

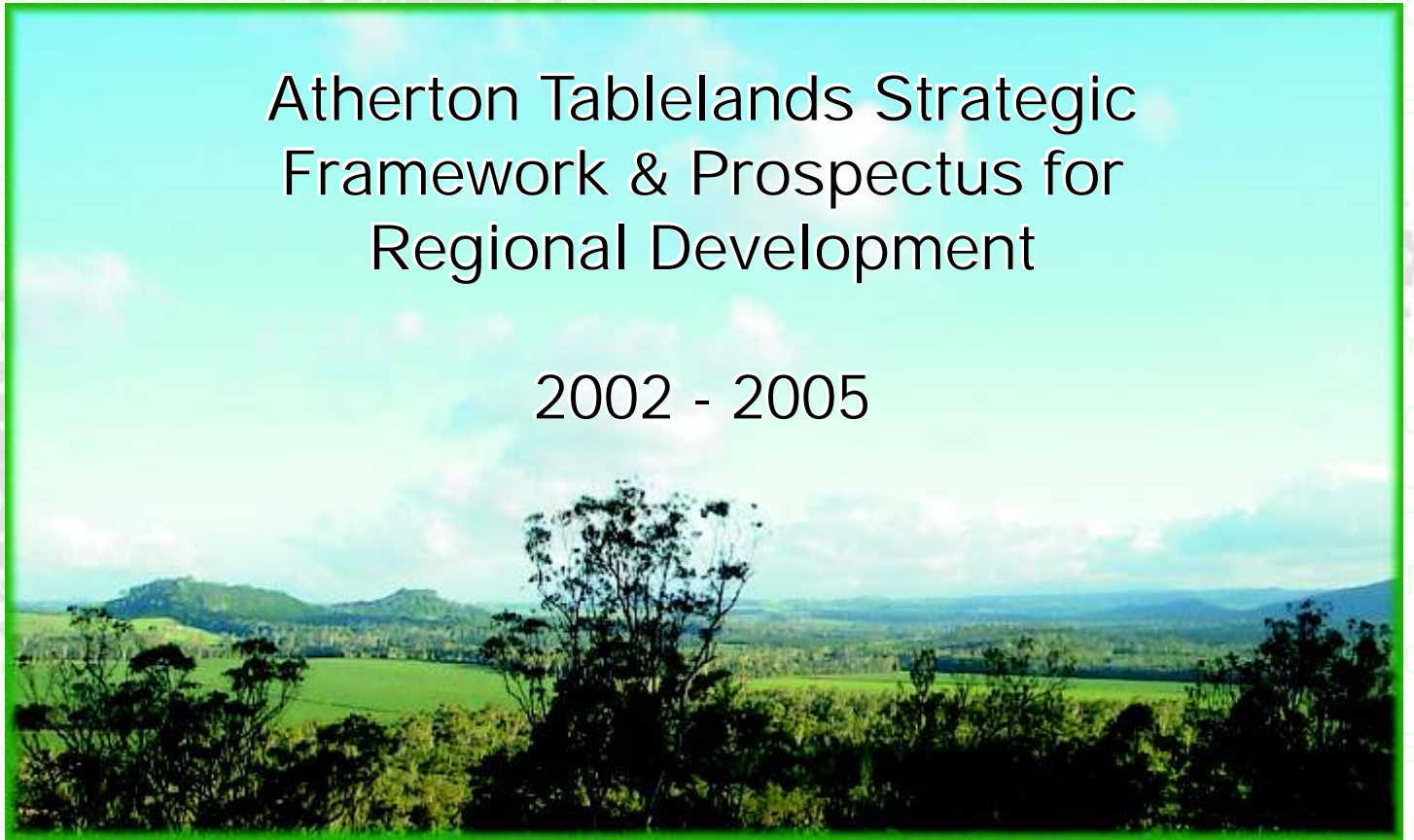


A COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT INITIATIVE
IN REGIONAL AUSTRALIA

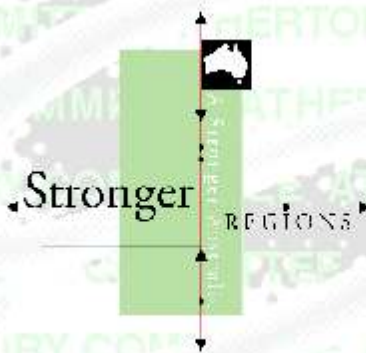
ATHERTON TABLELANDS SUSTAINABLE REGION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Atherton Tablelands Strategic Framework & Prospectus for Regional Development

2002 - 2005



January 2003



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT AND REGIONAL SERVICES

FOREWORD

Since I became the Minister for the Transport and Regional Services I have introduced many Federal Government programmes aimed at assisting Australians living in rural and regional areas such as the Atherton Tablelands.

The Sustainable Regions Programme is an initiative that uses a new and innovative approach to the delivery of regional programmes in Australia. The programme is designed to engage communities to make informed decisions and implement projects that will create a sustainable future for their region.

The Atherton Tablelands will receive up to \$18 million over three years from the Sustainable Regions Programme to enable the region to become more investor attractive, socially cohesive and achieve responsible management of its natural resources.

I have appointed an Advisory Committee for the region – which includes the Atherton, Eacham, Herberton and Mareeba Shires. The Committee includes four local council members (Cr. Mick Borzi, Cr. Jim Chapman, Cr. Mary Lyle and Cr. Anne Portess) and two external members with expertise in economic, social and environmental development (Mr. Peter McDade and Associate Professor Bob Beeton). The Executive Officer of the Far North Queensland Area Consultative Committee, Mr Tom Vieira, is an observer on the Advisory Committee. The Committee also employs an Executive Officer.



The charter of the Atherton Tablelands Sustainable Region Advisory Committee (ATSRAC) is to:

- Develop a framework to explore options for sustainable development in the region as a whole;
- Identify and make recommendations to me for financial support for activities that promote sustainable development;
- Assist community leadership in the development of local solutions, fostering new ideas, community energy, drive and self reliance; and
- Forge partnerships between the public and private sector and all levels of government.

This Prospectus outlines a framework for government and private investment in the Atherton Tablelands and is a significant step towards the region creating a sustainable future.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Anderson', written over a horizontal line.

JOHN ANDERSON

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Transport and Regional Services

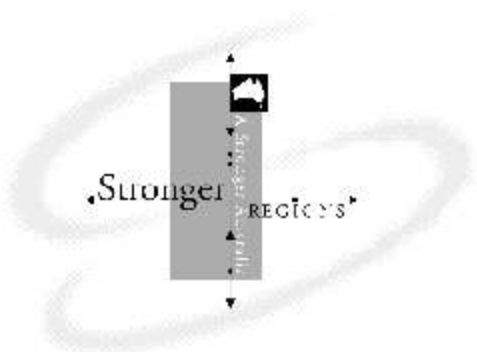
Atherton Tablelands Sustainable Region Advisory Committee

Atherton Tablelands Strategic Framework & Prospectus for Regional Development

2002 - 2005

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT AND REGIONAL SERVICES



ATHERTON TABLELANDS SUSTAINABLE REGION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Associate Professor Bob Beeton, Cr. Mary Lyle (Eacham), Cr. Mick Borzi (Mareeba)
Cr. Anne Portess (Herberton), Cr. Jim Chapman (Atherton), Peter McDade (Chair).
Absent - FNQ Area Consultative Committee EO Tom Vieira - Observer

PROSPECTUS FOR THE ATHERTON TABLELANDS SUSTAINABLE REGION

The Atherton Tablelands Sustainable Region Advisory Committee (ATSRAC) has access to funding of up to \$18 million over three years to assist the Atherton Tablelands to develop sustainable outcomes for commerce, community development and amenities.

