Research Project:

Cumulative socioeconomic impacts of CSG Development in the Western Downs

DATA REPORT

INDICATORS OF CHANGE
IN
ON CHINCHILLA AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY

Interviews March - April 2017

Statistical data updated in March 2017 (using 2016 data)

This version June 2017

Contact:
The University of Queensland, Dr Katherine Witt | Research Fellow
Centre for Social Responsibility in Mining | Centre for Coal Seam Gas

Sustainable Minerals Institute | The University of Queensland | Brisbane, QLD, 4072 AUSTRALIA
M: +61 (0) 418 619 341 | E: k.witt@uq.edu.au
W: www.csrm.uq.edu.au | www.ccsg.uq.edu.au | www.smi.uq.edu.au

The Chinchilla CSG-Development Story (to 2016)

The 'Chinchilla CSG-Development story' was developed in consultation with key members of the Chinchilla and district community. These included representatives of: Chinchilla Family Support Centre, Community Commerce and Industry, Inc., the Liquor Accord, Police, Schools and TAFE, community and service organisations, local and state government, as well as real estate agents, managers of hotels and other businesses, and a local artist.

The individuals participating in this consultation were asked to discuss and comment on statistical data on 'indicators' of social and economic impact. These discussions provided a local point of view and insight into the 'Chinchilla CSG-Development story', to be used in combination with the publicly available data. The following indicators were discussed:

1. Population
2. Unemployment
3. Income
4. Housing
5. Training
6. Top offences recorded by police
7. Staff availability / local skills shortages
8. Available tourist beds.

Those interviewed said Chinchilla was historically a 'quiet little town'. They recalled a boom in 2005-2006 with construction of the nearby Kogan Creek power station. CSG construction and development was noticed locally in 2007/08. Between 2008 and 2012, data shows that population increased by 19%, which was attributed to CSG development. This growth was considered to have caused a 'shock'. The influx of CSG workers, mostly male, is reported to have affected feelings of wellbeing and to have caused a shift in town identity. Interviewees noted that women initially felt unsafe. An increase in the community's cultural diversity has been welcomed, but a simultaneous loss of connectivity has been mourned. Since end of construction boom in 2015, "second shock" of rapid NRW departures. Locals now say that they feel uncertain about the town's future.

House prices and rents in Chinchilla have traditionally been lower than the median for the State or Brisbane, but changes in demand attributed to the CSG sector inflated, and then deflated prices. An initial rent spike in 2004 saw median rent for a 3 bedroom house almost double from $150 per week to $270, then return to trend. Median rents peaked at $400/week in 2013 and 2014, (with reports of rents much higher) which was higher than the Queensland median. Several interviewees stated their belief that the increase in housing costs during the construction period was the largest impact felt from CSG development, as it was seen to cause families to move away, to trigger (perceived as unplanned) housing developments and make it difficult to attract and retain employees. In 2015, median rent dropped significantly, and rather than returning to trend, continued to drop in 2016 to well below the Queensland median. The median sale price of houses in Chinchilla was lower, but keeping pace with Queensland median house prices, although when the Queensland median began to decline from 2010, Chinchilla prices continued to increase. From 2013, Chinchilla house prices have continued on a steady decline which is the opposite trend of increases in the Queensland median. In 2014, interviewees expressed concern that there were "a lot of empty houses" as non-resident workers moved away and newly built houses remained without tenants. In 2016, interviewees noted the market was "picking up" and the empty houses were being either sold or rented. However, there was widespread concern voiced, that the relatively cheap housing attracted a "new demographic" of families or households on very low and fixed incomes who were not seen to contribute positively to the community. This “new wave” of influx, although apparently only a small proportion of the population, was reported as having a similar degree of impact on the community as the initial influx of CSG-related workers, or “even worse”.

Crime rates in Chinchilla are historically lower than for the whole of Queensland, except for a spike in 2004/05, which may be related to construction of the power station. Overall crime rates increased during the early CSG construction period, but then decreased again in 2013 and remained below the Queensland rate throughout. Increases were seen in theft offences from 2009, good order offences from 2010 and traffic offences from 2011. Police strategy changed in 2012 and, with the cooperation of the CSG companies, a liquor accord was introduced to curb alcohol-related offences. Drugs offences remained low during this period with strict internal policing of CSG workers and increased police presence. From 2014 however, crime rates have increased and in 2016, crime rates in Chinchilla are well above the rate for Queensland: traffic at 250%; drug offences at 200%; and total crime at 150%.

In 2014, interviewees reported that while many Chinchilla businesses had benefited from the “CSG boom”, especially food services, hotels and motels, they believed the benefits were not distributed evenly, with others “missing out”. Increased business diversity resulting from the CSG development is seen to offer wider employment opportunities, particularly for school leavers, who may not have to leave town to find work. However, the closure of some businesses since 2014 was attributed to CSG industry and related workers leaving, and increased competition from newly arrived businesses. In 2017, some interviewees remarked how the benefits did not last as long as they had expected, although others reported being aware of the short-term nature of the CSG construction period. There was general agreement that the nature and timing of the benefits to local businesses should have been communicated better by the CSG companies and governments. The unemployment rate in Chinchilla has always been lower than the Queensland rate. In 2013 it dropped to an extremely low 0.9%, which implies a severe skills shortage, but has been increasing since then. Since 2014, interviewees noted that “there’s many more looking for work”. Unemployment continues to rise in 2016, to the highest levels since 2005. In 2017, interviewees noted that “businesses are closing” and it is expected that more businesses will close.

For personal incomes, wage and salary earnings show a marked increase in both the amount of earnings and the number of wage earners since 2007/08. Average taxable incomes rose steeply in 2012/13 and 2013/4 but then dropped back again in 2014/15. Total business income for the 4413 postcode increased five-fold in 2012-2013 and the number of businesses increased. In 2013-14, the number of businesses declined, but total income remains high. While total business income continues to rise, average personal income declined sharply by 26% in 2014/15, now below Queensland average again. This booklet provides detail on aspects of the ‘Chinchilla CSG-development story’ based on the range of priority indicators that we tracked. We would like to thank members of the Chinchilla community for their cooperation and the gift of their time. We hope that we have done justice to their contributions to this investigation.

The UQ ‘Cumulative Impacts’ Research Team, February 2017.

INTRODUCTION

The University of Queensland is conducting research into the social and economic impacts of coal seam gas (CSG) development. The project has focused on the combined impacts of the multiple CSG developments in the Western Downs region of Queensland as an initial case study. That focus has now expanded to include other local government areas – Maranoa, Toowoomba, and Isaac. In this document, we present findings on the town of Chinchilla.

Research project aims

- ***Find key indicators*** – we want to identify ways to calculate and report the impact of multiple CSG projects in terms of a few numbers that are important and credible, e.g., weekly rents.
- ***Involve people from the community, government, and industry*** – we are asking stakeholders to decide which 'indicators' are the most important to monitor. In working with stakeholders, we aim to help develop a shared understanding of social and economic development in the community and create a frame of reference for ongoing, collaborative decision-making in the region.
- ***Lessons to help other regions*** – we want to develop models and approaches that can be used to measure, track and analyse cumulative impacts in other regions.

The research team

- Assoc. Prof. Will Rifkin, Industry Affiliate, Centre for Coal Seam Gas (CCSG) and Centre for Social Responsibility in Mining (CSRM).
- Dr Katherine Witt, Research Fellow, CSRM, CCSG.
- Dr Jo-Anne Everingham, Senior Research Scientist, CSRM.
- Ms Sarah Choudhury, Research Assistant, CSRM (2017).
- Ms Sheryllee Johnson, Research Technician, CCSG (2013-2016).
- Professor David Brereton, Associate Director, Sustainable Minerals Institute (2012-2016).
- Dr Vikki Uhlmann, Research Manager, CSRM (2013 -2014).
- Ms Kylie May, Research Analyst, CSRM (2013 – 2014).

Funding: The project receives industry funding through the Centre for Coal Seam Gas (CCSG), which is within the University of Queensland's Sustainable Minerals Institute. Partners from the CSG industry include QGC, Arrow Energy, Santos, and Australia-Pacific LNG. These organisations are providing valuable information on their operations. Researchers are employed by the University of Queensland.

Collaborators: Queensland government agencies and CSIRO researchers funded by the Gas Industry Social and Environmental Research Alliance (GISERA) are providing support to this project

Community participation: In March 2014, a small research team from UQ started to visit communities to introduce the project. We gathered information, mostly from government sources, on impacts that key stakeholders in these communities perceived to be important. We visit each community to discuss that data, to get their insights on what has been occurring.

Reporting timeframes: The data collection for the project has been occurring annually since 2013. Project outcomes, recommendations, and reports have been released periodically. This latest version includes information from the 2017 interviews. Updates are planned for 2018 (*i.e.*, the duration of the project).

Each report contains an updated version of data presented previously. We hope that each page can be read and understood without us being present.

Ethics guidelines we follow: This study has been cleared by the human research ethics committee of the University of Queensland in accordance with the National Health and Medical Research Council's guidelines (Research Ethics clearance approval no. 2013000587).

Questions: Contact the lead researcher, Dr Katherine Witt, Centre for Social Responsibility in Mining, SMI, The University Of Queensland, Brisbane, QLD 407 , Ph: 0418 619 341,

Email: k.witt@uq.edu.au, www.csrm.uq.edu.au. If you would like to speak to an officer of the University not involved in the study, you may contact the Ethics Officer on 07 3365 3924.

