

BIEDO

BURNETT INLAND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATION

ANNUAL REPORT 2019/20



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CHAIR'S MESSAGE

The past financial year can only be described as one of great differences and difficulties, brought about by the influence of COVID-19 on all our communities.

Our year began in normal fashion, with funding in place for the following year, and event connections with all our partners on track. In March, all changed for the obvious reason. Our business of meeting with our communities face-to-face came to an end, and we unfortunately ended the year in a holding position, pending the direction in which the Virus and our government leaders would ultimately take us.

I would like to thank on behalf of the Board the outgoing Board members Des Crane, Claire Kapernick and also Cr. Kathy Duff for their services; the enthusiasm and assistance you have all brought to our Board will be missed. Both our member Councils, North Burnett Regional Council and South Burnett Regional Council, will nominate delegates to the Board at our upcoming Annual General Meeting in November 2020.

To revisit my comments in relation to funding, I would add that we have been indeed fortunate to have our Commonwealth funding in place, for the year just finalised, and the coming financial year. The matter of funding in an ongoing matter of concern for the Board, and we are well aware of the demands which shall no doubt be made on Commonwealth funding for Boards such as ours going forward.

Special mention must be made of the commitment and tireless efforts of CEO Kristy, who has maintained an outstanding level of professionalism and management of our business during these difficult times. I would also commend Kristy on her efforts to ensure all staff continued employment and were cared for during the months following the Virus outbreak. The Report of our CEO will more fully detail the happenings, events and outcomes of our efforts during the past year.

Additionally, thanks to all our staff for the wonderful and professional manner in representing our Organisation throughout the year. I would add that many favourable comments are made of the efforts of our staff in their wide range of community engagement.

Thank you to the Board members for your commitment during the past year. I personally hope that collectively our efforts in the coming year will involve our business returning to normal where our Brand is on show throughout at region at events such as Ag Networks and the like.

Thank you,



Cr John Zahl, BIEDO Board Chair

CEO'S MESSAGE

It is a privilege to present a report as Chief Executive Officer of the Burnett Inland Economic Development Organisation Inc. (BIEDO) for the financial year 2019/2020.

The Burnett Inland was facing worsening drought conditions in July 2019, which not only impacted our agriculture sector, but naturally flowed through our town-based business communities as well. Extreme weather conditions throughout spring and early summer saw bushfires in some parts of the Burnett Inland as well, further adding to the challenging conditions being faced by landholders. BIEDO's focus at this time was on coordinating drought meetings, sourcing and sharing drought recovery resources and measures and providing support wherever possible to those business owners facing adversity.

While still coordinating drought response and recovery activities, a new test was emerging for our business community, something we certainly didn't foresee as we launched into the 2020 year, but something we very quickly had to adapt and respond to – the COVID-19 virus. Through adversity comes opportunity as they say and this certainly rang true in the Burnett Inland as we saw agencies and organisations rise to the challenge and work together to achieve a new level of collaboration and connectivity. Zoom became our way of life as we all turned to digital means to enable teamwork to continue. And it did, seamlessly, both interagency and external events were taken online with pleasing results. A huge shout out must go to the entire BIEDO team for the way they all faced and overcame the unchosen changes resulting from COVID, and I could not be more grateful for the commitment and resourcefulness everyone gave during the second half of the 2019/20 year. BIEDO remains committed to continuing to support the business community of the Burnett Inland through whatever adversity is presented going forward, be it COVID, drought, fires or storms while at the same time encourage future planning to increase resilience and minimise the impact of such events in the future.

Working in collaboration with others is at the very core of what drives BIEDO, so we were very excited to be able to develop partnership agreements with each of our member Councils – North Burnett and South Burnett Regional Councils – towards the end of the 2019/20 year. While we have always strived to work alongside our Councils, the partnerships formed outlined programs to see our town and farm-based business communities further supported, along with service provision of project planning, drought resilience and economic development support according to the needs of each Council. We are thrilled to have these plans in place and look forward to launching these partnerships in 2020/21.

As we call time on another big year of service to business and community in the beautiful Burnett Inland, Team BIEDO looks to the future. We look forward to continuing to strengthen the positive impact and outcomes we have in the region through existing funded programs and partnerships, while also planning for long term sustainability for the organisation.

Sincere and heartfelt thanks to all – our Board members past and present, members of our staff and contractors who dedicate their best efforts to BIEDO in serving our region and of course the people of the Burnett Inland who continue to amaze us with their resilience, enthusiasm and capacity.

