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Version table

Version	Details	Date
Version 1	For adoption by Western Downs Regional Council	March 2017
Version 2	Version in accordance with the Minister's Rules for the purpose of the Alignment Amendment to the Planning Act (2016).	June 2017
Version 3	Adoption of Amendment 1 to the Western Downs Planning Scheme	April 2019

Citation and commencement

This planning scheme may be cited as the *Western Downs Planning Scheme*.

A notice was published in the Government Gazette No. 377 on (DATE) for the planning scheme for the Western Downs local government area. .

The commencement date for the planning scheme was (DATE).

Amendments to the planning scheme are included at Appendix 2.

Community statement

Western Downs has an unforgettable mix of physical attractions, diverse cultural assets and great people; making for a healthy and balanced lifestyle.

The world class attractions of the Western Downs are prime quality agricultural land and the dramatic landscape features; including wide open spaces and the magnificent Bunya Mountains National Park.

The Western Downs people are connected and caring, easy going and friendly. Residents cherish their amazingly rich community life and warmly embrace new residents drawn to the area. The towns and villages in the Western Downs are appealing places to live and visit. Visitors come again and again for a change in pace and scene, to soak themselves in the experience of the Western Downs and to spend time with the locals.

Western Downs is a showcase for good regional governance and management, with shared responsibilities and partnership across all sectors.

Western Downs is a place of innovation, progress and outstanding economic success. The economic activity of the region respects the environment, with opportunities and benefits shared by all. Its long standing role as a vital food bowl has been strengthened while the region has developed major new industries in the energy sector and through value adding.

Western Downs is 'A Destination'; and attractive yet affordable and welcoming place to live and visit.

Editor's Note - the community statement is extrinsic material to the planning scheme.

Strategic vision

Council and the community has a strategic vision that the Western Downs will be:

- A strong sustainable region that is economically and socially resilient;
- A region that enables, promotes and facilitates economic development opportunities by encouraging new industries and commerce initiatives whilst protecting our natural resources;
- Encourages technological innovation and value adding opportunities;
- Promotes and facilitates investment attraction opportunities;
- Ensures the provision of infrastructure (including social) to meet the needs and expectations of the community;
- Provides opportunities for people to age in place;
- Provides a range of housing options to suit the needs of residents; and
- A region that is recognised as finding an equilibrium between the built and natural environments.

Editor's note—the strategic vision is extrinsic material to the planning scheme. Note that as part of public notification of planning scheme, the community will be asked to provide feedback on what their vision for the region is.

Contents

Part 1 About the planning Scheme	1-1
1.1 Introduction	1-1
1.2 Planning scheme components	1-3
1.3 Interpretation	1-5
1.3.1 Definitions	1-5
1.3.2 Standard drawings, maps, notes, editor's notes and footnotes	1-5
1.3.3 Punctuation	1-5
1.3.4 Zones for road, closed roads, waterways and reclaimed land	1-5
1.4 Categories of development	1-6
1.5 Hierarchy of assessment benchmarks	1-6
1.6 Building work regulated under the planning scheme	1-7
1.7 Local government administrative matters	1-8
1.7.1 Assessable development - Code assessable - Fast tracked	1-8
1.7.2 Special industry considerations	1-8
1.7.3 Temporary use limitations	1-8
Part 2 State planning provisions	2-1
2.1 State planning policies	2-1
2.2 Regional plan	2-1
2.3 Referral agency delegations	2-1
2.4 Regulated requirements	2-1
Part 3 Strategic Plan	3-1
3.1 Preliminary	3-1
3.2 Strategic intent	3-2
3.2.1 Regional, local and historic context	3-2
3.2.2 Opportunities and challenges	3-3
3.2.2.1 Housing need	3-3
3.2.2.2 Managing the growth of the resources and energy sector	3-3
3.2.2.3 Protecting the natural environment	3-4
3.2.2.4 Economic resilience	3-4
3.2.2.5 Natural hazards and climate change	3-4
3.3 Liveable communities and housing	3-6
3.3.1 Strategic outcomes	3-7
3.3.2 Element - Network of centres	3-7
3.3.2.1 Specific outcomes	3-7
3.3.2.2 Land use strategies	3-7
3.3.3 Element - Compact urban form	3-9
3.3.3.1 Specific outcomes	3-9
3.3.3.2 Land use strategies	3-9
3.3.4 Element - Community character	3-10
3.3.4.1 Specific outcomes	3-10
3.3.4.2 Land use strategies	3-10
3.3.5 Element - Social infrastructure	3-11
3.3.5.1 Specific outcomes	3-11
3.3.5.2 Land use strategies	3-11
3.3.6 Element - Sport and recreation	3-12

