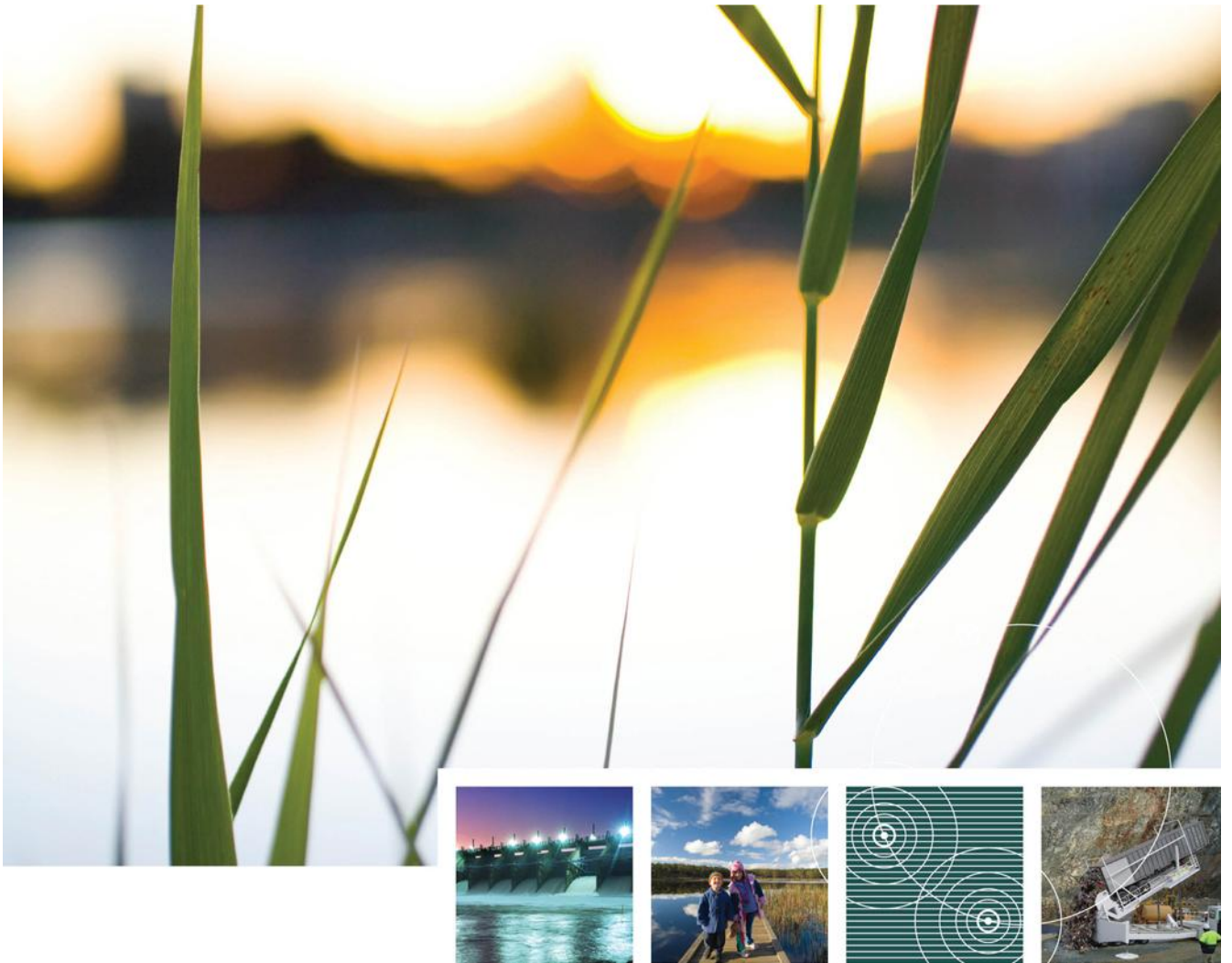


Appendix L

COMMUNITY PROFILES AND DEMOGRAPHIC DATA



Environmental Impact Statement Community and Demographic Profiles

Surat Basin Rail Pty Ltd

5 September 2008

Community and Demographic Profiles

Prepared for

Surat Basin Rail Pty Ltd

Prepared by

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Document Community and Demographic Profiles

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Table of Contents

1.0	Definition of the Study Region	1
2.0	Demographic Profile	1
2.1	Population and Sex Breakdown	1
2.2	Population Trends and Projections	1
2.3	Population Stability	2
2.4	Age Structure	3
2.5	Selected Averages	4
2.6	Housing Breakdown	4
2.7	Household Composition	5
2.8	Birthplace and Citizenship	6
2.9	Income	6
2.10	Workforce	8
2.11	Industry of Employment	9
2.12	Occupation	10
2.13	Method of Travel to Work	11
2.14	Post-School Education	13
3.0	Community Profiles	14
3.1	Hierarchy of Township	14
3.2	Wandoan	15
3.3	Taroom	16
3.4	Cracow	17
3.5	Theodore	17
3.6	Banana	19
3.7	Moura	19
3.8	Biloela	20

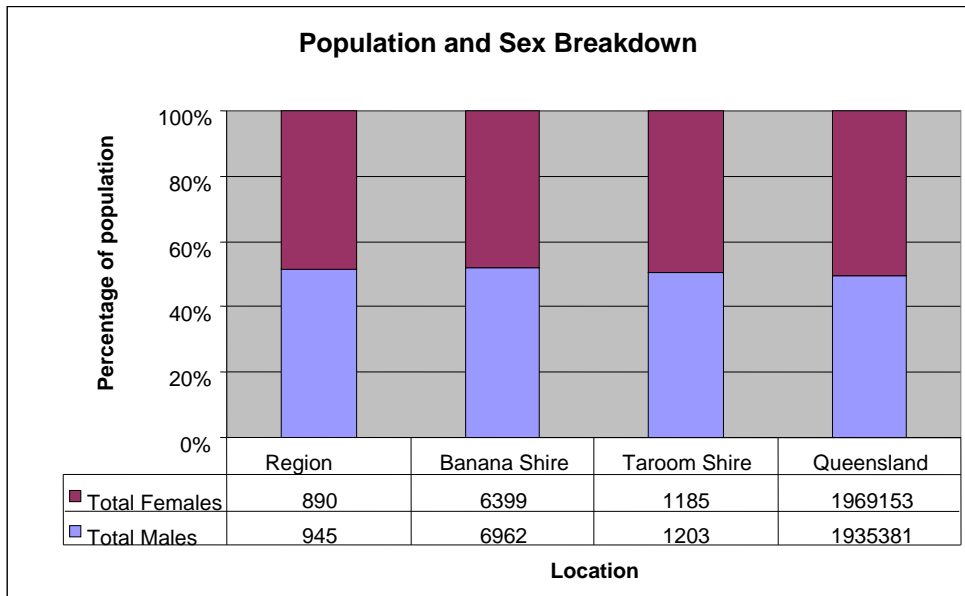
1.0 Definition of the Study Region

In these profiles the term Region has been used to describe an area bounded by the major communities of Wandoan, Taroom, Theodore, Moura, Banana and Cracow.

2.0 Demographic Profile

A demographic profile has been prepared of the major communities within the Region using data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Census of Population and Housing 2006. Comparisons are made between an area defined by the major communities (the Region), Banana Shire, the old Taroom Shire and the whole of Queensland.

2.1 Population and Sex Breakdown



In 2006, the total population of the Region was 1,835. This figure is 11.65% of the total population the two constituent shires at the time, and approximately 0.047% of Queensland's total population at the same time. The sex breakdown was relatively even, with slightly more males (51.5%) than females (48.5%) in the Region. This is aligned with both the Banana and Taroom Shires, whilst Queensland had slightly more females than males at the same time (50.43% females).

