

CQSS:2030

Consultation and engagement report

Phase 1 consultation and engagement
to support the review of the regional NRM
strategy 2013-2014

FBA would like to acknowledge the contributions of everyone to date in shaping the future NRM Plan for Central Queensland.

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Contents

Introduction	1
Engagement framework	1
Methods	2
Institutional consultations	2
FBA board	2
Community questionnaire	3
Conversations with community leaders	3
Traditional Owners and Indigenous community	4
Results	4
Initial institutional consultations	4
FBA board	5
Community questionnaire	5
Conversations with community leaders	8
Traditional Owners and Indigenous community	9
Appendix A Regional institutional stakeholder analysis	10
Appendix B Community questionnaire comments	12
Describe your area	12
Community values	17
Changes and community responses	22
NRM Issues	29
Appendix C Feedback from sector interviews	36

Introduction

The Central Queensland Sustainability Strategy (CQSS:2030) provides a guiding document for Natural Resource Management (NRM) in central Queensland. Developed by the Fitzroy Basin Association Inc. (FBA) on behalf of the regional community, the plan outlines:

- the region's natural assets and values
- the pressures on those assets (including climate change) and the associated environmental, social and economic risks
- broad strategies to address these risks.

In 2013-14 FBA has been reviewing the current Central Queensland Strategy for Sustainability -- 2004 and beyond (CQSS2). As part of the review, this Consultation and Engagement Report documents the results of the phase 1 consultations with regional stakeholders. Details of the strategy review process can be found in the document *CQSS:2030 Plan review process*. Further community engagement activities are planned, including opportunities for organisations and individuals to provide feedback on the draft CQSS:2030.

Engagement framework

The strategy's review will engage institutional stakeholders and the regional community to support and promote collaboration between community, government, industry and other stakeholders by:

1. Engaging key groups:
 - a. Aboriginal communities and Traditional Owner groups
 - b. General community
 - c. Rural industries
 - d. Other key sectors
 - e. Government agencies
 - f. Scientific and research community
 - g. Adjacent NRM regions
2. Developing a strategy that:
 - a. reflects community values and aspirations
 - b. links to relevant government policies, plans and programs
 - c. is an effective communication product
 - d. is relevant to key stakeholder groups.

Two substantive phases of community engagement are planned. These are tailored to three key audiences: institutional stakeholders, resource managers, and the interested public. The engagement framework (Table 1) adopts the International Association for Public Participation spectrum ([IAP2](#)) that clarifies the purpose of different levels of engagement.

This document reports the current outputs of phase 1: consultation on the current strategy and regional NRM priorities. Further details on planned phase 2 activities are available in the document *CQSS:2030 Plan review process*.

Table 1. Community engagement framework for review of CQSS2

Stakeholders	Phase 1: Consultation on current strategy & NRM priorities	Phase 2: Consultation on draft revised strategy & implementation
Timing	Jul 2013 – Jul 2014	Aug 2014 – Jul 2015
Institutional stakeholders (local, state and Commonwealth government departments, peak bodies, conservation groups, Indigenous groups such as FBEC etc.)	<p><i>Consult on</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • experience of current strategy • current NRM priorities • preferred involvement in strategy review • format/use of new strategy <p>by 1-on-1 meetings (FBA lead) by FBA Board engagement (FBA lead)</p>	<p><i>Consult on</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • draft revised strategy • web-based strategy delivery • strategy implementation <p><i>Involve in</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • web development <p>by 1-on-1 and small group meetings (FBA lead) by formal institutional presentations (FBA lead)</p>
Individual resource managers (farmers, resource companies, fishers, Traditional Owners etc.)	<p><i>Consult on</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • values and aspirations • framing of change and adaptation • current NRM priorities <p>by the community questionnaire (sub-regions lead) by conversations with community leaders (FBA lead) by meeting with Traditional Owners (FBEC lead)</p>	<p><i>Inform on</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • updated knowledge base and priorities <p><i>Consult on</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • draft revised strategy • web-based strategy delivery • strategy implementation mechanisms <p>by meeting marketplaces/community roadshow and presentations to sector groups (sub-regions lead) by web-based feedback (FBA lead) by meetings with Traditional Owners (FBEC lead)</p>
Wider CQ community (beyond traditional NRM stakeholders)	<p><i>Consult on</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • values and aspirations • framing of change and adaptation <p>by Community questionnaire (sub-regions lead)</p>	<p><i>Inform on</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • updated knowledge base and priorities • draft revised strategy, web-tool and implementation <p>by meeting marketplaces / community roadshow by using FLOW Visitor Centre and other approaches (sub-regions & FBA lead) by web-based feedback (FBA lead)</p>

Methods

This section reports the methods used in five distinct consultation exercises: individual institutional consultations, engagement of the FBA Board, the community questionnaire, conversations with community leaders and Traditional Owner and Indigenous community engagement.

Institutional consultations

The purpose of this consultation activity was to:

- inform people that the strategy review was being undertaken
- solicit feedback on the current awareness and use of the strategy
- share ideas and seek feedback on the proposed format of the revised strategy and stakeholder engagement processes.

A stakeholder analysis was drafted to identify and prioritise key institutional stakeholders in the region (summarised in Appendix A). This has been progressively refined with stakeholder feedback.

FBA representatives met with individuals from key partner institutions. An outline of the strategy review process as well as consultation questions were provided prior to the meetings. Meetings generally took 1 to 1.5 hours and comprehensive notes were taken.

FBA Board

The FBA Board plays a key role in the review of the NRM strategy. Regular presentations and a number of workshops have been held with the full Board. In addition, a sub-group of the Board have met with the planning team regularly and provided a set of guiding principles as well as feedback on particular aspects of the strategy's review.

Consultation with the FBA Board is reported here because Board members represent a strong cross-section of the central Queensland community. They are drawn from agriculture, mining, government, community, Traditional Owner groups, conservation, science and industry backgrounds.

The first workshop session was undertaken in February 2013 and focussed on the broader environment for the strategy review. Several exercises were undertaken:

- a PESTLE analysis: political, economic, social and cultural, technological, legal and environmental factors that will influence the strategy's review
- a SWOT analysis: strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats for the revised strategy.

Principles for the strategy review process were also discussed.

In February 2014 the FBA Board and staff participated in a climate change risk assessment workshop. Technical information was provided by Professor Bob Miles. Board members suggested local champions that could facilitate sector engagement with the strategy review process.

Community questionnaire

The objectives of the community questionnaire were to:

1. hear and document community perspectives on NRM
2. capture some of the rich stories of life in the Fitzroy Basin (via photo, film and stories)
3. build staff capacity in using narrative (storytelling) approaches and technologies.

There were two broad target audiences: natural resource managers and the wider community. The aim was to capture a diverse sample of perspectives.

A questionnaire was designed and piloted in September 2013. After testing, the refined survey was provided to officers of the sub-regional organisations: Dawson Catchment Coordinating Association (DCCA), Central Highlands Regional Resource Use Planning Cooperative (CHRRUP) and Fitzroy River and Coastal Catchments (FRCC). The survey was available in a variety of formats (paper-based, online, and mobile technologies). Survey data was collected between September 2013 to January 2014. Answers were transcribed by staff or directly entered online. Personal details, consent and photos were collected at the same time.

As well as basic demographic information (age, catchment, type of community) the survey asked:

1. How would you describe the area you live (to someone who is not a local)?
2. What do you value about this part of central Queensland, and why?
3. What changes have you seen? How have people responded?
4. What do you think are the biggest NRM issues, and what would you like to see happen?

These were drawn from concepts in the resilience literature.

The survey was also used to canvas potential subjects for photo, video or other NRM communications that are being developed in conjunction with the strategy's review.

Recurring themes were coded in the data and summarised for each question. Full answers (raw data) to the four open-ended questions are provided in Appendix B.

Conversations with community leaders

In May and June 2014 a series of 1-on-1 semi-structured interviews were undertaken with individuals from across the major sectors. Individuals were chosen as 'thought leaders' who could provide a strategic perspective of NRM issues for their sector (rather than their own particular business). Nominations were sought from Board members and sub-regional organisations. Individuals from a cross-section of major sectors were selected and approached for interview. Interviews canvassed the state of their sector, NRM issues including climate change, how the NRM strategy could assist, and appropriate consultation processes for that sector. Individuals from the grazing, intensive animal industries, dryland and irrigated cropping, horticulture (inland and coastal), coal, coal seam gas, infrastructure, tourism and fisheries were consulted. Interviews were conducted by two staff. Notes were taken and subsequently summarised.

Traditional Owners and Indigenous community

The Fitzroy Basin Elders Committee (FBEC) is a voluntary coalition of Aboriginal elders and Traditional Owners. FBEC provides advice and assistance on engagement of Traditional Owners and the Indigenous community on natural and cultural heritage issues in central Queensland.

The region's Traditional Owners aspire to develop an Indigenous NRM and cultural heritage plan. In September 2013 FBEC facilitated a two-day workshop to consider this and linkages to CQSS:2030. A number of FBA staff participated in parts of the forum.

Additional meetings have been held with FBEC to discuss Traditional Owner contributions to the strategy and consultation with the Indigenous community.

Results

The results presented here are summarised from various documentation of consultation activities. The anonymity of contributors has been preserved. The spread of contributors is described for each activity below, and where sector or organisational perspectives are relevant they are identified as such.

Initial institutional consultations

Sixteen meetings were held with major delivery partners such as sub-regional groups and the three levels of government. Feedback is summarised below.

People were familiar with the current strategy and appreciated its comprehensive summary of NRM information and knowledge at the regional and sub-regional level. People used the strategy for its information base, to prioritise actions and to seek and prioritise investments. The plan is recognised but as it is 10 years old, it is considered out-of-date and is rarely used.

NRM concerns were raised about the expansion of mining and coal seam gas, co-existence with agriculture, and land and water management in general. The uptake of improved agricultural practices for water quality benefits through Reef-related programs was acknowledged. Climate change was seen as a threat, but highly uncertain and a challenge for community engagement. Offsets were widely seen as an opportunity that the revised strategy should capitalise on.

The proposed changes to the format of the NRM strategy (modular, online, strategic, adaptive, simpler) were widely supported, as was a more flexible engagement strategy in the review process (time-efficient, specific rather than general). Mapping and other products that could clearly articulate regional values were seen as an opportunity to influence key regional decisions, for example land use planning and development assessment.

The need for a better information base with better monitoring, evaluation and reporting, as well as better assessment methods that considered systems-thinking and cumulative impacts were mentioned by a number of representatives. Offsets were widely viewed as a valuable opportunity for the region (albeit associated with development pressures). The need to better understand and respond to climate change was also commonly noted.

Comments were also made about the importance of understanding delivery roles. Steps already underway to clarify the distinct roles of FBA and the sub-regional bodies were supported. Understanding and strengthening links to government were also considered important.

Key challenges identified include:

- community engagement
- responding to the 'regulatory ease' (green tape reduction)
- climate change (communication and adaptation).

FBA Board

The FBA Board articulated a set of principles to guide the NRM strategy's review:

1. The strategy supports and promotes collaboration between community, government, industry and other stakeholders.
2. The strategy is developed and implemented using an adaptive management process.
3. The strategy is action-oriented, describing a collective regional vision and clear pathways to implementation.
4. The revision process uses the best available scientific, local, traditional and cultural knowledge.
5. The strategy development process helps to build regional capacity and capability.
6. The strategy should influence and inform policy and institutional settings.