PRIORITY INDICATORS FOR CHINCHILLA AND DISTRICT

DEMOGRAPHICS OF CHINCHILLA

Map of Chinchilla and District

1. Population

EMPLOYMENT, BUSINESS & INCOME IN CHINCHILLA

2. Unemployment
3. Income

HOUSING IN CHINCHILLA

4. Median house prices
5. Median rents

WELLBEING IN CHINCHILLA

6. Selected criminal offences

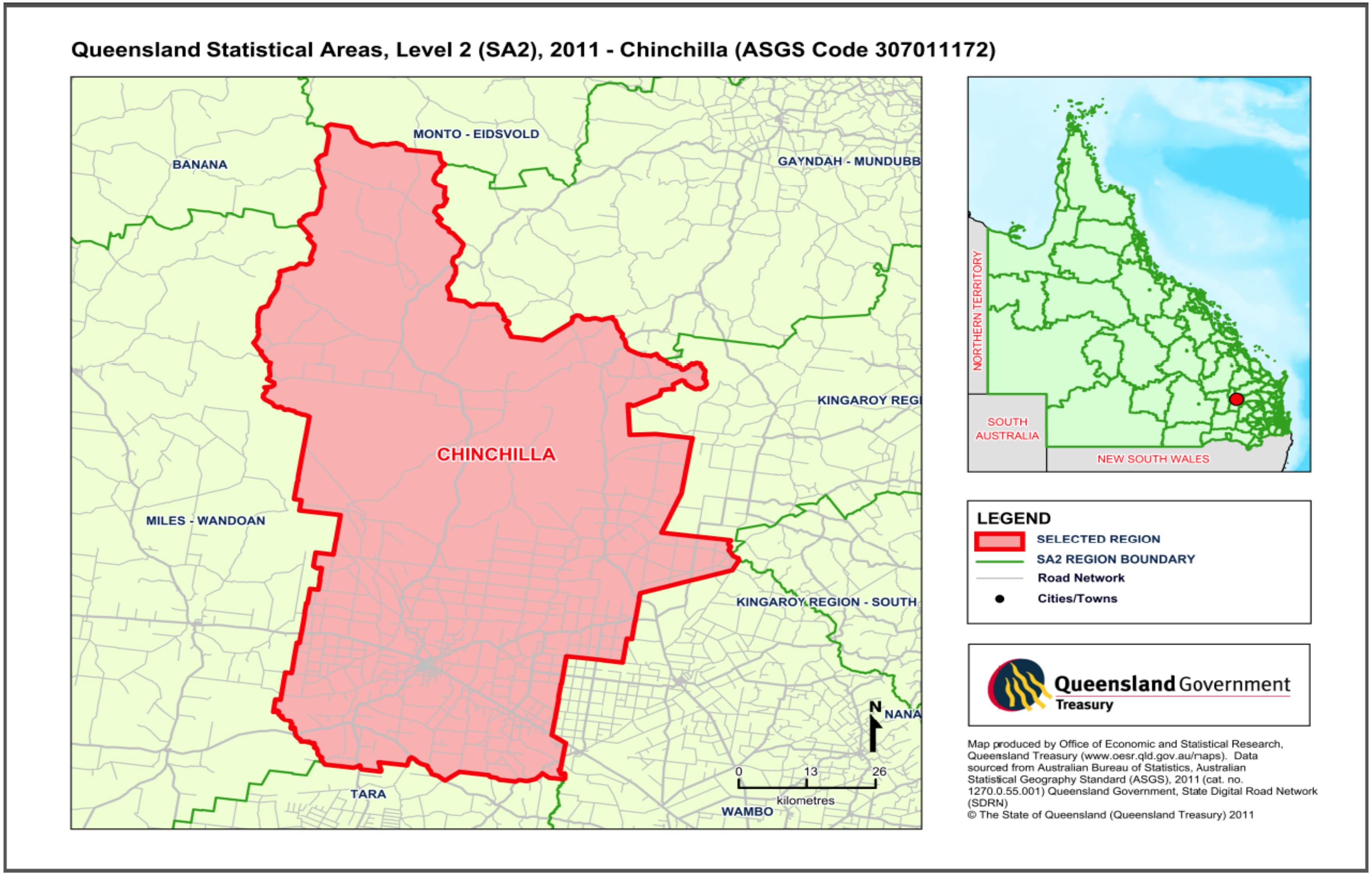
EXOGENOUS FACTORS

7. Rainfall
8. Petrol prices

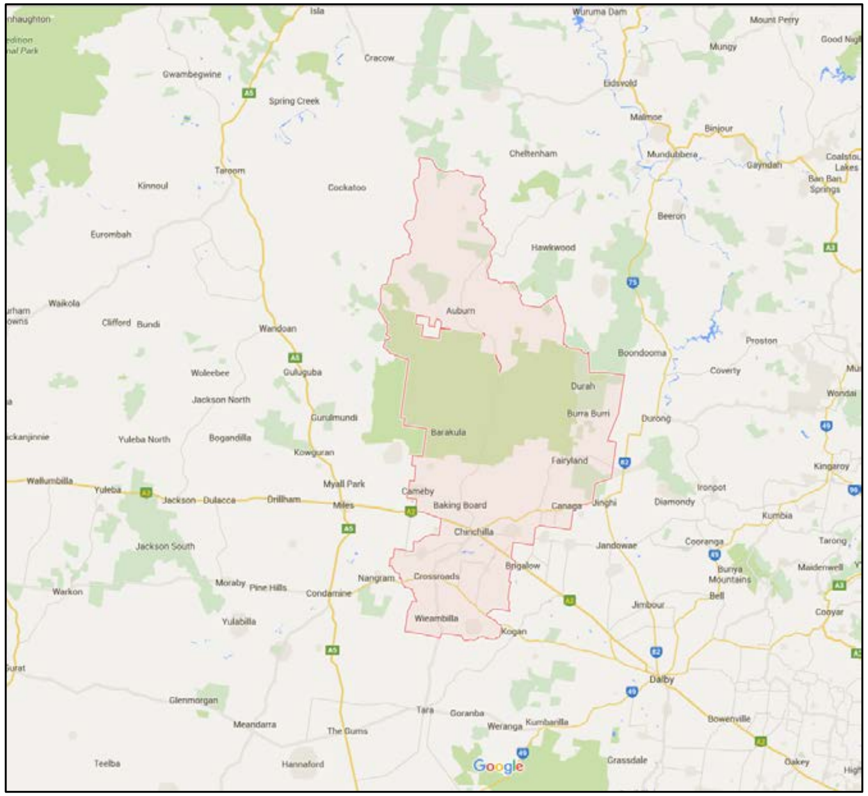
IMPACTS ON INDIGENOUS MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY

Efforts are ongoing to select the most appropriate indicators for measuring impacts on Indigenous residents and businesses in the Western Downs. A case study of the Aboriginal employment program of one proponent has been completed by UQ researchers. A UQ specialist has evaluated the Reconciliation Action Plan of a proponent. A UQ team has identified challenges in making and implementing agreements between Aboriginal groups and proponents in the coal seam gas arena (addressing issues like group politics and Native Title claims).

Other Indicators Examined for Chinchilla	Indicator-related research being conducted
1. Business skills shortages	• Resilience (UQ) • Community aspirations (CSIRO)
2. School enrolments 3. Centrelink payments	• Public health – PhD study (UQ) • CSG and health study design (CSIRO/UQ)
4. Tourism impacts	• Demographic & economic trends (CSIRO & UQ)
5. Governance: A. Council amalgamation B. DA approval trend	• Business (women in business) – PhD study (UQ)
	• Water Chemistry Atlas (UQ)
	• Agriculture & co-existence (UQ & CSIRO)
	• Environmental impacts – biodiversity (CSIRO)

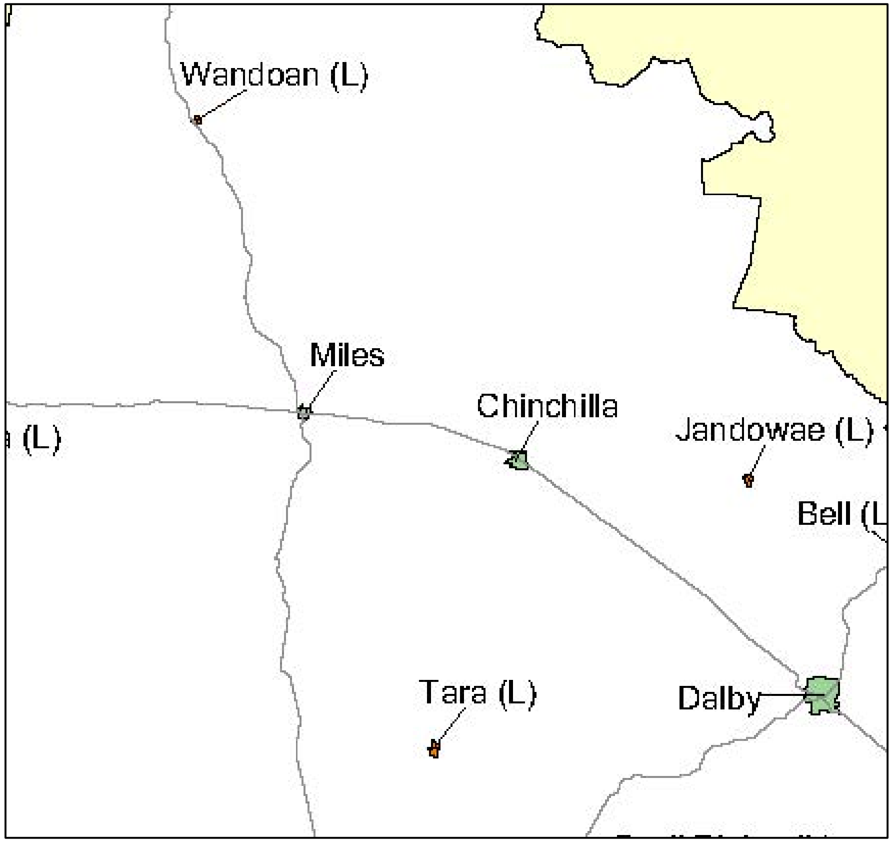


Chinchilla SA2 Region
Source: http://www.qgso.qld.gov.au/products/maps/qld-sa2-asgs-2011/qld-sa2-asgs-2011-chinchilla.pdf