2.2 Population Trends and Projections

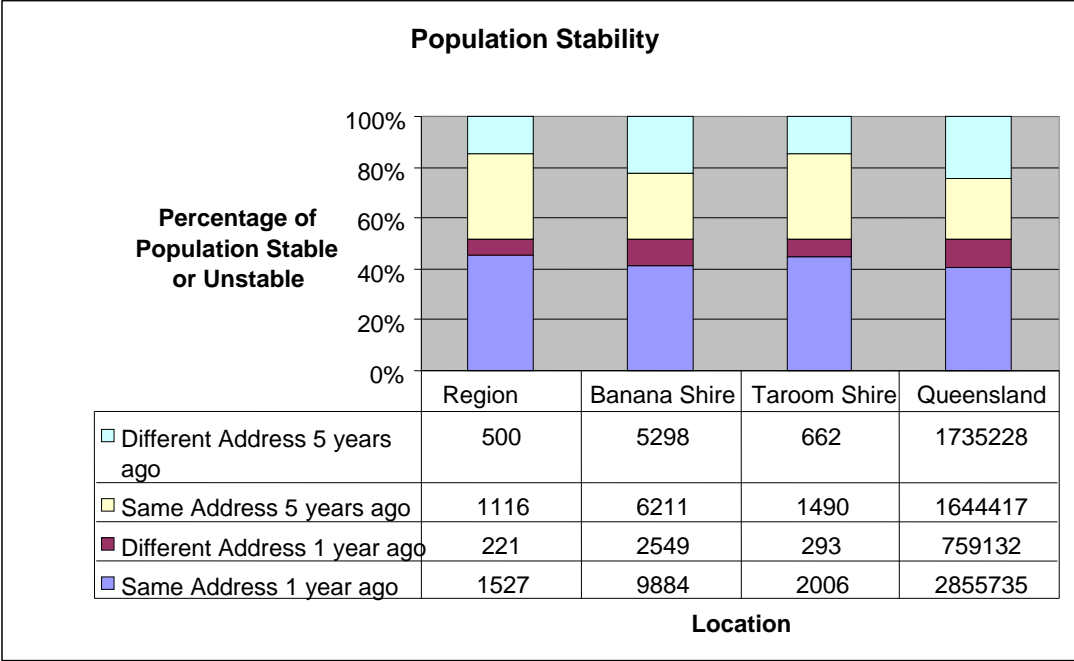
Location	1996	2001	2006	2016	2026	Increase (1996-2026)
Banana Shire	13,598	13,489	14,523 ^a	14,774 ^a	14,802 ^a	1024 (8.85%) ^a
Taroom Shire	2,733	2,664	2,340 ^a	2,271 ^a	2,211 ^a	-522 (-19.10%) ^a
Queensland	3,368,850	3,655,139	4,046,880 ^b	4,828,920 ^b	5,589,468 ^b	2,220,618 (65.92%) ^b

^a Adapted from ABS (2007) and PIFU (2006)

^b Adapted from ABS (2007) and Queensland Treasury (2007)

The State of Queensland has undergone marked population increase since 1996, and will continue to do so according to the predictions of Queensland Treasury (increasing by 2,220,618 (65.92%) between 1996 and 2026 to 5,589,468). Whilst there are no population projections available for the Region, there are population projections for the Banana and Taroom Shires. In comparison with Queensland, these two shires are not expected to experience the same degree of population growth. Banana Shire is expected to grow by 1,024 (8.85%) to 14,802 between 1996 and 2026. On the other hand, Taroom Shire is expected to continue its annual decrease in population (decreasing by 522 (19.10%) to 2,211 in the same time period).

2.3 Population Stability

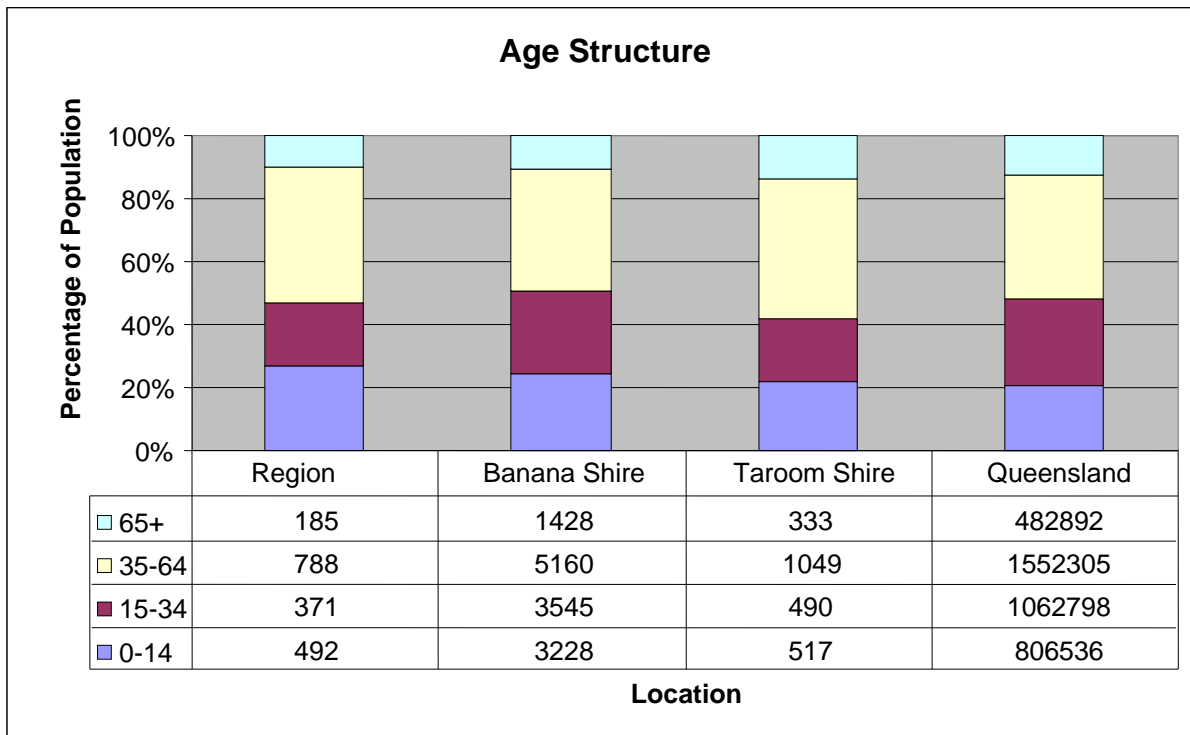


Population stability is an indicator of community cohesion and social capital. In a cohesive community, families are more likely to remain in the same address for a longer time than families living in a less-cohesive community. Population stability is generally higher in rural communities than it is in urban communities. The figures in the above table suggest the following about population stability:

- The proportion of people residing at the same address one year ago in the Region (87.36%) was **higher** than that of Banana Shire (79.50%) and Queensland (79.00%), and similar to that of Taroom Shire (87.26%);
- The proportion of people residing at a different address one year ago in the Region (12.64%) was **lower** than that of Banana Shire (20.50%) and Queensland (21.00%), and similar to that of Taroom Shire (12.74%);
- The proportion of people residing at the same address five years ago in the Region (69.06%) was **higher** than that of Banana Shire (53.97%) and Queensland (48.66%), and similar to that of Taroom Shire (69.24%); and
- The proportion of people residing at a different address five years ago in the Region (30.94%) was **lower** than that of Banana Shire (46.03%) and Queensland (51.34%), and similar to that of Taroom Shire (30.76%).

Generally, it could be said that there are high levels of population stability within the Region and Taroom, and therefore high levels of community cohesion. The population is likely to be relatively close-knit, and as such, they are likely to place a high value on where they currently live. Impacts upon cohesive communities may be more pronounced than impacts upon communities with less cohesion.

2.4 Age Structure



In 2006, the age structure of the Region was notably different to that of Brisbane and Queensland, with a higher proportion of younger people (below 15 years) and a lower proportion of people aged between 15 and 34. The proportion of people aged 0-14 was higher in the Region (26.81%) than in Banana, Taroom and Queensland (24.16%, 21.65% and 20.66% respectively). There was a lower proportion of people aged 15-34 in the Region (20.22%) compared with Banana, Taroom and Queensland (26.53%, 20.52% and 27.22% respectively). The Region contained a lower proportion of people aged 65 and over (10.08%) compared with Banana, Taroom and Queensland (10.69%, 13.94% and 12.37% respectively).

