



NEW HOPE
GROUP

Community Resources and Needs Assessment



Jacaranda Festival Streetscape, Goombungee

Introduction

New Hope Group has operated the New Acland Coal Mine, near Acland in the Toowoomba region, since 2005.

New Hope Group is committed to being an active part of the local community, and in 2016, initiated a project to identify needs, resources and opportunities in communities near the New Acland Coal Mine. The *Community Resources and Needs Assessment Project* was conducted by Elliott Whiteing in the second half of 2016.

The project area includes a network of rural localities and towns, with Oakey as the district centre in the south, and Goombungee as a local centre in the north. Local communities profiled as part of the project include:

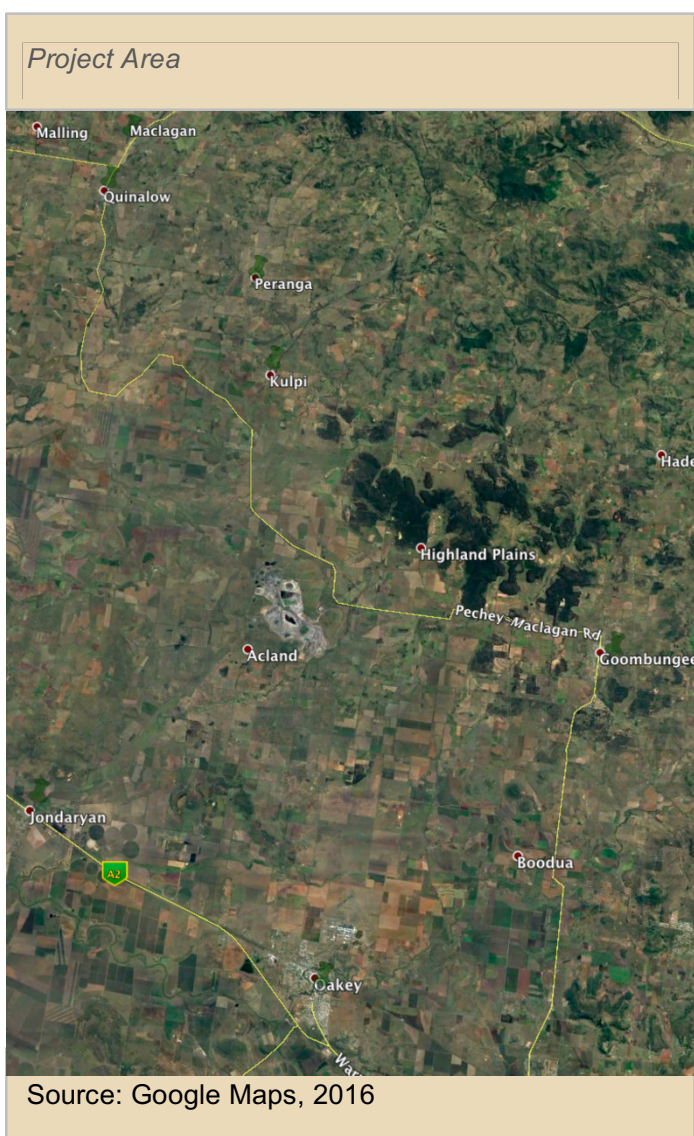
- Acland
- Oakey
- Jondaryan
- Goombungee
- Kulpi
- Peranga
- Maclagan, and
- Quinalow.

The eight communities are within the Australian Bureau of Statistic' Statistical Areas of Jondaryan and Crows-Nest Rosalie, which collectively had an estimated population of 16,267 people in 2015. The area has shown slow but steady population growth over the past five years, with similar growth anticipated during the next ten years.

This report summarises the results of the *Community Resources and Needs Assessment Project*.

The '*Local Communities*' section provides a profile of each community, based on demographic analysis, community consultation and research into community resources and assets.

The '*Local Strengths, Needs and Opportunities*' section provides a summary of strengths, vulnerabilities and needs, along with some opportunities for stakeholders to work together to address local priorities.



Local Communities

Acland

Acland is a small township located approximately 16 km north east of Jondaryan, approximately 20 km from Oakey and 50 km north west of Toowoomba.

Acland shares boundaries with the rural localities of Muldu, Greenwood, Sabine and Malu. Nearby Brymaroo and Balgowan are also home to farming families.

In 2008, the town of Acland's population was estimated at 25 people. There are currently two households living in Acland, but a number of other families live in the Acland district.

Regular community events include:

- Annual commemorations of Anzac Day are held in Acland.
- Neighbours' gatherings are held throughout the year in the surrounding rural area.
- Brymaroo Rodeo and Campdraft nearby.

History

- Formerly part of the Lagoon Creek area, the Acland township was established around 1913 to support the Acland Coal Mine.
- Some of Acland's buildings were damaged during a tornado in 1952, however the town recovered and through considerable community effort went on to win Tidy Town Awards during the 1980s.
- Acland Coal Mine (No. 2 Colliery) closed in 1984 and the Acland Post Office closed in 1998.
- Development of the New Acland Coal Mine near Acland began in 2002. Stage 2 of the mine's development and operation commenced in 2007, and Stage 3 is currently proposed.
- Acland State School closed in 2004.

