



TORRES SHIRE COUNCIL

To lead, provide & facilitate a sustainable, safe and culturally vibrant community

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Media Release

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TORRES SHIRE COUNCIL – A NEW PLANNING SCHEME

Torres Shire Council (Council) today launched its new Planning Scheme, prepared with the assistance of the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships (DSDSATSIP).

Cr. Vonda Malone, Mayor of Torres Shire Council, said today, “The new Planning Scheme reflects the planning and development aspirations of the Council and the community by addressing key planning issues such as the demand and preferred location for industrial zoned land and opportunities to encourage an increase in the supply and diversity of housing”.

The preparation of the new Scheme commenced in 2017 and has been subject to extensive engagement with State Government agencies and two rounds of public consultation from November 2020 to February 2021 and April to June 2021.

Council has worked with DSDSATSIP and various consultants to prepare a new planning scheme for Torres Shire. The new planning scheme has empowered our community to be involved in the planning process and has supported local decision making. Specifically, the new planning scheme:

- *Incorporates an innovative structure different to anything used in a planning scheme in Queensland. The new structure is intended to promote a first principles approach to planning while supporting an increase in the potential for the community to actively participate.*
- *Has been drafted, structured and presented to specifically respond to the unique local characteristics of Torres Shire, including streamlining the assessment of straightforward development applications, supporting a merits-based assessment process for complex development applications and incorporating guidance material such as colour coding and symbology;*
- *Has explored new ways of integrating Indigenous cultural heritage into the planning process through the use of an overlay supported by mapping, assessment benchmarks and a detailed consultation process.*

- *Was subject to a rigorous and broad ranging community engagement program which saw various locations across the Shire being visited. In total 35 stakeholder and community meetings were held, over 200 people were consulted, and 33 formal submissions were received; and*
- *Addresses a range of complex and emerging policy matters and State interests including natural hazards and sea turtle protection.*

Mayor Malone concluded, "The new Planning Scheme is a contemporary planning document to manage growth and change throughout Torres Shire for the next 10-15 years. The new planning scheme replaces the 2007 Planning Scheme".

The new Torres Shire Council Planning Scheme and associated Local Government Infrastructure Plan commenced on 28 February 2022 and can be found on Council's website

<https://www.torres.qld.gov.au/homepage/52/torres-shire-council-planning-scheme-2022>

Torres Shire Council thanks the community, businesses and stakeholders for their participation and valuable input into the new Planning Scheme.

End Release

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