



An Australian Government Initiative

RDA Ipswich & West Moreton
Roadmap
2013-2016





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Attachment 1 Regional Profile

Attachment 2 Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement

This report was produced by RDA Ipswich & West Moreton and does not necessarily represent the views of the Australian Government.

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1 Executive Summary

The RDA-I&WM is a region full of natural and man-made assets including:

Agriculture - is home to the Lockyer Valley food bowl, regarded as one of the ten most fertile valleys in the world;

Tourism & Recreation - has available land to provide for urban growth with strong tourism and recreational amenity;

Water Resources – contains the waterways of seven valleys – Stanley, Brisbane, Lockyer, Bremer, Fassifern, Logan and Albert; and contains the majority of SEQ's water storage;

Environment and Heritage - encompasses world heritage areas of national and international significance; including the World Heritage Gondwana Rainforests of SEQ;

Infrastructure - Road - is traversed and connected by seven main road transport links; **Rail** - is traversed and connected by three rails lines, two of which carry major freight; **Telecommunications** - is a selected early release site for the National Broadband Network infrastructure currently being rolled out; and **Defence** - is home to Australia's largest Defence Base at Amberley with 3,134 Air Force personnel, 603 Army personnel and a varying number of support contractors.

Population Growth – a population of 270,000 in 2011 and is SEQ's fastest growing area and is forecast to grow by an average of 13,500 people per annum for the next 20 years;

Activity Centres - contains the City of Ipswich and its main towns include Beaudesert, Tamborine, Canungra, Boonah, Laidley, Gatton, Fernvale, Lowood, Esk, Toogoolawah and Kilcoy;

Residential Land - is home to Australia's largest master planned community at Springfield (ultimate 85,000) and Australia's next largest master planned community at Ripley Valley (ultimate 120,000);

Industrial Land - contains existing or proposed regionally significant industry parks including Bromelton, Carole Park, Redbank Motorway Estate, Swanbank Enterprise Park, Citiswitch, Wulkuraka/Karrabin, Amberley Aerospace and Defence Development, Purga, Ebenezer and potential for the Gatton West Industry Zone (GWIZ);

With this base the RDA Ipswich and West Moreton seeks to achieve a vision that supports the desires and aspirations of the various communities in the region while recognising that the Ipswich and West Moreton Region's future is inextricably tied to the wider South East Queensland (SEQ) region.

The vision for the Ipswich and West Moreton region is:-

In 2024 the Ipswich and West Moreton region has been able to successfully negotiate a balance between protection of natural assets and facilitating economic growth.

The region is recognised as integral to the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of the larger SEQ region. It provides diverse lifestyle opportunities for people to live, a burgeoning economy that attracts business from all sectors, and its natural assets are managed for the benefit of all in SEQ. The region is renowned for its resilience, having adapted to and managed changes such as population growth, major flood events, business expansion, and changing technologies, whilst maintaining its unique identity.

Analysis of the RDA-I&WM Region's Strengths, Challenges, Needs and Opportunities has identified five key Priority Areas for focus for the RDA over the next three years.



STRENGTHS	CHALLENGES	NEEDS/OPPORTUNITIES	PRIORITY AREAS 2013-2016
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ High quality agricultural land ▪ Largest Defence Base in Australia supported by three levels of Government ▪ Major provider of SEQ region's Ecosystem Services ▪ Strong industrial employment base ▪ Excellent transport infrastructure ▪ Fast growing population base ▪ Natural landscape 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Investment in Associated Defence and Aeronautical industry development ▪ Local employment skill levels ▪ Low levels of research and development funding ▪ Below SEQ region levels of productivity in major sectors of Manufacturing and Agriculture ▪ Social infrastructure investment to meet growing population requirements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sustain RDA-I&WM ecosystem service assets ▪ Increase rate of economic growth through higher levels of education and training for local residents and workers ▪ Raise productivity levels in Manufacturing and Agriculture through increased research and development, innovation, and higher skilled workers ▪ Identify a program of social infrastructure required to meet regional growth targets ▪ Amberley Aerospace and Defence precinct development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Encourage a Shift in the Region's Employment Profile Towards more Professional and Technical Jobs Employing People with a Higher Level of Qualifications and Skills.</i> ▪ <i>Support industries and services for growth in the Defence and Aeronautical Industry</i> ▪ <i>Enhance food and agricultural productivity in the Region</i> ▪ <i>Value the Region's Ecosystem Services</i> ▪ <i>Enhance the regional community's social development opportunities.</i>

Source: RDA-I&WM; Urbis



ROLE OF THE RDA

There are a range of opportunities whereby the RDA Ipswich and West Moreton can influence the achievement of the vision for the region. The following table outlines the various roles that the RDA can undertake to progress regional development in the region, relative to the regional vision and the current projects and initiatives that the RDA Ipswich and West Moreton is progressing.

ROLE	ACTIVITIES
Advocate	Promotes regional development
Supporter	Endorses initiatives and projects that promote regional development
Mentor	Informs businesses and governments of the opportunities available for regional development
Facilitator	Facilitates discussions regarding regional development
Partnership Broker	Brings government and business together, specifically to create partnership projects.
Project Broker	Supports financially or in-kind, projects initiated by others, that support regional development.

Source: Urbis



KEY MESSAGES FOR REGIONAL STAKEHOLDERS

PRIORITY AREAS	STATE GOVERNMENT	LOCAL GOVERNMENTS	COMMUNITY	INVESTORS	BUSINESS
Encourage a Shift in the Region's Employment Profile Towards more Professional and Technical Jobs Employing People with a Higher Level of Qualifications and Skills.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We are pro economic development and pro protection of our natural and environmental assets. Our natural and man-made assets make us critical to the future development of SEQ. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As a wider region we have an extraordinary range of natural and man-made assets. We will perform better if we work together on projects and initiatives than if we work separately. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We want the community to work together with government, and business to help our region develop to its full potential. This means achieving a balance between better jobs for our residents; protecting our natural assets; and improving the social outcomes for our communities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Our region will be the fastest growing area in Queensland over the next 10 years for both population and employment. We are pro economic development and pro protection of our natural and environmental assets. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Our region has great development potential. We want to help you grow and will support you in doing so.
Support industries and services for growth in Defence and Aeronautical Industry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We want State Government to partner with I&WM public and private organisations in economic development initiatives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Together we are aiming to provide better jobs for our residents, protect our natural assets, and improve the social outcomes for our communities. This is a view that we all share. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Everyone is equal and everyone has a role to play. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will work with you to facilitate the best investment outcomes without compromising our long term economic, environmental, or social objectives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We want to hear from you on your ideas on how to help business grow.
Enhance food and agricultural productivity in the Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Amberley Aerospace and Defence Support Centre is a key project for the region which needs State Government leadership. 				
Value the Region's Ecosystem Services					
Enhance the regional community's social development opportunities.					

Source: RDA-I&WM; Urbis



2 Message from the RDA Chair

I am very pleased to present the 2013 - 2016 Regional Roadmap prepared by Regional Development Australia Ipswich and West Moreton Inc (RDA-I&WM). This revised Roadmap not only fulfils the requirement of our Funding Contract with the Australian and Queensland Governments, but reaffirms the RDAIWM priorities and identifies the unique characteristics of our region. This three year plan is the first long term document, and builds on the previous annual Roadmaps.

RDA is a partnership between Australian, State and Local Governments, to strengthen and sustain regional communities. Members of the Management Committee come from across the four local government areas, with Council representatives and regional volunteers with extensive networks, knowledge and experience in regional development and services, making up the Committee. We do not work in isolation. On the contrary, RDA works to enhance close relationships with Federal, State and Local Governments and the business and community sectors.

You, our stakeholders, have kept us informed on what you consider are this region's priorities. These regional priorities contribute to the achievements of South East Queensland and national objectives for regional development, infrastructure and planning. RDA-I&WM continues to advocate and assist the integration of multi-government efforts in relation to these priorities to achieve your visions and goals.

Since the inception of RDA-I&WM in 2009, the Committee has been delighted with what has been achieved for the region. This Roadmap documents the 5 Themes and Outcomes, and informs the future regional vision and priorities identified for the coming three years. Substantial funding through the Regional Development Australia Fund has also been secured to support local and regional projects, helping the region grow and become strong and vibrant.

This Roadmap has been developed following further adversity in our communities. Another natural disaster in January 2013, with flooding throughout the region, has put an enormous strain on our natural environment and built infrastructure. Resilience has proven to be the backbone of the region.

I also thank you for your input, which will ensure that Ipswich and West Moreton remains the focus for all stakeholders in terms of business growth, productivity, community wellbeing and sustainability.

Regards

Kathy Bensted



3 Vision for the Region

The RDA Ipswich and West Moreton seeks to achieve a vision that supports the desires and aspirations of the various communities in the region while recognising that the Ipswich and West Moreton Region's future is inextricably tied to the wider South East Queensland (SEQ) region.

The vision for the Ipswich and West Moreton region is:-

In 2024 the Ipswich and West Moreton region has been able to successfully negotiate a balance between protection of natural assets and facilitating economic growth.

The region is recognised as integral to the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of the larger SEQ region. It provides diverse lifestyle opportunities for people to live, a burgeoning economy that attracts business from all sectors, and its natural assets are managed for the benefit of all in SEQ. The region is renowned for its resilience, having adapted to and managed changes such as population growth, major flood events, business expansion, and changing technologies, whilst maintaining its unique identity.

It will not be possible to achieve this vision without the commitment and collaboration of all key stakeholders in the Ipswich and West Moreton region. The vision outlined above has been derived to complement the 'vision statements' from the State government and local communities within the region. Each of these stakeholders has identified their own visions for SEQ and the respective local government areas, and the elements common to all include:-

- A focus on economic development;
- A desire to encourage diversity – economic, cultural, landscapes, communities, and housing;
- An appreciation of the value of community participation and the need for collaboration between government, business and community;
- The need to focus on environmental conservation and enhancement; and
- The need to protect rural lifestyles and agricultural industry.

In order for a vision to be considered 'achievable' it is important that the health of the region is monitored and measured on a regular basis. There are a number of keystone indicators which can be used to monitor the health of the region, relative to the vision including:-

- Economic development – increase in GRP per worker; economic growth rate consistent with population growth; and an unemployment rate lower than the greater SEQ region;
- Natural asset management – no net loss of native vegetation in the region; water quality of major waterways; air quality indicators; and
- Social wellbeing – increase in the Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) in the region; access to health services; and education qualifications levels.

The wide significance of the natural and man-made assets of the Ipswich and West Moreton region mean that there is a strong interdependency between it and the SEQ region overall. That is, the health of the Ipswich and West Moreton region is dependent on the health of SEQ, and vice-versa.



4 Role of the RDA

4.1 ROLE OF RDA IPSWICH AND WEST MORETON

The primary role of the RDA Ipswich and West Moreton is to establish and maintain a leadership role in the region, and be recognised as the organisation focused on achieving the preferred vision for the Ipswich and West Moreton region.

This role will be achieved through championing and supporting projects in line with the regional vision, facilitating key partnerships, mentoring stakeholders and businesses on the value of regional development and measuring progress towards regional development. The following outlines the key objectives of the RDA Ipswich and West Moreton:-

- Maintain and nurture a constructive relationship with the regional community, in a manner that assists in the achievement of a widely-supported vision and strategy for the region.
- Inform regional planning that identifies solutions which turn regional strengths and comparative advantages into a sustainable, innovative and competitive regional strategy and implements the vision for the region, through the Regional Roadmap.
- Encourage strong partnerships across and between all three levels of government and the incorporation of a regional perspective into their agendas.
- Raise regional awareness of government programs and encourage applications from the region for the programs.
- Contribute to improved economic, environmental and social outcomes in the region.

4.2 THE RDA IPSWICH AND WEST MORETON SCOPE OF INFLUENCE

There are a range of opportunities whereby the RDA-I&WM can influence the achievement of the vision for the region. The following table outlines the various roles that the RDA can undertake to progress regional development in the region, relative to the regional vision and the current projects and initiatives that the RDA-I&WM is progressing.

ROLE	ACTIVITIES	RECENT EXAMPLES
Advocate	Promotes regional development	Assistance with rollout of National Broadband Program
Supporter	Endorses initiatives and projects that promote regional development	SEQ Regional Development Initiative
Mentor	Informs businesses and governments of the opportunities available for regional development	Ripley Valley Sustainable Community Integration Strategy (subject to funding)
Facilitator	Facilitates discussions regarding regional development	Annual Regional Leaders Forum



ROLE	ACTIVITIES	RECENT EXAMPLES
Partnership Broker	Brings government and business together, specifically to create partnership projects.	Ipswich and West Moreton Digital Economy Strategy
Project Broker	Supports financially or in-kind, projects initiated by others, that support regional development.	Lockyer Valley Food Strategy

Source: Urbis

4.3 CURRENT SUPPORT FOR SEQ REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

The RDA Ipswich and West Moreton support the SEQ Regional Development initiative. This is a coalition formed between the seven RDAs that cover South East Queensland – Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast, Brisbane, Redlands & Logan, Moreton, Ipswich and West Moreton, and Darling Downs and South West. The RDAs have established this initiative, with the intention of presenting a united voice on shared issues effecting South East Queensland and the Northern Rivers of NSW. The relevant priorities that have been identified by this coalition have been included in the objectives in this Roadmap.

4.4 CURRENT SUPPORT FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FROM ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT

The RDA-I&WM continues to be a major growth area for Queensland, and has the support and commitment of governments at all levels to promote development within the region.

The key mechanism the State government currently uses to promote regional development is the South East Queensland Regional Plan 2009-2031, which is due for review in late-2013. Since the election of a new government in March 2012, there continues to be significant change in the position and policy mechanisms that the State uses to promote regional development across Queensland. The State Government has a very strong focus on the 4-pillar economy – tourism, agriculture, resources, and construction. The priorities identified in this Roadmap are closely related to each of these pillars.

The four local government authorities in the region do have a strong appreciation for the cross-border issues, and the value of cooperation. Each of the local authorities has their own policies, plans and programs that they implement to achieve some of the aspirations outlined in the 'vision' for the RDA.

- Corporate Plans and Operational Plans – each of the 4 local authorities use these documents to guide their activities and projects in their local communities. These documents are specifically derived by the individual local authorities, and as such are focused primarily on local issues. However, all activities that are supported by the Council need to be acknowledged in these plans.
- Planning Schemes – each of the 4 local authorities use their planning scheme to guide the form and location of housing, industrial activities and other land uses in the region.
- Community Plans – each of the 4 local authorities have devised their own 'community plan' which articulates the vision for their community and outlines key strategies which the local governments seek to achieve.



5 Analysis of the Region

5.1 KEY FEATURES OF THE REGION

The key features of the Ipswich and West Moreton region which this Roadmap is based upon include:-

Urban

- **Scale** - 13,000sq km in area with population of 270,000 in 2011;
- **Population Growth** - is SEQ's fastest growing area and is forecast to grow by an average of 13,500 people per annum for the next 20 years; and
- **Activity Centres** - contains the City of Ipswich and its main towns include Beaudesert, Tamborine, Canungra, Boonah, Laidley, Gatton, Fernvale, Lowood, Esk, Toogoolawah and Kilcoy.

Land Supply

- **Residential** - is home to Australia's largest master planned community at Springfield (ultimate 85,000) and Australia's next largest master planned community at Ripley Valley (ultimate 120,000);
- **Industrial** - contains existing or proposed regionally significant industry parks including Bromelton, Carole Park, Redbank Motorway Estate, Swanbank Enterprise Park, Citiswitch, Wulkuraka/Karrabin, Amberley Aerospace and Defence Development, Purga, Ebenezer and potential for the Gatton West Industry Zone (GWIZ);
- **Agriculture** - is home to the Lockyer Valley food bowl, regarded as one of the ten most fertile valleys in the world; and
- **Tourism & Recreation** - has available land to provide for urban growth with strong tourism and recreational amenity.

Water Resources –

- contains the waterways of seven valleys – Stanley, Brisbane, Lockyer, Bremer, Fassifern, Logan and Albert; and
- contains the majority of SEQ's water storage.

Environment and Heritage

- encompasses world heritage areas of national and international significance; including the World Heritage Gondwana Rainforests of SEQ, extending from Karawatha Forest in Brisbane's southern suburbs to Flinders Peak, on to the south side of Ipswich and down to the Wyaralong Dam near Boonah; and
- has a strong cultural heritage and recognised traditional land ownership of aboriginal communities.

Infrastructure

- **Road** - is traversed and connected by seven main road transport links - the Brisbane Valley, D'Aguilar, Warrego, Cunningham, Mount Lindesay and Centenary Highways, and the Ipswich Motorway;



SEQ
HIGH VALUE
ENVIRONMENTAL
LAND
58%

39%
SEQ
INDUSTRIAL
LAND

SEQ WATER
CATCHMENT AREA
54%



AMBERLEY
SUPER BASE
AUSTRALIA'S
LARGEST
DEFENCE BASE
**3500
JOBS**



TOP **10**
FOOD
PRODUCING
AREAS IN
THE WORLD



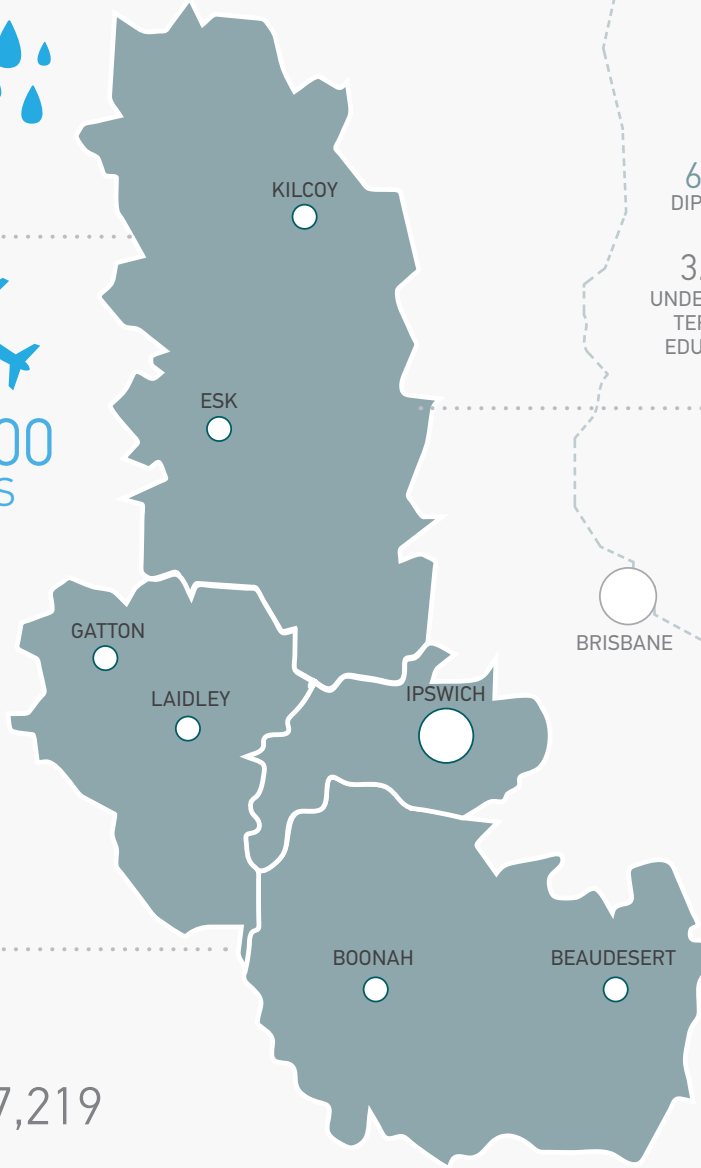
GROWING POPULATION

2011 **267,219**

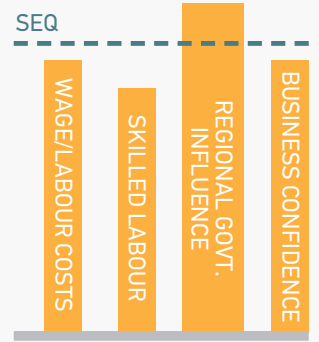
2031 **535,747**



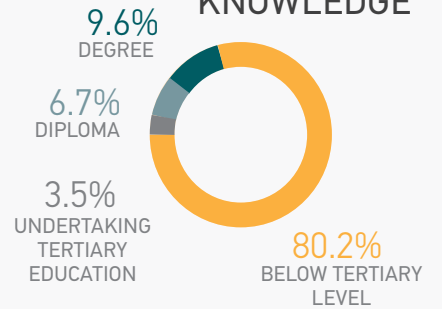
IPSWICH & WEST
MORETON REGION
**ASSETS &
OPPORTUNITIES**
RDA REGIONAL
PROFILE



BUSINESS
COMPETITIVENESS

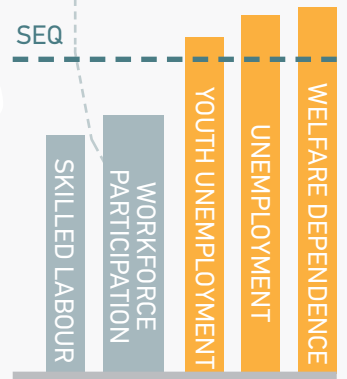


SKILLS &
KNOWLEDGE

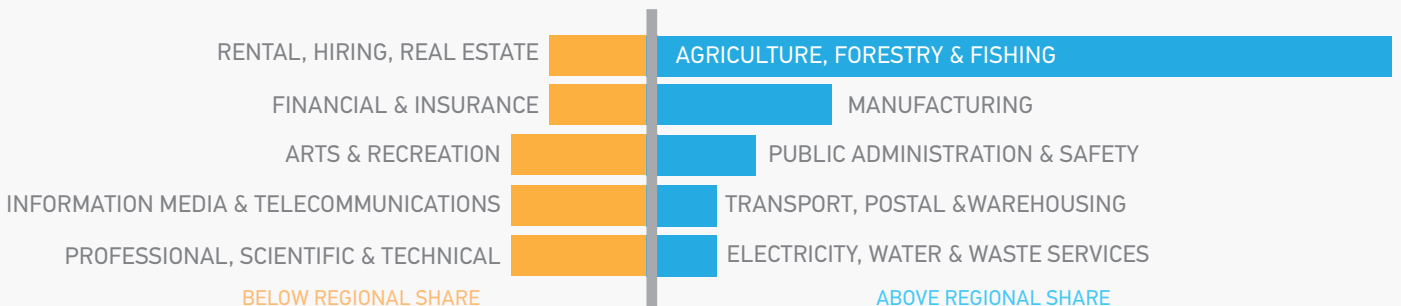


**\$7.85
BILLION**
ECONOMIC INCOME

LABOUR MARKET
EFFICIENCY



INDUSTRY BY WORKFORCE





- **Rail** - is traversed and connected by three rails lines, two of which carry major freight;
- **Telecommunications** - is a selected early release site for the National Broadband Network infrastructure currently being rolled out; and
- **Defence** - is home to Australia's largest Defence Base at Amberley with 3,134 Air Force personnel, 603 Army personnel and a varying number of support contractors.

