



# COMMUNITY PLAN PULSE CHECK

Starting the Discussion

2011-2026

# Community Plan Pulse Check

## Starting the Discussion

In 2011 Scenic Rim Regional Council developed and adopted a Community Plan to meet legislative requirements under the Local Government Act 2009. After extensive community consultation, the Scenic Rim Community Plan 2011-2026 was adopted setting out a vision and plan for the Scenic Rim Region.

The Community Plan provides a framework for monitoring and reviewing the Plan, including a review progress to take place every 5 years to review progress towards outcomes and refresh the community vision, outcomes and priorities in the Plan.

Council is committed to undertaking meaningful consultation with the community to start the conversation about amending the plan to reflect changes in the Scenic Rim over the last 5 years.

A number of discussion points, amendments and ideas for further development of the Plan have been identified for further community feedback. Council is seeking general community feedback on the Plan and consultation about the proposed changes outlined in this discussion paper.

Sections and parts of the plan not included in this paper are not proposed for any changes.

Please review this Discussion Paper in conjunction with a copy of the Community Plan.

### **Why do we need a Community Plan?**

In 2012 the Local Government Act 2009 was amended to remove the requirement for local governments to have a Community Plan. Council recognises the vision of the Scenic Rim Community embedded in the Community Plan and believes that this is a valuable document to provide long term direction for the community and the region.



# About the Scenic Rim Community Plan

While Council cannot directly deliver all of the values embedded in the Plan, we remain committed to advocating for the implementation of a long term vision for the area which recognises the unique beauty, heritage and landmarks as reflected in the Plan.

Council's role as an advocate for the Region and the safekeeping of the Plan is not clearly and accurately reflected in the section "About the Scenic Rim Community Plan" which provides context for the entire document.

Subsequently, an amendment is proposed to clarify Council's role in the Community Plan delivery.

CURRENT WORDING	PROPOSED AMENDMENTS
<p>The Scenic Rim Community Plan 2011 - 2026 provides a shared vision and plan for the region's future. Developed together with the community, the Scenic Rim Community Plan will guide Council, other levels of government and community action on issues including the environment, economic development, social wellbeing, infrastructure and governance.</p> <p>Council has prepared the Scenic Rim Community Plan following extensive community consultation. It represents an amalgam of views from residents, visitors, businesses and community organisations. Accordingly, the plan should be read together with the Community Consultation Reports.</p> <p>The plan includes a vision statement that provides an expression of what we want our future community to be like. Seven themes reflect the vision and give a focus for action. Each theme includes outcomes describing the future state we are seeking and priorities that tell us where to put our effort. Scattered throughout the plan are thoughts and ideas from community members who shared their views about the future of our region.</p> <p>Council looks forward to working with all levels of government and the Scenic Rim community to implement this vision and plan for the future.</p>	<p>The Scenic Rim Community Plan 2011 - 2026 provides a shared vision and plan for the region's future. Developed together with the community, the Scenic Rim Community Plan will guide Council, other levels of government and community action on issues including the environment, economic development, social wellbeing, infrastructure and governance.</p> <p><u>Council will directly consider the expectations of the Community Plan in its decision making processes and use the Plan as a guide to advocate for the Scenic Rim community at other levels of Government and with other stakeholders. We remain committed to advocating for the implementation of a long term vision for the area which recognises the unique beauty, heritage and landmarks as reflected in the plan.</u></p> <p>Council prepared the Scenic Rim Community Plan following extensive community consultation. It represents an amalgam of views from residents, visitors, businesses and community organisations. Accordingly, the plan should be read together with the Community Consultation Reports.</p> <p>The plan includes a vision statement that provides an expression of what we want our future community to be like. Seven themes reflect the vision and give a focus for action. Each theme includes outcomes describing the future state we are seeking and priorities that tell us where to put our effort. Scattered throughout the plan are thoughts and ideas from community members who shared their views about the future of our region.</p> <p>Council looks forward to <u>continuing</u> to work with all levels of government and the Scenic Rim community to implement this vision and plan for the future.</p>

# A Challenging Future

Scenic Rim's future continues to be challenging. Council recognises the emergence of a number of competing priorities for the region as it moves forward, as well as shifts in industry and employment.

To recognise these changes, Council is proposing some amendments to this preamble section of the Plan.

