



Assessment of Local and Regional Issues Considered in Preparation of Corporate Plan

GENERAL

Council's Corporate Plan has been developed by Councillors and staff in conjunction with the community. The plan has been advertised for public comment in accordance with the relevant legislative requirements and in addition has been referred to Councils Community Reference panel, Seniors Council, Youth Council and a number of the developers in the city for comment. It has also been widely circulated to all employees. Surveys conducted over a period of time to determine the level of satisfaction with services provided by Council were considered during the preparation of the plan as were local, regional, national and global issues likely to affect the Thuringowa community. The community consultation followed prior to final adoption of the plan ensures the community endorses the direction adopted by this Council.

ARTS AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

The Council celebrates local arts and cultural activities through a diverse range of exhibitions at Pinnacles Gallery, events such as the River Festival and hosting visiting theatre productions. Future Arts and Cultural development will be facilitated and implemented through the Council's Cultural Plan as well as the Gallery Strategy Plan.

The Riverway Arts Centre provides a major opportunity for the community to participate in the enhanced arts and cultural activities within our city.

The Public Art Plan provides for the extension of the public artworks throughout the City. The continued implementation of the Sport and Recreation Facilities and Sports Plan will expand the provision of high quality sports facilities incorporating a multi use approach.



HOUSING POLICY

This Local Authority has not become involved in the provision of public housing for its community, as this role is currently undertaken by the State Government.

Council supports and is involved in partnership with other levels of Government in community renewal and urban renewal programs.

Council does however oversee the implementation of the Integrated Planning Act and the Building Code of Australia and recently in order to achieve more sustainable housing solutions for the growing population Council is promoting the practice of climatically responsive housing design for the Thuringowa Region. Through the Townsville Thuringowa Strategy Plan, Council is committed to the orderly and planned release of sustainable urban land to ensure the continued development and availability of choice in affordable and climatically responsive housing.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND HUMAN SERVICES

A 'community builder' approach has been adopted by Council, preferring capacity building to direct service provision approaches. Through key advisory groups, issues such as transport, health facilities, access to services, recreational facilities for youth and public safety are being addressed.

Council is committed to the continuing development of partnerships with developers, community groups and other levels of government in order to improve both social capital and social infrastructure for this City.

The Community Plan – Planning for Liveability has been prepared in conjunction with the relevant government and community representatives. The Plan will provide a blueprint for action for this Council to address the social infrastructure needs for residents. Council will develop and implement a Learning Community Strategy.

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Thuringowa City Council has been entrusted with the care of one of the most diverse range of ecosystems in Queensland. Thuringowa encompasses world heritage rainforest, dry pasture land, fragile coastal foreshores and residential communities. Council has a firm commitment to the preservation and enhancement of this unique range of landscapes through responsible environmental stewardship and leadership.

Council's Environmental Policy makes a commitment to an Environmental Management System which will ensure that environmental considerations are taken into account as a part of all the Council's operations and decisions.

Council has adopted a Sustainable Energy Strategy and as part of its implementation has joined as a participant of the Cities for Climate Protection. A Biodiversity Strategy, a Revegetation Strategy and Beach Management Plans for local beach villages are being implemented.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Thuringowa recognises its implicit charter to serve the community and that it is a key criteria in the development of the local economy. The Council has endeavoured to identify significant issues relevant to creating and maintaining prosperity in Thuringowa. The Council has developed an economic development plan that is a response to key economic, social, environmental, political and technological trends and indicators that are not only happening in the community now, but have been anticipated by the Council through extensive research and planning.

The Economic Development Plan sets the stage for sustained economic growth in Thuringowa by:

- Providing a vision for Thuringowa's economic future; and
- Identifying key goals and objectives that the Council has developed in the area of economic development.

Council is also working actively to foster partnerships to enhance the development of the local economy.



ASSET INFRASTRUCTURE MANAGEMENT

Thuringowa City Council is committed to developing clearly defined service levels in consultation with the community. The Council is committed to the orderly development, maintenance and replacement/renewal of infrastructure to provide these services at the lowest sustainable lifecycle cost whilst achieving triple bottom line outcomes and balancing inter-generational equity. Asset Management and Infrastructure Charges Plans are being prepared and will be maintained to help achieve best value for money. The Council is committed to the supply of infrastructure in a co-ordinated and efficient way and the application of standards for infrastructure provision which consider the impacts on the natural environment and the amenity, health and safety of the community. Risk management plans have also been prepared by all Council Service Units.

POPULATION CHANGE AND DEVELOPMENT

The City continues to grow and Council will continue to cater for its increasing population and development with growth coordinated under the Planning Scheme in a sustainable way. Council is managing its population change and development by ensuring any development is consistent with the framework of the Townsville Thuringowa Strategy Plan and ensuring the natural environment, economic development, and community well-being, is considered in the decision making process.

