



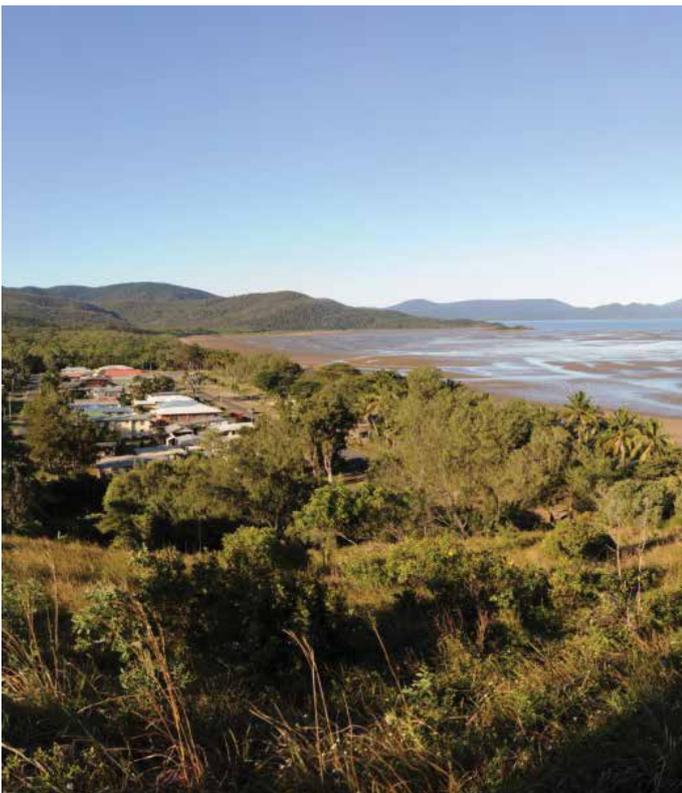
THE WHITSUNDAY REGION

ABOUT THE NEW WHITSUNDAY REGIONAL COUNCIL PLANNING SCHEME

The draft Whitsunday Regional Council Planning Scheme (the draft planning scheme) provides a consistent approach to the management of land across the local government area and has been prepared in accordance with the *Sustainable Planning Act 2009*. The draft planning scheme for the whole region is needed to address a number of growth factors in the Whitsunday region including increases in population, growth in the tourism industry, international investment, the proposed Port of Abbot Point

expansion and development of the Whitsunday Coast Airport to international status.

Council uses a planning scheme like an instruction manual to guide and identify how land should be used and what type of new development is supported by Council. The draft planning scheme will replace the *Bowen Shire Planning Scheme 2006 (BPS)* and *Whitsunday Shire Planning Scheme 2009 (WPS)*.





WHITSUNDAYS

OVERVIEW

As the gateway to the Great Barrier Reef and the magnificent 74 Whitsunday Islands, the Whitsunday region has one of the fastest growing populations in Queensland. Boasting a strong and diverse economy driven by the agriculture, construction, mining and tourism industries; the Whitsunday region has the potential to become the economic powerhouse of North Queensland.

It is envisioned that in 2036 and beyond the Whitsundays is a prosperous, liveable and sustainable region where people live, work, play and invest. The region, extending over 23,862 square kilometres, will be built on the integration of the unique attributes and competitive advantages of Airlie, Bowen, Collinsville, Proserpine and their surrounds.

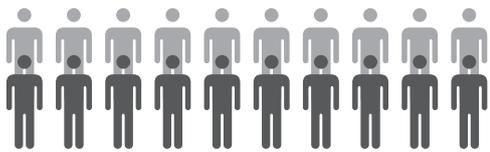
The region's major townships and communities have a strong and proud social identity, being sustainable and well supported through the provision of a variety of housing and lifestyle options and appropriate community and utility infrastructure. Risks to the community (including life and property) from natural and industrial hazards are appropriately mitigated or avoided by ensuring disaster

management response capabilities and capacities are supported.

The major townships of the region operate as a network of centres, each maintaining relatively strong levels of growth supported by the ongoing strengthening and development of the key economic sectors of agriculture, mining and tourism and associated development and construction activities. The strength of these industry sectors will continue to be supported by maintaining and protecting the resources and values upon which these sectors rely, promoting business innovation and increasing accessibility to robust road, rail, port and aviation facilities.

The promotion and protection of the region's cultural heritage and unique aquatic, coastal and inland environmental values continues as developmental and environmental pressures increase. All matters of ecological, environmental and scenic value (including key urban gateways, views and vistas) are valued and preserved, ensuring the health and resilience of the regions overall biodiversity.

34,000 PEOPLE



Tourism brings in **\$228m**
per year



International visitors are expected to represent 43% of the market by 2021-22



29,336 People



31,426 People



34,211 People

Additional residential land

1,081.8 HA

Additional industrial land

203.7 HA



The beef industry has a herd in excess of 250,000 head with an annual output of \$50m

\$2.3b

Gross Regional Product in 2011/12 was \$2.3b

Major industries:

mining, tourism, construction, agriculture and manufacturing



WHITSUNDAY REGION

WHERE ARE WE NOW IN THE PLAN MAKING PROCESS?

The draft planning scheme will be prepared in accordance with State Government legislation that regulates planning and development, including the Sustainable Planning Act 2009. It is expected to be completed over the course of three years, as there are a series of steps and activities that need to be undertaken during this time.

On 12 November 2014, council resolved to adopt the draft planning scheme for the purpose of undertaking statutory State interest review. This represents the completion of Stage 1 in the process of preparing the draft planning scheme.

A draft planning scheme is provided to the community as part of the formal public consultation stage (stage 3), which is carried out after the State interest review (stage 2). As the State interest review has been completed, Council now has the opportunity to engage the community for feedback.

STAGE 1 – PLAN PREPARATION (APRIL 2014 TO NOVEMBER 2014)

- **Council commenced preparation of the new draft planning scheme**

STAGE 2 – STATE INTEREST REVIEW (NOVEMBER 2014 TO EARLY 2015)

- **Council submits the draft planning scheme to State Government for state interest review**
- **State Government provides Council with comments on the draft planning scheme**
- **Council to update the draft planning scheme**

STAGE 3 – FORMAL PUBLIC CONSULTATION (EARLY TO MID-2015)

- **Undertake formal public notification of updated draft planning scheme**
- **Carry out consultation activities**
- **Council receives and processes public submissions**

**WE ARE
HERE**

STAGE 4 – FINAL PLANNING SCHEME (MID TO LATE 2015)

- **Council reviews public submissions**
- **Council makes updates and finalises planning scheme**

STAGE 5 – ADOPTION (EARLY 2016)

- **Council submits final planning scheme to State Government for approval**
- **Council adopts and gives effect to the final planning scheme**



HOW CAN YOU BE INVOLVED?

Whitsunday Regional Council believes that better planning is achieved through community engagement. The engagement process presents an opportunity for you to help us to understand your concerns and get to know our local staff. We are seeking your input to ensure that any community issues are recognised and incorporated into project planning and considered in the development of the draft planning scheme.

We would appreciate your feedback on the draft planning scheme and any issues you would like considered. You can provide feedback through formal written submission via post or email.

Please refer to the “New Planning Scheme Make a Submission” fact sheet for further information.

Community workshops will be held during the formal public consultation period. The workshops will provide you with an opportunity to discuss and understand, with our staff on a one-to-one basis, what is involved in the development of a new planning scheme.

We look forward to your input.



CONTACT US AT WHITSUNDAY REGIONAL COUNCIL

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