

PLANNING OUR FUTURE

The Gympie Region Planning Scheme

Open Space and Recreation Fact Sheet

The Gympie region is home to an abundance of natural and diverse landscapes, including unique coastal environments and over 100,000 hectares of national park and state forest. Residents are fortunate to live in an area with many opportunities to engage with the natural environment.

As the population grows and changes, Council seeks to ensure the region's open spaces are accessible, connected, well-maintained, and provide a range of settings to meet the needs and aspirations of its residents.

Council's role in managing development includes planning to ensure that the places where we live are supported by these high quality, accessible areas of open space.

This fact sheet outlines the intended approach to open space and recreation, as part of the Planning Scheme Review.

1. Defining 'open space'

- Council's open space planning will be revised to consider all available areas of open space – both publicly and privately owned.
- Local area planning will be undertaken in growth areas to identify desired locations for public open space.

2. Current supply of open spaces

- Council's focus is on consolidating and embellishing the existing network, rather than expanding the footprint of open spaces.
- The new planning scheme will reflect the recently updated Open Space and Recreation Plan.

3. Demand for open space – what do we need?

- In planning for open space, council considers a wide range of population, social and geographic data, and seeks to identify the specific types of open spaces and facilities required.
- While a review of demand identified there were sufficient 'recreation parks' across the region, it also identified a minor shortfall in 'sports parks'.
- Planning will progress the need to increase sporting facilities and will also seek to improve the quality of existing recreation parks.

4. Identifying local open space gaps

- Adopting the accepted '400m walkable distance' to open space standard identifies gaps in the network in some of our established areas.
- Current standards regarding accessibility and connectivity of open spaces are not always reflected in the existing scheme.
- The new planning scheme will be drafted to reflect updated standards.

5. Native Title considerations

- A considerable portion of the open space network within the Gympie region is subject to Native Title determinations.
- When preparing the new planning scheme, Native Title holders will be consulted with, and council will work with Native Title claimants to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes regarding open space.

6. Creating walkable neighbourhoods

- The new planning scheme will reflect these design principles, to ensure new subdivisions are designed to encourage walking and recreation.
- Developments will now be assessed against six key criteria: connectivity; block length; footpaths; parks or open space; and street trees.

Have your say

Council is currently seeking feedback on the intended approach to heritage provisions, along with a range of other issues, to inform the Planning Scheme Review.

Scan this QR code to complete a quick survey on open space and recreation.

Visit www.gympie.qld.gov.au/planning-our-future to find out more about the Gympie Regional Council Planning Scheme Review Project and provide feedback on a range of important topics until 23 July 2023.

