

# Agenda

**Ordinary Meeting**  
**Thursday, 24 October 2024**

**commencing at 9:00am**

Sunshine Coast City Hall Chamber, 54 First Avenue, Maroochydore

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

ITEM	SUBJECT	PAGE NO
1	DECLARATION OF OPENING .....	7
2	WELCOME AND OPENING .....	7
3	RECORD OF ATTENDANCE AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE .....	7
4	RECEIPT AND CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES.....	7
5	MAYORAL MINUTE.....	7
6	INFORMING OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST .....	7
6.1	PREScribed CONFLICTS OF INTEREST .....	7
6.2	DECLARABLE CONFLICTS OF INTEREST .....	7
7	PRESENTATIONS / COUNCILLOR REPORTS.....	7
8	REPORTS DIRECT TO COUNCIL .....	9
8.1	SUNSHINE COAST COMMUNITY STRATEGY ANNUAL REPORT 2023-24.....	9
8.2	SUNSHINE COAST COMMUNITY STRATEGY - REFRESH.....	57
8.3	SUNSHINE COAST REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY ANNUAL REPORT 2023-24 ....	157
8.4	SUNSHINE COAST ENVIRONMENT AND LIVEABILITY STRATEGY ANNUAL REPORT 2023-24 .....	201
8.5	SUNSHINE COAST BIOSECURITY PLAN 2024 .....	223
8.6	SUNSHINE COAST STORM TIDE STUDY 2024 .....	283
8.7	CALOUNDRA SOUTH PRIORITY DEVELOPMENT AREA - INFRASTRUCTURE AGREEMENT (LOCAL GOVERNMENT INFRASTRUCTURE) - DEED OF VARIATION NO.5 .....	291
8.8	SEPTEMBER 2024 FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE REPORT ...	297
8.9	AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING OCTOBER 2024 .....	317



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<b>9</b>	<b>NOTIFIED MOTIONS .....</b>	<b>319</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>TABLING OF PETITIONS .....</b>	<b>319</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>CONFIDENTIAL SESSION.....</b>	<b>321</b>
<b>11.1</b>	<b>CONFIDENTIAL - NOT FOR PUBLIC RELEASE - STORMWATER UPGRADES - BATTERY HILL.....</b>	<b>321</b>
<b>11.2</b>	<b>CONFIDENTIAL - NOT FOR PUBLIC RELEASE - PLANNING APPEAL - DIVISION 9 .....</b>	<b>322</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>NEXT MEETING.....</b>	<b>323</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>MEETING CLOSURE.....</b>	<b>323</b>





**ORDINARY MEETING**

**NOTICE**

11 October 2024

Dear Councillors, Group Executives and relevant staff,

In accordance with Section 254C(2) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, I wish to advise that an Ordinary Meeting has been convened for

**24 October 2024**

**commencing at 9.00am.**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D Robinson", is positioned above the printed name.

**Debra Robinson | Acting Chief Executive Officer**

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**1 DECLARATION OF OPENING**

On establishing there is a quorum, the Chair will declare the meeting open.

**2 WELCOME AND OPENING****3 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE****4 RECEIPT AND CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 26 September 2024 be received and confirmed.

**5 MAYORAL MINUTE****6 INFORMING OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST****6.1 PRESCRIBED CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

Pursuant to section 150EL of the *Local Government Act 2009* (the Act), a Councillor who has a prescribed conflict of interest in an issue to be considered at a meeting of the local government must –

- (a) immediately inform the meeting of the prescribed conflict of interest including the particulars stated in section 150EL(4) of the Act and
- (b) pursuant to section 150EM(2) of the Act must leave the place at which the meeting is being held, including any area set aside for the public, and stay away from the place while the matter is being discussed and voted on.

**6.2 DECLARABLE CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

Pursuant to section 150EQ of the *Local Government Act 2009*, a Councillor who has a declarable conflict of interest in a matter to be considered at a meeting of the local government, must stop participating in the meeting and immediately inform the meeting of the declarable conflict of interest including the particulars stated in section 150EQ(4) of the Act.

If the Councillor with a declarable conflict of interest does not voluntarily decide not to participate in the decision, pursuant to section 150ES(3)(a) of the Act the eligible Councillors must, by resolution, decide

- (a) whether the Councillor may participate in the decision despite the Councillors conflict of interest or
- (b) that the Councillor must not participate in the decision and must leave the place at which the meeting is being held, including any area set aside for the public and stay away while the eligible Councillors discuss and vote on the matter.

The Councillor with the declarable conflict of interest must comply with any conditions the eligible Councillors impose per section 150ES(4) and (5) of the Act.

**7 PRESENTATIONS / COUNCILLOR REPORTS**



8

REPORTS DIRECT TO COUNCIL

8.1

SUNSHINE COAST COMMUNITY STRATEGY ANNUAL REPORT 2023-24

File No:	Council Meetings
Author:	Manager Community Development Economic & Community Development Group
Attachments:	Att 1 - Sunshine Coast Community Strategy Annual Report 2023-24..... 17  

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to present the Sunshine Coast Community Strategy Annual Report 2023/24 to Council for consideration.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Sunshine Coast Community Strategy 2019-2041 (the Community Strategy) provides a long-term framework for how Council and our community will work together to advance our shared goal of a strong community through to 2041. The Community Strategy provides a framework to build on our values and shape a community which is healthy and active, vibrant, inclusive, connected and resilient, and creative and innovative.

The Sunshine Coast Community Strategy Action Plan 2019-2024 (the Action Plan) supports the Strategy and contains key actions that have been implemented by Council and our partners through to 2024. The Sunshine Coast Community Strategy Annual Report 2023-24 (the Annual Report) (Attachment 1) has been prepared to:

- highlight and celebrate achievements from the past year that are aligned with the priorities of the Community Strategy and the Action Plan, and
- track progress across the five outcome areas of the Community Strategy.

Some of the key achievements highlighted within the Annual Report include:

- Adoption of the All Abilities Action Plan which represents Council’s commitment to working towards a more inclusive Sunshine Coast.
- Endorsement of the Housing and Homelessness Action Plan 2023, in addition to the Lived Experience Inclusion Project ‘Street Up’ being a finalist in the 2024 Local Government Managers Australia Awards for Excellence in Innovation category. The recognition demonstrates Council’s innovation and commitment to working collaboratively to improve outcomes for people experiencing homelessness on the Sunshine Coast.
- Library services continued to thrive with an 11% increase in visitors across our 9 branches, a 9% increase in volunteer hours, 20% increase in attendance at our early literacy sessions, and 95% customer high satisfaction.
- Successful delivery of the Rewired Youth Mental Health Summit, led by young people for young people, and the commencement of the inaugural Young Leaders Academy,

which nurtures a generation of young leaders to work towards community change through participatory leadership.

- Successful delivery of the Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) 2021-22 and commencement of Stretch RAP development.

The Community Strategy Annual Report 2023-24 acts as the final annual report highlighting the implementation and achievements of the five-year Community Strategy Action Plan 2019-2024.

It is recommended that the Annual Report be noted by Council for the purpose of promoting Council's progress and achievements to the community.

## OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

**That Council:**

- (a) **receive and note the report titled "Sunshine Coast Community Strategy Annual Report 2023-24" and**
- (b) **note the Sunshine Coast Community Strategy Annual Report 2023-24 for the purpose of promoting the progress and achievements in relation to the Sunshine Coast Community Strategy 2019-2041.**

## FINANCE AND RESOURCING

Implementation of the Community Strategy primarily draws upon operational funding to deliver its priority actions and is subject to the annual budget planning and approval processes of Council.

The Community Strategy also recognises that a key method for delivering its priorities is through partnerships and collaboration, and these shared human and financial resources also provide the benefit of networking opportunities and collective action.

## CORPORATE PLAN

**Corporate Plan Goal:** ***Our strong community***

**Outcome:** We serve our community by providing this great service

**Operational Activity:** S1 - Community and cultural development and partnerships - providing planning, partnering and supporting the community through a range of community development, civic and cultural programs and grants.

## CONSULTATION

### Councillor Consultation

Community Portfolio Councillors D Law and T Bunnag have been briefed on the content and outcomes of the Sunshine Coast Community Strategy Annual Report 2023-24. Councillor D Law was also a member of the Community Strategy Leadership Group.

### Internal Consultation

Feedback has been sought on the Community Strategy's deliverables for 2023-24 from:

- Community Development Branch



- Sport and Community Venues Branch
- Arts, Heritage and Libraries Branch
- Parks and Gardens Branch
- Transport Network Management Branch
- Urban Growth Branch.

**External Consultation**

Although no external consultation was undertaken specifically in the development of the Sunshine Coast Community Strategy Annual Report 2023-24, the Community Strategy and its implementation is underpinned by shared responsibility. The Community Strategy Leadership Group, made up of diverse community members, has been a key partner of the Community Strategy and Action Plan implementation.

**Community Engagement**

The Annual Report is supported by the findings of id Consulting's Living on the Sunshine Coast Survey 2024 and the Community Connections Survey 2023. In May 2024, over 1900 residents were consulted as part of the Living on the Sunshine Coast Survey and 1000 residents were consulted in February 2023 as part of the Community Connections Survey 2023. Data was collected on important elements of community, as aligned to the Strategy outcome areas and findings of this research are included under each outcome area throughout the Annual Report.

**PROPOSAL**

The Sunshine Coast Community Strategy 2019-2041 (the Community Strategy) has been developed as the guiding regional strategy that supports the achievement of the Sunshine Coast Council Corporate Plan 2024-2028 goal of: 'Our strong community'.

The Community Strategy provides a long-term framework for how Council and our community will work together to advance our shared goal of a strong community through to 2041. Importantly, the Community Strategy provides a framework to build on our values and shape a community which is healthy and active, vibrant, inclusive, connected and resilient, and creative and innovative.

The Community Strategy is complemented by the Sunshine Coast Community Strategy Action Plan 2019-2024 (the Action Plan) which contains a suite of actions that has been implemented by Council and our partners to 2024.

The Sunshine Coast Community Strategy Annual Report 2023-24 (the Annual Report) (Attachment 1) has been prepared to:

- highlight and celebrate achievements from the past year that are aligned with the priorities of the Community Strategy and the Action Plan, and
- track progress across the five outcome areas of the Community Strategy.

The Community Strategy Annual Report 2023-24 acts as the final report highlighting the implementation and achievements of the five-year Community Strategy Action Plan 2019-2024.

Key achievements highlighted within the Annual Report include:

- Adoption and delivery of the All Abilities Action Plan to improve access and inclusion across the region for people with disability. This plan is a powerful representation of ways that we can work with people with lived experience to create meaningful directions and outcomes with our community.
- Endorsement and delivery of the Housing and Homelessness Action Plan 2023, reinforcing Council's commitment to facilitating affordable and diverse housing options and building capacity to respond to homelessness and supporting community-led initiatives.
- The Lived Experience Inclusion Project was developed and facilitated by Council in partnership with Caloundra Community Centre, Nambour Community Centre and The Shack to elevate and amplify the voices of people with living and lived experience of homelessness in decisions, responses, and solutions that impact them. The project aimed to raise awareness and deepen understanding of the impacts and causes of homelessness, as well as improve policy and practice responses and solutions. The Lived Experience Inclusion Project was a finalist in the 2024 Local Government Managers Australia Awards for Excellence in the Innovation category.
- Maintained collaborative partnerships with community partners and across Council to raise awareness and understanding of domestic and family violence prevention. Council continued discussions with community organisations exploring how men and boys can play a more active role in prevention work.
- Council's Community Grants Program continues to enable and support community groups and individuals to deliver sustainable community-led initiatives in response to community needs and opportunities. More than \$5 million was provided to 1071 community groups for projects, events and partnerships that align with regional strategy priorities.
- Delivered over 39 community engagement projects on Council's Have your Say website, receiving more than 8300 submissions.
- Actions under Council's Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan 2021-2022 were finalised and the development of the Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) commenced. A RAP Advisory Group has been established to guide the development and implementation of the RAP, and partner with Council on First Nations community priorities.
- Council reinforced its commitment to cultural diversity and inclusion by becoming a member of the Welcoming Cities Network. Engagement has occurred across Council branches and teams to examine current cultural diversity and inclusion practices as aligned to the National Welcoming Cities Standard.
- Successful delivery of the Rewired Youth Mental Health Summit, led by young people for young people, and commencement of the inaugural Young Leaders Academy, which nurtures a generation of young leaders to work towards community change through participatory leadership.
- Successful delivery of the We Recover Better Together project, funded by State and Federal governments, in five hinterland communities in Glasshouse Country. This project focused on the community being at the centre of disaster recovery and

resilience and the importance of building social connections and neighbourhood/ street level connections to call on in times of need.

- Successful delivery of a range of programs and events to support healthy and active lifestyles, including Healthy Sunshine Coast, RideScore active school travel program, and continued development of the Brisbane 2032 Legacy Strategy – Elevate 2042 which launched in November 2023, the product of the collective effort of all Games Delivery Partners and the Sunshine Coast Legacy Community Reference Group.
- Successful delivery of a range of creative and cultural events and programs, as well as ongoing sector development activities.
- Annual delivery of the Horizon Festival with over 25,000 attendances recorded across 168 events at 27 locations. In 2023, the Horizon Festival partnered with UniSC to deliver internships for two students who worked closely with Council to deliver a number of programs.
- Numerous signature heritage programs were delivered as part of the National Trust's Australian Heritage Festival at Bankfoot House and Landsborough Museum, resulting in over 19% increase in visitation at our Heritage facilities.
- Council endorsed the Sunshine Coast Creative Arts Plan 2023-2038 in August 2023, following a review and update of the previous plan to ensure continued growth and strengthening of our local arts sector. More than 740 employment opportunities for local artists and art workers were provided through projects supported by the Plan (including 167 First Nations artists).
- Delivered active and vibrant community, cultural and sporting venues through programming, events and activations in our libraries, gallery, historic houses, aquatic centres, community venues, sporting venues and Sunshine Coast Stadium.
- Expansion of the Accessible Beaches program to include Dicky Beach.
- Successful delivery of new community spaces, Altitude 9 and Community CoLab at City Hall.
- Enhancement of a range of sporting and community places and spaces, including the North Arm Park playground upgrade, Nambour-Yandina United Football Clubhouse upgrade, Kawana Aquatic Centre Stage 1 upgrade and earthworks commencing at Honey Farm Sports and Recreation Precinct.
- Continued the delivery of ThinkChange, travel behaviour program.

Awards highlighted:

- The Lived Experience Inclusion Project was a Finalist in the 2024 Local Government Managers Australia Awards for Excellence in the Innovation category.

## Legal

There are no legal implications relevant to this report.

**Policy**

The Sunshine Coast Council Corporate Plan 2024-2028 identifies a 'Strong Community' as one of five goals to deliver on a vision of Australia's most sustainable region – Healthy, Smart, Creative.

**Risk**

There are no risks associated with this report.

**Previous Council Resolution****Ordinary Meeting 26 October 2023 (OM23/114)**

That Council:

- (a) *receive and note the report titled "Sunshine Coast Community Strategy Annual Report 2022/23" and*
- (b) *note the "Sunshine Coast Community Strategy Annual Report 2022/23" (Appendix A) for the purpose of promoting Council's progress and achievements in relation to the Sunshine Coast Community Strategy 2019-2041.*

**Ordinary Meeting 14 November 2019 (OM19/170)**

That Council:

- (a) *receive and note the report titled "Sunshine Coast Community Strategy 2019-2041"*
- (b) *adopt the "Sunshine Coast Community Strategy 2019-2041"*
- (c) *adopt the "Sunshine Coast community Strategy Action Plan 2019-2041" and*
- (d) *resolve that the following documents will be superseded by the adoption of the Sunshine Coast Community Strategy 2019-2041*
  - *Sunshine Coast Social Strategy 2015*
  - *Nambour Activation Plan 2015*
  - *Sunshine Coast Access and Inclusion Plan 2011-2016*
  - *Sunshine Coast Community Events and Celebrations Strategy 2011*
  - *Sunshine Coast Multicultural Action Plan 2017-2020*
  - *Sunshine Coast Positive Ageing Strategy 2011-2016*
  - *Sunshine Coast Community Safety Action Plan 2016-2020*
  - *Sunshine Coast Youth Action Plan 2018-2021.*

**Related Documentation**

- *Sunshine Coast Community Strategy 2019-2041*
- *Sunshine Coast Community Strategy Action Plan 2019-2024.*

**Critical Dates**

The Community Strategy Action Plan expires in 2024. A refresh of the Community Strategy and Action Plan has been completed in consultation with the community and internal and external partners and stakeholders to ensure the Community Strategy and Action Plan aligns with community needs and priorities. A refreshed Community Strategy 2019-2041 and Community Strategy Action Plan 2024-2029 has been drafted for presentation to Council.

**Implementation**

Should the recommendation be accepted by Council, it is noted that:

- the Sunshine Coast Community Strategy Annual Report 2023-24 will be made publicly available on Council's website, and
- the progress and achievements highlighted within the Annual Report will be promoted to the community.

Promotion of the Annual Report will be undertaken in collaboration with the Communication Branch.



Sunshine Coast  
**Community Strategy  
Annual Report 2023-24**



Edition Month September 2024

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#### Acknowledgements

Council wishes to thank all contributors  
 and stakeholders involved in the  
 development  
 of this document.

#### Reference document

This document should  
 be cited as follows:

Sunshine Coast  
 Community Strategy Annual Report  
 2023-24.

#### Disclaimer

To the extent this document contains  
 future plans, activities, policies  
 and strategies, these matters are  
 aspirational and subject to change at  
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## Traditional acknowledgement

Sunshine Coast Council acknowledges the Sunshine Coast Country, home of  
 the Kabi Kabi peoples and the Jinibara peoples, the Traditional Custodians,  
 whose lands and waters we all now share.

We recognise that these have always been places of cultural, spiritual, social  
 and economic significance. The Traditional Custodians' unique values, and  
 ancient and enduring cultures, deepen and enrich the life of our community.

We commit to working in partnership with the Traditional Custodians and the  
 broader First Nations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) communities to  
 support self-determination through economic and community development.

Truth telling is a significant part of our journey. We are committed to better  
 understanding the collective histories of the Sunshine Coast and the  
 experiences of First Nations peoples. Legacy issues resulting from colonisation  
 are still experienced by Traditional Custodians and First Nations peoples.

We recognise our shared history and will continue to work in partnership to  
 provide a foundation for building a shared future with the Kabi Kabi peoples  
 and the Jinibara peoples.

We wish to pay respect to their Elders – past, present and emerging, and  
 acknowledge the important role First Nations peoples continue to play within  
 the Sunshine Coast community.

Together, we are all stronger.





## Contents

A message from the Mayor and Portfolio Councillors.....	5	Outcome 1 .....	12
One vision – three strategies .....	6	My story .....	13
Vision .....	7	Healthy, active communities highlights .....	14
United Nations Sustainable Development Goals .....	8	Outcome 2 .....	16
This Annual Report .....	10	My story .....	17
Our progress .....	11	Vibrant communities highlights.....	18
		Outcome 3 .....	22
		My story .....	23
		Inclusive communities highlights .....	24
		Outcome 4 .....	28
		My story .....	29
		Connected, resilient communities highlights .....	30
		Outcome 5 .....	34
		My story .....	35
		Creative, innovative communities highlights .....	36
		Focus for the year ahead .....	38





## A message from our Mayor and Community Portfolio Councillors

We are proud of the work our community does to achieve our shared vision of a strong community, where together we thrive.

Through the sharing of stories, data and insights, we present this 2023-24 annual report for the Community Strategy.

The report provides an opportunity to pause and reflect on our achievements. It highlights how Council, our community and partners have worked together through collaboration, advocacy and cooperation to deliver on the five outcome areas.

This is Council's fourth annual report for the Sunshine Coast Community Strategy 2019-2041 and the final report for the Community Strategy Action Plan 2019-2024.

Council has been actively engaging with our community over the past year as we prepare a refreshed Community Strategy and a new Action Plan for 2024-2029.

Through this engagement with internal and external stakeholders and the broader community, we can better understand community priorities now and into the future.

We worked to make our residents healthier and more active, our places and spaces activated and vibrant and our communities inclusive, connected and resilient. We continue to recognise and celebrate our heritage, culture and arts.

Some key highlights include the adoption and implementation of the All Abilities Action Plan, the Housing and Homelessness Action Plan, the Lived Experience Inclusion Project and the Sunshine Coast Creative Arts Plan.

We opened Altitude Nine and Community Co-Lab, our new community spaces at Sunshine Coast City Hall. We awarded 1071 grants to continue supporting our community groups and the amazing work they do.

Our Council is honoured to help support our community to grow and prosper.

Council thanks the members of the Community Strategy Leadership Group for their valued contribution over the past five years. We also thank our partners and the community for working with us to deliver the Community Strategy.

As we look forward, we continue to acknowledge we can't do this alone. In partnership with our internal and external stakeholders and our community organisations, we strengthen our commitment to continue building a strong community where together we thrive.

**Mayor Rosanna Natoli**  
**Councillor David Law**  
**Councillor Taylor Bunnag**



## One vision – three strategies



Council's vision is supported by three long-term strategies that have been developed in consultation with our community. These regional strategies collectively provide the strategic framework and desired outcomes for Council to work collaboratively across our community, with business and other tiers of government to advance our vision as Australia's most sustainable region.

To achieve the vision for the region, it is critical to progress our community, environment and economic objectives, understanding that all three are integrated and critical to the success and overall sustainability and liveability of our region.

## Vision

Together we thrive

## Goal

### Our Strong Community

The Community Strategy outlines Council's commitment to working with our community to reach our vision where together we thrive.

It provides the long-term direction for how Council and our community will work together to ensure that people and places remain connected, inclusive and cohesive as we grow.

The Sunshine Coast Community Strategy provides the strategic pathways towards a future where together we thrive. We thrive through connection with people, places and spaces and where we stay true to our values as a welcoming, caring and vibrant community, with opportunities for all to participate.

The strategy provides a clear framework for a strong community, built on the following five outcomes:



**01 Healthy, active communities**



**02 Vibrant communities**



**03 Inclusive communities**



**04 Connected, resilient communities**



**05 Creative, innovative communities**





## United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

As we advance our vision as Australia's most sustainable region – Healthy. Smart. Creative. the environmental, social, cultural and economic activities across the region must be carefully balanced to ensure we advance our vision sustainably.

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs) for peace, prosperity, people and planet provide a comprehensive and internationally recognised framework for us to collectively align

the way we each live, work, learn and play every day – and form an important foundation of the performance measurement framework of our Biosphere.

Council is demonstrating regional leadership by committing to embed the UNSDGs in our strategies, plans and associated progress reporting. Each Corporate Plan goal identifies how it contributes to the UNSDGs and, in doing so, assists to progress our Sunshine Coast Biosphere aim and objectives.

<b>1</b> NO POVERTY 	<b>2</b> ZERO HUNGER 	<b>3</b> GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING 	<b>4</b> QUALITY EDUCATION 	<b>5</b> GENDER EQUALITY 	<b>6</b> CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION 
<b>7</b> AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY 	<b>8</b> DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH 	<b>9</b> INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE 	<b>10</b> REDUCED INEQUALITIES 	<b>11</b> SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES 	<b>12</b> RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION 
<b>13</b> CLIMATE ACTION 	<b>14</b> LIFE BELOW WATER 	<b>15</b> LIFE ON LAND 	<b>16</b> PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS 	<b>17</b> PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS 	<b>SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS</b> 

Sunshine Coast Council

8 Photo: Nic Morley.





## This Annual Report

This report draws together a range of data, stories and insights to highlight and celebrate the valuable work achieved over the past year to deliver on the priorities of the Community Strategy, in collaboration with our community partners.

This is the fourth annual report since the Community Strategy came into effect in November 2019.

Council continues to measure and report on the progress towards our community outcomes drawing upon both quantitative and qualitative data to capture the broad range of outcomes that result from our work.

Sunshine Coast Council

10

Image: Dawn Awakening, Horizon Festival 2022. Photo: Nic Morley.



## Our progress

Council uses a range of measures to help us monitor and track progress.

### Overall measure:

The Sunshine Coast is a strong community: 68% agreed or strongly agreed.

The following indicators are the headline measures for the five outcome areas.

 <b>Outcome 1: Healthy, active communities</b>	
Our community is one of the healthiest regional communities in Queensland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>84% (Above Target)</li> <li>Percentage of community who report being in good / very good health (CCS)</li> </ul> <p><b>Target:</b> ≥ 82% to 2041 <b>Baseline:</b> 82% in 2016</p>
 <b>Outcome 2: Vibrant communities</b>	
Residents agree that Council's community infrastructure meets the needs of their community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>82% (Above Target)</li> <li>Percentage of residents who are neutral, agree or strongly agree that Council's community infrastructure meets the needs of their community (CCS)</li> </ul> <p><b>Target:</b> ≥ 80% to 2041 <b>Baseline:</b> 70% in 2021</p>
 <b>Outcome 3: Inclusive communities</b>	
Improving social and economic opportunities relative to other South-East Queensland local government areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Index: 60.3 (Watch target)</li> <li>Measured by overall liveability index (LSC)</li> </ul> <p><b>Target:</b> 63.9 at 2026 and equal to Regional Qld result (but no less than 63.9) to 2041 <b>Baseline:</b> 60.9 in 2021</p>
 <b>Outcome 4: Connected, resilient communities</b>	
Residents agree that they can get help from friends, family, neighbours or community organisations when they need it	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>87% (Above target)</li> <li>Percentage of residents who agree that they can get help from friends, family, neighbours or community organisations when they need it (CCS)</li> </ul> <p><b>Target:</b> ≥85% to 2041 <b>Baseline:</b> 93% in 2016</p>
 <b>Outcome 5: Creative, innovative communities</b>	
Growth in social enterprises in the Sunshine Coast local government area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>21 organisations (Watch Target)</li> <li>Growth in social enterprises operating in the Sunshine Coast local government area (QSEC)</li> </ul> <p><b>Target:</b> ≥22 at 2025 (20% increase on 2018 baseline) <b>Baseline:</b> 18 in 2021</p>

**Abbreviations and Sources:** CCS: Sunshine Coast Council's Community Connections Survey, LSC: id Consulting's Living on the Sunshine Coast Survey 2024, QSEC: Queensland Social Enterprise Council count of social enterprise members 2024. Measures for Outcomes 1, 2 and 4 are based on the 2022/23 CCS Survey.

## OUTCOME ONE

### Fast facts

Nearly **5000 people** registered for Healthy Sunshine Coast activities from **35 local providers**

**200 Parks Volunteers**

Clean Up for the Hatchlings occurred across **22 beaches**

**15 Community Gardens**

**3 beaches** now provide accessible beach matting and wheelchairs

**2156 students** across **11 primary schools** participated in RideScore Active School Travel



## My story



### Healthy, active communities

My name is Freyja Gunn. I've been living on the Sunshine Coast for 16 years, having emigrated from the United Kingdom and Ireland in 2008. The Sunshine Coast has been the perfect location to raise my two sons who are now in their late teens and venturing into their own independent lives on the Coast.

'Everyone is so thankful and happy for these sessions. It is almost like one big family that meet once a week.'

I'm currently Operations Manager at Resolve Fitness and Resolve Exercise Physiology, which have approximately 700 gym members and numerous clients accessing a range of allied health services.

In 2016, we found that our community was in need of more low-cost activities focusing not only on physical fitness, but also on mental health. As a result, we became interested in the Healthy Sunshine Coast program provided by Sunshine Coast Council. We started up a new group fitness session, which now runs weekly, on Wednesdays at 9.30am, for 45 minutes at Caloundra.

The sessions have been a great success. We get around 50 wonderful attendees each week, and some attendees who started out with us in 2016 are still coming!

It makes my team and I extremely happy to meet and greet this amazing group of people each week. They understand

the importance of working on their physical fitness, and we love the opportunities for personal connection that are created through the gathering of like-minded people. This is so important for our mental health and helps to prevent feelings of isolation. So, not only does the fitness aspects of the sessions help with our physical health and balance, via aerobic and strength activities to music, but it is also hugely significant for our mental health and sense of belonging.

Everyone is so thankful and happy for these sessions. It is almost like one big family that meet once a week.

The team and I want to continue to create an environment where everyone feels included, whatever ability and age. We want to continue to share our knowledge and provide opportunities for health and fitness. Above all, we want people to leave our sessions feeling happier, healthier and more positive – walking out the door with smiling faces!



## Outcome one: Healthy, active communities

### Our community

- Residents rated their physical health as 7.4 out of 10, and their mental health as 7.6 out of 10 (higher than the Australian averages of 7.0 and 7.2 respectively).
- Residents rated their social wellbeing as 7.3 out of 10 (higher than the Australian average of 6.9).
- Residents rated their access to the natural environment as 8.1 out of 10 (higher than the Australian average of 7.9).
- Residents rated their ability to view and participate in sports and recreation as 6.8 out of 10 (lower than the Australian average of 7.2).

Source: LSC: id Consulting's Living on the Sunshine Coast Survey 2024

### Healthy Sunshine Coast

Healthy Sunshine Coast has continued to deliver low-cost community health and wellbeing activities over the past year. The program encourages connections, having fun and participation from people across all ages and abilities while supporting positive physical and mental health and resilience. Some of the activities included a new Pilates class held at the Maroochy Bushland Botanic Gardens, Laughter Yoga in Maleny and Caloundra, weekday Outdoor Fitness Circuit classes in Mudjimba and Carer's Health and Fitness classes in Dicky Beach, to name just a few.

In August 2023, Healthy Sunshine Coast partnered with Held Outside and a number of community organisations to host a free family activity day – "Healthy Forests – Healthy Us" at the Eric Joseph Foote Sanctuary in Buderim. The intent of the day was to come together to celebrate, experience and learn about the interconnections between nature and human health.

During October 2023, Council co-hosted numerous Healthy Ageing Forums in partnership with the Healthy Ageing Partnership (HAP) at various locations on the Coast. The purpose of the forums was to collaborate and share information, create and strengthen social connection, and hear what the topical issues were for older people.

In November 2023, Healthy Sunshine Coast joined Council's Biosphere team for BiospHERO Day, a fun and educative community festival held at the MET Maroochydhore. With over 1000 people in attendance, the event was a culmination of a week-long program of events, celebrating people and nature in our Sunshine Coast Biosphere.

During Parks Week in March 2024, Healthy Sunshine Coast encouraged everyone to spend time in nature, enjoying our local parks and open spaces with the regular series of low-cost sessions available outdoors. The week celebrated the positive influence spending time in nature has on our wellbeing and our ability to thrive.

The Healthy Sunshine Coast program has continued to enjoy strong membership growth with close to 5,000 registered members as of the end of June 2024. There are over 60 regular health and wellbeing activities offered across the region facilitated by more than 30 providers.

A survey conducted in March 2024 (379 responses) showed very positive feedback on the program with 87 per cent of participants indicating their health and wellbeing had improved since commencing the program and 93 per cent indicating that the lower cost of classes had enabled them to participate in activities that might normally be beyond their means.

### 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games update

As a co-host City for the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games, the Sunshine Coast is proud to be hosting the Olympic and Paralympic competition events of mountain biking, road-based cycling, marathon, race walking, kiteboarding, football and basketball.

Life-sized Olympic Rings and the Paralympic Agitos made their debut on the Sunshine Coast on the weekend of July 22 and 23, 2023 as the region celebrated '9 Years to Go' until the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. To mark this milestone, Council held free events giving the community the opportunity to "meet" and capture photos alongside the Rings and Agitos, together with Olympic and Paralympic Athletes, at Alexandra Headland, Coolumb, Nambour and North Arm.



Council continued working on Games legacy with our Sunshine Coast Legacy Community Reference Group and Games Delivery Partners to develop the Brisbane 2032 Legacy Strategy - Elevate 2042. Launched in November 2023, Elevate 2042 is the product of the collective effort of all of the Games Delivery Partners and is a unifying statement of the joint commitment ensuring Games impact drives lasting benefits beyond the Games themselves.

A funding commitment of almost \$300 million by the Queensland and Australian Governments in May 2024, signalled the largest ever investment in community sporting infrastructure in our region. A \$148 million Sunshine Coast Stadium expansion, a \$142 million new Indoor Sports Centre in Kawana and a \$14 million Mountain Bike Centre at Parklands are on track to be delivered in 2027 – the delivery of these community facilities at this time will enable significant community outcomes well before the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

## Lifeguards

Over the past year, our Sunshine Coast beaches had over 7 million visitors, with 660 rescues performed by lifeguards on our beaches in the 2023-24 financial year.

Council's strong partnership with Surf Life Saving Queensland continues with Council endorsing the joint Lifeguard Service Plan 2023-2028 in July 2023. The new five-year agreement between Surf Life Saving Queensland and Council, guides how services will identify and respond to the needs, risks and demands placed on our beaches due to growing population, visitations and environmental risks to ensure that our beaches remain as safe as possible year-round.

Some of the modifications to service include new lifeguard services at Happy Valley Beach (commenced in September 2023), service relocation in Wurtulla, increased services in Bokarina, Buddina/Kawana Waters, Coolum North, Maroochy River Mouth (and new tower), Mudjimba and Maroocha. Safety cameras at Moffat Beach and Mooloolaba will enable lifeguards to assess data and ensure required service levels and implement emergency responses.

## Volunteers keeping our beaches clean

Volunteers continued to make a positive impact in 2023-24, with 1214 volunteers collectively removing over 583kg of rubbish from 22 beaches across the Sunshine Coast. In 2023-24, Council coordinated seven major clean ups including two Plastic Free July events, Big Beach Clean Up at Happy Valley,



Clean Up for the Hatchlings, Clean Up Australia Day and Lake Kawana Clean Up, collecting 22,866 pieces of rubbish from our beaches. In November 2023, 183 students from five schools participated in the Schools Beach Clean-Up. The schools involved included Woombye State School, Coolum State School, Sunshine Coast Grammar, Our Lady of the Rosary and Chancellor State College. There are many other organisations working hard to keep our beaches clean with clean-up activities such as Sea Life Beach Clean Up, Night Eyes, Beach Matters and Co-Exist.

## Project spotlight: Better access to our beaches

Our Sunshine Coast beaches are becoming more accessible with the Accessible Beach Program. The program provides beach matting, a wheelchair and life jackets as part of its service, improving beach and ocean accessibility for people in wheelchairs, as well as people with vision impairment, walkers, parents and carers with prams and people on crutches. Beach wheelchairs are also available for hire at no cost from the Compass Institute in Caloundra for use on any patrolled beach.

Following a successful three-month trial in 2023, Dicky Beach was added to the program alongside Coolum and Mooloolaba. Council and Dicky Beach Surf Lifesaving Club are committed to providing a safe, accessible, and inclusive environment between the flags at Dicky Beach, so all members of the community can enjoy a positive beach experience and the associated benefits to their physical and mental health.

**'I love seeing the sheer joy expressed on people's faces when they get onto the beach and into the water, made possible by the matting and the beach wheelchair.'**

**– Lifeguard**



## OUTCOME TWO

### Fast facts

**512** amenity reserves

**376** playgrounds

**30** new parks and open spaces

Our open spaces have

**329** barbecues,

**386** drinking fountains and

**59** exercise stations

Average of **80%** occupancy  
across Holiday Parks

**400** capital projects within  
the Parks and Gardens programs

**126,595** library members



## My story



### Vibrant communities

My name is Kate Baker. I moved to Nambour as an 8-year-old with my family, as my dad had a transfer with his work. Some of the earliest memories I have of Nambour involve the local pool, with Tuesday night swim club and training and school swimming events and carnivals.

'We have seen significant growth in attendance in the past two years because of the facilities we have and our welcoming team.'

I'm now the Venue Manager at the Nambour Aquatic Centre, managed by Belgravia Leisure Group on behalf of Sunshine Coast Council.

Here at the aquatic centre, we are creating a hub for members of the community to connect in meaningful ways that embrace fitness, fun and inclusion. Our services contribute to health and wellbeing and improve water safety. We have one of the oldest swimming clubs in Queensland, the 'Nambour Piranhas', providing pathways to state and national swimming competitions. And we host water polo and underwater hockey.

We have seen significant growth in attendance in the past two years because of the facilities we have and

our welcoming team. Investment in the multi-functional Splash Park has contributed to an almost doubling of attendance. The Splash Park encourages physical and sensory development through water play. We also rolled out the Cerge companion app to ensure people with disability are welcomed into the centre. Our pool hoist and changing facility also facilitate inclusive access. Of course, we also cannot deliver a welcoming and inclusive experience without our dedicated and friendly team.

Our pool has become a place for our community to celebrate family, learning, access and inclusion, diversity, and sustainability. We would love to see you soon!



## Outcome two: Vibrant communities

### Our community

- Residents rated their access to cultural facilities as 4.9 out of 10 (lower than the Australian average of 6.2).
- Residents rated their access to shopping, leisure and dining experiences as 6.1 out of 10 (lower than the Australian average of 6.5).

Source: LSC: id Consulting's Living on the Sunshine Coast Survey 2024

#### Busy places and spaces

##### Aquatic centres

**1.3 million** visits across **9** aquatic centres

##### Historic houses

**12,094** visits

**19%** increase since 2022/23

##### Libraries

**930,259** visitors

**11%** increase since 2022/23

**95%** customer high satisfaction

##### Venue 114

**45,323** attendees across **398** events

##### Caloundra Indoor Stadium

**108,081** attendees across **2265** event bookings

##### Sunshine Coast Stadium

**115,012** attendees at **14** major events

**100%** Venue Hirer Satisfaction

### Libraries

Council's library services had a busy year as they continued to provide a hybrid offering of online and in person programs and services, supported strongly by community volunteers.

Key highlights and initiatives from the 2023-24 year include:

- Baringa Book Locker - Book vending kiosk located inside Baringa Community Centre launched, including adult fiction and non-fiction, young adult, junior and toddler books and picture books
- Construction works commenced at Caloundra Library for a new library, multipurpose community spaces and corporate facilities – due for completion mid-2025
- StoryCast Studio at Kawana Library opened in November 2023 - Acoustically treated room with access to quality microphones, podcast production mixer/interface, audacity editing software. Studio is free for community members with library membership
- Future Engineers program launched with 333 participants in 26 sessions
- Implementation of inclusion membership category for people experiencing homelessness, children in care or experiencing domestic and family violence
- Customer Service Satisfaction Survey – 94 per cent satisfaction
- 800 Adult Programs delivered to 22,305 attendees
- 238 Lifelong Learning Sessions with 8,428 attendees
- Seniors Programs delivered to 30 attendees
- 1790 participants in 118 Digital Literacy Sessions
- 15,756 participants attended 262 holiday programs delivered by Young Peoples Services
- 74,007 people attended 1,239 children's sessions such as Storytime and Rhymetime
- 250 active volunteers providing 19,491 hours of their time (increase of 9 per cent in hours)
- In December 2023, Caloundra Library opened for seven days per week based on positive feedback from the community.



## New community spaces at Sunshine Coast City Hall

Altitude Nine opened its doors to community, business, and charity functions in October 2023. The venue, located on the ninth floor of Sunshine Coast City Hall, offers panoramic views of the Sunshine Coast and can accommodate up to 180 people. The venue has hosted the Brisbane Lions Leadership Lunch, Migrant Work Ready Graduation, a sold-out International Women's Day event and the Sunshine Coast Lightning Partnership Forum.

Community CoLab opened in May 2024. The purpose-built versatile space is located on the Ground Floor at City Hall, as a low-cost and accessible venue-for-hire. Accommodating up to 20 people, the purpose of the space is to foster community connection and collaboration.



## Our community venues have been highly activated...

### Venue 114

- 45,323 attendees across 398 events
- Significant events included:
  - Big Day In
  - Conscious Life Festival
  - REWIRED Youth Mental Health Summit
  - Sunshine Coast Wedding Showcase

### The Caloundra Events Centre

- 161 events and bookings
- Significant events included:
  - Frozen with the Sunshine Coast Youth Theatre
  - Sleeping Beauty performed by the Royal Czech Ballet
  - Sunshine Coast Comedy Festival
  - The Nutcracker
  - Queensland Ballet on Tour
  - Tommy Little, Anh Do and Kate Bush

### Maroochydore Multi Sports Complex

- 1565 event bookings
- Significant events included:
  - AFL Masters Carnival
  - Western Bulldogs Pre-Season camp
  - Brisbane Lions Pre-Season Camp
  - Sunshine Coast Netball fixtures

### Sunshine Coast Stadium

- 383,359 attendees across 2922 event bookings
- Significant events included:
  - National Rugby League Women's Game between Brisbane Broncos and Sydney Roosters
  - 16,000 people attended the Queensland Oztan Junior State Cup
  - Sold out crowd for NRL Pre-Season Dolphins vs Gold Coast Titans
  - England Women's Football team 10-day camp before FIFA World Cup 2023
  - Sold out crowd for South Sydney Rabbitohs vs Brisbane Broncos
  - Touch Football Australia National Youth Championships with approximately 12,000 attendees
  - Sunshine Coast Camping and Caravanning Expo
  - AFL Masters Carnival

### Caloundra Indoor Stadium

- 42,014 attendees across 18 Major Events
- Significant events included:
  - 1300 people attended the Regional Disability Expo
  - National Senior Pickleball Tournament
  - Suncoast Spinners Wheelchair Basketball Tournament
  - Fashion Thrift Society
  - Antiques and Collectables Shows
  - QLD School Sport State Netball Titles

## New and upgraded facilities

- Caloundra Indoor Stadium roof replacement (\$3.7 million project with 140 kilowatts of solar panels)
- Honey Farm Sports and Recreation Precinct – earthworks commenced
- Maleny Skate Park renewal – community engagement program
- Nambour-Yandina United Football Clubhouse upgrade completed in April 2024
- Stage 1 Works at Kawana Aquatic centre are complete with new program pool and car park upgrades
- Cotton Tree Aquatic Centre had new pool lights installed
- A 4WD wheelchair purchased and delivered for use at Mary Cairncross Reserve
- Mobility Mapping has been completed for Coolum, Beerwah and Montville (publicly accessible mapping under development)
- Glenbrook Downs Park installed a Disability Discrimination Act compliant picnic setting
- Field lighting upgrades for Caloundra Cricket Club and Caloundra Rugby Union Club
- Nambour Aquatic Centre received an all-abilities portable hoist
- New camp kitchen at Cotton Tree Holiday Park
- North Arm Park playground upgrade.

**'Rhymetime is a lovely opportunity for my baby to be exposed to song, books and other babies!' – Library Rhymetime participant**



Sunshine Coast Council

## Project spotlight: Early Literacy Sessions preparing our little ones

Our little ones have been enjoying early literacy session such as Storytime and Rhymetime this past year. With early literacy sessions being offered online and in person at libraries, more than 48,370 participants attended 824 sessions.

The early literacy sessions have been developed and delivered by our libraries to engage parents, caregivers, and their children to model and foster early literacy practices that can be replicated at home.

The free weekly session held at libraries and online, have been so popular (with a 20 per cent increase over the past year), that an additional 42 Storytime and 43 Rhymetime sessions have been added across a number of branches to meet the growing demand. For those who could not attend a session in real time, two online programs have been created and made available on the library website. Rhymes with Ryan and Sofa Storytime starring Ryan and Codie from Library Services, feature songs that are part of the regular library session as well as favourite classic stories. Rhymes with Ryan features Auslan translations. Codie is one of the best storytellers in Australia and New Zealand, receiving a second place in the 2022 Librarian Storyteller of the Year awards.

Storytime sessions highlight and promote the importance of reading to children from birth with library staff reading a number of books to the participants. Rhymetime sessions focus on vocabulary and literacy development through songs with library staff guiding parents and little ones through a set of nursery rhymes and action songs. The sessions all involve music, books, movement and often an arts-based activity to foster motor skill development. The sessions also provide a wonderful opportunity to create and foster connections, socialise and build community with other families.

Storytime and Rhymetime work in conjunction with First 5 Forever, a Queensland State Government universal family literacy program aimed at supporting strong language and literacy environments for young children from 0–5 years and their families. Other projects funded by First 5 Forever include Story Seats and Communication boards situated in our parks across the region to aid in early literacy development and provide tools to be used by preverbal toddlers or children with any form of communication barrier.





## OUTCOME THREE

### Fast facts

**34** residents graduated from the Migrant Work Ready program

Youth Council partnered with Zero+ Positive for Schools to plant **400** trees at the Maleny Ecological Park

Council raised the Pride Flag at Maroochydore City Hall on 11 June 2024, in celebration of Pride Month

**60** young people attended the Rewired Youth Mental Health event at Venue 114



## My story



### Inclusive communities

My name is Ian. I moved to the Sunshine Coast in 2000 and I worked around the area as a carpenter. In 2005, after an accident at work, I damaged one of my eyes and went blind in that eye. A little while later, I slipped on some rocks while fishing and cracked a couple of vertebrae. I had nerve damage. I was unable to work, depressed and using drugs for pain. My marriage broke down. I couldn't see my daughter. My dad passed away, my mum died a year later, and my younger brother a year after that.

This was my transition to homelessness. They were difficult times. Very few people I've met have made a conscious choice to become homeless. They have been injured, unable to work, had a marriage breakdown, depression, difficulty finding accommodation, their rent goes up, they are experiencing domestic violence.

There is a stigma attached to being homeless, and there's a fear in part of the community about homeless people. Sometimes it might be justified. Sometimes it isn't. Everybody's a human being. We all have compassion and understanding within us.

Now I'm transitioning out of homelessness. I'm living in a unit. I'm doing a little bit of work. I volunteer in the

'Now I'm transitioning out of homelessness. I'm living in a unit. I'm doing a little bit of work. I volunteer in the community. I'm thinking of going back to finish my degree.'

community. I'm thinking of going back to finish my degree. I'm doing stuff like Street Up, a group where we publicly share our stories of homelessness to raise awareness.

This project has been good for my mental health as I feel valued. I feel like I am contributing to something important. It has enabled me to connect with other people and help lift up some people too, which has given me some meaning and purpose to my days. We have received positive feedback that perceptions and policies have changed which may aid those who are enduring periods of homelessness. I didn't know sharing our lived experience would have such an effect.