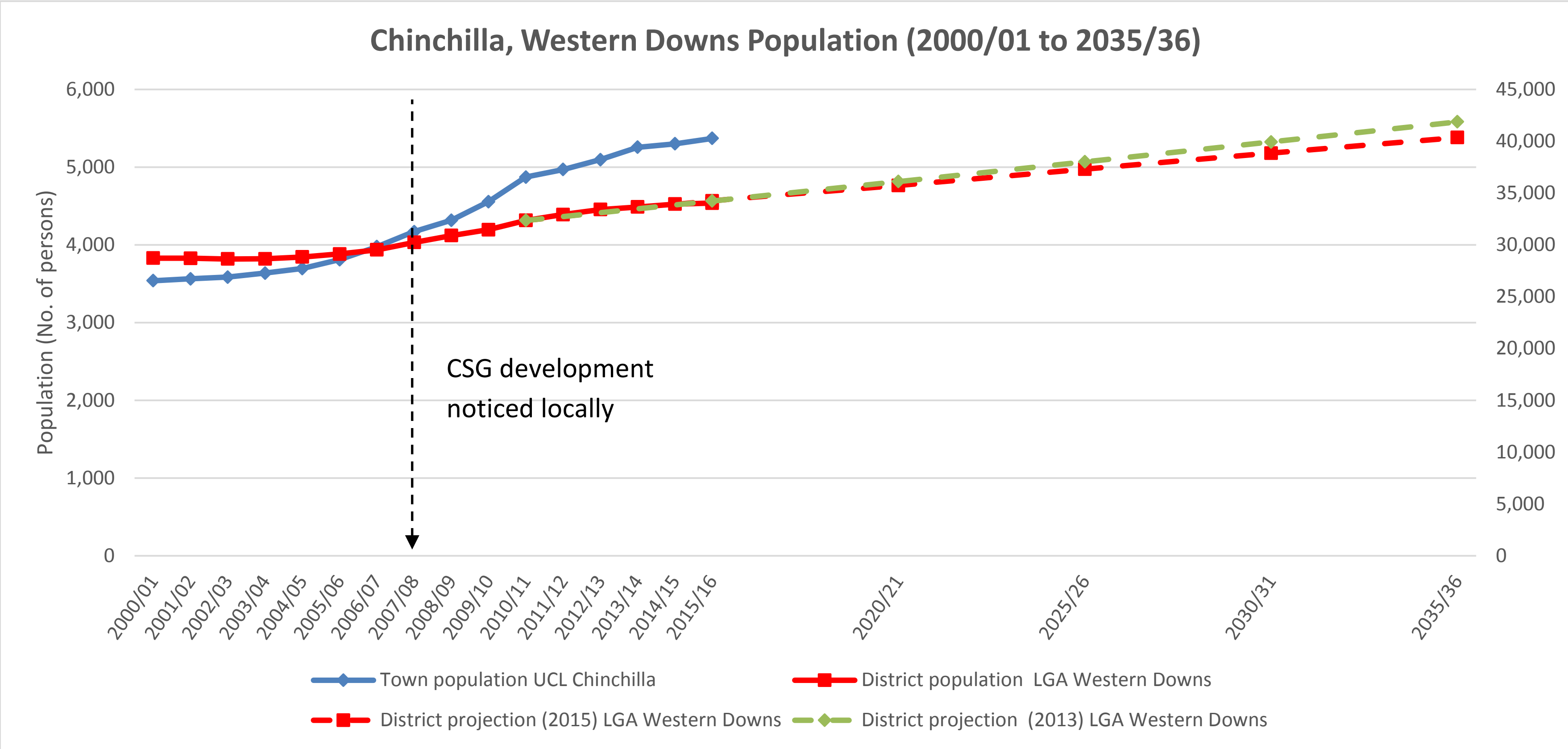


Source:
https://www.google.com.au/maps/place/Queensland+4413/@-26.3369314,150.148881,9z/data=!4m2!3m1!1s0x6bbe50ef5cce0db1:0x1c00eef4d30913b0

Chinchilla UCL Map

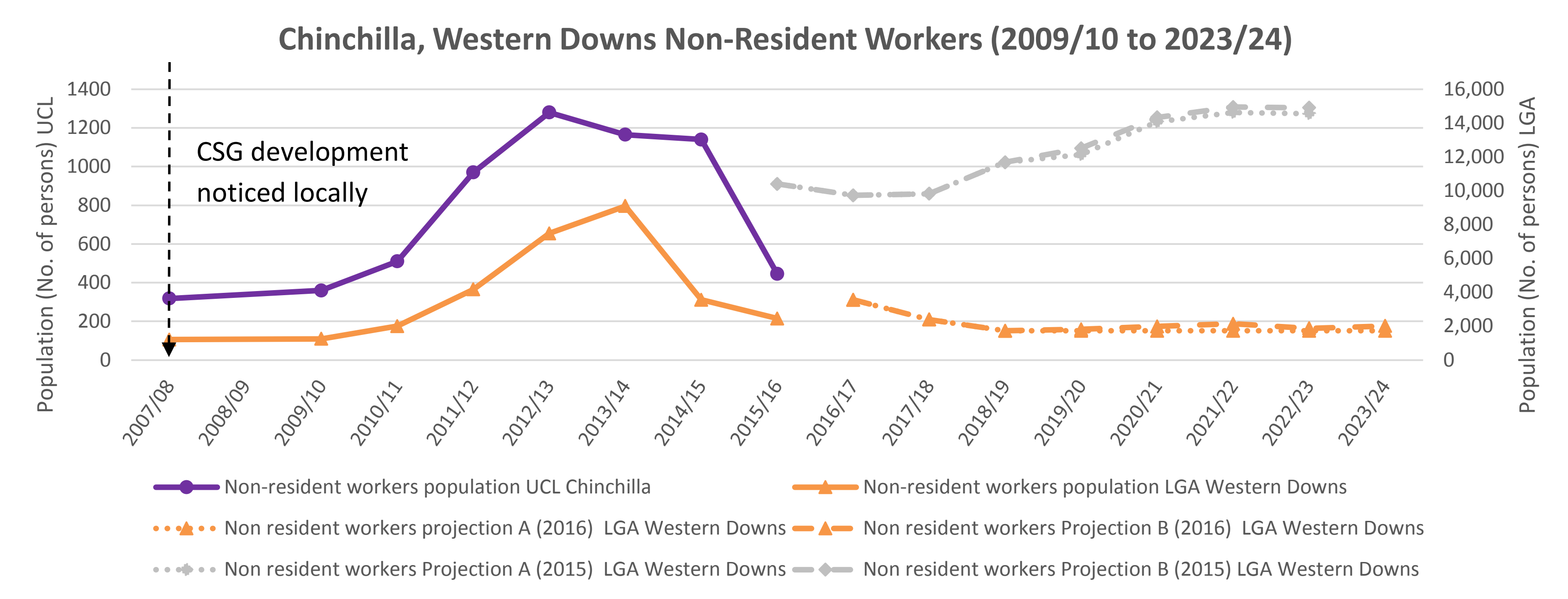


Source:
http://abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/DetailsPage/1270.0.55.004July%202011?OpenDocument



Data sources

- Population projections by LGA (2015 edition) from QGSO table 'Projected population (medium series), by local government area, Queensland, 2011 to 2036', Source: Qld Government population projections, 2015 edition; ABS Regional population growth, Australia 2013-14' (ASGC 2001) http://www.qgso.qld.gov.au/subjects/demography/population-projections/tables/proj-pop-lga-qld/index.php
- Population projections by LGA (2013 edition) from archived QGSO table 'Projected population (medium series), by local government area, Queensland, 2011 to 2036', Source: Qld Government (2014), Population projections by LGA, 2013 edition' (ASGC 2001)
- Population and non resident workers population estimates (LGA and UCLs) from the QGSO 'Surat Basin Population Report, 2016' (ASGC 2016), http://www.qgso.qld.gov.au/products/reports/surat-basin-pop-report/surat-basin-pop-report-2016.pdf



Data sources

- Population and non resident workers population estimates (LGA and UCLs) from the QGSO 'Surat Basin Population Report, 2016', http://www.qgso.qld.gov.au/products/reports/surat-basin-pop-report/surat-basin-pop-report-2016.pdf
- Non resident workers projections (2016) by LGA from QGSO table 'Surat Basin: Non-resident population projections, by local government area (LGA), 2016 to 2022', http://www.qgso.qld.gov.au/subjects/demography/population-projections/tables/surat-basin-non-resident-pop-proj-lga/index.php
- Non resident workers projections (2014) by LGA from QGSO report 'Surat Basin non–resident population projections: 2015 to 2021', http://www.qgso.qld.gov.au/products/reports/surat-basin-non-resident-pop-proj/surat-basin-non-resident-pop-proj-2015-2021.pdf

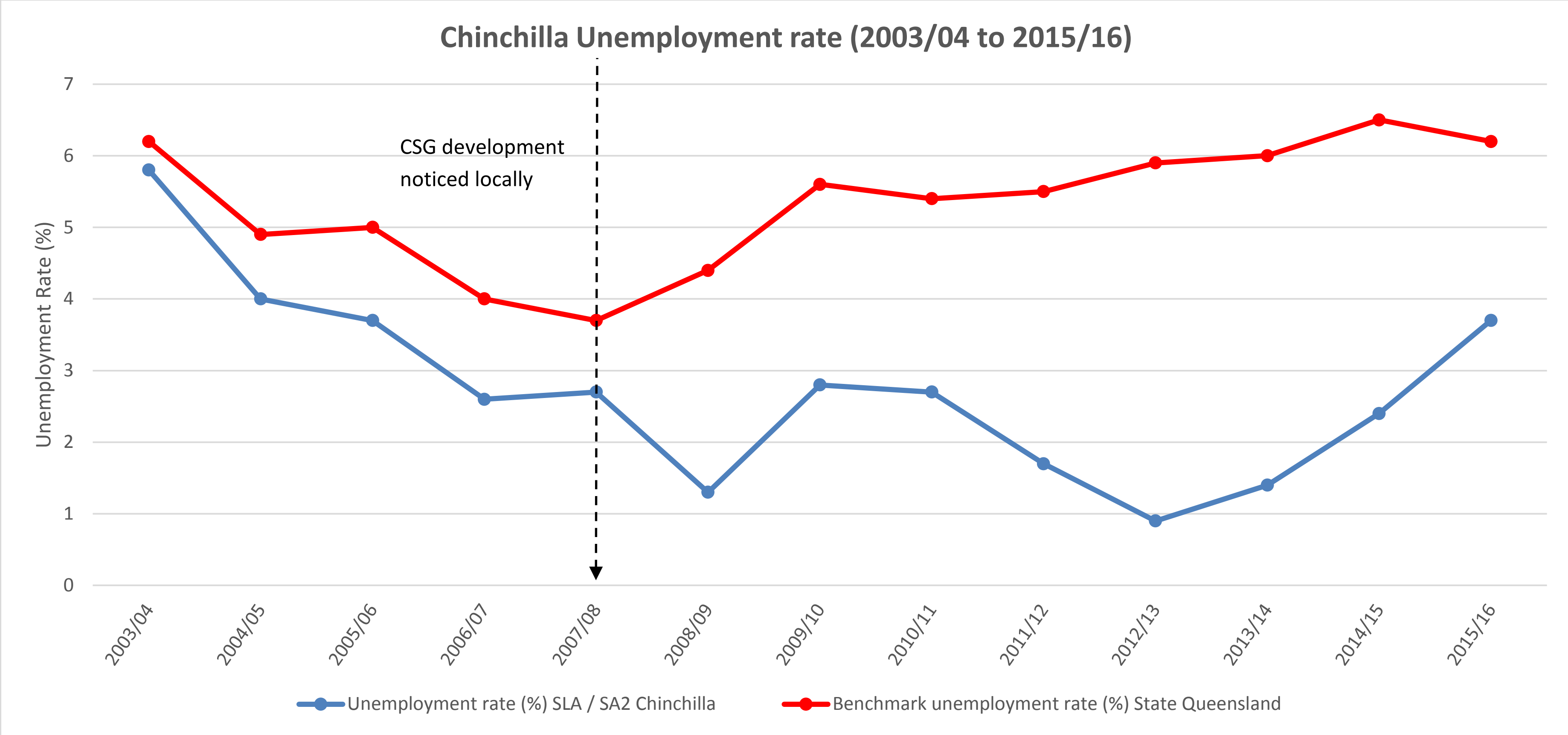
Notes about Non resident workers projections (2016) by LGA