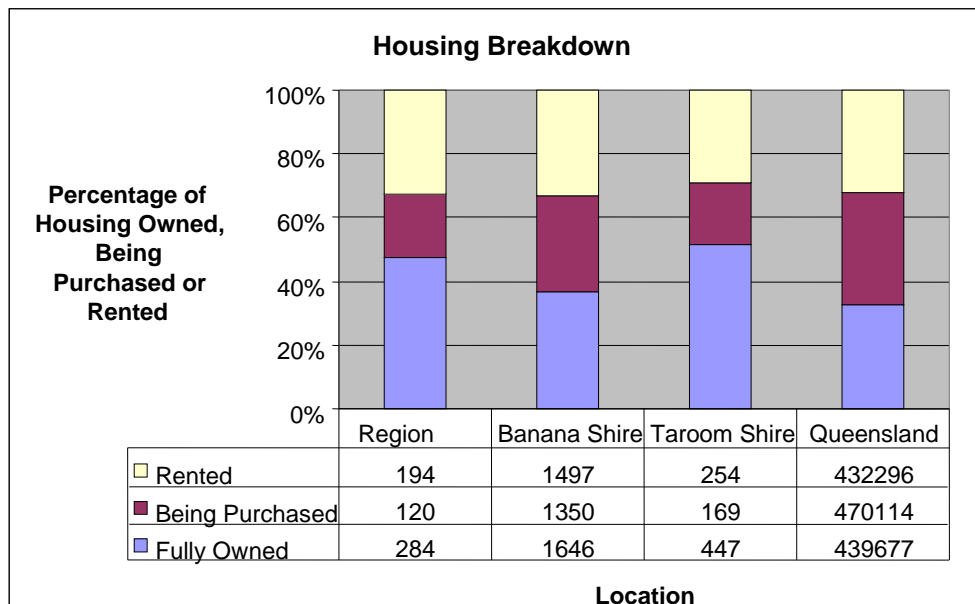
2.5 Selected Averages

Location	Median Age	Median Household Income (\$/wk)	Median Housing Loan Repayment (\$/month)	Median Rent (\$/wk)	Average Household Size
Region	37.33	992.33	1552.22	N/A	2.94
Banana Shire	34	1143	1000	101	2.6
Taroom Shire	40	810	542	25	2.4
Queensland	36	1033	1300	200	2.6

Figures are means of the listed medians for the Region's Census Collection Districts.

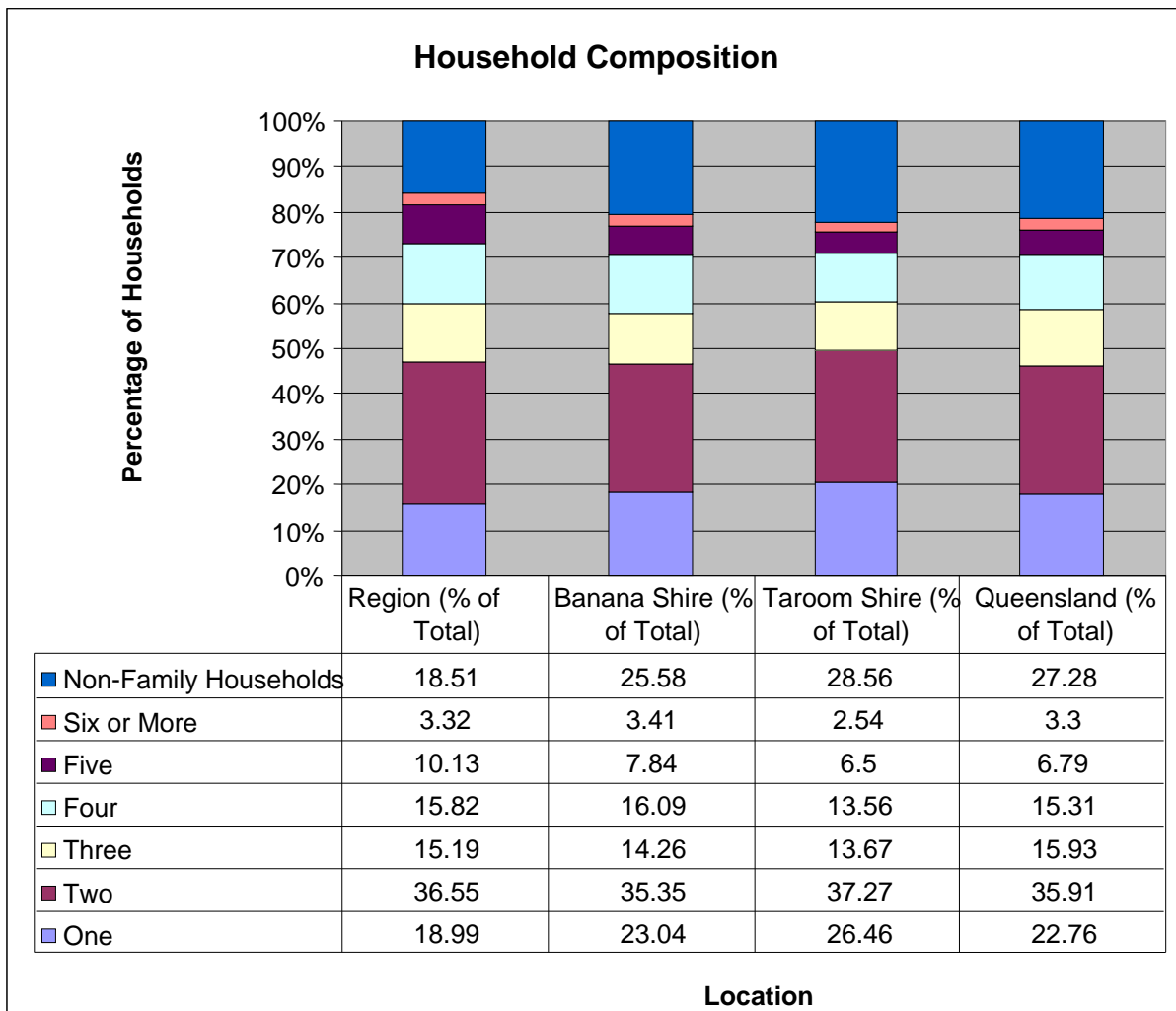
The average age of the population in the Region (37.33) was slightly higher than that of Queensland (36), and between the median ages for Banana and Taroom Shires (34 and 40 respectively). The average household income in the Region (\$992/week) was lower than the Queensland median (\$1,033/week), and between that of Banana and Taroom Shires (\$1,143/week and \$810/week respectively). The average housing loan repayment was notably higher in the Region (\$1,552/month) than the median figures for Banana, Taroom and Queensland (\$1,000, \$542, and \$1,300/month respectively). This may be because of the inflated figures for one of the collection districts in the Region (\$2,059/month), and the method of determining the averages (a mean of the listed medians for the CCDs). In addition, the average rent prices in the Region could not be gathered, however those for Banana and Taroom Shires (\$101 and \$25/week respectively) were lower than the median for Queensland (\$200/week). The average household size in the Region (2.94) was slightly higher than that of Banana, Taroom and Queensland (2.6, 2.4, and 2.6 respectively).

2.6 Housing Breakdown



The Region contained a considerably higher proportion of fully owned residences (47.49%) compared with Banana Shire and Queensland (34.89% and 32.76% respectively). On the other hand, Taroom Shire had a slightly higher proportion than the Region (49.45%). The Region contained a substantially lower proportion of residences being purchased (20.07%) compared with Banana Shire and Queensland (28.61% and 35.03% respectively). Taroom Shire had a slightly lower proportion of residences being purchased (18.69%) than the Region. The Region contained a similar proportion of residences being rented (32.44%) compared with Banana Shire, Taroom Shire and Queensland (31.73%, 28.10% and 32.21% respectively).

