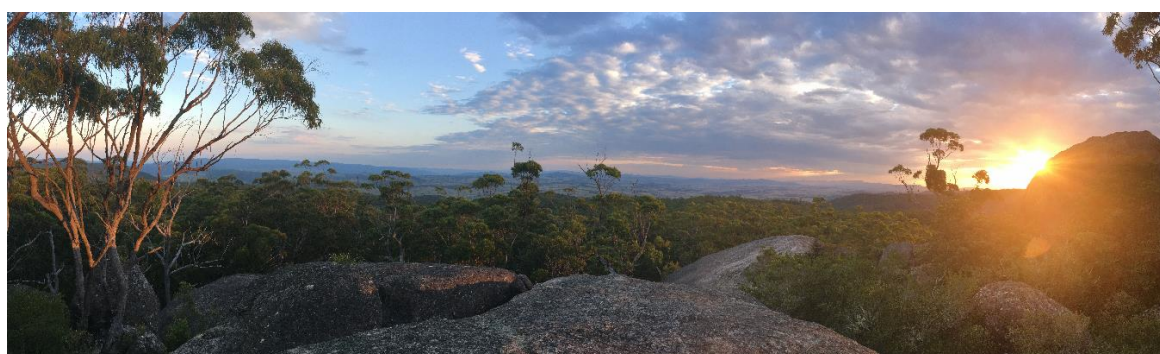


# TENTERFIELD LOCAL STRATEGIC PLANNING STATEMENT 2040



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Tenterfield Shire Council acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land and pays respect to Elders past, present and future. This Plan acknowledges a strong belief amongst Aboriginal people that if we care for country, it will care for us. This is supported by the knowledge that the health of a people and their community is reliant on a strong physical and emotional connection to place.

Conserving Aboriginal heritage and respecting the Aboriginal community's right to determine how it is identified and managed will preserve some of the world's longest standing spiritual, historical, social and educational values.

## VERSION CONTROL

VERSION	APPROVED BY	DATE
DRAFT TENTERFIELD LSPS 1.0		

# FOREWORD

I am pleased to present the *Tenterfield Local Strategic Planning Statement 2040* (LSPS) the purpose of which is to provide a basis on which the community can provide comment and input in to the strategic planning in our Shire for the next 20 years.

The LSPS has been drafted based on the legislative requirements from the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment and sets out the framework on which the community can provide input to.

“Quality Nature, Quality Heritage and Quality Lifestyle” combine in the Tenterfield Local Government Area and provide us with a unique sense of local identity forming a strong foundation for our community to continue to prosper in to the future.

The active participation and the sharing of many great ideas across our community have contributed to this plan which aligns with Council’s vision for our future:

To establish a shire where the environment will be

protected and enhanced to ensure sustainability and inter-generational equity,

To recognise and actively develop our cultural strengths and unique heritage,

To establish a prosperous shire through balanced, sustainable economic growth managed in a way to create quality lifestyles and satisfy the employment, environmental and social aims of the community,

To establish a community spirit which encourages a quality lifestyle, supports health and social well-being, promotes family life and lifestyle choices,

To establish a community spirit which promotes opportunities to participate in sport and recreation, promotes equal access to all services and facilities, and

To encourage all people to participate in the economic and social life of the community with a supportive attitude towards equal life chances and equal opportunity for access to the Shire's resources.



CR. PETER PETTY  
MAYOR, TENTERFIELD SHIRE COUNCIL

# INTRODUCTION

## ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

The Tenterfield Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) is a long-term land use strategy for the Local Government Area (LGA) to 2040 that identifies how development will be managed into the future.

The purpose of this LSPS is to:

- provide a land use vision for Tenterfield LGA
- identify the community shared values
- outline the characteristics that make Tenterfield special
- outline Tenterfield's advantages and opportunities
- direct how future change will be managed
- identify required changes to the LEP and DCP
- identify where further planning is needed
- explain how the LSPS will be implemented

## CONSULTATION

The Draft LSPS was placed on public exhibition during April/May 2020.

## POLICY CONTEXT

This LSPS has been prepared in accordance with clause 3.9 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, which requires that it identify the following:

- the basis for strategic planning in the area, having regard to economic, social and environmental matters;
- the planning priorities for the area that are consistent with any strategic plan that applies to the area and any applicable community strategic plan;
- the actions required for achieving those planning priorities; and
- the basis on which the council is to monitor and report on the implementation of those actions.

Local, State and regional policies and plans have informed this LSPS, including the New England North West Regional Plan (Regional Plan) 2036 and the Tenterfield Community Strategic Plan (CSP) 2017-2027. The Regional Plan provides the overarching framework to guide subsequent and more detailed land use plans, development proposals and infrastructure funding decisions for the New England North West Region. The CSP is the guide for the future of the Tenterfield LGA, and represents the broader vision, aspirations, goals, priorities and challenges for the Tenterfield community.



FIGURE 1 – STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR THE TENTERFIELD LSPS  
Source: Adapted from Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

# ABOUT TENTERFIELD SHIRE

## OUR PLACE IN THE NORTHERN TABLELANDS

Tenterfield Shire straddles the Great Dividing Range at the northern end of the New England Tablelands, amidst a contrast of rugged mountain beauty and the serenity of rural landscapes. The Shire borders Queensland in the north and covers an area of 7,332 square kilometres. Brisbane is located approximately 270 km to the north east, Ballina to the east (190 km), and Sydney (770 km) and Glen Innes (94 km) to the south. Tenterfield has strong connections to the Queensland towns of Stanthorpe (56 km) and Warwick (117 km). These towns provide shopping and sports facilities as well as health and educational services. Some villages near the border have Queensland phone numbers, addresses and unofficially work on Queensland time zones.

Gazetted in 1851, the town of Tenterfield is one of the New England's oldest and is located on the junction of New England and Bruxner Highways and Mount

Lindesay Road. It is designated as one of only three Australian Federation Towns and sits deep in the heart of our nation's history. As the administrative and focal centre of the Shire, Tenterfield offers a range of cafes and restaurants, sporting clubs, retail outlets, professional services, parks and gardens, a cultural centre and public library.

The LGA includes several diverse settlements such as Drake, Urbenville, Jennings, Legume, Liston, Torrington and Mingoola.

Drake has had a varied industrial history, with gold and copper being discovered nearby. The village was also a campsite for wagons, drovers, bullock teams and settlers passing between inland and coastal rivers. The community continues to rely on its agricultural industry, as well as timber cutting and tourism.

Urbenville, originally known as Tooloom, is situated at the headwaters of the Clarence River and is surrounded by State and National Parks. The geology, flora and fauna of the area attract visitors to the area.

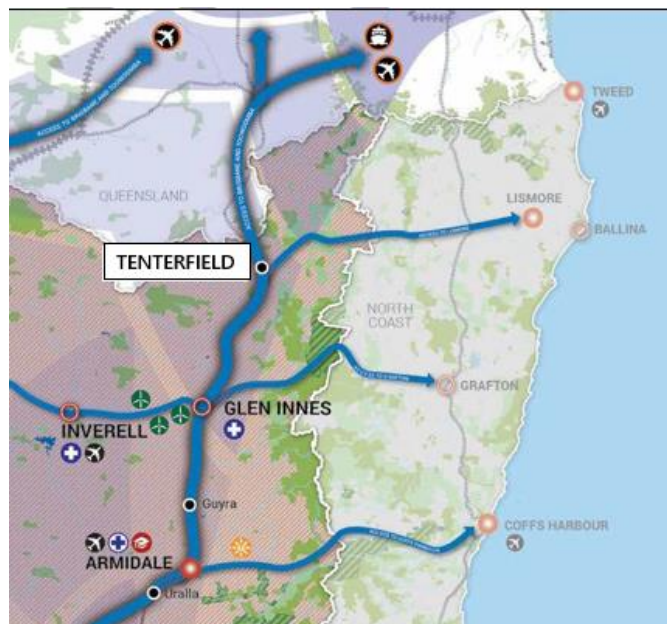


FIGURE 2 – OUR PLACE IN THE REGION  
*Source: New England North West Regional Plan 2036*

Jennings is a twin town to Wallangarra in Queensland, and has strong links to the Federation story, as Sir Henry Parkes disembarked the train at Wallangarra to travel to Tenterfield to deliver his famous Federation Speech in 1889. The railway station has been restored and now operates as an interactive Heritage Museum and Function Centre.

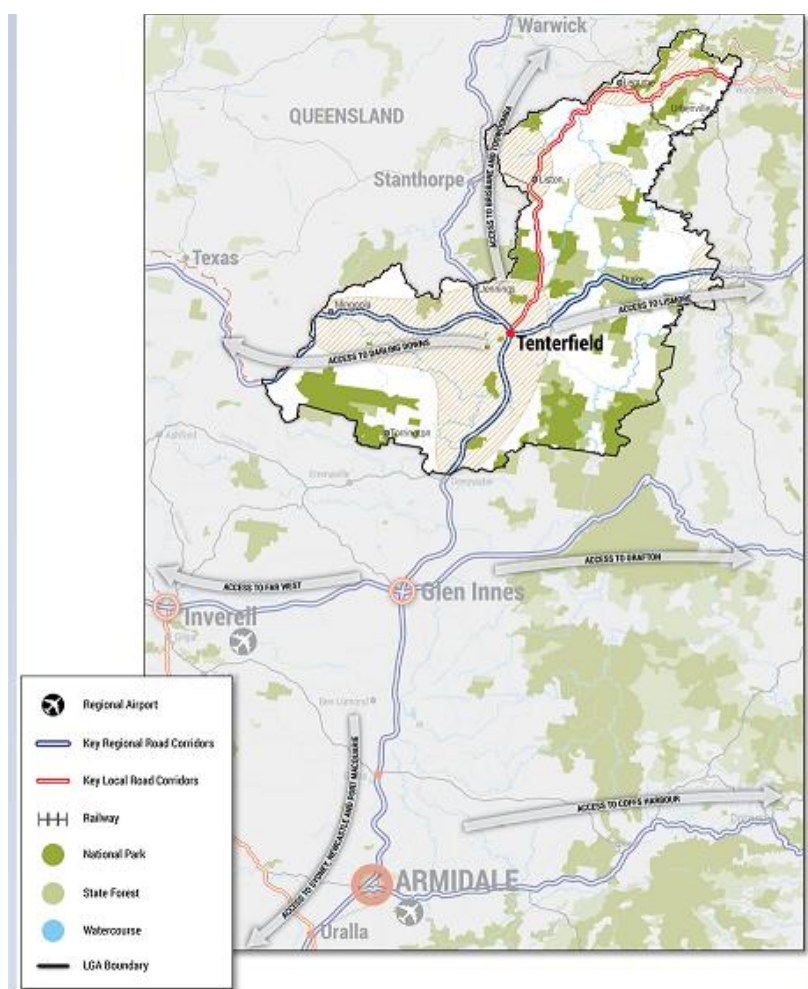
Legume is a small charming community in the far north of the Shire that includes the rich red soils of Acacia Plateau. Warwick is the closest major centre, 45km to the northwest and provides many services to the village.