## Outcome three: Inclusive communities

### Our community

- The overall liveability index of the Sunshine Coast was 60.3 in 2024, this was slightly below the averages for South-East Queensland (63.8), Queensland (62.2) and Australia (63.4).
- Residents rated social cohesion in their communities as 6.4 out of 10 (lower than the Australian average of 6.7).
- Residents rated access to education opportunities as 6.7 out of 10.
- Residents rated access to job opportunities as 5.1 out of 10 and access to affordable housing as 4.2 out of 10 (lower than the Australian averages – 5.9 and 4.7 respectively).
- Overall, residents rated access to opportunities for all as 6.1 out of 10 (lower than the Australian average of 6.3).

Source: LSC: id Consulting's Living on the Sunshine Coast Survey 2024

### First Nations partnerships

Council is committed to partnering with our First Nations community to advance a shared future of reconciliation. Over the past year, the Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) 2021-22 was finalised and development of the Stretch RAP commenced. A Stretch RAP recognises that an organisation has demonstrated strong meaningful engagement with First Nations stakeholders and places Council as a leader in reconciliation. Engagement was undertaken across the community with key First Nations stakeholders to inform the RAP and continue to strengthen relationships. A RAP Advisory Group of First Nations community members was established to play an important role in guiding the development and implementation of the RAP and partner with Council on First Nations community priorities.

Council partnered with the community to celebrate First Nations culture throughout NAIDOC Week and National Reconciliation Week. The NAIDOC Week Flag

Raising Event was held in Nambour in July 2023 and the Wan'Diny NAIDOC Family Fun Day held at Cotton Tree in October 2023. These events provided an opportunity to recognise and celebrate the vital role our Elders play in our communities and families as Custodians of cultural knowledge, wisdom, nurturers and advocates. National Reconciliation Week celebrations included a community celebration at Triballink and the Sunshine Coast Lightning First Nations Round, highlighting the importance of the week's theme Now More Than Ever 2024.

The First Nations Supplier Networking Kickstarter event was held in November 2023 to continue to nurture important connections and conversations. In partnership with the Department of Employment, Small Business and Training, the event supported and celebrated First Nations economic participation on the Sunshine Coast. It brought together local First Nations businesses and key stakeholders to explore ways that we can foster and support the First Nations business community and strengthen a resilient community which prioritises local First Nations businesses as suppliers of choice. Council also partnered with GATHAA First Nations Market, a First Nations led initiative aimed at showcasing local First Nations artisans and entrepreneurs. Originally staged as a series of six markets occurring between December 2023 and July 2024, Council aims to support the markets to establish as a permanent fixture.

As part of ongoing work, Council supported a strong and connected community through a range of engagement activities. Meetings were held with Kabi Kabi and Jinibara Traditional Custodian groups to strengthen relationships, understand priorities and engagement protocols. Monthly First Nations community meetings were held in Nambour to provide a platform for community members to share information and discuss priorities. The Sunshine Coast First Nations Networking Group continued to deliver an important role of keeping key stakeholders in the First Nations community connected through regular meetings and information sharing. In May 2024, Council launched the First Nations Partnership Facebook page as a place to share information, opportunities and stories from Council and the First Nations community.

### Migrant Work Ready and Business Ready

In November 2023, the Migrant Work Ready and Diverse Queensland Workforce networking event was held at Altitude Nine, Sunshine Coast City Hall. The event celebrated program outcomes and provided an opportunity for participants to thank contributing employers. The initiative attracted 44 new businesses interested in employing a culturally diverse workforce. Welcoming Australia CEO, Aleem Ali, shared insights on the value of a culturally diverse workforce.

In May 2024, the Migrant Business Ready Scholarship Program commenced with 13 people participating.

Council partnered to deliver the Multicultural Jobs Fair and Business Expo at Baringa Community Centre in May 2024, which was attended by over 300 jobseekers, with some successfully gaining employment through the expo.

### Working towards welcome

On 16 August 2023, Council reinforced its commitment to cultural diversity and inclusion by becoming a member of the Welcoming Cities Network. Over the past year, engagement has occurred across Council branches and teams to examine current cultural diversity and inclusion practices against the National Welcoming Cities Standard to establish our current accreditation status.

Three community presentations have been delivered on the Welcoming Cities vision for the region.



### Multicultural Advisory Group

The Multicultural Advisory Group (MAG) has continued to advise Council on advancing communities where everyone can belong and participate in social, cultural, economic and civic life. In September 2023, members of MAG led Council's Executive Leadership Team and Councillors in Anti-Racism Active Bystander Training.

In October 2023, the MAG attended the annual Sunshine Coast Libraries Staff Forum themed 'No One Left Behind,' attended by 130 staff. The MAG participated in a panel discussion, sharing insights on the structural, social, and environmental challenges faced by migrants when accessing library services and discussing how migrant communities envision using these community spaces.

In June 2024, they met with the 2032 Games Legacy team and will continue to collaborate to ensure our region implements best diversity and inclusion practices for the 2032 Olympic Games.

### Harmony Week

In March 2023, Council supported Sunshine Coast community groups in coordinating a vibrant week of activities celebrating Harmony Week. The community embraced the theme 'Everyone Belongs on the Sunshine Coast.' A diverse program featured gatherings, cultural exchanges, traditional performances, and immersive workshops aimed at fostering a welcoming community. Council's Harmony Week initiatives included the launch of the Staff Language Bank and Diversity and Inclusion 101 Training. Taste of Harmony lunches were held at Maroochydore City Hall and Nambour offices.

### Non-Christian prayers for Council's Ordinary Meetings

Council has committed to having four non-Christian groups per year deliver multifaith blessings/prayers at the start of Council's Ordinary Meetings. Acknowledging the religious diversity on the Sunshine Coast in this manner is another important step towards a more inclusive and welcoming region. At the opening of four meetings, representatives from Buddhist, Islamic, Hindu, and Sikh faiths provided blessings focused on Councillors making wise decisions for the community and blessing the meeting.



## Youth focussed/led action

Our young people proved just how capable they are in leading, planning and delivering the inaugural Youth Mental Health Summit – Rewired. The event held at Venue 114 in October 2023, was designed by young people, for young people, creating space to have open and honest conversations about mental health experiences and sharing tips for prioritising wellbeing and developing good mental health habits. Attendees heard from pro-surfer and mental health advocate Cooper Chapman, Australian Paralympic swimmer Alexa Leary and a lived experience panel. With a range of wellbeing activities and workshops including yoga, boxing, meditation, great live music and good food, the event fostered connections and conversations, challenged stigmas, and encouraged positive mental health habits.

In February 2024, the inaugural Young Leaders Academy was launched, comprising eight Sunshine Coast locals aged from 16 to 25 years. The purpose of the year-long academy is to nurture a generation of leaders to actively contribute to the betterment of their communities and gain a deeper understanding of community and participatory leadership practices, enabling them to drive sustainable and positive change in their communities. Young people in the Academy have grown in their capacity to listen deeply to the needs of others in their communities and leadership paradigms have been challenged as they have discovered ways they can work towards community change in a participatory way.

Young Leaders participated in a Youth Week panel where they informed Council officers of the concerns they are hearing from young people in their communities. Throughout the year young people in the Academy appeared several times on ABC radio, were nominated in both the Biosphere awards and Next Gen wards, hosted Council's Reconciliation Week event, and participated in Council reference groups.

Council worked alongside other youth organisations to elevate the celebration of young people throughout Youth Week in April 2024. The calendar of events was expanded throughout the week to include a colour run, basketball competition and learn to surf experience. Youth Fest 24 was initiated alongside Stockland. This was a festival for young people on the Sunshine Coast which included a hotly contested Battle of the Bands, skate competition, art exhibition and variety of other activities and games.

## All Abilities Action Plan

Council adopted the Sunshine Coast All Abilities Action Plan 2024-2028 in November 2023.

This plan represents Council's commitment to working towards a more inclusive Sunshine Coast for people with disability and is a powerful representation of ways that we can work with people with lived experience to create meaningful directions and outcomes with our community.

The action plan was developed through extensive community engagement, with particular focus on connecting with people with disability, carers, and support workers. A reference group, made up of people with lived experience of disability was fundamental in developing the action plan. Priority areas for action include awareness and education; built environment and public spaces; employment and training; events and programs; participation and communication.

A Disability Action Week Regional Calendar of Events was created to highlight a variety of accessible and inclusive events for and by people with disabilities. Local residents and businesses were invited to celebrate Disability Action Week from 25 November to 2 December 2023 with a range of activities and events on offer across the region including All Access Day at the Beach at Mooloolaba. An Accessible Sunshine Coast Photo competition was held during Disability Action Week, to celebrate and promote places that are accessible and inclusive. Residents were encouraged to capture and share photos and their stories.

Council's Community Land Permits Team have included Access and Equity criteria in the permit application form, taking steps to create more awareness and more accessible community events.





## Housing and Homelessness Action Plan

The Sunshine Coast Housing and Homelessness Action Plan 2023, endorsed by Council on 27 July 2023, brings together the various activities undertaken by Council to enable housing availability and diversity, reduce housing stress and respond to homelessness in our community.

Council continues to build and maintain strong collaborative partnerships with housing and homelessness services and community organisations to support people experiencing homelessness to access services and have more positive outcomes. Key priorities included facilitating efforts of the State Government and community housing providers to deliver social and affordable housing projects, temporary housing fee waiver, supporting community-led transitional housing projects and the provision of free access to shower facilities at nine aquatic centres for people experiencing homelessness.

**'Hearing someone's experience better helps us to understand those experiences, adapt our service and delivery and maintain empathy, kindness and compassion.'**

– Sunshine Coast Council Library Staff Member

**'Listening to my peers, being listened to, and connecting with service providers, policy and decision makers has given me a space to raise awareness and influence change... I am one of many women that has experienced homelessness due to domestic violence, and it is powerful to share my story and raise awareness about these complex issues and how they are linked.'**

– Lived Experience Leader

## Project spotlight: Lived Experience Inclusion Project

Council is committed to elevating and amplifying the voices of lived experience through the Lived Experience Inclusion Project, which aims to raise awareness and understanding of the impacts and causes of homelessness, as well as improve policy and practice responses and solutions. The project has delivered trauma informed leadership training whereby people with living and lived experience of homelessness on the Sunshine Coast have the skills, knowledge, confidence, and support to have a voice and contribute to meaningful change alongside Council and other stakeholders. The Lived Experience Inclusion Project has had wide-ranging impact across Council teams to deepen understanding of homelessness and influence policy and practice, including the actions outlined in the Sunshine Coast Council Housing and Homelessness Action Plan 2023.

The project is facilitated by Council, and in partnership with Lived Experience Leaders and the Caloundra and Nambour Community Centres, has extended into the co-designed initiative, Street Up, to continue providing opportunities for people with living and lived experience to be included in decisions that impact them.

The Lived Experience Inclusion Project was a finalist in the 2024 Local Government Managers Australia Awards for Excellence in the Innovation Category which recognises the innovation and commitment that Council has to working collaboratively to improve outcomes for people experiencing homelessness on the Sunshine Coast.







## My story



### Connected, resilient communities

My name is David Aubrey and I'm currently the President of the Glass House Mountains Community Hall. I feel lucky to live in the Glass House township and to be amongst all the different community groups and active community members. My wife's family is from the Sunshine Coast, and we have called the hinterland our home since 2015.

In 2016 I became involved in the Glass House Community Hall in response to an ad in the local paper calling for new members to help continue the legacy established by the founders back in 1916.

The primary focus of the Hall over the last 18 months has been to strengthen our connection to our community overall and community groups in the area.

By creating a web of interconnections between people and groups we have resilience to face floods, fire and multiple days without power. Being surrounded by forest and farmland means we can be isolated for days before support resources can come in, so we need to support each other.

One way the interconnections across the community have been strengthened was working together to deliver a collective Glass House Community Christmas Party instead of multiple community group parties.

The combined Christmas Party was a great success and showed that when groups work together, we can build a

'A community will thrive when we have enough people who are connected and feel this is where I live and belong – I'm proud to call this place home'.

connected community. Despite multiple storms and no power during the event, we all pushed on with the food, entertainment, Santa on the fire truck and carols literally by candlelight.

Building on the combined Christmas Party idea we've now started a Neighbours Day to help new residents meet their neighbours and showcase all the community groups in the area. These initiatives help build connections across different groups and show that if you are connected to at least one group in your community, we're connected to lots of other community groups and members.

I encourage everyone in any township or neighbourhood to build connections by just saying 'Hi' to somebody you often see but don't know, or to get involved with a community group. A community will thrive when we have enough people who are connected and feel 'this is where I live and belong – I'm proud to call this place home'.





## Outcome four: Connected, resilient communities

### Our community

- Residents rated their experience of a strong sense of community as 6.7 out of 10.
- Residents rated their experience of feeling safe as 6.8 out of 10.
- Residents rated their ability to make their way to and from services with relative ease as 5.3 out of 10 but rated their access to public transport as 4.4 out of 10 (both lower than the Australian averages at 6.4 and 5.6 respectively).

Source: LSC: id Consulting's Living on the Sunshine Coast Survey 2024

### Domestic and Family Violence Prevention

Council remains strong in its commitment to preventing domestic and family violence and building a deeper understanding and awareness in our community.

The global 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence campaign commenced on 25 November 2023, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, and ran through to Friday 10 December 2023, Human Rights Day. The theme for this year was Love ≠ Control. In an act of solidarity and support for victims of domestic and family violence, Council joined forces with volunteers to #OrangetheWorld and planted 500 native trees along the foreshore at Alexandra Headlands at the Seeds of Hope tree planting day.

The community came together during Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month in May 2024, with a number of activities undertaken across our region to raise awareness of domestic and family violence and the support services available. The annual Candlelight Vigil and March held in partnership with Centacare at Cotton Tree Park was incredibly powerful. The event saw a significant increase in participation where community was asked to pause, reflect and hear the voices, stories and perspectives from victims and survivors of domestic and family violence and to remember the women and children who have lost their lives because of domestic

and family violence in the past 12 months. Volunteers again stepped up to assist at our stall at the Sunshine Coast Lightning game, where 4000 purple ribbons were distributed to the crowds. Star Making Workshops were hosted at seven libraries across our region, bringing people together, and creating safe spaces for conversation to build understanding around issues of violence in our communities.

Council is continuing discussions with a group of men representing a range of community organisations exploring how men and boys can play a more active role in prevention work. Council's internal Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Supporters Network is working to build a deeper understanding and awareness of domestic and family violence and how we can respond and support colleagues in our work community. Staff participated in Domestic and Family Violence Prevention training with Active Bystander Training also made available.

### Transport

Council continued to work towards creating a healthier, more connected and sustainable Sunshine Coast with a continued focus on reducing our car use through its ThinkChange Travel Behaviour Change program and commencement on development of the new Active Transport Plan. Community engagement for the new Active Transport Plan took place between May and June 2024, inviting community members to guide the priorities for improving active transport for our region, receiving more than 480 survey submissions.

RideScore Active Schools travel program continued with students registering across 11 local state primary schools. Talara State School and Palmview state School joined the 2024 program. Council has secured the approval for five new School Transport Infrastructure Program projects that will enhance pedestrian safety around schools and provide safer active transport infrastructure for students travelling to and from school.

Work continues on the Sunshine Coast Public Transport Project, with the Detailed Business Case being finalised by the Department of Transport and Main Roads in collaboration with Council.



## Grants positively impacting our communities

### Sports Field Maintenance Funding Program

Forty-eight Sunshine Coast sporting organisations shared in more than \$895,000 to help maintain their sporting fields and keep them in tip-top shape. The Sports Field Maintenance Funding Program offers up to three years of funding to help clubs with maintenance field costs and provides expert advice on keeping sports fields to appropriate competition and training standards. This funding is a huge help to our sporting groups, many of which are primarily run by volunteers. Bli Bli United Football Club Vice President Eddie Muller said the funding program was great and the experience and advice they received through the program was phenomenal.

'As a club we manage the field before, during and after the football season, making sure we get the best result we can to ensure its longevity. We're a non-for-profit organisation and with the support from Sunshine Coast Council through this funding program, we're able to reduce our members' fees and get kids out on the fields playing. Thank you to Sunshine Coast Council and the Community Sports Team for their round-the-clock support for our field maintenance.' – Eddie Muller

### Community Grants Program 2023-24

Council's Community Grants Program continues to enable and support community groups and individuals to deliver sustainable community-led initiatives in response to community needs and opportunities.

**Total Grants related to Community Strategy outcomes 1071 grants awarded, Over \$5.28m allocated**



#### Partnership grants

\$1.96 million for 197 groups

**\$991,495**

for 144 partner community groups

**\$895,657**

for 48 sports fields groups

**\$70,00**

for 5 recreation trail groups

#### Community grants

\$1.98 million for 710 projects

**\$1,359,630**

for 218 major grants

**\$133,749**

for 80 minor grants

**\$32,192**

for 13 emergency grants

**\$144,057**

for 51 festive and commemorative events grants

**\$55,550**

for 171 individual development grants

**\$254,657**

for Councillor Discretionary Funding over 177 grants

#### Arts and Heritage

\$418,474 for 54 projects

**\$59,858**

for 13 heritage groups

**\$183,616**

for 31 regional arts development projects

**\$175,000**

to support 10 creative industry investment programs

#### Environment Levy

\$915,593 for 110 grants awarded

**\$290,579**

or 87 landholder grants

**\$15,014**

for 4 Environment projects

**\$610,000**

for 19 partnerships with environment groups

## Project spotlight: We Recover Better Together

The 'We Recover Better Together' project was delivered by Council as part of the Community Recovery Resilience Officer Program, funded by State and Federal government, to strengthen the community's recovery following the 2022 floods.

These floods severely impacted parts of the Sunshine Coast, in particular Glasshouse Country including the towns of Eudlo, Mooloolah Valley, Glasshouse Mountains, Beerwah and Landsborough.

This project focused on the community being at the centre of disaster recovery and resilience and the importance of building social connections and neighbourhood/street level connections to call on in times of need.

Council contracted and worked alongside Community Praxis Co-op to co-design and facilitate 'Building Connected Communities' and 'Community Connector' courses. These six courses delivered throughout the Glasshouse Country, enabled community members to explore the strengths and barriers to building effective and well-connected communities. A core value of this project was that community members know their communities better than we do, so listening and following the lead of active citizens meant the collaboration between community and Council took place effortlessly.

As a result of the course, five Eudlo community members came together to form the group Eudlo Connecting. The group decided the best way to hold a conversation around recovery and for people to feel connected and belong in their community was to host a community dinner. The dinner was a collaborative effort between community members from the community post office, community hall and the general store, all members of Eudlo Connecting. Over 60 community members attended the event with the hosts sharing their thoughts and insights about the importance of being connected to neighbours and the importance of knowing who in your street may need extra help in a disaster.

Twelve community members from Eudlo completed the Community Connector course and as a result were inspired to do more in their community. Since participating in the course, several community members of Eudlo have created a 'Cooking Group' which meets at the hall to cook food for vulnerable people in the community; a 'Men's Working Bee' which meets up at each other's properties to clear, weed and also support others to maintain their properties; and a 'Dad's Support Group' who meet up fortnightly at the Eudlo General Store

providing a safe space to chat and support those going through family struggles or mental health challenges.

In Beerwah, the Flourish Connection (disability service), Glass House Community Hall Committee, Glass House Neighbourhood Centre, the local daycare and local nursery are now working together to create a community garden for people in the community. As a result of one of the courses, the "Glass House Collective" comprising Glass House Mountains Neighbourhood Centre, the Glasshouse Hall, a few churches and small community groups came together to hold a combined Christmas Party. Several Neighbour Day events have also been organised throughout the year which have assisted residents to meet their neighbours and have showcased community groups within the area.

The project also identified formal and informal systems within the community which could be strengthened and explored, identifying how existing systems could support disaster recovery. The project resulted in:

- A 'Recovery Sub-group' being formed and incorporated into the existing 'Glasshouse Country Disaster Management Network'
- Provision of a meals system, and the development of a guide, directory and group of community members to coordinate the provision of meals for people who may not be able to return home due to the impacts of a disaster
- A single point of reference through the Glasshouse Country News Facebook Page to provide clearer communication and messaging during times of disaster, and ways community organisations can connect and work together during disasters and community recovery.

'Best thing the state government and Council have ever done for the hall/ community. Eudlo is buzzing more than before.' – Eudlo resident

'I feel like I am falling in love with my community again.' – Eudlo resident



## OUTCOME FIVE

### Fast facts

Bankfoot House welcomed **6179** visitors and Landsborough Museum hosted **5915** visitors

**20** Heritage education programs delivered

**94%** of Horizon respondents rated the experience as good to excellent

Sunshine Coast National Art Prize had **452** entries, representing every Australian state and territory

Sunshine Coast Council

34

Image: Horizon Festival 2023 Photo: Nic Morley





## My story



### Creative, innovative communities

Hi, my name is Melissa Stannard. I have lived on the Sunshine Coast for around 12 years. I love living on Kabi Kabi Country. I love the coastal liminal spaces through the Wallum and heathlands, estuaries and into sclerophyll and rural forests through to the mountainous zones and rainforests. The Sunshine Coast is such an artistic and entrepreneurial community with a lot of support growing for artists/musicians and creatives.

I know of the Artist in Residency program and its success from following the journeys of other artists and seeing their personal and professional growth from these experiences. I have been a mentor, artist in the shared studio and an artist in residence, and this experience has supported my practice and professional development. I think its integral to give back and share our collective skills with others, and the residency programs allow for this in a culturally and emotionally safe way.

Being a part of the residency programs has helped me become more proficient in public engagement and public speaking and I've had an enormous amount of growth through my artistic practice. I have benefited from the space and freedom to expand on my current themes as well as explore new ideas. There is also the bonus of having a collective community of artists at 2ND Space to interact with and gain support from.

**'When opportunities to engage in artistic practice are shared, we all grow and succeed.'**

When opportunities to engage in artistic practice are shared, we all grow and succeed. We have such a wealth of creative passion and power on the Sunshine Coast, so being able to connect, share and learn from each other is beneficial for all and grows a stronger more cohesive community in the long term.

I would love there to be more and permanent creative hubs like this on the Sunshine Coast, it's a tribute to all who have been involved. I hope to see more support towards a thriving and highly visible arts and cultural scene on the Sunshine Coast.



## Outcome five: Creative, innovative communities

### Celebrating our heritage

The annual Historian in Residence program, now in its third year, delivered new research into Sunshine Coast Cemeteries and the lives of the people who lived at Bankfoot House. Our heritage facilities remain popular, with over 19 per cent increase in visitation (12,094 for the year), with heritage talks, holiday programs and educational programs attracting increasing participation. Ongoing support for regional heritage groups and museums is provided through expert advice, training workshops, marketing campaigns and grants. This year, Council staff met with every heritage group and museum in the region to provide information and advice on Council's Community Partnership Funding Program.

### Horizon Festival

Horizon Festival 2023 did not disappoint, with the 10-day multi-arts festival held across 27 locations from 25 August to 3 September, bringing art, music, comedy and more across the Sunshine Coast. The festival delivered 168 events from 490 local and visiting artists, attracting more than 25,000 attendees. Highlights of the festival included the signature Dawn Awakening event at Coolumb's Stumers Beach, which attracted a record audience of 2000 people, alongside 22 sold-out performances including Circus Wonderland, Dirty Laundry and Homegrown. This year the Horizon Festival partnered with UniSC to deliver internships for two students who worked closely with Council to deliver a number of programs.



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36

### Sunshine Coast Arts

The Sunshine Coast Creative Arts Plan 2023-2038 was endorsed in August 2023, following a review and update of the previous plan to ensure that the goals, strategies, and actions continue to grow and strengthen the local arts sector. It supports Council's vision of being a region that is healthy, smart, and creative, acknowledging that creativity can broaden our perspective, help us to explore ideas, find solutions and build resilience.

The updated plan recognises the unique opportunities we currently have and provides a framework of goals and commitments that will direct our ongoing progress. The plan has five distinct goals including empowering First Nations, building capacity, strengthening engagement, boosting infrastructure, and cultivating identity.

In 2023-24 more than 740 employment opportunities for local artists and art workers were provided through projects that were supported by the plan (167 of these were First Nations artists). These projects also engaged 53 volunteers.

Notable Creative Arts Plan outcomes for artists include:

- ProjectLab, which provided a 3-month mentorship program for 10 local artists
- Project 24 that supported 12 artists-in-residence space at 2ND SPACE in Nambour
- 'Spaces for Creatives' providing subsidised studio space to four local creative enterprises
- 364 local artists featured, and 161 First Nations artists involved or profiled in Caloundra Regional Gallery programming
- 287 local artists engaged by Horizon Festival programming in 2023.

## Project spotlight: Blak Creatives

Council has partnered with Munimba-ja to deliver Blak Creatives, a First Nations networking space and series of Indigenous-led professional development opportunities embedding cultural safety. The partnership is funded through our three-year Creative Industries Investment Program through the Regional Arts Development Fund and Council's Arts and Heritage Levy.

In 2022, Blak Creatives was born out of community voice and provides a culturally safe feedback loop through ongoing relationship building, ensuring it remains responsive to First Nations needs. A team of cultural workers formed to develop and deliver a program designed by Munimba-ja, embedding cultural safety to consult with community. The outcome of this project was the creation and initiation of Blak Creatives which hosts ongoing networking events, an online forum, master classes, professional development opportunities, and safe spaces for First Nations artists to discuss and determine their needs and priorities for their arts and cultural sectors and how they would like to achieve them.

Blak Creative is designed to build profile, recognition, and capacity of First Nations artists - both Traditional Custodians and First Nations community. The project focuses on delivering work through cultural protocol, informal mentorship, contemporary/urban Indigenous practice, industry development, presentation, and pathways for emerging and mid-career artists. Munimba-ja Art Centre on Jinibara land is more than an art gallery for Blak Creatives, it is a welcome space, where First Nations people can create art on their own terms, centring country in all they do. Blak Creatives also hosts BLAK camp – a mob only artist camp/residency on Kabi Kabi Country, where First Nations artists are selected to work with senior practitioners, mentors and industry leaders. Together they explore creative practice and opportunities within the arts industry through multi-disciplinary pathways. The camp also provides participating artists opportunities for further support through networks, business development and creative partnerships.

'It's important for me to have a safe blak space like Munimba-ja to work from.'

– First Nations Artist

'Munimba-ja feels like a true welcome place.'

– Local participant



## Focus for the year ahead

In 2024-25, we will continue to work towards achieving the outcomes outlined in the refreshed Sunshine Coast Community Strategy 2019-2041 and the new Community Strategy Action Plan 2024-2029.

- In collaboration with Games Delivery Partners, progress the Elevate 2042 Implementation Plan and planning, design and delivery of the region's games venues.
- Implement health and wellbeing initiatives that support healthy and active lifestyles through the Healthy Sunshine Coast program.
- Work to strengthen the substantial and ongoing participation of and contribution by volunteers to community life.
- Continue to plan for an invest in our network of sports, art and community infrastructure and its activation to meet diverse community needs.
- Finalise the Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan and implement actions.
- Continue to implement the Housing and Homelessness Action Plan.
- Work collaboratively to advocate for, raise awareness and implement initiatives on domestic and family violence prevention.
- Work collaboratively to deliver initiatives and outcomes that build a welcoming and inclusive community and progress the Welcoming Cities Standard.
- Continue to ensure the voices and needs of our community are heard using best practice engagement approaches to inform Council action and decision-making.
- Commence the development of a Youth Action Plan and deliver youth-led and youth focussed initiatives that foster and support participatory youth leadership.
- Continue collaboration and partnerships that support local community-led resilience and recovery activities.
- Deliver the Horizon Festival, engaging the community in arts, heritage, and culture while building capacity of the local arts sector.
- Deliver the new Community Strategy Action Plan 2024-2029, once adopted, to further build on our shared goal of a strong community.
- Implement and deliver actions from the All Abilities Action Plan to improve accessibility and inclusion for people of all abilities.
- Deliver the Community Grants Program, enabling community organisations to respond to community needs and opportunities aligned with strategic priorities.
- Implement the Sunshine Coast Creative Arts Plan.
- Develop the new Active Transport Plan and continue to implement the ThinkChange program.
- Actively include and engage the community in the legacy planning for the Sunshine Coast as a key delivery partner in the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.










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2/6/23

## 8.2 SUNSHINE COAST COMMUNITY STRATEGY - REFRESH

<b>File No:</b>	<b>Council Meetings</b>
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Manager Community Development Economic &amp; Community Development Group</b>
<b>Appendices:</b>	<b>App A - Refreshed Sunshine Coast Community Strategy 2019-2041 and Action Plan 2024-2029 ..... 69</b> <a href="#">↓</a> 
<b>Attachments:</b>	<b>Att 1 - Community Strategy Refresh 2024 - Targets Information Sheet ..... 145</b> <a href="#">↓</a> 
	<b>Att 2 - Community Strategy Refresh 2024 - Human Rights Assessment ..... 151</b> <a href="#">↓</a> 

### PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek Council adoption of the refreshed Sunshine Coast Community Strategy 2019-2041 and integrated Council Action Plan 2024-2029 (Appendix A).

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Community Strategy is one of Council's three regional strategies. These regional strategies outline important priorities for our region related to our:

- Environment – Environment and Liveability Strategy
- Economy – Regional Economic Development Strategy
- Community – Community Strategy.

Work to refresh the Community Strategy has been undertaken over the past 18 months and the renewed Sunshine Coast Community Strategy 2019-2041 and integrated Council Action Plan 2024-2029 is now ready for Council consideration. Both the Environment and Liveability Strategy and Regional Economic Development Strategy were refreshed and adopted in late 2023.

The Community Strategy refresh has been informed by extensive input and feedback from community members, stakeholders, and Council officers. Engagement included:

- Broad community engagement undertaken over eight weeks in April and May 2023 to understand current community priorities, which involved input from around 1850 community members.
- Meetings throughout the project with the Community Strategy Leadership Group, which was a stakeholder group set up to lead the strategic implementation of the previous strategy and the current refresh project.
- Targeted small group discussions in November and December 2023 with stakeholders such as UniSC, Volunteering Sunshine Coast, IFYS, OSCAR, community centres, etc.
- Further broad community engagement undertaken in May/June 2024 to gather feedback on the draft refreshed strategy, which involved input from around 500 community members.

- Involvement of around 110 Council team members throughout the project.

Input from this engagement has significantly shaped the refreshed strategy, including the priorities and actions that have been progressed.

The project has resulted in a refreshed Community Strategy that:

- More clearly outlines our shared Council and community vision and goal
- Sets out clearer, more comprehensive and transparent targets
- Sets out clearer principles and methods
- More visibly reflects current community priorities, such as housing and transport, as well as challenges such as population growth and climate change
- Addresses perceived gaps related to First Nations reconciliation, mental health, social connection and activities for young people
- Has a simplified structure so that readers can find important information quickly
- Outlines 50 new actions for Council to implement over the next five years that are specific and achievable
- Reflects a joint Council and community partnership to achieve a strong community.

The refreshed strategy will signify almost a decade of Council having a long-term, strategic, collaborative and transparent approach to achieving a strong Sunshine Coast community.

## OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

**That Council:**

- (a) **receive and note the report titled “Sunshine Coast Community Strategy - Refresh” and**
- (b) **adopt the refreshed Sunshine Coast Community Strategy 2019-2041 and integrated Council Action Plan 2024-2029 (Appendix A).**

## FINANCE AND RESOURCING

New actions for Council implementation have been identified in the integrated Action Plan 2024-2029 that may not be able to be fully implemented within existing budget allocations.

Actions that require additional resources are identified in the action plan and are subject to resource commitments being approved through Council’s normal budgetary processes.

## CORPORATE PLAN

**Corporate Plan Goal:** ***Our strong community***

**Outcome:** 1.4 - Connected, resilient communities, with the capacity to respond to local issues

**Operational Activity:** 1.4.2 - Complete a refresh of the Sunshine Coast Community Strategy and Action Plan 2019-2024 and commence implementation a renewed set of actions for the next five years, working with the community towards our shared goal of a strong community.



## CONSULTATION

### Councillor Consultation

All Councillors were consulted on the Community Strategy refresh project including the planned community engagement and the results of community feedback.

Further consultation was held with Community Portfolio Councillors D Law and T Bunnag on the final refreshed strategy prior to the Ordinary Meeting.

### Internal Consultation

Approximately 110 Council team members have been involved in engagement activities throughout the strategy refresh project.

Internal Council engagement included:

#### Stage 1. Understanding community priorities

- Five workshops were held with managers and relevant officers from the groups within Council. In total, 55 managers and Council officers were invited to these workshops, and 41 attended.
- Two workshops were held with 28 members of the Community Development Branch. This branch includes functions of community development, community planning, community engagement, grants and First Nations partnerships.

#### Stage 2. Drafting refreshed Community Strategy

- Ten workshops were held with Council officers to help draft outcome statements and actions for inclusion in the Community Strategy. A separate workshop was held for each of the ten topics in the refreshed strategy. 50 Council officers were invited to attend these workshops and 37 officers attended.
- Two information sessions were held that were open to all Council team members. One was held in-person, and one was online. 18 Council team members participated in these information sessions (almost all had not previously been engaged in the project).

#### Stage 3. Finalisation

- An online information session was held that was open to all Council team members to get an update on the draft refreshed Community Strategy.
- Emails were sent to all team members who had previously been involved in the project, including ELT and all managers. This email invited feedback on any element of the draft refreshed strategy.
- Emails were sent to all internal teams who had responsibility for implementation of actions outlined in the draft refreshed strategy. All of these teams provided feedback into the actions.

**External Consultation**

Stakeholder engagement included:

**Stage 2. Drafting refreshed Community Strategy**

- Nine meetings with 28 community members from 20 community organisations or groups, such as Nambour Community Centre, IFYS, OSCAR, UniSC, Volunteering Sunshine Coast, etc. This was an opportunity for the project team to hear feedback on early drafts of strategy content and to refine priorities and actions before broader engagement.

**Community Engagement**

Community engagement included:

**Stage 1: Understanding community priorities**

Community engagement was undertaken over eight weeks in April and May 2023 to understand how the Community Strategy should be updated to reflect changing community priorities.

Community members were asked to tell Council:

- What are the current challenges and opportunities for the Sunshine Coast community?
- What actions should our community focus on to address these priorities?
- What other changes to the Community Strategy are needed to help achieve our shared goal of a strong community to 2041?

Special effort was made to ensure that a diversity of residents were able to participate and have their say.

Engagement included:

- Community Strategy Leadership Group (CSLG) workshops. Members of the Community Strategy Leadership Group were representatives from government agencies, community groups, service providers and residents who have a focus on providing local, social and community services and outcomes. The group was involved throughout the refresh of the Community Strategy.
- Stronger Together Community Forum. A full-day forum on 16 May 2023 attended by community members from across the Sunshine Coast who were identified and invited by members of the Community Strategy Leadership Group. Special effort was made to invite residents of all ages, abilities and backgrounds to ensure the forum represented the diverse voices of our community.
- Have Your Say website. The website utilised videos and information sheets to provide information about the Community Strategy in multiple accessible formats.
- Community Survey. A survey was available online and in physical format over an eight-week period.
- Targeted stakeholder conversations. Two workshops were held with stakeholder groups focused on homelessness and cultural diversity. This provided an opportunity to discuss current community priorities and collaborative action with these groups.

- Community Conversation Toolkit. A toolkit was developed that supported community groups or residents to host their own conversations and record feedback. The toolkit included information, prompts and templates to successfully facilitate a conversation and record the discussion outcomes.

Around 8500 people visited the Have Your Say website during this engagement period, and over 1850 community members contributed their knowledge, experience and ideas. This included:

- 1628 surveys completed by residents from across the Sunshine Coast, which gathered over 6000 individual comments
- 86 people participated in the Stronger Together Community Forum (plus Council staff and members of the Community Strategy Leadership Group who also contributed to discussions).

The input received from the Sunshine Coast community was valuable, insightful and comprehensive. Community members identified significant priorities for the Sunshine Coast, such as the affordability of housing, cost of living, growing homelessness, ongoing access to community facilities and public spaces, needed improvements to connectivity and transport, and the importance of community connection and inclusion.

Community members also raised the need for renewed focus on activities for young people and further recognition of First Nations culture.

The ongoing need to protect our natural environment and focus on environmental sustainability were also findings from this engagement. These are mostly being addressed through the Environment and Liveability Strategy.

### **Stage 3: Finalisation**

Community engagement was undertaken from 14 May to 10 June 2024. Community members were asked to provide feedback on the draft refreshed strategy.

Engagement included:

- Have Your Say website (including community survey and feedback template). The website provided the full draft of the refreshed strategy, as well as information sheets and summaries of key information. The website also provided a survey to capture feedback and a template that community members could use to structure detailed feedback.
- Community Sessions. Three community sessions were held across the Sunshine Coast. Attendees provided their feedback to Council officers in a workshop format. The community sessions were scheduled to maximise options for attendance, including two sessions that were held outside normal Council business hours:
  - Meridan Plains, Meridan Community Centre, Thursday 30 May 2024, 9.30am to 11.30am
  - Mudjimba, North Shore Community Centre, Saturday 1 June 2024, 10.00am to 12.00pm
  - Kureelipa, Kureelipa and Dulong Community Hall, Tuesday 4 June 2024, 6.30pm to 8.30pm.

- Photo Competition. The photo competition encouraged residents to think about the themes in the Community Strategy and submit a photo that demonstrated these themes.

Around 7900 people visited the Have Your Say website during this engagement period, and over 500 people provided feedback on the draft refreshed strategy. This input included:

- 437 surveys completed by residents from across the Sunshine Coast
- 12 feedback forms providing more detailed feedback
- 22 submissions to the photo competition with stories that demonstrated community priorities.

Community members again raised the need for improvements to connectivity and transport, affordable housing, homelessness and inclusion. They also raised the need for community feedback to influence Council decisions directly and transparently.

Community members also provided feedback on the scope and structure of the draft refreshed strategy. Feedback was generally positive, particularly in relation to implementation of the previous strategy. However, some community members suggested there was a need for more focus on tangible action, core Council services, and making the strategy more concise and accessible.

## PROPOSAL

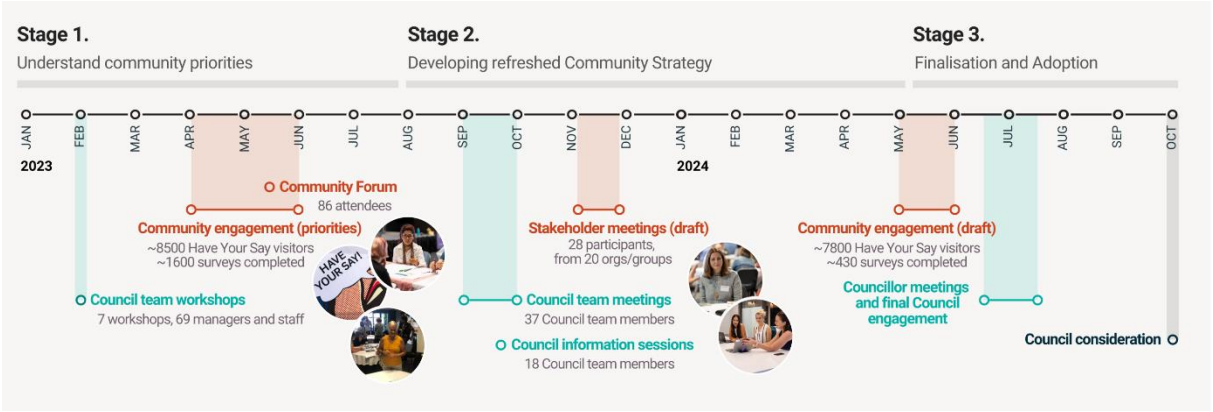
Council adopted the *Sunshine Coast Community Strategy 2019-2041*, and supporting *Action Plan 2019-2024*, in 2019.

In 2023, after four years and significant change in our community, Council began a project to refresh the Community Strategy and develop new actions to achieve by 2029.

There were three main stages of the project (**Figure 1**):

- **Stage 1. Understanding community priorities:** The purpose of this stage was to understand current community priorities. Council team members and community members were involved in identifying and prioritising areas that we should focus on to improve our community.
- **Stage 2. Drafting refreshed Community Strategy:** Council officers then began drafting new content for the refreshed Community Strategy. As content was drafted, engagement was undertaken with relevant Council teams and targeted external stakeholders. An iterative process of drafting content resulted in a well-developed draft strategy.
- **Stage 3. Finalisation and adoption:** A community-wide engagement period was undertaken to gather feedback on the draft refreshed Community Strategy. Council team members also had the opportunity to provide feedback and teams that were responsible for identified actions were again provided the opportunity to refine actions and their timing for delivery.

Figure 1. Project Timeline



**Refreshed Community Strategy**

The refresh project has resulted in changes to the 2019 version of the Community Strategy. While the vision, goals and outcomes of the strategy have been retained, many sections of the strategy have been refined.

The refreshed strategy better reflects current community priorities, is clearer and more concise, and better reflects the vibrancy and energy of our community.

Key changes to the strategy have included:

<b>Clearer vision and goal</b>	<p>The refreshed strategy retains the existing vision and goal however these have been expanded, made more explicit and prioritised at the start of the document.</p> <p>The vision is now stated in three ways. The existing three-word vision (Together we thrive) has been expanded into a full sentence and into a narrative vision. The narrative vision aims to better articulate what our ideal future might look and feel like.</p> <p>The goal of the strategy is now stated in two ways. The existing three-word goal (A strong community) has been expanded into a full sentence. This section also provides more detail about what a 'strong community' is, by better linking our goal to the five outcome areas and ten topics as contained within the strategy.</p>
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<b>Clearer, comprehensive and transparent targets</b>	<p>The 2019 version of the Community Strategy did not include all of the measures and targets that Council and the community used to track progress. The five measures that were included did not cover the breadth of outcomes that contribute to a strong community.</p> <p>The refreshed strategy has simplified and clearly stated the measures and targets that Council and the community will use to track progress. These measures are underpinned by Council's Community Connections Survey, which is currently undertaken every 2 years, with the intention to undertake annually for the refreshed strategy implementation (subject to ongoing funding).</p> <p>The targets are explained in more detail in a separate information sheet (Attachment 1).</p>
<b>More visibly reflects current community priorities</b>	<p>The refreshed strategy includes commentary about community challenges, such as population growth, quality of life, and climate change in the Drivers of Change section.</p> <p>It also includes 10 clear topics positioned under the five outcome areas, with distinct topics on Housing and Homelessness Support, Transport, and Community Places and Spaces, to make it easier to locate content about these important community priorities.</p>
<b>Addresses perceived gaps</b>	<p>The refreshed strategy more appropriately highlights the importance of First Nations reconciliation, mental health, social connection and activities for young people. These are important elements of a strong community and have been made more visible in the refreshed strategy.</p> <p>Actions related to First Nations people are included in multiple topics, mental health is more directly highlighted in the Health and Wellbeing topic, social connection has been elevated in the Community Connection and Resilience topic and an action to develop a comprehensive Youth Action Plan has been included.</p>
<b>Simplified structure and actions</b>	<p>While the refreshed strategy is longer than the previous strategy, the structure has been simplified so that readers can focus on the sections that they want to read.</p> <p>The simplified structure is supported by the introduction of ten topics within the strategy, so that readers can skip to the sections they are most interested in.</p> <p>Actions have been written to be shorter, more specific and focused on actions that can be completed within the action plan timeframe. There are fewer actions that are business-as-usual or ongoing activities of Council, with a focus on new actions.</p>

<b>Clearer principles and methods</b>	The refreshed strategy better explains the principles and methods that both Council and community should utilise when working to achieve our shared goal.
<b>Reflects joint Council and community partnership for a strong community</b>	<p>Council cannot achieve a strong community alone. The refreshed strategy has been written from a community perspective as it is a whole-of-community document. When 'we' is used, it refers to the collective Sunshine Coast community.</p> <p>The refreshed strategy includes actions for both Council to implement and suggestions for actions that community members can take. These ideas for community action were gathered through community engagement.</p>

### **Council Action Plan 2024-2029**

The refreshed Community Strategy includes a new integrated action plan with 50 actions for Council to implement between 2024-2029.

Some of the actions in the refreshed strategy include:

- Expand Council's Healthy Sunshine Coast program to deliver a broad range of low cost, convenient and inclusive health and wellbeing activities.
- Investigate innovative ways to support increased community use of community leased venues.
- Ensure new and expanded venues that will host the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games are designed and delivered with inclusion and community legacy outcomes.
- Simplify processes for community-run events and local activation initiatives.
- Implement actions in the Housing and Homelessness Action Plan to improve outcomes for people experiencing homelessness.
- Review and update the Integrated Transport Strategy.
- Develop and implement a Youth Action Plan to guide Council action on the priorities of young people.
- Implement actions identified in the Reconciliation Action Plan in partnership with Traditional Custodians and First Nations people.
- Utilise the Welcoming Cities Standard to become a more welcoming and cohesive community.
- Develop and promote local stories showcasing the diversity of people and places of the Sunshine Coast.
- Improve initiatives recognising residents who contribute to community, including volunteering.
- Review Council's Excellence in Engagement Framework to further embed and model leading engagement practice.

- Collaborate, partner and invest to build community connections through the delivery of free and low-cost initiatives within local communities and neighbourhoods.
- Support residents and community organisations to plan for and respond to the impacts of climate change and natural hazards and minimise associated risks.
- Continue strong messaging that builds knowledge and awareness of domestic and family violence, its prevention and supports.
- Collaborate with Kabi Kabi peoples and Jinibara peoples to ensure local First Nations history and ongoing culture is protected, respected and celebrated.
- In collaboration with First Nations people, develop and implement a First Nations Arts Strategy to support and expand the First Nations creative arts sector, including youth-focused creative development.

To improve accountability, actions are assigned to a Council team that will lead the implementation of the action, and the timeframe for the action to be achieved is outlined. Some actions are ongoing and are progressively implemented on an ongoing basis.

Also, to improve transparency, actions that are subject to securing additional resources through Council budgetary processes are identified. These actions may not be implemented if future Council budget proposals are not successful.

### **Legal**

There are no legal implications relevant to this report.

