Place Based Regional Planning and Development in Northern Australia

+ Barriers to and Enablers of Economic Development

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Limitations of Remote

– The greatest limitation of being remote – is being called remote!!

– Populations in remote towns are characterised by their high levels of ‘disadvantage’ and low levels of advantage.

– Disadvantage is measured as a SEIFA score - that focuses on low-income earners, relatively lower education attainment, high unemployment and dwellings without motor vehicles.

– Policy to created to address the ‘problems of remote’.

– You don’t need an education if there are no jobs, you don’t own a house or land because you can’t and you don’t need a car – because you can walk around your town!
No Remote Control

– Impacts of the simplistic hub and spoke model of infrastructure and service delivery. Works well for government budgeting. Just horrible for making remote towns attractive to move to.

– Made worse when LGA’s can’t control these – eg education and health services
This presentation will provide an overview of the community planning process that Cloncurry Shire Council undertook to address some of its bigger issues.

Essentially, they wanted to figure out how to make Cloncurry more liveable and attractive to secure a larger population. They already know that the state works on a population infrastructure ratio—despite being a significant contributor to state revenues via the 5 largest hard rock mines in Q (royalties).
Where is Cloncurry?
Where is Cloncurry?
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About Cloncurry?

- Cloncurry Shire has an area of 48,112 km²
- Estimated resident population of 3,492 persons June 30 2011. ERP of 3,413 June 2013
- At 30 June 2013 – 19.4% of persons in the region were aged 0 to 14 years, 73.7% were aged 15 to 64 years and 6.9% were aged 65 years and over.
- As at 30 June 2013, the median age for the region was 33.9 years, an increase of 4 years over the seven year period from 30 June 2006 to 30 June 2013.
About Cloncurry?

• 21.8% of total population are of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin (661 persons)
• At the time of the 2011 Census, 36.6 per cent of the population were in the most disadvantaged quintile, and 0.0 per cent in the least disadvantaged quintile.
• 43.7 per cent of all persons aged 15 years and over had achieved year 11/12 education
• 2014 June quarter - unemployment rate of 4.6% (Cairns is about 7.4%)
• At the time of the 2011 Census, Mining was the largest industry of employment for usual residents in the region, with 319 persons or 19.1% of the employed labour force.
• At the time of the 2011 Census, Machinery operators & drivers was the largest occupation group of employment for usual residents in the region, with 330 persons or 19.7 per cent of the employed labour force.
Population Description

- In the working age bracket there were more males than females = 143 males: 100 females
- Income inequity throughout the shire – eg Dajarra and Phosphate Hill
- Couple families with children has decreased over time and has been replaced with lone, group and other types – implications for education and health services.
- High migration of youth (15-19 years) leave to pursue secondary and tertiary education and do not return
- SIA indicate no housing stress or affordability issues – but our research proved otherwise.
Procedural Elements: from Q Local Government Community Services Association (Community Planning Tool Kit)
Formal Community Consultation undertaken for the Cloncurry Community Plan

1. Scoping Study in March 2011 with CSIRO provided us with 6 themes to pursue and validate with the community – liveability, amenity, economic success, integrated infrastructure, governance and engagement and Environment and sustainability.

2. Community Survey in June – August 2011
   - A total of 1087 surveys were distributed in the Township, including the caravan parks. A total of 171 completed surveys were returned within the timeframe allowed to conduct data analysis, this amounts to a return rate of 15.7 percent.

3. Surveys to FIFO camps in June to September 2011
   - Total of 1445 distributed and 468 received – response rate of 32%

4. Consultation with school students – August 2011
   - Workshopping with every class in the Shire – to determine what the students like about Cloncurry and what they think could be done to improve Cloncurry.
   - Students from grades 1 to 7 were asked to draw a picture of the thing(s) that they like most about Cloncurry.
   - Students in grade 7 from Cloncurry SS and Dajarra SS were asked to take photographs of the things they liked and the things they thought could be enhanced to make the Shire a better place to live.
   - Students from grades 7-12 were asked to complete a short survey: what job would they be doing in 2030, where would they be living, and if not in Cloncurry in 2030 why not.

