

SUMMARY OF PROGRESS

State of the Shire reporting has again demonstrated the community's commitment to helping to improve the Shire's environmental sustainability. We would like to thank all those people involved in projects to better the State of the Shire for their determination, and also for their help in providing their time to make this report possible.

In conclusion, the Shire continued to gradually progress towards integrating the three tiers of sustainability—Community, Economy, and Ecology. Most aspects of all the sections discussed in the report improved, although there is still much ground to cover.

The Update continued to describe the community's progress towards the goals set out in the 2000 Benchmark Report. The State of the Shire in 2003 can be summarised as follows:

	2001	2002	2003
Biodiversity	B+	B-	B+
Floral and faunal biodiversity remained stable in the Shire. Strategic plans for future management were completed and should result in the reduction of pressures on biodiversity, and the protection of significant areas. The plans also include means to gradually re-establish areas where important biodiversity has been lost. Better data is still required for fauna.			
Land Management	C+	B	B
Best practice land management was being gradually adopted by land holders. Financial challenges continued to slow this participation. Pest control was well managed and achieved good success.			
Water and Atmospheric Management	B	B-	B
The NPI database has greatly improved the information on pollution. Stormwater monitoring has similarly increased the information available. The state of the Shire's waterways, reef and atmosphere did not improve during 2003, but strategies for future management were completed.			
Solid Waste Management	B+	B	B+
Solid waste management continued to expand the scope of its activities, with exploration of sharps management and further recycling. Total wet waste volumes collected increased during the year.			
The Shire Community	B-	B-	B-
The community services continued to work to meet the provision required by the community. Approaches to increase the capacity for the community to help itself are being developed. Better coordination between services may also help.			
Economic Development	B-	B	C
Downturns in the major agricultural industries continued. The situation is not expected to improve in the short-term. Retail development helped improve Innisfail's attraction as the centre of a shopping catchment. Development of an Economic Development Strategy was still pending.			
Council Activities	B	B+	B-
Council planned expansion of its service provision with sewage at Mission Beach, and cycleways and shared use pathways. A lack of maintenance of some existing services was identified, which will lead to increased costs over the next few years.			

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Government

- Australian Bureau of Statistics
- Australian Institute of Marine Science
- Bureau of Tourism Research
- Centre for Tropical Restoration
- Centrelink
- Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry—Bureau of Rural Sciences
- Department of Housing
- Department of Primary Industries (incorporating Queensland Fisheries Service)
- Department of Main Roads & Transport
- Department of Natural Resources, Mines & Energy
- Education Queensland
- Environmental Protection Agency (incorporating Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service)
- Far North Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils
- Great Barrier Marine Park Authority
- Local Authority Waste Advisory Committee
- Office of Economic and Statistical Research
- Productivity Commission
- Queensland Health
- Queensland Police Service
- Wet Tropics Management Authority

Community Groups

- Community for Coastal and Cassowary Conservation (C4)
- Community Revegetation Volunteer Group
- The Innisfail Art Deco Society
- Johnstone Cultural Association
- Johnstone Ecological Society
- Johnstone River Catchment Management Association
- Landcare

Business/ Industry

- Agforce
- Australian Rainforest Foundation
- Barramundi Waters
- Brothers Leagues Club
- Bundaberg Sugar
- Bureau of Sugar Experiment Stations
- CANEGROWERS
- Cassowary Coast Development Bureau
- Conservation Volunteers Australia
- Cummings Economics
- Innisfail Chamber of Commerce
- Innisfail Community Support Centre
- Innisfail Historical Society
- Innisfail and Mission beach Visitors Centres
- Johnstone College of TAFE
- Innisfail Youth and Family Care
- Mourilyan Cane Protection and Productivity Board
- Paronella Park
- PCYC
- Ports Corporation of Queensland
- Queensland Fruit and Vegetable Growers
- Tropical Fruits
- Wet Tropics Community Housing

Council Departments and Staff from:

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

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2003 — INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF FRESHWATER