The Board and a sub-group of the Board have provided substantial and ongoing input to the strategy's development including contextual understanding, strategic development, sector contacts and engagement approaches.

Community questionnaire

Two hundred and four responses to the community questionnaire were recorded. Responses came from across the Fitzroy Basin, with 30 per cent each from the Dawson and Fitzroy catchments. A further 65 per cent of respondents described their type of community as 'rural' while 21 per cent chose 'country town'. One third of respondents wanted their answers to remain confidential.

Question 6 asked 'How would you describe the area you live in (to someone who is not a local)?' Recurring themes in the answers to this question were (listed in order of frequency):

- Specific locations
- Agriculture
- Landscape features
- Rural community
- Mining
- Diversity
- Water
- Climate
- Coastal

Answers commonly expressed a pride and affection for both the landscape and the local community. Agricultural industries featured highly, particularly cattle grazing. The expansion of coal and coal seam gas was frequently commented on. Climate was also mentioned—both in relation to being warm and pleasant, but also the impact of drought.

A sample of responses are provided below (the full set are provided in Appendix B):

Not too cold and the sun comes up every morning.

Reef and Beef

Once would've said "It is God's own country" but not when it's drought-stricken.

It is a diverse country area consisting of farming and grazing with mining and gas exploration.

A great mix of hard red rocky ridges, fertile black soil plains, beautiful river country with huge old coolabah & gum trees. Breathtaking views from the rolling mountain ranges. Spectacular and diverse.

Great Cattle Country.

Friendly, very country! Relaxed, easy-going. Can get hot but otherwise usual beautiful weather. Love the Dawson River.

Dry, Rural, Hot

I live in a fabulous small coastal town that is in central Queensland on the shores of the Great Barrier Reef.

Grazing & grain with mines all around.

I would recommend a visit so that they can see just how great the people and landscape really is.

Question 7 asked 'What do you value about this part of central Queensland, and why?' Recurring themes in the answers to this question were (listed in order of frequency):

- Social dimensions (84 per cent of responses)—particularly a sense of community and lifestyle, but also services, the people and location
- Nature (30 per cent)—particularly the environmental assets and the coastal environment
- Productivity (32 per cent)—commonly soil types, agricultural productivity and beef production
- Climate (20 per cent) of responses

Similar themes were expressed in answers to this question. There was a strong emphasis on the community and lifestyle, but also on the natural and agricultural landscape, and the climate.

A sample of responses are provided below (the full set are provided in Appendix B):

It's a great lifestyle—chasing cows and trying to make a living.

Good lifestyle in a good environment. It's not like the Gold Coast or Sunshine Coast but still has intact beach scrub, dune systems and wetlands and it doesn't have a casino.

It is where I grew up. Living on the Fitzroy—seeing it from one season to the next. The potential to improve country. Good place to bring kids up.

The community and its people. As we live in a somewhat remote part of CQ, the community is central to its survival.

It's in my psyche—the star & cloud formations, the feel and smell of the air, the weather events, the eccentric boom and bust cycle, its heat and sounds, the winter winds and north-facing warm spots, its plants and streams and creatures.

Not too cold. Together with family. Not busy. Lots to do outdoors, not inside like city kids.

I value the close-knit community and the fact that as a whole it is still very much rural

Question 8 asked ‘What changes have you seen? How have people responded?’. Answers included a range of responses across social, economic and environmental themes. One area dominated responses: over 40 per cent of responses mentioned the growth of mining and coal seam gas. Other consistent themes recorded in 7-13 per cent of answers include the following (in decreasing order of frequency).

- Changes to the agricultural economy
- Population increases
- Social changes
- Infrastructure changes
- Economic pressures
- Climate changes
- Deterioration in natural assets
- Natural disasters
- Urbanisation

Across all answers, changes to the economy or industry were the most frequently mentioned. Some examples are provided below, and the full set of answers is available in Appendix B.

I have lived here for 14 years, the mining & CSG industry has fluctuated and there have been lots of economic fluctuations too. People are losing jobs in all areas and the environment has copped a beating from development and natural disasters.

Biggest change—difficult to make a living from the same amount of area—costs go up, income stays the same. Value of livestock largely unchanged. Trying to do more with less— learning to become more efficient. More pressure than ever to be good stewards and there is an expectation that landholders bear the costs.

More workers have come to town. Two grocery stores. House prices have gone up.

Sheep/cattle to broadacre cropping/irrigation/coal mining & CSG. People have altered to survive.

Good productive land is being invaded by mining & CSG. Not a good response, livelihoods are being ruined.

Farming changes, zero-till, less silt in creeks, less contour repair—things in community services-wise if mining & CSG was not here. Increase in services e.g. high school in Capella from demand. We think the next generation has adapted— source off-farm income enabling them to come back to the land in the long run.

Question 9 asked ‘What do you think are the biggest NRM issues, and what would you like to see happen?’ Three NRM issues dominated responses: mining and coal seam gas, weeds and pests and water quality (mentioned in 33 per cent, 29 per cent and 26 per cent of answers respectively). Erosion, groundwater and grazing management were mentioned by 10-20 per cent of respondents, and other issues raised by 5-10 per cent of respondents were co-existence (between mining, gas and agriculture), water supply, land management, climate, mine rehabilitation and ports. Many answers did not propose responses, but of those that did education was the most frequently cited. Rules and regulation, and weed and habitat management were also raised by nearly 8-9 per cent of responses. Best management practices, grants and mine site rehabilitation were the next tier of response. Some examples of answers are provided below, and the full set is available in Appendix B.

A) quality of water maintained. B) volume of water maintained. C) Standard of road maintained. D) Continued attention to field days so that we are all informed about current trends and emerging situations. E) Government agreement to clear further country carefully.

Control of weeds in the National Parks. Many weeds are very prevalent in National Parks. I would like to see them effectively targeted and removed from these areas.

Development—destruction or modification of natural systems. Beach scrubs, dune systems, watercourses, wetlands. Pollution from plastic and other wastes. Weeds Herbicide and pesticide runoff into the coastal areas. Coal ports. General community are disengaged from the environment and NRM issues.

Hold on gas drilling to allow time to understand effects, especially on our waterways and underground.

I think the biggest issue is in the psyche of the nation: a belief that human beings are designed to exploit natural resources rather than to nurture them, accompanied by a belief that the Earth will somehow continue to adapt to human exploitation in ways that will favour a continuation of human expansion.

I don't know that this country can sustain the growth projected in new mines; it is coping now but not new ones. Impacts include: ground water, social impact can change mind set of locals and FIFO's the whole environmental chain is affected.

Something I noticed is the reduced number of fish at spots we would always catch fish about ten years ago. Health of the reef improved. People being more responsive to environmental care and health.

Water quality in the Fitzroy River affecting the Delta and Bay and proposed port development in the Delta and Bay. No port development in the area AT ALL and stronger regulation and compliance on water quality—especially mine water discharge.

Weeds such as parkinsonia are out of control in some areas. Some producers spend a lot of time and money trying to control it, but their efforts are wasted as more seed comes from higher up the catchment with each flood.

Conversations with community leaders

In May and June 2014 a series of 1-on-1 semi-structured interviews with individuals from across the major sectors was undertaken. Individuals were chosen as 'thought leaders' who could provide a strategic perspective of NRM issues for their sector (rather than their own particular business). Interviews canvassed the state of their sector, NRM issues including climate change, how the NRM plan could assist, and appropriate consultation processes for that sector. Individuals from the grazing, intensive animal industries, dryland and irrigated cropping, horticulture (inland and coastal), coal, coal seam gas, infrastructure, tourism and fisheries were consulted. Notes were taken and subsequently summarised (refer Appendix C). These have provided valuable suggestions about sector issues and preferences, which will inform phase 2 consultation processes.

Traditional Owners and Indigenous community

Discussions with FBEC and Traditional Owners have provided the following feedback at this stage of plan review.

- Traditional Owners aspire to develop an Indigenous natural and cultural resource management plan for the region.
- The strategy should be a stand-alone product (rather than incorporated within CQSS:2030).
- Traditional Owner and Indigenous interests extend across cultural heritage and all natural resource management issues.
- Consultation with Traditional Owners and the Indigenous community will need to be negotiated.
- There is a strong interest in the NRM strategy and the science that supports it. The FBEC Board sees Traditional Owner engagement in the strategy's review as important.
- Access to the proposed web-based tools may require training.
- When Traditional Owners provide knowledge to the NRM planning process, any products that use this knowledge should be provided back to those who provided it, in appropriate format and free of charge.

FBEC will facilitate review of cultural values components of the strategy, and facilitate Traditional Owner engagement in drafting a forward-articulating 'caring for Country' values at the start of the strategy.

Appendix A Regional institutional stakeholder analysis

Category	Organisation	Relevance
FBA	FBA Board	Key NRM organisation
	FBA members	
	FBA staff	
Queensland Government	DAFF	Agriculture, Grains BMP, Reef
	EHP	Conservation, environmental policy, planning and regulations Grazing BMP
	SDIP	Regional statutory plan, coexistence
	NRM	Mines, gas, land, water, vegetation, indigenous land, fire, leasehold land, Delbessie Agreement
	DPC	Reef plan
	NPRSR	National parks
	ATSIMA	Indigenous
	DTMR	Roads and infrastructure
	EWS	Energy and water supply
	DLP	Local governments
	SITIA	Science
Australia Government	DSEWPAC	Environment
	GBRMPA	Great Barrier Reef, Reef Plan, coastal habitats
	DAFF	Agriculture
	Defence	Coastal/marine
Sub-regions	FRCC	Sub-region
	DCCA	Sub-region
	CHRRUP	Sub-region
Local government	Rockhampton RC	Planning, development assessment, disaster response, community engagement, infrastructure and services
	Banana SC	
	Gladstone RC	
	Central Highlands RC	
	Isaac RC	
	Woorabinda ASC	
CQ LGA		
Indigenous	FBEC	Traditional Owners, peak regional body
	QTON	Traditional Owners
Agriculture	QFF	Peak agricultural industries body: cotton, horticulture, dairy, cane etc.
	Cotton Australia	Cotton growers
	Growcom	Fruit and vegetable growers
	AgForce	Graziers and broadacre dryland cropping
Conservation	CCC	Conservation
	QCC	Conservation
	WWF	Conservation
	Greening Australia	Conservation

Category	Organisation	Relevance
	KAFDA	Keppel Bay conservation
	CVA	Volunteering in conservation
Mines & energy	QRC	Peak body for resources and energy companies
	Santos	Coal seam gas
	Xstrata	Coal
	Rio Tinto	Coal
	BMA	Coal
	APLNG	Coal seam gas
	APEA	Peak body for oil and gas companies
Fisheries	InfoFish	Monitoring fish populations
Other	CQFA	Forestry
	CPMG	Pest management
Ports	Gladstone Ports Corporation	Ports
Power & water	Fitzroy Water	Water supply for Rockhampton
	Stanwell	Electricity generator
	Ergon Energy	Technology and power
	Gladstone Area Water Board	Water
	Sunwater	Water manager
Development & disaster management	RDA	Regional development
	Flood recovery taskforce	Flood Recovery
	Qld Reconstruction Authority	
Tourism	Capricorn Enterprise	Tourism
Neighbouring NRM groups	Reef Catchments	Boundary issues Strategy alignment Collaboration
	NQ Dry Tropics	
	DCQ	
	South West	
	QMDC	
	BMRG	

Appendix B Community questionnaire comments

Describe your area

Q6. How would you describe the area you live in (to someone who is not a local)?

