

## Project Progress Report

**Project:** Community Support  
**Reporting Period:** April/May 2009  
**Lead Agency:** Department of Communities  
**Agency Contact/s:** Mr Peter Ryan, Ms Wendy Keeton

### Project Objective

To deliver immediate and ongoing community support and specialised community development and engagement activities and provide a coordinated response to the social needs of the communities affected by the proposed Traveston Crossing and Wyaralong Dams.

### Summary of Progress

In April/May 2009, the Department of Communities has:

- provided information/referral and case management services to Mary Valley community members and organisations at the Kandanga One Stop Shop (KOSS);
- funded Lifeline counselling services in the Mary Valley (full-time service) and Boonah (as needed); and
- managed community development activities/projects and assisted with community funding applications.

### Activity Report

#### TRAVESTON CROSSING DAM

- **Kandanga One Stop Shop (KOSS) community contacts**
  - Since establishment of the department's services in Kandanga to 24 April 2009 inclusive there have been 6,131 (previously 5,074 at 20/3/09) community contacts in relation to the proposed Traveston Crossing Dam.
  - In late March and up to 24 April 2009, there were 35 contacts comprising 28 community development and project contacts (80% of total) and 7 referrals/information enquiries (20% of total). Other contacts at the KOSS related to operational activities.
- **Regional Services Forum:**
  - Regional Services Forum meetings scheduled for March and April were postponed due to departmental community recovery activities.
  - The following priority projects are being implemented by Regional Services Forum members:
    - Mary Valley Inc. – viability planning and ongoing community development support;
    - Queensland Government Agent Program (QGAP) – establishment of QGAP agency at the Kandanga Post Office to enhance government service provision

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in the Mary Valley (launch date: 7 May 2009) (Department of Communities (Smart Service Queensland)/Community Futures Task Force);

- Oral History Project – recording and preserving local history and unique experiences of Mary Valley residents (revised timeframe: June 2009 to coincide with Q150 celebrations) (Department of Communities/Community Futures Task Force);
- “Building Prosperity in the Mary” – a shorter form of the Building Rural Leaders program to stimulate new leadership skills within the agricultural sector including providers in the supply chain (e.g. farmers, fencers, slashers, rural produce agents etc). The project consists of a number of short workshops (1-2 days in duration) on a monthly basis over 4-6 months (Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries).
- The next meeting of the Regional Services Forum is scheduled for 14 May 2009.
- **Community development/capacity building:**
- Priority community development projects progressed during March/April 2009 included:
  - Community and Business Hub
  - Social Enterprise
  - Village Renewal
  - Transport strategic planning
  - Transport Council & QT proposal
  - Bus Shelter Renewal
  - Cycle Paths
  - Art Gallery – funding application awaiting approval
  - Oral History – funding applications, conference and book proposal
  - Mary Valley Inc – Strategic Planning and Sustainability Strategy
  - Kandanga Information Centre – Viability Strategy and Administrative Planning
  - Kandanga Hall – painting and funding - applications for equipment
  - Trainee – event organiser application and discussions (through DEIR and University of Sunshine Coast)
- The Community Development and Engagement Officer, at the KOSS, assisted community organisations with seven funding applications in March/April 2009.
- **Counselling:**

In March 2009, Lifeline met with 10 new counselling clients, conducted 56 personal and financial counselling sessions and facilitated a six-part journaling workshop and a parenting workshop.
- **Case Management:**

During the reporting period, the Case Manager worked with a small number of clients on issues mainly surrounding housing, finance and employment.

### WYARALONG DAM

- Since establishment of the department's services in Boonah to 24 April 2009 inclusive there have been 245 community contacts in relation to the proposed Wyaralong Dam, with 20 contacts recorded during March/April 2009.

