

LOWOOD FUTURES STRATEGY

NEWSLETTER - MAY 2026 - ISSUE 3



Lowood's looking to the future

Welcome to the third edition of the Lowood Futures Strategy Newsletter.

This newsletter is produced by Somerset Regional Council to update the Lowood community as we progress the Lowood Futures Strategy, and we have quite a lot of news to share.

We ended 2025 with community consultation on the Lowood Botanic Core and Streetscape Detailed Designs. It was great to see so many passionate Lowood locals getting involved and providing valuable feedback to Council. Not long after consultation closed, we were approved for \$1.54 million in state funding through the Green Urban Infrastructure Initiative (GUII) to deliver Stage One of the Lowood Botanic Core.

We have several projects on the go in Lowood at the moment, including the new dog off-leash area, the closure of the Main Street carpark entry and finishing touches to the new Railway Street Carpark.

Through the Lowood Futures Strategy, we want to be proactive in our approach to keep our town vibrant, refreshed, and growing with the community. We're glad to have you on this journey.



**Jason Wendt
Somerset Mayor**



**A collaboration between
Somerset Regional
Council and the Lowood
community.**

For more information about the Lowood Futures Strategy:

(07) 5424 4000

mail@somerset.qld.gov.au

[somerset.qld.gov.au/major-projects](https://www.somerset.qld.gov.au/major-projects)

Lowood Customer Service Centre - 1 Michel Street, Lowood

Station Street Carpark now open

Lowood's new Station Street Carpark is now open.

The carpark is the first major piece of construction to be delivered through the Lowood Futures Strategy.

The carpark includes 36 new parking spaces, PWD parking, and pedestrian access connecting to Railway Street, providing Lowood workers, residents and visitors a new, convenient place to park.

This project is funded through the South East Queensland Liveability Fund by the Australian Government, Queensland Government and Somerset Regional Council and forms part of the SEQ City Deal.

Railway Street pedestrian access



Before - May 2025



During - October 2025



Carpark completed - February 2026



Central Carpark's Main Street entry to close

The Main Street entry to the Central Carpark in Lowood has undergone construction since 20 April 2026.

The entry and exit to the Central Carpark on Main Street, also known as the Jean Bray Place entrance, creates congestion at the intersection of Main Street and Walters Street.

The safest option for all vehicles is to remove this entry, leaving Railway Street as the only entry or exit.

Most of the car parking in the Central Carpark will still be available during construction. New parking is also available in the new Station Street carpark.

Construction works will

include kerb and channel, removal of driveway crossover, footpath reinstatement, top

soil and turfing.

Completion is expected by May 2026, weather permitting.



Reimagining the town centre

Council shared its draft Landscape Concept Design Report for the Lowood Botanic Core for community consultation in late 2025.

The Lowood Botanic Core is a key project in the delivery of the Lowood Futures Strategy. The Botanic Core encompasses Lowood's Central Park and surrounding streetscapes, creating an extension of the town centre through activated spaces within the park, and an injection of planting and shade within the streetscapes.



The Grove

In terms of Shade & Comfort, the proposed design introduces a variety of shaded seating options under both trees and shelters, as well as open seating and amphitheatre-style arrangements creating flexible, comfortable spaces for rest and social interaction.

Lowood Railway Station Building

Enhancing Place Identity, the design incorporates a prominent Town Centre Entry Statement, road buildout gardens and intuitive wayfinding and signage, all of which strengthen the park's connection to local character and community pride.



Memorial Plaza

Improvements to the public realm surrounding existing buildings, the creation of a Memorial Plaza and upgrading turf in open spaces further support a dynamic, inclusive, and engaging environment for all ages and interests.



