

# PLANNING OUR FUTURE

## *The Gympie Region Planning Scheme*

---

### Biodiversity Fact Sheet

The biodiversity of the Gympie region is unique and essential to a healthy ecosystem. The Gympie region is important to the biodiversity of the State, home to the Mary River Turtle, the Queensland Lung Fish, the Mary River Cod, koala, macadamia, Blue Quandong, and Gympie Messmate.

Beyond our natural landscapes, biodiversity is critical to well-functioning ecosystems that provide clean drinking water, fertile soils, supporting our urban areas, agriculture, industry, and tourism.

The new planning scheme will guide how biodiversity is managed and enhanced in the Gympie region by providing a land use and development framework that balances development and biodiversity priorities.

This fact sheet outlines council's proposed approach to biodiversity in the context of the Planning Scheme Review.

#### 1. Existing Biodiversity Temporary Local Planning Instrument (TLPI)

- The new scheme should ensure the biodiversity of the Gympie region is enhanced in the face of growing pressures for development.
- The planning scheme will incorporate and improve the region's existing biodiversity conservation tool, the Biodiversity TLPI.

#### 2. Regional koala conservation

- Council has a legal obligation to provide protection to koala habitat areas throughout the region.
- The new scheme should protect koala populations by preventing development from encroaching into remaining koala habitat.
- The new scheme should adopt the principles of the Queensland Government *SEQ Koala Conservation Strategy 2020-2025*.

### 3. Biodiversity offsets

- A biodiversity offset is a mechanism intended to address any significant residual impact upon matters of local state or national environmental significance.
- The Queensland Offsets Act provides that offsets may be made in the form of:
  - a financial contribution to council where council assumes the responsibility to buy land and do the work necessary to replace the biodiversity value that has been lost,
  - a land based offset where the developer acquires land and does the work necessary to replace what biodiversity value has been lost, or,
  - a combination of financial or land based offsets.
- Council is proposing that design of new developments will be required to ensure that there are no significant residual impacts upon biodiversity values negating the need for biodiversity offsetting.

### 4. Residential development in centres

- Development does not result in increased biosecurity risk for the Gympie region, e.g. spreading weeds.
- The new planning scheme will incorporate biosecurity management measures into the relevant planning scheme codes.

### 5. Water quality management

- Aiming to improve water quality in the Mary River catchment.
- Require a best practice approach to development that might impact water quality, during both construction and operation.
- Support the development of a Mary River Basin plan to coordinate the activities of all agencies currently involved in managing the river's catchment.

### 6. Bushfire

- In zoning land, council will consider the biodiversity impacts of the likely asset protection measures for development in fire prone areas.
- Seek to balance bushfire protection and biodiversity value by requiring new developments to demonstrate that asset protection measures can be delivered without adverse impacts on biodiversity.

### 7. Climate change

- Enhance the Region's resilience to climate change impacts.
- Embed council's 2021 Climate Change Policy in the new planning scheme.
- [View council's Climate Change Policy here.](#)

## 8. Wildlife conflict areas

- Conflict between wildlife, such as flying foxes, and residents is minimised.
- Future zonings to have regard for potential wildlife conflicts.

### Have your say

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

Visit [www.gympie.qld.gov.au/planning-our-future](http://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.