The committee's overall strategy is to use the funds to leverage additional external investment at a ratio of 3:1.

The committee prepared this Prospectus to provide a high-level sector-by-sector analysis of the Atherton Tablelands that identified opportunities for investment by the private sector, government and community groups.

The contents are based on extensive planning and community consultation in the region. It forms part of ATSRAC's broader strategy to enhance integrated approaches to sustainable growth and community capacity building in the Atherton Tablelands.

To assist in framing proposed investments ATSRAC's Executive Officer is based in Atherton. The Executive Officer networks prospective investors to business and local government and assists with the development of expressions of interest for investment proposals to be considered by ATSRAC and the Commonwealth Government. An Action Plan for the region is available to assist in the development of proposals. Included within this prospectus is a matrix providing a cross-sector overview of the Atherton Tablelands.

The Region

The Atherton Tablelands¹ form the western half of a region, which is both naturally and culturally diverse. The natural diversity ranges from tropical rainforest, across highly fertile volcanic agricultural areas, to dry savannah. The region is quintessentially “rural Australia” with a wide cultural diversity embracing local indigenous communities and people from most countries of the world.

The Tablelands covers a 63,904 sq km sub-region of Far North Queensland comprising the four local government areas of Atherton, Eacham, Herberton and Mareeba with a population of 40,077 people. It is this regional area that has been identified for support under the Commonwealth Government's Sustainable Regions Programme.

The Tablelands transport networks make it the gateway to Cape York Peninsula and the Gulf of Carpentaria. Six highways link the Tablelands to the coastal and inland road systems including the Peninsula Development Road, Gulf Development Road, Kennedy, Palmerston, Gillies and Rex highways and the Kuranda Range Road. A railway built in 1887 connects the Tablelands to the East Coast through the spectacular scenery of the coastal escarpment. The Tablelands region is linked to major transport hubs including shipping ports in Cairns, Darwin and Townsville and the Cairns International Airport.

¹ While Atherton Tablelands is often used as a generic term, the region is comprised of three tablelands namely the Evelyn, Atherton (proper) and Northern Tablelands.

PLANNING FOR REGIONAL INVESTMENT

It is generally accepted that certain conditions must be present to attract major investment. Conditions identified by McKinsey² and others include:

- Low business costs;
- Competitive labour costs;
- Fast and effective high-tech telecommunications infrastructure;
- Assistance for new investors;
- Access to tertiary organisations (Universities and TAFE); and
- Quality secondary education.

Other factors, which may impact on investment decisions include:

- Ease of working with local authorities and government departments;
- An adaptable and entrepreneurial approach by local and government authorities;
- Access to high quality financial and industrial relations advice;
- Available land provided with the necessary infrastructure;
- An available workforce equipped with the multi-sectoral skills;
- Access to training and skilling opportunities for the work force;
- Access to quality research and development capacity;
- Access to housing and facilities which are of a quality acceptable to the management level;
- Access to high quality child care, primary and secondary education, and high quality health services; and
- Access to life-style infrastructure.

A high level analysis of the conditions existing on the Tablelands, in conjunction with information provided by previous studies, suggests that several of these factors provide opportunity for further development and possible investment in the future.

Opportunities for Future Development

The major initiatives identified for the Tablelands region in this prospectus include:

- Development of a "Tableland" brand and associated quality assurance standards to make the region instantly recognisable and representing high quality in all its products, services and lifestyle;
- Development of physical infrastructure: transport systems, information technology capacity, water availability and usage, and energy provision;
- Regional human capacity and skills building through appropriate training programmes encouraging a culture of open communication, trust, and acceptance of individual and community responsibilities;
- Development of productive networks and partnerships with government departments and the private sector to create flexible and business-friendly systems;
- Quantification of the relative business input cost differentiation between the Atherton Tablelands and, for instance, Brisbane and Sydney, and identification of action if possible to moderate these;

² McKinsey and Co, *Lead Local, Compete Global*, Office of Regional Development, Department of Housing and Regional Development.

- Development of a Geographic Information (GIS) System that will provide web-based information on which to base investment and management decisions;
- Development of a local capacity for supply chain management and E-commerce; and
- Youth enterprise development.

ATSRAC will from time to time be revising this Prospectus and seeks constructive input from the Tablelands community over the next three years.

Regional Priorities

As part of its charter, ATSRAC has developed regional priorities that are critical to the sustainable growth of the region and they include supporting projects that:

- Have clear sustainable, long term outcomes;
- Contain clear objectives for which progress can be measured and are developed with local input;
- Encourage the development and retention of intellectual property within the region;
- Encourage the local development of tourism;
- Contribute to the development and maintenance of a “Tableland” brand;
- Improve community well being;
- Lead to new job creation;
- Build on earlier projects which
 - See projects as a capital investment within the region,
 - Develop the enthusiasm, skills and optimism of the region's youth,
 - Address gaps in community capacity in areas of community need.
- Enhance youth enterprise in the region;
- Utilise and enhance the region's amenity and modern life style choices; and
- Consider large projects in the context of the *2010 Regional Plan for Far North Queensland*.

An over view of the major regional sectors identified by ATSRAC includes:

- Agriculture in the Tablelands;
- Industry and Resources in the Tablelands;
- Tourism in the Tablelands;
- Culture and Arts in the Tablelands;
- Environment and the Tablelands; and
- Social Capacity in the Tablelands (infrastructure, youth, community building, leadership).

The sectors outlined above are discussed in the following pages. Each consists of an overview of the sector, emergent projects, value-adding initiatives, opportunities for future development and how ATSRAC seeks to work in each sector. In identifying such opportunities, ATSRAC does not imply or necessarily guarantee commercial success of any investment in those opportunities, with or without funds provided under the Sustainable Regions Programme. Proponents and potential investors should of course seek their own professional advice and due diligence.

AGRICULTURE IN THE TABLELANDS

Overview

Agriculture provides the main economic driver for the region. Most farms are privately owned and family operated. The enterprises range from small hobby type farms to large multi-product vertically integrated businesses. However, there are a small number of corporations involved in emerging industries.

Some farmers and farm managers are using increasingly sophisticated tools such as GIS assisted planning for water and fertilizer application; integrated pest management; weather mapping; and internet services, as well as computerised accounting and farm business management packages.