- The projection series are largely based on the status of projects in the environmental impact statement (EIS) process at the time of preparation (March 2016). The projections also include some projects outside the approvals process.
- Series A projection is based on the number of non–resident workers on-shift who were engaged in existing resource operations and associated infrastructure activities in the area at June 2015. The projection takes into account future changes to those operational workforces as advised by resource company sources, as well as the estimated non–resident construction and operational workforces of Category A projects (i.e. those that had reached final investment decision (FID)) at the time of preparation.
- Series B projection includes the Series A projection plus projected growth in the non-resident population arising from Category B projects (those that have an EIS approved but have yet to reach FID).

Data & Perceptions about population

- ***History and Trend:*** Chinchilla was described as a “quiet little town” – population historically “about 3,000” with a growth rate of around 1% per year. Since 2006, data shows population increasing steadily, at about twice the rate (~4%) of Western Downs as a whole (~2%).
- ***Change:*** Chinchilla’s population grew rapidly in 2010 (5.5%) and 2011 (7%), with growth slowing but persisting to 2015/16. In 2013, 1 NRW (non-resident worker) for every 4 residents. Number of NRWs remained stable 2013-2015, but sharp decline in 2015/16 by 60% to approx. 1 NRW for every 12 residents.
- ***Perceived change*:** The influx of CSG workers caused a “shock” to the town. Busy streets, many businesses expanded. Population turnover was noticed as people moved away and others moved in. Since end of CSG construction in 2015, “second shock” of rapid NRW departures. Now, new people moving in to town to take up affordable housing.
- ***Expectations*:** Some expect population to rise slowly and steadily in the future. Chamber of commerce expects significant growth; WDRC expects 1.7% growth to 10,000 in 2031. Interviewees will “wait and see” what the operations phase brings.
- ***Conclusion*:** Overall population growth of approx. 29% from 2007-2016, compared to 14% in WD. Rapid population growth rates in 2000 and 2011 define Chinchilla as a ‘boom’ town (*Jacquet 2009: boom = 5-15% per year*) where growth can outpace services and infrastructure. Impacts on social cohesion, housing and governance quality. Growth figures alone do not capture population *turnover*, which was mentioned as a concern for longer term local residents.
- ***Implications for next project/stage*:** Build camps before workers arrive. Manage local impacts and uncertainties from (rapid) NRW fluctuations.
- ***Community recommendations*:** Population numbers “should include FIFO” to provide “true picture” & “for adequate service provision”, *e.g.*, health care. CSG companies “should encourage their workers to bring their families and live locally”. “Consult council” *re* potential for infrastructure impacts when planning camps. Engage with local community centre and Chamber of Commerce to establish and fund impact monitoring system.

- ***2017 Update:*** Resident population continues to increase although growth slowed to less than 1% in 2015, and 1.3% in 2016. The number of NRWs living in town has dropped significantly in 2015/16.

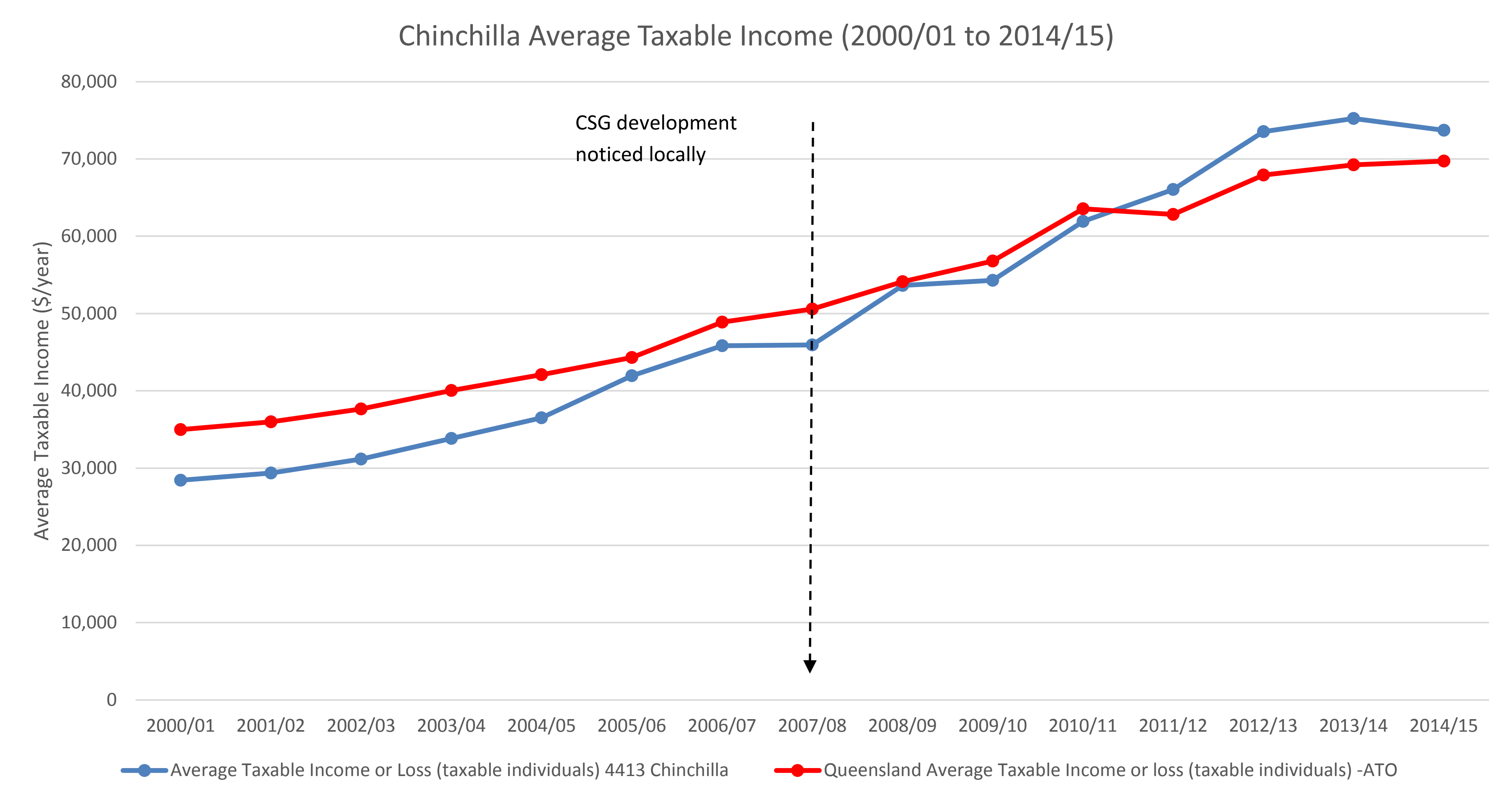


Data sources

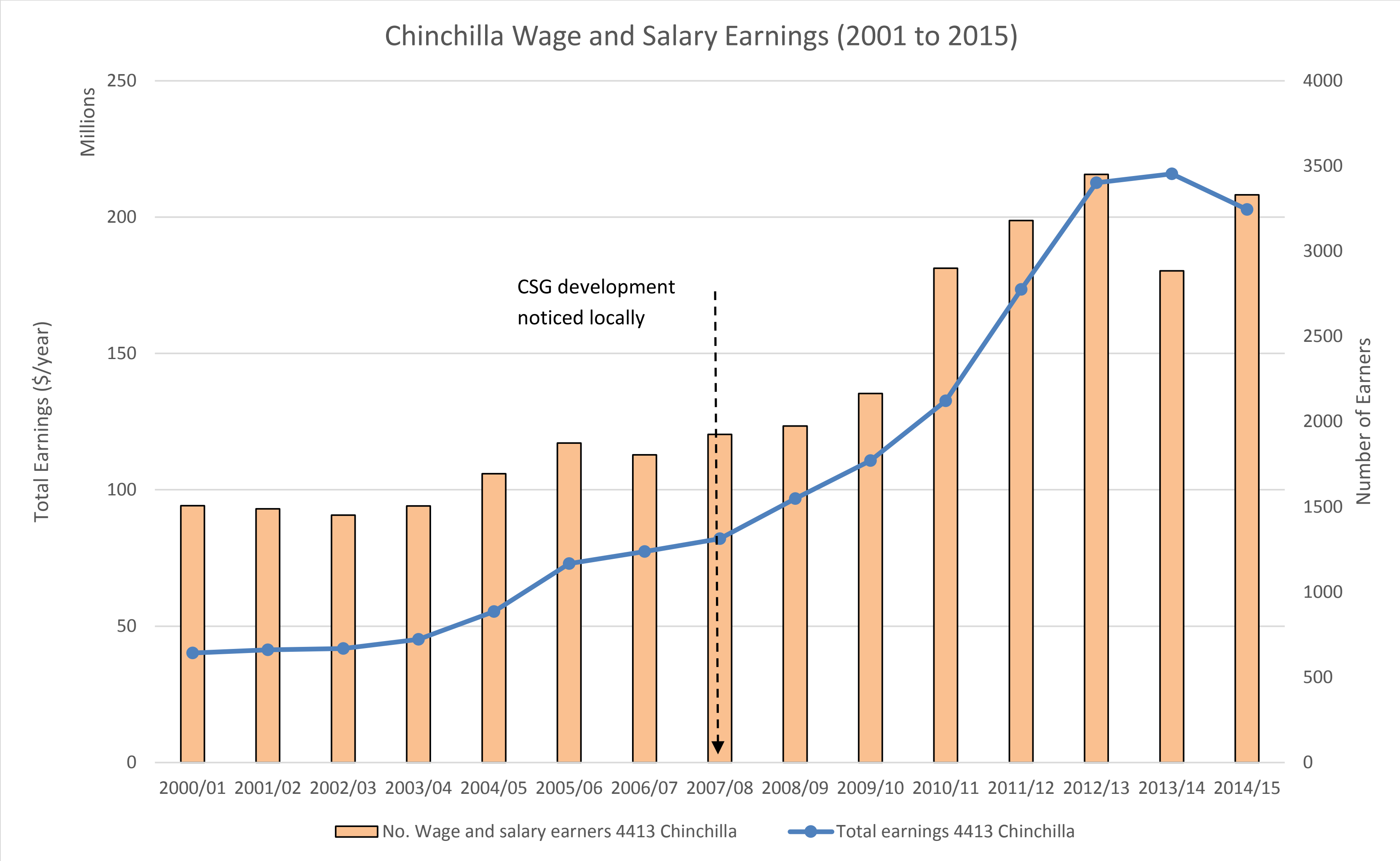
- Jun2003-Jun2008 SLA from QGSO Regional Database Archived dataset 'Labour Force - Small Area (Qtr Ended 31 Dec 2002 to Qtr Ended 31 Dec 2008) [DEEWR, Small Area Labour Markets Australia] (ASGC 2001)', http://www.qgso.qld.gov.au/products/tables/qld-regional-database/index.php
- Jun2009-Jun2010 from DEEWR file 'Unemployment salm_data_files_2008-2013'
- Jun2010-Jun2016 SA2 from QGSO Regional Database dataset 'Labour Force - Small Area (Qtr Ended 31 Dec 2010 to Qtr Ended 30 Sep 2016) [Department of Employment, Small Area Labour Markets Australia] (ASGS 2016)', http://www.qgso.qld.gov.au/products/tables/qld-regional-database/index.php