A tight knit rural community west of Rockhampton—Gogango

Fertile land picturesque

Good country

Wonderful

Coastal rural, undulating pastures

A great area in which to live, great sense of community, lovely scenery, river and other waterways. Great hotel-motel, only co-op hotel in QLD

Central highlands: large country town with very diverse economy

60km south-west of Emerald

Between Rolleston and Springsure

Live in Gladstone City. Previously on small acreage at Calliope. Work in rural land management in the Gladstone region. Area Description, large rural/ coastal town/ city. Rural hinterland grazing and farming, peri-urban farming and industrial centre

In town, Rockhampton/Northside

Rural community fringed by grazing and various forms of beef production enterprises.

3 hours west of Rocky in the heart of CQ

Small town lots of farming lots of coal mines expensive in CQ

Diverse economic and agricultural region. Great place to live because it's not a city

I am still not a local after 40 years.

Beside the Milman school (the school is in the corner of my paddock), at the foot of Mt Yaamba, a few kilometres from Alligator Creek, the Bruce Highway, the Fitzroy River, Yaamba and 1/2 hour north of Rockhampton. It is sloping country as it drops from Mt Yaamba down to the alluvial flats of Alligator Creek next to my place.

Very productive area with many diverse industries. A range of climates from tropical to sub-tropical. An area which doesn't get the recognition it deserves, as it is remote from Brisbane

I live in the rural community of Gindie with a background of mining and grazing and education.

Summer rainfall dominant, mild winters. A nice place to live until mining became too dominant.

Productive agricultural land particularly cattle fattening, making it one of the best areas in QLD for that purpose.

Wumalgi: Australia Post says it doesn't exist anymore. But it's not St Lawrence and it's not Ogmore. The bush, although it's not really the bush, it's coastal.

I live in a fabulous small coastal town that is in central Queensland on the shores of the GBR.

Open to hills

Gemfields unique country—you have to see it to believe it

A small lovely town that's very friendly.

It's a very pleasant place to live, as the weather is more temperate than is too hot and south is too cold.

Rural beef production

Medium to small country town in central Queensland south west of Emerald. We thrive on community spirit and cattle and grain and more recently mining

On river flats close to a small town where most don't work, 35kms from Rocky

A small mining rural town

From the Central Highlands of QLD, predominantly grazing and farming but fast being inundated with resource sector—coal and coal seam gas.

20 km north of Rolleston

Central highlands. Within Emerald irrigation area. Open black soil downs close to cotton farming area

Has been top cattle and cropping area. Too bad about the mining.

A beautiful part of the state, rich and diverse in agricultural, resource and community assets. Undulating grazing country with areas of cultivation, creek lines leading away from ranges and areas of remnant original timber.

I would recommend a visit so that they can see just how great the people and landscape really is. Also it could be seen as undulating coastal flats with a backdrop of magnificent granite ranges. But it's better to see for themselves.

Quiet coastal residential, steady growth, mix of retired persons, young families and workers—mid socio econ. Currently subject to LGA de-amalgamation process which could impact the area in a number of critical aspects! Huge "sea-change" opportunities, from residential growth, selected industry investment and development, infrastructure provision, improved communications, sporting, cultural (arts and music), education and employment. With GKI and Iwasaki Projects imminent the area is primed for both business and employment injections (for both construction and operational phases)! Sustainable strategies to maintain growth in the short, medium and longer terms eliminating the highs and lows of boom economies (employment, real estate etc.)!

It is a friendly rural township on a main highway

We live at Langley which is approximately half way between Clarke Creek and Middlemount in the May Downs district. We have a mixed grazing and farming enterprise in the heart of the Brigalow Belt. Our property has abundant natural waters including the Connors River, Isaac River and May Downs Creek. We are in close proximity to the mining industry and with that comes the extra strain on infrastructure such as roads from the increased traffic.

An older residential suburb near the beach.

Between Rolleston and Springsure

Highly productive country with a mix of dry land and irrigated farming as well as grazing.

On a cattle property west of Emerald

A country town with a population of 40000 Have had a population boom in the last 5 years. Family orientated community, younger family demographic

20 km south of Dingo down the Namoi Road.

Originally from Kingston SE (South Australia growing up on a hobby farm (50 acres). Been living in Rockhampton for four years and just bought a small property at Struck Oil.

Friendly, productive country

On a property named Neerim, located 26 km from Marlborough which is 100 km north of Rockhampton Turn into Gogango follow Reversley Road for 12 km, turn left at Ryila

Our property, Mystery Park, has big ironbark trees, green lush grass in the wet season and the creeks run most of the year as they are spring-fed. We raise cattle and horses on our land. Mountain ranges are on our western side and the coast is just to our east.

Dysart/Capella: Central Highlands

Indigenous community in the Rockhampton area (couldn't note this in the last question but would like it said.) A peaceful community with lots to do. People who help clean the creek. We have a big river called the Fitzroy that runs through our town.

Fantastic access to wetlands and different bush setting. People are happy and community-minded.

65km west of Emerald

Open forest/ flood plain

I live 50 km west of Rockhampton which is the Beef Capital of Australia

I live 60 km north of Rockhampton on a 43 hectare property that is well timbered with ironbark and other eucalypt species. Very dry at the moment ... we need rain

Great place when it's not in drought

Small rural town with developing potential.

Urban, real urban ... East Street Rockhampton

Mixture of coal mining and agriculture a great place to live.

CQ between Emerald and Springsure

Capella, central QLD

Rural eastern Australia

30km south of Springsure, which is south of Emerald

Great Cattle Country

Despite new houses having been built and older ones done up Cooee Bay is keeping development at a lower key— Nothing over 3 stories and mostly 1 or two. Cooee Bay is quiet, friendly and pleasant.

Very friendly people, great community spirit.

18 km north of Emerald

Cattle grazing, coal mining, grain and some gas exploration we are within two and half hours from Mackay/Rockhampton

A back-wood's rural area, bang on the coast and handy to everything.

Picturesque rainforest with nature animals and plants

Good place to live— good people, healthy

I am in between Marlborough and Ogmoo

Range country

Grazing & Grain with mines all around

Fairly open downs country becoming increasingly wooded.

Diverse area of Queensland

Country town with mining influences. Main primary production: cattle, cropping, mining

10 minutes out of town, peaceful and beautiful.

Small rural community: beef breeding and fattening as well as farming on flood plains

West of Emerald

"I am from Gods special place on earth". The answer depends on who you talk to—it is a grain and cattle producing area in CQ not far from Mackay inland.

Rural ,primarily farming of grain crops, cotton, cattle production. Broad acre agriculture, mining and gas exploration and production encroaching on viable agricultural land

Not far from Carnarvon Gorge 2 hours south of Emerald.

Between Capella and Dysart

Originally from small property xxxx Lived in Rockhampton for a while before meeting husband xxxx and moving to xxxx where we live on a cattle property with our young family

Rural area that is close enough to all necessary services with the benefit of rural lifestyle.

Not yet an urban landscape. A beaut place to live—lifestyle. A mix of community and economic interests—extractive primary industry, agricultural, local services, tourism

30 km SSE of Rolleston

Small country town located within 5 minutes of Rockhampton, with urban facilities. Rapidly growing area.

Rockhampton in the capital of Central Queensland influenced by tourism, cattle, and mining. It has many attractions, the Berserker Ranges and riverbanks, Kershaw Gardens, the Botanic Gardens for birdwatchers.

Sports and Rodeos. The coastline is fantastic. The Caves, the beaches, the Keppel Islands. A fine theatre

with music, opera dance etc. Mt Morgan, sporting facilities, swimming pools. Dreamworld.

CQ Capella area—near Emerald Central Highlands

Beautiful diverse landscapes, reliable climate, quiet, & free of pollution. A safe environment to raise children, with a small town with strong community spirit.

Friendly, very country! Relaxed, easy going. Can get hot but otherwise usual beautiful weather. Love the Dawson River—can be the hub of social activities.

Beef, grain and coal country

Local rural area of Clarke Creek has a younger population than the state statistics show. The people are committed to agriculture with positive and productive management results. Unfortunately, the financial situation within the beef industry is not going to encourage the next generation in this area to take over the family operations.

Good cattle country when it rains.

Amazing part of QLD, was taken back how dry it is in some parts. Beautiful vegetation in this part of the county — clean lovely river.

Rural area that supports forestry and grazing production with diverse soil/ecosystems types.
Near a little country town in the Central Highlands 4-5 hours inland from Mackay and Rockhampton
Great, this is living
Springsure-Emerald Area

Broad acre cattle property with excellent river frontage, excellent river flats rising to wooded to very wooded hinterland.

It is a diverse country area consisting of farming and grazing with mining and gas exploration
I live 90km north of Rockhampton on the Bruce Highway. The nearest town is Marlborough, which is a 20 min drive. The closet neighbour is 10 mins away.

A very picturesque area with a lot of degradation occurring in the Fitzroy catchment areas.
From a cattle property north of Rockhampton fronting the Fitzroy River. Once would've said "It is God's own country" but not when it's drought-stricken with polluted water coming down the river.

Taroom—200 km north of Miles/ 170 km NE of Roma

A productive agricultural region

Rural grazing mainly family businesses

The Theodore District centres on the township of Theodore established in the 1920's on the flood plain of the Dawson as the first irrigation settlement in Queensland. It has mixed farming and pastoral industries, with forestry and mining also exploiting its timber and coal reserves. The rich black soils of the Dawson River flood plain support irrigated crops, notably cotton, and wheat and sorghum are rain-dependent on cleared land beyond the flood plain. Most of the original vegetation has been cleared, and replaced with 'improved pasture' grasses and leucaena fodder trees except on very steep terrain, along streams and some roads, with fires steadily reducing remnants as exotic grasses burn with greater intensity than native species, and property management favours the 'tidy' parklike landscapes of rural England. The Theodore weir and farm dams provide most of the water for urban and agricultural use, with some brackish underground water also available. The sandstone ranges running parallel to the river grow eucalypts and sparse grasses in thin fragile soils prone to gulying and erosion. Disturbed soils stimulate the growth of acacia species, notably Brigalow and 'Sally Wattle", and occasional remnants of 'softwood scrub' have survived the clearing frenzy of the post World War 2 tank and dozer onslaught, exposing highly erodible lighter soils whose brief fertility must now be supplemented to continue the early promised productivity. Managing regrowth and drought are constant tasks of the land holder.

20 km north of Rolleston

Dry, rural, hot

Not too cold and the sun comes up every morning.

Beautiful landscapes and interesting country and mountainous area. Good fishing in dams and creeks.

Northern part of Central Highlands

West of Emerald, east of Drummond Range

Coastal, rural, community driven.

From the best place in the world!!!

Cattle property in central Queensland

Central Queensland

Local landholder—farmer

It's in the middle of whoop-whoop. Half way between Rockhampton and Mackay, in the middle of the bush and at the lead/headwaters of the Connors/Fitzroy Rivers.

Quiet peaceful place. Big property, cattle horses No neighbours so we can be as loud as we want and do whatever we want Near Westwood 50 km west of Rockhampton

A great mix of hard red rocky ridges, fertile black soil plains, beautiful river country with huge old coolabah & gum trees. Breathtaking views from the rolling mountain ranges. Spectacular and diverse.