CURRENT WORDING	WHAT HAS CHANGED	PROPOSED AMENDMENTS
The Scenic Rim is changing. Many changes will be welcome, some will not. Issues that need careful management include:	The Scenic Rim is emerging as a transportation hub and is already an agricultural hub. These needs must be carefully balanced to ensure that decisions about these issues fit with the Community vision.	<u>The Scenic Rim's future is challenging, with emerging competing priorities, demands and shifts in industry and employment. These changes will necessitate a better understanding of new industries and their relationship to the footprint of our region. Issues that need careful management include:</u>
<b>Maintaining local employment</b>  New jobs will be needed to maintain low unemployment levels. Most of our employed residents travel outside the region to work. We need to create diverse and rewarding local employment. Jobs growth in agriculture and tourism is important but will not be enough. Our challenge is to ensure that new businesses providing employment are compatible with our environment and lifestyle.	The Bromelton Industrial Centre will be a major transportation hub for Queensland and Northern New South Wales. This emerging industry centre will create jobs, but this development and other new and intensive industries must be balanced with the community's aspirations for the region.	<b>Maintaining local employment</b>  New jobs <u>and innovation</u> will be needed to <u>maximize employment opportunities</u> . Most of our employed residents travel outside the region to work. We need to create diverse and rewarding local employment <u>and training opportunities</u> . Jobs growth in agriculture and tourism is important but will not be enough. Our challenge is to ensure that new businesses <u>and industry centres</u> providing employment are compatible with our environment and lifestyle.
<b>Sustaining rural industry</b>  Our rural industries face threats from urban encroachment, mining, floods, drought and competition for water supplies as well as changing markets and economic conditions. Rural industry is vital to our economy, lifestyle and landscape and requires our support.	Council recognises emerging rural industries in the Scenic Rim Region are broader than industrial rural uses currently outlined in this section. This change reflects the growing move towards eco-tourism and sustainability in the rural sector across the region.	<b><u>Sustaining our rural sector</u></b>  Our rural industries face threats from urban encroachment, mining, floods, drought and competition for water supplies as well as changing markets and economic conditions. Rural industry is vital to our economy, lifestyle and landscape and requires our support.

CURRENT WORDING	WHAT HAS CHANGED	PROPOSED AMENDMENTS
<p><b>Coal mining and coal seam gas extraction</b></p> <p>The world's ever increasing energy demand is generating renewed interest in the region's resources. Impacts from exploration and production could put our environment, lifestyle and rural and tourism industries at risk. It remains unclear if these industries, which require State Government approval, will seek to develop in our region.</p>	<p>In recent times a number of high impact industries have begun to establish themselves in the Scenic Rim Region. Council considers that there are increasing threats to the environment, lifestyle, rural and tourism industries emerging from high impact primary production in addition to the threat of coal mining and coal seam gas extraction in the region. It is proposed that these threats should be recognised by the Community Plan. The proposed amendment broadens the communities concerns to reflect additional high impact industries.</p>	<p><b><u>High impact industry growth</u></b></p> <p>The world's ever increasing <u>resource</u> demand is generating renewed interest in the region. Impacts from <u>coal mining, coal seam gas</u> exploration and <u>high impact primary production</u> could put our environment, lifestyle and rural and tourism industries at risk. It remains unclear if <u>coal and coal seam gas</u> industries, which require State Government approval, will seek to develop in our region <u>and there is an increase in interest in the Scenic Rim as an intensive farming area.</u></p>
<p><b>A global community</b></p> <p>Our region is influenced by global and national issues and trends. We need to consider challenges such as climate change, peak oil, food and water security in terms of their impacts and opportunities for our region. We must ensure our own actions make a positive global contribution.</p>	<p>Developing trends in workforce planning and developments in technology which enables work from home arrangements has allows for remote workforce potential in the region.</p> <p>This amendment reflects the increasing importance of technology and connectivity, not only in everyday life but in facilitating economic growth and business development in the region.</p>	<p><b>A global community</b></p> <p>Our region is influenced by global and national issues and trends. We need to consider challenges such as climate change, peak oil, food and water security, <u>and technological developments and telecommunication connectivity</u> in terms of their impacts and opportunities for our region. We must ensure our own actions make a positive global contribution.</p>



1. Do the proposed changes recognise important emerging issues for the Scenic Rim and reflect community concerns?
2. Are there any other changes regarding the framing of the Plan that should be considered?

# Community Plan Themes

Council has reviewed the Community Plan Themes. In 2011 seven key themes were adopted to reflect the community's aspirations for the Scenic Rim Region:



Each theme has been considered and some suggested changes have been identified by Council.