Data & Perceptions about employment

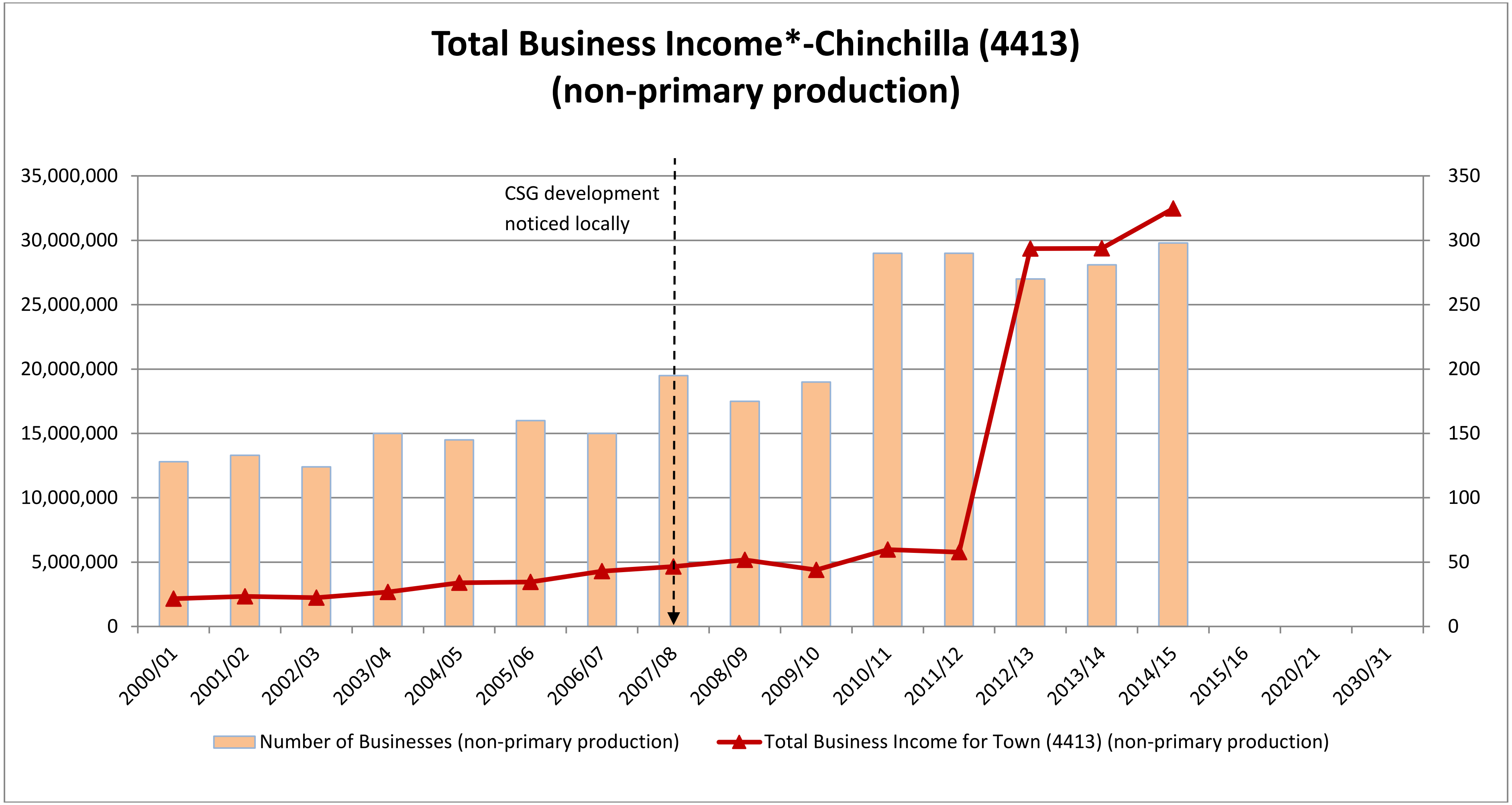
- ***History*****:** Unemployment in Chinchilla historically below the Qld average, but keeping a similar trend until 2008/9**.** Unemployment in Qld rose (perhaps with GFC), but dropped in Chinchilla. Since rising again in 2010, unemployment continued to decrease to reach an extreme low of 0.9% in 2013.
- ***Change*****:** Arrival of CSG appears to have reduced unemployment, reaching its lowest point at the peak of construction in 2013. Unemployment rising again as CSG transitions into operations phase.
- ***Perceived change*****:** "Good local employment in recent years"; attributed to CSG construction and other large company activities (*e.g*., flood reconstruction). Since 2014, in the operations phase, "there's many more looking for work". A perception that increasing unemployment may be related to housing affordability. "You should be here on a pension day- it's also the day the local newspaper comes out so people come in to town to shop and collect the paper. It is a real culture clash"
- ***Example of impact*****:** School leavers did not have to leave town [*during CSG construction*] to find work. Skills shortages felt. Employers reported having to offer higher wages and incentives to attract and retain employees. Now, government employment service is "kept very busy".
- ***Caveat*****:** "Data is skewed as much employment was contract"; "unemployed people may have left town".
- ***Expectations*****:** Unemployment will rise to 3-4% but Chinchilla will not become a "ghost town"; increased business diversity (motels, shops, services) seen to offer wider employment opportunities. WDRC expects long-term employment opportunities.
- ***Community's recommendations*****:** Information on CSG company plans will help residents manage anxieties about future jobs available in operations phase. Consult with community on CSG industry's potential contribution to creation of sustainable local employment beyond CSG construction.
- ***2017 Update:*** Unemployment continues to rise in 2016 with a greater increase than seen in the preceding two years since its lowest point in 2013.



- Original data - No discounting applied
- Source: ATO 'Average taxable income of individuals, for selected Queensland postcodes, 2000–01 to 2014-15 income years' Australian Taxation Office, Research and Statistics (https://www.ato.gov.au/)
- All statistics for 'Taxable individuals only' were sourced from the relevant years' Taxation statistics publication, and therefore include individual income tax returns processed by 31 October of the year after the end of the income year. For example, the 2014-15 statistics include data up to 31 October 2016.



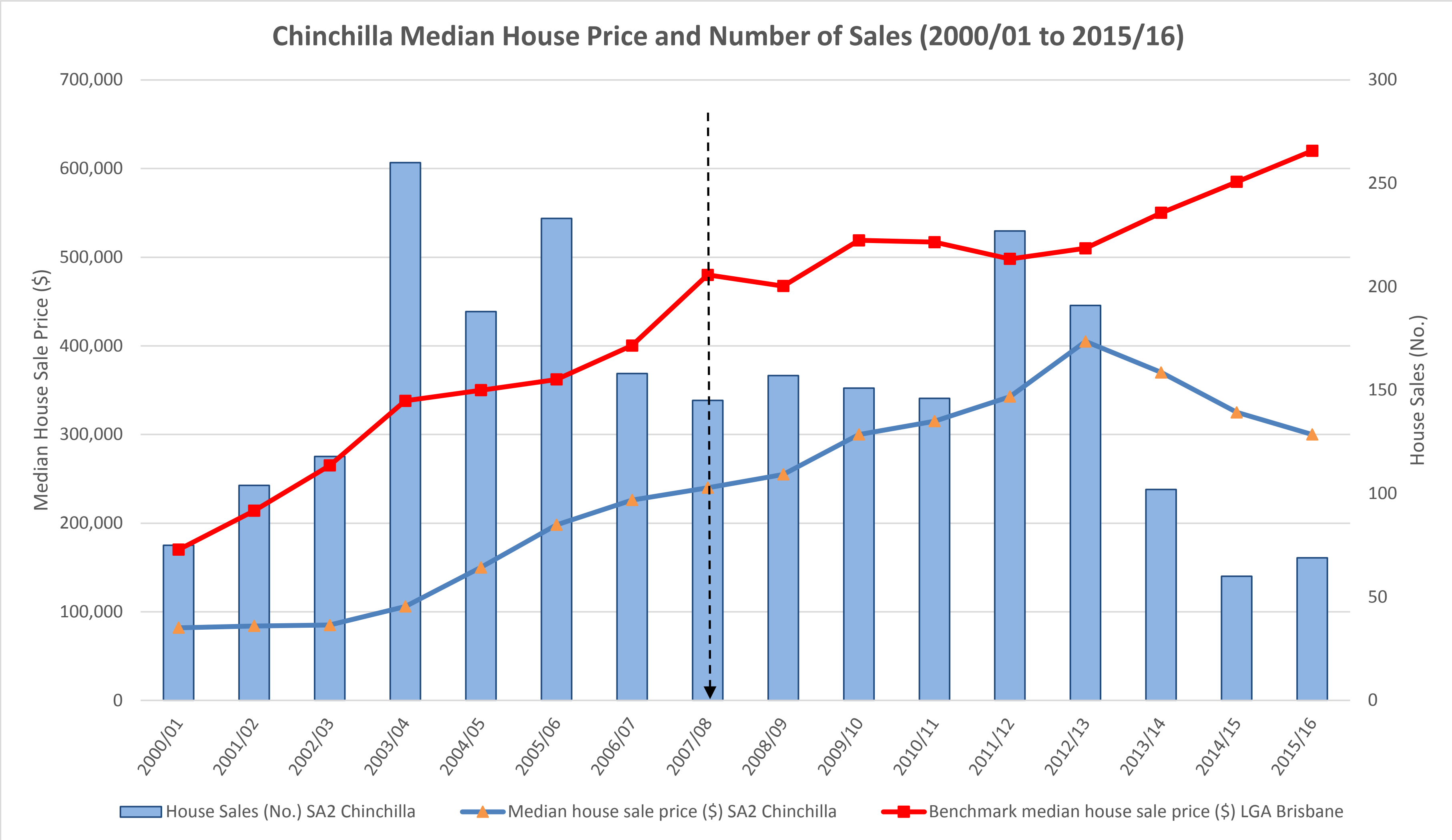
- Original data - No discounting applied
- Sources: Australian Taxation Office, Research and Statistics (https://www.ato.gov.au/)



