

**DRAFT FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND REGIONAL PLAN REVIEW AND SUBMISSION**

PGS | 70/6/1 | #7773465

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council:

1. Resolves to make a submission (as proposed in Attachment 1) on the Draft Far North Queensland Regional Plan 2025 to the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations; and
2. Delegates authority to the Chief Executive Officer pursuant to the *Local Government Act 2009* to finalise all matters in relation to the submission.

**INTERESTED PARTIES:**

Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning

*Note: The identification of interested parties is provided on a best endeavours basis by Council Officers and may not be exhaustive.*

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

On 12 November 2025, the Queensland Government released the Draft Far North Queensland Regional Plan 2025 (Draft FNQRP) for public consultation which closes on 5 January 2026.

Council officers have reviewed the Draft FNQRP and prepared a submission (**Attachment 1**) for Council's consideration.

**BACKGROUND:**

Regional Plans are State Planning Instruments made under the *Planning Act 2016* (Planning Act) that set out integrated planning and development assessment policies about matters of State interest for particular regions. The Planning Act sets out a process for the State to follow when making or amending Regional Plans which includes a period of public consultation of at least 30 business days.

The current Far North Queensland Regional Plan 2009-2031 (FNQRP 2009) was released in 2009 and was used in the development of the Cairns Plan 2016 planning scheme.

Since 2009 there have been a number of changes to the overarching legislative and regulatory framework for planning within Queensland such as the introduction of the *Planning Act 2016* (the Planning Act) and *State Planning Policy 2017*. The region has also undergone significant growth and change since this time.

In 2022, the State Government commenced a review of the current FNQRP 2009. The purpose of the review is to respond to the legislative and policy changes as well as significant population growth and development in the region.

The review has been an iterative process, and the Far North Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils (FNQROC) has been coordinating input and feedback on behalf of the regional Councils.

### **COMMENT:**

On 12 November 2025, the State Government released the Draft FNQRP for public consultation which includes a Draft FNQ Infrastructure Plan 2025 and associated mapping.

The Draft FNQRP covers the following eight local government areas:

- Cairns Regional Council
- Cassowary Coast Regional Council
- Douglas Shire Council
- Etheridge Shire Council (newly added)
- Mareeba Shire Council
- Tablelands Regional Council
- Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council
- Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council

The Draft FNQRP contains a vision and strategic direction for the FNQ region to 2046 that structured around five key themes:

- Housing;
- Thriving economy;
- Ecotourism and biodiversity;
- Healthy and liveable communities; and
- Infrastructure (draft FNQ Infrastructure Plan 2025).

The Draft FNQRP includes a Regional Growth Pattern to manage growth that allocates all land in the region into one of three mapped Regional Land Use Categories:

- *Urban Footprint* for urban land such as residential, industry, business, tourism and community facility land;
- *Regional Landscape and Rural Production Area (RLRPA)* for rural uses and rural supporting industries and environmental conservation land; and
- *Rural Living Area (RLA)* for rural residential land.

The Draft FNQRP covers a range of matters that affect the FNQ region. Council Officers have reviewed the Draft FNQRP and prepared a submission (**Attachment 1**). Council Officers are generally supportive of the Draft FNQRP. The submission addresses a range of detailed matters in the plan and matters that relate specifically to the Cairns local government area such as:

- The proposed density targets that only apply to Cairns Regional Council.
- Identifying additional Region-Shaping Infrastructure.
- The proposed canopy cover target and the need for a clear methodology to calculate and measure the target.
- Changes to proposed mapping of Regional Land Use Categories and Priority Living Areas.
- The need for State to develop an implementation plan to deliver on the vision and strategies identified within the Draft FNQRP.
- Establishing a monitoring program, particularly for high growth Councils to track the implementation and success of the Draft FNQRP strategies.

The key implementation mechanism for the Draft FNQRP will be through Local Government Planning Schemes. Council will be required to appropriately reflect and advance the regional plan as part of future amendments to the CairnsPlan 2016 and in the preparation of the new Planning Scheme.

The Draft FNQRP also identifies Potential Implementation Activities which include the preparation of:

- An *FNQ Regional Growth Strategy* to identify a sustainable long-term growth pattern beyond 2046; and
- *Integrated Land Use Infrastructure Planning* to underpin the FNQ Regional Growth Strategy and incorporate population and dwelling demand modelling and scenario testing.

The submission supports the State Government to proceed with the above implementation activities and prioritise these as part of their implementation planning and future funding.

