Map 9: FNQ Regional activity centres

Policy map

Regional activity centres network
- Principal regional activity centre
- Major regional activity centre
- District regional activity centre
- Village activity centre
- Rural activity centre

Legend:
- Urban Footprint
- Rural Living Area
- Regional Landscape and Rural Production Area

This map is not intended for reference to specific parcels of land and is to be treated as indicative only. The map should also be used in conjunction with the copyright information on the inside cover of the publication.
Map 10: FNQ Mount Peter declared Master Planned Area

Information only

Mount Peter
Master Planned Area
Urban Footprint
Rural Living Area
Regional Landscape and
Rural Production Area
Digital Cadastral Database
(DCDB) August 2008
Conservation Estate
Highway

This map is not intended for reference to specific parcels of land and is to be treated as indicative only. The map should also be used in conjunction with the copyright information on the inside cover of the publication.
Map 11: FNQ Regional economic activity

Information only

This map is not intended for reference to specific parcels of land and is to be treated as indicative only. The map should also be used in conjunction with the expert advice information on the inside cover of the publication.
Map 13: FNQ Infrastructure

Information only

Hospital

Water, sewerage and waste infrastructure
- Waste disposal facility
- Sewage treatment plant
- Water treatment plant

Power stations
- Wind farm
- Hydro power station

Electricity transmission
- Existing 132kV transmission line
- Existing 275kV transmission line
- Existing 275/132kV transmission line
- 275/132kV transmission line replacement under construction
- Proposed future 275/132kV transmission line replacement

This map is not intended for reference to specific parcels of land and is to be treated as indicative only.

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Policy map

Map 18: FNQ cycle network

This map is not intended for reference to specific parcels of land and is to be treated as indicative only. The map should also be used in conjunction with the copyright information on the inside cover of the publication.
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Abbreviations

AMCORD . . . . Australian Model Code for Residential Development
ATSIP . . . . . . . Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy
CBD . . . . . . . Central Business District
CPA . . . . . . . Cairns Port Authority
CPTED . . . . . . . Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design
CRC . . . . . . . Cooperative Research Centres Program
DCILGPS . . . . . . Department of Communities and Information, Local Government, Planning and Sport
DIP . . . . . . . Department of Infrastructure and Planning
DME . . . . . . . Department of Mines and Energy
DMR . . . . . . . Department of Main Roads
DOGIT . . . . . . . Deed of Grant in Trust
DPI . . . . . . . Department of Primary Industries
DPI&F . . . . . . . Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries
DRO . . . . . . . Desired regional outcome
EPA . . . . . . . Environmental Protection Agency
EPBC . . . . . . . Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act, 1999
EPP . . . . . . . Environmental Protection Policy 1997
FEV . . . . . . . Fuel efficient vehicle
FNQ . . . . . . . Far North Queensland
FNQCC . . . . . . . FNQ Regional Coordination Committee
FNQROC . . . . . . . FNQ Regional Organisation of Councils
FNQ2010 . . . . Far North Queensland Regional Plan 2000
GBR . . . . . . . Great Barrier Reef
HEV . . . . . . . High ecological value
ICT . . . . . . . Information Communication Technology
IDAS . . . . . . . Integrated Development Assessment System
ILUA . . . . . . . Indigenous Land Use Agreement
IPA . . . . . . . Integrated Planning Act 1997
JCU . . . . . . . James Cook University
KRA . . . . . . . Key Resource Area
LGA . . . . . . . Local Government Area
MPA . . . . . . . Master Planned Area
NRM . . . . . . . Natural resource management
NRW . . . . . . . Department of Natural Resources and Water
RLA . . . . . . . Rural living area
RLRPA . . . . . . . Regional landscape and rural production area
SEQ . . . . . . . South East Queensland
SCLUTS . . . . . . . Southern Cairns Integrated Land Use and Transport Study
SPP . . . . . . . State Planning Policy
TAFE . . . . . . . Technical And Further Education
TOC . . . . . . . Transit Oriented Community
UF . . . . . . . Urban footprint
WQO . . . . . . . Water quality objectives
WTWHA . . . . . . . Wet Tropics World Heritage Area
WTMA . . . . . . . Wet Tropics Management Authority
Agriculture: production of food, fibre and timber, including grazing, cropping, horticulture and forestry.

