

21.07

09/05/2019
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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

21.07-1

Business activity overview

A number of residents on French Island are self-employed through their farm holdings or through the provision of a visitor service (or a combination of both). The limited number of commercial and community activities on the Island is reflective of both the low population and low visitor levels.

Key issues

- Providing a limited amount of commercial activity to meet the needs of the local community and visitors to the Island, while recognising the Island’s limited ability to sustain new commercial activities.

21.07-2

Objective

To encourage a limited amount of business activity to meet the needs of the community and visitors to the Island.

21.07-3

Strategies

1. Support the provision of local goods and services.
2. Encourage the diversification of business activity only in accordance with the capability of the Island’s population, visitors and infrastructure to support such activity.

21.07-4

Tourism overview

French Island attracts around 6000–8000 visitors annually. Access constraints to and around the Island, combined with a limited number of tourist services and recreational opportunities, contribute to the relatively low tourist numbers. Tourist accommodation facilities on the Island include private lodges, the former prison farm, private camping grounds and camping locations in the French Island National Park.

French Island is becoming increasingly popular as a tourist destination centred around recreational activities in the French Island National Park and its native flora and fauna. Tourism interest in other nature-based recreation activities including bird watching, walking, swimming and boating has increased in recent years. Managing the increasing levels of tourism to the Island, given the Island’s isolation and limited infrastructure capacity, will continue to be a key planning issue.

21.07-5

Objective

To provide opportunities for recreation and tourist activities, consistent with the Island’s infrastructure and conservation values.

21.07-6

Strategies

1. Support environmentally sustainable tourism services and facilities.
2. Support sensitive, unobtrusive and small-scale tourism developments only.
3. Ensure that recreational and tourist-related activities compliment and do not adversely impact on the environmental values of the Island.

4. Discourage tourism activities that place unreasonable stress on the Island's infrastructure, in particular access requirements and waste management.
5. Ensure tourism activities do not have an unreasonable impact on the Island's natural resources, including water.
6. Encourage tourism activities that benefit other Island activities and support the economic sustainability of the Island.

21.07-7 Objective

To ensure tourism uses do not compromise the primary agriculture use of rural land.

21.07-8 Strategies

1. Ensure tourism uses do not diminish future opportunities for agriculture.
2. Require tourism proposals to incorporate measures to minimise the impact on agricultural uses (existing or future).

21.07-9 Implementation

The objectives, strategies and policy guidelines arising from this Clause are implemented through the application of appropriate zones and overlays in Clause 74.01.