

Local plan for Mitchell, Dunkeld, Begonia and District

This local community plan is a direction-setting document with objectives setting out “what” the district communities, businesses, government agencies and Council propose for Mitchell, Dunkeld, Begonia and District.

Action plans will set out “how” the objectives are to be achieved. They are separate documents. Action plans are prepared when people, organisations, businesses or governments are ready to provide leadership and allocates resources to a project. The objectives in the local plan are to be read in conjunction with Maranoa region-wide objectives (refer to the Maranoa region-wide strategies for Business & Industry, Tourism, Arts & Culture, Sport & Recreation and community lifestyle in the Maranoa Economic and Community Plan).

Because the objectives in this local plan have community support, the objectives can be used by local organisations and businesses to support applications for grants and other funding.

Adopted on 26 July 2018 by Maranoa Regional Council on behalf of its regional and local communities.
Council Resolution No. GM/07.2018/01

Local plan for Mitchell, Dunkeld, Begonia and District

The Mitchell, Dunkeld, Begonia and district has a rich history and strong Indigenous community bonds. The district economies are based on agricultural industries, primarily livestock, grain, timber and gas. Tourism retains its growth potential, as part of a visitor economy that encompasses sporting events, heritage, indigenous culture and recreational activities. The expansion of gas industry activity is starting to occur.

The district has a rich indigenous history with the Yumba indigenous culture facility having a central role in presenting the Gunggari peoples' culture to a wide audience.

Features of Mitchell and the surrounding district are its agriculture, Mitchell Artesian Spa, Yumba indigenous culture facility and its bushranger sites and stories. Mitchell positions itself as the gateway to the outback. The Neil Turner Weir near Mitchell is one of the two large waterbodies in the Maranoa region which are capable of supporting a wide range of water-oriented recreational activities.

To anchor Mitchell as a major Outback destination, it is the proposed location for a bushranger and cattle duffing experiential museum, using the old Mitchell Courthouse as its base.

Mitchell is the service centre for the surrounding districts, including the Mungallala and Amby districts. The services provided in Mitchell reflect its one hour drive time from the Maranoa regional centre of Roma. The Mitchell CBD will benefit from a stronger focus on tourism.

Health, education, Council and government services, transport, timber and accommodation are major employers in Mitchell. A Corrective Services workcamp provides support for community projects.

The Dunkeld State School, Dunkeld Hall, and adjacent recreation areas (including the golf course and pony club) are anchors for the surrounding grazing community.

The Begonia community sits on the Mitchell St George Road and the Maranoa River which flows through Mitchell. It is oriented towards Roma, St George and Mitchell for its services and social connections.

Many of the broader aims for the Mitchell, Dunkeld and Begonia district local communities are set out in the Maranoa-wide objectives contained in the Maranoa Economic and Community Plan. This Mitchell, Dunkeld and Begonia district local plan sets out those local objectives which are specific to the Mitchell, Dunkeld and Begonia district community. These local objectives provide the framework for local action plans.

NOTE:

References to the "Maranoa region" in this document refer to the Maranoa Regional Council Area as defined by the Queensland Government.

OBJECTIVES

What we want to achieve

Community Life

What we want to achieve...

1.1

Together, we will continue to ensure that the Mitchell, Dunkeld and Begonia district communities, as part of the Maranoa region, is well known for its friendly, relaxed and welcoming community spirit and where every resident is a valued respected member of the community

To achieve these aims, the Mitchell, Dunkeld and Begonia district communities support the Community Life objectives in the Maranoa Economic and Community Plan.