Liston sits high in the mountains and was a key point on the old Cobb and Co coach route from Brisbane to Tenterfield. Historically, the village had a thriving tin and silver mining industry, and now the key industry is

agriculture. Being close to Stanthorpe (15km), residents regularly rely on its services.

Torrington, once a rich tin mining community, now offers a broad range of nature-based activities, such as bushwalking and fossicking. The village is surrounded by spectacular scenery including rocky granite outcrops, steep gorges and gently flowing streams, as well as the famous Thunderbolt's Lookout and Old Mystery Face.

Mingoola is a community on the Queensland border. Its heritage included a thriving tobacco industry, with many relics of this phase of agriculture still clearly visible. The community still relies on agriculture as its economic mainstay, including a growing wine production industry, and on tourism. The community was also the site for a pioneer refugee resettlement program in 2016.



**TENTERFIELD SHIRE**

FIGURE 3 –Regional Connections

## OUR ENVIRONMENT

Tenterfield Shire contains many areas of natural beauty, with the terrain ranging from undulating to hill landscapes from approximately 150m to 1500m above sea level. The Shire is contained partly in the Clarence River catchment and partly in the Border Rivers Catchment, which includes many of the headwaters of the Murray-Darling Basin.

The Shire's wide variety of geological landforms, terrain, elevation and climate has a major influence on the type and distribution of land uses, particularly agriculture and mining. Historically the Shire has provided rich mining resources such as gold, tin Wolfram Mining and copper, and recent discoveries include cobalt, scandium and rare- earth elements.

Native vegetation has historically been cleared for uses such as agriculture, and 306 threatened flora and fauna species and 16 threatened ecological communities are known or potentially occur here.

There are 99,000 ha of National Park estate within the Shire, of which 72,000 ha are listed as 'Gondwana Rainforest of Australia' World Heritage areas. The State Forest estate accounts for approximately 77,500 ha and

there are over 7,000 ha of travelling stock reserves which also offer some remnant habitat.

Tenterfield generally has a subtropical highland climate with cold, frosty winters (average temperatures 1-17°C) and warm, wet summers (13-27°C). Planning for a greater resilience to a changing climate is vital and the Western Enabling Regional Adaptation New England North West region report prepared by the Office of Environment and Heritage provides a snapshot of the region's near future (2030) and far future (2070) climate change scenarios. In summary:

- the region is expected to experience increases in all temperature variables with more hot days and fewer cold nights for the near and far futures. Heatwaves are projected to increase, be hotter and last longer;
- seasonality of rainfall will change, with autumn rainfall increasing in the near and far future and winter and summer rainfall likely to decrease in the near future; and
- fire risk will increase, with projected increases in average and severe Forest Fire Danger Index values in the near and far future.

25%

Publicly owned lands  
Managed or used for  
Biodiversity purposes

40%

Private land with known  
areas of high environmental  
value

844mm

Average annual rainfall

FIGURE 5 – ENVIRONMENT SNAPSHOT

Source: Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (Environment, Energy and Science)



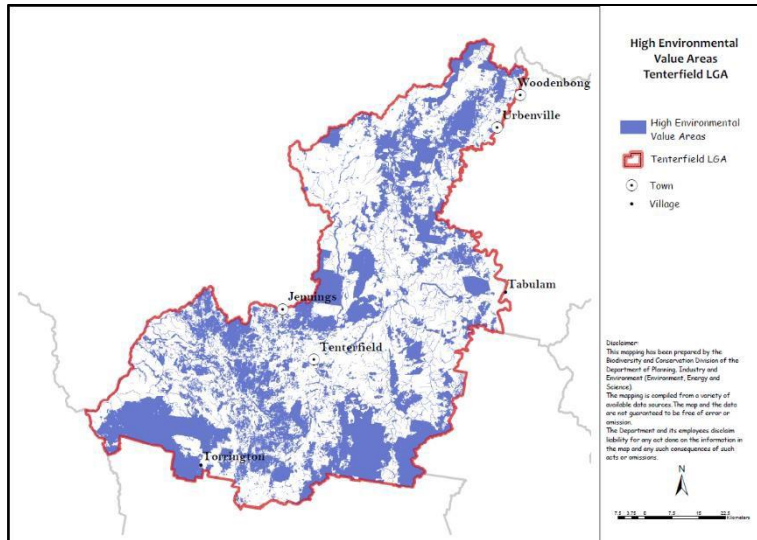


FIGURE 6 – HIGH ENVIRONMENTAL VALUE AREAS

Source: Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (Environment, Energy and Science)

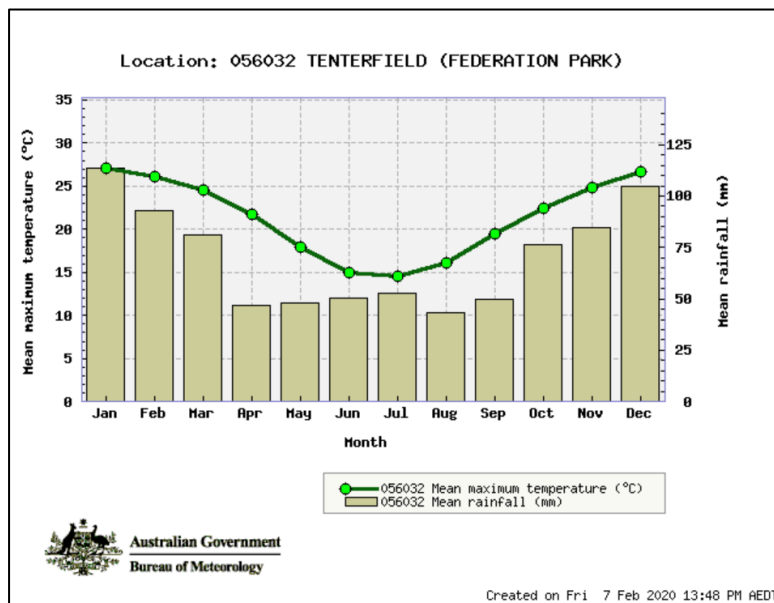


FIGURE 7 – CLIMATE VARIABLES

Source: Australian Bureau of Meteorology



## OUR COMMUNITY

### Traditional custodians

Various Aboriginal groups occupied the Tenterfield region at the time of European contact, including the Bundjalung, Githabul, Ngarabal, Jukambal and Keinjan peoples. The Jukambal reputedly called the area “Moomgillen” meaning “place of wild honey”.

Approximately 6% of the Shire’s residents identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. This is double the national and the NSW average. The median age is 23 years, which is significantly younger than the median age for the Shire’s non-Aboriginal population (53 years).

Maintaining a stable population and retaining young people and families in the area will be a challenge for Tenterfield. Adequate and resilient services and employment industries are available to attract and keep younger people in the Shire, while appropriate residential land is available to enable ageing in place and support our ageing population.

The median weekly household income is \$767, and most mortgage repayments are less than 30% of household income, which indicates that dwellings in the Shire are relatively affordable.

### Population and housing

The Estimate Resident Population of Tenterfield Shire is 6,638. Most residents live in Tenterfield (4,066), with smaller populations in the villages of Drake (345 people), Urbenville (321), Jennings (160), Legume (152) and Liston (133).

By 2041, the projected population will be about 5,450 people, with 47% aged over 60<sup>i</sup>. Causes for the estimated decline include an ageing population and outmigration of young people from the Shire.

