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Social Baseline Report: Kimba



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1. Introduction

The disposal of radioactive waste is a critical challenge in Australia as in other countries in the world. The challenge is to find solutions that are not only scientifically sound, but also politically and publically acceptable. Thus the process of siting the proposed National Radioactive Waste Management Facility (NRWMF or ‘the facility’) is not just a technical issue, but is embedded in social and cultural contexts at different spatial scales. This complex social dimension gives rise to many different views, concerns and questions about the facility. Such questions cannot be answered by scientific facts alone as they are rooted within, and reflect personal and societal value judgements about what is acceptable or unacceptable.

The Australian Government, Department of Industry, Innovation and Science (the Department) is responsible for the process of siting the proposed NRWMF. The Department has stated it will not impose a facility on an unwilling community, and has initiated a process of site identification that relies on voluntary site nomination and community engagement with a view to gaining “broad support across the community” (DIIS 2016, p.2).

The University of Queensland has been commissioned by the Department to conduct independent social science research in the communities where the NRWMF has been proposed. The purpose of this research is to:

- provide social and economic information about the town to identify current trends;
- identify existing local community strengths and values and how these can be protected or enhanced;
- identify preferred and socially acceptable strategies to harness expected opportunities or to avoid and mitigate negative impacts;
- establish a social and economic monitoring framework (identify locally meaningful indicators) to enable the tracking of changes over time.

The method used is a tailored adaptation of a participatory, multi-stakeholder, community-based impact assessment and community development framework developed by researchers at the University of Queensland in relation to earlier controversial coal seam gas development (<https://boomtown-toolkit.org>). This report is structured in a way that reflects the method used. We first present the social and economic statistics gathered for Kimba along with local peoples’ perceptions and comments on these statistics. We then present the findings from interviews held in Kimba, telephone interviews and emailed submissions and comments.

We would like to thank members of the Kimba community for their cooperation and the time they gave to this research.

2. Literature Review

The siting of a radioactive waste management facility (RWMF) is as much a political and social issue as a technical and scientific issue. Changes created by such projects are never likely to be "all good or all bad" (Freudenburg and Gramling 1994). As such, the social and economic factors to consider are multiple and complex.

Radioactive waste storage presents both risks and opportunities for local communities and these should be identified and understood in order to be managed appropriately. This section reports on a review of literature and case studies from around the world to assist in the identification and understanding of possible risks and opportunities associated with hosting a RWMF for the communities of Hawker/Quorn and Kimba.

While there are many low to intermediate level radioactive waste storage facilities long-established and operating throughout the world (including UK, Spain, France, Sweden, Finland, Russia, South Korea, Japan and USA), there are few studies that have documented the actual and long term impacts and benefits of hosting such a facility for local communities. Some comparisons can be made with other large infrastructure or resource development projects, but radioactive waste storage is different, in that it is generally perceived as a 'risky', or 'unwanted' type of infrastructure (Kasperson 1986; Vari et al. 1994; Farber 1996; Slovic et al. 1991).

Risks are mostly around exposure to radiation, either directly from the waste in handling, or through potential contamination of the environment, with subsequent human and environmental health outcomes. Much is understood about these types of risks however, and they must be comprehensively analysed and accounted for in the location and design of the RWMF. Additionally, the handling and transport of any radioactive material is subject to strict regulations and standards, informed by national and international codes and guidelines (e.g. the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA) Code for the Safe Transport of Radioactive Material (2014); Code for Disposal Facilities for Solid Radioactive Waste (2018); and a suite of Codes of Conduct, conventions and safety standards required by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)).

In a case study from the Czech Republic, Ocelik et al (2017) identified a different set of perceived risks in relation to a RWMF including decreased property values (due to the stigmatization of the locality) and construction-related impacts such as increased traffic, noise, air pollution and others. In an older article from the US, Farber (1998) summarised the findings of empirical studies of the effects of *hazardous waste facilities more broadly* and found that hazardous waste facilities can result in reduced property values in the immediate vicinity, particularly in low density rural communities. It must be noted however that Farber (1998) did not consider RWMFs specifically, but rather studies of other types of hazardous waste facilities. This distinction is important to make as numerous reports focused on RWMFs (Kasperson 1986; Slovic et al. 1991; National Research Council 1996; Wolsink 2006; Radioactive Waste Management (RMA) 2016) have highlighted the problems with extrapolating impacts from other large-scale industrial projects and applying them to RWMF projects. To illustrate, a recent UK study (RMA 2016) modelled potential economic impacts and found no decrease in property values associated with hosting a RWMF.

Particularly in rural areas, concerns about impacts on the value of local agricultural produce are often voiced. Few studies have quantified effects of a RWMF on agricultural products. The UK report

cites a case study from Switzerland, where the output of agricultural produce was limited during construction activities, and from the Netherlands, where farmers were offered compensation for any losses in the value of their products – and since 1992, none have claimed.

Kasperson (1986), Devine-Wright (2009), Ocelik (2017) and others have identified other risks in relation to heightened concern about the environment, social conflict and division, and in relation to place attachment and social identity. These authors also noted how such risks (and their effects for communities) are, as Kasperson (1986) described, “extremely resistant to quantification”. Particularly for smaller communities, the proposition of new developments is known to cause division (e.g. Jacquet and Stedman 2013; Morrone et al. 2015; Colvin et al. 2016; Mason-Renton et al. 2017; Grubert and Skinner 2017).

High levels of concern about project risks have been found to be strongly correlated with opposition (Kraft and Clary 1991; Slovic et al. 1991; Sjöberg 2006; Wolsink 2006, Devine-Wright 2009; Jenkins-Smith et al. 2011; Ocelik et al. 2017). However, perceptions of risks have also been shown to change over time. Surveys on public attitudes to radioactive waste facilities conducted in two towns in Sweden showed a decrease in nuclear-related risk perceptions from the original survey in 2001 to the next in 2005 (Sjöberg 2006). In the intermittent years, further scientific investigations of the site had taken place and the findings had been widely communicated within the communities.

Venables et al (2012) also found that while opposition to a new nuclear facility was strongest among local residents, support for established facilities was highest among local residents. These authors argue how public risk perceptions are mediated over time (if not moderated) by an enduring sense of place. That is, as people come to view the potential risks as a characteristic of life living at that locality.

Similarly, Jenkins-Smith et al. (2011) studied the process of decision-making leading to a radioactive waste facility currently operating in New Mexico, U.S. They found that while trust in the process was initially low, it grew over time as relationships between key actors formed and integrity was proven, science and safety was demonstrated, perceived risks were allayed with meaningful information (despite media involvement portraying negative effects) and as the steps of progress were taken tentatively without ‘mishaps’ (Jenkins-Smith et al. 2011).

Earlier studies (e.g. Kasperson 1986; English 1992) suggest that public concerns about risk are based largely on lack of trust in the institutions responsible for risk management. In response to perceptions of risks, and to build trust in institutions, there is an increasing emphasis on “stepwise decision making” in relation to RWMFs, where the public, and especially the local public, are meaningfully involved in the planning and review of facilities (NEA 2004). In a stepwise approach, discrete, easily evaluated steps facilitate the transparency and accountability of decisions, allow for feedback from stakeholders, and promote public and political confidence in the outcomes. A stepwise approach is designed to provide reassurance to local communities that decisions can be halted (and reversed where practicable) if experience shows them to have adverse or unwanted effects (NEA 2004).

Notwithstanding risks, and the importance of managing the full range of technical, social and environmental risks, case studies have demonstrated significant opportunities and benefits for local communities. Like risks, these can arise directly from the facility (such as jobs), or through indirect

pathways (such as additional teachers because school enrolments increase). There is a clear lack of documentation of the actual social and economic effects of hosting a RWMF, perhaps because these differ for each location depending on local social and economic circumstances, as well as the impact mitigation and enhancement strategies in place.

Monitoring of RWMFs in France shows significant economic benefits to local and district communities. These arise mostly through compensatory Community Benefits Packages which were distributed to local and regional public institutions (ANDRA 2017), but also through local hiring and purchasing agreements. For those towns hosting the facilities, long term population trends of decline were stabilised or reversed (ANDRA 2017). Other studies confirm that the most significant and long lasting benefits to local communities arise through negotiated compensation and incentives packages. The process of negotiation is important and sensitive. Albrecht et al. (1996) highlighted how consensus about what are potential benefits (and costs) is never likely to be complete. Thus what is perceived to be a benefit for one individual or group may not be seen as such by others. In addition, Kunreuther and Easterling (1996) found that accepting compensation in return for hosting a facility, can provoke very strong negative reactions by some community members who may view the arrangement as morally wrong.

Recent studies and literature emphasise the importance of tailoring Community Benefits Packages to suit local community development needs and aspirations. This requires a thorough understanding of baseline social and economic conditions and capabilities as well as participatory processes for collectively articulating values and aspirations. Gilmour (1996) found that communities that had engaged in such a process and had an agreed development plan could better gauge the 'fit' between the vision the community has for itself and the risks and opportunities presented by a RWMF project. More recently, Dukes (2004) and Mason-Renton et al. (2016) argue that such processes should identify both the opportunities and the concerns arising from the project, should it proceed, as well as exploring a range of alternatives, should it not.

Bergmans (2010) reviewed the benefits packages of RWMF projects throughout Europe, Japan, Canada and the USA to produce the "International Benchmarking of Community Benefits Related to Facilities for Radioactive Waste Management Report". The report showed that employment and procurement benefits alone are not generally viewed as being sufficient, when considering the potential risks and essential service that the community is providing to the nation. Bergmans (2010) argues that potential and existing host communities 'have the right to added-value measures to develop their social and economic wellbeing'. As such, a broader set of social and economic factors should be considered - beyond any obvious and immediate effects on housing, employment and regional economic growth - to include more general wellbeing indicators and measures.

In a case study from the Czech Republic, Ocelik et al. (2017) found that some sectors of the community saw benefits in relation to fulfilling a 'duty' towards the 'public good' of solving RWMF problems that resulted in a heightened sense of community pride and solidarity.

Tourism can be both positively and negatively affected. The French case study shows additional local tourism through visits to the facility with little perceived impact on regional tourism (ANDRA 2017). The UK study separated 'business tourism' and 'leisure tourism', finding likely increases in business tourism but harder to predict and possible decreases in leisure tourism (RMA 2016). However, negative effects on tourism were consistently identified as a risk in relation to siting a RWMF and

studies of other hazardous waste facilities have shown negative impacts on recreational tourism. The UK study identified “a great deal of opportunity” to minimise potential adverse effects on tourism (and property values) through good planning and communication.

The UK study showed that while site selection is likely to result in the perception that property values will decline, residents can be reassured that evidence suggests the opposite. Monitoring the long term effects of low to intermediate level RWMFs in France shows that property values in the vicinities remain higher than the national median (ANDRA 2017). Strategies include preparing and implementing a Property Value Protection Plan that would compensate for losses associated with any decrease in property values, rental income or associated mortgages.

The UK study also identified benefits through increased availability of services, particular those services such as medical, emergency and training, that would be ‘shared’ between the facility and the local community (RMA 2016).

In summary, the siting of a RWMF is a complex and sensitive process. There are very few studies that have documented the realised social and economic effects of hosting a RWMF for local and regional communities. Clear economic benefits have accrued directly from employment and local purchasing, which may attract new people to the area, thus boosting population and influencing property values positively. Lasting and significant social and economic benefits can be seen arising from negotiated Community Benefits Packages. To maximise these benefits, communities should have engaged in participatory community planning exercises to articulate values, needs and aspirations. There should also be attention to social wellbeing as the siting process is known to cause division and disruption in communities, particularly in smaller, rural and ‘close-knit’ communities, and the short and long-term effects of this should be addressed.

3. Methodology

A desktop review was conducted to identify accessible, reliable and timely data for key socio-economic indicators thought to be significant to small regional communities. These statistics were then used to build a community baseline profile for the Kimba community. A variety of sources were consulted to obtain as much publicly available information in the initial research phase of the analysis¹. The intention of the analysis was to create a baseline database for the Kimba dating back to between 5 – 10 years for each indicator, where ever possible.

Two researchers then travelled to Kimba to engage with community members from the town in a series of face to face interviews. The aim was to hear first hand the perceived impacts of the proposed National Radioactive Waste Management Facility (NRWMF) and to ground truth the baseline data. Key areas of focus for the interviews included to:

- understand the long term trends and current trajectories (in relation to statistical information on social and economic indicators);

¹ Sources consulted through the desktop review: Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Census, Australian Tax Office (ATO), SA Police Database, Australian Bureau of Meteorology (BOM), Location South Australia Database (Traffic), South Australian Department of Primary Industries and Regions, Australian Government Department of Agriculture and Water Resources (ABARES), My School Database via Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority.

- document community values, concerns and aspirations regarding these trajectories;
- identify potential opportunities and impacts arising from hosting the NRWMF
- define locally (and culturally) acceptable strategies for protecting values, addressing concerns and harnessing opportunities;
- confirm which are the most meaningful indicators that should be included in an ongoing social and economic monitoring framework.

While in Kimba the researchers conducted over 30 interviews with individuals, pairs or small groups of community members. Another three interviews have been conducted by telephone following the visit to the town. This resulted in more than 80 people being interviewed which reflects the willingness of individuals to engage. Overall there was a relatively even spread of those in favour and those opposed to the NRWMF. However, those who were neutral or undecided were definitely in the minority.

All interviews were audio recorded (if permission was granted) and these were subsequently transcribed. The transcripts were manually coded to identify the key themes emerging from the interviews. The project received ethical approval (University of Queensland Project No: 2018001211).