Specific Community Life objectives for the Mitchell, Dunkeld and Begonia district communities are set out below:

1.1.1

The following precincts and places continue to be the focal points of local community activities:

- Mitchell CBD
- Mitchell Memorial Hall precinct
- Mitchell Memorial Park
- Mitchell on Maranoa Gallery and library complex
- Mitchell CWA hall
- Mitchell Youth Hub and skate park
- Mitchell schools
- Mitchell Early Childhood Education Centre
- Mitchell churches
- Mitchell Masonic Lodge
- Great Artesian Spa
- Mitchell swimming pool
- Mitchell Golf and Bowls Clubs
- Mitchell Racecourse
- Mitchell Showground
- RSL and Combined Sports Complex
- Yumba
- Booringa Heritage Museum
- Neil turner Weir and Rotary Park
- Fishermans Rest
- Dunkeld Golf Course, community hall and school
- Begonia community hall and school
- SES and Rural Fire Brigades

1.1.2	<p>The following events continue to be a highlight of Mitchell, Dunkeld and Begonia district community activities and opportunities for wider social engagement between residents and visitors in Mitchell, Dunkeld and Begonia district, notably:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICPA swag camp (at hall and artesian spa) • Australia Day, • Anzac Day • Remembrance Day • Mitchell Show • Senior, Youth, Mental Health weeks participation • Biggest Morning Tea • Mitchell Races • Mitchell Camel and Pig Races • BAG New Years Eve Event • Mitchell Rodeo • Tooloombilla campdraft and rodeo • Dunkeld Golf Weekend • Pony Club shield days • Mungallala tennis camp for kids • Christmas Tree and Christmas in Park – Mitchell and Dunkeld • Melbourne Cup Day • NAIDOC week • Big Fishing Competition (focussed on carp removal) • Mitchell Triathlon • Little Athletics Championship • Small Schools Athletics Carnival • St Patrick School fete • Paint the Town REaD - school, council and business • School holiday program • Market Day - BAG • QCWA Mitchell Markets • Quilts and Craft in the Woolshed • Blue Light Disco
1.1.3	<p>Mitchell, Dunkeld and Begonia district communities members continue to engage in events in Roma, Mitchell and elsewhere as part of the Maranoa community</p>
1.2	<p>Together we will continue to create an environment where our older residents are safe, secure, valued, included and continue to actively participate in community life</p>

To achieve these aims, the Mitchell, Dunkeld and Begonia district communities support the Community Life objectives for older residents in the Maranoa Economic and Community Plan.

Specific Community Life objectives for older residents of the community are set out below, acknowledging that most specialists and high care accommodation services are in Roma:

1.2.1	Council and the Mitchell, Dunkeld and Begonia district communities review disabled or mobility restricted access to the halls, recreation and tourist facilities and other key areas of Mitchell, Dunkeld and Begonia district
1.2.2	Mitchell maintains its capacity to provide aged care extending from independent living accommodation to high care.
1.2.3	Mitchell aged care providers extend and enhance partnerships with providers in Roma and Injune to expand the range of options available to aging Mitchell and district residents.
1.3	Together, we will continue to create an environment where our children and young people are cared for, safe, actively engaged, and have access to support networks and developmental pathways which will encourage and stimulate them to reach their full potential.

To achieve these aims, the Mitchell, Dunkeld and Begonia district communities support the Community Life objectives for children and younger people in the Maranoa Economic and Community Plan.

Specific Community Life objectives for children and younger people of the Mitchell, Dunkeld and Begonia district communities are set out below, acknowledging that most activities and education services are in Roma:

1.3.1	Mitchell, Dunkeld and Begonia district communities continues to integrate and mentor young people in local Mitchell, Dunkeld and Begonia district organisations
1.3.2	Mitchell, Dunkeld and Begonia district communities continue to provide opportunities for young people to actively participate and have roles and responsibilities in local community events

<p>1.3.3</p>	<p>The following areas continue to be enhanced as spaces that welcome and engage children and young people:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mitchell on Maranoa Gallery and library complex • Mitchell Youth Hub and skate park • Mitchell schools • Mitchell Early Childhood Education Centre • Mitchell churches • Great Artesian Spa • Mitchell swimming pool • RSL and Combined Sports Complex • Yumba • Neil turner Weir and Rotary Park • Fishermans Rest • Dunkeld Golf Course, community hall and school • Begonia community hall and school • SES and Rural Fire Brigades
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1.4 Together, we will continue to ensure that the Mitchell, Dunkeld and Begonia district communities, as part of the Maranoa region, helps create local and regional communities that are proud of their heritage, culturally dynamic, nurture inspiring artistic expression and stimulate viable creative enterprises.

