

## **PART 3 - DESIRED ENVIRONMENTAL OUTCOMES**

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### 3.1 Introduction

This section of the Planning Scheme sets out the desired environmental outcomes which relate to the whole of the Shire. These outcomes assist in achieving ecological sustainability, which is the purpose of the *IPA*.

Desired environmental outcomes can be grouped into three broad headings based on the outcomes of ecological sustainability. These are:

- Ecological and natural systems;
- Economic development; and
- Community well being.

It is imperative to realise that there are close relationships between the desired environmental outcomes and collectively they will reinforce the Shire's unique character as well as its natural environment, economic and community well being. The desired environmental outcomes also recognise that two (2) world heritage areas are located in and adjoining the Shire.

#### 3.1.1 Ecological and natural systems

1. Air quality is protected through the collective co-location of potential air pollution sources so that they do not adversely affect adjoining land uses, buffering between conflicting land uses, consolidation of the residential, rural residential and industrial areas and design of land uses.
2. The ecological systems, environmental qualities and scenic landscape values are protected and enhanced through:
  - Retention, expansion and rehabilitation of a viable shire-wide network of habitat and corridors;
  - Management of coastal development;
  - Identifying land uses that are sympathetic to and do not adversely impact on the protection of ecological values and processes (terrestrial and aquatic).
3. Development is managed to minimise land degradation through management of the risk and avoidance of high risk areas<sup>1</sup>.
4. The quality of the waters in the Shire is maintained or enhanced through best practice management of catchment areas.

#### 3.1.2 Economic development

5. The economic base of the Shire is expanded through:
  - maintaining the predominant role of agriculture;
  - encouraging diversification and value adding to services, goods and produce;

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<sup>1</sup> 'High risk areas' include areas with one or more of the following characteristics: flooding, greater than 15% slope, acid sulphate soils, areas prone to riverine or coastal erosion.

- developing a tourism industry which has a low impact on the social and physical environment; and
  - the promotion of a hierarchy of centres for economic development, with Innisfail Business district being promoted as the regional centre for the Cassowary Coast<sup>2</sup>.
6. The natural resources (good quality agricultural land, fresh and marine waters, air, forests, extractive resources and native fauna and flora) of the shire are protected, managed sustainably and used efficiently.
  7. A quality, efficient and integrated passenger and freight transport system (cycling, walking facilities, public transport, roads, rail, port, air) is provided that supports the settlement patterns, minimises environmental impacts and meets the needs of urban and rural communities.

### **3.1.3 Maintenance of community well being**

8. Land and infrastructure requirements for community needs and services such as housing, commercial services, health care, recreational facilities and open space for residents and visitors are identified and protected from incompatible development.
9. Cost efficiencies and timely delivery of infrastructure is achieved through the Shire especially through the consolidation of existing urban, rural residential and village areas to make better use of existing physical and social infrastructure.
10. Areas of risk to public safety<sup>3</sup> are identified and managed to reduce the possible threat to the public, public infrastructure and environment.
11. The cultural resources are protected and enhanced by ensuring new or re-development in or adjacent to areas of cultural, architectural, historic or spiritual significance is sympathetic to and compatible with those values and assets.
12. The provision of an integrated public space network including parks, pedestrian and cyclist links is created to facilitate access, reduce the reliance on motor vehicles and designed to act as a deterrent to the committing of crime.
13. Innisfail central business precinct and Mission Beach and Village local business precincts are promoted as community focal points through the provision of new development or re-development that enhances the existing character and avoids the introduction of incompatible land uses.

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<sup>2</sup> The "cassowary coast" includes the Cardwell and Johnstone Shires and Cairns City from Gordonvale south.

<sup>3</sup> 'Areas of risk to public safety' include areas with one or more of the following characteristics: subject to flooding, greater than 15% slope, acid sulphate soils, storm surge, bushfires, contamination, riverine and coastal erosion or areas that promote the opportunity to commit crime.