The following sections describe the social and economic profiles and trajectories for the Kimba community, with insights and explanation of the observed changes provided in the interviews.

4. Kimba Community Profile

4.1 Population

2018 summary

Since 2006, the Kimba township has remained relatively constant, with a marginal reduction of 6% in population. The same trend was experienced across the wider Kimba district (reduced by 5%). In contrast, the South Australian state population grew by 13%. The gender balance in Kimba township is evenly distributed 50:50 between males and females, consistent with the state average. At present, 35% of residents in Kimba township are over the age of 60 (219 persons), with 39% (243 persons) in the main adult working age group (25-60 years of age). Only 8% (52 persons) of Kimba residents fall within the youth age category, between 15-24.

Trends reflected in the data

Historical trends: The population of Kimba township experienced a slight reduction of 7% between 2001-2006. Since 2006, the population of Kimba township saw a slight increase of 5% to 2011 however, fell by 6% to 2016. Overall, population numbers have remained relatively constant given the small population size of Kimba, down from 636 in 2006 to 629 in 2016. These can be seen in Figure 1.

As the population levels changed, the gender balance between males and females has remained relatively even (49:51 male to females in 2006 and 51:49 in 2011). These figures are consistent with trends across the wider Kimba district and South Australia.

While the overall population has reduced slightly over the past decade (from 636 in 2006 to 629 in 2016), the percentage share of retirees and elderly persons within Kimba has increased, from 26%

(229 persons) in 2006 to 35% (219 persons) of the overall population in 2016. The main workforce group has marginally contracted (255 persons in 2006 to 243 persons in 2016) while the percentage of youth (aged 15-24) also fell (from 72 persons to 52 in 2016).

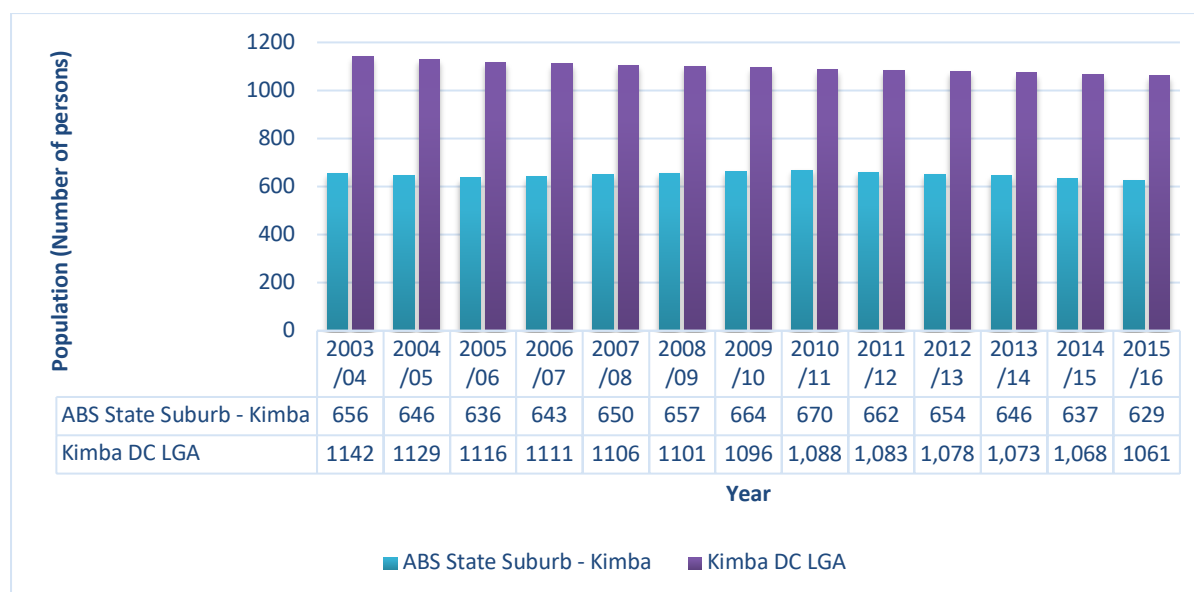
Community insights and perceptions

**When the initial data was presented to residents during community engagement sessions in July 2018, concerns were raised regarding the reported population figures in 2006 and the rates of change in subsequent periods. It was highlighted that the ABS census area of Kimba had potentially been changed around this time and upon further review the appropriate adjustments were made to the dataset.*

The decline in population was attributed to several smaller farms being sold as people aged or found it difficult to make ends meet. Often these farms were bought by neighbours who were expanding their operation. This often resulted in individuals moving away from Kimba and reducing the overall population numbers. Similarly, with an ageing population people would often retire away from Kimba to another town. Several interviewees, recalled the development of Roxby Downs which resulted in a massive population exodus from Kimba with the joke at the time being “Would the last person to leave please turn out the lights?”

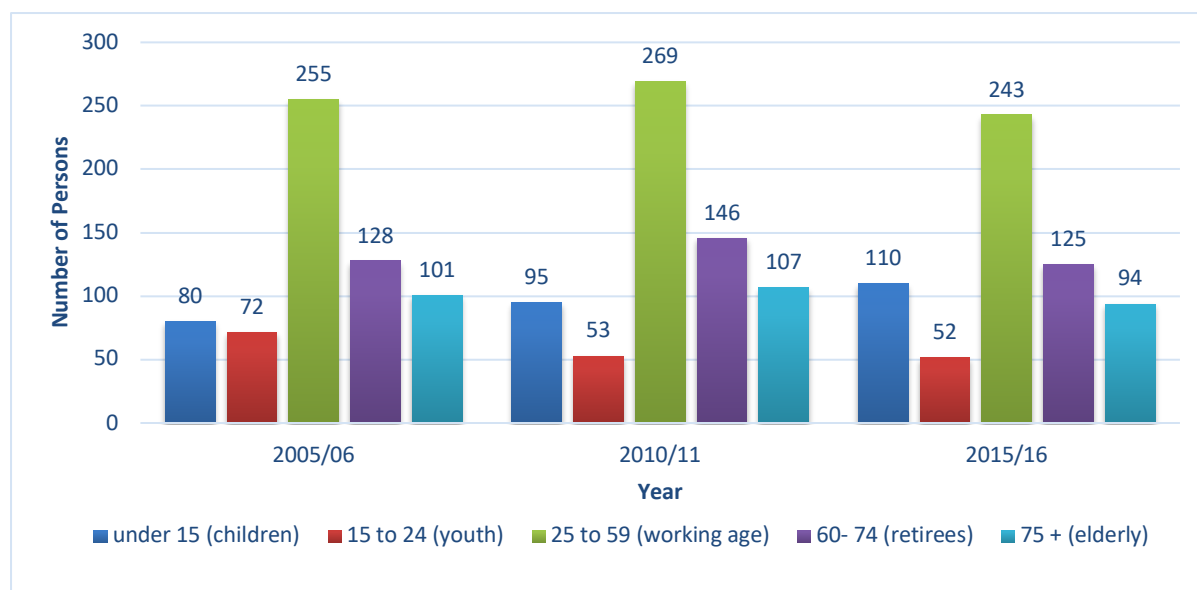
The low number of young persons in the 15-24 age range is attributed to many families sending children away to boarding school during high school years. Many remain away from Kimba for training, education and employment purposes and often do not always return to Kimba unless they have family with a farm or business to offer work. However, some interview participants suggested that several younger residents have subsequently returned to Kimba to raise their families in the country. This resulted in another observed trend, which was that there is a growing number of smaller children with many young couples having three or four children. This was also evidenced in the data.

Figure 1 - Kimba Township and Region Population Trends, by year²



² Population data for Kimba township (SSC40688 for 2011 and 2016, UCL411200 for 2006) and Kimba District Council (LGA43200) obtained through ABS and Census data. Kimba township age demographic data (SSC40688) obtained through

Figure 2 - Kimba Age Group Population Numbers, by year



4.2 Employment

2018 summary

Unemployment in Kimba township has fluctuated marginally over the past decade. Currently at 2%, it sits well below the South Australian average. The overall size of the workforce within Kimba township has reduced by 30 persons over the past 5 years. Such a small unemployment rate is often indicative of a skills shortage, that is, it is unlikely that anyone seeking employment would be without a job. Similarly, if a job did become available it would most likely be hard to fill.

Context

In 2015/16, analysis of the Whyalla and Eyre Peninsula region was completed to gain greater understanding of individual industries within the ABS industry category "Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing". This publication was reviewed but not included as it did not provide specific data for Kimba township.

Trends reflected in the data

Historical trend: The unemployment rate has remained relatively steady over the past decade, down from 2.4% in 2006 to 0.9% in 2011. In the following 5-year period to 2016, this figure pushed closer to 2% (population of 629). The current unemployment rate remains well below the state average of 7.5%.

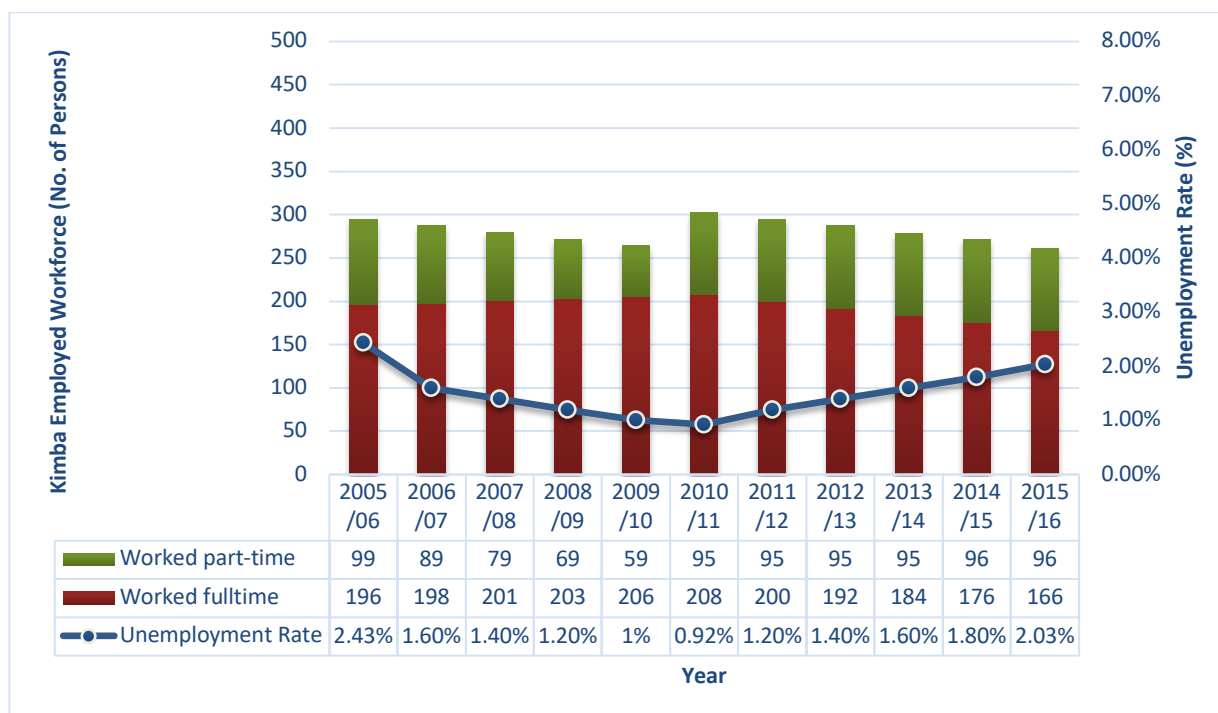
The total workforce has reduced by 9% overall since 2006 by from 329 to 295 persons in 2016. The number of full time and part time workers has fallen 15% and 3% respectively over the same period. The labour force number remained relatively constant between 2006 and 2011 (329 to 325) where the majority of the falls experienced between 2001 to 2016 (325 to 295).

ABS and Census data. Approximations for non-census years is utilised to illustrate average trends between census years. Statistical area for Kimba change between 2006 from ~3 km² to ~19 km² in 2011.

Community insights and perceptions

Unemployment rates for Kimba township have remained relatively low compared to the state average due to a number of perceived factors. One key insight identified that residents who are unable to find employment in Kimba and the surrounding area tend to move closer to opportunities elsewhere in the wider region. Residents indicated that given the remoteness of Kimba combined with limited employment opportunities, the perceived number of persons on government work for the dole schemes are extremely low. However, one of the new initiatives to attract people to Kimba included them hosting a “work for the dole” program.

Figure 3 - Kimba Employment Figures, by year³



4.3 Income & Business

2018 summary

Personal income in Kimba has fallen in recent years, sitting at \$44,283 in 2016. Total business income has varied year on year since 2012/13, while the number of businesses has remained relatively constant. Total business income was approximately \$6m AUD in 2016, across 49 registered businesses. Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing, Retail and Education make up 45% of local industries that provide employment to the local workforce.

³ Employment numbers and unemployment rate for Kimba township (SSC40688 for 2011 and 2016, UCL411200 for 2006) obtained through ABS for census years 2006, 2011 and 2016. Approximations for non-census years utilised to illustrate average trends between census years.

Trends reflected in the data

Historical trend: The level of average annual income has experienced consistent growth between 3-5% annually between 2012/13 to 2014/15. In 2015/16 however, average annual income fell abruptly by 10%, falling below 2012 levels and eliminating the positive gains experienced in recent years.

The contributions of Kimba's main industries in providing employment has remained relatively constant since 2006. The main industries providing employment to the region are in agriculture, forestry and fishing, construction, retail trade, education/training and health and social services. These five industries account for 62% of all jobs today, up from 60% in 2006.