### Key Milestones

Project	Date to be Achieved	Project Components
Mary Valley Inc.	Ongoing December 2009 March 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assistance with strategic planning, organisational management and projects;</li> <li>• Audit of community skills and resources;</li> <li>• Main Street beautification.</li> </ul>
Imbil Revitalisation Projects (Imbil Community/Business Hub/Incubator)	April 2009 June 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raising of Show Society Hall premises to build offices and meeting rooms underneath;</li> <li>• Developing a strategy for use of the office space to generate income for the Show Society and enhance future sustainability.</li> </ul>
Imbil Development Group	June 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Viability strategy/vision planning;</li> <li>• Relocalisation project (meeting needs locally).</li> </ul>
Kandanga Information Centre	June 2009 June 2009 Ongoing September 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Considering funding sources; developing website content.</li> <li>• Strategic planning with artist.</li> <li>• Strategic planning for long-term viability of the information centre.</li> <li>• Project planning; identifying funding sources; and developing funding applications.</li> </ul>
Youth	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Various educational and entertainment activities.</li> </ul>
Mary Valley Hall Upgrades	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upgrading of Brooloo, Imbil, Kandanga and Amamoor Halls</li> </ul>
Mary Valley Oral History	May 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recording and transcription of oral stories;</li> <li>• Completion of digital DVD;</li> <li>• Identifying funding sources for a book;</li> <li>• Oral history launch and community celebration;</li> <li>• Funding application for National Conference attendance.</li> </ul>

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Project	Date to be Achieved	Project Components
Community Gardens	June 2009  June 2009  Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kandanga community garden currently being established;</li> <li>• Funding application sent in for the Stephanie Alexander School Garden program from Mary Valley College;</li> <li>• Community garden projects for other communities will depend on availability of community input and land and water availability.</li> </ul>
Mary Valley Art Gallery (Imbil)	Mid-2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refurbishment and development of the old Imbil church building to house artworks.</li> </ul>
Community Transport Strategy	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Determining viability and funding of options identified in the needs analysis (completed October 2008).</li> </ul>
Aged Care Strategy	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Determining viability and funding of options identified in the needs analysis (completed November 2008). A stakeholder Committee is being formed.</li> </ul>

### Revised Milestones

Outcome	Date to be Achieved	Status
Queensland Government Agent Program (QGAP)	Completed	Official launch planned for 7 May 2009.

### Stakeholder Consultation

- The department continues to work effectively with regional agencies, local organisations and individuals and has ongoing consultation with:
  - Community Futures Task Force (CFTF) unit (community issues and social impact planning);
  - Queensland Water Infrastructure Pty Ltd (QWI) (local issues);
  - State Government agency regional staff (Mary Valley projects and core service delivery);
  - Lifeline Sunshine Coast and Lifeline Ipswich and West Moreton (service provision to residents affected by the proposed dams);
  - Mary Valley residents and organisations (specifically Mary Valley Inc.) (community-based projects, case management and information/referrals);
  - Gympie Regional Council staff and local counsellors (project initiatives);
  - Scenic Rim Regional Council and Fassifern Community Centre (monthly consultation on contacts about the Wyaralong Dam and requests for services).
- Monthly meetings of the Regional Services Forum are held to monitor and address issues of concern to Mary Valley residents and progress projects.
- Monthly Regional Services Forum reports are provided to the Sunshine Coast Regional Managers' Coordination Network to ensure that Mary Valley issues remain a priority for the region.

## Project Progress Report

**Project:** Imbil Recreation Area – Concept Master Plan and Impact Assessment

**Reporting Period:** 6 April to 11 May 2009

**Lead Agency:** Department of Communities, Sport and Recreation Services (formerly Department of Local Government, Sport and Recreation)

**Collaborating Agency/Organisation:** Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation, Gympie Regional Council (GRC), Community Futures Task Force (CFTF).

**Agency Contacts:** Matthew Horder (Senior Development Officer), Stephen White (North Coast Area Manager)

### Project Objective

The purpose of the project is to examine the demand for and possible uses of the Imbil Recreation Area, a 9.4 hectare parcel of land adjacent to the existing Mary Valley Showgrounds in Imbil. The planning project will provide a Concept Master Plan for future development of recreation activities at the Imbil Recreation Area, investigate the economic and community impacts of the facility on Imbil and surrounding communities and determine the feasibility of establishing activities that may attract and support regional, State or National events.

