

Planning Scheme Policy – Environmental management plans

1. Purpose of the planning scheme policy

- (1) The purpose of this planning scheme policy is to identify what is required for an Environmental management plan for development, including an Environmental management plan for proposed extractive industry.

2. Interpretation

- (1) Terms used within this planning scheme policy are defined within Schedule 1 of the CairnsPlan 2016 planning scheme. Where a term is not defined in Schedule 1, section 1.3 Interpretation of the CairnsPlan 2016 planning scheme applies.

3. Information Council may request

3.1. Environmental management plan (generally)

- (1) An Environmental management plan (EMP) seeks to provide information to assess the impacts of development on the environment are avoided or adequately mitigated and continually controlled. This can include during construction, operational and decommissioning stages of a development.
- (2) The Environmental management plan is to be prepared by a suitably qualified person.
- (3) The range of issues that may be requested to be addressed in an EMP include:
 - (a) Acid sulfate soil;
 - (b) Air quality;
 - (c) Biting insects;
 - (d) Buffer area management;
 - (e) Building/structure conservation or retention;
 - (f) Contaminated land;
 - (g) Energy efficiency and management;
 - (h) Erosion and sediment control;
 - (i) Management of activities and events, including monitoring and corrective action;
 - (j) Management of the impacts of land uses on surrounding sites;
 - (k) Natural and cultural heritage preservation/management;
 - (l) Noise control;
 - (m) Rehabilitation/landscaping;
 - (n) Rehabilitation of sites;
 - (o) Resource and waste management;
 - (p) Stormwater management;
 - (q) Vegetation management;
 - (r) Visual amenity;
 - (s) Water quality/waterway health;
 - (t) Weed control.
- (4) The essential components of an Environmental management plan are:
 - (a) Establishment of agreed performance criteria and objectives in relation to environmental and social impacts;
 - (b) Detailed prevention, minimisation and mitigation strategies (including design standards) for controlling environmental impacts at specific sites;
 - (c) Details of the proposed monitoring of the effectiveness of remedial measures against the agreed performance criteria in consultation with relevant government agencies and the community;

- (d) Details of implementation responsibilities for environmental management, including stormwater quality objectives and environmental values related to waterways;
 - (e) Timing (milestones) of environmental management initiatives;
 - (f) Reporting requirements and auditing responsibilities for meeting environmental performance objectives;
 - (g) Corrective actions to rectify any deviation from performance standards.
- (5) The type of information that may be required to be included in an Environmental management plan and a standard structure is as per the following.
- (a) Introduction:
 - (i) Description of the development proposal;
 - (ii) The need for the Environmental Management Plan in relation to the development;
 - (iii) Structure and scope.
 - (b) Aims of the Environmental Management Plan:
 - (i) As a framework for practically addressing and monitoring the significant environmental impacts of the proposal;
 - (ii) Compliance with legislative requirements and government policies;
 - (iii) Evidence that the works and operations are being conducted in an environmentally responsible manner.
 - (c) Identification of environmental issues. For each issue or environmentally impacting activity:
 - (i) Policy for addressing the issue/activity;
 - (ii) Performance criteria;
 - (iii) Implementation strategy;
 - (iv) Monitoring program;
 - (v) Details of how reporting will influence mitigation measures and how reporting is to take place.
 - (d) A Site Rehabilitation Plan prepared addressing the following matters:
 - (i) After use options, including the most likely or preferred option;
 - (ii) Conceptual design of after use infrastructure;
 - (iii) Proposed final surface contours;
 - (iv) Capping material to be used;
 - (v) Drainage system including final discharge point;
 - (vi) Provision for irrigation measures to promote vegetation growth;
 - (vii) Anticipated period of after care.