FIGURE 8 – COMMUNITY SNAPSHOT 2016

Source:ABS



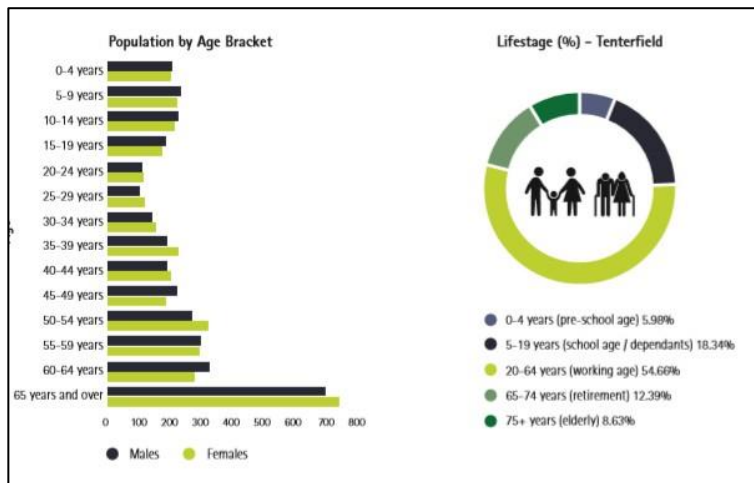


FIGURE 9 – POPULATION AND LIFE STAGE  
*Regional Development Australia  
 Northern Inland Local Government Area  
 Investment Profile for Tenterfield Shire.*

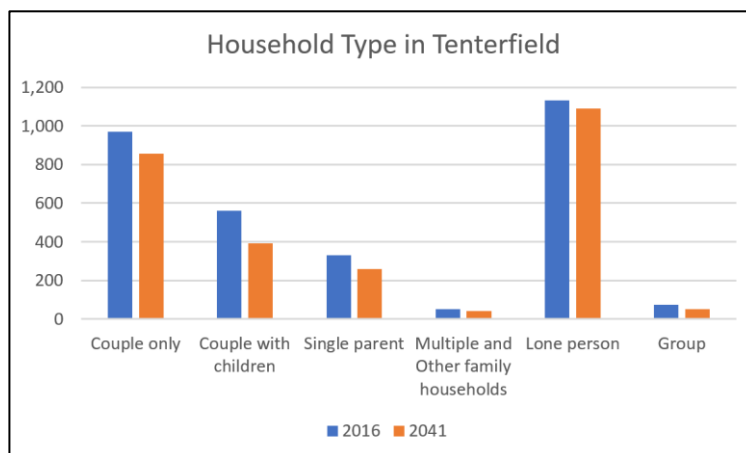


FIGURE 10 – HOUSEHOLD TYPES, CURRENT AND PROJECTED  
*Source: Department of Planning, Industry and Environment*

## OUR ECONOMY

The economy and livelihood of Tenterfield has largely been shaped by its agricultural industry, which includes livestock production (beef and dairy cattle, sheep, pigs, goats and poultry); horticultural pursuits (orchard fruit and nuts, vegetables, berries, cut flowers and cool climate vineyards) and cereal, oil seed, pulses and hay and silage crops. Tenterfield Shire contributes to over \$214 million of the gross regional product for the Northern Inland region. The performance of the agriculture sector has flow on effects for many other businesses in the region, including transportation, contracting, and manufacturing.

Other major industries in the Shire include retail and trade, health care and social assistance, education and training, and accommodation and food services. The main occupations within the Shire are managers, labourers and technicians or trade workers. Approximately 7% of the labour force are currently

unemployed, which is higher than the Northern Inland average rate of 5.3%.

To sustain existing services like schools and health care, and to grow existing and new businesses vital for the health of the economy, a critical mass of people in the right age groups needs to be maintained. Strengthening and diversifying local businesses; capitalising on opportunities arising from Government's increasing focus on agricultural production, agri-business, freight logistics, and renewable energy; growing visitation to the Shire, maintaining a skilled workforce; and attracting new residents, businesses and investment is key to upholding Tenterfield's capital. In this age of climate change, ensuring that Tenterfield's population and economy can sustain growth without having a negative impact on the environment is of paramount importance.



FIGURE 11 – ECONOMIC SNAPSHOT

Source: Regional Development Australia – Northern Inland

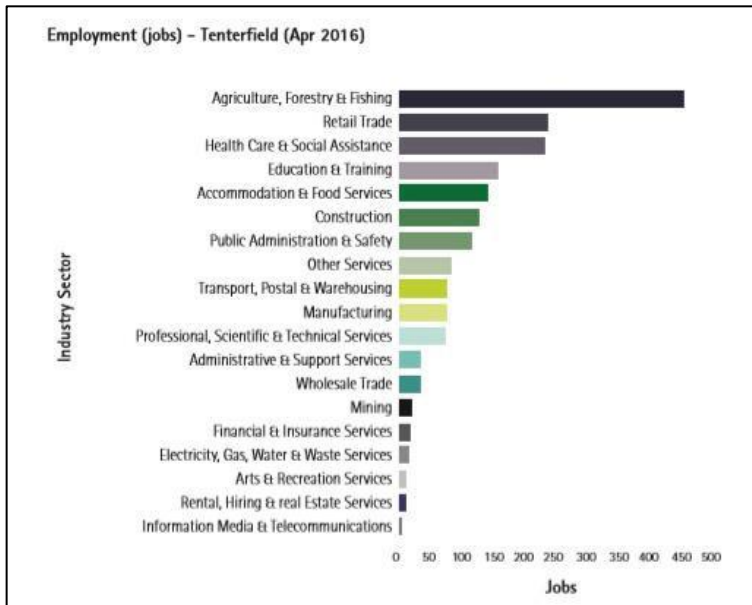


FIGURE 12 – EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY  
*Regional Development Australia Northern  
 Inland Local Government Area Investment  
 Profile for Tenterfield Shire*



# OUR OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

## GROWING AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRY

Tenterfield has a strong and established agricultural sector, with opportunities for diversification, value-adding and identifying new markets. Prospects for expansion are available in the horticulture, viticulture and boutique industries that offer specialty or premium products. Tenterfield is also well placed to provide fruit and vegetables for the growing South East Queensland market, and offer a continuity of supply over the summer period using controlled environment horticulture. Small lot agriculture could be sustained around areas such as Mingoola, Bolivia, Tenterfield, Tabulam, Liston, Jennings, Maryland, Willsons Downfall, Koreelah and Urbenville.

The adoption of more innovative and sustainable technologies around biotechnology, remote farm monitoring and automation, and intensive agriculture could also bring opportunities to grow the Shire's agriculture base. Opportunities to increase agribusiness in the Shire exist throughout much of the LGA, with the best prospects around Tenterfield and close to major roads.

Sustaining the agricultural industry is vital for maintaining Tenterfield's economy and lifestyle. Key challenges, such as climate change, water security, lack of infrastructure, conflicting or competing land uses, and developing and maintaining a skilled workforce need to be addressed to ensure its ongoing viability. The right to farm will remain a priority.

Changes in the climate will impact on agricultural systems, particularly crops, stock and the quantity and quality of available water. Strategies and actions related to climate change scenarios need to be developed so that Tenterfield farmers and farming communities can be more resilient to the impacts. Opportunities, such as

the development of alternative cultivars and crops that are more resilient to the impacts of a changing climate, may be realised.

## Mining

Tenterfield has a history of gold and copper mining, Hard rock tin deposits, cobalt, scandium, and other rare earth deposits, such as lithium, rubidium and molybdenum, need to be protected for the future. These minerals have applications in the electronics, aero-space, advanced manufacturing and renewable energy sectors, and global demand for them is increasing substantially as traditional sources, such as those in Indonesia, decline.

## Relevant Planning Priorities

### Our Economy

#### Planning Priority 1

Distinct and resilient agriculture and agribusinesses

### Infrastructure

#### Planning Priority 5

Infrastructure to support industry and community

### Sustaining our Environment

#### Planning Priority 8

Resilience to climate change



## INFRASTRUCTURE

Reliable and well-maintained transport, communications, water and wastewater infrastructure is vital for Tenterfield's community and industry, particularly the agriculture sector.

The Shire's proximity to South East Queensland is advantageous for the future growth of the economy. Agricultural processing facilities such as meat processing plants at Warwick and vegetable processing and packaging plants in the Lockyer Valley means produce from Tenterfield travels fewer food miles to major markets.

The movement of agricultural commodities is forecast to grow between one and three per cent each year within the New England and North West. Key road corridors that connect the Shire to markets at Brisbane, Toowoomba (Wellcamp airport), Beaudesert (Bromelton State Development Area) and the NSW North Coast include the New England and Bruxner Highways, Bruxner Way and Mount Lindesay Road. There is also potential to utilize links to the Inland Rail with the Intermodal planned for Moree. Limiting inappropriate development along these existing or any proposed transport corridors will enhance productivity and safety.

Local roads with older bridges and culverts and load limits can also restrict truck and machinery access, increase risk for road users and deter visitors to the region. Improving the safety and efficiency of local roads will allow more cost effective and efficient transport of agricultural produce to market, as well as provide safer touring and more pleasant roadside rest areas for visitors to the Shire.

Outside of Tenterfield town, mobile coverage is patchy and internet connections are unreliable. Improved telecommunications infrastructure will allow more local businesses, manufacturers and producers to conduct online business, farmers to adopt digital-based technology for agriculture, visitors to access information on-line, and facilitate people and businesses to relocate to the area and work remotely.

Efficient and effective water and wastewater infrastructure is important for maintaining optimum water supplies for Tenterfield's residents, industry and agricultural production, environment and Aboriginal spiritual values. In times of drought it is particularly important to ensure appropriate water supplies for each of these stakeholders is maintained.

Council has already received over \$4 million through the Emergency Water Augmentation Project for drilling to supplement the water supply to the Tenterfield dam. A further \$24 million has been allocated to facilitate a business study into the Border Rivers Project on the Mole River. If successful, this could supply Tenterfield as well as Stanthorpe in Queensland.

Tenterfield is also well placed to transition to more renewable energy production and lessen its reliance on fossil fuels. Transgrid has identified the northern New England region as an ideal location for large-scale renewable energy projects. The region has strong natural climatic and topographic advantages with suitable sites close to high voltage transmission lines and highway access to those sites.

## Relevant Planning Priorities

### Our Economy

#### Planning Priority 1

Distinct and resilient agriculture and agribusinesses

### Infrastructure

#### Planning Priority 5

Infrastructure to support industry and community

### Sustaining our Environment

#### Planning Priority 8

Resilience to climate change



## POSITIVE TOURISM EXPERIENCES

Visitors to the Shire are offered a diverse landscape, from mountain ranges and rainforests to agricultural scenes, vibrant and welcoming villages and charming country communities. Opportunity abounds for visitors to escape to the country and immerse themselves in the nature, heritage and culture of the area.

Growing the tourism market is a core priority for Council and offers significant potential for economic growth.

The natural environment and cultural heritage of the LGA are expected to continue to attract tourists and help to diversify the economy.

The increase in self-drive and caravanning tourism, including active families, baby boomers and touring motorcyclists, provides an opportunity for optimising tourism in the Shire. Further developing tourism industries like upmarket and boutique accommodation, wineries, gourmet food and adventure opportunities may also attract and retain younger people in Tenterfield.



