

# MAREEBA

*our community, our future*





# INSIDE

|                                      |           |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>KEY MESSAGES</b>                  | <b>3</b>  |
| <b>THE PERFECT LIFESTYLE</b>         | <b>4</b>  |
| <b>COME AND VISIT</b>                | <b>5</b>  |
| <b>LOVE LOCAL</b>                    | <b>7</b>  |
| <b>NEW-LOOK COUNCIL</b>              | <b>9</b>  |
| <b>STRENGTH TO STRENGTH</b>          | <b>10</b> |
| <b>BUSINESS INNOVATION</b>           | <b>13</b> |
| <b>NEW HEALTHCARE SERVICE</b>        | <b>15</b> |
| <b>MAREEBA SHIRE</b>                 | <b>16</b> |
| <b>NEW HOME OF COUNTRY MUSIC</b>     | <b>19</b> |
| <b>JOBS APLENTY</b>                  | <b>21</b> |
| <b>PROPERTY BOOM</b>                 | <b>23</b> |
| <b>SECURING OUR FUTURE WATER</b>     | <b>25</b> |
| <b>CONTINUED GROWTH OF AG</b>        | <b>27</b> |
| <b>FIELD DAYS STRONGER THAN EVER</b> | <b>29</b> |
| <b>CHAMBER PARTNERS AND MEMBERS</b>  | <b>30</b> |
| <b>CHAMBER LOBBYING SUCCESS</b>      | <b>31</b> |

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

The year 2020 will go down in history as one of a kind.

It will forever be remembered for the global health pandemic, COVID-19, that took lives, shut down economies, closed international and domestic borders and brought the world to its knees.

But it will also be remembered for uniting us as a human race, at a time when we showed true resilience to protect our most vulnerable.

Our bustling community of Mareeba has not escaped, with businesses forced to temporarily close doors during Queensland's restrictions soon after the pandemic was declared, and many made to adjust to a different way of doing business.

However, we must also be proud that our response to the pandemic here in our community and more broadly the region and state of Queensland has put us in a good position.

We have and continue to enjoy a

relatively uninhibited lifestyle, thanks to Queensland's good work.

Locally, as we adjust to a world living with COVID-19, the Chamber has been part of a collective effort with other key stakeholders to ensure our region comes out of the pandemic, as strong as ever, in business, industry and socially.

This year we participated in both local and state government elections.

The Chamber has enjoyed a strong relationship with Mareeba Shire Council and continues to work closely together to promote Mareeba as a vibrant retail, business, industry and tourism hub.

Likewise, we have forged a successful relationship with the Member for Cook and the State Government for the betterment of Mareeba.

Both of these relationships are critically important as we continue to build on our successes.

As 2020 draws to a close, the pandemic



continues to be front of mind, and we all must continue to comply with social distancing.

Finally, I thank the editor of this publication, Natasha Srhoj, for her hard work in delivering such a quality product.

On behalf of the Chamber, I wish our members a happy Christmas and a prosperous 2021.

**Joe Moro**  
**Mareeba Chamber of Commerce**

## FROM THE MAYOR

During the 2019-20 financial year, this Council continued to deliver major infrastructure projects while maintaining essential services for our growing communities.

In 2019 the Mareeba Airport Redevelopment Project was completed. This \$23 million investment by the Queensland and the Australian governments consists of a 52-lot aviation commercial precinct, strengthened runway, taxiways and associated infrastructure works. I am pleased to see this project come to fruition and the benefits this development will bring not only to Mareeba Shire but the North Queensland region.

The newly completed expansion at the Mareeba Industrial Park will strengthen Mareeba's position as an industrial hub for northern Australia. The land available at the Mareeba Industrial Park will allow for new businesses to operate out of the hub in areas such as agriculture, transport, logistics, horticulture and manufacturing, and also brings economic benefits to the Shire and North Queensland.

I am pleased to report that Council's credit rating has been upgraded to sound, with a neutral outlook. This improved rating by the Queensland Treasury Corporation is reflective of the Council's financial performance, adequate debt serving capacity and sound liquidity levels, and instills confidence in the organisation. As we follow Council's long-term financial plan, I am optimistic about the future sustainability of the Shire.

I acknowledge former Mayor Tom Gilmore who was awarded an Order of Australia Medal in June 2020 for his service to the Mareeba Shire and to Local Government. He was Mayor of the new Mareeba Shire from 2014-2020, and during this time he was determined to ensure this Council was financially stable, and the Shire continued to grow.

I also would like to acknowledge former Deputy Mayor Alan Pedersen and Councillor Nipper Brown who both served on the new Mareeba Shire Council from 2014-2020, and I thank them for their service to the Council and the Mareeba Shire community.



I would like to congratulate the Mareeba Chamber of Commerce for driving the Buy Local Campaign during COVID-19, reminding residents to stay, shop and spend local. Council was very pleased to collaborate with the Chamber to support this important initiative.

Council is committed to maintaining essential services while delivering capital work projects to enhance the liveability for residents across the Shire, create job opportunities and stimulate the local economy.

**Cr Angela Toppin**  
**Mareeba Shire Council**



### GROWTH

Mareeba is the second largest urban centre in FNQ outside Cairns



### POPULATION

11,698 people call Mareeba district home



### LOCATION

It's perfect. A short 50 minute drive to Cairns and international airport



### EDUCATION

Public and private primary and high schools, several day care centres and only 50 minutes from two universities



### WEATHER

The Best. A perfect climate with 300 sunny days a year

# Live, work, play

Known for its perfect climate, living, working and playing in Mareeba gives you all the benefits of a perfect lifestyle.

Liveability is key and as the second largest urban centre outside of Cairns, Mareeba is a friendly, welcoming, growing and prosperous town with an abundance of opportunities and the ingredients to make you want to 'call this place home'.

Location, services and weather make Mareeba great. It's a country town with a tropical lifestyle in a unique location. Only 50 minutes from a regional city, Mareeba is surrounded by open spaces, farms, wineries, coffee plantations, wildlife, waterfalls, hiking and biking trails, history, culture and so much more.

But it doesn't stop there. Mareeba has quality health services including a hospital and private GP clinics.

The town also has a choice of public and private primary and high school schools, plus several day care providers.

Mareeba is an active town with many and varied events held every year. From the famous Mareeba Rodeo to the tasteful delights of the Multicultural Festival and home to Northern Australia's largest field days, there is always something to see, do and be part of.

Our retail sector is bustling and on a professional front, Mareeba offers all that you need in terms of financial, legal, training and human resources needs.

Our industrial area is booming – evidenced by the growing number of tenants in the town's industrial park.

Growth in the horticulture industries continues at exponential rates and transport operators are expanding at record rates to keep up with demand.

Combined with a strong sense of community and its famous 300 sunny days a year, Mareeba is without a doubt one of the best places to live, work and play.

Key Stats  
MAREEBA SHIRE

# GRP

\$1.39 billion

## Largest industry (by employment)

Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing businesses

**Population** 22,730 **Businesses** 2,079



# Visit MAREEBA

Mareeba is abound with things to see and do, for a night, weekend or long-term stay.

Be it adventure from the sky, wandering through ancient limestone caves or ring side watching the biggest bulls buck the bravest cowboys, there's something for all visitors to Mareeba.

The region has enjoyed a bumper tourist season – attributed in part to the increased number of domestic tourists in the region courtesy of COVID-19 travel restrictions.

Mareeba Chamber of Commerce president Joe Moro said the travel restrictions have forced many businesses, including those in the tourist industry, to rethink their approach.

“This has resulted in a new wave of tourist initiatives popping up, like the popular Comedy Tours offered by well-known Mareeba identify Ida Portella.

“This delivers enormous benefits to many businesses.”

Mr Moro said all roads started at the Mareeba Heritage Museum and Visitor Information Centre – the entry to the Mareeba region and pathway to understanding all that it has to offer.

“Our region is base for northern Australia’s largest fruit and vegetable bowl – in some crops, home to Australia’s largest growing regions in their respective industries – with more than 80 different varieties of horticulture grown,” Mr Moro said.

“This sets the scene for a wonderful self-drive tour, where visitors can stop off along the way at roadside food stalls or call in to the many farms where value-adding and tourist opportunities are offered”

If you seek adventure, there’s no better way to capture a

stunning view overhead than from the air, in a hot air balloon or helicopter.

