



TIARO

Community Plan

2022 - 2032



Fraser Coast
COMMUNITY PLANNING

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Introduction

The Tiaro Community Plan is a visionary document prepared in partnership with the Fraser Coast Regional Council, Department of Transport and Main Roads and members of the Tiaro Community Working Group.

The Tiaro Community Working Group was formed with 2 key objectives in mind, those being:-

- To deliberate and produce a Community Plan for Tiaro that would realise the social and economic potential of Tiaro, including but not limited to, identification of opportunities associated with the bypass to be constructed as part of the Department of Transport and Main Roads Tiaro Bypass project; and
- To provide input into the development of the draft design for the bypass project, on behalf of the Tiaro Community.

The Tiaro Community Plan document is the product of a significant body of work by the Working Group undertaken between 2020 and early 2021 which included workshops and consultation with the broader Tiaro community.

This document is a living document which highlights several Priority Projects identified by the Tiaro Community in addition to a longer list of projects, programs and initiatives that will be further considered as opportunities arise and as other priority projects are implemented.

ABOUT TIARO

Tiaro is one of several small towns in the Fraser Coast Regional Council area and had its beginnings in the late 1860s as an overnight stop between the goldfields of Gympie and the port of Maryborough.

The Tiaro local government division was formed in 1879, two years before the railway line from Maryborough to the Gympie gold field passed through the Shire.



ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY

We acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the original inhabitants of Australia and recognise these unique cultures as part of the cultural heritage of all Australians.

We pay our respect to the Elders of this land; past, present and future and the significant contribution they have made in shaping the identity of the Fraser Coast and Australia.

Today the Butchulla people continue to walk the cultural pathway of their ancestors, whom they believe have lived on this country since the beginning of the Dreaming.

Because the Butchulla language did not come from a written culture, this nation has been referred to variously as: Butchulla, Badjala, Badjula, Badjela, Bajellah, Badtjala and Budjilla.

(Traditional Owners - Butchulla People, 2012)

TRADITIONAL OWNERS

The Butchulla people are the Traditional Owners of the land at Tiaro. For more than 5000 years, perhaps as many as 50,000 years, Butchulla people lived in harmony with the seasons and the land and sea, maintaining a balance between spiritual, social and family connections.