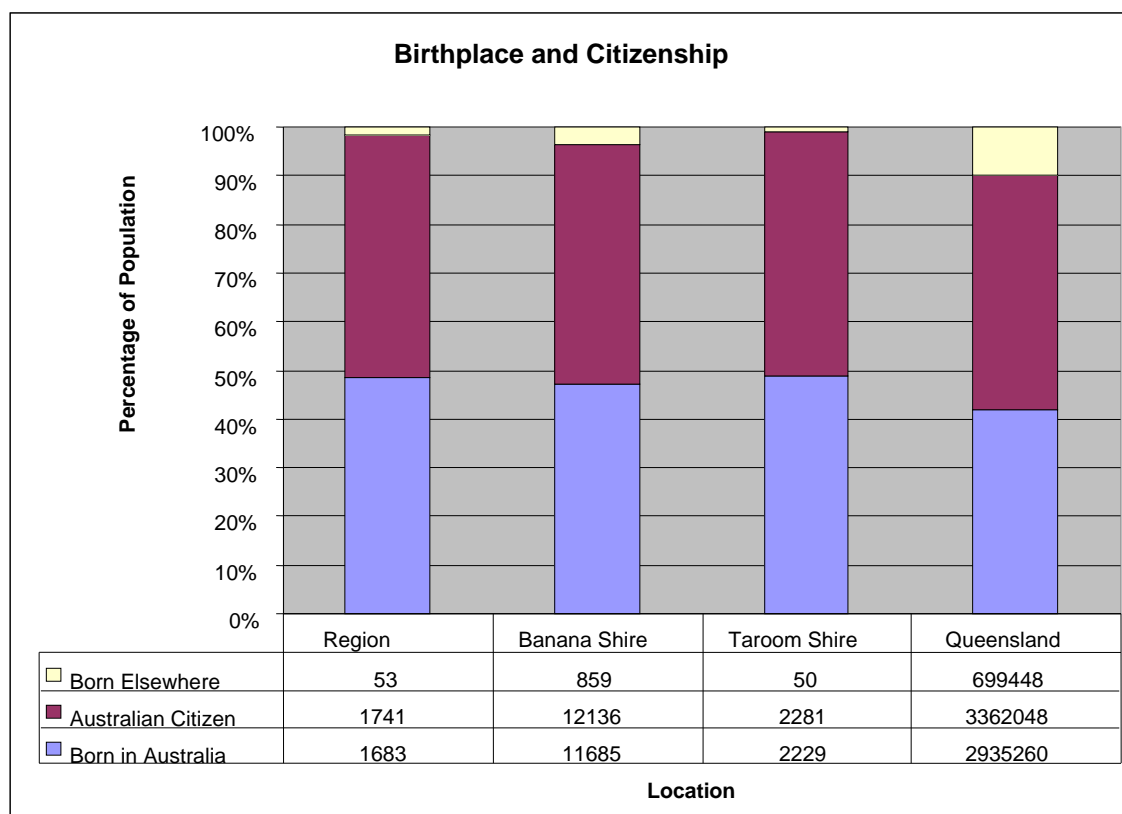
2.7 Household Composition



The Region is generally composed of larger households than is common for wider Brisbane and Queensland. The proportion of one-person households in the Region (18.99%) was **considerably lower** than that of Banana Shire (23.04%), Taroom Shire (26.46%) and Queensland (22.76%). Further, the proportion of five-person households in the Region (10.13%) was **higher** than that of Banana Shire (7.84%), Taroom Shire (6.50%) and Queensland (6.79%). Importantly, the proportion of non-family households in the Region (18.51%) was **considerably lower** than that of Banana Shire (25.58%), Taroom Shire (28.56%), and Queensland (27.28%).

These figures show that the households within the Region are typically made up of more people than the households of Banana Shire, Taroom Shire and Queensland, and that these households are more likely to be family households than those within the two shires and the wider state.

2.8 Birthplace and Citizenship



In 2006, the Region contained a **higher** proportion of people born in Australia (96.95%) than Banana Shire and Queensland (93.15% and 80.76% respectively), while Taroom Shire had a slightly higher proportion than the Region (97.81%). Subsequently, the Region also contained a **lower** proportion of people born overseas (3.05%) than Banana and Queensland (6.85% and 19.24% respectively), and a slightly higher proportion than Taroom Shire (2.19%). There was also a slightly **higher** proportion of Australian citizens in the Region (94.88%) compared with Banana Shire (90.83%) and Queensland (92.5%), but slightly lower than Taroom Shire (95.52%). This analysis indicates that the Region has a relatively low cultural diversity in comparison with Queensland, and is similar in this respect to the constituent local government areas of Banana and Taroom.

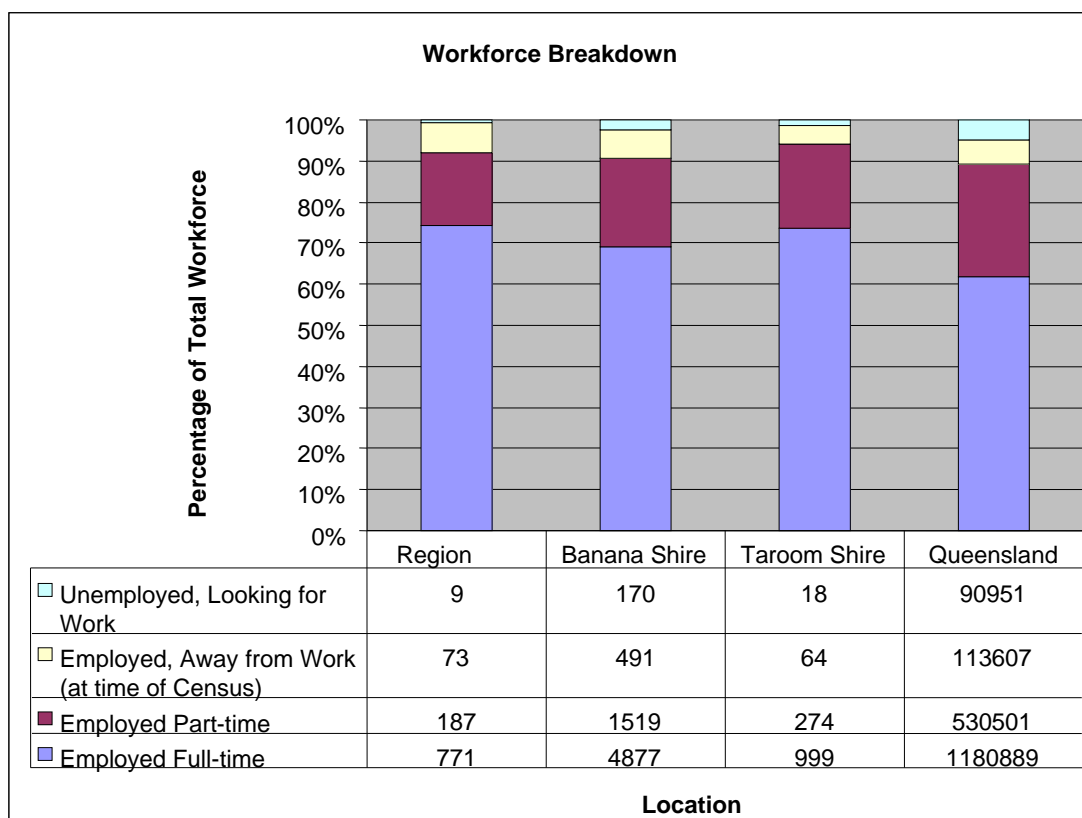
2.9 Income

Weekly Household Income (\$Gross)	Location (% of Households)			
	Region	Banana Shire	Taroom Shire	Queensland
Negative/Nil	3.63	1.60	4.91	0.77
\$1-\$149	2.00	1.11	2.58	0.93
\$150-\$249	2.72	4.68	5.15	0.88
\$250-\$349	5.26	5.74	6.87	2.44
\$350-\$499	3.27	3.88	4.91	6.64
\$500-\$649	12.89	3.20	13.37	10.05

Weekly Household Income (\$Gross)	Location (% of Households)			
	Region	Banana Shire	Taroom Shire	Queensland
\$650-\$799	10.16	6.05	8.59	5.44
\$800-\$999	6.72	6.64	8.83	6.83
\$1000-\$1199	15.06	12.00	14.11	12.69
\$1200-\$1399	6.72	5.44	3.80	7.70
\$1400-\$1699	4.54	7.81	5.52	8.66
\$1700-\$1999	6.72	9.86	5.89	7.21
\$2000-\$2499	4.90	6.71	4.05	7.52
\$2500-\$2999	5.99	8.40	2.33	5.09
\$3000 or more	5.63	6.24	2.82	4.76
Not Stated	3.81	4.64	6.26	12.38

Statistics for gross household income in 2006 differ in some categories between the Region and the areas of Banana Shire, Taroom Shire and Queensland. Firstly, the Region contained a **higher** proportion of households in the lowest income brackets (earning negative/nil and \$1-\$149 per week) (3.63% and 2.00%), compared with Banana Shire (1.60% 1.11%) and Queensland (0.77% and 0.93%), however these figures were lower than those for Taroom Shire (4.91% and 2.58%). There was a **notably higher** proportion of households earning \$500-\$649 in the Region (10.16%) compared with Banana, Taroom and Queensland (6.05%, 8.59% and 5.44% respectively). However, the Region contained **considerably lower** proportions of households earning \$1,400-\$1,699 (4.54%) than Banana Shire (7.81%), Taroom Shire (5.52%) and Queensland (8.66%).

2.10 Workforce



Workforce	Location (% of Workforce)			
	Region	Banana Shire	Taroom Shire	Queensland
% Unemployment	0.87%	2.4%	1.3%	4.8%
% Labour Force Participation	77.54%	69.7%	72.6%	61.8%
% Employment to Population	77.01%	68%	71.6%	58.9%

Figures are means of the listed medians for the Region's Census Collection Districts.