## **OPTIONS:**

### **Option1 (Recommended):**

That Council:

1. Resolves to make a submission (as proposed in Attachment 1) on the Draft Far North Queensland Regional Plan 2025 to the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations; and
2. Delegates authority to the Chief Executive Officer pursuant to the *Local Government Act 2009* to finalise all matters in relation to the submission.

### Option 2:

That Council:

1. Resolves to make a submission with amendments on the Draft Far North Queensland Regional Plan 2025 to the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations; and
2. Delegates authority to the Chief Executive Officer pursuant to the *Local Government Act 2009* to finalise all matters in relation to making the submission.

### Option 3:

That Council resolves not to make a submission on the Draft Far North Queensland Regional Plan 2025.

## **CONSIDERATIONS:**

### Risk Management:

There are no anticipated risks in Council making a submission. The Draft FNQRP, once adopted, will become a statutory planning instrument that Council will need to consider and integrate into its future planning scheme. Making a submission minimises future risk to this process by ensuring that Council's priorities for the Draft FNQRP can be considered by the State Government prior to the adoption of the Draft FNQRP.

### Council Finance and the Local Economy:

The key implementation mechanism for the Draft FNQRP will be through Local Government Planning Schemes. Council will be required to appropriately reflect and advance the regional plan as part of future amendments to the CairnsPlan 2016 and in the preparation of the new Planning Scheme.

The preparation of the new Planning Scheme will have a budget implication for Council as further studies and investigations may need to be undertaken to support the achievement of strategies in the Draft FNQRP in order to satisfy State Interest Review requirements given this is a statutory document.

The Draft FNQRP includes key themes for:

- *Thriving Economy* which Supports a growing FNQ economy driven by tourism and agriculture, and complemented by growing defence, marine, aerospace, health and knowledge precincts, and mining projects.
- *Infrastructure (draft FNQ Infrastructure Plan 2025)* which guides infrastructure investment and planning across the region by integrating land use and infrastructure policies within the FNQ Infrastructure Plan (FNQIP). The FNQIP outlines policy outcomes and future planning considerations for transport, water, energy, digital connectivity, and social and community infrastructure to support the economy.

The Draft FNQRP includes a number of policy outcomes and strategies to deliver on these themes.

### Community and Cultural Heritage:

The Draft FNQRP includes key themes for:

- *Healthy and Liveable Communities* which seeks to preserve FNQ's lifestyle which building resilience to natural hazards; and
- *Housing* which facilitates residential land supply in well-located areas supported by infrastructure. The plan identifies the Priority Development Area at Mount Peter, which is critical to fast-tracking the supply of housing and infrastructure for the region.

The Draft FNQRP includes a number of policy outcomes and strategies to deliver on these themes.

### Natural Environment:

The Draft FNQRP includes a key theme for *Ecotourism and Biodiversity* which protects FNQ's unique natural environment and biodiversity, enhancing ecotourism and quality of life. The Draft FNQRP includes a number of policy outcomes and strategies to deliver on this theme.

### Corporate and Operational Plans:

The Draft FNQRP outlines the State Government's long-term vision for the region. The themes in the draft plan broadly align with the focus areas of Council's Corporate Plan 2025-2030 and advance the strategies of the Corporate Plan.

Draft FNQRP Themes	Corporate Plan Focus Areas
Housing	Design for Liveability
Thriving Economy	Robust Economy
Ecotourism and Biodiversity	Natural Assets
Healthy and Liveable Communities	Design for Liveability Community and Culture
Infrastructure	Focused Council

### Statutory:

Regional Plans are State Planning Instruments under the *Planning Act 2016* (Planning Act). The Planning Act sets out the process the State must follow when making or amending a Regional Plan including a minimum of 30 business days for public consultation when submissions may be made.

Once adopted, a Regional Plan applies instead of any Local Planning Instrument (Planning Scheme, Planning Scheme Policy and Temporary Local Planning Instrument) to the extent of any inconsistency.

Policy:

The key implementation mechanism for the Draft FNQRP will be through Local Government Planning Schemes.

Council will be required to appropriately reflect and advance the policy intent of the regional plan as part of future amendments to the CairnsPlan 2016 and in the preparation of the new Planning Scheme.

Both the State Planning Policy and the FNQRP are used to determine whether a local government planning scheme incorporates state interests.

**CONSULTATION:**

Public consultation on the Draft FNQRP opened on 12 November 2025 and is closing on 5 January 2025. Any person may make a submission during this time.