Team work truly does make the dream work!



Kristy Frahm, BIEDO Chief Executive Officer

TEAM BIEDO 2019/20

Our Board



L-R:

John Zahl (Chair)

Ros Heit

Sean Nicholson

Cr. Kathy Duff

Trevor Harvey

Our Staff



L-R:

Kristy Frahm (Chief Executive Officer)

Sarah Aberdein (Project Officer)

Olivia Everitt (Communications Officer)

Karen Seiler (Rural Wellbeing Extension Officer)

Sharon Sippel (Communities & Administration Officer)

Sarah Shaw (Ag Networks Extension Officer)

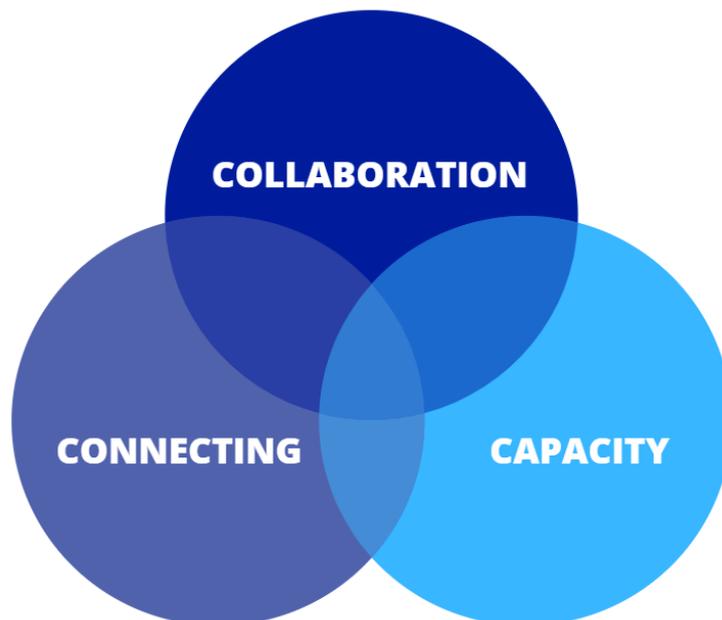
MISSION & VISION

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: 2019/20 IN A SNAPSHOT



8 successful grants and new partnerships, totaling **\$129,665.37** new funds for BIEDO projects



20 online workshops and events hosted in response to COVID-19 restrictions between March-June 2020



225 rural women engaged in Women in Agriculture programs



15 communities visited in the Burnett inland by Team BIEDO between July 2019-March 2020



876 BIEDO Burst subscribers



428 new Facebook followers & a total organic reach of **481,571**



2,368 Instagram post likes across 138 Instagram posts



EVENTS ACROSS THE BURNETT INLAND 2019-20

JULY

- 22 Social Media Workshop (Wondai)
- 23 Energy Pop-Up Office (Mundubbera)
- 24 Energy Pop-Up Officer (Murgon)
- 31 Grant-ED Workshop (Biggenden)

AUGUST

- 17 North Burnett Leadership Series: Welcome Dinner (Gayndah)
- 27 Q&A with QLD Chief Entrepreneur (Biggenden)

SEPTEMBER

- 10 Grant-ED Workshop (Blackbutt)
- 19 Grant-ED Workshop (Eidsvold)
- 20 North Burnett Leadership Series: Using Creativity to Manage Change Workshop (Monto)

OCTOBER

- 7 Women in Workshirts Walk (Wooroolin)
- 15 Women in Ag Day (Mundubbera)
- 16 South Burnett Ag Network Meeting (Durong)
- 16 North Burnett Ag Network Meeting (Eidsvold)
- 22 Taking Care of Burnett Inland Business Workshop (Murgon)

NOVEMBER

- 7 Bugger the Drought Dinner (Booie)
- 7 BIEDO Bus Trip: Wide Bay Burnett Regional Economic Growth Forum (Gympie)
- 8 BIEDO 2019/20 AGM (Murgon)
- 8 Bugger the Drought Dinner (Mondure)
- 9 Bugger the Drought Dinner (Burrandowan)
- 21 South Burnett Ag Network Meeting (Kumbia)
- 22 North Burnett Ag Network Meeting (Beeron)
- 22 Bugger the Drought Dinner (Beeron)

DECEMBER

- 5 Bugger the Drought Dinner (Coalstoun Lakes)