The dry savannah areas of the Mareeba-Dimbulah Irrigation Area produce a wide range of farm produce such as fruit, vegetables and value-added products for the local and export markets. Sugar and horticultural products have largely replaced rice and tobacco industries. The southern areas of the Tablelands produce dairy and value-added products as well as traditional animal and plant products such as sugar, maize, peanuts, potatoes, other vegetables, citrus and other fruits. Beef cattle production is confined to the fringes of the area, although there is some cattle fattening carried out in the wetter areas.

Established agricultural industries from the Tablelands include: mangoes; coffee; tea; sugar; maize; peanuts; potatoes; wild flowers; foliage and native flora nurseries; herbs; citrus and stone fruit; grapes; paw-paws; lychees; longans; avocados; macadamias; bananas; navy beans; tomatoes; pumpkins; onions; milk; cheese and associated dairy products; pasture and legume seeds; ti-tree oil; timber; tobacco; hay; poultry for meat and eggs; beef cattle; and pork.

Emergent Projects

A range of new agricultural industries and horticultural products are emerging across the Tablelands. These include: edible bamboo; ginger; fibre crops; wine from fruits; red claw and fish culture; venison; bush tucker; bio-fuels; organic and bio-dynamic foods; game meat and hide.

Value Adding Initiatives

Value adding and processing has been developed, or is developing, for existing and emerging agricultural product. Examples are:

- Processing of second-grade fruit, including dehydration and preserving;
- Contract growing and processing of poultry for meat;
- Peeling, slicing and packaging of pineapples;
- Processing of second-grade fruit for wine;
- Processing of peanuts;
- Milling of maize and fodder for stock feed;
- Harvesting by contract;
- Packing of fruit for transport and sale;
- Processing of animals for consumption;
- Packaging of eggs;

- Manufacture of confectionery using locally produced fruits;
- Roasting and blending of coffee;
- Drying and packaging of tea;
- Shelling and packaging of macadamias;
- Production of pharmaceutical crops (tobacco);
- Mozzarella cheese;
- Protein extraction from milk; and
- Drying, curing and packing of tobacco leaf.

Opportunities for Future Development

Opportunities for investment exist both in the growing and processing of niche crops, which are high-value low-volume products. The reduction of areas devoted to tobacco growing has resulted in farms with basic infrastructure and water allocations in place being available for diversification. Farmers are skilled in the agricultural and horticultural practices, particular to the environment.

Identified opportunities are in all points of the supply chain and they include:

- Value adding to macadamia, pecan, and cashew nuts processing (varieties of flavours, roasting, use of chocolate and carob, etc);
- Organic and bio-dynamic farming;
- Packaging and export of products such as dried and processed fruits;
- Packaging and roasting of varieties of coffee, tea, herbal products;
- Processing and packaging of a range of tea-tree oil products;
- Processing and packaging of potato products;
- Production processing and packaging of high quality organic beef, venison, poultry and pork; and
- Production of animal and vegetation wastes into organic fertilizer;
- Production and processing of natural fibres from regional crops.

ATSRAC Engagement

ATSRAC seeks to establish partnerships and build capacity in relation to the following areas:

- Production systems;
- Quality assurance;
- Processing;
- Supply chain management and marketing;
- E-commerce;
- Quantification of disincentives;
- Extending the concept of Tableland marketing and branding to include the opportunities offered by value adding processes;
- Providing GIS information on a Tablelands web site as a tool for investment decisions and farm management;
- Forming productive networks with government departments, local government and private sector to promote ease of access to investment opportunities;
- Providing appropriately resourced industrial sites (extending to infrastructure, and issues of comparative advantage.); and
- Facilitating the development and delivery of training in all of the above.

INDUSTRY & RESOURCES IN THE TABLELANDS

Overview

Existing and emergent industries in the Tablelands fall into the categories of manufacturing, processing, mining, services and retail. These industries mainly exist to service the agricultural sector.

The various small-to-medium-sized service industries operating in the Tablelands include engineering works, construction, mechanical and electrical enterprises, numerous transport companies, privately owned and operated web servers and IT providers, irrigation services, fertiliser spreader services, and contract harvesting services. Current processing industries include timber mill, quarrying/minerals, stock feed, abattoir's, fruit wineries, dairy, horticultural product, tea, sugar and alternative energy.

The mining industry across the Tablelands today consists of several privately operated quarries including Wongabel, Tinaroo Creek, Tichum Creek, Rocky Creek and Cattle Camp. Kagara Zinc is a newly established mining enterprise developed at Mt Garnet, in the Herberton Shire.

The Tablelands retail business base is changing. This is being driven by the:

- Proximity to retail centres in Cairns;
- Growing use of e-commerce and mail order by some consumers;
- Need for the traditional retail sector to adjust to new competitive conditions;
- Growth of niche lifestyle establishments; and
- Contraction of some agricultural industries and the growth of others.

The region is geographically and climatically close to Asia. It has a stable political system and a congenial climate. There is access to a multi-lingual workforce and structures for training and skilling are in place. There are opportunities for industries such as high technology manufacturing, value added processing of primary products and export oriented manufacturing such as components for mining machinery and agricultural processing machinery.

Emergent Projects

There are a number of emerging industries, which are, at the moment, in the developmental phase. These include:

- Protein extraction from milk;
- Marble mining;
- Mineral deposits;
- Manufacturing of machinery for horticultural and agricultural applications;
- Crocodile meat and hides processing; and
- Processing of natural fibres.

Value Adding Initiatives

The majority of the region's agricultural products leave in an unprocessed state. Consequently there is potential for the development of value-added processing, packaging and marketing businesses. There is also capacity to export expertise and locally developed technology. Examples include:

- Golden Circle corn processing;
- Information technology – Geographic Information System (GIS) development;
- Coffee roasting and processing;
- Wilkinson's rotary cultivator;
- Potato products;

- Long-life processing of fruit and vegetables;
- Organic farming and processing;
- Bio-dynamic farming and processing; and
- Bio-discovery.

Opportunities for Future Development

Identified opportunities include:

- Production systems;
- Quality assurance;
- Processing;
- Supply chain management and marketing;
- Retail marketing to expand consumer demand;
- Branding;
- Green field industry development;
- Investing in appropriate infrastructure;
- Changing rigid governance systems;
- Taking an integrated capacity building approach;
- E-commerce; and
- Merchandising and marketing consultancy services.

ATSRAC Engagement

ATSRAC seeks to establish partnerships and build capacity in relation to the following areas:

- Production systems;
- Quality assurance;
- Processing;
- Supply chain management and marketing;
- E-commerce;
- Identification, quantification and elimination of disincentives;
- Establishing branding and quality assurance systems;
- Using existing online facilities to develop effective marketing tools;
- Developing GIS information to linked Tableland websites with a view to improving natural resource management and environmental quality assurance;
- Provision of appropriately resourced industrial sites (This would extend to infrastructure and issues of comparative advantage);
- Develop flexible and entrepreneurial systems within Local, State and Federal Government; and
- Facilitate the development of training in all of the above.

TOURISM IN THE TABLELANDS

Overview

Tourism has been associated with the Tablelands since it was first settled. From early beginnings as a “hill station” to Cairns (Kuranda) it attracted additional visitors for its beauty and curiosity value. The southern area was promoted for its volcanic features and rainforest and the Chillagoe area for limestone karst landscape.