Local characteristics and features

- The Acland No.2 Colliery is a Queensland State Heritage listed site.
- Tom Doherty Park and the War Memorial are valued local features.

Demography

Acland State Suburb (SSC) includes Acland, Muldu, Highland Plains and Silverleigh.

In 2011, compared to Toowoomba and Queensland, local characteristics include:

- a younger median age and a higher proportion of children under 15 years
- a disability rate slightly above the averages
- low unemployment.

	2011 Census	Acland SSC	TRC LGA	QLD
Population		208	151,189	4,332,739
Median age		35	37	36
<15 years		32.9%	21.5%	20.2%
>65 years		11.4%	15.5%	13.1%
Indigenous		0%	3.5%	3.6%
Disability		6.3%	5%	4.4%
Language other than English		1.4%	4.6%	9.8%
Labour force		62.6%	60.9%	62.8%
Unemployed		3.4%	4.7%	6.1%

Acland

Local Assets	<p>Local assets in and around Acland include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • wildlife, bottle trees and environmental values; • surrounding farm lands; • groundwater which supports farming and environmental values; and • heritage listed Acland No. 2 Colliery, and sites of historic value (Acland War Memorial, Tom Doherty Park, the old miner's cottage, and the old slaughter yard on Acland-Muldu Road. <p>Acland is primarily supported by local social networks, with district level services accessed in Oakey and Toowoomba.</p>
Local Strengths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town upkeep and beautification, to the credit of a local resident. • Strong community spirit and affection for Acland township in the area. • Pride in the area's agricultural and social history. • Farming and land management skills.
Local Gaps/ Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities to showcase history and environmental stewardship. • Building community cohesion • Support for greater economic diversity and environmental initiatives. • Addressing potential social isolation in and around Acland. • Acland's public grounds and gardens cared for by residents as volunteers, (with some limited support).

Kulpi

Kulpi is a rural village of approximately 20 households, located approximately 15 km north east of Acland and 60 km north west of Toowoomba.

The Kulpi community includes town residents and the surrounding farming families, old and new. Whilst small, Kulpi has an active community life centred around the Kulpi Hall, the School and the Pioneer Hotel.

Regular community events include:

- Christmas Carols and Christmas party
- Family and community gatherings and events at the Hall and the Hotel
- Cards, craft and exercise classes at the Hall
- Indoor bowls at the hall
- Night tennis fixtures

History

- Kulpi a dairying centre formed from a selection of the Rosalie Plains pastoral run.
- The Oakey-Cooyar railway line opened in Kulpi in April 1912.
- Dairy deregulation affected the operation of local farms, some of which were subdivided, however award-winning dairy operations still operate in the area.
- Kulpi State School opened in 1915 and still operates today.
- Kulpi had a cheese factory which closed 50+ years ago, whilst closure of the rail line also had a substantial effect on the area's activity levels.
- The Pioneer Hotel and store formerly marked the centre of town. The store closed, but the Hotel remains a community focus.

Local characteristics and features

- Kulpi's key built features include the Kulpi Hall, Pioneer Hotel, Kulpi State School, the tennis courts and St. John's Lutheran Church.
- Kulpi is part of a network of rural townships including Acland, Goombungee and Peranga.
- The landscape as the town's backdrop offers a sense of openness and amenity.

Demography

Kulpi (with Balgowan) was part of the Peranga State Suburb (SSC). In 2011, local characteristics included:

- an older median age and a higher proportion of children under 15 years compared with TRC and Queensland averages
- higher percentage of Indigenous people
- low unemployment.

2011 Census	Peranga SSC	TRC LGA	QLD
Population	298	151,189	4,332,739
Median age	42	37	36
<15 years	23.9%	21.5%	20.2%
>65 years	14.6%	15.5%	13.1%
Indigenous	4.3%	3.5%	3.6%
Disability	3%	5%	4.4%
Language other than English at home	0%	4.6%	9.8%
Labour force	61.2%	60.9%	62.8%
Unemployed	2.2%	4.7%	6.1%

Kulpi

Social Infrastructure	No.
Kulpi State School (P-6)	1
Kulpi Hall	1
Pioneer Hotel	1
St. John's Lutheran Church	1

Kulpi State School Enrolments		
	No.	% Annual Change
2011	17	
2012	9	-47
2013	8	-11%
2014	13	63%
2015*	11	-15%
% annual av. change		-7%

* In 2015, Year 7 became the first year of high school in Queensland

Local Assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local assets in Kulpi include the Kulpi Hall, Kulpi Pub, Gagen Park, and Kulpi State School. Kulpi Hall Committee owns and manages the hall through the voluntary efforts of a small group. Local groundwater supply is critically important to town water supply, farming, agricultural productivity and property values.
Local Strengths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kulpi is supported by local self-help, basic services and resources in the local network, and district level services in Oakey and Toowoomba. Local knowledge and local practices in environmental management. Community pride in the district's agricultural production and community involvement amongst older families. Town upkeep and beautification to the credit of a local resident.
Local Gaps/ Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kulpi Hall Committee needs extra human resources for volunteer management. Public grounds and gardens are also cared for by volunteers. Investment of capital in economic diversity (e.g. potential for tourism, manufacturing, students). Wait list for doctors and dentists in Goombungee / Oakey. Community initiatives to strengthen community cohesion and shared values.

