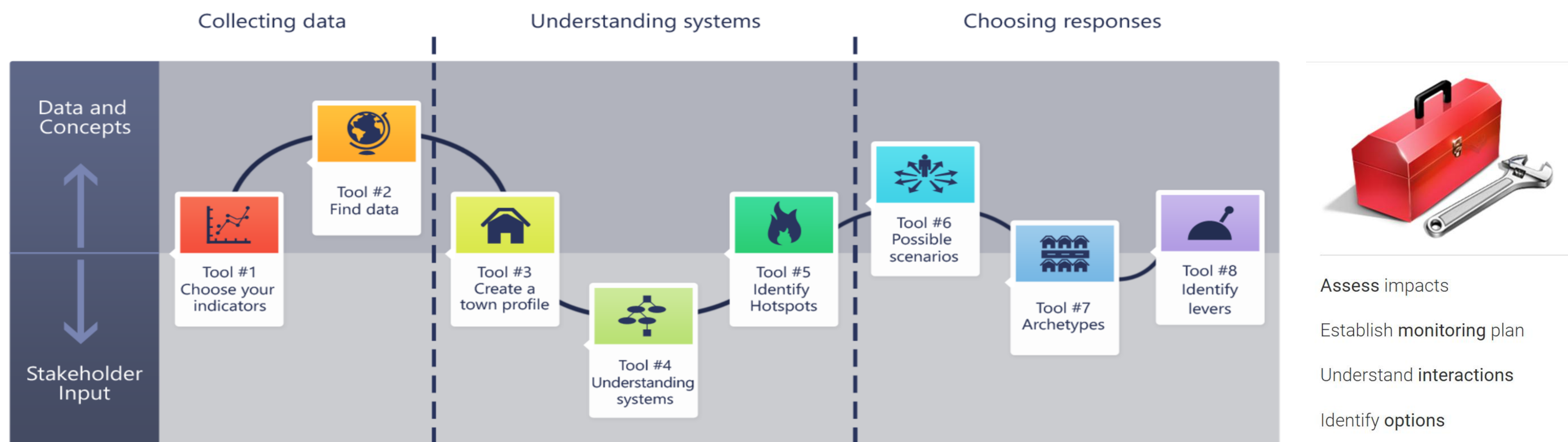


An online tool for measuring cumulative impacts: What does energy resource development mean for local communities?

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Working with local communities for cumulative impact assessment

Identifying mechanisms to understand, measure and respond to cumulative socio-economic impacts of energy resource development is a priority theme for the Gas & Energy Transition Research Centre. Cumulative impacts are the successive, incremental and combined effects (both positive and negative) of multiple onshore gas and other projects on communities and their environment. We have been collaborating with regional communities to track the cumulative social and economic effects of onshore gas development in the Surat and Bowen basins in Queensland, and in Narrabri NSW. This participatory method uses both indicators and local people's narratives of change to identify, assess and manage cumulative impacts. We have been tracking changes in key indicators from 2001 through to 2023 and will updating again with 2024 data in 2025.

An online interactive charting tool allows the user to explore several indicators in a single town of choice – or compare across towns for a single indicator.

