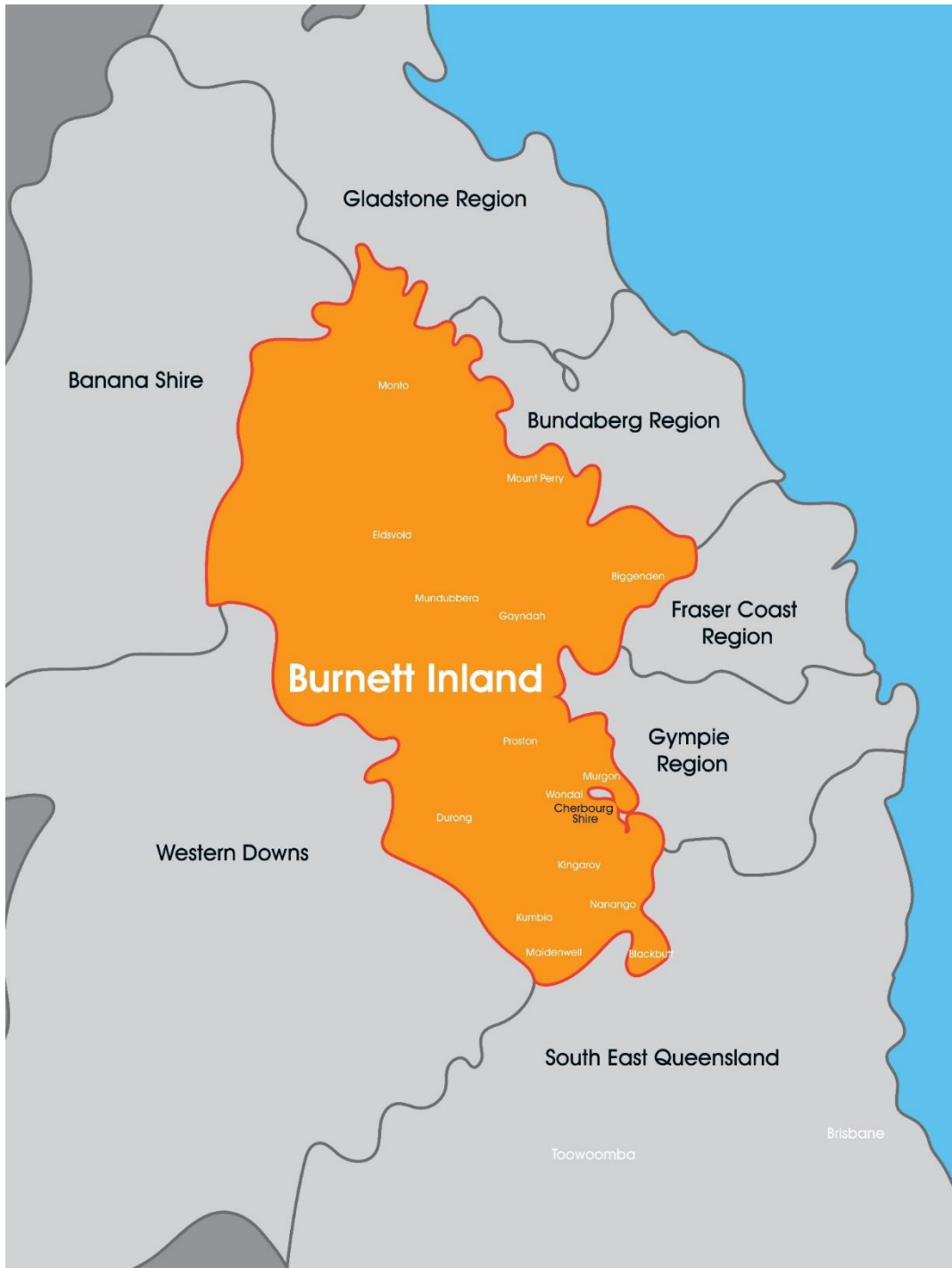


BIEDO

BURNETT INLAND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATION

ANNUAL REPORT 2018/19



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CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

It is that time of the year to reflect on the activities and progress of the financial year just completed and to give all our valued stakeholders a report on these activities.