Peranga

Peranga is located approximately 70 km north west of Toowoomba, 40 km south of the Bunya Mountains National Park, and 200 km north west of Brisbane.

Peranga is a small rural town operating within an interdependent network of small communities. Community identity and strength is drawn from this network and a long-standing community culture of self-help and autonomy.

Regular community events include:

- Dance classes at Peranga Hall, with a community dance held every six weeks.
- Annual Christmas Carols

History

- European pastoral settlement began in the 1840s and Peranga initially developed as a dairy-producing area.
- The Oakey-Cooyar railway line opened in Peranga in November 1912 and the Peranga Post Office opened in 1913.
- The Peranga and District Bowls Club opened in 1955 and is still in operation.
- Following the closure of Oakey-Cooyar railway line, Peranga experienced a decline in population and town activity. In 1967, Peranga's hotel burnt down, followed by the school in 1973.

Local characteristics and features

- Peranga's built features include the post office and general store, a police station, bowls club and a town hall. Its local natural features include the Council-owned Park and Peranga Recreational Reserve.
- The old Muntapa Rail Tunnel located nearby is home to a colony of bent-winged bats. The area offers picnic and barbecue facilities, a viewing platform and walking trails.

Demography

Peranga State Suburb (SSC) includes Peranga, Balgowan and Kulpi. In 2011, compared to Toowoomba and Queensland, local characteristics included:

- an older median age and a higher proportion of children under 15 years compared with TRC and Queensland averages
- higher percentage of Indigenous people
- low unemployment.

2011 Census	Peranga SSC	TRC LGA	QLD
Population	298	151,189	4,332,739
Median age	42	37	36
<15 years	23.9%	21.5%	20.2%
>65 years	14.6%	15.5%	13.1%
Indigenous	4.3%	3.5%	3.6%
Disability	3%	5%	4.4%
Language other than English at home	0%	4.6%	9.8%
Labour force	61.2%	60.9%	62.8%
Unemployed	2.2%	4.7%	6.1%

Peranga

Social Infrastructure		No
Community	Peranga Post Office	1
	Peranga Police Station	1
	Peranga Hall	1
	Peranga & District Bowling Club	1
Social networks	Peranga Community Association	1

Local Assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local assets in Peranga include the post office, the Hall, the Bowls Club, a park and the Peranga Recreational Reserve. The Peranga and District Bowls Club plays an important role in connecting community, as does Peranga Hall.
Local Strengths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peranga is a historic town supporting farming properties and residents with local trade services. It also receives caravan and motorhome visitor traffic, which contributes to a small tourism economy. Peranga is connected to a basic level of services and resources within the local town network and to district level services and resources in Oakey. The community and particularly young people access horse sports across the district including pony club and camp draft.
Local Gaps/ Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gaps and needs relate to access to health services, resources to strengthen tourism economy, internet and mobile reception, and increased membership in community organisations.

Maclagan

Maclagan is a small town situated on the bank of Myall Creek at the foothills of Bunya Mountains National Park, approximately 80 km north west of Toowoomba.

Maclagan sits within a network of small rural towns including Peranga (11 km south) and Quinalow (3 km south).

Annual Maclagan Old Time Squeezebox Festival in October is a regular community event.

History

- European pastoral settlement around Maclagan commenced with surveying in 1889.
- Originally named Bismarck, after Prussian statesman Otto von Bismarck, the township was renamed Maclagan in honour of Ewen George Sinclair-Maclagan in 1916, after WWI.
- Viticulture was part of Maclagan's history with at least one vineyard established by a German settler in about 1893 and closing in the early 1900s.

Local characteristics and features

- Maclagan has a post office and general store, a butcher, a hall, a museum, a Maclagan and Quinalow District War Memorial, a kindergarten and a park.
- Maclagan also has two wineries which promote local tourism based on the area's scenic amenity, natural environment and wildlife and local history.

Demography

At the 2011 Census in the Maclagan State Suburb (SSC), local characteristics include:

- an older median age and a higher proportion of children under 15 years (9.4% were under 5 years, compared with 7.2% for TRC)
- high labour force participation and low unemployment.