Reef and Beef

Nice lifestyle coastal residential area which is also attractive to visitors, mainly from the CQ region.

Gemfields

Very dry when there is no rain. Too much urbanisation e.g. houses and roads

A very diverse area

At Mystery Park our land is used for grazing beef cattle because of our lush green grasses that are mostly natural but do have some imported grasses to help with the soil health and kill the weed Lantana. These imported grasses include Pangola, Seca and Rhodes grass. Another reason our property is good for grassing is because of our water supply all year round. We also have ironbark trees everywhere but they are thicker near the creeks that run all through our property to the St Lawrence River.

A great part of Queensland

Light forest and softwood scrub

Vibrant community of land holders, businesses and people.

Rural community

Undulating, originally softwood scrub country

Community values

Q7. What do you value about this part of central Queensland, and why?

Fishing, weather (when it rains)

Good climate

Away from the big cities, climate, diversity of terrain and ecology. Not far from the sea.

The weather—there is lots to see and do such as camping, bush walking, and enjoying nature. Everything is so close yet far enough to be out of town. Rockhampton is a great sized centre and has lots of career opportunities whilst still being smallish.

I love the location and being in the bush. It's a great lifestyle—chasing cows and trying to make a living.

Natural environment, the Fitzroy River Coordinating Committee! Good lifestyle in a good environment. It's not like the Gold Coast or Sunshine Coast but still has intact beach scrub, dune systems and wetlands and it doesn't have a casino.

Climate, people, some pristine areas of environment, wonderful frogs

Considerable percentage of people value the natural environment considerable sense of local community

Still some significant remnants of natural ecosystem habitat for maintenance of biodiversity.

The area where my grandparents on both sides had lived and other South Sea Islanders families. The place is called "Kanaka Town" The area has had a lot of influence in relation to the Islands.

The climate, sure summer can be hot, but the winter is mild. The people are open and friendly.

Location and soil types

It is where I grew up. Living on the Fitzroy—seeing it from one season to the next. The potential to improve country. Good place to bring kids up.

I've lived here all my life and don't know anything different. It's quiet, no one annoys you, it's not far from everything you want. Plenty of water in the river, good country, lifestyle (although sometimes I wonder!)

Location—access to markets and all conveniences—cultural, etc. I came here to use the water and now I can't use it due to the quality. There's no other life other than being in the bush.

The community and its people. As we live in a somewhat remote part of CQ, the community is central to its survival. We do not have the resources of major towns such as access to good roads and telecommunications, so we therefore have to stick together to fight for improvements to our lifestyle.

Real people, with real values and very supportive community structure. Interesting mix of tourism and agriculture, natural resources like Carnarvon National Park.

Freedom

Love the area

Lots of parks to play in. Fishing, lots of fish, fishing on the jetty. The animals—Dugong, turtles, dolphins and crocodiles. People always help when you're cleaning up, they join in because they know you need help and they want clean creeks.

Close enough to Rockhampton yet far enough away to live a rural lifestyle.

Rich soils with reasonable rainfall

Safe, great place to bring up children, unique landscapes, Barrier Reef

Everything we need is readily available, no way would I live in town again, we are not too far from the school but still have the rural lifestyle.

The people—so far relatively mine free. Great community.

Good soil, handy location to most services and ability to produce food efficiently given reasonable seasons.

Great cattle country, tick free, well developed

Great country, great scenery, great people.

Location but still central to major centres.

Relaxed, great lifestyle, good community spirit.

The natural beauty everywhere around us.

Buy productive country

The land is nice.

Because our family has made its living in this area since 1935 and it seems to be being slowly degraded.

Not too cold. Together with family. Not busy. Lots to do outdoors, not inside like city kids

My Home.

It has many potential activities possible in the surrounding landscapes that are within a relative short distance: River systems, Coast, Estuaries, Mountains, Semi Rainforest, Dry Rainforest, Caves, Large National Parks etc.

My wife and I scoured Australia looking for a place to settle and raise our kids. We settled here for climate, educational and work opportunities. And handy to everything.

It's productive, centrally located to many markets and facilities. Has a lovely environment and climate.

Great place to bring up kids & live slower pace

Climate work opportunities and people

The people and the countryside. Why? Mainly because this is where I live! However, I spent several years travelling all over CQ and have found the people are more forward thinking and positive the closer you get towards the coast. Also this area seems to remain beautiful all year round. Even in the drier months/years. Whereas I find the far western districts to seem far more desolate and nearly depressing when it is dry. Just my opinion.

I love this part of central Queensland because of our wonderful lush green grasses in the wet season and the flowing creeks so we can go down to the creeks and swim. On this property we also have the opportunity to ride my horse and muster cattle.

Fresh air, wide open spaces. The animals—cattle and dogs and to a lesser extent horses. I love the freedom of being able to drive 1/2 an hour and still be on my own place, with my own cattle.

It is central to the big cities but far enough away to be rural

The bush, the people, the cattle industry and agriculture as a whole, and the climate. Although where I live is relative suburbia it is within a short distance of the people I love who are involved in the industry. I spent several years in the northern pastoral industry and many people in CQ understand and live a similar lifestyle to what I miss so much about the north. I am a similar wavelength to them.

Very productive cattle (grass) country.

Rain reliability, excellent access to the Capricorn Highway and to the huge centre of Rockhampton.

It is where my friends and family are located. I am proud of the region's history and the fact that it is the largest beef producing region in the world.

The people are friendly and the country is fertile

We live on the 23rd parallel. We have ample water, natural resources, lovely climate, reef out the front and bush out the back, not too many horses in one yard.

Small community and friendships.

Clean healthy environment

Accessible to bigger towns, excellent medical facilities. Caravaners love to visit and stay a while

Diverse community. Excellent country in soil and all services are available in Emerald

Lifestyle, lots of work

The diverse activities that keep this community afloat. Still has numerous native species of plants and animals. Also some large areas of remnant vegetation. And one of the few coastal rivers in Qld that is not dammed and fish and other marine creatures still have the access that is essential for their survival.

The river for recreational purposes, asset to local land people.

I enjoy the bush and sense of community where I live

The people are friendly and easy going and helpful. Great place to bring up your family—the community will 'look out for you' and help if needed. I've heard great things from new people to Moura about the schools and community.

Climate

It's the beef capital and at the moment I produce beef.

Excellent cattle and farming country

It's in my psyche—the star & cloud formations, the feel and smell of the air, the weather events, the eccentric boom and bust cycle, its heat and sounds, the winter winds and north-facing warm spots, its plants and streams and creatures. The smell of brigalow after rain, the noise of flying foxes gorging on new bauhinia flowers, the harsh churr of the bower-bird and the sharp chip of the mistletoe bird. The whistling

of ducks and the soft call of the mopoke at night. Blue wrens and double bars dancing around, butcher birds snapping up prey and magpies carolling. The deep green of sleeping frogs, the lacy pattern on the goanna skin, skinks darting and blue-tongues dozing, spiders weaving and feasting, dragonflies flitting, butterflies fluttering, blue grass soft and nutritious, wait-a-whiles sharp, sandal-wood and wilga scented and passionflowers spectacular.

Relaxing, great place

Because of its low key development (so far, so good!) this strip of land between sea, country and off-shore lands have the advantage of offering many possibilities when it comes to activities. National Parks in Byfield, Double Head and Bluff Point are a bonus.

It is my homeland and would like to keep that way

The proximity of infrastructure—recreation facilities and relaxed lifestyle, general attitude of people

The lifestyle, liveability and opportunity which comes from high quality and diverse natural resource assets

People's values

I value the balanced feel of the town and the community connections because it feels real and not boom or bust. I value the clean air and water and being able to see the ocean and islands. Keppel Bay is important to me and the fact that the region is a lifestyle, recreation and tourism hub not an industrial hub or a coal port town. I love being able to go sailing and having the pristine Keppel Islands so close. This part of the Queensland coast is the best and I have sailed from Cooktown to the Gold Coast many times. Yeppoon is the best place for all the things I love.

Extremely productive cattle country if they stop digging it up

Well I am from the Rock region and event to a white fella, it's my country. I drove a train all through the central west and north west and also had a bush block on the Emu Park Road for 23 years.

Our family has continually owned and worked this land for a little over 100 years and it is still productive.

Has some of the best grazing land in all of Queensland

I love the hills, the trees, and the plains... and I can't even see the hills until I get out onto the Wumalgi Road. I love the peace, the quiet (and then we get the trains!). I want people to leave me alone as I'm happy where I am. I love being flooded in—it's the best!

Rats tail grass-free so far; central to grain and cattle markets; rivers are free from mine run-off

The lifestyle of cattle grazing being twenty kms from Middlemount where my children have been able to start school grade one to grade twelve

It is a very friendly community

Lifestyle, climate and facility available

The proximity of the beaches and the Lammermoor Native Gardens also still a lot in gardens.

I like how I can be at work in 5 minutes; it is laid back to some degree and not too bad

Nice and quiet still handy to the bigger places where you want to go; friendly people, climate ok not the hottest and not the coldest.

The climate, landscape, and the people

Beaches because they are so beautiful and it's a great place to take the family.

Refer to Q6: love the climate; love the landscape; love the people.

Excellent quality land for farming

Peace & Quiet Great to see heaps of nature

The type of country, the beautiful productive land we have. The climate.

Resilience and creativeness

I value our part of central Queensland because we can raise cattle on a property I love everyday.

The climate. Also born here—fifth generation both sides of the family tree.

The people

Nothing at the moment.

The ability to grow summer and winter crops, soil types, reasonably reliable rainfall, good climate. There are great small communities in the area as well as larger well-serviced towns. Good schools for the kids and a choice of schools.

Central to the rest of QLD, potential as an agribusiness area

Fishing, friendly local people.

When it's good it is good; we live in a good type of country—very lucky. Great community in Capella—smaller more contact, not isolated.

I value the close-knit community and the fact that as a whole it is still very much rural

The rural and city aspects as well as the beautiful location surrounding such as the Fitzroy, Stoney Creek, Yeppoon and The Keppels and Five Rocks to name a few.

Lifestyle and community

Usually the reliability of rain and the community

The diversities of industries, the job opportunities and the natural assets.

The good country and community

Location and soil types

Riparian dry rainforest, unique flora that we have in the region. Love our wildlife, bird population and state & national parks. Have a love of nature.

Pristine—existing quality requires long-term preservation and maintenance to blend with future developments and growth. Coastal development needs to meet international standards in relation to aesthetics, preservation of wetlands and associated environmental areas!

Good country

Central Queensland has many recreational, natural and urban activities. The Fitzroy Basin offers so many resources, recreational opportunities.

The scenery, waterways, beaches, islands & oceans.

Versatile

The ability of this country to produce a healthy grass-fed beef product without the addition of licks, grains etc. The old adage 'if you look after your country, it will look after you' is very relevant within the beef industry but especially in this area. It is productive and progressive but not financially viable.

Lifestyle, all facilities onsite

Healthy environment when we get enough rain

Good country, good rainfall in all areas. Close to major cities and not far from beach.

It has great diversification of pastoral/ agricultural industries combined with many natural ecosystems still intact, e. g. Carnarvon Gorge National Park, Blackdown T/Land, The Gemfields. It combines both extensive operations and intensive agriculture i.e. the irrigation area.