3.3.6.1	Specific outcomes	3-12
3.3.6.2	Land use strategies	3-12
3.3.7	Element - Safe communities	3-13
3.3.7.1	Specific outcomes	3-13
3.3.7.2	Land use strategies	3-13
3.3.8	Element - Housing supply and diversity	3-14
3.3.8.1	Specific outcomes	3-14
3.3.8.2	Land use strategies	3-14
3.3.9	Element - Industrial land use and development	3-15
3.3.9.1	Specific outcomes	3-15
3.3.9.2	Land use strategies	3-15
3.3.10	Element - Rural land use and development	3-17
3.3.10.1	Specific outcomes	3-17
3.3.10.2	Land use strategies	3-17
3.3.11	Element - Rural residential land use and development	3-18
3.3.11.1	Specific outcomes	3-18
3.3.11.2	Land use strategies	3-18
3.3.12	Element - Parks and public spaces	3-19
3.3.12.1	Specific outcomes	3-19
3.3.12.2	Land use strategies	3-19
3.3.13	Climate change and sustainable urban design	3-20
3.3.13.1	Specific outcomes	3-20
3.3.13.2	Land use strategies	3-20
3.4	Environment and heritage	3-21
3.4.1	Strategic outcomes	3-21
3.4.2	Element - Habitat and biodiversity	3-22
3.4.2.1	Specific outcomes	3-22
3.4.2.2	Land use strategies	3-22
3.4.3	Element - Vegetation	3-23
3.4.3.1	Specific outcomes	3-23
3.4.3.2	Land use strategies	3-23
3.4.4	Element - Waterways, wetlands and aquifers	3-24
3.4.4.1	Specific outcomes	3-24
3.4.4.2	Land use strategies	3-24
3.4.5	Element - State forest	3-25
3.4.5.1	Specific outcomes	3-25
3.4.5.2	Land use strategies	3-25
3.4.6	Element - Scenic amenity	3-26
3.4.6.1	Specific outcomes	3-26
3.4.6.2	Land use strategies	3-26
3.4.7	Element - Cultural heritage	3-27
3.4.7.1	Specific outcomes	3-27
3.4.7.2	Land use strategies	3-27
3.4.8	Element - Soil management and erosion	3-28
3.4.8.1	Specific outcomes	3-28
3.4.8.2	Land use strategies	3-28
3.4.9	Element - Air and noise quality	3-29

3.4.9.1	Specific outcomes	3-29
3.4.9.2	Land use strategies	3-29
3.5	Economic growth	3-30
3.5.1	Strategic outcomes	3-30
3.5.2	Element - Activity centres and employment	3-31
3.5.2.1	Specific outcomes	3-31
3.5.2.2	Land use strategies	3-31
3.5.3	Element - Agriculture	3-32
3.5.3.1	Specific outcomes	3-32
3.5.3.2	Land use strategies	3-32
3.5.4	Element - Industrial development	3-33
3.5.4.1	Specific outcomes	3-33
3.5.4.2	Land use strategies	3-33
3.5.5	Element - Mining and extractive resources	3-34
3.5.5.1	Specific outcomes	3-34
3.5.5.2	Land use strategies	3-34
3.5.6	Element - Mineral resources	3-35
3.5.6.1	Specific outcomes	3-35
3.5.6.2	Land use strategies	3-35
3.5.7	Element - Tourism	3-36
3.5.7.1	Specific outcomes	3-36
3.5.7.2	Land use strategies	3-36
3.5.8	Element - Home based business	3-37
3.5.8.1	Specific outcomes	3-37
3.5.8.2	Land use strategies	3-37
3.6	Infrastructure	3-38
3.6.1	Strategic outcomes	3-38
3.6.2	Element - Road network	3-39
3.6.2.1	Specific outcomes	3-39
3.6.2.2	Land use strategies	3-39
3.6.3	Element - Water supply network	3-40
3.6.3.1	Specific outcomes	3-40
3.6.3.2	Land use strategies	3-40
3.6.4	Element - Sewerage network	3-41
3.6.4.1	Specific outcomes	3-41
3.6.4.2	Land use strategies	3-41
3.6.5	Element - Stormwater management	3-42
3.6.5.1	Specific outcomes	3-42
3.6.5.2	Land use strategies	3-42
3.6.6	Element - Energy infrastructure	3-43
3.6.6.1	Specific outcomes	3-43
3.6.6.2	Land use strategies	3-43
3.6.7	Element - Alternative energy production	3-44
3.6.7.1	Specific outcomes	3-44
3.6.7.2	Land use strategies	3-44
3.6.8	Element - Telecommunications	3-45
3.6.8.1	Specific outcomes	3-45

