

## NORTH BURNETT REGIONAL COUNCIL

# Planning Scheme

## Dual occupancy and multiple dwelling

## Info Sheet

This info sheet summarises the planning scheme requirements for 'Dual occupancy' and 'Multiple dwelling' development projects.

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### Understanding 'Dual occupancy' and 'Multiple dwelling'

The North Burnett Regional Planning Scheme sets out Council's requirements for dual occupancy and multiple dwelling. These forms of residential development are two of more than 15 available under the scheme.

#### What is 'dual occupancy'?

The 2014 planning scheme definition of 'Dual occupancy' now reflects the *Queensland Planning Provisions (QPP 4.0)* —

*Premises containing two dwellings, each for a separate household, and consisting of:*

- a single lot, where neither dwelling is a secondary dwelling
- two lots sharing common property where one dwelling is located on each lot.

Two examples of dual occupancy are—

- a duplex;
- two dwellings on a lot.

#### Multiple dwelling

The planning scheme defines 'Multiple dwelling' as—

*Premises containing three or more dwellings for separate households.*

Examples include apartments, flats, and townhouses.



# APPROVALS REQUIRED?

## Dual occupancy approval

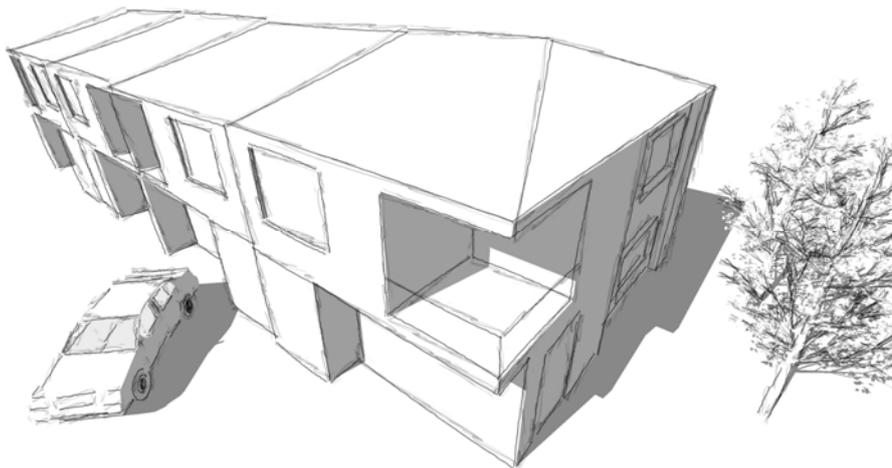
A dual occupancy may not need an approval under the planning scheme. In the Centre zone and General residential zone only, if the proposal complies with all the acceptable outcomes for accepted development in the Dual occupancy code it would only need building approval (i.e. assessment against the *Building Act 1975*). For sites in other zones, or if the proposal that is otherwise accepted development does not comply with a single or several acceptable outcomes, it is assessable development requiring code assessment (for the latter situation only to the extent of non-compliance).

## Multiple dwelling

A Multiple dwelling in the General residential zone is assessable requiring either code or impact assessment, depending on its intensity. If the 'plot ratio' is 30% or less, only code assessment against two codes is necessary—

- the Higher density residential code; and
- the Infrastructure and operational work code.

For impact assessment when the plot ratio would be more than 30%, the entire scheme would be used to determine the application, although the Higher density residential code and the relevant zone code would be the primary considerations.



## Calculating plot ratio

The plot ratio is simply the ratio between the 'gross floor area' and the site area. The planning scheme defines gross floor area as—

*The total floor area of all stories of a building (measured from the outside of the external walls or the centre of a common wall), other than areas used for the following:*

- *building services, plant and equipment*
- *access between levels*
- *ground floor public lobby*
- *a mall*
- *the parking, loading and manoeuvring of motor vehicles*
- *unenclosed private balconies whether roofed or not.*

Therefore a building with a gross floor area of 350m<sup>2</sup> on a 1000m<sup>2</sup> site has a plot ratio of 35% and would require impact assessment in the General residential zone. A 200 m<sup>2</sup> building on an 800 m<sup>2</sup> site would have a plot ratio of 25% and would instead require code assessment.

## Code compared to impact

The Council's thinking about how the intensity of a project should affect the type of assessment relates to the community's expectation of wanting to know about and have the opportunity to comment on development projects that might have significant effects. Higher density Multiple dwellings (i.e. more than 30% plot ratio) warrant a higher level of assessment and public scrutiny—therefore they undergo a public notification process.

There is no fundamental issue with having a higher plot ratio—and in the right places are likely to receive Council approval without significant challenges.



## Still need help?

This information sheet summarises the key matters to consider for people considering carrying out development. The process and legal aspects relating to property and development can be complex and confusing. Council's development services staff may be able to help.

Sometimes however it may be advisable for you to obtain your own professional help from a qualified practitioner such as a Lawyer, Surveyor, Town Planner, Architect, Building Designer, or Engineer.

## Encouraging economic development

The North Burnett Regional Council is a small rural local government but it is big on facilitating good economic development. That is why the planning scheme seeks to enable business growth and expansion while simultaneously creating and protecting the appeal of living in a *naturally beautiful* area. While the Council can encourage or enable good development projects it is up to locals to see opportunities and then to take the initiative.

Make contact with Council's Development Services staff to find out how to streamline your next development project.

## Contact Us

Give us a call for more information about the planning scheme and making an application.

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**North Burnett—*Naturally beautiful***

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