2011 Census	Maclagan SSC	TRC LGA	QLD
Population	342	151,189	4,332,739
Median age	44	37	36
<15 years	22.4%	21.5%	20.2%
>65 years	14.4%	15.5%	13.1%
Indigenous	1.8%	3.5%	3.6%
Disability	1.2%	5%	4.4%
Language other than English at home	0%	4.6%	9.8%
Labour force	68.2%	60.9%	62.8%
Unemployed	1.6%	4.7%	6.1%

Maclagan

Social Infrastructure		No.
Child care	Maclagan Windermere Kindergarten	1
Community	Maclagan General Store and Post Office	1
	Churches	2
	Maclagan Memories Museum	1
	Maclagan Memorial Hall & Association	1
Social networks	South Myall Catchment Landcare Group	1

Local Assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local assets in Maclagan include the Memorial Hall and War Memorial, nearby Muntapa Park, the local kindergarten and local businesses including a butcher that sells State and region-wide.
Local Strengths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local history, environment including Myall Creek and Muntapa Park, local viticulture and tourism and linkages with Bunya Mountains National Park. Maclagan's steel works manufacturing industry supports the local and regional community.
Local Gaps/ Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good level of services and resources. Potential gaps relate to health services, support opportunities for local tourism, internet and mobile reception, youth engagement and increased membership in community organisations

Quinalow

Quinalow is a small rural town situated, approximately 60 km north west of Toowoomba, 40 km south of the Bunya Mountains National Park, and 200 km north west of Brisbane.

The township sits within a network of small rural towns including Maclagan, Peranga, and Kulpi.

Regular community events include:

- Sports events (swimming, cricket)
- School calendar events and concerts
- Christmas Carols

History

- European pastoral settlement (grazing and dairy) in the area began in the 1840s.
- Supporting the dairy industry was the Quinalow Cheese Factory, which operated from the early 1940s to the mid-1970s.
- Agricultural uses remain, and have been joined by tourism uses connected to the Bunya Mountains.
- Quinalow Library was built in 1901 and served a variety of school and community purposes. The building was moved to its current site in 1979 and opened in 1984 as the Quinalow Library.

Local characteristics and features

- Quinalow is a small rural town that continues to support local farming industry including a small number of dairy properties and feedlots.
- Quinalow features a garage, hotel, school, swimming pool, caravan park, tennis courts, hall, recreation reserve and skate park.
- Community identity and strength are drawn from the local people and family life, demonstrated by the availability of a range of youth and family recreation facilities, strong social networks and activities, and rallying of local resources.

Demography

The Quinalow State Suburb (SSC) includes Quinalow, Brymaroo and Irvingdale. In 2011, local characteristics included:

- an older median age and a higher proportion of children under 15 years (8.9% were under 5 years, compared with 7.2% for TRC)
- above average Indigenous population
- comparable labour force participation and low unemployment.

	2011 Census	Quinalow SSC	TRC LGA	QLD
Population		411	151,189	4,332,739
Median age		41	37	36
<15 years		22.7%	21.5%	20.2%
>65 years		14.3%	15.5%	13.1%
Indigenous		4.6%	3.5%	3.6%
Disability		4.4%	5%	4.4%
Language other than English at home		1.5%	4.6%	9.8%
Labour force		62.2%	60.9%	62.8%
Unemployed		2%	4.7%	6.1%

Quinalow

Social Infrastructure		No.	Quinalow State School Enrolments		
School	Quinalow State School (P-10)	1			% Annual Change
Community	Quinalow Public Hall	1		No.	
	Quinalow Hotel	1	2011	77	
	Quinalow Swimming Pool	1	2012	72	-6%
Social networks	Quinalow & District Swimming Club	1	2013	60	-17%
			2014	76	27%
	Quinalow Cricket Club	1	2015*	87	14%
% annual av. change					3%

* In 2015, Year 7 became the first year of high school in Queensland

Local Assets

- Good range of youth and family, sport and recreation facilities and the Council-owned public hall.

Local Strengths

- Supporting agriculture and equine industries. Local strengths are drawn from the local people and family life, demonstrated by the availability of social networks and activities and rallying of local resources.
- Quinalow's rural machinery business contributes to local employment and economy.

Local Gaps/ Needs

- Basic level of services and resources within the local town network. Gaps and needs relate to health services, continued membership in community organisations, and access to cultural activities and social networks.
- Further growth of Quinalow limited by economics of subdivision.

Goombungee

Goombungee is a predominantly rural town located approximately 35 km north west of Toowoomba, and 110 km north west of Brisbane.

Regular community events include:

- Goombungee Show.
- Goombungee Jacaranda Festival.
- Goombungee Rodeo.
- Goombungee Campdraft.
- Community sport and recreation activities including boot camp, line dancing, gardening, swimming lessons, community netball, lady's tennis, indoor bowls, karate, kids' ballet, pony club and cricket club.

History

- European pastoral settlement (grazing and dairy) in the area began in the 1840s.
- Goombungee was named after pastoral run, part of which was resumed for the Goombungee township which was gazetted in 1885.
- A railway line through Goombungee, from Kingsthorpe to Haden, was opened in 1910.
- By the 1920s, there were two dairy factories, civic and business facilities, five churches, four hotels, a hospital and several shops. Four of the churches and one hotel remain.
- Goombungee was the administrative centre of the former Rosalie Local Government Area.
- Goombungee's population declined during the 1960s, the railway closed in 1964, and the butter factory closed in 1973. The town experienced a population surge in the 1970s with new residents attracted to Goombungee's rural residential lifestyle.