The steady development of tourism in the area accelerated with the development of the Cairns. Tablelands tourism became a day trip destination and site for occasional visits by independent tourists. The areas scenic amenity, natural diversity, historic and cultural resources suggest that it has much potential to expand its tourism potential. There is strong local support for tourism development that does not compromise the character of region.

The scenic highway infrastructure provides a significant tourism resource. This road system lends itself to the development of a series of journeys that interpret the region and encourage trips of more than one day. The existing horticultural, craft, art, environmental and cultural tourism industries suggest that the area could develop a branded image that captures market segments that relate to nature, food and lifestyle themes.

Indeed the branding of the Tablelands would allow cross promotion of its products one to the other. The positioning of the region as a place of quality destinations, landscapes, food and leisure and its location is likely to attract attention.

The linking of a brand with the region will encourage innovation across a range of areas and provide an organising principle for linkages across sectors. Use of the brand would be governed by quality assurance rules and would attract a charge designed to make the initiative self-financing within three years.

The existing range of tourism activities and sites includes the Queensland Heritage Trails Network initiatives, food trails and walking tracks, natural environment, cultural enterprises, wetlands, fishing, lifestyle retreats, arts and crafts, events and markets.

Emergent Projects

- Film industry;
- Eco-tourism;
- Education tourism;
- Agri-tourism;
- Conference facilities; and
- Indulgence retreats.

Value Adding Initiatives

Development of linked tourism activities and sites such as the Food Trails and Queensland Heritage Trails Network sites along with occasional tourism industry familiarisation trips provide higher profile promotion of the Tablelands area, and raise awareness. The provision of 5 star accommodation or resort style facilities may encourage and cater for larger visitor numbers, group tours and coach passengers.

Opportunities for Future Development

The Tablelands provides a range of opportunities in relation to tourism product development with the close proximity to Cairns, and identification of the Far North Queensland (FNQ) region as a key tourism destination. In future development the region will need to consider issues of excess capacity, lack of commissionable product, and coordination of regional tourism enterprises and initiatives that currently exist or are developed.

With future diversification of the economic base, the regions tourism industry will benefit from coordinating development of good quality signage, databases, high level of tourism knowledge of and within the region, identification of existing and potential markets, premium-end accommodation, supply chain management and coordination of future marketing and promotion.

The region currently attracts backpackers, self-drive and the domestic market primarily. The branding of the region may be focused on establishing a recognition and celebration of its cultural and natural heritage. Opportunities for future market development include sectors such as culture, environment, heritage, adventure, education and indulgence tourism with an increase in servicing the premium market. Development of the Canopy Walkway on the Palmerston Highway with links to the regions network of walks will considerably enhance nature experiences.

ATSRAC Engagement

ATSRAC seeks to establish partnerships and build capacity in relation to the following areas:

- Further development of a Tablelands on-line Website as a promotion, marketing and directing tool to commercial and community group websites;
- Encouragement of cooperative relationships between festivals, markets and events under the areas united image;
- A coordinated quality regional signage system;
- Development of distinctive but unified design motifs for the regions streetscapes and rural landscapes;
- Brochure development service supported by a mapping GIS and a style and image bank;
- Training in product development and maintenance, tourism business management, product presentation and local knowledge;
- Development of a Tourism Master Plan for the region;
- Supply chain management and marketing;
- Improve E-commerce capability;
- Establishing branding and quality assurance systems; and
- Development of training linked to all of the above and tourism product development.

CULTURE & ARTS IN THE TABLELANDS

Overview

The Atherton Tablelands region has attracted diverse and talented individuals to the area. Art, craft and cultural pursuits tend to celebrate the areas diverse natural and rich indigenous and international cultural heritage, while often reflective of a lifestyle choice that is intrinsically linked to the regions image and its development as a distinctive tourism destination.

The area has a significant number of artists and events that are seeking access to significant domestic and international markets. There is an established regional arts/cultural body (Arts Nexus), which operates across the Far North Queensland region as project funds allow.

Diversity in art and cultural product includes pottery, sculpting, painting, artistic blacksmiths, glass blowing, timber craft, performing arts, tapestry weaving, music and numerous other related mediums.

Culturally the Tablelands provide a choice of cafes, restaurants and locally grown and presented foods, galleries, small theatre productions, sporting events, festivals and markets and community based social activities through clubs and non-profit associations.

Emergent Projects

The Craft Connect programme has been developed through Arts Nexus including over 140 art and craft practitioners, to link art and cultural quality assured product through an Internet marketing Website.

A Youth Entrepreneur Programme has been funded for a short term that will see youth linked to art and cultural mentors in developing enterprises and skills.

Value Adding Initiatives

Value adding in the sector of art and culture involves linkages to tourism product. Initiatives such as Craft Connect currently provide access to developing market interest in places such as Singapore. There is provision of training in a range of areas (as funding currently permits) and strong community support in specific areas of the region, for art and culture. There appears to be a strong correlation between the number of art and cultural practitioners in the region and the choice of lifestyle provided by the Tablelands, whilst still in close proximity to Cairns.

Opportunities for Future Development

Tourism presents an opportunity on the Tablelands to link closely with art and culture in the development of recognised branding, strategic marketing and a regional Website. With diversity, quality and broad regional representation, the contribution of art and culture to the Tablelands economy is potentially significant. There is a Craft Connect initiative which can in future be linked to a broader Tableland website.

ATSRAC Engagement

ATSRAC seeks to establish partnerships and build capacity in relation to the following areas:

- Branding;
- Marketing;
- Communications;
- Cooperation;
- Management of supply chains; and
- Youth entrepreneurship and skilling.

To build capacity, the regions cultural capacity will require strategic investments in partnerships designed to further progress regional arts and culture. This should be complimentary to the development of the regional image. Coordination of the arts partnership with other initiatives elsewhere in this prospectus is essential.

ENVIRONMENT IN THE TABLELANDS

Overview

The Tablelands elevation ranges from over 1200m to 400m, rainfall from over 4000mm to 400mm, annual average maximum temperatures range from 24°C to 34°C and annual average minimum temperatures range from 9°C to 18°C. Soil parent material includes volcanic, sedimentary and granitic rocks. The consequential natural variability is reflected in the diversity of agricultural and horticultural crops grown, the areas recognised bio-diversity values and the attractive landscapes.

Overall the region provides excellent environmental qualities that allow environmentally and culturally based tourism and clean and green rural product development. Existing environmentally aware organisations and industries include Stanwell Corporation Wind Farm, Landcare groups, T.R.E.A.T., Wet Tropics Nursery, Organic farming and existing Government infrastructure such as National Parks.

The equitable climate, access to natural diversity, and proximity to Cairns and coastal North Queensland has attracted new settlers who are environmentally aware, educated and interested in sustainable development.

The region is well served by a system of parks and reserves that range from developed scenic reserves through National Parks to the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area that forms the Eastern boundary of the Tablelands.

Numerous small eco-tourism enterprises operate in the area. Food, art and craft outlets and accommodation houses are established around the regions natural attractions. This includes rainforest, savannah, crater lakes, ranges and open landscapes.

