and
- the role of vocational education providers, including TAFE, in enabling reskilling and retraining;
- the use of renewable resources in Northern Australia to build a clean energy export industry to export into Asia; and
- any related matters.

Officers have considered the above and provided commentary where relevant for consideration.

Budget Implications

Nil

Policy Consideration

Shaping Southern Downs 2018 themes of prosper, grow and connect.

Community Engagement

Nil

Legislation/Local Law

Nil

Options

Council:

1. Endorse the submission for the Federal Government's Senate Select Committee on Jobs for the Future in Regional Areas.
2. Does not endorse the submission for the Federal Government's Senate Select Committee on Jobs for the Future in Regional Areas.

Attachments

1. Submission [↓](#)



Submission into the Australian Government's Select Committee on Jobs for the Future in Regional Areas

Introduction

The Southern Downs Regional Council (SDRC) welcomes the opportunity to provide a submission for consideration by the Senate Select Committee on Jobs for the future in Regional Areas. SDRC commends the Senate on the establishment of this committee and its subject matter focus. The future of regional and rural communities, such as those of the Southern Downs is of vital importance to the Council and its constituents.

Information on the Southern Downs Region Council local government area

The Southern Downs is a relatively new Local Government Area in Southern Queensland. It is two hours from Brisbane and one hour from Toowoomba. It has a population of 35,622, which has maintained relatively positive population growth until recently. The demographics in the Southern Downs are similar to most regional towns in Australia; it has a relatively low SEIFA score of 937 in 2016 and a higher average age than the median for Queensland. SDRC has a clear vision for the future outlined in its Shaping Southern Downs 2018 document. This document outlines an aspiration to grow the region's population substantially in the coming years and outlines a number of clear goals and targets set against four themes of:

1. Grow;
2. Prosper;
3. Connect; and
4. Sustain.

A copy of this document is attached to this submission for the committee's information. Having a clear and bold plan for the regions sustainable growth helps establish a platform on which the community would like to grow. As you can appreciate jobs for the population in a diverse range of industries is critical to bringing this plan to fruition. It is for this reason that SDRC has taken the time to prepare a submission for consideration.

Additionally, SDRC has a well-documented Economic Development Strategy for the region that clearly outlines the direction, priorities and aspirations for developing both the workforce, attracting new industries and retaining existing commercial and social enterprises. A copy of this document is also attached for the committee's benefit in understanding the employment dynamics of the region.

By way of background on the employment demography of the region a brief overview is provided. The estimated number of employed persons in the Southern Downs in 2017/2018 was 15,801, representing an increase from 15,716 recorded in 2012/2013. The unemployment rate in the Southern Downs as at March 2018 was 5.1%, compared with the Queensland rate of 6.40%. Southern

Downs' unemployment rates have trended significantly below the State average over the last five years, reflecting a solid overall employment outlook.

The Southern Downs employment market is diverse, with the two largest categories reported as labourers (17.7%) and managers (16.6%), based on the most recent data from 2016. The proportions of these occupations are greater than those observed at a State level.

52.1% of the local labour force has qualifications, compared to 55.6% for Queensland. 12.5% of workers have a Bachelor or Higher Degree, compared with 21.5% in the rest of the State, reflective of the region's core blue collar occupations in agriculture and manufacturing industries.

The Southern Downs is right now severely impacted by the prolonged effects of drought and is working hard to ensure that business and industry continue, in the face of adversity. The submission is structured to respond directly to the terms of reference for the committee. The drought continues to adversely impact on farming and agricultural industries and presents an added complexity and hardship to manage in trying to ensure the sustainable growth and development of the region.

Responses to Terms of Reference

a. New industries and employment opportunities that can be created in the regions;

Southern Downs Regional Council finds itself in a challenging position in relation to where it is positioned in relation to future growth and prosperity over the next 25 years. The region appears to be entering a period of sustained growth in relation to employment and investment, with much of this activity being supported through continued interest in the agribusiness sector and food processing areas, as well as retail and aged care. It is more likely than not that over the next few years the region will need to import labour to support the level of investment that is currently proposed. It is therefore important for the Southern Downs to advantageously align itself to a strategic planning agenda that will deliver tangible benefits to its residents and businesses.