Local characteristics and features

- The Goombungee streetscape is lined with silky oaks and jacarandas, well-kept gardens and a number of historic and heritage buildings.
- Community identity and strength are drawn from the local people and comradery working towards common goals for the town. There is a strong German and Prussian cultural heritage from early settlement in the community.
- Major features of the area include Goombungee Golf Club, Goombungee Showgrounds, Pioneer Park, Pioneer Arms Hotel, Rosalie Art Gallery, Library, Cafes and Goombungee State School and Swimming Pool.
- An iron man sculpture welcomes visitors entering the town from the south.

Goombungee

Demography

At the 2011 Census, the Goombungee State Suburb's characteristics included:

- a marginally older median age and higher proportion of children under 15 years
- a marginally higher rate of disability
- low labour force participation and low unemployment.

2011 Census	Goombungee SSC	TRC LGA	QLD
Population	1,032	151,189	4,332,739
Median age	39	37	36
<15 years	22.6%	21.5%	20.2%
>65 years	15.6%	15.5%	13.1%
Indigenous	3.3%	3.5%	3.6%
Disability	5.5%	5%	4.4%
Language other than English at home	0.9%	4.6%	9.8%
Labour force	55.6%	60.9%	62.8%
Unemployed	4.1%	4.7%	6.1%

Social Infrastructure

No.

Goombungee State School Enrolments

Health	Goombungee Family Practice	1
	Goombungee Pharmacy	1
Schools & Child Care	Goombungee Little Folks Group	1
	Goombungee State School (P-6)	1
Community	Council Service Centre + Art Gallery + Library	1
	Post Office	1
	Churches	5
	State Emergency Service	1
	Police Station	1
	Rural Fire Brigade	1
	Local Fire Brigade	1

	No.	% Annual Change
2011	115	
2012	105	-9%
2013	110	5%
2014	116	5%
2015*	107	-8%
% annual av. change		-1%

* In 2015, Year 7 became the first year of high school in Queensland

Goombungee

Social Infrastructure		No.
Community	Goombungee swimming pool	1
	Pioneer Arms Hotel	1
	Cafes (+1 Grocery Store and +1 Shop)	3
	Golf Club	1
	Goombungee showgrounds	1
Social networks	QCWA Goombungee Branch	1
	Goombungee State School P&C	1
	Rosalie Shire Historical Society	1
	Goombungee Public Hall Committee	1
	Goombungee School P&C	1
	Guides Queensland	1
	Goombungee-Haden Show Society	1
	Goombungee Gumdrops Playgroup	1

Local Assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local assets in Goombungee include the Council Service Centre, medical centre and pharmacy, state school, parks. A good mix of skills relating to farming and rural activities, business and trade services, health and education.
Local Strengths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good range of cultural, sport and recreation facilities and events. A cohesive community. Town beautification and cultural heritage.
Local Gaps/Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Human resources to increase local communications, coordination and community participation (recent arrivals, families, young people. Improvement and maintenance of existing community facilities. Sufficient off-farm jobs (with the exception of the mine) to supplement and support farming households. Independent living and aged care. Social support for ageing community.

Jondaryan

Jondaryan is a small rural town located approximately 17 km northwest of Oakey, 40 km west of Toowoomba and approximately 140 km west of Brisbane.

From the 1970s, local townspeople began the restoration of the historic woolshed to contribute to a rural museum and historic tourism complex.

Regular community events include:

- Annual Australian Heritage Festival, a nine-day festival held in August
- Biennial stage play at the Jondaryan Public Hall
- Anzac Day commemoration service Old Time Dance, held monthly

History

- European pastoral settlement began in 1840s and by the 1860s, Jondaryan Pastoral Station was Queensland's largest freehold station.
- St Anne's Church was built in 1859.
- In 1889, Jondaryan pastoral station was at the centre of activism advocating the employment of union-only shearers.
- From the 1900's, pastoral runs surrounding Jondaryan station were subdivided and the area became populated as new farm lots were occupied.
- While Oakey became the dominant population centre, Jondaryan remained a well-appointed township.

Local characteristics and features

- While Jondaryan is a small rural town, the community demonstrates pride for its role in the pioneering history of the Darling Downs region and Queensland.
- The Jondaryan Woolshed Tourist Complex is the centrepiece of the town, showcasing a number of historic buildings including the Jondaryan Woolshed which has been restored through decades of community volunteerism and is listed by the National Trust of Australia.
- Other built features include the Jondaryan Pub, founded in the 1800s and the Cobb & Co. Roadhouse on the Warrego Highway.

Demography

At the 2011 Census, Jondaryan State Suburb's characteristics include:

- A community of 377 residents
- An older median age, compared with TRC and QLD average, reflective of an older generation of working property owners
- Higher labour force participation and lower unemployment than TRC and QLD averages.