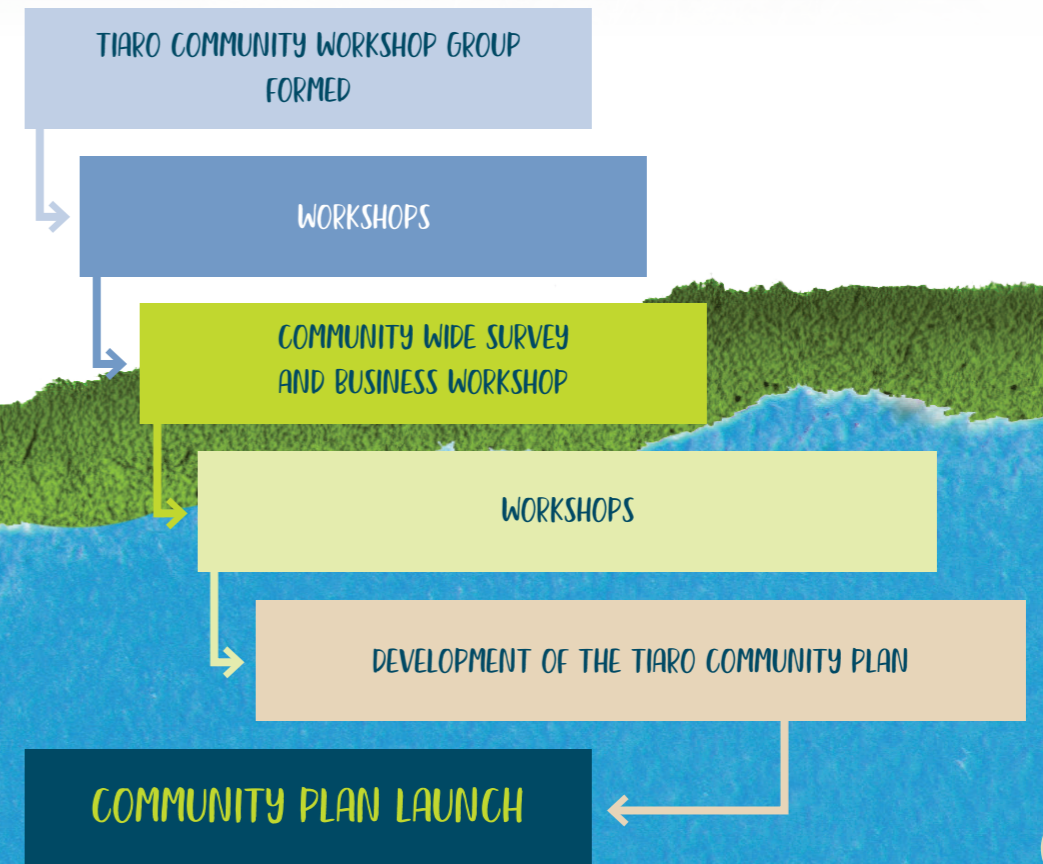
CONSULTATION PROCESS

The Tiaro Community Plan has been developed utilising a process of workshops of the Tiaro Community Working Group and wider community engagement activities.

The Working Group was formed in early 2020 following which a series of workshops were facilitated utilising an independent consultancy firm, Articulous.

Our Vision

"IN 2024 TIARO WILL BE A DESTINATION TOWN. A THRIVING COMMUNITY WITH ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL OPPORTUNITIES"



THEME: IMPROVED ACCESS TO THE MARY RIVER

6 projects/initiatives and/or ideas were discussed as part of the “Improved Access to the Mary River” theme of the Community Plan, as follows:-

- ✓ Upgrade Petrie Park boat ramp;
- ✓ Development and Enhancement of Petrie Park area;
- ✓ Walking/fishing paths along the riverbank;
- ✓ Investigate the potential to release barramundi, Mary River Cod and Australian Bass in the river near Petrie Park;
- ✓ Develop picnic, play, swimming, sailing, canoeing, kayaking park at Owanyilla, with kiosk and hire facilities; and
- ✓ Undertake a feasibility study for of a Mary River Freshwater Co-operative especially for, but not limited to the Mary River Turtle, Lungfish, White Throated Snapping Turtle, and Mary River Cod.

Signature Projects

As part of the workshops the following two **Signature Projects** were identified as the highest priority for this Theme.

- ✓ Mary River Turtle Tourism/Education Centre – to include live aquarium, interactive features, hatchlings, turtle sculpture (potential for “big” turtle) as a collaboration between scientists and artists
- ✓ Turtle Habitat/Mary River Viewing Platform at the end of Walter Street

THEME: NEW OR UPGRADED RECREATION AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES

10 projects/initiatives and/or ideas were discussed as part of the “New or Upgraded Recreation and Community Facilities” theme of the Community Plan, as follows:-

- ✓ Upgrade and maintain the Recreation Grounds;
- ✓ Wheelie Bins – more bins in camping sites; extra bins for area during holiday season/public holidays or more frequent pick up of bins;
- ✓ Market recreation facilities and attractions locally and online;
- ✓ Establish a freestanding community noticeboard;
- ✓ Upgrade the skate park in Tiaro Memorial Park and walking path from camping area to Mayne Street & Tiaro Memorial Park;
- ✓ Install Christmas Lights;
- ✓ Relocate defibrillator at the Community Centre/Library to be located outside for ease of access;
- ✓ Increase the number of public servants working from Tiaro (including Local Government and State Government agencies);
- ✓ Remove kerbing in the RV camping area and re-arrange to take more vehicles; and
- ✓ Install more lighting for the Mr T Sculpture.

Signature Projects

As part of the workshops the following three **Signature Projects** were identified as the highest priority for this Theme.

- ✓ Upgrades to Tiaro Memorial Park and enhanced linkages to Tiaro Memorial Park
- ✓ Market recreation facilities and attractions locally and online
- ✓ Upgrades to Tiaro Recreation Grounds

THEME: TIARO TRAIL NETWORK

10 projects/initiatives and/or ideas were discussed as part of the “Tiara Trail Network” theme of the Community Plan, as follows:-

- ✓ Walking/fishing path along the riverbank;
- ✓ Town Centre/surrounds history trails;
- ✓ Network of trails for horses, mountain bikes, 4WD tracks which loop back to Tiara;
- ✓ Horse trails and workshops;
- ✓ Trails like Maryborough portside, story trail information, history centre etc;
- ✓ Animal corridors and fencing;
- ✓ Mountain biking opportunities;
- ✓ BMX pump track;
- ✓ Development of online collateral; and
- ✓ Trail biking track opportunities.