Total business income has varied annually over the past four years while the number of businesses has remained relatively constant, only 1 less than between 2012 and 2016.

Community insights and perceptions

Perceptions indicate that the majority of employment opportunities are within the agriculture industry, with many farmers looking to export commodities into the international market. It was thought there was no fishing or forestry employment in Kimba. We were also asked to map commodity export prices against Kimba business income at the request of some residents. These graphs for barley, wheat and wool have been included at the end of this section in **Error! Reference source not found.**, Figure 10 and Figure 11. This comparative data confirms how important annual rainfall is to crop production with the volumes produced in 2016 being the largest and coinciding with high rainfall levels.

Over the past decade, several years of variable rainfall (

Figure 6 – Kimba Annual Rainfall by main rainfall seasons, per year) have impacted on overall yield figures from local agricultural industry. Given the importance of the industry in town, the flow on economic effects are perceived to have led to the closure of some local businesses. There has also been an observed decline in retail presence in town over the past decade. The employment figures reported in the Retail Trade showed that numbers declined from 45 in 2006 to 30 in 2011 but have risen in 2016 to 38. However, the Wholesale Trade while constant between 2006 and 2011 has declined from 18 in 2011 to 11 in 2016.

The number of persons working in the agriculture industry has also fallen in recent times and the perceived factors are attributed to improved farming techniques, the use of larger and more efficient machinery coupled with the trend of smaller farms being sold off, providing opportunities for well-established farms to expand in size and scope of operations.

One individual also queried the employment numbers suggesting they were too low however, these were cross checked with ABS statistics and appear accurate.

Figure 4 - Kimba and South Australian Average Taxable Income, by year⁴

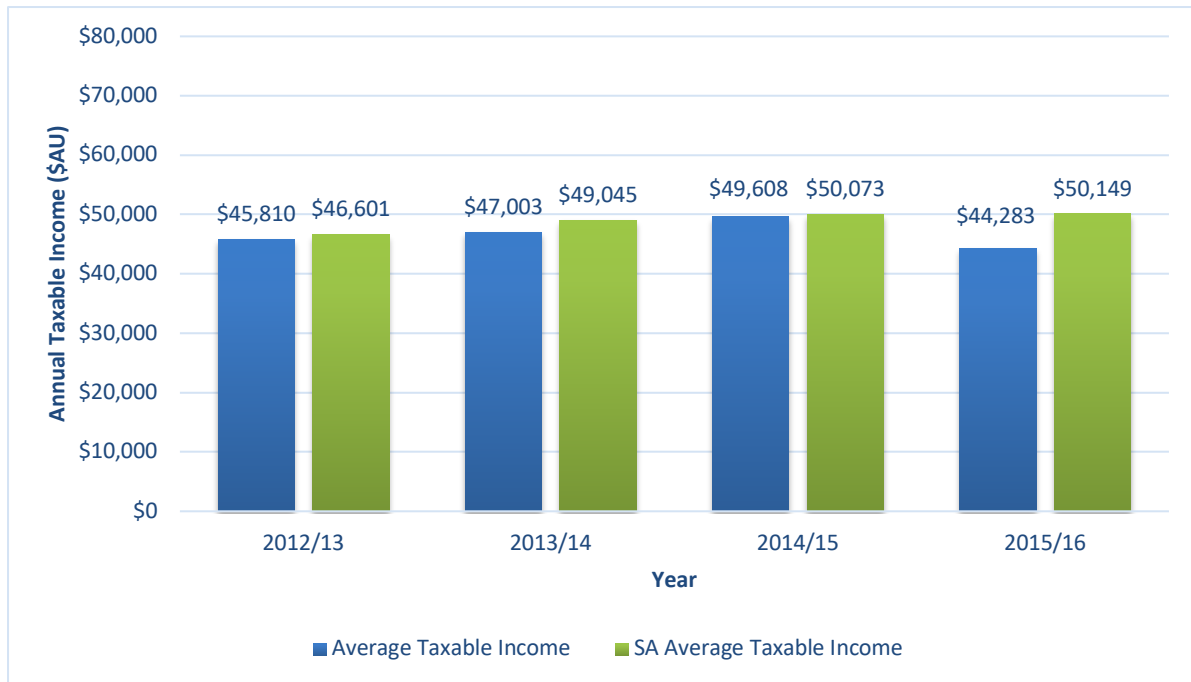
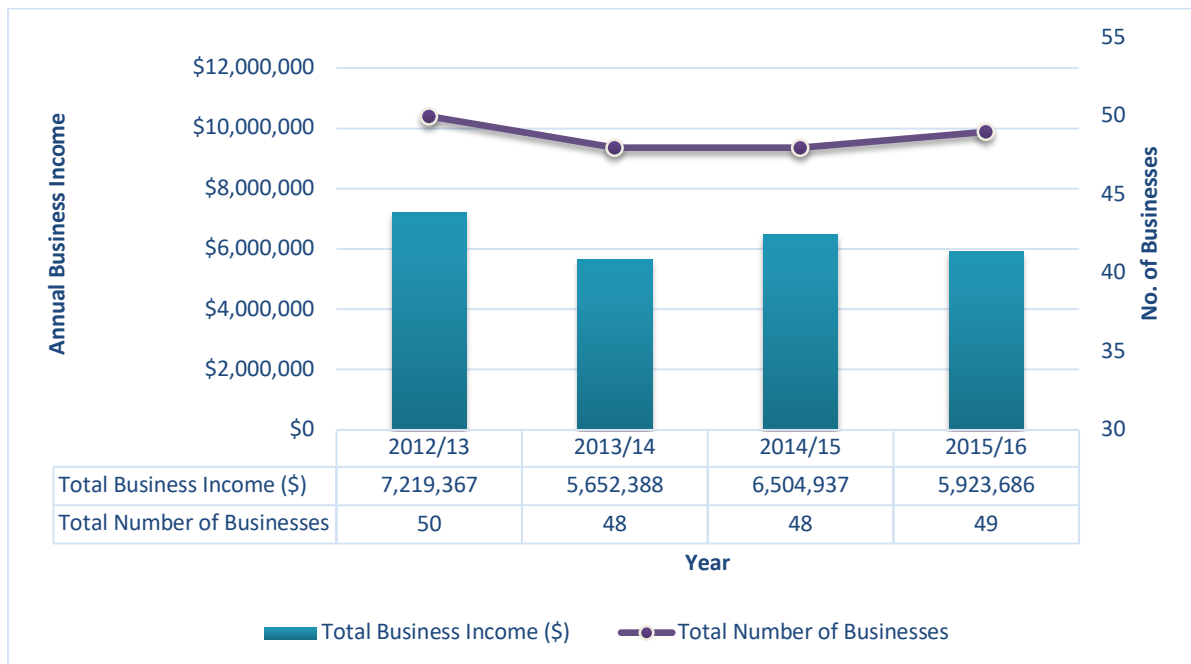


Figure 5- Kimba Business Income and Number of Business, by year⁵



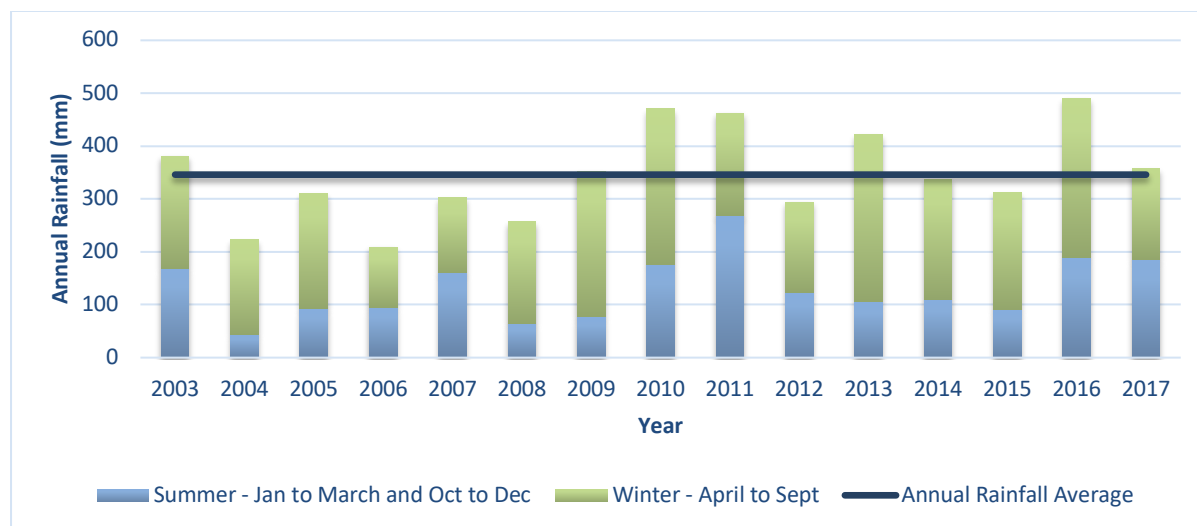
⁴ Source: ATO. Average taxable income for postcode 5641 (Kimba) and South Australia. Industry statistics for Kimba township (SSC40688) obtained through ABS for census years 2006, 2011 and 2016. No data available through ABS on individual agriculture industries or Tourism sector. As per ABS Census information, all persons working Employment figures include all persons aged over 15 years currently working, including self-employed persons.

⁵ Source: Australian Tax Office (ATO), research and statistics, <https://www.ato.gov.au/>. Total business income for postcode 5641 (Kimba). Original data – no discounting applied.

Table 1 Kimba Industry Employment distribution, by census year

Industry	2006	%	2011	%	2016	%
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	69	21%	69	21%	59	21%
Mining	0	0%	6	2%	0	0%
Manufacturing	3	1%	14	4%	7	2%
Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services	3	1%	6	2%	0	0%
Construction	18	6%	18	6%	23	8%
Wholesale Trade	17	5%	18	6%	11	4%
Retail Trade	45	14%	30	9%	38	13%
Accommodation and Food Services	19	6%	26	8%	17	6%
Transport, Postal and Warehousing	22	7%	14	4%	14	5%
Information Media and Telecommunications	3	1%	0	0%	0	0%
Financial and Insurance Services	12	4%	11	3%	13	5%
Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	6	2%	12	4%	3	1%
Administrative and Support Services	3	1%	6	2%	6	2%
Public Administration and Safety	14	4%	17	5%	11	4%
Education and Training	25	8%	20	6%	31	11%
Health Care and Social Assistance	34	11%	36	11%	26	9%
Arts and Recreation Services	0	0%	0	0%	3	1%
Other Services	18	6%	14	4%	16	6%
Inadequately described/Not stated	10	3%	4	1%	13	5%
Total	321		321		287	

Figure 6 – Kimba Annual Rainfall by main rainfall seasons, per year⁶



⁶ Source: Bureau of Meteorology Climate Data online, <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/data/> Rainfall observations reported for Kimba Station no. 18040. Annual rainfall average 346mm. Wheat and Barley production figures for Eyre Peninsula region used for Kimba from South Australian Department of Primary Industries.

Figure 7 – Eastern Eyre Peninsula (Kimba Area) Barley and Wheat Crop Harvest vs Annual Rainfall, per year

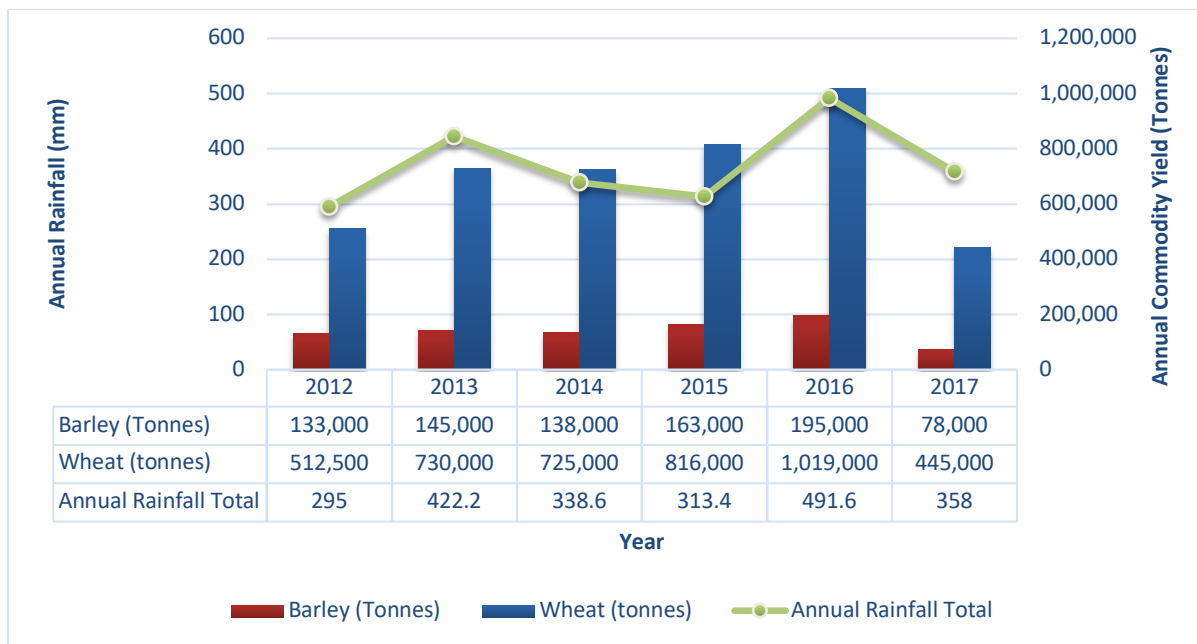


Figure 8 – Eastern Eyre Peninsula (Kimba Area) Percentage of Barley and Wheat yield of Total Harvest, by year