To achieve these aims, the Mitchell, Dunkeld and Begonia district communities support the “Community Life” objectives for arts and culture in the Maranoa-wide Arts and Culture Strategy and the Maranoa-wide Community Pan.

Specific “Community Life” objectives for arts and culture in the Mitchell, Dunkeld and Begonia district communities are set out below:

<p>1.4.1</p>	<p>Local heritage and cultural groups continue to preserve, present and share local history and cultural assets with residents and visitors as part of the wider social activities across the Maranoa region.</p>
<p>1.4.2</p>	<p>Inclusion of public art in open spaces within the local communities which convey the essence and character of the community</p>

<p>1.4.3</p>	<p>The heritage and cultural precincts and history and culture assets in Mitchell, Dunkeld and Begonia district continue to be progressively enhanced, in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amazing Gates • Mitchell CBD • Booringa Heritage Museum • Oral history at the library • The Archives • Picture theatre display at library • Maranoa Art Gallery • Mitchell Council library • Yumba Indigenous Cultural Centre • Signs and plaques • Kenniff Courthouse Museum • Artesian Spa and Memorial Hall • RSL Hall • Old pensioner Huts (as arts precinct) • Yumba Indigenous Cultural Centre • Mitchell State School precinct • Historical Railway & Steam Train Precinct • Mitchell war memorial and cenotaph • Mitchell cemetery • Major Mitchell campsite • Kenniff campsite
<p>1.4.4</p>	<p>The Mitchell, Dunkeld, and Begonia halls continue to be maintained as a sustainable centralised community hubs, providing spaces for learning, skill development, cultural activities and exhibitions (See 1.1.1)</p>
<p>1.4.5</p>	<p>The Mitchell, Dunkeld and Begonia district communities continue to present and participate in festivals and community events in Mitchell, Dunkeld and Begonia district and other places (See 1.1.2)</p>
<p>1.4.6</p>	<p>Enhance and extend existing heritage and cultural trails in the Mitchell, Dunkeld and Begonia district and strengthen their linkages to other trails</p>
<p>1.4.7</p>	<p>The Mitchell, Dunkeld and Begonia district communities continues to engage with arts and culture groups across the region to strengthen local arts and culture and to enhance the prospects of local commercially viable enterprises.</p>
<p>1.4.8</p>	<p>The Mitchell, Dunkeld and Begonia district communities continue to support the Regional Arts Development Fund, Council Community Grants and other grant programs as vital elements in the nurturing of the arts in regional communities.</p>
<p>1.4.9</p>	<p>Mitchell becomes the location for the establishment of a major bushranger and cattle duffing history and experience centre.</p>

Active, Healthy, Community

What we want to achieve...

2.1

Together, we will continue to enhance the delivery of a high standard of healthcare which is holistic, innovative and services the needs of all residents locally with an emphasis on preventative health programs

To achieve these aims, the Mitchell, Dunkeld and Begonia district communities support the "Active Healthy Community" objectives in the Maranoa Economic and Community Plan.

Specific "Healthy Community" objectives for the Mitchell, Dunkeld and Begonia district communities are set out below, acknowledging that most health services are in Roma, Toowoomba and Brisbane.

2.1.1

The Mitchell, Dunkeld and Begonia district communities support the enhancement of Mitchell Hospital and its allied health services and Charleville and Western Areas Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Health (CWAATSICH) as important and accessible local health services.

2.1.2

The Mitchell, Dunkeld and Begonia district communities support the enhancement of Roma as the regional hub for healthcare services, including dental, mental health, general, allied and specialist services.