In short, the financial sustainability of the organisation is always at the forefront of our Executive and Board's mind. At present we are fortunate to have funding in place for the coming year.

Nevertheless all attention continues to focus on alternative income streams, to ensure the ongoing financial security of this great organisation.

Our Board, CEO Kristy and staff continue to build our reputation across the region. The report of our CEO more fully details the range of activities and undertakings of the past twelve months.

On behalf of the Board I wish to express the deep appreciation of the Board members to Kristy and her able team for the wonderful work and outcomes achieved in the past twelve months. Thank you very much.

I would also thank all Board members for their continued commitment and support given volunteering, all ultimately for the benefit of the communities which we support. Additionally I would like to express the Boards appreciation for the support of both North Burnett Regional Council and South Burnett Regional Council, as well as to all our supporters across the region.

Thank you,



Cr John Zahl, BIEDO Board Chair

CEO'S REPORT

BIEDO's 2018/19 year has been one of building on the strategic foundations laid in the previous year and striving to maximise the impact of our activities through the 'three C's' of BIEDO – *Collaboration, Connecting and Capacity*.

We have spent time with business and community throughout the beautiful Burnett inland, delivering workshops and events and engaging 1:1 with a range of stakeholders. We've travelled from one end to the other covering a range of topics relevant to business and industry, from an Ag Network meeting in Maidenwell to an Energy Forum in Mulgildie. In the latter part of the period, we were thrilled to launch BIEDO's latest initiative 'The Platform'. Adding value to our mobile delivery model, 'The Platform' is a solid base for business and community to utilise as a meeting place, co-working space, workshop venue or quiet spot to get some work done uninterrupted. We look forward to seeing the direction it takes as others make it 'their place'!

One of the highlights of the past year has been the Advancing Regional Innovation project, expertly guided by Professor Jim Cavaye, University of Southern Queensland (USQ) and the Rural Economies Centre of Excellence and supported by North Burnett Regional Council, AGL Energy and the Queensland Government. This project has provided a valuable opportunity to work with a research institute and to spend time with growers and producers from the Boyne River and Coalstoun Lakes districts, gathering both qualitative and quantitative data to inform the project. It is our expectation that this piece of work will result in a clear understanding of the economic value of irrigated horticulture to the economy of the North Burnett. We look forward to having data generated from businesses within the region available to support projects and advocacy into the future.

Similarly, through a collaboration between the Building Better Regions Fund, Business South Burnett team, USQ and AGL Energy, we were pleased to deliver the project 'Improving Business Prosperity and Practice'. This project enabled us to get to the heart of our business community, engaging 1:1 with businesses from a range of sectors located across the region, to better understand the challenges and opportunities our businesses face.

Our 'Strong and Resilient Communities' Program (through Department of Social Services) has enabled us to serve our region through a range of programs and activities including Grant-ED, the ever popular Women in Ag Days, Ag Networks in both North and South Burnett and the development of resources such as 'Hand Up'.

With thanks to the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR), their 'In a Good Place' program has seen the development of a pilot 'Rural Wellbeing Extension Program', taking available information and resources into the community through a mobile 'pop-up' platform at regular events such as cattle sales, field days, annual Shows etc.

With leadership development being an important area of focus and on the back of the amazing Red Earth Community Foundation's annual Community Leadership Program in the South Burnett, we were thrilled to secure funding for the North Burnett Leadership Series and Study Tour. With support from the Federal Government's Building Better Regions Fund and in collaboration with North Burnett Regional Council and Red Earth Community Foundation, this exciting series will roll out in the 2019/20 year and provide some wonderful leadership development opportunities, both here in our region and through a Study Tour to Toowoomba region.

With the good sometimes comes the bad, and unfortunately the Burnett inland has faced considerable challenges with Mother Nature in the past year. First with the 11 October 2018 storm cells which devastated areas of the South Burnett, followed by ongoing dry conditions and less than favourable seasonal outlooks. BIEDO is committed to supporting disaster recovery efforts in both North and South Burnett as required and participated in Disaster Recovery team meetings and assisted with data gathering and hosting events post-storms. We certainly hope for improved conditions for all in the coming season.

