



Samford

Futures

Everyone's future



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Samford Futures in a nutshell

Samford Futures was initiated and facilitated by the ViVa Samford sub-committee of the Samford Progress and Protection Association Inc. The process, which began in 2011, was highly inclusive and completely community driven. It was resourced mainly by the voluntary contributions of community members, with additional financial support by the Progress Association and the Moreton Bay Regional Council.

The initial insights and aspirations of a significant proportion of the community were gathered through face-to-face consultations and a paper-based survey. People were invited to say what things they wanted to 'keep at all costs in Samford', what they'd like to change, what new things could be done and who they thought should do them.

Through public conversations, electronic dialogue, a web presence and the pages of the *Village Pump*, a transparent process of analysis, debate and decision forming led to a focus on eight main areas, which eventually became the chapters of this report.

The establishment of the innovative **Samford Commons** at the **Samford Parklands** precinct will fulfil the promise of a unique parcel of land where recreation, culture and environmental sustainability can be housed creatively. The Commons would include an Urban Farming Centre, School of Sustainability, Arts Precinct and shared business facilities. The revegetation of the Parklands with indigenous species and the incorporation of public art are also priorities.

The **village identity** and the overall **development plan for the Valley** were key issues in the community. Property owners and the public identified five precincts in the Village where quality of amenity is paramount. This requires a strong process of collaboration with Moreton



Bay Regional Council to develop a Local Area Plan that reflects the community aspiration to retain the high-quality rural amenity and liveability of Samford.

The arts have a profound impact on the social and economic wellbeing of communities. Creative Samford, a network of over 120 artists, was born out of the Samford Futures process. The vision includes public art, arts trails, and an arts precinct at the Commons to showcase visual and performing arts.



People movement focuses on the sustainable movement of people via road, rail, bikeways, walkways and riding trails. A detailed map of the existing Samford trails network has been published as a result of the action of the People Movement Group, Council and other stakeholders. Proposed action includes extensive bikeways, enhanced public transport and the improvement of pedestrian traffic and parking in the Village.

Sustainable food culture has a huge potential in Samford. An Urban Farming Centre is proposed at the Commons and it is envisaged that locally grown food would be sold via retail outlets, at the 'farm gate' and at twilight markets. The vision includes planting of food plants along recreational trails and in public spaces.

Community participation and decision making is a core element of Samford's capacity to implement its vision and to renew it over time. The Progress Association will continue as the main conduit for community engagement and decision making. The Samford Futures model will be the foundation for ongoing engagement so that the community can continue to focus on its strengths and build optimism, energy and a sense of working together.

The Samford community needs a top class **telecommunications and digital future**. The Valley requires a high-speed, high-bandwidth telecommunications system to deliver existing and future needs of families, businesses

and schools. This needs to be installed in a sustainable way that is sensitive to the environment and public amenity.

Sustainable Samford identifies that the social, economic and environmental sustainability of Samford will be best served by a vibrant and connected Village and a well-resourced Samford Commons. The vision includes a twilight market for local products, a sustainable business precinct, and the adoption of a Local Area Plan that will reinforce and build Samford's status as a 'green lung' for the region. The formation of a School of Sustainability and the development of a Sustainability Transition Plan will facilitate Samford's move toward being a sustainable local economy.

Already, the Futures process has enabled a number of these aspirations to become a reality. This will be strengthened as more people become involved, add their value and commit to collective action. The engagement by Samford people, their trust in a lengthy process and the final vision are testament to the capacity of communities to rise to the challenge.