3.6.8.2 Land use strategies	3-45
3.6.9 Element - Infrastructure corridors	3-46
3.6.9.1 Specific outcomes	3-46
3.6.9.2 Land use strategies	3-46
3.6.10 Element - Rail networks	3-47
3.6.10.1 Specific outcomes	3-47
3.6.10.2 Land use strategies	3-47
3.6.11 Element - Stock route network	3-48
3.6.11.1 Specific outcomes	3-48
3.6.11.2 Land use strategies	3-48
3.6.12 Element - Active transport network	3-49
3.6.12.1 Specific outcomes	3-49
3.6.12.2 Land use strategies	3-49
3.6.13 Element - Airport enterprise and aviation facilities	3-50
3.6.13.1 Specific outcomes	3-50
3.6.13.2 Land use strategies	3-50
3.7 Safety and resilience to hazards	3-51
3.7.1 Strategic outcomes	3-51
3.7.2 Element - Natural hazards	3-52
3.7.2.1 Specific outcomes	3-52
3.7.2.2 Land use strategies	3-52
3.7.3 Element - Climate change impacts and natural environment vulnerability	3-53
3.7.3.1 Specific outcomes	3-53
3.7.3.2 Land use strategies	3-53
3.7.4 Element - Contaminate land	3-54
3.7.4.1 Specific outcomes	3-54
3.7.4.2 Land use strategies	3-54
3.7.5 Element - Waste management and recycling	3-55
3.7.5.1 Specific outcomes	3-55
3.7.5.2 Land use strategies	3-55
Part 4 Local government infrastructure plan	4-1
4.1 Preliminary	4-1
4.2 Planning assumptions	4-2
4.2.1 Population and employment growth	4-5
4.2.2 Development	4-5
4.2.3 Infrastructure Demand	4-6
4.3 Priority infrastructure area	4-6
4.4 Desired standards of service	4-7
4.4.1 Water supply network	4-7
4.4.2 Wastewater network	4-8
4.4.3 Stormwater drainage network	4-10
4.4.4 Transport network	4-11
4.4.5 Public parks and land for community facilities network	4-12
4.5 Plans for trunk infrastructure	4-15
4.5.1 Plans for trunk infrastructure maps	4-15
4.5.2 Schedules of works	4-16
4.5.3 Water supply network	4-16

4.5.4	Wastewater network	4-18
4.5.5	Stormwater drainage network	4-19
4.5.6	Transport network	4-20
4.5.7	Public parks and land for community facilities network	4-23
4.5.8	Extrinsic material	4-24
Part 5 Tables of assessment		5-1
5.1	Preliminary	5-1
5.2	Reading the tables	5-1
5.3	Categories of development and assessment	5-1
5.3.1	Process for determining the category of development and the category of assessment for assessable development	5-1
5.3.2	Determining the category of development and the categories of assessment	5-2
5.3.3	Determining the requirements for accepted development and assessment benchmarks and other matters for assessable development	5-3
5.4	Regulated categories of development and categories of assessment prescribed by the Regulation.	5-4
5.5	Categories of development and assessment - Material change of use	5-5
5.6	Categories of development and assessment - Reconfiguring a lot	5-91
5.7	Categories of development and assessment - Building works	5-92
5.8	Categories of development and assessment - Operational work	5-92
5.9	Categories of development and assessment - Local plans	5-92
5.10	Categories of development and assessment - Overlays	5-93
Part 6 Zones		6-1
6.1	Preliminary	6-1
6.2	Zone Codes	6-2
6.2.1	Major Centre Zone	6-2
6.2.1.1	Application	6-2
6.2.1.2	Purpose	6-2
6.2.1.3	Assessment benchmarks	6-5
6.2.2	District Centre Zone Code	6-13
6.2.2.1	Application	6-13
6.2.2.2	Purpose	6-13
6.2.2.3	Assessment benchmarks	6-16
6.2.3	Local centre zone	6-23
6.2.3.1	Application	6-23
6.2.3.2	Purpose	6-23
6.2.3.3	Assessment benchmarks	6-26
6.2.4	Township zone code	6-31
6.2.4.1	Application	6-31
6.2.4.2	Purpose	6-31
6.2.4.3	Assessment benchmarks	6-34
6.2.5	Low Impact Industry Zone	6-39
6.2.5.1	Application	6-39
6.2.5.2	Purpose	6-39
6.2.5.3	Assessment benchmarks	6-42
6.2.6	Medium Impact Industry Zone	6-47
6.2.6.1	Application	6-47
6.2.6.2	Purpose	6-47

