



Delivery of regional plan outcomes through development assessment – Guidance for local governments

A guide for local government to assist with the assessment of development applications within a Regional Plan

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1.0 About this guidance

This guidance material has been prepared to assist local government in the assessment of development applications within each regional plan area.

Specific guidance for the North Queensland Regional Plan (NQ Regional Plan) is also contained in the **North Queensland Regional Plan: Development assessment in action** document.

There are several ways in which the planning framework directly enables or requires the consideration of the regional plans in the development assessment process (in addition to the local government planning scheme provisions).

These are described below and include:

- **decision making rules** in the Planning Regulation 2017 (Planning Regulation) that require the assessment manager to consider the applicable regional plan
- **assessment benchmarks** in regional plans
- **regulatory provisions** in the Planning Regulation for the South East Queensland Regional Plan (*ShapingSEQ*).

2.0 Assessment manager's decision rules

Under section 8(4) of the *Planning Act 2016* (Planning Act), when assessing an application, the relevant regional plan will apply to the extent of any inconsistency with a local planning instrument such as a planning scheme.

Assessment manager

The decision-making rules relevant for a **local government assessment manager** then apply this approach. These rules are contained in sections 26, 27, 30 and 31 of the Planning Regulation.

Code assessment is carried out:

- against the assessment benchmarks stated in the regional plan for a region, to extent the regional plan is not identified in the planning scheme as being appropriately integrated in the planning scheme
- having regard to the regional plan for a region, to extent the regional plan is not identified in the planning scheme as being appropriately integrated in the planning scheme.

Impact assessment is carried out:

- against the assessment benchmarks stated in the regional plan for a region
- having regard to the regional plan for a region.

Similarly, an assessment manager must consider the regional plan for a region when assessing a variation request.

Referral agency

Under section 22 of the Planning Regulation, a **referral agency** for a development application must assess the application having regard to:

- if the referral agency is the chief executive: the strategic intent and desired regional outcomes stated in the regional plan for a region
- if the referral agency is a person other than the chief executive: the regional plan for a region, to the extent the regional plan is not identified in the planning scheme as being appropriately integrated in the planning scheme.

3.0 Assessment benchmarks

As described in the decision rules above, the **assessment benchmarks stated in a regional plan** are specific matters against which assessment may be required.

In effect this means an assessment manager must:

- until such time as the local government's planning scheme integrates the provisions of the regional plan, carry out an assessment against the assessment benchmarks of the regional plan and have regard to the regional plan, when assessing a code assessable development application
- always carry out an assessment against the assessment benchmarks of the regional plan and have regard to the regional plan, when assessing an impact assessable development application.

Currently, only the North Queensland Regional Plan contains assessment benchmarks.

North Queensland Regional Plan

The assessment benchmarks of the **North Queensland Regional Plan (NQ Regional Plan)** relate to the assessment of development within Priority Agricultural Areas (PAAs).

The assessment benchmarks apply within the PAA identified in Map 1 of the **NQ Regional Plan** where development is for:

- reconfiguring a lot, where a new lot is created, or
- a material change of use for a non-agricultural purpose (excluding public infrastructure development).

The assessment benchmarks in Table 5 (p120) of the NQ Regional Plan are:

- *Development does not result in, or contribute to, a net loss to overall agricultural productivity within the PAA.*
- *Development does not result in widespread or irreversible impacts to the future use of a PAA for agricultural activities.*

4.0 Regulatory provisions for the South East Queensland Regional Plan (*ShapingSEQ*)

Under schedule 10, part 16 of the Planning Regulation, regulatory provisions apply to certain development on land identified within the South East Queensland Regional Plan (*ShapingSEQ*) as:

- SEQ regional landscape and rural production area (RLRPA)
- SEQ rural living area (RLA)
- SEQ development area.

The intent and scope of the provisions is summarised in the **ShapingSEQ: SEQ regulatory provision guideline**.

The effect of the provisions in development assessment is described below.

Deciding whether development is consistent with the future planning intent

Under section 41 of the Planning Regulation in certain circumstances some development that is completely or partly in an SEQ development area are assessable development and the referral agency decision is to include whether or not the development is consistent with the future planning intent for the area in which the premises are located.

The assessment process contains two circumstances:

Circumstance 1 – Where the planning scheme applying to the premises, or a major amendment of the planning scheme, is made after the gazette notice identifying the SEQ development area is published and the planning scheme or amendment includes a land use and infrastructure plan for the SEQ development area.

