

RAPAD Board Meeting 1 October 2021 Communiqué



CR SEAN DILLON
 Mayor Barcardine
 Regional Council



CR SALLY O'NEIL
 Mayor Barcoo Shire
 Council



CR ANDREW MARTIN
 Mayor Blackall-Tambo
 Regional Council



CR RICK BRITTON
 Mayor Boulia Shire
 Council



CR ROBBIE DARE
 Mayor Diamantina Shire
 Council



CR TONY RAYNER
 Mayor Longreach
 Regional Council



CR GAVIN BASKETT
 Mayor Winton Shire
 Council



DAVID ARNOLD
 CEO RAPAD

Live, Work, Invest in Central West Qld – www.gofarout.com.au

Objects of RAPAD

The objects for which the Company is established are:

- (a) to support, facilitate, promote and encourage the community, environmental and economic development of the region,*
- (b) to formulate, develop, facilitate, maintain and implement, or cause to be implemented, strategies, policies and plans relating to the objects in Rule 1.5(a),*
- (c) to advocate to, consult with, and advise, relevant State and Federal ministers and government agencies on matters of regional concern, and on the priorities of such matters and the means to ensure effective co-ordination and implementation of the policies, activities and programs of those State and Federal agencies, and*
- (d) to facilitate, support, implement, or cause to be implemented, collaborative regional discussion and associated desired outcomes amongst, but not limited, to members.*

Source: RAPAD constitution

As a part of normal business, the Board of RAPAD held its ninth scheduled Board meeting for 2021 on 1 October, via video conferencing. The meeting was chaired by Cr Tony Rayner and all directors along with several CEOs were in attendance.

The Board welcomed guests

- Ms Ann Leahy MP, Member for Warrego,
- Dr David Walker,
- Mr Mark Wall, and
- Mr Joel Edmondson.

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#RAPADCWQ

Meeting Matters:

- **Dog bait procurement**

Further to the August Central West Regional Pest Management Group meeting councils were asked to consider a proposal regarding joint procurement of dog bait meat. Winton SC, Barcoo SC, Blackall-Tambo RC and Longreach RC advised they were still considering the proposal, and have engaged, or are due to engage with, their local stakeholders to discuss it further. Barcaldine RC, Boulia and Diamantina SCs indicated they won't progress the matter. The matter remains as an ongoing action awaiting those interested council's feedback.

- **CWHHS**

Dr David Walker, Executive Director Medical Services, CWHHS presented to the Board on medical workforce planning and COVID vaccination progress. Dr Walker provided the most recent data on vaccination rates and thanked Mayors for the vaccine rollouts ongoing support in their communities and likewise Mayors offered their appreciation to Dr Walker and his team for their efforts. There was discussion about the assistance local government and Mayors could offer and the importance of supporting people who had concerns, to speak to a GP was recommended.

The other matter Dr Walker spoke to was the medical workforce planning he was commencing, asking the Mayors for preliminary feedback on several questions that he would pursue in more detail once the process had commenced. The Board reiterated the importance of high quality and equitable health care across the Central Western Qld region.

The CEO also updated the Board on the West Qld Alliance of Councils initiative to keep communities updated on COVID vaccination rates. Embedded on the RAPAD, SWQROC, NWQROC and WQAC websites is a series of vaccination rate graphics providing vaccination data across the western Qld LGAs. The data development was undertaken by Brisbane firm, GWI (www.gwi.com.au), as a part of their social responsibility charter.



Source:

<https://app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrIjojYjRmZmFhMMDtYmE1ZC00OTY2LWlxNDUzTE00DBjZWUzZTBmliwidCI6ImQ2NWY5ZDFiLWY4NGMtNGMxYi05YzliLTkyY2U4NTBjNzFkMiJ9>

- **Housing**

The CEO tabled the final housing research paper prepared by Regional Australia Institute (RAI) and advising the housing forum planned for October 6 would now need to be held virtually due to COVID issues.