The Southern Downs Regional Council submitted to the Inquiry into Regional Development and Decentralisation in August 2017. In this submission the Council asserted that the decentralisation of certain government functions into appropriate Regional Communities would generate much needed economic stimulus into these communities through wages and population increase. The Council stands by these assertions; certain government functions such as call centres and administration functions can easily be located in Regional communities, which will help to provide the well-paid population that will assist the community to grow. The figures listed above regarding the average wages earned in the Southern Downs community provide evidence that an injection of public service workers and wages will have a positive effect almost immediately because there will be more residents with higher disposable income. This will be a similar outcome in many Regional Australian communities. In the submission in August, the Council conceded that not every community would be suitable to host a government function but for those that are suitable, it will have a very positive outcome.

Recent new investments in the region that could be augmented by adjunct businesses or enterprises into the future include the following:

- University of Queensland large solar farm;

- John Dee;
- Watco Rail;
- Grove Juice;
- Integrated, Independent and high care retirement living developments such as Churches of Christ development,
- Substantial increase in size and scale of local feedlots; and
- Integra Healthcare

Eco tourism and sports based tourism are burgeoning future opportunities for the Region that requires focused effort and attention. With tourists attracted to the stunning natural environment of the region, this industry presents a significant opportunity for growth.

Likewise as SDRC prepares its new Events Strategy to help attract and secure additional events to the region, there is significant opportunity for this sector to positively influence and diversify the economy. SDRC is also well progressed on planning and design of the new Regional art gallery for Stanthorpe designed to showcase the extensive collection and harness the creative talents of the community. Cultural tourism, creative economies can help add to the visitor and tourist experience and serve to diversify and strengthen the economy. The development of the gallery will require funding support from State or Federal Governments and is seen a strong priority for adding future jobs, creating new revenue streams, developing creative enterprises and growing a new part of the economy.

In the Southern Downs region, Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing is the largest employer, generating 2702 local jobs (17.4%) in 2015-16, followed by retail trade (12.7% and Health Care and Social Care. It is anticipated two of three industries (excluding retail) will continue to present opportunities for growth and employment. For example, as the NDIS scheme rolls and local developers continue to create centres for independent and high care living for an ageing population, the region continues to experience of a shortage of health, social and nursing staff to support these service areas.

The Agribusiness sector is highly diverse and consists of operators involved in agricultural services or production across the food supply chain. Operators include primary producers of agricultural commodities, processors, manufacturers and wholesalers. Weather patterns heavily influence farm yields and input prices across the supply chain and have caused revenue to fluctuate in each segment over the past five years. Going forward for the region, it is SDRC's view that key success factors for the continued growth of the Agribusiness sector is:

- Access to the latest available and most efficient technology and techniques
- Economies of scale;
- Improvement in weather patterns, and consistent rainfall; and
- Establishment of export market share.

b. the number of existing jobs in regional areas in clean energy technology and ecological services and their future significance;

Clean energy is an emerging source of employment in the Southern Downs Region as evidenced by the construction of the University of Queensland's (UQ) solar farm project outside Warwick. The project seeks to provide for UQ to become emissions neutral, with the Warwick site chosen due to the availability of relatively affordable land of the scope required for such an undertaking. The project is employing over 50n jobs during construction and is envisaged to support 10 in an ongoing capacity. It is anticipated there may be more development in clean, renewable energy sources in the Southern Downs Region, including solar, wind and potentially pumped hydro, due to the region's climate, topography, proximity to Brisbane and abundance of suitable land.

Southern Downs Regional Council is committed to the effective management of invasive pests in order to safeguard the region's productivity, biodiversity and amenity. As such, Council has introduced the Invasive Pests Control Scheme (IPCS); a policy that encourages voluntary compliance by private landowners with invasive pest control obligations and offsets the cost of managing uncontrolled invasive pests. The IPCS policy is in its third year of implementation and is demonstrating considerable triple bottom line net benefits. The IPCS has seen an increase in the local contract pest control labour market as a consequence.

