Lockyer Valley Regional Council

Community Development and Engagement Initiative Forum

Rockhampton Plaza Hotel

Tuesday 28 February to Thursday 1 March 2012
Acknowledgement

The Community Development and Engagement Initiative has been made possible through funding provided under the Community Development and Recovery Package, which is a joint initiative of the Australian and Queensland Governments under the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements.

The Community Development and Engagement Initiative is supported by the Local Government Association of Queensland and the Lockyer Valley Regional Council.
Lockyer Valley Overview
The Region

The Lockyer Valley Region is rated among the top ten most fertile farming areas in the world. Affectionately known as the South East Queensland food bowl, this prime agricultural area is laden with features.

The *Lockyer Valley Regional Council* was formed with the amalgamation of the former Gatton and Laidley Shire Councils in March 2008.

At the last census (2006), the Lockyer Valley population was approximately 36,500.

Our region is serviced by 26 public and private schools, 16 early childhood education and care services, two hospitals and the University of Queensland’s Gatton campus, which has more than 2500 students and employs about 350 people.

We have over 2,700 businesses operating out of the Lockyer Valley, 30% of which are related to the agriculture, forestry and fishing industry.
December 2010 / January 2011 Floods

“There's going to be a lot of heartache in the Lockyer Valley for a long time. There is no other part of Queensland that has experienced what that community has experienced...a deeply shocking, traumatic event.”

Anna Bligh, Queensland Premier (14 January 2011)

“This community has been devastated by one of Australia’s worst natural disasters in history. The road to recovery will be long. We will work together and we will see this through. And in the end, we will emerge a stronger and more united community.”

Cr Steve Jones, Mayor Lockyer Valley Regional Council
Sixteen people lost their lives, three are still missing.

11 evacuation centers opened
47 Water rescues
43 helicopter rescues
119 houses received major structural damage or were swept away.
2290 additional properties were inundated
More than 1,000 cars were destroyed
1,750 tyres removed from the creeks
140 tonnes of debris cleared from the creeks and surrounds
77% of Council road infrastructure was damaged
40 of 48 bridges damaged
512 of 2,500 Culverts Damaged
192 of 330 Flood Ways require restoration work
Total infrastructure reconstruction costing approximately $190,000,000
Community Development and Engagement Initiative
Community Consultation and Mapping
Who have we engaged?

- Community Leaders
- Youth Council
- Individual Community Members
- Council Staff
- Elected Members
- Community Groups
- Community Reference Group
- Service Providers
How did we engage?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community Meetings / Workshops</th>
<th>Mapping tool</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community Events</td>
<td>Reference Groups</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meetings (Groups)</td>
<td>Meetings (Individuals)</td>
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<td>Media Channels</td>
<td>Meetings (Stakeholders)</td>
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<td>Interagency Meetings</td>
<td>Recovery Meetings (Human Social)</td>
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<td>Youth Council Meetings</td>
<td>School Student Workshops</td>
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<td>Youth Events</td>
<td>Public Meetings</td>
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**Community Plan Engagement** – The Community Development Team supported Fieldworks in some of the Community Plan consultation sessions:
- The Big Chat – Laidley and Gatton
- Community Workshops – Laidley and Gatton
- Reference Group Workshop
- Council Staff Workshops

(Note: Lockyer Valley Community Plan was developed between July 2011 and October 2011)
Outcome of consultation and mapping
What did we find out overall?

The flood events of December 2010 and January 2011, culminating on the 10 January, resulted in loss and damage to:

- Peoples’ lives, health and wellbeing, resulting in trauma and isolation
- Homes
- Private and public infrastructure
- Livestock, livelihoods and economic activities
- Sense of community connectedness
- Natural environment, and
- Residents sense of safety and hope for the future
Community Star Mapping Process

The *Community Star Mapping* tool, developed by Fieldworks for the Community Development and Engagement Initiative, was completed by the Human and Social Recovery Team based upon the wide range of community engagement and consultation undertaken.

This was taken at three points:

- Pre Floods – November 2010 / December 2010
- Post Floods – February 2011
- Twelve Months – February 2012
The Community Star Map highlighted:

- The region overall is recovering well across all domains (all areas better than February 2011 – directly post floods)
- The region however is still not at the same point or better than prior December 2010, consistent with the literature that states that recovery is a long process
- Main domains that require attention:
  - People – loss & trauma and personal / community safety
  - Connections – significant number of people affected
  - Vibrancy – support, promotion and coordination for sports, arts and culture groups
  - Place – infrastructure and natural environment damage
    - Information delivery is also highlighted as very important and is required ongoing
### Star Mapping Data

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<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PLACE - Public</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLACE - Natural</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>PLACE - Quality</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>4.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Average</strong></td>
<td><strong>4</strong></td>
<td><strong>2</strong></td>
<td><strong>3.5</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>PEOPLE - Wellbeing</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>PEOPLE - Safety</td>
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<tr>
<td>PEOPLE - Support</td>
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<td><strong>3.0</strong></td>
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<td>ECONOMY - Income</td>
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<td>1.5</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>ECONOMY - Knowledge</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>ECONOMY - Employment</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Average</strong></td>
<td><strong>3.8</strong></td>
<td><strong>2.0</strong></td>
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### Star Mapping Data (continued)