Council Officers from the Planning, Growth and Sustainability and Economic Development and Advocacy directorates have been involved in the review process and provided input coordinated through the FNQROC.

In the development of the Draft FNQRP, the State Government facilitated consultation with key stakeholders, industry and interest groups and First Nations representatives.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Attachment 1 - Submission on Draft Far North Queensland Regional Plan 2025 ([#7774204](#))



Sean Lisle  
Executive Manager Growth & Sustainability



Mark Davey  
Director Planning, Growth & Sustainability

Attachment 1 - Submission on Draft Far North Queensland Regional Plan 2025  
([#7774204](#))

[insert date - press F11]

Hon. Jarrod Bleijie  
Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and  
Minister for Industrial Relations  
PO Box 15009, City East QLD 4002

Via email: [FNQRPSubmissions@dasilgp.qld.gov.au](mailto:FNQRPSubmissions@dasilgp.qld.gov.au)

Dear Deputy Premier

### **Draft Far North Queensland Regional Plan 2025**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission on the Draft Far North Queensland Regional Plan 2025. The Plan plays a critical role in shaping the future of our region.

Council considered the matter at its meeting on 10 December 2025 and its submission is enclosed. Council has appreciated the collaborative approach taken by the Queensland Government in the review process and would appreciate the opportunity to be involved in any ongoing discussions regarding the review of submissions and finalisation of the Far North Queensland Regional Plan.

Should you have any further enquiries or require additional information, please contact Council's Coordinator Strategic Planning, Ms Deborah Wellington, on the above phone number or by email [d.wellington@cairns.qld.gov.au](mailto:d.wellington@cairns.qld.gov.au).

Yours sincerely

Ken Gouldthorp  
Chief Executive Officer

Enc: Cairns Regional Council Submission on the Draft Far North Queensland Regional Plan 2025 (Draft FNQRP)

Cairns Regional Council Submission on the Draft Far North Queensland Regional Plan 2025 (Draft FNQRP)

Item	Section/page	Grounds of submission
1.	Chapter 1, Cairns Regional Council, Local Government Area Statistics, Page 18	This section of the draft FRQRP states “ <i>Cairns also serves as the key regional hub of FNQ, functioning as the economic, administrative, and tourism centre for the region.</i> ” It is requested that healthcare is included within this list.
2.	Chapter 1, Cairns Regional Council, Local Government Area Statistics, Page 18	It is requested that the Local Government Narrative for Cairns Regional Council is amended to update the text in the Unique Lifestyle Values section – first paragraph, last sentence and read as follows: “ <i>It has strong cultural significance with diverse cultural communities and First Nations people. The traditional custodians of the Cairns region are the Djabugay; Yirrganydji; Buluwai, Gimuy Walubara Yidinji; Mandingalbay Yidinji; Gunggandji; Dulabed and Malanbara Yidinji; Bundabarra and Wadjanbarra Yidinji; Wanyurr Majay; Mamu and NgadjonJii peoples.</i> ”
3.	Chapter 1, CRC Economic Overview, Page 19	Under the Infrastructure heading, the Draft FNQRP states “ <i>Continuous investment in infrastructure, such as healthcare, education, recreational facilities, water, roads, telecommunications, utilities, and public amenities is essential for supporting economic growth and connectivity within Cairns and more broadly across the FNQ region.</i> ” Mitigation infrastructure to increase hazard resilience should be included within this section.
4.	Chapter 4, Theme 1: Housing, Page 63	This section of the Draft FNQRP states “ <i>Cairns Regional Council has also developed alternative projections to 2050, which are available from Cairns Regional Council</i> ”.  These projections were developed as background data during the Towards 2050 project. These projections are not available for any other purpose. It is requested that this statement is removed from the Draft FNQRP.
5.	Chapter 4, Theme 1: Housing, Map 9: Regional Growth Pattern, Page 64  Chapter 4, Theme 2: Thriving Economy, Map 14: Rural economies and	The Draft FNQRP includes the following lots within the Regional Landscape and Rural Production Area and Priority Agricultural Area: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 15SP182894</li> <li>• 14SP182894</li> <li>• 2SP113649</li> <li>• 13SP274771</li> <li>• 16SP274771</li> </ul>