6.2.6.3 Assessment benchmarks	6-50
6.2.7 High Impact Industry Zone Code	6-55
6.2.7.1 Application	6-55
6.2.7.2 Purpose	6-55
6.2.7.3 Assessment benchmarks	6-58
6.2.8 Low Density Residential Zone Code	6-63
6.2.8.1 Application	6-63
6.2.8.2 Purpose	6-63
6.2.8.3 Assessment benchmarks	6-66
6.2.9 Medium Density Residential Zone Code	6-70
6.2.9.1 Application	6-70
6.2.9.2 Purpose	6-70
6.2.9.3 Assessment benchmarks	6-73
6.2.10 Rural Zone Code	6-77
6.2.10.1 Application	6-77
6.2.10.2 Purpose	6-77
6.2.10.3 Assessment benchmarks	6-80
6.2.11 Rural Residential Zone Code	6-83
6.2.11.1 Application	6-83
6.2.11.2 Purpose	6-83
6.2.11.3 Assessment benchmarks	6-76
6.2.12 Community Facilities Zone Code	6-89
6.2.12.1 Application	6-89
6.2.12.2 Purpose	6-89
6.2.12.3 Assessment benchmarks	6-91
6.2.13 Recreation and Open Space Zone Code	6-96
6.2.13.1 Application	6-96
6.2.13.2 Purpose	6-96
6.2.13.3 Assessment benchmarks	6-99
Part 7 Local plans	7-1
7.1 Preliminary	7-1
7.2 Local plan codes	7-2
7.2.1 Western Downs Health Precinct Code	7-2
7.2.1.1 Application	7-2
7.2.1.2 Purpose	7-2
7.2.1.3 Assessment benchmarks	7-3
Part 8 Overlays	8-1
8.1 Preliminary	8-1
8.2 Overlay codes	8-2
8.2.1 Airport environs overlay code	8-2
8.2.1.1 Application	8-2
8.2.1.2 Purpose	8-2
8.2.1.3 Assessment benchmarks	8-2
8.2.2 Biodiversity areas overlay code	8-3
8.2.2.1 Application	8-3
8.2.2.2 Purpose	8-3
8.2.2.3 Assessment benchmarks	8-3

8.2.3	Bushfire hazard overlay code	8-6
8.2.3.1	Application	8-6
8.2.3.2	Purpose	8-6
8.2.3.3	Assessment benchmarks	8-6
8.2.4	Flood hazard overlay code	8-8
8.2.4.1	Application	8-8
8.2.4.2	Purpose	8-8
8.2.4.3	Assessment benchmarks	8-9
8.2.5	Heritage overlay code	8-17
8.2.5.1	Application	8-17
8.2.5.2	Purpose	8-17
8.2.5.3	Assessment benchmarks	8-17
8.2.6	Infrastructure overlay code	8-21
8.2.6.1	Application	8-21
8.2.6.2	Purpose	8-21
8.2.6.3	Assessment benchmarks	8-21
8.2.7	Natural resources overlay code	8-26
8.2.7.1	Application	8-26
8.2.7.2	Purpose	8-26
8.2.7.3	Assessment benchmarks	8-26
8.2.8	Regional infrastructure corridor - stock route overlay code	8-30
8.2.8.1	Application	8-30
8.2.8.2	Purpose	8-30
8.2.8.3	Assessment benchmarks	8-30
8.2.9	Scenic amenity overlay code	8-31
8.2.9.1	Application	8-31
8.2.9.2	Purpose	8-31
8.2.9.3	Assessment benchmarks	8-31
8.2.10	Stormwater overland flow path overlay code	8-34
8.2.10.1	Application	8-34
8.2.10.2	Purpose	8-34
8.2.10.3	Assessment benchmarks	8-34
8.2.11	Waterway corridors overlay code	8-37
8.2.11.1	Application	8-37
8.2.11.2	Purpose	8-37
8.2.11.3	Assessment benchmarks	8-37
8.2.12	Wetlands overlay code	8-39
8.2.12.1	Application	8-39
8.2.12.2	Purpose	8-39
8.2.12.3	Assessment benchmarks	8-39
Part 9 Development codes		9-1
9.1	Preliminary	9-1
9.2	Development that cannot be made assessable in accordance with Schedule 6 of the Planning Regulation 2017	9-2
9.3	Use codes	9-3
9.3.1	Accommodation activities code	9-3
9.3.1.1	Application	9-3

