



10 February 2022

Department of Resources  
Queensland Resources Industry Development Plan  
c/- Reform Unit  
PO Box 15216  
CITY EAST QLD 4002

**Re: Queensland Resources Industry Development Plan**

Bundaberg Ag-Food & Fibre Alliance (BAFFA) aims to identify, research, consult and solve the challenges facing the Bundaberg primary production sector.

Our vision is a united food, fibre, renewable fuel, fishing, forestry and foliage sectors in the Bundaberg region.

BAFFA welcomes the opportunity to provide comment on the Queensland Resources Industry Development Plan (QRIDP).

We provide this submission without prejudice to any additional submission from our members or individual farmers and are solely focussed on the area contained within the Bundaberg Regional Council footprint.

The Bundaberg Regional Council area is predominantly rural, with a large township at Bundaberg, and small towns and villages at Bargara, Burnett Heads, Childers, Coral Cove, Elliott Heads, Gin Gin, Innes Park, Moore Park Beach and Woodgate. Rural land is used largely for forestry, agriculture and horticulture, notably macadamias, sugar cane, fruit and vegetable growing, and cattle grazing.

Tourism is also an important industry, particularly along the coast, with the area being the southern gateway to the Great Barrier Reef. The Bundaberg Regional Council area encompasses a total land area of approximately 6,450 square kilometres.

In terms of gross value added, employment and business numbers, the Bundaberg local government area has a much greater reliance on agriculture (approx 13 per cent) than Queensland as a whole (approx 3.4 per cent).

In comparison, mining and resources account for less than 1% for the Bundaberg Regional Council.

## Output by industry sector

Bundaberg Regional Council	2019/20			2018/19			Change
Industry	\$m	%	Queensland	\$m	%	Queensland	2018/19 - 2019/20
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	1,002.2	12.5	3.0	1,120.9	13.8	3.4	-118.7
Agriculture	927.6	11.6	2.8	1,005.3	12.4	3.1	-77.7
Aquaculture	11.8	0.1	0.0	23.9	0.3	0.0	-12.1
Forestry and Logging	16.9	0.2	0.1	22.0	0.3	0.1	-5.1
Fishing, Hunting and Trapping	5.4	0.1	0.0	10.3	0.1	0.0	-4.8
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing Support Services	40.5	0.5	0.1	59.5	0.7	0.2	-19.0
Mining	61.9	0.8	11.6	66.8	0.8	11.6	-4.9
Coal Mining	13.2	0.2	6.3	13.4	0.2	6.5	-0.3
Oil and Gas Extraction	0	0	2.9	0	0	2.7	--
Metal Ore Mining	7.6	0.1	0.9	10.6	0.1	1.2	-3.0
Non-Metallic Mineral Mining and Quarrying	19.6	0.2	0.2	25.9	0.3	0.2	-6.3
Exploration and Other Mining Support Services	21.6	0.3	1.3	16.9	0.2	1.0	+4.7

Source RDA Wide Bay Burnett Region economic profile

This reliance on agribusiness means that any negative impact on our farmers' ability to generate and market the crops and products they produce has a much greater impact on our community than in other areas.

In terms of the six key focus areas, there is very little scope to grow and diversify the resources industry in this region. The Bundaberg Regional Council Area has no identified "New Economy Minerals" (Map p21 of the Development plan).

There would appear to be small deposits of gas and coal in the region however, the potential impact on our groundwater resource and our farming lands has already created significant distrust and opposition to the extraction of these resources.

Please find attached (Annex 1) a report on the potential impacts of Unconventional Gas development on the Agricultural Industries in the Coastal Wide Bay Burnett Region.

This report identifies the potential for negative and possible catastrophic impacts on our Groundwater and surface water irrigation resources.

Community opposition to this development and more recently the Fox Resources Ltd application for a Mining Development lease clearly highlight the lack of trust and negative legacy engendered by resources companies to such an extent that the focus on fostering coexistence is unachievable.

We note and support that the key focus on strengthening ESG credentials identifies a transformation from delivering mainly extraction activities to being leaders in materials handling throughout the circular economy.

BAFFA has serious misgivings with respect to the apparent precedence that resource based activities have over sustainable food and fibre production. Coexistence between resource industries and the primary production sector is impossible in many instances.

Given the clear existing benefit cost advantage that food and fibre production has over the resources sector in the Bundaberg Regional Council Area and the identification of zero or minimal quantities of new age minerals in the area, we strongly recommend that this region's future land use be classified as being only available for food, fibre and foliage production.

Should you require further explanation or clarification please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully

*Dale Holliss*  
Executive Director