

# Integrating state interests in planning schemes

Overview – May 2021

# The delivery of state interest policy through the planning framework

Under the Planning Act 2016, local government planning schemes set out integrated state, regional and local planning and development assessment policies for a local government area. The Queensland government sets out the state and regional planning matters (the state interests) in state planning instruments, being the State Planning Policy July 2017 (SPP) and regional plans.

The following diagram provides an overview of how these state interests are delivered through the planning framework – including in the Planning Regulation, via local government when drafting planning schemes and then at development assessment stage.



## Guidance for local governments

The Queensland Government has prepared new technical guidance to assist plan-drafters in the interpretation, integration and advancement of state interests articulated in the state planning instruments when making a new, or amending, an existing planning scheme.

This fact sheet provides an overview of that guidance Integrating state interests in a planning scheme - Guidance for local governments. The guidance aims to:

- illustrate the scope and nature of planning scheme provisions that may contribute to integrating each state interest of the SPP and to progressing the state interests for each local government area as identified in the regional plan
- assist state agencies in assessing whether a planning scheme amendment has effectively integrated the state interest and progressed the state interests of the relevant regional plan (to the extent applicable to the scope and nature of the planning scheme amendment being proposed).

The guidance is complemented by:

- the [Minister's Guidelines and Rules](#) that contains the guidelines and rules for the process of making and amending local planning schemes
- the [Delivery of state interests through the Planning Regulation – Guidance for local governments](#) that outlines how the Planning Regulation 2017 directly supports the delivery of state interests in development assessment and how local government should respond to those provisions when making or amending a planning scheme
- the [Drafting a planning scheme – Guidance for local governments](#) that provides guidance to support local government when drafting a planning scheme, including the guiding principles contained within the SPP, to ensure the planning scheme is outcome focused, integrated, efficient, positive, and accountable.

The overall aim of this suite of documents is a greater emphasis on providing up front certainty through planning schemes and reducing conflict at the development assessment stage.

## Approach to integrating each SPP state interest

The guidance provides a suggested approach to plan-drafting that is designed to support local government in 'working through' each state interest and thinking about how the different tools / elements in the planning scheme can work together to deliver on that interest.

Early and ongoing engagement with government and other stakeholders is recommended to deal with issues early in the plan-drafting process. This can support the effective integration of the state interest and reduce the range of matters required to be addressed in the State Interest Review stage.

For further guidance on engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities as part of the plan-drafting process and information to assist local governments in identifying, understanding and advancing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledge, culture and tradition when preparing or amending a planning scheme, refer to the [Advancing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander interests in land use planning](#) document.

The matters to consider and elements in the plan-drafting process include:

- understanding the local government context and undertaking the investigations necessary to inform the integration of the state interest during plan-drafting
- establishing strategic outcomes that align with the state interest and reflect the overarching approach to the state interest in the rest of the planning scheme
- preparing mapping specific to the state interest
- allocating zones and/or locally specific mapping (such as overlays and local plans) and articulating outcomes for each of these areas
- setting categories of development (accepted or assessable) and categories of assessment (code or impact) that facilitate the outcomes
- preparing assessment benchmarks that deliver the outcomes.

Information that may assist in interpreting and achieving each state interest is provided, including:

- the linkages between the local government planning scheme provisions and the broader regulatory framework relevant to the state interest
- key terms and further explanatory background relevant to the state interest
- where mapping is available in the [SPP IMS](#) for the state interest - the mapping in a planning scheme helps users to understand and interpret where and how state interest policies apply in the local government area.

## Approach to balancing state interests in a planning scheme

The local government is to consider how best to balance the integration of state interests in a planning scheme, to enable a local response informed by the environmental, economic, cultural and social factors in differing communities. Local government should communicate the evidence base for and reasoning behind the preferred solution, including:

- how and why the local government has prioritised certain state interests over other state interests
- what provisions the local government has included in the planning scheme that attempt to balance and deliver on competing state interests.

## Considering the currency of integration of state interests in a planning scheme

When making an amendment to an existing planning scheme, local government are to consider:

- what version of the SPP has been integrated in the planning scheme for each state interest and identify the nature of any revisions between that version and the current version of the SPP, and identify areas where their planning scheme may not have fully integrated the current state interests
- whether a regional plan has been prepared, updated or replaced, since the planning scheme was last amended, and identify the nature of any new or changed regional plan land use planning outcomes to be integrated and advanced through the planning scheme.

This will enable local government to determine if and how the proposed amendment can integrate these matters.

Communicating the extent of the integration of state interests and the version of the state interest that has been addressed in the planning scheme will assist assessment managers and applicants in determining the extent to which the current SPP and regional plan applies when assessing a development application.

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