



Information sheet

Sunshine Coast Planning Scheme 2014

Alignment Amendment for the Planning Act 2016

New planning legislation commences in Queensland on 3 July 2017. The *Planning Act 2016* and *Planning Regulation 2017* contain several changes which impact the operation of the *Sunshine Coast Planning Scheme 2014*.

On 18 May 2017, Council resolved to make an 'alignment amendment' (referred to as the *Sunshine Coast Planning Scheme 2014 (Alignment Amendment) No. 9*) to the planning scheme to align with the new legislation. The amendment will take effect on commencement of the new Act on 3 July 2017.

Background

On 3 July 2017, the *Planning Act 2016* and *Planning Regulation 2017* will replace the *Sustainable Planning Act 2009* and *Sustainable Planning Regulation 2009*.

Implementing new planning legislation is part of the Queensland Government's planning reform agenda for Queensland and the new Act is just one of a number of reforms currently underway.

Further information about the planning reforms can be obtained from the Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning www.dilgp.qld.gov.au/planning-reform

The new legislation introduces several changes which impact the operation of the *Sunshine Coast Planning Scheme 2014*, including:

- changes in terminology (refer **Figure 1**);
- new assessment rules; and
- changes to State-wide regulatory provisions.

The Planning Minister has made specific rules (Alignment Amendment Rules) which allow councils to make amendments to align their planning schemes with the new legislation. Importantly, amendments made under these rules are operational only and do not contain any policy changes. As a result, no public consultation is required in relation to such amendments.

Council's development assessment systems and processes are also affected by the new legislation and work is also underway to align these systems in readiness for the commencement of the new Act.

Summary of changes to the planning scheme

The *Sunshine Coast Planning Scheme 2014 (Alignment Amendment) No. 9* makes several operational and administrative changes to the planning scheme to help ensure a smooth transition to the new planning system, including:

- changes to the tables of assessment to reflect changes in terminology relating to categories of development and assessment, and the matters which development is to be assessed against;
- changes to table and section headings within the planning scheme codes and to the application section of codes to clarify which provisions of the codes comprise the assessment benchmarks for assessable development and the requirements for accepted development;
- the removal of State regulatory content contained in the Planning Regulation;
- changes to various parts of the planning scheme to ensure concepts in the Strategic Framework can be appropriately referenced for code assessment under the new assessment rules;
- new provisions to ensure State Planning Regulatory Provisions are effectively transitioned; and
- various other operational and minor changes to update references to legislation, cross references and correct other minor errors and formatting.

Further information?

If you would like further information, the *Sunshine Coast Planning Scheme 2014 (Alignment Amendment) No. 9*, including the supporting explanatory memorandum, can be downloaded from Council's website www.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au or viewed and/or purchased at Council's Development Information Counter at 10 First Avenue, Maroochydore.

Alternatively, please phone Council on (07) 5475 7526 or email mail@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au

For further enquiries in relation to the new *Planning Act 2016* and *Planning Regulation 2017*, please contact the Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning.



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Figure 1: Key Terminology Changes under the Planning Act 2016

Current terminology	New terminology
Level of assessment	Category of development (i.e. accepted development, assessable development or prohibited development)
	Category of assessment (applies to assessable development only – code assessment or impact assessment)
Exempt development	Accepted development
Self-assessable development	Accepted development (subject to requirements)
Compliance assessment	N/A – not included as a category of development in the new Act
Code assessable development	Assessable development subject to code assessment
Impact assessable development	Assessable development subject to impact assessment
Prohibited development	Prohibited development
Codes, Assessment criteria	Assessment benchmarks for assessable development
	Requirements for accepted development