On ground, test how sharp your driving skills are on an international go-kart track on the outskirts of town.

Or, take your seat ring side at one of Mareeba’s premier events like the great Mareeba Rodeo (held annually in July) which pits beast against cowboy.

The Great Wheelbarrow Race regarded as Australia’s most unique race which takes participants – pushing a wheelbarrow – on a 140km journey from Mareeba to Chillagoe (the route is reversed biennially).

Mr Moro said for a change in pace, visitors could enjoy the language, music and dance, cultural heritage, arts and craft and food on offer at the annual Mareeba Multicultural Festival

“If you want to enjoy the great outdoors, the Mareeba region offers a plethora of bush walks and waterfalls including Davies Creek Falls, Emerald Creek Falls, Turtle Rock circuit, Lambs Head and Kahlpahlim Rock Loop and other mountain bike trails,” Mr Moro said.

“The region is rich in Indigenous culture with the Bulwai Rock Art Trail near Davies Creek a must see.”

There are accommodation options to suit all likes – the self-drive independent tourist (paid camping spots available), motel and hotel style and bed and breakfast accommodation.

“The Chamber is working hard to make tourism one of the economic pillars of the Mareeba region,” Mr Moro added.

“With our abundant natural and man-made attractions, country hospitality and unique environment and culture, we are well on the way.”



## Driving Greater Awareness and Demand for Tropical Fruit in Australia!

We are a grower owned and grower focused fresh produce marketing company connecting the district's growers with markets across Australia. We specialise in retail sales, helping growers benefit from a range of market access from traditional wholesale markets to major retailers.

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TFD provide export solutions.

TFD offer growers the opportunity to work with major retailers.

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TFD are grower focused marketing and promotion - connecting growers to consumers.

For more information or a Grower Information Pack, contact Steve Barnes on 0435 054 528 or email: [steve@tropicalfruitdirect.com.au](mailto:steve@tropicalfruitdirect.com.au)

[TROPICALFRUITDIRECT.COM.AU](http://TROPICALFRUITDIRECT.COM.AU)

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# LOVE local

“Support your local businesses and your local shops because they generate local jobs”.

That’s the key message for residents across the Mareeba Shire as we look toward a new year.

The Mareeba Shire was fortunate to not have been as severely impacted by COVID-19 as many other regions and states across the country, but a lockdown period and travel restrictions has still put financial pressure on some local businesses.

As Stage 1 of eased Coronavirus restrictions came into effect across Queensland on May 16, 2020, the Mareeba Chamber with the support of Mareeba Shire Council launched a “stay local, shop local, support local, travel local” campaign designed to encourage residents to support the local business community and experience their own backyard.

Chamber president Joe Moro said it was now more important than ever before to support those in your own community.

“We understand people like variety and we understand people want to travel to bigger shopping centres, but they should always remember that when we get into trouble the local shops are the ones that are there for you,” he said.

“It’s important to have a good diverse, strong local retail sector and Mareeba showed that it does and it needs to continue by supporting local as much as you can.

“The more money you spend locally, the more money that will go around and the more money will end up in sporting clubs and charitable organisations.

“We all love where we live and now is time to show the business community how much – we can all do our part and make a difference and together we will build a better future for generations to come.

“By staying local, shopping local and supporting local you are making the local economy stronger which means more jobs, more opportunities and a better place to live for all.”

Mareeba Shire Mayor Angela Toppin said it was paramount that people backed those in their own community “to ensure that our local businesses are well supported”.

“Particularly during the restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic, we urged locals to stay local, shop local and support local to ensure that businesses and organisations continued to operate and survive beyond the pandemic period,” she said.

“I believe that the locals did support our businesses and organisations extremely well and by the same token they were very mindful of the restrictions and health advice and abided by them and supported one another.

“I am confident that the support will continue.”



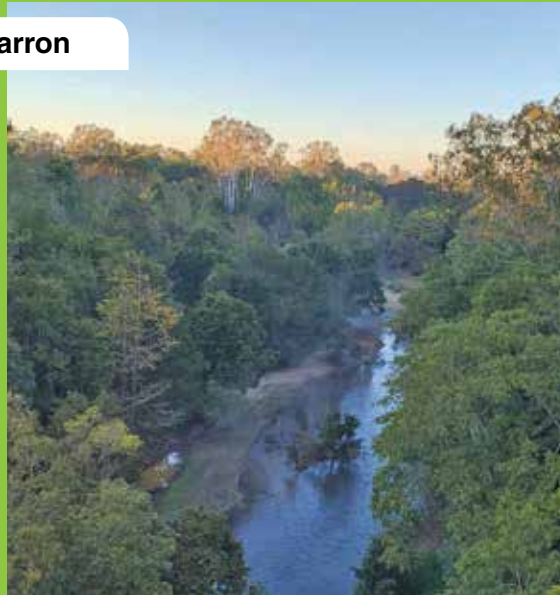


## The place to live in Mareeba

Amaroo Estate is developed and constructed by a long-established local family who are passionate in creating a secure & attractive environment focused on community & the beautification of the area and Mareeba Shire. Attention to detail, quality and care are our utmost priority.

### Bundanoon on the Barron

Bundanoon on the Barron is our exclusive small acreage, riverfront boutique development, located just minutes from Mareeba. Lots are surrounded by natural bushland and are bordered by the Barron. Uniquely, Bundanoon on the Barron offers town water, underground power and sewerage. Lot sizes start at 4168 sqm up to 6097 sqm, with prices starting at \$240,000 and at present have 3 stunning river front lots left to choose from.



Our family friendly residential housing estate is well placed in the eastern growth corridor on the Cairns side of Mareeba, providing convenient access to Cairns domestic and international airports. Amaroo is continuing to grow with further stages planned for the future.

In 2020 we have had the pleasure of welcoming many new homeowners to Amaroo. We offer a beautiful selection of house sites featuring wide streets, kerb and channelling, underground power, sewerage and town water. There are stunning house & land packages with designer homes available, suitable for everyone, including first homeowners, families & retirees. All located within close proximity of the Amaroo Village Business Precinct, which incorporates Amaroo Medical, Amaroo Pharmacy and QML Pathology.

### Amaroo Village Business Precinct



**Amaroo Medical, Amaroo Pharmacy, QML Pathology and Amaroo Land Sales operate at Amaroo Village.**

All facilities are wheelchair friendly, seating, shade trees and landscaping compliment the attractive surroundings of Amaroo Village. Future vision includes a local "Marketplace" supplying convenient groceries, fresh local produce and deli items to our community along with a cafe and an array of allied health professionals to complement the existing health service providers. All aimed at providing comfort, care and convenience to our residents and visitors.



In early 2021, construction of Dural & Ponto's Place (Stage 11) will commence. This selection of residential lots, all with wide street frontages, range in size from 872 sqm up to 2538 sqm. Prices start from \$118,000. These lots will be available to purchase off the plan and will no doubt be sought after as they offer privacy and serenity, nestled in surrounding bushland.

### AMAROO LAND SALES OFFICE

Amaroo Land Sales office is now located at Shop 3, Amaroo Village beside Amaroo Pharmacy and QML. We welcome all new visitors and pride ourselves on providing the best quality service with open and honest communication. We love meeting new people and extend an invitation to pop in and say hello. Our office is open from 10am–3pm weekdays or contact us to arrange a suitable time as it's never a problem to meet outside of these hours.



*The place  
to live*

# Amaroo





# Mareeba welcomes new-look council

”  
Ready to lead our Shire in these uncertain times. Let me reassure you we are in this together, we will get through, as we have faced many challenges historically.

– Mayor Angela Toppin

The Mareeba Shire has welcomed a mix of new faces and returning faces to vital leadership roles in 2020.

Residents went to the polls on March 28, for the Queensland Local Government elections and after a lengthy counting process due to COVID-19, the new Mareeba Shire Council was declared.

Former principal at Mareeba State High School and Cairns State High School and active member of the Far North community, Angela Toppin was elected as the Shire's first female Mayor.

She previously spent a term as Mareeba Shire Councillor after being elected in 2017, before deciding to run for the top spot.

“I feel honoured. I feel entrusted. And I feel ready,” Mayor Toppin said after officially being sworn in.

“Ready to lead our Shire in these uncertain times. Let me reassure you we are in this together, we will get through, as we have faced many challenges historically.