9.3.1.2 Purpose	9-3
9.3.1.3 Assessment benchmarks	9-4
9.3.2 Extractive industry code	9-13
9.3.2.1 Application	9-13
9.3.2.2 Purpose	9-13
9.3.2.3 Assessment benchmarks	9-13
9.3.3 Home based business code	9-17
9.3.3.1 Application	9-17
9.3.3.2 Purpose	9-17
9.3.3.3 Assessment benchmarks	9-17
9.3.4 Rural activities code	9-20
9.3.4.1 Application	9-20
9.3.4.2 Purpose	9-20
9.3.4.3 Assessment benchmarks	9-20
9.3.5 Telecommunications facility code	9-25
9.3.5.1 Application	9-25
9.3.5.2 Purpose	9-25
9.3.5.3 Assessment benchmarks	9-25
9.4 Other development codes	9-27
9.4.1 Advertising devices code	9-27
9.4.1.1 Application	9-27
9.4.1.2 Purpose	9-27
9.4.1.3 Assessment benchmarks	9-27
9.4.2 Infrastructure services code	9-31
9.4.2.1 Application	9-31
9.4.2.2 Purpose	9-31
9.4.2.3 Assessment benchmarks	9-31
9.4.3 Operational works code	9-33
9.4.3.1 Application	9-33
9.4.3.2 Purpose	9-33
9.4.3.3 Assessment benchmarks	9-33
9.4.4 Reconfiguring a lot code	9-38
9.4.4.1 Application	9-38
9.4.4.2 Purpose	9-38
9.4.4.3 Assessment benchmarks	9-38
9.4.5 Transport, access and parking code	9-43
9.4.5.1 Application	9-43
9.4.5.2 Purpose	9-43
9.4.5.3 Assessment benchmarks	9-43
Part 10 Other plans	10-1
Schedule 1 Definitions	SC1-1
SC1.1 Use definitions	SC1-1
SC1.1.1 Defined activity groups	SC1-35
SC1.1.2 Industry thresholds	SC1-38
SC1.2 Administrative terms	SC1-44
Schedule 2 Mapping	SC2-1
SC2.1 Map index	SC2-1
SC2.2 Strategic plan maps	SC2-2

SC2.3 Zone maps	SC2-3
SC2.4 Local plan maps	SC2-4
SC2.5 Overlay maps	SC2-5
SC2.6 Other plan maps	SC2-6
Schedule 3 Local government infrastructure plan mapping and supporting material	SC3-1
Schedule 4 Notations required under the <i>Planning Act 2016</i>	SC4-1
SC4.1 Notation of decisions affecting the planning scheme under section 89 of the Act	SC4-1
SC4.2 Notation of resolution(s) under Chapter 4, Part 2, Division 2 of the Act	SC4-3
SC4.3 Notation of resolution for urban encroachment provisions under section 267 of the Act	SC4-3
Schedule 5 Designation of premises for development	SC5-1
Schedule 6 Planning scheme policies	SC6-1
SC6.1 Planning scheme policy index	SC6-1
SC6.2 Development manual	P1-0
SC6.3 Ecological assessment	P2-1
SC6.4 Landscape character	P3-1
SC6.5 Local heritage places	P4-1
SC6.6 Development applications requirements	P5-1
Appendix 1 Index and glossary of abbreviations and acronyms	AP1-1
Appendix 2 Table of amendments	AP2-1