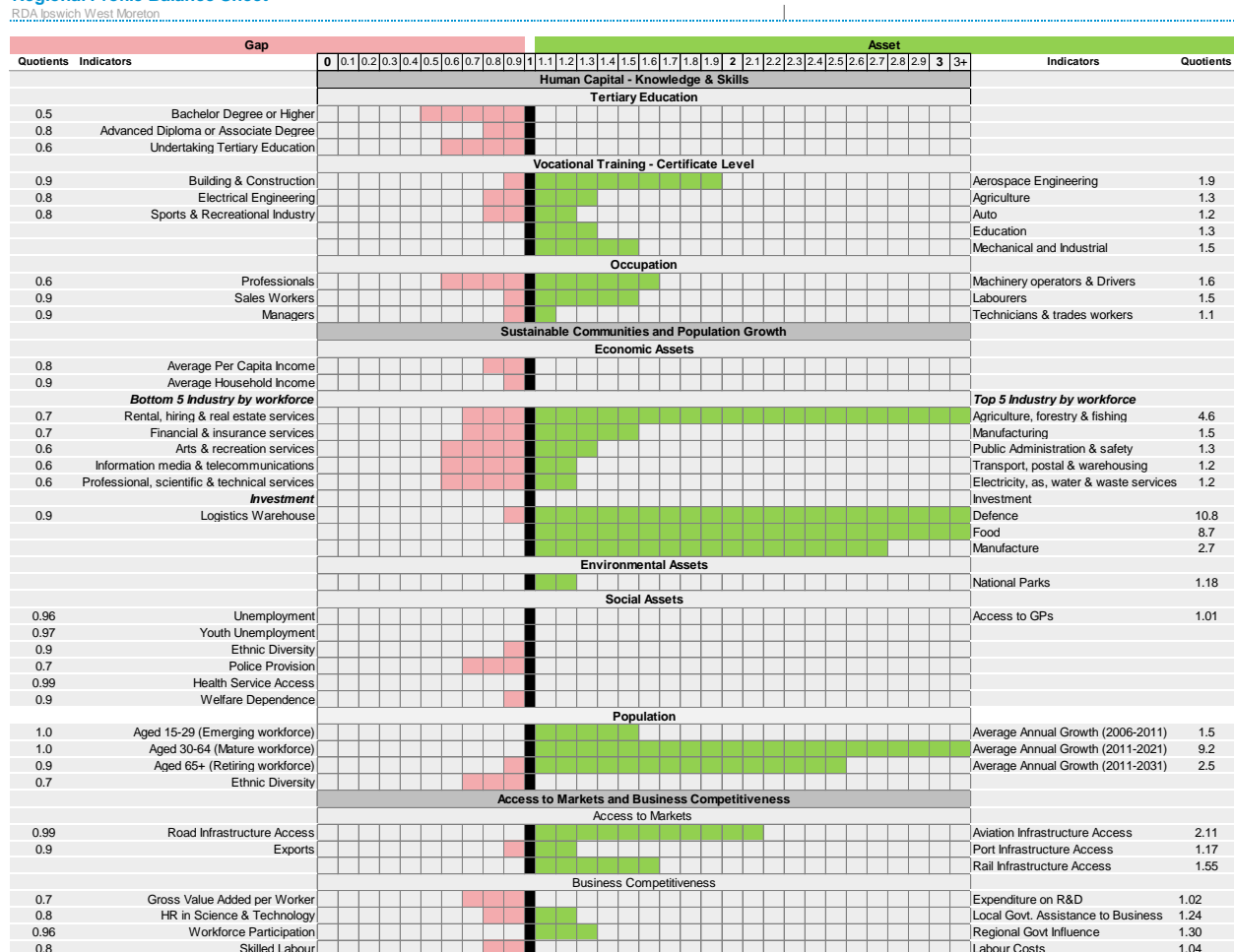
5.2 THE REGIONAL BALANCE SHEET

The key factors influencing regional development in the RDA have been brought together in the form of a regional balance sheet. The following Balance Sheet graphic highlights regional assets and gaps across the key elements of Population; Knowledge & Skills; Economic, Environmental, and Social assets; Access to markets and business competitiveness. Each key element is represented by a number of indicators that are shown as quotients relative to South East Queensland overall.

Note on Quotients: Effectively a quotient is the result of dividing the Ipswich & West Moreton indicator by the South East Queensland (SEQ) indicator. If the resultant quotient is greater than one, then this indicates the Ipswich & West Moreton region performs better than the SEQ region on this indicator.

FIGURE 1 – REGIONAL PROFILE BALANCE SHEET

Regional Profile Balance Sheet



Source: RAI; ABS; Urbis



5.2.1 HUMAN CAPITAL

The knowledge and skills of the region's population are a key input into the region's business competitiveness and also its capacity to grow in the future. The relative strength of the Human Capital of the Ipswich West Moreton (I&WM) region is reflected in the depth and breadth of formal education and training qualifications and occupations of the region's residents. In this regard the region is characterised by higher levels of trade related qualifications and occupations. Key features of the region with regard to its Human Capital are:-

- Overall education strengths in Aerospace Engineering, Manufacturing & Processing, Agriculture, and Mechanical and Industrial.
- The region has a high level of residents with Certificate level qualifications; however, it has a low level of university qualified residents.
- The region has a stronger blue collar occupational profile than SEQ and Queensland. This is reflected in high proportions of Technicians and Trade workers, Machinery Operators and Drivers, and Labourers; and low proportions of Professionals, Managers, Clerical & Administrative workers, and Sales workers.

There is a need to invest in developing the region's human capital. This should aim to leverage the region's strengths in industrial skills and output and address gaps in the scale and level of white collar services. The Federal Government is contributing to addressing these goals through the *Regional Education, Skills and Jobs Plan QLD – Ipswich and West Moreton 2012-2014*. This is an initiative which is focused on improving the education and employment levels of youth in the region through school programs and building relationships between businesses and education providers.

5.2.2 SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES AND POPULATION GROWTH

The sustainability of the region's communities is reflected in their Economic, Social, Environmental, and Population characteristics.

Economic

The key features of the Ipswich and West Moreton economy include:-

- The RDA-I&WM region's economy is valued at \$7.85bn annual output, with the major contributors being the Manufacturing sector, Agriculture, Construction, Education, Health and Community Services, and the Retail Trade;
- The unemployment rate in the region is 6.8% (2013), which is slightly higher than the SEQ region as a whole (6.55%);
- Employment self-containment in the region is relatively strong with over 77% of the workers in the I&WM region living in the region;
- The largest industry in the I&WM region is manufacturing, accounting for 14% of the region's jobs followed by Health Care and Social Assistance (12%), Retail Trade (11%), Education and Training (11%), and Public Administration and Safety (9%); and
- High shares of investment in the I&WM region is being provided in the sectors of Defence (96%), Manufacturing (24%), and Food services (78%).

The RDA-I&WM region has a relatively broad based economy with significant export generating industries. There are opportunities to improve the productivity of these industries whilst also leveraging



the region's substantial natural and man-made assets to increase the rate of economic growth. The areas that represent the greatest opportunities are:

Defence and Aerospace – based around the nationally significant Amberley Defence base. This sector is supported by all three levels of government.

Agriculture and Food Based industries – leveraging the nationally significant quality of the underlying agricultural land and proximity to national and international markets.

Manufacturing – facilitate increased levels of innovation and attract research and development funding and skills.

Social

The key social factors influencing the long term regional development for RDA-I&WM encompass:

- Cultural diversity – Servicing the changing mix of cultures;
- Health and Ageing – Balancing the needs of the ageing population in place with the large numbers of young people who will come with the region's population growth; and
- Quality of Life – maintaining and improving the attractiveness to locate in the region.

RDA-I&WM is not an ethnically diverse region with 82.3% of its residents being born in Australia compared to 74% in SEQ, 78.3% in Queensland, and 74% in Australia. This is characteristic of rural and regional parts of Queensland and Australia which tend to be less attractive to international migrants due to the greater distance from international entry points, and the greater access to higher paid employment around major metropolitan areas. As a region the RDA has a comparable proportion of Indigenous persons to Queensland overall. This is masked somewhat by the above average proportion of Indigenous persons in the Ipswich LGA (3.8%) compared to the other three more rural LGAs (2.6% to 2.9%).

Cultural diversity is not considered to be a significant issue for the RDA-I&WM with an expectation that the region will become more culturally diverse over time as population growth occurs and migration continues to occur from Brisbane.

Health and ageing is a national issue, however the region's comparably low average age means that the ageing population will not create the scale of issues that other regions in Queensland are likely to experience in the short to medium term. There is the potential for a shortage of age care facilities in the medium term and this needs to be monitored.

With respect to Quality of Life measures the RDA-I&WM sits slightly below the majority of SEQ in respect of a number of key measures. Whilst police services per head of population are significantly below the SEQ average (no. of persons employed in Police Service per 1,000 residents) this is influenced by the higher crime RDAs of Brisbane and the Gold Coast. It compares favourably with Logan/Redlands and Moreton Bay. The main area of focus is its comparatively high proportion of persons with Welfare dependence (Percentage of population using Government support as main source of income). Whilst below Brisbane City and the Gold Coast, it is notably above Logan/Redlands, Moreton Bay and the Sunshine Coast.

The region performs satisfactorily on the two key health measures reflecting an equitable level of General Practitioners (GP services per 100,000 residents), and personal health levels (Health: Adults with at least one of four health risk factors of smoking, harmful use of alcohol, physical inactivity and obesity).



Quality of Life

RDA Ipswich West Moreton and SEQ

	<u>Brisbane City</u>	<u>Gold Coast</u>	<u>Logan and Redlands</u>	<u>Ipswich and West Moreton</u>	<u>Moreton Bay</u>	<u>Sunshine Coast</u>	<u>South East Queensland Average</u>	<u>Quotient¹</u>
Categories	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	
Access to GP services	5.4	6.6	4.5	5.0	4.1	4.0	4.9	1.01
Health	53.40%	61.30%	50.80%	58.80%	65.10%	66.20%	59.27%	0.99
Police services	5.9	2.0	1.6	1.7	1.5	1.9	2.4	0.70
Welfare dependence	21.5%	25.7%	16.8%	20.9%	15.0%	14.6%	19.1%	0.91

Source: Region Australia Institute; prepared by Urbis

1. An Quotient represents how strongly an area is represented in an occupation with the larger region

NOTE: A QUOTIENT GREATER THAN 1 INDICATES THE RDA HAS A STRENGTH RELATIVE TO SEQ AND A QUOTIENT LESS THAN 1 REPRESENTS A WEAKNESS.

The main aspects to address in relation to the social challenges facing the region relate to the provision of adequate social infrastructure in the areas of health, education, and training. There is a common theme across many of the elements of the region in relation to skills development and the association with higher value employment. There is an opportunity to coordinate a number of current policy initiatives and programs to achieve enhanced outcomes in this area.

Environmental

The region's natural assets provide an 'ecosystem service' to the region which supports the operation and function of businesses, industry and communities; and in turn results in a significant economic benefit to the region's economy. It is estimated that over the next 20 years, if the region's ecosystem services are not properly managed, there will be substantial costs to the region in the areas of Tourism (\$8billion); Social costs (\$5.2 billion); Primary industries (\$500 million); and Open space and nature-based recreation (\$160 million).

The sustainable management of the region's Ecosystem Services is a critical aspect identified by the RDA-I&WM and community and industry stakeholders. Foremost in achieving this is to gain a clear understanding of the value of the region's Ecosystem Services assets. The SEQ Regional Natural Resources Management Plan provides a set of agreed targets and maps to enable the management and enhancement of these assets. It is a major priority of the RDA-I&WM to ensure that these targets are supported in planning instruments in the region and considered when development and infrastructure in the region is being built.

Population Growth

The Ipswich & West Moreton RDA has experienced strong population growth over the period from 2006-2011 (3.8% p.a.) compared to the wider SEQ region (2.1%). This reflects an increase of over 38,600 persons over that period. Much of this has been driven by population growth in the Ipswich LGA facilitated by comparably affordable dwelling options. Into the future the RDA is forecast to experience strong growth over the next 20 years. Over the period from 2011 to 2031 the RDA is forecast to become home to an additional 268,530 residents at a rate of around 13,400 persons per year. This reflects population growth at a rate more than double that of South East Queensland overall. The Ipswich LGA is forecast to be the major driver of this future population growth accounting for around 78% of the total RDA's population growth over this period.

The region is relatively well supplied with residential, industrial, commercial, and recreational land to facilitate its future development. The key focus to manage this development sustainably will be the provision of the necessary infrastructure to service these land uses. Funding sources for such infrastructure have become increasingly important during the past five years since the economic impacts of the Global Financial Crisis. The RDA-I&WM will need to support innovative approaches from both the public and private sectors to fund this infrastructure.



5.2.3 ACCESS TO MARKETS

The RDA-I&WM rates comparatively high with respect to its access to Aviation, Port, and Rail infrastructure (Distance to and from Region's business centre to nearest Airport, Port, and Railway Station). This is a result of its proximity to the international freight and passenger facilities of Brisbane Airport and the Port of Brisbane; and access to state and national passenger and freight rail lines. These links are facilitated by strong road networks including the newly expanded Ipswich Motorway and the Logan and Gateway motorways. Surprisingly this is not reflected in a comparatively high regional ranking for Road infrastructure (Distance from Region's business centre to nearest highway) or exports (Percent of regional workforce employed as importers, exporters or wholesalers; and Average value of exports per business). This is likely to be due to the scale and breadth of road network in the more rural local government areas in the region.

Access to Markets

RDA Ipswich West Moreton and SEQ

Categories	Brisbane City	Gold Coast	Logan and Redlands	Ipswich and West Moreton	Moreton Bay	Sunshine Coast	South East Queensland Average	Quotient ¹
Aviation infrastructure	9.8	10.5	25.6	49.3	29.4	15.7	23.4	2.11
Exporters, importers, wholesalers	0.24%	0.29%	0.22%	0.10%	0.16%	0.28%	0.22%	0.47
Exports	7.45%	3.70%	3.31%	3.50%	2.88%	3.19%	4.01%	0.87
Port infrastructure	9.8	68.5	25.8	54.8	29.8	91.7	46.7	1.17
Rail infrastructure	8.4	6.0	9.8	15.6	9.9	10.7	10.1	1.55
Road infrastructure	1.9	1.8	7.0	3.6	5.5	2.1	3.7	0.99

Source: Region Australia Institute; prepared by Urbis

1. An Quotient represents how strongly an area is represented in an occupation with the larger region

NOTE: A QUOTIENT GREATER THAN 1 INDICATES THE RDA HAS A STRENGTH RELATIVE TO SEQ AND A QUOTIENT LESS THAN 1 REPRESENTS A WEAKNESS.

Given the strong export oriented activities generating economic growth in the region (Manufacturing, Agriculture, Transport) it is important that road infrastructure is developed and maintained at the level necessary to support the growth of these activities. Whilst investment in road infrastructure is an important objective for the region it is not necessarily one of the critical areas of priority for the RDA.

5.2.4 COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE AND BUSINESS COMPETITIVENESS

The RDA-I&WM has a number of comparative advantages that influence the competitiveness of its businesses. It performs well on the role its local governments play in assisting business; it has a significant influence on government at the State and National level (national rankings from business perspectives survey where the higher the score the higher the local government assistance for business, or State and National Government influence); and has competitive labour costs for businesses operating in the RDA. Partly as a consequence of this it has a proportionally higher share of research organisations in SEQ overall (Number of research organisations within a 90 minute drive).



Competitive Advantage and Business Competitiveness

RDA Ipswich West Moreton and SEQ

	Brisbane City	Gold Coast	Logan and Redlands	Ipswich and West Moreton	Moreton Bay	Sunshine Coast	South East Queensland Average	Quotient ¹
Categories	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	
Business confidence	3.5	3.3	3.5	3.2	3.3	3.3	3.3	0.95
Expenditure on research and development	2.9	3.1	2.9	3.1	3.2	3.2	3.1	1.02
Human resources in science and technology	6.80%	3.10%	3.10%	2.90%	3.40%	3.00%	3.72%	0.78
Local government assistance for businesses	2.8	2.6	2.8	2.8	2.6	0.0	2.3	1.24
Participation rate	77.6%	75.5%	75.2%	72.4%	75.6%	75.3%	75.3%	0.96
Presence of research organisations	0.02%	0.01%	0.00%	0.01%	0.00%	0.00%	0.01%	1.50
Regional government influence at state/national level	3.1	2.8	2.9	3.3	3.0	0.0	2.5	1.30
Research and development managers	0.14%	0.04%	0.04%	0.04%	0.06%	0.04%	0.06%	0.67
Skilled labour	39.40%	27.50%	22.50%	22.30%	25.00%	28.10%	27.47%	0.81
Wage/labour costs	\$49,885	\$40,819	\$42,810	\$41,382	\$43,639	\$38,531	\$42,844	1.04

Source: Region Australia Institute; prepared by Urbis

1. An Quotient represents how strongly an area is represented in an occupation with the larger region

NOTE: A QUOTIENT GREATER THAN 1 INDICATES THE RDA HAS A STRENGTH RELATIVE TO SEQ AND A QUOTIENT LESS THAN 1 REPRESENTS A WEAKNESS.

Areas that require focus to improve the business competitiveness of the RDA relate to the skill levels of the labour force (Percentage of workforce employed as managers and professionals), particularly in relation to the areas of Research and Development, and Science and Technology (Percentage of regional workforce employed as research and development managers).

In relation to industry productivity and employment concentration, the region has **industry strengths** in the following sectors:

- **Electricity, Gas, Water, and waste services** – This sector is the most productive sector in the RDA at \$393,000 GRP/worker and compares favourably with SEQ (\$270,000 GRP/worker). It also has an employment quotient of 1.2 indicating its greater level of employment significance to the RDA than to SEQ. This economic strength is principally a result of the significant water resources in the RDA and the work required in managing these resources. The RDA contains the major water storage for the Brisbane area (Wivenhoe Dam), as well as Somerset Dam, Atkinson Dam, Moogerah Dam, and a range of smaller dams.
- **Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing** – This is the RDA's most significant sector in terms of employment reflected in its employment quotient of 4.6. It is also relatively productive as it generates \$100,000 of GRP per worker compared to \$110,000 in SEQ. This result is more to do with the high quality agricultural land in the Lockyer Valley, Somerset, and Fassifern Valley than value adding that is occurring in these sectors in the region.

Sectors that represent opportunity for economic development in the region are:

- **Manufacturing** – The region has a higher concentration of employment in Manufacturing (1.5 employment quotient) than SEQ overall through the strong manufacturing sectors of meat processing and building materials. At an industry level it is not as productive as manufacturing in the wider SEQ region where its GRP per worker of \$103,000 is 21% lower than the SEQ level of \$131,000. State and Local government support for the State Industrial Development precincts at Bromelton and Ebenezer provide the land supply to realise opportunities in the Manufacturing sector along with other industrial activities.
- **Public Administration and Safety** – Principally this relates to Defence services and associated businesses. The location of the Amberley Defence Base, Australia's largest defence base, drives the comparatively high employment concentration in this sector. With respect to productivity performance, the sector has room to increase its GRP per worker from \$74,000 to a level closer to the SEQ rate of \$116,000. There is strong investment support for this sector in the region with over \$750 million planned or under construction. This represents 96% of investment in this sector in SEQ with the



Federal Government the primary contributor. All three levels of government strongly support investment and development of Defence activities at and around Amberley through a range of individual but coordinated policies.