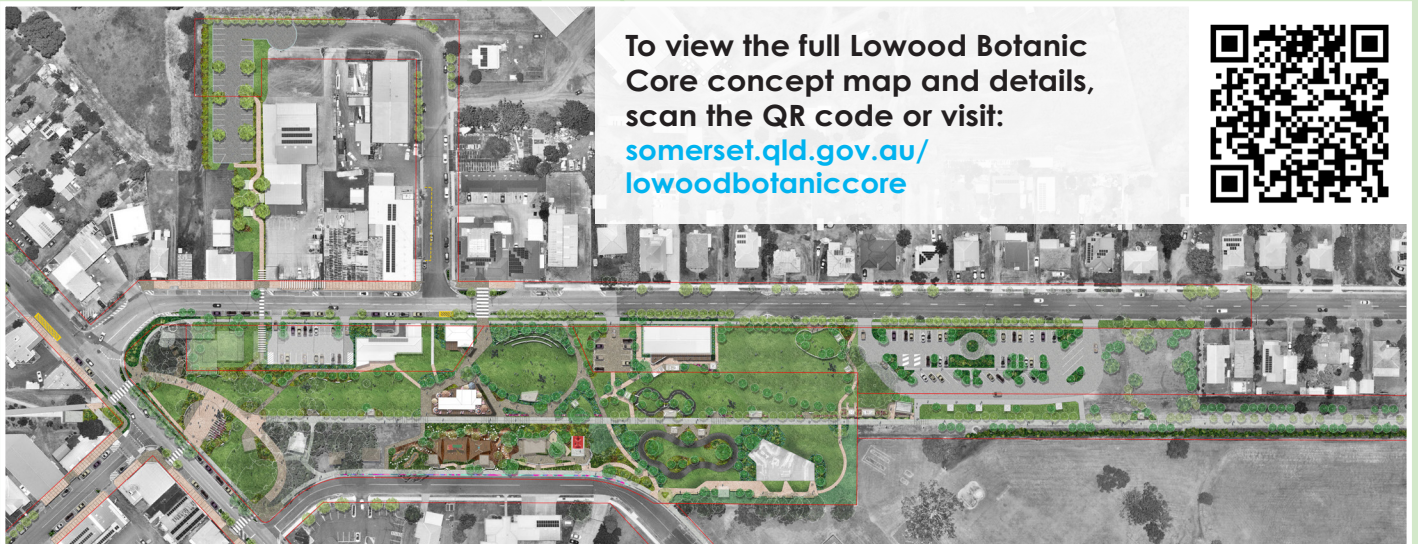
Celebration Lawn

The park's transformation into a hub of Vibrant & Activated spaces is evident through the addition of a formalised event space, a new amenities block, and a diverse range of recreational features including a playground, fitness precinct, skate park, pump track, learn-to-ride track and dog park.



Brisbane Valley Rail Trail

Dedicated cyclist and horse rest areas along the Brisbane Valley Rail Trail and the inclusion of feature lighting further enhance safety and usability across diverse user groups and times of day.



To view the full Lowood Botanic Core concept map and details, scan the QR code or visit:

someset.qld.gov.au/lowoodbotaniccore



Community gives Lowood Botanic Core the thumbs up

Council held community consultation for the Lowood Botanic Core and Streetscape Detailed Designs between September and November 2025, with almost 10% of the town's residents sharing feedback.

Lowood Futures Strategy Advisory Committee Chair, Somerset Mayor Jason Wendt, said the community provided overwhelmingly positive feedback to Council.

"Residents gave considered and supportive feedback, identifying minor changes and improvements for consideration," Cr Wendt said.

"Suggestions included safety improvements to BVRT crossing points, lighting for the skate park and proposed pump track, and CCTV, lighting and barbecues at shelters within the park."

Council is now in the process of refining the Lowood Botanic Core Final Concept Design.

Online survey responses

4.8

How would you score Clock Park today out of 10?

5.9

How would you score parking in Lowood out of 10?
(pre Station Street Carpark construction)

7.1

How would you score the Lowood Botanic Core and Streetscape plans out of 10?

*Average scores based on 185 online survey responses.

Engagement

- » **Almost 200** online survey responses
- » **More than 150** face-to-face interactions at the Lowood Customer Service Centre
- » **39 meetings** with Lowood businesses
- » **130 attendees** at community group meetings
- » **87.7%** of online responses with 4311 postcode (Lowood district)

» **90%** support major events being held in the central park

» **82%** support more handicapped parking, loading zones and short-term parking

» **72%** support reducing the speed limit in the main town streets



Council invited the community to review and discuss the Lowood Botanic Core plans at the Lowood Library

Your words will shape Lowood

Somerset Regional Council sincerely thanks everyone who shared feedback on the Lowood Botanic Core Concept Design Report.