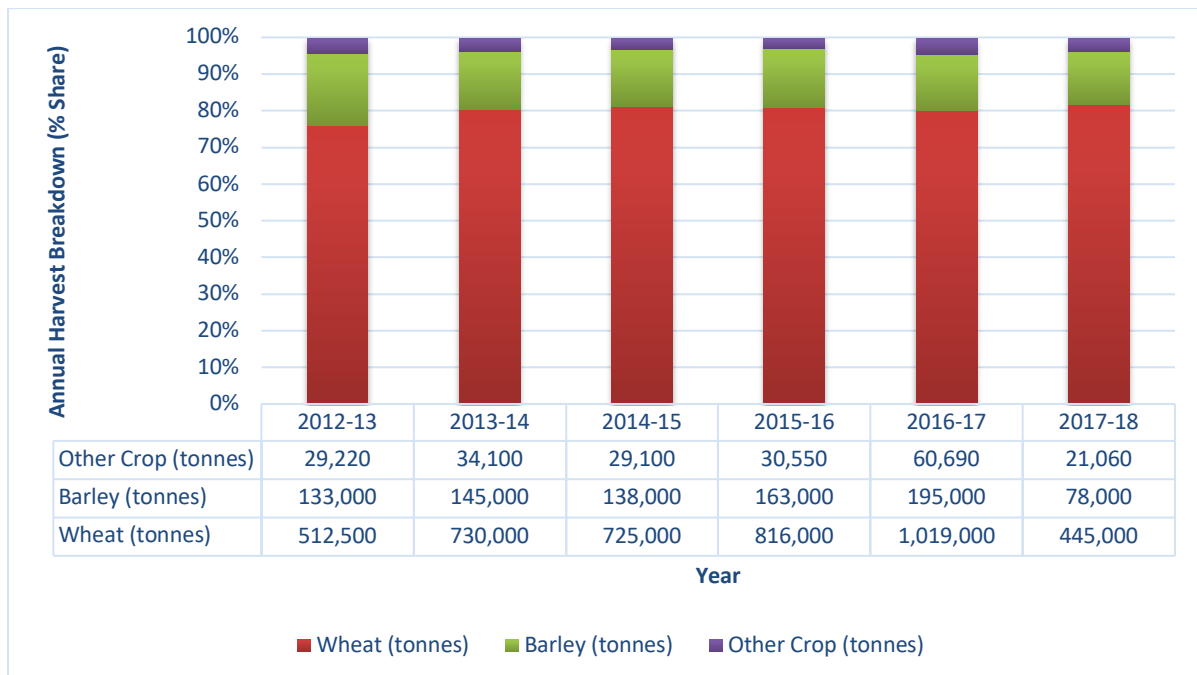
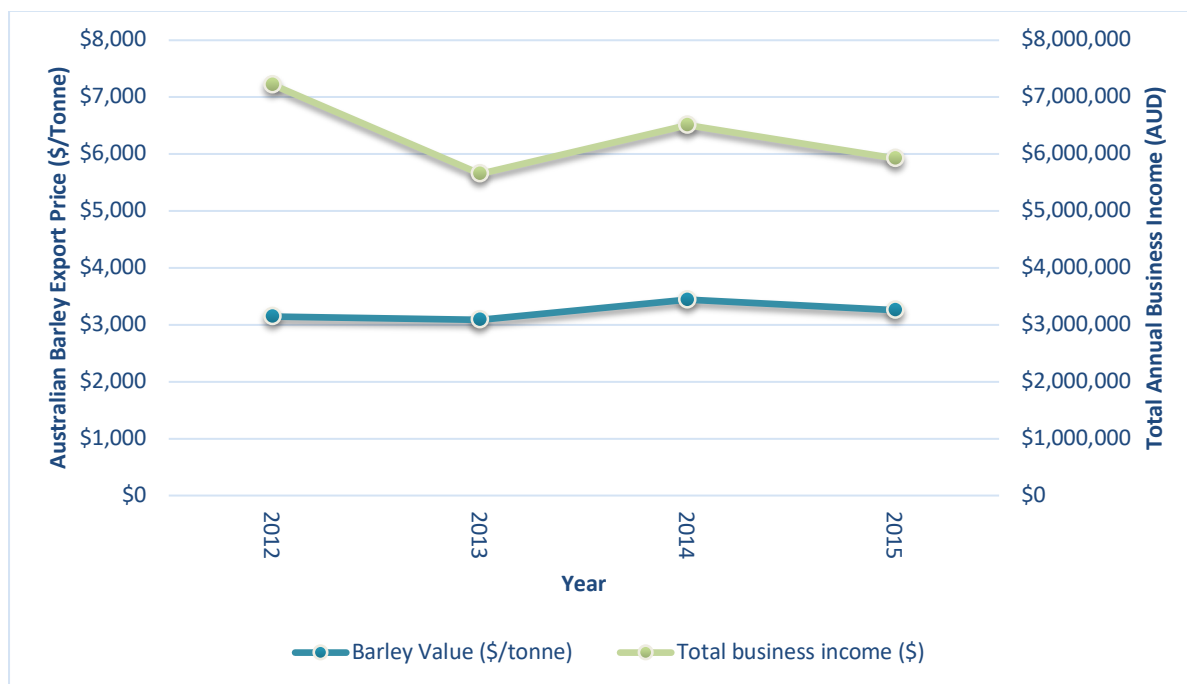


Figure 9 - Historical Price of Australian Wheat Exports against Kimba Total Annual business income, by year⁷

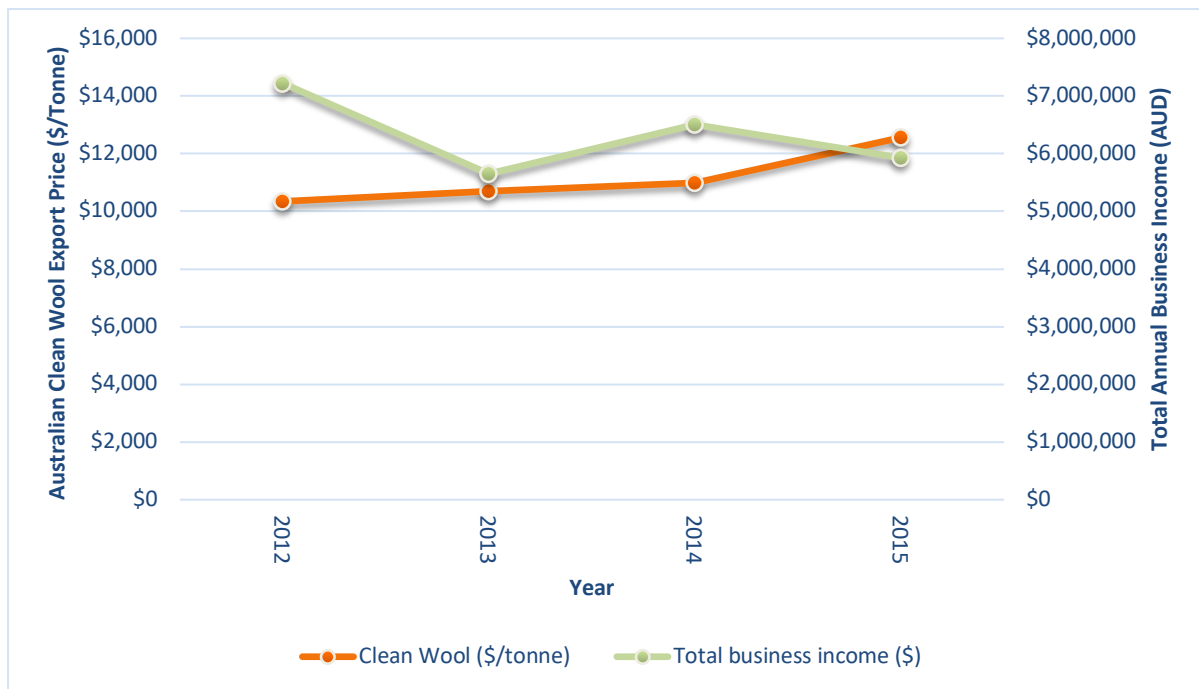


Figure 10 – Historical Price of Australian Barley Exports against Kimba Total Annual business income, by year



⁷ Source: ATO for total annual business income. Values of commodity exports obtained from historical ABARES data.

Figure 11 – Historical Price of Australian Clean Wool Exports against Kimba Total Annual business income, by year



4.4 Education

2018 summary

Seventy four percent (74%) of Kimba’s population do not have a formal education or training qualification beyond high school level. At present, 11% of the population has a Diploma, Bachelor’s degree or Postgraduate qualification while 14% of residents in Kimba have completed a Certificate III or IV through formal programs. Kimba’s TAFE campus closed in recent years and this may impact on future statistics.

Trends reflected in the data

Historical trend: Trends in post high school qualification levels have followed the same trend as the population, remaining largely steady between 2006 and 2016. Between 2011 and 2016, the percentage of persons with post high school qualification (Diploma, Bachelor or higher) increased 2% while the proportion of persons with no formal post high school qualification fell 3%.

The most frequently occurring level of education, other than high school, is a Certificate III or IV. However there has been steady growth in the number of persons with diplomas and advanced diplomas between 2006 and 2016. Local school numbers have varied over time with the highest number of students attending the school in 2012 being 182 pupils. Since this time numbers have been in decline hitting a low of 161 in 2015. However, the numbers for 2017 were reported at 173 so have increased in the last year.

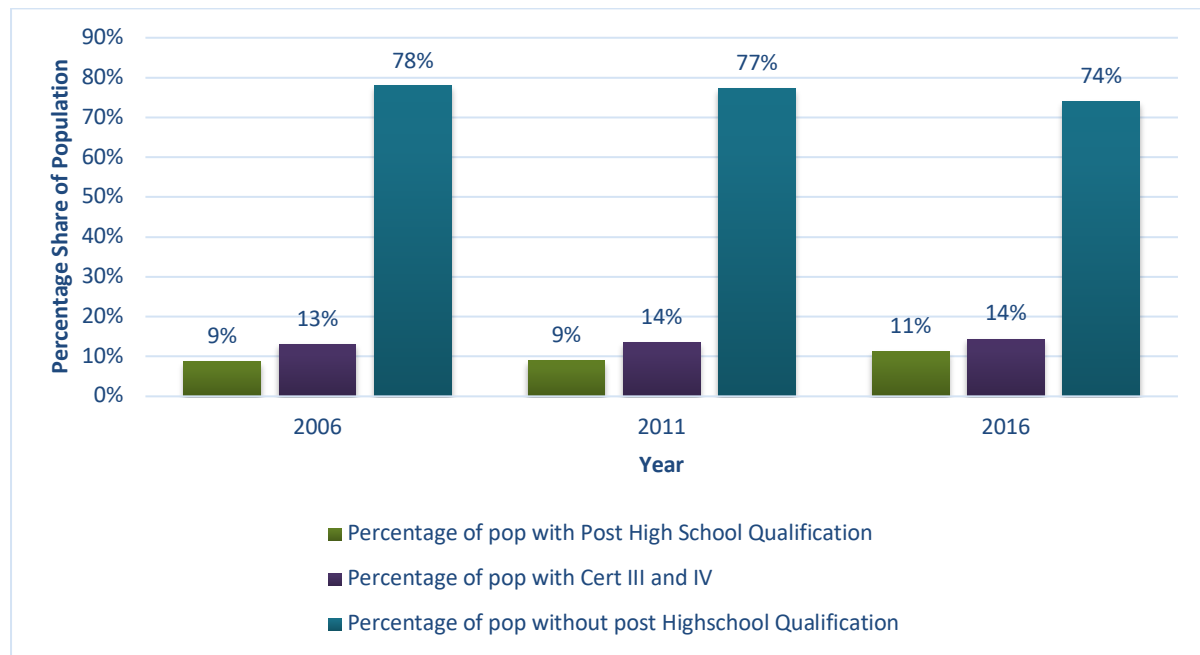
Community insights and perceptions

The number of traineeships and opportunities for young people was perceived to be lower compared to options available in other larger regional towns or Adelaide. However, many participants noted the vocational or trade training programs through the school has shown some success in recent years.

The majority of opportunities for additional education and training are perceived to remain outside of the Kimba region.

We were asked to investigate trends in schooling levels over the past decade, specifically the number enrolled pupils and staffing levels (Figure 14). Year on year fluctuations are evident. While almost all spoke highly of the school many chose to send their children to boarding school for them to access wider opportunities. It was noted that any decline or increase in student numbers can have pronounced impacts given the low number of pupils attending school. It was suggested by some residents that the addition of one extra student to the school can be enough to obtain more funding to gain an additional teacher however this is dependent on the ratios of staff to students overall.

Figure 12 - Kimba Education Qualification Levels - Share of the population, by year⁸



⁸ Source: Qualification and Education data for Kimba township (SSC40688) obtained through ABS for census years 2006, 2011 and 2016. Certificate III and IV – considered higher than year 12. Certificate I and II are considered lower than year 10 but higher than year 9. Certificate NFD – Not further defined. ABS collection of data categorised in own group.