The Atherton Tablelands have a range of environmental issues that are typical of Australian farming areas.

Waste management is an emerging opportunity for all towns and settlements with the Region of Councils currently investigating waste management options for the future. Solid waste is disposed of in two landfill sites and in future through a facility in Cairns with a new landfill site in Herberton Shire recently approved. Liaison with lead agencies such as Environment Protection Authority is part of ongoing development.

Emergent Projects

In early 2002 a Bio-Industry cluster (BioNQ) was established with broad representation from industry, community and small private enterprise. The Tablelands is home to the development of specifically bred trees for dealing with salinity; researching and developing a range of fibre crops which may provide environmentally friendly building products; exploration of bio-mass, bio-fuels and bio-discovery research including development of key compounds from plant products.

The sugar cane industry is investigating options for ethanol production, along with the use of sorghum and sweet corn in processing, and power generation through use of plantation timbers. The significant timber resources of the Tablelands and the development of a plantation system as both a future resource and restoration initiative represent significant opportunities.

Value Adding Initiatives

The future development of a processing facilities linked to a range of fibre crops may see the export of refined products. Extending the supply chains for timber products and significant local forestry development initiatives are under way.

Opportunities for Future Development

There are ongoing opportunities to continue research and development of innovative approaches to salinity, conservation practices in land culture, urban and agricultural management systems (including water re-use) and innovative water management systems.

ATSRAC Engagement

ATSRAC seeks to establish partnerships and build capacity in relation to the following areas:

- Development of a GIS system that maps all natural and cultural assets;
- Development of a geo-coded images and story banks that assist in the development of sustainable tourism;
- Linking of the Tablelands brand to the areas environmental attributes;
- Linking environmental information to a Tablelands Website;
- Assisting in the development of natural resource management skills;
- Encouraging development of innovative water management initiatives; and
- Encouraging the adoption of environmental standards by the regions' shires, communities, businesses, schools and other organisations.

SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE TABLELANDS

Overview

EDUCATION

Primary and secondary state and Catholic parish schools serve the needs of children and youth across the Tablelands. A recent Education Queensland audit of schools revealed that the majority of schools on the Tablelands are at or above the mean performance criteria established across the State.

Schools vary from small (fewer than twelve pupils) to large (more than 750 pupils). Programmes for gifted and talented children, and for those with disabilities are provided at the larger state schools at Atherton, Mareeba, Malanda, Herberton and Ravenshoe. Most schools offer pre-school facilities. Secondary schools are available at Atherton, Mareeba, Malanda, Herberton, Ravenshoe, and there are secondary courses available to Year 10 at Dimbulah. There is a Catholic co-educational and boarding secondary school at Herberton and another Catholic High School is proposed for Mareeba.

James Cook University (Smithfield Campus) in Cairns is easy to access from the Tablelands, and offers a range of conventional course options. The campus is advancing towards specializing in rainforest research. The School for Field Studies (a campus of Boston University) offers summer school courses to visiting tertiary students.

A number of Cooperative Research Centres (multi partner research and development joint ventures) have interests in the areas, as does CSIRO. These are not well linked to the education system but the potential to develop relationships exists.

There is a range of child-care and kindergarten facilities at the major centres.

TRAINING

There are TAFE facilities at Mareeba and Atherton, with options for flexible delivery at other centres. The Australian School of Tropical Agriculture is based at Mareeba and offers a range of agricultural courses. The Mountains Institute at Ravenshoe offers specific tailored courses on request. There are a number of private service providers who offer training and employment related services.

State Government Departments (i.e. Department of Primary Industries, Department of State Development) also offer a range of courses to industry and business on request. Tableland Marketing (TEDC) provides training to farmers in management and marketing. Tableland Online, through a Networking the Nation project has previously provided training in Internet usage.

HEALTH

Public hospitals provide health services at Mareeba and Atherton, and offer dental, mental health, counselling, gynaecological, surgical and medical services. Access to Cairns Base Hospital through helicopter or ambulance transfer for urgent cases is available. Small hospitals/clinics are available at Herberton, Ravenshoe, Malanda, Millaa Millaa, Dimbulah, and Chillagoe (which is serviced by the Royal Flying Doctor Service). There is a medical centre for indigenous people at Mareeba, Atherton, Kuranda and Ravenshoe.

There is a specialist surgeon and a physician based in Atherton, and a full range of specialist services, both private and public, in Cairns. Private medical practitioners work in major centres. The ratio of medical practitioners to patients is slightly less than that in major metropolitan areas.

Private dental services in major centres fulfil demand however a gap exists in public dental service availability.

There is a Sexual Assault Unit (which has a visiting service to other centres) based in Atherton. A range of private counselling services exist in the larger centres of the region. There are private pathology firms in Atherton and Mareeba, and private X-ray and scanning practitioners in Atherton. Bush Connections provides a counselling and referral service to the southern Tableland.

Specialized services such as coronary and oncology are provided in larger regional centres such as Cairns, and to a greater extent in Townsville but not locally.

GOVERNMENT SERVICES

There is a full range of government services available across the Atherton Tablelands. Some agencies may be based in Cairns however provide dedicated services to the region. For example the Far North Queensland Area Consultative Committee is based in Cairns with a part-time project officer based on the Tablelands. Services include:

- Centrelink, Medicare, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC), Department of Family and Community Services, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry-Australia and Department of Transport and Regional Services; and
- Office of Premier and Cabinet, Department of State Development, Department of Primary Industries, Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Department of Families and Queensland Transport.

Government services are also being offered through agencies at smaller centres such as the Queensland Government Agency Program in Local Government offices and Post Offices.

Government structural adjustment initiatives such as Dairy Regional Assistance Programme and ATSRAC are based on the Tablelands.

SECURITY

Police, State Emergency Services, Ambulance, and the Fire and Rescue Service are available at Atherton, Mareeba, and smaller centres. The Rural Fire Service is one of several voluntary community services provided on the Tablelands. Private security firms also provide protective surveillance. There is Community Policing through Community Consultative Committee's and Neighbourhood Watch.

The Lotus Glen Correctional Centre provides penitentiary services for local offenders as well as those from other areas.

AGED AND RESPITE CARE

Mareeba, Atherton and Malanda have aged care facilities with Atherton being allocated further beds for future development of facilities. Herberton has a geriatric nursing facility, and there are respite centres for short-term stays at Mareeba, Mt Molloy, Malanda, Herberton, and Atherton.

Shire Councils and NGO's provide aged accommodation with a private provider establishing a new facility at Malanda.

Emergent Projects

There is a demand for high-quality private secondary education in the Tablelands, as a significant number of young people are sent to boarding schools every year. The region is ideally located to service the educational needs of the remote rural areas of Cape York Peninsula and Gulf of Carpentaria. Home schooling has increased in popularity in recent years with the service being provided through the Cairns School of Distance Education currently.

Value Adding Initiatives

Value adding in the area of social infrastructure is related to future development of strategic partnerships and regional coordination to attract investment and innovative approaches to service delivery and provision of facilities.