The referral agency may decide the development is consistent with the future planning intent for the area only if the development is consistent with the land use and infrastructure plan.

Circumstance 2 – Where not meeting the criteria of circumstance 1

The referral agency may decide the development is consistent with the future planning intent for the area only if the development meets all the following criteria:

1. Is consistent with the goals, elements and strategies stated in *ShapingSEQ*.
2. Does not compromise the intent for the area stated in *ShapingSEQ* the gazette notice for the SEQ development area.
3. Does not adversely affect the delivery and orderly sequencing of infrastructure for the SEQ development area or land adjacent to the SEQ development area.
4. Is compatible with the use of other premises in the surrounding area.
5. Avoids an area that involves a risk of serious harm to persons or property from natural events or processes, including, for example, bush fires, coastal erosion, flooding or landslides, or, if the area can not be avoided, minimises the risk.

Deciding whether development is required to be outside the SEQ urban footprint

Under section 41A of the Planning Regulation, in certain circumstances a referral agency is to decide whether or not the locational requirements or environmental impacts of development require it to be outside the SEQ urban footprint.

The referral agency may decide the locational requirements or environmental impacts of the development require it to be outside the SEQ urban footprint only if the premises have particular characteristics that are necessary for the carrying out of the development and the development could not reasonably be located on premises in the SEQ urban footprint that have the particular characteristics.

Deciding whether there is an overriding need in the public interest for development

Under section 41B of the Planning Regulation, in certain circumstances a referral agency is to decide whether or not there is an overriding need, in the public interest, for development to be carried out.

The referral agency may decide there is an overriding need, in the public interest, for the development to be carried out only if the development application demonstrates all of the following:

1. The development will have a social, economic or environmental benefit for the community that outweighs:
 - a. any adverse impact of the development on a matter or thing stated in *ShapingSEQ*, table 11b; and
 - b. the desirability of achieving the goals, elements and strategies stated in *ShapingSEQ*, particularly the goals, elements and strategies about consolidating urban development in the SEQ urban footprint preventing land fragmentation in the SEQ regional landscape and rural production area.
2. There will be a significant adverse economic, social or environmental impact on the community if the development is not carried out.

Development in the SEQ regional landscape and rural production area and SEQ rural living area

The Planning Regulation also contains regulatory provisions for the SEQ regional landscape and rural production area and SEQ rural living area. The intent and scope of the provisions is summarised in the [***ShapingSEQ: SEQ regulatory provision guideline***](#). Key components include:

1. In most instances reconfiguring a lot (unless the lot created is at least 100ha) is prohibited development to the extent the lot is in the SEQ regional landscape and rural production area.

2. Material changes of use for certain land uses are also assessable in the SEQ regional landscape and rural production area and/or SEQ rural living area and the Planning Regulation identifies the matters referral agency's assessment must be against. Examples of development that is assessable include a material change of use for tourist activity, sport and recreation activity, community activity, indoor recreation activity, and types of urban activity.
3. A material change of use for a residential care facility where over 5000m² and for a shopping centre, is prohibited development in the SEQ regional landscape and rural production area and the SEQ rural living area.

5.0 Regional Planning Interests Act 2014

The **Regional Planning Interests Act 2014** (Regional Planning Interests Act) works in parallel with Planning Act, and seeks to manage the impacts, and support the coexistence of, resource activities (such as mining and petroleum) and regulated activities (such as broadacre cropping and water storage dams) that generally occur outside the jurisdiction of the Planning Act.

The Regional Planning Interests Act applies to areas of regional interest, being:

- priority living areas (PLA)
- priority agricultural areas (PAA)
- strategic cropping areas (SCA)
- strategic environmental areas (SEA).

Each of these areas are identified on the **Development Assessment Mapping System (DAMS)**.

The Regional Planning Interests Act provides that **a regional interest development approval (RIDA) may be required when a resource activity is proposed in these areas of regional interest.**

For a PLA, the assessment is undertaken by the **local government** and is discussed below.

For a PAA, SCA and SEA, the assessment is undertaken by the State and does not affect the local government assessment manager role.