To meet the current demand, Tenterfield has had a steady increase in development of boutique retail and food outlets, accommodation and visitor experiences. Ensuring that appropriate accommodation options remain available for visitors and for seasonal workers in the shire is important for a growing economy, including the agri-tourism industry.

Tenterfield has a number of major events which attract significant visitors to the area, and a large number of local events which are critical for the tourism and local community. Annual or Biennial events include the Tenterfield Show, Bavarian Music Festival and Beerfest, Oracles of the Bush, Tenterfield Show & Shine, Tenterfield Campdraft, Beat of the Bush Festival, Peter Allen Festival Farmers Markets, Golf and Bowls events and the Sir Henry Parkes Oration. Tenterfield has seen an increase in food and wine events, such as Eat Street Tenterfield, sporting events and theatre and music events.



## Agri-tourism

Opportunities to grow the agri-tourism sector, along with the more established heritage and nature-based tourism, exist in cellar door operations, honey, and boutique food and beverage production. The flexibility of zoning within the LEP will allow these and other similar land uses, subject to development consent. It is important that roads, including popular tourist routes, between Queensland and the Shire are maintained and enhanced as demand grows for agri-tourism.

## Nature-based Tourism

Tenterfield has a range of significant National Parks, state forests and natural landscape features, such as: Bald Rock, where expansive panoramic views can be experienced from the summit of the largest Granite Monolith in the Southern Hemisphere; Tooloom and Koreelah National Parks which are part of the World Heritage Gondwana Rainforests; Boonoo Boonoo, Basket Swamp, Washpool National Parks, Torrington State Recreation Area and numerous Nature Reserves, including Mount MacKenzie.

Nature-based tourism opportunities in the Shire includes camping, mountain biking, bushwalking, birdwatching, horse-riding, fossicking for gold and gems, and fishing. Tenterfield golf course also attracts significant numbers of visitors to the region.

## Colonial History

Tenterfield is known as the “Birthplace of the Nation”: Sir Henry Parkes delivered his famous Federation Speech in the Tenterfield School of Arts on 24 October 1889 which ultimately led to the Federation of Australian States in 1901. As one of the country’s most historically significant settlements, Tenterfield offers a large variety of colonial heritage visitor experiences, including the School of Arts, Railway Station and Stannum House. The famous Tenterfield Saddlery, immortalised in song by Peter Allen, is located here and the central business district of Tenterfield is abundant with preserved historic buildings.

Other villages in the Shire offer smaller scale colonial heritage experiences, such as the Pioneer Cottage Museum at Urbenville; the Heritage Museum at Jennings/Wallangarra, rural cemeteries and Thunderbolt’s Hideout, a campsite and lookout using by the notorious bushranger “Captain Thunderbolt”.

## Aboriginal Heritage and Culture

Tenterfield has a rich Aboriginal heritage, with 184 registered AHIMS Aboriginal sites within the LGA. These sites include the following types: Aboriginal Ceremony and Dreaming, Resource and Gathering, Burials, Art, Artefacts, Grinding Grooves, Conflict Sites, Modified Trees, Stone Quarries, Potential Archaeological Deposits, Ceremonial Rings, Stone Arrangements and Potential Aboriginal Deposits. Approximately one third of these sites occur within National Parks or State Forests.

There are three declared Aboriginal Places within the LGA: Tooloom Falls (Bandahngan Aboriginal Area); Woolool Wooloolni / Wellington Rock; and Chinaman’s Creek Aboriginal Place. There is one Aboriginal Reserve; Jubullum Village at Mallangane, and two Indigenous Land Use Agreements that exist over a number of National Park Estates; the Western Bundjalung and the Githabul Land Agreements.

With a stronghold of cultural heritage sites, Tenterfield has a great opportunity to embrace Aboriginal cultural tourism within the Shire in collaboration with and sensitive to the needs of the traditional custodians of the land.

## Relevant Planning Priorities

### Our Economy

#### Planning Priority 2

Nature-based adventure and cultural tourism

### Thriving Localities

#### Planning Priority 3

Diverse housing and unique character villages

#### Planning Priority 4

Enhanced business and lifestyle opportunities

### Connection to Place

#### Planning Priority 6

Strong connection to country and our heritage

### Sustaining our Environment

#### Planning Priority 7

Protecting our valuable environment

## TREASURED ENVIRONMENT AND LIFESTYLE

The Tenterfield Shire offers a relaxed rural lifestyle which is appealing for farming, new horticultural pursuits and tree-changers seeking a moderate climate. The Shire is endowed with four definite seasons and ranges from a brisk frosty winter, to colourful carpets of wildflowers in spring, warm summers and a blaze of richly-coloured streets in autumn.

The community also enjoys a suite of facilities within the Shire. Tenterfield has State primary and high schools, a Catholic primary school, a TAFE with Connected Learning Centre and a University of New England Study Centre. Primary schools are located in most villages and Woodenbong Central School (in Kyogle Shire) also services the Urbenville area. There are two aged-care facilities in Tenterfield, a Community Hospital in Tenterfield, a multipurpose health centre in Urbenville, and Community Health Services in Tenterfield and Urbenville.

There is a strong interest from people looking for residential and rural residential properties in the northern villages of the Shire. Current LEP provisions permit rural residential development within a mapped circular area around villages. These provisions will be reviewed through the implementation of Housing and a Rural Lands Strategies to assign a complement of land use zones that provide more definite planning controls over individual parcels of land.

Recent droughts and bushfires have highlighted to the community the severity of natural hazards and its vulnerability to the impacts of insufficient water. It is crucial that water supplies for industrial and residential development be managed in an environmentally sustainable manner, as climate change impacts community livelihoods through more extreme weather events and changes in rainfall patterns and temperatures.

All opportunities for wind, solar small scale hydro power and other renewable energy production need to be identified, managed and supported through appropriate land use planning. The impact of renewable energy infrastructure on productive agricultural land, high environmental value lands and important view corridors needs to be considered and addressed to ensure the ongoing viability of the agricultural sector, environmental values and tourism in the Shire.

### Relevant Planning Priorities

#### Unique Localities

##### Planning Priority 3

Diverse housing and unique character villages

##### Planning Priority 4

Enhanced business and lifestyle opportunities

#### Connection to Place

##### Planning Priority 6

Strong connection to country and our heritage

#### Infrastructure

##### Planning Priority 5

Infrastructure to support industry and community

#### Sustaining our Environment

##### Planning Priority 7

Protecting our valuable environment

##### Planning Priority 8

Resilience to climate change

# OUR VISION FOR LAND USE

**Tenterfield is the Birthplace of our Nation and the homeland of the New England's most harmonious, liveable and regenerative communities.**



Our agriculture, horticulture and agribusiness sectors are diverse and highly valued, having capitalised on technology like on-demand fulfilment of fruit and vegetables to tap into new markets and improved supply chain networks. Efficient freight networks have been harnessed to connect businesses to both domestic and international markets. Modern and reliable transport, utilities and communications infrastructure allow our community and businesses to easily connect with others within our region, interstate and globally.

We have a range of sustainable housing options that suit our diverse population in the Shire, including medical and aged care of a high standard. Our quaint character villages of Drake, Torrington, Urbenville, Jennings, Legume and Liston maintain their charm and liveability throughout the changing seasons and generations.

Our Shire's features attract people to the region at all times of the year, who come to escape the everyday and experience the exceptional. Visitors delight in our specialty goods such as locally produced mead, cool climate wine and premium merino products. Distinctive shops, fascinating events and attractions and striking natural wonders such as Bald Rock allow others to share in the lifestyle we love. Our distinctive seasons attract visitors to photograph the amazing autumn colours and the chance of snowfall during winter.

Our strong respect for and protection of our environment enhances the wellbeing of all, and our deep connection to country empowers us to celebrate our rich Colonial and Aboriginal heritage and culture. We prudently protect and manage our natural resources and water supplies, and our actions on climate change have brought about the self-assurance needed to flourish in the future.

# ACHIEVING OUR VISION

## Themes and Planning Priorities

<b>Our Economy</b>	<b>Infrastructure</b>
<b>Planning Priority 1</b> Diverse and resilient agriculture and agribusinesses	<b>Planning Priority 5</b> Infrastructure to support industry and community
<b>Planning Priority 2</b> Nature-based heritage and cultural tourism	<b>Connection to Place</b>
<b>Thriving Localities</b>	<b>Planning Priority 6</b> Strong connection to country and heritage
<b>Planning Priority 3</b> Diverse housing choice and unique character villages	<b>Sustaining our Environment</b>
<b>Planning Priority 4</b> Enhanced business and lifestyle opportunities	<b>Planning Priority 7</b> Protecting our environment and resources
	<b>Planning Priority 8</b> Resilience to climate change

