

Central Highlands SMART COMMUNITY FRAMEWORK

DRAFT



Central Highlands
Regional Council

INTRODUCTION

Digital and smart technology is unlocking new value and opportunity in towns and regions across Australia and internationally.

Central Highlands Regional Council is determined to take advantage of the digital revolution, delivering better services, employment and sustainability for our community.

To build our community smart we must first think and plan smart. This Smart Community Framework represents a strategic approach to maximise the benefits of digital and smart technology. It is our commitment to developing an innovative, collaborative and empowered community.

Through reference to the latest technology and the Australian Government guidelines, this Framework provides focus and direction for Central Highlands.

We are committed to using smart technology to grow our economy, build our community, and create a more vibrant, liveable region. This Framework will accelerate our smart community journey.





ALIGNMENT WITH THE NATIONAL POLICY AGENDA

The Australia Government's Smart Cities Plan is the overarching strategy and policy to create smarter communities around Australia. It provides guidance and principles to coordinate planning and action.

The Central Highlands Smart Community Framework has integrated the key pillars of this national policy, including:



SMART INVESTMENT

Strong focus on using technology to drive regional growth

Using smart infrastructure to deliver flow-on economic benefits

Comprehensive planning such as this Framework to inform action

Investment in smart development and infrastructure



SMART POLICY

Introducing smart strategies, regulations and practices

Use of sound smart tech standards, such as interoperability

Performance measurement leveraging the Australian Government's Cities Performance Framework



SMART TECHNOLOGY

Using this framework to promote digital and technology based solutions to community problems

Embracing Open Data through 'Internet of Things' technology and smart sensors

Promoting sustainability through smart technologies

SMART TECHNOLOGY FOR CENTRAL HIGHLANDS

Central Highlands is a diverse region – spanning over 53,000 square kilometres with 30,000 residents across 13 discrete communities including: Arcadia Valley; Bauhinia; Blackwater; Bluff; Capella; Comet; Dingo; Duaringa; Emerald; Gemfields; Rolleston; Springsure; Tieri.

We are a region rich in resources, agriculture and entrepreneurs. While Central Highlands has experienced economic growth it is essential that we remain attractive to investment and residents to compete with metropolitan centres.

Emerging digital technologies and infrastructure offer a unique opportunity for Central Highlands to minimize the impact of distance – replacing the need for extensive road, rail or air traffic with an internet connection and digital literacy.

Digital infrastructure, innovation and emerging technologies are pillars of the Central Highlands Economic Manual 2017-2022.

This Framework outlines what digital means for the region and how it can drive growth and improved community outcomes.

We are a future oriented region that embraces technological advancements and innovation. This Framework will enhance our engagement with digital technology, improving business opportunities and community outcomes, ensuring that the region continues to draw investors and residents alike.



CONNECTIVITY FOR CENTRAL HIGHLANDS

Like regions across Australia, the fundamental challenge of the digital revolution is connectivity – the breadth, coverage and quality of telecommunication and internet networks. This Framework affirms Council's commitment to work with stakeholders – community, other governments, and private companies - to improve connectivity for Central Highlands.

More than this, the Central Highlands Smart Community Framework commits to:

exploring new ways to maximise the value and utility of existing connectivity

leveraging innovative and emerging technologies to build and enhance regional connectivity

partnering and collaborating to accelerate connectivity improvements

thinking 'outside the square' and welcoming innovative solutions



OUR SMART COMMUNITY VISION

Central Highlands will be a progressive region applying smart technology to create opportunities for all.

SMART COMMUNITY VALUES:



TO INNOVATE

We welcome new ideas and technology, and strive for better ways to do things with better results for our community.



TO COLLABORATE

We work together - with community, businesses, investors, researchers and other governments - to solve problems, to find the best solutions, and create community value.



TO EMPOWER

We invite participation and share the benefits of smart technology, aiming to enhance community skills, inclusion, opportunity, and resilience.

