

Meet the Team

Planning, Growth and Sustainability



DIRECTOR
Ed Johnson

The **Planning, Growth and Sustainability Directorate** advances the organisation's contribution to better outcomes for people, places, environment and the economy. It does this by overseeing the planning and development process from end to end: long-term strategic growth and environmental design, planning, assessment and regulation.

The Directorate's goal is to protect and enhance our natural and built environment by planning, monitoring, applying and enforcing compliance with local, State and Federal regulations and laws.

The three branches have a focus on liveability, sustainability and prosperity.



EXECUTIVE MANAGER
Fleur Anderson

GROWTH & SUSTAINABILITY BRANCH

The overarching objective of the Growth and Sustainability branch is to protect and enhance both natural and built environments, aiming to improve the quality of life for the current community and leave a positive legacy for future generations. The branch comprises three distinct functions: Strategic Planning, Sustainability & Climate Change, and City Architecture.

COORDINATOR STRATEGIC PLANNING

Deborah Wellington

The Strategic Planning team prepares long-term policy, strategies and plans to guide land use planning at the municipal and neighbourhood levels through a place-based planning approach. The team is responsible for the delivery of the Towards 2050 Growth Strategy.

COORDINATOR SUSTAINABILITY

Sophie Barrett

The Sustainability team collaboratively leads initiatives that deliver on Council's vision for 2030 to be a leader in mitigating and adapting to the impacts of climate change.

CITY ARCHITECT

Ellen Buttrose

The City Architect provides leadership and strategic advice to Council to encourage high quality and innovative built environments designed to reflect our region's unique socio-cultural climate.



EXECUTIVE MANAGER
Claire Simmons

DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING BRANCH

The Development and Planning Branch coordinates and manages urban and regional development within the Cairns Local Government Area, ensuring outcomes that enhance the city's reputation as a desirable place to live, work, and play. The Branch oversees the entire development process from initial planning through to completion.

COORDINATOR DEVELOPMENT SERVICES (PLANNING)

Isabella Kennedy

The Planning team oversees the development assessment phase, evaluating proposed development against Planning Scheme requirements to ensure quality development outcomes. The team includes two Principal Planners who are responsible for infrastructure coordination and management of the appeals process.

COORDINATOR DEVELOPMENT SERVICES (ENGINEERING)

James Thorne-Stones

The Engineering team manages the post-approval process, including the assessment of operational works (eg access, driveways, excavation, filling, landscaping), survey plan approvals, and monitoring construction milestones to ensure compliance with approved plans.



EXECUTIVE MANAGER
Amy Patterson

LICENSING & COMPLIANCE BRANCH

The overarching objective of the Licensing & Compliance branch is to safeguard the community by educating, providing guidance, and managing the risk and impact of regulated activities throughout the region, ensuring our priority values are preserved into the future. The branch comprises two distinct functions: Local Laws, Compliance & Appeals, and Property & Environmental Health.

COORDINATOR LOCAL LAWS, COMPLIANCE & APPEALS

Claire Kellam-Stock

The Local Laws, Compliance & Appeals team is responsible for Local Laws, regulatory compliance, compliance and appeals including the Local Laws framework and regulatory response, environment protection, and building and planning regulation. It is responsible for reviewing decisions and appeals concerning infringements issued by Council.

COORDINATOR PROPERTY & ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Nathan Mills

The Property & Environmental Health team is responsible for property services and environmental health including the management of land tenure matters and oversight of food safety and public safety through licensing and regulation..