The Community Strategy complies with, and supports the objectives of the following legislation:

- *Local Government Act 2009 (QLD)*
- *Human Rights Act 2019 (QLD)*
- *Anti-Discrimination Act 1991 (QLD)*
- *Racial Discrimination Act 1975 (Cth)*
- *Sex Discrimination Act 1984 (Cth)*
- *Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (Cth)*
- *Age Discrimination Act 2004 (Cth)*

The Community Strategy supports human rights such as recognition and equality before the law, peaceful assembly and freedom of association, taking part in public life, freedom of thought, conscience, religion and belief, cultural rights, and right to liberty and security of person (see Human Rights Assessment of Compatibility at Attachment 2).

### **Policy**

The Community Strategy aligns with Council's endorsed regional strategies, Corporate Plan and Operational Plan.

The refreshed strategy will replace the existing Sunshine Coast Community Strategy 2019-2041 and supporting Action Plan 2019-2024. The refreshed strategy reflects updated community priorities, gathered through extensive community engagement undertaken in 2023 and 2024.

**Risk**

There is a risk that if the refreshed strategy is not adopted, Council will continue to have policy positions as stated in the endorsed Sunshine Coast Community Strategy 2019-2041, which are not reflective of current community expectations and priorities.

**Previous Council Resolution****Ordinary Meeting 14 November 2019 (OM19/170)**

*That Council:*

- (a) *receive and note the report titled "Sunshine Coast Community Strategy 2019-2041"*
- (b) *adopt the "Sunshine Coast Community Strategy 2019-2041" (Appendix A)*
- (c) *adopt the "Sunshine Coast Community Strategy Action Plan 2019-2024" (Appendix B) and*
- (d) *resolve that the following documents will be superseded by the adoption of the Sunshine Coast Community Strategy 2019-2041:*
  - *Sunshine Coast Social Strategy 2015*
  - *Nambour Activation Plan 2015*
  - *Sunshine Coast Access and Inclusion Plan 2011-2016*
  - *Sunshine Coast Community Events and Celebrations Strategy 2011*
  - *Sunshine Coast Multicultural Action Plan 2017-2020*
  - *Sunshine Coast Positive Ageing Strategy 2011-2016*
  - *Sunshine Coast Community Safety Action Plan 2016-2020*
  - *Sunshine Coast Youth Action Plan 2018-2021.*

**Related Documentation**

- Phase 1 community engagement findings:  
<https://haveyoursay.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au/stronger-together>
- Phase 3 community engagement findings:  
<https://haveyoursay.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au/sunshine-coast-community-strategy-refresh>

**Critical Dates**

There are no critical dates relevant to this report.

**Implementation**

Should the recommendation be accepted by Council, it is noted that the Chief Executive Officer will oversee finalisation of the refreshed *Sunshine Coast Community Strategy 2019-2041* and make it publicly available on Council's website, including an accessible text-only version and Easy English version.





## Sunshine Coast Community Strategy 2019-2041

2024 Refresh and Action Plan 2024-2029



Edition September 2024

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#### Acknowledgements

Council wishes to thank all contributors  
and stakeholders involved in the  
development of this document.

#### Reference document

This document should  
be cited as follows:  
Sunshine Coast  
Community Strategy 2019-2041,  
2024 Refresh and  
Action Plan 2024-2029

#### Disclaimer

To the extent this document contains  
future plans, activities, policies  
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contained within this document.

## Traditional Acknowledgement

Sunshine Coast Council acknowledges the Sunshine Coast Country, home of  
the Kabi Kabi peoples and the Jinibara peoples, the Traditional Custodians,  
whose lands and waters we all now share.

We recognise that these have always been places of cultural, spiritual, social  
and economic significance. The Traditional Custodians' unique values, and  
ancient and enduring cultures, deepen and enrich the life of our community.

We commit to working in partnership with the Traditional Custodians and the  
broader First Nations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) communities to  
support self-determination through economic and community development.

Truth telling is a significant part of our journey. We are committed to better  
understanding the collective histories of the Sunshine Coast and the  
experiences of First Nations peoples. Legacy issues resulting from colonisation  
are still experienced by Traditional Custodians and First Nations peoples.

We recognise our shared history and will continue to work in partnership to  
provide a foundation for building a shared future with the Kabi Kabi peoples  
and the Jinibara peoples.

We wish to pay respect to their Elders – past, present and emerging, and  
acknowledge the important role First Nations peoples continue to play within  
the Sunshine Coast community.

Together, we are all stronger.

## Acknowledgement of contributors

Council would like to recognise and thank all contributors involved in the  
development of the Sunshine Coast Community Strategy 2019-2041 as well  
as our community and partners who work with us to contribute to a thriving  
Sunshine Coast region. Council looks forward to working collaboratively to  
strengthen the fabric and vitality of our communities. Together we can build a  
more connected and inclusive community – a strong community for all.



## Contents

<b>Vision .....</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3. Principles and methods .....</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Goal .....</b>	<b>7</b>	3.1 Principles .....	23
<b>One vision – three strategies .....</b>	<b>9</b>	3.2 Methods .....	23
<b>Our global commitment .....</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>4. Outcomes .....</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>1. About the Sunshine Coast .....</b>	<b>13</b>	Topic 1.1 Health and wellbeing .....	27
1.1 Snapshot of our community .....	13	Topic 2.1 Community places and spaces .....	31
1.2 Drivers of change .....	15	Topic 2.2 Transport .....	35
<b>2. About the Community Strategy .....</b>	<b>19</b>	Topic 2.3 Housing and homelessness support .....	39
2.1 Purpose .....	19	Topic 3.1 Inclusion .....	43
2.2 How the Community Strategy was developed. ....	19	Topic 3.2 Volunteering .....	47
2.3 Community views .....	20	Topic 3.3 Community engagement.....	51
2.4 Role of Council .....	20	Topic 4.1 Community connection and resilience....	55
2.5 Council implementation .....	20	Topic 4.2 Community safety .....	61
2.6 Measuring impact .....	21	Topic 5.1 Arts, heritage and First Nations culture.....	65
		<b>5. Action Plan 2024-2029 .....</b>	<b>69</b>



VISION



## Vision

### Together we thrive

The Sunshine Coast community thrives through connection with people, places and spaces and staying true to our values as a welcoming, caring and vibrant community, with opportunities to participate for all.

#### In 2041:

We are a kind, caring community living sustainably within our Sunshine Coast Biosphere. At the heart of our communities are our people, who come together and look after each other. There is a strong sense of belonging and community spirit across our diverse coastal, hinterland and rural communities.

We respect, value and celebrate the culture of our First Nations people. We understand and acknowledge the enduring connection to Country of the Traditional Custodians – the Kabi Kabi peoples and the Jinibara peoples – and the contribution of the broader First Nations community.

Our community is as healthy as possible with good physical and mental health. We practise healthy lifestyles and limit risky behaviours that impact long-term health. We value and care for our environment and connect with nature to sustain and enhance our health and wellbeing.

We all have multiple fulfilling connections with others, contributing to our health and wellbeing and our sense of connection, belonging and inclusion within our local community. We are less likely to feel lonely and we can draw on support from others when we need it.

We value and celebrate diversity, in all its forms. We respect people who are different to ourselves. We are interested to learn about our different and shared experiences, and we are not afraid to talk about what makes us unique.

New residents to the Sunshine Coast are welcomed into our local community by friendly neighbours. They meet new people easily and are quickly integrated into community networks and activities. They make new friends and can participate fully in community life soon after moving in.

Everyone has equitable opportunities to participate. Prejudice, discrimination and attitudinal or environmental barriers that limit potential are removed.

We all have the capacity and willingness to actively contribute to our community. We come together to proactively identify priorities, learn from others and take collective action.

Our community is safe, with low levels of crime. Domestic and family violence is not tolerated. We also feel safe. This feeling of safety is supported through a sense of connection to others and the amenity of the built and natural environment.

Community places and spaces are inclusive and support our community to come together to connect, learn, share and collaborate. They also support our health and wellbeing.

Our transport network supports community connection and healthy lifestyles. We can get around with ease in ways that are affordable, sustainable and convenient.

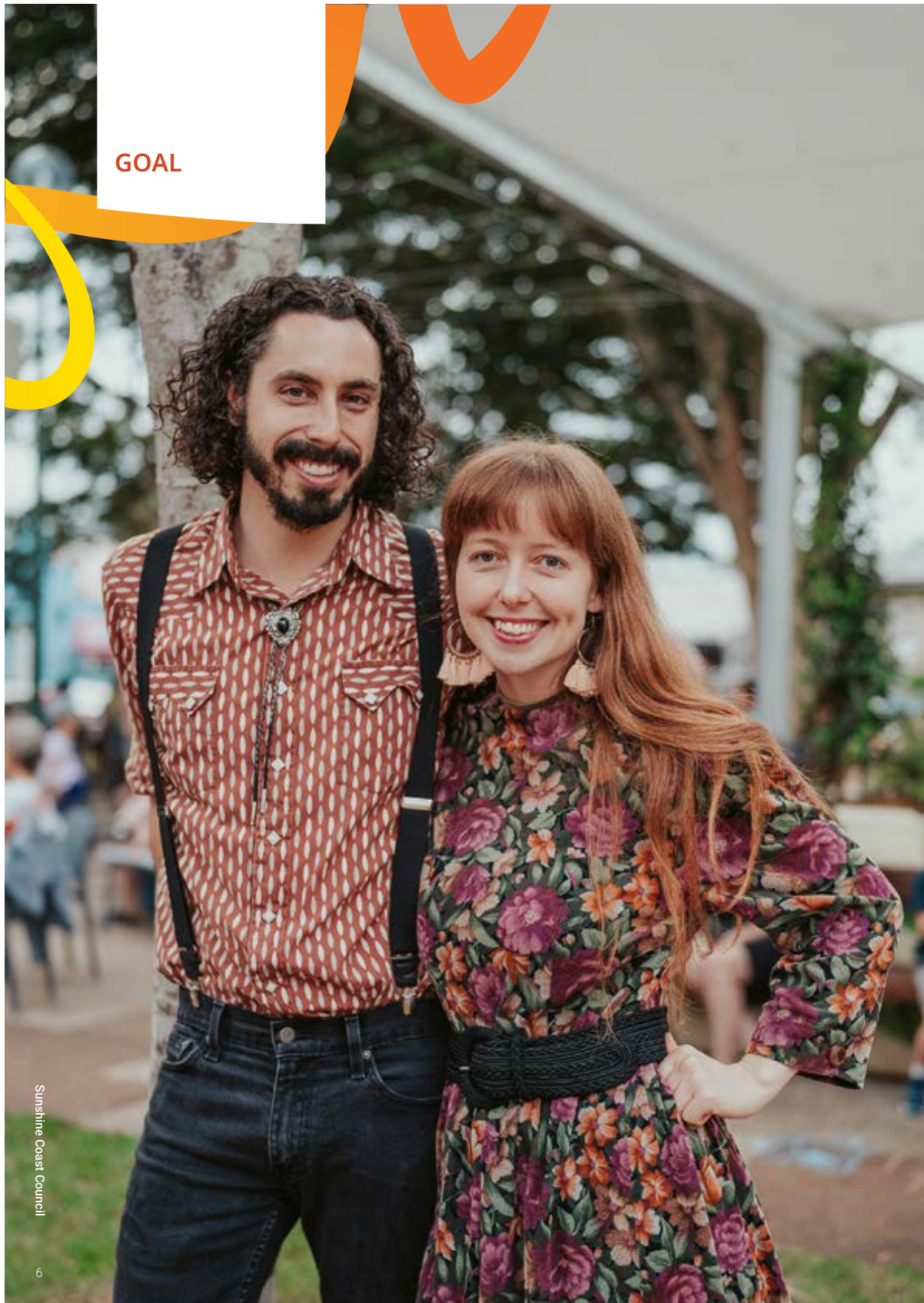
Housing is suited to the needs of our community and there are affordable options for everyone. Rates of homelessness are low. People experiencing homelessness are treated with dignity and compassion.

We are prepared and resilient to the effects of climate change, as well as other shocks and stressors that may impact our communities. We maximise our resilience through building strong connections with others and preparing ourselves for different possibilities. We take personal responsibility for our own safety and resilience, and for those around us, as much as we can.

We value our shared heritage and the individual heritage of the people who make up our community. We are creative, with world-class art, music and leisure experiences that showcase our rich culture and heritage.

**We all have a vested interest and personal responsibility to contribute to the Sunshine Coast that we want to see in 2041.**





## Goal

### A strong community

A strong community is connected, everyone is included and treated with respect, and opportunities are available for all.



#### 01 Healthy, active communities

Information, services and programs support physical and mental health and wellbeing.

##### Topics

- 1.1 Health and wellbeing



#### 02 Vibrant communities

Community places and spaces, transport and housing provide the fundamental building blocks for a vibrant community.

##### Topics

- 2.1 Community places and spaces
- 2.2 Transport
- 2.3 Housing and homelessness support



#### 03 Inclusive communities

Opportunities are available for everyone to participate and be involved.

##### Topics

- 3.1 Inclusion
- 3.2 Volunteering
- 3.3 Community engagement



#### 04 Connected, resilient communities

Communities are connected, resilient and safe where people work collaboratively to achieve shared goals.

##### Topics

- 4.1 Community connection and resilience
- 4.2 Community safety



#### 05 Creative, innovative communities

Creativity, heritage and First Nations culture are sources of connection, learning and pride.

##### Topics

- 5.1 Arts, heritage and First Nations culture



## One vision – three strategies



Council's vision is supported by three long-term strategies that have been developed in consultation with our community. These regional strategies collectively provide the strategic framework and desired outcomes for Council to work collaboratively across our community, with business and other tiers of government to advance our vision as Australia's most sustainable region.

To achieve the vision for the region, it is critical to progress our community, environment and economic objectives, understanding that all three are integrated and critical to the success and overall sustainability and liveability of our region.

## Strategic alignment

### Sunshine Coast Community Strategy 2019-2041

The Sunshine Coast Community Strategy provides the strategic pathways towards a future where together we thrive. We thrive through connection with people, places and spaces and where we stay true to our values as a welcoming, caring and vibrant community, with opportunities for all to participate.

### Environment and Liveability Strategy 2023

The Environment and Liveability Strategy provides strategic pathways to guide growth and shape the Sunshine Coast for future generations to 2041. It focuses on the natural environment and how it can be preserved and enhanced, as well as the liveability of the region. It enables a good quality of life for all residents, while supporting a strong economy in an accessible and well-connected built environment.

### Regional Economic Development Strategy 2013-2033

The Regional Economic Development Strategy provides the strategic pathways to transition into a regional economy that is innovative, adaptive, resilient and climate ready. It encourages a more sustainable and equitable future economy, attracting investment and supporting local businesses to innovate, grow and enable diverse employment opportunities.



## United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

As we advance our vision as Australia's most sustainable region – Healthy. Smart. Creative. the environmental, social, cultural and economic activities across the region must be carefully balanced to ensure we advance our vision sustainably.

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs) for peace, prosperity, people and planet provide a comprehensive and internationally recognised framework for us to collectively align

the way we each live, work, learn and play every day – and form an important foundation of the performance measurement framework of our Biosphere.

Council is demonstrating regional leadership by committing to embed the UNSDGs in our strategies, plans and associated progress reporting. Each Corporate Plan goal identifies how it contributes to the UNSDGs and, in doing so, assists to progress our Sunshine Coast Biosphere aim and objectives.





## Our global commitment

This strategy embeds the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs) into its actions. The UNSDGs for peace, prosperity, people and planet provide a comprehensive and internationally recognised framework to collectively align the way we each live, work, learn and play every day. Specific UNSDGs (as highlighted) have been embedded into the Community Strategy to ensure alignment and provide for a sustainable future.

**UNSDG 1** – The strategy seeks to contribute to poverty reduction through collective community and government action in topic areas such as community places and spaces, housing and homelessness support, transport and inclusion.

**UNSDG 2 + 3** – The strategy identifies specific outcomes and actions related to food security, health and wellbeing, including prioritising both physical and mental health. The strategy also recognises the importance of other topic areas, such as community connection, safety, transport, inclusion and volunteering, that influence our health and wellbeing.

**UNSDG 4, 5 + 10** – Inclusion and equity are core principles in the strategy and flow through all of the topic areas covered. Outcomes and actions related specifically to inclusion are outlined in the inclusion topic.

**UNSDG 8 + 9** – The strategy recognises that inclusive opportunities for training and employment provide personal, community, business and economic benefits. It also acknowledges that the creative arts, heritage and First Nations culture can support both livelihoods and cultural vitality.

**UNSDG 11** – The strategy includes outcomes and actions related to transport, community places and spaces, and housing and homelessness that contribute to an inclusive, safe and resilient region for all.

**UNSDG 9 + 13** – The strategy includes an emphasis on improving the resilience of our communities. Increasing our adaptive capacity to prepare and respond to increasing climate risks is an important part of community resilience. The strategy also prioritises community connections, which improve our resilience to a multitude of shocks and stressors.

**UNSDG 16** – The strategy includes outcomes and actions related to community safety as well as community engagement to help promote inclusive participation in decision-making.

**UNSDG 17** – Collaboration and working in partnership with others are core principles of the implementation of the strategy.



In June 2022, our Sunshine Coast local government area was recognised by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) as a biosphere reserve – where responsible development and people living sustainably sit alongside active conservation.

Our region has joined a world-wide network of biosphere reserves to balance the environmental, social, cultural and economic needs of today, without compromising the ability to meet the needs of future generations.

Our region's international recognition as a special place where people are living, working, learning and playing

sustainably highlights the values of our region that we are seeking to protect and enhance, brings new opportunities and a range of possible benefits to our natural environment, community, lifestyle and economy.

Being recognised as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve and maintaining this credential is our region's commitment to create a positive legacy for future generations. Every resident, visitor, business and government entity has a key role to play in maintaining and enhancing the Sunshine Coast Biosphere reserve for our children, grandchildren and all those who will enjoy the prosperity, beauty and liveability of our region into the future.

## ABOUT THE SUNSHINE COAST

Sunshine Coast Council

12

## 1.1 Snapshot of our community



### Population (2023) 365,942

The Sunshine Coast has experienced an average annual growth rate of **2.6%** over the past ten years (2013-2023). This is stronger growth than the Queensland average, at **1.6%**.



### Average age 43 years

The Sunshine Coast has a higher median age compared to Queensland (at 38 years). **21.7%** of the population is 65 years and over, compared to **17%** in Queensland.



### Future population (2041) >500,000

Future population growth is expected to be strong, increasing to more than **500,000** residents in 2041. Population ageing will continue with the median age increasing to 46 years, and **26.9%** of residents being 65 years and over.



### First Nations People 8331

**2.4%** of our population are Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people, compared to **4.6%** in Queensland. The number of residents who identified as First Nations people increased by **2615** people between 2016 and 2021.



### Residents born overseas 70,740

**20.7%** of Sunshine Coast residents were born overseas, compared to **22.7%** for Queensland. **6.1%** of residents speak a language other than English at home and **3.2%** follow a non-Christian religion.



### Couples without children 30.2%

**30.2%** of households are couples without children, compared to **26.4%** for Queensland. **22.2%** of households are people living alone, and this proportion is expected to increase to **24.2%** in 2041. **10.5%** of households are one parent families.

Note: Statistics at 2021, unless otherwise noted.



### Average weekly household income \$1595

The median weekly income for Sunshine Coast households was around **5%** lower than for Queensland (\$1595 compared to \$1675). **22.1%** of households earned less than **\$800** per week.



### Severe socio-economic disadvantage 20,241

Overall, the Sunshine Coast has low levels of disadvantage. However, around **20,000** residents live in neighbourhoods considered to be severely disadvantaged (bottom 20% of Australian population).



### People experiencing homelessness 1205

Estimates of people experiencing homelessness increased by around **50%** between 2016 and 2021. Homelessness rates are lower for the Sunshine Coast than for Queensland (**35/10,000 population**, compared to 43/10,000 for Queensland).



### People with severe disability 21,211

**6.2%** of our residents need assistance with core activities, compared to **6.0%** for Queensland. **33,328** residents (**11.8%**) are carers for someone with a disability or long term illness. This is up from **11.1%** in 2016.



### Unemployment rate 4.4%

Low unemployment rate of **4.4%** in 2021 (**5.4%** for Queensland), but represents 7426 residents looking for work. Unemployment for young people (15-24 years) was higher at **8.9%**, compared to **11.1%** for Queensland.



### Volunteering rate 15.7%

**15.7%** of residents spent time volunteering in 2021, compared with **14.1%** for Queensland. This was a significant decline from a volunteering rate of **20.7%** in 2016.





## 1.2 Drivers of change

Over the next 20 years the Sunshine Coast community will experience many challenges and opportunities. The Community Strategy has been shaped by considering the drivers of change across the six domains below.

### Population

The Sunshine Coast community is growing and is expected to continue growing strongly to 2041. The proportion of older people in our community is also growing with the number of residents 75 years and older expected to more than double to 77,000 people in 2041.

This population growth and change will require continued focus on:

- **Healthy ageing:** More older people in our community will require a renewed focus on healthy ageing, both in terms of our physical and mental health, as well as the facilities, services and activities needed for support.
- **Maintaining our cohesive community:** With new residents moving to the region, we need to continue our efforts to be welcoming and inclusive. Strengthening our cohesive community will encourage a sense of belonging for new residents and contribute to community connection and resilience.
- **Maintaining liveability and connectivity:** Population growth will require new investment in facilities, services and activities to maintain levels of liveability and connectivity. We will also need to plan for population change that may impact service demands.
- **Housing our growing population:** Population growth and change may create availability and affordability challenges over the next 20 years. This is a complex issue to resolve and requires effort from all levels of government, but there are things we can do as a community to support people to find and maintain stable accommodation.

Population growth and change will bring new experiences, ideas and perspectives to the Sunshine Coast and drive our capacity to address new challenges and opportunities.

### Community

The Sunshine Coast is a caring and safe community, however some residents are disconnected, isolated or excluded. About 15% of Sunshine Coast residents have two or fewer close friends, which impacts their quality of life. Residents continue to experience discrimination and other barriers to participation.

Community connection is essential to our health and our individual and collective resilience. It is also fundamental to addressing many of the challenges faced by our community and taking advantage of available opportunities. Residents identified several ongoing priorities we need to work on to strengthen our community, these include mental health, isolation, First Nations reconciliation, volunteer participation, community engagement, inclusion and community resilience. We are also managing challenges such as the rising cost of living, population growth, change in our urban and rural areas and the climate emergency.

Community connection and the elements needed to foster community connection such as trust and inclusion, will help us address many of our current and future challenges.

The community sector also facilitates connection and resilience and is an important partner in achieving our collective priorities.



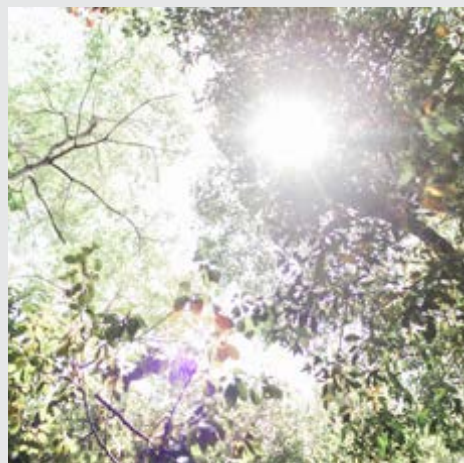


## Climate

More frequent and significant disaster events are likely on the Sunshine Coast due to climate change. The number of days per year with extreme heat is increasing, sea levels are slowly rising and we will also experience more intense periods of heavy rain and storm events. Higher costs to insure, maintain and repair property will impact our community, as well as impacts to health such as emerging diseases and heat-related illnesses. Some residents, particularly young people, also feel anxious or distressed about global climate change.

We need to continue our focus on preparedness and resilience to adapt to changing conditions and return to normal quickly after disaster events. And more than just return to normal, we need to progressively improve our behaviours, resilience and adaptive capacity, so that we can prepare for increasing risks, new challenges and ongoing change.

Understanding our risks and taking individual responsibility for our own preparedness are important elements of community resilience. We can also build our network of community connections to enable sharing of resources, knowledge and support systems. Our community is more resilient when we are all connected to a network of family, friends, neighbours and organisations that we can call on when we need help or when we can provide assistance. As a community we can meet the challenges of a warming climate.



## Environment

Our environment supports our health, lifestyle and sense of belonging. Productive soils, clean air and clean water are fundamental to our health. Access to nature contributes to our physical and mental health, including through the physical activities we undertake outdoors and through the benefits of relaxation and mindfulness. Aspects of our regional and local environment are also part of our sense of place and identity as Sunshine Coast residents. For some people, connection to the environment forms a fundamental part of their values, beliefs, culture and identity.

Climate change, urban expansion, habitat loss and fragmentation, invasive species and community access are impacting our local environment, including biodiversity and the functioning of our ecosystems. Our personal choices also have a significant impact on our local and global environment, including our waste, energy use and how we get around.

Increasing our use of public transport, riding and walking can help reduce our environmental impact. A more consolidated urban form and further investment in transport infrastructure can support this shift to active transport (riding and walking) and passenger transport (public transport, taxis, rideshare, etc.), however this will take time to be delivered. We can reduce our use of private vehicles now by combining trips, using online services, carpooling or moving closer to work to reduce our impact on the environment.

Our local and global environment is important for our physical and mental health, our lifestyle and our sense of place and identity. We can each take individual and collective action to reduce our environmental impact and ensure the sustainability of our region for future generations.



## Technology

Artificial intelligence, self-driving cars, remote service delivery and other technological changes will continue to shape the way we live and work over the next 20 years.

For many residents, technology has increased the accessibility and convenience of services and has contributed to growing community connection. However, others are struggling to keep up, creating a 'digital divide'. People who do not use new technologies can be increasingly isolated from information, connection and opportunities to participate. Some new technologies can also contribute to feelings of isolation, low self-esteem, distraction and anxiety, particularly for young people.

New technologies can provide significant opportunities to grow a stronger Sunshine Coast community, however there are also challenges. Ensuring there are opportunities for everyone to participate and continuing to value and facilitate personal and group interactions is vital for inclusion and connection.



## Economy

A strong and diversified Sunshine Coast economy is imperative to achieving a strong community, particularly at this time when housing affordability and cost of living are creating challenges for residents. It is crucial that the local economy continues to generate local, well-paid jobs that are available to all within our community as our region grows.

Having well-paid employment increases our ability to meet our own needs and the needs of our families. A higher income can be used to pay for healthier food, a variety of healthy activities and health care. Having a steady income also reduces stress, which can have both mental and physical health impacts. Having a job close to home also reduces time spent commuting to and from work, and therefore contributes to our quality of life.

A range of broad economic conditions influences employment, however physical, attitudinal and organisational barriers continue to restrict access to employment for some residents. Discrimination is one significant barrier that we can overcome as a community to broaden employment access.

All businesses, and particularly social enterprise and the impact sector, can positively contribute to our most pressing community priorities and are important partners in building strong and thriving communities.

## ABOUT THE COMMUNITY STRATEGY



## 2. About the Community Strategy

### 2.1 Purpose

The Community Strategy provides a long-term framework outlining how the Sunshine Coast community and Council will work together to advance our shared goal of a strong community through to 2041. The strategy outlines what Council will (and can) do as a local government and how it will go about doing it.

The Community Strategy sets out a vision, goal and five outcomes we want to achieve. It also outlines principles and methods for how we will work together to achieve the goal of a strong community.

The 2024 refresh of the Community Strategy advances the previous work undertaken by Council and our community partners over the past decade. It builds on the strong foundation created by the Social Strategy (2015) and first Community Strategy (2019 edition).

### 2.2 How the Community Strategy was developed

The Community Strategy was developed with extensive community input. Those who contributed did so with enthusiasm, wisdom and great ideas. Council asked residents what a strong community means to them, and the vision, goals and priorities in this strategy are shaped around this input.

#### Community input was gathered through:

- Online and face-to-face surveys
- Stakeholder forums
- Focus groups and key sector networks
- Engagement with schools
- Pop-ups stalls
- Social media
- Internal and external stakeholder advisory group meetings.

Thousands of Sunshine Coast residents provided input and ideas that have shaped the Community Strategy, both for the original 2019 version and again for this 2024 refresh.

Diverse community voices were vital to ensuring this strategy reflects our collective aspirations for the Sunshine Coast.

Further to this, significant research into best-practice community development initiatives and analysis of trends and forecasts have informed the development of the Community Strategy.

## 2.3 Community views

### Community priorities in 2023/24 include:

- Housing and homelessness support
- Cost of living pressure
- Community places and spaces
- Transport.

### As well as:

- Activities and facilities for young people
- Further recognition of First Nations people
- Inclusion of diversity, in all its forms
- Personal and community connection.

### Our community values:

- Connection to each other and to our community
- Inclusion through embracing diversity and equity
- Collaboration
- Liveability and sustainability, including a balance between our natural and built environment.

### Our community wants Council to:

- Advocate to and work with other levels of government to improve the transport network, housing affordability and homelessness support
- Increase access to health and wellbeing programs, information and infrastructure
- Support the activation of our places and spaces, and more events and activities for people of all ages and abilities to participate and connect
- Support an inclusive, caring community that is connected, looks after each other and values diversity
- Be more visible in our community and provide a diversity of ways to engage that enables people to influence matters that impact them.

## 2.4 Role of Council

Council, as the level of government closest to our community, plays an important role in supporting a strong community. Council contributes to a strong community by:

- Providing inclusive places and spaces for people to connect and participate
- Delivering and maintaining local transport networks that allow people to get around and connect with others and services
- Setting the requirements for development that support new housing and service delivery and limit exposure to risks
- Advocating for investment and legislative changes from other levels of government for health and emergency services, major roads, public transport, schools and universities, etc.
- Partnering with others to provide programs and services to help people connect, build their capacity to respond to local issues, keep informed and improve their wellbeing
- Engaging with our community to understand local priorities and seeking to achieve suitable outcomes together
- Providing information and resources to help people access support, activities and connection.

Council cannot achieve the goal of a strong community alone. We all need to take an active role, including individuals, households, community groups and associations, place-based communities, interest-based communities, community-sector organisations, businesses and government agencies.

We all have a role to play and personal responsibility to build a strong Sunshine Coast community together.

## 2.5 Council implementation

Council will contribute to achieving the outcomes of the Community Strategy through the implementation of rolling five-year action plans, which will in turn guide Council's annual operational planning.

Challenges and opportunities in our community will inevitably shift and change over time. For this reason, the Community Strategy must be dynamic and versatile, reflecting community priorities as they evolve. Council will therefore review the Community Strategy every five years so that it remains current and can achieve its stated purpose.



## 2.6 Measuring impact

We will use the following measures to track progress towards our shared goal of a strong community. We all have responsibility for contributing to the outcomes we want to see in our community and we will need to work together to achieve these targets.

Target	Baseline	Latest	2041 Target
<b>Residents in agreement that the Sunshine Coast is a strong community</b>	NA	68%	75%
<b>01 Healthy, active communities</b>			
1.1 Resident who rated their health as good, very good or excellent as a ranking within Regional Queensland (Health of Queenslanders, Queensland Government)	#2	#4	#1-3
<b>02 Vibrant communities</b>			
2.1 Residents in agreement that Council's community infrastructure meets community need	NA	56%	60%
2.2 Personal travel by active transport and passenger transport (a) (Queensland Household Travel Survey, Queensland Government)	15%	12% ●	30%
2.3 Residents in agreement that they can find the type of accommodation they need	37%	35% ●	40%
<b>03 Inclusive communities</b>			
3.1 Residents in agreement that it is a good thing for a society to be made up of people from different cultures	85%	84%	90%
3.2 Residents who volunteered for an organisation in the preceding twelve months (b) (ABS Census)	21%	16%	20%
3.3 Residents in agreement that there are opportunities to have a say on community issues that are important to them	70%	51% ●	70%
<b>04 Connected, resilient communities</b>			
4.1 Residents in agreement that they live in an active community where people get involved in local issues and activities	77%	57% ●	75%
4.1 Residents in agreement that they can get help from friends, family, neighbours or community organisations when they need it	93%	87%	90%
4.2 Residents in agreement that they feel safe all the time on the Sunshine Coast	77%	62% ●	75%
<b>05 Creative, innovative communities</b>			
5.1 Cultural vitality	TBD	TBD	TBD

**Note:** ● = well below target / tracking lower. (a) Latest travel data may still reflect altered travel behaviour shaped by COVID-19 restrictions and concerns. Target to be achieved at 2041. (b) Volunteering rates were impacted by COVID-19 risks and restrictions for latest data. **Source:** Sunshine Coast Council Community Connections Survey (biennial) unless noted otherwise.



## 3. Principles and methods

The following principles and methods inform Council and community decision-making, action and how we work together to achieve our shared goals.

### 3.1 Principles

#### Local (place-based)

The Sunshine Coast is one regional community made up of many local communities. Each local community has its own unique sense of identity and its own priorities, strengths and challenges. These local differences are valued and harnessed for the benefit of each community, and this collectively strengthens our region.

#### Collaborative

Collaboration takes full advantage of the depth of lived experience, knowledge, expertise and other assets in our communities. Fostering relationships and ongoing communication that build trust and reciprocity are important for effective collaboration. Collaboration, transparent communication, trust and relationships are hallmarks of the way we work to achieve our goals.

#### Evidenced

Our actions will be driven by evidence gathered through research, data analysis and community knowledge. We will also draw upon evidence from outside the region. Evidence-based decision-making will maximise our effectiveness, ensure our resources are used efficiently, and increase the likelihood that we achieve our desired outcomes.

#### Equitable

A focus on equity ensures resources and opportunities are shared in a way that helps everyone, especially those who may need more support. The principles of equity and fairness are fundamental to achieving a strong community.

#### Outcome-focused

We will focus our efforts on initiatives that contribute to achieving our shared goals. Progress towards achieving our goals will be regularly measured and communicated. This approach requires transparency and trust to learn and improve together to maximise positive outcomes.

### 3.2 Methods

#### Encourage community involvement

As a community we will encourage and cultivate active participation and support community-led initiatives to achieve our shared goals.

Council will embrace, encourage and facilitate community participation and community-led initiatives to improve decision-making, deliver responsive services and enhance outcomes.

#### Grow collective capacity

As a community we will draw upon the depth of lived experience, knowledge and other assets in our community to grow our collective capacity.

Council will support collective capacity building by learning from others, engaging with community leaders and facilitating community connection and opportunities for collective learning, where needed.

#### Partner and collaborate

As a community we will partner and collaborate to learn from each other, explore opportunities and take collective action.

Council will learn from others and explore opportunities to work together to innovate and maximise effectiveness.

#### Invest in community-led initiatives

As a community we will cultivate a strong and trusting network of relationships to grow investment in community-led initiatives.

Council will support the contribution community organisations make in achieving positive community impact through co-investment.

#### Advocate together

As a community we will collectively advocate for the needs of our community, including for additional investment, for legislative change or to instigate action.

Council will contribute to collective advocacy to other levels of government alongside our community, where this is aligned and likely to be effective.



## OUTCOMES



## 4. Outcomes



### 01 Healthy, active communities

Information, services and programs support physical and mental health and wellbeing.

#### Topics

1.1 Health and wellbeing



### 02 Vibrant communities

Community places and spaces, transport and housing provide the fundamental building blocks for a vibrant community.

#### Topics

2.1 Community places and spaces

2.2 Transport

2.3 Housing and homelessness support



### 03 Inclusive communities

Opportunities are available for everyone to participate and be involved.

#### Topics

3.1 Inclusion

3.2 Volunteering

3.3 Community engagement



### 04 Connected, resilient communities

Communities are connected, resilient and safe where people work collaboratively to achieve shared goals.

#### Topics

4.1 Community connection and resilience

4.2 Community safety



### 05 Creative, innovative communities

Creativity, heritage and First Nations culture are sources of connection, learning and pride.

#### Topics

5.1 Arts, heritage and First Nations culture

Each topic in this section includes:

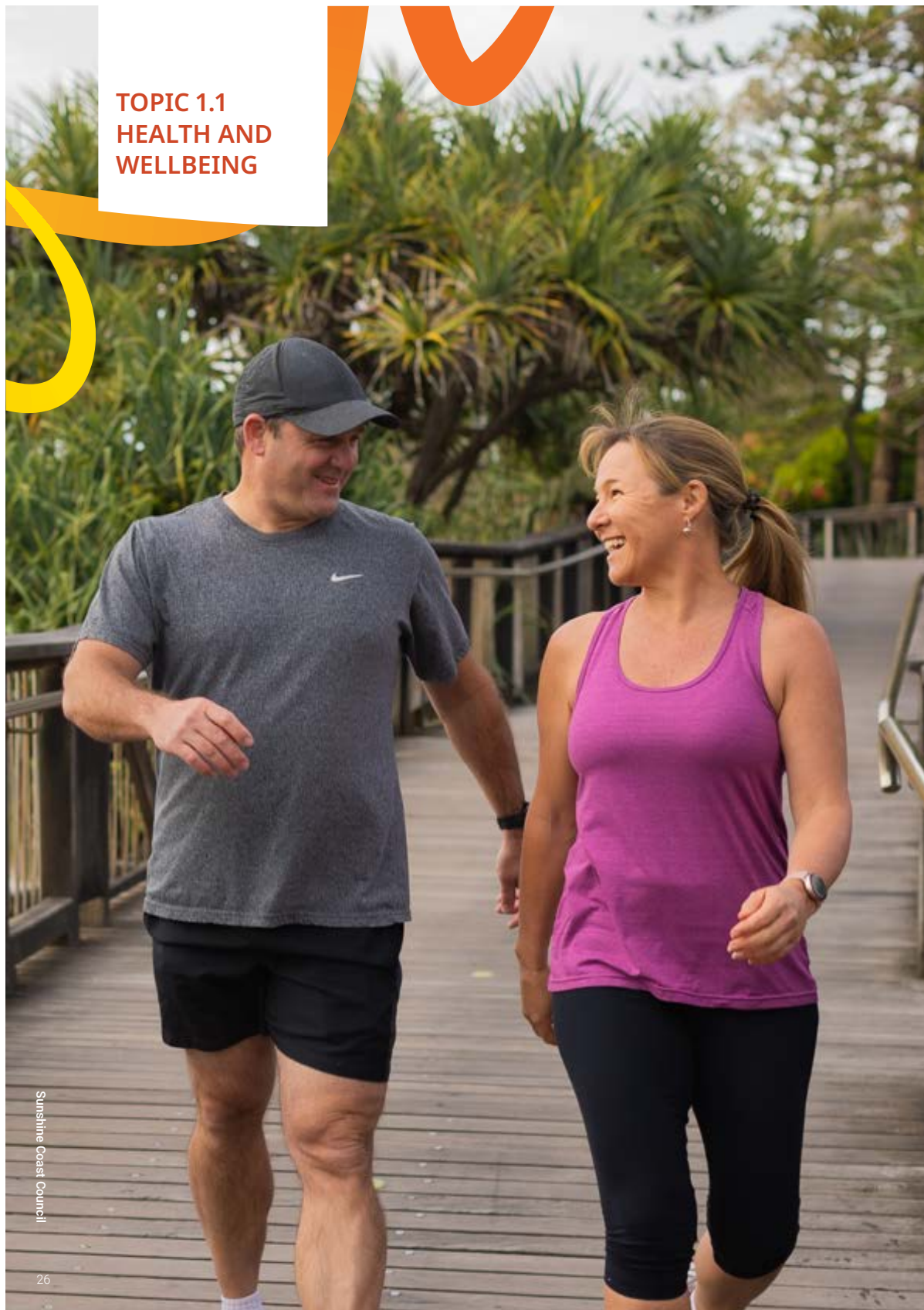
- **Introduction:** Information about the topic and why it is important to achieving a strong community.
- **Related topics:** References to other topics or Council documents that can be read for information related to the topic.
- **Community priorities:** A summary of priorities identified by our community in 2023.
- **Council's role:** The roles that Council has in relation to the topic.
- **Examples of Council's current activities:**  
A selection of current Council activities related to the topic to demonstrate ongoing Council initiatives.
- **Related Council documents:** References to other Council documents related to the topic.
- **UNSDG alignment:** References to relevant United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs) aligning to the topic.
- **Outcome statements:** The desired future state we seek to achieve collectively as a community and Council through to 2041.
- **Council actions (2024-2029):** Actions that Council will complete over the next five years.
- **Community actions:** Actions that community members can take to contribute to the topic. These actions are based on ideas from Sunshine Coast residents.

The outcomes and topics overlap and are interconnected. For example, being and feeling safe is important for health and wellbeing. Actions can contribute to multiple outcomes and topics concurrently.

All of the outcomes and topics are important and require our attention. The order of outcomes and topics does not imply that one outcome or topic is more important than others.



**TOPIC 1.1  
HEALTH AND  
WELLBEING**



Sunshine Coast Council

26



## Topic 1.1 Health and wellbeing

### How does health and wellbeing contribute to a strong community?

Health is more than simply the presence or absence of illness, it includes elements of physical, mental and social wellbeing that contribute to our quality of life, happiness and fulfilment. Physical and mental health are inextricably linked and are equally important. Having the highest attainable standard of health is seen as a fundamental human right.

Health outcomes are influenced by our personal characteristics and behaviours, our physical environment and our social and economic environment. Some aspects of our health cannot be changed, however there are opportunities to proactively influence many aspects of our health through personal or community action. Changes to our personal behaviours, such as our levels of physical activity, diet, alcohol consumption, smoking, risk-taking behaviour, sleep and stress management, can significantly improve our health. We can also influence social and economic factors at a community level, including health services, job opportunities, crime and perceptions of safety, transport options and the natural and built environment, and particularly social connection and discrimination.

Being as healthy as possible maximises our ability to participate in our community and improves our quality of life. Physical activity reduces the risk of heart disease, stroke, dementia and some cancers. Team sports have the benefits of physical activity, but also build trust, contribute to a sense of belonging and provide opportunities for diverse connections. Eating well improves concentration and memory, reduces the risk of heart disease, stroke and some cancers and is especially important for the growth and development of children. Good mental health contributes to overall wellbeing, including being able to respond to life's daily challenges, improved confidence, healthier relationships, better productivity and greater participation in community.

As the Sunshine Coast community grows and changes over the next 20 years, our health and wellbeing will require continued attention. With the expected growth and ageing of our population, demand for health services will increase and we will need a renewed focus on healthy ageing. New technologies may offer more convenient and efficient options for delivery of health services, but they also present new health challenges. Use of social media, for example, can contribute to feeling down, difficulty concentrating and low self-confidence.

Being as healthy as possible maximises participation and contributes to achieving a strong community. There are many actions we can take individually and together to maximise our physical and mental health.

### Related topics

- For places and spaces that support health and wellbeing refer to 2.1 Community Places and Spaces and the Environment and Liveability Strategy.
- For initiatives that promote walking and riding refer to 2.2 Transport.
- For personal and community connections refer to 4.1 Community Connection and Resilience.
- For creative and cultural expression refer to 5.1 Arts, Heritage and First Nations Culture.
- For access to nature refer to the Environment and Liveability Strategy.
- For socio-economic factors influencing health and wellbeing refer to other topics in the Community Strategy and the Regional Economic Development Strategy.

### Community priorities

- Affordable, inclusive and convenient health and wellbeing activities, programs and community sport
- Additional focus on mental health, including youth mental health, healthy ageing and suicide prevention
- Increase access to trusted information about health and wellbeing.
- Reduce risky alcohol use, drug use, smoking and vaping
- Convenient and affordable access to health services (primarily provided by the private sector and supported by the Queensland Government and Australian Government)



### #4 region in Regional Queensland

for self-rated health  
(2021/22, Chief Health Officer Data, Sunshine Coast HHS)



**84% of residents**  
rated their health  
as good, very good or excellent  
(2023, Community Connections Survey)



**53% of residents**  
had been sunburnt  
in the previous 12 months  
(2019/20, Chief Health Officer Data, Sunshine Coast HHS)



**52% of resident children (5-17 years)**  
had been sunburnt in  
the previous 12 months  
(2021-22, Chief Health Officer Data, Sunshine Coast HHS)



**39% of residents**  
consumed alcohol at  
levels risky to health  
(2021-22, Chief Health Officer Data, Sunshine Coast HHS)



**31% of residents**  
had 5 or more mentally  
unhealthy days in the  
previous month  
(2021-22, Chief Health Officer Data, Sunshine Coast HHS)



### Council's role

Council primarily influences health and wellbeing by funding and managing subsidised health and wellbeing programs, providing sporting and recreation infrastructure, maintaining open spaces and natural areas, supporting sports clubs, facilitating food security, and sharing information and resources.

Health services, disability support and residential care are funded and delivered by the Queensland Government, Australian Government, community sector and/or private sector.

### Examples of Council's current activities

- Funding and managing the Healthy Sunshine Coast program which provides free and low-cost health and wellbeing activities
- Funding lifeguard services delivered by Surf Life Saving Queensland (SLSQ) at 21 beaches
- Supporting community networks and agencies
- Sharing information about health and wellbeing services and activities
- Supporting community gardening on Council-owned land
- Providing information and resources to support sporting clubs.



### Outcome statements

1.1.1 Everyone has access to information, services and programs to improve their physical and mental health and wellbeing:

- a) Information is available to residents to improve their health and wellbeing.
- b) Everyone has access to a diverse range of affordable health and wellbeing activities.

- c) Everyone has access to affordable healthy food.
- d) People work to improve their own health and wellbeing and that of their families, where possible.
- e) Organisations work collaboratively to share health information and local research.

### Council actions (2024-2029)

- a) Expand Council's Healthy Sunshine Coast program to deliver a broad range of low cost, convenient and inclusive health and wellbeing activities.
- b) Support community sporting clubs to access programs that improve inclusion.
- c) Advocate and partner to improve access to mental health services and programs (including youth mental health and healthy ageing).
- d) Collaborate to undertake and share health information and research focusing on health challenges (such as healthy ageing, suicide prevention, youth mental health, skin cancer risk, alcohol/drug consumption, smoking/vaping, etc.).
- e) Promote and support food security and healthy eating initiatives such as community gardens, food sharing programs, farmer's markets and growing food at home.

### Community actions

Ideas from residents on ways everyone can contribute to the health and wellbeing of our community:

- Try to live a healthier and more active lifestyle, taking advantage of our amazing Sunshine Coast beaches, parks and reserves.
- Grow our own food and share it with our friends and neighbours.
- Encourage our children to participate in community sport so they can be more active, meet new friends and value community participation.
- Join with others from our community to advocate for additional health services.