- Original data - No discounting applied
- Sources: Australian Taxation Office, Research and Statistics (https://www.ato.gov.au/)

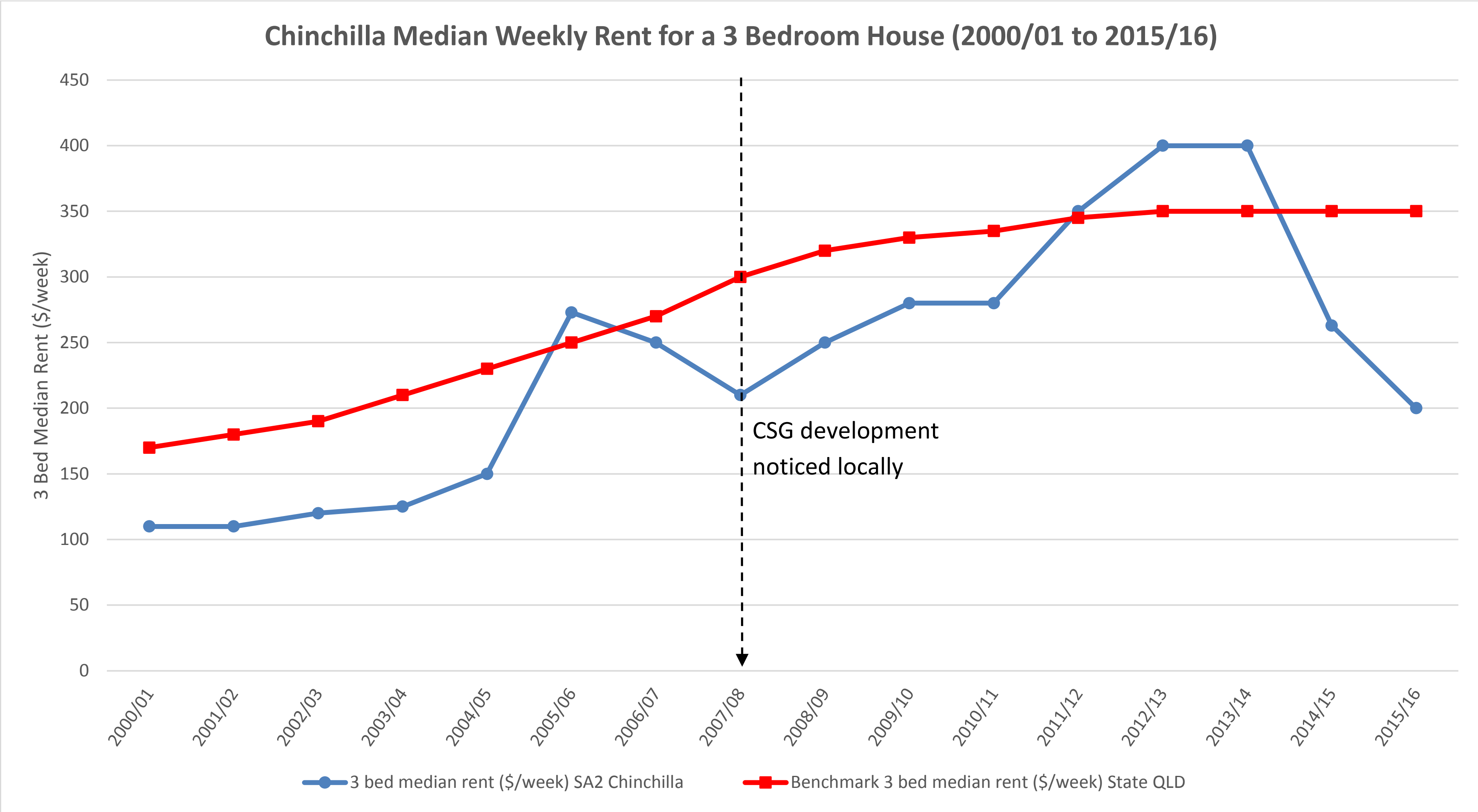
Data & Perceptions about income

- ***History***: Chinchilla has always been dependent on agriculture and incomes can reflect the seasons. Personal income historically below Queensland average, but grew at similar rate. Incomes increased in 2005/6 and 2006/7 then returned to trend.
- ***Change***: Personal incomes increased from 2007/8 and noticeably from 2010/11. From 2011/12 incomes have been above the state average, peaking in 2013/14. Significant wages growth from 2010 to 2013 are consistent with a skills shortage. The number of businesses increased and business incomes increased substantially from 2011 to 2013 (over 500%). Business incomes continue to increase in 2015.
- ***Perceived change*:** Increased spending in town. Local business 'enjoyed benefits of CSG'. However, during construction, businesses experienced skills shortages. Businesses had to offer higher wages to attract or retain workers, as housing and living expenses were reportedly more expensive Since 2014, business slow down reported, with some businesses affected more directly than others (*e.g.*, motels, hospitality). Interviewees mentioned "winners" and "losers" in relation to CSG.
- ***Caveat***: Residents in lower income groups who did not benefit from rising wages/salaries may have left town or region
- ***Expectation***: Local people want to see a strong retail centre, CSG contracts, diverse economy + distribution of resources benefits. In 2014, 'lots of businesses still going well', but people thought that 'business income will remain lower now construction phase is over'. In 2016, "businesses are closing" and it is expected that more businesses will close. People expect average personal incomes to decrease as wages are revised back down.
- ***Implications for the next project/stage***: Assist local businesses to keep their employees during the skills shortage. Negotiate number of tourist beds to remain available. Make it clear to local businesses the short time-frame for the major economic benefits. Consider how to make the distribution of benefits more equitable. Mitigate the "two-speed economy" perceived to have developed.
- ***2017 Update:*** While total business income continues to increase, average personal incomes have declined in 2014/15 although remain above the Queensland average. Total wage and salary earnings remain higher, but have also decreased slightly.



Data sources

- Median house sale price and hose sales from QGSO Regional Database dataset 'Residential land and dwelling sales (Year Ended 30 Sep 2000 to Year Ended 30 Jun 2016) [DNRM] (ASGS 2016)', http://www.qgso.qld.gov.au/products/tables/qld-regional-database/index.php

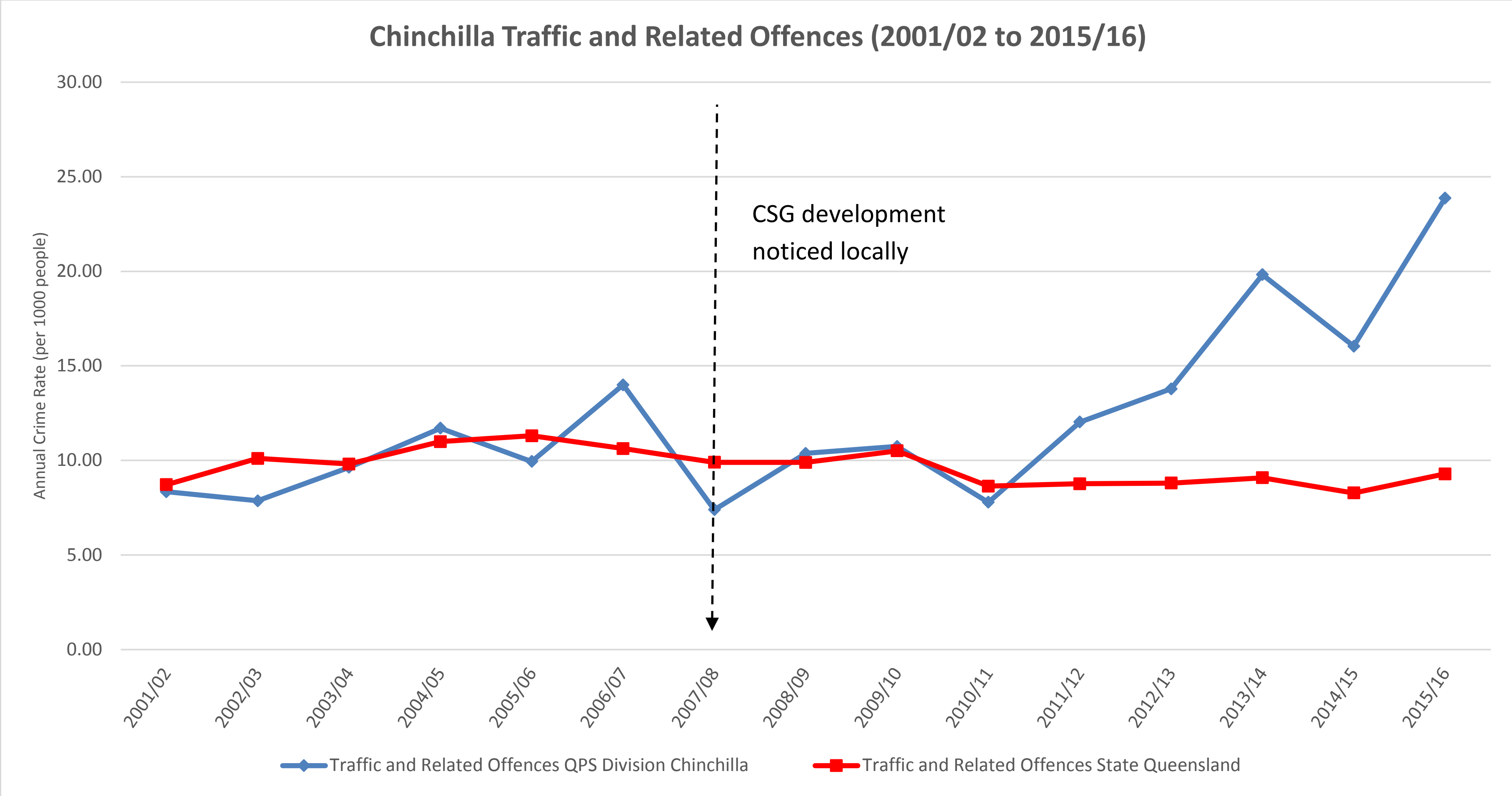


Data sources

- 3 Bed Median rent from QGSO Regional Database dataset 'Median rent (Year Ended 30 Sep 1990 to Year Ended 31 Dec 2016) [RTA] (ASGS 2011)', http://www.qgso.qld.gov.au/products/tables/qld-regional-database/index.php

