

RICHMOND SHIRE



Richmond Shire has a mission to facilitate and foster economic development, industries, innovative projects, while continually upgrading and maintaining public infrastructure, to meet the growth of the Shire.

Council has initiated a number of strategies to develop land for residential, rural residential and

industrial purposes.

Council continues to lobby both the Federal and Queensland Governments to develop an Off-Stream Water Storage Facility with the potential to produce 12,000 acres of irrigation farming.

Richmond is well known for its tourist attractions, Kronosaurus Korner, Lake Fred Tritton and the Cambridge Downs Heritage Display Centre.

The area is well known as part of the Australia's Dinosaur Trail and visitors can fossick to discover their own marine reptile fossils.

The main agricultural industry is cattle with smaller numbers of sheep, goats and camels.

Mining exploration in the North of the Shire is underway including gold and other minerals.

I encourage potential investors and businesses to consider Richmond and what it has to offer – a quality lifestyle for visitors and residents in a convenient location – halfway between Townsville and Mount Isa.



Cr John Wharton
Mayor

Our Shire

Richmond is situated on the southern bank of the Flinders River - the longest river in Queensland. As one of the Shire's greatest assets, the river pours just under 4,000,000 megalitres of water into the Gulf of Carpentaria annually.

Richmond is 500 kilometres west of Townsville and stands 216 metres above sea level spanning 26,936 square kilometres.

Its early history is based around explorers, adventurers and pastoralists in search of new land. William Landsborough first recorded exploration of the area in 1862 while searching for the lost explorers Burke and Wills. He named O'Connell Creek and a memorial now marks the location as part of Heritage trails.

Originally sheep was the primary source of income, however later years have seen cattle become the predominant market commodity. In the early 1880s, the Woolgar Goldfields to the north of the Shire was once a bustling part of the area and exploration continues today.

The Shire is a community of 952 people. Extremes of climatic conditions including floods and drought are not uncommon in the area with temperatures ranging from 43 degrees Celsius during summer and -1 degrees Celsius some winter nights. The average rain fall is 452 millimetres with the arrival of the monsoons. The Shire relies on the Great Artesian Basin for its water supply for both town and stock.

Today, Richmond is a popular Outback tourist destination evident by the increase in visitors to Kronosaurus Korner and the Richmond Lakeview Caravan Park. The lush green gardens and bougainvillea lined streets are a welcome sight for travellers into and through Richmond.

Lake Fred Tritton has become a central meeting place and recreation facility utilised by locals, tourists, and attracts visitors from neighbouring Shires.





Our economy

At the time of the 2006 Census of Population and Housing, Richmond had an unemployment rate of 2.1 per cent - the state unemployment rate in Queensland was 4.7 per cent.

The three significant contributors in the state's economy are identified as mining, agriculture and tourism. Richmond contributes to all three.

The Shire is well known for its Mitchell and Flinders grass plains and its lucrative beef cattle industry and less known for the Gregory Range to the North rich in gold and uranium deposits, currently under exploration.

Council is working towards the future development of the O'Connell Creek Off-Stream Water Storage Facility to create broad spectrum growth in the region through irrigation farming and associated agricultural industries.

The tourism industry continues to grow and Council plans to renew its attractions in a bid to attract more visitors to stay longer in the town.

Council is a strong supporter of local industry and will continue to put time, energy, research and funding into projects that ensure future local employment in the Shire – this would not happen without local government or the commitment of local representatives and their local knowledge.

Council continues to lobby the Queensland Government for improved services and has initiated a number of strategies to develop rural, rural residential and industrial land.





Our infrastructure

Richmond Shire continues to lobby both the Federal and the Queensland Governments for the O'Connell Creek Off-Stream Water Storage Facility and has updated the pre-feasibility study.

The economic development of Richmond and future growth will be greatly enhanced by this development. O'Connell Creek has the potential to develop the north west as the next food bowl.

Road

Richmond is serviced by the Flinders Highway which runs east west from Townsville through to Mount Isa.

Water

The Great Artesian Basin provides the only reliable source of water through much of inland Australia. The basin is the largest and deepest artesian basin in the world, covering a total of 1,711,000 square kilometres. It underlies 23 per cent of the continent including most of Queensland, the south east corner of the Northern Territory, the north east part of South Australia and northern New South Wales.

The basin is 3,000 metres deep in places and is estimated to contain 64,900 cubic kilometres of groundwater. The Richmond Township is serviced by three bores.