Signature Projects

As part of the workshops the following **Signature Projects** was identified as the highest priority for this Theme.

- ✓ Tiara Trails Network

THEME: A CALENDAR OF FESTIVALS AND EVENTS, AND BRANDING OF LOCAL PRODUCE

9 projects/initiatives and/or ideas were discussed as part of the “A calendar of festivals and eventS, and branding of local produce” theme of the Community Plan, as follows:-

- ✓ Promotion of local products;
- ✓ Promotion of Mayne Street shopping, tourist hub, parks, clubs, pubs/shops, craft, events, community centre and Hall;
- ✓ Promotion of local history – heritage development and potential for Fraser Coast Heritage & Character Incentive Scheme for Tiara;
- ✓ Market horse training and cattle activities/events;
- ✓ Investigate and develop regional annual events such as Mary River Turtle Festival, Old Coach Road horse festival etc;
- ✓ Develop a brand for local products and produce;
- ✓ Attract private enterprise to launch tourism paid produce utilising the Mary River;
- ✓ Develop and implement an Ecotourism Strategy

Signature Projects

As part of the workshops the following **Signature Projects** was identified as the highest priority for this Theme.

- ✓ Enhancement and retention of the existing Tiara Visitor Information Centre;

THEME: TIARO DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

21 projects/initiatives and/or ideas were discussed as part of the “Tiara Development Strategy” theme of the Community Plan, as follows:-

- ✓ Promote Tiara as a ‘stop, stretch & refresh point’ along the Bruce Highway;
- ✓ Tiara Highway Signage;
- ✓ Ensure the special needs of target/growth markets are accommodated (eg RVs electric vehicles etc);
- ✓ RV/electric vehicle rest & recharge promotion;
- ✓ Provision of more parking;
- ✓ More and improved parking signage;
- ✓ Improvements to Mayne Street (parking and beautification etc);
- ✓ Increase capacity for free camping;
- ✓ More commercial space to be made available;
- ✓ Mary River bridge upgrade;
- ✓ Increase in water allocation from Sunwater for the town water supply with supply to be extended in several directions to support housing/industry;
- ✓ Upgraded street lights;
- ✓ More residential land to be developed (potential for increase of 100-200 residences);
- ✓ Extra parking in Kooringa Road – development of both sides of the road and encourage people to use lane behind Library (complete);
- ✓ Development of a designated industrial area opposite cemetery – potential for light/medium industry precinct;
- ✓ Street beautification – plant trees, pot plants, permanent gardens, bins to have decorate skins etc;
- ✓ Implementation of a tertiary sewage treatment plant;
- ✓ Upgrade to Owanyilla electricity substation;
- ✓ Mural on Water Tower;
- ✓ New commercial zone along bypass entry point to Tiara;
- ✓ Develop Tiara as a transport hub.

Signature Projects

As part of the workshops the following one **Signature Projects** were identified as the highest priority for this Theme.

- ✓ Tiara to be promoted as a ‘stop, stretch & refresh point’ along the Bruce Highway;
- ✓ Implementation of appropriate Bruce Highway signage encouraging travellers to pull into Tiara;
- ✓ Investigation of feasibility of enhanced development infrastructure to cater for potential growth of Tiara township; and

THEME: STRATEGIC LAND PURCHASES AND UPGRADES

Three projects/initiatives and/or ideas were discussed as part of the "Strategic Land Purchase and Upgrades" theme of the Community Plan, as follows:-

- ✓ Purchase strategic land parcels for carparking and additional community facilities;
- ✓ Purchase key parcels of land for further residential development;
- ✓ Convert Lot 209/210/211 Mayne Street from Quarry Reserve.