Opportunities for Future Development

Opportunities exist in the area of aged care, as the demand for places outstrips the current supply. Carinya Aged Care facility has allocation of beds with limited current access to investment. There is also an opportunity for the private provision of low-care housing for retirees.

There is some suggestion that the provision of high quality child-care (for infants, and for after school care) is not meeting the demand. This includes special needs children.

The provision of commercially operated services in education, aged care, childcare, and disability support would add substantially to the macro economy of the Tablelands.

There is an opportunity to develop the following:

- Training more specifically targeted to local needs;
- Liaison with government and other relative stakeholders to develop strategic partnerships in providing for public dental, ophthalmic, obstetric services; and
- Programmes specifically aimed to attract appropriately qualified nursing staff and associated health professionals.

ATSRAC Engagement

ATSRAC seeks to establish partnerships, encourage investment and build capacity in the following areas:

- Development of private secondary education in either of the large centres;
- Development of facilities for retirees;
- Development of aged care facilities - private and public;
- Support the placement of local nursing students in local hospitals for the practical component of their courses;
- Support the regional/rural hospitals in attracting qualified nursing staff and trainee nurses; and
- Encourage the provision of public health services that meet the community's needs.

YOUTH IN THE TABLELANDS

Overview

Young people in communities across the Atherton Tablelands, indeed in communities across Australia, face a range of challenges, opportunities and choices. From previous consultations with youth groups in the Tablelands there is an apparent desire to establish a place where youth can get together, socialise, listen to music, share information, generate and incubate ideas, build things and take things apart, enjoy themselves and each other, take and own responsibility.

There are a number of facilities available with varying degrees of utilisation (Matrix Table). Capturing the initiative and energy of youth in developing activities, opportunities and enterprise is a challenge facing communities.

There are a number of areas where youth are active participants, for example: recent development of several community youth groups; the Youth Mentoring Programme linking youth with established art and cultural mentors to further their interest, ability and knowledge; a range of sporting activities; and the Pulse Café in Mareeba.

However, the effects of an altered regional economic base, expanded opportunities in career paths, location of tertiary training facilities and even globalisation has seen the Tablelands identify a key need to develop strategies to retain and attract young people. ABS population projections before the 2001 Census suggested that 25 per cent of Tablelands residents would be over 65 years of age by the year 2021. The 2001 census data revealed significant five-year decreases in numbers of people aged 0-44 and substantial increases in numbers of older people.

Emergent Projects

Several youth groups have been established through 2001 and 2002 with support and facilitation being provided through a range of community and government agencies.

This includes pilot projects providing government funding for assistance to community representatives supporting and assisting youth groups. A trainee youth worker has been employed in Mareeba Shire with a shared Youth Worker position existing for Eacham, Herberton and Atherton Shires. The youth groups have generally been working on staging fund raising events, forming links with the community and developing a regional network to share ideas, issues and activities. Participation levels are comparatively low in these groups however those involved are committed and active.

Value Adding Initiatives

A range of government agencies are providing small amounts of funding to assist initiatives with youth such as the youth worker trainee, remunerative packages for community assistance, staging youth forums and assisting youth representatives to attend workshops and conferences. Two regional youth forums have been held which assisted in highlighting the regional issues of youth, and in initiating regional networks to support youth activities. A locally organised Youth Speak forum that invited participation from across the region has followed these.

Issues of resourcing, participation levels and implementation of strategic initiatives provide opportunity for collaborative partnerships across sectors, agencies and government. For example, the recent formation of the Tableland Resourcing and Networking group has voluntary representation from cross-sector agencies and aims to assist in addressing areas such as school-to-work transition.

Opportunities for Future Development

Youth retention issues are a high priority for rural and regional Australia. The initiation of several youth groups, primarily through youth activity, provides the Tablelands region an opportunity to engage and work with youth in stimulating enterprise, providing relevant skilling and training and generally developing a positive sense of place.

ATSRAC Engagement

The broad regional priorities require strategic investments in partnerships designed to address the issues of youth in the region. Initiatives will be allied with the development of a positive sense of place, youth enterprise, skilling and training and support for development of career paths. This will require coordination of strategic partnerships with cross sector initiatives elsewhere in this prospectus.

ATSRAC seeks to establish partnerships and build capacity in relation to the following areas:

- Mentoring;
- Youth enterprise;
- Youth participation and engagement;
- Leadership; and
- Training and skilling.

CAPACITY BUILDING & FUTURE PLANNING IN THE TABLELANDS

Overview

Communities on the Tablelands are culturally, socially and sectorally diverse and often operate independently of each other. This is reflected in a large number of community and industry organisations that are often under-resourced and have to compete with each other for scarce resources.

Social tensions and a feeling of powerlessness and outrage within the local community have resulted from a number of economic and social changes in the region.

The capacity of a region for change is determined by prevailing social and economic conditions combined with the willingness of the community to see change as an opportunity and to engage in and invest in the development of its human capabilities. The Tablelands is reaching a community consensus that for it to be attractive to investment it needs to have an ongoing plan for investing in its people's capability. This is an investment in the future.

In addition to strengths and weaknesses of the regions social infrastructure the Commonwealth Department of Transport and Regional Services (DOTARS) and ATSRAC are investing in developing the capacity of the region so that individual and investment based enterprise can flourish.

LEADERSHIP

In common with many regional communities the Tablelands needs to develop its capacity for community leadership. This need extends to providing opportunities for people to fill all roles in all types of community organisations that make up the fabric of the community. The ATSRAC capacity building plan has adopted a principle of building community leadership that:

- Is transformational and based on shared power and community building;
- Is centred in groups but encourages individuals; and
- Sees leadership as being based on community; vision; learning and action.

Emergent Projects

ATSRAC has developed a Community Capacity and Futures Planning Programme that is resourced through a specific allocation of funds from the Sustainable Regions Programme. The programme allows for ongoing development of partnerships, strategies and activities that support and encourage growth in capacity across the region and the diverse sectors.

Activities such as the Partnerships for Prosperity workshop funded by the Commonwealth Department of Family and Community Services, and organised by the Atherton Neighbourhood Centre contribute to the overall development of capacity and engagement of the regional community. There are a range of agencies, organisations and activities that focus on specific sectors or areas within sectors, however there is limited cross-sectoral linkages or activity.

There are occasional initiatives providing access to training and skilling in the area of leadership development however it is noted that organisations, service agencies and/or communities are the instigators of such training based on interest and availability at the time. The common impediment is cost for participants, and regional access to the expertise. Additionally there are related initiatives such as the Youth Entrepreneurship Programme, which is focused on a single sector (Art/Culture) and is also driven by the need to access ongoing funding.

Value Adding Initiatives

A range of agencies are involved in diverse projects initiating and supporting capacity development. These include State and Federal Government programmes providing funding, support and assistance in capacity development initiatives; local shire council initiatives; a range of local regional organisations eg: Arts Nexus running training and /skilling projects; Building Rural Leaders courses; youth group establishment.

Opportunities for Future Development

The Community Capacity and Futures Planning Programme will address opportunities and issues across all sectors identified in this prospectus and will draw together strategic partnerships to enhance development of regional capacity and future planning.