Diverse region

The work and lifestyle

Good, quiet, not over-crowded

Fantastic cattle country; wonderful people; diverse industry—beef, grain, and irrigation; coal, gas

Everything, Fairbairn Dam

Proximity

Peace and quiet when you want it, but still access to services in town

Good cattle country

Quite area. Great bush walking, kayaking, cycling, fishing, swimming, Great people

Starry, starry nights, national parks, lots of wildlife, great bush walking, great cycling, good freshwater fishing. We are able to grow good healthy chemical-free food & are not disturbed by industry.

Plenty of water and close to cattle markets

Good country, pleasant climate

Climate is good the area is going ahead

I love the peacefulness, the people are so friendly.

Good part of QLD; close enough to coast without being coastal.

Strong connection to the beef industry, our work is our livelihood and we all have this in common

People, quality of country and environment

People, quality of country and environment

I love this area, we have a great country community. We are close enough to Rockhampton to do business and have a social outing every now and then...if needed. No better place to raise a family, everyone is so

willing to help each other out in time of need. We care about the community and everyone does a little to help out. From buying a raffle ticket, to cooking for a fundraiser, there is always some social function happening.

Quiet living

Quality of soil/climate. Good cattle/farming country. Close to major centres Emerald/Rockhampton

Plenty of water and close to cattle markets

Location, community, people

Very good cattle country

Its ability to produce a product that has sustained my family and many employees for over 100 years with a living and a lifestyle.

Community interaction

Changes and community responses

Q8 What changes have you seen? How have people responded?

Sheep/cattle to broad acre cropping/irrigation/coal mining & CSG. People have altered to survive.

More people, everyone seems to be more and more busy.

Our local council has been extraordinarily helpful during high rainfall periods by quickly and competently restoring our road access. Attention given to our needs by the Fitzroy Basin Authority, its officers have been attentive and knowledgeable.

Declining pasture production, soil renovation and fodder legumes in attempts to counteract this. Less breeding and fattening operations replaced with solely concentrating on prime export or feed-on feedlot entry.

Brigalow scrub to—buffel grass; Aboriginal to European (Australians); Australian agriculture to mining & CSG resources; vibrant farms to struggling farms

The information available on retaining the health of soils has been beneficial over the past 10 years and has flowed on to producing a better, healthier beef product. Workshops, soil testing and information days, comparisons with neighbours have all led to a deeper understanding and better management practices. People are more aware of their stocking rates and pasture management systems.

Moore's Creek has been destroyed by bad management. The South Sea Islanders that lived in the area are really disappointed.

Greater emphasis on NRM from an 'advertised perspective'. Many people were acting on their own previously and now with a more coordinated effort from groups like FBA and CHRRUP, people have more access to information and resources to help them with their plans.

A need for people to push their country harder due to economic pressures. The greatest environmental vandals are the politicians due to the red/green tape and regulations. It's led to the need to stretch country more. Trying to produce more from country puts more pressure on it. Need to encourage people to produce less but get paid more. The water quality of the Fitzroy has deteriorated. People don't use it as they did previously.

The opening up of the brigalow country and discovery of coal & gas. Has bought people prosperity which has mostly well accepted by people.

Have not been there long enough

More houses built. Slightly more industries—disappointing (yellow shirts). Local business support by outside companies.

River systems deteriorating especially trees along the Fitzroy River. On our own property, through changing grazing management—groundcover and pasture improving.

People have responded by coming up from the south and buying & building in the area.

The area has progressively gotten busier with the increase of people due to the expansion of certain industries. This hasn't affected people too dramatically yet except for the traffic increase.

Events, drought, booms, bust, increases in population, collaboration and partnership, working together, creative thinking

More camps, gas companies disrespect land and people of the community. Slight increase in crime

Many changes, some good, some not so good.

Dad rotates our cattle through lots of paddocks so that we can grow more lush grass in the paddock being rested. That has helped my family look after the land.

Droughts, floods, mining & CSG exploration CSG; People are very receptive of change and willing to work logically with it.

Mining & CSG industry—not well

The changes I have seen in this part of central Queensland are changes in the seasons and we have responded by shifting the cattle slower, feeding them lick and selling the cattle.

Urban development—less opportunity for children to explore nature. When we were children we'd pack a bag and go exploring the hills in the Berserker Range for the day and feel safe doing it.

Landholder's attitudes are changing. Realising that conservation of biodiversity is essential to the survival and improvement of our environment. The two types of management can complement each other in

repairing the damage that has been done.

Work on roads have improved, due to heavy trucks. Very dry—lots of creeks have no water. 'Over all the community spirit' (keep together)

Mines

Mining & CSG influences

Large changes to creeks and gullies with massive erosion. Many don't like it; but accept it's how it is going to be rather than making changes to management to help reduce erosion

Roads — more being sealed. Lots of mining & CSG. Brings a lot of nationalities to the area

More activities and larger population. Better facilities. Too bad about the mining & CSG and pipes, mixed feelings

Increased population in major centres, therefore increased competition for services—some services become unavailable or too expensive. There is an increased competition between resource companies and all other sectors—we're all competing for the same things— land, labour, goods and services. Most people are amazingly resilient — the last few years have been pretty ordinary for farmers but most seem to get on with the job and make the most of what they have

Cost of employment, harder to find and keep workers, costs more to live. "We are having to do more of the day-to-day stuff ourselves and it is taking longer to get things done."

Clearing of timber. Done properly people take it quite well

Increase in coal seam gas and non-agricultural people and companies, improvement in town infrastructure, people have benefited financially however concerned by the long-term implications re: water table reduction.

A lot of industry, which isn't always sustainable

Mines and over-development of good rural land into small residential lots.

The growth of the area population-wise

I have seen the scrubs murdered and burned in hideous infernos, the bottle trees slowly left to die alone in deserts of ploughed land, torn apart by twisting winds that never could have got to them in the community of the scrubs where they grew up. People don't notice. Some have made money and gone on once the fertility was lost to some new Eden, whose fertility they can mine before moving on again—slash and burn, European-style. I have seen slopes denuded and gullies grow, regrowth aborted and old growth bedraggled by arrogant cattle careless of their antiquity or endangered status. People don't notice or care because we have no idea what value might lie in the plants the cattle trample. I have seen flying foxes dwindle in number while increasing in concentration around the new food sources we grow for them. I hear fear and loathing of bats while horses increase in number and are valued although they kill many more people than have ever died of bat-bite. The curlews that once sang me to sleep have fed the foxes and cats that grow more numerous, and the great green frogs grow fewer and paler as the toads and the chytrid fungus destroy them. Introduced weeds abound and attract humans with nasty chemicals who are too lazy to go out and chip them as we once did. The river has been dammed at Gylanda and at Rockhampton so the garfish is no longer seen in the Dawson. Yellowbelly have lost their spawning grounds and people have 'farmed' fingerlings to placate the anglers who still want to catch fish. Levees and ring tanks have been built without regard to neighbours, flooding them without recompense. People have said it shouldn't happen, but those who build have more money than those who get flooded, so nothing happens. I have seen dairying disappear and with it large numbers of small farming families. I have seen small cropping give way to cotton and marginal agricultural land planted to Leucaena or pasture. I have seen horses replaced by machines and cars, and people get fatter and more inactive. People are sad, but as there are no fat police, nothing happens. I have seen an Agrarian Socialist Party become an Economic Rationalist Party, for which the economy is the only reality, so long-term productivity is less important than short-term gain. People have responded like frogs in cold water being slowly brought to the boil — they don't notice. I have seen land clearing first mandated, then allowed, then forbidden to rural producers while mining & CSG companies are allowed to tear up whole landscapes and roads, rail, pipe and power lines are able to cut through hundreds of kilometres of native vegetation or productive farmland in pursuit of the ephemeral goal of 'jobs'. I have seen agricultural extension work phased out. Some people have responded by ignoring all but their own

ideologies about agricultural practice. Others by joining Landcare and attempting to work in cooperation with Nature and according to scientific knowledge. Some have joined conservation groups, lobbying for a future focus on the common wealth — healthy earth, air and water — the basis of all life.

Mining & CSG of coal and gas; majority of people pissed off

The mining & CSG Act over the land

No major changes.

Everyone used to work years ago, and now they're all on the dole. Too much red tape and too much paperwork. There's no one to employ — they're not capable of doing the work. It's harder to make a living — doing more hours for less pay.

More interest in improving all aspects

The Veg Management Act had a severe impact on how I manage a second property. It had a massive impact on my business and I am still dealing with the affect of it financially. Weeds are becoming a bigger and bigger issue. GRT will have a huge detrimental impact on vast areas of land in the coming decade. Flooding in recent years has also had an incredible effect on many landholders within the Fitzroy. The impact is manifested in erosion, infrastructure damage and weed spread.

Biggest change— difficult to make a living from the same amount of area— costs go up, income stays the same. Value of livestock largely unchanged. Trying to do more with less— learning to become more efficient. More pressure than ever to be good stewards and there is an expectation that landholders bear the costs

Over-development on the flood plain of Emerald — sugar coating the problem

More workers have come to town. Two grocery stores. House prices have gone up.

Landcare evolved and my age group evolved with it. Since the 1990s and the activity around Landcare, successive governments have withdrawn funding and leadership in rural research, thus new information has not been forthcoming to challenge old ways and inform future practices. Extension nowadays largely seems to consist of recycled research and unfortunately the age group usually attending meetings is often similar to mine (over 21 at least) also recycled. The most disappointing aspect of NRM in 2013 is the politicisation of the issues popularly conceived as "big" e.g. The Great Barrier Reef and the misguided reactions to shonkey science, which may solve nothing.

Some parts of Cooee Bay have seen private developments built on what was still bush when we moved in the area 30 years ago. But those families developing didn't have such a big impact on the surroundings and no one is complaining people have trees and shrubs in their garden.

From scrub to highly productive to run down coal seam gas exploration across a large part. Improvement to landholder rights

Changes have been minor over the past decade however with larger developments on the horizon a conservative assessment of impacts and management plans is required. Coastal populations are generally in tune with coastal impacts and will adversely react to "non-conforming" industry proposals — from ports to general coastal construction.

Too many people have to work away to have a coherent rural community so every aspect is suffering.

I would say that I haven't lived here long enough to see anything long term (only 5 years). However, I would say, generally speaking, that the input costs are so high these days that people are concerned about the future of their businesses and their lifestyles. There is not the return on investment that many generations before have been able to achieve on the same pieces of land. It is nearly impossible for the younger generation to make a start on the land as the entry costs are unattainable even with the interest rates at an all time low. The cattle market is still living in the 18th century from a pricing perspective. Agriculture is not seen as an attractive vocation and is not an obvious priority to government.

Undergoing change— increasingly urban/peri-urban. Agricultural economy changing here economic business models predominating. Increasing pressure on rural landholders to implement more rigorous business practices/financial management.

Lights on the horizon at night (more mines) mines impact on community.

Nothing changes

We are on a highway ... so nothing.