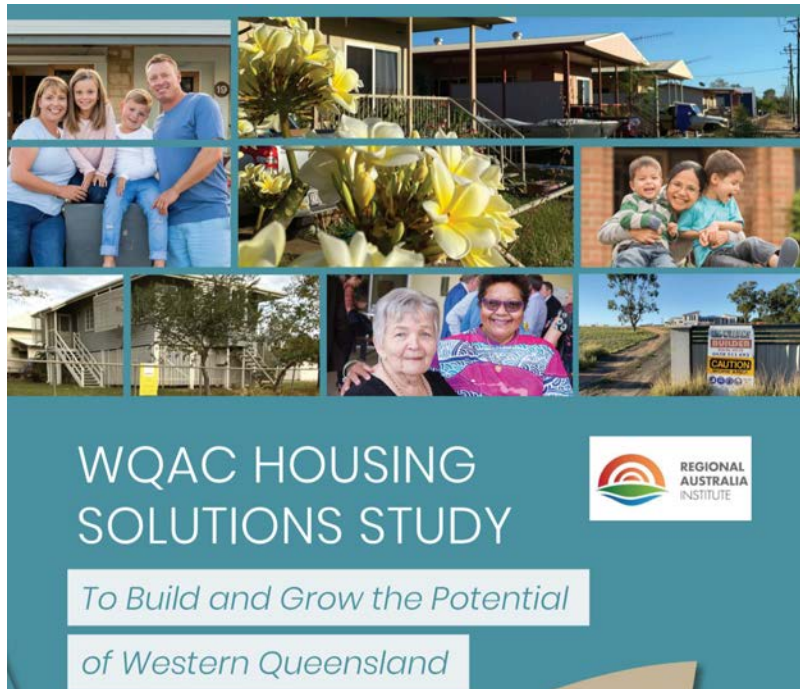
Amongst many findings, the report found that there is an estimated need for 180 new dwellings in the CWQ / RAPAD region and 1490 across the western region. Many demand and supply side factors have negative impacts on the regions housing availability and it will be the aim of the October 6 forum, to start

the process of implementing actions to help solve the housing issues.

The final paper is available at <https://wqac.com.au/housing-study> and more information on the RAI can be found at www.regionalaustralia.org.au .

The CEO also tabled recent correspondence the West Qld Alliance of Councils submitted to the federal government's housing inquiry.

Mark Wall, General Manager, Strategy, Policy and Programs, Housing and Homelessness Services, Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy addressed the meeting and provided an update on State Government initiatives particular to the RAPAD region and specifically he put forward an action planning process seeking councils interest which was well received. Mark indicated he would be following up with councils. *Marks presentation is attached.*



- **Finance, Legal, Risk**

The Board undertook several governance actions, including:

- receiving and endorsing YTD financials, and receiving the CEOs updates on general risk factors,
- receiving the CEO and Chairs reports from their recent attendance at the RESQ Board meetings www.resqld.com.au . A copy of the RESQ annual report was provided and *it is attached,*
- receiving and noting advice from the CEO on staff wage increase, consistent with previous remuneration committee approvals,
- receiving and endorsing an outwards and inwards gift policy,
- receiving advice from the CEO that the 20-21 financial audit was underway with the QAO appointed auditors, PKF, being on site the week of the 20th of September, and,
- receiving advice from the CEO, that further to enquiries being received from various tourism user groups, and QDAFs Pacific Labour Scheme & Seasonal Workers Programme regarding possible pacific island labor housing, he had



advised QDAF that their offer to extend the former Ag College LTO would be taken up through to 30 June 2022.

- **Rural Financial Counselling Service North Qld** – www.rfcsnq.com.au

The Board received the draft minutes from the RFCSNQs Project Management Committees meeting held 29 September.

A range of matters were covered by the PMC, including reviewing the programs finances, service capacity and client statistics, risk and WPHS, and contract milestones.