- **Information, Media and Telecommunications** – This sector is not regionally significant in terms of its employment representation (0.6 employment quotient) however it is one of the most productive sectors in the region (\$239,000 GRP/worker) and performs at a level higher than SEQ overall (\$226,000 GRP/worker). The roll out of the NBN across the region provides opportunities to leverage this capability for wider economic and social benefit.

There are a number of key sectors in the region that can play key roles in the economic and social development of the region that have comparatively low levels of economic performance to their equivalents in SEQ. These sectors include Construction; Transport Postal and Warehousing; Financial and Insurance Services; Professional, Scientific and Technical Services; and Education and Training. All of these sectors have GRP per worker rates of 20%-40% less than those in SEQ.

5.3 CONVERTING REGIONAL NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES INTO PRIORITIES

By bringing together the RDA-I&WM strengths, challenges, needs, and opportunities the key priorities for the Regional Roadmap have been identified for the next three years.

STRENGTHS	CHALLENGES	NEEDS/OPPORTUNITIES	PRIORITIES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ High quality agricultural land ▪ Largest Defence Base in Australia supported by three levels of Government ▪ Major provider of SEQ region's Ecosystem Services ▪ Strong industrial employment base ▪ Excellent transport infrastructure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Associated Defence and Aeronautical industry development investment ▪ Local employment skill levels ▪ Low levels of research and development funding ▪ Below SEQ region levels of productivity in major sectors of Manufacturing and Agriculture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sustain RDA-I&WM ecosystem service assets ▪ Increase rate of economic growth through higher levels of education and training for local residents and workers ▪ Raise productivity levels in Manufacturing and Agriculture through increased research and development, innovation, and higher skilled workers 	<p><i>Encourage a Shift in the Region's Employment Profile Towards more Professional and Technical Jobs Employing People with a Higher Level of Qualifications and Skills.</i></p> <p><i>Support industries and services for growth in the Defence and Aeronautical Industry</i></p> <p><i>Enhance food and agricultural productivity in the Region</i></p>



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fast growing population base 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social infrastructure investment to meet growing population requirements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify a program of social infrastructure required to meet regional growth targets Amberley Aerospace and Defence precinct development 	<p><i>Value the Region's Ecosystem Services</i></p> <p><i>Enhance the regional community's social development opportunities.</i></p>
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Source: RDA-I&WM; Urbis

These priorities are discussed in more detail in the following section.



6 Regional Priorities

The RDA-I&WM regional priorities have been derived to take full advantage of the major strengths of the region and further enhance the gaps or challenges that impact the region. The list of Regional Priorities were determined through discussions with the RDA Committee, review of the existing policy base in the region, and complemented by a comprehensive program of stakeholder consultation in May-June 2013. This process has identified five Regional Priorities for focus by the RDA-I&WM:

- **Encourage a Shift in the Region's Employment Profile Towards more Professional and Technical Jobs Employing People with a Higher Level of Qualifications and Skills**
- **Support industries and services for growth in Defence and Aeronautical Industry**
- **Enhance food and agricultural productivity in the Region**
- **Value the Region's Ecosystem Services**
- **Enhance the regional community's social development opportunities**

6.1 ENCOURAGE A SHIFT IN THE REGION'S EMPLOYMENT PROFILE TOWARDS MORE PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL JOBS EMPLOYING PEOPLE WITH A HIGHER LEVEL OF QUALIFICATIONS AND SKILLS

Industry productivity in the region is comparatively low across most sectors leading to low levels of Gross Regional Product per worker. This is a constraint to economic growth for the region and improved economic, social, and environmental outcomes for residents and workers of the region. The focus on 'meaningful' employment relates to having higher value jobs in the region, particularly those that have a higher contribution to the region's GRP.

The Ipswich and West Moreton Region contains **significant areas of industrial land** and major industry areas such as Swanbank, Bromelton, Amberley, and others, and also has a significant population base to draw upon for employees. The region's connections to national and international markets for industrial products, particularly road and rail, also present a significant advantage.

The key areas for improvement include the **need to increase the number of jobs that require higher education qualifications**, and increase the number of 'white collar' workers in the region.

There is a significant need to **encourage innovative industry** and manufacturing to the area, both in terms of encouraging new business to the region, as well as increasing the adoption of technology and innovation in the existing industries.

This particular priority does involve the active participation and involvement of a number of stakeholders, including all levels of government. There are numerous activities being undertaken by governments across the region, including employment programs, development schemes for industrial areas, and training programs for local residents and staff.

The efforts of the RDA must focus on **highlighting the inter-relationships between the various programs** and initiatives that are being conducted, and to also provide information to potential businesses looking to expand or relocate to the region.



6.2 SUPPORT INDUSTRIES AND SERVICES FOR GROWTH IN DEFENCE AND AERONAUTICAL INDUSTRY

The Amberley Airbase is a 'super base' and is the largest air base in Australia. It currently **employs more than 3,500 people** and the Federal government has proposed significant investment in infrastructure and new projects for the base over the next 10 years. The Queensland government has identified the Amberley Air Base Support Precinct, which is a significant area of neighbouring land, specifically designated to encourage support industries to locate.

The **air base is of national significance**, and the considerable interest and investment anticipated from the Federal and State governments in the area will further enhance the economic contribution of the base to the region.

The RDA sees there are **significant opportunities** to encourage the types of industries and business services that will indirectly service the operations on the base and in the industry precinct. This may include businesses such as **manufacturing of parts, technical hardware and software**, and specialised mechanical services. The RDA will also play a significant role in facilitating and coordinating all levels of government to ensure that the air base does receive the attention and funding that is required for it to be retained in the region for the long-term, and that its direct contribution to the regional economy grows.

6.3 ENHANCE FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY IN THE REGION

The Ipswich and West Moreton region is **one of the most productive food and agricultural areas in Australia**. Notably it is one of the few such productive areas that is within close proximity of a major population base such as SEQ. A significant proportion of the region is suitable for food and agricultural production through the combination of land suitability and labour force skills. However, some of the threats that need to be managed include vulnerability to natural hazards, and **increasing pressure between the use of land for agriculture and coal seam gas extraction**.

This priority is an extension of recent work being undertaken by the RDA, with the Lockyer Valley Sustainable Food Bowl Strategy. However, this particular priority is primarily focused on **increasing the value of the food and agricultural outputs** currently produced in the region.

The RDA focus is not purely about increasing the quantum of outputs from the agricultural sector, more so about increasing the quality of the product, increasing the amount of higher value product being produced, and the **introduction of technologies and innovations to improve productivity**.

6.4 VALUE THE REGION'S ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

The Ipswich and West Moreton region is incredibly rich in natural assets that are integral for the health and wellbeing of the entire SEQ region. In a very real sense, **Ipswich and West Moreton is an exporter of highly valuable ecosystem services to the Brisbane and wider SEQ region**. The combination of the natural vegetation and assets as well as the rural areas and focus on agriculture, contribute to the function of the ecosystem services of the region. The services that the ecosystems provide include:-

- The production of food and medicines;
- The regulation of climate and disease;
- The provision of productive soils and clean water; and
- Opportunities for recreation and tourism, and contribution to the scenic amenity values of the region.



The key challenge for this particular priority is that the concept of 'ecosystem services' is relatively new, and as the information base grows, so too does the interest in protecting the ecosystems and natural assets that provide these services. The SEQ Natural Resource Management Plan 2009-2031 and the SEQ Regional Plan 2009-2031 does highlight that ecosystem services are important, however, there is still a lot of research currently being undertaken to determine how best to value and acknowledge the contribution of these services to the region.

The RDA does have a **significant role to play in terms of raising awareness amongst both the community and government of these values**, and their relative contribution to the region's economic, social and environmental wellbeing.

6.5 ENHANCE THE REGIONAL COMMUNITY'S SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

In the five years to 2011, 42,100 people (27 per cent of the region's population) aged between 15 and 64 migrated to the RDA-I&WM. The largest proportion of people migrated in from the Brisbane local government area. The Ipswich and West Moreton region is forecast to continue to grow in the coming decade, albeit at a slower rate than that which has been forecast in previous years. There are a number of new communities, both large and small, which are planned to accommodate this growth in population in the future.

The challenges for the region in this aspect are related to **attracting people to live in the region that have the desired skills and knowledge** to assist in the innovation of local businesses and that contribute to the level of service provision in the region. Attracting and retaining skilled employees ensures that the population of the region is employed in the region and residents will not travel out of the region for work. The **population growth needs to be suitably supported by adequate infrastructure and services**. There is a history of infrastructure-lag in the region, and the recent population growth has added pressures to key assets such as health and education facilities, transport, and the provision of a variety of housing options for different market sectors.

The RDA focus, in relation to this priority, is to **broker partnerships** between service providers and governments to **ensure the infrastructure is planned for and provided ahead of time**, as well as market the regional assets which make the area such an attractive place to live and work.



7 RDA Activities / Projects / Initiatives

The following program of activities, initiatives and indicators reflect the priorities of the RDA-I&WM, and is prepared to guide the development of a detailed Business Plan by the RDA-I&WM Committee. The key objectives under each priority area along with the measures of success provide guidance for the types of projects that the RDA-I&WM will be seeking to support.

The activities identified for each Priority area reflect specific actions that the RDA-I&WM will participate in to facilitate the achievement of the Priority area objectives over the next three years.

7.1 PRIORITY 1: ENCOURAGE A SHIFT IN THE REGION'S EMPLOYMENT PROFILE TOWARDS MORE PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL JOBS EMPLOYING PEOPLE WITH A HIGHER LEVEL OF QUALIFICATIONS AND SKILLS.

7.1.1 OBJECTIVES AND MEASURES OF SUCCESS

OBJECTIVES	MEASURES OF SUCCESS
High-value Adding Jobs - Increase the proportion (%) of high value adding businesses and jobs in the region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increased labour force participation rates across the RDA
Research and Innovation Investment - Increase the proportion of expenditure on innovation, research and development in the region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increased skill base of the region's labour force
Extend Supply Chain of Businesses - Position the region as a viable destination for manufacturing investment in specialisations that will secure and extend businesses into local and global supply chains that will be sustainable in the long-term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Growth in GVA/worker by key sectors ▪ Growth in GVA/worker for the region overall
Transport that Supports Job Creation - Improve the efficiency and effectiveness of existing and new transport infrastructure through improved logistics drawing on opportunities that relate to business capability such as proposals like the Southern Freight Corridor.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ % increase in innovation expenditure ▪ Total increase in innovation expenditure
Increase Digital Capability – Align Ipswich & West Moreton with the wider regional objective of making SEQ the most digitally capable region in Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increase in proportion of small businesses utilising the enhanced digital capability of the NBN
Skills Development - Support the growth in the skills and level of experience of residents working within the industrial sectors defence, aeronautical engineers, professionals, manufacturing, and technology.	
Industry and Education Partnerships - Improve engagement between industry and education providers in the region to ensure that school leavers and graduates of tertiary and vocational training are equipped with the skills necessary to enhance and grow industrial activity in the region.	



Technology and Innovation - Increase the adoption of technological advancements in industry in Ipswich.	
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7.1.2 ACTIVITIES AND INITIATIVES RDA-I & WM ROADMAP 2013-2016

YEAR	QUARTER	ACTIVITY	ROLE
2013	3	Formulate project assessment criteria for RDA Priority project areas.	Lead - RDA; RDA - Lead
2013	3 and 4	Support the SEQ Council of Mayors and advocate identifying regional infrastructure priorities to present to State Government as part of South East Queensland Regional Plan Review.	Lead - 4 Councils; RDA – Facilitator
2013+	Ongoing	Continue to work with stakeholders to maximise the local community's involvement and support of the local Skills and Jobs Expos for region residents.	Lead: Federal Govt - Dept of Human Services. RDA: Supporter / Facilitator
2013+	Ongoing	Work with tertiary education providers in the region to increase the range of professional and technical courses attuned to industry needs.	Lead: UQ; Southern Cross Uni; TAFE. RDA: Supporter
2013-2016	Quarterly	Quarterly RDA-I&WM Stakeholder meetings and communications Program	Lead - RDA



7.2 PRIORITY 2: SUPPORT INDUSTRIES AND SERVICES FOR GROWTH IN DEFENCE AND AERONAUTICAL INDUSTRY

7.2.1 OBJECTIVES AND MEASURES OF SUCCESS

PRIORITY OBJECTIVE	MEASURES OF SUCCESS
Amberley Defence Precinct – Realise Amberley Defence precinct development project through coordination of three levels of Government.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Annual investment in the Amberley Defence Precinct ▪ Growth in investment and expenditure in Defence sector in region ▪ Growth in investment and expenditure in Aeronautical sector in the region
New Defence and Aeronautical Support Industries - Encourage new business and industry to the region that will support the growth of Amberley and Defence Force industries i.e. Manufacturing of parts, technical hardware and software, specialised mechanical.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Growth in number of businesses that provide services directly to the Defence Department or businesses in the Amberley Defence Precinct ▪ Growth in number of Defence personnel living in the region

7.2.2 ACTIVITIES AND INITIATIVES RDA-I & WM ROADMAP 2013-2016

YEAR	QUARTER	ACTIVITY	ROLE
2013	3	Formulate project assessment criteria for RDA Priority project areas.	Lead - RDA; RDA - Lead
2013	3 and 4	Work in conjunction with Ipswich City Council and the Department of Defence to advocate for the construction of the Amberley Defence Support Centre.	Lead - ICC; RDA - Lead/Advocate/ Partnership Broker
2014	1 and 2	Prepare a Defence Industry Capability Statement in conjunction with Ipswich City Council to promote Defence industry strengths and opportunities for investment and development.	Lead - ICC; RDA – Supporter / Partnership Broker
2013-2016	Quarterly	Quarterly RDA-I&WM Stakeholder meetings and communications Program	Lead - RDA



7.3 PRIORITY 3: ENHANCE FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY IN THE REGION

7.3.1 OBJECTIVES AND MEASURES OF SUCCESS

PRIORITY OBJECTIVE	MEASURES OF SUCCESS
Water Security - Ensure water security for agricultural production, processing, and recreational activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quantity and quality of water available from natural assets within the region.
Increase Regional Productivity - Increase value of regional agricultural production above the rate of growth in GRP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in GRP value of agricultural and food outputs.
Increase Innovation and Technological Advancement in Agriculture – encourage new and existing agricultural production businesses to adopt new techniques and innovations that will increase the efficiency in production.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of agricultural producers that participate in programs for innovation and technological advancement.

7.3.2 ACTIVITIES AND INITIATIVES RDA-I & WM ROADMAP 2013-2016

YEAR	QUARTER	ACTIVITY	ROLE
2013	3 and 4	Meet with Lockyer Valley Regional Council to determine role for RDA in implementing the Lockyer Valley Food Bowl Strategy.	Lead - RDA/LVRC; RDA – Lead
2013	3 and 4	Work with UQ Gatton researchers, local Councils and lead industry organisations to identify opportunities for research partnerships with local farmers to build a community of practice to improve agricultural productivity.	Lead - RDA/UQ Gatton; RDA - Lead/Facilitator
2013-2016	Quarterly	Quarterly RDA-I&WM Stakeholder meetings and communications Program	Lead - RDA



7.4 PRIORITY 4: VALUE THE REGION'S ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

7.4.1 OBJECTIVES AND MEASURES OF SUCCESS

PRIORITY OBJECTIVE	MEASURES OF SUCCESS
Protect and enhance natural assets – Ensure those natural assets that provide ecosystem services to the broader SEQ region are recognised for their full value to the economy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improvement in the health of natural assets – water catchments, native vegetation, groundwater quality, etc. ▪ Participation of local landholders in information sessions and programs regarding natural asset management and ecosystem services.
Ecosystem Services Knowledge Expansion - Expand knowledge and investment base of the full extent and value of ecosystem services to the economic, environmental and social wellbeing of SEQ.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Other local authorities and State government formally acknowledge the value of the Ipswich and West Moreton ecosystem services in policy, programs, and initiatives. ▪ Growth in value of Ecosystem service assets annually

7.4.2 ACTIVITIES AND INITIATIVES RDA-I & WM ROADMAP 2013-2016

YEAR	QUARTER	ACTIVITY	ROLE
2013	3 and 4	Produce an assessment of the Region's Ecosystem Services assets.	Lead - RDA/4 Councils; RDA - Lead/Supporter
2014	1	Work with like-minded organisations to build an information campaign around the value of ecosystem services: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - work with regional Local Governments and the regional NRM body to ensure Ecosystem Services are identified in the Regional NRM Plan. - Write to regional stakeholders to highlight social and economic benefits of Ecosystem Services assets. 	Lead - RDA
2013-2016	Quarterly	Quarterly RDA-I&WM Stakeholder meetings and communications Program published quarterly	Lead - RDA



7.5 PRIORITY 5: ENHANCE THE REGIONAL COMMUNITY'S SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

7.5.1 OBJECTIVES AND MEASURES OF SUCCESS

PRIORITY OBJECTIVE	MEASURES OF SUCCESS
Encourage new residents to move to the region that have the qualifications and skills base that is necessary to support the desired growth in industry and business in the region.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increased number of tertiary qualified persons in the region. ▪ Reduced waiting times for health services.
Ensure the social and cultural services and facilities required for the growing population are delivered in a timely manner.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Growth in Social infrastructure spend equal to population growth rate
Ensure existing social infrastructure is upgraded to a standard that is able to accommodate the growing demand for services such as health, aged care, and childcare services.	



7.5.2 ACTIVITIES AND INITIATIVES RDA-I & WM ROADMAP 2013-2016

YEAR	QUARTER	ACTIVITY	ROLE
2013	3 and 4	Produce a Regional Social Plan by working with the four local governments to identify gaps in social and cultural service provision and infrastructure.	Lead - 4 Councils; RDA - Facilitator/Supporter
2014/15		Broaden the range of education offerings that enhance cultural and social diversity in the region.	Lead - RDA/4 Councils/Chambers of Commerce; RDA - Lead/Advocate/Partnership Broker
2014/15		Support and enhance collaboration as a key method of structural change in the planning and delivery of services in the region.	Lead - RDA/4 Councils/Chambers of Commerce; RDA - Lead/Advocate/Partnership Broker
2013-2016	Quarterly	Quarterly RDA-I&WM Stakeholder meetings and communications Program published quarterly	Lead - RDA

7.6 KEY OVERLAPPING INITIATIVES

In addition to the above, a number of 'key initiatives' have been identified. These are projects or programs which address a number of the priorities identified, and will be a primary focus of the RDA-I&WM. Further information will be provided in the preparation of the RDA-I&WM Business Plan.

7.6.1 STAKEHOLDER COMMUNICATION AND ENGAGEMENT

An important role for the RDA-I&WM is to maintain close relationships with its regional stakeholders including the community, business, governments, and investors. To ensure this occurs the RDA-I&WM will document and publish a quarterly stakeholder meeting program. Where possible this will identify meetings and communications between representatives of the RDA-I&WM and regional stakeholders – both recently undertaken and upcoming. This initiative has been included in the action plans of each of the priority areas above.

7.6.2 WORKFORCE PLANNING

A solid information base is required in the Ipswich and West Moreton region to better understand the current labour market, the jobs available in the region, the employee needs of businesses, the mismatch between the education and training services provided and those required by local businesses, and the skills of the current workforce. There are numerous employment programs and skills development initiatives taking place in the region, however, there is a need for these to be better coordinated. The RDA will play a role in bringing together the various stakeholders relevant to workforce planning and to try



to broker stronger partnerships between local businesses, education providers, and employment programs around the region.

This initiative also addresses the SEQ RDA Regional Initiative to 'address regional skills shortages and employment issues and support initiatives to position the region for the Asian century'.

7.6.3 DATA COLLECTION AND DISSEMINATION

Across the region there are several major data sources and research programs being undertaken which are of relevance to the RDA Roadmap and the achievement of the region's vision. The RDA will work to expand on its emphasis on 'evidence based planning' (from 2012-2013 Roadmap).

The role of the RDA will not necessarily be about collecting and collating the data. The RDA's strengths are its partnerships with the owners of the data sources and the ability to disseminate information to the broader region.

The RDA-I&WM will work with the other RDAs of South East Queensland to develop an agreed set of indicators for regional development, as per the SEQ Regional Development initiative.

The other area where the RDA-I&WM will assist, is through the interpretation and dissemination of information to the broader community, particularly business and government, on the state of the region relative to the measures and indicators that have been identified in this Roadmap.

7.6.4 PARTNER BROKER

The role of the RDA-I&WM is to play a part in brokering partnerships between businesses (new and established), government and the local community. The RDA needs to demonstrate its relevance to the local community and businesses, and this can be achieved by demonstrating a 'partnership' approach through events, forums, and leadership exhibitions.

There are many different ways this could be achieved, however, it is important for it to be established relative to the priorities, objectives, and indicators identified in this Roadmap.

This particular initiative is also related to the SEQ Regional Development Initiative and the desire to foster partnerships between the RDAs of south east Queensland and Northern NSW.

7.6.5 INCREASE ROLE AS REGIONAL ADVOCATE

There are a number of key events and activities which are to take place in the next 3 years which the RDA can utilise to increase its profile and influence within the region. These include:-

- Revision of South East Queensland regional plan;
- Promotion of the region for visitation of delegates during the G20 summit; and
- Participation in the annual and biannual events such as Asia Pacific Cities Summit, Brisbane River Symposium, Ipswich and Brisbane business, trade and skills exhibitions.