Figure 13 - Kimba Education level of qualification - Number of persons, by year

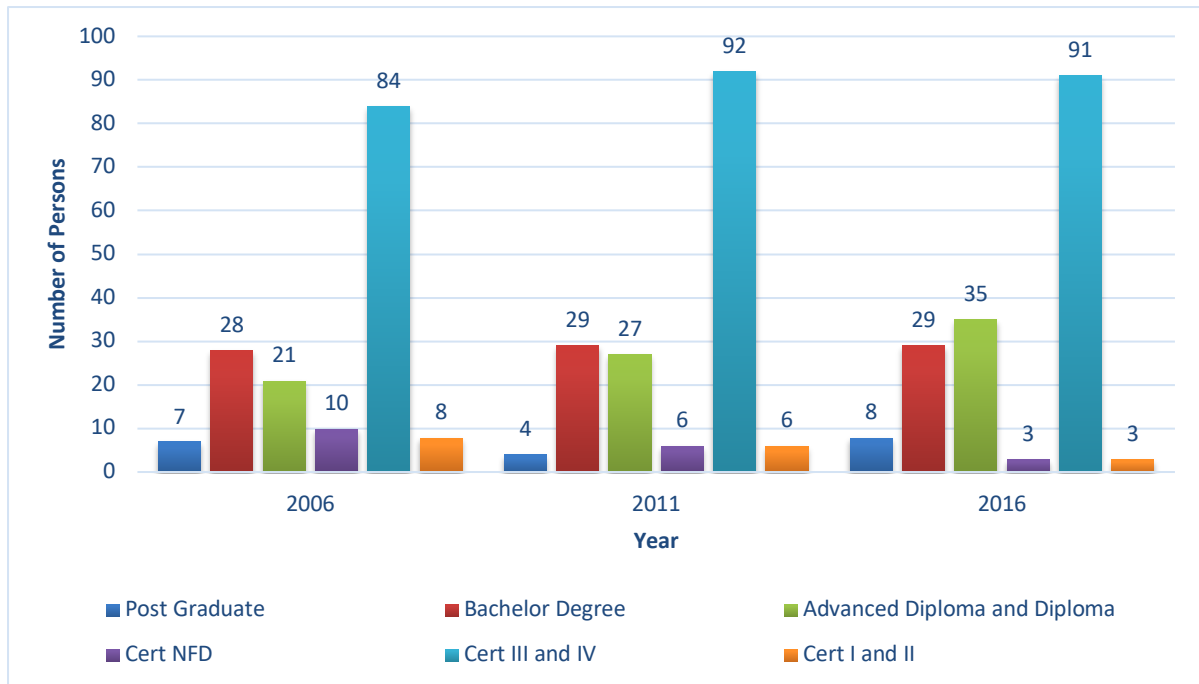
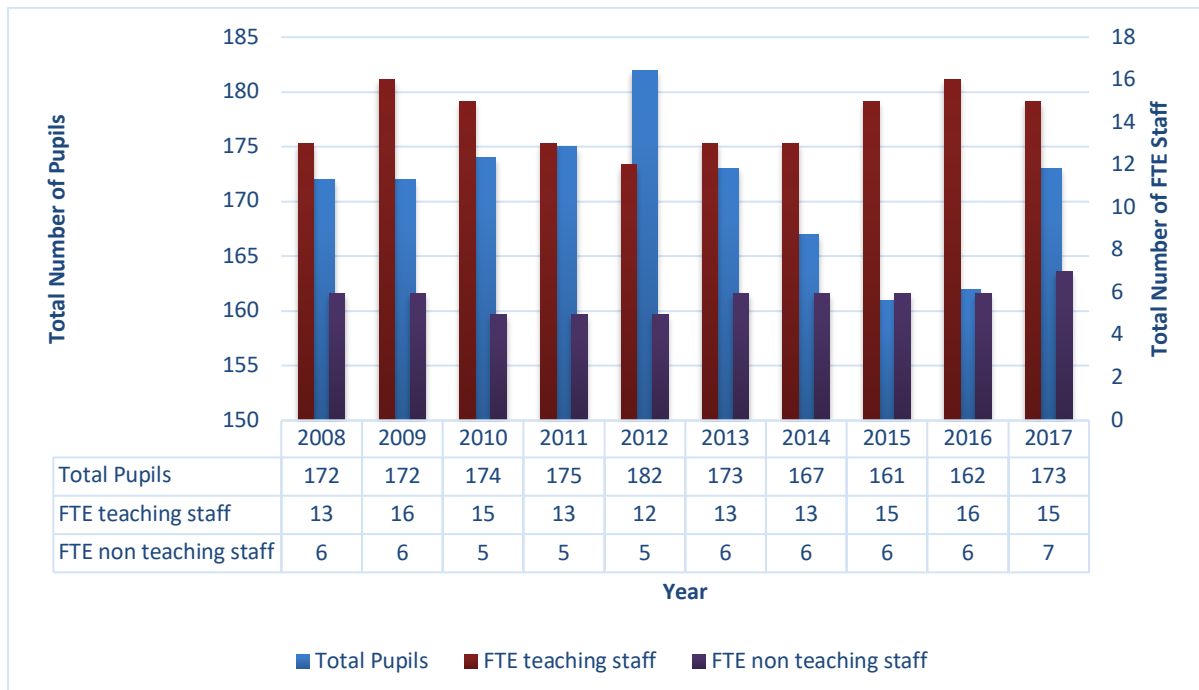


Figure 14 - Kimba Area School Pupil and Staffing Numbers, by year⁹



⁹ Source: My Schools Database for Kimba Area School.

4.5 Safety & Wellbeing

2018 summary

Kimba township has experienced relatively low levels of crime over the past five years. In the current period (Q1-3 in 2017/18), 14 total offences have been reported. The number of reported theft and assault incidents is also relatively low (4 and 2 respectively).

A snapshot of the traffic volumes for Kimba township indicates high traffic volumes along the Eyre Highway within town, with a large share of commercial vehicles sharing the highway with regular commuters daily.

Trends reflected in the data

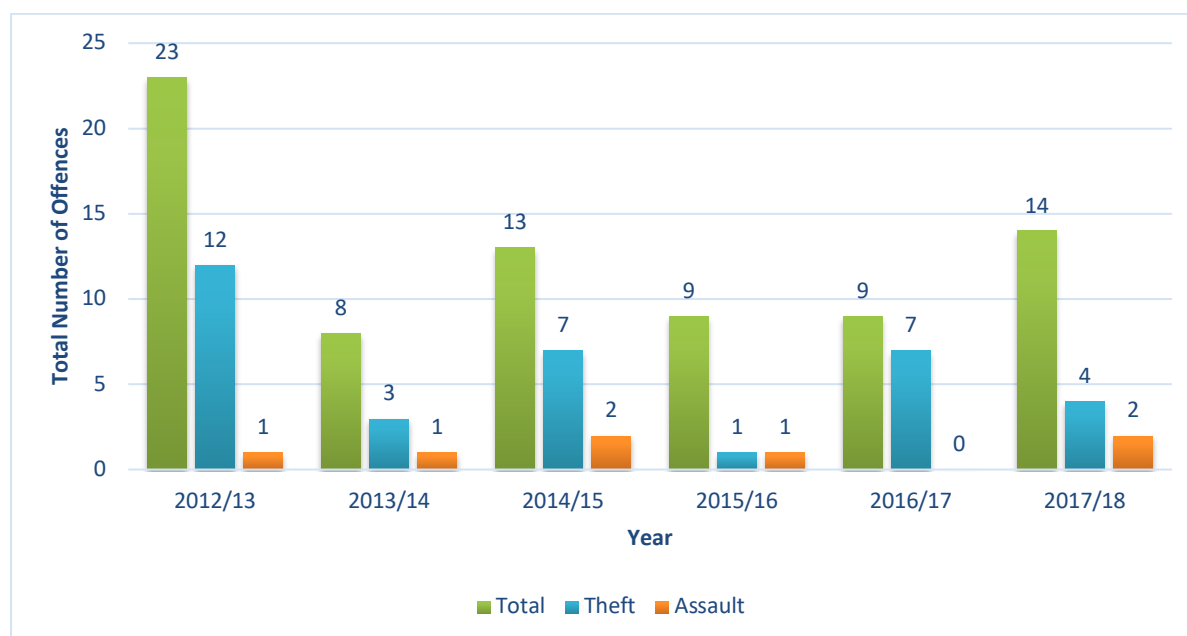
Historical trend: The number of crimes reported in Kimba township has remained relatively low over the past 5 years. Trends indicate the total number of offences has reduced over this time, with the number of reported assaults and thefts both trending down.

Traffic levels of the main roads passing through Kimba provide insight into the level of daily traffic patterns. The Eyre Highway has a high proportion of commercial vehicle activity both in town and beyond. Eyre Highway west of town has the highest volume of traffic, with 37% of the daily 1300 vehicles categorised as a commercial vehicle.

Community insights and perceptions

Residents overwhelmingly indicate that crime in Kimba has remained relatively low over the past decade, with safety highlighted as a key community value for the region.

Figure 15 - Total Police Reporting Offences, by year¹⁰



¹⁰ Source: South Australian Police (SAPOL) <https://www.police.sa.gov.au/> for Kimba postcode 5641. Displayed categories Captured number of incidents based on “crimes against property” and “crimes against a person”. Drug and traffic offences were not reported in the publically available data.

Table 2 - Kimba Traffic Volume by main access road or highway¹¹

Roadway	Total Daily Traffic	No. of CV	% of CV	Year Recorded
In town				
Cowell Kimba Road	310	43	14%	2012
Eyre Highway West	1300	310	24%	2013
Eyre Highway East	650	240	37%	2013
Out of town				
Cleve Road	210	27	13%	2013
Eyre Highway West	700	250	35%	2014
Eyre Highway East	750	250	33%	2016

4.6 Housing

2018 summary

Context

Detailed real estate data on Kimba was not available however rental and mortgage rates were obtained through ABS census data coupled with information obtained from local real estate agents.

The median rent in Kimba is \$120, significantly less than the state median of \$260 per week. The median mortgage repayment of \$200 per week is also significantly less than the state median of \$344 per week. The total number of dwellings in Kimba currently sits at 356, with a 28% vacancy rate.

Trends reflected in the data

Historical trend: The median weekly rent in Kimba rose by 45% between 2006 and 2016 (from \$76 to \$120) while the same trend was experienced throughout South Australia (up 42% from \$150 in 2006 to \$260 in 2016). These increases are relatively low when considering an annualised increase over a decade along with low base from which they start.

The same upward trend occurred for residents with mortgage obligations, with the median weekly repayment increasing 94% between 2006 and 2016 however this trend was no evident across South Australia, where weekly mortgage repayments grew by 31%.

The increase in rent and mortgage repayments over the years occurred at a time where the number of dwellings fell marginally, by 10% between 2006 and 2016. The decrease in supply also coincided with a high vacancy rate, which has sat at 28% between 2011 and 2016.

Community insights and perceptions

The 100 reported unoccupied dwellings are said to be comprised of a mining camp that was established by a small mining company on the outskirts of Kimba but has remained unused since 2014. During the interviews it was reported that this camp has approximately 80 available rooms although

¹¹ Source: Location SA Map and Traffic data <http://location.sa.gov.au>. CV – Commercial Vehicles. Most recent traffic volume data illustrated however in some instances several years old.

this was not confirmed. Those supportive of the facility felt that this could provide a perfect opportunity for the construction phase if required.

People said that houses were slow to sell with very low demand for housing. Older residents particularly mentioned being “locked in” – either unable to sell their house or if sold, the revenue would not be enough to buy elsewhere. This was a concern for those considering moving closer to aged care facilities, and for their families.

Information from local real estate agents provides further detail regarding the rental market, and also provide some insights regarding the sales market which was not available from online industry reports:

- Value in the residential housing market has fallen by 30-40% over the past 5 years however valuations in the rural market (farms etc.) have increased 30% over the same period.
- Rural market leasing levels have also increased by 30% in recent years.
- As of July 2018, 35 residential properties were listed for sale compared with an historical average of 10-15.
- Perceptions are that not many people are moving to Kimba from outside the wider region.
- There have been 13 sales in the residential market and 6 sales in the rural market over the past 12 months.
- The rental market is currently stagnant, with local landlords indicating a reduction of over 10-20% in weekly rental rates required to attract tenants—this should be evident in future statistics.
- No new residential housing construction has occurred in the past 3 years.
- Most of the sales are occurring at the lower valuation end of the market (\$50-90k). No insights were provided on why this might be except that there is currently very little demand for houses in the area.
- As for mining announcements in the past if the NRWFM goes ahead it is likely that prices will increase if the facility is announced.