Tables

Table number	Table name	Part - Page
Table 1.6.1	Building Act provision variations	1 - 7
Table 1.7.1	Temporary use limitations	1 - 8
Table 2.3.1	Delegated referral agency jurisdictions	2 - 1
Table 4.1	Relationship between LGIP development categories, LGIP development types and uses	4 - 3
Table 4.2	Population and employment assumptions summary	4 - 5
Table 4.3	Residential dwellings and non-residential floor space assumptions summary	4 - 6
Table 4.4	Desired standard of service for the water supply network	4 - 7
Table 4.5	Planning and Design Criteria for the water supply network	4 - 8
Table 4.6	Desired standard of service for the wastewater network	4 - 8
Table 4.7	Planning and Design Criteria for the wastewater network	4 - 10
Table 4.8	Desired standard of service for the stormwater network	4 - 10
Table 4.9	Desired standard of service for the transport and footpath network	4 - 11
Table 4.10	Rate of provision	4 - 12
Table 4.11	Accessibility provisions	4 - 12
Table 4.12	Minimum characteristics of each park	4 - 13
Table 4.13	Typical embellishments (recreation parks)	4 - 14
Table 4.14	Typical embellishments (sports parks)	4 - 15
Table 4.15	Schedule of works for the water supply network	4 - 16
Table 4.16	Schedule of works for the wastewater network	4 - 18
Table 4.17	Schedule of works for the stormwater network	4 - 19
Table 4.18	Schedule of works for the road transport network	4 - 20
Table 4.19	Schedule of works for the footpath network	4 - 21
Table 4.20	Schedule of works for the public parks and land for community facilities network	4 - 23
Table 4.21	List of extrinsic material	4 - 24
Table SC3.1	Existing and projected population	4 - 25
Table SC3.2	Existing and projected employees	4 - 26
Table SC3.3	Planned density and demand generation rate for a trunk infrastructure network.	4 - 27
Table SC3.4	Existing and projected residential dwellings	4 - 28
Table SC3.5	Existing and projected non-residential floor space	4 - 29
Table SC3.6	Existing and projected demand for the water supply network	4 - 30
Table SC3.7	Existing and projected demand for the sewer network	4 - 30
Table SC3.8	Existing and projected demand for the stormwater network	4 - 30
Table SC3.9	Existing and projected demand for the transport network	4 - 31
Table SC3.10	Existing and projected demand for the public parks and land for community facilities network	4 - 31
Table 5.5.1	Major centre zone	5 - 5
Table 5.5.2	District centre zone	5 - 18
Table 5.5.3	Local centre zone	5 - 28
Table 5.5.4	Township zone	5 - 37
Table 5.5.5	Low impact industry zone	5 - 47
Table 5.5.6	Medium impact industry zone	5 - 52
Table 5.5.7	High impact industry zone	5-57

Table 5.5.8	Low density residential zone	5 - 60
Table 5.5.9	Medium density residential zone	5 - 63
Table 5.5.10	Rural zone code	5 - 67
Table 5.5.11	Rural residential zone Code	5 - 72
Table 5.5.12	Community facilities zone	5 - 75
Table 5.5.13	Recreation and open space zone	5 - 84
Table 5.6.1	Reconfiguring a Lot	5 - 90
Table 5.8.1	Operational Work	5 - 91
Table 5.9.1	Western downs health precinct	5 - 91
Table 5.10.1	Overlays	5 - 92
Table 6.2.1.1	Major centre zone code	6 - 5
Table 6.2.1.2	Construction phase - stormwater management design objectives	6 - 11
Table 6.2.2.1	District centre zone code	6 - 16
Table 6.2.2.2	Construction phase - stormwater management design objectives	6 - 21
Table 6.2.3.1	Local centre zone code	6 - 26
Table 6.2.3.2	Construction phase - stormwater management design objectives	6 - 29
Table 6.2.4.1	Township zone code	6 - 34
Table 6.2.4.2	Construction phase - stormwater management design objectives	6 - 37
Table 6.2.5.1	Low Impact Industry zone code	6 - 42
Table 6.2.5.2	Construction phase - stormwater management design objectives	6 - 46
Table 6.2.6.1	Medium impact industry zone code	6 - 50
Table 6.2.6.2	Construction phase - stormwater management design objectives	6 - 54
Table 6.2.7.1	High impact industry zone code	6-58
Table 6.2.7.2	Construction phase - stormwater management design objectives	6-62
Table 6.2.8.1	Low density residential zone code	6 - 66
Table 6.2.8.2	Construction phase - stormwater management design objectives	6 - 68
Table 6.2.9.1	Medium density zone code	6 - 73
Table 6.2.9.2	Construction phase - stormwater management design objectives	6 - 76
Table 6.2.10.1	Rural zone code	6 - 80
Table 6.2.10.2	Construction phase - stormwater management design objectives	6 - 82
Table 6.2.11.1	Rural residential code	6 - 86
Table 6.2.11.2	Construction phase - stormwater management design objectives	6 - 88
Table 6.2.12.1	Community facilities zone code	6 -92
Table 6.2.12.2	Construction phase - stormwater management design objectives	6 - 94
Table 6.2.13.1	Recreation and open space zone code	6 - 99
Table 6.2.13.2	Construction phase - stormwater management design objectives	6 - 101
Table 7.2.1.1	Criteria for assessable development	7 - 3
Table 8.2.1.1	Airport environs overlay code	8 - 2
Table 8.2.2.1	Biodiversity areas overlay code	8 - 3