These figures indicate the following with respect to the workforce:

- The Region contained a **higher** proportion of the workforce employed full-time (74.85%) than Banana Shire (69.11%), Taroom Shire (73.73%) and Queensland (61.63%);
- The Region contained a **lower** proportion of the workforce employed part-time (18.16%) than Banana Shire (21.52%), Taroom Shire (20.22%) and Queensland (27.69%);
- The Region contained a **lower** proportion of the workforce unemployed and looking for work (0.87%) than Banana Shire (2.41%), Taroom Shire (1.33%) and Queensland (4.75%); and
- The Region contained a **higher** employment to population ratio (77.01%) than Banana Shire (68%), Taroom Shire (71.6%) and Queensland (58.9%).

2.11 Industry of Employment

Industry of Employment	Location (% of Households)			
	Region	Banana Shire	Taroom Shire	Queensland
Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing	67.45	17.55	54.33	3.38
Mining	4.39	16.07	1.27	1.68
Manufacturing	2.05	7.72	2.47	9.87
Electricity, gas, water & waste services	0	3.88	0.60	1.02
Construction	1.46	6.17	3.14	9.04
Wholesale trade	1.46	2.64	2.24	3.95
Retail trade	2.92	8.51	4.86	11.64
Accommodation & Food services	1.17	5.14	3.36	6.99
Transport, Postal & Warehousing	2.14	3.48	3.21	5.07
Information Media & Telecommunications	0	0.30	0	1.44
Financial & Insurance services	0.29	1.23	0.60	2.85
Rental, Hiring & Real Estate Services	0.29	1.04	0	2.08
Professional, Scientific & Technical Services	0.58	2.34	1.20	5.61
Administrative & Support Services	1.17	2.87	0.60	3.05
Public Administration & Safety	2.24	3.67	7.10	6.71
Education & Training	4.97	5.86	5.53	7.62
Health Care & Social Assistance	4.48	6.15	5.46	10.21
Arts & Recreation Services	0	0.13	0.45	1.35
Other Services	0.29	2.87	1.57	3.75
Not Stated	2.63	2.37	2.02	2.67

In 2006, the composition of the Region's workforce differed in comparison to Brisbane and Queensland in a number of industries. These differences are listed below:

- The proportion of people employed in agriculture in the Region (67.45%) was **considerably higher** than that of Banana Shire (17.55%), Taroom Shire (54.33%) and Queensland (3.38%);
- The proportion of people employed in mining in the Region (4.39%) was **higher** than that of Taroom Shire (1.27%) and Queensland (1.68%) and **lower** than that of Banana Shire (16.07%);
- The proportion of people employed in manufacturing in the Region (2.05%) was **lower** than that of Banana Shire (7.72%), Taroom Shire (2.47%) and Queensland (9.87%);
- The proportion of people employed in transport, postal and warehousing in the Region (2.14%) was **lower** than that of Banana Shire (3.48%), Taroom Shire (3.21%) and Queensland (5.07%);
- The proportion of people employed in accommodation and food services in the Region (1.17%) was **lower** than that of Banana Shire (5.14%), Taroom Shire (3.36%) and Queensland (6.99%);
- There were **no** people employed in information media and telecommunications in the Region and Taroom Shire, compared with 0.30% in Banana Shire and 1.44% in Queensland (1.44%);
- The proportion of people employed in financial and insurance services in the Region (0.29%) was **lower** than that of Banana Shire (1.23%), Taroom Shire (0.60%) and Queensland (2.85%);
- The proportion of people employed in professional, scientific and technical services in the Region (0.58%) was **lower** than that of Banana Shire (2.34%), Taroom Shire (1.20%) and Queensland (5.61%);
- The proportion of people employed in public administration and safety in the Region (2.24%) was **lower** than that of Banana Shire (3.67%), Taroom Shire (7.10%) and Queensland (6.71%);
- The proportion of people employed in health care and social assistance in the Region (4.48%) was **lower** than that of Banana Shire (6.15%), Taroom Shire (5.46%) and Queensland (10.21%); and
- There were **no** people employed in arts and recreation services in the Region, compared with 0.13% for Banana Shire, 0.45% for Taroom Shire, and 1.35% for Queensland.

These figures demonstrate that in 2006, the Region was characterised by higher proportions of people employed in agriculture and mining, and lower proportions of people employed in professional, health, public administration and safety services than Queensland. These figures indicate the dominance of the agricultural industry in the Region, and also the importance of the mining industry in Banana Shire.

2.12 Occupation

Occupation	Location (% of Workforce)			
	Region	Banana Shire	Taroom Shire	Queensland
Managers	55.06	20.14	45.70	12.37
Professionals	5.84	8.72	5.61	17.14
Technicians & Trades Workers	5.25	16.34	6.81	15.36
Community & Personal Service Workers	3.02	5.86	4.94	9.12
Clerical & Administrative Workers	7.39	9.47	6.43	14.75
Sales Workers	1.17	6.19	2.62	10.36

Occupation	Location (% of Workforce)			
	Region	Banana Shire	Taroom Shire	Queensland
Machinery Operators and Drivers	7.68	15.12	9.27	7.24
Labourers	13.23	16.38	17.28	11.90
Not Stated	1.36	1.78	1.35	1.76

In 2006, the Region contained a workforce with some significant differences to that of Brisbane and Queensland. These differences include:

- The proportion of managers in the Region (55.06%) was **considerably higher** than that of Banana Shire (20.14%), Taroom Shire (45.70%), and Queensland (12.37%);
- The proportion of machinery operators and drivers in the Region (7.68%) was **similar** to that of Queensland (7.24%), and lower than that of Banana Shire (15.12%) and Taroom Shire (9.27%);
- The proportion of labourers in the Region (13.23%) was **higher** than that of Queensland (11.9%), and lower than that of Banana Shire (16.38%) and Taroom Shire (17.28%);
- The proportion of technicians and trades workers in the Region (5.25%) was **lower** than that of Banana Shire (16.34%), Taroom Shire (6.81%) and Queensland (15.36%);
- The proportion of professionals in the workforce of the Region (5.84%) was **considerably lower** than that of Queensland (17.14%), and marginally lower than that of Banana Shire (8.72%), and similar to that of Taroom Shire (5.61%);
- The proportion of sales workers in the Region (1.17%) was **considerably lower** than that of Banana Shire (6.19%) and Queensland (10.36%), and marginally lower than that of Taroom Shire (2.62%); and
- The proportion of clerical and administrative workers in the Region (7.39%) was **lower** than that of Banana Shire (9.47%) and Queensland (14.75%), and slightly higher than that of Taroom Shire (6.43%).

These figures show that in 2006, the Region contained higher proportions of blue collar workers, and lower proportions of white collar workers than Queensland. The relatively high proportion of managers is likely to be a reflection of the number of people who manage their own agricultural businesses.

2.13 Method of Travel to Work

Method of Travel to Work	Location (% of Population)			
	Region	Banana Shire	Taroom Shire	Queensland
Train	0	0	0	1.99
Bus	0.69	3.03	0.60	2.88
Car (as driver)	34.65	52.22	36.18	60.09
Car (as passenger)	1.58	8.08	3.40	6.79
Truck	1.97	1.38	2.04	1.61
Motorbike/Scooter	0.69	1.05	1.13	1.11