2.1.3

Mitchell township and its district communities continue to enhance the town's appearance, district attractions and local lifestyles as part of a larger strategy to attract and retain health and other professionals in Mitchell, Injune and Roma.

2.2

Together, we will continue to positively contribute to community wellbeing through the provision of a diverse range of sporting and recreational opportunities, facilities and open spaces for all residents which encourage active lifestyle options and high levels of participation and facility utilisation

To achieve these aims, the Mitchell, Dunkeld and Begonia district communities support the "Active Healthy Community" objectives in the Maranoa Economic and Community Plan and the Maranoa- wide Sport and Recreation Strategy

Specific "Active Community" objectives for the Mitchell, Dunkeld and Begonia district communities are set out below, acknowledging that most major sport and recreation activities are in Roma and larger towns in the Maranoa region

2.2.1

Council, the Mitchell, Dunkeld and Begonia district communities and the regional community need to ensure that the development and implementation of integrated management plans for sports precincts across the Maranoa takes account of the needs of all communities in the Maranoa region.

2.2.2	Maintenance and enhancement of high grade multi-purpose recreational spaces for young people which are engaging, safe and encourage inter-generational interaction (See 1.3.3).
2.2.3	Council and the Mitchell community continue to define, develop and improve a network of walking paths and cycleways for Mitchell which will also serve as heritage and tourist walks.
2.2.4	Continue the installation and maintenance of appropriate directional and facility signage.
2.2.5	The Mitchell, Dunkeld and Begonia district communities ensures that their sport and recreation organisations, facilities and events are included in regional organisation lists and event calendars and up-to-date.

Naturally Sustainable Environment

What we want to achieve...

3.1

As part of the Maranoa regional community, the Mitchell, Dunkeld and Begonia district communities will continue to strive to conserve, restore and enhance the Maranoa’s natural environment and assets by engaging and empowering residents, businesses and industry to proactively seek out opportunities to reduce our ecological footprint at local level.

To achieve these aims, the Mitchell, Dunkeld and Begonia district communities support the “Naturally Sustainable Environment” objectives in the Maranoa Economic and Community Plan and the Maranoa-wide Business and Industry Strategy

Specific “Naturally Sustainable Environment” objectives for the Mitchell, Dunkeld and Begonia district communities are set out below, acknowledging that many environmental activities contribute to larger regional, state, national and global plans:

3.1.1

The Neil Turner Weir, Maranoa River and Yumba trails are enhanced as the core of a network of trails linking natural environment features in and around Mitchell.

3.1.2

Natural environment interpretive signs are incorporated on walking trails in the Mitchell, Dunkeld and Begonia district.

3.1.3

The Mitchell, Dunkeld and Begonia district communities support the enhancement of existing facilities and the development of new opportunities for residents and visitors to experience the natural and cultural wonders of Mt Moffatt (Carnarvon National Park) as well as the Maranoa River and Fishermans Rest.

3.1.4

To reduce the impacts of wild dogs on livestock, wild dog measures continue to be implemented, including use of exclusion fencing

3.1.5

Parthenium and other high impact weeds continue to be the target of control programs on stock routes and other lands.

3.1.6

Upgrade Mitchell refuse facility with more environmentally friendly and user friendly design that minimises its impacts on surrounding area.

Where we live

What we want to achieve...

4.1

Together, the Mitchell, Dunkeld and Begonia district communities, in conjunction with Council, government agencies and business, will continue to seek to provide a diverse and balanced supply of accommodation options which meet the lifecycle needs of existing and potential residents and where housing needs are met in safe, liveable, affordable, well planned and sustainable neighbourhoods

To achieve these aims, the Mitchell, Dunkeld and Begonia district communities support the “Housing and Neighbourhood” objectives in the Maranoa Economic and Community Plan, the Maranoa-wide Business and Industry Strategy and the Maranoa Planning Scheme

The Maranoa Planning Scheme sets out most of the factors that are to be considered in land use, including locations of housing, other forms of accommodation, industry, commerce and neighbourhood design

Specific “Housing and Neighbourhood” objectives for the Mitchell, Dunkeld and Begonia district communities are set out below, acknowledging that housing supply in Mitchell, Dunkeld and Begonia district is affected by the housing supply in Roma and wider economic, social and environmental considerations

4.1.1

Council and the Mitchell, Dunkeld and Begonia district communities assess housing supply and other accommodation in Mitchell, Dunkeld and Begonia district.

