3.9 Natural resources

<table>
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<th>Key concepts</th>
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<td>(1) Retention of an abundant supply of renewable natural resources and an ongoing capacity to supply non-renewable natural resources from local sources.</td>
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<td>(2) Recognition of the contribution natural resources make to the regional economy.</td>
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<td>(3) Protection and careful management of natural resources so that they remain available for productive use and exploitation.</td>
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<td>(4) Recognition that some natural resources may not be suitable for exploitation due to their location and their potential for adverse environmental or amenity impacts.</td>
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<td>(5) Recognition of the additional benefits provided by some natural resources in terms of ecosystem services or landscape services.</td>
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<td>(6) Sustainable management of renewable natural resources, including avoidance of their fragmentation or alienation.</td>
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<td>(7) Avoidance or minimisation and mitigation of adverse environmental and amenity impacts associated with use and exploitation of natural resources.</td>
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3.9.1 Strategic outcomes

The strategic outcomes for the natural resources theme are the following:-

(a) In 2031, the Sunshine Coast retains:-
   (i) an abundant supply of renewable natural resources including agricultural land, native and plantation forests, fisheries and fresh water available for potable water supply; and
   (ii) the capacity to supply non-renewable natural resources in the form of extractive materials from local sources.

(b) Natural resources continue to make a significant contribution to the regional economy and the wellbeing of the community by retaining the capacity of the Sunshine Coast to meet a significant proportion of its own needs in terms of:-
   (i) a strong capability for local food production;
   (ii) the provision of a safe water supply of a high aesthetic standard; and
   (iii) the supply of base materials for construction and *infrastructure*.

(c) Those natural resources which are not suitable to be exploited due to the potential for significant adverse amenity or environmental impacts on existing or proposed communities remain undeveloped.

(d) The exploitation and management of natural resources recognises that some resources are multidimensional in that they provide a range of benefits such as ecosystem services or landscape services in addition to their primary economic resource benefit.

(e) Renewable natural resources are managed in a sustainable way so that communities are able to meet their current and future needs while not compromising the ability of future generations to also meet their needs. This includes avoiding the alienation and fragmentation of renewable natural resources.

(f) The potential for exploitation of natural resources to result in adverse environmental and amenity impacts is effectively mitigated so as to protect the environment and amenity of the Sunshine Coast.
Implementation framework

The elements and specific outcomes for the natural resources theme are the following:

3.9.2 Element 1 – Rural and agricultural land resources

3.9.2.1 Specific outcomes

(a) Rural land is retained predominantly for rural production, natural habitat and landscape protection purposes.

(b) Development ensures that agricultural land class A and class B\(^\text{16}\), identified conceptually on Strategic Framework Map SFM 7 (Natural resource elements), strategic cropping land and potential strategic cropping land remains available for productive and sustainable agricultural and rural pursuits and is not fragmented, alienated or diminished, except where:

(i) on the balance of social, economic and environmental considerations, it is demonstrated that the development is in the interests of the community; and

(ii) no alternative suitable site is available for that purpose.

(c) Where development satisfies the criteria specified in (b)(i) and (ii) above, adverse impacts on agricultural land class A and class B, strategic cropping land and potential strategic cropping land are minimised and measures established to mitigate any loss of agricultural productive value.

(d) Rural land that is not agricultural land class A or class B, strategic cropping land or potential strategic cropping land is used in ways that supports rural enterprise and protects the landscape character and scenic amenity of the Sunshine Coast.

(e) Any reconfiguring of rural land results in an improved lot layout that contributes to the viability of rural enterprise and better reflects the site’s land use and environmental values.

(f) To help maintain the productive capacity of existing and potential future rural activities and avoid or minimise land use conflicts, effective separation distances and buffers are established and maintained between incompatible land uses and development and agricultural land class A and class B, strategic cropping land, potential strategic cropping land and areas of intensive rural activity.

(g) A rural activity avoids, or if avoidance is not practicable, otherwise minimises and mitigates, adverse environmental and amenity impacts.

(h) Agricultural production continues to be valued as a significant contributor to the landscape character and scenic amenity of the Sunshine Coast.

3.9.3 Element 2 – Forestry resources

3.9.3.1 Specific outcomes

(a) State forests and approved private native forests and plantations remain available for use and are sustainably managed for forestry and associated purposes.

(b) The ongoing productive use of State forests and approved private native forests and plantations is protected from incompatible land uses and development which may compromise the future of these resources and their contribution to the Sunshine Coast’s economy.

(c) The rights of harvest for approved native forests are preserved into the future.

(d) A forestry activity avoids, or if avoidance is not practicable, otherwise minimises and mitigates, adverse environmental and amenity impacts.

\(^{16}\) Note—development should also have regard to the economic significance of ‘important agricultural areas’ mapped under the state planning policy.
3.9.4 Element 3 – Fisheries resources

3.9.4.1 Specific outcomes

(a) Marine, estuarine and freshwater habitats are protected, managed and enhanced so as to sustain fish stock levels and maximise fisheries harvested from wild sources.

(b) Fish habitats, including all waterways, wetlands, declared fish habitat areas and natural fish passages are protected.

3.9.5 Element 4 – Water resources

3.9.5.1 Specific outcomes

(a) The integrity, availability and sustainability of water as a natural resource are maintained.

(b) The water quality of the water resource catchment areas identified conceptually on Strategic Framework Map SFM 7 (Natural resource elements) which include the catchments of Baroon Pocket Dam, Cooloolabin Dam and Wappa Dam, Ewen Maddock Dam, and Somerset Dam and Wivenhoe Dam, are protected.

3.9.6 Element 5 – Extractive resources

3.9.6.1 Specific outcomes

(a) Extractive resource areas identified conceptually on Strategic Framework Map SFM 7 (Natural resource elements) which include key extractive resource areas and locally significant extractive resource areas remain available for use.

(b) Key extractive resource areas, other locally significant extractive resource areas, extractive industry transport routes and existing approved extractive industry operations are protected from incompatible land uses and development that may compromise existing or potential future extractive industry operations and their contribution to the Sunshine Coast’s economy.

(c) A new extractive industry is located only:
   (i) on land identified as a key resource area;
   (ii) on land identified as a locally significant extractive resource area; or
   (iii) on other land where it has been demonstrated that the extractive industry will fulfil a demonstrated need for the resource in development projects in the region.

(d) The Meridan Plains Key Resource Area is recognised as an area where extractive industry development is intended to occur in accordance with the master planning framework.

(e) An extractive industry avoids, or if avoidance is not practicable, otherwise minimises and mitigates, adverse environmental and amenity impacts.

(f) An extractive industry provides transport routes that are constructed and managed appropriately for the level of production and location of the extractive industry, including any required road or intersection upgrading.

(g) An extractive industry carries out remediation works that rehabilitate the site to either a natural condition or to another state that is compatible with the preferred outcome for the area.

3.9.7 Strategic framework maps

(1) Strategic Framework Map SFM 7 (Natural resource elements) identifies elements of the strategic framework as relevant to the natural resources theme and in particular identifies the following:

(a) extractive industry key resource areas;
(b) locally significant extractive resource areas;

c) agricultural land class A and class B;

d) fish habitat areas; and

e) water resource dams and catchment areas.

(2) **Strategic Framework Map SFM 5 (Natural environment elements)** is also relevant to the natural resources theme in that it identifies *waterways, wetlands* and fish habitat areas.
This Strategic Framework map graphically represents elements of the Natural Resource theme at a conceptual level and is not intended to be interrogated at the cadastre level.

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