I take this opportunity to pay tribute and show appreciation to the talented, dedicated group of people who work tirelessly and passionately as part of Team BIEDO and thank them for their ongoing dedication to our organisation and region. The BIEDO Board have provided steady guidance as always this year and their support and efforts are greatly appreciated.



Kristy Frahm, BIEDO Chief Executive Officer

TEAM BIEDO 2018/19

Our Board



Left-right: Cr. John Zahl (Chair), Cr. Kathy Duff, Cr. Ros Heit, Claire Kapernick, Des Crane, Sean Nicholson

Our Staff



Left-right, top-bottom: Kristy Frahm (CEO), Sharon Sippel (Communities Officer), Sarah Aberdein (Projects Officer), Olivia Everitt (Communications Officer), Rose Ariola (Administration & Finance Officer), Karen Seiler (Rural Wellbeing Extension Program Officer), Rachael Lehmann (Finance Officer – until February 2019), Kimberly Kunde (Communities Officer – until December 2018)

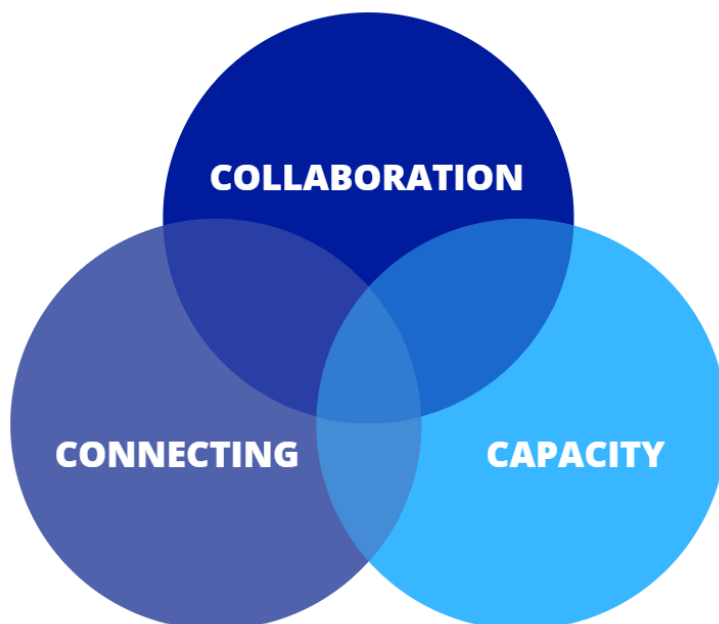
MISSION & VISION

Strong, capable and cohesive Burnett Inland communities

BIEDO was established in 1996 by Burnett local governments, community and industry stakeholders concerned about the impact of drought on our region. We are a not-for-profit economic development organisation working collaboratively to build resilience and capacity by connecting individuals, regional business and government. BIEDO's work spans across the North and South Burnett regions, delivering into every community and district, no matter how small or remote.

We work at a community level to create opportunity and assist with practical solutions to meet identified gaps in services and skills, driving proactive and positive change. Our network and collaboration with Councils, local service providers and community organisations enables BIEDO to deliver effective programs and much-needed services within our region.

BIEDO's mission, *"Enabling economic development in Burnett inland communities"* sees our team focus and align actions with the three 'C's' of BIEDO - *Collaboration, Connecting and Capacity*.