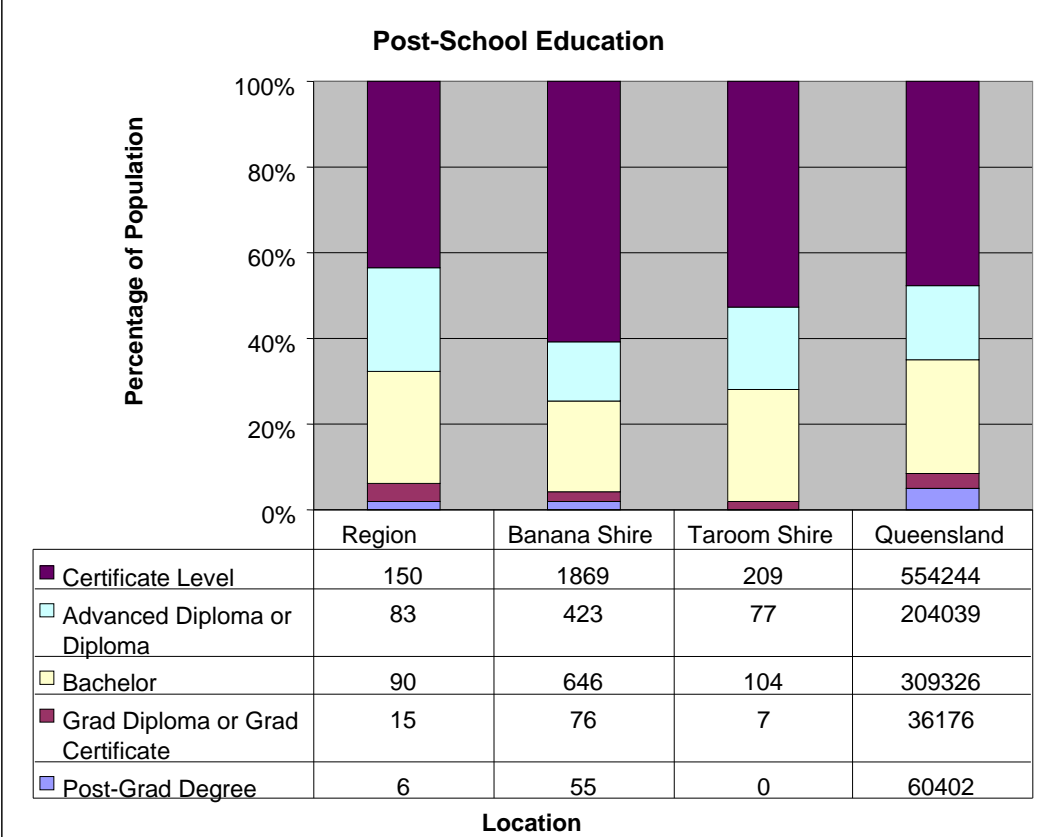
Method of Travel to Work	Location (% of Population)			
	Region	Banana Shire	Taroom Shire	Queensland
Bicycle	0	1.07	0.53	1.13
Walk only	2.86	7.36	13.97	4.02
Two methods (including train)	0	0	0	1.02
Two methods (including bus)	0	0.09	0.30	0.37
Three methods	0.30	0.06	0	0.19
Work at home	38.80	11.75	31.65	5.16
Don't go to work	6.91	10.51	6.19	10.88
Not stated	2.96	2.02	1.59	1.69

The statistics concerning method of travel to work for the Region reflects the relative lack of public transport infrastructure in the Region. From the table, it is possible to conclude that in 2006:

- The proportion of people travelling to work as the driver of a car in the Region (34.65%) was **lower** than that of Banana Shire (52.22%), Taroom Shire (36.18%) and Queensland (60.09%);
- No people rode a bicycle to work in the Region, compared with 1.07% in Banana Shire, 0.53% in Taroom Shire, and 1.13% in Queensland;
- The proportion of people working at home in the Region (38.80%) was **considerably higher** than that of Banana Shire (11.75%), Taroom Shire (31.65%) and Queensland (5.16%);
- No people travelled to work by train in the Region, Banana Shire and Taroom Shire, compared with that of Queensland (1.99%);
- The proportion of people travelling to work by bus in the Region (0.69%) was **lower** than that of Banana Shire (3.03%) and Queensland (2.88%), and similar to that of Taroom Shire (0.60%); and
- The proportion of people walking to work in the Region (2.86%) was **lower** than that of Banana Shire (7.36%), Taroom Shire (13.97%) and Queensland (4.02%).

These figures suggest that reliance on the motor vehicle for travelling to work in the Region was lower than it was in the wider areas of Banana Shire, Taroom Shire and Queensland. The figures also reflect the relative lack of public transport infrastructure in the Region. Furthermore, lower proportions of people cycling and walking to work suggests that places of employment are a greater distance from the place of residence, or that facilities are not provided to encourage such commuting. The considerably higher proportion of people working at home in the Region is likely to be a reflection of the number of people who work on their own agricultural properties.

2.14 Post-School Education



These figures suggest the following about post-secondary school education:

- The Region contained a **lower** proportion of people over 15 with post-graduate degrees (0.45%) than Banana Shire (0.54%) and Queensland (1.95%);
- The Region contained a **higher** proportion of people over 15 with a graduate diploma or graduate certificate (1.12%) than Banana Shire (0.75%) and Taroom Shire (0.37%), and a similar proportion to Queensland (1.17%);
- The Region contained a **lower** proportion of people over 15 with a bachelor degree (6.70%) than Queensland (9.98%), a similar proportion to Banana Shire (6.38%), and a higher proportion than Taroom Shire (5.56%);
- The Region contained a **higher** proportion of people of 15 with an advanced diploma or a diploma (6.18%) than Banana Shire (4.17%) and Taroom Shire (4.11%), and a similar proportion to Queensland (6.59%); and
- The Region contained a **lower** proportion of people over 15 with a certificate level qualification (11.16%) than Banana Shire (18.44%) and Queensland (17.89%), and a similar proportion to Taroom Shire (11.16%).

3.0 Community Profiles

The following section describes towns according to each of the following elements:

- **Economic Base:** The economic base of the Region is a reflection of historical development. The towns throughout the Region are predominantly service centres for the surrounding agricultural industries, with mining also prevalent in some areas;
- **Property and Housing:** The property and housing of the Region is generally stable and have been held by farming families over a number of decades. In some areas the housing and property market is experiencing growth due to external investors such as mining companies;
- **Services and Facilities:** There are varied levels of services and facilities within the Region including, but not limited to:
 - Public health facilities located in selected townships;
 - Varying degrees of education facilities;
 - A range of local government and public services; and
 - Varying type, quantity and availability or accommodation.

3.1 Hierarchy of Township

Banana Shire's administrative centre is Biloela, which has over 5,000 residents, and supports three Callide Power Stations, the Callide Coal Mine, and Teys Meatworks. Moura, Theodore and Baralaba are the three other sizable urban centres in Banana Shire. In addition to containing the second-largest wheat dump in Queensland, Moura also has significant infrastructure such as the Queensland Cotton Gin, Queensland Ammonium Nitrate Plant, and Moura Coal Mine. Theodore is located in the Dawson Valley, and contains a diverse rural sector, with the main industry being cotton. The town also contains a Boral Hardwood processing plant, which is one of the largest mills in Queensland. Other smaller towns within Banana Shire include Goovigen, Jambin, Wowan, Dululu, Cracow, Banana and Thangool.

As the administrative centre of the shire, Biloela is also the primary service centre and provides the population with the largest range of public services, infrastructure, and facilities. Biloela contains a shopping centre complex, and higher-order goods and services. Other towns in Banana Shire located within, or close to the Region are Moura, Theodore and Cracow. Moura and Theodore are "second-tier" towns, providing a range of goods and services that is more limited than that provided by Biloela. For any higher-order goods and services, residents of these towns are likely to travel the relatively short distance to Biloela when required (approximately 115 km from Moura, and 107 km from Theodore). Cracow is a small township at the southern extent of Banana Shire. Very few goods and services are provided for residents in and around the town. It is likely that residents travel the 51km to Theodore for middle-range goods and services, and the 157 km to Biloela for higher-order goods and services. Similarly, the town of Banana is relatively small, and provides few services and facilities for its population. Middle-range goods and services are likely to be accessed by driving 20 km to Moura, whilst higher-order goods and services are likely to be accessed by driving 80km to Biloela. School students from Theodore and Banana who wish to complete their senior schooling are typically able to enrol in Moura State High School or Biloela State High School for grades 11 and 12, as the schools in Theodore and Banana only cater for students from pre-school to grade 10.

Taroom Shire comprises two townships – Taroom and Wandoan. Taroom acts as the administrative centre for the shire, providing public services, infrastructure and facilities that are comparable to those provided in Theodore. People living in and around Theodore are likely to travel the 130km south to Miles in order to access higher-order goods and services. Wandoan is a small service centre which is slightly smaller than Taroom.

Similar to the residents of Taroom, the residents of Wandoan are likely to travel the 70 km to Miles in order to access higher-order goods and services. Anecdotal evidence suggests that school students from Taroom and Wandoan who wish to complete their senior schooling typically enrol for grades 11 and 12 in Miles, as the state schools in both of these towns only caters for pre-schoolers to grade 10.

3.2 Wandoan

Wandoan is located approximately 40 km south of Taroom, and is the smaller of the two townships within the current Taroom Shire (approximately 450 residents), acting as a convenient stop for travellers between Miles and Taroom. Wandoan is primarily a small service centre which provides support for those working in the surrounding industries which include cattle, wheat, sorghum and timber. The town is steeped in pioneering history, the foundations of which are represented at the Juandah Historical Site (Juandah was the town's original name), and anecdotal evidence suggests that many of the current population display an ongoing connection to the town's early European history. The town's grain silos dominate the visual landscape almost everywhere within the town. With the proposed coal mine being a large talking point among the people of Wandoan, there is an unmistakable air of expectancy throughout the township, a feeling that something big is on the verge of happening.

