



UPDATE 2002

STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT REPORTING

SOCIAL

ECONOMIC

ECOLOGICAL



JOHNSTONE SHIRE COUNCIL

STATE OF THE SHIRE

Table of Contents

General Manager’s Address - - -	3
A Word from 2002’s Citizen of the Year -	3
Introduction - - - - -	3
Biodiversity—Flora and Fauna - - -	4
Water and Atmospheric Management - - -	7
Land Management - - - - -	10
Solid Waste Management - - - - -	12
The Shire Community - - - - -	14
Economic Development - - - - -	17
Council Activities - - - - -	20
Summary of Progress - - - - -	22
Acknowledgements - - - - -	23

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General Manager's Comments

Johnstone Shire Council is proud to display our continued commitment to environmental reporting, with this year's release of the State of the Shire Updates. Environmental reporting has the goal of providing an accessible source of information about issues affecting the Community, Natural Environment, and Economic Development within our Shire's boundaries.

The update reports also provide a summary of progress towards the goals set out by Council in the 2000 State of the Shire Benchmark. The achievement of these plans can be followed through each successive update. Of note for 2002 was the development of tourism, with the expansion of the Great Green

Way and other projects to attract visitors to the Shire. Additionally we saw the diversification of agriculture, with the tropical fruits providing a valuable addition to income from cane.

This year's goal has been to set and to expand the update's environmental indicators. Indicators will enable comparisons between successive updates, and act to provide an early warning system if there are marked changes to the state of the Shire.

We would like to thank all the members of the community who have supported this year's update with their continued involvement. I am sure that the State of the Shire will continue to ensure communication and progress towards our common goals.



Mr Peter Roberts
General Manager
Johnstone Shire
Council

A Word from 2002's Citizen of the Year - Bill Smith

Diversification of our economy will help bring money and employment to our Shire. While Agriculture and Fishing have been traditional mainstays, it is time to expand with industries such as Tourism to make the Shire more attractive and to bring people in. Tourism has the advantage of being an environmentally friendly option, and

despite my experience working in the Cane industry, I do not believe that further agricultural expansion will help towards the Shire's future.

I encourage the Council to continue with its environmental reporting - it is great for the public to see how much is being done, and to know that efforts are being made to look after the environment.



Mr Bill Smith

Introduction from the Coordinator

Welcome to the 2002 Update to the State of the Johnstone Shire. This booklet describes how the environments of society, industry and the natural changed since our last update for 2001.

Additionally the booklet describes how the community has advanced towards its goals. This is represented in a report card format, which gives marks to five different areas of criteria. The criteria are the following.

- Action on Council recommendations
- Filling deficiencies in data
- The State of the Shire
- Goal achievement
- Community awareness

You will notice that the report card is rated from A to F, the explanation for these ratings is described here.



Brian Sundermeijer
Environmental
Project Officer
Johnstone Shire
Council

- A**—(Excellent) A High level of progress or achievement
- B**—(Good) Progress and achievement
- C**—(Normal) No real changes beyond what was already in place. Normal effort.
- D**—(Poor) Slackening of established practices. No effort.
- F**—(Fail) Worsening of the State of the Shire.