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Attachment 1

Regional Profile



An Australian Government Initiative

RDA Ipswich & West Moreton
Regional Profile
2013-2016





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GLOSSARY OF TERMS AND ACRONYMS

ABS – Australian Bureau of Statistics

GRP – Gross Regional Product

ICC – Ipswich City Council

LVRC – Lockyer Valley Regional Council

NBN – National Broadband Network

RDA-I&WM – Regional Development Australia - Ipswich and West Moreton

SEQ – South-east Queensland

SRC – Somerset Regional Council

SRRRC – Scenic Rim Regional Council



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1 Regional Profile – Ipswich West Moreton Region

1.1 INTRODUCTION TO THE REGION

The Ipswich and West Moreton (I&WM) region consists of 4 local authorities – Ipswich City Council (ICC) and Scenic Rim (SRRC), Lockyer Valley (LVRC) and Somerset (SRC) Regional Councils, and serves as one of the fastest growing regions in the country refer to Figure 1.

Located to the west of the Brisbane metropolitan area, the prosperity of South-east Queensland (SEQ) is inextricably linked to the economic, social, and environmental well-being of the Ipswich and West Moreton region. The significance of this region to the broader SEQ region is best illustrated through the following key facts.

The Ipswich and West Moreton region:-

- forms more than 58% of the land area of the SEQ region – the efficient use of these land resources contributes to the overall efficiency of the SEQ region.
- accommodates more than 54% of the SEQ mainland catchment area – the health of the areas catchments impact on the health of the SEQ catchment area.
- contains 58% of the regions areas of high ecosystem functions – the management of these valued ecosystems impacts on the environmental health of the SEQ region.
- has more than 39% of the industrial land for SEQ – a key destination for new businesses to locate.
- is home to two of SEQ’s largest master-planned communities and future growth areas – more than 250,000 new residents in SEQ will call this region home by 2031.
- contains more than 53% of the SEQ region’s good quality agriculture land (Class A) – more than 40% of the SEQ region’s total agricultural production is derived from this region.
- When determining the current state of a locality, it is all relative to the indicators which are used and the availability of data relative to those indicators.



FIGURE 1 – IPSWICH AND WEST MORETON RDA REGION



Source: Urbis

These and other features are illustrated in Figure 2, the Regional Profile Balance Sheet, and are highlighted as the key assets and opportunities for improvement in the region. The Balance Sheet highlights regional assets and gaps across the key elements of Population; Knowledge & Skills; Economic, Environmental, and Social assets; Access to markets and business competitiveness. Each key



- encompasses world heritage areas of national and international significance; including the World Heritage Gondwana Rainforests of SEQ, extending from Karawatha Forest in Brisbane's southern suburbs to Flinders Peak, on to the south side of Ipswich and down to the Wyaralong Dam near Boonah;
- is home to Australia's largest Defence Base at Amberley with 3,134 Air Force personnel, 603 Army personnel and a varying number of support contractors;
- contains existing or proposed regionally significant industry parks including Bromelton, Carole Park, Redbank Motorway Estate, Swanbank Enterprise Park, Citiswitch, Wulkuraka/Karrabin, Amberley Aerospace and Defence Development, Purga, Ebenezer and potential for the Gatton West Industry Zone (GWIZ);
- is traversed and connected by seven main road transport links - the Brisbane Valley, D'Aguilar, Warrego, Cunningham, Mount Lindesay and Centenary Highways, and the Ipswich Motorway;
- is traversed and connected by three rails lines, two of which carry major freight (one at full capacity);
- has available land to provide for urban growth with strong tourism and recreational amenity;
- is a selected early release site for the National Broadband Network infrastructure currently being rolled out; and
- has a strong cultural heritage and recognised traditional land ownership of aboriginal communities.



2 The Region's Vision

2.1 VISION FOR THE IPSWICH AND WEST MORETON REGION 2024

The RDA-I&WM seeks to undertake activities that contribute to the following vision for the Ipswich and West Moreton region.

In 2024 the Ipswich and West Moreton region has been able to successfully negotiate a balance between protection of natural assets and facilitating economic growth.

The region is recognised as integral to the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of the larger SEQ region. It provides diverse lifestyle opportunities for people to live, a burgeoning economy that attracts business from all sectors, and its natural assets are managed for the benefit of all in SEQ. The region is renowned for its resilience, having adapted to and managed changes such as population growth, major flood events, business expansion, and changing technologies, whilst maintaining its unique identity.

In determining the above vision for the region, relevant vision statements from both local and state government were considered, [refer to 2.2], in association with the input received through stakeholder consultation. The stakeholders identified the key aspects to be considered including:

- Focus on the opportunities for the future;
- Focus on economic prosperity, not necessarily growth for growths sake i.e. Relative to population growth and demand;
- Sustainable partnerships/linkages to be created across all stakeholders throughout the region;
- Region to be connected, interdependent and involved;
- Jobs to be retained locally; and
- Region to be connected digitally and physically, through key transport links.

The Ipswich and West Moreton region has received, and continues to maintain, the interest of both Federal and State governments, particularly in the areas of accommodating projected population growth, and support for economic development and business investment. Each of the local authorities works well, both as individual entities and collaboratively, to achieve regional development.

Appendix A summarises the policies relevant to the key themes that have been investigated as part of this project.

2.2 CURRENT VISIONS FOR THE REGION'S COMMUNITIES

Between the State government and 4 local authorities, there are a number of visions for the future – all are somewhat aligned, however do have different emphases. The following extracts from those State and local government vision statements illustrates the alignment of issues across the region.

State Government (SEQ Regional Plan) - *The vision for SEQ is a region of interconnected communities, with excellent accessibility and an extensive and efficient public transport system that contributes to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. At its heart*



is Brisbane, state capital and subtropical world city. Surrounding the capital are several large urban areas separated by open space, and many small- to medium-sized towns and villages, each with its own character and identity. It is a region characterized by choice and diversity, with mountain ranges and hinterlands, Moreton Bay and islands, extensive beaches, wetlands, parks, bush and farmlands supporting a rich biodiversity.

SEQ is well managed with a sustainable quality of life based on a unique landscape, quality built form and diverse cultures, acknowledgement and respect of the significance of Aboriginal heritage prior to and since European occupation. It has a progressive and well-informed community and enjoys international recognition for leadership in fostering sustainable regional equality and prosperity (DLGP, 2009 SEQ Regional Plan).

Somerset – *a place where the natural environment and rural lifestyle are valued and protected; an integrated and welcoming place with something for everyone; a place that embraces economic opportunities; a place where planning and design looks to the future whilst respecting the past; an active place which values participation (Somerset Regional Council, 2010).*

Locker Valley – *Lockyer Community - Working together for an inclusive, safe and healthy community; Lockyer Leadership - Working together to unify our community; Lockyer Farming - Working together to secure our farming future; Lockyer Livelihood - Working together to strengthen education, training and career pathways; Lockyer Business - Working together to enhance, attract and diversify business and tourism opportunities; Lockyer Nature - Working together to enhance and protect our environment and landscape; Lockyer Planned - Working together for well-planned and connected communities (Lockyer Valley Regional Council, 2012a).*

Scenic Rim - *By 2026, Scenic Rim will be a network of unique rural communities embedded in a productive and sustainable landscape. We will enjoy a high quality rural lifestyle in self-reliant communities that provide a choice of quality local food, products, services and recreation opportunities. Our residents will have affordable transport options and ready access to the broader South East Queensland region.*

Our community will support sustainable farms, businesses and industries that are compatible with our environment and lifestyle and provide rewarding employment and prosperity for residents. Residents will benefit from the region's productive farmland, stunning natural environment and character filled towns and villages which attract tourists and visitors and provide ecosystem services for the broader South East Queensland community.

Scenic Rim will be an inclusive, caring and creative environment with healthy and active residents. The region will provide a happy, safe and nurturing environment for children and families. We will participate in planning and managing our communities and act to ensure the Scenic Rim is enhanced for future generations (Scenic Rim Regional Council, 2011).

Ipswich - *Ipswich is a City that has maintained its community charm in the face of massive change. With the rapid growth in population has come more jobs, more investment, more green space, diverse and attractive housing and improved transport networks. Local residents are proud to be part of Ipswich and actively participate in activities that encourage others to visit Ipswich and view it as a key city in South East Queensland (Ipswich City Council, 2012).*



3 Achievements and Roles of Regional Development Australia – Ipswich and West Moreton

3.1 THE ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE

The RDA-I&WM has been in existence for over 3 years, and in that time it has been involved with numerous projects, primarily, overseeing a program of projects and facilitated discussions with stakeholders from across the region.

The RDA-I&WM has supported many projects which have attributed to the ongoing development of the region, with the most recent including:-

- The *Lockyer Valley Sustainable Food Bowl Strategy* - a long term initiative aiming to increase the efficiency of food production within the region to supply local, national and international markets.
- The *Ipswich and West Moreton Digital Economy Strategy* - an integral component to the continued growth and competitiveness of the region. In conjunction with the Federal Government's National Broadband Network Rollout, this strategy promotes co-investment opportunities between NBN Co, local government and other organisations to improve cost effectiveness of the NBN rollout.

Other major projects and initiatives that the RDA-I&WM have undertaken since 2010 include:-

- Ripley Valley Sustainable Community Integration
- Amberley Aerospace and Defence Development
- Improved flood immunity of Brisbane River crossings to assist Flood Mitigation – Supported Ipswich City Council
- Regional Biodiversity Corridors – Supported SEQ Catchments
- Waterways Health and Connectivity – Supported SEQ Catchments
- Not-for-Profit (NFP) Organisational Capacity and Capability
- Ipswich and West Moreton Evidence Base
- Ipswich and West Moreton Social Planning
- Regional Workforce Planning.

Residents, community leaders, and other stakeholders recognise the following efforts of the RDA-I&WM:-

- Ability to focus the community's interest and attention on a discrete region
- Capacity to identify real opportunities for growth
- Success in receipt of RDAF grants, particularly in Somerset Regional Council
- Key role in advocating for the region

KEY OUTCOMES OF STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION

The top 3 key roles for the RDA to ensure cohesion between federal, state and local government services and outcomes are:

- Advocacy
- Information, collation and distribution
- Strategic planning



- Attraction of high political representation
- Hosting the Regional Leaders Forums and follow-up on the Ideas and initiatives raised
- Participation in regional activities
- Supporting and educating the need to improve the digital economy of the region
- Participation in flood support and recovery efforts.

3.2 THE ROLE OF RDA-I&WM

The primary role of the RDA-I&WM is to establish and maintain a leadership role in the region, and be recognised as the organisation focused on achieving the preferred vision for the Ipswich and West Moreton region.

This role is undertaken through championing and supporting projects in line with the regional vision, facilitating key partnerships, mentoring stakeholders and businesses of the value of regional development and measuring progress towards regional development. The key objectives of the RDA-I&WM are:-

- Maintain and nurture a constructive relationship with the regional community, in a manner that assists in the achievement of a widely-supported vision and strategy for the region.
- Inform regional planning that identifies solutions which turn regional strengths and comparative advantages into a sustainable, innovative and competitive regional strategy and implements the vision for the region, through the Regional Roadmap.
- Encourage strong partnerships across and between all three levels of government and the incorporation of a regional perspective into their agendas.
- Raise regional awareness of government programs and encourage applications from the region for the programs.
- Contribute to improved economic, environmental and social outcomes in the region.



3.3 THE RDA-I&WM SCOPE OF INFLUENCE

There are a range of opportunities for the RDA-I&WM to influence the achievement of the vision for the region. Table 1 outlines the various roles that the RDA-I&WM performs to progress regional development, relative to the regional vision and the current projects and initiatives that the RDA Committee and Executive undertake.

TABLE 1 – ROLES OF THE I&WM REGION

ROLE	ACTIVITIES	RECENT EXAMPLES
Advocate	Promotes regional development	Assistance with rollout of National Broadband Program
Supporter	Endorses initiatives and projects that promote regional development	SEQ Regional Development Initiative
Mentor	Informs businesses and governments of the opportunities available for regional development	Ripley Valley Sustainable Community Integration Strategy (subject to funding)
Facilitator	Facilitates discussions regarding regional development	Annual Regional Leaders Forum
Partnership Broker	Brings government and business together, specifically to create partnership projects.	Ipswich and West Moreton Digital Economy Strategy
Project Broker	Supports financially or in-kind, projects initiated by others, that support regional development.	Lockyer Valley Sustainable Food Bowl Strategy

Source: Urbis



4 The Region's Economy

The Ipswich and West Moreton region is a growing economy with additional potential for growth and expansion.

The key features of the Ipswich and West Moreton economy include:-

- The unemployment rate in the region is 6.8% (2013), which is slightly higher than the SEQ region as a whole (6.55%).
- Employment self-containment in the region is relatively strong with over 77% of the workers in the I&WM region living in the region.
- The largest industry in the I&WM region is manufacturing accounting for 14% of the region's jobs followed by Health Care and Social Assistance (12%), Retail Trade (11%), Education and Training (11%), and Public Administration and Safety (9%).
- There is over \$1.15 billion of potential investment in the I&WM region on both committed and potential construction projects in the region.
- High shares of investment in the I&WM region is being provided in the sectors of Defence (96%), Manufacturing (24%), and Food services (78%).
- Industry strengths are:
 - Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing – due to the high quality agricultural land in the Lockyer Valley, Somerset, and Fassifern Valley.
 - Manufacturing – strong manufacturing sectors in Ipswich including Meat processing, and building materials.
 - Electricity, Gas, Water, and waste services – the region contains the major water storage for the Brisbane area (Wivenhoe Dam), as well as Somerset Dam, Atkinson Dam, Moogerah Dam, and a range of smaller dams.
 - Public Administration and Safety – location of the Amberley Defence Base, Australia's largest defence base.

Economic aspects relating to the long sustainability of the I&WM region and its communities include the level of employment self-containment; the strength of local industry and employment; and the level and direction of inward investment.

KEY OUTCOMES OF STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION

The top 6 major regional assets recognised by the stakeholders are:

- Agricultural land – Lockyer Valley Food Bowl, Somerset Valley, Boonah, Beaudesert
- National road links – Warrego, D'Aguilar, Cunningham, Mount Lindsay, Centenary, Brisbane Valley, Ipswich Motorway
- Water Supply – Wivenhoe Dam, Somerset Dam and seven major rivers
- The agricultural sector is a critical component of the regional economy and there is a need to employ local people rather than outsourcing labour internationally
- There is a strong push to include new technology and employment options to better service the region such as job-swap options to reduce commuting.
- Provision of appropriate infrastructure and investment to enhance the Lockyer Valley Food Bowl is considered a high priority.



4.1 EMPLOYMENT

When considering the level of employment in the region, the factors to consider include the unemployment rate, the youth unemployment rate and the level of local government expenditure (expenditure per resident in region, 2011) in the local economy (refer to Figure 3).

FIGURE 3 – EMPLOYMENT IN THE RDA REGION

RDA Ipswich West Moreton and SEQ

	<u>Brisbane City</u>	<u>Gold Coast</u>	<u>Logan and Redlands</u>	<u>Ipswich and West Moreton</u>	<u>Moreton Bay</u>	<u>Sunshine Coast</u>	<u>South East Queensland Average</u>	<u>Quotient¹</u>
Categories	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	
Local government expenditure	\$1,665	\$4,636	\$1,000	\$1,463	\$918	\$1,269	\$1,825	0.80
Unemployment rate	5.30%	7.40%	6.50%	6.80%	6.20%	7.10%	6.55%	0.96
Young unemployment	11.80%	15.00%	14.20%	14.40%	13.90%	14.60%	13.98%	0.97

Source: Region Australia Institute; prepared by Urbis

1. An Quotient represents how strongly an area is represented in an occupation with the larger region

Asset
Weakness

NOTE: A QUOTIENT GREATER THAN 1 INDICATES THE RDA HAS STRENGTH RELATIVE TO SEQ AND A QUOTIENT LESS THAN 1 REPRESENTS A WEAKNESS.

The rate of unemployment over the last 4 years has generally remained stable with a range of the lowest rate in March 2009 at 4.2% and it is currently at its highest rate of 6.8% (March 2013). The unemployment quotients of 0.96 and 0.97 have been reversed to reflect the fact that a higher unemployment rate represents a weakness or regional gap (i.e., the quotient calculation is SEQ/I&WM, not I&WM/SEQ as is the case with all other quotients shown in this study). Broadly the unemployment rate of the region has been influenced by the wider economic climate and rises and falls in relation to that of the SEQ region.

The I&WM region has youth unemployment and overall unemployment rates comparable to the SEQ region overall. Its youth unemployment rate sits at the high end at 14.4%, and this is an area for focus going forward.

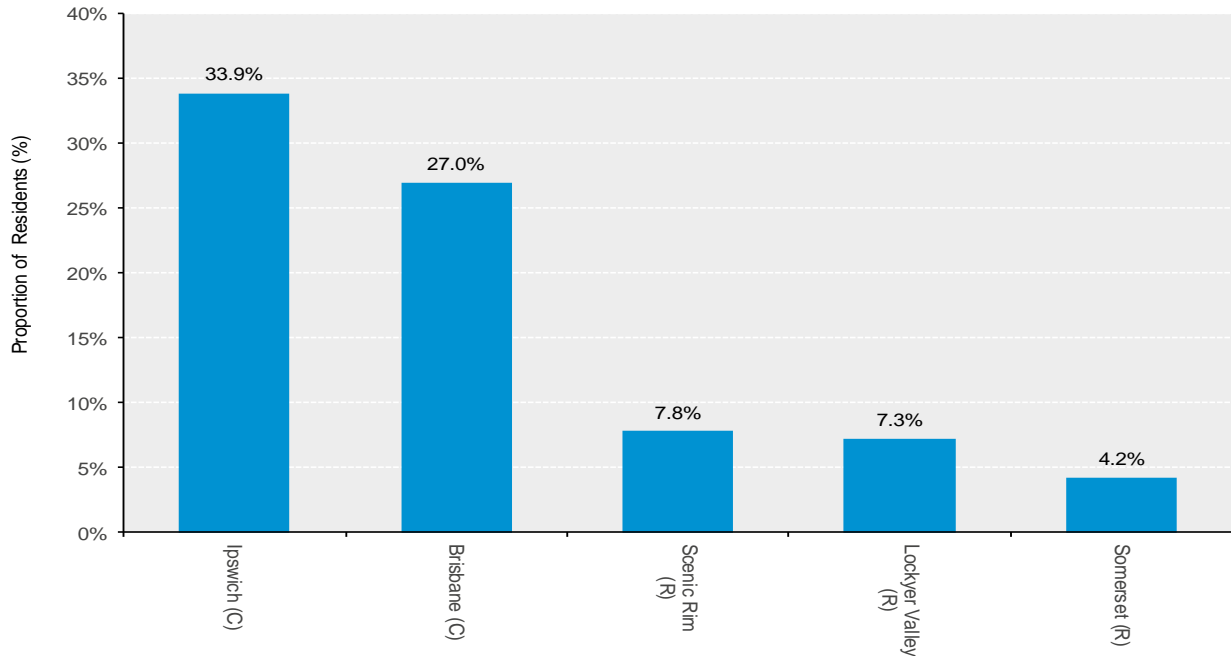
Employment self-containment in the region is relatively strong with over 77% of the workers in the I&WM region living in the region. This demonstrates that local businesses and industries are able to attract labour from within the region, and also reflects the fact that there a variety of new and established communities that are able to provide suitable housing and lifestyle options for the local workers.

Over half (53%) of the resident working population of the region, work within the region, with the majority of these working in the Ipswich LGA. However, this does mean that almost half of the resident working population (47%) leaves the region for work, the majority of which travel to the Brisbane local government area (27%) (Refer to Figure 4). This could be due to a number of factors such as the region does not generate enough jobs, the right type of jobs relative to skill level, but it can be expected for an area that abuts one of Australia's major capital cities.



FIGURE 4 – WORK PLACES OF THE I&WM RESIDENT WORKFORCE

Top 5 Work Places of RDA Residents BY LGA



Source : ABS Census Data 2011, Urbis

4.2 INDUSTRY PROFILE

The I&WM region has a more concentrated industry profile than the SEQ region with the largest five industries by employment accounting for 57% of the region's jobs, compared to 50% in SEQ. This is not unusual at a sub SEQ region level for locations with concentrations of particular types of industries.

The largest industries in the region, in terms of numbers of employees and the overall percentage of the region's jobs within the industries are (Refer to Figure 5).

- Manufacturing (14%).
- Health Care and Social Assistance (12%).
- Retail Trade (11%).
- Education and Training (11%).
- Public Administration and Safety (9%).