FEBRUARY

- 6 North Burnett Ag Network (Biggenden)
- 7 South Burnett Ag Network (Murgon)
- 21 North Burnett Leadership Series: Building Leadership for Social Change Workshop (Mundubbera)

MARCH

- 11 Women in Business Evening (Nanango)
- 13 Taking Care of Burnett Inland Business (Gayndah)
- 20 Introduction to Zoom Session (Online)
- 24 Social Media Session (Online)

APRIL

- 2 Breakky with BIEDO (Online)
- 8 Breakky with BIEDO (Online)
- 15 Breakky with BIEDO (Online)
- 22 Breakky with BIEDO (Online)
- 22 Ag Network Meeting (Online)
- 29 Breakky with BIEDO (Online)

MAY

- 6 Breakky with BIEDO (Online)
- 13 Breakky with BIEDO (Online)
- 20 Breakky with BIEDO (Online)
- 27 Breakky with BIEDO (Online)
- 30 Women in Ag Event (Online)

JUNE

- 4 Red Earth Conversation Series: Session 1 (Online)
- 10 Breakky with BIEDO (Online)
- 18 Red Earth Conversation Series: Session 2 (Online)
- 18 Women in Ag Event (Online)
- 22 Taking Care of Burnett Inland Business Workshop: Cash Flow Forecasts (Online)
- 24 Breakky with BIEDO (Online)
- 29 Taking Care of Burnett Inland Business Workshop: Cash Flow Forecasts (Online)

REFLECTING ON 2019/2020: THE THREE C'S OF BIEDO

COLLABORATION – CONNECTING – CAPACITY

During the 2019/2020 year, BIEDO was successful in attracting a range of funding support for projects and activities. This funding included:

- BMRG Flexible Funding – Young Farmers Forum: \$19,900
- BMRG Flexible Funding – Ag Network Extension Officer: \$19,940
- BMRG Flexible Funding Extension - Ag Network Extension Officer: \$6,000
- Bundaberg Enterprise Centre Sponsorship – The Platform: \$5,000
- Stanwell Corporate Sponsorship - The Platform: \$5,000
- Gambling Community Benefit Fund – The Platform: \$29,355.37
- Stanwell Corporate Sponsorship – Rural Wellbeing Extension Program: \$24,520
- Stanwell Corporate Sponsorship - Burnett Inland Business & Community Support Program: \$19,950

BIEDO would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and extend our gratitude to all the funding bodies, sponsors and project partners for their support this year. We are also thrilled to be entering into new partnership agreements with both our member Councils for the 2020/21 year and look forward to launching these partnerships in the new financial year.

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 Burnett Inland communities 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 2019/2020 activities included, but were not limited to:

ARIP Program - Burnett Inland Entrepreneur Ecosystem: During the 2019/2020 year, further funding was secured to deliver an Advancing Regional Innovation Program (ARIP) project with Chad Renando from Startup Status and the Rural Economies Centre of Excellence (RECoE), to better understand new business initiatives and activity across the North and South Burnett. Chad has mapped these 'entrepreneur ecosystems' in regional areas across Australia and we were pleased to have the opportunity to explore the same in the Burnett inland. Additionally, Chad supported the formation of a Wide Bay Burnett economic development agencies roundtable in response to COVID-19, which included undertaking a survey of Burnett Inland businesses across a range of sectors to understand their goals, needs etc. This information proved invaluable in informing COVID and drought response and recovery discussions.

Breakky with BIEDO: In direct response to social gathering restrictions due to COVID-19, BIEDO launched a series of virtual business breakfasts to provide a platform for businesses to stay connected. Sessions were hosted between April to June 2020, with each featuring guest speakers from different businesses, agencies and government departments. Topics covered during Breakky with BIEDO sessions included JobKeeper updates, grants and funding assistance, employer incentives and other topics relevant to the COVID-19's impact on businesses.

Grant-ED Program: This program aims to build capacity and increase confidence in individuals, community groups and businesses to access and apply for various funding opportunities. Three 'Grant ED 101: Creating a "Grant Ready" Project' workshops were delivered in July and September in Biggenden, Eidsvold and Blackbutt.