**TOPIC 2.1  
COMMUNITY  
PLACES AND  
SPACES**



Sunshine Coast Council

30





## Topic 2.1 Community places and spaces

### How do community places and spaces contribute to a strong community?

Community places and spaces include:

- Social infrastructure that support a strong community, such as community venues, libraries, cultural facilities, aquatic facilities, indoor sports and recreation facilities, lifeguard facilities and cemeteries
- Open spaces, such as beaches, parks, pathways, recreation trails and sports grounds
- Civic spaces and streetscapes that contribute to a sense of place and can be used for meeting people, collaborating and events.

Community places and spaces contribute to a strong community as they provide important spaces where residents can come together, learn new things, connect with each other, improve their health and wellbeing, access a range of information and engage in a range of events, activities and programs. They also provide natural amenity and access to green spaces.

Community places and spaces are fundamental building blocks that support and facilitate building collective community capacity, social capital and community resilience. They contribute to a unique sense of place, community pride and a sense of belonging.

Trends influencing the use of community places and spaces over the next 20 years include:

- Population growth and demographic change, including population ageing and increasing diversity
- Climate change, including the warming climate and increasing climate risks
- New technologies
- Trends in sports participation and physical activity
- Compliance and increasing community expectations
- Increasing urban densities and decreasing opportunities for access to natural spaces
- Trends in community management
- Increased use of open and civic spaces for activities and social connection.

Considering the current and future needs of our community will ensure we continue to enjoy the broad range of benefits that our community places and spaces offer.

**The Community Strategy is mainly focused on the use and management of community places and spaces. For the planning, design and delivery of community places and spaces, please also refer to the Environment and Liveability Strategy.**

#### Related topics

- For planning, design and delivery of community places and spaces refer to the Environment and Liveability Strategy.
- For other elements of inclusive and welcoming communities refer to 3.1 Inclusion.
- For initiatives that utilise community places and spaces refer to 1.1 Health and Wellbeing, 4.1 Community Connection and Resilience and 5.1 Arts, Heritage and First Nations Culture.

#### Community priorities

- Upgraded and additional community facilities to meet the needs of our growing and diverse population (primarily facilitated through the Environment and Liveability Strategy)
- More focus on activation, utilisation, maintenance and promotion of current facilities
- Safety, inclusion, accessibility and affordability of facilities
- First Nations design and naming, and First Nations cultural spaces
- Activities and spaces for young people.



### Council's role

Council manages and supports community access to community places and spaces, including community venues, libraries, cultural facilities, sports facilities, cemeteries, parks, recreation trails and pathways.

Council facilitates and delivers community places and spaces primarily through the Environment and Liveability Strategy. Council also advocates to other levels of government to provide additional investment where required.

The private sector and community sector also deliver and manage community places and spaces.

The Queensland Government and Australian Government are responsible for delivering and managing schools, TAFE and universities, hospitals and emergency services.



### Examples of Council's current activities

- Upgrading community places and spaces
- Managing several Council-owned facilities
- Maintaining directories of spaces available for community hire
- Managing permits required to use parks and civic spaces and streetscapes
- Managing community use and leasing arrangements with community and sporting groups for Council-owned land and facilities
- Activating community places and spaces via a mix of Council and community-led events, activities and programs
- Managing the use of facilities for safe refuge and during evacuation.

### Related Council documents

- Environment and Liveability Strategy
- Libraries Plan
- Creative Arts Plan
- Regional Arts Infrastructure Framework
- Recreation Parks Plan
- Recreation Trail Plan
- Sport and Active Recreation Plan
- Regional Facilities Plan for Difficult to Locate Sports
- Aquatic Plan
- Skate and BMX Plan
- Cemetery Plan
- Asset Management Plans
- Sunshine Coast Design Strategy.



**Over 100**

Council and community provided venues



**8** Council library branches



**9** aquatic centres



**59** sports grounds



**19** patrolled beaches (depending on time of year)



**495** amenity reserves



**379** playgrounds



**28** skate parks



**18** cemeteries



### Outcome statements

#### 2.1.1 Our community has access to community places and spaces that meet their needs:

- a) People have access to safe, accessible, inclusive and welcoming community places and spaces that meet the needs of their community.
- b) Community places and spaces contribute to a unique sense of place and community pride.

#### 2.1.2 Community places and spaces are vibrant with activity:

- a) Community places and spaces are activated with a range of events, activities and programs and are well utilised by the community.

- b) The social and economic benefits of community places and spaces are maximised through appropriate management and operational models.
- c) Community groups can sustainably manage identified community places and spaces.
- d) The operation and management of identified community places and spaces supports their utilisation as places of refuge or evacuation centres.
- e) Community places and spaces are maintained to support their purpose.

**Note:** Council planning, design and delivery of community places and spaces is primarily influenced through the Environment and Liveability Strategy. The Environment and Liveability Strategy should be read in conjunction with the Community Strategy to understand the full scope of Council action in this area.

### Council actions (2024-2029)

- a) Ensure new and expanded venues that will host Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games events are designed and delivered with inclusion and community legacy at the forefront.
- b) Develop a Community Venues Plan that outlines future requirements for community venues and considers appropriate management models and leasing arrangements to maximise use, provide equitable access and meet changing community needs.
- c) Investigate innovative ways to support increased community use of community leased venues.
- d) Simplify processes for community-run events and local activation initiatives.

### Community actions

Ideas from our community on ways we can contribute to community places and spaces:

- Participate in the activities run at community places and spaces in our neighbourhood.
- Help a local sporting club or community group apply for grants to upgrade their sporting facility or meeting space.
- Join with others from our community to advocate for additional funding for community places and spaces.
- Report vandalism or suspicious behaviour around facilities.

TOPIC 2.2  
TRANSPORT



Sunshine Coast Council

34





## Topic 2.2 Transport

### How does transport contribute to a strong community?

Transport includes the infrastructure, systems and services that residents and visitors use to get around. This includes the infrastructure, systems and services that support driving, public transport, walking, riding and various mobility services such as taxis, rideshare and car sharing programs.

Transport is a fundamental building block of a strong community, allowing residents to access employment, services and facilities, to meet people and to maintain relationships. However, not everyone has equitable access to transport. Lower-income households, people with disability, older people and people living on the outskirts of towns and in rural areas generally face access challenges.

Currently, we overwhelmingly rely on our private vehicles to get around. While driving is expected to remain a dominant transport mode, embracing public transport, walking and riding can provide many community benefits. Public transport, walking and riding contribute to better physical and mental health and are generally more affordable transport options. They also benefit our community by reducing road congestion and emissions of greenhouse gases.

We can take personal and collective action to improve equitable access to transport and to maximise community benefits. We can reduce our personal vehicle use by taking public transport, going to a closer activity, sharing a ride and replacing shorter trips with walking or riding. We can also assist neighbours with transport barriers by picking something up for them or helping them complete a task online instead of travelling. As a community, we can also advocate for more investment in public transport, walking and riding infrastructure.

Future trends influencing our transport network over the next 20 years include:

- Continued strong population growth and the form of urban development
- More residents with mobility impairment due to population ageing
- Ongoing focus on environmental sustainability and carbon emissions reduction
- Adoption of new technologies, such as personal mobility devices, electric-powered vehicles, connected and autonomous vehicles, and smart mobility technologies
- Infrastructure and service investment, including new mass transit options
- Market-driven transport services and products
- Evolving car ownership trends and travel preferences.

Ongoing planning and increased and timely investment from all levels of government will be critical to ensuring our transport system supports the liveability of our region to 2041. There are also actions that we can take individually and together to contribute to the efficiency, equity and sustainability of our transport network.

### Related topics

- For other elements of inclusive and welcoming communities refer to 3.1 Inclusion.
- For planning of transport networks and related infrastructure also refer to the Integrated Transport Strategy.



**2400km**  
of sealed roads  
and 590km of gravel roads



**1214km**  
of pathways



**5km** of dedicated  
off-road cycleway  
**69km** of on-road  
cycle network



**25** weekday  
bus routes



Ride to school program run in  
**11** schools with over  
**2100** students registered.



### Council's role

All levels of government contribute to the delivery of transport infrastructure. Council delivers local roads, bus stops, and walking and riding connections. The Queensland Government and Australian Government deliver major roads and public transport infrastructure (and riding infrastructure on major roads), and the Queensland Government manages public transport.

Council advocates to other levels of government to provide additional investment where required.

Council delivers behaviour change programs that encourage a reduction in private vehicle use and improve road safety.

### Community priorities

- More public transport investment, including passenger rail and mass transit, to support a shift away from private vehicle use (primarily delivered by the Queensland Government)
- Reliability, affordability, accessibility and safety of the public transport network (primarily delivered by the Queensland Government)
- Additional focus on congestion and the cost of getting around
- Additional investment in road infrastructure and improved traffic management (major road infrastructure primarily delivered by the Queensland Government)
- Transport options for vulnerable or isolated population groups.

### Examples of Council's current activities

- Delivering new and upgraded local roads, bus stops and paths for walking and riding
- Providing and regulating parking
- Funding and managing the Council Link service for seniors and people with disability to access services and shops
- Delivering programs and initiatives that promote and encourage use of passenger transport and active transport
- Developing maps that show accessible footpaths for people of all abilities.

### Related Council documents

- Integrated Transport Strategy
- Active Transport Plan
- Parking Management Plan
- Road Safety Plan.



### Outcome statements

2.2.1 Our transport network connects people and places, enhances sustainability, supports future population growth and serves the economy:

- a) People have access to an integrated, reliable, safe, sustainable and inclusive transport network.
- b) Our transport network provides increased travel choice and mobility for all.

- c) Our transport network supports efficient movement of people and goods.
- d) Our transport network prioritises walking, riding and passenger transport and encourages a shift to these modes of travel.
- e) Parking is delivered and managed to balance lifestyle, economic activity and improvements in passenger transport.

### Council actions (2024-2029)

- a) Review and update the Integrated Transport Strategy.
- b) Continue to invest, plan and advocate for identified priority transport projects and supporting infrastructure which supports future growth and preserves the liveability and lifestyle of our region.
- c) Prioritise investment in walking and riding infrastructure to deliver a connected, safe, healthy and sustainable active transport network.
- d) Promote active and public transport options and encourage behaviour change to reduce private vehicle use.
- e) Investigate expansion of community transport services to improve convenience and access to additional locations and services.

### Community actions

Ideas from our community on ways everyone can contribute to our transport network:

- Reconsider when and how often we travel.
- Minimise our personal car travel.
- Use public transport more as the network starts to improve.
- Ride responsibly on shared paths so that pedestrians feel safe.
- Join with others from our community to advocate for more investment in our transport network.

**TOPIC 2.3  
HOUSING AND  
HOMELESSNESS  
SUPPORT**







## Topic 2.3 Housing and homelessness support

### How does housing and homelessness support contribute to a strong community?

Access to safe and secure housing is a basic human right and is a fundamental base from which to build a strong community.

The population of the Sunshine Coast is expected to continue growing strongly over the next 20 years and we will need to find additional housing for around 8000 new residents each year. This new housing needs to be suitable for residents and provide choice. Social housing, student accommodation, independent living units, residential care and crisis and transitional accommodation are also part of the mix of housing needed.

Continuing to meet this ongoing housing demand will be a challenge. Housing availability and affordability are issues already, and the existing mix of housing is not well suited to the current or expected future population. In addition, neighbourhoods of the Sunshine Coast are typically low-density residential areas, and we therefore spend more time and money just getting around.

Access to diverse housing options in higher density areas provide a range of benefits, including:

- Local areas with more population have more opportunities for connection and greater social capital
- Housing diversity increases the diversity of residents in an area (including by income and life-stage) which contributes to more diverse connections and strengthens community inclusion and resilience
- People can stay in their own neighbourhood throughout their life helping to maintain social networks and access to services
- Smaller dwellings may better suit small households, can be more affordable for low-income households and can be located closer to services and employment centres reducing transport costs
- More efficient public transport networks can be provided which supports affordable access to employment and services.

A lack of affordable housing, combined with rising rental and purchase prices, has driven an increasing number of individuals and families into housing insecurity and homelessness. Other drivers can also include mental illness, domestic and family violence, family breakdown, loss of employment and substance abuse. The challenges faced by people experiencing homelessness may be complex, and they require additional support and focus. Ensuring the safety, dignity and respect of people while experiencing hardship is something that we can all contribute to in some way. Access to affordable and secure housing is inextricably linked to our health and wellbeing, and ability to participate in community and economic life.

Where and how we accommodate our growing population will have significant impacts for the future liveability, vibrancy and resilience of the Sunshine Coast. How we engage with and support people experiencing homelessness is also indicative of our caring and compassionate community.

**The Community Strategy is mainly focused on access to housing for everyone in our community. For priorities related to supply of land/housing, the settlement pattern and development, please refer to the Environment and Liveability Strategy and the Planning Scheme.**



**1.1% residential vacancy rate**  
(2022/23, SQM Research)



**47.1% of renting households pay \$450 or more per week, compared to 32.8% in South East Queensland and 25.7% in Queensland**  
(2021, ABS Census)



**The rate of homelessness is 35 per 10,000 population, compared to 43 per 10,000 population for Queensland**  
(2021, ABS Census)



## Related topics

- For planning and regulation of housing refer to the Environment and Liveability Strategy and the Planning Scheme.
- For other elements of inclusive and welcoming communities refer to 3.1 Inclusion.

## Community priorities

- More focus on housing choice, including diversity and affordability, social housing, emergency accommodation, and higher density development (mainly influenced through the Environment and Liveability Strategy and the Planning Scheme)
- Review of state and federal government regulations and incentives
- Amenities and facilities to improve safety and dignity for people sleeping rough
- Increased support and services for people experiencing homelessness.

## Council's role

All levels of government influence housing supply and demand through regulation and policies. The Queensland Government and Australian Government also fund social housing, emergency accommodation and residential care. The private sector and community sector deliver and manage most forms of housing.

Council influences settlement patterns and housing form through advocacy and collaboration with other levels of government and the private sector, and utilising Council's legislative planning role through the Planning Scheme.

Council supports education and community-led initiatives that respond to housing and homelessness challenges, and advocates for our community to other levels of government.

Homelessness support services are funded by the Queensland Government and Australian Government and are mostly delivered by the community sector. Council works in partnership with these services and community organisations to enhance preventive and crisis responses.

Council manages civic spaces and streets to ensure the safety and amenity for people experiencing homelessness, residents and visitors. Those experiencing homelessness are provided access to information, amenities and other appropriate support services.



**2.0%** of dwellings across the Sunshine Coast were social housing, in comparison to **3.1%** for Queensland (2021, ABS Census)

## Examples of Council's current activities

- Identifying surplus Council-owned land suitable for affordable housing with a strong focus on key workers
- Supporting community-led initiatives to provide temporary transitional accommodation with appropriate wrap-around support services
- Publishing the Housing and Homelessness Directory
- Raising awareness and understanding of homelessness and its causes through the voices of lived experience
- Developing an internal guideline for interacting with people experiencing homelessness
- Offering discounts to fees and concessions for community organisations that deliver affordable housing
- Advocating to other levels of government for regulatory changes and additional resources and support.

## Related Council documents

- Environment and Liveability Strategy
- Planning Scheme
- Housing and Homelessness Action Plan
- Responding to Homelessness Policy and Guideline.



Image: Caloundra Regional Gallery in collaboration with Sunshine Coast Libraries presented the 'Changing Perceptions of Homelessness' by Clair Letitia Reynolds' exhibition that aimed to challenge and change current perceptions and stigmas associated with homelessness.

### Outcome statements

- 2.3.1 Our community has access to accommodation that meets their needs with low rates of homelessness:
- a) People have access to affordable and diverse accommodation that meets their needs.
  - b) Universal and inclusive design is integrated into housing and tourist accommodation.
  - c) People have the capacity and support to maintain long-term housing.

- 2.3.2 People experiencing homelessness are supported, safe and included:
- a) Facilities, services and support are available to assist people experiencing homelessness.
  - b) People are aware of the facilities, services and support available.
  - c) People work together with people experiencing homelessness to improve outcomes.
  - d) People understand the challenges and causes of homelessness and demonstrate compassion towards people experiencing homelessness.

**Note:** Delivery of housing and accommodation by the private and community sector is primarily influenced by Council through the Environment and Liveability Strategy and the Planning Scheme. These documents should be read in conjunction with the Community Strategy to understand the full scope of Council action in this area.

### Council actions (2024-2029)

- a) Implement actions identified in the Housing and Homelessness Action Plan.
- b) Continue to facilitate and support community-led initiatives to improve outcomes for people experiencing homelessness.
- c) Collaborate to undertake and utilise research (including lived experience) and build awareness and understanding of homelessness.

### Community actions

Ideas from our community on ways we can contribute to housing and homelessness support:

- Volunteer to support people experiencing homelessness.
- Join with others from our community to advocate for more investment in social housing.
- Investigate renting out a spare room.
- Try to learn from people who have had an experience of homelessness.

TOPIC 3.1  
INCLUSION



Sunshine Coast Council

42





## Topic 3.1 Inclusion

### How does inclusion contribute to a strong community?

Inclusive communities recognise, respect and embrace diversity, in all its forms. Inclusion goes beyond tolerance, towards acceptance, understanding and celebrating difference. Fundamental to inclusion is recognition of the inherent value of each member of our community, and the need for everyone to have equitable access and opportunity. Our community is stronger when everyone feels valued, can participate in all aspects of community life and can reach their potential.

The Sunshine Coast community suggested that our diverse community includes:

- People of different ages - children, young people, middle-aged people and older people
- Women and men, people with non-binary gender, transgender and intersex people, and people with diverse sexuality
- First Nations people
- Culturally and linguistically diverse people, new migrants and people of different faiths
- People with physical and non-physical disability
- People who are frail or terminally ill
- Long-term residents and new residents from within Australia
- Lower socio-economic households and people experiencing homelessness.

These multiple characteristics of our personal identities influence our experiences of the Sunshine Coast. Often, barriers exist that limit our participation based on one or more of these personal characteristics. One of these barriers is discrimination, but other barriers include lack of information, physical access, perceptions of safety, cost, communication barriers, lack of culturally appropriate activities, negative stereotypes and stigma, and distrust of government services.



The Sunshine Coast is home to residents who were born in **170 different countries** (2021, ABS Census)

There are many benefits of reducing participation barriers for a more inclusive community:

- Resources and opportunities are shared in a way that helps those who need the most support
- More diverse social connections increase social capital and community resilience
- Improved physical and mental health due to increased connection, employment and sense of belonging
- Improved actual and perceived safety and greater community cohesion
- Improved adaptability and resilience to community challenges by drawing on varied talents and perspectives
- More resilient businesses and economy through participation, increased productivity and innovative thinking
- Sense of belonging encourages greater contributions to community life and facilitates collaboration
- New perspectives contribute to a more compassionate and understanding community.

We all contribute to fostering an inclusive Sunshine Coast.

### Related topics

- Inclusion is a core element of a strong community and therefore has linkages to all other topics in the Community Strategy.
- For inclusion in the natural and built environment and business sector see the Environment and Liveability Strategy and Regional Economic Development Strategy.



Residents spoke  
**110 different languages**,  
including German, Spanish,  
Mandarin, Afrikaans and  
Portuguese (2021, ABS Census)



**2.4%** of residents are  
First Nations people  
(2021, ABS Census)



**5.5%** of residents are new  
migrants (migrated from overseas  
in the previous ten years)  
(2021, ABS Census)



**21%** of residents were  
born overseas, including  
**8.3%** residents were born  
in non-core anglosphere countries  
(2021, ABS Census)



## Community priorities

- Creating a welcoming region
- More awareness, education and activities, events and programs to recognise, respect and value diversity, in all its forms
- Accessibility of facilities, housing and transport
- Recognition of First Nations people and closing the gap
- Promotion of inclusion and diversity in all forms.

## Council's role

Council works to promote and foster diversity and inclusion and opportunities for all. Council delivers a range of services, programs and activities that everyone can participate in. Council raises awareness and education about the importance of inclusion and is working to reduce barriers and improve access and inclusion.

Council also supports not-for-profit organisations that deliver community-led initiatives through targeted investment. Many community and private sector organisations support inclusion in our community. The Queensland Government and Australian Government also provide support to organisations that contribute to inclusion.

## Examples of Council's current activities

- Ongoing commitment to reconciliation and strengthening collaboration and partnerships with local First Nations communities through the Reconciliation Action Plan
- Facilitating Council's Multicultural Advisory Group
- Delivering awareness campaigns and information that prevent discrimination, including the Shine a Light on Racism campaign
- Coordinating the Migrant Work Ready and Migrant Business Ready programs
- Coordinating delivery of All Access Day at the Beach
- Facilitating Young Leaders Academy made up of young people – the future leaders of the Sunshine Coast
- Supporting Harmony Day events and activities.

## Related Council documents

- Reconciliation Action Plan
- All Abilities Action Plan.



### Outcome statements

#### 3.1.1 Everyone feels valued, respected and welcomed:

- a) People are aware and embrace the value of diversity, in all its forms.
- b) Reconciliation is progressed with First Nations people.

- c) Newcomers are welcomed and connected into our community.
- d) Barriers to participation are minimised or eliminated.
- e) People feel they belong and contribute to community life.

### Council actions (2024-2029)

- a) Implement actions identified in the Reconciliation Action Plan in partnership with Traditional Custodians and First Nations people.
- b) Implement actions identified in the All Abilities Action Plan.
- c) Develop and implement a Youth Action Plan to guide Council action on the priorities of young people.
- d) Utilise the Welcoming Cities Standard to become a more welcoming and cohesive community.
- e) Collaborate and partner to deliver events, activities and programs that promote and support best-practice diversity and inclusion.
- f) Develop and promote local stories showcasing the diversity of people and places of the Sunshine Coast.
- g) Support initiatives that strengthen social enterprises and for-impact businesses to address community priorities.

### Community actions

Ideas from residents on ways everyone can contribute to inclusion in our community:

- Provide a positive welcome to new residents in our neighbourhood.
- Treat other people with respect.
- Keep an open mind to new ideas and the future of the Sunshine Coast.
- Learn about people from different backgrounds by participating in events, activities and programs.
- Provide opportunities for young people to be involved.

TOPIC 3.2  
VOLUNTEERING







## Topic 3.2 Volunteering

### How does volunteering contribute to a strong community?

Volunteers donate their time for the common good and without financial gain. They can donate their time to organisations or work alongside other community members on shared priorities. This topic focuses on the work volunteers do for groups, clubs or organisations, often referred to as formal volunteering.

Organisations that engage volunteers are managing multiple current trends that are impacting volunteering:

- Formal volunteering rates declined across the Sunshine Coast during the COVID-19 pandemic and have been slow to fully recover to normal levels
- Rising cost-of-living pressures are making the costs associated with volunteering more of a burden
- Traditional volunteers, who volunteer on a consistent, regular and ongoing basis, are getting older and may be difficult to replace with new volunteers who are preferring more flexible, ad-hoc and episodic volunteering
- Significant new global challenges have potentially shifted interest to priorities beyond our region
- New technologies allow volunteers to be involved in ways that are convenient and informal, such as working on a project from home when they have time
- Organisations want to improve management and safety standards through training, health and safety policies, etc. However this can be burdensome for organisations and volunteers alike and can create barriers to participation.

Volunteering provides significant benefits to volunteers themselves and to the community generally:

- Volunteers gain new work experience and skills which may increase their employability
- Volunteers benefit from a new sense of purpose which can improve life satisfaction and health
- Volunteers grow the number and diversity of their personal connections which reduces isolation and improves health – this contributes to increased social capital and community resilience and better health outcomes for our community
- Our community benefits from thousands of hours of effort to deliver services, programs and activities that otherwise may not be possible.

Volunteering is an important part of a strong community. With the donation of their time and skills, volunteers contribute to community priorities and help create a more connected and resilient community.

#### Related topics

- For other forms of community involvement refer to 3.3 Community Engagement and 4.1 Community Connection and Resilience.



**15.7%**  
of the Sunshine Coast population  
volunteered  
in the preceding twelve  
months (2021, ABS Census).

This was a significant  
decline compared to  
**20.7%** in 2016  
likely due to Covid-19  
restrictions and concern  
about Covid-19 at the time.



### Community priorities

- Additional promotion of opportunities for volunteering
- Focus on encouragement, support, recognition and celebration of volunteers
- Support for organisations that engage volunteers to improve systems, processes and provide flexible opportunities.

### Council's role

Council engages volunteers to deliver programs focused on community, cultural and environmental outcomes.

Council also supports community volunteering through awareness and promotion, recognition of volunteers and investing in organisations that engage volunteers.

### Examples of Council's current activities

- Providing information about volunteering on Council's website
- Providing volunteering opportunities through libraries, galleries, museums, environmental programs, parks and gardens, community festivals and events
- Supporting community-led volunteering programs
- Recognising volunteers through awards
- Undertaking research on volunteering in collaboration with others
- Investing in not-for-profit groups for community-led projects, events and activities with broad community benefit and to strengthen the ability of groups to respond to community needs.

### Related Council documents

- Sunshine Coast Council Employee Code of Conduct.



### Outcome statements

#### 3.2.1 Residents volunteer to support community needs:

- a) Information about volunteering opportunities is clear and easy to find.
- b) Volunteers and potential volunteers have the capabilities required to contribute to community priorities.
- c) Organisations that engage volunteers have the skills and capacity to attract, manage and retain volunteers.
- d) Volunteers are recognised and rewarded for the work they do.

### Council actions (2024-2029)

- a) Improve initiatives recognising residents who contribute to community, including volunteering.
- b) Collaborate to deliver training to assist volunteering organisations improve volunteering recruitment, retention and management.
- c) Collaborate to deliver a Sunshine Coast Volunteer Showcase to raise awareness of volunteering opportunities and offer training and recognition of volunteers.

### Community actions

Ideas from residents on ways we can contribute to our community through volunteering:

- Help out a neighbour, if they need support.
- Volunteer to help keep a local community group, sporting club or facility going.
- Pick up rubbish to maintain our community places and spaces.

**TOPIC 3.3  
COMMUNITY  
ENGAGEMENT**







## Topic 3.3 Community engagement

### How does community engagement contribute to a strong community?

Community engagement is the active participation of residents in decision-making processes on matters and issues that are important to us and our region. Diverse perspectives and community participation enable better understanding of community needs, values, and local knowledge and ensure that decision-making is well informed.

It helps in strengthening relationships and partnerships and building trust between community and government so we can work together to respond to local issues, challenges and aspirations, and so that government can provide and support better services, programs and facilities. With increased transparency and a range of meaningful and tailored ways to engage, community members can have a say in shaping the future of the Sunshine Coast.

The flow on effect is an increase in trust and improved governance to make better, more sustainable, equitable decisions that improves liveability and community cohesion. Community engagement can be supported through inclusive, representative, transparent and well-planned community involvement.

The following trends may influence how people engage in decision-making over the next 20 years:

- New technologies will offer more convenient and accessible options for engagement, but also create barriers to participation for some
- Hybrid methods of community engagement – with both online and in-person options – will continue to be needed to enhance inclusive participation
- Significant global social, environmental and economic challenges and opportunities will continue to attract community interest and involvement
- A lack of interest and participation in local community engagement may grow due to perceptions that individual input is not reflected in decisions or does not lead to meaningful change
- The number of voices involved in community engagement may remain low or decrease, increasing the need for community engagement that is inclusive and representative of community views.

Community engagement plays a vital role in achieving a strong community. It promotes better-informed decisions, responsive services and enhanced outcomes for all.

#### Related topics

- For other forms of community involvement refer to 3.2 Volunteering and 4.1 Community Connection and Resilience.



**51%**  
of residents agreed that  
there are opportunities  
to have a say on community  
issues that are important to them  
(2023, Community Connections Survey).

**Around 30%**  
of residents neither  
agreed nor disagreed.

## Community priorities

- More opportunities to be involved in Council community engagement processes, including for people with lived experience
- Promotion of opportunities to be involved in Council community engagement processes
- Council to utilise more inclusive, diverse and authentic community engagement approaches with a local focus
- More transparency, accountability and communication about how community input has influenced Council decision-making.

## Council's role

Council regularly invites community input into our projects, programs, services and initiatives. Council encourages this by implementing best-practice engagement activities to inform decision-making that is responsive to community aspirations.

Council shares information and resources and communicates opportunities for the community to get involved in matters that impact our region. Council also collaborates and works in partnership with other organisations and agencies to deliver community engagement projects where relevant.

Residents and groups initiate community-led engagement processes to address or advocate for issues and opportunities in their communities.

## Examples of Council's current activities

- Undertaking inclusive community engagement for a variety of projects to influence decision-making
- Upgrading Council's online engagement platform, 'Have Your Say', to increase functionality
- Undertaking surveys to understand community priorities and satisfaction with Council.

## Related Council documents

- Community Engagement Policy
- Excellence in Engagement Framework
- Inclusive Engagement Guideline.

### Outcome statements

#### 3.3.1 Our community is engaged and heard on matters that are important to them:

- a) People actively participate in community matters and decision-making processes.
- b) People have opportunities to contribute meaningfully to matters that impact them and our region.
- c) Information and ways to participate are available in a range of formats to meet the needs of our diverse community.
- d) People's contributions into community engagement processes are valued.
- e) Community engagement outcomes inform decision-making and planning processes.
- f) Information on how community engagement outcomes have informed decision-making and planning processes is shared.

### Council actions (2024-2029)

- a) Review Council's Excellence in Engagement Framework to further embed and model leading engagement practice.
- b) In collaboration with First Nations people, develop guidelines for engaging with First Nations individuals and groups to ensure their meaningful contribution into decision-making.
- c) Deliver the Young Leaders Academy developmental program to foster civic engagement and community leadership.
- d) Review and strengthen Council use of community advisory and reference groups and participatory engagement processes.
- e) Develop a guide on how to co-design solutions in collaboration with people with lived experience to improve inclusive and authentic engagement.
- f) Explore a periodic regional community engagement program to understand community priorities and opinions on key issues.
- g) Develop a Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games Community Engagement Plan that encourages community participation in opportunities that create a lasting positive legacy for our community.

### Community actions

Ideas from our community on ways we can enhance community engagement:

- Participate in community engagement opportunities thoughtfully and respectfully.
- Share opportunities for community engagement with people we know and groups we're involved in.
- Get involved in a local residents' association.
- Help a neighbour or friend participate, who might otherwise find it difficult.
- Vote responsibly in Council elections.
- Engage with our local Councillor to let them know about things that are needed in our community.

**TOPIC 4.1  
COMMUNITY  
CONNECTION  
AND RESILIENCE**







## Topic 4.1 Community connection and resilience

### How does community connection and resilience contribute to a strong community?

This topic covers three related concepts:

#### Community connection

Social connection is a fundamental human need. Our personal relationships with family, friends and neighbours help us feel connected. Participation in community social, sporting, cultural and leisure activities, life-long learning programs, helping and socialising with neighbours, volunteering and attending community events builds friendships, connections and networks within the community. Feeling connected reduces social isolation and loneliness and contributes to a sense of belonging and purpose. When people are connected and have stable, supportive relationships, they are more likely to make healthy choices and can better cope with stress, anxiety and depression. It also increases levels of empathy, trust and cooperation. Strong community connections also support information sharing and capacity building.

#### Community resilience

Social networks and relationships are also important in times of adversity. When everyone in our community has a diverse range of connections, we all have someone to call on in times of need. This improves our personal and collective resilience to a broad range of potential challenges. Having a network of trusted neighbours or local community members is important for resilience because people who are close-by are more likely to be able to help in a difficult situation.

In the context of disasters, emergencies and climate change, community resilience is focused on how we prepare for significant events to reduce their disruptive impact. To do this, we need to seek out information to be aware of our current and future risks and take responsibility to prepare ourselves with our families, friends and neighbours. Our community networks also need to include emergency services, infrastructure providers and community organisations to maximise disaster resilience.

#### Collective action

Joining with others to take collective action can help achieve shared goals and contribute to the betterment of communities. This requires a willingness and capacity to join with others within our community. It also requires reaching out through our networks to find other people who are interested in pursuing joint action. Collective action is more likely to be effective at creating positive social change.

Many complex social trends are influencing community connection, resilience and collective action:

- Changing family structures and ageing populations are affecting forms of support and interaction, while also providing new opportunities for diverse intergenerational connections
- Mobility and economic factors are reducing time available to connect with and be involved in local communities
- New technologies are offering alternative avenues for community connection that are more convenient and accessible, but in some instances, also leading to social isolation and fragmented online communities
- Social institutions, including faith groups and neighbourhood associations, are responding to the changing needs of the community by adapting their services and offering new ways to participate
- The Sunshine Coast is a 'community of communities' with strong local identities that emphasise and support local community connection and sense of belonging.

Community connection, resilience and collective action are fundamental elements of a strong community. They contribute significantly to the health of our community and how we adapt to change and prepare and respond to disruptive events. Almost any opportunity or challenge that we face as a community can be pursued or addressed more effectively when we work together.



**57% of residents** agreed that they live in an active community where people get involved in local issues and activities (2023, Community Connections Survey).



**87% of residents** agreed that they can get help from friends, family and neighbours when they need it (2023, Community Connections Survey).



**76% of residents** agreed that their neighbours are willing to help them and others (2023, Community Connections Survey).



**8.5 close friends** per resident on average (2023, Community Connections Survey).



**42% of residents** are somewhat or very confident that their local area will be able to adapt to the effects of climate change in their lifetime (2024, Living on the Sunshine Coast Survey)



**43 facilities** can function as evacuation centres or places of shelter.



**6 disaster activations** per year on average for severe weather and flood events.



#### Related topics

- Community connection and resilience is a core element of a strong community and therefore has linkages to all other topics in the Community Strategy
- For disaster management, adaptation and resilience refer to the Environment and Liveability Strategy.

#### Community priorities

- More affordable local events, programs and activities and promotion of these initiatives to provide opportunities for people to come together and enhance sense of belonging
- Social connections for people who are isolated
- Hazard and preparedness information and education, with more targeted emergency alerts and warning messages
- Investment in resilient infrastructure and better coordination of government services
- Long-term planning and recovery, including mental health.







### Council's role

Council supports community connection through community development initiatives that bring people together, strengthen groups and provide information and support.

Council is responsible for managing disaster events through its Local Disaster Management Group and improving awareness and information related to disaster preparedness. Through a community development approach and reviewing Council's organisational capacity, Council contributes to the resilience and adaptive capacity of the community, as well as to community response and recovery following events.

The community sector, with funding provided from a range of sources, manages community centres, neighbourhood centres and other meeting spaces, and delivers events, activities and programs which contribute to community connection and resilience.

### Examples of Council's current activities

- Delivering community events, activities and programs
- Investing in community groups to facilitate and deliver local events, activities, and programs that support community connection
- Facilitating community development through connection, facilitation and support
- Providing 'At Home in My Neighbourhood' resources that encourage neighbourhood scale events and connection
- Involvement in local and regional disaster management groups
- Ensuring Council infrastructure and service delivery is climate resilient.

### Related Council documents

- Local Disaster Management Plan
- Disaster Recovery Sub-Plan
- Regional Climate Action Roadmap.



### Outcome statements

- 4.1.1 People are connected to each other and their community:
- a) People have many, diverse connections to reduce social isolation and to call upon in times of need.
  - b) Local community events, activities, programs and services support and strengthen connections between people and their communities.
- 4.1.2 People work together to proactively identify, research and respond to community priorities:
- a) People lead collective action to proactively identify, research and respond to current and emerging community priorities.
  - b) Local organisations support collaborative, community-led initiatives aligned to community priorities.

- 4.1.3 Our community is adaptive and resilient to increasing climate risks, disasters and emergencies:
- a) Government agencies, infrastructure providers, businesses and community members work collaboratively to build adaptive capacity and resilience.
  - b) People have access to the information and resources necessary to continually increase their own adaptive capacity and resilience.
  - c) People maximise their self-reliance by taking personal responsibility to understand their risks and take appropriate action.

### Council actions (2024-2029)

- a) Collaborate, partner and invest to build community connections through the delivery of free and low-cost initiatives within local communities and neighbourhoods.
- b) Support residents and community organisations to deliver collaborative, community-led responses to identified community priorities.
- c) Support residents and community organisations to plan for and respond to the impacts of climate change and natural hazards and minimise associated risks.
- d) Partner to support local community-led resilience, adaptation planning and recovery activities.
- e) Continue to expand and promote Disaster Hub, including the ability to provide more personalised information and notifications.
- f) Improve inclusion at Council evacuation centres and raise awareness of these centres and their inclusion features.

### Community actions

Ideas from our community on ways everyone can contribute to community connection and resilience:

- Build strong relationships with our neighbours.
- Join with others in our community to take meaningful action on shared challenges and opportunities.
- Hold a neighbourhood party to get to know our neighbours.
- Participate in local events and activities.
- Contribute to social media groups by suggesting positive, constructive actions that we could take together.
- Learn about different risks in our neighbourhood.
- Put together an emergency plan for our household to prepare for different scenarios.
- Learn more about and adopt sustainable living practices.

**TOPIC 4.2  
COMMUNITY  
SAFETY**

Sunshine Coast Council

60



## Topic 4.2 Community safety

### How does community safety contribute to a strong community?

Community safety refers to the ability for people to go about their daily life without fear or risk of harm or injury. To feel and be safe are seen as basic human rights and are important underlying requirements for a strong community. Being safe and feeling safe enables people to participate in community life, to feel included and to have a sense of belonging. When people feel safe in their homes and can freely engage in local neighbourhoods and community places and spaces, it creates a sense of wellbeing, promotes liveability and enhances community pride. Our safety also contributes to a willingness to trust other people and particularly people who are different to ourselves. A lack of community safety therefore limits opportunities for collaboration, and stifles innovation and entrepreneurship.

The primary focus is on crime prevention which works to remove or reduce the risk and fear of crime and negative perceptions of places and people. Perceptions of community safety, real or perceived, can impact on the way people feel and how they interact and participate in their community. Fear of crime can be as detrimental to community functioning as high rates of crime. One of the most effective ways to reduce fear of crime is through activities that encourage community cohesion and connection. Community safety is therefore closely related to other aspects of a strong community, such as community connection, resilience and inclusion. There are actions that we can take as a community to improve community safety in our region.

With new technologies and our ageing population, online safety and elder abuse may be growing areas for crime prevention. Our work to maintain and promote community safety needs to consider these and future trends and remain flexible to ongoing change.

This topic also includes a focus on domestic and family violence, which is any violent, threatening or controlling behaviour, or behaviour intended to cause fear, related to an intimate or family relationship. Any form of violence, including domestic and family violence, is unacceptable on the Sunshine Coast.

### Related topics

- For road safety refer to 2.2 Transport.
- For the design of community places and spaces to maximise safety refer to 2.1 Community Places and Spaces.
- For safety during disasters and emergencies refer to 4.1 Community Connection and Resilience.

### Community priorities

- Addressing perceived safety issues, such as youth crime, road and pedestrian safety, online safety, beach safety and elder abuse, as well as graffiti, vandalism and attitudes about population groups
- Additional services for people experiencing domestic and family violence, such as emergency accommodation, services and support (primarily provided by the Queensland Government)
- Awareness, education and prevention programs targeting perpetrators of domestic and family violence and improving attitudes towards women
- Investment in lighting and closed-circuit television (CCTV) surveillance, and community responses, such as Safety Houses and Neighbourhood Watch
- Additional police presence and engagement, more investment in police facilities and harsher penalties (primarily provided by the Queensland Government).



### Council's role

Community safety is a shared responsibility of all levels of government and the community.

Council coordinates and supports crime prevention and community safety initiatives, including facilitating connections between partners, raising awareness, and supporting initiatives that promote community connection. Council also provides and maintains safe community places and spaces, supports safe urban design, and creates and enforces local laws. Council undertakes targeted education and raises awareness of domestic and family violence and supports community-led initiatives.

The Queensland Police Service is the lead agency for crime prevention and law enforcement.



**62%** of residents agreed that they feel safe all the time on the Sunshine Coast (2023, Community Connections Survey).



**75%** of residents agreed that they trust most of the people in their neighbourhood (2023, Community Connections Survey).



**6487** total reported offences per 100,000 population in Sunshine Coast LGA, compared to a rate of 10,999 per 100,000 offences for Queensland (2022/23, QGSO Regional Profile).

### Examples of Council's current activities

- Guiding safe design of new developments through implementation of crime prevention through environmental design principles (CPTED)
- Facilitating community connections through supporting and delivering programs
- Undertaking long-term community development work regarding neighbourhood safety
- Collaborating and supporting community partners in crime prevention initiatives
- Managing graffiti removal
- Installing CCTV surveillance systems
- Supporting community-led initiatives focused on domestic and family violence prevention
- Raising awareness and supporting education to prevent domestic and family violence.

### Related Council documents

- Community Safety Policy
- Urban Public Lighting Plan.





### Outcome statements

4.2.1 The Sunshine Coast is safe and is perceived as safe:

- a) Organisations, agencies and community members share information, deliver initiatives and work collaboratively to improve safety.
- b) Community connection and the sharing of information and stories support improved perceptions of safety.

4.2.2 Our community is safe from domestic and family violence:

- a) Services are available to assist people experiencing, or at risk of, domestic and family violence.
- b) Organisations and agencies work collaboratively to prevent domestic and family violence through education and other initiatives.
- c) Our community is aware and educated about domestic and family violence.
- d) People lead collective action to reduce and prevent domestic and family violence.

### Council actions (2024-2029)

- a) Promote community programs aimed at improving safety and perceptions of safety.
- b) Raise awareness of services and accommodation options available for people experiencing domestic and family violence.
- c) Continue strong messaging that builds knowledge and awareness of domestic and family violence, its prevention and supports.

### Community actions

Ideas from our community on ways everyone can contribute to community safety:

- Report criminal or suspicious activity to authorities.
- Get to know our neighbours and local community.
- Treat everyone the way we would like to be treated.
- Have a conversation with our mates about managing anger and respecting other people.
- Declare our home a violence-free zone.
- Challenge unacceptable behaviour when we witness it.

**TOPIC 5.1 ARTS,  
HERITAGE AND  
FIRST NATIONS  
CULTURE**



Sunshine Coast Council

64

Image: *NOISE* by Dancenorth Australia, Horizon Festival 2023. Photo: Nic Morley.



## Topic 5.1 Arts, heritage and First Nations culture

### How do the arts, heritage and First Nations culture contribute to a strong community?

The arts encompass many forms of creative expression and storytelling, including; literature, music, theatre, dance and other performing arts, such as circus, comedy and puppetry, visual arts and crafts, screen, including film, television and online, and emerging and experimental arts.

Heritage is the cultural, historical and natural aspects of community we inherit from the past and we want to protect for the future. As well as physical objects, heritage includes intangible elements, such as languages and traditions. As residents of the Sunshine Coast, we all have a shared history of this place, but many of us also have a personal history of other places and cultures that we bring.

First Nations people have an ongoing culture that includes language, creative expression, storytelling and connection to the past. First Nations culture is the oldest continuing culture in the world, being passed down from generation to generation for the past 60,000 years. The Sunshine Coast region overlaps two First Nations communities, each with their own culture, language, beliefs and practices. The unique values, and ancient and enduring cultures of the Traditional Custodians deepen and enrich the life of our community.

Arts, heritage and First Nations culture contribute to learning, community connection and our sense of identity. They can help us engage with significant current and future community challenges, such as climate change, inclusion and connection, and help us view these challenges from new perspectives. They can support community connection by bringing people together, sharing experiences and sparking conversation. They can also contribute to our unique sense of identity, pride in our community and opportunities for employment. For these reasons, arts, heritage and First Nations culture are important contributors to the achievement of a strong Sunshine Coast community.

### Related topics

- For other elements of health and wellbeing refer to 1.1 Health and Wellbeing.
- For places and spaces that support arts, heritage and First Nation culture refer to 2.1 Community Places and Spaces.
- For other elements of inclusive and welcoming communities refer to 3.1 Inclusion.

### Community priorities

- Expansion, development and promotion of arts and cultural programs, experiences and fit-for-purpose spaces
- Preservation and promotion of heritage and culture
- Increased promotion and education of First Nations culture.

### Council's role

Council funds and delivers events, activities and programs that acknowledge or celebrate creativity, heritage and First Nations culture. Council invests in creative arts, heritage and First Nations organisations that deliver initiatives for the community. Council also assists the development of the creative arts sector by supporting community leaders, connecting and promoting sector participants and sharing information and resources.



#### 4.1 out of 5

is the region's average cultural vitality score (2022/23, Council Data).



#### 88% of residents

agreed that they were proud to be part of the Sunshine Coast community (2023, Community Connections Survey).



#### 78% of residents

agreed that the Sunshine Coast has a unique identity that sets us apart (2023, Community Connections Survey).

#### Examples of Council's current activities

- Delivering the Horizon Festival and other arts programs and experiences
- Investing in and supporting creative arts and heritage organisations to deliver initiatives and programs
- Designing and delivering development programs for the creative arts and heritage sector
- Delivering heritage programs including talks, exhibitions, films and educational initiatives
- Building respect for First Nations cultures and facilitating First Nations-led initiatives
- Investing in community-led arts and heritage initiatives.

#### Related Council documents

- Creative Arts Plan
- Heritage Plan
- Reconciliation Action Plan.



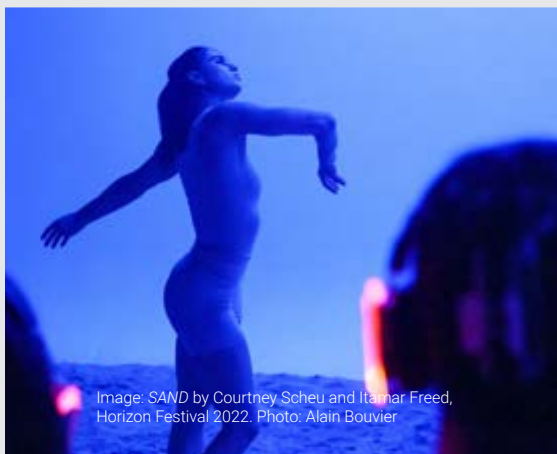


Image: SAND by Courtney Scheu and Itamar Freed, Horizon Festival 2022. Photo: Alain Bouvier



### Outcome statements

#### 5.1.1 People value our rich and diverse histories, heritage and First Nations culture:

- a) The ancient and ongoing culture of the Kabi Kabi peoples and Jinibara peoples, and broader First Nations community, is valued, shared and celebrated.
- b) Our diverse histories and heritage are explored, shared and celebrated.
- c) Our diverse histories, heritage and First Nations culture contribute to community connection, identity and pride.