Aligned strategies: strategies designed to achieve the desired regional outcomes through planning mechanisms that are not directly land use focused. Aligned strategies may include natural resource management plans, tourism and economic strategies, health delivery models, etc.

Assessable development: development specified in schedule 8, part 1 of the Integrated Planning Act 1997, or for a planning scheme area, development that is declared under the local planning scheme to be assessable development.

Biodiversity: the variety of all life forms including the different plants, animals and micro-organisms, the genes they contain and the ecosystems of which they form a part.

Bioregion: the primary level of land classification in Queensland based on regional geology and climate, as well as major biota.

Broadhectare study: a study assessing future land supply by measuring available land stocks against growth trends.

Brownfield: areas of land previously used for industrial or other purposes available to be redeveloped for alternative purposes.

Buffer zone: an area adjacent to a waterway or wetland in which development, other than for required community infrastructure, does not occur in order to sustain and manage water quality of that waterway or wetland. Buffer zones do not occur within waterway envelopes.

Cadastre: public register of spatially represented separate properties.

Climate change: a change of climate attributed directly or indirectly to human activity which alters the composition of the global atmosphere, and is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods.

Concurrence agency: an entity prescribed under the Integrated Planning Act 1997 as a referral agency with concurrence powers for a development application made under the Integrated Development Assessment System.

Conservation: the protection and maintenance of nature while allowing for its ecologically sustainable use.

Contaminant: has the meaning under s11 of the Environmental Protection Act 1994. Schedule 8 of the Environmental Protection Regulation 2008 lists prescribed water contaminants.

Critical habitat: habitat essential for the conservation of a protected wildlife population, or community of native wildlife, regardless of whether special management considerations and protection are required.

Cultural heritage: a place or object with aesthetic, architectural, historical, scientific, social or technological significance to present, past or future generations.

Cultural resource: place or object with anthropological, archaeological, historical, scientific, spiritual, visual or sociological significance or value, including such significance or value under Aboriginal tradition or Torres Strait Island custom.

Deed of Grant in Trust (DOGIT): a type of land tenure issued under the Land Act 1994 that is non-freehold and granted for a particular purpose, commonly for Aboriginal communities where the Aboriginal Shire Council is the trustee.

Desired regional outcome (DRO): regional policies set out the desired regional outcomes, principles and policies to address growth management in a region. The policies guide state and local government planning processes and decision making. Local government planning schemes must be consistent with the intent of the desired regional outcomes, objectives and policies.

Development: building, plumbing or drainage, or operational work, lot reconfiguring, or material change of use of premises.


Dwelling yield: the number of dwellings or lots per hectare.

Ecological sustainability: A balance that integrates protection of ecological processes and natural systems at local, regional, state and wider levels; economic development; and maintenance of the cultural, economic, physical and social wellbeing of people and communities.

Ecosystem: a community of organisms interacting with one another and the environment they live in.

Ecosystem services: services provided by the natural environment essential for human survival.

Ecotourism: nature-based tourism that involves education and interpretation of the natural environment and is managed to be ecologically sustainable.

Environmental offset: an action taken to counterbalance unavoidable, negative environmental impacts that result from an activity or development. An offset may be located within or outside the geographic site of the impact. Environmental offsets are only applicable when the impacts cannot be avoided or minimised, and if all other Government environmental standards have been met (Queensland Government Environmental Offsets Policy July 2008).

Environmental values: (a) a quality or physical characteristic of the environment that is conducive to ecological health or public amenity or safety; or (b) another quality of the environment identified and declared to be an environmental value under an environmental protection policy or regulation.

Existing urban area: area currently developed for urban purposes, area with current approvals to be developed for urban purposes or area identified to be developed for urban purposes in currently approved planning instruments.
FNQ region: The five local government areas within the FNQ region—the regional councils of Cairns, Tablelands and Cassowary Coast, and the Aboriginal Councils of Yarrabah and Wujal Wujal—and the waters adjacent to these areas (see map 2).


