

Far North Queensland Draft Regional Plan 2025

On 9 May 2008, the Premier and the Deputy Premier and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning launched the first statutory regional plan developed outside South East Queensland.

The Far North Queensland Draft Regional Plan 2025 (draft plan) provides innovative responses to managing urban development and protecting the region's World Heritage areas—the Great Barrier Reef and the Wet Tropics. It is the first statutory plan in Queensland to address the combined impacts of climate change and peak oil.

The launch of the draft plan was followed by extensive community consultation. Presentations and information sessions were held across the region, from Wujal Wujal in the north to Cardwell in the south, and inland to Mareeba, Atherton, Ravenshoe and Chillagoe. The invitation to lodge submissions allowed a period of 60 working days to close on 8 August 2008.

As a statutory document under the *Integrated Planning Act 1997* (IPA), the purpose of the draft plan is to guide and manage development in the region over the next 20 years. With the region's population estimated to increase by approximately 100 000 people, the draft plan provides strategic direction in protecting regional landscape and rural production values while consolidating urban land use.

As the greatest proportion of growth is expected to occur in the Cairns area, a new master-planned community at Edmonton, named Mount Peter, was also formally declared under section 2.5B.3 of IPA.

The launch and progress of the Far North Queensland Draft Regional Plan 2025 was well supported by the local media and attracted a positive response from the community.

Hundreds of submissions are expected to be lodged and reviewed before the final plan is developed for public release in December 2008.