SMART COMMUNITY OBJECTIVES

Central Highlands will leverage smart technology and smart planning to advance three strategic themes:

SMART ECONOMY
RESILIENT, DYNAMIC
AND INNOVATIVE

SMART COMMUNITY
MORE LIVEABLE, BETTER
SERVICES, AND INCREASED
OPPORTUNITY

SMART REGION
VIBRANT, SUSTAINABLE
AND INSPIRING

Key Smart Economy objectives include:

- enhancing innovation and entrepreneurial capacity and activity
- increasing engagement with the digital economy
- strengthening data collection, sharing, accessibility and utilisation
- fostering smart partnerships and collaboration
- improving smart/remote working outcomes
- increasing the breadth and use digital connectivity and infrastructure
- enhancing mobility, transport and freight outcomes

Key Smart Community objectives include:

- improving the efficiency and quality of Council service delivery
- increasing digital inclusion, equity and opportunity
- enhancing community engagement, participation and empowerment
- improving emergency management and response
- improving community recreation and health outcomes
- enhancing community access to information and local services

Key Smart Region objectives include:

- increasing the intelligence of community parks, sports facilities and tourist destinations
- improving environmental monitoring and management using smart technology
- enhancing the region's reputation for innovation, tourism, and digital leadership
- promoting local events and activities and increasing attendance
- improving the amenity, activation and safety of public spaces
- designing and delivering better spaces and places, leveraging collaborative co-design and digital technology

ACTION PATHWAYS

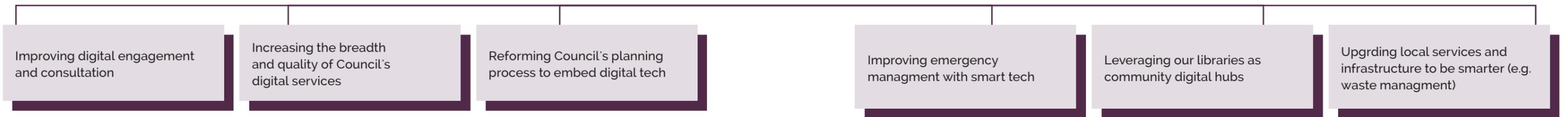
To achieve our smart community objectives, this Framework has identified a small number of priority action areas, as per the diagram below.

The Framework focuses on the next three years – 2018-19 to 2020-21. In a rapidly changing digital world, these priority action areas balance focus and flexibility, aiming for results, and embedding agile delivery.

SMART ECONOMY



SMART COMMUNITY



SMART REGION



PRINCIPLES FOR PLANNING OUR SMART COMMUNITY

Central Highlands is committed to best-practice principles of smart technology planning and delivery, including:



CONNECTIVITY

The functionality and possibility of smart technology is founded on digital connectivity – fibre, cellular, wireless, satellite, microwave and other communication networks. Council will work with community, other governments and private companies to further develop this connectivity platform.



DIGITAL INCLUSION

Council is committed to sharing the benefits and opportunities of smart technology with everyone in our community.



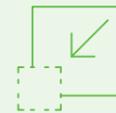
INTEROPERABILITY

Smart technology is most effective when the various components are integrated and can talk to each other. This 'interoperability' will be embedded into our digital programs and initiatives.



PROTECTING PRIVACY AND SECURITY

With the many benefits of smart technology, there comes risk as well, and protecting security and privacy is of critical importance. Council will engage with community about their expectations and apply robust standards to maintain digital privacy and security.



EXTENSIBILITY

The digital world moves quickly, so smart technology need to account for growth, expansion and change. Our smart technology design and implementation processes will build-in this 'extensibility' to ensure flexibility and cost effectiveness.



ACCESSIBLE DATA

Smart sensors and networks mean more data than ever before is being collected by communities. Making this 'big data' accessible or 'open' (subject to privacy and security principles) supports innovation, transparency and better local service delivery. Council is committed to accessible data to realise these benefits.



INTEGRATION OF PHYSICAL AND DIGITAL ASSETS

Modern community assets are not just physical or digital, but a combination, creating new value and function. Buildings with intelligent management systems, parks with Wi-Fi and smart irrigation, and street-lights with networks and environmental sensors, are three such examples. Our planning processes will work to optimise this interaction of digital and physical infrastructure.



EARLY-PLANNING

Retrofitting digital technology into local services and infrastructure is generally more costly, with reduced utility. Early planning and integration of smart technology into initial design and roll-out is best practice. Council is committed to such a process.

NEXT STEPS

This Smart Community Framework will guide council's immediate smart technology planning and implementation.