- The Gympie Regional Council was briefed on the Final Concept Master Plan and Impact Assessment Study Report on 25 March 2009. Council will now consider its options in implementing the findings of the study.
- This now completes the master planning process and finalises the project. The Department will continue to support Gympie Regional Council in implementing the findings through normal service delivery.
- Also, the Department will continue to provide advice and assistance to the Gympie Regional Council in developing sport and recreation opportunities for people in the Mary Valley.

**This project will not be the subject of any further Community Futures Task Force Project Progress Reports.**

## Project Progress Report

**Project:** Land Use and Infrastructure Planning Study for the Proposed Traveston Crossing Dam

**Reporting Period:** from 6 April to 11 May 2009

**Lead Agency:** Department of Infrastructure and Planning

**Agency Contact:** Fiona Bailey

### Project Objective

The Land Use and Infrastructure Planning Study for the proposed Traveston Crossing Dam will assist in informing a long-term land use plan and infrastructure program for the Mary Valley region. This will include investigating the impacts of the proposed dam on existing land uses and settlement patterns in addition to identifying and assessing options for locating future land uses and infrastructure.

### Summary of Progress

The Department of Infrastructure and Planning is currently reviewing the draft Land Use and Infrastructure Planning Study for the proposed Traveston Crossing Dam.

The review will ensure the draft Land Use and Infrastructure Planning Study is consistent with Gympie Regional Council and Sunshine Coast Regional Council boundaries and planning priorities, and better reflects the Traveston Crossing Dam project as presented in the Environmental Impact Statement currently under consideration by the Coordinator-General.

### Key Milestone

Outcome	Date to be Achieved
Discuss draft Terms of Reference for review of draft Land Use and Infrastructure Planning Study with Gympie Regional Council	May 2009
Results of review to be presented to Department of Infrastructure and Planning.	July 2009
Public Release of draft Land Use and Infrastructure Planning Study	To follow assessment of the Environmental Impact Statement of the Traveston Crossing dam, should the State and Federal Government approve the dam.

### Activities outstanding at end of reporting period

- Completion of the draft and finalised Land Use and Infrastructure Planning Study for the Traveston Crossing Dam as proposed by the Environmental Impact Statement currently under consideration.

### Achievements to Date

- Provided feedback to community members on information obtained at community meetings;
- Responded to community/other stakeholder questions regarding land use issues in the Mary Valley region and obtained community feedback on general land use issues within the Mary Valley region;
- Presented draft township concept plans to the Imbil and Kandanga communities;

## Community Futures Task Force

- Obtained community feedback on land use issues affecting Federal State School. In particular, impacts associated with proposed highway realignment;
- Sourced and co-ordinated relevant consultants to undertake technical projects associated with progressing the Land Use and Infrastructure Planning Study for the proposed Traveston Crossing Dam;
- Consulted with the relevant shire councils, State agencies and Queensland Water Infrastructure to discuss land use and infrastructure planning matters in relation to the draft Land Use and Infrastructure Planning Study;
- Prepared an update and response to 'Frequently Asked Questions and Answers' in relation to the Land Use and Infrastructure Planning Study for the Community Futures Task Force Newsletter – Issue 14; and
- Planning officers from the Department of Infrastructure and Planning and the Gympie Regional Council met to discuss strategic planning issues, in January 2009.