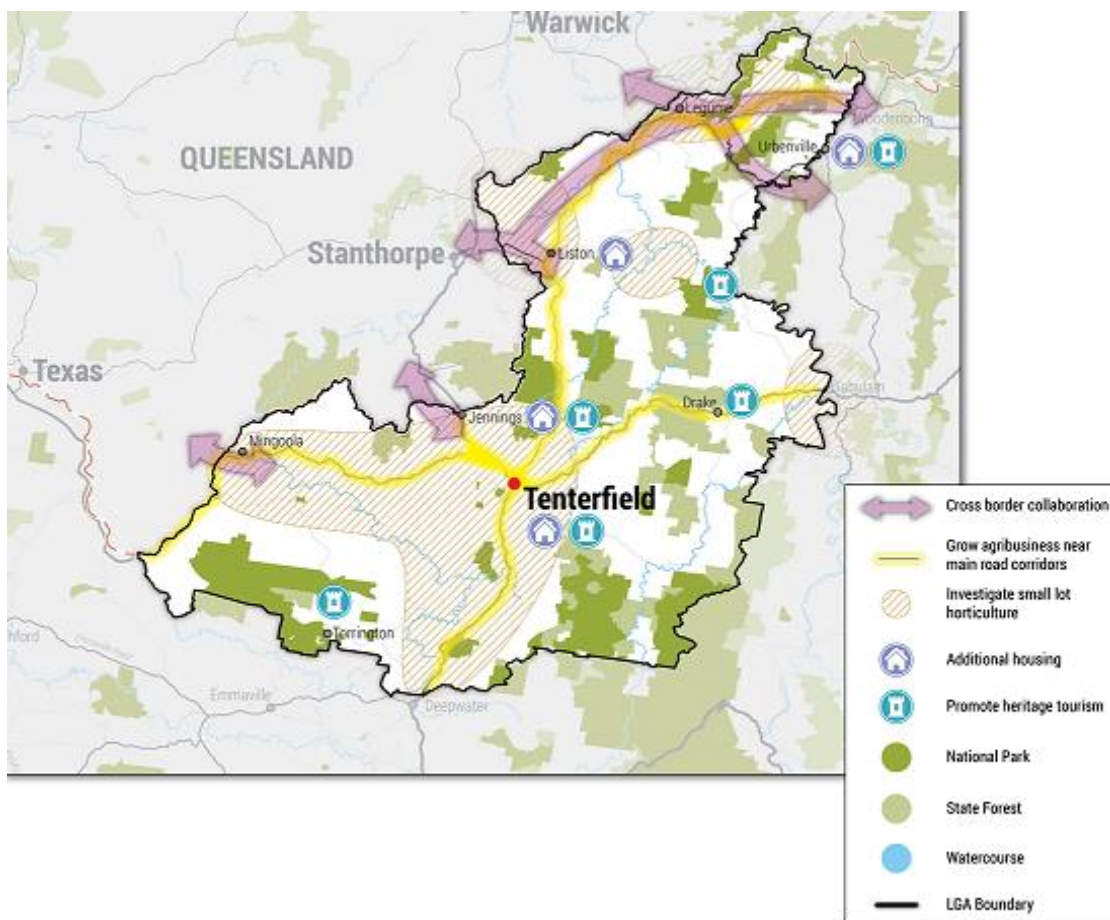


FIGURE 13 – PRIORITY AREAS FOR INVESTIGATION

# OUR ECONOMY

## Planning Priority 1

### Diverse and resilient agriculture and agribusinesses

#### Rationale

To ensure agriculture is protected and continues to support our community, a strategic approach to land use is needed. Protecting our most important farmlands from conflicting land uses and allowing diversification of the sector is important for the ongoing sustainability of the industry. As agriculture diversifies, such as increases in small-lot horticulture, its changing requirements need to be accommodated and land use provisions may need to be amended to reflect these changes.

#### Relationship to other plans

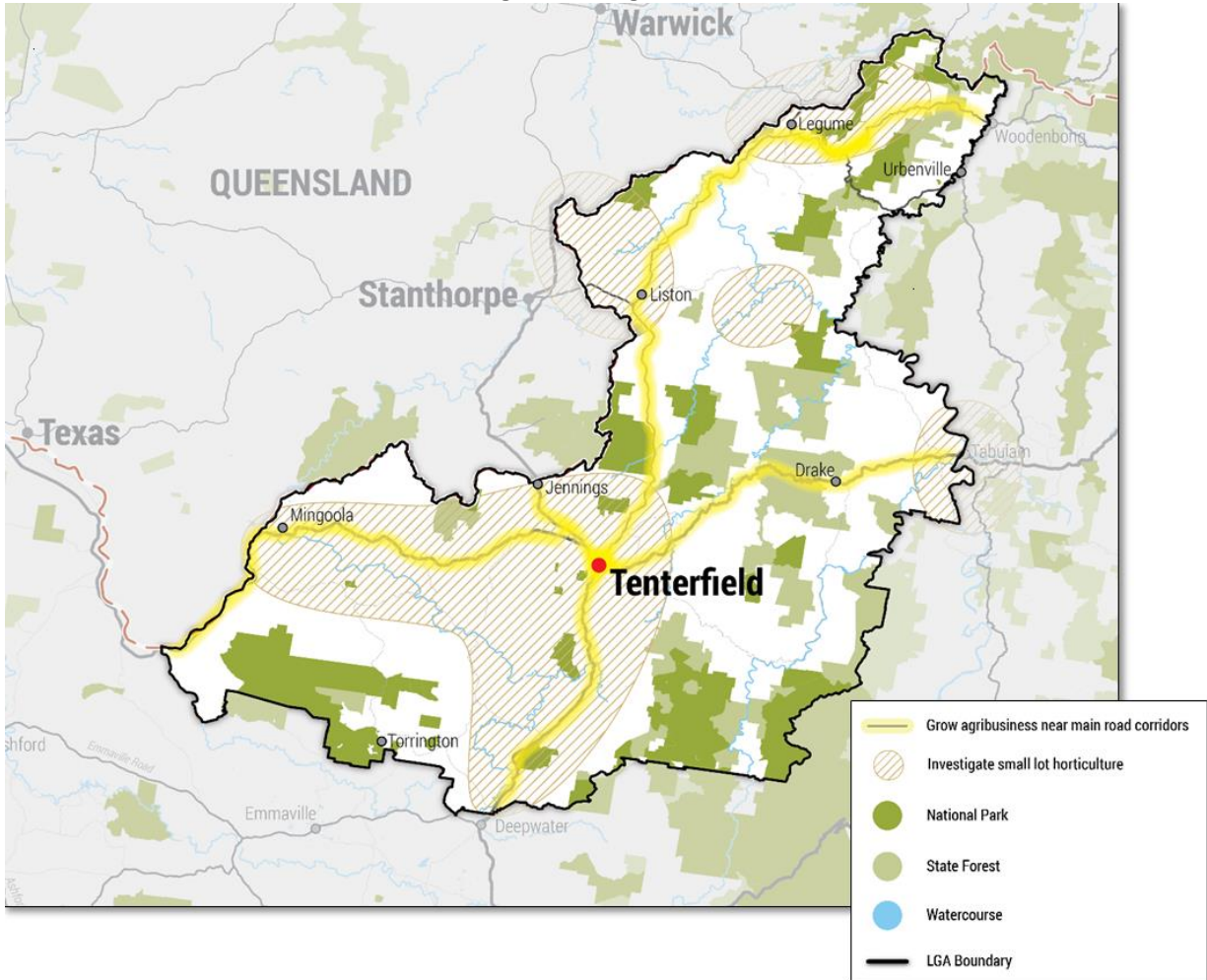
- New England North West Regional Plan (Directions 1, 2 and 3) Tenterfield CSP (ECON 6 and ECON 8)

#### Actions

Continually update Council's planning policies to give due consideration to the following;

- accommodating the changing needs of agriculture, such as different types of agriculture, demands on resources such as water, processing requirements and scales of operation;
- protection of biophysical strategic agricultural land and important agricultural land as mapped by NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment;
- protection of agricultural land from conflicting and incompatible land uses;
- implementation of the NSW Right to Farm policy
- Investigate opportunities for small-lot horticulture in areas such as Koreelah, Acacia Creek, Legume, Liston, Jennings, Tenterfield, Bolivia and Mole River in conjunction with the Department of Primary Industries
- Identify options for growing agribusiness in the northern and western parts of the Shire, including forestry where applicable.

Figure 14 - Agriculture





## Planning Priority 2 Nature-based, heritage and cultural tourism

### Rationale

Tourism is an important component of, and acts to diversify Tenterfield's economy. Embracing different visitor opportunities will allow the industry to grow. Ensuring that provisions are in place to protect those lands most important to tourism and ensuring that land use conflicts do not occur will allow the smooth functioning of this industry. Tenterfield could collaborate with its Queensland neighbour Stanthorpe, a well-known gourmet food and wine destination, to broaden the tourism experience base in the wider region.

### Relationship to other plans

- New England North West Regional Plan (Direction 8)
- Tenterfield CSP (ECON 7 and COMM 1)

### Actions

Investigate allowing the use of Council owned land for community / public events and festivals, such as through the inclusion of a clause in the LEP to permit temporary events without development consent

Ensure that planning provisions support tourism, by including appropriate facilities, infrastructure, accommodation and attractions/activities that support conservation outcomes, including areas such as Torrington, Tenterfield and Drake.

Collaborate with Local Aboriginal Land Councils to identify lands suitable for culturally appropriate tourism opportunities

Encourage cross-border tourism collaboration plans and land use planning to enable consistency in land use planning controls and joint tourist route planning including public lands

Encourage eco-tourism opportunities

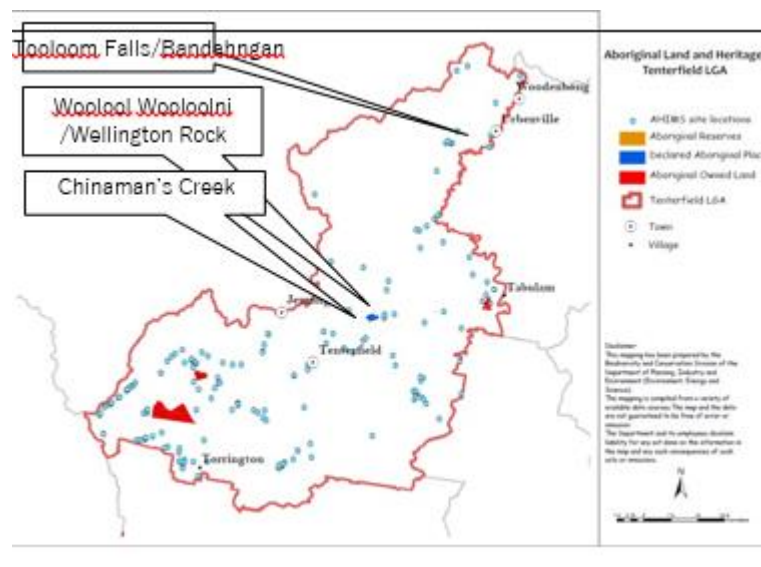


FIGURE 15 – ABORIGINAL LAND AND HERITAGE

Source: Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (Environment, Energy and Science)