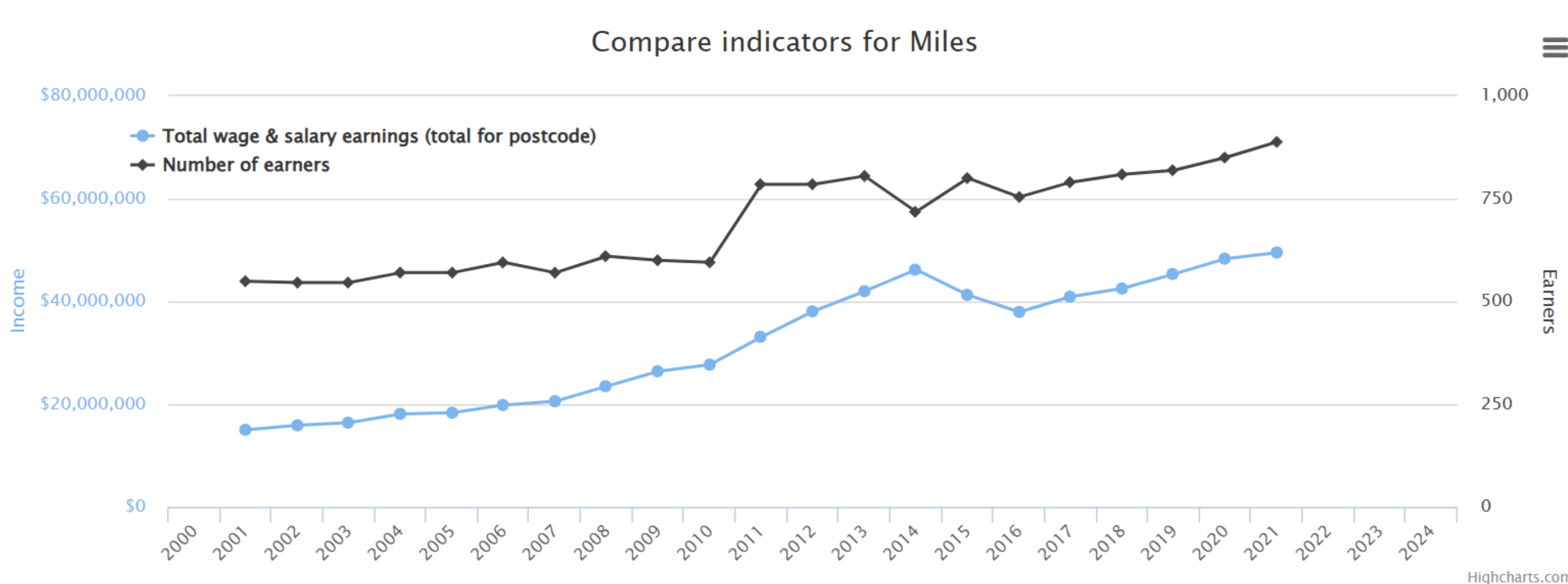


Figure 1: An example of the interactive charting tool comparing ATO data indicators (total income per postcode and number of wage earners) for a single town. Freely available on the website <https://boomtown-indicators.org/compare/indicators>

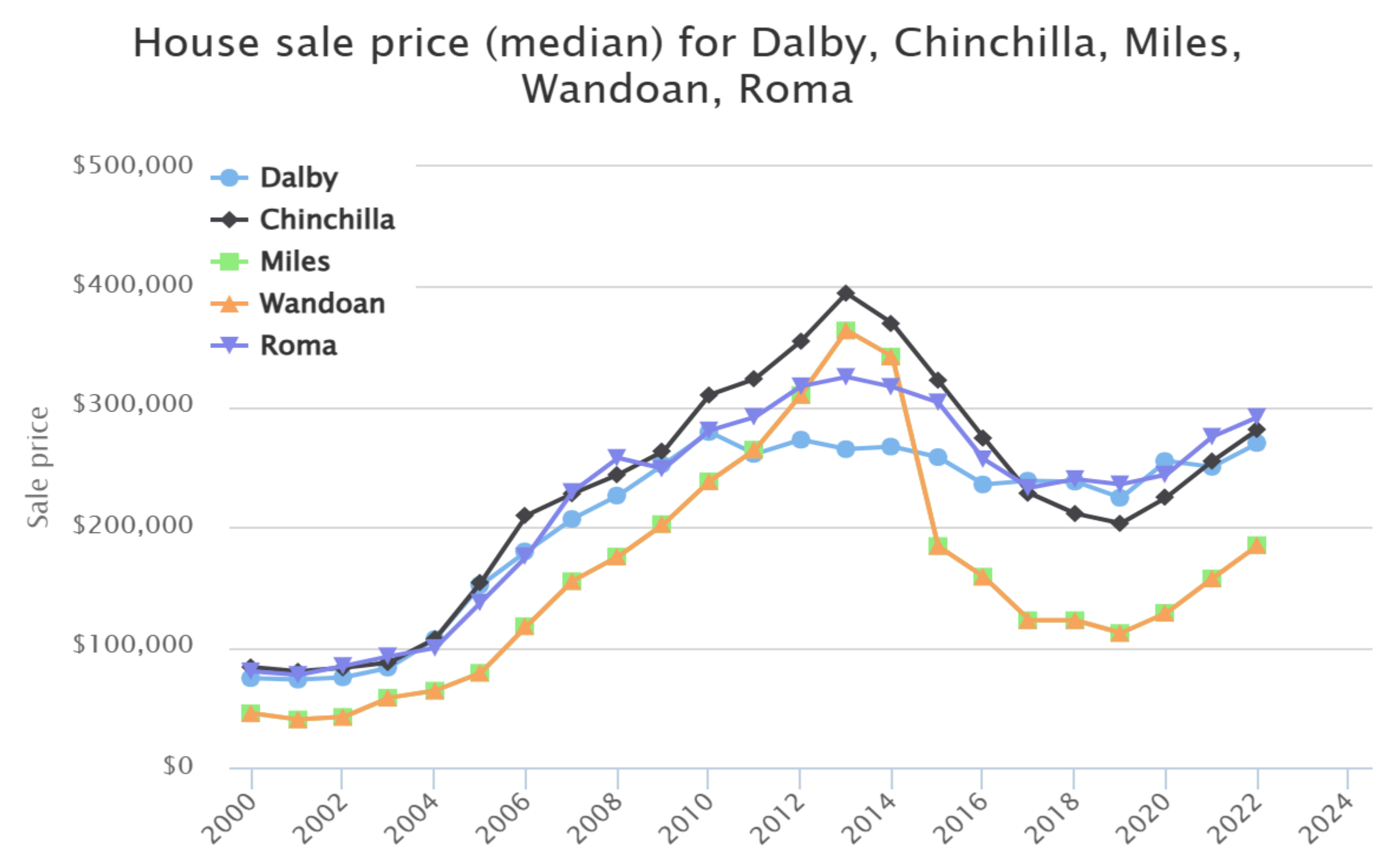
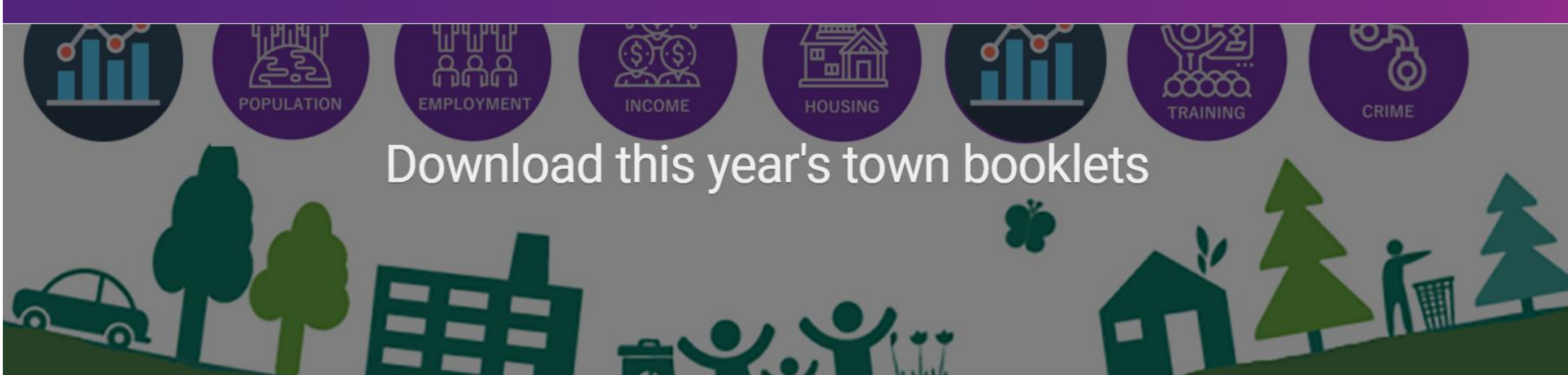