REGIONAL COOPERATION

Thuringowa City Council has increased its cooperation with other Local Governments in the region and will continue to do so. The Council has particularly cooperated with the Townsville City Council for many years in relation to matters which affect the communities of the two Cities. The two Councils are continuing to work together at a regional level through the implementation of the Townsville Thuringowa Strategy Plan. The formation of a Regional Planning Advisory Committee, to be appointed by the Minister of Local Government and Planning for the development of a Regional Plan covering the member areas of the NQROC, has also been promoted.

Thuringowa is a strong supporter and participant in other Regional Organisations including the Regional Roads Alliance, Regional Economic Development Planning Group (REDPG), Local Authority Waste Management Advisory Committee (LAWMAC), and Health, Environment Services Regional Organisation of Councils (HESROC). Along with five other Councils, it is an active participant in the Regional Organisation of Councils for the North Queensland Region (NQROC). The NQROC is presently involved in the Size Shape and Sustainability project which is being supported by the Department of Local Government and has proposed the establishment of a strategic alliance between Councils. This project will be progressed during the 2007-2008 financial year.

Council has extended its services through its Business Units and now offers a range of services to other local authorities. Services such as building certification parks and landscaping services, marketing and town planning are provided to smaller local authorities unable to obtain qualified officers to undertake these tasks or who find the use of outsourced services more financially attractive.

DISASTER MITIGATION

This Council operates in conjunction with Townsville City Council in regard to its disaster response strategies. Together the Councils fund and oversee the operation of the Local State Emergency Service Group. Council continues to contribute to the maintenance of the SES headquarters. Council also supports the SES and Rural Fire Brigades established in the rural and remote areas of the City.

Both cities operate as part of the Townsville & Thuringowa Local Disaster Management Group while maintaining their own internal counter disaster manuals to ensure restoration of Council infrastructure and services. The Councils are also represented on the District Disaster Management Group.

PUBLIC HEALTH MANAGEMENT

Thuringowa City Council provides environmental health services to ensure compliance with local laws, enforcement and education in respect to food hygiene, management of the storage of flammable liquids and dangerous goods, vector control activities and licensing and monitoring of environmentally relevant activities.



City of Thuringowa CORPORATE PLAN 2007 – 2012



Thuringowa is North Queensland's fastest growing city, with an annual growth rate of around 3%. It boasts a laid-back lifestyle envied by many throughout Australia. I am pleased to present the City of Thuringowa Corporate Plan; a comprehensive strategic outline of our objectives in leading the city through an exciting period in its evolution.

The challenge is managing the city's growth in line with sound environmental practices, and ensuring there is the physical and social infrastructure to support the increasing population. Our major goals are to ensure the city prospers, protect our natural environment and build a safe and cohesive city.

We are committed to transparency in our operations, and have some key corporate governance goals outlined in the corporate plan.

Our corporate plan is Council's "big picture" guide through deciding on important priorities for delivery of our services and programs.

**Cr Les Tyrell
Mayor of Thuringowa**



Vision

Thuringowa is Australia's most diverse and progressive tropical city where family, lifestyle choice, natural environment and prosperity go hand in hand.

A View of Future Thuringowa - Our Vision Achieved

Thuringowa is a diverse tropical city catering for all age groups and cultures. It is particularly family friendly and is a city of choice for all ages. High quality facilities are available including playgrounds, libraries, cultural, social and aquatic facilities and many other recreational options. The relaxed and varied lifestyles are distinguishing features. The City is well-endowed with vibrant sporting, social and community groups. Thuringowa provides a secure, safe and comfortable environment for its people.

In local government circles, Thuringowa City is an acknowledged leader. It provides high quality and diverse services. Our ratepayers acknowledge that they receive value for money. Thuringowa City Council shares services with and provides assistance to other Councils in the region. Thuringowa is renowned for the transparency of its processes and its good governance. Despite the diversity within its boundaries Thuringowa is united as a City and comfortable with its place in the region. People speak with pride about being Thuringowan.

Thuringowa City is a desirable destination for visitors and the development of the Riverway project is completed to the extent it is now a significant cultural and recreational facility for the region.

Thuringowa has established an economic development niche which focuses on light industry, commerce, the knowledge economy and tourism. Significant niches are developing in ecotourism and aquaculture. The City has learnt how to capitalise to benefit from University and the Medical School.

The City is well known for its outstanding environmental outcomes. It leads the way in encouraging tropical architecture, sustaining and enhancing its natural environment and the promotion of ecotourism. Environmentally degraded areas have been restored. There is a rich diversity of habitats and eco-systems. Ross River and its eco-systems have been progressively enhanced. Energy efficiency and the use of renewable generation options are well demonstrated in Thuringowa.

Mission Statement

To serve our community through leadership, communication, consultation and quality service.



Values

- Our community's needs come first
- Respect and concern for one another
- Caring for the environment
- Sustainable development
- Civic pride
- Open, honest, ethical and trustworthy Behaviours
- Dynamic, adaptable and innovative Thinking

Strategic Direction

We will anticipate and meet the Social, Environmental, Economic and Governance needs of the Thuringowa community.