THEME: A TIARO BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT AND MARKETING CAMPAIGN

Five projects/initiatives and/or ideas were discussed as part of the "A Tiaro Business Improvement and Marketing Campaign" theme of the Community Plan, as follows:-

- ✓ Enhance the physical appearance of the Tiaro township;
- ✓ Reduce rates & charges to encourage town growth – potential to create a regional or development rates category;
- ✓ Identify business zones in town which could be developed and re-zoned to assist development;
- ✓ Encourage expansion of Petrie Gardens Age Facility;
- ✓ Promote opportunities for micro-farming to people who want to relocate with synergies to local business.

Signature Projects

As part of the workshops the following **Signature Projects** was identified as the highest priority for this Theme.

- ✓ Preparation of a Tiaro Plan as part of the Fraser Coast Planning Scheme review 2021/22,

THEME: TIARO ONLINE

Four projects/initiatives and/or ideas were discussed as part of the "Tiaro Online" theme of the Community Plan, as follows:-

- ✓ Development of Tourism collateral – Tiaro map of attractions, trails, sites of interest etc;
- ✓ Online marketing of local products;
- ✓ Assistance to businesses to build and enhance business websites;
- ✓ Dedicated social media presence;

Signature Projects

As part of the workshops the following **Signature Project** was identified as the highest priority for this Theme.

- ✓ Development of Tourism collateral, online marketing of local products and dedicated social media presence.

THEME: NEW 'HEARTLAND' CAMPAIGN

Six projects/initiatives and/or ideas were discussed as part of the "New 'Heartland Campaign" theme of the Community Plan, as follows:-

- ✓ Reopen the previous Tiaro Shire Council Works Depot as a permanent FCRC Work Depot with works staff to be based in Tiaro;
- ✓ Enhanced public transport links to and from Maryborough and other regional locations;
- ✓ Enhanced drive marketing campaign – Brisbane, Gympie, Fraser Coast and Bundaberg;
- ✓ Establish a dump point for campers;
- ✓ Social media campaign;
- ✓ Campaign as Queensland's "Friendliest Town".

Signature Projects

As part of the workshops the following two **Signature Projects** were identified as the highest priority for this Theme.

- ✓ Investigate the feasibility of having the existing Fraser Coast Regional Council Tiaro Workshop utilisation increased with potential for permanent works staff presence;
- ✓ Investigate opportunities for enhanced public transport linkages between Tiaro and Maryborough



OUR PEOPLE

POPULATION

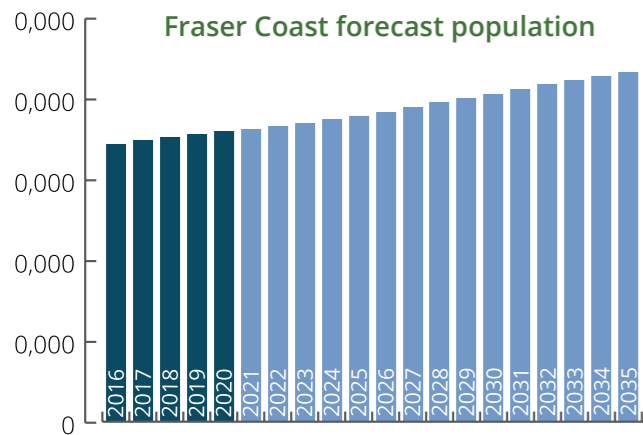
The 2016 population of The Tiaro locality as defined by the ABS Census, is approximately 759. The population is based on 52% people identifying as male and 48% of people identifying as female.

4.3% of the population are indigenous, 86.5% Australian citizens, 77% Australian Born and 3.3% of the community speak a language other than English at home

POPULATION FORECAST

The overall population of the Fraser Coast Regional Council LGA (Local Government Area) is set to increase significantly over the next 10-20 years. Based on the current growth trends from 2016 the LGA will see a growth rate of 27.50% between 2021 and 2041.