Freight Efficient Vehicle (FEV): a motor vehicle with trailers that is capable of moving freight efficiently. Typically this involves exceeding the usual size limits for Queensland roads in order to increase the payload. For example, a 53.5m road train.

Good quality agricultural land: land which is suitable for growing four or more crops sustainably as determined by land suitability survey that matches crop needs to soil landscape and climate characteristics (i.e. soil landscape suitability classes 1–3 for four or more crops).

Greenfield: areas of undeveloped land in the urban footprint areas suitable for urban development.

Greywater: wastewater from showers, laundry, and kitchen sinks, excluding toilet waste.

High Ecological values (HEV): Systems that are effectively unmodified or other highly valued systems. EPA has identified these areas as part of the ongoing roll out of Schedule 1 of the Environmental Protection (Water) Policy. The maps are available by contacting the EPA.

Implementation action: action which serves to implement part or parts of the FNQ Regional Plan.

Indigenous cultural heritage: landscapes, places objects and intangible aspects such as language, song, stories and art that hold significance to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA): voluntary agreement between a native title group and others about the use and management of land and waters.

Infill development: new development that occurs within established urban areas where the site or area is either vacant or has previously been used for another urban purpose. The scale of development can range from the creation of one additional residential lot to a major mixed-use redevelopment.

Integrated Development Assessment System (IDAS): the system through which development applications are assessed by the relevant assessment manager. Established under Chapter 3 of the Integrated Planning Act 1997.

Inter-urban breaks: non-urban land areas that separate or surround urban villages, towns and metropolitan areas.

Intergenerational equity: the present generation’s responsibility to ensure the health, diversity and productivity of the environment are maintained or enhanced for the benefit of future generations.

Intra-urban breaks: non-urban land areas or green space within urban footprint areas which separate suburbs or groups of suburbs.

Key performance indicator: broad measure of sustainability used to monitor the progress of the implementation of the regional plan.

Key Resource Areas (KRA): locations across Queensland that have been found to contain important extractive materials such as sand, gravel and rock resource of State or regional significance which has been included in the State Planning Policy: Protection of Extractive Resources (SPP) and it will be included in the local government planning scheme when the planning scheme is made or amended. KRAs have three parts to them:

1. The resource/processing area covers the site where the sand or rock resource occurs and where a processing plant is or could be located.
2. The land around the resource/processing area, which is called a separation area.
3. A transport route, which is used to transport the raw quarry products from where they have been extracted out to a rail link or the nearest and most suitable State controlled road. This transport route also has a separation area.

Land use policies: policies with a land use planning focus which can be delivered through a range of IPA planning tools (e.g. planning schemes, priority infrastructure plans, the Integrated Development Assessment System).

Land use study: study establishing a land use pattern and identifying land use categories.

Landholder: landowner, land manager, person or group of people with an interest in the planning area through special lease, mining claim, occupational licence, occupation permit, exploration permit, stock grazing permit, pastoral holding, permit to occupy, and trustees of land set aside for public purposes.

Landscape character: distinct pattern or combination of landscape elements that occurs consistently in parts of the landscape and often conveys a characteristic sense of place.

Local activity centre: a neighbourhood or other local centre identified in the local government planning scheme but not necessarily in the regional plan.

Major Transport Corridor: a corridor that either provides a regionally significant function or carries high levels of people and freight regularly. For example, access roads to ports and key resource areas, railway lines, roads that will carry in excess of 15 000 vehicles per day in the foreseeable future and rapid transit corridors.

Master Planned Area: has the meaning under IPA.

Master planning: an integrated planning process used to identify the preferred future spatial structure and land use planning intent of an area. The term is sometimes used by developers, but has particular meaning in relation to declared Master Planned Areas under IPA.
Mixed use development: development within a blend of retail, commercial, government, community, cultural, education, health, sport and recreation, entertainment and other leisure activities within or in close proximity to medium or high density residential development.