Economic Base

The industries surrounding Wandoan include cattle, wheat sorghum and timber. The presence of these is noticeable in the town, which contains cattle saleyards, a timber mill, and a skyline dominated by large grain silos.

Property and Housing

With the distinct possibility of the Wandoan Coal Mine going ahead in the coming years, the property market in Wandoan is experiencing solid growth. There are limited residential properties for sale in the township, and those that are for sale are invariably being bought by investors from the city or interstate at prices unfathomable to the current community. Recently an unliveable house was purchased by such an investor at auction for \$146,000. Currently the only houses on the market in Wandoan are a run down four-bedroom house listed at \$200,000, and a three-bedroom house listed at \$260,000.

Anecdotally, rural properties around Wandoan are invariably purchased by the owners of the neighbouring properties who want to increase their land holdings. The rental market in Wandoan is at complete capacity, with real estate agents saying that a set of flats are currently being renovated to be leased at \$500 per week (presumably taking the opportunity away from the majority of the community to rent there, and to be solely marketed to miners). There is an industrial subdivision in Wandoan which is mostly sold, with only a handful of lots remaining on the market.

The only short-term accommodation in Wandoan is provided at the Accommodation Park and the Hotel Motel. Anecdotal evidence suggests that it is not an unusual occurrence for all short-term accommodation to be completely booked out between Miles and Biloela.

Services and Facilities

Public Health

The township of Wandoan contains basic health care facilities, including a doctor, outpatients' clinic and pharmacy. The Wandoan Outpatients Clinic is a basic facility for the local population. In the 2005/2006 financial year, the clinic recorded 2,601 consultations (HIC 2007). The doctor at Wandoan also services the township of Taroom, so essentially there exists one part-time doctor in the town. Dental and optical services are not available within Wandoan.

Education

The township of Wandoan has a State primary school which caters for students from prep to grade 10. As previously indicated, students from these towns wishing to complete senior school typically enrol with Miles State High School.

Local Government and Public Services

As the smaller of the two towns within Taroom Shire, Wandoan does not currently have any local government administrative services. However, with the impending amalgamations, Wandoan is to become part of the Dalby Regional Council, and Taroom is to become part of Banana Shire Council. As such, Taroom Shire is currently attempting to set up a small administrative facility at Wandoan in order to help the amalgamation process run smoothly in the area. Other public services within

Wandoan include a Queensland Government Agency office, police station, fire station, and Taroom Shire Council works depot.

Accommodation

Wandoan contains an accommodation park (with 38 rooms) and a hotel/motel with limited accommodation.

Other Community Service and Facilities

Wandoan has some other community services and facilities available for the public. These include a post office, Lifeline/Meals on Wheels service, the Wandoan Golf Club, showgrounds, a cultural centre, and the Wandoan Saleyards.

3.3 Taroom

Situated on the Dawson River, approximately 40 km west of the Project, the township of Taroom is the other town in the Taroom Shire (approximately 650 residents). Taroom is renowned for high quality beef cattle, prime hard wheat, other grain crops and forestry products. Being the administrative centre of the Taroom Shire, the town is approximately 1.5 times larger than Wandoan, and this is reflected in the slightly wider range of services and social infrastructure available to the population in the town.

Economic Base

Taroom is based around a similar economic foundation to Wandoan, including high quality beef cattle, prime hard wheat, other grain crops and forestry products.

Property and Housing

The property market in Taroom has not experienced the same degree of growth as Wandoan has recently. There are a handful of residences for sale, and a slightly larger number of rural properties for sale. A four-bedroom property is listed at \$150,000, and rentals for two-bedroom flats are at \$100 per week (unfurnished) and \$120 per week (fully furnished).

Services and Facilities

Public Health

Public health facilities within Taroom include a doctor, hospital and pharmacy. As previously mentioned, this doctor services both the Taroom and Wandoan townships. This effectively means that both towns have a part-time doctor service. The Taroom Hospital contains medical, surgical, outpatients, accident and emergency services, in addition to a flying surgeon. Antenatal and dental clinics are available, as well as a range of allied health services, including optometry, physiotherapy and radiography. A child health nurse regularly visits the hospital for consultations. With respect to aged care, the hospital provides for long-stay patients, respite and community care packages. In the 2005/2006 financial year, the hospital admitted 266 patients, and non-admission activity was 2,284 consultations (HIC 2007).

Education

The township of Taroom has State primary schools which cater for students from Prep to Grade 10. As previously indicated, students from these towns wishing to complete senior school typically enrol with Miles State High School.

Local Government and Public Services

Taroom is currently the administrative centre of the Taroom Shire, and as such, contains the Taroom Shire Council Chambers. In addition to this, other public services include a Taroom Shire Council works depot, police station, court house, fire station, and an ambulance station.

Accommodation

Taroom contains Country Rest Cabins, Cattle Camp Motel, the Leichhardt Hotel/Motel, and a caravan park.

Other Community Service and Facilities

A number of other community services and facilities are provided in Taroom. These include a post office, State Emergency Service, a town hall, retirement centre, showgrounds, racecourse, swimming pool, tennis centre and bowls club.

3.4 Cracow

Once a larger and prosperous community, Cracow (located in the Banana Shire approximately 4km east of the proposed alignment) is now (approximately 120 residents) a virtual ghost town, and only a fraction of the size it was during its boom years when Golden Plateau NL Company operated the gold mine between 1936 and 1976. The community was given a lease on life when the mine was reopened in 2003, and there is hope within the community that the town may once again be a thriving centre in the future. The town has a limited range of services

Economic Base

Cracow has little economic base due to the loss of the Gold mine, the recently reopened Coal mine has helped re-establish an economic base for the area.

Property and Housing

The famous Cracow Hotel is a central focus for the community, while other historic and non-historic buildings remain deserted and vacant.

Services and Facilities

Public Health

As it currently resembles a “ghost town”, the health care facilities that once were present in Cracow are there no longer. The town contains an outpatients clinic, which is an outpost of the Theodore Hospital. Every Thursday afternoon, one doctor and one nurse are present at the facility to tend to any locals who may require a consultation with a medical professional.

Education

There are no education facilities within Cracow.

Local Government and Public Services

The only public service provided in the township of Cracow is a rural fire brigade. Other services once existed in the town, however these are no longer present since the interest in gold mining in the area decreased.

Accommodation

Cracow contains a hotel/motel and a caravan park.

Other Community Service and Facilities

Within the township of Cracow, other community facilities include a community centre and tennis courts.

3.5 Theodore

Located on the Dawson River, approximately 15 km west of the Project, Theodore (approximately 500 residents) is an important service centre for the irrigation and agricultural industries of the surrounding areas. Cotton is the major crop in the area, and dryland crops include wheat, sorghum and mung beans. These cropping activities utilise the low-lying nature of the land in and around Theodore which is characterised by black, fertile soils. The sizes of properties surrounding Theodore are reflective of its extensive crop production, with a considerably higher number of smaller parcels compared with many other towns throughout the Region.

A sawmill and numerous cattle breeding studs are also located in Theodore. Compared with surrounding rural towns, Theodore provides a relatively wide range of services.

Theodore is famous for two main reasons. Firstly, it is said that prior to designing Canberra, Walter Burley Griffin designed the architectural layout of Theodore, with a distinct palm-lined main street

which bisects the town by travelling the entire distance through the middle, before coming to a large roundabout with a water tower and large park. Secondly, the Theodore Hotel is one of only two co-operative hotels in Australia – owned and run by many of the local residents.

Economic Base

Theodore is situated on low-lying, highly fertile black soils, and as such, extensive crop production is undertaken in the surrounding areas. Cotton is the major crop in the areas surrounding Theodore, and dry-land crops include wheat, sorghum and mung beans. Theodore also contains a sawmill and numerous cattle-breeding studs.

Property and Housing

The future mining pursuits throughout the area, and associated projects, are not likely to have a large impact upon Theodore, as it is already a town thriving on the value and quality of its irrigation and agricultural industries. Should any increase in growth occur in Theodore, it is likely that the new residential area would be located along a ridgeline across the Dawson River. Theodore promotes that it is an “RV-Friendly” town, and Junction Park (located at the confluence of Castle Creek and the Dawson River) provides showers and amenities for travellers.