5.1 Quick reference guide for RIDA process and assessment information

The below documents are available at:

<https://planning.dsdmip.qld.gov.au/planning/regional-planning-interests-act/rpi-act-forms-and-guidelines>

- RPI Act Guideline 01/14 – How to make an assessment application under the RPI Act
- RPI Act Guideline 11/16 – Companion guide
- RPI Act Guideline 02/14 – Carrying out activities in a priority agricultural area
- RPI Act Guideline 05/14 – Carrying out resource and regulated activities in a strategic environmental area
- RPI Act Guideline 04/14 – Carrying out activities in a priority living area.

5.2 Priority living areas

Purpose

Priority Living Areas (PLA) have been established to safeguard areas required for the growth of towns from incompatible resource activities. This provides communities with a say about whether they consider a resource activity is appropriate to operate within proximity of their towns.

PLAs are defined under the Regional Planning Interests Act as an area that includes:

The existing settled area of a city, town or other community and other areas necessary or desirable –

- for the future growth of the settled area; and
- as a buffer between the existing or future settled area and resource activities.

PLAs are identified in a regional plan or regulations and shown on the **Development Assessment Mapping System (DAMS)**.

Regulation and assessment

The Regional Planning Interests Act among other things, seeks to manage the impact of resource activities on PLAs and provides that a RIDA may be required when a resource activity is proposed in a PLA.

The Regional Planning Interests Regulation requires that proposed resource activities in a PLA be publicly notified.

Where a resource activity is proposed in a PLA the local government is to assess the expected impact of the activity against the PLA assessment criteria set out in the Regional Planning Interests Regulation. The required outcome is that the location, nature and conduct of the activity is compatible with the planned future for the priority living area. This is demonstrated through development that is:

- unlikely to adversely impact on development certainty for land in the immediate vicinity of the activity and in the priority living area generally
- likely to result in community benefits and opportunities, including, for example, financial and social benefits and opportunities.

Regional Plan application

The following regional plans contain PLAs:

Regional Plan	Details
<u>Cape York Regional Plan 2014</u>	<p>Context</p> <p>A PLA in the Cape York Regional Plan is generally a two-kilometre buffer area around the settlement within which only those resource activities that are acceptable to the community may locate.</p>
	<p>Regional Plan policies and provisions</p> <p><i>Regional policy 6: Safeguard the areas required for the growth of towns through establishment of PLAs.</i></p> <p><i>Regional policy 7: Provide for resource activities to locate within a PLA only where it meets the communities' expectations as determined by the relevant local government.</i></p>
	<p>Development assessment advice</p> <p>The PLA only relates to managing the carrying out of resource activities under the Regional Planning Interests Act.</p>
<u>Central Queensland Regional Plan 2013</u>	<p>Context</p> <p>The Central Queensland Regional Plan establishes PLAs to preserve areas for urban expansion for those towns likely to experience growth in the next 20 years.</p> <p>The plan provides for councils to determine the appropriateness of any potential resource activity within PLAs.</p>
	<p>Regional Plan policies and provisions</p> <p><i>Regional outcome – The growth potential of towns within the Central Queensland region is enabled through the establishment of PLAs. Compatible resource activities within these areas which are in the communities' interest can be supported by local governments.</i></p> <p><i>Regional policy 3 – Safeguard the areas required for the growth of towns through the establishment of PLAs.</i></p>

	<p><i>Regional policy 4 – Provide for resource activities to locate within a PLA where it meets the communities’ expectations as determined by the relevant local government.</i></p> <p>State assessment provisions</p> <p>Where a resource activity is proposed within a PLA then the state assessment is to include consideration of community expectations as determined by the relevant local government and articulated in the local planning scheme.</p>
	<p>Development assessment advice</p> <p>The PLA only relates to managing the carrying out of resource activities under the Regional Planning Interests Act.</p>
<u>Darling Downs Regional Plan 2013</u>	<p>Context</p> <p>The plan will establish PLA to preserve areas for town expansion for those towns likely to experience growth in the next 20 years.</p> <p>The plan provides for councils to determine the appropriateness of any potential resource activity within PLAs.</p>
	<p>Regional Plan policies and provisions</p> <p><i>Regional outcome – The growth potential of towns within the Darling Downs region is enabled through the establishment of PLAs. Compatible resource activities within these areas which are in the communities’ interest can be supported by local governments.</i></p> <p><i>Regional policy 3 – Safeguard the areas required for the growth of towns through establishment of PLAs</i></p> <p><i>Regional policy 4 – Provide for resource activities to locate within a PLA where it meets the communities’ expectations as determined by the relevant local government.</i></p> <p>State assessment provisions</p> <p>Where a resource activity is proposed within a PLA then the state assessment is to include consideration of community expectations as determined by the relevant local government and articulated in the local planning scheme.</p>
	<p>Development assessment advice</p> <p>The PLA only relates to managing the carrying out of resource activities under the Regional Planning Interests Act.</p>
<u>North Queensland Regional Plan</u>	<p>Context</p> <p>Within the NQ Regional Plan, each PLA generally represents a two-kilometre area around each key settlement area.</p>
	<p>Regional Plan policies and provisions</p> <p><i>1.7.4 – PLAs are safeguarded from resource activities unless it is demonstrated that the location, nature and conduct of the proposed activities meet the communities’ expectations, as determined by the relevant local government.</i></p>
	<p>Development assessment advice</p> <p>The PLA only relates to managing the carrying out of resource activities under the Regional Planning Interests Act.</p>

