



CHAPTER 2

DESIRED ENVIRONMENTAL OUTCOMES



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CHAPTER 2 – DESIRED ENVIRONMENTAL OUTCOMES

2.1 Introduction

Twelve Desired Environmental Outcomes (DEOs) underpin the Planning Scheme for the Shire. The Planning Scheme represents the framework for achieving ecological sustainability. The Planning Scheme coordinates and integrates the purpose of the Act and the Council's Vision for the Shire through the statement of the DEOs.

The DEOs are outlined below, grouped under the core matters which comprise ecological sustainability:

- Ecological Processes and Natural Systems;
- Economic Development;
- Cultural, Economic, Physical and Social Well-being of the Community.

2.2 The Desired Environmental Outcomes

2.2.1 Ecological Processes and Natural Systems

- DEO 1 – The unique environmental values of the Shire, which result from its location within the Wet Tropics Bioregion, are maintained and protected for current and future generations.**
- DEO 2 – Those parts of the Shire located within the Wet Tropics and Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Areas and other adjacent areas of environmental value and ecological significance, are preserved and protected for nature conservation, landscape/scenic quality, Biodiversity and habitat values, in particular the protection of the Southern Cassowary and its habitat and to ensure the integrity of natural processes.**
- DEO 3 – Natural waterways such as the Daintree River, the Mossman River, the Mowbray River and Dicksons Inlet, all wetlands but particularly those on the Directory of Wetlands of Importance in Australia, being the Lower Daintree River, Alexandra Bay and the Hilda Creek Headwater; and all catchments located in coastal areas within the Shire, are managed to protect their ecological processes, enhance water quality, conserve riparian ecological values and landscape/scenic quality, while acknowledging nature based recreation opportunities.**
- DEO 4 – The unique environmental character of the Shire comprised of internationally renowned landscapes, ecologically significant rainforest systems, sensitive coastal systems and areas of unsurpassed natural beauty, are maintained in association with sustainable development practices, which seek to minimise the effects of development on the natural environment.**



The primary measures contained in the Planning Scheme which seek to support and achieve these DEOs are:

- the inclusion of major areas of environmental significance, natural habitat and critical conservation areas in private and public ownership, in the Conservation Planning Area;
- the inclusion of management, siting and design criteria for development in Codes which seek to ensure protection and enhancement of these areas;
- recognition of the requirements of the Wet Tropics Management Authority and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority in protecting these areas.

2.2.2 Economic Development

- DEO 5 – A prosperous community with a strong rural sector, a dynamic tourism industry and commercial and industrial activities offering a diverse range of employment opportunities, is supported by the sustainable use and management of the natural resources of the Shire.**
- DEO 6 – The natural resources of the Shire, such as GQAL, extractive resources, water and forestry resources, are protected and managed in a manner that ensures their ecological and economic values are assured for present and future generations.**
- DEO 7 – The values of the Shire are protected by a preferred pattern of development through identifying GQAL which sustains productive primary industries, particularly the sugar, horticultural and cattle grazing industries, and consolidates growth and employment opportunities, primarily in the identified locations of Mossman and Port Douglas.**
- DEO 8 – The economic development of the Shire is facilitated by the provision of infrastructure which complements the conservation economy of the Shire with 82% of its lands within the WTWHA in an efficient, equitable and environmentally safe manner, as well as circulation networks which provide for the efficient movement of people and goods, without compromising the Captain Cook Highway as the scenic entry corridor to the Shire.**



The primary measures contained in the Planning Scheme which seek to support and achieve these DEOs are:

- the delineation and protection of GQAL for a range of primary production options;
- the clear delineation on the Planning Scheme maps of the preferred land use pattern for the consolidation of the different land use activities in the Shire.
- the strategic siting of services and facilities to provide convenience to residents, visitors and those who do business in the Shire.

2.2.3 Cultural, Economic, Physical and Social Well-being of the Community

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> DEO 9 – Places of cultural and heritage significance, both Indigenous and European, are identified, protected and retained for their significance and importance to the history and identity of the Shire.<input type="checkbox"/> DEO 10 – A range of housing options, which provide a high standard of living and a variety of different residential lifestyle opportunities, are available in the Shire and are provided in a sustainable manner with regard to the environment, including its people and communities and the provision of services and facilities.<input type="checkbox"/> DEO 11 – The distinctive character and unique sense of place of the towns, villages and other settlement areas in the Shire including the Daintree Lowlands Community, are maintained, promoting community pride and well-being and community safety and prosperity.<input type="checkbox"/> DEO 12 – Residential communities, particularly communities within the major tourism areas of Port Douglas, Daintree Village and the Daintree Lowlands maintain a prosperous economy, a sense of community with the natural features, character of those areas and community values and cohesion, promoting harmony between residents and visitors. |
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The primary measures contained in the Planning Scheme which seek to achieve these DEOs are:

- the division of the Shire into six Localities that cover the entire Planning Scheme Area and provide for variation in the Planning Scheme requirements for each different Locality; and
- the inclusion of management, siting and design criteria for development in Codes which seek to ensure the well-being of the community.



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