Southern Downs Regional Council is, in collaboration with landowners and with the assistance of State and Federal funds, implementing a program of wild dog exclusion fencing to safeguard the region's traditional sheep and wool industries. This will see an increase in the local contract fencing market and in industries supplying fencing materials.

c. lessons learned from structural adjustments in the automotive, manufacturing and forestry industries and energy privatisation and their impact on labour markets and local economies;

As a part of several structural adjustment programs, in 2015–16 the Department appointed three regional employment facilitators in Tasmania, North Queensland and the Illawarra region in New South Wales. They provide a local point of contact and, in collaboration with job active providers, work directly with retrenched workers to connect them with training, job opportunities and other support. Whilst this is not directly relevant to the Southern Downs region, what has been learnt from this national experience is the continued need to coordinate collaboration between local labour markets and local economies.

By way of example of this work, SDRC was recently successful in attracting three year funding from the Queensland State Government for the Regional Skills Investment Strategy (RSIS). The Regional Skills Investment Strategy is an investment of \$9 million over four years to support targeted communities to access training tailored to bridge the gap between existing training opportunities available through the Annual VET Investment Plan and current workforce skill needs.

Funding under the Strategy has enabled Southern Downs Regional Council to engage a Regional Skills Investment Strategy Project Coordinator to collaborate with local stakeholders in the Food Manufacturing, Tourism and Health and Aged Care sectors to develop local training responses that align training pathways to local jobs, building skilled local workforces to meet skill shortages and

emerging opportunities. This project and Coordinator has been invaluable in the face of large scale industry closures (eg Big W distribution centre and the closure of a mushroom plant) in helping redundant workers have future pathways to employment.

d. the importance of long-term planning to support the diversification of supply chain industries and local economies;

Good strategic planning is crucial to all communities, whether urban or regional. SDRC is committed to ensuring that the region benefits from well-articulated and endorsed strategic planning for the communities existing and emergent needs. As a regional area that is in close proximity to a major growth corridor of the South East corner of Queensland, it is critical that SDRC has sufficient plans in place to help position the region's economy, land use planning and community vision.

To this end, in 2018 Southern Downs Regional Council adopted *Shaping Southern Downs*, a new strategy, a plan which envisions a bigger and better Southern Downs. The aim of Shaping Southern Downs is to create a great future by:

- defining a clear vision for our region;
- providing strategies and actions to pursue that vision; and
- committing the Council and key stakeholders to grow the region's population.

Shaping Southern Downs seeks to leverage the strengths and attributes of the region and to ensure it's well-connected to South East Queensland's services and facilities.

Population growth will support a range of benefits for the region including:

- a wider range of businesses, industries and services to support a growing
- population;
- a bigger workforce to support these business opportunities and provide local
- employment for its population;
- making better use of existing infrastructure already in place in the region; and
- creating a sense of being a place with a big future and a great place to live, work and invest.

This plan establishes a shared platform for coordinated planning, advocacy and delivery to grow a bigger and better region. It is the foundation for Council's partnership with its community, businesses, community groups, service providers, and other Government organisations. The plan will ultimately provide a framework for the new Corporate Plan and new Southern Downs Planning Scheme.

SDRC is also in the process of preparing a new planning scheme to guide the future pattern of urban and rural land uses. This process will include the preparation of housing needs study; industrial land and heritage register, and Indigenous cultural heritage studies. By undertaking the preparation of a new planning scheme, Council will be able to ensure that the supply of land for both residential and commercial purposes meets projected and aspiration growth targets, such as those outlined in Shaping Southern Downs, in a sustainable manner.

Likewise, the preparation of the Economic Development Strategy 2017-2020 and the supporting documentation helps ensure that Council is actively providing certainty and clarity of direction for economic development at a local level. Long term planning for target attraction industries when combined with incentive strategies can help secure regional investment.

SDRC has also taken steps to ensure that sufficient lands and supporting infrastructure for industry is in place. Recently SDRC invested significant capital and operational works in completing catalyst projects such as;

- development of the Stanthorpe Industrial Estate;
- extension of the recycled water supply to the Warwick industrial estate;
- nbn cabling to significant sporting facilities such as Morgan Park (to allow for streaming on national and international events);
- Streetscape upgrades and master plans for both Warwick and Stanthorpe; and
- upgrades to the road network for the industrial area.

Council planning and investment in strategic assets helps demonstrate market confidence and ensure that suitable supporting infrastructure for commercial and industrial operators. Long term planning is a practical role that Council can play in ensuring detailed plans for supporting the future regional communities.

e. measures to guide the transition into new industries and employment, including:

The Southern Downs Economic Development Strategic Plan Goals include:

1. Increase population by 10% by 2020
2. Attract \$300million of Investment by 2020
3. Attract 1500 new jobs by 2020

In order to achieve the three identified goals in this strategy, the main pillars of activity include business growth, investment attraction, workforce development and advocacy.