Item	Section/page	Grounds of submission
	<p>Natural Economic Resources, Page 102</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1RP727798</li> <li>• 1RP725478</li> <li>• 190SP281960</li> <li>• 195SP281960</li> </ul> <p>These lots are located within the Edmonton Industry and Business Local Plan within the CairnsPlan 2016 planning scheme. Within the local plan, these lots are identified in Precinct 7 – High Impact Sport and Precinct 8 – Future investigation and Precinct. Both precincts are identified for urban purposes despite their underlying zones (Rural zone and Sport and recreation zone). Within the CairnsPlan 2016, local plan codes prevail over zone codes to the extent of any inconsistency. Inclusion of these lots within the Urban Footprint would more appropriately reflect the intended and planned land use for these precincts within the CairnsPlan 2016.</p> <p>Additionally, these areas have been included as Priority Agricultural Areas due to the underlying zoning. However, this does not reflect the future urban land use intent identified within the local plan.</p> <p>It is requested that the above-mentioned lots are removed from the Regional Landscape and Rural production area and are included within the Urban Footprint. It is also requested that the above-mentioned lots are removed from the Priority Agricultural Area.</p>
6.	<p>Chapter 4, Theme 1: Housing, Map 9: Regional Growth Pattern, Page 64</p>	<p>The Draft FNQRP includes the following lots within the Regional Landscape and Rural Production Area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 0SP319534</li> <li>• 500SP153387</li> <li>• 51SP143713</li> <li>• 35SP114724</li> <li>• 36SP114724</li> <li>• 47SP114724</li> <li>• 34SP114724</li> <li>• 153RP748090</li> <li>• 152RP748090</li> </ul>

Item	Section/page	Grounds of submission
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 83RP748090</li> <li>• 84RP748090</li> <li>• 85RP748090</li> <li>• 86RP748090</li> <li>• 87RP748090</li> <li>• 19GTP70285</li> <li>• 20GTP70285</li> <li>• 17GTP70285</li> <li>• 4GTP70285</li> <li>• 13GTP70285</li> <li>• 12GTP70285</li> <li>• 49GTP70285</li> <li>• 2GTP70285</li> <li>• 23GTP70285</li> <li>• 24GTP70285</li> <li>• 25GTP70285</li> <li>• 26GTP70285</li> <li>• 29GTP70285</li> <li>• 30GTP70285</li> <li>• 31GTP70285</li> <li>• 32GTP70285</li> <li>• 34GTP70285</li> <li>• 36GTP70285</li> <li>• 35GTP70285</li> <li>• 41GTP70285</li> <li>• 42GTP70285</li> <li>• 43GTP70285</li> <li>• 44GTP70285</li> </ul>

Item	Section/page	Grounds of submission
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9GTP70285</li> <li>• 7GTP70285</li> <li>• 6GTP70285</li> <li>• 48GTP70285</li> <li>• 47GTP70285</li> <li>• 46GTP70285</li> <li>• 0GTP70285</li> </ul> <p>These lots are located within the Environmental management zone under the CairnsPlan 2016 Planning scheme. Other Environmental management zone lots within the region have been included within the Urban Footprint. The mapping of the Urban Footprint should follow a consistent methodology.</p> <p>It is requested that the above-mentioned lots are removed from the Regional Landscape and Rural production area and are included within the Urban Footprint.</p>
7.	Chapter 4, Strategies, Pages 58-123	<p>The Draft FNQRP includes strategies for specific local government areas, however these are indicated using the heading “Cairns Regional Council only”. The use of this heading implies that these strategies apply to Cairns Regional Council as an entity rather than the local government area.</p> <p>It is requested that this heading is amendment to reflect the local government area ensuring that any entity undertaking planning in these areas complies with the strategies.</p>
8.	Chapter 4, Theme 1: Housing, Policy Outcome 2 Housing Supply, Page 68	<p>Social and affordable housing plays a critical role for our region as identified through Council’s Local Housing Action Plan. The only strategy in the Draft FNQRP that relates to these matters is as follows:</p> <p><i>“2.9. Facilitate the delivery of more safe, secure, affordable and culturally appropriate First Nations housing.”</i></p> <p>The above Strategy 2.9 is supported. However, given the concepts of safe, secure and affordable housing are so fundamental, these should also be expanded and applied to all typologies and cohorts within the region. It is also important to ensure that housing is accessible.</p>