I had a slate pencil and slate in grade one, a steam roller built my street... and now Google Earth and technology beyond. People have grabbed this with both hands
Mining & CSG, better opportunities at mines as government supports it more than farming, young farmers pursuing mining & CSG jobs rather than farming

The changes I have seen: 1. Massive over-clearing of the landscape resulting in "desertification" of the landscape & the drying up of many creeks & rivers (due to a badly broken water cycle). Largely this is not recognised & continues! 2. Collapse of rural communities due to technologies taking away jobs & poor profitability of rural enterprises, which has resulted in a collapse of rural towns (with many business closures). 3. Better roads & cars, which has also added to the demise of rural towns (it's so easy to drive to the nearest Woolworths or Coles). 4. A massive expansion in the resource industry. Currently as a land manager I observe that land managers are suffering the same fate that Aboriginals did when Europeans settled the area (we are being dispossessed of our land). 5. Rivers have been massively degraded by irrigation infrastructure & over-allocation of water resources resulting in a massive loss of freshwater fish. The weirs on the Dawson River are a big contributor & their "blocking" of natural migration of fish (for breeding) has not been addressed adequately, nor has the letting out of cold, high sulphide water (from bottom of storages) which results in massive fish kills been addressed.

Immediate reaction is changes from mining & CSG — a very different type of people come with it (very angry) type of people. Used to be a happy community (family-orientated) in the past, not now, it has a different vibe — less approachable generally I avoid where they are!

Mining & CSG has grown

Upgrades, of farming skills, e.g. dealing with Rats Tail

There is a lot more growth in the area; the area has grown a lot.

I have lived here for 14 years, the mining & CSG industry has fluctuated and there have been lots of economic fluctuations too. People are losing jobs in all areas and the environment has copped a beating from development and natural disasters.

I have lived at Marlborough all my life, I would have to say the school has got a lot smaller. Not many landholders can afford to employ families. So you are seeing a lot more contract workers, breeze in and out of the community. The small business owners have to rely a lot more on travellers for their income. The town itself, probably has more turn over in rent vacancies as there is not as many jobs. But it has always had the same community enthusiasm, we love our show, campdraft, school sports days etc. Some committees have folded over the years, due to the decline in members. .e.g CWA, playgroup, tennis club are just to name a few. The number of family members have also declined over the years. You are doing well these days to have 3 children. Thirty years ago 3 kids would have been a small family, you were looking at 8-10 kids as the norm...

Oil & gas increased

Mining & CSG has caused changes

Landmarks getting washed away, can't sit on the seats close to the edge because of the cliff. People know not to pollute as it kills the animals.

The merging of local councils into super-shires was not a popular choice in our community, it took jobs away from our small town and created concern that areas would be overlooked due to the population density not being at our corner of the shire. However several years down the track this is a change that we've all adapted to.

Big population boom. Lots of bush land around the region bulldozed completely. Would love to see green corridors around the region

I have only been here for four years however seen small changes in Rockhampton— development. Can't wait to experience the land more outside of town.

Seen it from being a community based on railway— grow with irrigation— grew more with mining & CSG
Have been here around ten years and in that time lots of urban sprawl.

Soil fertility run down by growing legumes and using fertiliser

The roads have improved. Small towns are declining

Much more accommodation for visitors. Most are pleased with improvements

Mechanisation and automation in the rural industry, plus technological upgrades and modifications. Generally this has required less people. Enter mining & CSG as an apparent panacea. Unfortunately, as throughout history and despite all good intentions and promises, by the very nature of the beast the environment has suffered. Most people who actually live in the area and want to remain here for future generations, believe that because historically a strong community is based on good productive agricultural soil, some areas should be sacrosanct from mining & CSG. Coexistence is something thrust upon us from the same short-sighted powers from afar that enforce a fly in fly out workforce.

Coal & Gas. Mining & CSG and exploration — not good for environment, land and countryside.

Cattle industry is constantly changing. Taroom people are up there with the best.

People are getting pissed off with mining & CSG activity and their cavalier attitude approach to the original landholders

Good productive land is being invaded by mining & CSG. Not a good response, livelihoods are being ruined

Much improved landscapes, roads & towns

More stores and local house prices have risen.

The urbanisation of the natural and rural land. The destruction of land and systems by the proliferation of mining & CSG in the Basin.

The death of trees (all) in the Fitzroy River and people have not responded.

More people due to mining & CSG & gas

Gas industry has overrun us. Prices have increased for living. Locals have got the shits.

People have left/sold their places because of the proposed Connors River Dam. It has destroyed our community. It was such a wonderful community and now they have all left and there is no longer any sense of community. (Properties adjacent to the home property were sold)

20 years mining & CSG industry taken off and taken over farming land a bit; towns grown; the people have not changed (people we have known for ages) no issues with transient workforce that comes with it.

Growth of area

Farming changes, zero-till, less silt in creeks, less contour repair— things in community services-wise if mining & CSG was not here — increase in services i.e. high school in Capella from demand of Tieri community which is now incorporated with Capella; we think the next generation has adapted — source off-farm income enabling them to come back to the land in the long run; ground water— mining & CSG impacts is a concern; salinity of discharge into river systems

Bigger dams and buffel grass

Increased coal and gas exploration. Beneficial for some, detrimental for others. People have concerns around the quality and environmental impacts.

More mining & CSG and gas with little benefit to our community

Town and area is declining because of aged population and mine/gas developments.

Rainfall comes and goes, when it rains you get a whole lot in one go, but now we need rain and we only just had a flood. People get stressed, the ground cracks, really dry and the cattle need water and we start to wonder what we will do if we don't get rain

Mining & CSG, not as relaxed

Drive In Drive Out has destroyed the Dysart community. Businesses have closed and we cannot support local businesses that have failed.

Very few properties have employees so there are fewer people out of the mining & CSG towns. Roads are much improved but we also use them more often and commute to coastal cities and local towns as services are not available to the rural properties. Fires and flood information have been a great help to our generations as once folk knew what to expect from their and other's experience as now there are not as many long-term residents here. Helicopters provide access in flood times and help where there is not experienced labour available. The Rescue chopper is a comfort to all compared to the ordeal of moving someone injured in the past.

Business strategies have had to change or we wouldn't survive. Cost of production has increased dramatically and we're getting less for our end product. We've gone from employing 12 staff down to 2 and working longer hours.

Coal mines expanding the population and altering the rural/town balance

Growth of mining & CSG sector. People leaving agricultural sector

Mining & CSG started next door; national park next door land clearing controls

Twelve hour shifts have ruined the community spirit

Not been here long

I have seen both Middlemount and Dysart start from nothing to towns where most of the people working in the mines had to live in town with their families, which was a lot better for the community, school and small business in these towns, which is now most people live elsewhere, which I believe is making it harder for the community. On a better note the of the beef road from some dirt to single lane bitumen to double lane bitumen

Industry and their ability to change the environment and the economy for better or worse. Rural people have adapted to these changes by becoming more efficient and resilient. Continuing to produce a quality, consistent product in a humane, sustainable manner.

The impact of mining & CSG is the most significant change to our community. Residents have had to fight hard for funding to fix roads due to damage from mine traffic and local councils have not received adequate compensation to address this issue. Primary production is under heavy regulation in NRM however the mining & CSG industry is allowed to destroy land, trees and waterways as it is of national significance. Food security is predicted to be a major issue in the future and primary production needs to be given national significance also. As primary production is based on generations of families, the future of the resource is most important in most family operations.

Small blocks, turn over of owners. Too many animals/block

Genetics and pasture development. Exploration. Declining terms of trade. People are adapting.

Impacts on the native environment from coastal development for residential and tourism enterprises.

Inappropriate development in the storm surge zone.

Development and mining & CSG in the area. On-farm weeds are becoming a bigger burden

More extremes in weather events (drought/flood/severe storms/fires) including temperature variability.

Implementation of drought/flood mitigation— measures on farm

Have seen Middlemount township suffer due to all the single persons quarters. As there is only a few families here and this makes the school suffer as there is lower enrolments so we have fewer teachers with less subjects to choose from. The town has no money spent in the shops as the people only live here and go to work then go back home and spend their money in their home town.

More growth

The mining & CSG sector going too big too fast

Mostly slow and manageable growth — with the occasional frenzy caused by mining & CSG boom effects, which then create the following bust times. The community mostly wants protection of the environment, no port development and economic prosperity and growth without destruction of the values we enjoy.

The mines can impact on the community as far as employment goes. There can be booms and dips

The bureaucrats have done away with our districts — including Wumalgi. They don't recognise it. Now there is no train service, no mail delivered every day, and no Wumalgi road sign. Previously we could get groceries and cold goods on the train and send cattle by train.

Loss of families from not chaining brigalow regrowth

Mining & CSG has grown. The community has generally accepted the change unless directly affected by it

People are time-poor ... more so than ever

A lot more mines established, which has increased Emerald's population. People are either complacent and think they can't change it or are a part of the "take the money and run"

Emerald has become more of a mining & CSG town than a rural town and it seems to have forgotten its heritage. It has bought good services but Emerald has not lost its sense of community.

This area saw cotton and corn grown then many years of dairying for cream production now grain growing and beef cattle production.

People seem more interested in sustainable development.

The development of CQU, the growth of Gracemere and the northside suburbs. The shopping centre. The

riverbank walkways ... they are now being used. The Kershaw Gardens. All natives once the town dump. Children's play areas. The town library and branch on the northside. Plants in the median strips.

In the last 3 years there has been a big economic boom which has slowed down basically boom to bust; flooding to dry

Unbelievable progress over 50 y from Brigalow scrub and gravel roads to coal mines and bitumen; Fairbairn Dam

Increase of population, change in dynamics, the response has been mixed but mostly positive

The old holiday houses are now occupied all the year round. Of course more cars on the streets but Cooe Bay is still a very good place to live.

The dramatic change in climate from year to year

The flood has been very trying and the people have been very resilient

NRM Issues

What do you think are the biggest natural resource management issues, and what would you like to see happen?

Too many rivers dry. Rubbish on side of road — bins needed.

Land is our most important resource. I want to help Dad and Mum make more soil for our plants. Healthy plants will produce more food for our cows and community. Keeping ground cover and using our animal manure and encouraging worms and dung beetles will help us improve and conserve the soil.

More management programs etc. Gundoo Rangers. More education programs, clean up day etc.

I think the environmental grants through the Government then through Fitzroy Basin Association helping graziers with some improvements to better the environmental water catchments areas are a good thing and also believe the mines should be made by governments to do more rehab with their open-cut pits than is being done at present and gas companies now drilling in this area concerning underground water

Mining is badly managed, as it affects the local communities and for 40 years it has been affecting the area (natural resources) & government haven't learnt how to manage it.

People have been afraid to control woody weeds, which are taking over.

That there is a larger amount of families allowed to move back into the community. So we have a greater portion of families than single people living in the single person quarters. So that the school has more enrolments and more money is spent in the township.

Vegetation management — a moratorium overnight. Forget the greenies— we are the stewards of the land. It is well cared for. We live with reality as we are more green than the greenies. I can cope with Mother Nature but it's the government regulations that cause me stress. Governments should get rid of red tape and support us. Landholders are now treated as second class citizens.

Groundwater— mining companies have an open licence to pollute the de-water — (they will cite all the regulations they adhere to but the end result is the same.) Without the groundwater reserves, the only thing this area will be good for is as an Open-Cut Coal mine!!

Water quality in the Fitzroy River affecting the Delta and Bay and proposed port development in the Delta and Bay. No port development in the area AT ALL and stronger regulation and compliance on water quality — especially mine water discharge. Ramsar listing of the Fitzroy Delta and increased and consolidated Fish Habitat Areas in the Delta. Recognition and protection of the Snubfin Dolphin population of the Delta as an endangered local population that is correctly listed on the EPBC Act

Land clearing laws and regulations— listen to the people that it affects firsthand, the property owners, not so much the people that it doesn't affect directly (their livelihoods etc.)