Your feedback is being incorporated in the Lowood Botanic Core Final Concept Design.

“More parking in centre town, the average person doesn’t care about fancy architecture.”

“I like that the skate park is being upgraded and the inclusion of more plants, trees & lighting.”

“Would be great to see Clock Park used more as a meeting place rather than a small car park with a toilet block.”

“It would boost Lowood’s reputation as a beautiful little town to visit and residents will have a nice place to relax and walk or ride bikes.”

“Very good to see that these plans are being made to improve the community. As someone who has moved into this community within the last 5 years I’m excited to see some improvements.”

“The privacy, nature and fun for the kids, it’s a win, win, win.”

“This is a wonderful plan. Lowood is beautiful and should be celebrated. Well done.”

“It would boost Lowood’s reputation as a beautiful little town to visit and residents will have a nice place to relax and walk or ride bikes.”

“Great to see investment in making Lowood a nicer place to enjoy the outdoors.”

“The green spaces and opportunity for the area to be used by a wider range of people and opportunity for possible events.”

“Thank you to council for their vision. Lowood is growing and changing and I appreciate this vision while trying to keep some heritage. Lowood was not a rich town, it was a town of farmers, so there are no grand buildings, but the existing wooden buildings that have stood and served the community for many years are the town’s heritage. Well done to all. Can’t wait to see this come to fruition. Lowood... sturdy and true... a town for all.”

SEQ City Deal funding puts Botanic Core plans into motion

Lowood's Central Park is set to be transformed into a cool, shaded hub for the community after the Queensland Government stumped up funding for projects that reduce local urban heat.

Somerset Regional Council will receive \$1.54 million in state funding through the Green Urban Infrastructure Initiative (GUII) to deliver Stage One of the Lowood Botanic Core.

GUII is a commitment under the South East Queensland (SEQ) City Deal – a \$1.8 billion partnership between the Australian Government, Queensland Government and Council of Mayors (SEQ), which aims to support jobs, improve connectivity and preserve and enhance the region's liveability.

Somerset Mayor Jason Wendt said \$1.54 million grant allowed Council to proceed with confidence in Lowood's grand plans.

"With the community's guidance and this new funding from the Green Urban Infrastructure Initiative, we are excited to move forward with Stage One of the Lowood Botanic Core."

The GUII is a \$20 million initiative co-funded by the Queensland Government and successful local governments to promote council-led projects that reduce urban heat island effects, support healthy lifestyles and improve urban connectivity and biodiversity.

Michael McKee, Deputy Director-General of the Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning, said successful GUII projects like the Lowood Botanic Core would benefit



Somerset Regional Council Mayor Jason Wendt is excited to announce Council will receive \$1.54 million in state funding through the Green Urban Infrastructure Initiative to deliver Stage One of the Lowood Botanic Core.

SEQ's growing communities.

"Funded jointly by the Queensland Government under the SEQ City Deal, these council-led projects aim to promote sustainable development and reduce urban heat," Mr McKee said.

"The urban heat island effect makes dense urban areas hotter, which impacts liveability, so initiatives like planting street trees and building cycleways will be essential as SEQ's population grows.

"Projects like this make our communities better places to live, including encouraging active transport options, reducing urban heat, supporting healthy lifestyles, and boosting green spaces and biodiversity."

Stage One of the Lowood Botanic Core has an estimated cost of \$4.16 million, with Council making an equal contribution of \$1.54 million and the balance provided through Council's existing funding commitment for mature tree planting through

the National Emergency Management Agency's Disaster Ready Fund.

Cr Wendt said Council would finalise the scope of works for Stage One after reviewing public consultation and preparing construction drawings and cost estimates.

Early works will include upgrades to some existing facilities like the Lowood Railway Station building, skate park, Brisbane Valley Rail Trail and Jean Bray Place.