2011 Census	Jondaryan SSC	TRC LGA	QLD
Population	377	151,189	4,332,739
Median age	41	37	36
<15 years	20.7%	21.5%	20.2%
>65 years	11.9%	15.5%	13.1%
Indigenous	2.4%	3.5%	3.6%
Disability	3.4%	5%	4.4%
Language other than English at home	0%	4.6%	9.8%
Labour force	63.4%	60.9%	62.8%
Unemployed	4.2%	4.7%	6.1%

Jondaryan

Social Infrastructure		No.	Jondaryan Enrolments	State	School
School	Jondaryan State School (P-6)	1			
Community	Jondaryan Hall	1		No.	% Annual Change
	Jondaryan postal service	1	2011	28	
	Jondaryan Woolshed Tourist Complex	1	2012	28	0%
	St Anne's Anglican Church	1	2013	32	14%
	Jondaryan Police Station	1	2014	31	-3%
	Jondaryan Rural Fire Brigade	1	2015	40	29%
Social networks	Jondaryan Masonic Lodge	1	% annual av. change		9%

* In 2015, Year 7 became the first year of high school in Queensland

Local Assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local assets in Jondaryan include the heritage assets featured at Jondaryan's Woolshed complex, St Anne's Church, Jondaryan Hall and the Rural Fire Brigade – and the associated human capital (community involvement) required to maintain these assets.
Local Strengths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local strengths include historic and event-based tourism, diversity in landscape and environment including surrounding grazing and agricultural properties and natural flora and fauna diversity. Volunteering by a core group within the community is a key strength although more human resources needed to keep momentum.
Local Gaps/ Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential gaps and needs relate to narrow economic base and limited local employment opportunities. Access to health services at Oakey – a lack of localised healthy lifestyle initiatives. Limited localised resources or social networks for ageing community. No central farming produce or supply centre. Low-levels of new membership or participation in community organisations. Re-invigorate community pride. Increased support for environmental initiatives and natural environment reserves or parkland.

Oakey

Oakey is a rural centre located approximately 29 km west of Toowoomba and approximately 160 km west of Brisbane.

Oakey is the district centre for the project area, and offers a significant main street, along with services and businesses which service the project area.

In the 1970s and 1980s Oakey experienced a period of population growth, and its historic pastoral emphasis shifted from dairying to beef, with feed lots and an abattoir built, creating new jobs

Regular community events include:

- Annual Oakey Rodeo and Ute Muster (March)
- Annual Oakey Show (March)
- Annual Oakey Sprints (May)
- NAIDOC Week events (July)
- Remembrance events (April / November)
- Oakey Santa Fair (December)
- Rugby League sport events
- Quarterly Oakey Lions Club Market Days

History

- European pastoral settlement (grazing) in the area began in the 1840s.
- Oakey township development was facilitated by the Western Railway extension in 1868. In 1869 the Oakey Creek post office opened, and Oakey (Creek) School opened in 1874.
- By 1900s, Oakey supported local industries including agriculture, dairying, meat processing, a butter factory and coal mining. A railway line from Oakey to Cooyar via Acland opened in 1913.
- In 1939, the legendary Doomben and Caulfield Cup-winning horse, Bernborough was born in Rosalie Plains. He raced locally until his sale in 1945.
- The name Oakey was officially adopted in 1940.
- A RAAF aerodrome north of Oakey hosted nearly 2,000 RAAF and WAAAF personnel during World War II.

Local characteristics and features

- Oakey operates as the service centre for surrounding rural communities and local industries.
- The town features well-kept parklands and gardens, and modern facilities such as the Oakey Civic Precinct with the Library and Swimming Pool.
- Oakey's character reflects a working town historically supported by agriculture, meatworks and mining. New Acland Coal Pty Ltd, the two meat processing plants and Oakey Army Aviation Training Centre (AATC) are major employers.
- There is strong community pride, most recently demonstrated by the 'Oakey Fights Back' movement.

Oakey

Demography

At the 2011 Census, the Oakey State Suburb's characteristics included:

- A strong indigenous population with representation above TRC and QLD
- A higher rate of disability than the TRC and QLD average and below average labour force participation – reflective of an older population
- Comparable unemployment rate, above the regional average but below QLD's average.
- Oakey township also supports a small but active Cook Islander and Solomon Islander population

2011 Census	Oakey SSC	TRC LGA	QLD
Population	4,529	151,189	4,332,739
Median age	37	37	36
<15 years	22.1%	21.5%	20.2%
>65 years	16.4%	15.5%	13.1%
Indigenous	8.1%	3.5%	3.6%
Disability	6.8%	5%	4.4%
Language other than English at home	3%	4.6%	9.8%
Labour force	58.3%	60.9%	62.8%
Unemployed	5.7%	4.7%	6.1%

Oakey State School Enrolments

Oakey State High School Enrolments

	No.	% Annual Change		No.	% Annual Change
2011	352		2011	390	
2012	370	5%	2012	386	-1%
2013	377	2%	2013	419	9%
2014	380	1%	2014	420	0%
2015*	333	-12%	2015*	405	-4%
% annual av. change		-1%	% annual av. change		1%