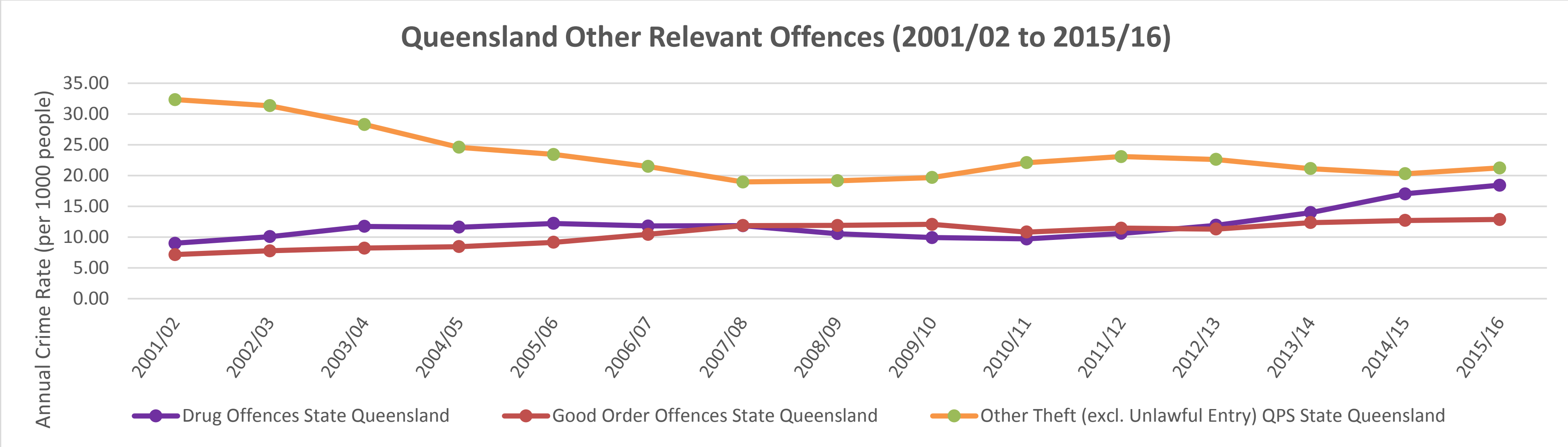
Data & Perceptions about Housing

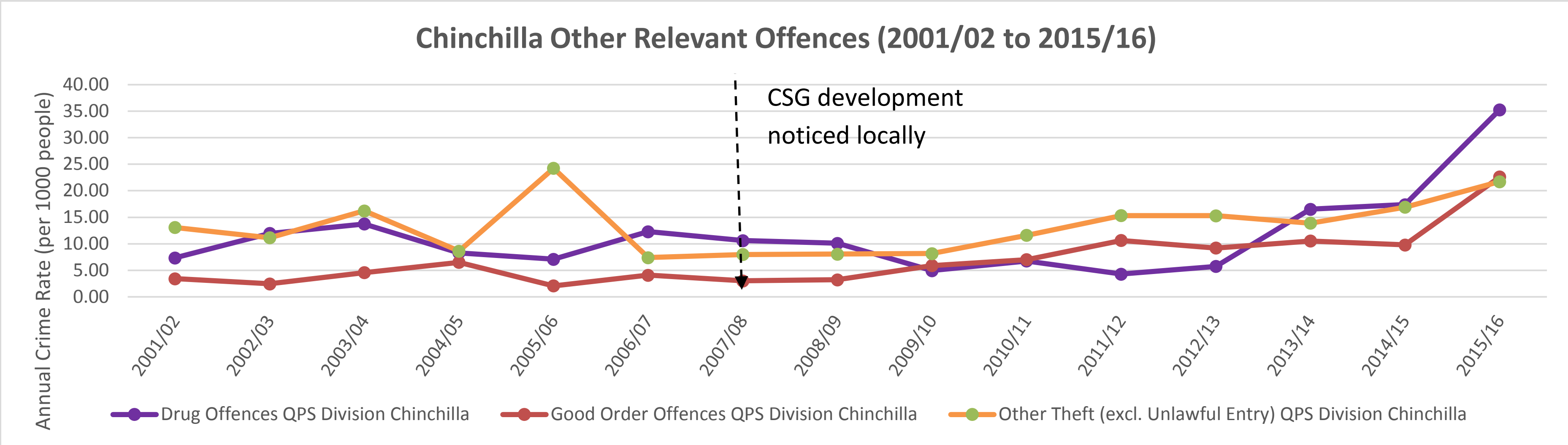
- ***History***: House prices increasing steadily. High demand in 2004-6 caused a spike (in Chinchilla 4413) then returned to trend. House prices in town are generally slightly higher than out of town. The data shown are for the greater Chinchilla (SA2) area.
- ***Change***: House prices increased in 2010, and peaked in 2012 (in 4413) and 2013 (SA2) reflecting strong demand. Median rents spiked first in 2005/06 and again between 2012 and 2014, both times reaching above Queensland median rents.
- ***Example***: $450 rent in 2013 is higher than Qld median of $350; average house sale price was highest in 2012, but remained $100,000 below the Brisbane median.
- ***Perceived impact***: Lack of affordable housing "1st and biggest CSG impact" noted by those interviewed. Led to perceptions of "rushed" housing developments with "poor building quality" and "lacking infrastructure". Lower and fixed income families "left town", and some businesses subsidised workers' rents. This likely skews other economic indicators (*e.g.*, average personal income). Concerns that 'over-development' and subsequent rent collapse, have led to further socio-economic issues (*e.g.*, cheap rents attracting 'outsiders', changing social composition of town) Property investors are losing money.
- ***Explanation***: Demand outstripped supply. Council amalgamations meant they could not "keep up with DA's". (see 2017 Annual Report website for DA data)
- ***Expectations***: It is expected that currently empty houses will eventually sell and fill as the market "picks up", and the community will "settle" again. Local people want good town planning that takes into consideration the character of the town and the values and aspirations of the community.
- ***Community's recommendations***: CSG companies and contractors should work with Council and community centre – "Before workers arrive, build camps, essential services & monitoring systems"; "don't build extra houses"; "indicators: % local buyers in market" and "rental vacancy rate".
- ***2017 Update:*** Since peaking around 2013, demand for housing has steadily dropped. As of 2015/16, sales numbers decrease by up to 70% after peaking in 2012/13, and prices are down to pre-2010 values with a 26% decrease since 2013. Rents approximately halved from 2013/14 to 2015/16 and at a par with 2007 prices; they are now well below the Qld median.



Data sources

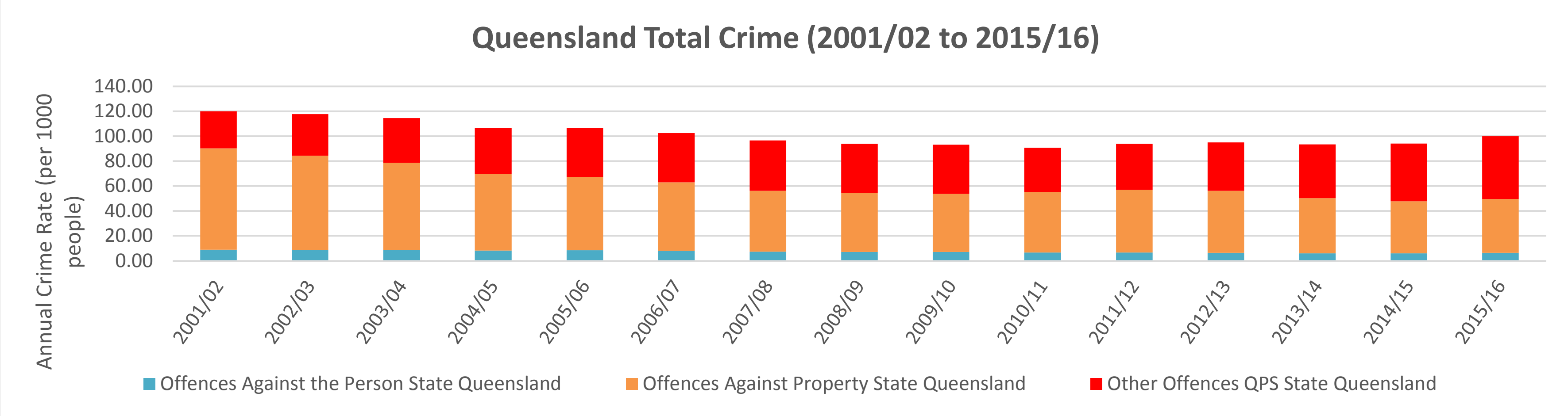
- Crime data rates (per month per 100,000 people) obtained by Queensland Police Service (QPS) Division and Queensland State , https://www.police.qld.gov.au/online/data/
- Data was adjusted to be presented as annual data per 1000 people