### Stakeholder Consultation

Stakeholder	Date	Outcome of Consultation
Kandanga	21 Nov 2006	Obtain community feedback on general land use issues
Imbil/Brooloo	5 Dec 2006 (6pm to 8pm)	
Carters Ridge	7 Dec 2006 (6pm to 8pm)	
Federal	21 March 2007 (6pm to 8pm)	
Carters Ridge	26 March 2007 (6pm to 8pm)	
Kandanga	28 March 2007 (6pm to 9pm)	
Federal – school community	3 April 2007 (3pm to 5pm)	Obtain community feedback on land use issues affecting Federal State School
Imbil/Brooloo	4 April 2007 (6pm to 8pm)	Obtain community feedback on general land use issues
Kandanga	11 April 2007 (6pm to 9pm)	
Imbil/Brooloo	2 May 2007 (6pm to 8pm)	Present draft township Concept Plans to community
Federal – school community	3 May 2007 (3pm to 5pm)	Obtain community feedback on land use issues affecting Federal State School. In particular, impacts associated with proposed highway realignment
Federal	9 May 2007 (6pm to 8pm)	Obtain community feedback on general land use issues
Kandanga	29 May 2007 (6pm to 8pm)	Present draft township Concept Plans to community
Gympie	22 July 2008	Briefed Gympie Regional Council on draft Planning Study
Kandanga/ Imbil	To date numerous meetings have been held with reference groups from Kandanga and Imbil on land use planning issues	

## **Project Progress Report**

**Project:** Economic Futures – and Business Adjustment Scheme and Worker Assistance Program

**Reporting Period:** 6 April to 11 May 2009

**Lead Agency:** Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation

**Agency Contacts:** Gary Warrener, Lynne Wilbraham, David Stubbin, Lara Tabua, Celena Ross, Shaun Leggate, Ron Everest

### **Project Objective**

To assist the communities in the vicinity of the proposed Traveston Crossing and Wyaralong Dams to gain significant economic benefit from these projects and associated infrastructure works; to assist businesses and workers impacted by the government's decision to build the dams; and to provide information and build economic development capacity to facilitate local businesses to participate in the emerging opportunities.

### **Summary of Achievements**

- Mary Valley Business Retention and Expansion Coordinator (Stage 2) appointed.
- 2 seminars were conducted –
  - Cashflow Secrets – 23 attendees, 22 April, Gunabul Homestead, Gympie.
  - Getting Started in Business for the Multicultural Information Network Service, Gympie 8 April. 10 attendees
- 1 Mentoring for Growth session was conducted, April 27, Amamoor Lodge.

### **Activity Report**

#### **Business Adjustment Scheme**

The total number of Business Adjustment Scheme applications received from the Traveston Crossing area, by Category as at **29 April 2009**, is as follows:

<b>Fund Type</b>	<b>Applications Received to 29 April 2009</b>		
	<b>DTRDI</b>	<b>DPIF</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Business Advice</b>	40	4	<b>44</b>
<b>Business Restructure</b>	29	4	<b>33</b>
<b>Business Exit</b>	12	1	<b>13</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>90</b>

Note: Applications Received for DEEDI includes three applications withdrawn by the same client, one for Business Advice Assistance and one for Business Restructure Assistance and one for Exit Assistance.

### Projects to mitigate the economic impacts of the proposed Traveston Crossing Dam

- **Business Opportunity and Capacity Development** – Collaborating with Queensland Water Infrastructure (QWI), Australian Industry Engineering and Manufacturing Network Co-Operative Ltd (AIEM Net), industry and government agencies to ensure that business and industry are informed of economic and business development opportunities.

#### Regional Development -

- **Gympie Regional Council Industrial Land Development Strategy** – The final draft report has been reviewed by steering committee members and comments provided to the consultant to finalise the report. The Consultant has indicated that the final report will be complete by the end of May 2009.
- **Gympie Region Investment Strategy** – An invitation to offer has been drafted and submissions will be accepted by the Department until 5 May 2009, project timeframes were delayed by election. A Steering Committee meeting has been convened for 11 May to assess Tenders.
- **Gympie Country Music Muster** – Tenders have been called for and received from Consultants to conduct the Business Review of the Muster.
  - The consultancy is progressing to undertake the Business Review and light of losing the major sponsor for the event; the Review will assist in providing future direction for the event. Steering Committee meeting to be convened on 11 May to discuss specific requirements of Muster Committee and to progress the consultancy.

