

Citation and commencement

This Planning Scheme may be cited as the *Whitsunday Regional Council Planning Scheme 2017*.

A notice was published in the Government Gazette No. 58 on 30 June, 2017 for the Planning Scheme for the Whitsunday Regional Council.

The commencement date for the Planning Scheme was 3 July, 2017.

Amendments to the Planning Scheme are included at Appendix 2.

Community statement

The Whitsunday region is a local government area located in North Queensland, approximately 1,000km north of Brisbane and 600km south of Cairns. In March 2008, Whitsunday Regional Council was formed by the amalgamation of Bowen and Whitsunday Shires. The region is a key pillar in Queensland's economy, rich in tourism, agriculture, mining and construction.

From country to coast, the Whitsunday region supports a diverse range of lifestyles that incorporates the regions key economic sectors and tropical natural environment. Major towns Collinsville, Bowen, Proserpine and Airlie Beach each have their own identity that Council seeks to develop and diversify to build a successful, stronger and more resilient region over the next 20 years. The region is spoilt for opportunity by growing links to the Asian tourist market and development of economic catalysts such as Whitsunday International Airport, Airlie Beach developments and the development of the Abbot Point Growth Gateway Project boosting regional exports. The ongoing management of the regions pristine natural environments, fertile soils and water supplies will maintain strong agricultural production in the region.

Whitsunday Regional Council seeks to accommodate these opportunities through the enhancement of existing infrastructure, developing liveable communities and encouraging innovative practices that improve efficiency and sustainability. The region is anticipated to grow by over 20,000 people up to 2036 with over 9,000 more jobs being created. This growth will be accommodated in a compact urban form to reduce impacts on the regions pristine natural environments and fertile agricultural lands. Population growth will be focused around existing centres, encouraging new modern developments that enhance the local community, build a sense of place and develop vibrant liveable communities that are attractive to permanent residents and tourists alike. Development will supplement the special opportunities afforded to the Whitsunday Region in order to maximise the growth in Tourism, Agriculture, Mining and Construction sectors.

In 2036, the Whitsundays will have a thriving economy in a diverse range of sectors that offer resiliency to the region and capitalise on the areas' privileged location alongside tropical paradise, beautiful hinterlands, fertile soils and resource rich geology. The region will attract new families, cultures and millions of visitors who flock to experience the unique Whitsunday lifestyle. Whilst the region will grow and develop, the Whitsunday lifestyle unique to each township will remain.

Editor's note—The Community statement is extrinsic material to the planning scheme.

Strategic vision

The Whitsundays strategic vision is reflected in the *Whitsunday Regional Council Planning Scheme 2017*, which shows how we will effectively manage growth and land use in the region. This Planning Scheme is the planning framework that focuses upon capitalising upon the regions' opportunities in a sustainable manner using the following guiding principles identified within the strategic framework:

- liveable communities and housing;
- economic growth;
- environment and heritage;
- safety and resilience to hazards; and
- infrastructure;

The *Whitsunday Regional Council Planning Scheme 2017* and its strategic intent will guide growth in the region whilst maintaining a high quality of life for Whitsunday residents.

Editor's note—The Strategic vision is extrinsic material to the planning scheme.

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