5. Interviews with Key informants – Dajarra, Kajabbi residents, flying padre and Council staff
The Have Nots

— Youth of Cloncurry

Survey grades 7 to 12

The final survey questions were aimed at students who may have had the opportunity to think about their future. This survey sought to gauge the impressions of what the future holds for Cloncurry youth currently enrolled in high school. Three questions were asked:

1. What type of job do you think you will be doing in 2030;

2. Where do you think you will be living and working in the year 2030 (where would you like to be); and

3. If you don’t think you will be in Cloncurry in 2030 – why not.

A total of 88 surveys were completed. The responses to these questions provide an insight to the education and training that would be required to satisfy their career aspirations and to determine the likelihood of remaining in Cloncurry through their adult years (and if not a reason as to why).
The career aspirations of the students attending secondary students attending Cloncurry State School ranged from no professional career to being a doctor. The results conclude that of the 118 listed options (some listed nil and others up to 4 options), 43 (36%) of the listed professions required tertiary qualifications and of those slightly under half required advanced senior mathematics and science as university entry pre-requisites. There were twenty eight students who had indicated a preference for tertiary education.

Of the twenty eight students (32%) who indicated their preference for professions that require a tertiary education 10 were males and 18 females. The careers requiring a tertiary education included teaching (n=4), Science such as Veterinarian, Nursing or Doctor (n=14), Engineering (n=3), Anthropology (n=1), Business (n=1), Writing (n=2), Police Social work (n=1), (n=2), Art/fashion/design/photography (n=9), Psychology (n=1), Property Management (n=1) and Inventor (n=1).

Twenty two students (25%) maintain that they would like to enter a trade. Of this 11 females indicated a preference for hairdressing and 11 males indicated a diverse range of trades such as electrical (n=3), carpentry (n=3), mechanical including diesel (n=3), plumbing (n=1), boilermaker (n=1) and Chef (n=1).
Should I stay or should I go?

– Due to the policy and funding provided by the Queensland Education Department (ie hub and spoke), the Cloncurry State School P-12 is limited in its ability to provide a diverse range of subjects taught face to face. Students who wish to study senior mathematics or science must do this externally via Distance Education and virtual schooling.

– The students who possess a different learning style ie visual group learner as opposed to verbal solitary learner are disadvantaged in their ability to satisfy their career aspirations because of a policy decision made at a state level.

– This means that the parents of children wanting to pursue a science or mathematics based tertiary education must either move the entire family to the location of a school or send the child to boarding school. Unfortunately this latter option is only available to parents who are able to afford to send their children away to boarding school.
Consultation with youth: words, illustrations and cameras!

Dajarra

Strategies from the illustrations: Did we see what you said?
Strategy D1: Support and promote family based outdoor lifestyle of Dajarra residents.
Strategy D2: The playground in the park is to be constructed and maintained to meet safety requirements and provide amenity values to the township.
Strategy D3: Support the school administration in the delivery of extra curricula activities to the students of Dajarra such as visiting the Mt Isa pool and attending inter school sports competitions.
Strategy D4: Redevelop the Town Park and playground and include a BBQ area, picnic tables and toilet block.
Strategy D5: Secure access to a reliable bus to enable students to attend a range of extra curricula activities outside of Dajarra.

Strategy D6: Construct a BMX track to extend around the perimeter of the Skate Park.
Strategy D7: Enlist the assistance of the students in the painting of the facilities at the Skate Park.
Strategy D8: The school ovals are to be made operational, the irrigation system needs to be fixed and maintained, and the fields are to be mowed and maintained to enable the students to have access to participation in field based sports activities.
Strategy D9: Assist the school to acquire a range of sports equipment.
Strategy D10: Assist the school to gain the funds to construct and maintain a swimming pool.
Strategy D11: Review the Rodeo Grounds to determine maintenance priorities and secure funds and labour to undertake works.
Dajarra Likes
Dajarra likes
Dajarra likes
Dajarra dislike
Dajarra dislikes
Consultation with youth in Cloncurry:

Strategies from the Illustrations:
Did we see what you said?

Strategy C1: Incorporation of Crime Prevention through Urban Design (CPTUD) principles in the Planning scheme and landscaping/design of parks and school grounds.

Strategy C2: Managing stray and dangerous roaming animals.