“Be kind, be supportive, be patient with yourself and others.

“Your local council has in place measures to ensure essential services and support (not provided by other government) are available to our residents.

“To those businesses and people who have been so heavily impacted, I feel your uncertainty and fear – things will improve.”

Mayor Toppin said transport, water, infrastructure and tourism would continue to be at the forefront of the new council.

Councillor Kevin Davies was also elected back for a second term on the six person Council and later selected for the position of Deputy Mayor.

Councillor Mary Graham and Councillor Lenore Wyatt also retained their positions for another term.

Three new faces joined the Mareeba Shire Council in March this year, including Councillor Lachlan (Locky) Bensted, Councillor Daniel (Danny) Bird, and Councillor Mario Mlikota.

The trio bring a wealth of experience from their various backgrounds to the role.

# Moving ahead

## The Mareeba Shire economy is moving from strength to strength, with many businesses recording some of their busiest months on record amid global pandemic COVID-19

The outbreak of the deadly virus from about March 2020 resulted in a range of restrictions being introduced and forced the closure of many businesses for an extended period.

But once restrictions started to ease in Queensland from about May, businesses across the Shire reopened their doors and recovered a lot faster than many other areas across the Far North, state and country.

Mareeba business owner Renee Hughes, of Floral Magic Mareeba, said her business was relatively unaffected by COVID-19 and was thriving thanks to strong local support.

"We never really had a quiet period... it was quite the opposite for us," she said.

"We were able to deliver to people so that made a big difference, especially on Mother's Day it was a really big thing for our shop because no one could see their mums.

"I think we were the link between people.

"From May onwards, that's our busy period anyway, but it was on another level. We haven't had a break, it's great."

The Mareeba Shire's strong agriculture industry has also been

recognised as a key factor in what helped the region remain strong amid COVID-19.

Chamber president Joe Moro said having a strong agriculture base was what "underpinned the resilience of the Mareeba Shire" in 2020.

"All the essential businesses kept going, there was a bit of a slow period until about May and then once the Premier announced the easing of restrictions things quickly picked back up," he said.

"Once we got into May/June and end of July with the first set of school holidays after Easter, there was a lot of activity within the region.

"People from Cairns were driving up and around and even local people going camping locally.

"Most of the tourism operators said they had some of their best months in that period."

Mareeba Shire Mayor Angela Toppin said the Shire had been "comparatively lucky compared to other places around the country due to our location to date", but urged people "not be complacent".

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## Bringing the community together

"Our agricultural industries have buffered this Shire very well because of the very nature of the industry and have managed to survive throughout the COVID period and some are doing very well indeed," she said.

"I hope they will continue to do well in the Shire."

But for some areas of the Shire returning to a pre-COVID environment has been a struggle due to a lack of domestic and international tourism.

"I have concerns for some of our places in the Shire for example Kuranda, which has a 60 per cent dependency on international tourism," Mayor Toppin said.

"Certainly the businesses there and operators there have not fared as well as our agricultural industries and many of these businesses have had to pivot to online services and are managing to survive.

"Our council is fully aware that the COVID pandemic is not over yet and the whole concern of the impact of COVID is not over. We are not out of the woods.

"We continue to review our budget and operations as things progress in the light of what is happening."

A community taskforce aimed at ensuring the Mareeba Shire came out of the COVID-19 pandemic as strong as possible, has been labelled a success.

A contingent of community leaders representing FNQ Growers, Mareeba Shire Council, Mareeba Chamber of Commerce, Queensland Police, Mareeba Hospital, Member for Cook, PCYC, Mulungu Aboriginal Primary Health Care and general practices, Queensland Ambulance and businesses, met in May to form the COVID-19 Mareeba Community Taskforce.

Chamber president Joe Moro said the aim of the taskforce was to assess the economic and social impacts of the pandemic and develop long-term plans for the region's recovery.

He said long-term recovery strategies, including sourcing federal funding through established community groups, were some of the topics discussed.

"It wasn't just about getting people to spend more money

locally, it was also about trying to improve people's mental health and encouraging them to remain positive," he said.

"The COVID-19 Mareeba Community Taskforce was very successful.

"We had not had that much engagement in the past ... and we generally got some good feedback on where we're at and what was happening."

Mr Moro said the COVID-19 Taskforce also reinforced the strong relationship between the Mareeba Chamber of Commerce and the Mareeba Shire Council.

"In time we're working with the Mareeba Shire Council to develop something where we bring the community together, businesses and all the sectors, at least once a year to measure what needs to be done and get a gauge of where the economy is going and how the community is travelling," he said.

"The Taskforce allowed us to build on the relationship and the principle of the idea will continue to bring the community together."

# Mareeba Toyota



📍 279 Byrnes St, Mareeba

☎ 4092 9400 or 4092 9600



# Hansen Ford



**MCC**  
MAREEBA COMMUNITY CENTRE

Mareeba Community Centre Inc is a community based, non-profit organisation providing community services in the Mareeba Shire Council area.

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# History on display

Mareeba Shire's proud history is now on display for locals and travellers alike to see with the installation of a new display at Rotary Park.

Located near the Granite Bridge at Mareeba, the display features a series of six signs that details the town's Indigenous culture, original pioneers, growing prosperity, agricultural diversity, multicultural diversity and more.

The project was a joint venture between Barron River Catchment, Mareeba Shire Council, Queensland Government and the Historical Society of Mareeba.

According to legend, these lands where Granite Creek connects with the Barron River have long been known as Mareeba.

In the indigenous Koko-Muluridji language 'Mareeba' is said to mean 'The Meeting of the Waters'.

Alternative stories suggest the name Mareeba actually has a deeper spiritual meaning to the Koko-Muluridji; others say this unique name was created by the early pioneers.

The waters of the Barron system has always been the lifeblood of the region, attracting and sustaining human life from Indigenous to modern times, in an otherwise hostile and dry savannah environment.

The story of Mareeba is integrally linked with the Barron River, from early Indigenous history through initial European settlement to today where the region has become one of Queensland's largest centres for irrigated agriculture.

The display also details the integral role the Mareeba region played during the war years, which was an important military base during WW2.

Up to 30 trains a day bought materials, equipment and tens of thousands of Australian and American soldiers from Cairns to the Tablelands.

A major airfield at Mareeba became the base for up to 5000 US Airforce personnel and squadrons of bombers and fighter planes.

Bombing missions from Mareeba helped turn the tide of the war in the Pacific. Many soldiers sought relief and relaxation in the cool waters of the Barron River, with the Brewery Hole often filled to the brim with swimming servicemen.

Today, the Mareeba Shire is underpinned by a thriving agricultural industry which has helped the region survive many challenges.

The Mareeba-Dimbulah Irrigation Scheme today supports a high agricultural industry valued at more than \$500 million per annum.

Tobacco growing, once the foundation of Mareeba's agricultural prosperity, has been replaced by a diversity of other agriculture industries.

These include irrigated crops such as bananas, avocados, mangoes, cane sugar, citrus and papaya and livestock industries including beef cattle and meat chickens.

– The details in this story are thanks to those who created the display at Rotary Park, Mareeba.

# Leaders in innovation

## Business is thriving for two Far North women who were forced to think outside the box and innovate amid the challenges of COVID-19

From about March, work quickly slowed down for jewellery designer Angela Nason and travel agent Ida Portella as restrictions and lockdowns came into effect.

Eager to keep pushing forward and do what they could for their community and own financial stability, both women found a gap in the market and launched new ventures.

Initially helping her father sell his limes after the shutdown of the hospitality industry, Ms Nason's services grew and she created Tablelands to Tabletop.

Working in conjunction with about 40 farmers, she sources a wide range of seasonal fruit and vegetables, coffee, eggs and other products and packages them up for restaurants, cafes and individuals across Cairns, the Tablelands, Mareeba, Cape York and Torres Strait.

Delivering weekly, demand for Ms Nason's fresh produce boxes has rapidly grown.

"It's a good opportunity to not only move our farmers produce, but to get local fresh produce to our community," she said.

"It's definitely been a huge learning process and an eye opener.

"At the very beginning we started off with five to 10 boxes a week and our record now is hitting 100 boxes for the week. We're talking tonnes of produce.

"It's been seven months of blood, sweat, tears, hard work and we've still got a long way to go. We haven't even really scraped the surface on what our potential is."