#### 5.1.2 Our community values artistic expression, creativity and innovation:

- a) Creatives, artists and the creative arts sector are professional, skilled and connected.
- b) Arts audiences thrive through genuine participation and a diversity of meaningful and tailored experiences.
- c) Artistic expression, creativity and innovation are embedded in the identity, culture and experience of the Sunshine Coast.

### Council actions (2024-2029)

- a) Collaborate with Kabi Kabi peoples and Jinibara peoples to ensure local First Nations history and ongoing culture is protected, respected and celebrated.
- b) In collaboration with First Nations people, develop and implement a First Nations Arts Strategy to support and expand the First Nations creative arts sector, including youth-focused creative development.
- c) Support the development of local artists and arts content that can be profiled, experienced and exported to build capacity, strengthen engagement and cultivate identity.
- d) Work with heritage community organisations to grow capacity, sustainability and professionalism.

### Community actions

Ideas from our community on ways everyone can be involved in arts, heritage and First Nations culture:

- Learn about the Traditional Custodians of the land where we were born and where we live.
- Keep an eye out for local arts and cultural activities to participate in.
- Support arts groups as a participant or as a volunteer.
- Invite a friend to a cultural activity as an opportunity to do and learn new things together.
- Learn about the local history of our neighbourhoods.

**ACTION PLAN  
2024-2029**



Sunshine Coast Council

68

## 5. Action Plan 2024-2029

Council will work towards completing the following actions between 2024 and 2029. These are new actions and will be completed in addition to ongoing Council activities.

New Council Actions	Council Role	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	Resources	Council Branch Responsibility (Lead)
<b>0.1 Actions Related to all Outcomes</b>								
a) Develop a Community Advocacy Plan that summarises opportunities and challenges related to the Community Strategy to inform joint Council and community advocacy initiatives.	Direct Action Advocate	•		•			Achievable within existing resources	Community Planning and Development
b) Develop and implement a Local Community Planning Program that supports local communities to develop their own community action plans.	Collaborate / Partner			•	•	•	Subject to securing additional resources	Community Planning and Development
c) Continue to deliver community forums that strengthen community networks, information sharing and collaboration outcomes.	Direct Action Collaborate / Partner		•	•	•	•	Achievable within existing resources	Community Planning and Development
<b>Outcome 1. Healthy, Active Communities</b>								
<b>1.1 Health and Wellbeing</b>								
a) Expand Council's Healthy Sunshine Coast program to deliver a broad range of low cost, convenient and inclusive health and wellbeing activities.	Direct Action	•	•	•	•	•	Subject to securing additional resources	Community Planning and Development
b) Support community sporting clubs to access programs that improve inclusion.	Collaborate / Partner	•	•	•	•	•	Achievable within existing resources	Sport and Community Venues
c) Advocate and partner to improve access to mental health services and programs (including youth mental health and healthy ageing).	Advocate Collaborate / Partner	•	•				Achievable within existing resources	Community Planning and Development
d) Collaborate to undertake and share health information and research focusing on health challenges (such as healthy ageing, suicide prevention, youth mental health, skin cancer risk, alcohol/drug consumption, smoking/vaping, etc.).	Collaborate / Partner	•	•	•	•	•	Achievable within existing resources	Community Planning and Development
e) Promote and support food security and healthy eating initiatives such as community gardens, food sharing programs, farmer's markets and growing food at home.	Direct Action Collaborate / Partner	•	•	•	•	•	Achievable within existing resources	Community Planning and Development / Parks and Gardens / Economic Development

New Council Actions	Council Role	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	Resources	Council Branch Responsibility (Lead)
<b>Outcome 2. Vibrant Communities</b>								
<b>2.1 Community Places and Spaces</b>								
a) Ensure new and expanded venues that will host Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games events are designed and delivered with inclusion and community legacy at the forefront.	Direct Action Collaborate / Partner	•	•	•	•	•	Achievable within existing resources	Sunshine Coast Program – Brisbane 2032
b) Develop a Community Venues Plan that outlines future requirements for community venues and considers appropriate management models and leasing arrangements to maximise use, provide equitable access and meet changing community needs.	Direct Action Collaborate / Partner		•	•			Subject to securing additional resources	Environment and Sustainability Policy / Sport and Community Venues / Property Management
c) Investigate innovative ways to support increased community use of community leased venues.	Collaborate / Partner			•	•	•	Subject to securing additional resources	Property Management / Sport and Community Venues
d) Simplify processes for community-run events and local activation initiatives.	Direct Action	•	•	•			Achievable within existing resources	Customer Response
<b>2.2 Transport</b>								
a) Review and update the Integrated Transport Strategy.	Direct Action Collaborate / Partner Advocate	•	•				Achievable within existing resources	Urban Growth Projects
b) Continue to invest, plan and advocate for identified priority transport projects and supporting infrastructure which supports future growth and preserves the liveability and lifestyle of our region.	Direct Action Collaborate / Partner Advocate	•	•	•	•	•	Subject to securing additional resources	Urban Growth Projects
c) Prioritise investment in walking and riding infrastructure to deliver a connected, safe, healthy and sustainable active transport network.	Direct Action Collaborate / Partner	•	•	•	•	•	Subject to securing additional resources	Urban Growth Projects
d) Promote active and public transport options and encourage behaviour change to reduce private vehicle use.	Direct Action Collaborate / Partner	•	•	•	•	•	Achievable within existing resources	Urban Growth Projects
e) Investigate expansion of community transport services to improve convenience and access to additional locations and services.	Direct Action Collaborate / Partner	•					Subject to securing additional resources	Community Planning and Development



New Council Actions	Council Role	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	Resources	Council Branch Responsibility (Lead)
<b>2.3 Housing and Homelessness Support</b>								
a) Implement actions identified in the Housing and Homelessness Action Plan.	Direct Action Collaborate / Partner Advocate	•	•	•	•	•	Achievable within existing resources	Urban Growth Projects / Community Planning and Development
b) Continue to facilitate and support community-led initiatives to improve outcomes for people experiencing homelessness.	Collaborate / Partner	•	•	•	•	•	Achievable within existing resources	Community Planning and Development
c) Collaborate to undertake and utilise research (including lived experience) and build awareness and understanding of homelessness.	Direct Action Collaborate / Partner	•	•	•	•	•	Achievable within existing resources	Community Planning and Development
<b>Outcome 3. Inclusive Communities</b>								
<b>3.1 Inclusion</b>								
a) Implement actions identified in the Reconciliation Action Plan in partnership with Traditional Custodians and First Nations people.	Direct Action Collaborate / Partner Advocate	•	•	•	•	•	Achievable within existing resources	Community Planning and Development
b) Implement actions identified in the All Abilities Action Plan.	Direct Action Collaborate / Partner Advocate	•	•	•	•	•	Subject to securing additional resources	Community Planning and Development
c) Develop and implement a Youth Action Plan to guide Council action on the priorities of young people.	Direct Action Collaborate / Partner Advocate	•	•	•	•	•	Subject to securing additional resources	Community Planning and Development
d) Utilise the Welcoming Cities Standard to become a more welcoming and cohesive community.	Direct Action Collaborate / Partner Advocate	•	•	•	•	•	Achievable within existing resources	Community Planning and Development
e) Collaborate and partner to deliver events, activities and programs that promote and support best-practice diversity and inclusion.	Direct Action Collaborate / Partner	•	•	•	•	•	Achievable within existing resources	Community Planning and Development / Arts, Heritage and Libraries
f) Develop and promote local stories showcasing the diversity of people and places of the Sunshine Coast.	Direct Action Collaborate / Partner	•	•	•	•	•	Achievable within existing resources	Community Planning and Development / Arts Heritage and Libraries
g) Support initiatives that strengthen social enterprises and for-impact businesses to address community priorities.	Collaborate / Partner Advocate	•	•	•	•	•	Achievable within existing resources	Economic Development

New Council Actions	Council Role	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	Resources	Council Branch Responsibility (Lead)
<b>Outcome 3. Inclusive Communities continued</b>								
<b>3.2 Volunteering</b>								
a) Improve initiatives recognising residents who contribute to community, including volunteering.	Direct Action Collaborate / Partner	•	•				Achievable within existing resources	Community Planning and Development / People and Culture / Environmental Operations
b) Collaborate to deliver training to assist volunteering organisations improve volunteering recruitment, retention and management.	Direct Action Collaborate / Partner	•	•	•	•	•	Subject to securing additional resources	Community Planning and Development / Environmental Operations
c) Collaborate to deliver a Sunshine Coast Volunteer Showcase to raise awareness of volunteering opportunities and offer training and recognition of volunteers.	Direct Action Collaborate / Partner			•	•	•	Subject to securing additional resources	Community Planning and Development
<b>3.3 Community Engagement</b>								
a) Review Council's Excellence in Engagement Framework to further embed and model leading engagement practice.	Direct Action		•	•			Achievable within existing resources	Community Planning and Development
b) In collaboration with First Nations people, develop guidelines for engaging with First Nations individuals and groups to ensure their meaningful contribution into decision-making.	Direct Action Collaborate / Partner	•	•				Achievable within existing resources	Community Planning and Development
c) Deliver the Young Leaders Academy developmental program to foster civic engagement and community leadership.	Direct Action Collaborate / Partner	•	•				Achievable within existing resources	Community Planning and Development
d) Review and strengthen Council use of community advisory and reference groups and participatory engagement processes.	Direct Action Collaborate / Partner			•	•		Achievable within existing resources	Community Planning and Development
e) Develop a guide on how to co-design solutions in collaboration with people with lived experience to improve inclusive and authentic engagement.	Direct Action Collaborate / Partner		•	•			Achievable within existing resources	Community Planning and Development
f) Explore a periodic regional community engagement program to understand community priorities and opinions on key issues.	Direct Action		•				Subject to securing additional resources	Community Planning and Development
g) Develop a Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games Community Engagement Plan that encourages community participation in opportunities that create a lasting positive legacy for our community.	Direct Action Collaborate / Partner	•	•	•	•	•	Achievable within existing resources	Sunshine Coast Program – Brisbane 2032

New Council Actions	Council Role	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	Resources	Council Branch Responsibility (Lead)
<b>Outcome 4. Connected, Resilient Communities</b>								
<b>4.1 Community Connection and Resilience</b>								
a) Collaborate, partner and invest to build community connections through the delivery of free and low-cost initiatives within local communities and neighbourhoods.	Direct Action Collaborate / Partner	•	•	•	•	•	Achievable within existing resources	Community Planning and Development
b) Support residents and community organisations to deliver collaborative, community-led responses to identified community priorities.	Direct Action Collaborate / Partner	•	•	•	•	•	Achievable within existing resources	Community Planning and Development
c) Support residents and community organisations to plan for and respond to the impacts of climate change and natural hazards and minimise associated risks.	Direct Action Collaborate / Partner	•	•	•	•	•	Achievable within existing resources	Environment and Sustainability Policy
d) Partner to support local community-led resilience, adaptation planning and recovery activities.	Direct Action Collaborate / Partner	•	•	•	•	•	Achievable within existing resources	Community Planning and Development / Disaster Management
e) Continue to expand and promote Disaster Hub, including the ability to provide more personalised information and notifications.	Direct Action	•	•	•	•	•	Achievable within existing resources	Disaster Management
f) Improve inclusion at Council evacuation centres and raise awareness of these centres and their inclusion features.	Direct Action Collaborate / Partner	•	•	•	•	•	Subject to securing additional resources	Disaster Management / Sport and Community Venues / Community Planning and Development
<b>4.2 Community Safety</b>								
a) Promote community programs aimed at improving safety and perceptions of safety.	Collaborate / Partner	•	•	•	•	•	Achievable within existing resources	Community Planning and Development
b) Raise awareness of services and accommodation options available for people experiencing domestic and family violence.	Collaborate / Partner	•	•	•	•	•	Achievable within existing resources	Community Planning and Development
c) Continue strong messaging that builds knowledge and awareness of domestic and family violence, its prevention and supports.	Collaborate / Partner	•	•	•	•	•	Achievable within existing resources	Community Planning and Development

New Council Actions	Council Role	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	Resources	Council Branch Responsibility (Lead)
<b>Outcome 5. Creative, Innovative Communities</b>								
<b>5.1 Arts, Heritage and First Nations Culture</b>								
a) Collaborate with Kabi Kabi peoples and Jinibara peoples to ensure local First Nations history and ongoing culture is protected, respected and celebrated.	Deliver Collaborate / Partner	•	•	•	•	•	Achievable within existing resources	Community Planning and Development
b) In collaboration with First Nations people, develop and implement a First Nations Arts Strategy to support and expand the First Nations creative arts sector, including youth-focused creative development.	Deliver Collaborate / Partner Advocate	•	•				Achievable within existing resources	Arts, Heritage and Libraries
c) Support the development of local artists and arts content that can be profiled, experienced and exported to build capacity, strengthen engagement and cultivate identity.	Deliver Collaborate / Partner Advocate	•	•	•	•	•	Achievable within existing resources	Arts, Heritage and Libraries
d) Work with heritage community organisations to grow capacity, sustainability and professionalism.	Deliver Collaborate / Partner	•	•	•	•	•	Achievable within existing resources	Arts, Heritage and Libraries







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24/10/24



This fact sheet provides some more detail about the measures and targets used in the [Sunshine Coast Community Strategy 2019-2041](#).

As noted in the strategy, Council and community will use the following measures to track progress towards our shared goal of a strong community. We all have responsibility for contributing to the outcomes we want to see in our community and we will need to work together to achieve these targets.

### Headline measure

Measure	Baseline	Latest	2041 Target
<b>Residents in agreement that the Sunshine Coast is a strong community</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>68%</b>	<b>75%</b>
<p><i>Measure source: Sunshine Coast Community Connections Survey (currently funded by Council every 2 years).</i></p> <p><b>Baseline &amp; latest:</b> This measure was first and most recently collected in 2023, and therefore there is no baseline for this measure.</p> <p>The <b>2041 target</b> reflects that there are opportunities for ongoing improvement to factors that contribute to a strong community to 2041, including views about community participation, trust and community pride.</p>			

## Community Strategy 2019-2041 Our Targets

### 01 Healthy, active communities

Measure	Baseline	Latest	2041 Target
<b>Topic 1.1 Resident who rated their health as good, very good or excellent as a ranking within Regional Queensland</b>	<b>#2</b>	<b>#4</b>	<b>#1-3</b>
<p>Measure source: <a href="#">Queensland Preventative Health Survey</a> (undertaken by the Queensland Government).</p> <p>The <b>baseline</b> for this measure was recorded in 2019/20 and the <b>latest</b> result was measured in 2021/22.</p> <p>The <b>2041 target</b> was chosen to maintain the relative strength in health for Sunshine Coast residents compared to other regional areas of Queensland.</p>			

### 02 Vibrant communities

Measure	Baseline	Latest	2041 Target
<b>Topic 2.1 Residents in agreement that Council's community infrastructure meets community need</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>60%</b>
<p>Measure source: <i>Sunshine Coast Community Connections Survey</i> (currently funded by Council every 2 years).</p> <p><b>Baseline &amp; latest:</b> This measure was first and most recently collected in 2023, and therefore there is no baseline for this measure.</p> <p>The <b>2041 target</b> reflects opportunities for a modest improvement considering the challenge of expected strong population growth.</p>			



## Community Strategy 2019-2041 Our Targets

Measure	Baseline	Latest	2041 Target
<b>Topic 2.2 Personal travel by active transport and passenger transport</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>30%</b>
<p><i>Measure source: Queensland Household Travel Survey (Queensland Government).</i></p> <p>The <b>baseline</b> for this measure was recorded in 2015/16. The <b>latest</b> result was measured across 2022/23 and 2023/24 (data is pooled across two years to better represent the travel behaviours of the Sunshine Coast population).</p> <p>The <b>2041 target</b> was adopted by Council in December 2018 as part of the Integrated Transport Strategy based on the baseline 2015/16 financial year data. The target is aspirational. Achievement of the target will be influenced by infrastructure investment and urban development that take time to be delivered. The Queensland Government and Australian Government have significant influence on this measure through investment.</p> <p><b>Well below target: This target represents an ambitious goal to be achieved in 2041. Achievement of this target will require significant infrastructure investment and behaviour change, which take time to be realised.</b></p>			

Measure	Baseline	Latest	2041 Target
<b>Topic 2.3 Residents in agreement that they can find the type of accommodation they need</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>40%</b>
<p><i>Measure source: Sunshine Coast Community Connections Survey (currently funded by Council every 2 years).</i></p> <p>The <b>baseline</b> for this measure was recorded in 2021 and the <b>latest</b> result was measured in 2023.</p> <p>The <b>2041 target</b> reflects a modest but realistic improvement in the availability and affordability of accommodation on the Sunshine Coast given strong population growth and attraction of tourists.</p> <p><b>Well below target: In 2023, residential vacancy rates were very low, interest rates were high and median dwelling prices had increased significantly for the Sunshine Coast. In addition, there was limited availability of universal housing, and social housing was a low proportion of housing stock. Significant national and local attention across government and community may help to address the current housing crisis.</b></p>			

## Community Strategy 2019-2041 Our Targets

### 03 Inclusive communities

Measure	Baseline	Latest	2041 Target
<b>Topic 3.1 Residents in agreement that it is a good thing for a society to be made up of people from different cultures</b>	85%	84%	90%

Measure source: *Sunshine Coast Community Connections Survey (currently funded by Council every 2 years).*

The **baseline** for this measure was recorded in 2016 and the **latest** result was measured in 2023.

The **2041 target** reflects a modest improvement in community perceptions related to diversity and inclusion, which is considered achievable given existing trends.

Measure	Baseline	Latest	2041 Target
<b>Topic 3.2 Residents who volunteered for an organisation in the preceding twelve months</b>	21%	16%	20%

Measure source: [Census](#) (Australian Bureau of Statistics)

The **baseline** for this measure was recorded in 2016 and the **latest** result was measured in 2021.

The **2041 target** reflects a return to levels of volunteering evident before the COVID-19 pandemic, while also accounting for changes in the demographics of the expected Sunshine Coast population in 2041. This target also reflects trends in volunteering towards less formal volunteering which is not captured in this statistic.

Measure	Baseline	Latest	2041 Target
<b>Topic 3.3 Residents in agreement that there are opportunities to have a say on community issues that are important to them</b>	70%	51%	70%

Measure source: *Sunshine Coast Community Connections Survey (currently funded by Council every 2 years).*

The **baseline** for this measure was recorded in 2016 and the **latest** result was measured in 2023.

The **2041 target** reflects a return to the baseline measured in 2016. Returning to this baseline may be difficult given broader national trends.

**Well below target: The latest measure is well below the 2041 target. The proportion of residents who are neutral on this measure has increased, rather than an increase in the proportion of residents who disagree.**

## Community Strategy 2019-2041 Our Targets

### 04 Connected, resilient communities

Measure	Baseline	Latest	2041 Target
<b>Topic 4.1 Residents in agreement that they live in an active community where people get involved in local issues and activities</b>	77%	57%	75%
<p><i>Measure source: Sunshine Coast Community Connections Survey (currently funded by Council every 2 years).</i></p> <p>The <b>baseline</b> for this measure was recorded in 2016 and the <b>latest</b> result was measured in 2023.</p> <p>The <b>2041 target</b> reflects a return to the baseline measured in 2016. Returning to this baseline may be difficult given broader community trends.</p> <p><b>Well below target: The latest measure is well below the 2041 target and needs specific attention by community and stakeholders to address.</b></p>			

Measure	Baseline	Latest	2041 Target
<b>Topic 4.1 Residents in agreement that they can get help from friends, family, neighbours or community organisations when they need it</b>	93%	87%	90%
<p><i>Measure source: Sunshine Coast Community Connections Survey (currently funded by Council every 2 years).</i></p> <p>The <b>baseline</b> for this measure was recorded in 2016 and the <b>latest</b> result was measured in 2023.</p> <p>The <b>2041 target</b> reflects continued achievement of the baseline measured in 2016.</p>			

Measure	Baseline	Latest	2041 Target
<b>Topic 4.2 Residents in agreement that they feel safe all the time on the Sunshine Coast</b>	77%	62%	75%
<p><i>Measure source: Sunshine Coast Community Connections Survey (currently funded by Council every 2 years).</i></p> <p>The <b>baseline</b> for this measure was recorded in 2016 and the <b>latest</b> result was measured in 2023.</p> <p>The <b>2041 target</b> reflects continued achievement of the baseline measured in 2016.</p> <p><b>Well below target: The latest measure is well below the 2041 target and needs specific attention by community and stakeholders to address.</b></p>			

Community Strategy 2019-2041 Our Targets

05 Creative, innovative communities

Measure	Baseline	Latest	2041 Target
Topic 5.1 Cultural vitality	To be determined		
<i>Measure source: To be determined. Likely to be incorporated into the Sunshine Coast Community Connections Survey (currently funded by Council every 2 years).</i> The baseline and 2041 target will be determined in 2025.			





## Human Rights Assessment of Compatibility

In applying Section 58 of the *Human Rights Act 2019* (Act), this statement of compatibility is made with respect to the **Sunshine Coast Community Strategy 2019-2041** (2024 refreshed version).

The **Community Strategy** is compatible with the human rights protected by the Act, and sets a strategic direction which reflects Council's commitment to respecting, protecting and promoting human rights. As one of Council's key regional strategies, the Community Strategy is influential in guiding Council actions and decisions. This refreshed version of the Community Strategy is the product of significant community engagement activity, which ensured equal opportunity for individuals to participate in public life, by influencing this strategy's content, including stated priorities and actions.

### **Objectives**

The following rights are assessed further:

- **Recognition and equality before the law**
- **Peaceful assembly and freedom of association**
- **Taking part in public life**
- **Freedom of thought, conscience, religion and belief**
- **Cultural rights**
- **Right to liberty and security of person**



## Human Rights Assessment of Compatibility

### Human Rights Assessment

What human rights are engaged or impacted?	Is there any perceivable limit or enhancement to this right? And why?	If a limit has been identified, what interests need to be balanced?	If a limit has been identified, is it, on balance, able to be demonstrated as reasonable?	What reasonably available options are there to reduce any limits identified?
1 Recognition and equality before the law, including right to enjoy human rights without discrimination (Section 15)	The Community Strategy seeks to maximise inclusion and community participation of all people of the Sunshine Coast by ensuring Council's strategic direction is informed by community-led input. The Community Strategy includes an outcome focused on the building of inclusive communities and the influence of this strategic direction on Council action and decision-making contributes to strengthening the protection of recognition and equality before the law, including the enjoyment of human rights without discrimination.	This right is engaged, and the Community Strategy will contribute to Council actively respecting, protecting and promoting this right. No limit to this right has been identified. Council will seek to maximise inclusive participation through our activities, services, infrastructure and information as well as supporting community-led action. The Strategy supports democratic representation, social inclusion and meaningful engagement, in alignment with the Local Government Principles at section 4 of the <i>Local Government Act 2009 (Qld)</i> .	No limit identified.	No limit identified.



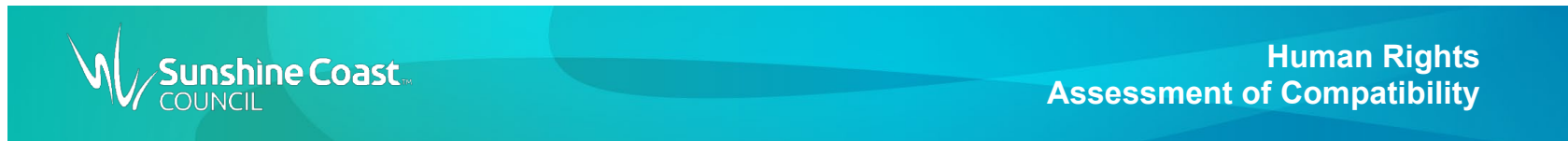
What human rights are engaged or impacted?	Is there any perceivable limit or enhancement to this right? And why?	If a limit has been identified, what interests need to be balanced?	If a limit has been identified, is it, on balance, able to be demonstrated as reasonable?	What reasonably available options are there to reduce any limits identified?
<p>2</p> <p>Peaceful assembly and freedom of association (Section 22)</p> <p>Taking part in public life (Section 23)</p> <p>Freedom of expression (Section 21)</p>	<p>The Community Strategy sets strategic direction for the provision of community infrastructure and facilities, and seeks to enhance activation of public spaces and places. The Community Strategy seeks to maximise inclusive participation of all people of the Sunshine Coast. These efforts enable participation in local government public affairs, community gathering and community-led action.</p>	<p>These rights are engaged, and the Community Strategy will contribute to Council actively respecting, protecting and promoting these rights. No limit to this right has been identified.</p> <p>Council will seek to maximise participation by supporting community gathering and community-led action and following best-practice engagement principles that support public participation in Council decision-making as required and appropriate.</p> <p>It is reasonable and in the public interest for Council to maximise participation in decision-making as required and appropriate following best-practice principles. It is also appropriate for Council to support community gathering and community-led action to maximise progress towards our goal of a strong community.</p>	<p>No limit identified.</p>	<p>No limit identified.</p>



## Human Rights Assessment of Compatibility

What human rights are engaged or impacted?	Is there any perceivable limit or enhancement to this right? And why?	If a limit has been identified, what interests need to be balanced?	If a limit has been identified, is it, on balance, able to be demonstrated as reasonable?	What reasonably available options are there to reduce any limits identified?
<p><b>3</b> Freedom of thought, conscience, religion and belief (Section 20)</p> <p>Protection of families and children (section 26)</p> <p>Cultural rights (Section 27)</p> <p>Cultural rights – Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples (Section 28)</p>	<p>The Community Strategy supports the valuing, respecting and celebrating of diversity which is defined in the Community Strategy in the broadest terms.</p>	<p>These rights are engaged, and the Community Strategy will contribute to Council actively respecting, protecting and promoting these rights. No limit to this right has been identified.</p> <p>Council will seek to maximise the rights of our diverse population. The strategy includes actions that maximise the valuing, respecting and celebrating of diversity, as well as the development and implementation of action plans related to specific population groups in the community.</p> <p>It is reasonable and in the public interest for Council to work to ensure the rights of all people of the Sunshine Coast are protected, including those with distinct rights.</p>	<p>No limit identified.</p>	<p>No limit identified.</p>
<p><b>4</b> Right to liberty and security of person (Section 29)</p>	<p>The Community Strategy supports the right to liberty and security through its consideration of community safety.</p>	<p>Council will seek to maximise liberty and security through actions related to safety, domestic and family violence and homelessness (maximising the safety of people experiencing homelessness). It is reasonable and in the public interest for Council to do what it can to ensure that our community is safe.</p>	<p>No limit identified.</p>	<p>No limit identified.</p>







What human rights are engaged or impacted?	Is there any perceivable limit or enhancement to this right? And why?	If a limit has been identified, what interests need to be balanced?	If a limit has been identified, is it, on balance, able to be demonstrated as reasonable?	What reasonably available options are there to reduce any limits identified?
<b>5</b> Right to freedom of movement (Section 19)	The Community Strategy supports freedom of movement through its consideration of transport infrastructure, and promotion of active transport.	This right is engaged, and the Community Strategy will contribute to Council respecting this right. No limit to this right has been identified.	No limit identified.	No limit identified.



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<b>8.3 SUNSHINE COAST REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY ANNUAL REPORT 2023-24</b>	
<b>File No:</b>	<b>Council Meetings</b>
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Head of Economic Development Economic &amp; Community Development Group</b>
<b>Attachments:</b>	<b>Att 1 - Sunshine Coast Regional Economic Development Strategy Annual Report 2023-24..... 165</b>  

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**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is to present the Sunshine Coast Regional Economic Development Strategy (REDS) Annual Report 2023-24 for Council’s consideration.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

In September 2013, the Sunshine Coast – The Natural Advantage: Regional Economic Development Strategy 2013-2033 (REDS) was launched.

Since then, the Regional Economic Development Strategy has helped communicate and shape the economic priorities of the Sunshine Coast. In addition, significant industry development work has been undertaken across the five Regional Economic Development Strategy pathways and seven high-value industries with a number of investment wins and significant major events held in the region.

As part of the ongoing commitment to maintaining the currency and appropriateness of the strategy, a review of the Regional Economic Development Strategy was required at the halfway point of the 20-year Strategy. As a result, a refreshed Regional Economic Development Strategy and five-year implementation plan was adopted at Council’s Ordinary Meeting on 26 October 2023 (OM23/113).

The strategy provides pathways for sustainable economic growth and helps ensure the region actively participates in the global economy and delivers the lifestyle and opportunities for residents and businesses. The strategy expanded on the seven high-value industries to include six new and emerging broad economies including the knowledge, digital, production, green, visitor and place-based economies.

Accordingly, the Sunshine Coast Regional Economic Development Strategy 2013-2033 Refresh and Five-Year Implementation Plan 2023-2028 maintains the original strategic objectives while the priorities and suite of actions designed to support the evolution of a more resilient and prosperous regional economy have been updated.

The Sunshine Coast Regional Economic Development Strategy Annual Report 2023-24 (Appendix A) highlights the achievements and outcomes from the implementation of the Regional Economic Development Strategy.

Table 1 below identifies the four aspirational goals of the Regional Economic Development Strategy, and progress since 2013:

<b>2013 Baseline Results<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>2023-24 Outcomes<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>2013 to 2024 Progress</b>	<b>2033 Aspirational Goals<sup>2</sup></b>
A \$13.8 billion economy	A \$23.73 billion economy	72% growth over the 11-year period	Gross Regional Product growth to \$33 billion by 2033
High value industries provided 59,000 employment opportunities	High value Industries provided 107,283 employment opportunities <sup>3</sup>	82% growth over the 11-year period	Jobs growth in high value industries to 100,000 by 2033
Household income levels were 22.3% below the State average	Household income levels 4.8% below the State average	17.5% reduction in income gap over the 11-year period	Regional household income levels to exceed Queensland household income levels by 2033
13.6% of goods and services were produced for export outside the region	18.1% of goods and services were produced for export outside the region	4.5% increase over the 11-year period	Increase goods and services produced for export outside the region to 20%

1. Combined Sunshine Coast and Noosa; 2. Sunshine Coast, excluding Noosa; 3. The 2033 "high-value industries Jobs growth" goal has been achieved 9 years ahead of target. In response to this, Economic Development will establish a new aspirational goal.

In addition to the overall achievements outlined in the table above, some notable outcomes for 2023-24 include:

- specialist advice provided to 1,640 businesses across the region through the Local Business Support Program.
- 61 business events delivered through the Local Business Support Program involving 2,572 participants including:
  - Thriving Through Change Business Expo
  - Queensland Small Business Commissioner's Small Business Friendly Conference
  - Business planning, social media, and procurement workshops
  - the Sunshine Coast Business Awards, and
  - and the Buy Local Day campaign.
- Council, in collaboration with the Food and Agribusiness Network (FAN), delivered a range of initiatives for the agribusiness sector to build, strengthen and profile the region's innovative and collaborative agrifood ecosystem. Focusing on this priority industry has seen the value of the region's agrifood industry reach \$1 billion.
- Support to relaunch the Cleantech Network, which represents a new brand, strategic plan, and leadership committee of what was formerly Cleantech Industries Sunshine Coast, which had been successfully supporting the region's cleantech industry for over 13 years. The Cleantech Network's goal is to become the peak industry body for the green economy, a key pillar of the Regional Economic Development Strategy.



- the largest portfolio of sponsored major events delivered, leading to a record 2023-24 year. The Major Events Sponsorship Program delivered 72 events, achieving the highest economic impact to date with an estimated \$112 million in economic impact and an estimated return on investment of 1:36. All other economic targets of the Sunshine Coast Major Events Strategy 2018-28 were exceeded, with the total number of visitors, local spend by event organisers, and number of full-time equivalent jobs supported also setting new records.
- significant progress made across the five Strategic Pathways, most recently with an enhanced focus on innovation and advocacy for the region.
- Specialist economic development advice provided in relation to a range of key strategic initiatives including the Sunshine Coast Infrastructure Summit, the New Planning Scheme, the SEQ Regional Plan Review, Mass Transit Solution and Caloundra Aerodrome.
- Engagement with businesses to attract new capital and jobs to the region, and to support the retention of youth within the community with greater and more diverse career opportunities.
- Strong engagement with local industry to achieve significant economic outcomes:
  - \$729 million economic impact against a target of \$250 million economic impact
  - 3119 jobs supported / created against a target of 1500 jobs
  - 12,517 clients assisted / serviced against a target of 3300 clients.

## OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

**That Council:**

- (a) receive and note the report titled "Sunshine Coast Regional Economic Development Strategy Annual Report 2023-24" and**
- (b) note the "Sunshine Coast Regional Economic Development Strategy Annual Report 2023-24" for the purpose of promoting the region's economic outcomes.**

## FINANCE AND RESOURCING

No additional budget is required as the Regional Economic Development Strategy implementation is a core function of the Economic Development Branch and is supported by other branches of Council.

Council's resource commitments to deliver actions beyond the commitments outlined in the Implementation Plan will be considered through Council's budget processes.

## CORPORATE PLAN

<b>Corporate Plan Goal:</b>	<b><i>Our resilient economy</i></b>
<b>Outcome:</b>	3.1 - Leadership, sustainability and equity
<b>Operational Activity:</b>	3.1.1 - Progress priority activities from the Regional Economic Development Strategy five-year implementation plan to deliver a resilient economy for the Sunshine Coast region, including analysis of economic information to guide strategic directions and

advocacy, supporting the growth of a circular economy, and advocating for accessible and inclusive communities that enable workforce participation.

## **CONSULTATION**

### **Internal Consultation**

Portfolio Councillors for the Economy, Councillor T Landsberg and Councillor J Natoli, have been briefed on the content and outcomes of the Sunshine Coast Regional Economic Development Strategy Annual Report 2023-24.

### **External Consultation**

No external engagement was undertaken during the development of the Annual Report.

### **Community Engagement**

The Regional Economic Development Strategy has been widely promoted by Council at a wide range of engagements including seminars, workshops, industry awards, media publications and other events. In addition, there has been widespread media activity and engagement conducted by Council and partners over the last year. The Annual Report is one of the key communication tools to showcase the progress of the Regional Economic Development Strategy since its adoption in 2013.

## **PROPOSAL**

The Sunshine Coast Regional Economic Development Strategy Annual Report 2023-24 (Annual Report) (Attachment 1) highlights the program of activities delivered during the 2023-24 financial year.

Following the initial development of the Regional Economic Development Strategy, the Sunshine Coast economy has undergone a period of growth and change.

The Regional Economic Development Strategy was developed in partnership with Council, the state government and eight other industry partners to guide and facilitate economic development and activities in the region. The Regional Economic Development Strategy provides a clear way forward to achieve transformation of the region's economy over 20 years, focusing on the following:

- Lifting the identity of the Sunshine Coast as an ideal investment and business location

- Delivering significant capital investment in 'game-changing' regional infrastructure projects
- Expanding and growing the mix of enduring employment opportunities in high-value industries
- Driving greater connectivity between the Sunshine Coast economy and business community with national and global markets
- Strengthening the ongoing investment and focus on talent and skills to provide the labour force pipeline that the region's new economy will require.

Significant progress has been made against the aspirational goals in 2023-24, most notably:

- The region’s Gross Regional Product (GRP) has grown from \$13.8 billion to \$23.73 billion
- Exports from the region have increased to 18.1% of total goods and services produced
- The region now has 107,283 high-value industry employment opportunities
- Household income has moved to just 4.8% below the Queensland average.

Overall, the region ended 2023-24 with the following results:

Gross Regional Product	\$23.7 billion <sup>1</sup>
Local jobs	172,498 <sup>1</sup>
Locally employed residents	186,932 <sup>1</sup>
Employment growth	9.2% <sup>2</sup>
Unemployment rate	3.7% with a 0.9% increase <sup>2</sup>
Businesses	36,811 <sup>3</sup>
Exports	\$7.4 billion <sup>1</sup>

Data sources: 1. National Institute of Economic and Industry Research (NIEIR) ©2024. ©2023 Compiled and presented in economic.id; 2. ABS, Labour force Australia, detailed, released 25 July 2024, 11:30am (AEST). Compiled and presented in QGSO Regional labour force (report); 3. Australian Bureau of Statistics, Counts of Australian Businesses, including Entries and Exits. Compiled and presented in economic.id; 4. Spendmapp by Geografia 2024.

Council has continued to demonstrate strong engagement with local industry and clients combined with significant economic outcomes:

<b>\$729.47 million</b> Economic impact (direct and indirect) Target: \$250 million	<b>3119</b> Jobs supported/created (direct and indirect) Target: 1500	<b>12,517</b> Clients assisted/served Target: 3300
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Sunshine Coast Council, industry, business and the community will continue to work together to provide the leadership, direction, sustained commitment and policy settings to deliver on the Regional Economic Development Strategy and our goals.

In addition to focusing on the Regional Economic Development Strategy priorities, enhanced attention has been applied to the following:

- Advocacy and investment promotion activities, particularly with the Commonwealth and State Governments to drive increased economic participation in the region
- Developing economic strategies to capitalise on Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games legacy opportunities
- Leveraging the Sunshine Coast International Broadband Network to attract new businesses to the region
- Identifying and supporting future industries such as Screen, Game Development and Digital Industries

- Reviewing industrial land policy and supporting land releases to drive economic activity
- Facilitating and leveraging opportunities stemming from the Sunshine Coast UNESCO Biosphere reserve, and
- Working to attract new hotel investment and stimulate the delivery of accommodation hotels on the Sunshine Coast.

**Legal**

There are no legal implications relevant to this report.

**Policy**

The Regional Economic Development Strategy is consistent with Council's key economic policy priorities to broaden the region's economic base, provide support to local business, and create an environment that supports high value employment and career opportunities. It is also consistent with the priorities in Council's Corporate Plan 2024-2028.

**Risk**

There are no foreseen risks for Council in endorsing the Sunshine Coast Regional Economic Development Strategy Annual Report 2023-24.

**Previous Council Resolution****Ordinary Meeting 26 October 2023 (OM23/113)**

*That Council:*

- receive and note the report titled "Sunshine Coast Regional Economic Development Strategy 2013-2033 Refresh and Five-Year Implementation Plan 2023-2028"*
- endorse the "Sunshine Coast Regional Economic Development Strategy 2013-2033 – 2023 Refresh and Five-Year Implementation Plan" (Appendix A) and*
- delegate authority to the Chief Executive Officer to make any minor amendments as required to finalise the "Sunshine Coast Regional Economic Development Strategy 2013-2033 – 2023 Refresh and Five-Year Implementation Plan" prior to public release.*

**Ordinary Meeting 26 October 2023 (OM23/112)**

*That Council:*

- receive and note the report titled "Sunshine Coast Regional Economic Development Strategy Annual Report 2022/23" and*
- note the "Sunshine Coast Regional Economic Development Strategy Annual Report 2022/23" (Appendix A) for the purpose of promoting the region's economic outcomes and delegate authority to the Chief Executive Officer to make any minor amendments as required.*

**Ordinary Meeting 21 September 2022 (OM22/74)**

*That Council:*

- (a) receive and note the report titled "Sunshine Coast Regional Economic Development Strategy Annual Report 2021/22" and*
- (b) note the "Sunshine Coast Regional Economic Development Strategy Annual Report 2021/22" (Appendix A) for the purpose of promoting the region's economic outcomes.*

**Ordinary Meeting 23 May 2019 (OM19/66)**

*That Council:*

- (a) receive and note the report titled "Sunshine Coast Regional Economic Development Strategy 2013-2033: 2019 to 2023 Implementation Plan"*
- (b) endorse the draft "Sunshine Coast Regional Economic Development Strategy (REDS) 2013-2033: Implementation Plan 2019-2023" (Appendix A) and*
- (c) delegate authority to the Chief Executive Officer, in consultation with the Mayor, and the Portfolio Councillor Economic Development and Innovation to:*
  - (i) make any minor amendments as required to finalise the "Sunshine Coast Regional Economic Development Strategy (REDS) 2013-2033: Implementation Plan 2019-2023" and*
  - (ii) develop and implement associated Sunshine Coast Regional Economic Development Strategy Pathway Implementation Plans.*

**Ordinary Meeting 19 September 2013 (OM13/191)**

*That Council:*

- (a) receive and note the report titled "Draft Economic Development Strategy"*
- (b) endorse the "Sunshine Coast – The Natural Advantage – Regional Economic Development Strategy 2013-2033" (Appendix A) and the associated Research Compendium (Appendix B)*
- (c) approve the "Sunshine Coast – The Natural Advantage – Regional Economic Development Strategy 2013-2033" replacing the "Sunshine Coast Economic Development Strategy 2010-2014"*
- (d) delegate authority to the Chief Executive Officer, in consultation with the Mayor, to make any minor amendments as required to finalise the "Sunshine Coast – The Natural Advantage – Regional Economic Development Strategy 2013-2033" for public release prior to the end of September 2013*
- (e) approve the formation of a regional economic leadership board referred to in the "Sunshine Coast – The Natural Advantage – Regional Economic Development Strategy 2013-2033", with its functions to include:*
  - (i) guiding the transitions to, and building the identity of, a new economy*
  - (ii) overseeing the progress of the Implementation Plan for the Strategy*



- (iii) *assessing progress in the delivery of the Strategy to ensure outcomes and performance measures are met*
- (iv) *providing key advice and intelligence to inform, guide and enable delivery of specific actions and*
- (v) *advocating the region's competitive strengths to secure new investment*
- (f) *delegate authority to the Chief Executive Officer to develop with business and industry groups represented on the Sunshine Coast Economic Development Strategy Taskforce, an appropriate governance and operating model for the regional economic leadership board for further consideration by Council.*

**Special Meeting 14 May 2013 (SM13/4)**

*That Council:*

- (a) *receive and note the report titled "Draft Sunshine Coast Economic Development Strategy" and*
- (b) *endorse the release of the draft "Sunshine Coast: The Natural Advantage - Sunshine Coast Economic Development Strategy" with minor editorial amendments, for public consultation (Appendix A).*

**Ordinary Meeting 20 May 2010 (OM10/120)**

*That Council:*

- (a) *receive and note the report titled "Economic Development Strategy";*
- (b) *endorse the Economic Development Strategy 2010-2014 (Appendix A as amended).*

**Related Documentation**

- Sunshine Coast Council Corporate Plan 2024-2028
- Sunshine Coast Regional Economic Development Strategy 2013-2033 Refresh and Five-Year Implementation Plan 2023-2028
- Sunshine Coast Major Events Strategy 2018- 2028

**Critical Dates**

There are no critical dates in relation to this report.

**Implementation**

Should the recommendation be accepted by Council:

- the Annual Report will be made publicly available on Council's website
- the progress and achievements highlighted within the Annual Report will be promoted to the community and
- promotion of the Annual Report will be undertaken in collaboration with the Communications Branch.

Sunshine Coast Council  
**Regional Economic Development Strategy  
Annual Report 2023-24**



Edition October 2024

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**Acknowledgements**

Council wishes to thank all contributors  
and stakeholders involved in the  
development of this document.

**Reference document**

This document should  
be cited as follows:

Sunshine Coast Council.  
Regional Economic Development  
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Traditional acknowledgement

Sunshine Coast Council acknowledges the Sunshine Coast Country, home of the Kabi Kabi peoples and the Jinibara peoples, the Traditional Custodians, whose lands and waters we all now share.

We recognise that these have always been places of cultural, spiritual, social and economic significance. The Traditional Custodians' unique values, and ancient and enduring cultures, deepen and enrich the life of our community.

We commit to working in partnership with the Traditional Custodians and the broader First Nations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) communities to support self-determination through economic and community development.

Truth telling is a significant part of our journey. We are committed to better understanding the collective histories of the Sunshine Coast and the experiences of First Nations peoples. Legacy issues resulting from colonisation are still experienced by Traditional Custodians and First Nations peoples.

We recognise our shared history and will continue to work in partnership to provide a foundation for building a shared future with the Kabi Kabi peoples and the Jinibara peoples.

We wish to pay respect to their Elders – past, present and emerging, and acknowledge the important role First Nations peoples continue to play within the Sunshine Coast community.

Together, we are all stronger.

Sunshine Coast Council would like to thank the signatories and partners of the Regional Economic Development Strategy and acknowledges the valuable contribution they have made to the implementation of the strategy and the continued growth of the Sunshine Coast economy.

Allied Health Taskforce	Study Queensland
ASPIRE	Study Sunshine Coast
Biosphere Community Advisory Group	Sunshine Coast Airport
Caloundra Downtown Taskforce	Sunshine Coast Business Awards
Chambers of Commerce	Sunshine Coast Business Council
Cleantech Industries	Sunshine Coast Creative Alliance
Critical Infrastructure	Sunshine Coast Events Board
Food and Agribusiness Network (FAN)	Sunshine Coast Music Industry Collective
Health Panel	Sunshine Coast Screen Collective
Industry Alliance (SCTechIA)	Sunshine Coast Sports
Information Sharing Analysis Center (CI-ISAC)	Sunshine Coast Tech
Manufacturing Excellence Forum (MEF)	TAFE Queensland
Nambour Business Groups	Tourism and Events Queensland
Queensland Government	UniSC
Regional Development Australia (RDA)	Visit Sunshine Coast (VSC)
Silicon Coast	







Sunshine Coast Council

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Image: Mooloolaba Foreshore





## Contents

A message from our Mayor and Economic Development Portfolio Councillors .....	7
About the strategy .....	8
UNSDG alignment .....	9
Strategy on a page .....	10
Performance indicators and goals .....	11
Progress indicators .....	12
REDS pathways .....	13
Strategic pathways delivered	
Pathway 1: Leadership, sustainability and equity .....	14
Pathway 2: Investment and growth .....	16
Pathway 3: Business retention and expansion .....	22
Pathway 4: Innovation, technological advancement and scaling up .....	26
Pathway 5: Talent and skills .....	30

Image: The Curated Plate - Hinterland Harvest at Tiffany's Maleny





## A message from our Mayor and Economic Development Portfolio Councillors

As we reflect on the 2023-24 financial year, the Regional Economic Development Strategy (REDS) continues to steer the Sunshine Coast towards a future of resilience, innovation and sustainable growth.

