



BIEDO ANNUAL REPORT 2024

CONNECTING COMMUNITIES | BUILDING FUTURES

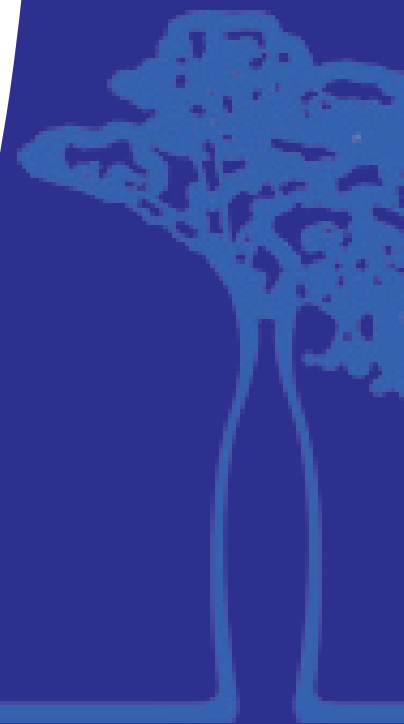
PUBLICATION 2025

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We would like to acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of this land upon which BIEDO operates. We would like to pay respect to Elders both past and present and extend that respect to other Aboriginal people in our community.





CHAIRMANS UPDATE

It has been an interesting year for BIEDO, with a wide range of accomplishments and program deliveries from the passionate team members. BIEDO has focussed on delivering regionally across the North and South Burnett and Cherbourg Council areas and has worked closely with local businesspeople, local business chapters, and the Queensland State and Federal Government departments.

Our ethos has been to work together with all stakeholders and to listen to the people of this great region for the betterment of the region.

At the Council elections we had a significant change; fortunately, good people dedicated to their communities continue to be elected by our public, this helps us to continue to serve our community effectively too.

I sincerely thank our BIEDO team members for their many hours of work and their dedication and service to the community in their roles, our board is very proud that all team members are from the region we live in. I extend my gratitude to the following funding bodies, Australian Government, Queensland Government, South Burnett Regional Council, North Burnett Regional Council, FRRR, NBN Local, for working with us in a positive way to deliver useful programs for our business community

Looking forward, BIEDO will continue to be a flexible, resilient, effective community entity delivering economic opportunity and working closely with the councils and industry to encourage and attract economic growth. I wish all our stakeholders a prosperous, safe and healthy 2025.

Sean Nicholson

GENERAL MANAGER'S MESSAGE



This year has been both challenging and rewarding for BIEDO as we continue our mission to drive economic development and strengthen community resilience across the Burnett Inland region.

Operating in regional economic development requires a sense of optimism and determination. Our communities have faced unprecedented hurdles with labour shortages, inflation, housing deficits, and the ever-present issues of water security, connectivity, and healthcare.

When combined with the impacts of climate change and a series of natural disasters, it is clear that resilience and community spirit are more vital than ever.

Despite these challenges, BIEDO remains steadfast in its commitment to connecting stakeholders, generating innovative solutions, and supporting sustainable growth.

Through strategic partnerships and a strong grassroots presence, we've successfully delivered projects that address both immediate needs and future aspirations for our region. It has been inspiring to see our communities come together, and we are proud to play a role in facilitating these efforts.

As we reflect on these accomplishments, we also acknowledge the importance of community engagement in driving success.

Whether it was through our Producer Workshops, AgTech initiatives, or the Connectivity Roadshow, it is evident that collaboration is at the heart of everything we do.

We are incredibly grateful for the continued support of our partners, funders, and community members who share our vision of a strong and sustainable Burnett Inland region.

Looking ahead to 2024, we are excited about the opportunities to further expand our work. We will continue to build on our strong foundations, delivering programs that support business growth, enhance community well-being, and address the unique challenges faced by our region. Our commitment remains clear: to foster economic growth, create opportunities, and help our communities thrive.

On behalf of the entire BIEDO team, I want to thank you for your support and engagement this year. We look forward to working with our communities in the coming years as we continue this journey together.

Warm regards,

Mistrel Badesso

BIEDO (Burnett Inland Economic Development Organisation) is a community-driven, not-for-profit organisation dedicated to fostering economic development, building community resilience, and supporting agribusiness across the Burnett Inland region.