STRATEGIC ELEMENT	ACTIVITIES	OUTCOMES
Business Growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business retention and expansion • Building capacity • Facilitating more local business 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase jobs • Increase local business profitability • Improve business sustainability
Investment Attraction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Targeted sectors and firms • Gap and trend analysis • Business case development • Targeted attraction activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New jobs • New investment • Building economic resilience
Workforce Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skills development • Skilled workforce attraction • Employer capacity building 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population increase • Work ready workforce • Better match of jobs and skills
Advocacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Influence Commonwealth and State policy frameworks • Advocate for infrastructure to support the Southern Downs economy • Represent the interests of local businesses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cutting red tape • Assisting economic and jobs growth • Becoming a destination of choice for investment

i. community infrastructure to attract investment and job creation;

Southern Downs Regional Council is working towards attracting funding in the future to support business and economic infrastructure in industrial areas. Council continues to work with the larger employers in the region to plan infrastructure and promote the region. Due to the current extreme conditions the Region is facing with the drought, water security will be the focus and investment in water infrastructure as a core component of vital community infrastructure.

Council also has a comprehensive Local Government Priority Infrastructure Plan (LGIP) that sets out the required community infrastructure to support the growth of the region. Supporting this plan is a detailed ten year financial and capital plan which outlines all asset classes and the types of investment required to ensure that the asset base is both maintained and enhanced in the years to come. Council also maintains detailed asset management plans which dictate service standards, replacement schedules and redevelopment opportunities. Council also has a detailed advocacy plan that clearly outlines the priorities for community infrastructure and the opportunities for collaboration between all three levels of government when funding or grant programs become available.

Sound infrastructure planning has such as that outlined above helps position to identify what community infrastructure investment will help attract investment and provide for a more diversified economy. A pertinent example of this is the identification for the new Stanthorpe Regional Gallery proposal. Seen a catalyst project for generating viable alternative stream of revenue for the community this investment may also help ensure that the local and regional economy has an opportunity to diversify.

SDRC has a suite of existing community infrastructure, some of which is of a high standard and which could be further augmented to help generate employment and different economic multipliers. To provide an example of this, it is useful to explore the concept of the multiuse facility developed at Morgan Park. It is host to a range of events including horse trials (equestrian), polocrosse, dirt bikes, drag racing, circuit racing and equine driving. Morgan Park is the home of horse power and hosts an event nearly every weekend. Morgan Park has become well known for its international events, including the inaugural Polocrosse World Cup, Horse Trials World Cup Qualifier and state championships in motor racing. Recently SDRC invested funding to ensure NBN cabling was extended to the facility so that international events could be live streamed to world audiences. Community infrastructure of this nature is difficult to locate in more densely populated urban areas, as is a strategic investment for the region's future economy.

Continued SDRC investment in events, festivals and tourism activities also has a critical role play in utilising existing community infrastructure to its fullest. The region hosts a number of signature events such as:

- Stanthorpe Apple and Grape Festival
- Snowflakes in Stanthorpe
- Jumpers in Jazz in July
- Historic Leyburn Sprints
- Warwick Rodeo and Gold Cup Campdraft

Events and festival help generate employment and contribute to the local economy through increased visitation and tourism. SDRC provides both in kind and financial assistance to these events and many other local community activities to help build social capital and contribute to the local economy. These activities will increase job opportunities and investment attraction in the short and long term.

ii. the need for a public authority to manage the transition;

The cost of new technologies may well be prohibitive for regional businesses unable to justify the capital outlay verses the current cost of doing business and overall profitability. Where there is a market failure of industry to adopt new beneficial technology, Government are in the position where they are able to accelerate the uptake of advancing technologies. Governments can invest in projects developing practical applications for these technologies, then promote the uptake to industry with a view to handing over the projects to the private sector once realisable benefits have been attained.

Government also has the opportunity to ensure there is less regulation/red tape, intervening where benefits are realisable via business expansion leading to increased employment opportunities. Government is able to provide targeted assistance for employers to encourage training. In this way fulfil what all businesses desire – growth through increased productivity and profits.