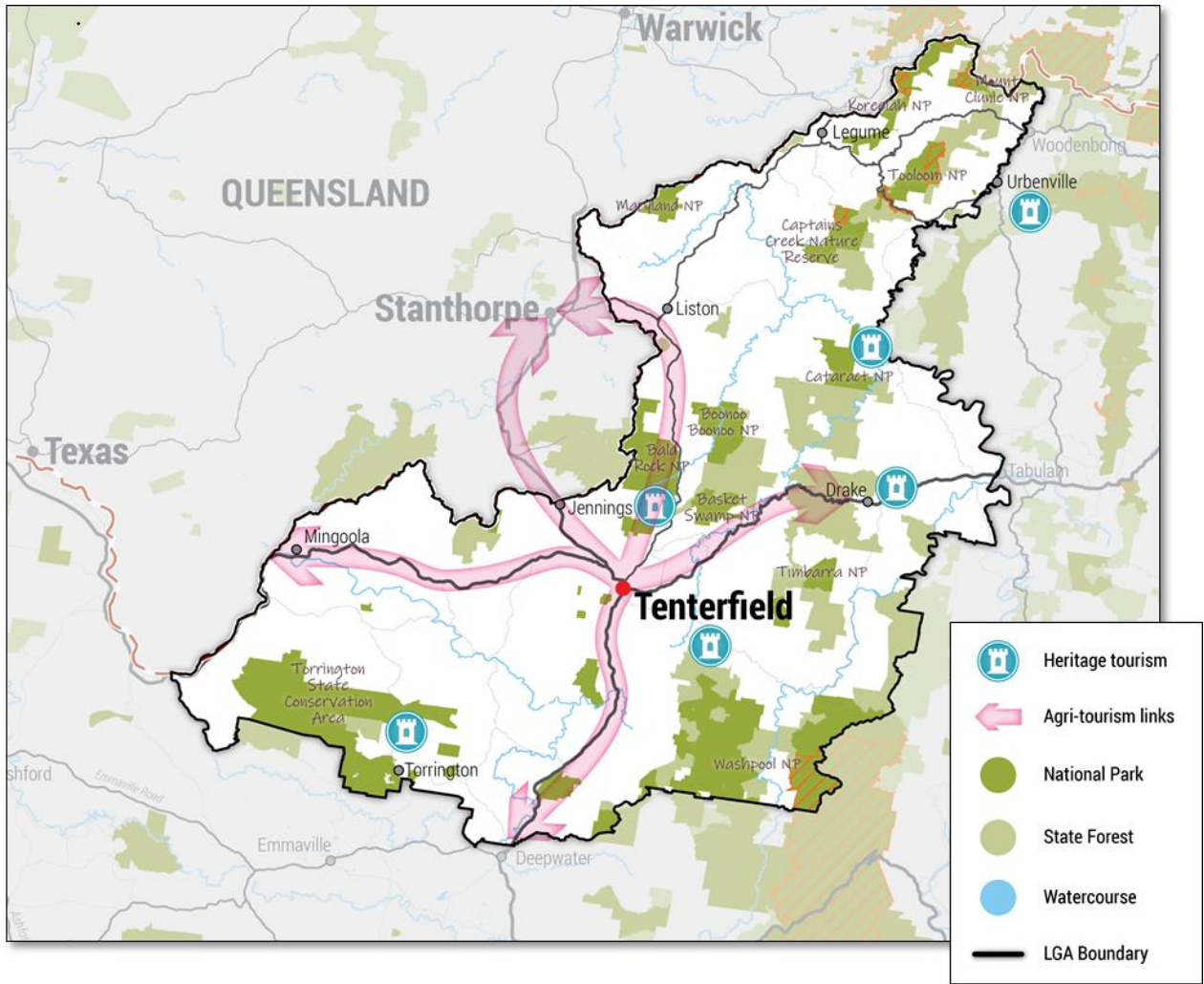


Figure 16 - Tourism

# UNIQUE LOCALITIES

## Planning Priority 3

### Diverse housing choice and unique character villages

#### Rationale

A key consideration of land use planning is ensuring adequate and appropriate supplies of housing for our residents. The most effective way to safeguard this is to strategically plan for changing demographics, particularly for an ageing population. While meeting the needs of a changing population, should also protect the unique character of its existing towns, villages and landscapes. It should also identify infrastructure needs and land use requirements from existing strategies and plans. Council's existing flexible planning provisions already allow for a varied suite of housing opportunities in our villages.

The unique character of our villages will be enhanced through implementation of Urban Design Plans which aim to integrate the community with public and open spaces.

#### Relationship to other plans

- New England North West Regional Plan (Directions 17, 18, 19, 20 and 21)
- Tenterfield CSP (COMM 1 and COMM 4)

#### Actions

Continue to update Council's Planning policies to include

- a review of rural residential planning provisions in the LEP in line with demand;
- actions to support changing demographics and households to support an ageing population and lone person households;
- an assessment of future physical and social infrastructure requirements and delivery options;
- housing to accommodate seasonal workers and visitor accommodation; and
- strategies to protect, enhance and conserve places and buildings of heritage significance, and Aboriginal cultural places and relics.

Enhance the unique character of the town and villages through the implementation of Urban Design Plans

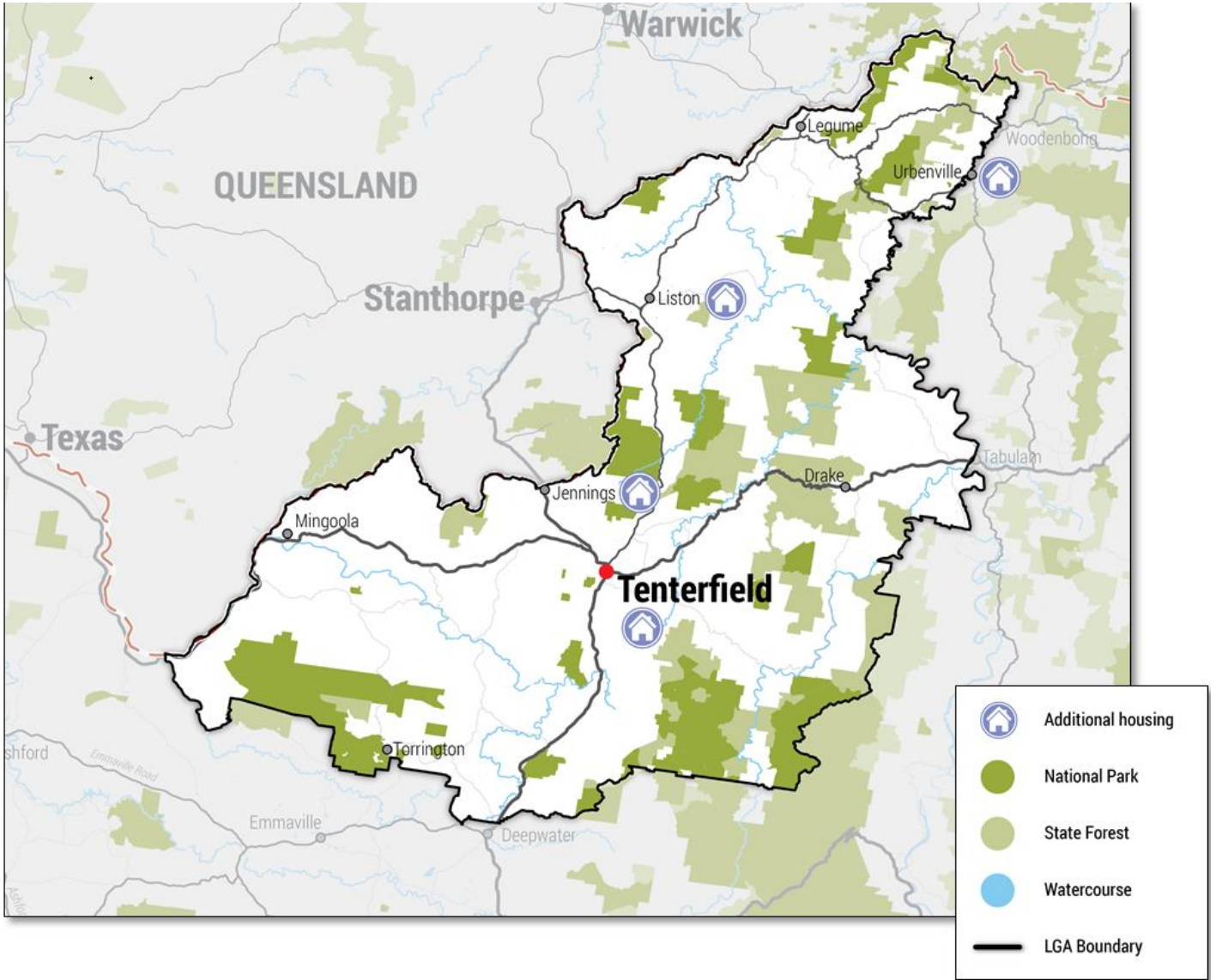


Figure 17 - Housing

## Planning Priority 4

### Enhanced business and lifestyle opportunities

#### Rationale

Effective land use planning enables appropriate business, employment and lifestyle opportunities for the future.

Maintaining and enhancing suitable public open space and recreational areas is important for supporting a changing population and for visitors to the Shire. This includes identifying opportunities to enhance services and facilities through cross-border collaboration to enable communities on the fringes of the Shire to continue a quality lifestyle.

The provisions in Tenterfield Local Environmental Plan (LEP) 2013 allow for a variety of industrial development and while there is adequate industrial land available in Council's industrial estate in Tenterfield, there is also potential to develop further land if required with access to the New England Highway.