Mode share: mode share, or mode split, is a traffic / transport term which describes the percentage of travellers using a particular type of transportation. Transport modes include private motor car, freight vehicles, public transport, cycling and rail.

Mount Peter: The area between Edmonton and Gordonvale, generally west of the Bruce Highway, but also including the area immediately to the east of Edmonton, identified to accommodate significant new growth for Cairns and the region (part of the southern growth corridor extending from Woree to Gordonvale). Mount Peter has been declared a Master Planned Area under IPA.

Natural resources: soil, vegetation, plants, animals, minerals, air and water that are utilised for economic benefit or community wellbeing.

Nature-based tourist attraction: a tourist attraction established to provide managed visitor access for the purpose of promoting an understanding of ecological values of the locality.

Net residential density: measure of housing density expressed as dwellings or lots per hectare, calculated by adding the area of residential lots and the area of local roads and parks, and then dividing by the number of dwellings or residential lots created.

No net loss: habitat losses are offset into areas with equal or higher biodiversity values.

Overriding public interest: applies where the long-term social benefits of any modification outweigh the loss of natural wetland benefits, and no other site is available. Determining the existence of ‘overriding public interest’ is best achieved through a land-use planning framework and an appropriate impact assessment process.

Passive outdoor recreation: the use of land for outdoor recreation but excluding motorised activities, organised racing (e.g. for cars, motor cycles, horses, dogs), showground, theme park, pony club, and commercial sports ground.

Pattern of development: urban settlement pattern to accommodate growth. Pest species: plant and animal species that have established in areas outside their naturally occurring distributions.

Planning Minister: Minister administering section 2.5A of the Integrated Planning Act 1997. Regional target: particular aim or goal to be achieved by a particular time.


Population density: number of persons per square kilometre.

Population projection: population prediction that is the most likely outcome over the 20 year timeframe of the plan.

Potable water: water suitable for human consumption.

Precautionary principle: where there are threats of serious or irreversible environmental damage, lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing measures to prevent environmental degradation.

Preferred pattern of development: preferred urban settlement pattern to accommodate growth.

Protected area: protected areas including national parks, conservation parks, resources reserves, nature refuges, coordinated conservation areas, wilderness areas, World Heritage management areas and international agreement areas.

Protected wildlife: presumed extinct, endangered, vulnerable, rare or common wildlife.

Regional activity centre: a centre or proposed centre identified in the FNQ regional activity centre network. These centres support a concentration of activity, including higher density living, business, employment, research, education and services.

Regional Coordination Committee: committee established by the Planning Minister under section 2.5A.3 of the Integrated Planning Act 1997 to advise the Queensland Government on the development and implementation of the regional plan.

Regional ecosystem: vegetation communities consistently associated with a particular combination of geology, landform and soil.

Regional issue: an issue with regional significance.

Regional landscape and rural production area: the greatest area of land in FNQ. It includes land with one or more of the following values:

• areas of high ecological significance
• regional ecosystems that are endangered or of concern
• Wet Tropics World Heritage area and protected area tenures
• cassowary, mahogany glider and other rare and endangered species
• coastal beaches and wetlands
• good quality agricultural land and strategically important agricultural land
• natural economic resources including extractive resources, native forests and forestry plantations
• water catchment and groundwater areas
• outdoor recreation areas and open space
• land forming strategic and regionally significant inter-urban breaks.

Regional plan: the Far North Queensland Regional Plan 2009-2031, developed in accordance with section 2.5A of the Integrated Planning Act 1997.
Regional Planning Advisory Committee: committee established by the Planning Minister under section 2.5.2 of the Integrated Planning Act 1997 to advise the Queensland Government on the development and implementation of the regional plan.

Regional plan policy: set out the desired regional outcomes, objectives and policies to address regional management in FNQ. The policies guide state and local government planning processes and decision making. Local government planning schemes must be consistent with the intent of the desired regional outcomes, principles and policies.

Regulatory provisions: see FNQ Regulatory Provisions.

Regulatory maps: set of maps referred to in schedule 1 of the FNQ Regulatory Provisions, identifying land categories defined under division 1 of the regulatory provisions.