ATSRAC Engagement

ATSRAC seeks to make specific investments in improving the community's individual technical and enterprise skills, leadership skills, organising abilities, and in developing useful and maintainable social and commercial networks. Potential investors are encouraged to discuss their capacity needs with ATSRAC in the development of their proposal if need be.

ATSRAC's Community Capacity and Futures Planning Programme sets out a three-year process of capacity building that has been designed to increase the areas attractiveness to investment and to enhance the development of individual enterprise. To facilitate the implementation and coordination of the plan, and provide a sustainable framework, ATSRAC has developed a partnership with the Atherton Neighbourhood Centre.

Specific initiatives of the Community Capacity and Futures Planning Programme include:

- Training in product development and maintenance, marketing, supply chain management, business development, quality assurance, Website development and maintenance, E-commerce – with a particular focus on young entrepreneurs;
- Seed funding the establishment of sectoral innovation groups, a capacity nursery and blue-sky innovation forum;
- Designing, establishing and maintaining a distinctive regional brand and integrating this with all capacity building activities;
- Building partnerships between sectoral groups and education and training providers;
- Establishing a continuous improvement system in capacity building managed by a partnership between ATSRAC and community groups; and
- Looking to the future and identifying the ingredients for sustainable development in the Atherton Tablelands.

Leadership

ATSRAC will encourage the development of leadership by:

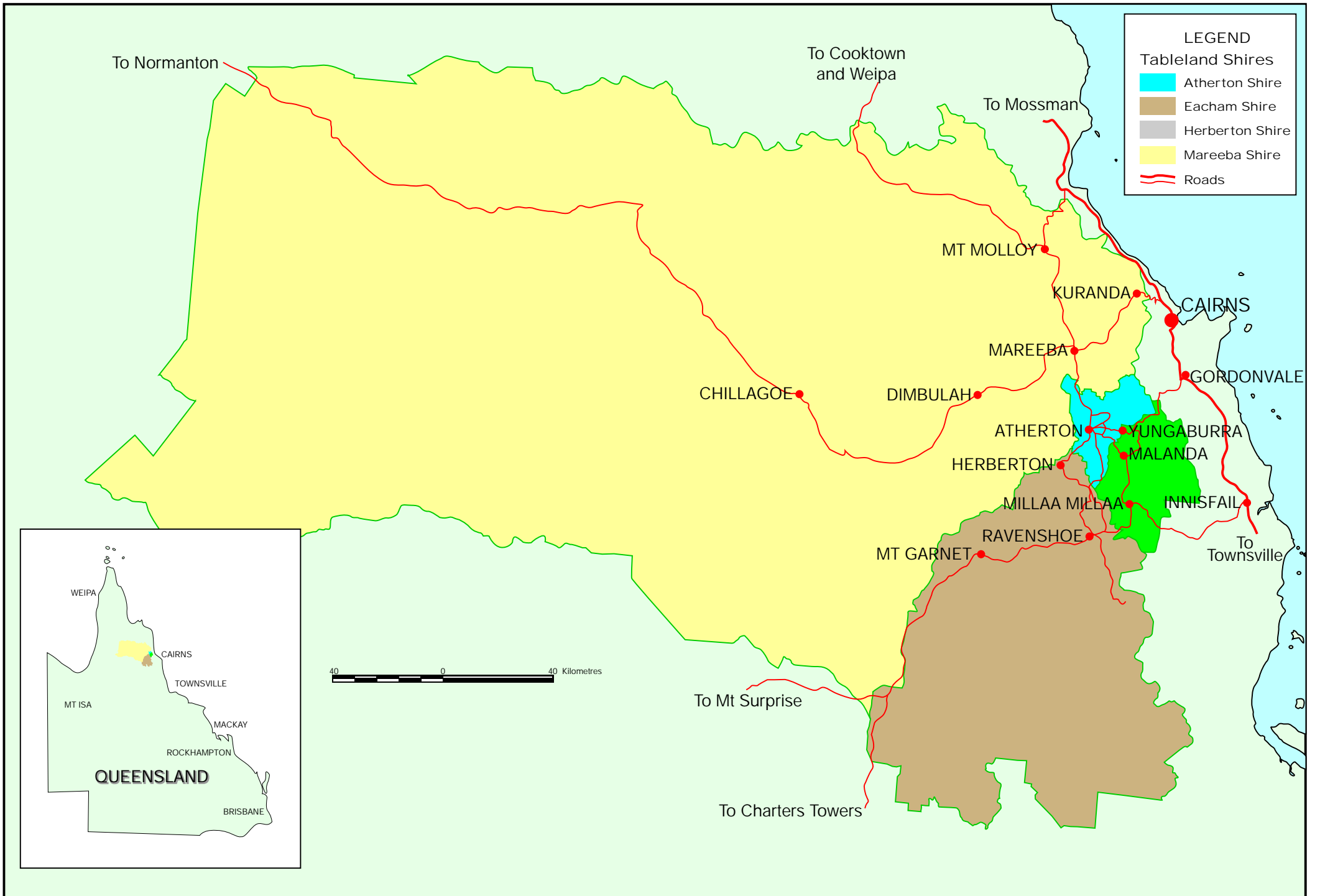
- Developing leadership roles and responsibilities within organisations, encouraging such roles to be shared and distributed as widely as possible;
- Initiating and developing transformational leadership enabling members of the community to build their leadership potential;
- Encouraging and supporting balanced leadership enabling people to gain skills in all the roles required for successful organisations;
- Establishing trust based on valuing the individual; and
- Promoting and developing open communication.

1. Demographics	Atherton Tablelands Region	Atherton Shire	Mareeba Shire	Herberton Shire	Eacham Shire	
Population	40,077	10,621	18,096	5,110	6,250	
Area	63,904km ²	620km ²	52,585km ²	9,575km ²	1,124km ²	
Atherton Tablelands Region						
	Agriculture	Industry	Tourism & Culture	Environment	Social Infrastructure	Youth
2. Physical capital						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Private Infrastructure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mareeba Saleyards Processing maize & peanut Mango slicing plant Various private dehydration and packing facilities for fruit & vegetables Dairyfarmers Factory (including mozzarella plant) Nurseries Ariga Sugar Mill Rocky Creek Abattoir Steggles Private abattoirs Crocodile processing plants Fruit wineries Private family farms Emerging corporate owned farms Aquaculture ponding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engineering works Timber mills Zinc mine Diatomaceous earth Slate mine Wind farm Hydro dam Transport services Construction Retail Hospitality Agricultural infrastructure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Skyrail Heritage railway trains Heritage trails Wetlands Range of accommodation options Lifestyle retreats Racecourse Museums/interpretive centres Galleries Theatres Halls Cafés Restaurants Clubs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eco-tourism enterprises leasing land with camps Cafés Walking trails Education facilities Information/interpretive centres Land for Wildlife corridors on private properties Mareeba Wetlands Skyrail Proximity to Great Barrier Reef 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Private schools/colleges Playgroups Childcare centres Sporting clubs Private medical clinics Allied health centres Associated diagnostic centres Clubs Hotels Halls Community group facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Private schools & colleges Playgroups Childcare centres Sporting clubs Internet cafes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Infrastructure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lake Tinaroo & associated irrigation channels Mareeba-Dimbulah Irrigation Area (cemented & dirt) Power supply Telecommunications Major highway systems: Kennedy, Palmerston, Peninsula Development Road, Gulf Development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lake Tinaroo & associated irrigation channels Road & bridges Railway line Power supply Telecommunications Airports (2) Waste management transfer stations Links to Cairns Reticulated sewerage (Mareeba, Atherton & 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lake Tinaroo , Kuranda Amphitheatre walking trails (National Parks) Heritage railway lines/bridges/stations Rodeo grounds Show grounds Market grounds Roads Power supply Telecommunications Major highway 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> QPWS/WTMA – National Parks, walking trails, crater lakes, etc. Heritage Trails – walking tracks, interpretive centres Lake Tinaroo Waste management transfer stations, links to Cairns Reticulated sewerage (Mareeba, Atherton & 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schools, kindergartens, TAFE, red shed (Nyletta). Aged care facilities – Mareeba, Atherton, Malanda Range of Government offices Local government offices Public parks Sporting grounds Show grounds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schools, kindergartens, red shed (Nyletta Indigenous) Playgrounds Parks Skate ramps Sporting fields Libraries. Youth development office is located in each Shire Tinaroo Recreation Camp

