

Greater Whitsundays Regional Development Roadmap

Workshop 2

20 August 2021
Greater Whitsunday Regional Development Roadmap

Regional Development Roadmap – An introduction

In October 2020 the Hon Nola Marino MP, Assistant Minister for Regional Development and Territories announced the Australian Government's recommitment to the RDA Committees Program under a new 4.5 year funding agreement and streamlined Charter. A key component of the new funding agreement involves the development and implementation of strategic plans to help align effort across government to identify key regional priorities and catalytic projects to support economic growth of regions.

The new charter requires RDAs to 'co-ordinate the development of a strategic regional plan, that will both align and guide the Commonwealth's regional priorities'.

As facilitators of economic development, RDA (Mackay-Isaac-Whitsundays) is excited to work with other regional economic development stakeholders to agree on a common strategic plan for our region. The RDA Strategic Planning process will recognise and draw on other stakeholders plans and contributions to this process to determine regional priorities. The process will ensure that RDA work programs are transparent and focused on collectively identified regional priorities.

Through the attached instrument, we hope to obtain from you, our stakeholders, your input and focus in furthering sustainable economic development aspirations of the Greater Whitsundays region.

Professor Pierre Viljoen

Chair of RDA MIW

Regional Development Roadmap Workshops

Regional Development Australia MIW has recently approached you to participate in the upcoming Regional Development Roadmap workshops on 20th August (Face to Face) or 23rd August (Virtual).

AECOM have been asked to facilitate the event and the aim of the day is to seek clarification on the vision, themes/focuses and enablers of a framework for the future of Mackay, Isaac and Whitsunday (Greater Whitsundays) region. Key measures of success for the day will be that we:

- have established a strong working commitment from stakeholders to contribute to the development of a shared vision for the Greater Whitsundays
- have an agreed position on the vision, themes and enablers of the emerging Regional Development Roadmap.

In order to achieve this we will have an iterative workshop on the day but also seek your input prior to the event to allow informed discussion at the workshop. Hence, we have posed several questions to all participants. The material we have developed here has been directly from the initial workshop held in Mackay on 12th July and feedback on prework prior to that workshop.

Even if you are unable to attend the workshop on 20th August, we still welcome your input via the completion of this questionnaire. Responses need to be concise and erudite to allow us to analyse and aggregate for feedback on the day.

Whilst there are really no wrong answers for these questions, some differentiation between the answers and evaluation of the region's uniqueness needs to be considered.

We would be appreciative if you could complete and return the attached material to sophie.gadaloff@aecom.com by **COB 18th August 2021**.

Kind regards,

Mike Gillen

Industry Director – Cities AECOM

Completed by: *Type in representative name and organisation*

Vision assessment

The establishment of a Vision is important in setting a transformative and aspirational context to the exercise. The Vision we are evolving here is being developed only for the Regional Development Roadmap exercise. It does not supersede any existing visions established for strategic exercises or sectors in the region. The intent of this exercise is to acknowledge other visions, and set a clear and robust desired future character for the economic and social aspirations in the Regional Development Roadmap.

Draft Greater Whitsundays 2032 Vision 1

'Greater Whitsundays is Queensland's regional destination of choice to live, work and play.

It is a progressive and prosperous region that capitalises on its core strengths in the natural resources and tourism sectors.

It is a key Australian gateway to international markets realised through its world class infrastructure, innovative business practices and export orientated economy.

It encompasses diverse, liveable, and well-connected communities from metropolitan centres to coastal settlements and rural townships.

Greater Whitsundays continues to be a regional leader in social and environmental sustainability and values the stewardship of its natural assets.'

Type in response to draft vision one. Do you agree with this vision? Is anything missing?

Draft Greater Whitsundays 2032 Vision 2

In 2032 the Greater Whitsundays is a region rich in opportunity and choice for employment, education and lifestyle. We are home to leading industry innovators and taking our food, resources, research and insight across the world.

We celebrate our first nations and creative cultures and we welcome people to enjoy our unique and stunning natural environment.

From the Bowen Basin to the Great Barrier Reef this region offers unparalleled prospects and experiences.

By 2032 success looks like:

- *A diverse economy and industry leading innovation in agribusiness, renewables, circular economy, bio-commodities, METS and micro-manufacturing*
- *A workforce educated and trained in the region for the region*
- *A digital and data community supporting and enabling industry innovation*
- *A highly connected region by all modes of transport*
- *A series of thriving regional communities with access to health services and community facilities that build resilience and wellbeing*

Type in response to draft vision two. Do you agree with this vision? Is anything missing?

Alternative vision suggestions:





What is your suggestion for an alternative vision for the Greater Whitsundays region in 2032?

Leave blank if no alternative suggestions

Themes and focus areas

Do you agree with identified themes and associated focus areas? Is there anything missing?

Table 1 Themes and Focus

Themes	Focus
 <p>A productive and competitive region</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leading in our competitive advantages (agribusiness, METS and tourism) • Enabling a more diverse economy to emerge • Creating the conditions for innovation to thrive
 <p>21st century infrastructure</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying and delivering strategic road upgrades • Improving digital connectivity, access and speeds • Enabling data to be used to help make informed decisions • Prioritising and elevating our ports' and airports' role and function
 <p>Tomorrow's workforce</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhancing regional human capital and establishing a workforce attraction strategy • Identifying and meeting current and future industry needs • Working across governments and the education sector to build relevant programs and courses
 <p>Liveability and wellbeing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elevating our public realm and community infrastructure priorities • Celebrating our First Nations culture with respect and meaning • Enhancing region's identity and global connections

Please list any additional themes and note which focus areas they are associated with.

Enablers: Projects, programs and policies

Table 2 Enablers

Programs	Projects	Policy
1 - 3 years		
Skills Training Initiatives	Tassel Prawn Farm	Insurance Reform
Regional Education Hub	SABR	Simplification of Water Policy and Enhanced Management Strategy
Youth Accelerator Programs	Regional Transport Strategy	Tax Incentivisation Strategy for - Housing, Payroll and Industry Innovation
Carbon Market Principles	Workforce Attraction Strategy	
Converting National Programs to the Regions	Enhanced Digital Coverage – for black spots & reliable high speed coverage	
Regionalisation Agenda Position	Mackay PDA	
	Pioneer Mtn Valley Mt Bike	
4 - 7 years		
Unlocking Greater Collaboration for Skills Development and Education	Strategic Road Upgrades – Peak Downs Highway	
Horticulture R&D programs	DBCT 8X Project	
	Urangan Dam	
	Aerospace Projects	
	Multimodal Freight Network Strategy	
	Future Food Hub	
	Mine Safety Hub	
	Micro-manufacturing Prototyping Project	
	International Airport	
	Olive Downs	
	Regional Marine Precinct	
8 - 10 years		

Are there any other projects, programs, or policy items to be considered as part of the framework and what theme does it advance?

Please list any additional projects, programs or policies and note which themes they are associated with.