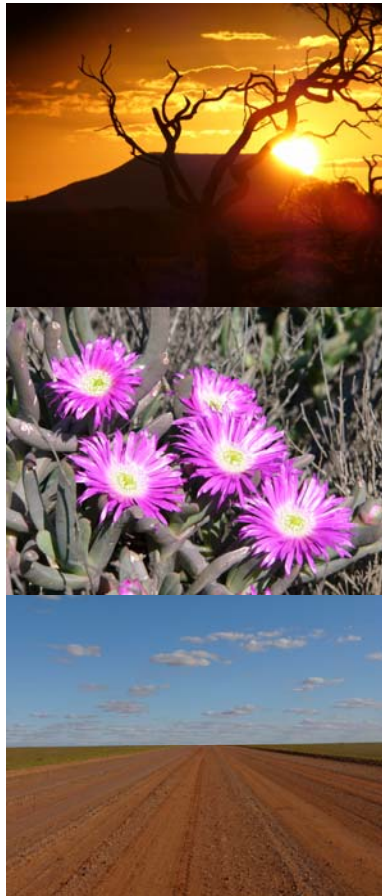


Quorn Economic Development Plan 2007/08



Developed by the Marree Indigenous Community
in conjunction with the Northern Regional Development Board

December 2007

Economic Development Plan : Quorn Community December 2007

The Plan

The Economic Plan has been developed by the Quorn Community with the assistance of the Northern Regional Development Board (NRDB).

The Plan sets out an Action agenda to drive a range of initiatives proposed through community consultation which aims to grow the economic opportunities for members of the community. The core focus of this plan is economic development, which in this context refers to: trading, employment and business development.

Building the Plan

The Plan has been developed following a community consultation process involving a facilitated workshop managed by NRDB. The Quorn Community representatives provided advice and support to NRDB on the running and advertising of the workshop and have acted as a conduit to ensure community members have had adequate opportunities to input into the development of this Plan through review of the various drafts of the Plan. Following this process, this Plan has been endorsed by the Community as the agreed pathway forward for the Community. The NRDB has also committed to supporting the Community in implementing the actions contained within this Plan. This Plan forms part of a broader Northern South Australian Indigenous Communities Economic Development Plan prepared by the Board in consultation with these communities supported by a Regional Partnership Agreement between the Board, the Communities and the Commonwealth Government.

Community

Located 334km north of Adelaide, 40km from Port Augusta and 293 metres above sea level, Quorn is a small service centre at the southern end of the main Flinders Ranges.

Quorn serves as a service centre to tourism, farming and the pastoral industry. These are the main industries in The Flinders Ranges Council district. It also has residential appeal for a number of Port Augusta workers who, requiring a relaxed small town lifestyle, commute daily.

Quorn has a population of 1368 people with a 114 Indigenous persons of which 58 are the age group which come in between 15-54 years (ABS 2006).

There are currently 2 established Indigenous owned and operated businesses in Quorn (retail and services). There is anecdotal information to suggest that employment of Aboriginal people in Quorn is primarily in the services sector.

Workshop Outcomes

The workshop was held on the 25th of May 2007, at the Quorn Bowls Club in Quorn and was attended by members of the Community. The workshop posed four core questions these questions and a representative's selection of the responses follows.

What are the Community's strengths?

- Caring community.
- It has a central position in the region (Leigh Creek to Port Augusta).
- No racial problems - the community works to keep unity.
- The community has a strong work ethic.
- Has growth potential - given mining opportunities in the region.

What the community should look like in ten years?

- Education - study centre established for all youth in Quorn as well as for others seeking training.
- More businesses and more people educated in business principles
- More jobs available generally.
- Child care centre established to enable young mothers to return to the work force and increase employment opportunities.
- Health care position – based in Quorn.
- More networking with smaller communities around Quorn.
- More activities toward the preservation of Aboriginal culture and history in the area, possibly linked to a community centre. (Establishment of a community center is seen as a high priority in terms of bringing the community together - as a meeting place and a point of contact for agencies looking to contact the community).
- More people self-employed.
- Men's Shed – Yard cleaning, Nursery, and Horticulture.

What's Stopping us from getting there?

- Lack of education exacerbated by lack of transport to Port Augusta or Adelaide.
- Lack of a study facility in Quorn.
- Lack of meeting place where people can get together and would serve as the access point for agencies looking to interact with the community and could also be utilised for training purposes.
- Lack of business and Governance acumen.
- Lack of motivation in some parts of the younger generation and disillusionment at not getting work.
- Lack of jobs in the Quorn area.
- Very tight and expensive housing market in Quorn acting as barrier to new entrances in to the community population.

- Sense of diminishing Government funding for Aboriginal programs.

How to overcome these barriers?

- Investigate transport option between Quorn and Port Augusta.
- Establish a study centre in conjunction with TAFE to facilitate assisted tutoring and mentoring in Quorn.
- Run workshops on business development and practices as part of the Small Business Field Officer Program in Quorn (including governance training).
- Investigate provision of Childcare facility with child care providers
- In conjunction with NRDB, investigate business opportunities in the following areas:
 - Child care
 - Earth moving
 - Education
 - Bush tucker
 - Aboriginal art
 - Aboriginal tours
 - Horse ride tours

This could be established via a forum.

- Canvas the skills needs of the communities and encourage participation in those areas.
- Re-establish body corporate so that the community can apply for grants.

Summary of Key Opportunities

From the above a number of core target areas have emerged that offer the most prospective potential to grow sustainable economic opportunities for the community and its members. These areas are:

- Business development in the services sector.
- Expanded employment opportunities in areas of mining and the service sector.

A number of other opportunities were raised at the community forums, however from subsequent analysis it has been agreed that the above target areas offer the best long term attainable prospects and that available resources should concentrate there in the first instance.

This Plan aims to achieve by December 2009 the establishment of one business and a minimum 4 employment positions by community members.

Issue	Action	Who	When
Business opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schedule targeted business workshops for Quorn. 	NRDB/ Community	July 08
Infrastructure and investment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiate a business development planning workshop for Quorn. 	NRDB/Community	July 08
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct skills audit. 	NRDB	April 08
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet with each of the mining interest minimum of once every 12 months to explore new business and employment opportunities for community members. 	NRDB/Community	July 08
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist the Community to reestablish Body Corporated and run governance training workshop once incorporated body is re-established. 	NRDB	March 08/Ongoing
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate options to establish a Study centre, which also serves as a meeting place. 	NRDB/Community/ (TAFE/Flinders Ranges Council)	July 08

Employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate transport options to Port Augusta for TAFE study etc. • Seek commitment from local mining companies to conduct a modified Mines Access Program (MAP), with community members. 	Community/NRDB NRDB	April 08 March 08
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This Agreement was made on the 23rd day of January 2008

This Plan represents the shared commitments of the Quorn Indigenous Community and the Northern Regional Development Board.

Signed for and on the behalf of

The QUORN INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY)

By)

J. Coulthard)

Jennifer Coulthard)

In the presence of)

B Coulthard)

Barbara Coulthard)

Signed for and on behalf of

The NORTHERN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD)

By)

AK)

ANDRE KUYS)

Jerry Johnson)

JERRY JOHNSON)

In the presence of)

Carrie Bainsford)

CARRIE BAINSFORD)