Strategy C3: Promote and implement policies to create safe home environments and 'pride in home and neighbourhood' specifically to control weeds and grass height (to reduce snake cover and vermin infestations).

Strategy C4: Social support services to assist families in crisis such as housing, financial and emotional stress.

Strategy C5: Ensure access to dams for recreation and nature appreciation activities.

Strategy C6: Protect the landscape to ensure that the environmental and recreation values for local residents are maintained and enhanced.

Strategy C7: Protect and enhance the outdoor lifestyle including the ability to ride a motor bike, hunt for pigs, go fishing and ride horses.

Strategy C8: Continue to host a full range of community events throughout the year (not just in winter).

Strategy C9: Actively promote the unique and positive qualities of the Shire that confirm its value to the residents.

Strategy C10: Continue to promote this motto as this gives the young people an understanding of what it means to live in Cloncurry and what is expected of them as residents living in the Friendliest Town in the North West.

Strategy C11: Include youth in all consultation processes that affect the form and function of the built environment in Cloncurry – specifically sport and recreation infrastructure.

Strategies from the comments you made:
Did we hear what you said?

Strategy C12: Undertake a comprehensive recreation Master Plan for Chinaman’s Creek Dam.

Strategy C13: Implement the Chinaman’s Creek Recreation Master Plan.

Strategy C14: Upgrade the skate park to an in ground skate BOWL that is challenging for scooters, install seating, drinking taps, access to toilets, lighting, extensive shade cover and rubbish bins.

Strategy C15: Undertake review of POYC facilities and review the use of associated recreation facilities and activities and commence planning for future redevelopment of the site.

Strategy C16: Revamp Town Park by removing the old toilet block and replacing it with a smaller unit that is located to the side boundary of the park. Upgrade the playground equipment (and fix the flying fox) and erect shade cover, remove the basketball hoop (no one uses it anymore), remove the weeds in the grass, install more seating and a drinking tap.

Strategy C17: Upgrade the surface of the football oval to be flat, grassed and all pricides removed and install new goal posts.

Strategy C18: Upgrade the grandstands at the Showground (adjacent to football oval).

Strategy C19: Police, Council, landowners and riders investigate options for riding motor bikes on land that is safe and legally accessible from the township area.

Strategy C20: Provision should be made for a future shopping complex in Cloncurry within the planning scheme and located in close proximity to the business district.

Strategy C21: Identify preferred locations for the fast food and retail outlets within the Cloncurry planning scheme.

Strategy C22: Investigate an alternative air conditioned cinema space for the cinema operator to use in the summer months.

Strategy C23: Take action to ensure that the young people of Cloncurry have equal access to education services that addresses different learning styles and infrastructure as their city based peers.

Strategy C24: Seek funding arrangements/partnerships to secure the full time employment of a qualified science and mathematics teacher.

Strategy C25: Implement the Local Decisions: stronger school communities’ policy to address unmet aspirations for secondary education.

Strategy C26: The Shire of Cloncurry initiate a youth employment task force that includes industry, businesses, TAFE and workplace training organisations to ensure that training opportunities are available to the local residential workforce.
Cloncurry likes
Cloncurry dislikes
What I like most: the new garden
What I like most: family, sunshine, dad cooking
What I like about Cloncurry:

- The Trees
- The Rocks
- The wildlife
- The Dam
What I like most: pigging, fishing and football
What I like most: trucks
What I like most: the roads
Young people have something to say
How to attract and retain a permanent mining residential workforce in the Cloncurry Shire?

The Haves

• Attracting a permanent residential mining workforce to Cloncurry Shire would enable the type of population growth that levers more secure revenue base for a range of essential services and infrastructure. One of the greatest challenges facing the Shire administration is funding the provision of services and at levels that are prescribed by the state, in addition to those demanded by the resident population.