4.1.2

Aged care accommodation providers, government agencies, Council and the Mitchell, Dunkeld and Begonia district communities pursue options for maintaining and enhancing aged care accommodation in Mitchell (including scope for partnerships with services in Roma).

4.1.3

Council and the Mitchell community review the local place-making plan for Mitchell (with particular attention to the CBD and increasing shade, improving footpaths, connecting places and parking for larger vehicles and caravans)

4.1.4

Council and the Dunkeld and Begonia district communities develop place-making plans for Dunkeld, and Begonia (with particular attention to increasing identification of each local community)

4.1.5

In conjunction with the “Active Community” objective for trails, Council and the Mitchell district communities continue to define, develop and improve a network of walking paths and cycleways which improve connectivity and accessibility within the town while also serving as heritage and tourist walks.

4.1.6

Link the reviews of local place-making plans for Mitchell Dunkeld and Begonia and the trails networks to local tourism plans

4.1.7	The Crystal Lagoon proposal continue to be explored.
4.1.8	Local communities and Council use the Connected Futures local community planning tool to document and share local knowledge, options, project information about place-making strategies, trails, facilities and tourism plans
4.1.9	The Mitchell, Dunkeld and Begonia district communities use the Connected Futures community planning hub flood hazard mapping as a tool for helping the community consider flooding prevention and/or damage mitigation strategies
4.2	Together, the Mitchell, Dunkeld and Begonia district communities, Council and government agencies will continue to maintain and enhance public facilities and infrastructure which enhance the liveability of Mitchell, Dunkeld and Begonia district, as part of the Maranoa, so that the facilities and infrastructure are well utilised and service the existing and future needs of all residents in a balanced, timely, well planned and cost efficient manner.
<p>To achieve these aims, the Mitchell, Dunkeld and Begonia district communities support the “Public Facilities and Infrastructure” objectives in the Maranoa Economic and Community Plan, the Maranoa-wide Business and Industry Strategy and the Maranoa Regional Council Corporate Plan</p> <p>Specific “Public Facilities and Infrastructure” objectives for the Mitchell, Dunkeld and Begonia district communities are set out below, acknowledging that the availability of facilities and infrastructure in Mitchell, Dunkeld and Begonia district is influenced by the supply across the Maranoa region and wider economic, social and environmental considerations</p>	
4.2.1	In conjunction with the reviews of local place- making strategies for Mitchell, Dunkeld and Begonia, trails networks and the local tourism plans, identify and prioritise key public infrastructure improvements (particularly for local halls, shade, footpaths, street lighting, park facilities, parking and signage).
4.2.2	Local communities and Council use the Connected Futures local community planning tool to document and share local priorities for key public infrastructure improvements
4.2.3	Support continues for the Mitchell WORC Camp as an important and valued contributor to the quality of life in Mitchell through its work on local community projects.

Maranoa on the move

What we want to achieve...

5.1

Together, the Mitchell, Dunkeld and Begonia district communities, as part of the Maranoa regional community will continue to strive to provide the all regional communities with safe, accessible, reliable, sustainable, cost effective and affordable transport systems that are well connected and enables the efficient movement of people and products throughout the Maranoa and successfully integrates into regional, state and national transport network systems

To achieve these aims, the Mitchell, Dunkeld and Begonia district communities support the “Maranoa on the Move” transport objectives in the Maranoa Economic and Community Plan, the Maranoa-wide Business and Industry Strategy and the Maranoa Planning Scheme