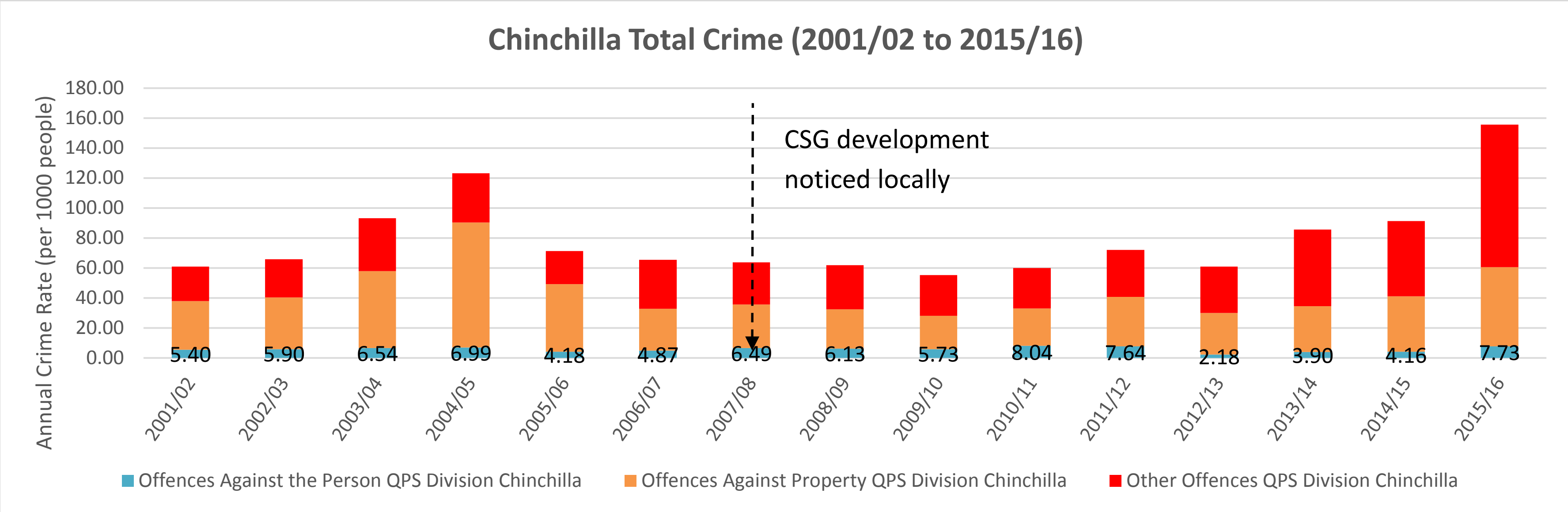




Data sources

- Crime data rates (per month per 100,000 people) obtained by Queensland Police Service (QPS) Division and Queensland State , https://www.police.qld.gov.au/online/data/
- Data was adjusted to be presented as annual data per 1000 people





Data sources

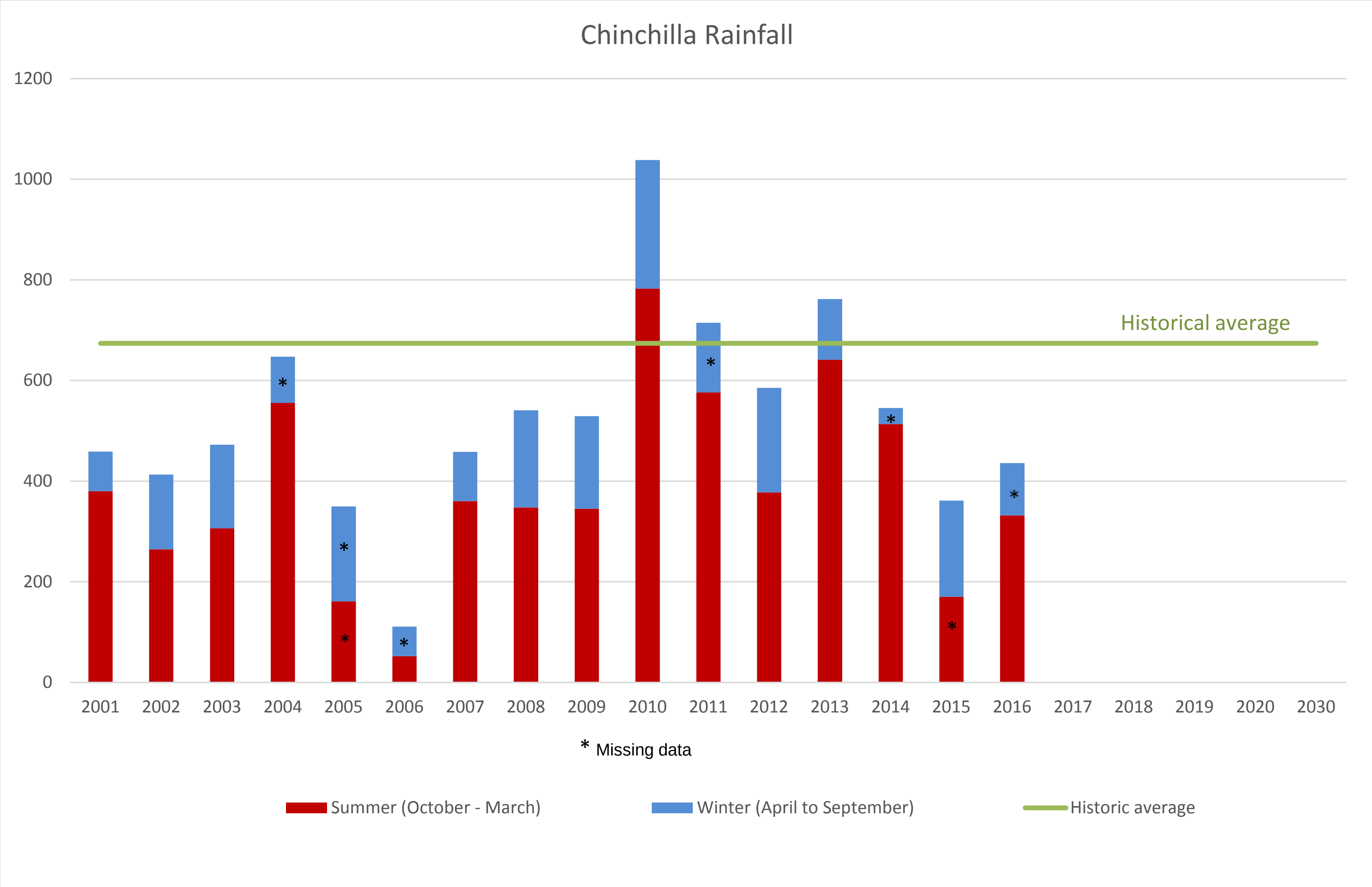
- Crime data rates (per month per 100,000 people) obtained by Queensland Police Service (QPS) Division and Queensland State , https://www.police.qld.gov.au/online/data/
- Data was adjusted to be presented as annual data per 1000 people

Data & Perceptions about safety & wellbeing

- ***History and Trend*****:** Historically low crime rates, well below the Queensland-wide rate. A spike in property offences and thefts, as well as 'crimes against the person' (e.g. assaults) around 2005 coincides with power station construction.
- ***Change*****:** Traffic offences have risen sharply since 2010 reflecting higher volumes of traffic and increased police effort. Crimes against the person spiked between 2010 and 2012, but overall crime rates remained low compared to Queensland. Good order and theft offences also increased from 2010. Drugs offences remain very low during the construction period until 2013, a result of strict workplace controls and policing. From late 2013, drugs offences increased to parallel the Queensland rate. From late 2014, drugs offences have risen steeply to almost double the Queensland rate[1] as has the total crime rate.
- ***Perceived change*****:** Rapid change creates psychological impacts in community. Pace of CSG development caused 'shock'. Women said to feel unsafe initially; then less so. 'Town identity' changes cited often; views differ on whether it is good. Community 'connectivity' has declined, but 'diversity' increased (which some see as good). Temporary 'rejuvenation' of towns and region during CSG boom (positive and negative perceptions). In 2016, "more sirens" heard. Concern expressed about drugs, domestic violence and child safety.
- ***Expectations*****:** Locals want a safe and peaceful community, better road conditions & reduced social divisions for their town. Current uncertainty about future (social impacts playing out, bust, or business as usual?); anxiety for some. Views differ about whether FIFO and camps benefit towns; communities where workers bring their families are seen as better.
- ***Community recommendations*****:** Provide early information on CSG activities, community plans for worker accommodation, help police manage community safety, ensure children can still walk, ride or catch bus to school safely, & fund 'local impact monitoring program'. Require 'social performance contracts' for all staff, incl. contractor staff. Together with local stakeholders, aim to anticipate and prevent 'post-boom' issues that may affect future safety & wellbeing

- ***2017 Update:*** While historically at or below Queensland average, crime increased significantly from 2014/15. Now at or well above Qld rates in many categories. *E.g.*, traffic (250%), drugs (200%), and total crime (150%).

[1]2017 data shows this figure to have decreased again. Police report apprehending drugs leaders and expect the rate to remain low in the near future.



ata Source: Bureau of Meteorology Clime Data online http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/data/

Alignment of Visions for Chinchilla

Study --> *Category*	Chamber (CCCI)	WDRC *for all towns*	CSIRO	UQ
Population	Significant growth.	1.7% per year population growth for 2010-2031 (to 10,000)	CSG companies together providing population projections	*No Chinchilla-specific findings*
Wellbeing	Livable town. Family oriented. Culture & heritage retained.	Crime rate equal to or less than Qld average. 'Retention of local heritage'.	Tidy town. Integration of CSG workers. Re-build strong community. Friendly town (wave). Young people retained.	Certainty about future. People committed to local community. Stronger linkages between towns.
Housing	Sufficient land for different types of affordable housing. Medium density in CBD.	Median house price should be equal to or less than Qld average.	No housing shortages.	Sufficient affordable housing. No sudden price increases.
Employment	---	'Explosion' in resource support industries; unemployment rate equal to or less than Qld average.	Local employment opportunities during construction.	'Have nots' benefit, too.
Business	Hub for agribusiness & energy resources sector. Connected to other major centres – road/rail upgrades.	Significant business hub / service centre for major projects. Diverse economy.	Strong retail centre. CSG contracts. Diverse economy where you can get everything you need.	Diverse economy (not excess no. of bakeries). Distribution of benefits from resources development.
Educ./Training	"College town".	Skilled workforce.	---	Skilled locals & immigration.
Governance	Planning scheme matches CSG production cycle. CCCI & WDRC collaborate on town-level plan.	Balanced growth.	Uncertain future. Need good town planning. Housing solutions planned earlier.	Reduced social divisions, improved services. Housing market distortions managed. Better road conditions.

The University of Queensland Australia

SMI CSRM Centre for Social Responsibility in Mining