FIGURE 5 – EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY – NUMBER OF WORKERS

Employment by Industry (2011) - Workers #

RDA CATCHMENT

Industry	Local Government Areas								RDA Catchment		SEQ
	Ipswich (C)	Lockyer Valley (R)	Scenic Rim (R)	Somerset (R)	Employment (#)	% of Industry			% of Industry		
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	318	1,546	1,391	760	4,015	5%			1%		
Mining	335	51	59	45	490	1%			1%		
Manufacturing	8,451	768	695	893	10,807	14%			9%		
Electricity, gas, water and waste services	694	79	136	93	1,002	1%			1%		
Construction	2,894	506	748	320	4,468	6%			9%		
Wholesale trade	1,543	440	317	173	2,473	3%			4%		
Retail trade	5,931	1,114	1,145	641	8,831	11%			11%		
Accommodation and food services	3,008	670	1,098	268	5,044	7%			7%		
Transport, postal and warehousing	2,416	619	379	292	3,706	5%			5%		
Communication	268	37	125	26	456	1%			1%		
Financial and insurance services	916	87	131	43	1,177	2%			3%		
Rental, hiring and real estate services	816	110	167	67	1,160	2%			2%		
Professional, scientific and technical services	1,946	292	438	129	2,805	4%			8%		
Administrative and support services	1,129	156	204	76	1,565	2%			4%		
Public administration and safety	5,469	409	812	221	6,911	9%			7%		
Education and training	5,315	1,276	1,049	562	8,202	11%			8%		
Health care and social assistance	6,997	761	1,213	440	9,411	12%			13%		
Arts and recreation services	397	68	200	63	728	1%			2%		
Other services	1,655	311	416	174	2,556	3%			4%		
Not stated	788	166	286	150	1,390	2%			0%		
Ownership of Dwelling	0	0	0	0	0	0%			0%		
Total Employment	51,286	9,466	11,009	5,436	77,197	100%			100%		

Source: Census 2011, OESR; GRP Estimated by Urbis

Major industry strengths for the I&WM region in comparison to SEQ are:

- Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing – due to the high quality agricultural land in the Lockyer Valley, Somerset, and Fassifern Valley.
- Manufacturing – strong manufacturing sectors in Ipswich including Meat processing, and building materials.
- Electricity, Gas, Water, and waste services – the region contains the major water storage for the Brisbane area (Wivenhoe Dam), as well as Somerset Dam, Atkinson Dam, Moogerah Dam, and a range of smaller dams.
- Public Administration and Safety – location of the Amberley Defence Base, Australia’s largest defence base.
- Education and Training – three university campuses, University of Queensland Ipswich and Gatton; and University of Southern Queensland Springfield; and strong provision of TAFE training facilities.

The relative growth or decline of employment in key industrial sectors is illustrated in Figure 6.



FIGURE 6 – TOP AND BOTTOM 15 GROWTH INDUSTRIES

Top and Bottom 15 Growth Industries by 2 Digit ANZSIC

RDA CATCHMENT

Industry	2006	2011	2006-2011 Growth	
			No.	%
Preschool and School Education	5,339	6,415	1,076	20%
Food and Beverage Services	3,382	4,398	1,016	30%
Defence	2,167	2,932	765	35%
Hospitals	1,831	2,505	674	37%
Other Store-Based Retailing	3,513	4,049	536	15%
Social Assistance Services	2,322	2,814	492	21%
Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction	379	853	474	125%
Basic Chemical and Chemical Product Manufacturing	466	867	401	86%
Road Transport	1,964	2,310	346	18%
Construction Services	2,121	2,424	303	14%
Food Product Manufacturing	3,640	3,943	303	8%
Food Retailing	3,097	3,393	296	10%
Residential Care Services	1,522	1,769	247	16%
Computer System Design and Related Services	134	378	244	182%
Medical and Other Health Care Services	1,805	2,036	231	13%
Textile, Leather, Clothing and Footwear Manufacturing	167	138	-29	-17%
Motor Vehicle and Motor Vehicle Parts Retailing	684	652	-32	-5%
Printing (including the Reproduction of Recorded Media)	104	70	-34	-33%
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing Support Services	121	85	-36	-30%
Retail Trade, nfd	321	282	-39	-12%
Non-Metallic Mineral Product Manufacturing	607	563	-44	-7%
Postal and Courier Pick-up and Delivery Services	336	287	-49	-15%
Publishing (except Internet and Music Publishing)	273	185	-88	-32%
Education and Training, nfd	207	104	-103	-50%
Furniture and Other Manufacturing	471	317	-154	-33%
Other Goods Wholesaling	529	329	-200	-38%
Primary Metal and Metal Product Manufacturing	1,320	1,106	-214	-16%
Agriculture	4,242	3,871	-371	-9%
Wood Product Manufacturing	828	357	-471	-57%
Transport Equipment Manufacturing	1,188	526	-662	-56%

Source: Census 2011 and 2006; Prepared by Urbis

An examination of recent industry employment trends in the I&WM region highlights sectors that have been experiencing significant growth (strengths), strong growth (opportunities) and those that have been in decline (weaknesses) (Table 2).

TABLE 2 – INDUSTRY SECTORS – STRENGTHS, OPPORTUNITIES AND WEAKNESSES

INDUSTRY STRENGTHS	INDUSTRY OPPORTUNITIES	INDUSTRY WEAKNESSES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pre-school and School Education ▪ Food and Beverage Services ▪ Defence ▪ Hospitals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Heavy and Civil Engineering construction ▪ Basic Chemical and Chemical Product Manufacturing ▪ Computer System Design and Related Services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Transport Equipment Manufacturing ▪ Wood Product Manufacturing ▪ Primary Metal and Metal Product Manufacturing ▪ Furniture and Other Manufacturing

Source: RDA-I&WM; Urbis

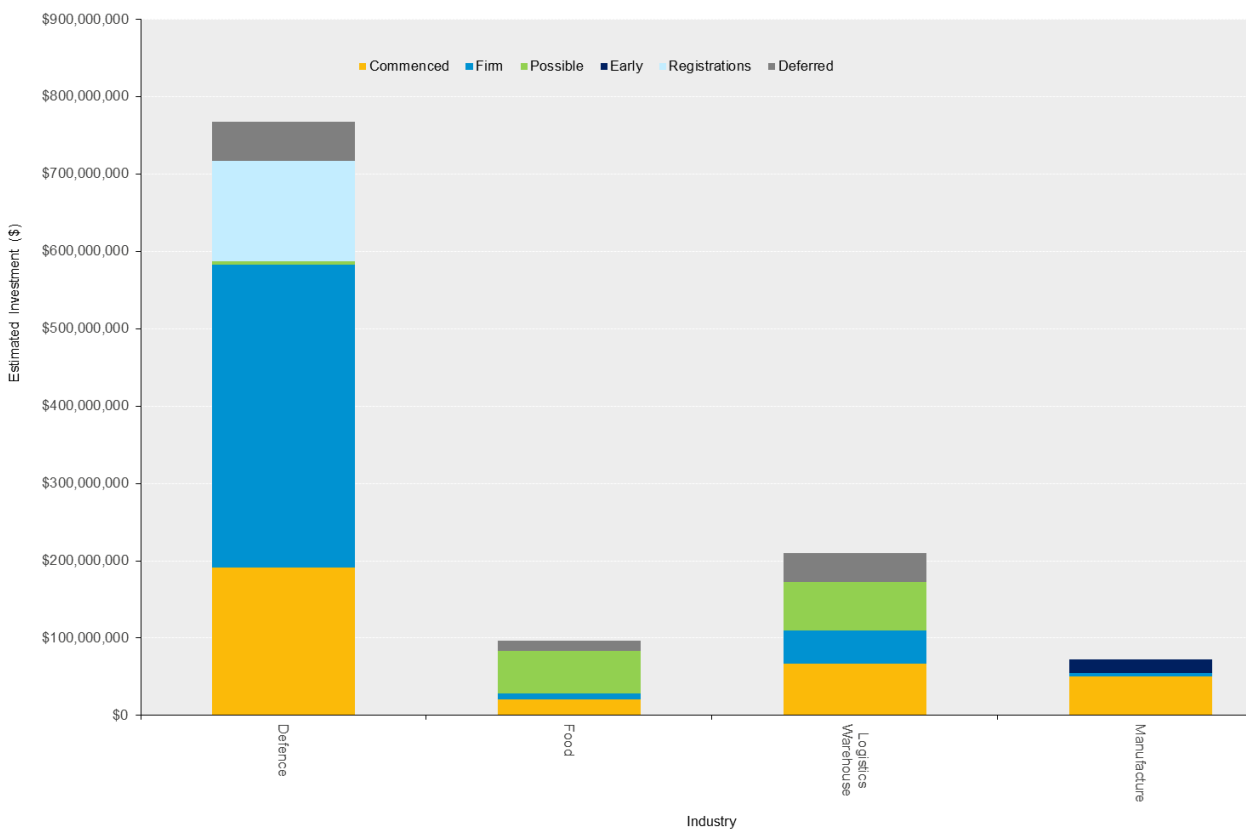


4.3 INVESTMENT IN THE REGION

The economic development of the I&WM region is closely linked to the scale and direction of inward investment. There are databases (Cordells Construction Database) that record development and construction activity by sector for projects under construction (Commenced); those with approvals (Firm); projects that are in the planning stage (Possible); projects with early interest (Early); projects that have been mooted (Registered); and projects that have been identified but deferred (Deferred) Refer to Figure 7.

There are four main sectors attracting investment in the region as measured by development and construction activity – defence, logistics and warehousing, food related development, and manufacturing.

FIGURE 7 – INVESTMENT IN THE RDA REGION



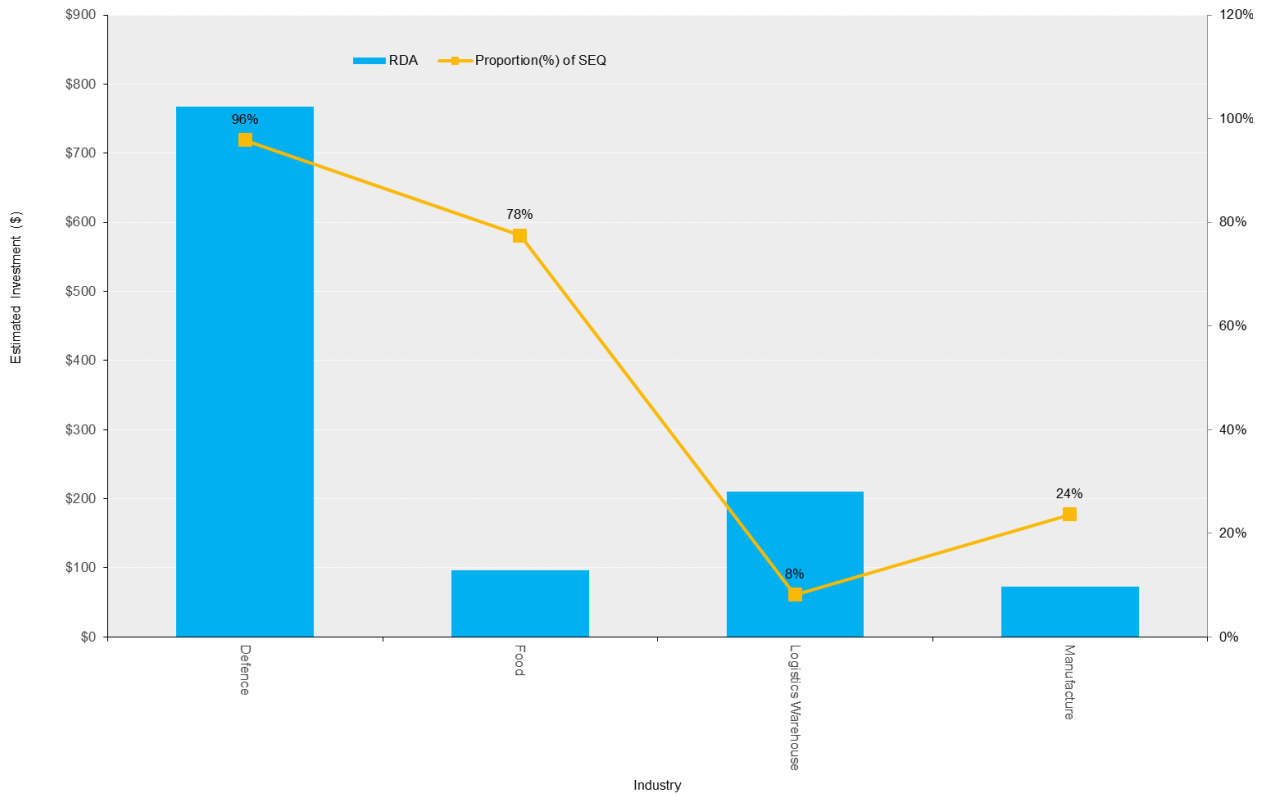
Source: Cordells; Urbis

Defence projects dominate investment in the region with around \$760m worth of projects currently in various stages of development. This highlights the importance of the Amberley Defence Base as a key asset for investment attraction to the region. In addition, current data indicates that the I&WM region has potential investment of around \$90 million for manufacturing projects, \$100 million for food related projects, and \$205 million for logistics and warehousing projects.

Regional advantages in the areas of Defence and Food related industries have translated into high shares of investment in these sectors for the I&WM region in comparison to SEQ overall (Refer to Figure 7). Most importantly the defence investment in the I&WM region represents 96% of all current and proposed defence development and construction investment in South East Queensland. Food service development projects (78%) in the I&WM region also represent a dominant share of these types of development projects in SEQ. Whilst manufacturing is not generating high relative productivity levels for the I&WM region it is nevertheless attracting investment into some key sectors, notably construction materials and rail transport.



FIGURE 8 – INVESTMENT IN THE RDA REGION COMPARITIVE TO SEQ



Source: Cordells; Urbis

4.4 FOOD AND AGRICULTURE PRODUCTION IN THE REGION

Agricultural production in the I&WM region contributes more than \$400m (including an estimate for the Ipswich LGA) to the regional output. This production is derived from all across the region, with the largest producing area being the Lockyer Valley. The following map illustrates the distribution of good quality agricultural land and The Scenic Rim and Somerset physical attributes of value when considering the overall agricultural productivity of the region.

The Ipswich RDA region is located in one of the largest and fastest growing regional markets for horticultural products in Australia and has been long considered a food bowl - an area of high productivity, fertile soils, reasonable water service provision, good access to market, an ability to exploit counter-seasonal market windows, and opportunities for significant expansion in the volume and value of production. The Lockyer Valley is nationally significant with potential to be an important sustainable food bowl which promotes a high value of food production for South East Queensland, Queensland and Australia as a whole.

There are a variety of different agricultural land uses in the Lockyer Valley Region, all of which represent approximately 8% of the total area in the Lockyer Valley and its surrounding catchments. ABS statistics indicate that vegetables for human consumption (6,700 ha) and cereals for grain (1,950 ha) make up the largest proportion of agricultural land uses followed by non-cereal broad acre crops (450 ha), fruit (excluding grapes) (420 ha), and orchard trees (including nuts) (400 ha). In addition, overall production for the Region is dominated by vegetables, more specifically lettuce, potatoes and cauliflower.

The Scenic Rim and Somerset areas of the region also possess strong agricultural qualities, boasting a variety of growing areas from rolling hills and large flat expanses. The natural ecosystem services within



the region including dam and waterways assist in producing fertile environments for agricultural production.

4.5 GOVERNMENT POLICY PRIORITIES AND INTERESTS IN THE REGION'S ECONOMY

4.5.1 FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

- Investment into the expansion and future development of operations at the Amberley airbase, through the *Australian Defence Force Posture Review*. It has been identified as one of the country's top 3 most important defence bases, and the Department of Defence has committed \$1.1bn of investment for the base.
- The National Food Plan indicates that in key food producing areas, all aspects of food production need to be addressed including primary production, transport, storage and distribution, processing, manufacturing, retailing, international trade, marketing, related service sectors and education of the value of food production to the wider community.

4.5.2 STATE GOVERNMENT

- State Government is pursuing an opportunity for a cluster of companies and industries to service the RAAF Base Amberley. In 2012 an expression of interest was released for the development of an aerospace and defence-related business opportunity on 142.9 hectares of land near the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) Base Amberley. The site includes 9 lots, owned by State Government and adjoins Commonwealth-owned land. First stage of development anticipated by mid to end 2014, however, there has been no formal announcements made since the release of this expression of interest.
- The Queensland Land Audit acknowledges the combination of strong natural assets and urban land uses in the I&WM region that provide opportunities for growth in manufacturing, processing, transport, logistics and knowledge industries. Opportunities exist for the Ebenezer Regional Industry Area (Ipswich) to provide capacity for food processing and other value-adding/supply chain industries to locate businesses in the area.
- The SEQ Catchments publication *Managing What Matters* acknowledges the value of the agricultural sector and land assets to the overall SEQ region. Horticulture, livestock, and grazing in particular are expected to grow over the next 10 years and contribute considerable economic benefit to the SEQ region.
- The Bromelton State Development Area (SDA) is a 15,000 hectare Industrial site, which was nominated by the State Government in 2008. The State Development Area is the only area available for industrial development in South East Queensland with access to the national standard-gauge rail network. The Bromelton SDA has been organised to target the following industries:
 - large-lot industrial uses requiring direct access to the national standard-gauge rail network;
 - freight and logistics operations;
 - medium and large-scale manufacturing and warehousing activities with road and/or rail requirements;
 - industry support services, freight and logistics/transport servicing depots;
 - high impact and difficult to locate industries that require separation from non-industrial uses due to the potential for off-site impacts.



4.5.3 LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- Each of the local governments within the I&WM region have developed Economic Development Plans which guide the growth of the economy over the decades ahead from a local level. The consistencies identified between the Local Government Economic Development Plans include:
 - Need to create centres that attract people and business and create a base for sustainable and clean technology businesses;
 - Intent to build manufacturing as the lead driver of the economy and focus employment investment in knowledge industries, sustainable industries, education, health and human services, rural industries and retail and hospitality;
 - Need to manage population growth and balance this with economic growth;
 - Need to expand education and skills management programs. These programs are to be focused on key priority areas;
 - Need to encourage residents to live and work within the region; and
 - Need to establish business links and synergies between the economic nodes of the region.
- The Lockyer Valley Regional Council has a strong emphasis on building the agricultural and food production sectors in the region. The Council has prepared its' own *Lockyer Valley Sustainable Food Bowl Strategy*, in consultation with the RDA-I&WM, and it is focused on increasing the value of production in the region, in particular value adding and food processing for national and international markets, gourmet food production, and increased investment in transport and logistics.
- Scenic Rim Regional Council is currently preparing the *Scenic Rim Regional Food Strategy* which is intended to guide the development of a local food system that facilitates the trade of locally produced food to meet the growing demand of the community. Through the Food Strategy, Council aim to identify opportunities to increase the variety and supply of quality fresh and value added food from the Scenic Rim; establish a local food supply chain that will support trading relationships between sectors; build demand for local food within the region from local residents and visitors; facilitate development of authentic local food tourism and agri-tourism enterprises and experiences; raise the region's profile for both regional food and tourism by establishing common branding and marketing programs between both sectors.
- Ipswich City Council contains the largest proportion of industrial land in the I&WM region, and has highlighted in the *Economic Development Plan for Ipswich City 2009-2031* that the industries it would like to foster in the region include Information and Communications Technology; knowledge based sectors (business services, technical services and transport and distribution businesses); sustainable industries; education and training; health and human services; rural industries and the equine industry; home based businesses; light industry and services industries; and retail and hospitality.
- Ipswich City Council, through its *Current Economic Profile and Future Economic Projections and Scenarios, Ipswich City Council 2008* and *Economic Development Plan for Ipswich City 2009-2031*, supports the expansion and redevelopment of the Amberley Air Force Base. The Council's aim for this area is to see new businesses in engineering, maintenance, avionics design, and potentially some manufacturing locate here. The Council would also like to see the total number of jobs in the base and its surrounds increase by an additional 2,000 jobs, to a total of 5,000 employees.



5 The Region's Access to Markets and Business Competitiveness

The region's access to markets and business competitiveness provide a range of opportunities for further growth.

The key features of the region's business competitiveness and access to markets includes:-

- The region's economy is valued at \$7.8bn annual production, with the majority of that value being generated from activities in the sectors of Manufacturing, Construction, Agriculture, Retail, Education, and Health;
- The region is well positioned with regards to access to aviation, port and rail infrastructure, relative to other areas in SEQ;
- Recent and ongoing investments in upgrades and extensions of major road infrastructure including Ipswich Motorway, Centenary Highway, Mt Lindesay Highway, Warrego Highway, and Cunningham Highway will improve road access;
- The level of assistance local governments provide to business and their relative influence on government at the State and National level reflects the willingness of the region to attract new business to the area;
- In comparison to SEQ, the region has low levels of productivity across almost all industry sectors, which presents a range of opportunities for the region to improve;
- The relatively low labour costs within the region is a positive and negative characteristic, as it is an attractor for new business to the area, however, it is a negative when considering the relative contribution of the local workers to the Gross Regional Product [GRP]; and
- 76% of households within the region have access to internet, and accessibility for households and business is growing.

The key characteristics used to demonstrate the region's relative competitiveness include regional productivity, access to international, national and regional markets, business competitiveness, comparative advantages, access to education facilities, access to technology and internet, and access to industrial land.

KEY OUTCOMES OF STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION

The stakeholders have indicated that the top 8 indicators of success of the RDA revolve around the growth and development of business and industry, and the community's access to broadband:

- Increased labour force participation
- Economic Growth (Gross Regional Product)
- Increased proportion of homes with broadband connections
- Support the growth and development of the supporting industries and skills base for the Amberley Enterprise precinct and super base
- Support the growth of industrial development in Ipswich, in particular in diversifying the types of jobs offered and the demand for diverse skills sets in Ipswich Industrial Areas.
- There is a need to develop familiarity with the options and tools in order to maximise on profitable opportunities and services
- Internet or phone black spots create a major disadvantage to the community and the industry
- There is a need for appropriate sustainable transport options in the region



5.1 REGIONAL PRODUCTIVITY

Insights into the current and future economic strength of the I&WM region are derived from an analysis of the Gross Regional Product [GRP], by industry type, for the region. GRP per worker is a key measure of the productivity of that industry sector in a region. When compared to other regions this measure provides a measure of a region's relative competitiveness.

