

## **1.0 ROCKHAMPTON CITY PLAN**

### **1.1 INTRODUCTION TO THE ROCKHAMPTON CITY PLAN**

This chapter outlines the following:

- Purpose of the planning scheme – Rockhampton City Plan;
- Relationship with the Integrated Planning Act (IPA) and achieving ecological sustainability; and
- Structure and content of City Plan.

### **1.2 PURPOSE OF THE PLANNING SCHEME – ROCKHAMPTON CITY PLAN**

The planning scheme (City Plan) is a local government tool that will direct how the City should grow and change in the future. To this end, the City Plan sets out where different uses are to locate and what form they are to take, so that the community and investors can be confident about development and land use in the City, in the future.

### **1.3 RELATIONSHIP WITH THE INTEGRATED PLANNING ACT 1997 AND ACHIEVING ECOLOGICAL SUSTAINABILITY**

The Rockhampton City Plan is a planning scheme prepared under the *Integrated Planning Act 1997*, (IPA). The Integrated Planning Act contains a range of requirements for the structure and content of planning schemes. The major content requirement of the Act is that all planning schemes must advance the purpose of the Act, which is to seek to achieve ecological sustainability.

Ecological sustainability is defined as a balance between the following three elements:

- 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.

The City Plan seeks to achieve a balance between the above three elements through coordination and integration of the core matters of land-use and development, infrastructure, and valuable features while ensuring that State and regional interests are also integrated.

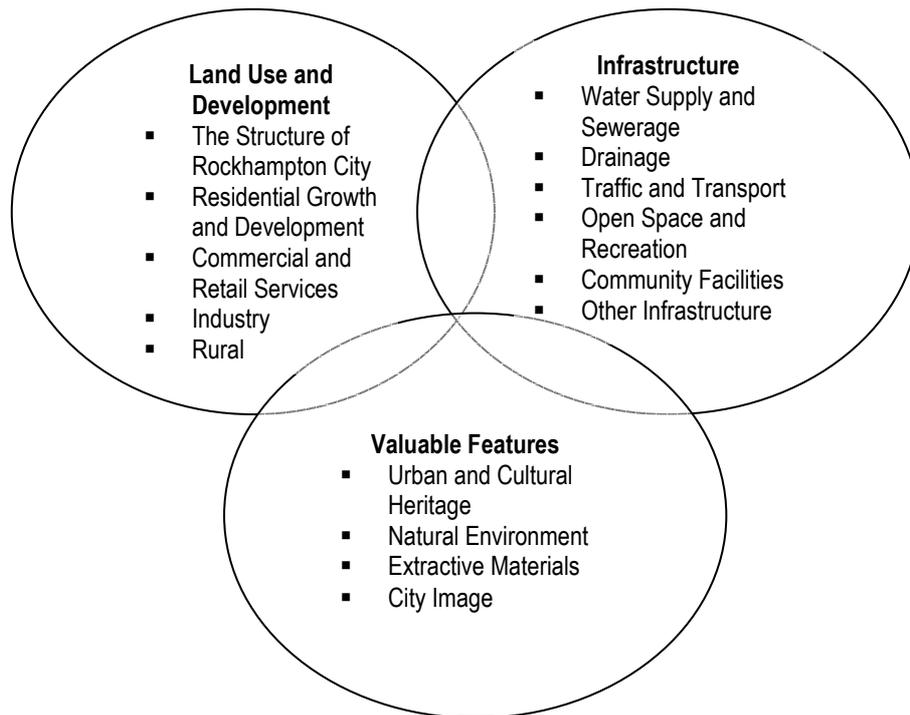
The core matters addressed by the City Plan are set out in the following diagram.



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The City Plan advances ecological sustainability by providing an integrated and coordinated 'blueprint' for the core matters. The City Plan specifically addresses all of the elements in the core matters in a balanced way so that ecological sustainability is advanced in Rockhampton.

## **1.4 STRUCTURE AND CONTENT OF CITY PLAN**

The City Plan contains the following five key components:

- 1) The Strategic Framework;
- 2) Planning Areas;
- 3) Assessment Processes;
- 4) Codes; and
- 5) Planning Scheme Policies.

### **1.4.1 The Strategic Framework**

This chapter (Chapter 2) outlines the broad directions in relation to growth and development for Rockhampton City. It expresses City wide policy for a range of planning issues, including the city wide vision expressed in Council's corporate plan. The Strategic Framework includes Desired Environmental Outcomes (DEO'S), which are required by the Integrated Planning Act. 'Strategies Supporting the Desired Environmental Outcome' are the detailed directions that relate to achieving the DEO'S and the 'Background' section provides understanding and rationale to the directions outlined in the document.



### **1.4.2 Assessment Processes**

This chapter (Chapter 3) outlines all relevant information regarding the development assessment process, including what land and what development is regulated by this planning scheme; a description of the level of assessment tables and how they work, including how development is categorised; what constitutes development; what type of application is required; how development will be assessed by Council; and lastly, how uses are defined in this planning scheme.

### **1.4.3 City Plan Areas**

This chapter (Chapter 4) outlines how the City is divided into various land use Areas and Precincts, which are described in Chapter 4. These Areas and Precincts have two major functions:

- They express the intended pattern of development within Rockhampton City, which will assist in achieving the Desired Environmental Outcomes; and
- They provide the basis for regulating development in the City.

Accordingly, Chapter 4 clearly sets out the intentions for each land use Area in the City, including any Precincts within those Areas, and the level of assessment that will be required for different forms of development within them. The Areas and Precincts are based on the zones in the 1986 Town Plan, the 1997 Strategic Plan, and the different characteristics of various locations within the City.

The specific intentions for each land use Area have been formulated to be consistent with, and to give effect to, the Strategic Framework (Chapter 2). Conflicts or inconsistencies between Chapter 4 and Chapter 2 are not expected to arise but, if they do, the proper interpretation and application of the City Plan as a whole is that, to the extent of the inconsistency, specific provisions in Chapter 4:

- prevail over any contrary provision or indication in Chapter 2; and
- must not be read down, reduced in weight or disregarded by reference only to contrary, or arguably contrary, strategic statements in Chapter 2.

Each Area includes maps that delineate the boundaries of the Area and any Precincts within the Area. Amongst other things, they also highlight particular qualities of the local environment, including flood prone land, public open space and major roads. Also included in this section is a Map Explanation section, which makes reference to the seven (7) citywide maps contained within the Planning Scheme.

### **1.4.4 Codes**

This chapter (Chapter 5) outlines the range of Codes applicable to development, and describes how they are structured, interpreted and applied. Some are general Codes, while others apply to particular land uses or particular locations within the City. The Codes outline the standards of development applicable, by detailing performance criteria and (in most instances) providing



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acceptable solutions to satisfy the performance criteria specified. This chapter also details how the codes should be interpreted in relation to all self, code and impact assessable development.

**1.4.5 Planning Scheme Policies**

This chapter (Chapter 6) outlines a number of Planning Scheme Policies applicable to development in Rockhampton. A Planning Scheme Policy is an instrument that supports the local dimensions of a planning scheme and is made by a local government. While a Planning Scheme Policy does not regulate development, or the use of premises, it is a useful tool in providing additional information and material on an issue or providing guidance to assist in the submission of development proposals.