Weeds such as parkinsonia are out of control in some areas. Some producers spend a lot of time and money trying to control it, but their efforts are wasted as more seed comes from higher up the catchment with each flood. Any control measures need to start at the top of the catchment and work down. One year of treatment is of no use and constant follow up is required to keep on top of seed bank and this needs to be taken into account if any funding becomes available. The cumulative effect of constant mine water releases is of great concern as it is not taken into account enough by NRM agencies. It is not just one mine but many, all releasing into the same river system. The decline in pasture resilience is another concern. Some graziers have seen the value of wet season spelling of pastures and would like to do more but do not have the funds to put in to infrastructure (fencing and water points) required. The livestock industry is under ever-increasing pressure from higher input costs and lower price received at market.

Damage to the area due to mining and too many rural-residential small blocks. Water Quality/overstocking/poor land management e.g. weeds and erosion.

Rapid development of resource sector and the pressure it is putting on our natural resources; lack of planning foresight — allowing mines to go ahead on floodplains even after last flood.

Drought is an issue and must be managed appropriately

Feral animals, weed spread, soil fertility, run down, water-holding capacity, build organic carbon levels back up, focus on control of weeds

Weeds brought in by city folk.

Employment

Mining; erosion; spread of weeds i.e. GRT (giant rat's tail)

Mining and agriculture compatibility

Soil erosion, poorly managed urban and peri-urban development. More support for owners of small properties to improve small-scale production, management of livestock especially horses, environmental values.

Managing the greed that comes with a natural resource I believe is the biggest issue. When it comes to a solution, not too many people are born without greed.

Land management to reverse the degrading trend of pasture and soil and erosion.

More investment in research. Land management

Regrowth is a big issue — cost of controlling it is too dear for the cost of return. Lantana control is an on-going project and GRT is a threat if a neighbour doesn't control his. Funding would help with all of these — regrowth, lantana and GRT.

Water, weeds, sustainability, pressuring NR.

Mines, weeds and trespassers

The stand out management issues for the coastal areas are overall coastal management issues — including, impacts of adverse water quality flowing to the eastern seaboard, port developments, extensions of military activity at Shoalwater Bay MTA (restricting vessel movements along coastal regions), height management of coastal development including architectural and aesthetic aspects, fishing zones (commercial and recreational) in the Coral Sea and Great Barrier Reef, refurbishment of coastal strip effected by storm and man-made erosion!

Regrowth control

Weeds and pests and mining issues

Pest and weed control pigs and parthenium. Integrated program for pest and weed management

Erosion and weeds, less imposition on producers' income and the funding would be more readily available to counteract this.

Coal seam gas threatening our underground water supplies.

Population impact via mining and people's attitude and whether it is realistic or not

More treatment of ragweed

In times of heavy rainfall there is soil erosion and where paddocks were protected with contour banks this worked well. However a lot of ground is now worked straight up and down the fall in the paddock and leads to soil loss. The well-established contour banks worked well but are a nuisance with the wide seeding units used today and tramline traffic.

Weeds and control or eradication of them

Mining and water management

A) quality of water maintained. B) volume of water maintained. C) Standard of road maintained. D)

Continued attention to field days so that we are all informed about current trends and emerging situations.

E) Government agreement to clear further country carefully.

Water run-off, ground water, soil erosion levels, new projects to renovate pastures and plants, legumes also (run-down).

The mines. I am concerned about the dust & their waste water leaving the mining sites in times of flood. I am concerned about pollution of the Dawson River with possible pesticide contamination from farming.

Pasture establishment on poorer soils, i.e. introduction legumes (establishment and continued survival), nitrogen tie-up in buffel (all improved pastures in loam/sandy soils).

Erosion, water quality (gas & mines), weeds (mining vehicles)

Broken water cycle education— how to fix it, reward the fixers

1. Climate forecasting underpins all future improvements in NRM. This has to move into the 21st century.

2. Governments have to show leadership in rural research instead of selling and disbanding facilities. 3.

The agricultural college system has to be supported and strengthened. Our children are agriculture's future.

Sediment and erosion control and runoff. Protection of vegetation along creeks and rivers, native veg,

Landcare. Mine and dam water release into the river system— Process onsite and release only when of high standard. Test release water.

Mining area increasing and encroaching on grazing and grain land affect on WQ ground water and WQ Mining, Gas and Exploration. More work on what repercussions will be. Over-grazing and bad farming techniques, help producers realise and overcome.

That local people are finding it hard to get jobs now. Would be good to see more local jobs with resource companies.

Coal & Gas. Mining — monitored more closely/stopped.

Mining on good quality farming land is a waste of good valuable resources. Weeds can be very hard to manage by yourself

There is a lot of work to do on the beaches and sand dunes to protect the vegetation.

Water quality for the future. Educating the wider community about the issues that we face on the land bringing awareness. More support from Government i.e. funding for education.

Coal seam gas, water usage, good science

The biggest natural resource management issue is the amount of ground cover so I would like to see some more grass planted, less bush fires, pigs to be gone and cattle to walk on grass not cattle pads.

Difficulty is to persuade people that natural flora is a better option in their gardens. Local plants survive well besides of intense wet and dry seasons. Lammermoor Native Garden in that sense is a gem and we should have more land put aside in the area to preserve the uniqueness of the original fauna in different types of land.

Ground water issues. The traffic on the roads

Different rules on the same topic— agriculture and mining

Lippia is already out of control in town and all across the river flats.

Erosion— stock crossings. Flood plain degradation. Education on management of flood plains

Pasture degradation, no persistent legumes, lack of information in soil production/pasture production from wind/erosion, water erosion, carbon testing & moisture retention.

Dumping and mine water

Concerns for the health of our waterways are still a very relevant issue. The facts of changes to fish life in the lagoons and river systems needs addressing more fully. A lot of this is anecdotal information but needs to be taken into consideration and be treated with respect in the scientific world.

Land and water use — we need to get serious about actually protecting the resource rather than minimising/mitigating/reducing (etc.) impacts upon these resources.

Mining confined to the lesser quality soil areas. Rehabilitation enforced to a "was as" basis. Mining exploration confined to those areas only.

Ground water — more research; accountability by government over mines

I don't know that this country can sustain the growth projected in new mines; it is coping now but not new ones. Impacts include — ground water, social impact can change mindset of locals and FIFO's, the whole environmental chain is affected.

Council and government need to spray weeds on their roads and land. GRT, although it's not here, is going to be a big problem. Council needs to get onto it and could get the prisoners to spray it. Trees are dying along the river but I don't know what the cause is — it could be the mines.

Catchment management — Land degradation from over-grazing leading to erosion, excessive run-off, siltation. Also weed infiltration and use of chemicals given that they will all end up on the reef in the end.

Feral animals (pigs, cats, dogs, toads, etc.). Introduced and invasive flora

Environment and river quality

Potential weed spread, parthenium. More monitoring and eradication measures.

Not sure what this question is aiming at?????

Hold on gas drilling to allow time to understand effects, especially on our waterways and underground water management and mining boom. More jobs for locals but not too many changes to our quiet country town

I think the biggest issue is in the psyche of the nation — a belief that human beings are designed to exploit

natural resources rather than to nurture them, accompanied by a belief that the earth will somehow continue to adapt to human exploitation in ways that will favour a continuation of human expansion. Australia has enough food in the supply chain locally available to last three weeks should oil supplies cease. After that we starve to death or live off the land, and we have reduced the capacity to produce the necessities from the land by exploiting cheap labour overseas so products come more cheaply from a distance. By making a virtual system (the economy) out to be a reality, and allowing rich conglomerates to manipulate it, we are set up for a disaster. This economy has reduced the value of farm produce constantly over more than half a century while inflating the value of non-productive work to the point where farmers can't afford workers, and in fact have to become non-productive workers themselves in order to enjoy the 'privilege' of living on the land. The options are 1. Give value to genuinely productive activity such as food production, while also valuing the sustainable productive capacity of the land — maintaining its productivity into the centuries ahead. Pay for land to be kept fertile, pay for the labour to keep it so, and pay the real cost of producing the product. 2. Continue the present destructive regimes to an inevitable conclusion — the desertification of Australia and its de-population.

Water quality, reduce mining run-off

Coal & gas mining monitor gas mining

Something I noticed is the reduced number of fish at spots we would always catch fish about ten years ago. Health of the reef improved. People being more responsive to environmental care and health.

Over-grazing and land capping

Fracking, mine water, run off in to rivers, coal and gas vessels on reef, harbour dredging, no long-term water management, dams, barrages, weirs etc. being built for future development. Stand-alone water issues for individual communities (no pipe lines).

Water is always going to be the most important resource for people on the land. Unfortunately you can't make it rain! Teaching people how to improve their pastures to increase their carrying capacity is very important. I'm not sure everyone likes to go to workshops as they may be private in how they operate their business and not want to attend such a public forum. Maybe another delivery method — online or individually — would be a way to approach this. Also including more information on things like Leucaena, or improved pasture seed combinations etc. as they pertain to the local area. I would also like to see information on native plants or natural resources that could be integrated into our gardens and general area that could be beneficial (insects/pollen and the like) to the greater ecosystem. Just for interest sake I guess. Development— destruction or modification of natural systems. Beach scrubs, dune systems, watercourses, wetlands, pollution from plastic and other wastes. Weeds, herbicide and pesticide run-off into the coastal areas. Coal ports. General community are disengaged from the environment and NRM issues

Erosion control

Biggest issue is going to be water. Both ground water and surface water. Too many risks and unknowns. Dog parks so pollution is dealt with. Because of our groups people know not to put grass clippings etc. down the creek because they spread and kill the natives. More bins at Moores Creek. More groups to tell people not to litter. Bins for garden waste. Take the money cost away from the tip because people can't or don't want to pay.

Regrowth control, relaxed laws, weed control

Water storage we drastically need another huge dam and lots of smaller ones. Water is our limiting factor and floods one of our most damaging foes

Could not understand why they have gated the river. Cracow people should be allowed to utilise the water system. I think there is too much mining

Pollution of the rivers aquatic. Consumerism drives climate change ... think about it.

Green corridors throughout the community, in towns plus rural. Community effort to get involved plus government to enforce future development. Rural creek areas need to be protected (weeds, regrowth, original flora etc.)

1. Over-clearing of landscapes. It is essential to have at least 1/3 of landscapes vegetated with forests if we want to maintain our rainfall. "No trees, no rain" needs to be the new mantra & land management need to embrace the need to restore our land health through education not legislation. Rewarding healthy

landscapes management would be a better option, than legislating against or punishing poor management. 2. Over-exploitation of mineral resources for short-term gain. Use of our resources could be much better managed & more focus put on sustainable use. Currently we seem to be in a hurry to exploit our resources & virtually "give them away" to foreign companies & countries. Let's develop a multi-generational strategy for resource usage & scrap the short-term view. 3. Locking up of our native forests. Lets adopt a policy of sustainable harvest & management of this wonderful resource. Locking up results in decline & ill health of the forests. 4. Over-allocation of water resources & inefficient usage of the resource for irrigation (for example flood irrigation) when we have many more water efficient methodologies available to use. 5. Over-use of chemicals in agriculture, local authorities & home gardens. Let us turn the Fitzroy Basin into an Organic Zone!!!! Use the slogan "biological not chemical" as a selling point for our production from the Basin!