5.3 Priority agricultural areas and Strategic cropping areas

Purpose

Priority Agricultural Areas (PAA) are areas of regionally significant agricultural production. Identifying PAAs ensures that resource activities that seek to operate in these areas do not unreasonably constrain, restrict or prevent ongoing agricultural operation.

The Strategic Cropping Area (SCA) is the area that may contain Strategic Cropping Land (SCL). SCL means land that is, or is likely to be, highly suitable for cropping because of a combination of the land's soil, climate and landscape features.

PAAs are defined under the Regional Planning Interests Act as areas that:

- includes 1 or more areas used for a priority agricultural land use (PALU), whether it also includes other areas or features, including, for example, a regionally significant water source; and
- is either shown on a map in a regional plan as a priority agricultural area; or prescribed under a regulation.

PAAs are identified in Regional Plans. SCAs and PAAs are shown on the **Development Assessment Mapping System (DAMS)**.

Regulation and assessment

The Regional Planning Interests Act among other things, seeks to manage the impacts, and support the coexistence, of resource activities and agricultural activities in PAAs and provides that a RIDA may be required when a resource activity is proposed in these areas.

Where a resource activity is proposed in a PAA the relevant assessor¹ is assess the expected impact of the activity against the PAA assessment criteria set out in the Regional Planning Interests Regulation, that manage impacts on:

- use of property for priority agricultural land use in priority agricultural area
- a region in relation to use of an area in the region for a priority agricultural land use.

Regional Plan application

The following regional plans contain PAAs:

Regional Plan	Details
<u>Cape York Regional Plan 2014</u>	<p>Context</p> <p>A PAA is identified in the Cape York Regional Plan to recognise and protect the region's existing strategic intensive agricultural area containing highly productive agricultural land uses. In a PAA, PALUs are recognised as the primary land use and must be given priority over any other proposed land use.</p> <p>The PAAs within the Cape York Regional Plan contain significant clusters of what are considered to be the region's high value, intensive agricultural land uses, PALUs, and are identified on a regional scale. PALUs include cropping, perennial horticulture, production from irrigated agriculture and plantations, or intensive horticulture.</p> <p>Regional Plan policies and provisions</p> <p><i>Regional policy 4 – Protect Priority Agricultural Land Uses within PAAs.</i></p> <p><i>Regional policy 5 – Maximise opportunities for co-existence of resource and agricultural land uses in PAAs.</i></p> <p>Development assessment advice</p> <p>PAAs are areas of regional interest under the Regional Planning Interests Act. Assessment and decision criteria have been developed to facilitate the co-existence of</p>

¹ State agricultural department for a regulated activity in a PAA and State natural resources department for where a PAA includes a regionally significant watercourse.