Table 8.2.3.1	Bushfire hazard overlay code	8 - 6
Table 8.2.4.1	Flood hazard overlay code	8 - 9
Table 8.2.4.2	Flood immunity levels	8 - 16
Table 8.2.4.3	Community infrastructure immunity levels	8 - 16
Table 8.2.5.1	Heritage overlay code	8 - 18
Table 8.2.6.1	Infrastructure overlay code	8 - 21
Table 8.2.7.1	Natural resources overlay code	8 - 26
Table 8.2.7.2	Acceptable development within Agricultural Land	8 - 29
Table 8.2.8.1	Regional infrastructure corridor - stock route overlay code	8 - 30
Table 8.2.9.1	Scenic amenity overlay code	8 - 31
Table 8.2.10.1	Stormwater overland flow path overlay code	8 - 34
Table 8.2.10.2	Stormwater overland flow path immunity levels	8 - 35
Table 8.2.10.3	Community Infrastructure immunity levels	8 - 36
Table 8.2.11.1	Waterway corridors overlay code	8 - 37
Table 8.2.11.2	Waterway corridor setbacks	8 - 38
Table 8.2.12.1	Wetlands overlay code	8 - 39
Table 8.2.12.2	Wetland corridor setbacks	8 - 40
Table 9.3.1.1	Accommodation activities code	9 - 4
Table 9.3.1.2	Tourist park and relocatable home requirements	9 - 12
Table 9.3.2.1	Extractive industry code	9 - 13
Table 9.3.3.1	Home based business code	9 - 17
Table 9.3.4.1	Rural activities code	9 - 20
Table 9.3.4.2	Separation distances to residential and environmentally sensitive land uses	9 - 24
Table 9.3.5.1	Telecommunications facility code	9 - 26
Table 9.4.1.1	Advertising devices code	9 - 28
Table 9.4.2.1	Infrastructure services code	9 - 32
Table 9.4.3.1	Operational works code	9 - 34
Table 9.4.4.1	Reconfiguring a lot code	9 - 39
Table 9.4.4.2	Minimum lot size and frontages	9 - 43
Table 9.4.5.1	Transport, access and parking code	9 - 44
Table 9.4.5.2	Car parking generation rates and service vehicle requirements	9 - 50
Table 9.4.5.3	Road hierarchy levels and objectives	9 - 54
Schedules		
Schedule 1 - Definitions		
Table SC1.1.1	Index of use definitions	SC1 - 2
Table SC1.1.2	Use definitions	SC1 - 3
Table SC1.1.1.1	Index of defined activity groups	SC1 - 35
Table SC1.1.1.2	Defined activity groups	SC1 - 35
Table SC1.1.2.1	Industry thresholds	SC1 - 38
Table SC1.2.1	Index of administrative definitions	SC1 - 44
Table SC1.2.2	Administrative terms	SC1 - 45
Schedule 2 - Mapping		
Table SC2.1.1	Map index	SC2 - 1
Table SC2.2.1	Strategic plan map index	SC2 - 2
Table SC2.3.1	Zone map index	SC2 - 3
Table SC2.5.1	Overlay map index	SC2 - 5
Schedule 3 - Priority Infrastructure Plan Mapping and Support Material		