Rural living area (RLA): locations currently designated for rural residential development in local government planning schemes where further rural residential development is permitted under the regional plan.

Required community infrastructure: necessary community services (such as telecommunications, power, and water supply) and desirable community infrastructure (such as bridges, pathways and cycle-ways) that are required by state or local government planning instruments for new urban developments and cannot be feasibly located outside the buffer zone or waterway envelope.

Residential development: development for a residential purpose at a scale greater than a single dwelling on an existing lot and includes rural residential development, relocatable home park, retirement village and a private residence. It does not include short-term accommodation.

Riparian: banks of land adjacent to a waterway or wetland which contribute to its ecological balance, preservation and continuation.

Rural lifestyle: land that is zoned rural in a local government planning scheme but has a lot size of 0.25−5 hectares and has the potential to be used a lifestyle block.

Rural precinct: land designated by the Planning Minister as a rural precinct.

Rural residential: land that is zoned for a rural residential purpose in a local government planning scheme.

Rural residential purposes: residential purposes involving single dwellings on lots greater than 2500 square metres.

Rural village: location named in accordance with the Place Names Act 1994 that comprises residential dwellings, some urban activity and is not located within an urban footprint area.

Scenic amenity: landforms and seascapes creating the region’s visual imagery including (but not limited to) mountain ranges, coastal escarpments, beaches, rivers, valleys, agricultural land, creeks, rainforests, wetlands, estuaries and islands.

Self-containment: the proportion of local employed workforce that actually work within the same area. This does not include workers from outside the local area or people from the local area who work elsewhere. A community with an even jobs-residents balance is generally considered to be self-contained and self-reliant.

Self-sufficiency: the proportion of the local employed workforce that could potentially find employment within the local area. This is the numerical balance between the number of jobs and the number of people in a geographically defined community. It does not consider where people actually do work.

Sensitive land uses: residential areas, health, education and childcare facilities and areas of high ecological significance.

Settlement pattern: spatial distribution of urban and rural land use, employment, population, centres and infrastructure.


Southern growth corridor: The area from Woree to Edmonton to Gordonvale, west of the highway, was identified in the previous regional plan as being the preferred area for growth. The area from Woree to Edmonton is now largely developed.

Structure plan: has the meaning under IPA.

Tourist activity: an activity that is reliant on the tourist trade. It includes short-term accommodation and incidental commercial and retail activity.

Tourist attraction: a natural or man-made feature that is the primary focus of a tourist activity and may include a walking track, board walk, cable car, waterfall or water feature. It does not include associated short-term accommodation, commercial or retail activity.

Tourist development: a generic term used to describe development for the purpose of providing for tourist activities and includes tourist attractions.

Traditional owners: Aboriginal people particularly concerned with land if they are members of a group that has a particular connection with land under Aboriginal tradition.

Transit: public transport, for example, bus, rail or ferry services.

Transit oriented communities: mixed use residential and commercial areas, designed to maximise the efficient use of land through high levels of access to public transport.
Universal housing: residential dwellings with design and structural capability to accommodate changes needed for people with different abilities.

Urban activity: residential development, industrial, retail, commercial, sporting, recreation or community purpose, normally found in a city or town.

Urban development: a general term including residential, industrial, retail, commercial, sporting, indoor recreation, short term accommodation, community activities and a range of other urban land uses. It does not include rural land uses such as agriculture and horticulture.

Urban footprint: land predominately allocated to provide for the region’s urban development needs to 2031. The area includes land to accommodate the full range of normal urban uses, such as housing, industry, business, infrastructure, community facilities, recreation and urban open spaces. It may also include some rural residential areas next to urban areas and well located near urban services and facilities. The areas may also contain constrained land, such as wetlands, floodplains, steep hill slopes or areas of high ecological significance.

Urban purposes: purposes for which land is used in cities or towns, including residential, industrial, sporting, recreation and commercial purposes, but not including environmental, conservation, rural, natural or wilderness area purposes.

Vision: the community’s long-term aspirations for the region.