	<p>compatible resource activities with high value agricultural land uses in the PAA. These criteria will enable opportunities for economic diversity to ensure that Cape York develops as a resilient and prosperous region.</p> <p>These criteria are implemented through the Regional Planning Interests Act and the Regional Planning Interests Regulation 2014.</p>
<p><u>Central Queensland Regional Plan 2013</u></p>	<p>Context</p> <p>PAA co-existence criteria enable compatible resource activities to co-exist with high value agricultural land uses within PAAs. This will in turn maximise opportunities for economic growth to ensure that Central Queensland remains a resilient, diversified and prosperous region.</p> <p>Regional Plan policies and provisions</p> <p><i>Regional outcome – Agriculture and resources industries within the Central Queensland region continue to grow with certainty and investor confidence.</i></p> <p><i>Regional policy 1 – PPAUs within PAAs.</i></p> <p><i>Regional policy 2 – Maximise opportunities for co-existence of resource and agricultural land uses within PAAs.</i></p> <p>State assessment provisions</p> <p>Where a resource activity is proposed on land being used for a PALU in a mapped PAA then the PALU will be given priority through the application of co-existence criteria.</p> <p>Development assessment advice</p> <p>The PAA co-existence criteria ensure that the approval of any proposed resource development cannot materially impact or threaten the ongoing viability of the PALU. The cumulative impacts of resource development on the region need to be managed to ensure the ongoing viability of agricultural production in Central Queensland.</p> <p>The PAA co-existence criteria define outcomes that need to be met to achieve co-existence within a PAA between PALU and proposed resource activities.</p>
<p><u>Darling Downs Regional Plan 2013</u></p>	<p>Context</p> <p>PAA co-existence criteria enable compatible resource activities to co-exist with high-value agricultural land uses within PAAs. This will in turn maximise opportunities for economic growth to ensure that the Darling Downs remains a resilient, diversified and prosperous region.</p> <p>Regional Plan policies and provisions</p> <p><i>Regional outcome – Agriculture and resources industries within the Darling Downs region continue to grow with certainty and investor confidence.</i></p> <p><i>Regional policy 1 – Protect PALUs within PAAs.</i></p> <p><i>Regional policy 2 – Maximise opportunities for co-existence of resource and agricultural land uses within Priority Agricultural Areas.</i></p>

	<p>State assessment provisions</p> <p>Where a resource activity is proposed on land being used for a PALU in a mapped PAA then the PALU will be given priority through the application of coexistence criteria.</p> <p>Development assessment advice</p> <p>The PAA co-existence criteria are aimed at ensuring that the approval of any proposed resource activity cannot materially impact or threaten the ongoing viability of the PALU.</p> <p>The PAA co-existence criteria under the Regional Planning Interests Act define outcomes that need to be met to achieve co-existence within a PAA between PALU and proposed resource activities.</p>
<p><u>North Queensland Regional Plan</u></p>	<p>Context</p> <p>The purpose of PAAs in the NQ Regional Plan is to protect identified land from fragmentation and incompatible non-agricultural development.</p> <p>The PAAs within the NQ Regional Plan, identified on the DAMS, are strategic clusters of the most regionally significant agricultural production areas that contain PALUs. PALUs, which include broadacre cropping, horticulture, intensive animal husbandry, plantation forestry and terrestrial aquaculture</p> <p>Regional Plan policies and provisions</p> <p><i>1.3.1 – Non-agricultural development² within PAAs is not supported, unless the proposed use demonstrates net benefits for regional agricultural production, without compromising the PALUs current or future ability to operate, or is for public infrastructure.</i></p> <p><i>1.3.2 – Establishment of solar generation systems for off-grid or site-specific uses within PAAs, may be supported where the systems are primarily associated with agricultural production and processing, and are on the same site.</i></p> <p><i>1.3.3 – PALUs (and associated infrastructure) within the PAAs are protected from resource activities, unless it can be demonstrated that co-existence is mutually beneficial, without compromising the PALUs current or future ability to operate.</i></p> <p>Development assessment advice</p> <p>The types of non-agricultural development supported by the NQ Regional Plan, include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • development of biomass energy generation for onsite usage in support of agriculture (e.g. solar generation systems for off-grid or site-specific uses) • farm gate tourism which enhances product recognition and subsidises farm expenses (e.g. bespoke food/farmgate tourism offerings associated with the agricultural production on the site) • value-add and complementary industries directly aligned with agriculture that have positive net benefits for agricultural production. <p>These types of uses are supported where the use demonstrates benefits for agricultural production, does not compromise the PALUs current or future ability to operate and do not adversely impact on the infrastructure used to support PALUs in PAAs (for example irrigation channels, pumping stations and cane rail lines).</p>

² Any development other than the growing, production and harvesting of food, fish, fibre, timber and foliage, including but not limited to the following uses: animal husbandry, aquaculture, cropping, fishing, intensive animal industries, intensive horticulture, native forestry, plantation forestry, production nursery, wholesale nursery, and other complementary primary production activities.

5.4 Strategic environmental areas

Purpose

Strategic environmental areas (SEA) are areas of regionally environmental significance. Identifying SEAs ensures that resource activities and regulated activities that seek to operate in these areas do not result in a widespread or irreversible impact on an environmental attribute of a strategic environmental area.