#### Industry Development –

- **Manufacturing Industry Development –**
  - The Department is working with business and industry in the Gympie region to deliver Departmental programs and services
  - The Department is working with manufacturers in the Gympie region to form a Lean Manufacturing Network
  - Member of Steering Committee for organisation of Gympie Careers Expo to be held 5 August at the Pavilion.

#### Business development –

- 13 one-on-one business client meetings held during the reporting period.

**Mary Valley Business Expansion and Retention Program** – The Department (with the support of CFTF) has entered into a contractor agreement for the ongoing delivery of project coordination services in the Mary Valley. The Steering Committee (Mary Valley Inc and DTRDI) have identified four projects to be progressed:

- Business Profiling Project
- Business Eco-Sustainability Project
- Village Renewal Pilot
- Agri and Food Processing – Business Project

The contractor has met Milestone 2 – which was to develop 3 approved Project Plans and Progress Report to the satisfaction of the Project Manager.

## Community Futures Task Force

### Projects to build the economic capacity of the region surrounding the proposed Wyaralong Dam

- **Boonah District Futures Study:**

Project	Progress
Community Audit & Boonah and District Leadership Program	Projects are due for completion by end of May 2009.

### Key Milestones

Outcome	Date to be Achieved	Status
Boonah District Futures study	April 2009	To be completed early to mid 2009.
Gympie Regional Council Industrial Land Development Strategy	May 2009	The Steering Committee has reviewed a final draft report.

### Stakeholder Consultation

Stakeholder	Date	Outcome of Consultation
Mary Valley Inc - Villages Renewal Meeting	15th April	Attendance at meeting - Initial project committee meeting to discuss project development and funding options and identifying key stakeholders
Gympie Industry Network	23rd April	Facilitation of meeting - Facilitation of regional industry development and facilitation of involvement in major project opportunities.
Mary Valley Inc and Mary Valley Chamber of Commerce	24th April	Provided input and briefing regarding Departmental activities and developed project plan for delivery of proposed Business Update Breakfast
Gympie Chamber of Commerce	6th May	Attendance at meeting - Gain regional intelligence; networking opportunities and provide information regarding Department's services and products
Women in Business functions	8th May	Attendance at meeting - Gain regional intelligence; networking opportunities and provide information regarding Department's services and products

### Achievements to Date

- A Departmental Office and Officer has been established in Gympie.

#### Studies Completed:

- Scoping Economic Futures – Traveston Crossing Region.
- Mary Valley Economic Development Strategy report.
- Scoping Economic Futures – Wyaralong Region report

#### Business Adjustment Scheme and Worker Assistance Program

- 90 businesses and 9 individual workers have requested assistance in the Traveston Crossing area through the Business Adjustment Scheme and Worker Assistance Program. To date no applications have been received from the Wyaralong area.

### **Industry Development in Gympie Regional Council Area**

- Construction and manufacturing industry - 12 Business Opportunity and Capacity Development Awareness Raising Forums, with AIEMnet and QWI - 410 attendees; 118 firms assisted to complete capability statements for QWI
- E-Commerce workshop for tourism industry (15 attendees); Accommodation Industry Forum (50 attendees); Clean, Green & Profitable workshop – targeted at Tourism industry operators – 31 attendees; Business Side of Art workshop – 15 attendees
- Value Added Food Processing - Agri-Food Innovators Forum (in partnership with DPIF) - 45 attendees
- Creative Industries -facilitated Strategic Planning and establishment of exhibition site for Imbil Artists

### ***Business Development in Gympie Regional Council area***

- Business Development seminars and workshops – 12 conducted, 270 attendees. attendees. Topics covered included - Business Planning, Marketing, Managing Your Cash, Pricing for Profit, Winning and Keeping Customers.
- Business Opportunity and Capacity Development Seminars – 17 conducted, 418 attendees. Topics covered included – Tendering, Project Management, QA, WH&S
- Business engagement - 303 one on one business appointments to discuss opportunities and issues
- Mentoring for Growth program - Launched in Gympie - October 2007. Participants – 2 businesses from Gympie; 3 businesses from the Mary Valley
- Mary Valley Business Retention & Expansion Project - **Initial project completed.**