YEAR IN REVIEW: 2018/19 IN A SNAPSHOT



6 successful grant applications, totaling \$47,904.70 new funds for BIEDO projects



914 participants at **33** BIEDO workshops



15 cattle sales & events attended by the Rural Wellbeing Extension Officer, distributing over **220** mental health resources



212 rural women engaged in Women in Agriculture programs



19 communities visited in the Burnett inland by Team BIEDO



730 BIEDO Burst subscribers, an increase of 96.77%



468 new Facebook followers, an increase of 26.7%



503,921 total organic reach on Facebook, an increase of 18.9%



2,224 Instagram post likes across **114** Instagram posts

REFLECTING ON 2018/19: THE THREE C'S OF BIEDO

COLLABORATION – CONNECTING – CAPACITY

During the 2018/19 year, BIEDO was successful in six applications for funding to support new and existing projects. This funding included:

- FRRR In A Good Place: Rural Wellbeing Extension Program - \$19,900
- Gambling Community Benefit Fund Round 97: Rural Wellbeing Extension Program - \$4,470
- Building Better Regions Fund (BBRF): North Burnett Leadership Series - \$18,500
- Rural & Remote Mental Health Funding: Rural Wellbeing Extension Program - \$990
- Queensland Small Business Week Grants Program: BIEDO Small Business Week events - \$1,074.70
- Queensland Women's Week Grants Program: Cross-regional WIRED Workshops - \$2,970

BIEDO acknowledges and thanks all the funding bodies, local sponsors and project partners for their generous support and involvement in the work that we do.

At BIEDO's core are the three C's from our [Strategic Plan 2021](#) – ***Collaboration, Connecting, and Capacity***.

We work ***collaboratively*** across all three levels of government, with local agencies, industry bodies, funders, sponsors, project partners, small businesses and local community to support and enable economic development in the Burnett inland. Our programming, projects and work in the community ***connect*** small business operators, community groups and individuals to their peers and to industry opportunities, skills development and ***capacity*** building programs, resources and pathways to support. BIEDO's 2018/2019 activities included, but were not limited to:

Contribution to regional dialogue: Ongoing participation in both the South Burnett and North Burnett Disaster Recovery Teams, South Burnett and North Burnett Health Network Meetings and working groups such as the Mundubbera to Jandowae Roads Working Group. BIEDO welcomed funding commitments from both major political parties in the lead-up to the May 2019 Federal Election for the construction of a new \$20 million new bridge over the Boyne River to improve route safety.

Diversifying the Economy – ARIP Pilot Program: Delivery of this Advance Queensland project in partnership with North Burnett Regional Council, University of Southern Queensland (Rural Economies Centre of Excellence), AGL Energy and the Queensland Government. This project has been expertly guided by Professor Jim Cavaye and has enabled our team to spend time with growers and producers in the Boyne River and Coalstoun Lakes areas, gathering quantitative and qualitative data to develop an understanding of the economic value of irrigated horticulture to the North Burnett regional economy.

Grant-ED Program: The first session in the new 'Grant-ED 101: Creating a "grant ready" project' workshop series was hosted at The Platform in June 2019 and attended by 16 community members and small business operators. Further 'Grant-ED 101' workshops are planned for the first half of the 2019/2020 year and the reach of the Grant-ED program continues to be supported by the development of the BIEDO Grant Writers Database resource, and monthly Grant-ED updates in the BIEDO *Burst* e-News.

Growth in BIEDO's Online Engagement: The subscriber database of the monthly BIEDO *Burst* e-News has almost doubled over the last 12 months, and continues to enjoy above average engagement from its readership. BIEDO has also enjoyed increased engagement across its two main social media platforms, Facebook and Instagram, with an additional 468 Facebook followers and an increased reach of 18.9%. During 2019/2020 BIEDO will be undertaking a redevelopment of the BIEDO website to maximise usability and increase access to BIEDO's programs and resources.

North Burnett Leadership Series: Funding from the Building Better Regions Fund (BBRF) program has been secured to develop and deliver a designated leadership series in the North Burnett, inspired by the continued success of the South Burnett Community Leadership Program presented by the Red Earth Community Foundation. The North Burnett Leadership Series will enhance leadership in North Burnett communities by building skills and confidence.

This program aims to contribute to the social and economic capacity of the region, build resilience to face challenges and encourage positive change into the future. The leadership series will be delivered during the 2019/2020 year and include a number of workshops, and an industry Study Tour to Toowoomba.