North Burnett Leadership Series: Supported by Building Better Regions Fund (BBRF), North Burnett Regional Council and Red Earth Community Foundation, this program aims to nurture and build leadership capacity in North Burnett communities. Program delivery in 2019/2020 included a Welcome Dinner in Gayndah, followed by workshops 'Building Leadership for Social change' (Mundubbera) with Lisa Ryan (Adaptive Leadership Australia) and 'Using Creativity to Manage Change Workshop' (Monto) with Simone de Haas. Program delivery for the North Burnett Leadership Series will continue in the 2020/2021 year.

Taking Care of Burnett Inland Businesses: In collaboration with Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority and Rural Financial Counselling Services, the first session in this workshop series was held on 22 October 2019 at The Platform, and discussed business planning strategies and cash flow forecasts. A secondary session, 'Managing Your Cash Flow', was held in March 2020 in collaboration with Rural Financial Counselling Services for farm-based businesses at Gayndah, with a further two-part online workshop delivered in June 2020, aiming to offer practical support and business resources for Burnett Inland businesses. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, two scheduled face-face workshops were cancelled in March.

Red Earth Conversation Series: BIEDO launched this online conversation series in collaboration with Red Earth Community Foundation in June 2020, unpacking the impacts and opportunities presented by COVID-19 and questioning how this redefines our region's future. Two sessions were hosted on Zoom in June, attracting over 100 registrations and featuring guest speakers such as the Queensland Chief Entrepreneur and CEO of Everledger, Leanne Kemp and former Independent Member for Indi Cathy McGowan AO alongside Burnett Inland Community leaders in a panel discussion format.

Rural Wellbeing Extension Program: Supported by FRRR, this program enabled a designated Rural Wellbeing Extension Officer to attend cattle sales and other rural community events to share information with producers and their families about physical and mental wellbeing. Additionally, four 'Bugger the Drought' dinners were hosted in November-December 2020 in the small farming communities of Booie, Burrandowan, Mondure and Coalstoun Lakes, which were attended by up to 250 people. This iteration of the program concluded in early 2020, however BIEDO would like to acknowledge and thank Stanwell who will continue to support the BIEDO team to build on the legacy of this program through the Burnett Inland Business & Community Support Program, which will commence in the 2020/21 year.

South Burnett & North Burnett Agriculture Networks: Quarterly meetings in North Burnett and South Burnett regions continued in 2019/20 as a way to network primary producers with industry representatives, agencies, support organisations and government departments. With funding support from the State Government's Reef Water Quality Program through the Burnett Mary Regional Group (BMRG), BIEDO engaged a dedicated Ag Network Extension Officer who coordinated meetings in Durong, Kumbia, Murgon, Eidsvold and Biggenden. Topics covered during 2019/20 included drought feeding, stock-route management and Reef Regulations were discussed in the sessions. In April 2020 BIEDO delivered the first online Ag Network session with guest speakers from DAF, QRIDA, BMRG and Monto Veterinary Services all providing updates on the drought and COVID-19 impacts and measures.

Women in Agriculture Program: Over 100 participants joined BIEDO for a Women in Agriculture event (WAg's Day) in Mundubbera in October, bringing together rural women for guest speakers, lunch and activities in conjunction with International Day of the Rural Woman. In addition to this, the annual Women in Workshirts Walk was held on the South Burnett Rail Trail departing from Wooroolin, encompassing a 5km walk/run and social morning tea in for over 50 participants in conjunction with Queensland Mental Health Week. A second Women in Ag Day scheduled for March in Wondai was postponed due to COVID-19.

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 2020/21

In the new financial year, BIEDO will continue to support business and community across the Burnett Inland respond to the impacts of COVID-19, and support drought and other natural disaster recovery efforts as necessary, keeping the needs of our communities at the heart of what we do. Delivery of activities will continue both online and face-to-face with due care given to COVID safety requirements, which are constantly evolving.

We are excited to be launching new partnership arrangements with our member Councils in the 2020/21 financial year and encourage our network to stay connected with us on [our website](#) to follow updates in regards to these programs.

A 'sneak peek' into activities and programs on our radar for 2020/21 include:

- **Women in Ag Days** – October in Gayndah in conjunction with International Day of Rural Women, and in March in Wondai in conjunction with Queensland Women's Week.
- **Regional Road Trips** – Our team will be on the road again visiting Burnett Inland business communities to provide resources and pathways to the range of business assistance currently available.
- **Grant-ED** – hosting workshops to build capacity and increase confidence across community groups and small business to undertake project planning and apply for upcoming funding opportunities

We look forward to seeing you in the *#BurnettInland* (or in our virtual office) soon!