Water quality objectives (WQOs): are the numerical concentration limits, mass or volume limits per unit of time or narrative statements of indicators established for waters to enhance or protect the environmental values for those waters. WQOs may be long term goals for water quality management, depending on the existing condition. WQOs are defined in Schedule 1 of the EPP Water 1997 for some catchments and the Queensland Water Quality Guidelines 2006 defines WQOs for those areas not in Schedule 1 of the EPP Water 1997.

Water resource plan: plan approved under section 50(2) of the Water Act 2000.

Waste water: means a liquid waste, and includes contaminated stormwater.

Waterway: a natural drainage feature along which surface water flows, including the tidal and non-tidal reaches of rivers, creeks and streams, and excluding minor drainage features such as gullies and spoon-drains. A waterway would be a feature that is assessed using a stream ordering classification system as being order 1 or larger.

Waterway envelope: a mapped area that encompasses the waterway and strips of land adjoining each waterway bank for the purposes of this policy. Maps of waterway envelopes for the FNQ Regional Plan area will be prepared by NRW for Master Plan Areas and for planning schemes when a scheme is made or reviewed.

Wetland: areas of permanent or periodic/intermittent inundation, whether natural or artificial, with water that is static or flowing, fresh, brackish or salt, including areas of marine water the depth of which at low tide does not exceed 6m. For the purposes of the regional plan, wetlands do not include waterways as defined above.

Wildlife corridor: corridors of vegetation linking areas and allowing wildlife movement throughout habitats.

World Heritage area: sites of outstanding universal natural or cultural significance included on the World Heritage List.

Zoned land: land allocated or identified as a zone, domain or area in a planning scheme, including a strategic plan in a transitional planning scheme.
This FNQ Regional Plan is the result of contributions from a wide range of government and stakeholder groups and the community, in particular those who made written submissions on the draft Regional Plan and attending community forums. Members of the technical working group, advisory panels and FNQ Regional Organisation of Councils have contributed significant time and resources to the planning process. The planning team members have also put in a tremendous effort, which is greatly appreciated.

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- Members of the FNQ Regional Coordination Committee
- Members of the FNQ Technical Working Group
- Members of sectoral Advisory Panels
- Coordinator, planning staff and councillors representing FNQ Regional Organisation of Councils
- FNQ State Agency Champions Network
- FNQ Regional Managers Coordination Network
- Regional stakeholder groups
- Local government
- State government
- Commonwealth government
- Staff from the Department of Infrastructure and Planning

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  - The Hon. Warren Pitt—Minister for Main Roads and Local Government and Member for Mulgrave
  - Mr Stephen Wettenhall—Member for Barron River
  - Mr Jason O’Brien—Member for Cook
  - Cr Tom Gilmore—Mayor of Tablelands Regional Council
  - Cr Val Schier—Mayor of Cairns Regional Council
  - Cr Bill Shannon—Mayor of Cassowary Coast Regional Council
  - Cr Percy Neal—Mayor of Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council
  - Cr Desmond Tayley—Mayor of Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council
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  - Dr Allan Dale—Terrain NRM
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  - Mr Keith Noble—FNQ Agricultural Group
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  - Mr Mark Buttrose—Save our Hill slopes
  - Mr Robert Blanckensee—FNQ Area Consultative Committee
  - Mr Russell Butler—Rainforest Aboriginal Advisory Committee

- Queensland Government departments:
  - Department of Environment, Water and the Arts
  - Department of Main Roads
  - Department of Mines and Energy
  - Department of Natural Resources and Water
  - Department of the Premier and Cabinet
  - Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries
  - Department of Public Works, Housing and Information and Communication Technology
  - Department of Trade, Employment and Industrial Relations
  - Department of Tourism, Regional Development and Industry
  - Environmental Protection Authority
  - Queensland Health
  - Queensland Police Service
  - Queensland Transport
  - Queensland Treasury

- Local government:
  - Cairns Regional Council
  - Tablelands Regional Council
  - Cassowary Coast Regional Council
  - Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council
  - Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council

- Commonwealth departments:
  - Department of Environment, Water and the Arts
  - Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
  - Wet Tropics Management Authority

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