	Road, Rex, Kuranda and Gillies Range roads plus shire roads. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DPI research stations: Kairi, Walkamin, Southedge. • DPI centre at Mareeba. 	Yungaburra only places provided). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solid waste is managed by local councils • Major highway systems: Kennedy, Palmerston, Peninsula Development Road, Gulf Development Road, Rex, Kuranda and Gillies Range roads. 	systems: Kennedy, Palmerston, Peninsula Development Road, Gulf Development Road, Rex, Kuranda and Gillies Range roads.	Yungaburra only places provided) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solid waste is managed by local councils • Proximity to Great Barrier Reef 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Halls • Public hospitals • Police • Ambulance • Fire stations Theatres 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Genazano Camp • Barabadine Camp • Black Gully Camp • Major highway systems: Kennedy, Palmerston, Peninsula Development Road, Gulf Development Road, Rex, Kuranda and Gillies Range roads
	Agriculture	Industry	Tourism & Culture	Environment	Social Infrastructure	Youth
3. Environmental capital						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wet Tropics • Undulating volcanic landscape • Dry savannah • Diverse climate range • World Heritage Listed areas • River systems and catchment areas (Mitchell, Walsh, Barron, Herbert, Johnstone) • Proximity to Great Barrier Reef 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wet Tropics • Undulating volcanic landscape • Dry savannah • Diverse climate range • World Heritage Listed areas • River systems (Mitchell, Walsh, Barron, Herbert, Johnstone). • Proximity to Great Barrier Reef. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wetlands • Rainforest • Waterfalls • Volcano/crater lakes • Savannah • Rivers • Wildlife (birds, national symbols etc) • Fishing • Climate • Natural landscapes (filming) • World Heritage Listed areas • River systems (Mitchell, Walsh, Barron, Herbert, Johnstone) • Proximity to Great Barrier Reef 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Parks • Wet Tropics • Undulating volcanic landscape • Dry savannah • Diverse climate range • World Heritage Listed areas • River systems (Mitchell, Walsh, Barron, Herbert, Johnstone) • Proximity to Great Barrier Reef 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wet Tropics • Undulating volcanic landscape • Dry savannah • Diverse climate range • World Heritage Listed areas • River systems and catchment areas (Mitchell, Walsh, Barron, Herbert, Johnstone). • Proximity to Great Barrier Reef 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Parks • Wet Tropics • Undulating volcanic landscape • Dry savannah • Diverse climate range • World Heritage Listed areas • River systems (Mitchell, Walsh, Barron, Herbert, Johnstone) • Proximity to Great Barrier Reef • Fishing • Water sports • Walking trails
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indigenous land title • History of land use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indigenous land title • Historic industrial sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indigenous art/culture • Settlement & historic development • Listed sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indigenous art/culture • Non-indigenous art/culture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indigenous heritage 	

	Agriculture	Industry	Tourism & Culture	Environment	Social Infrastructure	Youth
4. Human capital						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individual skills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diversity of manual/management Agricultural skills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small to medium enterprise Majority owner operated/sole trader – basic general skills. Niche industries Value adding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indigenous art/culture, Multi-cultural art/culture Diverse range of artists/product. Volunteer events coordination Small business majority owner/operators Basic general skills. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diversity of individual skills and commitment to environmental management Emergent opportunity for agricultural practices. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Numerous volunteers involved in social/community groups. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth development officers and trainees.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individual leadership 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concentrated older leadership 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not well formed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not well formed Coordination-management of events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individual involvement with formal groups emergent 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diverse range that requires coordination and resourcing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emerging opportunities, Leadership programmes in schools Youth Councils
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individual organising abilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Range of individual commodities Well run Minimal collective capacity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Range of individual business/industry Well run Minimal collective capacity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Range of individual business/industry Well run Minimal collective capacity Coordination-management of events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Range of individual skills and abilities Not always coordinated. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diverse and extensive requiring coordination and resourcing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth Forum Youth groups
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individual enterprise skills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Successful value added agricultural industries Numerous emerging industries with short term capacity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited capacity Range of individual abilities Successful value added industries built from the rural sector 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Majority with basic enterprise skills Limited capacity Select few with well developed enterprise skills Coordination-management of events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental enterprise not well formed Eco-tourism emergent Limited in industry/agriculture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity to be self sustaining in tourism sector Other sectors have not developed capacity to be self sustaining General dependence on volunteers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training and business development Youth Entrepreneur Programme

	Agriculture	Industry	Tourism & Culture	Environment	Social Infrastructure	Youth
5. Social capital						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social networks in a community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Numerous and lacking cohesion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential for greater development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential for greater development • Numerous networks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Links to formal environmental groups existing with potential for greater development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extensive range requiring coordination 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emerging youth groups Mareeba, Atherton, Yungaburra, Malanda and Millaa Millaa • Potential for greater development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social organisation in a community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sense of negativity seen as a unifier 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential for greater development – enhancing Chambers of Commerce for example 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential for greater development • Coordination-management of events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential for greater development • Coordination of specific projects/events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extensive range requiring coordination • Cultural organisations: eg: Kuranda Ampitheatre Society, Arts Nexus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emerging
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supply Chains 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uncommon with some individuals successful Some agricultural sectors working better than others • More coordination required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In its infancy with potential for greater development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Numerous with need for greater coordination • Potential cluster • Festivals and events as marketing tools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emerging interest in ecological best practice for industry/agriculture • Potential for greater development linked to run-off to Great Barrier Reef 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reliance on volunteer networks requiring development and coordination 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth entrepreneurship programme • Emerging links across the region • Tableland Resourcing and Networking – emerging regional body working on school to work transition • Vocational opportunities



LEGEND
Tableland Shires

- Atherton Shire
- Eacham Shire
- Herberton Shire
- Mareeba Shire
- Roads