We work closely with local councils, businesses, community groups, and industry leaders to create sustainable opportunities that drive regional prosperity.



OUR MISSION

To empower and connect communities through innovative initiatives that support economic growth, strengthen resilience, and create a thriving and sustainable future for the Burnett Inland region.

OUR VALUES

Collaboration: We build partnerships to achieve shared goals.

Innovation: We embrace new ideas and creative solutions.

Integrity: We act with transparency, honesty, and accountability.

Resilience: We adapt and respond to challenges with determination.

Community Focus: We put the well-being of our communities at the heart of everything we do.

OUR KEY FOCUS AREAS

1. Regional Economic Development

We work to strengthen the Burnett Inland economy by supporting local businesses attracting investment, and promoting job creation through business development projects, strategic projects, and tailored workshops.

2. Community Resilience

Through disaster preparedness, mental health support, and social inclusion projects, we build resilient communities that can adapt to change, recover from challenges, and thrive in a rapidly evolving world.

3. Agribusiness Support

We support primary producers and agribusinesses through capacity-building programs, sustainability initiatives, and market development projects that promote long-term productivity, profitability, and environmental stewardship. We also provide valuable information and updates on legislation, industry challenges, sustainability practices, AgTech innovations, and business growth opportunities. By fostering knowledge-sharing and collaboration, we help producers stay informed, adapt to change, and build resilient, future-focused agribusinesses.



THIS YEAR SAW THE SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF SEVERAL KEY INITIATIVES:

South Burnett Regional Council Investment Prospectus:

Funded by the Australian Government's Black Summer Bushfire Grants, this project has provided a comprehensive roadmap for attracting investment to the region.

Flavours of the Burnett – Building a Food Destination:

Delivered with Regionality, this project aims to transform our region into a thriving food destination, enhancing agritourism and supporting local producers.

Graziers Collaboration: With support from the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, this project aims to help local graziers adopt sustainable land management practices, improve water quality, and increase business resilience.

Burnett Visionary Women Events:

Supported by the Queensland Government's Investing in Queensland Women grant, these events brought together inspiring women from South Burnett, North Burnett, and Cherbourg to share stories of success and resilience.

Building Disaster Resilience in North Burnett:

This initiative, funded through the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements, focused on strengthening the capacity of local communities to respond to future climate impacts.



2024: A YEAR OF BUILDING TOGETHER

Our work in 2024 focused on driving positive change and fostering growth across the Burnett Inland. Here's a snapshot of some of our most impactful projects and community outcomes.



South Burnett Investment Prospectus

We developed a comprehensive investment prospectus in partnership with the South Burnett Regional Council, funded through the Australian Government's Black Summer Bushfire Recovery Program. This resource highlights regional investment opportunities and promotes economic development.



Burnett Visionary Women Events

Funded by the Queensland Government's Investing in Queensland Women initiative, these empowering events celebrated and supported women's leadership and resilience across South Burnett, North Burnett, and Cherbourg communities.



Flavours of the Burnett – Building a Food Destination

This project, delivered with Regionality, aims to position the Burnett Inland as a premier food and agritourism destination. Supported through the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements, a joint program funded by the Australian and Queensland governments, the project enhances market access for local producers and boosts regional tourism.



Building Disaster Resilience in North Burnett

With funding from the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements, a joint program funded by the Australian and Queensland governments, this initiative strengthened disaster preparedness and response capacity through community workshops, emergency management planning, and resilience training.



South Burnett Regional Council Local Recovery and Resilience Grant

In response to the South Burnett Regional Council Needs Analysis Survey and feedback from the agricultural sector, BIEDO proposed a series of six workshop topics delivered across ten events. These workshops aimed to strengthen local resilience and provide essential knowledge tailored to industry needs.



Burnett Support Pathways Project

Funded by the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements, this project placed two dedicated Support Pathway Officers in the South and North Burnett regions to increase access to disaster preparedness and recovery information. Officers provided direct support and referrals at ag shows, cattle sales, and industry field days, offering practical assistance in mental health referrals, financial aid applications, and drought preparedness.



