



BOULIA SHIRE COUNCIL

Operational Plan 2026-2027

As adopted 30th June 2026, Resolution No.: 2026/B6.6

Key Priority 1: Roads

Boulia's future roads focus on sealing and strengthening key corridors like the Outback Way, improving safety, reducing isolation, and supporting freight, tourism, and regional growth. Priorities include all-weather access, efficient maintenance and long-term connectivity for residents and industry.

Description	Focus on sealing and strengthening key corridors such as the Outback Way to support all-weather access, recognising that reliable road networks are essential for accessing critical services, including health, while improving safety, connectivity and freight access and reducing isolation.
Outcome	Council will deliver improved outcomes aligned to community priorities. Deliver quality outcomes on all roads (Shire and State) within quality assurance guidelines. Develop, manage and maintain Council controlled roads infrastructure to sustain and improve connectivity and safety. Outback Way sealing program is being completed in line with budget allocation and works program.
Measures	• Increase sealed road network coverage by 2031 • Deliver annual maintenance program aligned to priorities • Advocate for external funding for upgrades • Cultural heritage clearances are sought during the planning process for construction activities • Road network inspections completed • Shire roads are maintained within budget allocation and in line with annual works program • Regular updates - progress reports on actuals and acquittals • Queensland Reconstruction Authority and Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) Flood events are captured, completed and acquitted with 'value for money' principles • Advocate for the Donohue Highway (as part of the Outback Way) ownership

Key Priority 2: Community

The future of community in Boulia centres on livability, wellbeing and connection. Key initiatives include stronger local services, youth engagement, support for families and elders, and creating vibrant shared spaces that keep Boulia welcoming, healthy and resilient.

Description	Enhancing liveability, wellbeing and connection through services, events shared spaces, and improved facilities, with strong community engagement and increased activities for families, youth and elders.
Outcome	Council will deliver improved outcomes aligned to community priorities.
Measures	• Maintain existing facilities • Increase community engagement participation • Improve communication responsiveness • Strong, connected, Boulia, what makes us memorable • More services that support our community • Spaces where kids, families and elders feel at home • Events and activities that bring us together • A resilient, proud community that backs each other • Develop and implement initiatives to encourage the community to become more informed and involved in issues that may affect them • Assist local community groups and support local events • actively work with all indigenous groups • active inclusive communities • Encourage volunteering and recognise volunteers who support events throughout the year. • Develop and implement a community engagement strategy

Key Priority 3: Tourism

Tourism growth will build on Boulia's unique identity - Min Min Lights, Camel Races, heritage, and big-sky outback experiences. The focus is on boosting visitor numbers, improving facilities, expanding year-round tourism, and strengthening Boulia's reputation as an iconic outback destination.

Description	Building on Boulia's unique identity including Min Min Lights and Camel Races, while also leveraging campdrafts, gymkhanas, rodeos and outback hospitality experiences to grow visitor numbers and extend tourism year-round.
Outcome	Council will deliver improved outcomes aligned to community priorities.
Measures	• Implement marketing initiatives • Support local tourism initiatives and events • Promote tourism as an economic driver for the shire • All opportunities used to increase the shires exposure to the tourism market. • capture, preserve and promote the heritage and diverse cultures of our region • develop and implement new tourism plan and marketing strategy

Key Priority 4: Employment & Housing

Boulia's future workforce relies on attracting skilled workers, supporting local training and ensuring affordable, quality housing. Priorities include modular housing, essential worker accommodation, and partnerships that grow long-term employment and support population stability.

Description	Attracting skilled workers through training and local job pathways while expanding access to affordable and suitable housing, including modular homes and essential worker accommodation to stabilise the population and retain talent.
Outcome	Council will deliver improved outcomes aligned to community priorities. Partner with other organisations who can deliver training to improve prospects of future employment roles within Council. Develop and maintain a positive and future focused culture that demonstrates and supports Council's vision and values Facilitate housing and investment to support employment opportunities Develop and maintain housing that meets the needs of the community now and into the future
Measures	• Increase housing availability • Support workforce attraction initiatives • Develop local training pathways • Develop and implement a robust Asset Management Strategy to support effective long-term asset management. • Council housing is sustainable and is suitable to meet demands

Key Priority 5: Water

Water security remains a core priority, with a focus on long-term supply, improved storage, treatment upgrades, and planning for population and industry growth. Sustainable water management underpins Boulia's resilience and future development.

Description	Ensuring long-term water security through improved supply, storage, treatment and sustainable management practices.
Outcome	Council will deliver improved outcomes aligned to community priorities.
Measures	• Implement long-term water planning • Improve supply reliability through necessary upgrades to water storage, treatment and delivery infrastructure • Maintain compliance with standards • Apply practical water conservation practices • Provide sustainable and water and wastewater services for the communities within the Shire • Advocate for funding for infrastructure upgrades • Develop and report on a fully functioning strategic asset management plan to support effective long-term asset management • Environmentally Relevant Activities and associated annuals returns/reporting are submitted

Key Priority 6: Economic Development

Economic development will leverage Boulia's strategic position on the Outback Way, supporting freight, tourism, small business, and emerging industries. The goal is a diverse, sustainable economy that strengthens the region and creates new opportunities.

Description	Leveraging Boulia's strategic position along the Outback Way – the opportunity highway – to support local small business, strengthen tourism and freight, foster new industries and partnerships that underpin a more diverse and sustainable economy.
Outcome	Council will deliver improved outcomes aligned to community priorities.
Measures	• Deliver economic development initiatives • Support key industries • Strengthen partnerships • develop an economic profile and prospectus to showcase Boulia as a place for future investment • Regular reporting on projects and acquittals • Facilitate land and infrastructure development that meets the needs of the community and fits with the financial constraints of Council, key stakeholders including State and Federal governments • Ensure Town Planning Scheme accommodates appropriate land/zonings for future commercial/ industrial establishment and growth • Maintain a high quality of life by providing facilities and resources that encourage a secure, interactive and progressive community lifestyle • Advocate and Facilitate health and medical service provision • Facilitate land and infrastructure planning and development that meets the needs of the community • Actively support networks and partnerships between local businesses, industry groups, relevant organisations and State and Federal government agencies • actively work with all indigenous groups