Services and Facilities

Public Health

Theodore contains a solid base of public health care facilities, including a doctor, part-time dentist, hospital and pharmacy. Theodore is a single doctor town (one full-time doctor, one doctor part-time at one day per week), and the general practice doctor service is a part of the larger Theodore Hospital. The hospital contains medical, surgical, paediatric, obstetric, accident, emergency, palliative care, radiography, pharmaceutical and outpatients services. Drug and alcohol, child health, dental, physiotherapy, speech and occupational therapy services are provided on a part-time (visiting) basis. Aged care includes a multipurpose health service, respite care and community care. Equipment at the surgery includes an x-ray unit, ultrasound, slit lamp, computerised ECG, and audiometer. In the financial year 2005/2006, the hospital admitted 318 patients, while non-admission activity was 1,372 consultations. The average annual number of inpatients is 300, with an average of 30 deliveries and 30 operations per year. Surgeries such as Caesarean sections are performed with the assistance of doctors from neighbouring towns. The local hospital has 9 beds, with an additional 4 beds for the nursing home component.

Education

Theodore has a school which cater for students from prep to grade 10. Five independent bus services transport approximately one third of the Theodore State School's students to school from the surrounding areas, including some near Cracow. Students wishing to complete senior schooling in these towns are likely to enrol at Moura State High School to do so.

Local Government and Public Services

Theodore contains a number of local government and public services. These include State Government offices, a branch of the Banana Shire Council library, police station, fire brigade, and ambulance station.

Accommodation

The Theodore Hotel/Motel contains typical motel accommodation, as well as newly-constructed self-contained demountable cabins by the Dawson River. Also located in Theodore is a camping area for people with mobile homes to stay overnight.

Other Community Service and Facilities

Other community services and facilities within Theodore include an RSL Hall, folk museum, State Emergency Service, retirement village, post office, bowls club, swimming pool, tennis courts, sport and recreation centre, youth centre and showgrounds.

3.6 Banana

Banana is a small, historic township at the northern end of the preferred alignment, located at the junction of the Dawson and Leichhardt Highways. The town derives its name not from any banana industry, but from a legendary bull named Banana, and this is the naming basis for the Banana Shire Council, which comprises 11 towns in total – of which Biloela is the administrative centre. Banana has a large base of cattle grazing, breeding and fattening activities, and grain production is also prevalent in the area.

Economic Base

The township of Banana is based on a large foundation of cattle grazing, breeding and fattening activities, and also grain production.

Property and Housing

Approximately a quarter of the housing within Banana is rented, meaning the town has a high portion of renters in comparison to towns within the area.

Those houses that are being purchased have an average of less than \$800 per month repayment. The average house price is approximately \$400,000.

Services and Facilities

Public Health

The township of Banana contains no public health care facilities. Locals seeking such facilities are required to use those within Moura and Biloela.

Education

Banana has a school which caters for students from prep to grade 10.

Local Government and Public Services

The town of Banana contains limited public services. These include a rural fire brigade, and a mobile branch of the Banana Shire Council library.

Accommodation

Banana contains a hotel/motel and a caravan park

Other Community Service and Facilities

Banana contains a limited number of other community services and facilities, including a post office, town hall, and model aero club.

3.7 Moura

Moura is a town located approximately 20 km south-west of Banana (approximately 1,980 residents). The town has a diverse industry base – it is a major cattle centre, and also produces coal, cotton, wheat, sorghum, sunflower and grain. Located in Moura are the Queensland Cotton Gin, the Queensland Ammonium Nitrate Plant, and the Moura Coal Mine. Social infrastructure within Moura services the outlying industries.

Moura and Biloela play an important role in the Surat Basin region, by offering higher order services and social infrastructure than some of the surrounding towns in the area. Many students attending the schools at Theodore and Taroona complete their senior schooling years (grades 11 and 12) at Moura or Biloela.

Economic Base

Moura is a major cattle centre, also produces coal, cotton, wheat, sorghum, sunflower and grain. Located in Moura are the Queensland Cotton Gin, the Queensland Ammonium Nitrate Plant, and the Moura Coal Mine.

Property and Housing

Moura has a high proportion of unoccupied dwellings and those that are occupied are generally fully owned by the occupant. The average house price is less than \$300,000.

Services and Facilities

Public Health

Moura contains a doctor, part-time dentist, hospital and pharmacy. The Moura Dawson Medical Practice provide general practitioner services for the local community. Moura Hospital contains medical, surgical, paediatric, accident and emergency, radiography, pharmaceutical and palliative care services. Visiting services include obstetrics and gynaecology, mental health, drug and alcohol, child health, dental, physiotherapy, and speech and occupational therapy. Aged services include respite care. The hospital contains 14 beds, and in the 2004/2005 financial year, the number of admissions was 436, and the number of non-admission consultations was 4,208.

Education

Moura has a state primary school and state high school, and plays a major role in the education of children in senior high school years within the Region. Students wishing to complete senior schooling from surrounding towns are likely to enrol at Moura State High School to do so.

Local Government and Public Services

Moura contains various local government and public services, including a Centrelink office, Queensland Government Agency offices, Banana Shire Council Chambers, a branch of the Banana Shire Council library, community resource centre, Legal Aid Queensland offices, police station, fire brigade and ambulance station.

Accommodation

Moura provides only very little accommodation having a small caravan park and two motels.

Other Community Service and Facilities

There are various other community services and facilities provided in Moura. These include a retirement village, State Emergency Service, special education service, memorial club, bowls club, swimming pool and golf club.

3.8 Biloela

Biloela (approximately 5750 residents) is the administrative centre of the Banana Shire Council, located to the north-east of the Project. As the administrative centre of the shire, Biloela is also the primary service centre and provides the population with the largest range of public services, infrastructure, and facilities. Biloela contains a shopping centre complex, and higher-order goods and services.

Economic Base

Biloela is a well-established business centre for the Banana Shire, situated at the intersection of the Dawson and Burnett Highways. As the administrative centre for the region, the economic foundation of Biloela is diverse and includes coal mining in the Callide Coalfields, and agricultural production such as sorghum, wheat, cotton, and cattle grazing.

Property and Housing

Biloela has a high portion of rental housing with low rental charges (generally less than \$200 per month). Those houses that are owned or are being purchased are generally in an affordable price range. Housing prices range quite substantially in Biloela with from less \$100,000 to more than \$500,000.

Services and Facilities

Public Health

Reflecting its role within the region, Biloela provides a significant level of public health facilities for the local community. This includes doctors surgeries, dentists, pharmacies and a hospital. Biloela

Hospital contains medical, surgical, paediatric, obstetric, accident and emergency, palliative care, and radiography facilities. The hospital also provides a wide range of services, including dental, midwifery, antenatal (weekly), venesection (weekly), women's health (second-monthly), Red Cross (monthly), physiotherapy, speech and occupational therapy, social work, child health, community health, Aboriginal health, and dental and allied health. Aged services include long stay and respite residential care. In the 2004/2005 financial year, Biloela Hospital had 1,493 admissions, and 15,228 non-admission consultations.

Education

Biloela has a state primary school, and state high school. In addition, Biloela contains Redeemer Lutheran Primary School and St Joseph's Catholic Primary School. Mount Murchison State Primary School and Prospect Creek State Primary School are two small schools located on the periphery of Biloela. With respect to tertiary education, the town also has the Callide-Dawson TAFE Campus, which is a branch of the larger Gladstone TAFE operation. At the Biloela campus, courses are offered in business studies.

Local Government and Public Services

There is a variety of local government and public services available for residents of Biloela. These include the Banana Shire Council Chambers, various Queensland Government Agency offices, the Banana Shire Council library, Banana Shire Art Gallery Association, Banana Shire Community Arts Association, police station, fire brigade and ambulance station.

Accommodation

Biloela provides the largest supply of accommodation. This includes ten motels and motor inns, and four caravan parks.

Other Community Service and Facilities

Biloela contains numerous other community services and facilities. These include State Emergency Services, veteran's welfare services, special education service, Anglicare Central Queensland, Australian Breastfeeding Association – Biloela Group, Meals on Wheels service, child care centre, vet clinic, Blue Care, Community Employment Options office and Wahroonga Retirement Village. Biloela also contains a variety of clubs, including a hack and pony club, swimming club, karate club, auto club, motorcycle club bowls club, golf club, inline hockey club, cricket club, athletic club, netball association, rugby league club, rugby union club, soccer club, pistol club and darts association.