## Spectacular Scenery and Healthy Environment

CURRENT WORDING	WHAT HAS CHANGED	PROPOSED AMENDMENTS
N/A	Council's rural sector is not currently recognised as an outcome for this theme.	<i>Outcome</i> Inclusion of outcome "A sustainable rural sector."
<i>Priority</i> Supporting the right to farm and helping rural industries to prosper, innovate and adapt.	Council recognises strong community support for balancing rural idyll embodied by traditional farming and innovative uses of rural land (such as farm stays) alongside increasing high intensity farming in the region.  Council believes there has been a shift in community expectation, with Council expected to promote respectful co-existence and helping rural industries to prosper, innovate and adapt.	<i>Priority</i> Supporting <u>respectful co-existence</u> and helping rural industries to prosper, innovate and adapt.
<i>Outcome</i> Restoring waterways, protecting biodiversity and retaining habitat.	Amended wording to clarify target of biodiversity protection as flora and fauna in the Scenic Rim Region.	<i>Outcome</i> Restoring waterways, protecting biodiversity of <u>flora and fauna</u> and retaining habitat.



3. Do the proposed changes reflect changes to this theme for the Scenic Rim and reflect community concerns?
4. Are there any other changes to this theme that should be considered?



## Sustainable and Prosperous Economy

CURRENT WORDING	WHAT HAS CHANGED	PROPOSED AMENDMENTS
<p><i>Outcome</i></p> <p>Our region captures the opportunities that arise from our place in SEQ.</p>	<p>With the establishment of the Bromelton State Development Area which will become the Bromelton Industrial Centre, and establishment of major distribution hubs, Council's opportunities not only relate to SEQ, but our strategic location nationally.</p>	<p><i>Outcome</i></p> <p>Our region captures the opportunities that arise from our <u>unique location</u>.</p>



5. Do the proposed changes reflect changes to this theme for the Scenic Rim and reflect community concerns?

6. Are there any other changes to this theme that should be considered?





## Open and Responsive Government

CURRENT WORDING	WHAT HAS CHANGED	PROPOSED AMENDMENTS
The Scenic Rim community expects ethical government that supports and represents its community. Residents want government to deliver affordable services efficiently and equitably. Government is expected to take a long term view and strike a balance between often competing interests. Communication, transparency and participation in decision making are highly important. Our communities value their self- reliance and look to government for leadership, firm but fair regulation and support for local initiatives.	A review of this part of the Plan has suggested that the framing of this section should reflect that this theme is about the community's aspirations for all levels of government, not only local government.	The Scenic Rim community expects ethical government that supports and represents its community <u>at all levels of government</u> . Residents want government to deliver affordable services efficiently and equitably. <u>All levels of Government</u> <u>are</u> expected to take a long term view and strike a balance between often competing interests. Communication, transparency and participation in decision making are highly important. Our communities value their self- reliance and look to government for leadership, firm but fair regulation and support for local initiatives.



7. Do the proposed changes reflect changes to this theme for the Scenic Rim and reflect community concerns?

8. Are there any other changes to this theme that should be considered?



## Relaxed Living and Rural Lifestyle

CURRENT WORDING	WHAT HAS CHANGED	PROPOSED AMENDMENTS
<p><i>Outcome</i></p> <p>New housing is respectful of our rural lifestyle, town character and natural environment.</p>	<p>Community concern about effects of all types of development in our region is an emerging trend. It is proposed that this outcome is amended to reflect concerns relating to development more generally.</p>	<p><i>Outcome</i></p> <p><u>Development</u> is respectful of our rural lifestyle, town character and natural environment.</p>



9. Do the proposed changes reflect changes to this theme for the Scenic Rim and reflect community concerns?

10. Are there any other changes to this theme that should be considered?



# Vibrant Towns and Villages

CURRENT WORDING	WHAT HAS CHANGED	PROPOSED AMENDMENTS
<p><b>Priorities</b></p> <p>Actively encouraging and supporting development which strengthens and adds appeal to our towns and villages.</p> <p>Limiting development which detracts from our town and village centres and main streets.</p>	<p>A review of these two priorities has suggested that they would combine effectively to identify an overall priority for the region as they balance each other when combined.</p>	<p><b>Priorities</b></p> <p>Actively encouraging and supporting development which strengthens and adds appeal to our towns and villages <u>and does not detract</u> from our town and village centres and main streets.</p>
<p><b>Priority</b></p> <p>Creating attractive, pedestrian friendly and engaging places and spaces in town centres</p>	<p>The addition of 'active' to this priority reflects Council's commitment to creating Vibrant and Active Towns and Villages</p>	<p><b>Priority</b></p> <p>Creating attractive, pedestrian friendly and active engaging places and spaces in town centres</p>

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11. Is Council's broadening of the Community Plan priorities to embrace all towns and villages in the region a more balanced approach to recognise all our valuable communities?
12. Do the proposed changes reflect changes to this theme for the Scenic Rim and reflect community concerns?
13. Are there any other changes to this theme that should be considered?