Connectivity Roadshow

BIEDO facilitated a week-long Connectivity Roadshow across 10 locations, connecting community members directly with telecommunications providers. This initiative promoted digital inclusion by addressing regional connectivity challenges.



Farmer Collaboration Projects

The Burnett Inland Grazier Group project is enabling local producers to adopt AgTech designed to collect and use data for sustainable land management. This approach helps maintain business profitability, reduce soil loss, and improve water quality flowing to the Great Barrier Reef. Knowledge-sharing sessions and on-farm workshops have encouraged the adoption of new technologies. Through partnerships with producers and local councils, valuable information is being shared beyond those directly involved in the project.

SUCCESS STORIES & TESTIMONIALS

These achievements reflect our ongoing commitment to creating sustainable growth and stronger, more connected communities. Together, we're building a resilient future for the Burnett Inland.



Jenny Cross

Bunya Beef Grazing - Burnett Inland Graziers Collaborative

The Burnett Inland Graziers Group has greatly benefited from the Peer-to-Peer Grants program, supported by BIEDO and funded by DAF/DPI. With BIEDO's sponsorship and guidance, we've embraced AgTech solutions like Ceres Tags and Mapipedia to enhance sustainable farm management practices, reduce sediment runoff, and improve pasture usage. The workshops, field days, and peer learning have been invaluable, fostering collaboration and capacity building within our group. Thanks to this initiative, we've not only improved our environmental stewardship but also strengthened our businesses, demonstrating the power of teamwork and innovation in agriculture.

Jacinta Rockemer
Goomeri

I have had the pleasure of attending several events and workshops organised by BIEDO. One such event was the International Rural Women's Day lunch at Mulanah Gardens. It was an inspiring day, filled with the opportunity to connect with like-minded individuals who share my passion for the agriculture industry. Events like this remind me of how fortunate and proud I am to be a part of this vibrant community. I am immensely grateful for the opportunities BIEDO provide to our community and look forward to continuing my journey with their support.



SUCCESS STORIES & TESTIMONIALS

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Mandy & Allan Evans
Bunya Red Farm - Benair

Allan & I put our hands up to participate in Regionality's Business Development Program run by Rose Wright and her team supported by BIEDO. Rose certainly knows her stuff. There is so much more to running a successful agritourism venture and Rose covered it ALL - from the initial planning of your offering to marketing to various customer types, strategies to implement and right down to the nitty gritty of the business side. We have learned so much from Rose and thank her for the time taken to review our farm, get to the heart of our business and helped us document those missing pieces. She centred us and kept us coming back to Our Values and Our Goals. Through this program Rose helped us clarify the future direction for Bunya Red Farm.



BREAKING IT DOWN – OUR REACH IN 2024

28,994 km's travelled
supporting our
communities!