At the local level SDRC plays a direct and very active role in the strength of the economy and regional growth in jobs and development. SDRC remains one the region's largest employers, and when combined with the capital works and operational program delivered each year to the public, the investment in the local area / region is substantial. As previously noted by responsible forward planning, coordinating efforts between all levels of government SDRC and investing in the community, SDRC is able to play a lead role in helping the local community to continue to generate employment opportunities now and into the future. As the level of government closest to the community local government is well placed to deliver programs, activities and strategies that benefit the local economy and community.

ii. meaningful community consultation to guide the transition; and

To deliver beneficial outcomes, it will require coordinated business industry programs and policies. To this end the Council recognises that there is a strong need for better coordination of business and industry programs that link agencies and deliver real outcomes. Community engagement is fundamental to the role of local government and is central to any coordination effort.

SDRC has a strong tradition of engaging regularly with the community in a variety of mechanisms such as:

- Regular question and answer sessions
- Project / subject matter specific community engagement or supporting reference groups
- Standing endorsed community advisory groups and committees e.g. Pest Management Committee, Shaping Southern Downs Advisory Group and Youth Council etc.
- Social media

- Participation on local boards, groups, organisations etc.
- Website and other forms of media; and
- Targeted annual budget consultation.

The above list highlights that meaningful community engagement practices are central to SDRC's approach to working with the local community on a raft of matters which are important to the region. It is anticipated that any transition program would require demonstrated effective community engagement processes and the Federal Government can be assured that SDRC is well equip in this regard.

iii. the role of vocational education providers, including TAFE, in enabling reskilling and retraining;

Education and reskilling are the keys to an ever evolving workforce that matches business needs. Businesses wanting to make use of new technologies will need to conduct skills gap analyses and upskill their existing workforces accordingly. Employers will need to foster learning cultures encouraging lifelong learning. To enhance this approach there will need to be a concerted joint effort from employers and vocational education providers in teaching people how to learn with a mindset of instilling resilience into the workforce.

Consultation with schools and educational institutions is essential, looking at identifying the strengths of the students coming through. Not all students are planning career pathways directly into higher education or University placements, this results in a need to plan for vocational training, or boosting regional options for retraining.

It is generally accepted that the changing nature of modern workforces is creating an environment where the jobs of the future are constantly evolving and in some cases traditional models of workplaces and industries are becoming redundant. Positioning regional communities within this evolving workspace is vital to ensuring the future success and viability of regional towns and communities.

There needs to be a fundamental change in mindset from within the VET sector – i.e. training needs to be tailored to suit the job requirements not the other way around with “standard” type packages often foisted onto employers. A broader view from the VET sector of what training and qualifications may mean into the future. The current way of looking at qualifications may need to be reviewed e.g. specific skill sets and micro-credentialing may be more beneficial to businesses. Flexibility from providers will be crucial – in training delivery and the skills development offered.

More effective use of the TAFE system, connection with local schools and access to universities is vital to ensuring that regional children have the same opportunities to new opportunities for employment.

f. the use of renewable resources in Northern Australia to build a clean energy export industry to export into Asia; and

Nil response.

g. any related matters.

The Southern Downs Regional Council is happy to provide further input into policy formulation regarding any of the points raised in this submission.

The Southern Downs Regional Council also wishes to extend an invitation to the Committee to hold its public hearings in either Warwick or Stanthorpe.

17. CONSIDERATION OF CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS ITEMS

In accordance with the provisions of Section 275(1) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, a local government may resolve to close a meeting to the public and move 'into Committee' to discuss confidential items, such that its Councillors or members consider it necessary to close the meeting.

Recommendation

THAT the meeting be closed to the public and move into committee to discuss the following items, which are considered confidential in accordance with Section 275(1) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to the following, as indicated:

17.17 Submission to State Government for Drought Assistance Funding for the Carting of Water to Stanthorpe

Reason for Confidentiality

This item is considered confidential in accordance with section 275(1)(c) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, as it contains information relating to the local government budget.

17.18 Recommendation to Host 2020 Hockey Women's State Masters

Reason for Confidentiality

This item is considered confidential in accordance with section 275(1)(h) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, as it contains information relating to business for which a public discussion would be likely to prejudice the interests of the local government or someone else, or enable a person to gain a financial advantage.