

Livingstone SHIRE COUNCIL

Planning scheme
Information sheet #9

What are Matters of Local Environmental Significance?

Our environment is important and all three levels of government have a role in protecting the natural assets that make the Livingstone Shire a special place to live.

The Australian Government looks after matters important to the entire nation. These include:

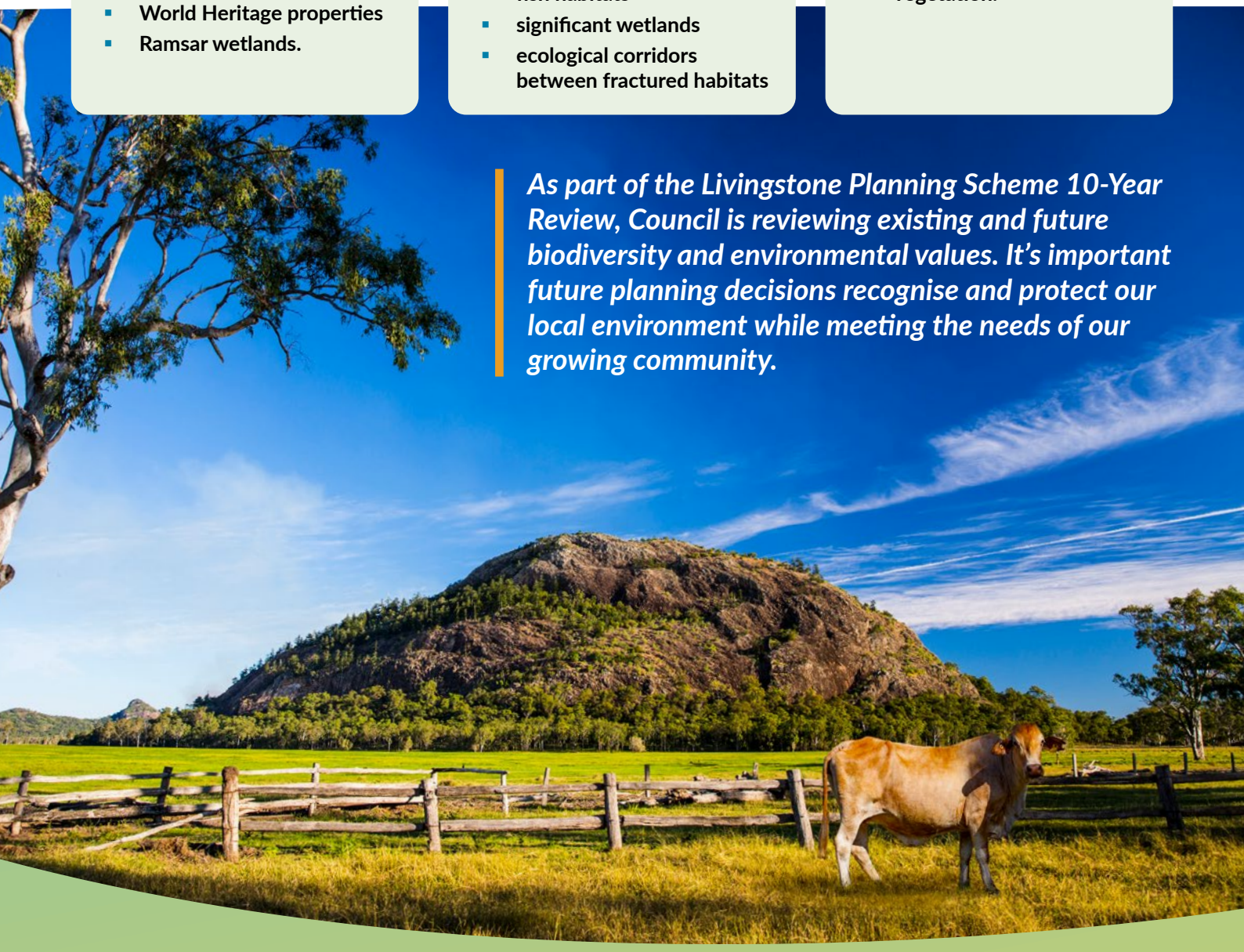
- The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park
- World Heritage properties
- Ramsar wetlands.

The Queensland State Government looks after:

- national parks
- marine parks
- fish habitats
- significant wetlands
- ecological corridors between fractured habitats

Councils are responsible for:

- neighbourhood waterways
- local wildlife corridors
- locally significant vegetation.



As part of the Livingstone Planning Scheme 10-Year Review, Council is reviewing existing and future biodiversity and environmental values. It's important future planning decisions recognise and protect our local environment while meeting the needs of our growing community.



Council's 2025 Community Views Survey identified strong community support for protecting environmental assets, natural landscapes, biodiversity and the environmental qualities that contribute to the region's lifestyle and identity.

Existing planning scheme mapping

The Livingstone Planning Scheme 2018 currently includes mapping for Matters of Local Environmental Significance (MLES).

While the existing mapping provides a strong foundation, Council is working towards identifying opportunities to refine and strengthen the information used to support planning and development assessment decisions.

This includes strengthening known biodiversity values, and defining the location and scale of environmental corridors, ecological connections and other locally significant environmental features.

The biodiversity review

Council is conducting a detailed review of biodiversity values across Livingstone Shire to support future strategic planning and development decisions. It includes a review of existing environmental information and considers existing urban areas, future growth and Priority Infrastructure Areas.

Potential outcomes

The review will provide recommendations on how biodiversity values should be recognised within the planning framework.

Recommendations may include:

- Refinements to biodiversity and environmental overlay mapping.
- Updated biodiversity corridor locations and widths.
- Improved categorisation of biodiversity values.
- Amendments to planning scheme provisions.
- Potential planning scheme and zoning changes, where supported by the evidence.

Any future changes will be considered through the planning scheme amendment process, including community consultation in 2027.

Supporting Council's long-term vision

The review supports Council's long-term strategic vision of protecting and enhancing biodiversity values while accommodating future growth.

By improving the understanding and mapping of environmental values today, Council can provide greater certainty for landowners, the community and developers while ensuring Livingstone Shire's natural assets continue to contribute to the region's environmental health, character and liveability for future generations.

Your input helps make sure our planning scheme reflects what matters most to our community. Keep an eye out for upcoming consultation, and have your say on our shire's future.

Register here to stay informed
getinvolved.livingstone.qld.gov.au

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