Table SC3.1	Map index	SC3 - 1
Schedule 4 - Notations Required Under the SPA		
Table SC4.1.1	Notation of decisions under section 391 of the Act	SC4 - 1
Table SC4.2.1	Notation of resolutions under Chapter 8, Part 2, Division 1 of the Act	SC4 - 3
Table SC4.3.1	Notation of decisions under section 680ZE of the act	SC4 - 3
Schedule 5 - Land Designated for Community Infrastructure		
Table SC5.1	Land designated for community infrastructure	SC5 - 1
Schedule 6 - Planning Scheme Policies		
Table SC6.1.1	Planning scheme policy index	SC6 - 1
Planning Scheme Policy 1 - Development Manual		
Table 1.11.1	Road Definitions and Functional Hierarchy	PSP1 - 1
Table 1.12.1	Urban Streets	PSP1 - 19
Table 1.12.2	Rural Residential Streets	PSP1 - 25
Table 1.12.3	Industrial Streets	PSP1 - 30
Table 1.13.2	Frequency of testing for subgrade	PSP1 - 37
Table 1.15.1	Design ESA's by Road Class	PSP1 - 40
Table 1.15.2	Minimum Pavement Thickness	PSP1 - 41
Table 1.16.1	Road Work Quality Plan	PSP1 - 44
Table 3.9.1	Bedding Material Specifications	PSP1 - 82
Table 4.3.1	Location and Alignment of Sewers	PSP1 - 93
Table 4.3.2	Sewer Capacity at Minimum Grade	PSP1 - 94
Table 5.2.1	Listing of Approved Standard Drawings	PSP1 - 103
Table 6.6.10.1	Acceptable embellishments criteria including play and exercise equipment	PSP1 - 122
Table 6.10.1.1	Medium to Large trees (over 10 metres)	PSP1 - 128
Table 6.10.1.2	Large shrubs to small trees (5-10 metres)	PSP1 - 134
Table 6.10.1.3	Trees and shrubs (2-5 metres)	PSP1 - 139
Table 6.10.1.4	Small shrubs (0.2-2 metres)	PSP1 - 143
Table 6.10.1.5	Groundcovers and Climbers	PSP1 - 146
Table 6.10.2.1	Medium to Large trees (over 10 metres)	PSP1 - 147
Table 6.10.2.2	Large shrubs to small trees (5-10 metres)	PSP1 - 153
Table 6.10.2.3	Medium shrubs (2-5 metres)	PSP1 - 156
Table 6.10.2.4	Small shrubs (0.2-2 metres)	PSP1 - 159
Table 6.10.2.5	Groundcovers	PSP1 - 161
Table 6.10.2.6	Climbers	PSP1 - 162
Table 6.10.3.1	Medium to Large trees (over 10 metres)	PSP1 - 163
Table 6.10.3.2	Large shrubs to small trees (5-10 metres)	PSP1 - 169
Table 6.10.3.3	Trees and shrubs (2-5 metres)	PSP1 - 174
Table 6.10.3.4	Small shrubs (0.2-2m)	PSP1 - 178
Table 6.10.3.5	Groundcovers and Climbers	PSP1 - 181
Table 6.10.4.1	Medium to Large trees (over 10 metres)	PSP1 - 182
Table 6.10.4.2	Large shrubs to small trees (5-10m)	PSP1 - 187
Table 6.10.4.3	Trees and shrubs (2-5m)	PSP1 - 191
Table 6.10.4.4	Small shrubs (0.2-2m)	PSP1 - 194
Table 6.10.4.5	Groundcovers and Climbers	PSP1 - 197
Table 6.10.5.1	Medium to Large trees (over 10 metres)	PSP1 - 198

Table 6.10.5.2	Large shrubs to small trees (5-10 m)	PSP1 - 203
Table 6.10.5.3	Trees and shrubs (2-5m)	PSP1 - 208
Table 6.10.5.4	Small shrubs (0.5-2m)	PSP1 - 212
Table 6.10.5.5	Groundcovers and Climbers	PSP1 - 215
Table AP6.11.1	Weed List Western Downs	PSP1 - 216
Table 10.1.1	Flood Immunity Levels – Buildings	PSP1 - 222
Table 10.1.2	Community Infrastructure Flood Immunity Levels	PSP1 - 222
Table 10.2.1	Stormwater overland flow path immunity levels	PSP1 - 222
Table 10.2.2	Community Infrastructure Stormwater Overland Flow Immunity Levels	PSP1 - 223
Planning Scheme Policy 2 - Ecological Assessment		
Table SC6.3.3	Ecological assessment requirements	SC6.3 - 3
Planning Scheme Policy 3 - Landscape Character		
Table SC6.4.3	Landscape assessment requirements	SC6.4 - 2
Table SC6.4.2	Landscape character types	SC6.4 - 4
Table SC6.4.3	Landscape assessment documentation requirements	SC6.4 - 6
Planning Scheme Policy 4 - Local Heritage Places		
Table SC6.5.1	Local heritage places	SC6.5 - 1
Planning Scheme Policy 5 - Development Applications Requirements		
Table SC6.6.6	Additional information required by development and overlay codes	SC6.6 - 5
Appendix		
Table AP1.1	Abbreviations and acronyms	AP - 1
Table AP2.1	Table of amendments	AP - 1

Figures

Figure Number	Name	Page
Figure 1.1	Local government planning scheme area and context	1 - 2
Figure 3.3.2	Western Downs activity centre network	3 - 8