Item	Section/page	Grounds of submission
		<p>It is requested that the Draft FNQRP is reviewed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include strategies that promote social housing (or non-market housing as defined within the glossary), market-affordable housing and mixed tenure housing; and</li> <li>• Include an additional strategy within the plan that promotes safe, secure, accessible and affordable housing and applies to all housing typologies and population cohorts.</li> </ul>
9.	Chapter 4, Theme 1 Housing, Policy Outcome 2, Housing Supply, Table 1, Pages 70, 73 and 74	<p>Council supports the intent of the Draft FNQRP to facilitate infill development to increase housing supply and promote the full range of housing typologies needed to meet the needs of the region’s future communities.</p> <p>Council has recently completed the Towards 2050 Growth Strategy which introduces the concept of Tropical Urban Villages (TUV) for Cairns. It shows indicative TUV focus areas for infill development to be located in central areas that are already well serviced by transport, infrastructure, services and jobs. Whilst these areas have been indicatively shown within the Growth Strategy, further work is required to determine their extents, distinct role and function within the region, transport and connectivity and achievable density targets. Portions of the areas indicatively shown within the Growth Strategy are subject to flooding and coastal hazards which will influence their development potential.</p> <p>The Draft FNQRP Policy Outcome 2, Housing Supply Table 1 includes a range of TUV types with corresponding minimum density targets for the Cairns LGA only. It has been assumed that the reference to maximum density targets in Table 1 is an error. As the Growth Strategy does not include types of TUVs or densities it is not clear how these have been derived for the Draft FNQRP. However, it is noted that the targets appear to be more aligned with densities being achieved in South East Queensland. Within the Cairns region there are currently market factors reducing the viability of residential development, in particular multi-storey medium density development. This will need to be considered in the development of any residential density targets for Cairns.</p> <p>With the Growth Strategy adopted, the next phase for Council is to commence the implementation of the Growth Strategy through the preparation of a new planning scheme. During the planning scheme development process, it is expected that further investigations will be undertaken to review the indicative locations identified in the Growth Strategy to determine suitable locations and extents of TUVs, constraints, land use mix including role and function of each TUV, viable typologies and residential density targets.</p>

Item	Section/page	Grounds of submission
		<p>It is Council’s preference that land use mix and density targets for future TUVs are derived by Council through a place-based planning approach during the planning scheme development process.</p> <p>It is requested that Strategy 2.12 is amended to remove reference to Table 1 and include a reference to Figure 4 as follows:  <i>“2.12. Facilitate infill development to increase the supply of a range of housing typologies identified in Figure 4 and achieve the minimum dwelling density requirements for TUVs in Table 1. This includes increased supply of attached dwellings in and around.”</i></p> <p>It is also requested that Table 1 (including density targets) is removed from the Draft FNQRP. This aligns with the approach applied to other local governments within the region.</p>
10.	Chapter 4, Theme 2: Thriving Economy, Policy Outcome 3, Strategy 3.4 and 3.5, Page 82	<p>The Draft FNQRP includes the following strategies that apply to Cairns Regional Council only in relation to the Cairns South State Development Area (SDA):</p> <p><i>“3.4 Facilitate development of industrial land in the Southern Growth Corridor of Cairns, particularly in the Edmonton Business and Industry Area and Cairns South SDA.</i></p> <p><i>3.5 Collaborate with the Queensland Government to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>a. Plan for and deliver infrastructure needed to unlock the Cairns South SDA.</i></li> <li><i>b. Prepare an infrastructure plan for the Cairns South SDA.</i></li> <li><i>c. Integrate the Cairns South SDA infrastructure planning into the Cairns LGIP.”</i> <p>The Cairns South SDA is a State Government initiative and is predominantly regulated through the Cairns South SDA Development Scheme rather than Council’s planning scheme. It is expected that the State Government will plan for and deliver the necessary infrastructure to service this area.</p> <p>It is requested that Strategy 3.5 is either removed completely or amended to read as follows:  <i>“3.5 <del>Collaborate with</del> The Queensland Government <u>will to</u>:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>a. Plan for and deliver infrastructure needed to unlock the Cairns South SDA: <u>and</u></i></li> </ul> </li></ul>