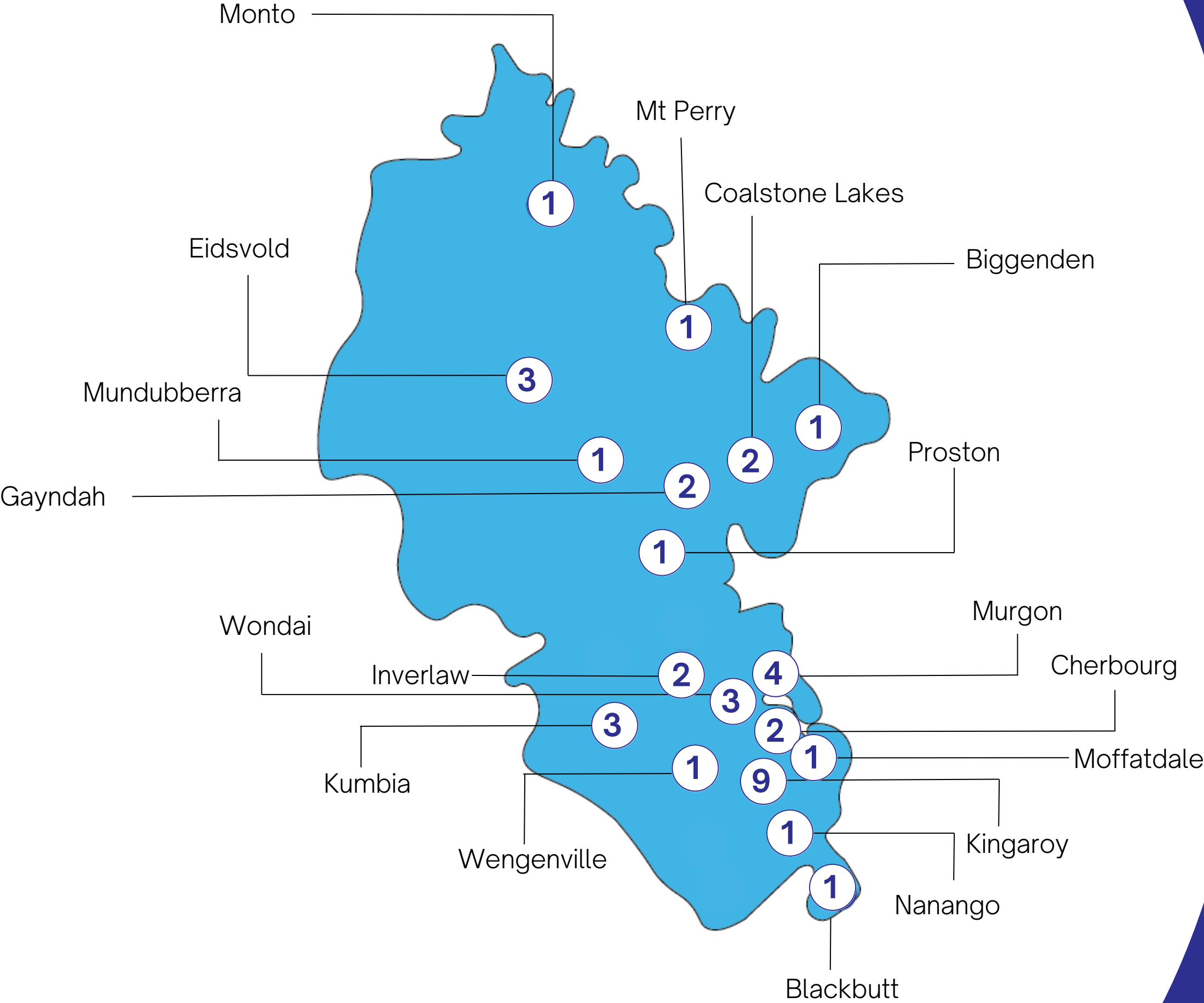
**500+ Businesses &
primary producers**
received personalised
support through
workshops, advisory
services, & mentoring
programs.

**1,200+ Community
members** engaged
through events and
capacity-building
activities.

**100+ agency and
industry meetings,
workshops and
forums** attended by
our team.

ON THE GROUND ACROSS THE REGION

Here’s a look at the towns across the region where our projects were funded, highlighting the breadth of our reach and the impact we’ve made in supporting communities throughout the Burnett Inland.