Goal 1: ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

The Outcome we want to achieve;

Thuringowa City Council will be a lead agency in environmental protection. Principles of protection, preservation and ultimate sustainability will be adopted throughout Council activities and the city's community.

The Strategies we will use to achieve this:

- 1.1 By preserving, protecting and enhancing our natural environment.
- 1.2 By ensuring sustainable development is integrated with the environment.
- 1.3 By promoting the adoption of best environmental practices and behaviours within the community.
- 1.4 By minimising the effects of climate change on our community and natural and built environment

Goal 2: SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

The Outcome we want to achieve:

Thuringowa City Council recognises the social responsibilities of a high-growth city. We will ensure the development of infrastructure and services to provide a safe, healthy and cohesive community.

The Strategies we will use to achieve this:

- 2.1 By planning developing and facilitating social infrastructure to ensure communities have access to relevant and timely services
- 2.2 By creating a safe and healthy city.
- 2.3 By developing Thuringowa as a learning community.
- 2.4 By creating a liveable and cohesive community.

Goal 3: ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY

The Outcome we want to achieve:

Thuringowa City Council will provide opportunities for the city's residential, and business community to grow and prosper in an innovative and sustainable manner

The Strategies we will use to achieve this:

- 3.1 By enhancing community prosperity.
- 3.2 By promoting and developing new growth industries.
- 3.3 By increasing the revenue base of the City.
- 3.4 By providing a diversified sustainable economy.
- 3.5 By developing, attracting and retaining business and workforce skills.

Goal 4: RESPONSIBLE GOVERNANCE

The Outcome we want to achieve:

Thuringowa City Council will deliver excellence in customer service, human resource management, financial management, accountable and transparent governance and business practices which satisfy the needs and expectations of our customer, staff and corporate stakeholders.

The Strategies we will use to achieve this:

- 2.5 By delivering efficient and effective services that satisfy our customers' expectations.
- 2.6 By maximising and growing the human resource potential of Council.
- 2.7 By achieving excellence in financial management and other business practices.
- 2.8 By providing fair and equitable local government.



Key Projects

- Develop the Upper Ross community hub of Riverway.
- Implement the Cities for Climate Protection Action Plan and commence the CCP+ program
- Construct a Leisure Centre at the Northern Beaches.
- Continue the City Beautification Program.
- Implement major upgrades to effluent reuse systems.
- Development of Peggy Banfield Park as a sport, recreation and community facility
- Complete the upgrade of Kern Brothers Drive.
- Implement major upgrades to the Sewerage Treatment and Reuse Schemes.
- Connect Golf Links Drive through to Dalrymple Road.
- Provision of a Public Art Trail.
- Continue development and implementation of new Infrastructure Funding Mechanisms.
- Facilitate the construction of the Thuringowa Sustainable Housing Village at 1320 Riverway Drive.
- Implement the City Centre Masterplan.
- Develop feasibility studies for Balgal Beach as a tourism hub.
- Review of regional planning processes.
- Implement the Thuringowa Learning Community Strategy.



Report on Commercialised Business Activities Conducted By Council

THURINGOWA WATER

Thuringowa Water is the only commercialised business activity conducted by Council pursuant to the provision of Chapter 8 of the Local Government Act.

The unit's objectives, nature and scope of activities are set out below:

Business Unit Objectives

Vision To be the most innovative, reliable and customer focused water and wastewater service provider in Australia.

Mission To be a customer focussed innovative team who service our Community by delivering safe, reliable, affordable water, waste water and related services whilst demonstrating environmental, social and financial leadership



Nature and Scope of Activities

Thuringowa Water is responsible for the provision of water and wastewater services to consumers throughout our Service Area. Services include:

- Provision of treated water (including impoundment, harvesting and treatment of raw water at Paluma Weir);
- Provision of reticulated sewerage services including sewage treatment and by-product disposal;
- Provision of treated effluent for reuse purposes;
- Trade Waste services;
- Household Sewage Treatment Plant designs
- Planning, design, delivery, maintenance and operation of infrastructure to facilitate the provision of these services;
- Plumbing / drainage applications.
- Provision of public awareness campaigns and water saving programs to promote the responsible use and reduced consumption of water.

Other Business Activities Conducted By Council

A number of other business activities are being conducted which, although not commercialised pursuant to the Local Government Act, are conducted in accordance with Chapter 9 Conduct of Competitive Business Activities. These activities include:

- Thuringowa Building Certifiers
- Thuringowa Fleet Services
- Thuringowa Waste
- Thuringowa Construction and Maintenance Services
- Thuringowa Project and Design Services
- Thuringowa Survey Services
- Thuringowa Parks and Landscaping Services

These business activities do engage in competition with the private sector and the code of competitive conduct is applied to their operation as required by the Act.