Specific “Maranoa on the Move” transport objectives for the Mitchell, Dunkeld and Begonia district communities are set out below, acknowledging that the availability of transport infrastructure and services in Mitchell, Dunkeld and Begonia district is closely linked to those across the Maranoa region, Queensland and Australia

5.1.1

The Mitchell, Dunkeld and Begonia district communities support the further exploration by the Maranoa regional community, Council and business of alternative Uber-type flexible, affordable transport options for places like the Mitchell, Dunkeld and Begonia district

5.1.2

Review footpaths, trails and public facility access to identify and prioritise improvements to assist access by people with disabilities, parents with strollers and older residents.

5.1.3

Review parking opportunities for heavy vehicles, caravans and motorhomes in Mitchell (for safety and to encourage longer visits)

5.1.4

Review the speed limits through Mitchell (to 50 kph)

5.1.5

Review aviation services in Mitchell to identify ways to facilitate “visitor experiences” and create air links to Mitchell.

5.1.6

Review aviation services in Mitchell to identify ways to facilitate “visitor experiences” and create air links to Mitchell.

5.1.7

Examine increased packaging of Qld Rail passenger services with rental cars, return sector flights, accommodation and tours to improve viability of rail service (as a regional asset).

5.1.8	Manage the district road network so that all local roads are maintained and renewed in accordance with asset management plans that adhere to road standards in accordance with road use.
5.1.9	Improve road access from Mitchell to Mt Moffatt and other national parks to facilitate tourism (especially for indigenous cultural tourism, including rock art).
5.1.10	Complete widening of Mitchell St George Road between Mitchell and St George.
5.1.11	Improve road access to key forest harvesting areas for safety and for the sustainability of both the timber industry and the agricultural properties which are affected by the road damage caused by logging vehicles.

Foundations of the future

What we want to achieve...

6.1

The Mitchell, Dunkeld and Begonia district communities will continue to work with the Maranoa regional community to enhance learning and skill development pathways which are innovative, locally accessible to all residents, address regional skill deficits and encourage investment in a person's capacity to prosper and contribute throughout life.

To achieve these aims, the Mitchell, Dunkeld and Begonia district communities support the "Learning and Skills Development" objectives in the Maranoa Economic and Community Plan and the Maranoa-wide Business and Industry Strategy

Specific "Learning and Skills Development" objectives for the Mitchell, Dunkeld and Begonia district communities are set out below, acknowledging that Roma is the education and training hub for the Maranoa region

6.1.1

Provide Mitchell, Dunkeld and Begonia district communities support to the delivery of workforce capacity building workshops to address skills such as resume writing, interview skills, customer service, workplace etiquette and professional writing.

6.1.2

Encourage Mitchell, Dunkeld and Begonia district communities participation in workshops to assist and support small business owners and potential owners.

6.1.3

Encourage Mitchell, Dunkeld and Begonia district communities participation in guest speaker programs intended to inform, inspire and motivate the local business community and support them with their professional and business development.

6.1.4

The Mitchell, Dunkeld and Begonia district communities support the development of an education and training hub for Roma to allow students to study externally with the support of a local well-resourced learning centre and provide alternative and flexible pathways for education, training and employment

6.1.5

Mitchell, Dunkeld and Begonia district communities, businesses, government and Council to work together to encourage local businesses and industries around Mitchell to offer further employment opportunities for local people, including traineeships, apprenticeships and permanent ongoing work.

6.1.6

Prepare for the expansion of the sheep industry in Mitchell, Dunkeld, Begonia, Mungallala, Amby and Surat districts, especially in the training of shearers.