Since its adoption in 2013, the REDS has provided a vision for transforming our regional economy into one that is forward-thinking, adaptive and globally competitive.

Last year marked a significant milestone, with the strategy given a comprehensive review and refresh, ensuring that it remained relevant and responsive to the evolving needs of our region.

The REDS 2023-24 Annual Report outlines the progress we have made towards our goal of creating a \$33 billion economy by 2033. We are well on our way, with our Gross Regional Product (GRP) sitting at \$23.73 billion this financial year.

Driving investment and increasing innovation is at the heart of the strategy, with initiatives designed to attract new businesses, grow existing businesses and stimulate job growth.

Sunshine Coast's vibrant tech industry is flourishing. Campaigns like "Testing Tech in Paradise" showcased our smart city infrastructure and position us as a prime location for digital advancement.

In recognition of these efforts, Council's Investment, Trade and International unit received five gold awards in 2023 and 2024 from the International Economic Development Council for its innovative marketing campaigns.

Supporting local businesses remains crucial to our economic fabric. This financial year saw a continued focus on helping businesses grow and scale.

The Local Business Support Program provided guidance to more than 1,200 businesses, while events, such as the Thriving Through Change Business Expo, supported the resilience and growth of our business community.

This report exemplifies the significant progress we've made thanks to ongoing engagement and strong collaboration with the business community, Chambers of Commerce, industry groups and key stakeholders.

Along with a strong focus on advocacy to all levels of government, we remain committed to building an innovative, adaptive, resilient and climate ready economy.

It is imperative other levels of government support the initiatives within the REDS so we can accelerate the economic benefits for our region.

We invite you to read this report to discover the impactful initiatives our Council, the business community and industry partners are driving to help create enduring opportunities that strengthen our local economy, now and into the future.

Mayor Rosanna Natoli  
Councillor Terry Landsberg  
Councillor Joe Natoli



## About the strategy

The Regional Economic Development Strategy (REDS) was adopted in 2013, with a forward-looking 20-year timeframe and delivers a key focus on "Our Prosperity". With a decade now passed since its adoption, a comprehensive review of the REDS was conducted in 2023 and the direction of this strategy redefined and updated to reflect the changing times.

Having undergone extensive community consultation in its creation, the REDS Refresh was adopted by Council on 26 October 2023. This holistic approach provided a set of strategic pathways to transition the Sunshine Coast into a regional economy that is innovative, adaptive, resilient and climate ready.

It encourages a more sustainable and equitable future economy by attracting investment and supporting local businesses to innovate, grow, and enable diverse employment opportunities. Additionally, it seeks to act as a mechanism for change, guiding the future evolution and transformation of the economy over time.

Council's vision for the region is supported by three long-term strategies. These regional strategies collectively provide the strategic framework and desired outcomes for Council to work collaboratively across our community, with business and other tiers of government to advance our vision as Australia's most sustainable region. To achieve the vision for the region, it is critical to progress our community, environment and economic objectives, understanding that all three are integrated and critical to the success and overall sustainability and liveability of our region.



## United Nations Sustainable Development Goals alignment



Industry, business and local government will continue to work together to provide the leadership, direction, sustained commitment and policy settings to deliver on the REDS and ensure the Sunshine Coast economy continues to be responsive to national and global demand, with high value employment and investment opportunities.

### Together we will:

- Continue to build collaborative relationships and initiatives with key industry groups.
- Build industry and business capability.
- Identify and support future industries such as screen, game development and digital industries.
- Connect industry with talent and skills and contribute to addressing regional workforce issues.
- Support small businesses to thrive.
- Leverage the SC1 Data Centre and Sunshine Coast International Broadband Network to attract new businesses to the region.
- Review industrial land policy and facilitate land releases and related actions.
- Support and strengthen our region's First Nations businesses and economic development opportunities.
- Facilitate innovation and entrepreneurship.
- Develop economic strategies to capitalise on Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games' legacy opportunities.
- Facilitate and leverage opportunities stemming from the Sunshine Coast Biosphere designation.
- Align our activities with Council's commitment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and a sustainable future.



## Strategy on a page

Our Resilient Economy: Driving jobs and prosperity across the region



**Knowledge economy**



**Digital economy**



**Production economy**



**Green economy**



**Visitor economy**



**Place based economy**

### Industries

- Knowledge industries and professional services
- Education and Research
- Health and wellbeing
- Technology
- Screen
- Cyber security
- Defence
- Aviation and Aerospace
- Food and agribusiness
- Advanced manufacturing
- Pharmaceutical
- Cleantech
- Circularity
- Smart Construction
- Green energy
- Circular economy
- Decarbonisation
- Tourism, sport and leisure
- Experiences
- Major events
- International students
- Construction and trades
- Local business
- Night-time economy
- Music industry
- Creative industries
- Retail and hospitality

Strategic pathway **Leadership, sustainability and equity**

Strategic pathway **Investment and growth**

Strategic pathway **Business retention and expansion**

Strategic pathway **Innovation, technological advancement and scaling up**

Strategic pathway **Talent and skills**

### Key delivery partners

- Allied Health Taskforce
- Health Panel
- Study Sunshine Coast
- Study Queensland
- Sunshine Coast Tech
- Industry Alliance (SCTechIA)
- Silicon Coast
- Sunshine Coast Screen Collective
- Manufacturing Excellence Forum (MEF)
- Food and Agribusiness Network (FAN)
- Cleantech Industries
- ASPIRE
- Biosphere Community Advisory Group
- Visit Sunshine Coast (VSC)
- Sunshine Coast Events Board
- Sunshine Coast Sports
- Tourism and Events Queensland
- Caloundra Downtown Taskforce
- Nambour Business Groups
- Sunshine Coast Music Industry Collective
- Sunshine Coast Creative Alliance

Sunshine Coast Business Council - Chambers of Commerce - UniSC - TAFE Queensland - Sunshine Coast Airport - Queensland Government Critical Infrastructure - Information Sharing Analysis Center (CI-ISAC) - Regional Development Australia (RDA) - Sunshine Coast Business Awards

**2033**

The REDS sets forth a visionary 20-year blueprint aiming to transition the traditional economy to a new economy that is resilient and globally competitive. The strategy is unique and bold, setting four ambitious goals to achieve the new economy by 2033.

**\$33 billion in Gross Regional Product**

**100,000 jobs in the high-value industries**

**20% exports from the region**

**Household income above state average**



## Performance indicators/goals

Regional Economic Development Strategy Aspirational Goals

	2013 Baseline Results <sup>1</sup>	2023-24 Outcomes <sup>2</sup>	2013 to 2024 Progress	2033 Aspirational Goals <sup>2</sup>
<b>Goal 1</b> Gross Regional Product growth	A <b>\$13.8 billion</b> economy	A <b>\$23.73 billion</b> economy	✓ <b>72%</b> growth over the 11-year period	Gross Regional Product growth up to <b>\$33 billion</b> by 2033
<b>Goal 2</b> Jobs growth in high-value industries	High-value industries provided <b>59,000</b> employment opportunities	High-value industries providing <b>107,283</b> employment opportunities <sup>3</sup>	✓ <b>82%</b> growth over the 11-year period	Jobs growth in high-value industries up to <b>100,000</b> by 2033
<b>Goal 3</b> Regional household income levels to exceed Queensland household income levels	Household income levels were <b>22.3%</b> were below the State average	Household income levels <b>4.8%</b> below the Queensland average	✓ <b>17.5%</b> reduction in income gap over the 11-year period	Regional household income levels to exceed Queensland household income levels by 2033
<b>Goal 4</b> Increase goods and services produced for export outside the region	<b>13.6%</b> of goods and services were produced for export outside the region	<b>18.1%</b> of goods and services were produced for export outside the region	✓ <b>4.5%</b> increase over the 11-year period	Increase goods and services produced for export outside the region up to <b>20%</b>

1. Combined Sunshine Coast and Noosa; 2. Sunshine Coast, excluding Noosa; 3. The 2033 "high-value industries Jobs growth" goal has been achieved 9 years ahead of target, in response to this, Economic Development will establish a new aspirational goal in collaboration with Civic Governance and Council.

## Progress indicators

Since 2013, the Sunshine Coast Regional Economic Development Strategy has provided a vision and blueprint for the new economy – a prosperous, high-value economy of choice for business, investment and employment, while offering an enviable lifestyle and environment.

The Sunshine Coast LGA ended the 2023-24 with the following results:

- 

Gross Regional Product  
\$23.73 billion<sup>1</sup>
- 

Local jobs  
172,498<sup>1</sup>
- 

Locally employed residents  
186,932<sup>1</sup>
- 

Employment growth 9.2%<sup>2</sup>
- 


Unemployment rate  
3.7% with a 0.9% increase<sup>2</sup>
- 

Exports of goods and services  
produced in region  
\$7.4 billion<sup>1</sup>
- 

Businesses  
36,811<sup>3</sup>
- 

Consumer spend in local region  
Increase 10% year on year  
to June 2023<sup>4</sup>

Regional Economic Development initiatives resulting in:



\$729.47 million

Economic impact

Target: \$250 million



3119 Jobs

Supported/created

Target: 1500



12,517






Clients assisted/served

Target: 3300

Data sources: 1. National Institute of Economic and Industry Research (NIEIR) ©2024. ©2023 Compiled and presented in economic.id; 2. ABS, Labour force Australia, detailed, released 25 July 2024, 11:30am (AEST). Compiled and presented in QGS0 Regional labour force (report); 3. Australian Bureau of Statistics, Counts of Australian Businesses, including Entries and Exits. Compiled and presented in economic.id; 4. Spendmapp by Geografia 2024.

## REDS pathways

This annual report highlights the program of activities delivered during 2023-24 against the strategy's five critical pathways and their respective priorities.

Pathways	Priorities
 <p><b>Leadership, sustainability and equity</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advocate to State and Commonwealth Governments to support investment into key catalytic infrastructure</li> <li>Deliver strong economic leadership and collaboration by government, business and industry</li> <li>Champion the Sunshine Coast Biosphere, sustainability and support circular economy principles</li> <li>Support inclusion and equity across the economy for the advancement of First Nations peoples, people with disabilities and residents experiencing socio-economic disadvantage</li> </ul>
 <p><b>Investment and growth</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Market and promote the region to attract investment and support local businesses to grow export markets</li> <li>Ensure sufficient development assets are available and an efficient planning process to support population and business growth</li> <li>Leverage the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games to create legacy economic assets for the future</li> <li>Leverage key assets to elevate the region's key sectors and benefit from the utilisation of the foundation infrastructure</li> <li>Providing a regulatory environment that encourages investment and growth</li> </ul>
 <p><b>Business retention and expansion</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support local businesses and key delivery partners to expand on the Sunshine Coast</li> <li>Build local business capacity and increase business resilience</li> <li>Champion local procurement, including supporting local First Nations businesses through the supply chain</li> <li>Support identified Gateway Precincts and town centres through activation and place making initiatives</li> </ul>
 <p><b>Innovation, technological advancement and scaling up</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote innovation, research and development activities of local businesses and institutions</li> <li>Support local entrepreneurship networks and activities to help scale up local businesses</li> <li>Advance Smart City infrastructure to further support local businesses and leverage the Sunshine Coast International Broadband Network</li> <li>Identify and expand the Innovation Ecosystem to grow the regions capabilities</li> </ul>
 <p><b>Talent and skills</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support local education and training providers to build pathways for local workforce and connect to local businesses</li> <li>Conduct talent attraction, development and retention programs to provide a high quality workforce to local businesses</li> <li>Support youth development and innovation initiatives that foster talent and skills for the future</li> <li>Attract international students and connect local students to opportunities within the Region</li> </ul>



**PATHWAY 1**





## Pathway 1: Leadership, sustainability and equity

### Advocate to state and commonwealth governments to support investment into key catalytic infrastructure.

Specialist Economic Development advice and support was provided in relation to a range of key strategic initiatives including the proposed direct Sunshine Coast rail line, Sunshine Coast Public Transport detailed business case, Mooloolah River Interchange upgrade, the Turbine project, Sunshine Coast Innovation Hub, the advancement of manufacturing within the region and the proposed immersive reality digital creative precinct.

### Deliver strong economic leadership and collaboration by government, business and industry.

The review of the Sunshine Coast Regional Economic Development Strategy 2013-2033 and associated five-year Implementation Plan was successfully completed with Council endorsing the refreshed strategy in October 2023. Implementation of the refreshed strategy is now underway.

### Champion the Sunshine Coast Biosphere, sustainability, and support circular economy principles to drive economic growth, jobs and inwards investment.

The Biosphere Team was supported in the delivery of World Biosphere Day via local industry engagement and assistance with event delivery. Engagement was facilitated between Council's Biosphere Project Officer's and key target industry groups including the Food and Agribusiness Network (FAN), Visit Sunshine Coast (VSC) and Manufacturing Excellence Forum (MEF) who already deliver aligned programs and strategic direction and who are now proceeding with formal partnership arrangements.

Support has also been provided in the development of Biosphere marketing/branding actions and a Biosphere workshop with key industry groups was successfully delivered to identify key areas of action as well as development of a model to drive further engagement and action.



The **ASPIRE** Circular Economy platform continues to gather momentum delivering significant outcomes for the region and achieving significant milestones. During the 2024-25 financial year over 178 organisations registered, creating more than \$1.84 million in savings delivered to local businesses and organisations, plus more than 3,800 tonnes in CO2 emissions saved making the Sunshine Coast a clear leader in the rollout of this nationally relevant program.



Over **178** new  
registered organisations



more than **\$1.84 million**  
in savings



more than **3,800 tonnes**  
in CO2 emissions saved



## PATHWAY 2



Sunshine Coast Council

16

Image: Walker Corporation – artist impression



## Pathway 2: Investment and growth

Market and promote the region to attract investment and support local businesses to grow export markets



The Testing Tech in Paradise marketing campaigns were run in North America from 25 October 2023 to 25 January 2024 and in Australia from 9 January to 9 April 2024. These campaigns were promoted through Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn to showcase the Sunshine Coast as the ideal location for tech companies to test and trial their emerging technology on Council's unique WiFi 6 network. This network is the only one of its kind that allows testing in a 'real world environment'. The objective was to use this value proposition as an incentive to attract new high value investment into the Sunshine Coast.

### The Testing Tech in Paradise campaigns ran for six months and achieved:

- 1,233,117 impressions,
- 1,033,711 video views and
- 200 new leads.

The 'Give your business a boost of Vitamin SC (Sunshine Coast)' video series was created to attract businesses to the region, drive investment and jobs growth. Each video in the series highlights a key benefit: work-life balance, lack of traffic, digital connectivity, thriving and collaborative business community, innovation, international airport, amongst others. Initially, four videos were produced and a "behind the scenes" video. These were promoted in a multi-channel digital marketing campaign. The project was highly innovative and creative in its approach to economic development marketing. By leveraging the power of video content, storytelling and visual narrative, the project effectively communicated the unique value proposition of the region.

### The Vitamin SC Series 3 campaign ran for six months and achieved:

- 2,109,040 impressions,
- 1,065,746 video views and
- 424 new leads.



Council was awarded two gold 2024 International Economic Development Council (IEDC) Awards for the Testing Tech in Paradise marketing campaigns in the categories of Paid Advertising and Multimedia/Video Promotion. IEDC is a global industry organisation of over 5000 professional economic development members who are tasked with promoting economic wellbeing and quality of life for their communities by creating, retaining and expanding jobs that facilitate growth.

Council was awarded two gold 2023 International Economic Development Council (IEDC) Awards for the Vitamin SC marketing campaign.





Council facilitated an Intellectual Property Law and Trademark Workshop hosted by the Manufacturing Excellence Forum on the topic 'Freedom to Operate – what you don't know and how to avoid losing your business.' Exceptional feedback and seven complementary half hour sessions were provided for attendees.

An AI in Manufacturing Workshop (for manufacturers and exporters) was held with 17 local businesses in attendance.

Council collaborated with Trade and Investment Queensland to attend business site visits for exporters in the region, to share information, business' export journeys and upcoming grant and other opportunities available to help local businesses expand into new markets.

The Sunshine Coast was showcased at the Asia Pacific Cities Summit bi-annual event in Brisbane. Over 100 Mayors, delegates from 140 cities and 130 speakers from across the globe participated in presentations and deep dive sessions.

Council hosted the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade including consular officials and Trade Commissioners from China, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Korea, United Kingdom and Canada. The program included an overview of local investment and trade opportunities, a presentation from a successful local exporting company as well as site visits to other local export businesses.



### Ensure sufficient development assets are available and an efficient planning process to support population and business growth.

Targeted support and specialist Economic Development advice was provided in relation to a range of key strategic initiatives including the Sunshine Coast Infrastructure Summit, New Planning Scheme project, SEQ Regional Plan Review, Mass Transit Solution and Caloundra Aerodrome. Advocacy was also enacted regarding industrial land assets for the region with the state government binging forward major new land releases at Coolumb and Caloundra. Advocacy regarding the latter also encompassed accommodating the Turbine project focussing on collaborative agribusiness manufacturing and innovation.

### Leverage the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games to create legacy economic assets for the future.

Council promoted the Sunshine Coast region and key infrastructure at the SportX Connect meeting in Brisbane to build contacts and networks in the sports tech industry. There were 50 attendees at the event to identify opportunities to grow the sports tech industry on the Sunshine Coast and as a result, three follow up ideation sessions have been held. Theme 1, Effective Management of People and Services - identified the opportunity to use technology to help disabled people find carparks; Theme 2, Enhanced Community and Engagement - identified a technology platform to be proposed 'accessible information anytime, anywhere for anyone'; and Theme 3, Monitor and Management of Competitor Performance and Events - saw the working group progress to scope a problem or challenge looking at 'community engagement with athletes using real time data'.

Council promoted Sunshine Coast key infrastructure at "Something Fest" and "Something Digital" events in Brisbane and presented at the STWS SportsTech Conference in Brisbane (part of the 2023 Australian Sports Innovation Week), pitching the region as 'the' place to test and trial technology in Australia. Outcomes included international and national investment leads and contacts including three "test and trial" leads. The interest from the conference confirmed the SportsTech sector as a target for investment attraction and opportunities to work in collaboration with UniSC, promoting their technologies and capabilities with opportunity to engage new investors as commercial partners.



**Leverage key assets to elevate the region's key sectors and benefit from the utilisation of the foundation infrastructure.**

As a precursor to the inaugural Xplore XR Healthcare Summit held on the Sunshine Coast, 10 VIP international delegates and summit sponsors received a tour of the Sunshine Coast Health Precinct (Sunshine Coast University Hospital and Sunshine Coast Health Institute), followed by a health industry, technology and investment-focused presentation and an inspection of NEXTDCs SC1 Data Centre in Maroochydore.

Council hosted Trade and Investment Queensland (TIQ) and Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade representatives, during the TIQ Regional Commissioner Program visits. This was an opportunity to update the delegation on the regions Innovation, Health and Education industries, together with the latest investment attraction initiatives including the Testing Tech in Paradise promotional campaign.

Council hosted potential investors from Vietnam who are looking to establish a health and wellness resort in Queensland. This provided an opportunity to showcase local products from COYO and QCamel, introduce the company to Food and Agribusiness Network and highlight the region's other opportunities.

Council hosted TIQ North America and TIQ Japan at Sunshine Coast City Hall. Economic Development and Smart City Framework teams showcased Sunshine Coast investment opportunities, informed and educated delegates on major projects in the region and updates were given by UniSC and Sunshine Coast Airport.

The Sunshine Coast hotel demand study was updated showing the mid estimate demand for hotel rooms in the region has climbed from 1800 rooms in 2022 to approximately 2150 in 2023. Council briefed Queensland Government departments including Queensland Treasury on Council's intent to attract hotels to the region. Council engaged a researcher to interview business leaders across the region to better understand missed opportunities due to the current shortage of hotel accommodation options within the region. By better understanding this issue, along with the demand study, this will provide a more robust business case for presenting to potential hotel investors.

Key Council staff attended the Hotel Investment Conference Asia Pacific in Sydney on 30 August 2023 to promote the Sunshine Coast and build a network of key hotel developers, operators, service suppliers and hotel brokers. Council has now received development applications for the construction of a new hotel product on the Sunshine Coast.



### Providing a regulatory environment that encourages investment and growth.

Investment outcomes for 2023-24 achieved an estimated total economic impact to the Sunshine Coast economy of \$623 million and 1934 jobs

Genpact established their Australian Global Centre of Excellence on the Sunshine Coast on 9 August 2023 after a competitive nationwide place-based search. Genpact is one of the world's leading professional services companies. Genpact's investment is estimated to deliver a minimum of 250 jobs for the region within five years, having a total economic impact on the Sunshine Coast economy of \$170 million and 558 jobs.

Kilcoy Global Foods expansion to their \$80 million purpose-built facility in the Sunshine Coast Industrial Park and 250 new jobs has a projected economic impact of \$336 million to the Sunshine Coast economy and 982 jobs.

The Mayor officially opened Oly Homes' business expansion on 19 September 2023. This re-investment over the next three years has a projected economic impact of \$18 million to the Sunshine Coast economy and 49 new jobs.

BFX, a leading national furniture manufacturer, announced a ground-breaking \$20 million expansion at Yandina Industrial Park on 12 December 2023 with the Mayor. The significant 9000 square metre expansion at its new global distribution centre takes BFX's total manufacturing footprint to a massive 22,000 square metres under roof. This reinvestment is projected to inject \$39 million into the Sunshine Coast economy, generating 160 new jobs once the facility is fully operational.

Council received a gold award for the Sunshine Coast Incentive Assistance Program at the 2024 International Economic Development Council (IEDC) Awards under the Category of Recovery, Resiliency and Mitigation. In the shadow of a dramatic slowdown in economic activity caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, Council sought to implement an economic intervention and support plan to fast track economic recovery. Under the umbrella of Council's Economic Resurgence Plan, Council launched the Sunshine Coast Incentive Assistance Program to stimulate economic recovery by accelerating large shovel-ready projects to begin work faster than they would have otherwise. The purpose was to expedite projects that could start as soon as possible to rapidly increase capital expenditure and job creation.

Council announced financial and non-financial incentives and collaborated with the planning and development community to bring projects forward. The program achieved an anticipated total economic impact (direct and indirect) of \$1.77 billion and 5,853 new jobs. Five completed projects at the financial year end 30 June 2023 with a total economic impact (direct and indirect) to the region of \$412 million and 1271 new jobs. There are 12 projects still underway and should all 12 remaining projects proceed to completion the region will benefit from a further total economic impact of \$1 billion and 3118 new jobs\*.

\*Based on the initially reported direct investment

Note: economic impact (direct and indirect) is determined through economy.id



PATHWAY 3



22

Image: Grease. Owner Tim Hall (left) and Jack Gotschan (right)



## Pathway 3: Business retention and expansion

### Support local businesses and key delivery partners to expand on the Sunshine Coast.

The Local Business Support Program delivered specialist advice to 1,271 businesses across the region. There were 37 events delivered in support of the Regional Economic Development Strategy involving 2,357 participants included the Thriving Through Change Business Expo, the Queensland Small Business Commissioner's Small Business Friendly Conference; business planning, social media and procurement workshops; the Sunshine Coast Business Awards and the Buy Local Day campaign.

The regions' Chambers of Commerce and key delivery partners were supported through regular communications and capacity building as well as through Council's Community Grants Program. A Grants Writing Workshop was delivered to Chamber of Commerce and Industry Group leaders with 14 attendees. This workshop provided specific tips, guidance and information on the Council Grants Program including hands on activities and specific case studies aimed to increase the confidence of Chambers and Industry groups when applying for a grant. Business group leaders walked away with a comprehensive understanding on how the community grants process works and high to complete a high scoring grant application.

In partnership with the jointly funded Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements, the Local Business Support team delivered an eight week Buy Local campaign incorporating social media, TV, radio and print media, and utilised our 22 Chambers of Commerce and industry networks to build consumer and business awareness. The campaign focused on inspiring consumers to support their favourite local business and businesses were encouraged to leverage the campaign via various digital marketing and Buy Local Day store activations. Business precincts including Caloundra, Nambour and Eumundi took up the opportunity to host precinct activations. The campaign engaged over 10,000 local businesses, generating 3,082,748 impressions across social platforms with 209,934 video views, 2,266 landing page visits and eight media opportunities.

Council collaborated closely with the Food and Agribusiness Network (FAN) across a diverse range of initiatives for the agribusiness sector to build, strengthen and profile the region's innovative and collaborative agrifood ecosystem. Key highlights included:

- profiling the Sunshine Coast as a leading proponent of agrifood ecosystems to national and international audiences.
- securing \$500,000 of state government funding to support regional economic development growth (with \$475,000 of that funding distributed to other local organisations including Visit Sunshine Coast, Manufacturing Excellence Forum, Glasshouse Country Chamber and four locally based consultants to support the delivery of collaborative projects).
- delivering a regional destination campaign and supported industry development in agritourism, benefiting over 30 local Sunshine Coast-based businesses.
- achieving steady growth of 16 additional members across the Sunshine Coast RDA.
- hosted 15 Sunshine Coast-based events with over 600 participants.
- rolled out the Grow National Program, including a one-day workshop and a ten-week accelerator program, with 15 Sunshine Coast businesses participating.
- working as a key service delivery partner to the Turbine precinct, developing and delivering stakeholder, industry and engagement activities.

This year also saw the value of the Sunshine Coast agrifood industry reach \$1 billion, underscoring its position as a high-value industry. As one of Australia's leading agrifood clusters, FAN continues to proudly deliver activities, connections and opportunities in concert with Council and other key stakeholders that drive regional economic development and importantly support the growth and resilience of our local food industry.

The growth in scale and diversity of collaborative initiatives with the Manufacturing Excellence Forum (MEF) escalated further this year. Productivity in the manufacturing industry has become crucial, driven by digital, AI and automation technologies to maximise existing resources whilst seeking competitive edges and cost-efficiency. Events and workshops delivered included Lean Manufacturing, Intellectual Property Law, Production Simulation, Circular Economy and Sustainable Transport, Defence Innovation as well as AI in manufacturing. For MEF itself, the year was very positive with nearly double the new partnerships, a thriving electric vertical take-off and landing (eVTOL) team and capability directory/ database and excellent event attendance including consistently 250+ registrations for their monthly events. Memberships are nearing 300 and subscribers nearing 2,000.

Economic Development facilitated and supported the launch of the Cleantech Network which represents the new brand, strategic plan and leadership committee of what was formerly Cleantech Industries Sunshine Coast, which had been successfully supporting the cleantech industry in the region for over 13 years. The Cleantech Network is intended to become the peak industry driver across sectors for the Green Economy, a key pillar of the Sunshine Coast Regional Economic Development Strategy 2013-2033. The successful launch attracted over 160 people with the Cleantech Network now proceeding to progress key initiatives and engagement activities.

### Build local business capacity and increase business resilience.

The Economic Recovery Local Advisory Group has been created with an online portal to facilitate information sharing between Council and key industry stakeholders during times of major weather events and disruptions. An Economic Recovery Fact Sheet has been developed along with a plethora of Continuity Planning resources and connections to the Small Business Disaster Hub and Council's Disaster Hub platform. This will create greater efficiency during times of upheaval and provide direct insight to inform timely recovery actions, efficient direction of resources and advocacy for financial support programs.

The Local Business Support team attended a Tourism Disaster Resilience Forum with the workshop centered around preparing Tourism businesses for disaster events, A Tourism Operator's Crisis Toolkit and Communications resource has been developed and shared with the business community to support disaster preparedness.

Council was a silver sponsor of the 2023 Sunshine Coast Business Women's Network Awards where 31 outstanding business leaders were celebrated and recognised for business excellence, sustainability and contribution to community. Winners were announced over six categories including an overall 'Outstanding Business Woman of the Year', award, receiving a media package as well as a year of recognition, publicity and personal and professional growth opportunities.

850 attendees came to celebrate the 137 outstanding finalists from across 17 categories at the the Sunshine Coast Business Awards Gala Dinner and Awards Ceremony Business of the Year was awarded to Amaze World and five businesses were inducted into the hall of fame. Council is a Platinum Sponsor of the awards program and have supported them since their inception.





Image: First Nations Supplier Day

#### Champion local procurement, including supporting local First Nations businesses through the supply chain.

The Support Local, Source Local campaign was launched internally to further encourage Council staff to choose a local business when sourcing good and services for Council projects. Three local businesses who are suppliers to Council were profiled in video content to help promote the message.

Council's Local Business Support Team provided advice and assistance to more than 100 businesses at the Growing Queensland Business Roadshow. The roadshows provided practical information, tips and tools to help businesses get what they need to succeed when supplying to the Queensland Government, the Australian Government and local councils.

#### Support identified Gateway Precincts and town centres through activation and place making initiatives.

The Place Activation team delivered key events and initiatives across the identified gateway precincts of Nambour, Caloundra and Mooloolaba which attracted more than 77,000 community members and consumers to these key activity centres. Caloundra initiatives included the Winter Wonderland event, festive season events, the Shopfront Improvement program, support for the Top Tourism Town Award and coordination of the Downtown Caloundra Taskforce. Mooloolaba saw a significant business engagement process delivered to understand how to best support the business community before and during construction of the Mooloolaba Foreshore Revitalisation Project and assisted to inform the development of the Mooloolaba Business Activation Plan. Nambour activities included leveraging major events such as the Nambour Rodeo and the Queensland Garden Expo as well as community events such as Nambour Forecourt Live and Tram Fest to bring people into town.



## **PATHWAY 4**



Sunshine Coast Council

26

Image: eVTOL



## Pathway 4: Innovation, technological advancement and scaling up

### Promote innovation, research and development activities of local businesses and institutions.

The inaugural Xplore XR Healthcare Summit, supported by Council, attracted 79 delegates with the majority interstate or international attendees. This was a significant business event for the region in that it attracts influential speakers and delegates who have the potential to enhance and invest in the growth of health tech on the Sunshine Coast, and was a catalyst for regional collaboration between innovators, the tech and health industries. The event raised the profile of the Sunshine Coast as a hub for healthtech innovation in Australia.

12 delegates from across Australia and Asia extended their AusBiotech 2023 Conference trip to join the pre-conference site tour which showcased the Sunshine Coast's strengths and capabilities in the life sciences industry. Starting at the UniSC Clinical Trials Centre in South Bank Brisbane, the group travelled to Sunshine Coast University Hospital for tours and presentations from the hospital's clinical trials team, Sunshine Coast Health Institution, UniSC's School of Health, Thompson Institute and UniSC's Centre of Bioinnovation, finishing at the biopharmaceutical production facilities of Servatus. The site tour was organised by Queensland Government, supported by Sunshine Coast Council and key partners.

The Centre of Excellence for Synthetic Biology (CoESB) conference was held on the Sunshine Coast, bringing together over 200 research leaders from across Australia for four days of science-based networking, collaboration, inspiration and changemaking. Visit Sunshine Coast's Business Events Team partnered with Sunshine Coast Council to bring this event and thought-leadership to our region.

The UniSC Global Reach Famil Tour welcomed 18 education agents from key source markets of India, Nepal and Bhutan to showcase UniSC's commitment to the opportunities available to international students across our region. This event provided a spotlight on key teaching areas and priority programs at the university. With support from Sunshine Coast Council, the reasons why the Sunshine Coast is the most exciting place for students to live, learn and kick start their futures was highlighted. This collaboration further enhanced our relationship with Global Reach and demonstrates Council's longstanding commitment to international and local partnerships and the international student journey.

The Sunshine Coast is positioning itself as a hub for the future of aviation with a focus on Advanced Air Mobility (AAM), including electric vertical take-off and landing (eVTOL) aircraft. The AAM initiative was launched at UniSC on 23 August 2023 with over 80 students, mentors and project supporters under the project designer and lead from Manufacturing Excellence Forum (MEF). The project continues to gather momentum and national profile as a unique initiative complemented by involvement in the eVTOL project led by the SEQ Council of Mayors focusing on implementation and facilitation.



### Support local entrepreneurship networks and activities to help scale up local businesses.

The 2023 Sunshine Coast Screen Summit brought together 80 industry members along with representatives from Screen Queensland, UniSC, Sunshine Coast Screen Collective and Council to launch the 'Screen Production on the Sunshine Coast' report, the new Sunshine Coast film locations gallery and the Sunny Coast Showdown 2024. Sunny Coast Showdown is a not-for-profit talent and idea incubator where successful applicants receive funding, support and mentoring to develop and produce their projects. The Summit provided a valuable opportunity to advocate for the local industry and showcase and celebrate the extraordinary amount of progress over the past 12 months. The Sunny Coast Showdown Showfest attracted over 900 participants across their new two-day showcase program. In 2024, Sunny Coast Showdown was a recipient of the Major Events Emerging Events Fund which has enabled the organisers to offer an expanded program, now including the Pacific Islands Film Fest and Lights, Camera, Lunch.

A delegation of 12 local industry members was supported to attend the Something Fest, Australia's Digital, Innovation and Technology Festival held in Brisbane from 28 August to 1 September 2023. This major innovation event is a key platform on which to raise the profile of the Sunshine Coast innovation ecosystem with state and national stakeholders and will support the outcomes of the Innovation Ecosystem Mapping Project.

Council was a key partner and sponsor of Forward Fest 2023 and the Sunshine Coast Innovation Showcase, attracting 780 industry members, education and government delegates from across South East Queensland. Forward Fest provides an opportunity for the Sunshine Coast business community to showcase their ingenuity and share unique solutions with public and private sector business leaders. The Sunshine Coast Innovation Showcase provides a dynamic platform for local businesses to showcase their cutting-edge products, services and digital solutions.

In partnership with Council, Silicon Coast launched Forward Fest 24 at the sold out 'Venture Forward' Business Breakfast, attracting 112 industry guests comprising local businesses, investors and government. Discussion focused on how the Sunshine Coast innovation ecosystem is powering forward on the back of infrastructure investment, growing skilled talent, a thriving ecosystem and new venture capital investment opportunities and highlighted the region's potential to be a leader in sustainable innovation.

The 2023 GovHack Sunshine Coast Node event was held in partnership with Unitywater, UniSC and Silicon Coast. The event attracted nine team entries and 62 registrations to innovate with Open Government Data. The Sunshine Coast Council challenge received five entries from a combined 20 engineering and computer science students.

A Sunshine Coast industry delegation participated in the 2023 Global Entrepreneurship Congress in Melbourne. Held for the first time in Australia, the annual congress brought together over 1,500 ecosystem builders, founders, investors and government from 123 countries to discuss the economic and community development benefits of building entrepreneurial ecosystems.





### Advance Smart City infrastructure to further support local businesses and leverage the Sunshine Coast International Broadband Network.

Working in partnership with Australian company Geospatial Intelligence, Council hosted an ideation session to explore the potential for creating a Centre of Excellence in Geospatial Technology on the Sunshine Coast. With the aim of working with local, national and international organisations to apply geospatial solutions to complex problems, the Centre of Excellence would have the unique ability to access Geospatial Data in near-real-time. This means quicker and more effective decision making across all challenges for local, national and international customers. Facilitated by tech expert and author, Brad Howarth, attendees explored a range of use cases that could be enhanced through the application of geo-int, including bushfire management, protection of critical infrastructure from natural disasters and support for initiatives relating to the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The Testing Tech in Paradise program and marketing campaigns were developed to attract technology-focused businesses to the region and drive investment and job growth. Council's Smart City Framework has driven early adoption of new network technologies, creating opportunities for businesses to become cutting-edge creators and users of technology. The new Maroochydore City Centre has been designed with next-generation digital connectivity at its core, including east coast Australia's fastest data connection via submarine cable. City-wide deployment of advanced digital infrastructure includes fibre broadband, WiFi 6, LoRaWAN wireless network and multi-function pole infrastructure.

Significant deployment of similar technology, especially in large-scale urban environments, has yet to be seen in Australia, restricting testing opportunities for innovative businesses elsewhere in Australia.

The Testing Tech in Paradise program has created an opportunity to work with innovative local businesses and host a series of collaborative events, including ideation sessions and tech summits with tech company representatives from Australia and around the world.

Council, in conjunction with MySecurity Media, is delivering a Testing Tech in Paradise promotional series throughout 2024. The series features two live webinars with industry guest presenters and a networking event. The first webinar held in March 2024 promoted the Sunshine Coast's capabilities in tech, critical infrastructure and smart cities and promoted the Testing Tech in Paradise Program with 30 national and global guests were in attendance.

### Identify and expand the Innovation Ecosystem to grow the region's capabilities.

The Sunshine Coast Innovation Ecosystem Mapping Report was finalised and presented to industry stakeholders. The culmination of 10 months consultation and research, the findings highlight how innovation and entrepreneurship can be a key driver of sustainable economic development. The report provides a comprehensive overview of the current state of our ecosystem, frameworks on which to benchmark and further develop regional innovation and key recommendations to move forward, including the key regional advocacy priority to request funding from the state government to develop the Sunshine Coast Innovation Hub network.



**PATHWAY 5**



Sunshine Coast Council

30

Image: BIG Day In 2023



## Pathway 5: Talent and skills

### Support local education and training providers to build pathways for local workforce and connect to local businesses.

The Sunshine Coast Regional Jobs Committee is an initiative funded by the Department of Employment, Small Business and Training (DESBT) which aims to support workforce and skilling needs in the region. The committee is hosted by the Caloundra Chamber of Commerce and includes members from UniSC, TAFE Queensland, Council and local schools as well as business leaders from Kilcoy Global Foods, Tony Kelly Restaurant Group, Country Chef, Sunshine Coast University Hospital and Construction Skills Queensland. The committee has met on four occasions and supported four Local Workforce Forums to gather input from industry on workforce challenges and opportunities. The feedback from the sessions will be used to create an Action Plan which will be released in July 2024.

### Conduct talent attraction, development and retention programs to provide a high-quality workforce to local businesses.

The Sunshine Coast Jobs Hub and Student Jobs Hub continues to grow with 1,575 total users on the sites. The top five locations for jobs in the region remained Birtinya, Maroochydore, Buderim, Caloundra and Nambour. The top five jobs by industry were: Health, Medical & Pharmaceutical; Education, Childcare & Training; Retail 4. Hospitality, Travel & Tourism; and Government, Defence & Emergency. The Sunshine Coast Tourism and Hospitality Jobs Summer Campaign was delivered in partnership with Visit Sunshine Coast and Study Sunshine Coast to promote the job opportunities on offer through the Sunshine Coast Jobs Hub (scjobs.com.au) to help support the industry during the region's peak tourism period. The campaign achieved 621 leads, 27,000 impressions and 2,100 clicks from job seekers.



Image: MTIA 2024 1st place - Fundies - Glasshouse Christian College

### Support youth development and innovation initiatives that foster talent and skills for the future.

The Mayor's Telstra Innovation Awards were delivered to support youth innovation. Three winning teams and an Emerging Entrepreneur were chosen after 13 student teams pitched to four judges and an audience of 130 people. On top of a share in \$10,000 worth of prizes, the top two teams were awarded a money-can't-buy mentoring scholarship program to get them ready to commercialise.

RoboRAVE Australia attracted a record-breaking 1100 competitors and 140 volunteers and for the first time marked international participation with teams from China, the Philippines and Ecuador joining a total of 500 teams from across Queensland. A total of 42 local teams represented the Sunshine Coast across 27 schools.

Youth Innovation Sunshine Coast brought together key stakeholders to coordinate the range of youth STEM, business and entrepreneurial programs and activities that happen across the region. The never-ending opportunities in science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) were showcased to 400 Sunshine Coast students, teachers and parents at the ACS (Australian Computer Society) Foundation BiG Day in STEM careers day. Students had the opportunity to speak directly to over 20 different education providers, companies and organisations about their future career pathways, as well as hear the inspirational career stories and insights from local industry representatives.



### Attract international students and connect local students to opportunities within the region.

Study Queensland and Migration Queensland, supported by Study Sunshine Coast, held the Diversifying your Talent Pools with Skilled Migrant Talent event. Local businesses were invited to learn more about building a diversified talent pool, accessing skilled migrant talent, the skilled visa process and the benefits of diverse teams.

Study Sunshine Coast hosted three Trade and Investment Queensland (TIQ) Latin American Business Development Managers for a site visit. The visit included tours of our key ELICOS (English Language) and Vocational Education providers as well as a stop at the beach. This was part of a full state site tour arranged by Study Queensland to highlight the educational and tourism offering for students coming to Queensland for study.

Study Sunshine Coast held a free First Aid and CPR course for 17 students as part of the Student Ambassador Program. Student Ambassadors were treated to a Jet ski experience and picnic at Caloundra and Pumicestone Passage and created content to share with their networks on tourism experiences available for students in the region.

The Study Sunshine Coast Project Global Citizen program has been delivered with 25 participants attending the online program that helps build cultural competencies and prepares students for the global workforce.

TAFE Queensland and Study Sunshine Coast welcomed a Korean Study Tour group from Seo-il High School to the Sunshine Coast for a week in September 2023. The 10 high school students joined in English improvement and cookery classes each day, followed by a site visit to Falls Farm in Mapleton with a chance to stop at the Glasshouse Mountains and beaches. This is the second year a cohort has travelled to the Sunshine Coast and both groups have all expressed a desire to return to Australia to study once they have finished high school, making this a valuable recruitment connection for TAFE Queensland.

The Queensland International Education and Training Forum led by Trade and Investment Queensland and Study Queensland was held at the UniSC Innovation Centre. Sixty-three stakeholders attended the forum, representing thirteen parts of the IET ecosystem, including Government and Council, universities, vocational education and training, English language training, student accommodation, industry representatives and peak bodies. The first half of the forum focused on context setting to allow attendees to gain a broader perspective on the current landscape for IET locally and across the state. A detailed report has been produced to help inform future programming for Study Sunshine Coast and the broader international education sector to consider.

Over 300 international and domestic students from UniSC and TAFE Queensland participated in First Aid and CPR training. The bi-annual training is a part of Study Sunshine Coast 'Student Employability and Industry Engagement Program' and is fully subsidised.







## Sunshine Coast Major Events Strategy 2018-2028 - 2023 Refresh

Implementation of the Sunshine Coast Major Events Strategy 2018-2028 - 2023 Refresh is measured against a suite of Key Performance Indicators which were developed to monitor the achievements of the strategy. The Sunshine Coast Events Board provides an annual report detailing the results, with the 2023-24 report to be produced following the completion of acquittal reports for events that received major events sponsorship funding. Annual reports produced by the Sunshine Coast Events Board can be found at [sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au](https://sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au).





Regional Economic Development Strategy Annual Report 2023-24

35



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## 8.4 SUNSHINE COAST ENVIRONMENT AND LIVEABILITY STRATEGY ANNUAL REPORT 2023-24

**File No:** Council Meetings

**Author:** Manager Environment and Sustainability Policy  
Liveability & Natural Assets Group

**Attachments:** Att 1 - Sunshine Coast Environment and Liveability Strategy  
Annual Report 2023-24..... 209  

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### PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to present the Environment and Liveability Strategy Annual Report 2023-24 for Council consideration.

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Sunshine Coast Environment and Liveability Strategy (the strategy) provides long-term strategic directions to guide growth, environmental protection and shape the region for future generations. These directions focus on the preservation and enhancement of the natural environment and the liveability of the region, enabling a good quality of life for all residents and supporting a strong economy in an accessible and well-connected built environment.

2023-24 represents the seventh year of the strategy's implementation. This annual report (Attachment 1) highlights some of the strategy's collective achievements for the year that have been delivered by Council and its partners, including:

- Secured approximately 500 hectares for conservation and recreation purposes.
- Endorsed the Sunshine Coast Ecological Park Master Plan and the Point Cartwright Reserve and La Balsa Park Master Plan.
- Released the inaugural Coastal Health Report.
- In an Australian first, the Australian Government's Clean Energy Regulator formally registered the Blue Heart's Blue Carbon project.
- Opened new spaces for our community including Altitude Nine and the Community CoLab within the Maroochydore City Centre.
- Upgraded sporting facilities including a 20-metre indoor heated pool at Kawana and court upgrades at Eumundi Tennis Club.
- Commenced implementation on the Sunshine Coast Marine Turtle Conservation Plan.
- Adopted the Sunshine Coast Resource Recovery Strategy and opened a \$40 million Material Recovery Facility at Nambour.
- Endorsed the Housing and Homelessness Action Plan.

During 2023-24 a project to refresh the Strategy (Part A: Strategic Directions and Part B Implementation Plan) was also completed and adopted by Council in October 2023. The refresh incorporated new information, responded to potential gaps and strengthened the



strategic foundation already established, to ensure our strategic directions retain their relevance and continue to offer a contemporary approach.

In addition, the annual report provides a snapshot into Council's environmental sustainability performance highlighting outcomes from our organisational sustainability benchmark reporting, including Council's total greenhouse gas emissions which were reduced for 2023-24.

This report seeks Council's noting of the Sunshine Coast Environment and Liveability Strategy Annual Report 2023-24 (Attachment 1).

## OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

**That Council:**

- (a) receive and note the report titled "Sunshine Coast Environment and Liveability Strategy Annual Report 2023-24" and**
- (b) note the Sunshine Coast Environment and Liveability Strategy Annual Report 2023-24 for the purpose of promoting environment, liveability and organisational environmental sustainability outcomes.**

## FINANCE AND RESOURCING

Implementation of the strategy draws upon multiple funding sources including operational and capital works, Local Government Infrastructure Plan Program and the Environment Levy. External funding and grant opportunities continue to be pursued to support implementation.

All Transformational Actions and associated tasks are subject to the annual budget planning and approval processes of Council.

The development and distribution of the annual report will be resourced and funded through the Environment and Sustainability Policy Branch 2023/24 operating budget.

## CORPORATE PLAN

<b>Corporate Plan Goal:</b>	<b><i>Our environment and liveability</i></b>
<b>Outcome:</b>	2.1 - A resilient region shaped by clever planning and good design
<b>Operational Activity:</b>	2.1.6 - Progress priority activities from the Environment and Liveability Strategy five-year implementation plan, including a revised Part C - Network Plan and progressing the dark sky reserve proposal.