Ensuring that the Shire's natural resources are protected for future use is important for maintaining resilience in the economy.

#### Relationship to other plans

- New England North West Regional Plan (Directions 4, 7 and 17)
- Tenterfield CSP (COMM 1)

#### Actions

Plan for infrastructure, facilities and services that support active lifestyles for all generations, including walking and bicycling tracks and activation of Council-owned public spaces and waterfronts such as Tenterfield Creek, including opportunities for elderly.

Identify the most suitable areas within the LGA for future employment development purposes and investigate physical or infrastructure servicing needs.

Continue to support and develop opportunities for cross-border collaboration, focusing on Mingoola, Jennings, Liston and Legume

# INFRASTRUCTURE

## Planning Priority 5

### Infrastructure to support industry and community

#### Rationale

Infrastructure and utilities for roads and transport, water and wastewater, electricity and telecommunications are vital for a thriving Shire, including communities, businesses and visitors. While Council does not have jurisdiction over all these infrastructure provisions, it can ensure planning provisions are appropriate for projected demands and collaborate and advocate with stakeholders for upgrades and improvements.

#### Relationship to other plans

- New England North West Regional Plan (Directions 13, 14, 15, 16 and 19)
- Tenterfield CSP (TRSP 15 and TRSP 16)

#### Actions

Review Council's infrastructure and infrastructure planning with a focus on land use provisions and policy options that support development, whilst recognizing the need to be financially sustainable, including:

- Council's water, sewer and stormwater management plans;
- roads, road corridors and parking areas for community and visitors (such as rest areas, recreational vehicle parking areas and signage); and
- the capacity of the region to support renewable electricity infrastructure.

Identify and protect key infrastructure corridors that assist current and future development and capitalise on inter-regional connections, including Bruxner Highway between Tenterfield and Casino and Tenterfield to Moree (with links to Inland Rail infrastructure) and the New England Highway between Glenn Innes and the Queensland Border

Work with stakeholders to update the transport network as demand changes, including:

- improved east-west route connectivity for the Bruxner Highway;
- improved tourist, trade and transport links along the Mt Lindesay Road corridor to provide access to South East Queensland; and
- improving the amenity of the main street of Tenterfield

Advocate with stakeholders for improvements to:

- the road network to support the freight sector, increase connectivity, and accommodate new industry opportunities;
- telecommunications, including increased mobile phone coverage and reliability, speed and affordability of the internet; and
- water infrastructure, including current investigations into the Border Rivers Project on the Mole River



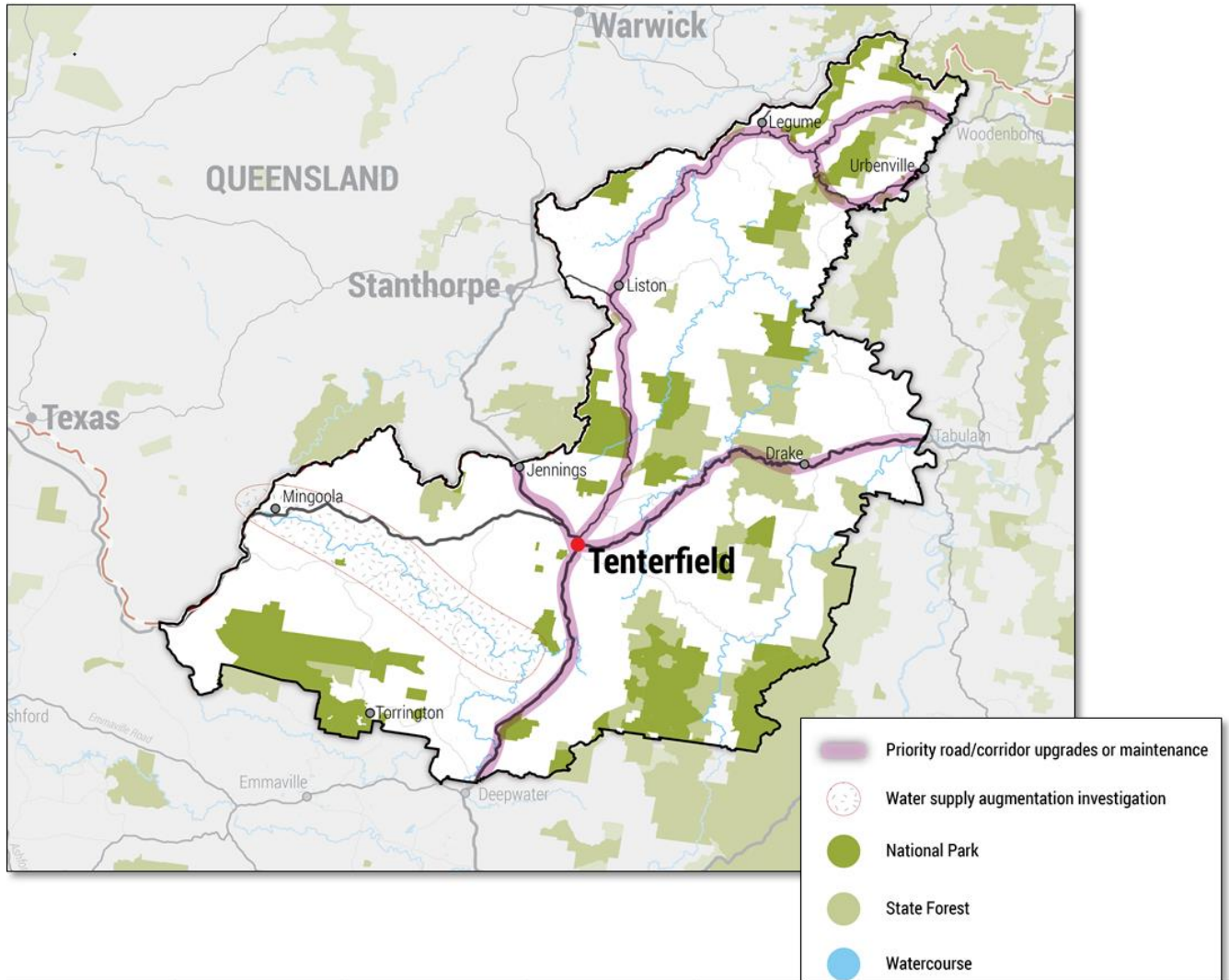


Figure 18 - Infrastructure



## CONNECTION TO PLACE

### Planning Priority 6

#### Strong connection to country and heritage

##### Rationale

Tenterfield's unique sense of place, culture and heritage is intertwined with the community's spiritual connection to country, each other and to the built environment. Caring for and enhancing special places is integral to maintaining community wellbeing. Local planning provisions can ensure that future development does not impact on those places.

Tenterfield's immense heritage assets provide opportunity for heritage tourism growth and the creation of a tourism destination grounded on heritage.

##### Relationship to other plans

- New England North West Regional Plan (Directions 22, 23 and 24)
- Tenterfield CSP (LEAD 13, ENVO 9 and COMM 4)

##### Actions

Ensure planning provisions in the LEP and DCP protect Aboriginal cultural and colonial heritage

Support local heritage studies in consultation with the local Aboriginal community

# SUSTAINING OUR ENVIRONMENT

## Planning Priority 7

### Protecting our environment and resources

#### Rationale

The environment is the source of and provides resources for a healthy lifestyle for all – including water, food, air, timber and mineral resources. The environment also provides a range of ecosystem services to enhance and protect life, from natural filtration processes that clean water and air, to providing medicine, clothing, pollination for food crops, and plants that prevent soil erosion and soil decline. Tenterfield’s main industries, agriculture and nature-based tourism, are dependent on the healthy functioning of the environment. It is vital that it is protected and enhanced so that the community’s lifestyle is also sustained.

#### Relationship to other plans

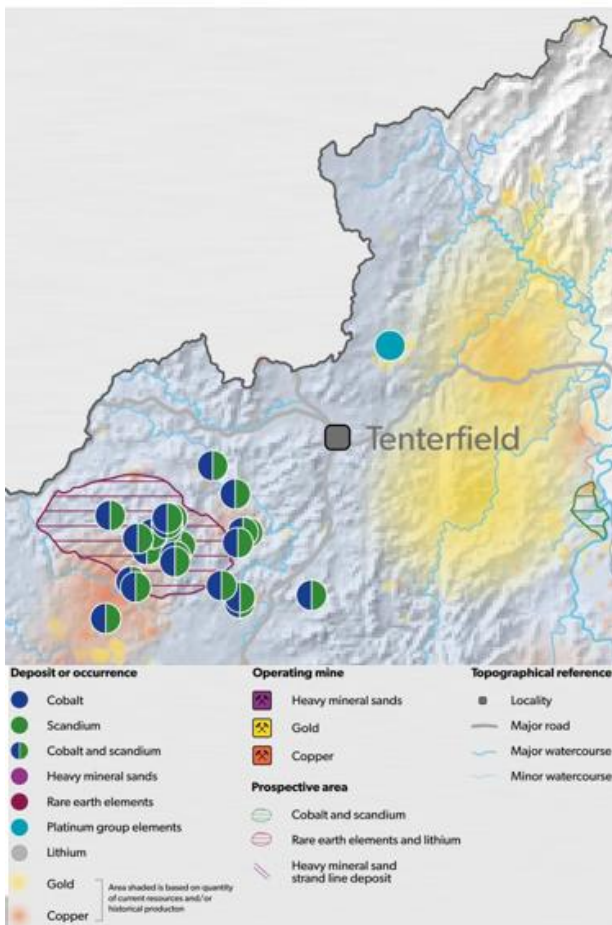
- New England North West Regional Plan (Directions 4, 10 and 11)
- Tenterfield CSP (ENVO 9)

#### Actions

Prepare a Biodiversity Strategy with land use planning provisions to facilitate additional protection of High Environmental Value lands, threatened species and endangered ecological communities

Ensure the LEP and DCP include provisions for the protection of areas of high environmental significance

Focus development to areas of least biodiversity sensitivity, and use the ‘avoid, minimise, offset’ hierarchy for biodiversity and areas of high environmental value



## Planning Priority 8 Resilience to climate change

### Rationale

The modern industrial lifestyle has caused many conflicts and challenges for maintaining a safe and healthy environment, particularly in relation to climate change. Transitioning to a regenerative culture that conserves and safeguards the natural resources on which the community relies, and using more sustainable raw materials and processes, is a vital step toward becoming more resilient to the impacts of climate change. Introducing and applying land use provisions that respond to the latest climate change projections and information will assist the move to a more sustainable future.