Ms Portella decided to combine her 30 years' experience acting and directing in plays and theatre to create her hugely successful new venture, Comedy Tours.

Starting off with farm tours and street tours to showcase the best of the Mareeba Shire, she is now also hosting comedy dinners that are in hot demand.

"My business was 90 per cent international travel so originally when COVID hit and none of us knew it was going to be as bad as it was, I knew had to survive," she said.

"I saw an opportunity in Mareeba because the majority of my clients are there, so I thought 'why don't I do something that will bring a bit of laughter' in all the doom and gloom.

"It's all improvisational comedy, using fictional characters so every show is different and we involve and bounce off our audiences.

"I've had people from from all over Queensland join us and we have had excellent and positive feedback. I think there's an opportunity to bring people from all over Australia to Mareeba.

"Once you come to one of our comedy shows or tours – you won't be disappointed."



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# Community at heart of new healthcare service

The Mareeba community is a step closer to owning its primary healthcare services with a new grassroots organisation launched to deliver primary health care services.

The Mareeba and Communities Family Healthcare is a social enterprise and was established earlier this year to develop a sustainable model of comprehensive primary healthcare for the community of Mareeba and surrounding areas.

The organisation has also included the establishment of a charitable foundation to enable the ability to raise funds, accept charitable contributions and invest back into health services for the Mareeba community.

The project is being driven by the Mareeba health action group under the auspice of the Mareeba Chamber of Commerce, which secured funding from the Northern Queensland Primary Health Network (NQPHN) to carry out the project.

It is in response to an initiative by the NQPHN to identify opportunities to deliver sustainable improvement in health outcomes for the Mareeba community.

Mareeba and Communities Family Healthcare chair Ross Cardillo, said the goal of the organisation was to achieve meaningful and sustained improvement in access to local health care services using a social enterprise model, 100 per cent community owned. "The Mareeba community has fought long and hard to ensure our primary healthcare services are maintained and improved," Mr Cardillo said.

"We are establishing a sustainable model to enhance the primary health care experience for individuals and families by encouraging patient-centred, coordinated care, where individuals are empowered to have an active role in their healthcare."

Chamber president Joe Moro welcomed the formation of the newly established organisation and has accepted the position of board secretary.

"The Mareeba and Communities Family Healthcare will work in collaboration with other providers to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of health and medical services for the Mareeba community, particularly those at risk of poor health outcomes,

and improve coordination of care to ensure clients receive the right care in the right place at the right time," Mr Moro said.

"Our prime focus is to find a feasible service model that can be implemented to suit the needs of the community in Mareeba and surrounding areas."

The vision of Mareeba and Communities Family Healthcare is to:

- Establish a sustainable model of comprehensive primary health care for the Mareeba community,
- Enhance the primary health care experience for individuals and families by encouraging patient-centred, coordinated care, where individuals are empowered to have an active role in their healthcare,
- Improve the health of the Mareeba population by addressing the quality of care for people with acute and chronic conditions, while also prioritising preventive care, and
- Build a sustainable skilled workforce and improving the work life of health providers by ensuring that all the health practitioners are well recognised and supported to provide high-quality care to the Mareeba community.

Mr Moro said a critical part of Mareeba's healthcare journey was ensuring that the community was engaged so they have a sense of ownership over the design and delivery of health services.

"Feedback from individuals as well as community members' is critical in not only identifying areas for improvement but also ensuring that the services delivered are responsive and meeting community needs," Mr Moro said.

"Mareeba and Communities Family Healthcare is now working with NQPHN and other providers in the Mareeba community to secure funding to address the gaps in services that have been identified. Four key areas of focus have been identified."

These include: Healthy Start to Life, Healthy Minds, Healthy Living and Healthy Aging. These areas all link together to ensure the promotion of better health outcomes for individuals through an integrated, place based, life course approach to primary health care.

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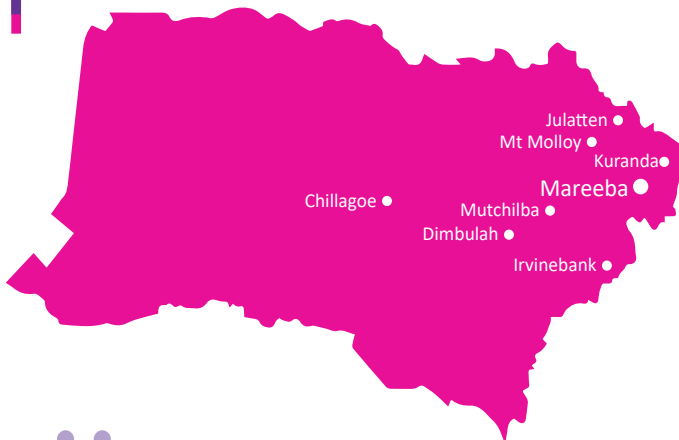
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## A growing, confident and sustainable Shire

[ AREA 53,502km<sup>2</sup> ]



22,730

ESTIMATED POPULATION (2019)

With a population of 8,184, Mareeba has grown to be the largest town outside of Cairns in the Far North Queensland region.



### BUILDING APPROVALS - 2019/2020



Value of residential approvals: **\$22,333,292**  
 Value of non-residential approvals: **\$13,778,494**  
 Total of building approvals: **327**

### DEVELOPMENT APPROVALS - 2019/20



Dwellings approved: **122**  
 Development Applications: **35**

## COUNCIL'S STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



### FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

- Long Term Financial Plan that supports effective and sustainable financial management
- Effective and sustainable financial management
- Effective business management
- A skilled and sustainable workforce



### COMMUNITY

- An engaged community
- An active, safe and healthy community
- A community being prepared and resilient to emergencies and disasters



### TRANSPORT AND COUNCIL INFRASTRUCTURE

- Sustainable infrastructure for the future
- Safe and effective transport network
- Securing and managing water resources
- Public spaces and facilities



### ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT

- Environmentally responsible and efficient waste and wastewater management
- A Sustainable Planning Scheme
- Support and encourage industrial and commercial growth and development
- Our region's environmental assets are best managed while promoting economic well-being



### GOVERNANCE

- Ethical, accountable and transparent decision making
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- Effective advocacy and strategic partnerships



**NEW COUNCIL:** Cr Lachlan Bensted, Cr Lenore Wyatt, Cr Daniel Bird, Cr Angela Toppin (Mayor), Cr Kevin Davies (Deputy Mayor), Cr Mario Mlikota and Cr Mary Graham.



## Supporting economic growth

Key industries drive the Mareeba Shire economy, including agriculture, retail, industry, and tourism with opportunities emerging in Mareeba for aviation support services and a regional transport logistics and services hub. The agricultural sector underpins secondary industries across the food chain including transport and logistics, refrigerated storage, packing and on-farm supplies.

### Council contributes to the Shire's economic growth through effective:

- Management of infrastructure underpinning the local economy, especially ensuring good quality transport routes for agricultural products to reach southern and international markets.
- Policy and planning frameworks for land use planning and timely assessment and approvals.
- Collaboration and advocacy for government policy and improved infrastructure to keep pace with a growing economy.
- Promotion of a business-friendly Council and investment-ready Shire.

## FLYING AHEAD



**STAGE 2 OPENING:** Former Mayor Tom Gilmore, Queensland Senator Susan McDonald, Cynthia Lui MP, Queensland Senator James McGrath and The Hon. Warren Entsch MP.

The upgrade of the Mareeba Airport was completed in 2019. This \$23 million investment by the Queensland and the Australian governments consists of a 52-lot aviation commercial precinct, strengthened runway, taxiways and associated infrastructure works. The upgrade will provide an alternative to Cairns Airport for activities like pilot training, maintenance and some general aviation, bringing significant economic benefits to the region.

## INDUSTRIAL PARK EXPANDS OPPORTUNITIES



Prime real estate is now available for large-scale development of commercial and industrial agriculture services in Mareeba, following the completion of stage 3 of the Mareeba Industrial Park Development.

The \$3.5 million expansion was proudly funded by the Queensland Government's Building our Regions program and Mareeba Shire Council.