### **Scenic Rim Regional Council Area**

- The Boonah and District Enterprise Board has been established.
- Boonah Chamber of Commerce has been re-established.
- Boonah business “Walkabout” report finalised .
- Boonah businesses survey report finalised
- Boonah Business District Planning Study report finalised
- Investment Profile for Boonah and District: report finalised
- Marketing Plan for Families; retirees; home based business and tele-commuters: report finalised
- District-Wide Population Profile and Statistical Database: report finalised.
- Boonah District Business and Industry Gap Analysis: report finalised
- Boonah Touring Loops Management Plan: plan finalised
- Catalogue of Natural Assets has been completed

## Project Progress Report

**Project:** Economic Futures Project (Queensland Primary Industries and Fisheries (QPIF) component)

**Reporting Period:** 7 April 2009 – 1 May 2009

**Lead Agency:** Department of Employment Economic Development and Innovation (QPIF)

**Agency Contact/s:** Primary – Jason Keating;  
Secondary – John Switala, Graeme Whittaker

### Project Objectives

To assist the communities in the vicinity of the proposed Traveston Crossing and Wyaralong Dams to gain significant economic benefit from the dam developments and associated infrastructure by:

- providing information to, and building economic development capacity of, primary producers in the region; and,
- Facilitating agricultural development in the emerging opportunities to create sustainable rural landscapes.

### Summary of Achievements

QPI&F has finalised the scoping study and implementation strategy for the Farm and Nature based business development program (FANT BDP) for the Mary Catchment region. Funding is being finalised to enable the project to be delivered in the first half of 2009.

QPI&F has released the Options Publication and is in the process of mailing the publication to farm businesses in the Mary Valley.

QPI&F has completed an overview of the ginger industry in Queensland that will be released at the AGM of the Australian Ginger Growers' Association in May. QPIF will facilitate a meeting of leading growers, processors and researchers in May 2009 to provide them with results of the study and to develop an action plan to address issues of concern.

15 community leaders from the Mary Valley region have participated in the first two sessions of the Building Rural Leaders short course which will be held in the Upper Mary Valley over 5 months.

QPI&F has released the Mary Economic Region Agribusiness Resource Guide and is about to distribute to government and non government stakeholders.

### Activity Report

#### ***Food and Fibre Futures***

QPIF is working closely with Regional Development and Industry on a project that will inform industry and government of the scope, diversity and opportunities for agribusiness and processed food enterprises in the Greater Mary Economic Region. A summary report prepared by the University of Sunshine Coast will be released in late May 2009.

The QPI&F publication, Mary Economic Region: *Agricultural Resource Guide* was printed in late April, under the new departmental branding DEEDI. A public release involving the Minister is sought for early May.

QPIF established a partnership with the Australian Centre for Lifestyle Horticulture, Queensland University, the Queensland Flower Industry Council and Cedar Hill Corporate Group, a large native flower export, wholesale nursery and consulting company at Palmwoods. Planting of the first demonstration site is under way. An industry development and research proposal is presently being developed with the endorsement of the Flower Association of Queensland.

## Community Futures Task Force

### **Business Adjustment**

There have been six landholders assisted throughout this reporting period.

There have been no enquiries from landowners in the Wyaralong region although information about the services has been made available through the Scenic Rim Regional Council and Boonah Development Board.