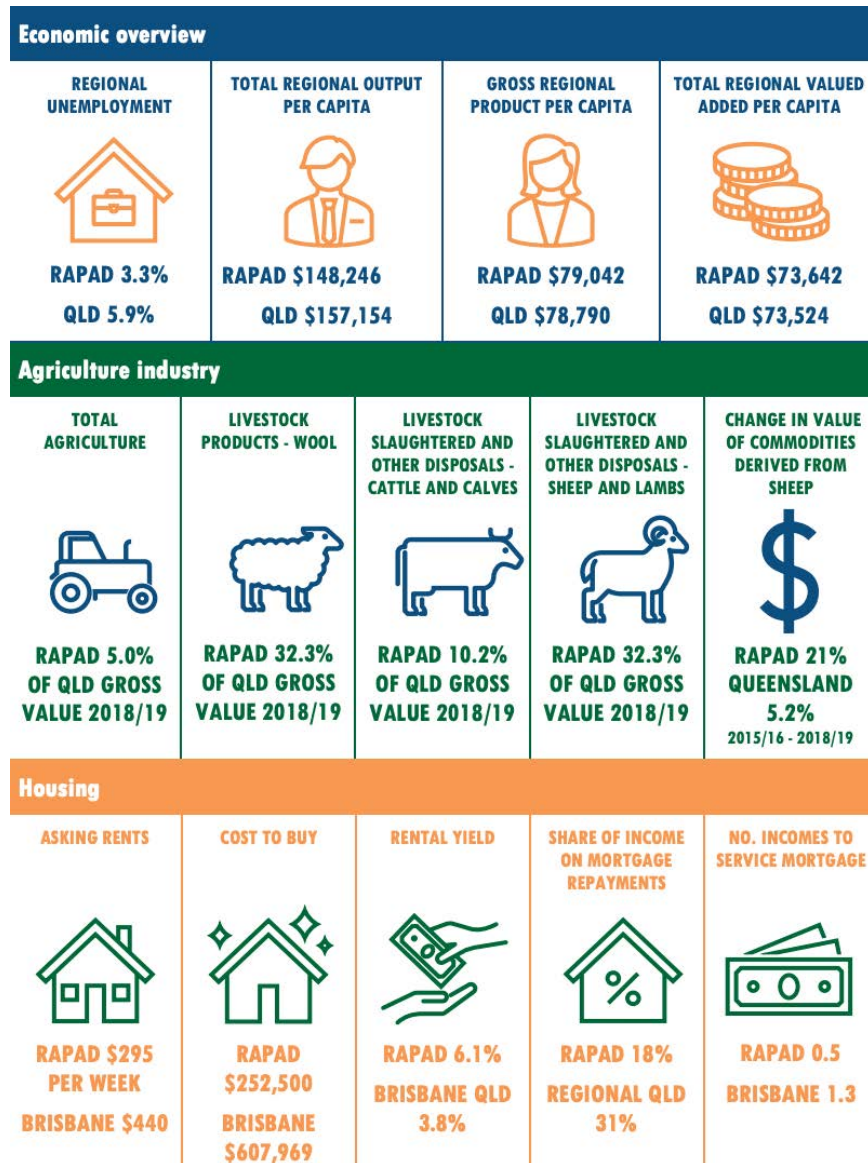
Some general statistics provided, relating to the 20/21 financial year, were that RFCSNQ Rural Financial Counsellors helped 256 clients during this period. Of these 50% of clients were existing clients as of 1 July 2020. 126 clients entered the service for the period 1/7/20 to 30/6/21, of which 73% were first time clients. 62% of clients, exited the service during the 20/21 Financial Year with the remaining 38% carried over into the current 21/22 period.

For the period 1 April 2020 to present, RFCSNQ Small Business Financial Counsellors received 408 'General Enquires' with 306 of these enquiries converting to 'Active Clients'. General enquires are defined as any small business contacting the service for assistance. A general enquiry may be handled through triage - a small number of contacts, face to face &/or over the phone, averaging anywhere from 30 minutes to 5 hours while active clients are defined as those small businesses requiring more extensive case management assistance over the longer term. RFCSNQ delivers the federal and state governments rural financial counselling service program, and its governance and administration is overseen by a RAPAD Board sub-committee made up of two RAPAD directors and two external skills based appointees. One external member is Shan Delany. Shan is a Certified Practising Accountant in Public Practice based in Townsville. She established her own mobile accountancy business in July 2005 and now has a client base which is spread throughout Australia. Her clients are a diverse range of small and medium size businesses.

- **Other**

- The CEO provided a brief on RAPAD Skilling (www.rapadskilling.com.au) operations and finances for the FY to date, noting the ongoing good work of the RAPAD Skilling manager, Steve Rossberg, and his team,
- Joel Edmondson, CEO of the Qld Music Festival, presented to the Board on an initiative under planning. He outlined the broad concept, the potential locations and routes, along with the economic and cultural benefits. The action the Board took away immediately was to make introductions to the SWQROC and NWQROC so Joel could gather their feedback.
- A brief was provided on the Regional Arts and Social Impact research project which RAPAD partners. <https://research.qut.edu.au/cpfsi/projects/the-role-of-the-creative-arts-in-regional-australia-a-social-impact-model/>
- The Board endorsed the LGAQ RAPAD Memorandum of Understanding,
- The Board received an update on the Stock Routes discussion paper, noting Cr Britton and the CEO provided an update to the SWQROC meeting recently, with SWQROC indicating they and their councils would consider the papers recommendations,
- The CEO tabled a strategic planning proposal which will commence at the Boards next scheduled face-to-face meeting.
- Recent Publications:

- RAPAD Region Economic Benchmarking and Promotion - <https://www.rapad.com.au/assets/Uploads/FINAL-RAPAD-Region-Economic-Benchmarking-and-Promotion.pdf> . Supported by Qld State Government Remote Area Board funding.



- CWQ Data Collection and Analysis - <https://www.rapad.com.au/assets/Uploads/CWQ-Tourism-Data-Collection-and-Analysis-2021-210621-compress.pdf> . Supported by Qld State Government Remote Area Board funding.