## CONSULTATION

### Councillor Consultation

Portfolio Councillors for Environment and Liveability, Councillor M Suarez and Councillor T Burns have been briefed on the content and outcomes of the Environment and Liveability Strategy Annual Report 2023-24.

**Internal Consultation**

Feedback was sought from strategy implementation stakeholders on the strategy's 2023-24 deliverables and included officers from:

- Environmental Operations
- Waste and Resource Management
- Disaster Management
- Design and Placemaking
- Project Delivery
- Urban Growth
- Strategic Planning
- Parks and Gardens.

In addition, a number of other areas across Council have provided input into the collation of data and reporting on our environmental sustainability performance.

**External Consultation**

No external consultation was undertaken for the development of the annual report.

**Community Engagement**

The annual report is one of the key communication tools to showcase the progress of the strategy since adoption in 2017.

Council's online purpose-built platform for the Environment and Liveability Strategy ([els.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au](https://els.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au)) is also a key tool to share progress with the community.

**PROPOSAL**

Council adopted the Environment and Liveability Strategy to inform planning, guide decision-making, drive implementation and engage stakeholders as we deliver a healthy environment and liveable Sunshine Coast in 2041 and respond to the organisation's corporate goal – "our environment and liveability".

Since adoption, the strategy continues to provide a strategic platform that enables the region to approach the next 20 years in a confident manner looking for opportunities to strengthen the community's resilience for the future. It complements the other long-term regional strategies of Council and provides an integrated approach to respond to the challenges facing the region.

The strategy sets strategic directions focused on the preservation and enhancement of the natural environment and the liveability of the region, enabling a good quality of life for all residents and supporting a strong economy in an accessible and well-connected built environment.

**Annual Report 2023-24**

A number of collective achievements have been made by Council, many in partnership with the community, government and non-government organisations, through the strategy's

implementation in 2023-24. An annual report showcasing some of these achievements has been developed for Council consideration (Attachment 1).

Highlights include:

- Secured approximately 500 hectares for conservation and recreation purposes including 154 hectares in Peregrine Beach in partnership with the State Government. Land was secured through:
  - The Environment Levy Program
  - Local Government Infrastructure Plan funding
  - Development contributions
  - South East Queensland City Deal.
- Endorsed the Sunshine Coast Ecological Park Master Plan providing a vision to create an ecological wonder and endorsed the Point Cartwright Reserve and La Balsa Park Master Plan to guide and shape the popular coastal reserve.
- Progressed the Mooloolaba Foreshore Revitalisation Project design delivery for Stage Two Central Meeting Place to create more beachfront parkland, new community facilities, improved access to the beach and foreshore and enhanced coastal protection.
- Released the inaugural Coastal Health Report to provide a baseline for the long-term monitoring of our coast.
- In an Australian first, the Australian Government's Clean Energy Regulator formally registered the Blue Heart's Blue Carbon project to determine the feasibility of blue carbon farming as a potential alternative land use and income for landholders.
- Opened new spaces for our community including Altitude Nine and the Community CoLab within the Maroochydore City Centre.
- Upgraded sporting facilities including a 20-metre indoor heated pool at Kawana and court upgrades at Eumundi Tennis Club.
- Commenced implementation on the Sunshine Coast Marine Turtle Conservation Plan to support the recovery of self-sustaining populations of marine turtles.
- Developed the Macropod Conservation Plan to ensure that sustainable populations of eastern grey kangaroos and other macropods continue to thrive on the Sunshine Coast.
- Adopted the Sunshine Coast Resource Recovery Strategy supporting Council's objective to be a zero net emissions organisation by 2041 and identifying a series of actions to transition to a circular economy approach to managing the region's waste.
- A \$40 million Material Recovery Facility at Nambour opened which will process around 60,000 tonnes of paper, cardboard, plastic containers, glass bottles, glass jars, steel cans and aluminium cans collected from household and business yellow lid bins each year.
- Released updated flood mapping to provide a range of tools to inform emergency preparedness and land use planning as well as to build our region's resilience.
- Reviewed the Local Disaster Management Plan to provide procedures in responding to a disaster or emergency on the Sunshine Coast.

- Continued the implementation of our joint cascading climate risk project with Noosa Council.
- Endorsed the Housing and Homelessness Action Plan. Through this Plan, Council has extended its role in advocacy, facilitation and providing evidence, to include actively pursuing the delivery of affordable housing to support our key worker households on low and moderate incomes.
- Celebrated a healthy environment and sustainable Sunshine Coast in partnership with our community through a number of activities and programs including BiospHERO Day.
- Built our knowledge through the Sunshine Coast Open Data Expo at Doonan sharing how Sunshine Coast researchers are partnering with citizen scientists to increase scientific knowledge, collect data and share stories in our natural environment.
- Advocated for the protection of the Regional Inter-urban Break which resulted in the State Government's SEQ Regional Plan Update 2023 and regulatory mapping defining a cadastral extent of the Northern Inter-urban Break.
- Commenced our dark sky journey to establish a proposed Dark Sky Reserve and sought community feedback.

The annual report also provides a status on the strategy's annual performance measures (Table 1) to monitor and track progress:

Table 1: Environment and Liveability Strategy Annual Performance Measures

Target	Baseline	2023/24	2023/24 Outcome
No loss of the Regional Inter-urban Break in its current extent	32,031 ha	32,031 ha	No change to the current extent
Hectares of land per 1000 residents acquired through Environment Levy for conservation and preservation purposes maintained	9.6 ha per 1000 residents	11.32 ha per 1000 residents*	185 ha acquired
Hectares of land per 1000 residents for sport and recreation purposes maintained	4.74 ha per 1000 residents	4.61 ha per 1000 residents*	46.5 ha of open space secured
Renewable energy capacity increased	124.8 MW	497.5 MW	Increase of 45.4 MW <sup>^</sup>
Council's greenhouse gas emissions reduced	0.58 tCO <sub>2</sub> -e per resident	0.45 tCO <sub>2</sub> -e*	Decrease of 0.03 tCO <sub>2</sub> -e per resident <sup>^</sup>

ha – Hectares

MW – Megawatts

tCO<sub>2</sub>-e – Tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent

\* Based on estimated resident population of 374,286

<sup>^</sup> Compared to 2022-23 results.

The annual report also showcases our organisation's environmental sustainability performance, including our carbon emissions. Transitioning to a zero-net emissions organisation by 2041 is a Transformational Action of the Environment and Liveability Strategy. Tracking our progress towards this target is important to understand our



effectiveness in reducing our emissions and what adjustments and further investments may be required.

Council's total greenhouse gas emissions for 2023-24 Financial Year was 168,281 tCO<sub>2</sub>e (tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent) – a decrease of 8,382 tCO<sub>2</sub>e or 4.7% from last financial year. Greenhouse gas emissions per resident also decreased by 0.03 tCO<sub>2</sub>e to 0.45 tCO<sub>2</sub>e per resident. Emissions from waste represent 73.4% of Council's total greenhouse gas footprint. Emissions from waste showed the largest decrease, from the previous year with a reduction of 9,175 tCO<sub>2</sub>e or 6.9%.

Whilst emissions from LPG and Council's Supply Chain increased by 3.4% and 7.4%, respectively, Council managed to reduce its emissions overall, and across the other areas.

- Emissions from waste showed the largest decrease from the previous year with a reduction of 9,175 tCO<sub>2</sub>-e or 6.9%. Whilst waste quantities to landfill increased by 9.0% from the previous financial year, a 26.8% increase in landfill gas capture through flaring and generation of electricity demonstrated the effectiveness of this technology in mitigating emissions.
- Emissions from streetlighting and electricity contributed to a combined reduction of 1,116 tCO<sub>2</sub>-e from FY 2022/23. The LED streetlight project is effective at reducing Council's electricity usage and emissions from streetlighting by replacing mercury vapour with LED streetlights. For electricity usage Council continues to benefit from the partnership with Diamond Energy in supplying zero emissions energy for electricity supplied under this contract.

While Council continues to reduce its operational greenhouse gas emissions, demonstrating the effectiveness of its emissions reduction program, it must be acknowledged that the growth of the region will likely apply upwards pressure to Council's emissions footprint in the future.

A strengthening of Council's emissions reductions efforts through the implementation of our Zero-net Emissions Plan and increasing community efforts to reduce waste volumes will be essential in continuing this success.

### **Environment and Liveability Strategy Refresh**

Council's 2022-23 Operational Plan included an activity (2.1.1) to undertake a review of the Environment and Liveability Strategy five-year implementation plan, which was broadened to also include the strategy's Part A: Strategic Directions.

In response, a project to refresh the Strategy that incorporated new information, respond to potential gaps and strengthen the strategic foundation already established was undertaken, to ensure our strategic directions retain their relevance and continue to offer a contemporary approach.

The refreshed Strategy (Part A and B) was adopted by Council in October 2023 and a refresh of Part C: Network Plan is being progressed in 2024-25.

### **Legal**

There are no legal implications relevant to this report.

**Policy**

The Environment and Liveability Strategy provides the long-term strategic directions to inform Council's "our environment and liveability" Corporate Plan 2024-2028 goal, one of five strategic goals to deliver on a vision of Australia's most sustainable region.

**Risk**

There are no risks for Council in endorsing the annual report.

**Previous Council Resolution****Ordinary Meeting 26 October 2023 (OM23/115)**

*That Council:*

- (a) receive and note the report titled "Sunshine Coast Environment and Liveability Strategy Annual Report 2022/23" and*
- (b) note the Sunshine Coast Environment and Liveability Strategy Annual Report 2022/23 (Appendix A) for the purpose of promoting environment, liveability and organisational environmental sustainability outcomes and delegate authority to the Chief Executive Officer to make any minor amendments as required.*

**Related Documentation**

- Environment and Liveability Strategy 2023
- Sunshine Coast Council Corporate Plan 2024-2028

**Critical Dates**

There are no critical dates in relation to this report.

**Implementation**

Should the recommendation be accepted by Council the Chief Executive Officer will make the Environment and Liveability Strategy Annual Report 2023-24 and supporting information available online.



Sunshine Coast Council

## Environment and Liveability Strategy Annual Report 2023-24





Edition 2023-24.

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#### Acknowledgements

Council wishes to thank all contributors  
and stakeholders involved in the  
development  
of this document.

#### Reference document

This document should  
be cited as follows:

Sunshine Coast Council..  
Sunshine Coast Environment and  
Liveability Strategy Annual Report  
2023-24.

#### Disclaimer

To the extent this document contains  
future plans, activities, policies  
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aspirational and subject to change at  
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#### Cover image

Mooloolaba Foreshore Revitalisation.

## Traditional acknowledgement

Sunshine Coast Council acknowledges the Sunshine Coast Country,  
home of the Kabi Kabi peoples and the Jinibara peoples, the Traditional  
Custodians, whose lands and waters we all now share.

We recognise that these have always been places of cultural, spiritual,  
social and economic significance. The Traditional Custodians' unique  
values, and ancient and enduring cultures, deepen and enrich the life of  
our community.

We commit to working in partnership with the Traditional Custodians  
and the broader First Nations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander)  
communities to support self-determination through economic and  
community development.

Truth telling is a significant part of our journey. We are committed to  
better understanding the collective histories of the Sunshine Coast and  
the experiences of First Nations peoples. Legacy issues resulting from  
colonisation are still experienced by Traditional Custodians and First  
Nations peoples.

We recognise our shared history and will continue to work in partnership  
to provide a foundation for building a shared future with the Kabi Kabi  
peoples and the Jinibara peoples.

We wish to pay respect to their Elders – past, present and emerging, and  
acknowledge the important role First Nations peoples continue to play  
within the Sunshine Coast community.

Together, we are all stronger.



## Message from our Mayor and Environment and Liveability Portfolio Councillors

Here on the Sunshine Coast, we are passionate about nurturing and enhancing our natural environment and quality of life.

We are proud to present this 2023-24 annual report. We share insights into our ongoing progress in implementing the Environment and Liveability Strategy.

In our Sunshine Coast Biosphere, people and nature are intertwined. All our actions can contribute to a sustainable future.

For Council, 2023-24 was a year for major projects. Many of these projects will continue to have a positive impact for generations.

We have expanded our green spaces in key locations by securing land across the region. This land strengthens biodiversity corridors and provides places for our communities to enjoy.

We endorsed the Sunshine Coast Ecological Park Master Plan. The plan sets the long-term vision for the transformation of former pastoral land. Over the coming decades, the park will deliver nature-based recreation, education and research. It will also protect, celebrate and restore the site's inherent environmental, natural and cultural heritage values.

Early restoration works and investigations have begun on site. We're excited at the opportunities ahead for our community to get involved in this project.

Our climate change response continued as we worked to reduce our organisational emissions, deliver forward-thinking projects and build our resilience.

Council's organisational greenhouse gas emissions footprint decreased by 4.7 per cent, compared with the previous financial year.

Emissions from waste showed the largest decrease, with a reduction of 6.9 per cent. Waste to landfill increased by nine per cent from the previous financial year. A 26.8 per cent increase in landfill gas capture, through flaring and electricity generation, demonstrated the effectiveness of this technology in mitigating emissions.

In Nambour, our region's new high-tech Material Recovery Facility leapt into operation. The facility processes 60,000 tonnes of recycling per year, with the highest quality of segregated materials. This helps us to maximise circular economy opportunities. We are reducing waste and consumption of new resources, while supporting business and encouraging innovation.

These are wins for our natural environment, economy and community. They all help to make our region a great place to live, now and into the future.

We invite you to explore the stories in this annual report. As you read, we encourage you to consider how you can contribute to a stronger, more sustainable Biosphere, in ways big or small.

**Mayor Rosanna Natoli**  
**Councillor Maria Suarez**  
**Councillor Tim Burns**



## The Environment and Liveability Strategy

Delivering a pathway to a healthy environment and liveable Sunshine Coast.

This Annual Report showcases our seventh year of implementation.

### Our environment and liveability goal

Our natural assets, healthy environment and liveability credentials are maintained and enhanced.

This is one of five strategic goals of Sunshine Coast Council's Corporate Plan 2024-2028 that provides the blueprint to advance our vision over the next five years on behalf of our community.

### Strategic pathways

Our environment and liveability outcomes are being delivered through five strategic pathways:

- 1 A resilient region shaped by clever planning and good design
- 2 Protection and enhancement of our natural assets and distinctive landscapes
- 3 Responsive, accessible and well managed assets and infrastructure
- 4 Transitioning to a sustainable and affordable way of living
- 5 A reputation for innovation and sustainability.

In 2023 we completed our **refresh of the Environment and Liveability Strategy Part A: Strategic Directions and Part B: Implementation Plan** to incorporate new information, address any gaps and ensure it remains future focused and continues to provide a contemporary approach.



## What is the purpose of the strategy?

The strategy provides long-term strategic direction to guide growth and shape the Sunshine Coast for future generations to 2041.

It focuses on the natural environment and how it can be preserved and enhanced, as well as the liveability of the region. It enables a good quality of life for all residents, while supporting a strong economy in an accessible and well-connected built environment.

## Why is it needed?

In this rapidly changing world there are many challenges and opportunities for our much-loved Sunshine Coast way of life. We face changes in population, climate, economy and technology.

The strategy helps us to navigate through these challenges while harnessing opportunities. Its integrated and long-term approach to guiding development on the Sunshine Coast offers clarity, inspiration and direction.

The strategy is a forward-looking document and seeks to do things differently.

## Our progress

We use annual performance measures to help us monitor and track progress.

Target	Baseline	2023-24	2023-24 Outcome
No loss of the Regional Inter-urban Break in its current extent	32,031 ha*	32,031 ha	No change to the current extent
Hectares of land per 1000 residents acquired through Environment Levy for conservation and preservation purposes maintained	9.6 ha per 1000 residents	11.32 ha per 1000 residents <sup>+</sup>	185 ha acquired
Hectares of land per 1000 residents for sport and recreation purposes maintained	4.74 ha per 1000 residents	4.61 ha per 1000 residents <sup>+</sup>	46.5 ha open space secured
Renewable energy capacity increased	124.8 MW	497.5 MW	Increase of 45.4 MW <sup>^</sup>
Council's greenhouse gas emissions reduced	0.58 tCO <sub>2</sub> -e per resident	0.45 tCO <sub>2</sub> -e per resident <sup>+</sup>	Decrease of 0.03 tCO <sub>2</sub> -e per resident <sup>^</sup>

ha = Hectares MW = Megawatts

tCO<sub>2</sub>-e = Tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent

\* Note adjusted baseline figure in response to latest cadastral information to new GDA2020 following Environment and Liveability Strategy Refresh 2023

<sup>+</sup> Based on an estimated resident population of 374,286. Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Queensland Treasury, Population Projections, June 2023, qgso.qld.gov.au.

<sup>^</sup> Compared to 2022-23 results.

The annual performance measure for sport and recreation purposes includes strategic lands for which open space categories will be confirmed through future master planning and may result in changes to the performance measure outcome.

## Find out what's happening in your backyard

There's an easy way for you to stay up-to-date on what's happening in your local area and across the whole region.

Search online via your postcode to view Council projects and initiatives that are helping to deliver a healthy environment and liveable Sunshine Coast.

For more information go to [els.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au](https://els.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au)







## United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

As we advance our vision as Australia's most sustainable region – Healthy. Smart. Creative. the environmental, social, cultural and economic activities across the region must be carefully balanced to ensure we advance our vision sustainably.

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs) for peace, prosperity, people and planet provide a comprehensive and internationally recognised framework for us to collectively align

the way we each live, work, learn and play every day – and form an important foundation of the performance measurement framework of our Biosphere.

Council is demonstrating regional leadership by committing to embed the UNSDGs in our strategies, plans and associated progress reporting. Each Corporate Plan goal identifies how it contributes to the UNSDGs and, in doing so, assists to progress our Sunshine Coast Biosphere aim and objectives.



## A snapshot of our achievements

### Expanding our green spaces



We secured close to 500 hectares for conservation and recreation purposes, including 154 hectares in Peregrine Beach which was acquired in partnership with the State Government.

The Sunshine Coast Ecological Park Master Plan was endorsed providing a vision to create an ecological wonder - delivering nature-based recreation, education and research, while protecting, celebrating and restoring the site's inherent environmental, natural and cultural heritage values.

Strategic Pathway	1	2	3	4	5
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### Creating great places and spaces



We opened new spaces for our community to hold events, functions and fundraisers including Altitude Nine and the Community CoLab at Sunshine Coast City Hall.

We upgraded sporting facilities across the region including a new 20-metre indoor heated pool at Kawana and court upgrades at the Eumundi Tennis Club.

Strategic Pathway	1	2	3	4	5
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### Delivering a healthy coast



The Point Cartwright Reserve and La Balsa Park Master Plan was endorsed to guide and shape the popular coastal reserve.

The Mooloolaba Foreshore Revitalisation Project progressed the design delivery for Stage Two Central Meeting Place to create more beachfront parkland, new community facilities, improved access to the beach and foreshore and enhanced coastal protection.

The inaugural Coastal Health Report was released providing a baseline for the long-term monitoring of our coast.

Strategic Pathway	1	2	3	4	5
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### Conserving our biodiversity



Implementation commenced on the Sunshine Coast Marine Turtle Conservation Plan to support the recovery of self-sustaining populations of marine turtles by reducing threats, improving habitat quality, and strengthening community-based management.

The Macropod Conservation Plan was developed to ensure that sustainable populations of eastern grey kangaroos and other macropods continue to thrive on the Sunshine Coast.

Strategic Pathway	1	2	3	4	5
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### Blue Heart Sunshine Coast partnership



In an Australian first, the Australian Government's Clean Energy Regulator formally registered the Blue Heart's Blue Carbon project to determine the feasibility of blue carbon farming as a potential alternative land use and income for landholders.

Strategic Pathway	1	2	3	4	5
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### Getting waste sorted



The Sunshine Coast Resource Recovery Strategy was adopted by Council at the November 2023 Ordinary Meeting.

The Strategy supports Council's objective to be a zero net emissions organisation by 2041 and identifies a series of actions to transition to a circular economy approach to managing the region's waste.

A new \$40M Material Recovery Facility was opened at Nambour in December 2023. Each year the facility will process around 60,000 tonnes of paper, cardboard, plastic containers, glass bottles, glass jars, steel cans and aluminium cans collected from household and business yellow lid bins.

Strategic Pathway	1	2	3	4	5
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Strategic pathways	1	A resilient region shaped by clever planning and good design
	2	Protection and enhancement of our natural assets and distinctive landscapes
	3	Responsive, accessible and well managed assets and infrastructure
	4	Transitioning to a sustainable and affordable way of living
	5	A reputation for innovation and sustainability

## Creating our climate ready region



Updated flood mapping was released providing a range of tools to inform emergency preparedness and land use planning as well as to build our region's resilience.

A review of the Local Disaster Management Plan was completed providing procedures in responding to a disaster or emergency on the Sunshine Coast.

We continued the implementation of our joint cascading climate risk project with Noosa Council.

Strategic Pathway	1	2	3	4	5
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## Sustainable and affordable living through urban transformation



We endorsed the Housing and Homelessness Action Plan in July 2023. Through this Plan, Council has extended its role in advocacy, facilitation and providing evidence, to include actively pursuing the delivery of affordable housing to support our key worker households on low and moderate incomes.

Strategic Pathway	1	2	3	4	5
-------------------	---	---	---	---	---

## Celebrating people and nature



We celebrated a healthy environment and sustainable Sunshine Coast in partnership with our community through a number of activities and initiatives:

- BiosPHERO Day
- Beach clean-up program
- Kids in Action environmental program
- Plastic Free July
- Biosphere Community Awards.

Strategic Pathway	1	2	3	4	5
-------------------	---	---	---	---	---

## Building our knowledge



We built our knowledge through evidence-based decision making. More than 200 people gathered for the Sunshine Coast Open Data Expo at Doonan Creek Environment Reserve. The Expo shared how Sunshine Coast researchers are partnering with citizen scientists to increase scientific knowledge, collect data and share stories in our natural environment.

Strategic Pathway	1	2	3	4	5
-------------------	---	---	---	---	---

## Protecting our Regional Inter-urban Break



Through ongoing advocacy by Council and the community the State Government's SEQ Regional Plan Update 2023 and regulatory mapping defined a cadastral extent of the Northern Inter-urban Break for the first time, which includes most of the areas Council has identified as the Regional Inter-urban Break. New provisions in the Planning Regulations 2017 assist to protect this valuable area in perpetuity.

Council will continue to advocate for the protection of the Regional Inter-urban Break in its entirety including Halls Creek which is considered by the State as a Potential Future Growth Area and is excluded from the Northern Inter-urban Break extent.

Strategic Pathway	1	2	3	4	5
-------------------	---	---	---	---	---

## Recognising, protecting and celebrating our dark skies



We commenced our dark sky journey to establish a Dark Sky Reserve in the hinterland and sought feedback from the community on the proposal.

Strategic Pathway	1	2	3	4	5
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## Sustainability in focus

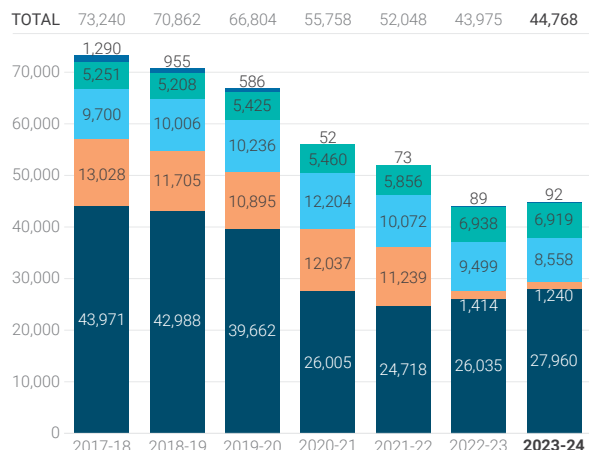
Transitioning to a zero-net emissions organisation by 2041 is a Transformational Action of Council's Environment and Liveability Strategy and a key action of a climate ready Council.

In 2022 Council adopted the Organisational Zero-net Emissions Plan. This Plan provides a roadmap on how we are to meet our target to be a Zero-net Emissions organisation by 2041.

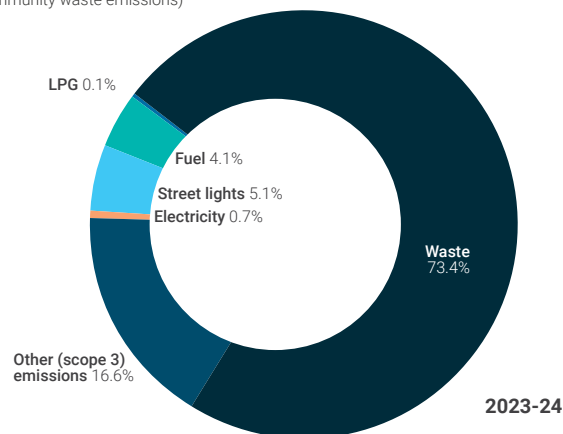
Each year Council reports against a number of sustainability metrics. It provides a comprehensive view of any trends, changes and/or challenges we are facing on our journey to achieving sustainability objectives.

The data on these pages is a snapshot of our 2023-24 performance. A copy of the full report is available via Council's website.

Council emissions in tCO<sub>2</sub>-e (excluding Council and community waste emissions)



Council emissions as a % of the total emissions footprint (including Council and community waste emissions)



Waste (including Council and community waste)	123,513 tCO <sub>2</sub> -e from waste in landfills	73.4%
Other (scope 3) emissions	27,960 tCO <sub>2</sub> -e including goods and services produced by a third party	16.6%
Liquid petroleum gas (LPG)	92 tCO <sub>2</sub> -e that is used at Council's sites	0.1%
Fuel	6,919 tCO <sub>2</sub> -e from our fleet vehicles and bulk diesel supply	4.1%
Street lights	8,558 tCO <sub>2</sub> -e from our street lights	5.1%
Electricity from our large and small sites <sup>€</sup>	1,240 tCO <sub>2</sub> -e	0.7%

<sup>€</sup> Streetlight consumption has been accounted for separate from 'electricity' as it is a significant proportion of the Electricity emissions.

## Greenhouse gas emissions



**168,281** tCO<sub>2</sub>-e

Council target: *Zero-net emissions by 2041*

Total emissions



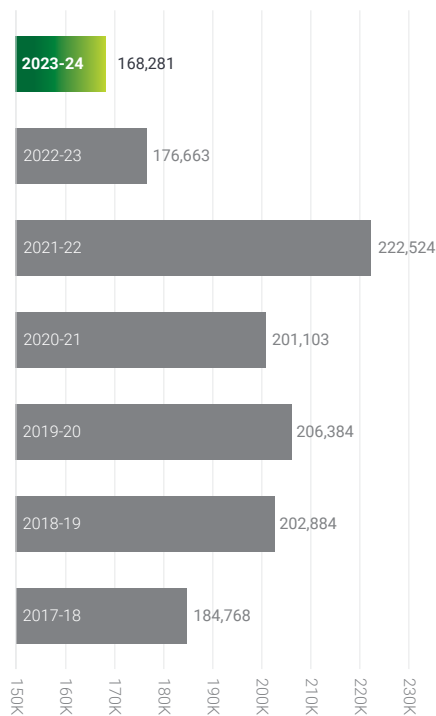
**4.7% decrease**

**0.45** tCO<sub>2</sub>-e  
per resident



**0.03** tCO<sub>2</sub>-e decrease

Greenhouse gas emissions (tCO<sub>2</sub>-e) by fiscal year



## Electricity



**25,695** MWh consumed

Annual change



**0.9% decrease**

## Renewables



**15,882** kW solar installed

Annual change



**2.5% increase**

## Water



**772,550** kL used

Annual change



**22.5% increase**

## Transport



**514** fleet vehicles

Annual change



**6% decrease**

**20** Low carbon  
vehicles



**13% decrease**

## Fuel



**2,057,996** litres used

Annual change



**5.3% decrease**

## Waste

**5,518** tonnes generated by Council

Annual change



**22.7% increase**

**2,489** tonnes of Council  
waste diverted from landfill



**22.79% increase**





## We won a handful of awards

Buderim Village Park was internationally recognised achieving the **Green Flag Award** for well-managed parks and green spaces around the world. Buderim Village Park also won **Park of the Year Award** at the **Parks and Leisure Australia Queensland Regional Awards of Excellence**.

The **Land for Wildlife South East Queensland Program** was awarded the collaboration category at the **2024 Local Government Managers Australia (Qld) Awards for Excellence**.

The **Sunshine Coast Ecological Park** was awarded the **Strategic and Master Planning Award** at the **2024 Parks and Leisure Queensland Regional Awards of Excellence**. The Ecological Park also received the **Excellence Award for Parks and Open Space**, and the **Landscape Architecture Award for Landscape Planning** at the **Australian Institute of Landscape Architects QLD Awards**.

The **Sugar Bag Road Recreation Facility** received a high commendation for the **Community Facility of the Year** at the **2024 Parks and Leisure Queensland Regional Awards of Excellence**.

## Focus for the year ahead

In 2024-25, we will progress the refresh of the **Environment and Liveability Strategy (Part C: Network Plan)** to ensure it continues to be a forward-looking document.

We will continue the delivery of our **Transformational Actions** and key **Council services**.



### Protecting the Regional Inter-urban Break and Sub-regional Inter-urban Breaks

Secure and protect the **Regional Inter-urban Break** and **Sub-regional Inter-urban Breaks** in perpetuity to frame our neighbourhoods, secure the environmental, production and recreation values and strengthen the identity of our community of communities.



### Creating our climate ready region

Proactively respond to reduce our climate risk to increase the adaptive capacity and build the resilience of the region.



#### Conserving our biodiversity

Connect and protect our valued habitat areas to support our native flora and fauna and providing the community with opportunities to participate in conservation and to experience the natural environment.



#### Creating great places and spaces

In partnership with industry and community develop a network of contemporary and accessible places and spaces that provide and support opportunities for creative, community and active/passive experiences.



Photo: M.Wren

#### Delivering a healthy coast

Provide a strategic and coordinated approach to the protection, sustainable use and enjoyment of our dunes, beaches, rocky shores and near-shore marine waters.



#### Celebrating our landscape and character

Identify, understand and plan for the defining landscapes, character and history of the Sunshine Coast to enable growth and development to be respectful and complementary for the future.









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2/02/24

8.5 SUNSHINE COAST BIOSECURITY PLAN 2024

File No:	Council Meetings
Author:	Coordinator Biodiversity & Waterways Liveability & Natural Assets Group
Appendices:	App A - Sunshine Coast Biosecurity Plan 2024..... 231   App B - Sunshine Coast Biosecurity Implementation Plan 2024267  

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to present the Sunshine Coast Biosecurity Plan 2024 for Council consideration and endorsement.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Sunshine Coast Biosecurity Plan 2024 provides a framework to apply the *Biosecurity Act 2014* at a local level to assist the community and land managers in the Sunshine Coast Council Local Government Area to meet their general biosecurity obligation for invasive plants and animals.

The Sunshine Coast Biosecurity Plan 2024 identifies 81 priority invasive plant and animal species listed as prohibited or restricted under the *Biosecurity Act 2014*. The identification of these priority species aims to assist land managers to implement an effective risk-based land management approach. The priority species are grouped under four management objectives - prevention, eradication, containment, and asset protection. A suite of reasonable and practical measures accompanies each species to assist land managers to reduce the risk and impacts of these priority species. Council’s approach to compliance, which prioritises voluntary and assisted methods, is also presented.

The plan also identifies 3 alert and 19 locally significant invasive plant species that should be considered for management when they threaten or impact high value natural environment areas.

The Plan is supported by Council’s Biosecurity Implementation Plan 2024, which outlines a range of ongoing and new actions undertaken by Council and its partners to reduce biosecurity risk.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- (a) receive and note the report titled “Sunshine Coast Biosecurity Plan 2024”
- (b) endorse the Sunshine Coast Biosecurity Plan 2024 (Appendix A) and Sunshine Coast Council Biosecurity Implementation Plan 2024 (Appendix B) and
- (c) note that the Sunshine Coast Biosecurity Plan 2024 supersedes the Sunshine Coast Council Local Government Area Biosecurity Plan 2017.

## FINANCE AND RESOURCING

Funding to support Council's biosecurity management activities are considered during the annual operational and capital works budget development process.

The Sunshine Coast Council Biosecurity Implementation Plan 2024 presents the suite of Council's ongoing biosecurity activities and includes 19 new actions.

Two of these actions may require future additional budget allocation. The design and installation of Council vehicle clean-down facilities will be considered as part of the long-term capital program. Costs for managing the infestations of fire ants are currently being met through existing budget, however subject to ongoing monitoring, there may be need for additional budget in future financial years.

In 2023/24 more than \$1.1 million of the Environment Levy was expended on invasive species research, action and community engagement. This includes a specific program of education and landholder engagement about biosecurity, that will continue to support the delivery of this Plan. The Environment Levy further supports biosecurity management through our landholder engagement programs.

## CORPORATE PLAN

**Corporate Plan Goal:** *Our environment and liveability*

**Outcome:** 2.2 - Protection and enhancement of our natural assets and distinctive landscapes

**Operational Activity:** 2.2.1 - Coordination of weed management activities, demonstration sites, and exploring new technology and methodologies to improve industry and community understanding of weed management practices.

## CONSULTATION

### Councillor Consultation

Councillor M Suarez and Councillor W Johnston are members of the Invasive Weeds Taskforce, which provided input to the development of the Sunshine Coast Biosecurity Plan 2024.

A briefing was provided to all Councillors on the Sunshine Coast Biosecurity Plan 2024.

### Internal Consultation

The development of the Sunshine Coast Biosecurity Plan 2024 has involved significant engagement with staff from across the organisation, including through an internal Biosecurity Working Group, with representatives from the following branches:

- Customer Response
- Environmental Operations
- Environment and Sustainability Policy
- Development Services
- Parks and Gardens
- Leasing and Land Management

- Building and Facilities Assets
- Strategic Planning

**External Consultation**

- External stakeholder engagement was undertaken through the Invasive Weeds Taskforce. This group was established by Council in 2021 to identify local weed priorities, support the development of fit-for-purpose weed management objectives, and to inform and participate in the review of the Sunshine Coast Council Local Government Area Biosecurity Plan 2017. The taskforce has met regularly and is comprised of staff and representatives from: Department of Agriculture and Fisheries
- Department of Transport and Main Roads
- Growcom
- Glasshouse Mountains Advancement Network
- HQ Plantations
- Jinibara Aboriginal Peoples Corporation
- Mooloolah River Landcare
- Powerlink
- Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service
- Local landholder representatives
- SEQ Water
- Sunshine Coast Environment Council
- Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group

The Invasive Weeds Taskforce provided stakeholder input into the development of the Plan and will continue to support implementation activities. The taskforce reviewed the final draft of the Sunshine Coast Biosecurity Plan 2024 and the Sunshine Coast Council Biosecurity Implementation Plan 2024.

**Community Engagement**

A community education program promoting the Sunshine Coast Biosecurity Plan 2024 would run as part of Council's existing biosecurity education activities subject to Council endorsement.

**PROPOSAL***Background*

Biosecurity is a broad term referring to measures taken to manage harmful organisms. The Queensland *Biosecurity Act 2014* outlines what all Queenslanders must do to reduce biosecurity risk. This is called our general biosecurity obligation. It applies to all Queenslanders and all Queensland organisations, including Council.

To assist the community and land managers to meet their general biosecurity obligation, the *Biosecurity Act 2014* requires local governments to prepare a biosecurity plan to manage priority invasive plants and animals.



Invasive plants and animals negatively impact our natural, agriculture, residential, and community areas. It is estimated invasive species in Australia cause \$25 billion of damage each year. In 2017, Council adopted the Sunshine Coast Council Local Government Area Biosecurity Plan 2017. Development of a new plan to update and replace this plan began in 2023. The review of Council's Biosecurity Implementation Plan 2017 revealed that 80% of the plan's actions are either ongoing or have been completed. Objective and Scope

The Sunshine Coast Biosecurity Plan 2024 aims to provide a framework for effective management of priority invasive plants and animals on the Sunshine Coast. The Plan will assist the community and land managers to apply the *Biosecurity Act 2014* at a local level and meet their general biosecurity obligation for invasive plants and animals.

The Plan applies to all land and waters within the boundary of the Sunshine Coast local government area, including land owned and managed by government, utilities, businesses and individuals.

The Plan does not consider invasive diseases, parasites, viruses, insects (including fire ants), marine species, or noxious fish. Biosecurity Queensland (part of the Queensland Department of Agriculture & Fisheries) coordinates all invasive biosecurity matter outside the scope of the Plan, with assistance from Council when required.

#### Priority Invasive Species

The Sunshine Coast Biosecurity Plan 2024 identifies 81 priority invasive plant and animal species listed as prohibited or restricted under the *Biosecurity Act 2014*. The identification of these priority species aims to assist land managers to implement an effective risk-based land management approach.

The identified priority invasive species were determined by undertaking a biosecurity risk assessment of the prohibited and restricted species that are either known to occur, or have a high likelihood of entering, the Sunshine Coast.

The biosecurity risk assessment followed a Biosecurity Queensland process that assesses the economic, social amenity, human health, and environmental impacts of each species along with their invasiveness and potential distribution. This is then balanced against the feasibility and cost of being able to manage the species.

The assessment produced a list of 81 priority species under the *prevention, eradication, containment, and asset protection* management objectives:

- **Prevention** – 23 species identified. These species are not currently found in the Sunshine Coast and if they became established could result in significant impacts. Increasing community and land manager awareness of these species and encouraging early detection and responses is important to manage these species.
- **Eradication** – 15 species identified. These species are present in low numbers and are found in only a few locations in the Sunshine Coast. Elimination of the biosecurity risk posed by these species is reasonable and practical for land managers to achieve.
- **Containment** – 23 species identified. These species are found in parts of the Sunshine Coast but not everywhere. While eradication from the Sunshine Coast may not be feasible, minimisation of the biosecurity risk posed by these species is reasonable and practical.

- **Asset Protection** – 20 species identified. These species occur across the whole of the Sunshine Coast and cause some impacts. These species should be managed when they threaten or impact high value assets, such as important environmental, agriculture, or community areas.

Each of these management objective categories is complemented by a suite of reasonable and practical measures for land managers to undertake to reduce the impacts of these priority species.

#### Alert and Locally Significant Invasive Plants

Some invasive plants that are not listed under the *Biosecurity Act 2014* can have locally significant impacts on our environmental areas. The plan identifies 3 alert and 19 locally significant invasive plant species that should be considered for management when they threaten or impact high value natural environment areas.

The identification of the Alert and Locally Significant invasive plants aims to assist land managers to make decisions that result in the best use of their time and resources when they are managing high value natural environment areas. The list of species was informed by a risk assessment process, which aligned with the Biosecurity Queensland invasive species risk assessment.

#### Compliance

To achieve the management objectives, Council's authorised persons use a range of flexible and targeted compliance measures, in conjunction with educational programs, to assist land managers meet their general biosecurity obligation. Council prioritises voluntary and assisted compliance, achieved through education and partnerships with land managers.

Council works with landholders through a series of steps before any compliance action is undertaken. This generally involves property inspections to confirm the species, development of an invasive species management plan, and property re-inspections. Biosecurity Orders, Enter and Clear Notices, and Penalty Infringement Notices may be used when voluntary and assisted options have failed.

#### Implementation Plan

Council's Biosecurity Implementation Plan 2024 outlines Council activities undertaken to meet our own general biosecurity obligation and implementing the objectives for invasive plant and animal management.

Council's integrated approach to biosecurity management includes a broad range of ongoing activities undertaken across the organisation, and in partnership with stakeholders and the community. These activities include surveillance programs for invasive plants and animals, invasive plant and animal field data collection and research, control programs for invasive plants and animals, biosecurity awareness and education programs, and other important initiatives listed in the implementation plan.

The ongoing activities are complemented by an action plan that includes new actions required to improve biosecurity management on the Sunshine Coast over the next five years.

### **Legal**

Section 53 of the *Biosecurity Act 2014* requires local governments to prepare a Biosecurity Plan to manage priority invasive plants and animals. This plan fulfils that requirement.

**Policy**

The Environment and Liveability Strategy recognises the importance of addressing biosecurity risk through two key policy positions: -

- Biodiversity policy position - *Strategic management of invasive plants and animals reduces impacts on native bushland and wildlife.*
- Waterways and Wetlands policy position - *Aquatic and riparian invasive plants and animals are managed strategically to reduce impacts on native species and habitats.*

The strategy also includes a Transformational Action and associated task: -

- 13. Managing our invasive plants and animals: *Provide a collaborative, effective and efficient response to the management of invasive plants and animals to reduce their social, economic, and environmental impacts.*
  - 13.1 *Implement the Sunshine Coast Local Government Area Biosecurity Plan.*

**Risk**

The Sunshine Coast Biosecurity Plan 2024 assists land managers to reduce biosecurity risk and meet their general biosecurity obligation. Without a Biosecurity Plan, Council would not meet the legislative requirements of the *Biosecurity Act 2014*.

**Previous Council Resolution****Ordinary Meeting 7 December 2017 (OM17/242)**

*That Council:*

- receive and note the report titled "Sunshine Coast Council Local Government Area Biosecurity Plan 2017"*
- adopt the Sunshine Coast Council Local Government Area Biosecurity Plan 2017 (Appendix A) and the Sunshine Coast Council Biosecurity Implementation Plan 2017 (Appendix B)*
- delegate authority to the Chief Executive Officer to update the "locally significant" invasive plants and animal species lists and catchment management responses as knowledge of invasive species improves and*
- note that the Sunshine Coast Council Local Government Area Biosecurity Plan 2017 supersedes the Sunshine Coast Local Government Area Pest Management Plan 2012-2016.*

**Related Documentation**

Environment and Liveability Strategy 2023

Sunshine Coast Council Corporate Plan 2024-2028

**Critical Dates**

There are no critical dates relevant to this report.

**Implementation**

Should the Sunshine Coast Biosecurity Plan 2024 and the Sunshine Coast Council Biosecurity Implementation Plan 2024 be endorsed, it is noted that the Chief Executive Officer would progress implementation in partnership with the community.





## Sunshine Coast Biosecurity Plan 2024



Edition July 2024

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#### Acknowledgements

Council wishes to thank all contributors  
and stakeholders involved in the  
development of this document.

#### Reference document

This document should  
be cited as follows:

Sunshine Coast Biosecurity Plan 2024.

#### Disclaimer

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## Traditional Acknowledgement

Sunshine Coast Council acknowledges the Sunshine Coast Country, home of the Kabi Kabi peoples and the Jinibara peoples, the Traditional Custodians, whose lands and waters we all now share.

We recognise that these have always been places of cultural, spiritual, social and economic significance. The Traditional Custodians' unique values, and ancient and enduring cultures, deepen and enrich the life of our community.

We commit to working in partnership with the Traditional Custodians and the broader First Nations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) communities to support self-determination through economic and community development.

Truth telling is a significant part of our journey. We are committed to better understanding the collective histories of the Sunshine Coast and the experiences of First Nations peoples. Legacy issues resulting from colonisation are still experienced by Traditional Custodians and First Nations peoples.

We recognise our shared history and will continue to work in partnership to provide a foundation for building a shared future with the Kabi Kabi peoples and the Jinibara peoples.

We wish to pay respect to their Elders – past, present and emerging, and acknowledge the important role First Nations peoples continue to play within the Sunshine Coast community.

Together, we are all stronger.



**Contents**

**1. Introduction ..... 5**

**2. Our global commitment ..... 8**

    Strategic Framework ..... 10

    Strategic Alignment ..... 11

**3. General Biosecurity Obligation ..... 13**

**4. Reasonable and Practical Measures for  
Priority Invasive Species ..... 14**

    4.1 Prevention..... 16

    4.2 Eradication ..... 19

    4.3 Containment ..... 22

    4.4 Asset Protection ..... 25

**5. Locally Significant Invasive Plants .... 28**

    5.1 Alert Invasive Plants ..... 29

    5.2 Locally Significant Invasive Plants ..... 29

    5.3 Management Recommendations ..... 30

**6. Compliance..... 32**

**7. Implementation ..... 34**

**8. References..... 35**







## 1. Introduction

Biosecurity is a broad term referring to measures taken to manage harmful organisms. Everyone in Queensland has a general biosecurity obligation (GBO) under the *Biosecurity Act 2014* to take measures to reduce biosecurity risks. To assist the community and land managers to meet their GBO, the *Biosecurity Act 2014* requires local governments to prepare a Biosecurity Plan to manage priority invasive plants and animals.

Invasive plants and animals significantly impact the values of the Sunshine Coast local government area (the Sunshine Coast). They can degrade natural bushland and aquatic environments, reduce the productivity and viability of agriculture areas, reduce the scenic amenity and function of community open spaces, cause harm and health issues for people and pets, damage infrastructure, and increase overall land management costs.

Managing invasive plants and animals is often a challenging task due to their inherent adaptive and resilient attributes and the often limited control options available to manage their impact and spread. To ensure effective and efficient invasive species management, it is essential that the priority invasive species are targeted with the most feasible management approaches.

### Objectives

The Sunshine Coast Biosecurity Plan 2024 aims to provide a framework for effective management of priority invasive plants and animals in the Sunshine Coast Council Local Government Area, in accordance with the Queensland Government *Biosecurity Act 2014*.

This objective is achieved by outlining the highest priority invasive species for the Sunshine Coast and defining reasonable and practical measures to manage them.

This plan provides a framework to assist the community and land managers to understand and meet their GBO and *Biosecurity Act 2014* legislative responsibilities relating to priority invasive plants and animals. The objectives for invasive plant and animal management on the Sunshine Coast are outlined in Figure 1 and emphasise the importance of a shared responsibility and a long-term commitment.



Figure 1. Sunshine Coast Biosecurity Plan 2024 objectives.

## Scope

The Sunshine Coast Biosecurity Plan 2024 applies to all land and waters within the boundary of the Sunshine Coast Council Local Government Area (the Sunshine Coast), including land owned and managed by government, utilities, and individuals.

The *Biosecurity Act 2014* requires Queensland local governments to prepare a Biosecurity Plan to manage prohibited and restricted invasive plants and animals in its local government area.