Foreword



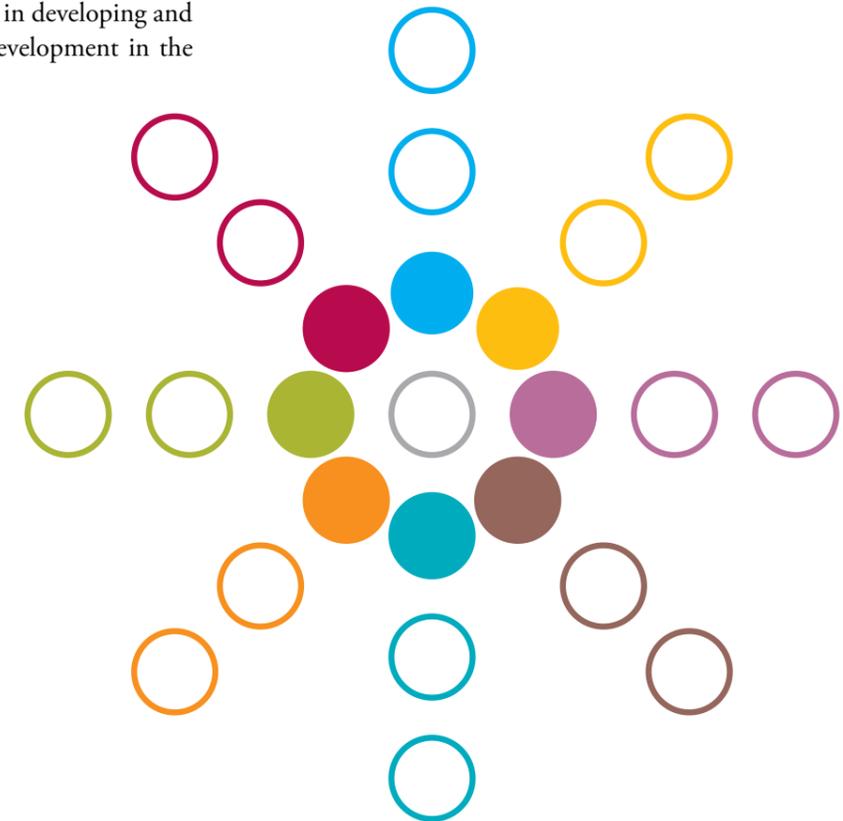
The rejection of the proposed 'supermarket development' in Samford is a great example of how a community can be galvanised into successful action. As part of the process, the Progress Association established a sub-committee called ViVa (Vision for our Village and Valley) under the leadership of Howard Nielsen. This group has since tackled other important local issues.

The nucleus of this group has greatly expanded and continues to serve the local community. The results can be seen in this visionary document, 'Samford Futures', which brings together the input from wide community consultation, resulting in a comprehensive vision of how the people of the Valley would like their unique area to progress in the future.

My congratulations to the dedicated team from ViVa and the wider community in developing and producing such an important document, which should inform planning in development in the Samford Valley for many years to come.

John Atkinson

President, Samford & District Progress & Protection Association Inc.



Why Samford Futures?

The Futures process aims to gain consensus about a vision for the Valley that reflects the strengths, beliefs, needs and aspirations of the community. It is 'future making' rather than 'future waiting'.

The community is being proactive in shaping its own future rather than taking the chance that others will make good decisions on our behalf. Our vision for Samford needs to dovetail into the Town Planning process being undertaken by the Moreton Bay Regional Council. The timing is perfect for that.

The consultation process should include the setting up of task groups to see through the delivery of priorities identified during the process.

What assumptions did we make?

The process was designed as a collaborative, positive approach to connect with the Samford Valley community. This included assumptions that the process would work better if we:

- understand that people will respond to a structured and fair approach because they believe that it will have a more achievable outcome
- build on the current and past strengths of the Samford Valley community
- acknowledge that when people have their past achievements appreciated they are more likely to propose challenging ideas for the future and will be more optimistic about fulfilling them
- acknowledge that people's preconceived ideas about community consultation may negatively affect their attitude to becoming involved
- believe that the collective insight, creativity and common sense of a community are sufficient to create a future that is aspirational, achievable and sustainable.

Without the willing and positive engagement of a broad cross-section of the community, this process would not have worked in such a dynamic way.



How have we gone about it?

This project is a result of four rounds of consultation since March 2011, starting with an open meeting of ViVa Samford (a sub-committee of the Samford and District Progress and Protection Association) to analyse the results of an extensive community survey and face-to-face consultations. This led to the establishment of the eight working groups. Each group held meetings and workshops, and group convenors met on regular basis to ensure the integration of the various plans. A large number of community groups in the Samford district were interviewed to determine their short-term and long-term plans and to involve them in the Futures process.

The Futures process has involved:

- continual community consultation, involving widespread and open engagement of people to generate high levels of ownership and energy
- liaising with Council, business, community groups and other stakeholders
- reporting back to the community on the process, ideas and outcomes.

Without the willing and positive engagement of a broad cross-section of the community, this process would not have worked in such a dynamic and productive manner.

The step-by-step process is outlined on the following page, which shows a timeline of the key events, inputs and outcomes so far.