Figure 16 - Weekly Median Rent and Mortgage Repayment levels, by year¹²

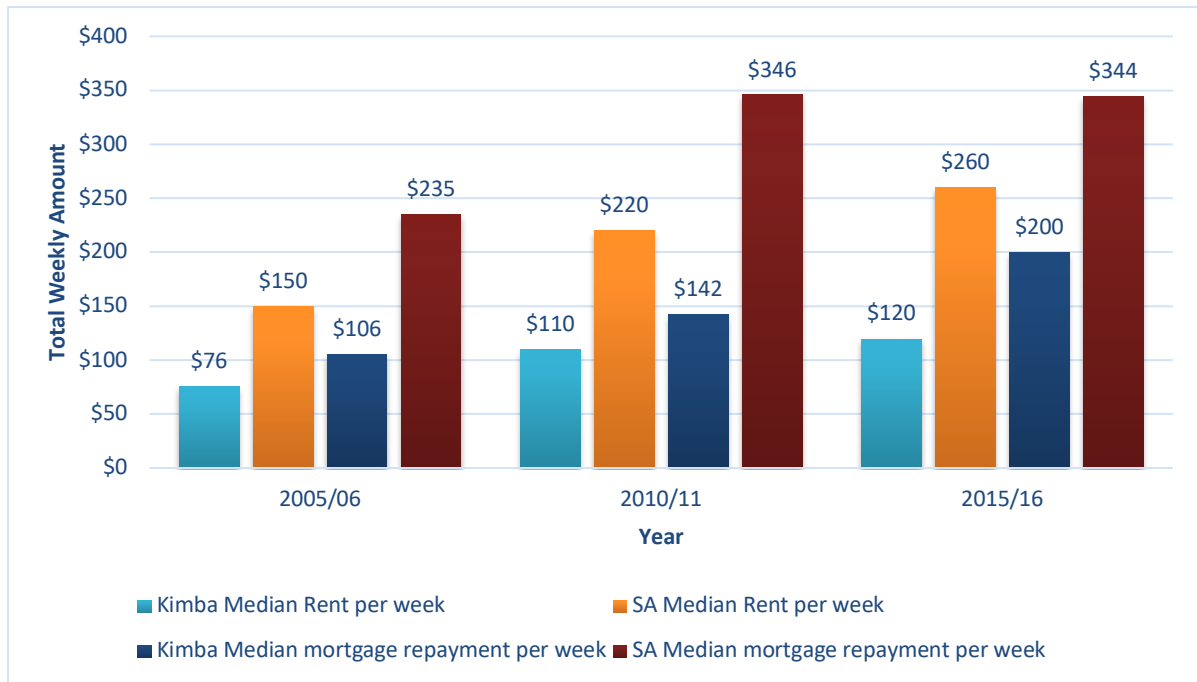
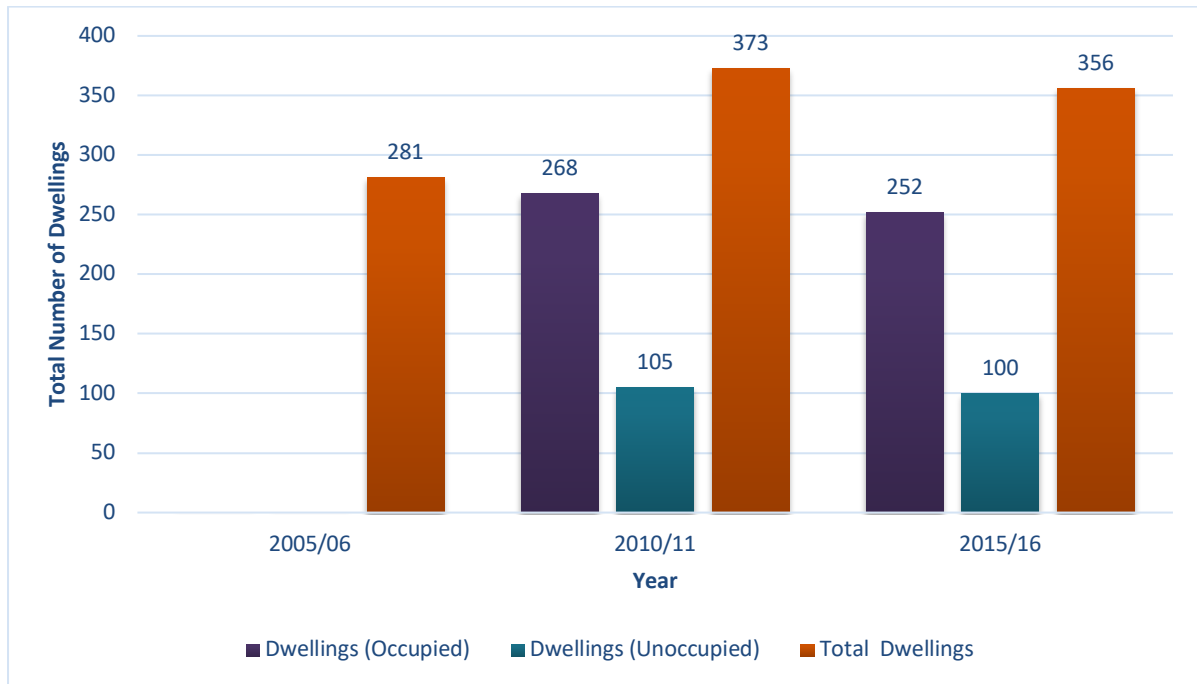


Figure 17 - Kimba Total number of Dwellings (Occupied and Unoccupied) - by year¹³



¹² Source: Kimba and South Australia weekly rent and mortgage repayment statistics (area SSC40688) obtained through ABS and Census data. Minimal statistics were available from online property data websites such as realestate.com.au and were not included in results.

¹³ Source: Kimba dwelling statistics (area SSC40688) obtained through ABS and Census data. 2005/06 reporting year did not report the number of non-occupied dwellings and as such, only total dwelling figures have been reported.

5. Results from interviews

While in Kimba over 30 interviews were undertaken either with individuals, pairs or small groups of community members. Another three interviews were conducted by telephone subsequent to the visit to the town. This resulted in more than 80 people being interviewed and clearly reflects the willingness of individuals to engage to have their views heard. Key themes arising from the interviews are summarised below.

5.1 Community Values

Throughout the interview process, several key values were highlighted by residents. Most expressed a strong sense of pride in their community which they felt had been evident in the town and wider Kimba region for many generations.

A strong **community spirit** was identified as the main core value of Kimba. This was consistently raised during the interviews, irrespective of an individual's personal stance towards the proposed NRWMP. Many of the subsequent discussions of values revolved around this central theme. Kimba was described as a proactive and caring community with a long history of supporting persons when in need. Examples were given of fund raising activities, people helping to take off crops during harvest season and other supportive activities if a family encountered hardship.

This commitment to community spirit was manifested in the high levels of volunteerism that occurred in Kimba. It was mentioned by many, that Kimba had been formally recognised in a recent government award for **volunteering**. Such high levels of volunteerism were thought to emerge through the hard work ethic that most living in the Kimba region displayed. Many suggesting that this arose from the strong attachment to the land and farming culture more generally.

Safe was another word that was used often to describe what individuals valued about living in the Kimba region. This element of safety is reinforced by the low crime rates evidenced in the statistics presented in the previous section.

A strong **sporting culture** and the role that sports played within the Kimba community was also valued highly by almost all of those interviewed. The football club was discussed as being the centre of the social fabric of the town. However, equally netball and cricket were important sports that many residents were involved with in some way.

Strong **family values and lifestyle** considerations were also highlighted as key values that residents recognised as being of significance for those looking to raise young families in the area.

Collectively, these values encompass a community sentiment that it is the **people** of Kimba, both now and in years past, that have made the community what it is today.

5.2 Changes over time

From the interviews it was evident that Kimba has faced a number of challenges over the years through a strong reliance on agriculture and little diversification of business alternatives. Overall, the population has been relatively steady over the past ten years although there are approximately 80 less people now living in the region compared with 2003/4 census data. The overall reduction in population was perceived to be due to larger trends in the agricultural sector, such as smaller farms

being bought out by larger farms, as well as younger people moving away due to a lack of job prospects.

The natural decline as farmers are getting older and if they haven't got any boys well they sell, and the majority of their land has been taken up by neighbours. Kimba 006

Local businesses are suffering and the lack of growth has meant very minimal demand for housing, which means many older residents are stuck as they are unable to realise enough economic return for their house to provide them with options to move into aged care or retire elsewhere. With the looming drought many felt the overall economic prospects for Kimba were concerning.

You talk to all the business owners and they're all struggling at the moment. Kimba 001

I think the young ones leave and for whatever, they leave for work and because there's nothing here for them they don't come back. Kimba 001

The ongoing nomination process of the NRWMF and resultant community engagement that has occurred over the past three years was acknowledged to have placed significant strain on friendships and relationships within the community. Several interviewees, from both sides of the debate, acknowledged a division had emerged—either overt or hidden. Several interviewees directly attributed blame to the nomination process, particularly the second announcement. This division was seen to be threatening the core community values outlined above.

However, while some felt the division was very evident, others suggested that it was more subtle, while others did not agree that such a division even existed. Several interview participants expressed feelings of marginalisation in the community either because they chose not to support the facility, were remaining neutral, or because they had openly supported the facility. Regardless of stance, many suggested that the topic of the NRWMF was not spoken about openly between family and friends in order to protect relationships with those with opposing views.

Many people were concerned about the changing nature of their community. Others were more optimistic suggesting that the strong friendships and community spirit that existed in the Kimba region would remain long after the decision was made in relation to the facility. However, the looming process of 'the vote' was recognised as creating tension and stress for many, exacerbated by the current drought being experienced by farming families and the broader community.

5.3 Perceived concerns with the facility

Various concerns were raised about the proposed facility. Others mentioned how their initial concerns (mostly about safety) had been appeased through visits to ANSTO, seeking and asking for information, the official engagement process and discussions with others.

5.3.1 Future uncertainty

Concerns appear to stem from uncertainty. "What if...?" was a commonly used phrase in interviews. The dominant concern was around possible threats to human and environmental safety if the integrity of the structure was compromised or damaged (due to a storm for example), deteriorated over time, or failed unexpectedly. This sentiment is exemplified by statements such as "You never know what could happen", "we can't know what will happen... 20, 50, 100 years in the future" and "what might

be leading practice now still dates over time". These concerns were future-orientated, perhaps reflecting the strong intergenerational ties in many farming families living in and around Kimba.

Relatedly, there were concerns expressed over the possibility of upgrading the facility to permanently dispose of intermediate level waste and not just low-level waste¹⁴. People were concerned that while they might agree now to a low-level facility, higher level waste would be stored there, or that the initial 'consent' would be taken as blanket consent for any further development in the future. The concern was expressed that the government of the day could, at any time, make a decision to permanently dispose of intermediate level waste at the Kimba facility. This consideration was felt to be a game changer in terms of long term safety.

...you can't trust them. So when they say you're only going to be getting low level to intermediate you can't trust them. You cannot trust them. And it's clearly more than that. And the only reason we're getting 45 jobs is revolved around the intermediate waste. It's not for the low level waste that was first spoken about. Kimba 015

Concerns were also raised about uncertainty as to who will be responsible for operating the facility (in light of the different business practice motivations of government and the private sector) and uncertainty as to where access roads are likely to be constructed (that will influence perceived impacts and benefits).

5.3.2 Stigma and reputational damage

Several local farmers who export internationally, expressed high levels of concern surrounding the possibility that produce from the region would become stigmatised given its proximity to the facility. Concerns were raised about the potential financial impacts this could have on the local agricultural industries. Similar concerns were voiced in relation to tourism to the region.

5.3.3 Property values

Local residents also expressed their concerns that the risk of contamination, or the effects of being stigmatised as a "dump" site would negatively impact on property values, which are already subject to a stagnant and declining residential housing market. The literature review in Section 2 shows that this concern is often voiced in RWMF siting processes, but that property values can and do increase once the facility is operational. Those supporting the facility believed that property values would likely increase with population growth and increased demand for housing and with increased incomes for local people.

5.3.4 Concerns about the process

Mostly those stating opposition to the NRWMF, but also supporters expressed some concerns about the siting and community consultation process.

Concerns with the process included the quantity, perceived quality, and nature of the information made available to them during the public engagement process as well as the bilateral nature of the nomination process (with agreements between private landholders and the DIIS), where others in the wider community felt powerless and overlooked in that decision making process.

¹⁴ The NRWMF has been scoped for the purpose of storing intermediate waste temporarily but not for permanent disposal.

For some people, the information was adequate and they felt satisfied their concerns had been addressed. This included people who explained how they were initially shocked and unsure about the safety and benefits of the project. For those who took the opportunity, visits to ANSTO facilities were described as “reassuring”. Many others however, felt that the information provided had not addressed their concerns - particularly concerns around future levels of waste disposal and safety. For these people, information was described as “one-sided” and “glossy” and they did not feel their arguments and/or questions were being considered to an appropriate extent.

5.4 Perceived opportunities with the facility

Interviews identified a range of perceived economic and social benefits, although those who opposed the facility tended to question whether these benefits would manifest as predicted.

5.4.1 Education and training with pathways to employment

The main opportunities seen were in relation to education and training pathways for local people (particularly youth) and additional opportunities for the current workforce. Emphasis was placed on possible positive outcomes for local school students both now and into the future, in improvements in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) subjects uptake and offerings. A stronger focus on STEM subjects, with clear pathways to jobs in the nuclear industry was seen to benefit both local students and potentially those in nearby towns.

What I would love to see is more kids stay and finish their education here, not be having to go to college. That, to me, would be the great – would be a great thing. Kimba 011

5.4.2 A diversified and invigorated economy

The construction phase modelling for the project identified approximately 100 jobs, with the facility expected to provide 45 full time equivalent ongoing jobs (Cadence 2018). While the modelling suggests many of these jobs would come from the local workforce, such an injection of additional workers and supporting industries into the local area was felt to present an opportunity for many local businesses. It was also recognised that this presented an opportunity for the wider community to benefit from the additional income injected into the local economy. It was felt that the increased number of jobs will likely bring new families, which in turn would create increased student numbers in schools, thereby triggering the need for additional staffing and other resources. It was also hoped that such a facility may encourage other family members to return to the district because of the renewed employment opportunities which may emerge.

It was explained that having an alternative and constant source of income through hosting the facility would help to diversify the town’s reliance on agriculture, where productivity and subsequent business turnover are always directly impacted by changing weather patterns.