Item	Section/page	Grounds of submission
		<p><i>b. Prepare an infrastructure plan for the Cairns South SDA that integrates with the wider Cairns infrastructure networks and planning.</i></p> <p><i>c. <del>Integrate the Cairns South SDA infrastructure planning into the Cairns LGIP.</del></i></p>
11.	Chapter 4, Theme 3: Biodiversity and Ecotourism, Policy Outcome 3 Regional Landscapes and Biodiversity, Page 109	<p>The Draft FNQRP includes the following strategy:  <i>“3.1 Identify FNQ’s natural values, natural resources, cultural heritage, and outdoor recreation values in land use planning.”</i></p> <p>It is requested that this strategy is amended to include the word protect and read as follows:  <i>“3.1 Identify <u>and protect</u> FNQ’s natural values, natural resources, cultural heritage, and outdoor recreation values in land use planning.”</i></p>
12.	Chapter 4, Theme 3: Biodiversity and Ecotourism, Policy Outcome 3 Regional Landscapes and Biodiversity, Page 110	<p>The Draft FNQRP includes the following strategy:  <i>“3.8 Development in the Wet Tropics WHA, and areas directly adjoining or ecologically connected to the Wet Tropics WHA, does not cause adverse impacts on scenic amenity, regional biodiversity corridors and SRAs.”</i></p> <p>This strategy should also refer to Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) and Matters of State Environmental Significance MSES. It is requested that this strategy is amended to read as follows:  <i>“3.8 Development in the Wet Tropics WHA, and areas directly adjoining or ecologically connected to the Wet Tropics WHA, does not cause adverse impacts on scenic amenity, regional biodiversity corridors, <u>MNES, MSES</u> and SRAs.”</i></p>
13.	Chapter 4, Theme 3: Biodiversity and Ecotourism, Policy Outcome 3 Regional Landscapes and Biodiversity, Page 110	<p>The Draft FNQRP includes the following strategy:  <i>“3.10 The area depicted as ‘Wet Tropics WHA - Special Management Area’ on Map 16, is recognised as an area of high scenic amenity for the purpose of State code 23: wind farm development. In this area, development for a wind farm is avoided where possible, and must otherwise be sited and designed to protect the character, scenic amenity and landscape values of the locality and region.”</i></p> <p>This strategy should also refer to protecting ecological values. It is requested that this strategy is amended to read as follows:  <i>“3.10 The area depicted as ‘Wet Tropics WHA - Special Management Area’ on Map 16, is recognised as an area of high scenic amenity for the purpose of State code 23: wind farm development. In this area, development for a wind farm is avoided where</i></p>

Item	Section/page	Grounds of submission
		<p><i>possible, and must otherwise be sited and designed to protect the character, scenic amenity, <u>ecological</u> and landscape values of the locality and region.”</i></p>
14.	<p>Chapter 4, Theme 3: Biodiversity and Ecotourism, Policy Outcome 3 Regional Landscapes and Biodiversity, Page 110</p>	<p>The Draft FNQRP includes the following strategy that applies to the Douglas Shire Council only:  “3.13 Enable opportunities to progressively rehabilitate SRAs in areas which do not diminish the viability of agriculture but provide genuine biodiversity improvements on appropriate areas of land. This may be achieved by rehabilitation of degraded riparian corridors and wetlands or poor quality areas of agricultural land.”</p> <p>This strategy is also appropriate and beneficial for the Cairns Regional Council local government area. This aligns with the objectives of Council’s Towards 2050 Growth Strategy and Blue-Green Framework. It is requested that Strategy 3.13 also apply to the Cairns Regional Council LGA.</p>
15.	<p>Chapter 4, Theme 4 Healthy and Liveable Communities, Policy Outcome 2, Natural Hazards and Safety, Page 119</p>	<p>Resilience to natural hazards is a key challenge for the growth of the FNQ region moving forward. Council has been investing in and actively working on building its resilience policy through undertaking updated fit for purpose risk assessments, preparing a mitigation and adaptations options paper and an Integrated Resilience Plan.</p> <p>The ShapingSEQ 2023 Regional Plan takes a regional approach to natural hazards and has a strong focus on natural hazards through its Resilience Policy Maturity Framework. This approach elevates the importance of natural hazard resilience within the ShapingSEQ Regional Plan and acknowledges the benefits of maturing local government resilience policy. Given the extent of the FNQ region affected by hazards, a strong focus on hazard resilience is missing from the Draft FNQRP.</p> <p>The State Planning Policy sets a clear expectation for the planning system to address natural hazards, risk and resilience including the projected impact of climate change, as a state interest.</p> <p>It is requested that the Draft FNQRP is amended to include the Resilience Policy Maturity Framework (included in the ShapingSEQ 2023 Regional Plan) to advance the opportunity to integrate natural hazard risk management and climate adaptation processes at the regional scale to provide a consistent understanding of climate and disaster risk for land use planning.</p>