# Vibrant Towns and Villages

CURRENT WORDING	WHAT HAS CHANGED	PROPOSED AMENDMENTS
<p><i>Priority</i></p> <p>Encouraging a mix of growth and development in Beaudesert to invigorate the town centre, create employment and attract and sustain high quality education and health services.</p>	<p>When the Community Plan was established, it looked to identify discrete goals for specific towns and villages of the Scenic Rim.</p> <p>Gaps currently exist as not all towns and villages were recognised with individual priorities, effectively excluding them from the community's vision.</p>	<p><i>Priority</i></p> <p>Encouraging a mix of growth and development to invigorate town <u>centres</u>, create employment and attract and sustain high quality education and health services.</p>
<p><i>Priority</i></p> <p>Protecting the unique character and heritage values of the Boonah town centre and residential surrounds through community pride and managing development.</p>	<p>At this review point, Council feels that the overarching community plan principles should be whole of region focused and that plans to revitalise and restore individual areas of the Scenic Rim achieved through targeted plans for town centres and village spaces.</p>	<p><i>Priority</i></p> <p>Protecting unique character and heritage values <u>across the region</u> through community pride and managing development.</p>
<p><i>Priority</i></p> <p>Retaining Canungra's village atmosphere and main street.</p>	<p>This will ensure that valuable communities of the Scenic Rim Region are all recognised by the Plan while also ensuring shared goals for the Region's towns and villages.</p>	<p><i>Remove, duplicates previous priority.</i></p>
<p><i>Priority</i></p> <p>Protecting Tamborine Mountain's creative lifestyle and unique natural environment by carefully managing tourism and controlling development.</p>	<p>This review has identified duplication across Regional centre goals and where relevant, duplications have been suggested for deletion.</p>	<p><i>Priority</i></p> <p>Protecting creative, quality lifestyles and unique natural environments by carefully managing tourism, controlling development and protecting valuable productive and natural environments.</p>
<p><i>Priority</i></p> <p>Ensuring Beechmont continues to thrive by retaining its quality lifestyle and protecting its valuable productive and natural environments.</p>		<p><i>Remove, duplicates previous priority.</i></p>
<p><i>Priority</i></p> <p>Reinvigorating Kooralbyn to maintain relaxed rural living in a natural setting.</p>		<p><i>Remove, focuses on one community rather than at the whole community.</i></p>

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## Accessible and Serviced Region

CURRENT WORDING	WHAT HAS CHANGED	PROPOSED AMENDMENTS
Roads are the backbone of our community. Residents, businesses and visitors rely on the road network to move around the region. Our community is demanding better and safer roads and seeking transport alternatives like walking, cycling and public transport. Many believe that quality public transport and more active travel would provide economic, social and environmental benefits for our community.	Council has identified an increasing community call for rail services in the Scenic Rim Region and believes this should be reflected in the Community Plan.	Roads are the backbone of our community. Residents, businesses and visitors rely on the road network to move around the region. Our community is demanding better and safer roads and seeking transport alternatives like walking, cycling, and public transport <u>including rail</u> . Many believe that quality public transport and more active travel would provide economic, social and environmental benefits for our community.
<b>Priority</b> Provide creative and flexible public and community based transport solutions that service towns and villages with a priority of meeting the needs of those with limited access to private transport such as youth and aged.	While Council can encourage community groups and State government service provision, Council's role does not include the provision of transport solutions to the Scenic Rim Region.	<b>Priority</b> <u>Pursue</u> creative and flexible public and community based transport solutions that service towns and villages with a priority of meeting the needs of those with limited access to private transport such as youth and aged.
<b>Priority</b> Providing public transport services between the region's towns and villages and major SEQ urban centres.	Council proposes to remove the qualifier "SEQ" from this priority as it is considered redundant. As above, Council's role does not include the provision of transport solutions to the Scenic Rim Region.	<b>Priority</b> Pursue public transport services between the region's towns and villages and major urban centres.