### Relationship to other plans

- New England North West Regional Plan (Directions 5, 6, 10 and 12)
- Tenterfield CSP (ENVO 10 and ENVO 11)

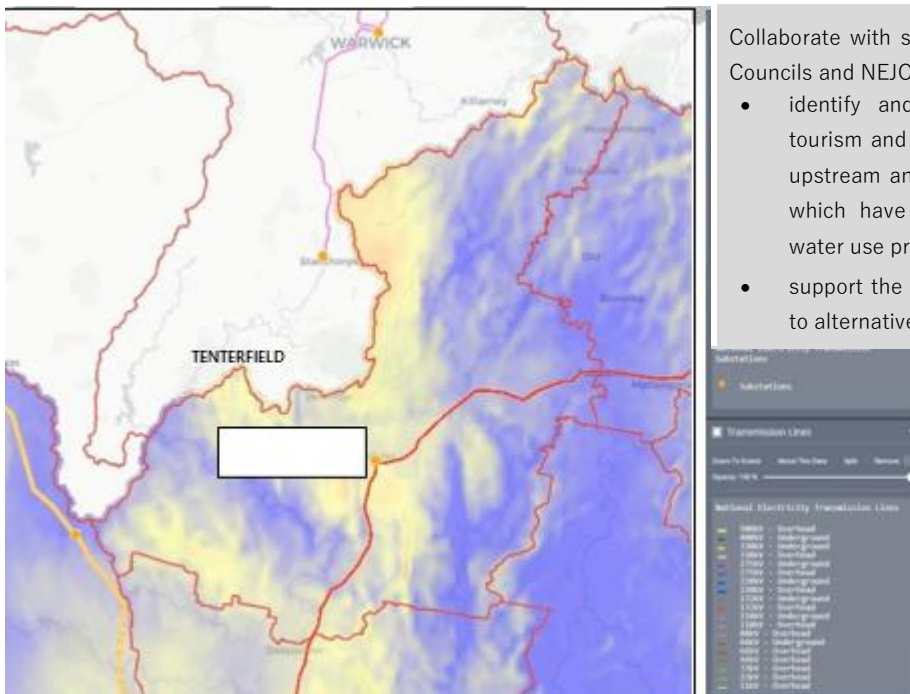


FIGURE 20 – RENEWABLE ENERGY OPPORTUNITIES  
Source: [nationalmap.gov.au/renewables](http://nationalmap.gov.au/renewables) (accessed 4/2/2020)

### Actions

Review planning provisions to ensure that development:

- includes effective management of natural hazard risks and avoids vulnerable areas;
- incorporates water sensitive urban design; and
- embraces sustainable use of natural resources, including energy supply and reduced water use.

Review the consistency of the Integrated Water Cycle Management Plan 2013 with current climate change projections and information.

Ensure development for renewable energy generation is:

- appropriately sited;
- avoids / manages impacts on the scenic rural landscape and visitor attractions;
- has available access to essential infrastructure, such as substations; and
- preserves valuable farming land and land of high environmental value.

Collaborate with stakeholders, such as neighbouring Councils and NEJO, to:

- identify and protect agriculture, water related tourism and supply services within the Shire from upstream and downstream users of river systems which have high water needs or unsustainable water use practices; and
- support the transition from high water use practices to alternative technologies or adaptive industries.

# IMPLEMENTATION

## Planning priorities

To achieve the Tenterfield LSPS land use vision, Council has identified 8 Planning Priorities to deliver focused outcomes for the environment, community and economy. These priorities and their associated actions are consistent with the Regional Plan and Council's CSP, and will involve:

- amendments to Council's plans and policies, such as the Tenterfield Local Environmental Plan (LEP) 2013 and Development Control Plan (DCP) 2014;
- development of new plans and policies;
- ongoing advocacy; and
- decisions of Council.

## Collaboration and consultation

Existing governance arrangements, Memoranda of Understanding with the New England Joint Organisation and Southern Downs Regional Council, and collaboration with neighbouring Councils will continue to be used to support effective approaches to cross-boundary and cross-border issues. These valued partnerships will help deliver Tenterfield's vision by driving efficiencies in accessing government funding, attracting inward investment and accessing a wider field of expertise. This collaboration is also important for achieving the objectives of the New England North West Regional Plan 2036.

Community engagement and feedback will be regularly sought. It is anticipated that this consultation will identify opportunities for improvement and will ensure that the LSPS continues to reflect the community's social, economic and environmental aspirations and vision of the future for the Shire.

## Resourcing

Actions in this LSPS will be funded in the 4-year delivery program and annual operational plans of Council, although availability of funding via the Regional Growth fund and other State and Federal agency opportunities will also be explored.

## Monitoring, Reporting and Review

This LSPS will be monitored, reviewed and reported on annually to ensure that its planning priorities are being achieved and to inform future changes. This will be done using the existing Integrated Planning & Reporting framework (IP&R) in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993*. A comprehensive review will be undertaken in 2026, if not earlier, and revisions to the LSPS may also be required in response to any significant changes within the Shire.



## Planning Priorities and Action Matrix

<b>Our Economy</b>				
Planning Priority 1 Diverse and resilient agriculture and agribusinesses	S	M	L	O
1.1 Undertake a review of current planning policies		✓		
1.2 Investigate opportunities for small-lot horticulture			✓	
1.3 Investigate options to grow agribusiness				✓
1.4 Implement the NSW Right to Farm Policy				✓
<b>Planning Priority 2 Nature-based adventure and cultural tourism</b>				
2.1 Investigate allowing events and festivals on Council-owned land	✓			
2.2 Ensure planning provisions allow for a diversity of tourism markets				✓
2.3 Collaborate with Local Aboriginal Land Councils				✓
2.4 Encourage cross-border planning for tourism				✓
2.5 Encourage eco-tourism opportunities				✓
<b>Unique Localities</b>				
Planning Priority 3 Diverse housing and unique character villages				
3.1 Review land use provisions as needed				✓
3.2 Enhance unique character through locality plans			✓	
3.3 Investigate housing to accommodate seasonal workers and visitor accommodation				✓
3.4 Enhance and develop strategies to protect and enhance and conserve places and buildings of heritage Significance and Aboriginal cultural places and relics		✓		
Planning Priority 4 Enhanced business and lifestyle opportunities				
4.1 Plan for infrastructure, facilities and services that support active lifestyles				✓
4.2 Identify the most suitable areas for employment development purposes				✓
4.3 Continue to support and develop cross-border collaboration opportunities				✓
<b>Infrastructure</b>				
Planning Priority 5 Infrastructure to support industry and community				
5.1 Review Council's infrastructure and infrastructure planning		✓		
5.2 Identify and protect key infrastructure corridors				✓
5.3 Work with stakeholders to update transport network capacity				✓
5.4 Advocate with stakeholders for infrastructure improvements				✓
<b>Connection to Place</b>				
Planning Priority 6 Strong connection to country and heritage				
6.1 Protect Aboriginal cultural and colonial heritage through LEP and DCP provisions				✓
6.2 Support local heritage studies				✓
<b>Sustaining our Environment</b>				
Planning Priority 7 Protecting our valuable environment				
7.1 Prepare a biodiversity strategy			✓	
7.2 Protect areas of high environmental significance through LEP and DCP provisions				✓
7.3 Focus development to areas of least biodiversity sensitivity				✓
Planning Priority 8 Resilience to climate change				
8.1 Review planning provisions to increase resilience in future development	✓			
8.2 Review the Integrated Water Cycle Management Plan 2013	✓			
8.3 Ensure renewable energy generation development is appropriate for sites				✓
8.4 Collaborate with stakeholders to protect water and transition to low water usage practises				✓

ACTION ABBREVIATIONS: S = SHORT TERM (0-2 YEARS), M = MEDIUM (3-5 YEARS), L = LONG (6-10 YEARS), O = ONGOING

# RESOURCES

## State and Regional Plans

Department of Industry

*Visitor Economy Industry Action Plan 2030*

Department of Planning and Environment

*New England North West Regional Plan 2036*

Department of Premier and Cabinet

*Northern New England Regional Economic Development Strategy 2018-2022*

Destination NSW

*State wide Destination Management Plan 2019*

Government Architect NSW

*Draft Urban Design for Regional NSW Guide 2019*

Draft Infrastructure NSW

*State Infrastructure Strategy 2018-2038*

Local Land Services Northern Tablelands

*Local Strategic Plan 2016-2021*

Office of Environment and Heritage

*Western Enabling Regional Adaptation New England North West region report 2017*

Regional Development Australia

*Northern Inland NSW Regional Plan 2016-2019*

Transport for NSW

*Future Transport 2056: Regional NSW Services and Infrastructure Plan*

Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (2019). NSW Government *population projections, by LGA, Tenterfield*

## Local Plans

Tenterfield Community Strategic Plan 2017 Tenterfield

State of the Environment Report 2016

Tenterfield and District Destination Management Plan 2014-2017

Tenterfield Economic Development Strategy 2013 – 2017

## Glossary

<b>CSP</b>	Community Strategic Plan
<b>DCP</b>	Development Control Plan
<b>LEP</b>	Local Environmental Plan
<b>LGA</b>	Local Government Area
<b>LSPS</b>	Local Strategic Planning Statement
<b>NEJO</b>	New England Joint Organisation
<b>Regional Plan</b>	New England North West Regional Plan