5.4.3 Desirable and vibrant place to live

The potential for an increase in population numbers and business growth was also viewed by those in support or neutral towards the facility as having the potential to alleviate current pressures on the stagnant residential market. Local insights on Kimba’s real estate market suggest that house valuations would increase immediately if the proposed development was to progress to the next stage, facilitating a number of sales in the local area. This was particularly welcomed by home owners who had been reluctant to sell their house based on the low prices returned in more recent sales.

5.4.4 Better services

Despite having a hospital in the town, the lack of a dedicated full-time doctor in Kimba was seen as a problem for many who were interviewed - particularly in relation to the ageing population - with some participants reporting up to a three week wait for an appointment.

Well, I guess, a doctor worries us too, yeah, we've both got an older parent here, and I think that's a worry, that we don't have the facilities for the doctors regularly..... just for example, ...she couldn't get into the doctor here so she drove to Cleve herself, well, she shouldn't have been on the road... Kimba 013

We've got a locum that comes two days a week and it's just not satisfactory, especially after hours' emergencies and that sort of thing. Kimba 016

There was some discussion around the idea of Kimba becoming a “government town” which would bring additional services including the likelihood of at least 1.5 full time doctors. Participants reported that this would be welcomed as previous attempts to attract an additional doctor had not been successful.

It is, and, like I was saying before, when you look at the broader scheme, you got 45 jobs, but that just overflows; suddenly you've got a decent doctor, we've got a decent hospital, and we've got more – they can't obviously run a facility like that without having everything here for them. Kimba 011

6. Pathways

Within this section we identify a number of potential strategies to address key areas that emerged from the interviews and desktop review. This process helps to confirm the likely indicators that could be used to continue monitoring how each community is tracking after the results are announced.

6.1 Next steps

As the literature shows, benefits can be maximised with relevant negotiated strategies. Ideally this would involve identifying strategies to maximise benefits if the nomination is successful, and then strategies for supporting the community if not. As identified, additional community investment can serve as a valuable supplement to the direct benefits accrued through employment and local purchasing. Attention should be paid to possible effects on recreational tourism and property values, where there is plenty of scope for effective mitigating strategies. Impacts on Aboriginal cultural heritage must also be given special attention as any strategies would need participation and leadership from relevant representatives. Attention should also be given to general community wellbeing, including mitigating the tangible effects on social cohesion.

A review of community investment schemes shows common benefits in the way of job skills and training programmes, affordable housing, community infrastructure, recreational facilities, environmental remediation, community initiatives, events and programmes (RWM 2016).

Fortunately, there are examples of other communities that have been in similar situations around the siting of new infrastructure projects—equally supported by some and opposed by others—that can help to inform these strategies.

For example, a study measuring the economic benefits of the coal seam gas (CSG) industry on small to medium enterprises (SME) in Queensland highlights a number of key considerations that are helpful for Kimba businesses to build greater resilience¹⁵. The researchers observed a number of key characteristics of businesses that were successful both during the construction and investment period, transition to operations and also preparing for future opportunities post boom. For example, during the early investment phase those businesses with “slack”—spare resources both financial and human—experienced much greater positive performance and growth. Other key determinants that emerged in successful businesses were the proactiveness, connectedness and adaptiveness of each business. The implications of these for Kimba businesses are expanded on in the sections below.

To address concerns about property values, a Property Value Protection (PVP) scheme, as proposed by the UK government (RWA 2016) and used successfully in Canada (Port Hope Area Initiative 2017) could be considered. Such a scheme would provide compensation for any loss in property values or rental incomes associated with the facility within a negotiated boundary. Such schemes are intended to demonstrate that the developer/operator of a facility or the implementer of a siting process understands these concerns and is, in effect, insuring the property owners against the risk to their property values. It is not generally the intention that beneficiaries of schemes should be made better off than was the case before the project was started. PVP schemes are thus not an inducement to accept a facility but a form of insurance.

Concerns about stigma and subsequent effects on tourism and agricultural produce are common in the process of siting a RWMF, although the literature provides little quantified evidence of positive or negative effects. Possible negative effects can be mitigated through broad public information and awareness programmes, targeted to potential visitors and consumers that provides reassurance of safety and integrity. A ‘brand protection’ program may also be required, such as was offered in the Netherlands, where local farmers were offered compensation for losses (although none have ever been claimed).

During the construction phase particularly, local services and facilities can become overstretched. Interviewees highlighted how many local services operate on a voluntary basis. Local services, particularly emergency services should be consulted with a plan developed for additional services, resources, risk assessment and incident response. The literature shows that ‘shared services’ is an effective model that builds local capacity, rather than the facility having its own specific services.

A plan should also be in place for the housing of additional workers during the construction period, with adequate facilities to ensure their health and wellbeing. Community consultation should be held as to whether this accommodation should be temporary accommodation or add to the town’s permanent housing or accommodation infrastructure, however Kimba already has a large facility that is currently not in use and therefore easily available if required.

Having a pathway which clearly maps the next steps, challenges and opportunities should help the community find a way forward for seeking opportunities to keep the Kimba town and broader region moving forward. However, such a process will take time and will need all individuals who can set their differences aside for the good of the community.

¹⁵ Ford, J., Vereynne, M-L, & J. Steen (2016) Measuring economic trends and benefits of CSG developments on local businesses: Small and Medium Enterprises Study - Trends and Benefits. Centre for Coal Seam Gas: University of Queensland

So, yes, at the moment I can see that there are people in our community on both sides who are under pressure with this. I suspect that if it went ahead in 10 years' time, some of the people who are opposed to it now, their kids would be working in this facility. They'd be enjoying the sponsorship at their local bowls club, and with the community benefits, there's plenty of people anti, who are benefitting from that 2 million dollars being handed out there, and I'm sure they're going to continue playing bowls. I'm sure they'll use the palliative care unit... Kimba 007

Given the contested nature of the project it was clear in almost all interviews there has been a high level of emotional investment in either supporting, opposing or remaining neutral to the facility. When the final decision is made there will no doubt be a feeling of winners and losers. It is also very likely that some will attribute blame to those considered in the outgroup of a particular stated position. Given the low levels of medical services in the town, it may be prudent to ensure independent counsellors are made available in Kimba for locals to access for a period of time following the announcement. This may also be part of the strategy for rebuilding and refocusing the community.

The Kimba Community Development Group was identified by many residents as being a proactive group that has existed for many years with a sole focus of ensuring Kimba survives and stays protected as a town in spite of drought or other challenges. This group will be important in any ongoing strategy as will the local council, the Economic Working Group and sporting clubs and associated representatives. Other groups such as Regional Development Australia's Whyalla Eyre Peninsula Board which has a broader focus than just Kimba, may also be helpful in maintaining wider connections and networks across the region.

6.2 Strategies going forward

6.2.1 Networking with other local councils for infrastructure development

If the Minister decides, based on the range of evaluation points including community sentiment, that Kimba will progress to the next stage there are a number of strategies that could be put in place to help Kimba maximise the benefits from the project. As discussed above, there is a lot to be learned from other local governments who have experienced rapid growth around infrastructure projects. It may be prudent for the Mayor and others in the local council to establish a connection with local councils in the Surat Basin of Queensland. From this they could learn first-hand some of the key considerations for managing through a construction phase and beyond. There should also be the opportunity extended for them to visit the Surat to witness in greater detail how the industry is co-existing with communities. This would also provide insights into how best to manage the additional community benefits that are likely to result from the facility as well as minimise any negative impacts.

One example that has recently been implemented during another round of construction work in the Surat Basin has been around the camps associated with the "fly in fly out" of "drive in drive out" workforce. For the new round, the local council has insisted that work is only able to be undertaken six out of seven days. This allows more opportunity for those living in the camps to participate in local community activities. As well, it extends the time the workers will be in the town by several weeks which also adds to the overall social fabric and economic return to the community. Similarly, there has been a growth in understanding about the best way to develop roads and commitments for ongoing maintenance which will be helpful for sharing the burden of ongoing maintenance of these.

Ensuring any of the new initiatives that are implemented by the local council to manage the interactions with the company developing the facility are documented, will form an important part of the indicators to measure the impact of the facility on the community. The overall socio-economic indicators work, ongoing interviews and or surveys at 6 month intervals will also help to monitor whether and how the social fabric is being developed. The overall increases in economic return through average wages and business incomes will also help to quantitatively assess the impacts of the new facility. Other services and infrastructure developments will also be important indicators for how well the town is doing. For example, the presence of a local doctor would be a significant indicator for the community.

6.2.2 Building a connected Kimba business network and capacity building

At the same time there are a number of activities businesses within Kimba could consider to ensure they are prepared for maximising potential benefits arising from the facility. A key component for success will be to build a collaborative network across similar types of businesses so that everyone shares the opportunity to reap benefits from the different stages of project. The Ford et al. (2016) report clearly demonstrates the importance of a business's connectedness. Connectedness is described as "close coordination with network partners to develop plans and approaches to address change within the business environment" (Ford et al. 2016, p.3).

During the interviews, business owners were already alluding to such opportunities. Most expressed a desire of finding ways to work together to maximise profits and returns to all businesses. To assist in enabling this it will be helpful to clearly map the likely requirements of the project across all of the different development stages. This will require the Commonwealth Government to provide very clear and realistic information regarding the timing and required activities for each stage. This will help businesses to be more proactive in identifying where they have the skills and capabilities and where gaps may still exist. It will then require a clear cost benefit analysis to consider whether it is worthwhile investing in more people and resources or if there are other ways to capitalise on the opportunities. Such a gap analysis could be an early focus of the Economic Working Group and the Kimba Community Development Group working with representatives from the Department to assist as appropriate.

A key learning from the CSG industry was that some businesses over-capitalised during the investment and construction phase which left them vulnerable, with some going out of business, once the industry and wider services in the town returned to a more steady state. Early provision of realistic information is critical to businesses making prudent decisions regarding investment and collaboration. Leasing equipment or partnering with other businesses nearby, as well as identifying opportunities for local workers, such as farmers, who may have more flexibility to make themselves available at certain times are some simple strategies that can assist in minimising the commercial risks to local businesses.

Similarly, to help build the capacity of local businesses, it would be helpful to ensure that there are regular meetings with the Department and others responsible for the business case to build the capacity of local businesses to bid for work. Sometimes this can be ensuring simple steps are in place for companies to meet certain ISO standards that maybe a requirement to tender for work. Equally, local businesses should be provided with information about how to complete the required capabilities forms, expressions of interest or any other paperwork that may assist them in being considered as

part of a competitive tender process. As these develop they would also form part of the overall skills and capability mapping document which should be organic and continually updated over time.

In addition to monitoring business income and the skills and capability mapping document another useful indicator would be to develop a social network analysis of businesses and individual business owners to ensure the “connectedness” factor is being overtly monitored over time. This will help to ensure some businesses do not fall through the cracks if they are not an exact fit under the potential requirements for work for the facility. Regular meetings enabled through local bodies such as the Kimba Community Development Group, the local council and the Economic Working Group would all be important facilitators of these activities.

6.2.3 Training and skills development

Once opportunities and gaps at the business level have been identified there will be a need to ensure locals who are interested in accessing any new job opportunities presented by the facility are provided with the necessary training to develop the required skills set. This step is important to safeguard any opportunities for local employment. This means ensuring training programs are made available to meet any of the skills deficits in anticipation of the new business requirements. Unfortunately, the local TAFE has closed which means individuals would have to spend time in places like Whyalla to upskill—moving the overall supporting service element away from Kimba. The alternative would be to implement more local training e.g., TAFE trainers visiting Kimba for specific periods, or some online skills provision developed especially for those in Kimba.

There were mixed responses to these different delivery options. Some interviewees suggesting they would only be able to attend training programs that were offered in Kimba. However, others felt that travelling to Whyalla for a week of training at one time may be appropriate if it was supported financially through various training schemes. Others suggested that they may be more open to the possibilities of completing online training mixed with some in person time. It is likely that the final offering will be a mix of all three options depending on the demand and the skills needing to be developed.

Discussions also arose in relation to where the training could be offered given there is no local registered training office located in the town and who might be responsible. One of the most popular solutions suggested seemed to be working in with the local school. It was suggested that the school already has a commercial kitchen and other equally appropriate facilities. This however, would have to be decided well in advance working with the Principal and others responsible for the school’s operations (i.e. South Australian government) and appropriate RTO’s. It was also suggested that another resource for training could be the existing DIIS office in town as apparently that was its previous use before TAFE South Australia moved away.

Linking these additional training courses with the school would also complement current ideas in relation to building a greater science focus in the school if the facility was to go ahead in Kimba. The construction of the facility is expected to be a mid-term project lasting 3-4 years. Therefore, starting as early as possible with additional training and learning for existing students will help to build a greater awareness of the ensuing employment opportunities and associated services within Kimba. It may also help to attract other students with an interest in science.

Clear indicators here will be related to the presence of training courses, their delivery options, numbers of enrolments and graduate employment. Similarly, if the school was chosen as one of the places to deliver training courses then overall monitoring of its income, increase in the number of teachers and support staff would form important indicators of success. The overall education level data collected through the ABS Census would also help to show if there is a skills increase in the local community over time. Unemployment rates are another important indicator as Kimba's current extremely low unemployment rate of 2% indicates the potential for a skills shortage which could easily be exacerbated by the increased demands for local workers. This in itself will need to be carefully monitored over the different phases of the project so that skills shortages can be anticipated and where possible the appropriate training provided.

6.2.4 Housing availability and affordability

Availability and affordability of adequate housing can be challenging in country towns trying to support a new industry, particularly during the investment and construction phase. Fortunately for Kimba if the project was to go ahead there is an unused, well appointed (according to the interviews) mining camp on the outskirts of the town. Participants suggested this mining camp has approximately 60 rooms which would provide an excellent basis for setting up accommodation for a construction workforce.