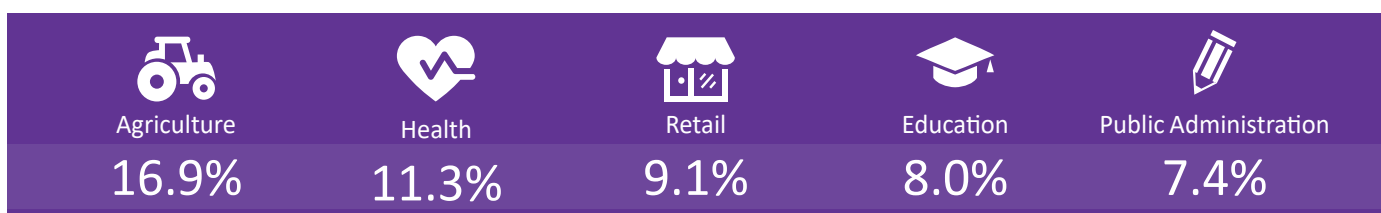
Land available at the Mareeba Industrial Park will allow for new businesses to operate out of the hub in areas such as agriculture, transport and logistics, horticulture and manufacturing.

The expansion will create job opportunities, boost the local economy and strengthen Mareeba's position as an industrial hub for northern Australia.

**Enquires: Ph 1300 308 461 or email [info@msc.qld.gov.au](mailto:info@msc.qld.gov.au)**



## TOP 5 employment by industry



Sources: ABS 3218.0, Regional Population Growth, Australia, 2016. Queensland Regional Profiles, Queensland Treasury 2019

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# New home of country music

Organisers of a hugely successful country music festival are gearing up to bring "one of the biggest live music events" to the Far North in 2021.

Savannah In The Round hosted their inaugural three-day event at Kerribee Park, Mareeba on October 1-2, 2020, attracting more than 3,500 people.

Originally scheduled for the Queen's Birthday weekend, Savannah in The Round was postponed during the COVID-19 outbreak to ensure the safety of patrons, artists and workers, and later reimaged as the Savannah Summer Series mini-festival.

The event was the world's "first COVID-safe country music mini-festival", bringing live music back to the stage for the first time as the region got back on its feet.

Following its success, the Savannah in the Round festival has been confirmed to return to Mareeba on October 1-3, 2021.

Promoter James Dein from Sound Australia said "There was never a more important time for Australia to get behind its artists and its local communities."

"Savannah in the Round was always conceived as an event to bring the Tropical North Queensland community together, as well as drive interstate tourism and shine a light on the amazing talent this country has to offer," he said.

"COVID-19 may have caused a few setbacks along the way, but thanks to the amazing support from our artists, council members and the Queensland community, we've been able to get this event back on track.

"We couldn't think of anywhere on earth that we'd rather be hosting the next major country music event, than Australia's new home of country music, Tropical North Queensland."

Former Mareeba Shire Councillor, Nipper Brown was instrumental in securing the inaugural Savannah in the Round country music event for Mareeba.

He said he got the idea after attending the CMC Rocks Queensland music festival at Ipswich in 2019.

Mr Brown worked with local organisations such as Bendigo Community Bank, the Mareeba Rodeo Association, Mareeba Shire Council, Rotary and others to help fund the initial set up of the festival.

A line up of 26 artists have already been announced to perform at the 2021 event, including Aussie legends John Williamson, Lee Kernaghan, Kasey Chambers, Graeme Connors, Troy Cassar-Daley, Busby Marou, The McClymonts, The Wolfe Brothers, Casey Barnes, The Buckleys and more.



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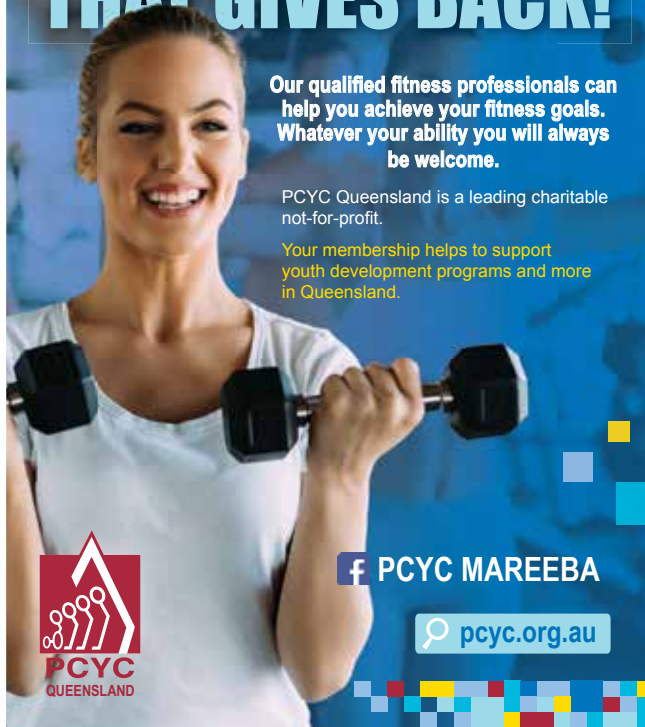
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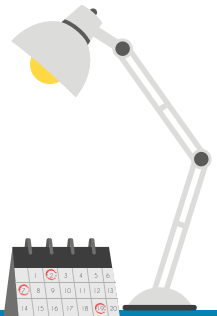
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# Jobs ripe for the taking

Major road infrastructure works are generating a large number of jobs in the Far North, but it's the agriculture industry that's set to face one of its biggest employment challenges in the coming months.

Upgrades on the Kennedy Highway between Kuranda and Mareeba, and between Mareeba and Atherton are underway and giving a welcome boost to the local economy.

Mareeba Chamber of Commerce President Joe Moro said workers were filling rooms at local motels and generating income for local businesses.

"If it wasn't for this those motels would have really struggled (during and post-COVID). And now the second stage of roadworks from Mareeba to Atherton, that's going to keep a fair bit of activity and those jobs are very important to the local economy," he said.

"Some local contractors got work out of it, but the big thing from a Chamber point of view was that motels got a lot of people staying there because they were working on the project between Mareeba and Kuranda."

Mareeba Shire Council also helped generate jobs for locals during uncertain times in 2020 through a range of essential projects.

"Council sustained employment not only for Council's workforce but many local contractors by continuing with the capital works program while delivering essentials services," Mayor Angela Toppins said.

But with international borders closed and limited backpackers left in the Far North, the number of workers available for upcoming seasonal crops such as lychees, mangoes and avocados has dramatically dropped compared to previous years.

Mr Moro said "about 35,000 people off and on" were needed to work across all crops in Far North Queensland throughout the year.

"This equates to 10,000 full time equivalent employees.

"There are going to be some challenges in the next 12 months in the area of labour, so there's going to be opportunities for not only locals, but people from across the region and further afield to get jobs," he said.

"They're not long term jobs, but there could be short term work during the harvest and working on some other farms to also grow crops.

"There's going to be an opportunity there for people looking for work, but the big challenge will be whether or not they can relocate to travel to the area from where they live currently.

"We encourage people to 'join the adventure' and do what the backpackers do.

"For younger people, it could be a way for them to travel. For the next two years maybe you can't go on an international holiday so maybe you can start off in Mareeba and then follow the harvest trail around Australia."

Employment agency QITE is helping farmers across the region fill vacancies. Under a new Harvest Trail initiative the business has expanded to include the Bowen, Ayr and Dimbulah areas, as well as Atherton, Mareeba and Innisfail.

QITE General Manager Jillian Trout said their "caseload has doubled since COVID started", with an influx of farmers seeking assistance to help find workers for their harvest.

She said there was also a large number of people in Cairns that QITE could transport up to the Mareeba/Dimbulah region for farm work, but they would need to spend the full working week living on-farm or in the local area.

"We've had a lot of engagement from employers, and we've always had local employers and farmers on the Tablelands, but certainly getting more interest and with larger numbers coming through," she said.

"A lot of employers in the past weren't aware that it's a completely free service and that we do the Visa checks and all those things as well as explaining OH&S and make sure they're aware of the heat and all of the conditions they're going to.

"It's really a mixed bag across the region, but certainly employers are now saying 'we're going to need 50 people to start at the start of November', or 'we're going to need 30 people to start mid-December' and they need (workers) to be able to commit, and that's some of the issues."