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<tr>
<td>VIBRANCY - Culture</td>
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<tr>
<td>VIBRANCY – Sport</td>
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<td>VIBRANCY – Diversity</td>
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<td>CONNECTIONS - Connected</td>
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<td>CONNECTIONS – Engaged</td>
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<td>CONNECTIONS – Responsible</td>
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<td>HOME - Housing</td>
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<tr>
<td>HOME – Transport</td>
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<td>HOME – Services</td>
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<td><strong>Average</strong></td>
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Strengths and Resources

- A connected community that is actively engaged and participate in their local community
- A core group of proactive and connected community leaders
- Skills and support of the Human and Social Recovery Team
- Recovery Teams knowledge of, and connects with, the community
- Pre-existing contacts, relationships and resources
- A number of proactive and dedicated community representatives and community groups
- A resilient and proactive community
Key projects and activities
Council Community Connect

Description

• The goal of this publication is to promote greater public awareness of Council's community development and support services and to increase organisations/groups knowledge of Council and non-Council grants and training services.
• Distributed on the last Wednesday of each month via email
Local Community Coordination Committees (LCCC)

Description

- The LCCC is to establish a core group who possess the local knowledge and expertise to ensure that disaster management is managed within the local area.
- Provide information and assistance to the Lockyer Valley Local Disaster Management Group with regards to disaster management issues
- Group uses local knowledge, expertise and understanding of social, environmental and economic issues for the local area.
- Pilot initiative: Murphys Creek and Mt Sylvia
Blackfellow Creek Post Flood Study

Description

• A subproject of the Blackfellow Creek post flood study is about Community Knowledge of Blackfellow Creek.
• Aims to contribute towards developing this community by collecting and documenting anecdotal and pictorial records of flood histories in the area.
• These records will inform the scientific component of the study as to local impacts of flood events and landscape and waterway changes over time.
• Partnership project with SEQ Catchments, Lockyer Valley Regional Council, Mt Sylvia Local Community Coordination Committee and Mt Sylvia Community
Active Healthy Lockyer

Description
- A proposed physical activity, health and wellbeing pilot program.
- Five main strategic areas:
  - Physical Activity and Healthy Lifestyles
  - Mental Health
  - Participation in Community Life
  - Advice, Training & Support
  - Information Delivery
Wellbeing Expo

**Description**

- A Wellbeing Expo held during National Mental Health Week.
- Council has endorsed that the 2012 Wellbeing Expo will be a joint initiative between Council, Australasian Centre for Rural and Remote Mental Health, and the Queensland Alliance for Mental Health.
- The purpose of the Lockyer Valley Regional Council Wellbeing Expo is to promote participation in community life through increasing understanding and access to services and facilities that promote wellbeing, self care and healthy lifestyles.
South West Corner Area Support

**Description**

- Within the South West Corner:
  - Informing and guiding local community leaders in addressing their own recovery and resilience needs
  - Providing information and advise about Council business
  - Providing training, mentoring and support to community groups, community leaders and community members to increase their capacity to support their local community.
Consultation, mapping, networking and planning

Description
• Ongoing Networking, Community Consultation and Mapping
• This includes but not limited to:
  • Human & Social Advisory Committee and Sub Groups
  • Lockyer Valley Regional Council Community Reference Group
  • Lockyer Valley Interagency meeting
  • Ongoing community consultation and mapping
  • Networking events
Highlights
August 2011 to February 2012
Highlights

Inspirational, Resilient and Committed Community
Over the last year I have been privileged to meet a number of inspirational community members, whom are not only resilient and proactive in getting their own lives back on track but also supporting others in this journey.

2011 Wellbeing Expo
The very first project that I worked on was the 2011 Lockyer Valley Regional Council Wellbeing Expo. Overall 33 exhibitors and 400 people attended this event, there was some very positive feedback and interest in this becoming an annual event.

At the 18 January 2011 Committee Meeting of Council it was endorsed that another Wellbeing Expo will be held during the 2012 Mental Health Week
Victorian Bushfire Recovery Workshop and Tour - Melbourne

From Thursday 15 – Saturday 17 December 2011, Lockyer Valley Mayor Cr Steven Jones, Cr Tanya Milligan (Councillor of Corporate Governance, Youth & Community Engagement and Chairperson Human and Social Sub Committee), Leo Jensen (Group Manager Community and Development Services), Sue Hewitt (Senior Recovery Officer – Human & Social), Neil Williamson (Community Development Team Leader), Luke Sutcliffe (Recovery Project Officer) and Jacob Walsh (CDEI Community Development Officer) attended a recovery information/planning workshop and Victorian bushfire tour.

The workshop and tour was facilitated by Janet Cribbes, the Centacare Bushfire Community Recovery Service Project Coordinator.

This three day trip was a great opportunity to hear from people whom have been on the recovery journey, to listen to their successful projects and initiatives, to hear from local community members and to start a discussion about our teams strategic work plan/direction. This opportunity also was very beneficial for team development and relationship building across all levels of the organisation (elected members, executive management and officers).