There are also other houses available in Kimba and rent is relatively low according to the ABS comparison data. If the demand for housing increases as new workers came to town, it is likely any sales would be welcomed by most living in the region. This is because many participants reported concerns about the slow movement and subsequent low values of property in Kimba. It would be true to say there was an element of anticipation around the renewed opportunities this might bring. However, increased demand will probably increase rental costs across the market—not just for new entrants—and this may create affordability issues for some residents.

Important indicators will predominantly focus on property values. For example tracking the median rent prices and any associated growth, house sales, number of vacant properties and so forth. Similarly, if there were any new houses built over the coming years this might also be attributed to the impact of the facility being developed. Given that formal real estate sales data is difficult to obtain, some mechanism for capturing this information may need to be developed.

6.2.5 In and out-migration

As has occurred elsewhere in relation to the siting of hazardous waste and contentious developments, some residents may choose to leave if the project was to progress to the next stage. Depending on whether these individuals live in town or on farms, there may be a direct impact on house vacancies and prices. School enrolments can also be affected. However, each of these issues could potentially be countered by new people moving to the town for employment at the facility. New residents should be encouraged to participate in local community groups and in the provision of voluntary services.

6.2.6 Local hiring and purchasing

Critical to any of the above suggestions is ensuring a strategy is put in place which stipulates the minimum level of expectation for local employment and purchasing of goods and services. There are many examples of how this has been done in other areas, particularly mining and construction around the world and such 'community agreements' have been very successful at ensuring benefits to the local economy. If done well it will also help to build greater good will across the community towards

the project. However success also depends on local people having the required skills. Therefore, if there are specific skills required to ensure employability, it will be important that locals are given access to the appropriate training and capacity building. The best overall indicator will be to track the percentage of local contracts that are awarded and their dollar value compared to the total spend of the project. It would also be useful to track how many local people are being employed on the project and for how long. Total business income, number of employees and new businesses will also be indicators of the overall positive returns to the community.

6.2.7 Safety and crime

Many expressed a value about Kimba being a safe town and this is evidenced by the very low crime rates in the town. With increased traffic from construction workers as well as new residents monitoring these reported indicators will therefore also be important to residents' sense of wellbeing. In Queensland, the coal seam gas industry worked with local police services to develop several effective strategies to deal with issues such as traffic and public order offences, particularly during the construction phase when population levels rapidly increased. These strategies have the potential to be adapted to the Kimba region if required.

The indicators identified in the previous section were agreed by most in the interviews as relevant for tracking Kimba's socio-economic position and it is recommended that monitoring of these continues if the project does not go ahead to understand where the growth or decline is occurring and the resultant impact of other strategies introduced.

7. Conclusions and Recommendations

Like many other proposals for new infrastructure be they for wind, unconventional gas, pipelines and so forth the Kimba community remains divided as to the best pathways forward. Regardless of their opinions towards the facility, it was clear that all those interviewed have the best interests of their community and environment at heart. While there are risks associated with hosting a RWMF that can and need to be managed, there is also a range of opportunities for local communities. Benefits can be maximised through a negotiated community benefits package that focuses on community wellbeing and sustainable community development, as well as direct economic benefits. Communities may need a facilitated process to reconnect and rebuild once the vote has been undertaken, firmly based on common values.

Similarly, while Kimba has a local community group devoted to the health and wellbeing of the community, several participants felt that they could not comfortably access the support through this avenue. As there has been a high emotional investment across the town in either supporting, opposing or remaining neutral it is recommended that government provide access to alternate forms of assistance e.g., additional mental health support resources/services. This means ensuring trained counsellors are available for individuals to access if they wish. If there was an opportunity for these counselling services to be made available after the announcement is made may also be helpful as part of the rebuilding strategy above.

Finally, in relation to health, it is clear that like many other rural towns the lack of a full-time doctor is of high importance to many in the community. From the interviews it seems that the local Council is focusing on trying to rectify this issue and it should remain an important priority regardless of whether the facility is sited at Kimba or not.

Those who participated in the interviews welcomed the opportunity to share their views about the process and how Kimba is coping overall—not just as a result of the facility. Being able to track the socio-economic impacts across the Kimba region was seen to be helpful to monitor progress and it is recommended that this continues.

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Appendix A: Kimba Round 1 - Community Benefit Funding¹⁶

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	Funding
New amenities block at the Kimba Recreation Reserve	District Council Of Kimba	Construction of new amenities block for camping site users at the Kimba Recreation Reserve. Works will include: site preparation, construction and fit-out of amenities block, plumbing and electrical work, landscaping and installation of solar lighting.	\$174,739
New and upgraded Historical Society facilities	Kimba & Gawler Ranges Historical Society Inc	Construction of new ablution block (with disabled access) and upgraded power source to workshop facilities, to improve health, safety and amenity for staff, community members and tourists.	\$68,960
Palliative Care Wing at the Kimba Hospital	Kimba District Hospital Ladies Auxiliary	Major upgrade of the Kimba Hospital to add a palliative care wing, offering dedicated private facilities for palliative care patients as well as acute patients where capacity permits. Activities include: renovating two rooms (with private bathrooms) to establish the unit, adding separate kitchenette and family lounge, and landscaping and installation of a veranda to form an outside courtyard.	\$230,000
Significant upgrade of the Kimba Soldiers Memorial Institute	District Council Of Kimba	Significant renovation of the Kimba Soldiers Memorial Institute, the central venue for community events. Activities include: installation of acoustic ceiling, air-conditioning and sound system. Windows will also be replaced, retaining wall repaired and the facility repainted (interior and exterior).	\$208,981
New marquee to support Agricultural Horticultural and Floricultural show society and other community events	Kimba Agricultural Horticultural and Floricultural Society Incorporated	Purchase of a large all-season marquee, for use at the annual Kimba agricultural show and other community events.	\$47,303
New all-abilities safety play surfacing at the Kimba Community Kindergarten	Kimba Community Development Group Inc	Upgraded outdoor play environment at the Kimba Community Kindergarten, including replacing lawn with synthetic soft fall surface to improve safety, appeal and play opportunities for children of all abilities.	\$13,800
Air-conditioning of the Kelly Pioneer Memorial Hall	Kelly Pioneer Memorial Hall Inc	Purchase and installation of two split-system air-conditioners at the Kelly Pioneer Memorial Hall, to improve patron comfort and increase usability of the facility.	\$6,425
New competition equipment and storage for the Kimba Pony Club	Kimba Pony Club Incorporated	Purchase of 30 pairs of national competition standard show jump wings, and two custom-built storage trailers, to attract more national standard show jumping events to region.	\$33,741
Renovation of Kimba Uniting Church Op Shop	Kimba Uniting Church	Renovation of the Kimba Uniting Church Op Shop, to improve health, safety and amenity for volunteer staff and customers. Activities include: ceiling and window replacement, installing new lighting, and painting (interior and exterior).	\$38,642

¹⁶ Department of Industry, Innovation and Science – Community Benefit Program
<https://www.business.gov.au/assistance/national-radioactive-waste-management-facility-community-benefit-programme/successful-applications#barndioota1>

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	Funding
Kimba Silo Art tourism amenities	Kimba Community Development Group Inc	Purchase and installation of outdoor furniture and signage at the Kimba Silo Art, to further improve tourism experience numbers.	\$12,115
Improvements to Kimba Men's Shed	Kimba Men's Shed Inc.	Upgrade of the Kimba Men's Shed to improve health, safety and amenity for members. Activities include: concrete flooring (shed and external apron) and lighting and power installation.	\$12,824
Upgrade of Lions/Apex Playground	District Council Of Kimba	Major upgrade of the Lions/Apex Central Park playground, to improve safety, appeal and play opportunities for children and families. Activities include: building a retaining wall, and installation of shade sail, safety fencing, solar lighting, park furniture, paving and artificial turf.	\$114,355
Relocation and upgrade of cricket training facilities	K And K Cricket Clubs	Relocation (to more central location) and upgrade of training facilities at K and K Cricket Clubs, including new cricket nets, equipment storage shed and rainwater tank.	\$88,548
New community bus	Kimba Racing Club Inc.	Purchase of a new 14-seat community bus, to provide safe transportation of residents to and from community activities, events and functions.	\$68,721
Moisture Probe & Weather Station Network	The Agricultural Bureau of South Australia Incorporated	Establishing a moisture probe and weather station network across the region, to improve data availability and quality, and agronomic decision-making and grain yield. Activities include: site selection and installation of probe network (10 probes in representative soil types), data collection/internet upload, and running education workshops on data interpretation and better agronomic decisions.	\$19,721
Community and Economic Development Strategy for Kimba	District Council Of Kimba	Development of a Community and Economic Development Strategy for Kimba, with prioritised initiatives to stimulate economic activity in the region.	\$55,080
Kimba's Healthy Mind Healthy Community Project	Kimba Mental Health and Wellbeing Group Inc.	Planning and staging of Healthy Mind Healthy Community workshops in Kimba, to improve participant resilience, mental health and wellbeing. The project will also support the Kimba Health and Wellness Weekend.	\$30,773
Shining a New Light on Amateur Photography	Kimba Photographic Society Inc.	Purchase and installation of a wall mounted television and photographic equipment in the Kimba Soldiers Memorial Institute, for member and community use.	\$5,783
Joint Equipment Storage Shed	Kimba Pony Club Incorporated	Purchase and installation of multi-purpose secure storage shed for shared use by the Kimba pony and racing clubs, as well as other community clubs.	\$62,327
Export hay variety trial and rotation evaluation	The Agricultural Bureau Of South Australia Incorporated	Minnipa Research Centre to undertake export hay trials in the Kimba district, on oaten hay in relation to yield and feed test standards to allow producers to make better informed decisions when planting and managing hay crops. Activities include: planting, managing and harvesting trial plots, undertaking an oat	\$17,500

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	Funding
		rotation study, and compilation and reporting of trial and study data.	
Buckleboo Tennis Club improvements	Buckleboo Tennis Club	Resurfacing of the Buckleboo Tennis Club courts (three) and replacement of perimeter fencing.	\$80,200
Public Wi-Fi in the town centre and at tourism hot spots	District Council of Kimba	Provision of public Wi-Fi in the Kimba town centre and at tourism hot spots, to provide improved internet access for residents and visitors. Activities include: sourcing engineering plans, constructing poles to carry the Wi-Fi hardware, and erecting the poles, Wi-Fi and solar hardware at designated spots.	\$34,600
Kimba Health & Fitness Centre facility upgrade	Kimba Health and Fitness Centre	Upgrading facilities at the Kimba Health & Fitness Centre, to improve safety, health and amenity for patrons. Activities include: recladding interior walls, installation of new gym-grade rubber matter, and repair or replacement of equipment and fans.	\$26,673
Kimba Golf Club facility upgrade	Kimba Golf Club Incorporated	Purchase and installation of new equipment storage shed and rainwater tanks for irrigation supply.	\$65,097
Buckleboo Club upgrade	Buckleboo Club Incorporated	Purchase and installation of new carpet at the Buckleboo Club, to improve safety and amenity for patrons.	\$13,996
Secret Rocks: Kimba's Premier Ecotourism Destination	Ecological Horizons Pty Ltd	Development of a new ecotourism attraction at Secret Rocks, with self-guided interpretative walk and reintroduction of native animals such as mallee fowl, and potential reintroduction of locally-extinct bandicoots. Activities include: predator proofing the mallee refuge enclosure, installation of picnic facilities within the enclosure, car park upgrade, production of interpretative signs and weed control along walkways, and erecting feeders and installation of cameras to enhance the ecotourism experience.	\$80,062
Waddikee Community Sports Club facility upgrade	Waddikee Community Sports Club Incorporated	Upgraded facilities at the Waddikee Community Sports Club, to improve safety, appeal and play opportunities for children and families. Activities include: installing new playground and perimeter fencing, installing security cameras, replacing exterior doors (including BBQ shed) and locks, repairing hall wall and re-concreting fretted foundations on BBQ building.	\$82,000
Kimba Senior Citizens Club facility upgrade	Kimba District Senior Citizens Club Inc	Upgraded facilities at the Kimba Senior Citizens Club, to improve safety, health and amenity for members and visitors. Activities include: rebuilding concrete veranda and access ramp, and installation of a new air-conditioner.	\$15,083
Kimba Bowling Club floodlight upgrade	Kimba Bowling Club Inc	Replacement of floodlights at the Kimba Bowling Club with LED lighting to improve lighting quality and energy efficiency.	\$45,862
Multi-user Grain Accumulation Centre	The Agricultural Bureau of South Australia Incorporated	Undertaking a feasibility study to explore the technical and financial feasibility of establishing a facility for aggregating and adding value to locally produced grain.	\$69,300

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	Funding
Development planning for Kimba Skate Park	District Council Of Kimba	Production of detailed design, budget and construction plans, as the first stage of establishing a skate park as a long-term valuable recreation asset for residents and visitors to the region. Stages include: concept development, community feedback, final concept, detailed design development, and construction documentation and technical specification production.	\$22,475
Feasibility planning for new game meat industry	Chestwood Meats Pty Ltd	Feasibility study to determine the viability of constructing and operating a game meat processing works in the region.	\$52,200
Retractable shade system for Kimba Bowling Club	Kimba Bowling Club Inc	Purchase and installation of fully-motorised retractable shade system at the Kimba Bowling Club, to improve player comfort and playing conditions.	\$102,114