* In 2015, Year 7 became the first year of high school in Queensland

Oakey

Social Infrastructure		No.
Health	Oakey Hospital and Dr EAF McDonald Nursing Home (& Friends of McDonald)	1
	Oakey CWA House (& CWA Group)	1
	Downs Rural Medical (formerly Chery St Medical) (3-4 GPs on rotation)	3
	Goondir Health Service (2 GPs)	2
	Oakey Dental Clinic	1
Schools	Oakey State Primary School (P-6)	2
	St Monica's Catholic Primary School (P-6)	1
	Oakey State High School (7-12)	1
Childcare	Little Champions Child Care	3
	Cuddly Bears Babies & Children's Centre	1
	C&K Oakey Community Kindergarten	1
Community	Oakey Post Office	1
	Oakey State Emergency Service	1
	Oakey Police Station	1
	Oakey Community Centre and Oakey Library	2
	Oakey Swimming Pool	1
	Oakey Historical and Oakey Army Aviation Museum	2
	Max Employment Centre and Uniting Care Community Employment	2
	Oakey Chamber of Commerce	1
Social networks	Oakey Agricultural, Pastoral & Rodeo Society	1
	Oakey and District Pony Club	1
	Oakey Lions Club	1
	Oakey Community Care Committee, Oakey Carers Support Group	1
	Oakey and District Arts Council Inc. and Oakey Art Group	2
	Oakey Motor Sports Club	1
	TOMNET Oakey, Oakey Men's Shed. Oakey Masonic Centre	3
	Oakey Urban Landcare Group and Wildlife Welfare Carers	2
	Oakey Community Playgroup (Thurs)	1

Oakey

Local Assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oakey's local assets are district level facilities and include the hospital and health service, aged care centre and homes, two medical centres, a high school, two primary schools, the Oakey cultural centre and library. • Local skills are a diverse mix of farming, retail, health and education-related knowledge and experience. • Oakey's natural assets include Oakey Creek, local groundwater, a liveable climate and surrounding landscape diversity.
Local Strengths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oakey's economic strengths lie in its major employers and working community in agriculture, meatworks, mining and defence, in addition to local events such as the Oakey Rodeo. • Oakey is a cohesive, community that bands together in response to challenging events. • Oakey offers a broad and diverse range of social resources and community activities across areas including arts and culture, sport and recreation, agriculture and industry, social support and community health and wellbeing. • The Oakey Bears Rugby League team has a strong following in the community. • Oakey community also engages and fosters appreciation for the natural environment through its parklands, gardens, and through nature walks and other outdoor activities.
Local Gaps/ Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investment in and sustained economic diversity (e.g. noted potential for tourism and future industrial activity). • Increase diversity and availability of local retail and trade options and support for local business. • Enhance existing assets and services, including human and economic investment in shopfronts, town centre, historic buildings and key infrastructure such as the railway. • Increase youth engagement and involvement in community activities. • Strengthen public transport options. • Invest in human capital to maintain or re-invigorate community groups, community life and community-managed assets. • Increase social, human and build resources to support the growing ageing population in and around Oakey. • Improve communication between community groups about community activities, events and resource needs.

Local Strengths, Needs and Opportunities

Strengths and Vulnerabilities

A suite of indicators was developed to provide measures of community strengths and resources across the project area. Characteristics which are evident from the indicators are summarised below.

Strengths	Vulnerabilities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment diversity is a key strength, particularly in Oakey, supported by agriculture, meat production, mining, and defence force industries. • Percentages of people with certificate qualifications were comparable to the regional and State averages. • Local and regional (Toowoomba) unemployment rates were more than two percentage points lower than the Queensland average (June 2016). • Median rents have decreased in the Goombungee and Oakey areas over the past three years (but increased in Jondaryan). • School enrolments have increased in the local area over the past five years. • There are lower rates of children who are developmentally vulnerable than the State average. • There were more than 600 Indigenous residents in the local area in 2011. • There are small but active multi-cultural communities. • There is a range of health and medical services, based in Oakey and Goombungee. • The area includes State Forest reserves and creek systems • There is a total of 35 Council parks in the project area. Tom Doherty Park is the smallest at 0.86 ha. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The median age was generally higher in the local area, and rates of disability were slightly higher than in the Toowoomba LGA and Queensland Due to the ageing community. • Telecommunications infrastructure and internet access in the smaller communities are poor. • More than 30% of the project area had no home access to the internet in 2011. • There is no public transport, required to access jobs, training and services. • With large percentages of seniors, sole persons and sole parent households, there is potential for social isolation in some communities. • Access to GPs and health services is largely dependent on services in Oakey and Goombungee, who have waiting lists, and on access to private transport. • More than 10% of children in the project area are growing up in jobless families, and for Indigenous children, this rate is much higher. • A number of parks were identified in consultation as having inadequate amenity. • Community assets such as halls and parks are dependent on volunteer resources, which are in need of replenishment.

Needs Assessment

Combining the results of research, data analysis and community engagement, the following needs and opportunities were identified across the project area. Local area profiles contain more detailed information about localised needs and strengths.