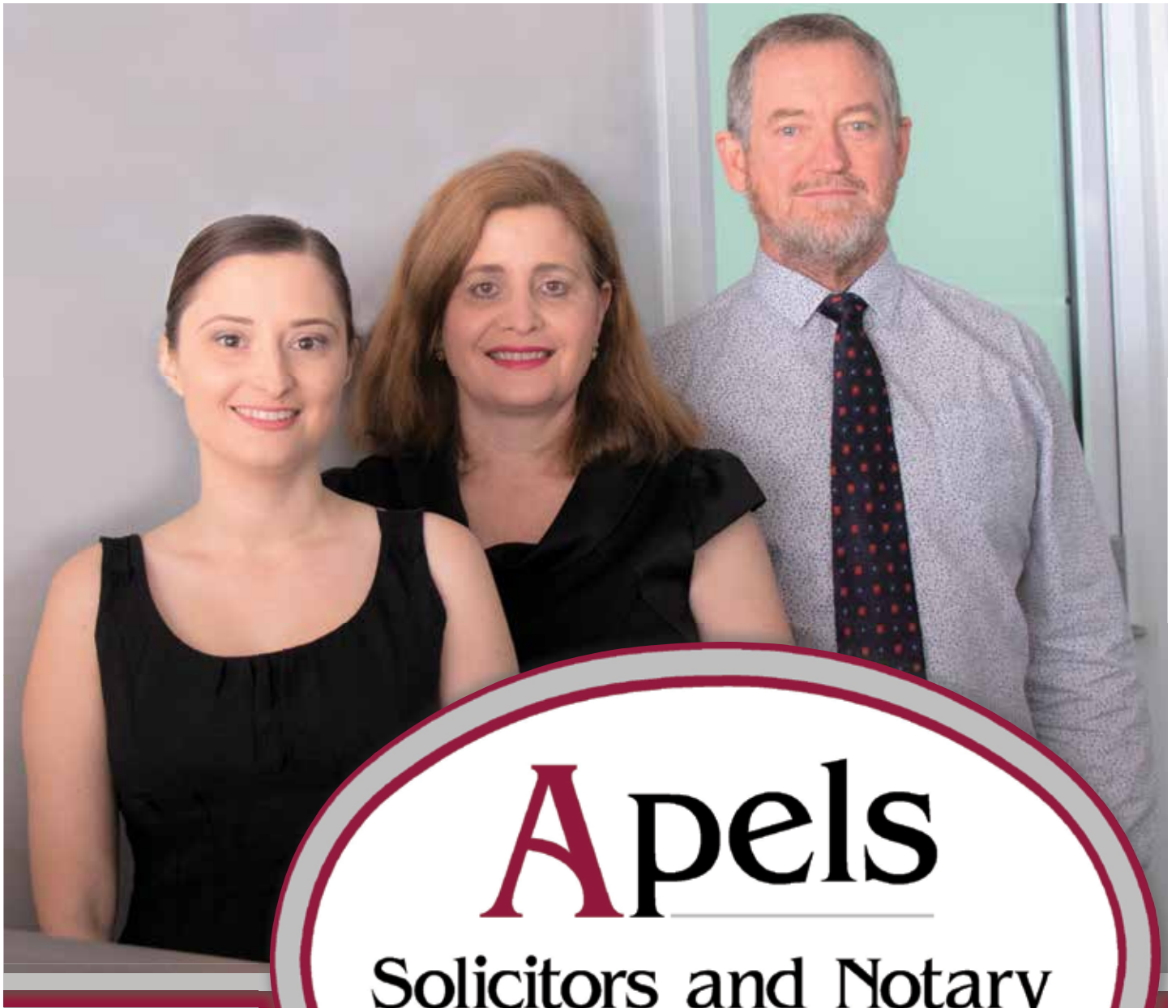
In response to the farm job shortage, the Australian Government has introduced a Relocation Assistance to Take Up a Job program that will offer some financial support to eligible participants to accept work outside of their area.

"That's a good initiative, we're very happy with it and it will do a lot to help move people from other parts of Australia to places like Mareeba and other regions within Queensland and Australia that will be struggling for workers," Mr Moro said.

"We'll also be talking to the government to see if they can help with subsidising temporary travel from Mareeba to Cairns for example, to relocate during the week and then go back home on the weekends.

"We think that there's a lot of people from Cairns that might want to work as long as they have some options in regards to accommodation and travel from their place of work.

"There is no real efficient public transport system within the Far North and we see that as a challenge."



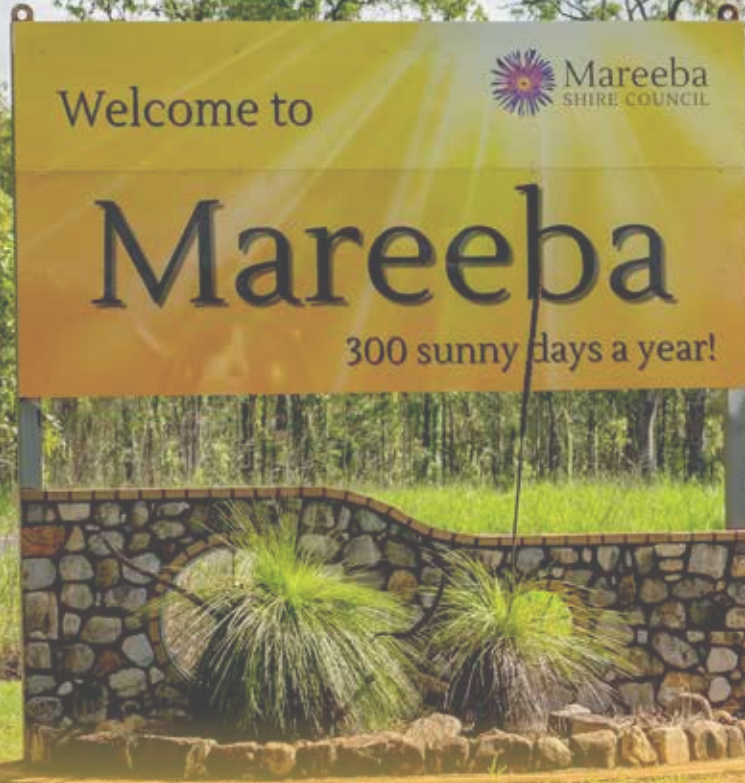
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# Property market booming

An increase in construction and property sales over the past 12 months has sparked a boom in the property market across the Mareeba Shire.

According to figures obtained from Mareeba Shire Council, 327 building approvals were made in the year 2019/20.

The total value of residential approvals for the same period was \$22,333,292 and the total value of non-residential approvals was \$13,778,494.

Contributing to the current boom has been the introduction of various building government grants and subsidies in 2020 due to COVID-19.

As a result, in just three months (July to September 2020) a total of 94 buildings were approved across the Mareeba Shire to the total value of \$14,451,666.

Mareeba developer Sam Musumeci has experienced the increase first-hand, with blocks at his Amaroo Estate completely sold out.

He said he now had plans to bring forward extra stages ahead of schedule to meet demand, which were already "generating inquiries".

"We're all but sold out, we've got a few blocks left," he said.

"We're going to start another stage at the end of the year or in the New Year. We've got approval and... we're at the early stages at starting on the site.

"We've got approval for another 39 (lots), but we're going to build 15 first up and then see how they go."

Other residential estates across Mareeba have also experienced a rise in sales, with reports that Wylandra and Riverlands are sold out. New lots are also being

constructed at Kenneally Estate and The Edge Estate.

Rural and Residential Sales Specialist Damon Falvo from Mareeba Property Office said while the property market slowed down in March/April 2020 due to the uncertainties of COVID, things quickly picked back up and were now thriving.

"A large number of properties have been transacted in the last 12 months," he said.

"That month when COVID came in and restrictions were in place things did slow down, but they've definitely made up for it since then and the market's definitely moving so it's a good time to sell."

Mr Falvo said there had been a mix of young couples entering the market and others adding to their property portfolio, as well as increased interest from buyers in southern states looking to move to the Far North.

"Land sales were much more common than other years driven by the building incentives that the government put out," he said.

"Some blocks that have been for sale for quite some time have now been sold.

"Construction wise, from what I'm hearing and from what I'm being told, all the trades are very busy. To the point where I believe some builders are going to be busy for at least the next 12 months.

"Overall we've come out of COVID really good, the market has responded well, if anything there's probably been an increase in demand on inquiries and there's probably a little bit less stock on the market compared to normal in terms of for sale."