In comparison to SEQ, the I&WM region has low levels of productivity across almost all of its industry sectors (Refer to Figure 8). The exceptions are:

- Electricity, Gas, Water, and Waste Services – which is the most productive sector in the RDA at \$393,000 GRP/worker and compares favourably with SEQ (\$270,000 GRP/worker)
- Information, Media and Telecommunications - \$239,000 GRP/worker compared to \$226,000 GRP/worker in SEQ
- Agriculture - where the RDA produces \$100,000 of GRP per worker compared to \$110,000 in SEQ.

Most sectors in the I&WM region have GRP per worker levels 20%-40% less than those in SEQ. With respect to long term regional economic growth the comparatively low productivity levels of manufacturing, construction, transport postal and warehousing, financial and insurance services, professional, scientific and technical services, and education and training are of concern. Of these sectors manufacturing and construction represent opportunities to improve local performance whilst the other sectors reflect opportunities to expand services into higher value adding sectors.



FIGURE 9 – GRP WITHIN THE RDA REGION

Gross Regional Product (2011) - Productivity (\$/employment)

Industry	RDA (Lockyer, Somerset, Scenic Rim)			SEQ			Quotients
	GRP (\$M)	Employment (#)	GRP/Emp	GRP (\$M)	Employment (#)	GRP/Emp	
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	\$398	3,697	\$107,655	\$1,100	10,108	\$108,825	1.0
Electricity, gas, water and waste services	\$121	308	\$392,857	\$3,730	13,802	\$270,251	1.5
Information media and telecommunications	\$45	188	\$239,362	\$4,090	18,123	\$225,680	1.1
Education and training	\$167	2,887	\$57,846	\$7,140	103,087	\$69,262	0.8
Construction	\$206	1,574	\$130,877	\$13,371	80,932	\$165,213	0.8
Wholesale trade	\$129	930	\$138,710	\$10,093	49,825	\$202,569	0.7
Retail trade	\$149	2,900	\$51,379	\$9,613	134,444	\$71,502	0.7
Accommodation and food services	\$61	2,036	\$29,961	\$4,452	85,381	\$52,143	0.6
Transport, postal and warehousing	\$148	1,290	\$114,729	\$10,823	60,501	\$178,890	0.6
Mining	\$17	155	\$109,677	\$1,790	10,685	\$167,525	0.7
Arts and recreation services	\$9	728	\$12,363	\$1,204	19,835	\$60,701	0.2
Other services	\$34	901	\$37,736	\$3,088	46,350	\$66,624	0.6
Health care and social assistance	\$132	2,414	\$54,681	\$11,281	155,459	\$72,566	0.8
Manufacturing	\$243	2,356	\$103,141	\$14,311	108,934	\$131,373	0.8
Rental, hiring and real estate services	\$30	344	\$87,209	\$4,726	25,742	\$183,591	0.5
Financial and insurance services	\$55	261	\$210,728	\$14,141	41,731	\$338,861	0.6
Public administration and safety	\$107	1,442	\$74,202	\$9,839	84,290	\$116,728	0.6
Professional, scientific and technical services	\$46	859	\$53,551	\$12,886	99,901	\$128,988	0.4
Administrative and support services	\$20	436	\$45,872	\$4,023	36,232	\$111,034	0.4
Ownership of dwellings	\$309	N/A	N/A	\$17,230	N/A	N/A	N/a
Gross Value added	\$2,426	25,706	\$94,375	\$158,931	1,185,362	\$134,078	0.70
Gross Regional Product (\$M)¹	\$2,651			\$170,243			

1. Includes Taxes less subsidies on products and the Statistical discrepancy

Source: Census 2011, OESR; GRP Estimated by Urbis

Asset
Weakness

NOTE: THE QUOTIENT REPRESENTS THE FOLLOWING EQUATION FOR EACH INDICATOR: I&WM/SEQ. THIS REFLECTS THE RELATIVE STRENGTH OF THAT INDICATOR FOR I&WM COMPARED TO THE WIDER SEQ REGION

5.2 ACCESS TO INTERNATIONAL, NATIONAL, AND REGIONAL MARKETS

The I&WM region's strengths with regards to access to regional, national and international markets, is its accessibility to Aviation infrastructure, Port infrastructure, and Rail infrastructure (Regional Australia Institute) refer to Figure 9.

These infrastructure advantages do not appear to have resulted in strong export performance for the region as reflected in its comparatively low proportion of trade based workers and export activity (see Figure 10).



FIGURE 10 – RDA REGION ACCESS TO MARKETS

Access to Markets

RDA Ipswich West Moreton and SEQ

	Brisbane City	Gold Coast	Logan and Redlands	Ipswich and West Moreton	Moreton Bay	Sunshine Coast	South East Queensland Average	Quotient ¹
Categories	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	
Aviation infrastructure	9.8	10.5	25.6	49.3	29.4	15.7	23.4	2.11
Exporters, importers, wholesalers	0.24%	0.29%	0.22%	0.10%	0.16%	0.28%	0.22%	0.47
Exports	7.45%	3.70%	3.31%	3.50%	2.88%	3.19%	4.01%	0.87
Port infrastructure	9.8	68.5	25.8	54.8	29.8	91.7	46.7	1.17
Rail infrastructure	8.4	6.0	9.8	15.6	9.9	10.7	10.1	1.55
Road infrastructure	1.9	1.8	7.0	3.6	5.5	2.1	3.7	0.99

Source: Region Australia Institute; prepared by Urbis

1. An Quotient represents how strongly an area is represented in an occupation with the larger region

Asset
Weakness

NOTE: THE QUOTIENT REPRESENTS THE FOLLOWING EQUATION FOR EACH INDICATOR: I&WM/SEQ. THIS REFLECTS THE RELATIVE STRENGTH OF THAT INDICATOR FOR I&WM COMPARED TO THE WIDER SEQ REGION

5.3 BUSINESS COMPETITIVENESS

The I&WM region has a number of comparative advantages that influence the competitiveness of its businesses. It performs well on the role its local governments play in assisting business; it has a significant influence on government at the State and National level; and has competitive labour costs for businesses operating in the region. Partly as a consequence of this it has a proportionally higher share of research organisations in SEQ overall refer to Figure 11.

FIGURE 11 – COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE AND BUSINESS COMPETITIVENESS WITHIN THE RDA REGION

Competitive Advantage and Business Competitiveness

RDA Ipswich West Moreton and SEQ

	Brisbane City	Gold Coast	Logan and Redlands	Ipswich and West Moreton	Moreton Bay	Sunshine Coast	South East Queensland Average	Quotient ¹
Categories	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	
Business confidence	3.5	3.3	3.5	3.2	3.3	3.3	3.3	0.95
Expenditure on research and development	2.9	3.1	2.9	3.1	3.2	3.2	3.1	1.02
Human resources in science and technology	6.80%	3.10%	3.10%	2.90%	3.40%	3.00%	3.72%	0.78
Local government assistance for businesses	2.8	2.6	2.8	2.8	2.6	0.0	2.3	1.24
Participation rate	77.6%	75.5%	75.2%	72.4%	75.6%	75.3%	75.3%	0.96
Presence of research organisations	0.02%	0.01%	0.00%	0.01%	0.00%	0.00%	0.01%	1.50
Regional government influence at state/national level	3.1	2.8	2.9	3.3	3.0	0.0	2.5	1.30
Research and development managers	0.14%	0.04%	0.04%	0.04%	0.06%	0.04%	0.06%	0.67
Skilled labour	39.40%	27.50%	22.50%	22.30%	25.00%	28.10%	27.47%	0.81
Wage/labour costs	\$49,885	\$40,819	\$42,810	\$41,382	\$43,639	\$38,531	\$42,844	1.04

Source: Region Australia Institute; prepared by Urbis

1. An Quotient represents how strongly an area is represented in an occupation with the larger region

Asset
Weakness

NOTE: THE QUOTIENT REPRESENTS THE FOLLOWING EQUATION FOR EACH INDICATOR: I&WM/SEQ. THIS REFLECTS THE RELATIVE STRENGTH OF THAT INDICATOR FOR I&WM COMPARED TO THE WIDER SEQ REGION

Areas that require focus to improve the business competitiveness of the I&WM region relate to the skill levels of the labour force, particularly in relation to the areas of research and development, and science and technology. This requires the ability to attract leading tertiary educators and researchers.



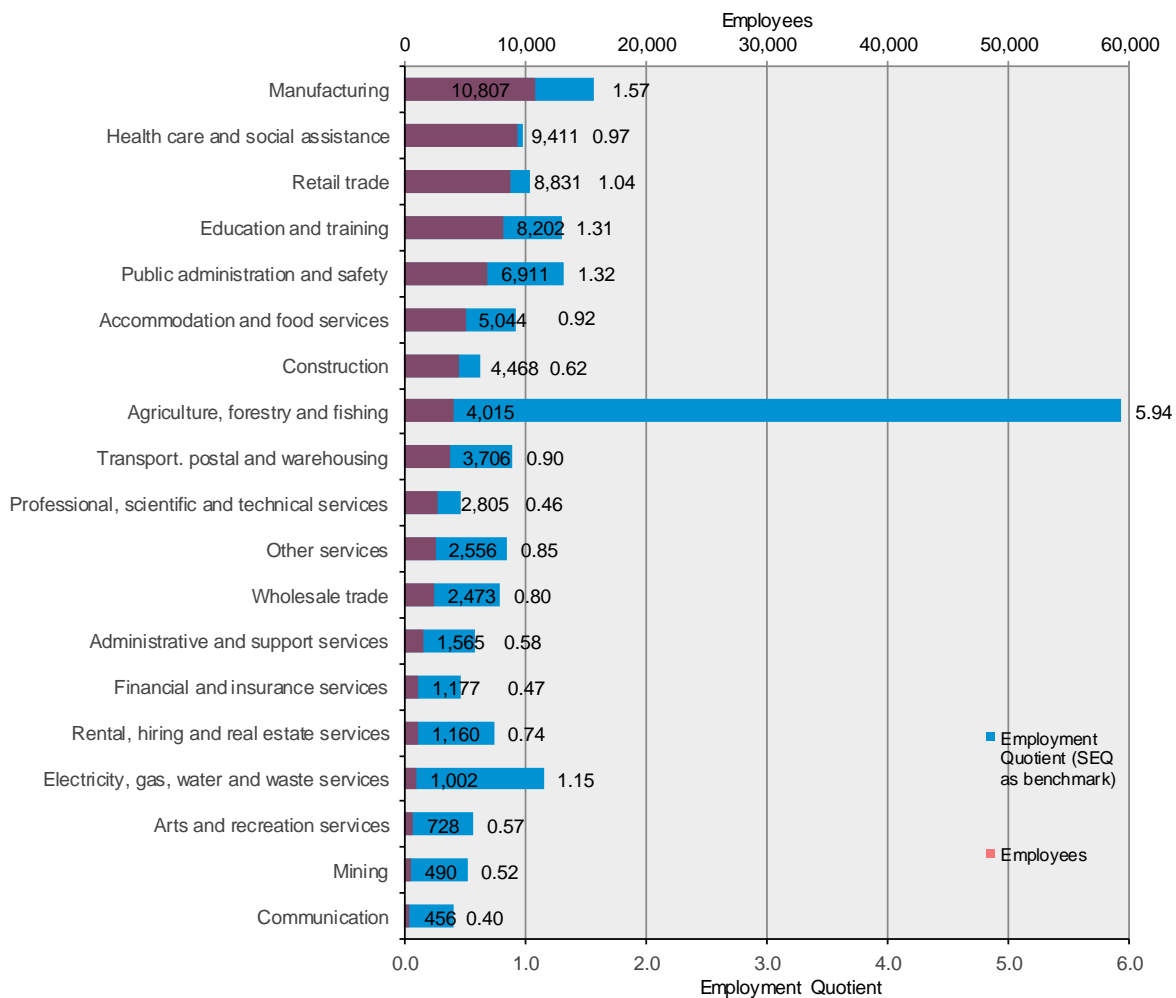
5.4 COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE

An analysis of the scale of industry activities in the I&WM region relative to the SEQ region, identifies the I&WM region's comparative industry advantages and disadvantages refer Figure 11. The I&WM region's greatest industry comparative advantage lies in the agriculture industry which has 5.94 times SEQ the proportion of workers in living within the region. The other industries where the region has a comparative advantage over SEQ region includes manufacturing (1.57), public administration and safety (1.32), education and training (1.31), and electricity, gas, water, and waste services (1.15).

FIGURE 12 – EMPLOYMENT QUOTIENTS AND ASSOCIATED EMPLOYEE NUMBERS WITHIN THE RDA REGION

Employment Quotients¹ and Associated Employee Numbers

RDA



¹ An employment quotient represents how strongly an area is represented in an industry compared with the larger region

Source: ABS 2011 Census, prepared by Urbis

NOTE: THE QUOTIENT REPRESENTS THE FOLLOWING EQUATION FOR EACH INDICATOR: I&WM/SEQ. THIS REFLECTS THE RELATIVE STRENGTH OF THAT INDICATOR FOR I&WM COMPARED TO THE WIDER SEQ REGION

Industries that represent comparative weaknesses that are integral to supporting long-term economic growth include:

- Construction (0.62)



- Professional, Scientific and Technical Services (0.46)
- Financial and Insurance Services (0.47)
- Communications (0.4).

5.5 ACCESS TO EDUCATION FACILITIES

The region has an expanding vocational education and training offer including three university campuses, University of Queensland Ipswich and Gatton; and University of Southern Queensland Springfield; and strong provision of TAFE training facilities. This is reflected in the RDA regional ranking score for Access to Technical and Further Education of 2.8% which is equivalent to Brisbane and ahead of Moreton Bay (2.7%), the Darling Downs and South West (2.7%), and the Sunshine Coast (2.5%).

5.6 ACCESS TO TECHNOLOGY AND INTERNET

Internet accessibility and speed is an important facilitator for business development and activity, particularly in relation to developing regional, national, and international markets. Household internet connectivity in the I&WM region is in-line with Queensland overall, though this includes a higher share of Dial-up connections and lower share of High-speed Broadband. Refer to Figure 13. This is not considered a satisfactory level for a region on the fringe of a major metropolitan area and reflects a comparative disadvantage.

FIGURE 13 – INTERNET CONNECTION IN OCCUPIED DWELLINGS WITHIN THE RDA REGION

Internet connection in occupied dwellings (a) (b), Ipswich and West Moreton Region 2011

Local Government Area	No internet connection	Broadband	Dial-up	Total with internet connection	Proportion with internet	Total
Ipswich (C)	10,610	39,408	1,634	43,772	77.7%	56,326
Lockyer Valley (R)	2,858	7,640	423	8,523	71.6%	11,899
Scenic Rim (R)	2,872	8,997	502	9,976	75.1%	13,277
Somerset (R)	1,981	4,960	297	5,558	71.1%	819
RDA-IWM Region	18,321	61,005	2,856	67,829	75.9%	89,321
Queensland	281,467	1,103,036	45,088	1,211,884	78.3%	1,547,301
Ipswich & West More Region as % of Queensland	6.5%	5.5%	6.3%	5.6%	-	5.8%

Source : Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census 2011

5.7 ACCESS TO INDUSTRIAL LAND

A key competitive advantage of the I&WM region is the availability of industrial land for development and growth. The region contains 39% of the SEQ's land suitable for industrial development. The major industrial areas around the region include:-

- Bromelton State Development Area – which provides large footprint sites for industries that rely on road and rail infrastructure access.
- Swanbank/New Chum – large footprint sites for manufacturing and sustainable industries.
- Ebenezer/Willowbank – large development sites for manufacturing and transport/logistics businesses.
- Bundamba/Riverview (including the new Citiswich Industrial Estate) – industry sites.



- Carole Park, Redbank Peninsula and Wulkuraka/Karrabin - potential to cater for additional industrial development.

These areas are in addition to the general service industry areas for each of the settlements throughout the region.

5.8 GOVERNMENT POLICY PRIORITIES AND INTERESTS IN THE REGION'S BUSINESS COMPETITIVENESS

5.8.1 FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

- The Federal Government is rolling out the NBN telecommunications network with the RDA-I&WM one of the early beneficiaries. To date there are over 30 suburbs in the RDA that have been connected with a comparable number in the construction phase or programmed to commence construction within 12 months.
- The Federal government has been a primary investor in the road and rail infrastructure of the region over the last five years, with funding contributed to the upgrades and extensions of the major roads including Ipswich Motorway, Centenary Highway, Mt Lindesay Highway, Warrego Highway, and Cunningham Highway.
- The Federal Government intend to upgrade Queensland's rail lines to match the one gauge line which runs down the entire length of the east coast freight corridor.

5.8.2 STATE GOVERNMENT INTERESTS

- The *Bromelton State Development Area Development Scheme* demonstrates the State government's commitment to encourage investment in the Bromelton region, on the outskirts of Beaudesert. This Strategic Vision for Bromelton is to provide multi modal freight facilities to maximise the rail network; support high impact industries and encourage rural uses in appropriate locations.
- The State government has also made significant contributions to the upgrades and extensions of road and rail infrastructure [in partnership with the other levels of government] and includes the provision of passenger rail to Springfield.

5.8.3 LOCAL GOVERNMENT INTERESTS

- All local authorities have programs and initiatives focused on improving the regional competitiveness and access to markets through the implementation of their respective Economic Development Plans.
- Local governments are key stakeholders in the preparation of key planning policy to enable industrial development in key areas, including Bromelton and Ebenezer Regional Industrial area.



6 The Region's Human Capital

The knowledge and skills of the region's population are a key input into the region's business competitiveness and its capacity to grow in the future. The relative strength of the Human Capital of the I&WM region is reflected in the depth and breadth of formal education and training qualifications and the occupations of the region's residents.

The key features of the region include:-

- Overall education strengths in Aerospace Engineering, Manufacturing & Processing, Agriculture, and Mechanical and Industrial;
- A high number of residents with Certificate level qualifications, however, there is a low proportion of residents with tertiary qualifications;
- A stronger blue-collar occupational profile than SEQ and Queensland;
- A large number of Technicians and Trade workers, Machinery Operators and Drivers, and Labourers; and
- A low proportion of workers that identify themselves as Professionals, Managers, Clerical & Administrative workers, and Sales workers.

6.1 EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The region has significantly lower levels of tertiary qualified residents (16.3%) in comparison to South East Queensland (26.7%), Queensland (23.4%), and Australia (26.8%) refer to Figure 14. This is most pronounced where the proportion of the region's residents with Bachelor and Higher Degrees is half the level of that for SEQ and Australia. This is consistent with the proportions of residents currently undertaking Tertiary Education. The positive aspect of this is the closing gap between the region and Australia overall which may be reflecting a trend towards increased tertiary education qualifications for the region.

KEY OUTCOMES OF STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION AND LEADERS FORUM

- Develop the skills and capacities of like-minded businesses that can link together to share information and learning
- Set a bold target to achieve Small and Medium Enterprise engagement in digital economy initiatives
- Employment options need to be explored in new ways.
- Need to engage with industry and business.
- Support alternative economic opportunities such as tourism, aged care, engage with youth, agriculture.
- Partnerships with education institutions to provide work experience opportunities and real world projects as a way to engage young people as well as train future employees.
- Younger generations have different expectations of work and the workplace and require more feedback and creative opportunities.
- Training and support for older generations to increase familiarity and use of technology.



FIGURE 14 – TERTIARY EDUCATION WITHIN THE RDA REGION

Tertiary Education

RDA CATCHMENT

	Ipswich	RDA Region	SEQ	Queensland	Australia
Bachelor Degree or Higher	9.8%	9.6%	18.4%	15.9%	18.8%
Advanced Diploma or Associate Degree	6.8%	6.7%	8.3%	7.5%	8.0%
Undertaking Tertiary Education	3.7%	3.5%	6.0%	5.0%	5.4%
Below Tertiary	79.6%	80.2%	67.3%	71.6%	67.8%

Source: Census 2011, Prepared by Urbis

The high level of residents without tertiary qualifications (80.2% compared to 67.3% in SEQ) is somewhat balanced by the higher levels of residents with Certificate level qualifications. This is particularly so for a number of specific skill areas. By comparing the proportion of the region's residents by qualification level and study area with the wider SEQ region a quotient can be created that identifies relative educational and training strengths and weaknesses of the I&WM region. A quotient greater than 1 indicates the RDA has a strength relative to SEQ and a quotient less than 1 represents a weakness. Figure 15 reflects these quotients for all post school formal education and training by study area (comparable to industry sectors).