"We will create an entry statement on the corner of Prospect Street and Railway Street to invite people towards the town centre. The historic Lowood Railway Station will become a central gathering space for the community, designed to support events and activities within the park," Cr Wendt said.

"Stage One also includes a new memorial plaza in the green common area on Main Street and an accessible play area with a discovery trail and gardens along Peace Street in Lowood."

Honouring our Veterans grant supports Memorial Plaza plans

The State Government is delivering support to ensure the memory of Queensland's veterans is honoured and preserved for generations to come through the four year, \$6 million Honouring Our Veterans Grants Program.

Somerset Regional Council secured \$68,707.29 in funding under Round 1 of the program.

In April, State Member for Lockyer Jim McDonald announced Returned Services Leagues in Lockyer and Somerset are set to benefit, with funding supporting vital projects to support veterans and their communities.

"The men and women who have served our nation deserve our utmost respect, support and honour," he said.

"I am pleased to announce Laidley RSL and Somerset Regional Council were both successful in their funding applications.

"This funding will ensure our



Representatives of Somerset Regional Council and Lowood RSL Sub-Branch with Member for Lockyer Jim McDonald on their successful application to the Honouring our Veterans grant program.

RSLs are well supported and the memory of our veterans' service is enshrined for many generations."

Somerset Mayor Jason Wendt said the funding would enable delivery of projects in honour of people who have served in the military.

"We're grateful for the Crisafulli Government's

support of our project in Lowood for the relocation of an existing monument and anchoring a cenotaph in the new Memorial Plaza in Clock Park," Cr Wendt said.

"The Lowood RSL Sub Branch was engaged by Council when selecting the monument types and we're grateful for their support for this project."

Lowood Futures Advisory Committee 2025 recap

The Lowood Futures Advisory Committee met five times over the last year to review design updates and community consultation feedback for the Lowood Botanic Core.

The committee reviewed Lowood Botanic Core draft concept designs presented by AECOM Australia Pty Ltd and were consulted on Council's engagement strategy. They also had the opportunity to review community feedback and supported Council in navigating the path towards final concept designs. The committee meets next in August 2026.



The Lowood Futures Advisory Committee: Somerset Mayor Jason Wendt (chair), Graeme Lehmann, Aaron Heck, Deputy Mayor Helen Brieschke, Jean Bray, Susan Pitkin, Councillor Michael Bishop, Elizabeth Butterworth and Tony Sherlock (absent)

Tenders awarded for mature tree supply and maintenance

Somerset Regional Council has accepted tenders for the supply and maintenance of mature trees, allowing for cooler and greener spaces throughout Lowood's town centre.

In January 2026, Council accepted tenders from Logan's Nursery in Donnybrook, Queensland and Trees Impact in Wyong, New South Wales for the supply of mature trees.

The plantings are a key item for streetscape projects in Kilcoy and Lowood.

"We're planning for about 500 mature trees in each town over the next three years alongside landscaped



areas to provide green, cool and shaded places which enhance our rural identity," Cr Wendt said.

"The greening will also strengthen links between the

town centres and surrounding streets and parks."

This project received assistance provided through the Commonwealth's Disaster Ready Fund (DRF).

State Government election commitment funds new dog off-leash area in Lowood

The new Lowood dog off-leash area is close to complete thanks to funding from the State Government.

Somerset Regional Council received a State Government Election Commitment of \$500,000 for upgrades to community park facilities in Fernvale and Lowood, with projects to be completed by 30 June 2026.

Mayor Jason Wendt said four projects were identified by Council through a review of the current playground replacement program.

"We're building a new dog park for Lowood as part of the Lowood Botanic Core, and we have already built the new Fernvale Memorial Park dog park, with a shared cost of \$182,000," Cr Wendt said.

The new Lowood dog park is being constructed opposite the Lowood Skate Park along



the Brisbane Valley Rail Trail, with access from Railway Street.

"We're also replacing and upgrading the Honeywood Park playground and Stumer Park playgrounds in Fernvale, with a total cost of \$318,000."

"These four projects are

100% funded through the State Government's election commitment.

"Our Council is very thankful for the Crisafulli government's funding support for upgrades to essential community facilities in Somerset."