### **Key Milestones**

<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Date to be Achieved</b>	<b>Status</b>
KPA 1 – Adjustment Project Activity – Information and Advice; Seminars	Post June 2009	Land and Water Use seminars key note speakers confirmed.
KPA 2 – Economic Development Project Activity : Greater Mary Agribusiness and Processed Food Manufacturing Audit	June 2009	Joint project with regional development division of DEEDI to audit Agribusiness and Processed Food Manufacturing capacity in Mary Economic region. University of Sunshine Coast to prepare Summary Document by end May.
KPA 2 – Economic Development Project Activity: Mary Economic Region - <i>Agricultural Resource Guide</i>	May 2009	Publication printed under new departmental branding DEEDI.  Seeking public launch of publication in early May.
KPA 2 – Economic Development Project Activity: Promotion of Greater Mary Investment Opportunities; Mary River Water Supply Scheme (MRWSC)	Ongoing	Investigating opportunities to promote the utilization of unallocated water entitlements in the MRWSC for high value agricultural production. Presently facilitating negotiations between government and nongovernment stakeholders.
KPA 2 – Economic Development Project Activity: Promotion of Greater Mary Investment opportunities; Ginger industry adjustment and development	Ongoing	A situation analysis for the ginger industry is now complete and will be released at the AGM of the Australian Ginger Grower's Association in May 2009. QPI&F is organizing a facilitated meeting with industry to develop an action plan to take the industry forward.
KPA 3 – Economic Development Project Activity. Agribusiness Networks	Ongoing	A series of four Horse property management Workshops funded by QPIF and hosted by local horse industry groups in the Mary Valley and adjacent Sunshine Coast Hinterland are scheduled for May and June 2009. These aim to increase awareness and adoption of best management horse, land and water practices for small acreage property owners and to also increase community strength by bringing these like-minded groups together
KPA 3 – Agribusiness Partnerships Project Activity: Agribusiness Networks	Ongoing 2009	A Building Rural Leaders program funded by Department of Communities and delivered by QPI&F Building Rural Leaders' team commenced on 3 April 2009 and will continue until August 2009.
KPA 4 – Policy and Advice	Ongoing	Policy advice on-going, particularly with other government agencies and stakeholders including Coordinator General's office.

## Achievements to Date

- Regional Trend publications for the Traveston Crossing Region, and Wyaralong Region (2007/08)
- DPI&F publication, *Options for the upper Mary Valley* (April 2009).
- DPI&F publication, the *Mary Economic Region: Agricultural Resource Guide* (May 2009). This publication seeks to highlight the assets of the region for agricultural/agribusiness investment.
- An overview and comprehensive analysis of the impacts on the dairy industry from development in South East Queensland has been completed. Report available at [www.communityfutures.qld.gov.au](http://www.communityfutures.qld.gov.au), and also on the Food & Fibre Futures webpage.
- Investigation into the Ginger industry supply chain identifying likely future impediments and providing information on possible future scenarios.
- Identification of opportunity to utilise unallocated water entitlements in the Mary River Supply Scheme to accelerate the gross value of agricultural production in the Greater Mary region.
- Provision of information and advice to 58 producers in the inundation area of the proposed Traveston Crossing dam. A total of 137 producers and agribusinesses have been assisted throughout the Mary Valley region.
- A Building Rural Leaders short course in the Upper Mary Valley commenced on 3 April 2009.

## Future Activities

Immediate: Continue launch and promotion of multiple publications aimed at stimulating agribusiness investment in the Mary Region and assisting landowners with agricultural adjustment options. Launch via dedicated DEEDI Food and Fibre Futures web page.

Industry: Identification and facilitation of opportunities to establish new, or grow existing, agribusinesses in the Lower Mary Irrigation Area is ongoing.

DEEDI is planning a series of one day workshops on sustainable horse management to be held in the Mary Valley. Initial consultation indicates that there is considerable demand and keen interest for these workshops. Proposed venues are Gympie, Imbil and Kenilworth. The events are planned for mid 2009.

It is anticipated that a series of Land & Water Management workshops will be held late in 2009 following assessment of the Environmental Impact Statement of the Traveston Crossing Dam proposal.