FIGURE 15 – RESIDENT EDUCATION LEVEL QUOTIENTS WITHIN THE RDA REGION

Resident Education Level Quotients

RDA TO SEQ

Urbis Categories	Postgraduate	Graduate Diploma and		Advanced Diploma and	
	Degree Level	Graduate Certificate Level	Bachelor Degree Level	Diploma Level	Certificate Level
Aerospace Engineering	0.2	2.6	0.6	1.2	1.9
Agriculture	0.9	0.7	1.0	1.3	1.3
Auto	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	1.2
Building & Construction	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.9
Education	0.5	0.7	0.8	0.8	1.3
Electrical Engineering	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.8	0.8
Food & Hospitality	n.a	0.0	0.5	0.6	1.0
Health	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.8	1.1
IT	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.7	1.1
Manufacturing & Process	0.4	1.1	0.3	1.0	1.1
Mathematics & Science	0.4	0.7	0.6	0.7	1.1
Mechanical and Industrial	0.4	1.3	0.5	0.8	1.5
Not Stated/Applicable	0.6	0.3	0.5	0.9	1.2
Other Engineering	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.7	1.1
Others	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.8	1.1
Professional & Commercial Services	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.8	1.1
Sports & Recreational Industry	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.8

Source: Census 2011, Prepared by Urbis

Asset

Weakness

NOTE: THE QUOTIENT REPRESENTS THE FOLLOWING EQUATION FOR EACH INDICATOR: I&WM/SEQ. THIS REFLECTS THE RELATIVE STRENGTH OF THAT INDICATOR FOR I&WM COMPARED TO THE WIDER SEQ REGION

This analysis highlights educational and training strengths that the RDA's residents have at the Certificate level (Trade):

- Aerospace Engineering (1.9)
- Mechanical and Industrial (1.5)



- Agriculture (1.3)
- Education (1.3)
- Automotive (1.2).

These areas principally reflect strengths in the industrial and agriculture sectors which benefit from input and process advantages of the region.

Of particular note is the skills strength in the Aerospace Engineering field where the region's residents have a higher proportion of skills than the wider SEQ region at the Advanced Diploma and Diploma level (1.2) and Graduate Diploma and Certificate level (2.6). This is likely to be due to the qualifications associated with residents working at the Amberley Defence Base. Given these are post graduate qualifications and the I&WM region does not have a high quotient for Aerospace Engineering Bachelor Degrees, it is likely that this result reflects the fact that these residents have studied elsewhere and migrated into the region for work, and/or undertaken these studies by correspondence. This indicates there is demand for higher level education for Aerospace engineering in the I&WM region.

The I&WM region has an excess supply of Certificate qualified residents in most study areas refer to Figure 16. This reflects the number of residents with these qualifications in the I&WM region compared to the jobs in the region requiring these qualifications. Particular areas of skills oversupply at the Certificate level exist for:

- Professional and Commercial Services (5,188)
- Building and Construction (3,415)
- Food and Hospitality (2,615)
- Mechanical and Industrial (2,289)
- Electrical Engineering (1,401)
- Automotive (1,327).

More broadly (Bachelor, Diploma, Certificate) there is a skills oversupply in Professional and Commercial Services (9,792), Health (2,671), and Sport & Recreation Industry (1,497). Effectively this means persons with these qualifications either have to leave the region for employment or have to work in another occupation thereby not utilising their qualification and investment in training and education.



FIGURE 16 – EDUCATION LEVEL WITHIN THE RDA REGION

Education Level (Supply-Demand)-Number of person

RDA CATCHMENT

Urbis Categories	Postgraduate Degree	Graduate Diploma	Bachelor Degree	Advanced Diploma	Certificate Level
	Level	and Graduate Certificate Level	Level	and Diploma Level	
Aerspace Engineering	-1	5	-10	95	172
Agriculture	31	5	148	213	634
Auto	0	0	0	12	1,327
Building & Construction	11	10	81	197	3,415
Education	8	115	230	632	280
Electrical Engineering	12	4	87	211	1,401
Food & Hospitality	0	0	27	331	2,615
Health	12	53	971	898	802
IT	50	32	330	252	402
Manufacturing & Process	7	4	3	54	1,042
Mathematics & Science	126	25	396	92	81
Mechanical and Industrial	-1	4	26	76	2,289
Not Stated/Applicable	21	3	138	169	1,267
Other Engineering	19	6	132	203	1,248
Others	0	0	0	1	34
Professional& Commercial Services	345	224	1,903	2,701	5,188
Sports & Recreational Industry	30	19	365	436	696
Total	670	509	4,827	6,573	22,893

Source: Census 2011, Prepared by Urbis

The strong trade qualifications and skills profile of region's residents has translated into a blue collar occupational profile higher than SEQ, Queensland, and Australia Refer to Figure 17. This is reflected in relatively high proportions of Technicians and Trade workers (16.3% compared to 14.4% for SEQ), Machinery Operators and Drivers (9.8% compared to 6.2%), and Labourers (14.4% compared to 9.7%). Conversely the RDA has relatively low proportions of Professionals (12.4% compared to 21.3% in SEQ), Managers (11.1% compared to 12%), Clerical and Administrative workers (14.7% compared to 15.9%), and Sales workers (9.2% compared to 10.4%). This is also consistent with the Region's industry strengths in Manufacturing, Agriculture, and Electricity, Gas, Water, and Waste services.



FIGURE 17 – OCCUPATION WITHIN THE RDA REGION

Occupation

RDA CATCHMENT

Occupation	Ipswich	Scenic Rim	Lockyer Valley	Somerset	RDA Region	SEQ	Queensland	Australia
Proportion (%)								
Managers	9.1%	16.4%	13.2%	15.3%	11.1%	12.0%	12.3%	13.1%
Professionals	13.9%	15.0%	11.2%	10.4%	13.4%	21.3%	19.3%	21.7%
Technicians & trades workers	16.4%	16.8%	15.8%	14.9%	16.3%	14.4%	15.2%	14.4%
Community & Personal Service Workers	11.5%	10.7%	9.8%	10.1%	11.1%	10.2%	10.1%	9.8%
Clerical & Administrative Workers	16.0%	12.6%	12.0%	12.1%	14.7%	15.9%	15.0%	15.0%
Sales Workers	9.6%	7.7%	9.1%	8.1%	9.2%	10.4%	10.0%	9.6%
Machinery operators & Drivers	10.1%	7.7%	10.1%	11.1%	9.8%	6.2%	7.4%	6.7%
Labourers	13.4%	13.1%	18.7%	18.0%	14.4%	9.7%	10.7%	9.6%
White Collar (%)	60.1%	62.4%	55.3%	56.1%	59.5%	69.8%	66.6%	69.3%
Blue Collar (%)	39.9%	37.6%	44.7%	43.9%	40.5%	30.2%	33.4%	30.7%
Quotients¹ to SEQ								
Managers	0.8	1.4	1.1	1.3	0.9	1.0	n.a	n.a
Professionals	0.7	0.7	0.5	0.5	0.6	1.0	n.a	n.a
Technicians & trades workers	1.1	1.2	1.1	1.0	1.1	1.0	n.a	n.a
Community & Personal Service Workers	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.0	n.a	n.a
Clerical & Administrative Workers	1.0	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.9	1.0	n.a	n.a
Sales Workers	0.9	0.7	0.9	0.8	0.9	1.0	n.a	n.a
Machinery operators & Drivers	1.6	1.2	1.6	1.8	1.6	1.0	n.a	n.a
Labourers	1.4	1.4	1.9	1.9	1.5	1.0	n.a	n.a
White Collar (%)	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.9	1.0	n.a	n.a
Blue Collar (%)	1.3	1.2	1.5	1.5	1.3	1.0	n.a	n.a

1. An Quotient represents how strongly an area is represented in an occupation with the larger region
Source: Census 2011, Prepared by Urbis

Asset

Weakness

NOTE: THE QUOTIENT REPRESENTS THE FOLLOWING EQUATION FOR EACH INDICATOR: I&WM/SEQ. THIS REFLECTS THE RELATIVE STRENGTH OF THAT INDICATOR FOR I&WM COMPARED TO THE WIDER SEQ REGION

6.2 GOVERNMENT POLICY PRIORITIES AND INTERESTS IN THE REGION'S HUMAN CAPITAL

Regional education and skills development – which is indicated through the *Regional Education, Skills and Jobs Plan QLD – Ipswich and West Moreton 2012-2014*. This is an initiative which is focused on improving the education and employment levels of youth in the region through school programs and building relationships between businesses and education providers.

The State Government has a particular interest in four pillars of the State economy – tourism, agriculture, construction and resources. The State budget and policy priorities are reflecting the intent of the State to encourage growth in these four sectors. Of most significance to the I&WM region is the interest in boosting investment in agriculture, construction and tourism.



7 The Region's Natural Assets

The key features of the region's natural assets include:-

- The region's natural assets provide an 'ecosystem service' to the region which supports the operation and function of businesses, industry and communities, and in turn results in a significant economic benefit to the region's economy.
- It is estimated that over the next 20 years, if the region's ecosystem services are not properly managed, the following costs will be incurred in the region:
 - Industry costs – Significant costs to several industry sectors including agriculture, nature-based tourism, recreation industry and government service provisions: Tourism industry - \$8billion; Primary industries - \$500 million; Open space and nature-based recreation - \$160 million.
 - Social cost - Approximately \$5.2 billion.
- The Lockyer Valley food bowl is extremely important and accounts for the equivalent of 40% of SEQ's annual fresh vegetable consumption.
- The I&WM region rates well in terms of its National Park provision in comparison to SEQ overall, scoring higher on the Regional Australia Institute index than the other RDAs in SEQ.

KEY OUTCOMES OF STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION

- Assets provide an economic benefit
- It is crucial to maintain the correct balance between maintenance of natural assets and future prosperity
- Maximising on the Food Bowl strategy promotes sustainable water supply procedures which enable consistent production. Sustainable agriculture projects such as this encourages and creates other sustainable industries

7.1 ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

The majority of the food, clean water and clean air required to sustain the growing population of SEQ is supplied by the natural assets that make up the environment of the I&WM region. Assets such as agricultural land, grassland and bushland, flood plains, wetlands, dams and waterways provide these crucial services to society and the economy.

The following map illustrates the distribution of natural assets across the region and the vast area of land in the region that is occupied by areas of high ecological value.

The region's natural assets provide an 'ecosystem service' to the region which supports the operation and function of businesses, industry and communities; and in turn results in a significant economic benefit to the region's economy. As outlined in the SEQ Catchments *Managing what matters: the cost of environmental decline in SEQ* report, it is estimated that over the next 20 years, if the region's ecosystem services are not properly managed, the following costs will be incurred in the region:

- Industry costs – Significant costs to several industry sectors including agriculture, nature-based tourism, recreation industry and government service provisions:
 - Tourism industry - \$8billion
 - Primary industries - \$500 million
 - Open space and nature-based recreation - \$160 million



- Social cost - Approximately \$5.2 billion.

The protection, growth and harnessing of the region's natural assets which provide ecosystem services is therefore critical to long term prosperity of not only the environment, but also of the region's economy.

Key ecosystem services that are provided by the I&WM region are summarised as follows:

- The Lockyer Valley as a food bowl is extremely important and accounts for the equivalent of 40% of SEQ's annual fresh vegetable consumption.
- The I&WM region hosts some of the largest regional biodiversity corridors in SEQ which offer continuous tracts of vegetation connecting landscapes and people across the region and across the nation as part of the iconic Great Dividing Range and the World Heritage Border Ranges.

These hills and ranges are one of the most species-rich and diverse parts of Australia for flora and fauna being home to many of SEQ's rare and threatened species including flora (Antarctic Beech) and fauna (Coxen's fig parrot). These corridors are not only important as habitat but also for the services they provide to society such as clean air, clean water, scenic amenity and recreational opportunities.

- Bush and grass cover provide natural lungs which offer good quality air for breathing. The bush and grass cover provide a habitable climate and also helps protect the population of SEQ against extreme events such as flooding.
- Natural assets such as the large areas of flood plains and vegetation in Ipswich and West Moreton slow flood water down and remove the energy that becomes a destructive force downstream in the towns and cities where lives and property can be lost and damaged.
- The loss of top soil during these events is also a major issue for the I&WM and the SEQ Region with impacts on food security and reduced productivity and net returns in agriculture, grazing and forestry and increased costs of fertiliser to replace soil nutrients. The impact on the waterways, beaches and Moreton Bay is also substantial. Seagrass is lost when covered by sediment which directly impacts the fishing and tourism industries.
- The I&WM region provides the majority of water for consumption in SEQ. The provision of this service is vitally important to maintain the economy and the culture of the SEQ community. The large water supply catchments of the I&WM region supply water for households, industry, power production and agriculture. Quality of life in SEQ is underpinned through access to a secure quantity of water of useable quality. Vegetation on hills, floodplains and waterways is vital for the supply of good quality water but also the provision of habitat for plants and animals.
- The large areas of open space provide recreational opportunities for the local and regional community. These areas provide scenic amenity and opportunities for canoeing, boating, bush walking etc. that are key ingredients for a healthy and motivated community and a community that is resilient and equipped to bounce back from extreme events and shocks.
- The I&WM region and therefore the SEQ region is facing a number of pressures which have the potential to diminish this resilience. Pressures that can impact on the supply of services from natural assets when they are damaged or lost include climate change, effects of habitat fragmentation, erosion, salinity, soil health decline, pests species and pathogens, land use change (urban/residential expansion) and land clearing. A significant threat to the natural assets is the competition for land assets for coal seam gas extraction and other mineral resources.
- The I&WM region rates well in terms of its National Park provision in comparison to SEQ overall, scoring higher on the Regional Australia Institute index than the other RDAs in SEQ.



- More than 80% of the areas that contain values of high ecological significance are in private ownership. Managing the land under this ownership pattern places significant pressure on local stewardship of the natural assets and for local landholders to appreciate the importance and value of doing so.

7.2 GOVERNMENT POLICY PRIORITIES AND INTERESTS IN THE REGION'S NATURAL ASSETS

7.2.1 STATE GOVERNMENT INTERESTS

Ecosystem Services need to be managed in an integrated way that includes the community, industry and governments of I&WM and the SEQ Region. The *SEQ Regional Natural Resources Management Plan* provides a set of agreed targets and maps to enable the management and enhancement of these assets. RDA-I&WM is keen to ensure that these targets are supported in planning instruments in the region and considered when development and infrastructure in the region is being built.

The issue of water security and management of catchment values is a priority of the State Government and has been demonstrated in investments in the SEQ water grid, creation of additional storage areas such as the Wyaralong Dam, sediment reduction programs, and increased requirements for water quality management. Recent flood events in both 2011 and 2013 have highlighted the need for improvement in the provision of infrastructure and access to land during these events in the region. This is both an environmental issue, but also an economic issue, when considering the impact of these events on the productivity of the agricultural and horticultural industries in the I&WM region.

7.2.2 LOCAL GOVERNMENT INTERESTS

Each of the four local authorities have been seriously affected by the flood events of 2011 and 2013. This has caused each of the local authorities to better consider how they provide infrastructure, are able to provide emergency shelter for impacted families, and minimise the damage caused by natural hazards.

Each of the local authorities are signatories to the SEQ Healthy Waterways program, which undertakes research, water quality monitoring, and provides guidance and advice for local landholders within the catchment.



8 The Region's People

The key features of the region's existing residents and future population growth include:

- Recent population growth of 7,720 persons p.a.;
- Forecast RDA growth of 13,400 persons p.a to 2031;
- A growth rate of twice that of SEQ overall and Ipswich forecast to account for majority of growth (78%);
- Comparable proportion of indigenous persons though influenced by above average representation in Ipswich LGA;
- No. of persons aged 70+ years forecast to almost double from 2011 to 2031;
- Strong demand forecast for post 2016;
- Not an ethnically diverse region – 82% of residents born in Australia;
- The number of residents born outside of Australia increased from 19% in 2001, to 22% in 2006 (an increase of 3%);
- The percentage of the population within indigenous heritage living within the region increased from 2.7% in 2001 to 3.5% in 2011;
- Adequate land supply for residential growth with the potential for local pressure in Somerset LGA – ability to be absorbed within region;
- Households that had internet access increased from 58% in 2006 to 76% in 2011 (an increase of just under 20%); and
- There have been a consistent number of new houses built in the RDA-I&WM region over the past 3 years. On average 2231 new houses have been built annually since 2010. This is significantly higher than the Sunshine Coast average (1630 new houses), Gold Coast average (1705 new houses) and Darling Downs and south west average (1281 new houses) over this period.

KEY INSIGHTS – NEEDS, STRENGTHS, KEY OUTCOMES OF STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION

- Strong community engagement and understanding of issues
- Provision of community services by public, private and community agencies are considered a challenge to the region
- There is a need for a shared community vision for the region.
- Provision of adequate community services by public, private and community agencies.
- The focus has moved from employment opportunities to population growth.
- Supply of residential land based on the most recent hectare study for the South East Queensland region indicated that there is adequate supply of land for up to 10-15 years with the exception of Somerset which has a supply for at least 7 years.
- The current employment trend consists of people travelling into and out of the region for work on a daily basis rather than living in the area; however this is a rapidly changing issue.

The key social factors influencing the long-term regional economic growth for the I&WM region encompass:

- Cultural diversity –Servicing the changing mix of cultures;
- Health and Ageing – Meeting the needs of an ageing population;
- Quality of Life – maintaining and improving the attractiveness to locate in the region;



- Population growth – the projected changes to the region’s demographic profile; and
- Urban Growth – the capacity of the region to accommodate the future population growth.

8.1 CULTURAL DIVERSITY

The I&WM region is not an ethnically diverse region with 82.3% of its residents being born in Australia compared to 74% in SEQ, 78.3% in Queensland, and 74% in Australia refer to Figure 18. This is characteristic of rural and regional parts of Queensland and Australia which tend to be less attractive to international migrants due to the greater distance from international entry points, and the greater access to higher paid employment around major metropolitan areas.

FIGURE 18 – COUNTRY OF BIRTH OF RESIDENTS IN THE RDA REGION

Country Of Birth

RDA CATCHMENT

Country of Birth	Ipswich	Scenic Rim	Lockyer Valley	Somerset	RDA Region	SEQ	Queensland	Australia
Australia	80.2%	84.4%	86.7%	87.3%	82.3%	74.0%	78.3%	74.0%
Oceania	5.8%	3.6%	2.3%	2.8%	4.8%	6.1%	5.0%	2.7%
North West Europe	5.6%	7.7%	5.0%	6.0%	5.8%	7.4%	6.4%	6.7%
Southern and Eastern Europe	0.5%	0.3%	0.3%	0.2%	0.4%	1.0%	0.9%	2.5%
North Africa and the Middle East	0.1%	0.0%	0.2%	0.0%	0.1%	0.2%	0.2%	1.0%
South East Asia	2.0%	0.6%	1.2%	1.6%	1.7%	2.3%	2.0%	3.2%
North East Asia	0.5%	0.4%	0.9%	0.3%	0.5%	1.9%	1.4%	2.5%
Southern and Central Asia	0.7%	0.3%	0.4%	0.1%	0.6%	1.2%	0.9%	1.9%
Americas	0.4%	0.6%	0.4%	0.3%	0.4%	0.7%	0.6%	0.6%
Sub Saharan Africa	0.5%	0.5%	0.4%	0.3%	0.5%	1.0%	0.9%	0.7%

Source: Census 2011, Prepared by Urbis

Whilst having a significantly high proportion of Australian born residents, the I&WM region is relatively well represented by persons from Oceania, North West Europe, and South East Asia. The RDA has notably lower proportions of persons from North East Asia, and Southern and Central Asia.

The I&WM region has a comparable proportion of Indigenous persons as Queensland overall. This is masked somewhat by the above average proportion of Indigenous persons in the Ipswich LGA (3.8%) compared to the other three more rural LGAs (2.6% to 2.9%). Refer to Figure 19.



FIGURE 19 – NUMBER OF PERSONS BY ATSI STATUS IN THE RDA REGION

Number of persons by ATSI status, RDA-I&WM, 2011

Local Government Area	Aboriginal	Torres Strait Islander	Both (b)	Total Indigenous	Indigenous proportion	Non-Indigenous	Total Persons
Ipswich (C)	5,225	307	284	6,416	3.8%	152,661	166,904
Lockyer Valley (R)	930	54	30	1,014	2.9%	31,809	34,955
Scenic Rim (R)	853	50	30	933	2.6%	34,093	36,456
Somerset (R)	556	35	22	613	2.8%	20,045	21,640
RDA-IWM Region	8,164	446	366	8,976	3.5%	238,608	259,955
Queensland	122,896	20,094	12,834	155,824	3.6%	3,952,707	4,332,740
RDA IWM Region as % of Queensland	6.6%	2.2%	2.9%	5.8%	-	6.0%	6.0%

Source : Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census 2011

8.2 HEALTH AND AGEING

Ageing accommodation facilities and funding for the I&WM region are generally lower to Queensland overall on a per capita basis (4.9% and 5.1% respectively compared to 5.8% of the State's population) refer to Figure 20. However when considering the generally lower proportion of persons aged over 65 years in the I&WM region compared to SEQ and Queensland overall, this is considered to be more comparable on a direct needs basis.