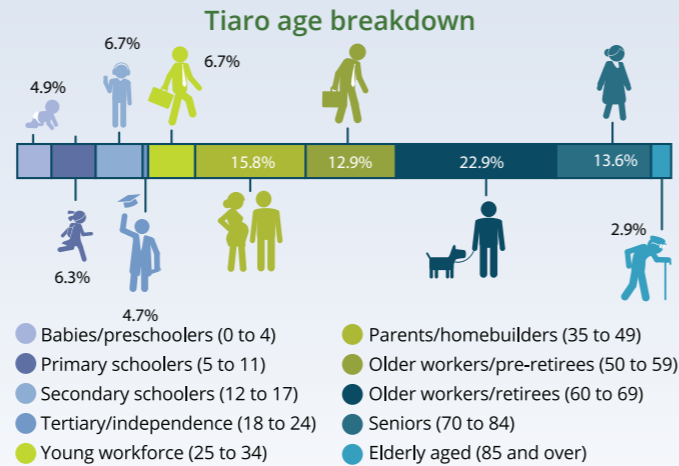
Whilst the LGA is set to see a large growth rate, Tiaro is set to see a slightly smaller overall growth rate percentage of 24.08% over the same period, rising from 1,925 to 2,520 by 2041.



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing 2011 and 2016. Compiled and presented by .id (informed decisions).

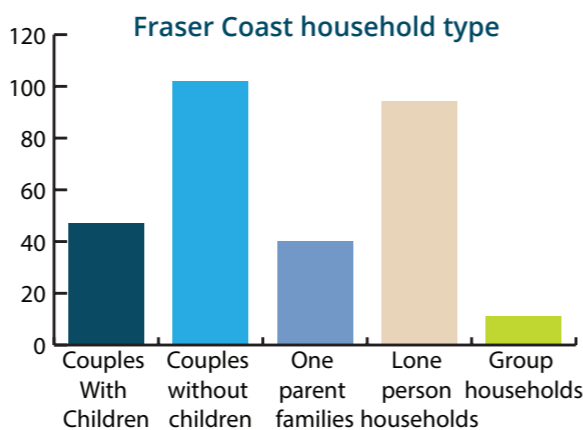
AGE STRUCTURE

The largest portion of our community are empty nester and retirees aged between 60 and 69, making up 22.9% of the overall community. This is closely followed by Parents and Homebuilders aged between 35 to 49 who account for 15.8% of the population.



HOUSEHOLD TYPES

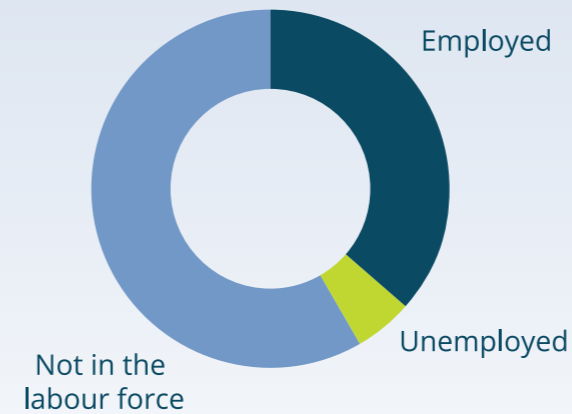
Couples without children make up 29.8% of our community and 27.5% of lone person households account for the largest portion of household types. Couples with children and one parent families attributed to 25.4% percent with the remaining 3.2% accounted for as group households.



OUR ECONOMY

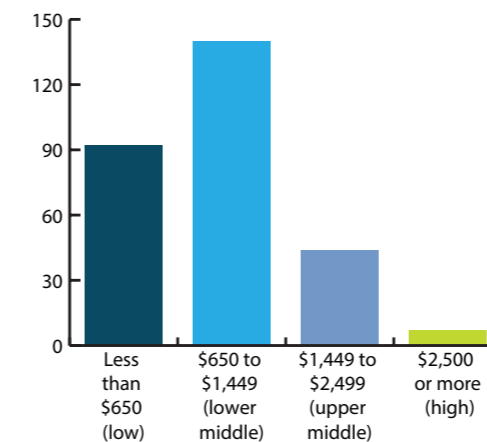
EMPLOYMENT FIGURES

As a small community we have a relatively moderate unemployment rate of 12.1%, with over 50% of the population considered not to be in the labour force which correlates directly with age demographic and household composition.



INCOME

The majority of our residents (43.8%) are considered to have a lower middle income in the range of \$650 to \$1499 a week, followed by 28.8% who sit within the low-income bracket of less than \$650 a week. High income earners, those earning \$2,500 or more a week account for only 2.2% of residents.