Item	Section/page	Grounds of submission
16.	Chapter 4, Theme 4: Healthy and Liveable Communities, Policy Outcome 2 Natural Hazards and Safety, Strategy 2.5, Page 121	<p>The Draft FNQRP includes the following strategy that applies to Cairns Regional Council only as follows:  <i>“2.5. Increase tree canopy cover to a minimum of 50% within the Urban Footprint at a neighbourhood scale by 2046.”</i></p> <p>The inclusion of a canopy cover target is supported, and it is noted that the target is aspirational. However further work is required to ensure the metric and scale is appropriate and the target is measurable. There needs to be a clear state-wide methodology used to determine the percentage of canopy cover within the Urban Footprint area.</p> <p>It is requested that Strategy 2.5 is amended to read as follows:  <i>“2.5. Increase tree canopy cover to <del>a minimum of progress towards</del> 50% within the Urban Footprint <del>at a neighbourhood scale</del> by 2046.”</i></p> <p>It is also requested that the State and Council work together to develop an agreed method and scale to calculate canopy cover and a baseline metric to ensure the target is appropriate and able to be easily measured and monitored.</p>
17.	Chapter 5, Delivery, Pages 124-131	<p>The Draft FNQRP only includes two potential implementation activities related to Housing Strategy 2.8 being:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FNQ Regional Growth Strategy</li> <li>• Integrated Land Use and Infrastructure Planning</li> </ul> <p>These potential implementation actions are supported and should be prioritised as part of implementation planning and future budgeting.</p> <p>Both of these actions relate to growth beyond 2046. The Draft FNQRP does not currently contain a list of implementation actions that will deliver on the strategies within the planning horizon of the current plan. This is a gap and should be rectified by including additional implementation actions that the State will undertake to implement the Draft FNQRP. The Draft FNQRP should be supported by an Implementation plan which identify timing and funding for the State-led priority actions proposed.</p> <p>It is requested that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the State proceed with the potential implementation activities as identified in the Draft FNQRP; and</li> </ul>

Item	Section/page	Grounds of submission
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the Draft FNQRP is reviewed to identify additional actions to deliver on the vision and strategies within the current planning horizon; and</li> <li>the State develops an implementation plan which includes the timing and funding arrangements for the actions.</li> </ul>
18.	Chapter 5, Monitoring, Page 131	<p>The draft FNQRP refers to ongoing monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the plan. The Draft FNQRP states: <i>“The regional plan’s implementation will be monitored through regular status updates. These status updates will evaluate the progress of themes, policy outcomes and strategies, and highlight significant regional achievements and milestones.”</i></p> <p>The Draft FNQRP also states: <i>“Local government will also be responsible for contributing data and insights to support ongoing monitoring and review of the regional plan’s effectiveness.”</i></p> <p>The proposed monitoring within the Draft FNQRP involves updates on the progress of themes, policy outcomes and strategies, and highlighting significant regional achievements and milestones. However, the SEQ monitoring includes other components such as annual results on regional indicators, land supply and development monitoring (both industrial and residential) and market factors reporting. Within the Cairns region there are currently market factors reducing the viability of residential development, in particular multi-storey medium density development. Policy Outcome 2, Housing Supply within the Draft FNQRP includes specific strategies for increased medium density and higher density residential housing to be accommodated within key locations. Ongoing monitoring of market factors will assist Cairns Regional Council to better understand the market and what can be done within a local government jurisdiction to facilitate development that achieves the vision and strategies of the regional plan.</p> <p>The <i>Growth Monitoring Reporting – Final Position Paper</i> released in May 2025 identified that the monitoring program being delivered in SEQ in relation to the SEQ regional Plan has delivered significant benefits to SEQ Councils and there would be significant benefits in expanding this program to other regions.</p> <p>It is requested that the FNQRP monitoring program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>provides the same outputs currently delivered by the SEQ Growth Monitoring Unit for high growth Councils within the FNQ region;</li> </ul>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• includes monitoring of market factors that reduce the viability of residential and industrial development for high growth Councils within the FNQ region;</li> <li>• analyses and synthesizes local government data inputs to provide recommendations to facilitate the achievement of the regional plan vision and strategies;</li> <li>• identifies how the State can support local governments to achieve the regional plan vision and strategies.</li> </ul>
19.	Appendix 1: Draft FNQ Infrastructure Plan 2025, Pages 132-160	<p>The Draft FNQRP acknowledges the vulnerability of the region to natural hazards and that improving resilience to natural hazards will require longer term policy and practice change. The Draft FNQRP includes policies that seek increases to densities across the region where the risks are tolerable and can be mitigated or where coordinated implementation of adaptation solutions can be provided.</p> <p>To support these policies the draft FNQ Infrastructure Plan 2025 should include a policy outcome and strategies relating to Mitigation and Adaptation Infrastructure as these will be significant infrastructure investments for Local Governments to ensure safe growth of the region.</p>
20.	Appendix 1: Draft FNQ Infrastructure Plan 2025, Pages 132-160	<p>The Draft FNQRP acknowledges the opportunity waste management will have in creating new opportunities for a circular economy including resource recovery.</p> <p>The draft FNQ Infrastructure Plan should include strategies or future planning considerations relating to the infrastructure needed to support waste management and resource recovery to ensure Local Governments can best meet the States targets and future needs of communities.</p>
21.	Appendix1: Draft FNQ Infrastructure Plan 2015, Region-shaping Infrastructure, Pages 140-143	<p>Under the Draft FNQ Infrastructure Plan 2025, Region-Shaping Infrastructure includes infrastructure that is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Necessary to realising the growth pattern set in the draft FNQ Regional Plan 2025.</li> <li>• Necessary for the resilient, efficient and safe movement of people to access employment and essential services as well as the movement of goods across the region and sub-regions.</li> <li>• A significant funding requirement across multiple levels of government.</li> <li>• Of regional economic and social significance.</li> <li>• Enhancing inter-regional and wider connections.</li> </ul>