SEAs are defined under the Regional Planning Interests Act as areas that *contain 1 or more environmental attributes for the area*.

The environmental attributes for the area are identified under a regional plan or regulation.

SEAs are identified in Regional Plans or prescribed under a regulation. SEAs are shown on the **Development Assessment Mapping System (DAMS)**.

Regulation and assessment

The Regional Planning Interests Act among other things, seeks to manage the impacts, and support the coexistence, of resource and regulated activities in SEAs and provides that a RIDA may be required when a resource or regulated activity is proposed in these areas.

Where a resource or regulated activity is proposed in a SEA the relevant assessor³ is assess the expected impact of the activity against the SEA assessment criteria set out in the Regional Planning Interests Regulation, that manage impacts on an environmental attribute of the strategic environmental area.

Regional Plan application

The following regional plans contain SEAs:

Regional Plan	Details
<u>Cape York Regional Plan 2014</u>	Context The Cape York Regional Plan identifies SEAs. Within these areas, a regional interest development approval is required for proposed resource developments, broadacre cropping and large-scale water storage (dams). Outside of the designated precincts, these activities are able to operate if they can show that they will not have a widespread or irreversible impact on the broader SEA.
	Regional Plan policies and provisions <i>Regional policy 2 – Safeguard areas of significant biological diversity and ecological function by protecting the:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • integrity of the Steve Irwin Wildlife Reserve from incompatible activities • ecological integrity of SEAs from incompatible development.
	Development assessment advice In the Cape York Regional Plan, development in SEAs will be supported only where it can be demonstrated that the development outcome does not present risk of irreversible or widespread impacts to the environmental attributes of the SEA. Mining resource activities, broadacre cropping and water storage (dams) are unacceptable uses in a designated precinct, giving the highest level of protection to the precinct's natural and cultural features. Areas in and around SEAs can facilitate appropriate commercial tourism opportunities such as eco-tourism, short term accommodation, recreation trails, camping and nature-based experiences. Development in these localities will need to co-exist with the environmental attributes detailed in Schedule 1.

³ State environmental department and State natural resources department.

	<p>Consideration will be given to mining activities in SEAs other than designated precincts where on-ground evidence suggests that adverse environmental impacts can be avoided or minimised through appropriate conditioning.</p> <p>Application of the strategic planning intent in the assessment of resource proposals and regulated activities will be implemented through the Regional Planning Interests Act and the Regional Planning Interests Regulation.</p>
<p><u>North Queensland Regional Plan</u></p>	<p>Context</p> <p>The purpose of SEAs in the NQ Regional Plan is to protect these areas from development that may impact the SEAs environmental integrity or environmental attributes (found in Schedule A of the NQ Regional Plan) and allow for those uses that are consistent with the SEAs natural values.</p> <p>The NQ Regional Plan identifies four SEAs.</p> <p>Two of the SEAs in the NQ Regional Plan also include designated precincts, which identify locations where there are the greatest ecological risks associated with certain development activities.</p> <p>Designated precincts are to be afforded the highest level of protection in the SEA, with unacceptable uses prohibited under the Regional Planning Interests Act.</p> <p>Outside designated precincts, development (including resource activities such as mining) can be supported in the SEA where the proposed development demonstrates it can co-exist with and does not risk widespread or irreversible impacts on the area’s ecological integrity.</p> <p>Regional Plan policies and provisions</p> <p><i>2.1.1 – Protect the biodiversity and ecological integrity of SEAs from incompatible development⁴.</i></p> <p><i>2.1.5 – Provide opportunities for the co-location of environmentally sensitive commercial, recreational and community activities in and around SEAs and the regional biodiversity network, where they complement the area’s natural values and have no impact on the function of these areas.</i></p> <p>Development assessment advice</p> <p>Development within a SEA must demonstrate that the function and integrity of the surrounding natural environment has been considered and protected, to the greatest extent possible, through sympathetic design.</p> <p>The types of development supported by the NQ Regional Plan, include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • self-sufficient glamping accommodation that minimises impact on the surrounding environment • a water storage dam that does not compromise the preservation of the environmental attribute within the SEA. <p>The types of development not supported by the NQ Regional Plan, include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an open cut mine in a designated precinct of a SEA • a tourism activity with a significant ecological footprint • broadacre cropping where a Regional Interest Development Approval (RIDA) has not been granted.

⁴ As defined in the Regional Planning Interests Act.



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