The Platform: Development of a new co-working and meeting space in the Burnett inland, launched on 28th June 2019. BIEDO acknowledges the support of South Burnett Regional Council in arranging a new lease agreement to encompass both the existing BIEDO office and The Platform, both located at 80 Gore Street in Murgon. 'The Platform' is now available to hire for a variety of purposes that will support the needs of Burnett inland community and business, and provide a new income stream to support BIEDO's sustainability for the long term.

Rural Wellbeing Extension Program: Supported by FRRR, enabling a designated project officer to attend cattle sales and other rural community events to share information focused on physical and mental wellbeing of farmers and rural industry workers. The Rural Wellbeing Extension Program offers low-intensity, non-clinical support by taking an outreach approach to provide information and pathways to support for primary producers. Launched at the start of 2019, in the first 6 months of the program the Rural Wellbeing Extension Program Officer participated in 15 cattle sales and events, directly engaging with 239 community members and initiating 19 referrals for further individual support. Additionally, the Rural Wellbeing Extension Program Officer attended 25 interagency network meetings .

South Burnett & North Burnett Agriculture Networks: Quarterly forums facilitated in each region, bringing together primary producers, agencies, government and industry stakeholders to share information and encourage discussion in response to issues impacting the sector such as risk management and crop insurance, energy, transport routes and weed management. These well-attended forums are participant-driven and take place in a range of communities throughout the Burnett inland. In 2018/19 Ag Network meetings were held in Wooroolin, Gayndah, Kingaroy, Maidenwell, Mt Perry, Tablelands, Mulgildie and Munduberra.

Women in Agriculture Programs: Consisting of WAg's Day events (Biggenden – October 2018 and Durong – March 2019) and the annual Women in Workshirts Walk (Wooroolin - October 2018, International Day of Rural Women). Additionally, during Queensland Women's Week in March 2019, BIEDO collaborated with South Burnett Regional Council, North Burnett Regional Council and Gympie Regional Council to deliver the 'Women in Regional Economic Development (W.I.R.E.D.) for Growth' program during Queensland Women's Week, a series of half-day workshops designed for women to grow confidence and develop business acumen. BIEDO's range of programs that support rural women are aimed to build capacity, increase social connectness and reduce isolation.

AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

BIEDO is proud to have served the people and communities throughout the Burnett inland this year, made possible with support from a number of fundraising pillars including grant funding, membership, fee-for-service activities and sponsorship. As a team, we remain committed to delivering our programs for greatest impact and in the most financially efficient way possible, all the while endeavouring to achieve ongoing organisational sustainability. We are pleased to receive the Audited Financial Statements for BIEDO for the financial year noting a positive accumulated surplus at 30 June 2019 and look forward to continuing to connect, collaborate and grow the capacity of our region into the future.

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2019/20

As we cast our eyes forward now for the year ahead, in the 2019/2020 year BIEDO will continue to support disaster and drought recovery efforts as necessary, keeping the needs of our communities at the heart of what we do. We are excited to see the launch of new programming such as the North Burnett Leadership Series and *Taking Care of #BurnettInland Business* which will offer practical support and capacity building opportunities for local business through workshops on topics such as business planning.

With thanks to new funding just announced from Burnett Mary Regional Group (BMRG), our South Burnett and North Burnett Agriculture Networks will be supported by a designated Agriculture Network Extension Officer and activities will be expanded to include the first Wide Bay Burnett Young Farmers Forum in early-2020. We welcome BMRG as a new project partner in this space and look forward to working together to support primary producers in our region.

Other exciting events and programs on our radar in 2019/20 include, but won't be limited to:

- **Women in Ag Days** – October in Mundubbera, and in March (location TBC), and the return of the popular annual Women in Workshirts Walk in October along the South Burnett Rail Trail
- **Rural Wellbeing Extension Program** – continuation of this program which works to link primary producers to resources and pathways to support for physical and mental wellbeing
- **Grant-ED** – hosting workshops across a range of communities in the North and South Burnett to build capacity and increase confidence across community groups and small business to apply for funding opportunities

We look forward to seeing you in the *#BurnettInland* soon!