CATTLE SALES ATTENDED

7
Coolabunia

13
Murgon

5
Biggenden

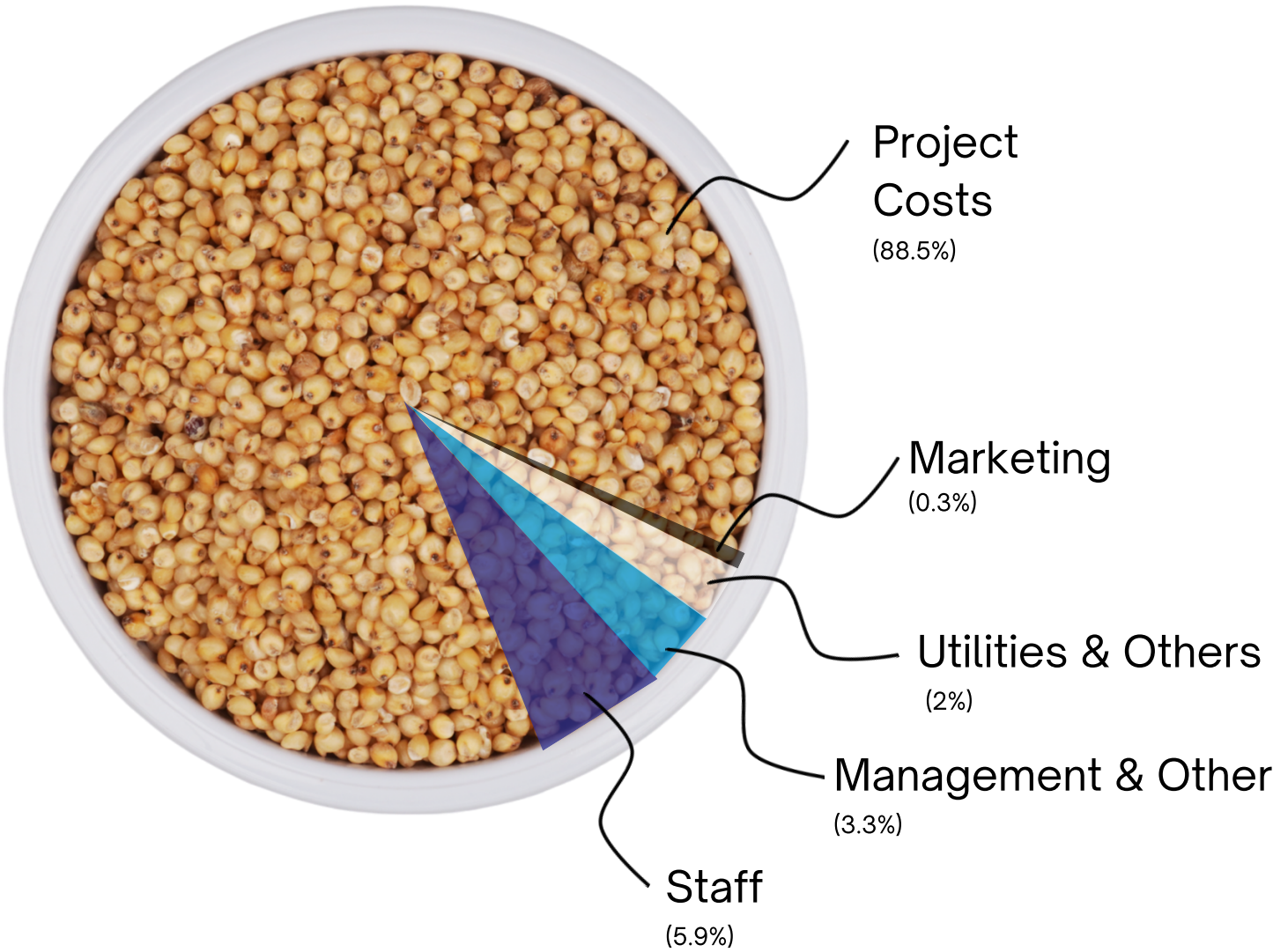
5
Monto

4
Eidsvold

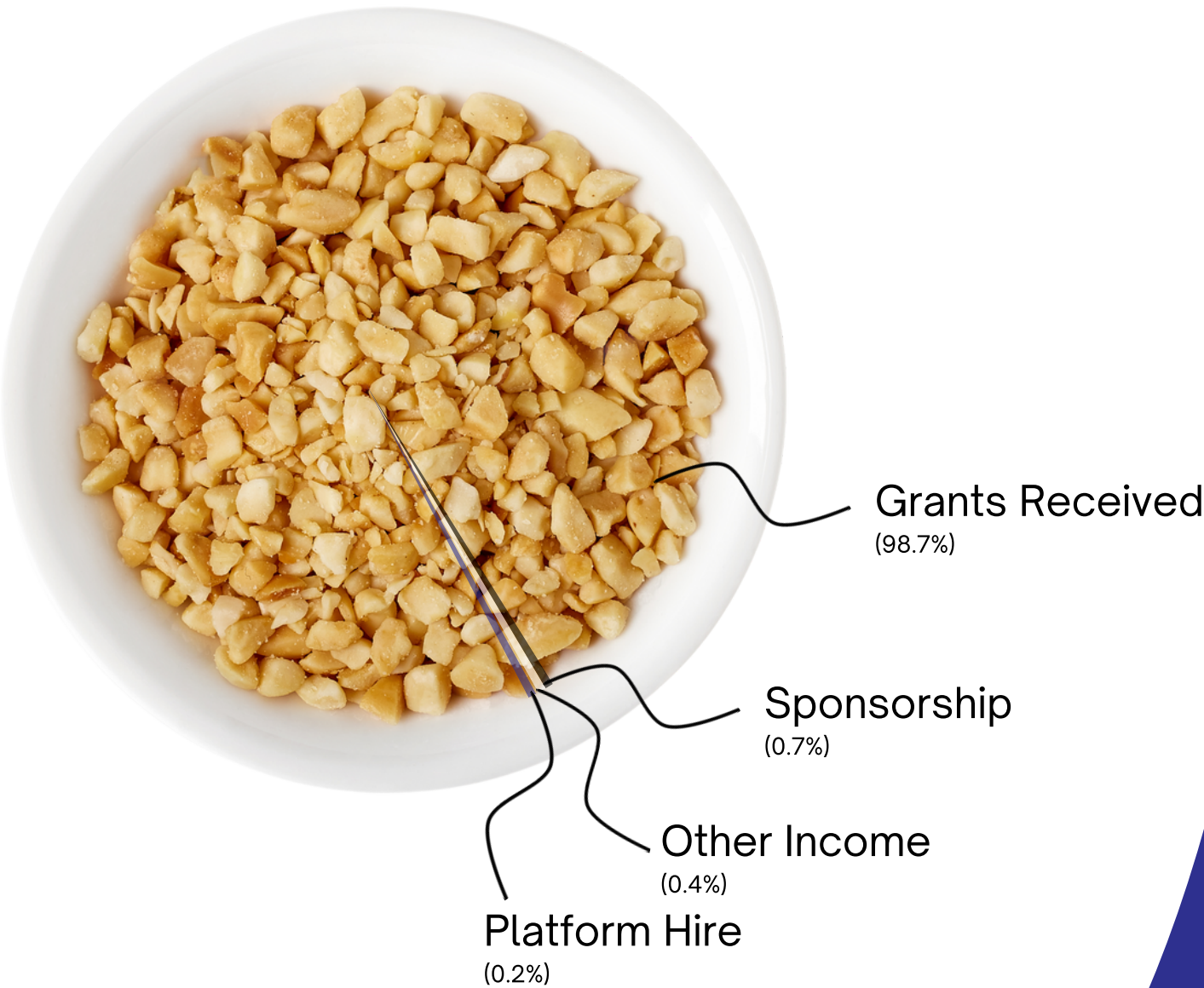
FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

In the 2024 financial year, BIEDO had total income of \$524 thousand and operating expenses of \$412 thousand (88.5% of our expenses go directly into projects that serve the South Burnett).

EXPENSES



INCOME



ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF OUR FUNDING PARTNERS

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our funding bodies for their invaluable support and commitment to the Burnett Inland region. Your contributions have empowered BIEDO to deliver impactful projects that drive economic development, strengthen community resilience, and support agricultural innovation.

We are especially grateful to the South Burnett Regional Council, North Burnett Regional Council, Queensland Government, Department of Primary Industries, Queensland Health, and other key partners for your trust and collaboration. Together, we are building stronger, more sustainable communities and creating opportunities for growth and prosperity across the region.



ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF OUR PROJECT & EVENT PARTNERS

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ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF OUR PROJECT & EVENT PARTNERS



OUR BOARD

SEAN NICHOLSON

Is a great encourager and supporter of the local community. He is an experienced project manager and works in business and community development with Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council. He was instrumental in getting the successful Containers for Change initiative started in this region. He has since applied for, and delivered, several grants to expand and progress this valuable project, boosting local employment and delivering huge benefits to the Cherbourg community and the wider South Burnett region. He enthusiastically works on behalf of the Wide Bay Burnett community in economic development and sits on the Queensland Governments Forum Committee.



CLAIRE KAPERINICK

Alongside her husband Craig, operates Glenrock Farms, where they produce lucerne and beef under holistic pasture management practices. Claire is deeply invested in her community, serving as Event Ambassador for multiple regional parkruns and acting as secretary for the successful Wondai Country Running Festival. As an active and progressive farmer, she is well-connected within the agricultural community, contributing through Agforce and the Queensland Rural, Regional, and Remote Women's Network (QRRRWNN), and promoting sustainable farming practices in the region.