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# Securing our future water

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The foresight of our forefathers to develop the man-made Tinaroo Dam has delivered much benefit to the broader northern Tablelands region, and the Chamber is acutely aware of the need for a similar solution to the region's current burgeoning water needs.

Water reliability and security is front of mind to secure future growth and sustainability for our industries and the communities they support.

Regional Development Australia Tropical North (RDATN) held the inaugural Regional Water Summit in September bringing together key government, advocacy and industry stakeholders.

The aim is to develop a unified, long-term strategy that embraces the region and covers off urban, industrial, agricultural, environmental and recreational requirements well into the future.

There are a number of proposals on the table to secure water for the Mareeba region.

Nullinga Dam on the Walsh River, 55 kilometres south-west of Cairns and 24 kilometres south-south-west of Mareeba, has long been mooted as part of a multi-thronged solution to providing long-term water security for Mareeba Shire.

However, its popularity has faded after a Queensland Government's detailed business case (completed in June 2019) deemed its construction as neither "financially or economically viable".

To the north of Mareeba, moves to build a new dam at Lakeland continue to gain momentum. This is a key service area for the Mareeba business community.

RDATN secured a \$10 million grant earlier this year to undertake the detailed business case.

The proposed 200 megalitre dam on the Palmer River will irrigate up to 10,000 hectares in the Lakeland basin providing over 1,000 jobs and generating over \$1 billion a year to the northern economy.

A principal project manager has been appointed, while an advisory committee has been established including representation from the local community, to oversee progress of the detailed business case.

Tenders were called for operational

services and drilling contractors in August 2020. Community engagement, environmental impact and cultural heritage studies are underway with site test drilling commencing in November.

The North Johnstone River Diversion, at Malanda, is still very much an option on the table.

The diversion proposal is centred on the construction of a pipe to tunnel water from the North Johnstone River near Malanda to Kenny Creek, a tributary of the Barron River, to supplement the level of the man-made Tinaroo Dam and improve reliability for all downstream users.

The diversion of water from the North Johnstone River to Tinaroo Dam would provide a low capital cost opportunity to improve both yield (30,000ML p/a or more) and reliability of Tinaroo Falls Dam, protecting the viability of existing irrigators on both the Atherton Tablelands and the Mareeba-Dimbulah Irrigation Area and facilitating higher value produce.

The Queensland Government has previously commissioned hydrological, engineering and environmental studies on the diversion proposal, with several pipe and tunnel options assessed, however, a reassessment of these studies is required.

The FNQ Water Security Project promotes the construction of three dams on the Beatrice River, Dirran Creek and North Johnstone River, with a combined yield of 380 GL per annum to resupply Tinaroo Dam, augmenting the existing regional water supply.

Securing water for Cairns urban needs was deemed the "principal and most urgent" priority from the summit; likewise an increased allocation needs for the Tablelands region from a variety of sources such as the North Johnstone River diversion favoured over the previously popular option of Nullinga Dam.

RDATN chair David Kempton said the prioritisation of water projects in the region was part of a longer-term strategy by the organisation to bring together regional groups and test projects and opinion.

"The message is clear, unless we present a unified, long term water strategy that is prioritised and fully integrated, we will fail in our endeavours to provide water to keep pace with community and economic growth," Mr Kempton said.

"The end game is a list of prioritised projects that we all agree on as a region.

"This way we will have a far more powerful, united and effective voice at a State and Federal platform."

## MAJOR ROAD UPGRADE TO BENEFIT KEY FREIGHT, COMMUTERS AND TOURISM

A \$45 million upgrade of the Kennedy Highway between Kuranda and Mareeba is set to deliver significant long-term improvements to traffic flow and safety for key freight, commuters and tourism.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) is investing \$45 million to upgrade more than 31km of the Kennedy Highway between Kuranda and Mareeba.

According to TMR, traffic volume between Smithfield and Kuranda is about 8,700 vehicles per day (2016) reducing to about 5,800 per day between Kuranda and Emerald Creek, before increasing to about 7,700 vehicles per day between Emerald Creek and Mareeba.

Crash data reports also show that the Kennedy Highway from Cairns to Mareeba ranked highly for key risk indicators compared to other state-controlled roads with a very high number of crashes.

Mareeba Chamber of Commerce was one of the major bodies to lobby for an upgrade of the vital road link, which had "failed to properly cater for the current volume of traffic and future anticipated growth".

"I think people need to appreciate that there were a lot of safety issues with the road," Chamber president Joe Moro said.

"There were some bad accidents, not only on the Kuranda Range, but also on the road between Mareeba and Kuranda so we were really keen to see safety improved in that section. "The turning/strip lanes that are being put in are really going to make sure that when you're driving between Mareeba and Kuranda, it's safer.

"There's a lot of jobs where people work in Cairns and live in the Shire and also vice versa, so it's important that we have a safe route that you can travel."

A Transport and Main Roads spokesperson said the highway upgrade was being delivered in stages to minimise disruptions and were expected to be completed in December 2021, weather permitting.

"The works are part of a \$112 million program being delivered across Queensland over the next three years as part of the High Risk Roads Targeted Road Safety Program," the spokesperson said.

"The works involve: installing wide centre line treatment to reduce the risk of head-on crashes; installing audible tactile line marking to reduce the risk of fatigue-related crashes; installing new guardrail and wire rope barriers to reduce the risk of serious injuries caused by out-of-control vehicles leaving the road; and installing new overtaking lanes near Koah to provide lanes to safely overtake slower vehicles."

Mr Moro said the next project he'd like on the section of road was a place for B-doubles to unhitch their trailers.



## Creating Sustainable Agricultural Workforces

*“Identifying and collaborating opportunities to progress workforce development in Agriculture”*



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# North's fruit and veg bowl continues to grow

Proudly known as the fruit and veggie bowl of the North, agriculture is moving from strength to strength across the Mareeba Shire.

Over the past 12 months some local farmers have decided to expand their crops, while the region has welcomed an influx of new big players.

The Shire's agricultural industries have also been credited for helping the region survive COVID-19 and bounce back a lot faster and stronger than many other areas.

"There is a lot of activity in the region and I think it comes back to the fact that we have a strong agricultural industry, in particular the horticulture industry," FNQ Growers chair Joe Moro said.

But, Mr Moro said while "agriculture is strong", growers would soon be facing some challenges over the next 12 months.

"There are going to be some challenges for the next 12 months in the area of labour," he said.

"The other issue we're going to face probably next year is exports because we don't have any international tourism happening.

"Unless we find solutions to have cheap and affordable export freight rates to our markets, I think that's going to be another new challenge that we're going to have to face.

"Agriculture is doing well, but there are also some issues that need to be dealt with along the way."

Mr Moro said a number of solutions had been proposed to support the Shire's vital agriculture industry during the uncertain times.

One to get more people back into the regions and working is the Seasonal Worker Program.

"The government has come forward with some initiatives for people to relocate into the growing regions," Mr Moro said.

"There's a lot of energy, now we need to make sure that energy converts and solves the problems.

"We're not sure if we're going to be able to solve all that, but we will work with all levels of government to get as many people working on farms as we can from all over the place."



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# FNQ Field Days ready to make a mark in 2021

Organisers of northern Australia's largest agricultural Field Days are gearing up for one of their most successful events to date.

The 2021 Rotary FNQ Field Days is set to be held at the Mareeba Rodeo Grounds on May 26, 27 and 28 and is expected to attract more than 20,000 local, intrastate and interstate exhibitors and visitors.

Hundreds of exhibitors have already jumped at the chance to be part of the biennial event, with about 90 per cent of sites sold within weeks of opening up online.

New Rotary FNQ Field Days Chairman, Trevor Duncan said the organising committee had put in place a range of comprehensive COVID-Safe guidelines and event procedures to give confidence to exhibitors taking part in 2021.

"We are strong and stable and ready for next year. The 2019 event sold out and we expect 2021 to be the same," he said.

"The continued growth of the FNQ Field Days, in both exhibitor bookings and attendance numbers, has proven that these Field Days are the most sought after in Northern Australia.

"We know how vital the Field Days are to the exhibitors, the economy and our communities and after what 2020 has thrown at us we are hard at work planning to ensure the 2021 event meets the expectations of site exhibitors, patrons and visitors and a new COVID-Safe way."