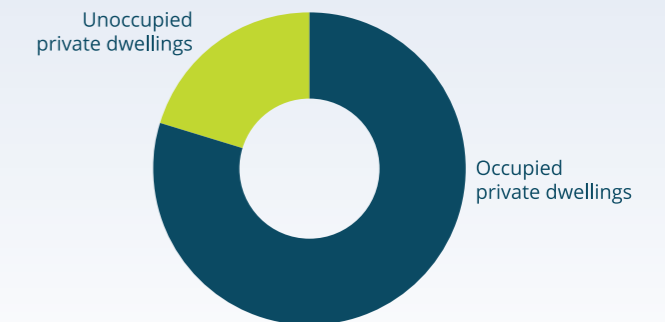
HOUSING

DWELLINGS

Our communities residential housing mainly consists of separate houses accounting for 94.6% of dwellings in the Tiaro Community. 88% of dwellings are considered to be occupied private dwellings, with a 11% of unoccupied dwellings.

OCCUPIED DWELLINGS

Out of those identified dwellings 88% are privately occupied, with 11% unoccupied.



How we developed the Plan

WHAT IS COMMUNITY PLANNING

Community Planning is an important mechanism for identifying and understanding community aspirations and priorities; and is a process that is designed to enact and empower that community to carry ownership for the development and improvement of their communities.

The ownership of the community plan sits with the people of the community; delivery of the plan is not the designated responsibility of a sole person, organisation, or level of government.

A community working group outlined and identified a vision for the community, key community objectives, priority projects and actions, primary and key stakeholders, and vision for implementation of short, medium- and long-term priorities.

The community planning process provides a 'whole of community' approach in terms of input into the community plan's foundation and in identification and prioritisation of specific key projects.

HOW WE DEVELOPED THE COMMUNITY PLAN

The community planning process was a project facilitated by Fraser Coast Regional Council's Community Development and Engagement Team. Members self nominated expressions of interest to form a Community Plan Development Group, in keeping with the approach of building community ownership over the process.

The Community Plan Working Group

Expressions of interest from members of the community were received from people who had a vision for the Tiaro Community and a drive to enable change.

The purpose of the group was to:

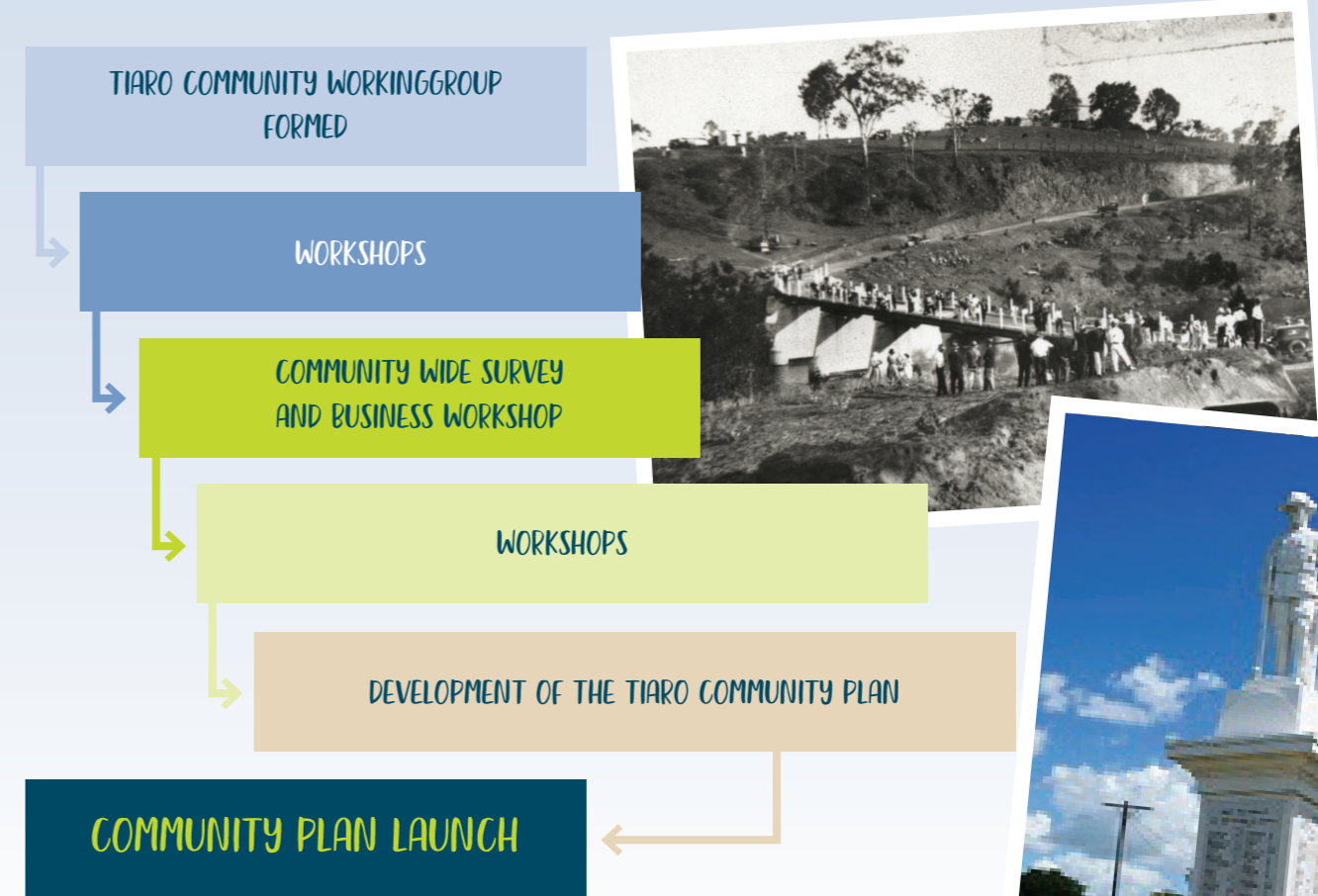
- ✓ Set the foundation of the community plan
- ✓ Drive community planning by the community, in line with Asset Based Community Development principles
- ✓ Establish a Community point of reference for the planning process