Issue / Need		Strength / Opportunity
Community wide	Limited mobile / internet coverage (with the exception of Oakey and potentially the Quinalow district)	Rich social history – Indigenous culture, farming, historic small communities
	Varied / low digital literacy in rural communities	Small but active culturally diverse communities in and around Oakey
	Ageing communities and limited rural resources to support ageing in place	Community-managed assets
	Limited rural resources for family activities and support for family members with disability	Volunteering support for community events
	Mental health support (also linked to drought and availability of hardship support)	Economic strength linked to major employers – meatworks, agriculture, services, mining
	Limited access to GPs and community health services (except in Oakey)	Opportunities for beneficial re-use of unused land or infrastructure
	Limited local employment and training opportunities	Groundwater and agricultural productivity
	Lack of public transport	Comparatively low unemployment
	Improved communication and community information networks	Flora and fauna diversity, including wildlife corridors and protected remnant vegetation
	Limited human resources to maintain community assets and contribute to community life	Some small business support from visitor traffic and event tourism
	Maintenance of existing assets / upgrades required to support growth areas	
	Need for alternative means of engaging young people and increasing community participation	
	Community initiatives that address divisions due to differing opinions about local issues, and strengthen shared values	

Needs Assessment

Issue / Need		Strength / Opportunity
Acland	Town upkeep and maintenance largely dependent on local resources	Social fabric including neighbour networks and local attachment to Acland
	Social isolation, and a small and dispersed population	Listed cultural heritage sites, and park of local significance
Kulpi	Dependence on volunteering for town upkeep community asset management and events	Community strength, resilience and pride, particularly relating to rural way of life and agricultural productivity
Peranga	Dependence on volunteering to maintain community assets and contribute to community life	Supports and is supported by interdependent network of small towns
	Limited access to supplementary off-farm jobs for local farmers	Small tourism economy (visitor traffic and Muntapa Rail Tunnel)
Maclagan	Dependence on volunteering to maintain community assets and contribute to community life	Good level of European and Indigenous cultural resources
	Limited access to supplementary off-farm jobs for local farmers	Local economy supported by small-scale tourism, local business and manufacturing
Quinalow	Dependence on volunteering to maintain community assets and an active local events calendar	Groundwater and agricultural productivity, including dairy properties
	Limited access to supplementary off-farm jobs for local farmers	
Goombungee	No sewerage, limiting some accommodation and tourism options	Small visitor and event tourism economy (opportunity for on-farm tourism also noted)
	Dependence on volunteering to maintain community assets and contribute to community life	Strong social capital, including community organisations and levels of volunteering
	Limited access to supplementary off-farm jobs for local farmers	Old railway lines - opportunity to develop heritage / environmental education rail trail
Jondaryan	Lack of community cohesion and low participation of newly arrived families in community life	Local volunteers supporting community assets
	Limited amenity in parkland assets	Good level of cultural resources including Woolshed complex and heritage church
Oakey	Need for investment in economic assets including shopfronts, town centre, historic buildings, event tourism and potentially the railway land	Wide range of social resources including cultural, sporting, agriculture, and school community networks
	Water contamination issue and uncertainty about New Acland Coal Mine Stage 3 are affecting public perceptions and property sale prices.	Aboriginal cultural resources in Oakey town centre, State High School, and Men's site at Gowrie Junction

Opportunities

Opportunities for community and economic development were identified as part of the Project. Most of the opportunities require partnerships and cooperation. New Hope Group will engage with stakeholders to discuss these and other opportunities which could be pursued.

Local skills for local industries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skills and Jobs partnerships to build skills relevant to agriculture and mining • Multi-party apprenticeship and trainee program • Local training and upskilling initiatives in digital literacy and online business
Indigenous community and economic development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Hope Group Indigenous Employment Strategy • Enable greater participation of Indigenous businesses in local supply chains • Identify opportunities to share local culture, history, and knowledge of country
Community infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a project to identify community transport needs and options • Develop regeneration/succession plans for community managed facilities • Develop community initiatives aimed at building cohesion between neighbours, groups and people from diverse cultural backgrounds
Support for local business and entrepreneurship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local business development program for farm stays/bed and breakfasts • Assess infrastructure available and needed to cater to the tourism market • Consider the desirability/feasibility of establishing a local farmers and arts market • Industry-community partnership to explore development of renewable energy
Community health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental Health Needs Assessment and Strategic Plan for mental health infrastructure development • Support partnerships to recruit and retain GPs • Partnerships to develop outreach services and program responses for community health, seniors and people with disability
Environmental health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify potential to increase the biodiversity value of Acland Pastoral Company land and other private land, and initiate partnerships for implementation • Support environmental groups' initiatives to restore Oakey Creek corridor • Initiate an industry-community partnership to explore potential for development of renewable energy sources

Further information

Thank you for your interest in this report.

For further information or to discuss the needs and opportunities identified, please contact New Hope Group's Community Information Office in Oakey on 1800 882 142.