The fast approaching Field Days will have a strong focus around three key themes in 2021: Rural Strong – Rural Australia is open for business; Are You Bugged Mate – helping country blokes talk about mental health and suicide while spreading awareness about depression in the bush;



and Community Spirit – we all love and are proud of where we live.

Mr Duncan said along with the key themes, the event would also host a range of other popular events.

These include the grand opening Field Days spectacular, tractor pull, working machinery demonstrations, 4WD track demonstrations, drones, horse demonstrations, cattle, emergency services, Stihl demonstrations and much more.

"We boast the greatest line-up of agricultural products and services and we are always thinking of new ways to raise the bar," Mr Duncan said.

"We want to make each and every Field Days bigger and better than the last."

The 2021 Rotary FNQ Field Days are proud to have Mareeba Tyrepower continue on as a strategic partner, with the added addition of NQ Agricultural Services in Tolga and Mareeba Mazda also returning as a strategic partner.



## Rotary FNQ

# Field Days



Brought to you by Tableland Rotary Clubs  
of Atherton & Mareeba

*Largest Field Days in  
Northern Australia!*

**26, 27, 28 MAY 2021 – MAREEBA RODEO GROUNDS**

**[www.fnqfielddays.org.au](http://www.fnqfielddays.org.au)**

Facebook: Rotary FNQ Field Days E: [info@fnqfielddays.org.au](mailto:info@fnqfielddays.org.au)

# A VOICE FOR THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY

A strong chamber results in a strong business community. It's a simple as that.

Mareeba Chamber of Commerce is one of the region's leading and highly respected chambers. We don't profess to know everything – we are a voice for the business community – we represent the interests of our members and wider community in a variety of ways.

While we celebrate our wins and raise issues mainstream and on social media, some of our work is carried out behind-the-scenes, via correspondence, meetings and representations with key stakeholders.

Results of lobbying efforts take time and are often repetitive, yet progress is made.

Having a voice at the table where decisions are made is just as important and we are fortunate that the members of our executive are often given the opportunity to voice concerns and represent the business interests of the Mareeba community on various committees and forums.

The Mareeba Chamber represents the interests of members in a variety of ways. First and foremost, the organisation promotes Mareeba as a vibrant retail, trade supply and professional service commercial centre, which services not only the Mareeba community, but also satellite areas including the southern Tablelands, Dimbulah, Lakeland and Cape York Peninsula.

The chamber's most fundamental mission is to generate more business for its members. It supports its members and the business community with seminars, workshops and trade displays by either promoting these events or having a hand in arranging them.

Get involved and become a member. We are committed to prosperity and when you join the Mareeba Chamber you will help shape the future of our town for generations to come.



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## BUSINESS MEMBERS

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|---|--|
| Advanced Rural                          | Jaques Coffee Plantation                             |
| Amaroo Medical                          | Karma Waters Station                                 |
| Apels Solicitors & Notary               | Kelly Wealth Services                                |
| Baba Curry                              | Kreative Knook                                       |
| Barron River Lawns                      | Kuranda Koala Gardens                                |
| Blakey's Brakes & Aircon Service P/L    | Miller Harris Lawyers                                |
| Cairns Chamber of Commerce              | Mareeba Community Housing Co Ltd                     |
| Care Chiropractic Queensland            | Mareeba Community Centre Inc                         |
| CQB Services Pty Ltd                    | Mareeba Heritage Museum & Visitor Information Centre |
| Central Realty Mareeba                  | Mareeba Electrical Services                          |
| Cape Gateway Motel                      | Mareeba Kids Campus                                  |
| Chillagoe Perlite                       | Mareeba Mazda & Mitsubishi                           |
| Chillagoe Creek Homestead               | Mareeba State High School                            |
| Claude Cater Mensland                   | Millar Teitzel Accountants & Advisors                |
| Coffee Works                            | My Mareeba Dentist                                   |
| Complete Mobility & Rehab               | NEATO Employment Services                            |
| Conveyor Supples NQ                     | NGI Savannah Living                                  |
| David Anthony Solicitors                | O'Donnells Office Product Depot                      |
| Duesbury Accountants & Advisors         | Pumping, Irrigation & Machinery Services (PIMS)      |
| Dunnrite Mareeba                        | Priceline Pharmacy                                   |
| Emerald Creek Ice-Creamery              | Springmount Waste Management Facility                |
| Fencing Around                          | RATCH Australia                                      |
| FlexiChoice MDFSA                       | Savannah in the Round                                |
| FNQ Filters and Parts                   | Shane Smith Builder Pty Ltd                          |
| FNQ Insurance Brokers                   | Skybury Coffee Pty Ltd                               |
| Forever Wild                            | St Stephens Catholic College                         |
| Frankly Financial                       | Sunwater Ltd   |
| Golden Drop Winery                      | Tableland Canegrowers                                |
| Gregg Constructions Pty Ltd             | Tableland Community Funerals                         |
| Grubers Beckett Chartered Accountants   | Telematix4u  |
| Hansen Ford & Mareeba Toyota            | TAFE Queensland                                      |
| Howe Farming                            | What's on Where to go                                |
| HR Dynamics                             | WGC Lawyers  |
| HMBT Pty Ltd                            |  |
| Ida Portella Business & Travel Services |  |
| Jackaroo Motel                          |  |

# Lobbying for what matters



Mareeba Chamber of Commerce Executive Committee.

The Mareeba Chamber of Commerce is front and centre when it matters the most – actively lobbying federal, state and local governments on a range of issues.

Whether its core issues like health, roads and development, or issues specific to key stakeholders like rogue crocodiles, the Mareeba Chamber of Commerce brings issues that matter most at the tables where the decisions are made.

## THE CHAMBER'S LOBBYING EFFORTS THIS YEAR INCLUDED:

» **Opposition to a temporary local planning instrument (TLPI), over Mareeba Shire, designed to preserve agricultural productivity across the region. Concerns it would halt development in the shire.**

» **The Chamber opposed the proposed Nullinga Dam overlay due to concerns landholders would not receive any compensation for their loss as the overlay would deny landholders the right to develop their land, for residential and non-residential infrastructure including subdivision and agriculture.**

» **Lobbying for developer contributions to help fund community infrastructure.**

» **Liased with TMR about carparking issues with the new traffic lights on Byrnes Street.**

» **Support for upgrades to key local transport networks including Springmount Road and Davies Creek Road.**

» **Support for a state application for \$21 million to allow for a strategic assessment of service requirements, preliminary evaluation and detailed business case to improve the safety, capacity and reliability of the Kuranda Range Road.**

» **Installation of crocodile warning signage to deter public swimming at Lake Mitchell, Mulligan Highway.**

» **Secured funding from the Northern Queensland Primary Health Network (NQPHN) to investigate opportunities to deliver sustainable improvements to health outcomes for the Mareeba community.**

» **Every vote matters and the Chamber ran a campaign to encourage the Mareeba community to know who and what they were voting for at the 2020 State Election.**

The above issues are just a sample of the fronts where the Mareeba Chamber and its executive have been active this past year.

Our primary focus is to lobby for our most important customers – our members.

## NEW WEBSITE PROMOTES MAREEBA

A website is your door to the world. With this in mind, the Chamber revamped its website this year to include a series of tourism itineraries, in support of its promotion of the industry that continues to contribute heavily to the local economy.

The itineraries cover the area's attractions, agricultural crops and sports and sit alongside information about Mareeba's event calendar and street maps.

They are designed to promote Mareeba to the tourist market and encourage the self-drive visitor to tour Mareeba at their own pace, with the hope of generating more overnight stays.

Mareeba Chamber of Commerce president Joe Moro said tourism played an important part in Mareeba's economy.

"Tourism continues to grow as an economic contributor to the Mareeba region," Mr Moro said.

"Many of our tourism businesses have been hit hard this past year with travel restrictions cutting their markets and forcing them to rethink their target markets.

"As a chamber, we've made a huge effort in supporting the industry and implementing initiatives that build on its value to the region.

"The Mareeba region is blessed with an abundance of natural and man-made attractions, a great climate and dedicated tourist operators, which combined offers a wonderful tourist experience in Mareeba."

The tourism itineraries start at the Mareeba Heritage and Visitors Information Centre.

As a focal point for visitor information on Mareeba, the Centre is an ideal starting place for the tourism itineraries.

The new-look website is available at [www.mareebachamber.com.au](http://www.mareebachamber.com.au)



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