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		<p>The Region-Shaping Infrastructure currently identified in the plan predominately relates to road transport and recreational trails. However, there are other significant region-shaping infrastructure that need to be included within the plan. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Infrastructure required to service the Mount Peter PDA;</li> <li>• Infrastructure required to service the Cairns South SDA; and</li> <li>• Infrastructure required for future stages of the Cairns Water Security Strategy.</li> </ul> <p>The above-mentioned infrastructure is critical for realising the growth pattern identified in the Draft FNQRP and will require significant funding across multiple levels of government and is of regional economic and social significance. It is requested that the above-mentioned infrastructure is included within the Draft FNQRP as Region-Shaping Infrastructure.</p>
22.	Appendix 1: Draft FNQ Infrastructure Plan 2025, Page 141	<p>The Draft FNQRP is silent on identifying an appropriate long-term solution for the Cairns to Tablelands road link. It is important that this critical issue is addressed through the Draft FNQRP and associated Infrastructure Plan.</p>
23.	Glossary, page 176	<p>The Draft FNQRP includes the term <i>Non-market Housing</i> which is not used within the draft FNQRP document. Additionally, the term <i>Prime agricultural land</i> is used on page 43 of the Draft FNQRP however this term is not defined. It is important to ensure terms within the plan are defined for clarity in the plan-making process and development of new planning schemes. Terms used within the Draft FNQRP should also align with those used within the State Planning Policy.</p> <p>It is requested that a review of the FNQRP Glossary is undertaken to ensure terms within the glossary are used within the document and vice versa.</p>
24.	Schedule A, Priority Living Area Insets, Page 161	<p>The Schedule A Priority Living Area maps excludes the Cairns South State Development Area from the identified Priority Living Area. Under the Draft FNQRP Priority Living Areas (PLA):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protect and prioritise the growth potential of FNQ settlements, population-supporting assets and amenity over resource activities;</li> <li>• Safeguard areas required for the long-term growth of FNQ communities from the irreversible impacts of resource activities in the PLA;</li> <li>• Protect water storage infrastructure and the functionality of associated water catchments in the PLA; and</li> </ul>

Item	Section/page	Grounds of submission
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protect the regional and rural landscape amenity of the PLA from material impacts of resource activities.</li> </ul> <p>It is not appropriate that the Cairns South SDA would be excluded from the PLA mapping. The <i>Priority Living Areas for Regional Plans Mapping Guideline</i> provided to Council during the review clearly states the zones that are included in the methodology and the buffer distance (of 2km) that must be applied around those areas. The proposed mapping excludes the Cairns South SDA from this methodology. However, the guideline provided does not include an exception for State Development Areas. Resource activities within these areas would have the same implications for any other area adjoining a residential area. The Cairns South SDA directly adjoins the Mount Peter Priority Development Area which is a residential greenfield area and as such should be protected to the same extent as other residential areas within the region. The location of the Cairns South SDA adjoining this long-standing greenfield area should not compromise the amenity of this residential area for future residents.</p> <p>It is requested that the PLA mapping is amended to include the required 2km buffer over the Cairns South SDA land adjacent to Mount Peter and urban zones at Gordonvale.</p>