FIGURE 20 – AGED CARE FACILITIES WITHIN THE RDA REGION

Aged care facilities (a) (b), Ipswich and West Moreton Region 30 June 2011

Table XX

Local Government Area	Aged-care service providers	Number of places by care type				Total places	Australian funding (f)
		Community care (c)	Residential care (d)	Transition care (e)			
Ipswich (C)	30	392	873	30	1,295	49.1	
Lockyer Valley (R)	6	35	209	0	244	11.1	
Scenic Rim (R)	14	167	332	0	499	16.0	
Somerset (R)	7	52	111	0	163	6.0	
Ipswich & West More Region	57	646	1,525	30	2,201	82.1	
Queensland	1,048	10,906	33,362	588	44,856	1,598.0	
Ipswich & West More Region as % of Queensland	5.4%	5.9%	4.6%	5.1%	4.9%	5.1%	

Source : Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing

General safety, education, and health services are generally well supplied in the I&WM region. Refer to Figure 21. Exceptions to this are considered to be Ipswich for most services, and the RDA more broadly for Hospitals. Future allocations of these key services need to be aligned with growth directions and take into consideration any existing under provision.



FIGURE 21 – EMERGENCY SERVICES, SCHOOLS AND HOSPITALS WITHIN THE RDA REGION

Emergency services, schools and hospitals (a) (b), Ipswich and West Moreton Region

30-Jun-11

Table XX

Local Government Area	Police Stations (a)	Ambulance stations	Fire stations (b)	Schools (c)	Hospitals (d)
Ipswich (C)	7	4	5	60	6
Lockyer Valley (R)	3	2	4	26	2
Scenic Rim (R)	7	5	8	28	2
Somerset (R)	5	3	4	19	2
Ipswich & West More Region a	2	14	21	133	12
Queensland	340	262	243	1,734	271
Ipswich & West More Region as % of Queensland	6.5%	5.3%	8.6%	7.7%	4.4%

Source : Queensland Police Service; Department of Community Safety; Department of Education, Employment and Training; Queensland Health

8.3 QUALITY OF LIFE

With respect to Quality of Life measures the RDA-I&WM sits slightly below the majority of SEQ in respect of a number of key measures. Whilst police services per head of population are significantly below the SEQ average (no. of persons employed in Police Service per 1,000 residents) this is influenced by the higher crime RDAs of Brisbane and the Gold Coast. It compares favourably with Logan/Redlands and Moreton Bay. The main area of focus is its comparatively high proportion of persons with Welfare dependence (Percentage of population using Government support as main source of income). Whilst below Brisbane City and the Gold Coast, it is notably above Logan/Redlands, Moreton Bay and the Sunshine Coast.

The region performs satisfactorily on the two key health measures reflecting an equitable level of General Practitioners (GP services per 100,000 residents), and personal health levels (Health: Adults with at least one of four health risk factors of smoking, harmful use of alcohol, physical inactivity and obesity).



FIGURE 22 – QUALITY OF MEASURE WITHIN THE RDA REGION

Quality of Life

RDA Ipswich West Moreton and SEQ

Categories	Brisbane City	Gold Coast	Logan and Redlands	Ipswich and West Moreton	Moreton Bay	Sunshine Coast	South East Queensland Average	Quotient ¹
	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	
Access to GP services	5.4	6.6	4.5	5.0	4.1	4.0	4.9	1.01
Health	53.40%	61.30%	50.80%	58.80%	65.10%	66.20%	59.27%	0.99
Police services	5.9	2.0	1.6	1.7	1.5	1.9	2.4	0.70
Welfare dependence	21.5%	25.7%	16.8%	20.9%	15.0%	14.6%	19.1%	0.91

Source: Region Australia Institute; prepared by Urbis

1. An Quotient represents how strongly an area is represented in an occupation with the larger region

Asset
Weakness

NOTE: THE QUOTIENT REPRESENTS THE FOLLOWING EQUATION FOR EACH INDICATOR: I&WM/SEQ. THIS REFLECTS THE RELATIVE STRENGTH OF THAT INDICATOR FOR I&WM COMPARED TO THE WIDER SEQ REGION

8.4 POPULATION GROWTH

The I&WM region has experienced strong population growth over the period from 2006-2011 (3.8% p.a.) compared to the wider SEQ region (2.1%). This reflects an increase of over 38,600 persons over that period refer to Figure 23. Much of this has been driven by population growth in the Ipswich LGA facilitated by comparably affordable dwelling options. Into the future the I&WM region is forecast to experience strong growth over the next 20 years. Over the period from 2011 to 2031 the I&WM region is forecast to become home to an additional 268,530 residents at a rate of around 13,400 persons per year. This reflects population growth at a rate more than double that of South East Queensland overall. The Ipswich LGA is forecast to be the major driver of this future population growth accounting for around 78% of the total RDA's population growth over this period.

FIGURE 23 – ERP & POPULATION PROJECTION WITHIN THE RDA REGION

ERP & Population Projection (Low growth scenario)

RDA CATCHMENT

LGAs	Estimated Resident Population			Projected Population			Average Annual Growth Rate			Quotients ¹ to SEQ		
	2011	2021	2031	2006-2011	2011-2021	2011-2031	2006-2011	2011-2021	2011-2031	2006-2011	2011-2021	2011-2031
Ipswich	171,947	259,728	380,487	3.8%	4.2%	4.1%	1.8	10.6	2.9			
Lockyer Valley	35,795	46,517	57,633	2.3%	2.7%	2.4%	1.1	6.7	1.7			
Scenic Rim	37,415	49,140	64,629	1.7%	2.8%	2.8%	0.8	7.0	2.0			
Somerset	22,062	27,062	32,998	2.3%	2.1%	2.0%	1.1	5.2	1.5			
Total RDA	267,219	382,447	535,747	3.2%	3.7%	3.5%	1.5	9.2	2.5			
South East Queensland	3,008,780	3,130,526	3,973,449	2.1%	0.4%	1.4%	1.0	1.0	1.0			

1. An Quotient represents how strongly an area is represented in an occupation with the larger region

Source: ABS, OESR, Prepared by Urbis

Asset
Weakness

NOTE: THE QUOTIENT REPRESENTS THE FOLLOWING EQUATION FOR EACH INDICATOR: I&WM/SEQ. THIS REFLECTS THE RELATIVE STRENGTH OF THAT INDICATOR FOR I&WM COMPARED TO THE WIDER SEQ REGION

Looking at the demographic profile of the region, and the distribution of age groups, it is evident that there will be an increase in the ageing population, as is the trend across Australia, however, there will also be a balance of young people moving into and growing up in the area refer to Figure 23.

It is important to note that there is a significant proportion of the population which is not included in the labour force, i.e. Lots of young dependents and older population.



There is a good balance of older and younger people in the region; however, this does differ between jurisdictions, with more young people in the Ipswich LGA and older populations in the other four local government areas.

Although overall, there will be a higher proportion of older people, the region will be strong with a continued growth across all demographics, refer to Figure 24.

FIGURE 24 – RDA REGION DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

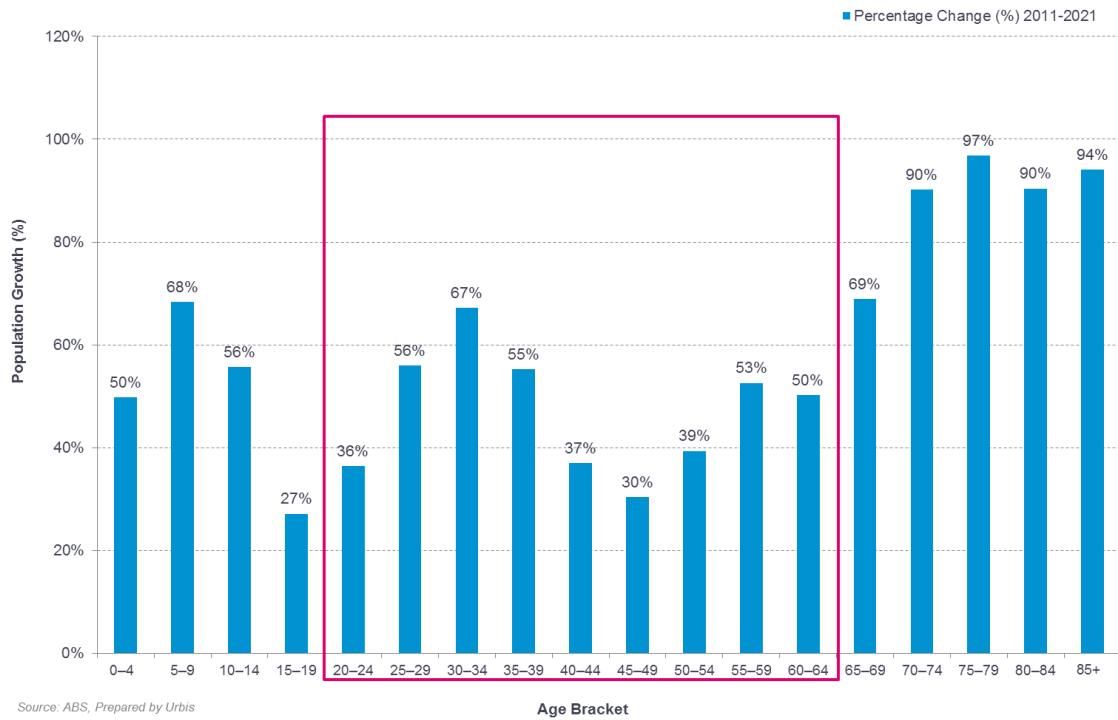




FIGURE 25 – PROJECTED POPULATION GROWTH BY AGE GROUP (2011-2021) RDA

Age Group Distribution- Census & Forecasting

RDA

Age Group	Census		Forecasting				Trend
	2006	2011	2016	2021	2026	2031	
0-4 years	7.2%	8.2%	8.1%	8.1%	7.9%	7.7%	
5-9 years	7.6%	7.0%	7.9%	7.8%	7.8%	7.6%	
10-14 years	8.1%	7.2%	6.6%	7.4%	7.3%	7.3%	
15-19 years	7.2%	7.3%	6.5%	6.1%	6.8%	6.8%	
20-24 years	6.5%	6.9%	6.8%	6.2%	5.9%	6.5%	
25-29 years	6.0%	6.8%	7.0%	6.9%	6.4%	6.1%	
30-34 years	6.7%	6.6%	7.0%	7.2%	7.1%	6.6%	
35-39 years	7.3%	6.7%	6.5%	6.9%	7.1%	7.0%	
40-44 years	7.6%	6.9%	6.4%	6.2%	6.5%	6.7%	
45-49 years	7.1%	7.0%	6.4%	6.0%	5.8%	6.1%	
50-54 years	6.5%	6.4%	6.4%	5.9%	5.5%	5.4%	
55-59 years	6.1%	5.8%	5.8%	5.8%	5.4%	5.0%	
60-64 years	4.8%	5.3%	5.1%	5.2%	5.2%	4.8%	
65-69 years	3.8%	4.0%	4.5%	4.4%	4.5%	4.5%	
70-74 years	2.7%	3.0%	3.3%	3.8%	3.8%	3.9%	
75-79 years	2.1%	2.1%	2.4%	2.7%	3.1%	3.2%	
80-84 years	1.5%	1.4%	1.5%	1.8%	2.0%	2.4%	
85 years and o	1.1%	1.3%	1.5%	1.7%	2.0%	2.4%	

Source: OESR; Prepared by Urbis

8.5 URBAN GROWTH

Across the I&WM region there is a significant supply of residential land with potential provision for around 132,000 dwellings, refer to Table 3. This is equivalent to approximately 22 years of residential supply. The majority of this (85%) is contained within the Ipswich LGA (112,000 dwellings).

TABLE 3 – DWELLINGS SUPPLY WITHIN THE RDA REGION

LOCALITY	SUPPLY (HECTARES)	SUPPLY (DWELLINGS)	YEARS OF SUPPLY
Ipswich LGA	8,320	112,000	23 years
Lockyer Valley LGA	3,610	9,000	20 years
Scenic Rim LGA	1,630	9,500	17 years
Somerset LGA	170	1,200	7 years
RDA-I&WM	13,730	131,700	22.4 years

Source: Queensland Government, Broad hectare Study 2009, Residential Land Development Activity Profiles, Sept 2012

Somerset LGA has the shortest supply timeline (7 years) however any potential excess demand for dwellings in this area is likely to be taken up by the adjacent Lockyer Valley LGA.



8.6 GOVERNMENT POLICY PRIORITIES AND INTERESTS IN THE REGION'S FUTURE GROWTH POTENTIAL

The *South East Queensland Regional Plan (SEQRP) 2009-2031* sets a framework for the overall development and growth of the I&WM region. The key outcomes of the SEQRP that shapes the priority areas for the RDA-I&WM are summarised below.

Population Growth Management

- Future residential growth is to be accommodated through infill development within the existing urban framework.
- Ripley Valley and Springfield recognised as major residential developments which will cater for significant population growth.
- An additional 118,000 residential dwellings are anticipated to be required in Ipswich by 2031.
- Lockyer Valley, Scenic Rim and Somerset residential dwelling numbers will also need to double from 33,000 to 66,000 by 2031 to cater for population growth.

Industrial Development in the Region

- Ebenezer, Purga and Bromelton recognised as key industrial growth areas with opportunities for increased employment.

Amberley Aerospace and Defence Developments

- Amberley Aerospace and Defence Support Centre recognised as a key Science and technology opportunity area.

In the past, the State Government has utilised this plan as a key document in determining infrastructure investment priorities, influencing local authority land use planning policy, and illustrating the growth and development priorities for the larger SEQ region. However, the government is programmed to prepare a new SEQ Regional Plan in late 2013, and it is currently being suggested that it will be a new format plan, rather than a revision of the current plan. The RDA-I&WM will seek to participate and contribute to the review of a policy which has guided development in the region for almost 10 years.

8.6.1 LOCAL GOVERNMENT INTERESTS

Each of the local authorities manage issues related to urban growth and the provision of services to their communities through their respective planning schemes. Each of the four local authorities is currently in the process of reviewing their planning schemes, which involves:

- undertaking assessments of the current provision of land for growth;
- the current carrying capacities of their local areas;
- the potential to alter policy related to how housing and services are provided to their respective communities; and
- Social Plan preparation (notably Scenic Rim Regional Council has already prepared their Social Plan. The remaining Councils are currently in the preparation of Social Plans).

The preparation of a community's planning scheme is important, and sets the rules and regulations for development within the communities for the next 5-7 years.



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Attachment 2

Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement



THE REGION'S KEY STAKEHOLDERS

The RDA-I&WM has been well engaged with stakeholders and the local community throughout the preparation of the RDA-I&WM Roadmap and Regional Profile. The RDA-I&WM has engaged with stakeholders and the local community through a series of workshops, meetings and forums.

The core stakeholder activities have included:

- stakeholder surveys;
- the regional leadership forum;
- members attendances at Government and community forums (e.g. QUU Customer and Community Reference Group); and
- meetings with the RDA Committee and Executive.

HOW STAKEHOLDERS CONTRIBUTED TO THE REGIONAL PLAN

Stakeholder surveys were issued to key stakeholders to distinguish priority areas for each entity and seek input into the ways in which the RDA can foster growth and change in these areas. More than 40 individual stakeholders were invited to respond to an online survey.

The stakeholders that responded to the survey included:

- University of Southern Queensland (USQ);
- Somerset Regional Council;
- Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning (DSDIP);
- Scenic Rim Regional Council;
- State Member of Parliament; and
- Worklinks.

The major insights from the Stakeholder Consultation in terms of the key regional assets, priorities, strengths and challenges, are outlined in the following graphic:



Major Regional Assets

- Agricultural land
- National Road Links
- Water Supply

Major Regional Challenges

- Capacity of transport infrastructure to support growth
- Provision of community services by public, private and community agencies

Key Strengths

- Strategic approach
- Strong community engagement and understanding of issues
- Shared vision amongst stakeholders

Major Achievements

- Strong support from RDA with successful grant applications
- Regional advocacy

Key Priorities

- Encourage appropriate infrastructure and investment to protect and enhance the food bowl
- Support population growth in the region which enhances its economic contribution to SEQ economy

Indicators of Success

- Increased labour force participation
- Increased proportion of homes with Broadband connections
- Increased proportion of tertiary education persons

Source: RDA-I&WM

HOW THE RDA COMMITTEE IS SUPPORTING EFFECTIVE CROSS-SECTORAL, INTERGOVERNMENTAL PARTNERSHIPS AND INTEGRATED REGIONAL PLANNING

The RDA-I&WM is currently playing a significant role in facilitating partnerships between governments, business, and the community and will further this role in the period of this Road Map. The RDA-I&WM's role in the promotion of the regional Digital Strategy, regional Food Strategy, and facilitation of the Regional Leaders Forum are evidence of this. Going forward the RDA-I&WM will play a role in facilitating cross government support for the development of the Amberley Aerospace Defence precinct, the recognition of the value of region's ecosystem services, and participate in the review of the South East Queensland Regional Plan to ensure the RDA-I&WM presents a coordinated and consistent vision.

STAKEHOLDER RELATIONSHIP BUILDING

REGIONAL LEADERSHIP FORUM

A Regional Leadership Forum was held on 7 May 2013 and was attended by various key stakeholders including local community leaders, local business owners, State and local government representatives, and community service providers. The forum raised several key discussion points including:

- Education and Employment



- Younger generations have different expectations of work and the workplace and require more feedback and creative opportunities
- Engagement with schools and industry in order to determine needs of workers and employers as well as specific skills requirements
- Partnerships with education institutions to provide work experience opportunities and real world projects as a way to engage young people as well as train future employees
- The agricultural sector is a critical component of the regional economy and there is a need to employ local people rather than outsourcing labour internationally
- Potential to include support for tourism projects by the RDA
- There is a strong push to include new technology and employment options to better service the region such as job-swap options to reduce commuting.
- Although technological integration is a key component, it is not the whole answer to employment opportunities
- Technology and Infrastructure
 - There is a need to develop familiarity with the options and tools in order to maximise on profitable opportunities and services
 - Education and support for older generations to increase use of technology
 - Internet or phone black spots create a major disadvantage to the community and the industry
 - There is a need for sustainable transport options in the region
- Community
 - The focus has moved from employment opportunities to population growth
 - The answers to local sustainability are always found locally
 - Small solutions for a greater benefit
- Government
 - There is a strong need to engage with the community in order to develop solutions to Government approaches and mechanisms
 - Increased awareness when dealing with Government red tape and inflexibility

COMMITTEE WORKSHOP

A workshop was held on 26 June 2013 for the RDA committee to gain more information about the direction for the Roadmap. The presenters highlighted the findings of the Regional Profile and stakeholder information in order to facilitate a discussion of the role of the RDA and the Roadmap. A summary of key discussion topics are summarised below:

Vision - The Vision for the Roadmap needs to be aspirational for the whole of the region and needs to concentrate on the non-negotiables to be achieved.



RDA Role - The most important priorities for achieving the role are:

- Maintaining and nurturing a constructive relationship with the regional community in a manner that has assisted the development of a widely-supported vision and strategy for the region
- Informing regional planning that identifies solutions which turn regional strengths and comparative advantages into a sustainable, innovative and competitive regional strategy and implements the vision for the region through the Regional Roadmap
- Encouraging strong partnerships across and between all three levels of government and the incorporation of a regional perspective into their agendas
- Raising regional awareness of government programs and encouraging applications from the region for the programs

Industrial Development - This priority is about industries having more resilience and responding to changes as they occur. We want to attract and facilitate the development of cleaner and higher value adding industries and be internationally competitive. We also need to focus on the lifestyle factor.

Amberley Aerospace and Defence Development - The aerospace precinct has to be developed within 5 years or the aerospace industry will leave SE Qld. We need an overarching strategy to encourage it in the region. More and more army personnel are being relocated to Ipswich. The Local Council and the community have fostered a strong relationship with the Air Force that the remaining Defence forces are also bringing Units into area. The role of the RDA will be to coordinate the three levels of government and to keep the focus on the air base in Canberra.

Food Bowl - We have this great asset, and should have access to reliable water and local labour. The Food Bowl strategy is looking into ways to maximise the asset. The Food Bowl strategy includes food and fibre, e.g., pharmaceutical, bio, energy, clothing. There is a tendency to concentrate on food in the Lockyer Valley as fibre products are not prolific.

Ecosystems - The objective is to get the correct balance between future prosperity and maintenance of natural assets that underpins that future prosperity.

Population Growth - This priority is about higher skilled employment, providing employment for people who live in the area, providing a mixed quality of dwelling and schools for people who live in the area. RDAIWM may not be able to be very influential in this area. If the emphasis is about managing the potential downsides of population growth, there is a role for RDAIWM to play as partnership/broker in bringing together service providers to work together collaboratively.

HOW THE RDA WILL REVIEW REGIONAL PRIORITIES, SUPPORTING ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

The Regional Profile has highlighted various priorities for the region including the largest Defence base in Australia, some of the most fertile land in the world, a huge water supply, and increasing valuable ecosystems. Risks to these assets are significant such as population growth and economic development, therefore it is crucial that the RDA develops a process to measure progress and protection of these assets. In addition, these assets are interconnected and it is where they interconnect that become the priorities.

The Road Map provides a series of Measures of Success against the RDA-I&WM's objectives and key actions. These will be monitored on an annual basis to assess progress towards the achievement of regional objectives. This will be undertaken by the RDA-I&WM Executive in association with RDA, the four local government organisations, and regional stakeholders. Data to assess these measures of



success will be derived from annual and quarterly government statistics, the Regional Australia Institutes Insight report, and regional stakeholder feedback.

Based on these annual assessments actions and initiatives will be adjusted to achieve greater alignment with the regional objectives.

The results of this assessment will be reviewed by the RDA-I&WM Board and presented publicly in a summary form.



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