14. Do the proposed changes reflect changes to this theme for the Scenic Rim and reflect community concerns?

15. Are there any other changes to this theme that should be considered?



# Healthy, Engaged and Resourceful Communities

CURRENT WORDING	WHAT HAS CHANGED	PROPOSED AMENDMENTS
<p><b>Outcomes</b></p> <p>A community where individuals demonstrate commitment to the vision through their personal choices and actions.</p>	<p>Council believes that the Community Plan is truly a document by and for the community, and seeks the community as a whole to commit to the plan rather than only on an individual level.</p>	<p>A community <u>that</u> displays commitment to the vision through choices and actions.</p>
<p><b>Priority</b></p> <p>Providing opportunities for learning and education aligned with the region's future economy.</p>	<p>A number of changes are emerging to technologies which will impact the Scenic Rim Community. Council proposes to amend this priority to recognise these changes.</p>	<p><b>Priority</b></p> <p>Providing opportunities for learning and education aligned with the region's future economy <u>and</u> <u>emerging technologies</u>.</p>
<p><b>Priority</b></p> <p>Supporting individuals to change their behaviours and take action towards the community's vision.</p>	<p>Council proposes changes to wording focus actively on 'doing' within the community to implement the Plan.</p>	<p><b>Priority</b></p> <p>Supporting individuals to <u>contribute</u> towards <u>achieving</u> the community's vision.</p>
<p><b>Priority</b></p> <p>Providing affordable activities, services and public spaces that meet the needs of children and young people.</p>	<p>Council is committed to recognising community need for activities, services and public spaces for the whole community. A change to wording is proposed to recognise Council's advocacy in relation to encouraging delivery of these types of activities the whole community.</p>	<p><b>Priority</b></p> <p>Providing affordable activities, services and public spaces that meet the needs of the <u>community</u>.</p>



16. Do the proposed changes reflect changes to this theme for the Scenic Rim and reflect community concerns?

17. Are there any other changes to this theme that should be considered?

# Making it Happen

Amendments are required to this section of the Plan to reflect changes to Legislation and clarify Council's scope of implementation for the Community Plan.

CURRENT WORDING	WHAT HAS CHANGED	PROPOSED AMENDMENTS
<p><i>Council's Role</i></p> <p>Council's role is to support the community to achieve its vision. The Scenic Rim Community Plan is a statutory plan under the Local Government Act 2009 and guides Council's strategic, operational and financial decisions. Importantly, it sets direction for Council land use planning, infrastructure provision and service delivery.</p> <p>Council's Corporate Plan, Operational Plan and annual Budget will set out what Council will do towards achieving the Community Plan vision and outcomes on an annual basis.</p>	<p>Council is proposing updates to the "Council's Role" section of the Plan to reflect legislative change and Council's role in advocating on State and Federal issues.</p>	<p><i>Council's Role</i></p> <p>Council's role is to support the community to achieve its vision. The Scenic Rim Community Plan is <u>an optional</u> statutory plan under the Local Government Act 2009 and guides Council's strategic, operational and financial decisions <u>based on the overall aspirations of the community</u>. Importantly, it sets direction for Council land use planning, infrastructure provision and service delivery, <u>and identifies areas for Council advocacy on State and Federal issues</u>.</p> <p>Council's Corporate Plan <u>outlines Council's five year plan for implementing aspects of the Community Plan</u>. The Operational Plan and annual Budget will set out what Council will do towards achieving the <u>Corporate Plan</u> on an annual basis.</p>
<p>To implement the Scenic Rim Community Plan Council will:</p> <p>Work with other levels of government, business and community organisations on priorities.</p>	<p>This amendment reflects the holistic nature of the Community Plan.</p>	<p>To implement the Scenic Rim Community Plan Council will:</p> <p>Work with other levels of government, business and community organisations on priorities <u>and aspirations for the Community as set out in this Plan</u>.</p>
<p>High demand for infrastructure and services and limited revenue means that Council will never be able to achieve desired outcomes on its own. Council must work to ensure other levels of government, business and community organisations contribute.</p>	<p>This amendment reflects the holistic nature of the Community Plan.</p>	<p>High demand for infrastructure and services and limited revenue means that Council will never be able to achieve desired outcomes on its own. Council must work to ensure other levels of government, business and community organisations contribute <u>to achieving the outcomes of the Plan</u>.</p>



18. Do the proposed changes adequately reflect partnerships and steps which need to be taken for the achievement of the Community Plan?



## Other Comments about the Plan

At this stage Council is only seeking targeted feedback on the above suggested changes to the Community Plan.

## Updates Reflecting Changes to available Data

A number of minor updates will be made to the Community Plan to update statistics and data about the region. These changes are not reflected in this document and will be gathered from open data sources, such as the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

## Consultation

Council is the custodian of the Community Plan for the members of the Scenic Rim Community. Community feedback is integral to the development, implementation and life of the Plan.

Submissions on the proposed amendments to the Plan and any other feedback on the Plan that members of the Scenic Rim Community may wish to provide is strongly encouraged and will be accepted until **5pm Friday 9 March 2018**.

Submissions should be made in writing and submitted by mail or email to:



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*Acting Chief Executive Officer*  
Community Plan Review  
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