MELINDA JONES

Is a wearer of many shoes from Division 1 Councillor and Deputy Mayor of the North Burnett Regional Council, Chair of the North Burnett Local Disaster Management Group, Board Secretary for Burnett Inland Economic Development Organisation, Vice-President for Monto Magic Business and Tourism Action Group, Committee member North Burnett Regional Arts Development Fund, Part owner Waratah Longhorns, to Mother, Mema, wife, daughter, sister and friend. Melinda has a strong passion and commitment to the Burnett Inland Communities and the potential of all individuals to thrive.



BETH TEMPLE

Is a Legal Practitioner Director/Lawyer with extensive experience in estate/succession planning and administration, as well as property law. She holds an LLB (Bachelor of Laws), Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice, BCom (Bachelor of Communication), and BNsc (Bachelor of Nursing) degrees. Beth was admitted to the Queensland Supreme Court and High Court of Australia in 2012. She recently completed her Masters in Applied Law (Estate Planning). Beth established Heartland Law, 4 ½ years ago, where she operates as a sole practitioner. In addition to her legal expertise, Beth is also a registered nurse with experience in Queensland, Melbourne, and overseas. Growing up on a dairy farm outside of Wondai and attending school there until year 10, Beth has a strong interest in providing specialized legal services to regional and rural areas. Outside of work, Beth enjoys traveling, reading, horse riding, and enjoying life on her farm.



ROS HEIT

Has lived in Wooroolin over 40 years and is in her third term as a Local South Burnett Councillor. She is passionate about promoting the region as a great place to live, raise a family and grow businesses. Ros is heavily involved in the local community as patron of the Wondai Art Gallery, Event Director of Wondai Country Running Festival and the local parkrun. She has been on the board of BIEDO for over 10 years believing that BIEDO has and continues to kick goals for our region.



MAYOR KATHY DUFF

Grew up on the family property “Di Di” Station that was selected in 1916 by her grandfather. Kathy runs her own cattle grazing and timber business. She has a keen interest in the equine industry including judging horses at local Shows as well as pursuing her hobby as a Silversmith when she can find time. Kathy is involved in numerous community organisations and in 2019 at the Local Government Conference in Cairns she received the prestigious Peak Services Butch Lenton Award for her work helping to rebuild the town of Proston. In 2023 Kathy was honoured to receive the Weekly Times and Harvey Norman Shine Award for dedication celebrating rural women across Australia. Mayor Duff is honoured to have been elected to serve as the first female Mayor of the South Burnett.



SHARON SIPPEL

Has a passion for youth entrepreneurship and building business confidence at a young age. I am passionate about tackling mental health in our youth through entrepreneurship and giving them tools for independence and expression by supporting them into setting up their own businesses. My interests continue into the economic development within the region and have always had a keen interest in learning more about existing and emerging businesses throughout the region. For personal down time you will find me enjoying fishing, cooking or on weekends supporting my 4 children at one of their chosen sports.



MATTHEW MCCAULEY

Is an agronomist at Nutrien Ag Solutions in Murgon, Queensland, and originally from Bathurst, NSW. After studying agriculture at the University of New England, he worked on a broadacre farm in Moree before moving to Qld. Passionate about agriculture and community, he is the Secretary for board of CROW FM and serves as the President of Barambah Dragon Boat Club.



OUR TEAM



Staff L-R: Mistrel Badesso (General Manager), Alan Broome (Agricultural Officer), Nikki Briggs (Project Officer), Leanne Sippel (Administration Officer), Wendy Thorsborne (Project Officer), Ainsley Shepherd (Project Officer)



BUILDING MOMENTUM FOR THE FUTURE

As we reflect on the achievements of the past year, we are inspired by the opportunities that lie ahead. With continued collaboration and innovation, BIEDO is committed to driving further growth and resilience across the Burnett Inland region.

Our upcoming initiatives will focus on expanding economic opportunities, fostering sustainability, and strengthening community connections. By working hand-in-hand with our partners, producers, businesses, and communities, we aim to tackle emerging challenges and embrace new possibilities with determination and optimism.

As we look ahead, we are inspired by the possibilities. Together, we will create greater impact, reach new milestones, and ensure that the Burnett Inland remains a vibrant place to live, work, and grow.

Let's continue this journey, with hope and determination, knowing that the best is yet to come.