## Stakeholder Consultation

Stakeholder	Date	Outcome of Consultation
University of Sunshine Coast	February To May	Collaboration on agribusiness audit project.
Maryborough Sugar Factory	February to May	Continued involvement in expanding agriculture in Lower Mary region.
Floriculture producers	April 2009	Interest expressed in 13 sites in Mary Valley with potential for floriculture development and now owned by QWI
Councillor Ron Dyne Mayor Gympie Regional Council	April 2009	Consultation re Mary Valley Agritourism Project (FANT BDP)

## Project Progress Report

**Project:** Mary Valley and Scenic Rim Tourism Projects

**Reporting Period:** 6 April to 11 May 2009

**Lead Agency:** Tourism Queensland (TQ)

**Agency Contacts:** Lynne Banford, Sharon Raguse and Therese Phillips

### Project Objectives

To identify and map current tourism product in the Mary Valley and in the Scenic Rim, and to identify and implement priority tourism development, marketing and training initiatives for the two regions.

### Summary of Progress

The Mary Valley and Scenic Rim Tourism Projects are continuing.

### Activity Report

#### Mary Valley Tourism Project:

- TQ has committed funds to two pages of editorial for the Mary Valley region to appear in the upcoming South East Queensland Country (SEQC) Club Winter Newsletter. TQ has also committed funds to purchase the back page of the newsletter which will feature duplicate copies of the 10 operator's advertisements as they appeared in the SEQC guide.
- TQ has committed funds for the employment of a full time resource to implement key tourism projects including the Mary Valley signage project and branding identity project. The resource will be based at the Tourism Sunshine Coast office. Recruitment has been completed and an offer has been made with the view that the resource will commence mid-May 2009.
- TQ has committed funds for the implementation of phase 1 of the Farm and Nature Tourism initiative project managed by Southern Cross University. The contract for this project is currently with TQ's legal department awaiting final sign off. The project will commence Mid-May 2009.
- Met with Gympie Regional Council and Department of Primary Industries regarding the implementation of the Farm and Nature Tourism project in the Mary Valley.

#### Scenic Rim Tourism Project:

- Met with Queensland Tourism Industry Council (QTIC) to discuss training schedule for Scenic Rim. Key priority identified is for online marketing training and information for operators, and a small business mentoring program. Tourism Queensland and QTIC will meet with representatives from *Small Business Solutions* and *Untangle My Web* shortly in order to progress these programs.
- Met with Rose Wright and Robyn Rae from Southern Cross University regarding the Farm and Nature Tourism initiative. This project will be undertaken with the support of Ipswich City Council and Scenic Rim Regional Council.

## Community Futures Task Force

### Key Milestones

Outcome	Date to be Achieved	Status
Mary Valley Skills and Training Program	In progress	Audit report finalised. 2009 training program has been finalised.  Industry networking event to be held in late May.
Following whole of Government consultation the draft Mary Valley Tourism Action Plan has been revised and was sent to the Minister for review. The Minister has advised that he wishes to inform the Premier of the outcomes of the plan before taking it forward.	In progress	In progress
Implementation of priority tourism projects including the Mary Valley signage project and branding identity project.	In progress	TQ has committed funds to employ a full time resource to implement these projects.  Recruitment for the position has been completed and an offer has been made.
Farm and Nature Tourism initiative	June 2009	Contract is currently being finalised by TQ legal department. Project to be commenced Mid-May
Small Business Solutions program and Online marketing workshops	June 2009	Planning meeting with partners to be completed
Scenic Rim Wine Tourism Signage	June 2009	Meeting with Councils to occur shortly

### Stakeholder Consultation – Mary Valley

Stakeholder	Date	Outcome of Consultation
QWI	08 April	Meeting to discuss priorities
Gympie Regional Council, Department of Primary Industries	31 March 2009	Meeting to discuss implementation of FANT project in the Mary Valley.

### Stakeholder Consultation – Scenic Rim

Stakeholder	Date	Outcome of Consultation
QTIC	06 April 2009	Meeting to finalise training plan
QWI	08 April 2009	Meeting to discuss priorities
Southern Cross University, Scenic Rim Regional Council and Ipswich City Council	15 April 2009	Meeting to discuss implementation of FANT in Scenic Rim
QTIC, Small Business Solutions and Untangle My Web	05 May 2009	Meeting to discuss roll out of training initiatives