Coal & gas, weeds, introduced pests "Diligence"

Mining Erosion Over-grazing Education

Managing contrasting industries: mining, agriculture, national parks, coal seam gas

Weed control (especially for us) and best practice land management practices— I am still learning! Would love to learn more about sustainable farming and managing small farms.

Weeds/pest control are essential and must be undertaken to regenerate and improve the landscape. NRM groups such as FRCC can assist greatly through the continuation of their projects, funding distribution and education. An area that could be looked at could be tax saving initiatives for landholders that actually support those objectives. This could be much more effective than pouring endless funds into short-term projects that die when the funding runs out. Additionally many projects need to be supported for a period of several years instead of one short burst.

More dams in QLD to minimise flooding. People should be allowed to make managerial decisions without all the bureaucratic crap and red tape. Do you think people who have lived and worked on the land for many years have such a small grasp on reality so as not to have any idea on when to burn, clear vegetation or control vermin. More dams in QLD

Water scarcity, worry about cattle loss and then no income. "That's our job, we look after the cattle and the property, so it's not like we are in town, in an office staring at a computer"

People are completely disengaged, and have no connection with our natural resources. Awareness needs to be raised.

Loss of ecosystems; ability to rehabilitate degraded land, mining and extraction impact on ground water and surface and land. Climate change

The gas are raping our underground water resources. Soil loss and weeds spreading. More funding for help in soil loss would be good.

Weed management/feral animal control. Impacts of mining on water quality and land resources. (Power to influence decision making increasing; less attention given to environmental sustainability.) Management of sustainable urban development along the Capricorn Coast that preserves remnant habitat locally. Loss of productive agricultural land. Agreed cooperative action to conserve natural resources, water and water quality, productive farmland (keep it in production), move towards biodynamics— reduce pesticides and herbicides and commercial fertilisers. High value natural habitat.

Weed control — landholders will need to have some assistance or incentives to deal with the growing weed problem. Erosion is going to be an ongoing threat — it is important to continue working with preventative measures — such as riparian and land-type fencing and off-stream watering points.

The EPA does not seem to be doing its job and heavy metals need to be investigated. The water released by mines may be contaminating the river and slowly poisoning Rockhampton Water users.

Mining Industry ... pollution (Mt Morgan is the worst) final void issues. Great Barrier Reef, preventing and minimising negative impacts from farming, industry and floods. Weeds and feral animals— toads, deer, pigs, rabbits, and CATS.

Weeds, fire management (fire breaks, burning at right times), improving poor land condition, reliable water only have dams, drought management, underground water issues with CSG

The construction of a coal loading facility at the mouth of the river. NO NO NO The littering of the riverbank

and roadways. Education is needed. The loss of good farmland.

Control of weeds in the National Parks. Many weeds are very prevalent in National Parks. I would like to see them effectively targeted and removed from these areas e.g. Mt Archer National Park has a severe Sisal Hemp infestation as well as obvious Lantana infestation and more.

Water quality of the Fitzroy. The water has to be clean before it goes in the river. The mines have been allowed to release their toxic waste in the past, but need to do whatever is necessary to make it clean. GRT needs to be taken seriously. The guidelines of the entire catchment need to be changed to assist people with projects to address GRT. It will take over all this country. The big problem then will be the diminishing land values — unimproved property values will decrease, which will lead to a very bad scenario. When testing river water they need to take samples from a minimum of 3m — that's where the foot valves are. The testing need to include all elements that are being released from the mines including Mt Morgan. The solution is that when mines are finished, they should backfill on the actual coal seams with 4-5m or whatever required around the perimeter of the seams, and then use the pits as man-made lakes and use them for food production. Then they become a huge asset for those surrounding areas. They would be a massive inland asset that humanity forever can reap benefits. If they don't, as it overflows it affects all residents (Rockhampton/Cap Coast) along the river.

Salinity discharge into river systems; groundwater and mining impacts

Aside from the resources sector, I think the main issues are weeds and grazing management. I would like to see much more rotational grazing management and support of it.

Better roads and local services

Water quality above and below

The changing landscape with resource exploration and development (mining— coal/gas)

Water & drought

Natural areas protected with controlled access

There is not enough value in rural produce to allow a reasonable living and be able to look after the land as well.

Dust from coal trains, increased traffic and mining. Interference with water table from large open cut. Blasts — a limit on size of blast and reduced vibration methods should be used. Underground mining should be preferred. Feeder roads should be sealed.

The biggest issue would be maintaining pasture condition; and if possible improving it. Otherwise weeds and water.

Security of tenure; permanency of rural policy

Increase in mining impacts, reduction in viable grazing in cropping lands, lack of adequate rehabilitation, impacts on ground water— research— reaction to groundwater effects, improvement to rehab standards

Loss of agricultural land and livelihoods. We need to keep our farming communities alive. Below the ground will not feed above the ground

I believe the monitoring of the water quality and flows is very important and we all need to be observant and informed of the results of all our and companies' actions. We know that the Fitzroy Basin is under a lot more pressure than ever in history therefore research is necessary and must be considered by practical residents after the information is presented by the researchers to see what is possible to implement with the least detrimental impact on business be it rural or mining on the river system.

Erosion, water quality, mine rehabilitation, lack of commercial land that has undergone rehab. Mining is highly legislated and poorly regulated. Biodiversity

Floods & Droughts & mines. More help to control run-off & more control for mine release of water

Environment graziers sustainability

Drought-proofing Emerald. Another two dams on the Upper Nogoa

More hands-on work and demonstrations.

Under-estimation of the value of water not only in the catchment but underground water. Very diverse areas are being eroded (never will be restored) long-term knowledge is not harnessed. Profit motive is much too strong. Large sections of land are now unmanaged due to company's involvement, among other things.

Dealing with pest of animals and plants

Appendix C Feedback from sector interviews

Mines & CSG

Context	<p>At least half the coal mines in CQ are currently losing money, some will leave the market</p> <p>Regulatory pendulum is swinging back from too difficult</p> <p>Water is an impediment to gas production — primary driver for water management is gas operations and cost reductions.</p> <p>Coal seam gas production in Australia is expensive, massive sunk costs, potential competition from cheaper producers in United States, Russia etc.</p> <p>Coal and steel markets are in bad shape due to price and exchange rates</p> <p>Long-term optimism re: metallurgical coal market</p>
Risks	<p>Regulatory loosening in the current price squeeze — onus on Qld Government to maintain standards for good outcomes but cognisant of operating constraints</p> <p>Water management — quality and quantity, too much or not enough</p> <p>Mine site closure and rehabilitation</p> <p>Dust and other amenity issues at Moranbah</p> <p>Environmental hazard from coal seam water — in-stream discharge or beneficial use</p> <p>Main issue is salt hazard under irrigation. Risk associated with inappropriate application of Qld Government guidelines for beneficial reuse</p> <p>Pressure within the coal seam gas industry, and within the resources sector, for lower (cheaper) environmental standards</p> <p>Price</p> <p>Water — community concerns re: releases</p> <p>Water — regulation/licensing of releases</p> <p>Rehabilitation — techniques</p> <p>Rehabilitation — visibility, community concerns</p> <p>Land owner interactions — a mixed bag, strong emotions</p> <p>Groundwater — (overstated risk for coal, good modelling is needed in Bowen Basin)</p> <p>Loss of community relationships — coal seam gas and larger mining companies</p> <p>Legacy of 2011 floods and mine releases — everyone tarred, government response not strategic</p>
Responses	<p>Leading practice mechanisms through internal processes with major companies (international standards and reporting) also leading practice booklets, Queensland Resources Council roles and Central Queensland Mine Site Rehabilitation Group</p> <p>Fitzroy Partnership for River Health is the forum to focus on water quality impacts of different sectors, and also facilitate appropriate research</p> <p>Opportunities for FBA to facilitate collaborative efforts on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">o Offsets: facilitating the optimal location and connectivity of offsetso Opportunities from mine site closure: agricultural and resources sectors, thinking about rehabilitation and infrastructure assets, potential future uses <p>Cost drives coal seam water use. Loss of carbon credits makes beneficial reuse growing trees less attractive</p> <p>More collaboration between coal seam gas companies now, for above ground operations e.g. water planning</p> <p>Disposal options for coal seam water are still being worked through, applied research ongoing (for both water and salt)</p> <p>Managing to long-term climate variables, but not specifically modelling climate change</p> <p>Companies are responding to extreme weather — investing in capital infrastructure, research, forecasting</p>

Offsets — changing regulation, potential roles for FBA, industry concern with governance of aggregated offsets, lots of challenges to make it work right. Potential for group discussion on this.

Desire to see cooperation between coal and coal seam gas to maximise benefit of the resources

Plan consultation Provide opportunities through both Queensland Resources Council in Brisbane and Partnership in Rockhampton
Offer a briefing to a major companies
Not too big
But enough detail for companies to respond to
Not written like licence conditions
Not an ask for money
Theme-based
Happy to review

Grazing

Risks

Markets
Knowledge
Climate
Properties managed as lifestyle not as a business
Competing uses for the land (mining, coal seam gas, grazing)
Pasture run-down
Labour shortages
Weeds
Climate variability
Loss of sense of community/community network

Responses

Build flexibility into management of property and herd so we can adjust to climate and seasonal differences
Knowledge exchange
Create learning/knowledge sharing opportunities
People/graziers have developed strategies to respond to climate variability
Pasture management — maintaining ground cover, rotational grazing, spelling, reduced stocking rates, introducing legumes

Plan consultation

Must be relevant
People need to see what's in it for them to get people to want to engage
Engage people one-on-one

Fisheries

Risks	Threats to fisheries include weather events, flows, lack of flood events, tilapia Two things climate affects on fish stocks: 1. Episodic events; and 2. Long-term climate trends.
Responses	Gather knowledge to predict fisheries stocks and use to influence commercial and recreational fisheries fishing behaviours
Plan consultation	Engaging on the NRM strategy — pick out the key issues. Understand what is driving those issues and some of the ways forward. Be succinct Possibly use focus groups Future-oriented

Conservation

Risks	Weeds, pests, chemicals, inappropriate land use, people being isolated from the environment, people not valuing the environment
Responses	Connect people to their local environment Citizen science Give people the knowledge and tools to value and talk about their local environment
Plan consultation	One-on-one conversations with community members Engage local community leaders NRM strategy should identify the natural values of our natural resources Recognise the connection of people to their land

Horticulture

Risks	Land prices too high due to peri-urban development and land uses placing high value land under peri-urban development Floods Climatic conditions Water availability
Responses	Irrigation efficiency Diversification

Cotton

Risks	Extreme weather events (floods) Fertiliser management — movement offsite, micronutrient depletion Weeds and weed management Soil pests and diseases
Responses	Industry advancements in technology, products, management Supported through research
Plan consultation	Engage people one-on-one Must be relevant Supports the idea of industry-specific information Need to drip feed information Smaller amounts of information more often

Grain

Risks	Water quality Access best available technology e.g. autosteer, GPS base station, yield mapping, etc.
Responses	Best management practice Catchment planning (working across the neighbouring properties to coordinate water management) Engaging people through email
Plan consultation	Need a useable tool —something that people see value in and go back to as a source of up-to-date information. Could use favourites on web browsers Also links to websites that are useful (weather, calculators, etc.) Must be relevant

Feedlots

Risks	Markets Climate change
Responses	Flexibility Accessing expert knowledge and information
Plan consultation	Need to engage the younger people Needs to be fast and easy information Must be relevant