

## Summary of Progress

State of the Shire reporting has demonstrated Council's determination and commitment to improved performance with this year's release of the annual update. We are pleased also to thank the members of the community who have continued to display their dedication and involvement this year, at meetings to discuss the update and in all the forms of help and support they provided.

The Update continues to describe the progress of the goals of the Benchmark Report, and to keep readers informed about those issues affecting the Shire. The State of the Shire in 2002 can be summarised as follows:

	2001	2002
<b>Biodiversity</b>	<b>B+</b>	<b>B-</b>
Flora and fauna remained at the same levels in the Shire. Advances were principally in planning. Some data was gathered, but a paucity in the knowledge of fauna remained.		
<b>Land Management</b>	<b>C+</b>	<b>B</b>
More information needs to be gathered on land use practices. Weed control, sustainable production, and progress toward integrated catchment management will help to improve the State of the Shire.		
<b>Water and Atmospheric Management</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>B-</b>
The completion of stormwater management planning will help to improve the quality of waterways.		
<b>Solid Waste Management</b>	<b>B+</b>	<b>B</b>
The management of waste continued to progress. Recycling was also a move forward.		
<b>The Shire Community</b>	<b>B-</b>	<b>B-</b>
A need for greater provision of community services exists. These were identified in the Community Needs analysis which will greatly assist future planning.		
<b>Economic Development</b>	<b>B-</b>	<b>B</b>
Diversification occurred to alleviate the present economic difficulties being experienced. Agriculture experienced a favourable year, but for cane the economic climate has not improved.		
<b>Council Activities</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>B+</b>
Council implemented planning and progress on a number of major projects. The provision of infrastructure and services continues to improve.		

In conclusion, the Shire saw gradual progress towards improvement of conditions for the community, natural environment and economy. Overall, the State of the Shire has not grown worse despite the pressures associated with the economy. Plans are underway towards the further improvement of all these aspects of our environment, in the year 2003.

## Acknowledgements

Johnstone Shire Council acknowledges and appreciates the efforts of the following organisations and their staff who have made this publication possible.

### Government

- Department of Natural Resources and Mines
- Department of Primary industries (incorporating Queensland Fisheries Service)
- Environmental Protection Agency (incorporating Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service)
- Queensland Police Service
- Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
- Families, Youth and Community Care
- Australian Bureau of Statistics
- Queensland Health
- Education Queensland
- Australian Institute of Marine Science

### Business/Industry

- Innisfail Chamber of Commerce
- Ports Corporation of Queensland
- Bureau of Sugar Experiment Stations
- Cassowary Coast development Bureau
- Johnstone College of TAFE
- Community Support Centre
- North Queensland Afforestation Inc.
- CANEGROWERS
- Bundaberg Sugar
- TransNorth
- Warrina Lakes
- Innisfail Historical Society
- The Art Deco Society

### Community Groups

- Community for Coastal and Cassowary Conservation (C4)
- Community Revegetation Volunteer Group
- Johnstone River Catchment Management Association
- Johnstone Ecological Society
- PCYC
- Johnstone Cultural Association

### Council Departments and Staff from:

- Environmental services
- Community services
- Corporate services
- Technical services
- Councillors

Thank you also to all those individuals who gave their time and effort to make the State of the Shire Update possible. Finally, our thanks to Tennille Catchpole for developing Johnstone's ongoing process of State of the Shire reporting.

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PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE ART DECO SOCIETY



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