6.1.7	The Mitchell, Dunkeld and Begonia district communities provide support and participate in projects and programs which continue to enhance accessibility to information on improved agricultural and grazing practices to support continued industry growth, efficiencies and encourage best practice.
6.2	The Mitchell, Dunkeld and Begonia district communities will continue to work with the Maranoa regional community to enhance a smart economy which fosters innovation and sustainable growth and is characterised by diverse and adaptable industry, business and commercial sectors which are underpinned by a highly skilled and energetic labour force

To achieve these aims, the Mitchell, Dunkeld and Begonia district communities support the “Smart Economy” objectives in the Maranoa Economic and Community Plan and the Maranoa-wide Business and Industry Strategy

Specific “Smart Economy” objectives for the Mitchell, Dunkeld and Begonia district communities are set out below:

6.2.1	Provide Mitchell, Dunkeld and Begonia district communities support strengthening Roma’s role as a strong regional centre which can attract higher order services and people who help support a smarter economy and acknowledging that Mitchell, Dunkeld and Begonia district benefits accordingly
6.2.2	The Mitchell, Dunkeld and Begonia district communities promote and encourage the benefits of professional development for individuals and the advantages of high service standards and customer focus within a business.
6.2.3	Encourage and promote the benefits of partnerships and collaborations within the Mitchell, Dunkeld and Begonia district communities and with the wider regional communities, especially Roma.
6.2.4	Provide Mitchell, Dunkeld and Begonia district communities support to further enhancement of the Roma CBD as a lively, easily accessible, safe, well designed retail, hospitality and commercial precinct which helps serve the Mitchell, Dunkeld and Begonia district communities
6.2.5	Encourage creative and ongoing re-invention of businesses enterprises in the Mitchell, Dunkeld and Begonia district to service the retail, business and personal needs of local residents and visitors.
6.2.6	Pursue strategies to ensure the ongoing sustainability and viability of the cypress pine timber and game meat harvesting industries within Mitchell and district

6.2.7	Encourage Mitchell, Dunkeld and Begonia district communities and local business use of the “Connected Futures” local community planning hub as a tool for business and the community
6.3	The Mitchell, Dunkeld and Begonia district communities will continue to work with the Maranoa regional community to enhance the region’s ability to communicate globally through reliable contemporary telecommunications technologies and networking systems.

To achieve these aims, the Mitchell, Dunkeld and Begonia district communities support the “Smart Telecommunications” objectives in the Maranoa Economic and Community Plan and the Maranoa- wide Business and Industry Strategy

Specific “Smart Telecommunications” objectives for the Mitchell, Dunkeld and Begonia district communities are set out below:

6.3.1	Continue Mitchell, Dunkeld and Begonia district communities support for the enhanced provision of information and delivery of initiatives which ensure that local residents, businesses and industry are aware of and have access to contemporary and new technologies, programs and services.
6.3.2	Mitchell, Dunkeld and Begonia district residents and visitors have access to a 24hour telephone and internet access points.
6.3.3	Continue Mitchell, Dunkeld and Begonia district communities support for the role of the Mitchell Library and district schools as a key local providers and facilitators of techno-literacy, internet access, accessibility to technical devices, e-books and audio items
6.4	Together we will have a visitor economy where Mitchell, Dunkeld and Begonia district is a key partner in making the Maranoa a prominent destination for outback tourists, events and visitor experiences

To achieve these aims, the Mitchell, Dunkeld and Begonia district communities support the “Visitor Economy” objectives in the Maranoa Economic and Community Plan, Maranoa-wide Tourism Strategy and the Maranoa-wide Business and Industry Strategy

Specific “Visitor Economy” objectives for the Mitchell, Dunkeld and Begonia district communities are set out below:

6.4.1	Great Artesian Spa continues to be enhanced as one of the “must see” experiences of the Maranoa region
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6.4.2	Great Artesian Spa incorporates the visitor information centre for Mitchell, which is one of the five primary (existing and proposed) visitor services centres of the Maranoa (others are at Roma, Surat, Wallumbilla and Injune with supporting visitor information facilities in Jackson, Yuleba, Muckadilla, Amby and Mungallala) and the Mitchell VIC becomes an accredited VIC.
6.4.3	Mitchell VIC at the Great Artesian Spa to act as an attractor and dispersal centre to other parts of the region
6.4.4	Enhanced integration of recreation, health, education, visitor and community social facilities is explored as part of the enhancement of the Great Artesian Spa and its business opportunities.
6.4.5	Develop a bushranger and cattle duffing experiential museum, using the old Mitchell Courthouse as its base (to anchor Mitchell as a major Outback destination).
6.4.6	Strengthen promotion of the tourist route between Mitchell and Injune to create a logical flow for international visitors which runs from Roma to Injune (rock art centre) to Carnarvons (Mt Moffatt) to Mitchell (bushranger and cattle duffing and artesian spa) and back to Roma)
6.4.7	Enhance Yumba indigenous culture facility (having a central role in presenting the Gunggari peoples' culture to a wide audience)
6.4.8	Signage, publications and electronic media are used to present visitors with a network of recreation, heritage and tourist trails and experiences around Mitchell and in Dunkeld and Begonia
6.4.9	Progressive upgrading and development of pathways around Mitchell for walking and cycling that link all major attractions and facilities to the Mitchell CBD (includes links to Neil Turner Weir and Yumba)
6.4.10	Maranoa network of visitor economy (tourism) organisations is enhanced to seek agreement across the Maranoa about regional branding and the sharing of stories between communities
6.4.11	As part of an agreed regional distribution of tourism stories, proposed that Mitchell have the artesian water story, sheep and wool story and share the bushranger stories along with the Indigenous cultural stories
6.4.12	Mitchell to feature as the gateway to the Mitchell grass downs and rest of Outback Queensland
6.4.13	Enhanced packaging of flights, local transport, events, visitor experiences and accommodation which integrate the Mitchell experiences

6.4.14	Explore greater utilisation of Mitchell aviation facilities for tourist and event charter operations
6.4.15	Explore use of Mitchell as a drop-off facility for rental cars in conjunction with charter flights and bus tours
6.4.16	Facilitate international visitor experiences in the Maranoa by using electronic media and multi- language to increase communication with international visitors
6.4.17	Greater use of electronic media, including electronic sign boards along roads and in the Mitchell CBD to provide current information about events and services
6.4.18	Enhanced communication with local businesses and the community about the importance of their roles in the visitor economy
6.4.19	Produce guides for residents to give (or email) to visiting friends and family on things to do in the Maranoa and encourage residents to invite friends and family to the major local events
6.4.20	Encourage local health, education, finance, engineering, farm supply businesses to consider promoting tourist opportunities to their business visitors (especially in advance of their visits)
6.4.21	Encourage local transport, accommodation, and facility providers to provide tourism information to business visitors when they book services
6.4.22	Ensure all accommodation providers and free camp sites have tourist information available
6.4.23	Encourage sport event and function organisers (weddings, birthdays, etc) using Maranoa venues to promote tourism in sport and function information packages and at functions
6.4.24	Develop a unique Mitchell, Dunkeld and Begonia district product.

Progressive, inclusive and strong local leadership

What we want to achieve...

7.1

Together, the Mitchell, Dunkeld and Begonia district communities, as part of the Maranoa regional community, will continue to foster a network of community, business and industry organisations which have long term plans combined with innovative and responsive leadership

To achieve these aims, the Mitchell, Dunkeld and Begonia district communities support the “Local Leadership” objectives in the Maranoa Economic and Community Plan and the Maranoa Regional Council Corporate Plan

Specific “Local Leadership” objectives for the Mitchell, Dunkeld and Begonia district communities are set out below:

7.1.1

Local community, industry and business organisations in Mitchell, Dunkeld and Begonia district adopt long term plans and invest in the skill development of existing and future leaders

7.1.2

Local community, industry and business organisations in Mitchell, Dunkeld and Begonia district nurture innovation and responsiveness as part of their corporate culture so as to remain flexible in how their long term plans are achieved

7.1.3

Local community organisations, business and government collaborate to achieve greatest efficiency and effectiveness of available resources and in responding to natural disasters and other emergencies.