Figure 2: An example of the interactive charting tool comparing a single indicator (house sale price) across towns. Freely available on the website <https://boomtown-indicators.org/compare/indicators>

Town level data and narratives build a systems understanding of changes, and the interactions between indicators. For example, what else happens when rents increase or decrease? <https://gas-energy-centre.uq.edu.au/indicators/download-years-town-booklets>



Annual town analytics

UQ has conducted in depth research of data and perceptions for key town communities which have hosted coal seam gas development. A town booklet has been published for each of these towns, providing explanations of the interplay of an array of factors in the town.

The information tells the story of the impact of development based on historical and recent trends in key indicators. It is a valuable tool to aid decision-making in local and state government, the resource industry, small business, landholders, community organisations, and individual households.

Research has been conducted annually since 2015 and the information collected has been analysed and then reported each year. The latest town data booklets are available for download below.

"It a valuable tool to aid decision-making in local and state government, the resource industry, small business, landholders, community organisations, and individual households."



Activate Windows
Windows



The cumulative impact of renewable developments in rural communities is building, writes Lucy Knight. File picture

As the transition to renewables rolls out across country Australia, one thing that is now very clear is how little handle our governments have on the notion of cumulative impact.

<https://www.theland.com.au/story/8784878/cumulative-impact-of-renewable-developments-being-felt-in-rural-communities/>

Where to next?

- The method to identify, assess and manage cumulative impacts has been developed in collaboration with local communities, industry and government.
- It is the longest-running collaborative research project in the region.
- The participatory method and the online toolkit are highly relevant to communities facing socioeconomic change related to renewable energy and infrastructure projects, where cumulative impacts are already an emerging issue of concern.