

Preliminary planning principles

Having regard to the findings from the Planning Scheme Review and Council's adopted policy positions and strategies, the following preliminary planning principles have been identified for a new planning scheme:

- Retain strong and clearly defined growth management boundaries.
- Promote a compact, transit-supportive and sustainable pattern of settlement.
- Provide for vibrant, compact centres as a focus for economic and social activity and protection of the Sunshine Coast activity centre network.
- Encourage economic diversification and leverage investments in key infrastructure and region shaping projects.
- Maintain a strong position on building height as a key feature distinguishing the Sunshine Coast from other metropolitan regions in SEQ.
- Promote Sunshine Coast Design principles.
- Prioritise high quality urban landscaping, deep planting and walkable, leafy streets.
- Increase focus on the design of multi-unit residential and mixed use development.
- Recognise the distinct character and identity of individual communities.
- Maintain a focus on local planning (i.e. retention of local plans as a key concept and building block for the planning scheme).
- Protect biodiversity, landscape character and scenic amenity.
- Protect the ongoing viability of natural economic resources (e.g. agricultural land, forestry, fisheries and extractive resources).
- Encourage appropriate value adding rural enterprises.
- Avoid constrained or high hazard areas and improve resilience in existing areas.
- Adapt to a changing climate.

As part of preliminary community consultation for a new planning scheme, it is intended that community feedback will be sought to confirm the planning principles/strategic directions for the new planning scheme.

Ultimately, these planning principles/strategic directions would be reflected in the Strategic Framework (or strategic plan) of the new planning scheme. The Strategic Framework sets the policy direction for the planning scheme area and forms the basis for ensuring appropriate development occurs within the area. Having regard to these principles and Council's vision for the Sunshine Coast, the following potential themes for the Strategic Framework have been identified at this early stage:

- Shaping sustainable growth
- A smart economy
- A healthy and resilient region
- A creative community of communities and
- Connected people and places