This includes:

establishing leadership and governance within council

continuing to advocate for improved regional connectivity

reforming associated businesses processes and practices

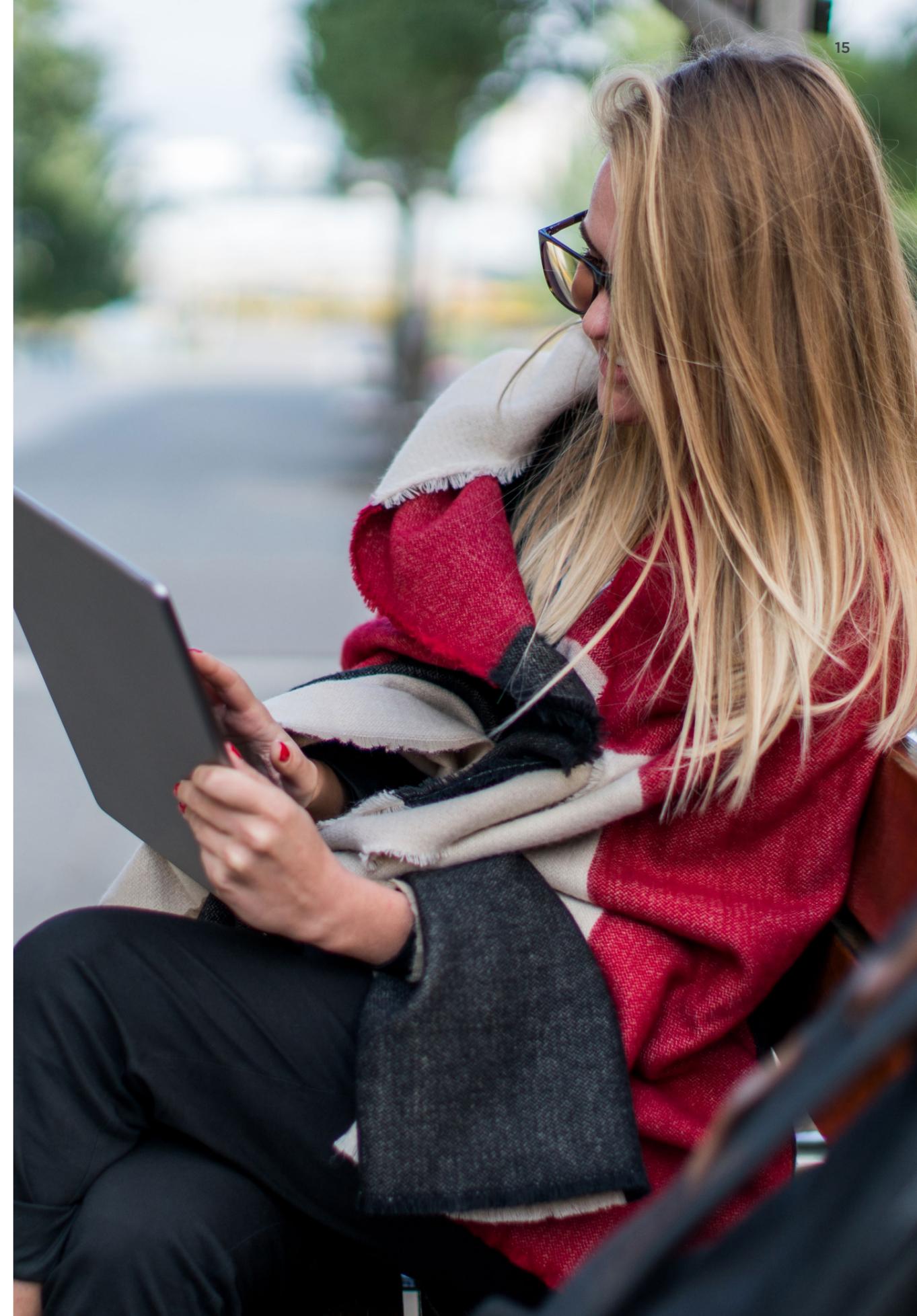
building internal innovation and smart technology capacity

developing business cases and investigating funding options

project delivery - piloting, scaling and evaluating new smart community initiatives

establishing smart community performance metrics

Council will also commence engagement and consultation with community and key stakeholders to develop this Framework into a public strategy.





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