3.2. Environmental management plan (extractive industry activities)

- (1) An Environmental management plan shall be prepared to ensure that the extractive industry utilises mitigation measures that minimise any likely adverse impact on ecological and hydrological processes.
- (2) The Environmental management plan is to be prepared by a suitably qualified person.
- (3) The report should include reference to any applicable State policy contexts.
- (4) The Environmental Management Plan shall address the following matters:
 - (a) Site establishment works;
 - (b) Type and quantity of materials to be excavated per year and the time period involved;
 - (c) Limits of the area proposed to be extracted, processed and transported from the site;
 - (d) Method and staging of operations;
 - (e) Depth and extent of excavations;
 - (f) Existing contours of the land;
 - (g) Estimated depth and description of overburden;

- (h) Energy efficiency measures and ongoing management plan;
- (i) Erosion and sediment control measures during start up and for the life of the extractive industry;
- (j) Natural and cultural heritage preservation/management during start up and for the life of the extractive industry;
- (k) Noise control during start up and for the life of the extractive industry;
- (l) Air quality during start up and for the life of the extractive industry;
- (m) Vibration impacts during start up and for the life of the extractive industry;
- (n) Resource and waste management;
- (o) Stormwater management during start up and for the life of the extractive industry;
- (p) Vegetation management during start up and for the life of the extractive industry;
- (q) The capacity of the existing road system to carry the type and volume of traffic likely to use the road, during the life of the use;
- (r) The capacity of the proposed haul routes to carry the type and volume of traffic generated by the proposed use;
- (s) Landscaping Plan shall be provided that details the landscaping and buffer treatments for the life of the extractive industry. The plan must provide adequate buffering of the proposed excavation from nearby drains, waterways, roads, footpaths, buildings and other structures and buffer area management during start up and for the life of the extractive industry;
- (t) Rehabilitation to be undertaken following completion of identified stages of extraction in accordance with a Rehabilitation Management Plan which identifies:
 - (i) the final landform and levels of the rehabilitated site;
 - (ii) the location, shape and depth of any water bodies;
 - (iii) that the site will be stable and will not be subject to erosion;
 - (iv) that the site will be free of contaminants;
 - (v) that water quality downstream of the site will not be adversely affected in the future;
 - (vi) that the water quality of any water bodies on the site will be of a standard which can support fish life and other aquatic invertebrates;
 - (vii) the areas of the site to be revegetated and the species to be used in the revegetation.
- (u) That the visual amenity of the rehabilitated site is consistent with the visual amenity expected for the alternative uses;
- (v) The landform is suitable for alternative uses.

4. Guidance on meeting planning scheme outcomes

4.1. Related materials

- (1) Other documents which provide guidance on meeting purpose of the planning scheme outcomes, include:
 - (a) State Planning Policy – State interest guideline - Mining and extractive resources;
 - (b) State Planning Policy – State interest guidance material - Emissions and hazardous activities;
 - (c) Australian Standard AS1940: Storage & Handling of Flammable and Combustible Liquids.

5. Schedule of amendments

Table 5.a – Schedule of amendments

Amendment title	Version number	Description	Dates
CairnsPlan 2016 Amendment 1 of 2017 - Administrative	1.1	The amendment integrates the Cairns Local Government Infrastructure Plan and corrects formatting, numbering, outdated terms and factual matters incorrectly stated in the planning scheme.	Adopted 28 June 2017 Commenced 1 July 2017
Planning Scheme Policy – Environmental management plans Amendment 1 of 2017 - Administrative	1.2	The amendment corrects formatting and numbering to remove the Planning Scheme Policy from Schedule 6 of the CairnsPlan 2016 and includes a schedule of amendments.	Adopted 6 December 2017 Commenced 11 December 2017
Planning Scheme Policy – Environmental management plans – Amendment 1 of 2021 - Administrative	1.3	The amendment updates references in the planning scheme policy. This amendment introduces a cross-reference to the planning scheme definitions in Schedule 1 of CairnsPlan 2016.	Adopted 13 October 2021 Commenced 26 October 2021