Electricity

Electricity to the Shire is supplied by Ergon Energy. Preliminary investigations by Australian PhytoFuel Company Pty Ltd into the development of a renewable energy project for the production of environmentally sustainable "second generation" feedstock for the production of biodiesel, green pyrolysis oil and green energy have begun.

Telecommunications

Telecommunication services are available through Telstra and other telephone companies who offer ADSL broad band, satellite and other telecommunication services. Richmond Shire's cattle sale yards process around 14000 head of cattle per year.





Our lifestyle

Richmond offers country living at its best in a relaxed and hassle free environment. Wide open spaces and room for the kids to run free.

It is far from the maddening crowd yet within easy reach of Townsville or Mount Isa with access to air, rail and road links.

Richmond is situated on the longest river, the Flinders River that flows into the Gulf. It is also the home of the much admired Lake Fred Triton which offers a great variety of water sports, entertainment, relaxation and so much more. The lake is rimmed by the Richmond Community Bush Tucker Garden which is nestled into the lake's bank.

The Shire also boasts, lush parks and playgrounds all with excellent public amenities, a world renowned Marine Fossil Museum, a Heritage Walk and easy to find fossicking sites.

Richmond boasts many community events and festivals throughout the year. Experience the Fossil Festival, art exhibitions, rodeos, campdrafts and horse and camel races just to name a few.

We love our gatherings with their jubilant atmospheres and the reassurance that there will never be a dull moment!

As an outback town with a difference you can ride a horse, get a dirt bike or fish, swim and water ski at Lake Fred Tritton. There are also a wide range of sporting clubs on offer, from golf, lawn bowls, football and tennis, something for all ages.

Some people mistakenly think that working and living in rural communities is limiting, but I have found that the work is more varied, you have greater autonomy, but you still have fantastic support of a close-knit community,

Vicci Miller
Massage Therapist



Opportunities

Housing

The rental market in Richmond is saturated with limited housing and accommodation available for long and short term stays. The town is serviced by two service stations, two supermarkets, a chemist, newsagency, post office, hardware store and two hotels.

Employment and Small Business

There are ongoing employment opportunities in the hospitality industry and businesses go on the market for sale from time to time.

O'Connell Creek Off-Stream Water Storage Facility

The development of O'Connell Creek Off-Stream Water Storage Facility will promote broad spectrum development opportunities, particularly in the area of agricultural services and suppliers.

Trades

Small rural towns like Richmond, from time to time, have limited access to trades people.

Land

Council has 1.25 acre rural residential allotments for sale and is currently developing an industrial subdivision to provide opportunities for private enterprise to address the Shire's skill shortages.





Why our shire?

Have you had enough of queues, road rage and having to pay for parking? Have you experienced and are overloaded on "fast living", "fast food" and possibly a fast decline in your health?

Most people would admit it is true – that a change is as good as a holiday. Consider your options because it could be as simple as choosing quality of life.

Richmond is conveniently situated on the Flinders Highway halfway between Townsville and Mount Isa. In town there is a doctors surgery, hospital, newsagency, chemist, post office, two supermarkets, two hotels, a school, day care centre, two petrol stations, hardware stores, drapery and loads more.

Townsville is an easy five hour drive east and a great destination for NRL and other major events during the year. Townsville is also the gateway to the Great Barrier Reef giving you the opportunity to have a holiday without the need to fly.

"There's nothing to lose but stress".

Our future

Richmond Shire Council is a progressive council that will continue to strive for ground breaking ventures for the prosperity of this region.

Council's Town Plan and future land developments allow for residential, rural residential and industrial development.

Richmond Shire's future plans include aged care units at the Richmond Hospital, continuing to seal the major links north and south on the Croydon and Winton Roads in partnership with the Croydon and Winton Shire Councils and Main Roads.

Additional ensuite cabins will be added to the Lakeview Caravan Park and the Council's Civic Administration Building and Library will be developed, replacing the existing buildings.

Council actively pursues new and innovative ways to create economic activity such as the proposed O'Connell Creek Off-Stream Water Storage that will provide further opportunity for irrigation farming in the area and broad spectrum growth to the Shire.

My lifestyle has improved immeasurably. I have more time in my day thanks to less traffic, my children are loving school and we live in a safe and friendly community,

Lisa Morgan
Director of Nursing, Richmond Health Centre



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