• Evidence suggests that out migration of permanent population is attributed to a lack of state controlled services for specific age cohorts for example secondary school education.
Results of LDC study

- The age of the LDC ranged from 19 to 65
- Half of the sample possessed a certificate or trade qualification and one quarter a tertiary qualification
- Two thirds of the sample was single
- 85% of the total sample was male
- Nearly 100% (99.4%) of the LDC sampled for this study (n=468) were temporary residents in the Shire (ie.0.6% were permanent residents in Cloncurry).  
- Of those temporary residents, 96% flew to and from work at the commencement and completion of each roster rotation, with 50% starting the journey from the Townsville airport.
Would they move closer to work in the Cloncurry Shire?
The vast majority (94.6%) indicated that they had no intention of moving closer to work in the Shire. With results such as these it is not possible to derive statistically valid reasons to describe precisely why the LDC workers would not move.
General conclusions and inferences can be made to indicate some of the major impediments to establishing a permanent residential workforce. These included:
1. Lack of Recreation and Entertainment (48.5%)
2. Family won’t move (46.3%)
3. Lack of services (36.6%)
4. Lack of job opportunities for partner (32%)
5. Lack of Education opportunities (30%)
## Livability Scale

<table>
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<th>Livability Scale</th>
<th>Importance of Home</th>
<th>Perceptions of Cloncurry*</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>3.41</td>
<td>3.51</td>
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<td>2. Play grounds are attractive and maintained</td>
<td>3.04</td>
<td>2.7</td>
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<td>3. Strong community spirit</td>
<td>3.32</td>
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<td>3.85</td>
<td>2.82</td>
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<td>3.74</td>
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* Removed all ‘don’t know’ responses from the calculations.
What does this mean? Overall sample

When the sample is averaged out the results found that the reasons why LDC chose to live and continue to live in their place of residence include:
1. Hospital is well serviced with doctors and facilities (4.12)
2. A safe place to live (4.12)
3. Accessible specialist medical services (4.00)

The LDC perceptions of Cloncurry Shire to supply these attributes were at least one scale item different and lower. This means that the LDC did not believe that Cloncurry Shire possesses these attributes and highlights these three as priority issues to address.
Married vs Single

There were no statistical differences between married and single LDC workers – all believed health and safety were most important attributes to describe why they lived where they did. Additional strategies are needed to address the married LDC demand for other important attributes included:

1. Great place for young families
2. Places to go fishing and camping
3. Plenty of jobs for people who want to work
4. Education facilities that meet the needs of the future
5. Accessible
6. Regular and affordable air transport

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What does all this mean?

The results from the community surveys including the youth showed us that residents are quite capable of identifying what is great about their town and what needs to be fixed. Remote places are actually loved places by the people who live in them!!

The results also show us that the temporary residents are not willing to move to Cloncurry permanently because of a lack of social infrastructure and services.

What does this mean – it means that both the community and the temporary residents are able to identify just what needs to be done to make Cloncurry an attractive place to live.

It also shows that Cloncurry shire are not able to control their future because of state controlled infrastructure and services, land tenure and governance arrangements – the hub and spoke model!

It means we need a new way of doing things to stimulate development in remote areas.
So what is a Place Based Approach?

1. It is not industry led development (ie for Cloncurry the mining sector does not determine future trajectories) nor is it territorialism – as land outside the township is leasehold.

2. It is not a hub and spoke model for service delivery (this is called top down approach)

3. It is not entirely community based (this can be too inward looking particularly for economic development)

4. But it is a mix of regionalism and localism
How does Place Based Planning work?

Start with the local level:
What is the spatial extent of the area that each locality identifies with? And for what purposes (think network theory)

• Where are we now
• Where do we want to be in the future (x# years)

- Collate all of the ‘where do we want to be’s
- Identify the synergies
- Undertake resource (asset) x suitability assessment (using Flora’s 7 capitals as a guide)
Then what?

- Identify the opportunities (supply) and where these are located (throughout all of the localities). How do these relate to the social, environmental, economic and cultural networks that operate between the settlements?
- Ask ourselves: Is there a market for this – demand analysis. This requires the market to be involved in the process. Local communities must engage with the consumers of their products to understand what it is they need to supply and how to supply.
- Formulate potential strategies
- Assess these strategies against the ‘Where we want to be criteria’
- Select the strategy that best meets the local community’s aspirations for their future
- Collate the all of the strategies within the region – ie the spatial extent of the area that the localities identify with (networks).
- Then determine what the regional strengths are, how the region will compete in the global market place (relative to all other regions).
- What strategic infrastructure is required to facilitate development
- How to sequence infrastructure to stimulate development.