The role of participants was to:

- ✓ Drive the community planning process
- ✓ Identify key stakeholders and focus groups
- ✓ Champion the plan in the community and promote the collaborative work undertaken to build a collective vision for their community
- ✓ Work with Council to facilitate focus groups with specific stakeholders
- ✓ Provide local knowledge, history and insights to assist in the planning process
- ✓ Becoming a local source of knowledge on the community plan for local residents
- ✓ Identify and develop components that form the Community Plan
- ✓ Review community feedback and adapt plan as required

The Planning Process

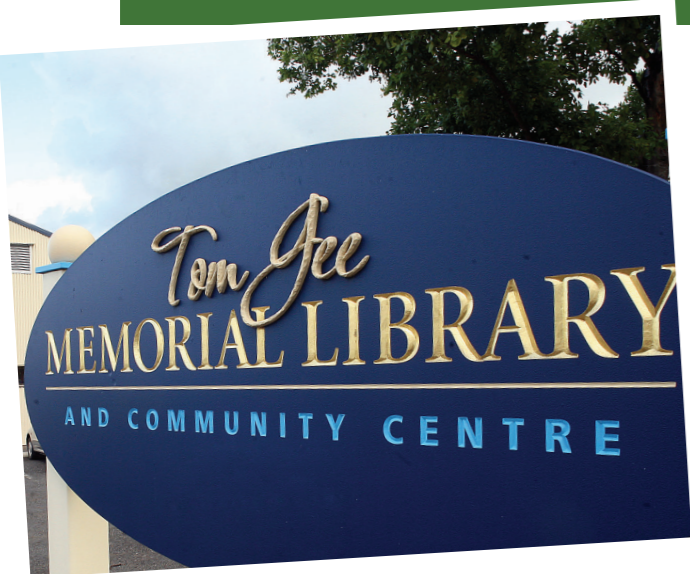
The community planning process was undertaken with 5 keys stages.



Implementation

Implementation of the plan will be undertaken by the community and other stakeholder agencies in a staged process. Community led change is the key in delivering upon the vision, pillars and themes. Community groups and residents are encouraged to work together in the implementation of the identified projects, relevant planning, and advocacy.

Fraser Coast Regional Council will work with the Community Plan Working group, and associated project teams in supporting the facilitation of the project's development and implementation.





Fraser Coast
REGIONAL COUNCIL

The Tiaro Community Plan has been developed in partnership with the Fraser Coast Regional Council, Queensland Department of Transport and Main Road, Tiaro Community Working Group, and residents of the Tiaro.