This plan does not consider invasive diseases, parasites, viruses, insects (including fire ants), marine species, or noxious fish.

Biosecurity Queensland coordinates the prevention and response to all invasive biosecurity matters outside the scope of this plan, with assistance from Council where and when required.

All prohibited and category 1 and 2 restricted biosecurity matter outside the scope of this plan (including aquatic diseases, parasites, and viruses; animal diseases, parasites, and viruses; marine animals and plants; noxious fish; matter affecting plants, and tramp ants) must be reported to Biosecurity Queensland.

Public health risks from mosquitoes and biting midges are dealt with through Council's mosquito and biting midge surveillance and treatment programs.

## A Collaborative Approach

The Sunshine Coast Biosecurity Plan 2024 has been prepared in consultation with relevant industries, community groups, state government departments, natural resource management groups and other stakeholders with a strong interest in invasive species management.

While Council has facilitated the development of this plan as a requirement under the *Biosecurity Act 2014*, this plan guides the invasive plant and animal management responsibilities of the entire Sunshine Coast community.

## Invasive Species Impacts

Globally, invasive species are causing dramatic changes to natural ecosystems and human food production systems and are threatening our general wellbeing. It is estimated the global economic cost of invasive species and their control exceeds A\$654 billion each year, with costs having at least quadrupled every decade since 1970<sup>1</sup>. The current annual cost of invasive species in Australia is conservatively estimated to be around A\$25 billion and it has increased up to six-fold every decade<sup>2</sup>.

The Sunshine Coast Biosphere is internationally recognised for its natural environments, productive agricultural areas, and connected community which all contribute to the liveability of the region. Invasive plants and animals can have significant impacts on these environmental and liveability values, and these impacts are likely to be made worse by future population growth and climate change.

The following are considered to be the primary potential impacts from invasive plants and animals on the Sunshine Coast:

### Invasive Plant Impacts

- Natural ecosystems (land and water)
  - Transform natural ecosystems and reduce natural habitats
  - Inhibit regeneration of natural ecosystems
  - Harm, poison, or toxic to native animals
- Agricultural areas
  - Cause illness or injury to livestock
  - Outcompete desirable production species
  - Reduce water quality in waterways and waterbodies
- Community and residential areas
  - Reduce open space function and values
  - Cause human health issues
  - Increase risk of fire



Assisting landholders to meet their General Biosecurity

### Invasive Animal Impacts

- Natural ecosystems (terrestrial and aquatic)
  - Prey on, outcompete, and displace native animals
  - Physically degrade natural habitats
  - Carry diseases and parasites that can infect native animals
- Agricultural areas
  - Outcompete, prey on, threaten, or injure livestock
  - Carry diseases and parasites that can impact livestock
  - Disturb soil and vegetation and damage infrastructure
- Community and residential areas
  - Carry diseases and parasites that can impact humans
  - Cause traffic hazards
  - Nuisance behaviours and impact infrastructure

### Climate Change

Queensland can expect higher temperatures, more bushfires, reduced overall rainfall, more intense downpours, and more intense tropical cyclones due to climate change<sup>3</sup>. It is expected that climate change will result in invasive species causing more overall impacts to our natural, agricultural, and community areas. Some of the predicted impacts from climate change on invasive species include increased opportunity for:

- Fire and drought tolerant invasive plants to outcompete native and agricultural species
- Invasive species to colonise damaged areas after fires, floods, and cyclones
- Invasive animals to prey on native animals whose shelter is damaged by fires, floods, and cyclones
- Heat and moisture stressed native plants and animals to become displaced by invasive species
- Biological control agents to become less effective
- Some native species to become invasive

The Sunshine Coast Council Biosecurity Implementation Plan 2024 outlines a specific action to further investigate and plan adaptation responses for these potential increased biosecurity risks caused by climate change.





In June 2022, our Sunshine Coast local government area was recognised by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) as a biosphere reserve – where responsible development and people living sustainably sit alongside active conservation.

Our region has joined a world-wide network of biosphere reserves to balance the environmental, social, cultural and economic needs of today, without compromising the ability to meet the needs of future generations.

Our region's international recognition as a special place where people are living, working, learning and playing sustainably highlights the values of our region that we are seeking to protect and enhance, brings new opportunities and a range of possible benefits to our natural environment, community, lifestyle and economy.

Being recognised as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve and maintaining this credential is our region's commitment to create a positive legacy for future generations. Every resident, visitor, business and government entity has a key role to play in maintaining and enhancing the Sunshine Coast Biosphere reserve for our children, grandchildren and all those who will enjoy the prosperity, beauty and liveability of our region into the future.

## 2. Our global commitment

This Biosecurity Plan embeds the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs) into its actions. The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals for peace, prosperity, people and planet provide a comprehensive and internationally recognised framework to collectively align the way we each live, work, learn and play every day.

**UNSDG 2 – Zero Hunger** – End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.

Addressing agricultural biosecurity risk will allow for sustainable and resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, and progressively improve land and soil quality.

**UNSDG 11 - Sustainable Cities and Communities** - Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

Managing biosecurity risk can improve access to safe green public spaces and supports positive economic, social and environmental links.

**UNSDG 13 - Climate Action** - Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.

Strengthening resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards is critical to prepare for the expected increase in damage from invasive species due to climate change.

**UNSDG 15 – Life on Land** – Protect, restore, and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.

Addressing biosecurity risks for our natural ecosystems is essential to ensure the protection, restoration, and sustainable management of our terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems.

**UNSDG 17 - Partnerships for the Goals** - Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development.

Effective biosecurity research, planning, and implementation requires coordination and partnerships at local, national, and international levels.



## Strategic Framework

Council's strategic vision is underpinned by three key strategies, the Environment and Liveability Strategy, Regional Economic Development Strategy, and the Community Strategy as shown in Figure 3.

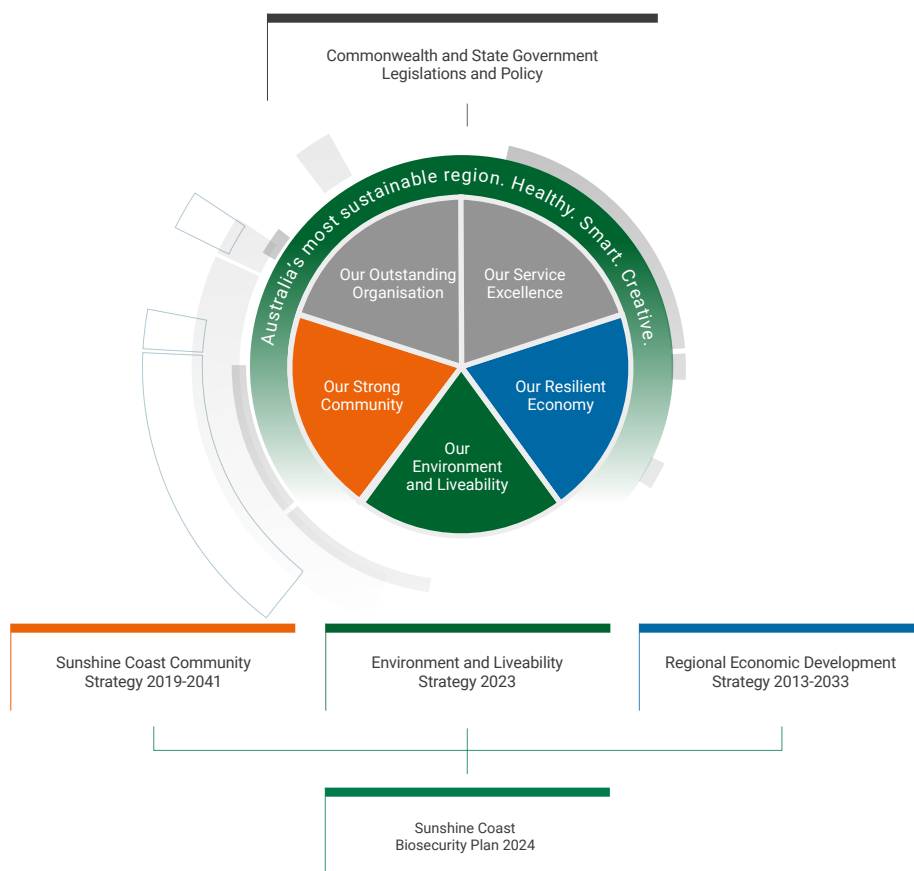


Figure 3. Sunshine Coast Council's strategic strategies.



## Strategic Alignment

### Environment and Liveability Strategy 2023

The Environment and Liveability Strategy provides strategic pathways to guide growth and shape the Sunshine Coast for future generations to 2041. It focuses on the natural environment and how it can be preserved and enhanced, as well as the liveability of the region. It enables a good quality of life for all residents, while supporting a strong economy in an accessible and well-connected built environment.

The Environment and Liveability Strategy 2023 (ELS) builds a pathway to a healthy environment and liveable Sunshine Coast in 2041. The natural environment and how it can be preserved and enhanced, as well as the liveability of the region, is the primary focus, enabling a good quality of life for all residents and supporting a strong economy in an accessible and well-connected built environment.

The ELS recognises biosecurity risk (invasive plants and animals) as a critical management concern in its biodiversity, coastal, and waterways and wetlands policy positions. This is reinforced by the inclusion of a Transformational Action to manage invasive plants and animals by providing a collaborative, effective and efficient response that will reduce their social, economic, and environmental impacts.

### Sunshine Coast Community Strategy 2019-2041

The Sunshine Coast Community Strategy provides the strategic pathways towards a future where together we thrive. We thrive through connection with people, places and spaces and where we stay true to our values as a welcoming, caring and vibrant community, with opportunities for all to participate.

The Sunshine Coast Community Strategy 2019-2041 focuses on inclusive communities by supporting the growth of social connection and collaboration through a place-based approach. Outcomes sought include an emphasis on active transport, community facilities, affordable living options, smart infrastructure, and sense of place in the public realm.

The strategy highlights the community's desire to work together to preserve and care for our natural environment and open spaces. Addressing biosecurity risks and impacts is an integral part of caring for our natural environment and open spaces.

### Regional Economic Development Strategy 2013-2033

The Regional Economic Development Strategy provides the strategic pathways to transition into a regional economy that is innovative, adaptive, resilient and climate ready. It encourages a more sustainable and equitable future economy, attracting investment and supporting local businesses to innovate, grow and enable diverse employment opportunities.

The Regional Economic Development Strategy 2013-2033, (REDS) provides a 20-year vision and blueprint for sustainable economic growth. It will help to ensure the region actively participates in the global economy and delivers the lifestyle and opportunities for local residents and businesses alike.

The strategy recognises a healthy natural environment underpins thriving communities and prosperous economies. Addressing biosecurity risk and impacts is critical to maintaining a healthy environment.





## National and State Government Legislation and Strategies

The management of invasive plants and animals is undertaken by all levels of government and guided by a range of legislation and strategies. This plan was developed and will be implemented in accordance with the Queensland Government *Biosecurity Act 2014*<sup>4</sup>. Other national and state government legislation and strategies considered in the preparation of this plan include:

### National Government

- *Biosecurity Act 2015*
- *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*
- National Biosecurity Strategy 2022-2032
- Australian Weeds Strategy 2017–2027
- Australian Pest Animal Strategy 2017–2027
- Australia's Strategy for Nature 2019-2030

### Queensland State Government

- *Biosecurity Act 2014*
- *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (prohibited wildlife)
- Queensland Biosecurity Strategy 2024–2029
- Queensland Invasive Plants and Animals Strategy 2019-2024
- Queensland Wild Dog Management Strategy 2021–2026
- Queensland Feral Deer Management Strategy 2022–2027
- Biodiversity Conservation Strategy 2022

### 3. General Biosecurity Obligation *Biosecurity Act 2014*

Everyone in Queensland has a general biosecurity obligation (GBO) under the *Biosecurity Act 2014* to take all reasonable and practical measures to prevent or minimise biosecurity risks and ensure pests, diseases or contaminants are not spread. The entire Sunshine Coast community has a responsibility to take action to meet our GBO.

To assist the community and land managers to meet their GBO for invasive plants and animals, the *Biosecurity Act 2014* requires all local governments in Queensland to prepare a Biosecurity Plan to manage prohibited and restricted invasive plants and animals in its local government area.

The *Biosecurity Act 2014* specifies **prohibited** invasive plants and animals as species that do not currently occur within Queensland but would have a significant impact on our economy, social amenity, human health, and natural environment values if they did enter and establish. Everyone in Queensland must be aware and take steps to prevent prohibited species from entering our state. If prohibited species are detected, you need to report them to Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23 within 24 hours and take all reasonable steps to minimise risks and not make the situation worse. It is an offence to deal with (that is keep, possess, breed, propagate, use, feed, distribute, import, transport, dispose, buy, or supply) prohibited species, unless authorised under a permit.

The *Biosecurity Act 2014* identifies **restricted** invasive plants and animals as species currently found in Queensland that may have a significant impact on our economy, social amenity, human health, and natural environment values. Land managers are required to take specific actions to contain, reduce, or control restricted invasive species. There are seven categories that can be applied to restricted matter, each with requirements land managers must comply with (noting that some invasive plants and animals can have more than one category assigned to it which means you may need to comply with several requirements).

#### Restricted Invasive Plant Categories

**Category 1** – Must be reported to an inspector within 24 hours (by calling Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23)

**Category 2** – Must be reported to an inspector or authorised person within 24 hours (by calling Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23 or Council on (07) 5475 7272)

**Category 3** – Must not be distributed or disposed of, given as a gift, sold, traded, or released into the environment (unless authorised in a regulation or under a permit)

**Category 4** – Must not be moved to ensure it is not spread into other areas

**Category 5** – Must not be possessed or kept (unless authorised under a permit)

**Category 6** – Must not be fed (unless as part of a control program)

**Category 7** – Must be killed and correctly disposed (applies only to noxious fish, and outside the scope of this plan)

'Section 4 - Reasonable and Practical Measures for Priority Invasive Species' of this plan provides land managers and the community with the steps Council requires to address the biosecurity risk presented by the prohibited and restricted invasive plants and animals on the Sunshine Coast.

Invasive plants and animals that are not prohibited or restricted under the *Biosecurity Act 2014* can also pose a threat to the values of the Sunshine Coast. These species are referred to as 'Locally Significant' invasive plants and animals and are addressed in 'Section 5 - Locally Significant Invasive Plants' of this plan.

#### 4. Reasonable and Practical Measures for Priority Invasive Species

The *Biosecurity Act 2014* allows for a flexible and risk-based approach to biosecurity planning with an emphasis on shared responsibility and responsive methods to ensure biosecurity management is effective and proportionate. Understanding the biosecurity risk of invasive plants and animals listed under the *Biosecurity Act 2014* is a key first step to implement an effective risk-based approach.





A number of invasive plants and animals listed as either prohibited or restricted matter by the *Biosecurity Act 2014* are either known to occur within, or have a high likelihood of entering, the Sunshine Coast. A biosecurity risk assessment was undertaken for these species to determine the most appropriate measures land managers must apply to reduce their biosecurity risk.

The biosecurity risk assessment is a standardised approach developed by Biosecurity Queensland that assesses each species for the following:

#### Risk

- Economic, social amenity, human health, and environmental impacts
- Invasiveness (ability to spread and establish)
- Potential distribution

#### Management feasibility

- Current distribution
- Cost of control
- Effectiveness of control

This risk assessment identified the highest priority invasive species for the Sunshine Coast and categorised these species into four management objectives:

**Prevention** - Not currently found, aim to prevent entry and establishment

**Eradication** - Limited distribution, aim to eliminate

**Containment** - Moderate distribution, aim to reduce impact and spread

**Asset Protection** - Wide distribution, aim to protect high value assets

All species listed under these four management objectives are a high priority for management on the Sunshine Coast. The management objectives reflect the most appropriate management outcomes for each invasive species, as represented in the generalised invasion curve presented in the Figure 4 below.

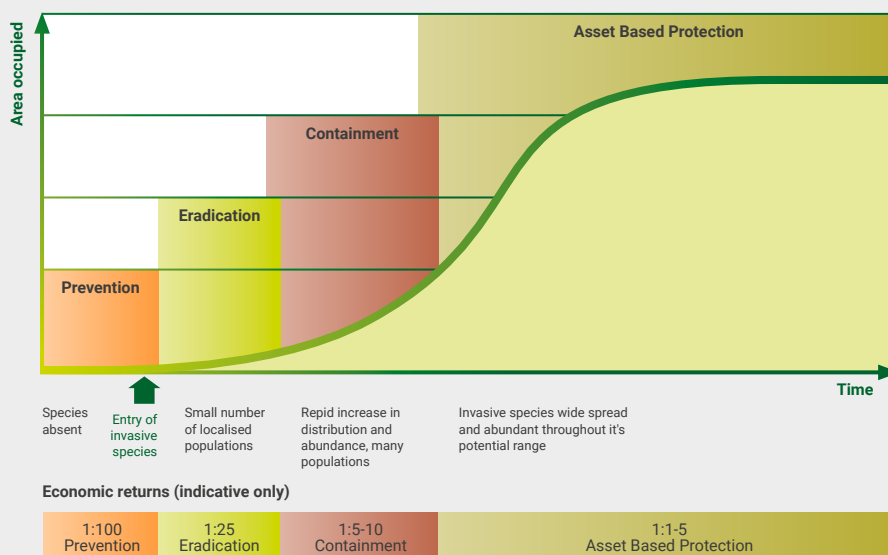


Figure 4. Generalised invasion curve and priority invasive species management objectives. Source: Biosecurity Victoria.



## 4.1 Prevention

The species presented in Table 1 are not currently found on the Sunshine Coast, however they are a significant biosecurity risk and have either been recorded as occurring here in the past or are known to be a high risk of entering the Sunshine Coast. If these species became established on the Sunshine Coast, they would likely result in significant biosecurity impacts.

Preventing the entry and establishment of these species is an important objective for the Sunshine Coast that can be achieved by increasing community and land manager awareness and encouraging early detection and responses.

Table 1. Prevention plant and animal species – Not found on the Sunshine Coast – Land managers to prevent their entry and establishment.

Prevention Invasive Plants			
Plant Species	Type	Biosecurity Act 2014	
		Matter	Category
cha-om ( <i>Senegalia spp</i> )	Tree	Prohibited	
harrisia cactus ( <i>Harrisia spp. syn. Eriocereus spp. other than H. martinii, H. tortuosa and H. pomanensis</i> )	Cacti	Prohibited	
Karoo thorn ( <i>Vachellia karoo</i> )	Tree	Prohibited	
Mexican bean tree ( <i>Cecropia pachystachya, C. palmata and C. peltata</i> )	Tree	Prohibited	
Peruvian primrose bush ( <i>Ludwigia peruviana</i> )	Water	Prohibited	
yellow fever tree ( <i>Vachellia xanthophloea</i> )	Tree	Prohibited	
African boxthorn ( <i>Lycium ferocissimum</i> )	Shrub	Restricted	3
alligator weed ( <i>Alternanthera philoxeroides</i> )	Water	Restricted	3
bitou bush ( <i>Chrysanthemoides monilifera ssp. rotundifolia</i> )	Shrub	Restricted	2,3,4,5
harrisia cactus ( <i>Harrisia martinii, H. tortuosa and H. pomanensis</i> )	Cacti	Restricted	3
limnocharis, yellow burthead ( <i>Limnocharis flava</i> )	Water	Restricted	2,3,4,5
Madras thorn ( <i>Pithecellobium dulce</i> )	Tree	Restricted	2,3,4,5
pond apple ( <i>Annona glabra</i> )	Tree	Restricted	3
prickly acacia ( <i>Vachellia nilotica syn. Acacia nilotica spp. indica</i> )	Tree	Restricted	3
rubber vine ( <i>Cryptostegia grandiflora</i> )	Vine	Restricted	3
Senegal tea ( <i>Gymnocoronis spilanthoides</i> )	Water	Restricted	3
sicklepod, hairy cassia ( <i>S. hirsuta</i> )	Shrub	Restricted	3
tobacco weed ( <i>Elephantopus mollis</i> )	Shrub	Restricted	3
water mimosa ( <i>Neptunia oleracea and N. Plena</i> )	Water	Restricted	2,3,4,5

Reasonable and Practical Measures for Prevention Invasive Plants		
Aim	Measure	Success Indicator
Awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Be aware of the 'Prevention' invasive plants</li> <li>Have unfamiliar plants formally identified</li> </ul>	Sound knowledge of species
Surveillance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Carry out and record area/property surveillance activities or targeted inspections, prioritising introduction pathways such as roads, stockyards, and watering points</li> </ul>	Early detection
Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Undertake hygiene procedures on vehicles, machinery, and clothing (including wash downs, brush downs, visual inspections, and quarantine)</li> <li>Spell stock in holding areas when moved from high risk areas</li> <li>Source stock, landscaping, and garden products from low risk areas and/or request a weed hygiene declaration</li> <li>Check any purchased plants (including reproductive parts) are not listed under the <i>Biosecurity Act 2014</i></li> </ul>	Reduced risk of entry
Notification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Invasive plants listed as prohibited or restricted category 2 matter by the <i>Biosecurity Act 2014</i> must be reported to Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23</li> <li>All 'Prevention' invasive plants to be reported to Sunshine Coast Council on (07) 5475 7272</li> </ul>	Immediate reporting
Distribution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No 'Prevention' invasive plants may be sold, traded, given away, or released into the environment</li> </ul>	No spread
Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To be advised once reported to Biosecurity Queensland and/or Sunshine Coast Council</li> </ul>	Not applicable

Prevention Invasive Animals		
Animal Species	Biosecurity Act 2014	
	Matter	Category
feral chital ( <i>Axis</i> ) deer ( <i>Axis axis</i> )	Restricted	3,4,6
hog deer ( <i>Axis porcinus</i> )	Restricted	2,3,4,5,6
red-eared slider turtle ( <i>Trachemys scripta elegans</i> )	Restricted	2,3,4,5,6
sambar deer ( <i>Rusa unicolor</i> , syn. <i>Cervus unicolor</i> )	Restricted	2,3,4,5,6

Reasonable and Practical Measures for Prevention Invasive Plants		
Aim	Measure	Success Indicator
Awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Be aware of the 'Prevention' invasive animals</li> <li>Have unfamiliar animals formally identified</li> </ul>	Sound knowledge of species
Surveillance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Carry out and record area/property surveillance activities or targeted inspections</li> </ul>	Early detection
Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Check any purchased animals are not listed under the <i>Biosecurity Act 2014</i></li> </ul>	Reduced risk of entry
Notification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Invasive animals listed as restricted category 2 matter by the <i>Biosecurity Act 2014</i> must be reported to Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23</li> <li>All 'Prevention' invasive animals to be reported to Sunshine Coast Council on (07) 5475 7272</li> </ul>	Immediate reporting
Distribution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No 'Prevention' invasive plants may be sold, traded, given away, or released into the environment</li> </ul>	No spread
Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To be advised once reported to Biosecurity Queensland and/or Sunshine Coast Council</li> </ul>	Not applicable

## 4.2 Eradication

The species presented in Table 2 are present in limited distribution and abundance on the Sunshine Coast and present a significant biosecurity risk.

Elimination of the biosecurity risk posed by these species is reasonable and practical for land managers to achieve.

Table 2. Eradication plant and animal species – Limited distribution and abundance on the Sunshine Coast – Land managers to eliminate.

Eradication Invasive Plants			
Plant Species	Type	Biosecurity Act 2014	
		Matter	Category
cholla cactus ( <i>prohibited</i> ) - all <i>Cylindropuntia</i> spp. and hybrids (other than <i>C. fulgida</i> , <i>C. imbricata</i> , <i>C. prolifera</i> , <i>C. rosea</i> , <i>C. spinosior</i> and <i>C. tunicata</i> )	Cacti	Prohibited	
prickly pears ( <i>prohibited</i> ) - all <i>Opuntia</i> spp. (other than <i>O. monacantha</i> , <i>O. aurantiaca</i> , <i>O. tomentosa</i> , <i>O. streptacantha</i> , <i>O. microdasys</i> , <i>O. elata</i> , <i>O. stricta</i> and <i>O. ficus-indica</i> )	Cacti	Prohibited	
annual ragweed ( <i>Ambrosia artemisiifolia</i> )	Herb	Restricted	3
cane cactus ( <i>Austrocylindropuntia cylindrica</i> )	Cacti	Restricted	3
coral cactus ( <i>Cylindropuntia fulgida</i> ), Devil's rope pear ( <i>C. imbricata</i> ), Snake cactus ( <i>C. spinosior</i> )	Cacti	Restricted	3
drooping tree pear ( <i>Opuntia monacantha</i> syn. <i>O. vulgaris</i> ), Tiger pear ( <i>O. aurantiaca</i> ), Velvety tree pear ( <i>O. tomentosa</i> ) and Westwood pear ( <i>O. streptacantha</i> ),	Cacti	Restricted	3
Eve's pin cactus ( <i>Austrocylindropuntia subulata</i> )	Cacti	Restricted	3
fireweed ( <i>Senecio madagascariensis</i> )	Herb	Restricted	3
honey locust ( <i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i> including cultivars & varieties)	Tree	Restricted	3
Hudson pear ( <i>C. rosea</i> and <i>C. tunicata</i> ), Jumping cholla ( <i>C. prolifera</i> )	Cacti	Restricted	2,3,4,5
kudzu ( <i>Pueraria montana</i> var. <i>lobata</i> syn. <i>P. lobata</i> , <i>P. triloba</i> )	Vine	Restricted	3
parthenium ( <i>Parthenium hysterophorus</i> )	Herb	Restricted	3
prickly pear ( <i>Opuntia elata</i> ), Bunny ears ( <i>O. microdasys</i> )	Cacti	Restricted	2,3,4,5



Reasonable and Practical Measures for Eradication Invasive Plants		
Aim	Measure	Success Indicator
Awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Be aware of the 'Eradication' invasive plants</li> <li>Have unfamiliar plants formally identified</li> </ul>	Sound knowledge of species
Surveillance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Carry out and record area/property surveillance activities or targeted inspections, prioritising introduction pathways such as roads, stockyards, and watering points</li> </ul>	Early detection in areas not infested
Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Undertake hygiene procedures on vehicles, machinery, and clothing (including wash downs, brush downs, visual inspections, and quarantine)</li> <li>Spell stock in holding areas when moved from high risk areas</li> <li>Source stock, landscaping, and garden products from low risk areas and/or request a weed hygiene declaration</li> <li>Check any purchased plants (including reproductive parts) are not listed under the <i>Biosecurity Act 2014</i></li> </ul>	Reduced entry into new areas
Notification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Invasive plants listed as prohibited or restricted category 2 matter by the <i>Biosecurity Act 2014</i> must be reported to Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23</li> <li>All 'Prevention' invasive plants to be reported to Sunshine Coast Council on (07) 5475 7272</li> </ul>	Immediate reporting
Distribution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No 'Eradication' invasive plants may be sold, traded, given away, or released into the environment</li> </ul>	No spread
Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remove or destroy all plants and reproductive plant parts fully and continuously from the area infested on your property, following approved control and disposal best practice methods for each specific species (<a href="#">see Queensland Government restricted invasive plants</a>), which may include: conducting chemical treatments; physical or mechanical removal of the entire infestation; removing contaminated soil or turf; preventing further spread; maintaining competitive vegetation / crops / pastures; utilising biological control agents</li> <li>Establish an on-going monitoring program to measure progress toward eradication, including inspection by Sunshine Coast Council to ensure compliance</li> </ul>	Ongoing removal and no spread

Eradication Invasive Animals		
Animal Species	Biosecurity Act 2014	
	Matter	Category
European rabbit ( <i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i> )	Restricted	3,4,5,6
feral fallow deer ( <i>Dama dama</i> )	Restricted	3,4,6

Reasonable and Practical Measures for Eradication Invasive Animals		
Aim	Measure	Success Indicator
Awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Be aware of the 'Eradication' invasive animals</li> <li>Have unfamiliar animals formally identified</li> </ul>	Sound knowledge of species
Surveillance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Carry out and record area/property surveillance activities or targeted inspections</li> </ul>	Early detection in areas not infested
Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Check any purchased animals are not listed under the <i>Biosecurity Act 2014</i></li> <li>Remove waste and unused infrastructure that may provide shelter and habitat for invasive animals</li> </ul>	Reduced entry into new areas
Notification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All 'Prevention' invasive animals to be reported to Sunshine Coast Council on (07) 5475 7272</li> </ul>	Immediate reporting
Distribution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No 'Eradication' invasive animals may be sold, traded, given away, or released into the environment</li> </ul>	No spread
Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop and implement an invasive animal eradication plan in consultation with Sunshine Coast Council, and participate in an invasive animal control program that may include verifying species presence, risk assessment, land manager consent, and neighbour notifications</li> <li>Establish an on-going monitoring program to measure progress toward eradication, including inspection by Sunshine Coast Council to ensure compliance</li> </ul>	Ongoing removal and no spread

## 4.3 Containment

The species presented in Table 3 are distributed in parts of the Sunshine Coast but not everywhere. While eradication from the Sunshine Coast may not be feasible, minimisation of the biosecurity risk posed by this species

is reasonable and practical. Land managers can achieve the containment objective by reducing the impact of these species where they occur and stopping their spread across the landscape.

Table 3. Containment plant and animal species – Distributed in parts of the Sunshine Coast – Land managers to reduce the impact and stop their spread.

Containment Invasive Plants			
Plant Species	Type	Biosecurity Act 2014	
		Matter	Category
African fountain grass ( <i>Cenchrus setaceum</i> )	Grass	Restricted	3
American rat's tail grass ( <i>Sporobolus jacquemontii</i> )	Grass	Restricted	3
balloon vine ( <i>Cardiospermum grandiflorum</i> )	Vine	Restricted	3
blackberry ( <i>Rubus anglocandicans</i> , <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> aggregate)	Shrub	Restricted	3
cabomba ( <i>Cabomba caroliniana</i> )	Water	Restricted	3
cats claw creeper ( <i>Dolichandra unguis-cati</i> )	Vine	Restricted	3
climbing asparagus ( <i>Asparagus africanus</i> and <i>A. plumosus</i> )	Ground	Restricted	3
common giant rats tail grass ( <i>Sporobolus pyramidalis</i> and <i>S. nataensis</i> )	Grass	Restricted	3
creeping lantana ( <i>Lantana montevidensis</i> )	Ground	Restricted	3
Dutchman's pipe ( <i>Aristolochia</i> spp. other than native species)	Vine	Restricted	3
giant parramata grass ( <i>Sporobolus fertilis</i> )	Grass	Restricted	3
groundsel bush ( <i>Baccharis halimifolia</i> )	Shrub	Restricted	3
hymenachne ( <i>Hymenachne amplexicaulis</i> and hybrids)	Water	Restricted	3
madeira vine ( <i>Anredera cordifolia</i> )	Vine	Restricted	3
mother of millions ( <i>Bryophyllum delagoense</i> syn. <i>B. tubiflorum</i> , <i>Kalanchoe delagoensis</i> )	Succulent	Restricted	3
mother of millions hybrid ( <i>Bryophyllum x houghtonii</i> )	Succulent	Restricted	3
prickly pear, Common pest pear, Spiny pest pear ( <i>Opuntia stricta</i> syn. <i>O. inermis</i> )	Cacti	Restricted	3
salvinia ( <i>Salvinia molesta</i> )	Water	Restricted	3
thunbergia ( <i>Thunbergia grandiflora</i> syn. <i>T. laurifolia</i> )	Vine	Restricted	3
water hyacinth ( <i>Eichhornia crassipes</i> )	Water	Restricted	3
water lettuce ( <i>Pistia stratiotes</i> )	Water	Restricted	3

Reasonable and Practical Measures for Containment Invasive Plants		
Aim	Measure	Success Indicator
Awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Be aware of the 'Containment' invasive plants</li> <li>Have unfamiliar plants formally identified</li> </ul>	Sound knowledge of species
Surveillance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Carry out and record area/property surveillance activities or targeted inspections, prioritising introduction pathways such as roads, stockyards, and watering points</li> </ul>	Early detection in areas not infested
Notification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not required</li> </ul>	Not applicable
Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Undertake hygiene procedures on vehicles, machinery, and clothing (including wash downs, brush downs, visual inspections, and quarantine)</li> <li>Spell stock in holding areas when moved from high risk areas</li> <li>Source stock, landscaping, and garden products from low risk areas and/or request a weed hygiene declaration</li> <li>Check any purchased plants (including reproductive parts) are not listed under the <i>Biosecurity Act 2014</i></li> </ul>	Reduced entry into new areas
Distribution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No 'Containment' invasive plants may be sold, traded, given away, or released into the environment</li> <li>When leaving areas infested with these species, undertake hygiene procedures on vehicles, machinery, and clothing (including wash downs, brush downs, visual inspections, and quarantine)</li> <li>Minimise seed spread of these species from your property (for example slash to prevent seeding, remove fruit, establish a buffer zone)</li> <li>Spell stock in holding areas when leaving areas infested with these species</li> <li>Do not provide stock feed and garden products from areas infested with these species</li> </ul>	No spread
Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In areas with established infestations of these species, minimise or eliminate the risk of spread away from infestation area by fully and continuously following approved control and disposal best practice methods for each specific species (<a href="#">see Queensland Government restricted invasive plants</a>), which may include: conducting chemical treatments; physical or mechanical removal; maintaining weed free buffers; preventing further spread; maintaining competitive vegetation/crops/pastures; utilising biological control agents</li> <li>In areas where new (not established) infestations are observed, remove or destroy all plants and reproductive plant parts fully and continuously from the area infested on your property, by fully and continuously following approved control and disposal best practice methods for each specific species (<a href="#">see Queensland Government restricted invasive plants</a>), which may include: conducting chemical treatments; physical or mechanical removal; maintaining weed free buffers; preventing further spread; maintaining competitive vegetation/crops/pastures; utilising biological control agents</li> <li>Establish an on-going monitoring program to measure progress toward containment, including inspection by Sunshine Coast Council to ensure compliance</li> </ul>	Ongoing removal or control with no further spread



Containment Invasive Animals		
Animal Species	Biosecurity Act 2014	
	Matter	Category
feral red deer ( <i>Cervus elaphus</i> )	Restricted	3,4,6
feral rusa deer ( <i>Rusa timorensis</i> syn. <i>Cervus timorensis</i> )	Restricted	3,4,6

Reasonable and Practical Measures for Eradication Invasive Animals		
Aim	Measure	Success Indicator
Awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Be aware of the 'Containment' invasive animals</li> <li>Have unfamiliar animals formally identified</li> </ul>	Sound knowledge of species
Surveillance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Carry out and record area/property surveillance activities or targeted inspections</li> </ul>	Early detection in areas not infested
Notification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All 'Containment' invasive animals to be reported to Sunshine Coast Council on (07) 5475 7272</li> </ul>	Not applicable
Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Check any purchased animals are not listed under the <i>Biosecurity Act 2014</i></li> </ul>	Reduced entry into new areas
Distribution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No 'Containment' invasive animals may be sold, traded, given away, or released into the environment</li> </ul>	No spread
Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop and implement an invasive animal plan in consultation with Sunshine Coast Council, and participate in an invasive animal control program that may include verifying species presence, risk assessment, land manager consent, and neighbour notifications</li> <li>Establish an on-going monitoring program to measure progress toward containment, including inspection by Sunshine Coast Council to ensure compliance</li> </ul>	Ongoing removal or control with no further spread

## 4.4 Asset Protection

The species presented in Table 4 are widely distributed across the Sunshine Coast and their broad scale eradication or containment is not feasible. Asset Protection species are to be managed to minimise their spread to and/or minimise their impacts on high value economic, environmental and/or social assets. This objective is considered reasonable and practical for land

managers to achieve for these invasive plant and animal species. High value assets include vegetated areas managed for conservation, waterways, wetlands, riparian vegetation, horticulture, agriculture, primary production areas, community open space, and residential areas where residents and visitors live, work, play.

Table 4. Asset protection plant and animal species – Widely distributed on the Sunshine Coast – Land managers to manage when threatening high value assets.

Containment Invasive Plants			
Plant Species	Type	Biosecurity Act 2014	
		Matter	Category
African tulip tree ( <i>Spathodea campanulata</i> )	Tree	Restricted	3
basket asparagus ( <i>Asparagus aethiopicus</i> )	Ground	Restricted	3
broad leaf pepper tree ( <i>Schinus terebinthifolius</i> )	Tree	Restricted	3
broad-leaf privet, tree privet ( <i>Ligustrum lucidum</i> )	Tree	Restricted	3
camphor laurel ( <i>Cinnamomum camphora</i> )	Tree	Restricted	3
Chinese celtis ( <i>Celtis sinensis</i> )	Tree	Restricted	3
hygrophila ( <i>Hygrophila costata</i> )	Water	Restricted	3
lantana – common ( <i>Lantana camara</i> )	Shrub	Restricted	3
ornamental gingers ( <i>Hedychium gardnerianum</i> , <i>h. coronarium</i> , <i>h. flavescens</i> )	Ground	Restricted	3
privets – small-leaf privet, Chinese privet ( <i>Ligustrum sinense</i> )	Shrub	Restricted	3
sagittaria ( <i>Sagittaria platyphylla</i> )	Water	Restricted	3
Singapore daisy ( <i>Sphagneticola trilobata</i> syn. <i>Wedelia trilobata</i> )	Ground	Restricted	3
willows (all <i>Salix</i> spp. other than <i>S. babylonica</i> , <i>S. x calodendron</i> and <i>S. x reichardtii</i> )	Tree	Restricted	3
yellow oleander, Captain Cook tree ( <i>Cascabela thevetia</i> syn. <i>Thevetia peruviana</i> )	Shrub	Restricted	3
yellow bells ( <i>Tecoma stans</i> )	Shrub	Restricted	3

Reasonable and Practical Measures for Asset Protection Invasive Plants		
Aim	Measure	Success Indicator
Awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Be aware of the 'Asset Protection' invasive plants</li> <li>Have unfamiliar plants formally identified</li> </ul>	Sound knowledge of species
Surveillance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Carry out and record surveillance activities or targeted inspections of high value assets, prioritising introduction pathways such as roads, stockyards, and watering points</li> </ul>	Early detection in areas not infested
Notification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not required</li> </ul>	Not applicable
Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Undertake hygiene procedures on vehicles, machinery, and clothing (including wash downs, brush downs, visual inspections, and quarantine)</li> <li>Spell stock in holding areas when moved from high risk areas</li> <li>Source stock, landscaping, and garden products from low risk areas and/or request a weed hygiene declaration</li> <li>Check any purchased plants (including reproductive parts) are not listed under the <i>Biosecurity Act 2014</i></li> </ul>	Reduced entry into new areas
Distribution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No 'Asset Protection' invasive plants may be sold, traded, given away, or released into the environment</li> <li>When leaving infestation area undertake hygiene procedures on vehicles, machinery, and clothing (including wash downs, brush downs, visual inspections, and quarantine)</li> <li>Minimise seed spread from infestations (for example slash to prevent seeding, remove fruit, establish a buffer zone)</li> <li>Spell stock in holding areas when leaving infestation areas</li> </ul>	No spread
Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimise or eliminate the risk of spread or incursion into, or existing impacts to high value assets by fully and continuously following approved control and disposal best practice methods for each specific species (<a href="#">see Queensland Government restricted invasive plants</a>), which may include: conducting chemical treatments; physical or mechanical removal; maintaining weed free buffers; preventing further spread; maintaining competitive vegetation / crops / pastures; utilising biological control agents</li> <li>Establish an on-going monitoring program to measure progress toward asset protection objective</li> </ul>	Ongoing removal or control with no further spread

Asset Protection Invasive Animals		
Animal Species	Biosecurity Act 2014	
	Matter	Category
cat ( <i>Felis catus</i> and <i>Prionailurus bengalensis x Felis catus</i> ), other than domestic cat	Restricted	3,4,6
dog ( <i>Canis lupus familiaris</i> ), other than a domestic dog	Restricted	3,4,6
dingo ( <i>Canis lupus dingo</i> )	Restricted	3,4,5,6
European fox ( <i>Vulpes vulpes</i> )	Restricted	3,4,5,6
feral pig ( <i>Sus scrofa</i> )	Restricted	3,4,6

Reasonable and Practical Measures for Asset Protection Invasive Animals		
Aim	Measure	Success Indicator
Awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Be aware of the 'Asset Protection' invasive animals</li> <li>Have unfamiliar animals formally identified</li> </ul>	Sound knowledge of species
Surveillance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Carry out and record surveillance activities or targeted inspections of high value assets</li> </ul>	Early detection in areas not infested
Notification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not required (however 'Asset Protection' invasive animal species can be reported via FeralScan at <a href="https://feralscan.org.au">feralscan.org.au</a>)</li> </ul>	Not applicable
Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Check any purchased animals are not listed under the <i>Biosecurity Act 2014</i></li> <li>Remove waste and unused infrastructure that may provide shelter and habitat for invasive animals</li> </ul>	Reduced risk entry into new areas
Distribution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No 'Asset Protection' invasive animal may be sold, traded, given away, or released into the environment</li> </ul>	No spread
Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop and implement an invasive animal plan in consultation with Sunshine Coast Council, and participate in an invasive animal control program that may include verifying species presence, risk assessment, land manager consent, and neighbour notifications</li> <li>Establish an on-going monitoring program to measure progress toward asset protection objective</li> </ul>	Ongoing control or removal with no incursions into strategic assets





Landholder with specimen of Honey Locust (*Gleditsia triacanthos*)

## 5. Alert and Locally Significant Invasive Plants

Some invasive plants that are not listed as prohibited or restricted under the *Biosecurity Act 2014* can have locally significant impacts on our environmental areas. Although not a state wide priority, these species can still disrupt our local natural ecosystem functions and negatively impact our community. Controlling these species can be challenging and costly, and to assist land managers to make the best use of available resources, a list of alert and locally significant species is presented in this section.

An assessment of over 200 invasive plants not listed as prohibited or restricted matter was undertaken during the development of this plan to prioritise the species with the highest biosecurity risk to our natural environments. The assessment focussed on the potential impacts, invasiveness, and current distribution of each species. The alert and locally significant species are the outcome of this assessment. Although these species represent the highest biosecurity risk to our natural environment, there are many other invasive plants not listed under the *Biosecurity Act 2014*, that also present a biosecurity risk and may require management

Land managers must first prioritise management of prohibited and restricted species (under the *Biosecurity Act 2014*), as outlined in 'Section 4 - Reasonable and Practical Measures for Priority Invasive Species'. It is recommended that the alert and locally significant invasive species listed in this section of the plan are also considered by land managers, where reasonable and practical, when managing high value natural environment areas. High value natural areas include vegetated areas managed for conservation, waterways, wetlands, and riparian vegetation.

It is important to note that there is currently no legislation or regulations that specifically mention these alert and locally significant species for biosecurity management.

## 5.1 Alert Invasive Plants

The alert invasive plant species presented in Table 5 are not listed under the *Biosecurity Act 2014*, however they present a local biosecurity risk to environmental areas. These species are not well established on the Sunshine Coast, however they have potential to cause significant impacts to natural areas should they spread.

It is recommended that land managers aim to prevent the entry of these species and take actions to control and prevent their further spread if they are found. All 'Alert' invasive plants should be reported to Sunshine Coast Council on (07) 5475 7272.

Table 5. Alert plant species – Not well established on the Sunshine Coast – Land managers to prevent their entry and establishment.

Alert Invasive Plants (not prohibited or restricted species under the <i>Biosecurity Act 2014</i> )	
Plant Species	Type
Amazonian Frogbit ( <i>Limnobium laevigatum</i> )	Water
hiptage ( <i>Hiptage benghalensis</i> )	Shrub
yellow or Mexican waterlily ( <i>Nymphaea mexicana</i> )	Water

## 5.2 Locally Significant Invasive Plants

The locally significant invasive plant species presented in Table 6 are not listed under the *Biosecurity Act 2014*, however they present a local biosecurity risk to environmental areas. These species can significantly impact natural areas, are highly invasive, spread naturally and easily, and are often relatively widespread. It is recommended that land managers aim to take actions to control and prevent further spread of these species when they are impacting or threatening high value natural assets.

Table 6. Locally significant plant species – Often relatively widespread – Land managers to manage when threatening high value assets.

Locally Significant Invasive Plants (not prohibited or restricted species under the <i>Biosecurity Act 2014</i> )	
Plant Species	Type
air potato ( <i>Dioscorea bulbifera</i> )	Vine
autograph tree ( <i>Clusea rosea</i> )	Tree
barleria ( <i>Barleria repens</i> )	Shrub
blue morning glory ( <i>Ipomoea indica</i> )	Vine
Brazilian cherry ( <i>Eugenia uniflora</i> )	Shrub
broad leaf paspalum ( <i>Paspalum mandiocanum</i> )	Grass
coastal morning glory ( <i>Ipomoea cairica</i> )	Vine
cocos palm ( <i>Syagrus romanzoffiana</i> )	Tree
Easter cassia ( <i>Senna pendula</i> var. <i>glabrata</i> )	Shrub
fragrant thunbergia ( <i>Thunbergia fragrans</i> )	Vine
glory lily ( <i>Gloriosa superba</i> )	Shrub
kidney-leaf mud plantain ( <i>Heteranthera reniformis</i> )	Water
molasses grass ( <i>Melinis minutiflora</i> )	Grass
ochna ( <i>Ochna serrulata</i> )	Shrub
parrots feather ( <i>Myriophyllum aquaticum</i> )	Water
Queensland umbrella tree ( <i>Schefflera actinophylla</i> )*	Tree
taro ( <i>Colocasia esculenta</i> )	Ground
thorny poinciana ( <i>Biancaea decapetala</i> syn. <i>Caesalpinia decapetala</i> )	Vine
water poppy ( <i>Hydrocleys nymphoides</i> )	Water

\* Native to north Queensland, however considered as invasive species in southern Queensland.

## 5.3 Management Recommendations

The following steps are recommended for land managers to address the biosecurity risks posed by the alert and locally significant species presented above:

### Prevent Introduction

- Carry out invasive species surveillance activities
- Undertake invasive plant hygiene procedures on vehicles, machinery, and clothing (including wash downs, brush downs, visual inspections,)
- Source landscaping, and garden products from low risk areas and/or request a weed hygiene declaration
- Keep soil and ecosystem disturbances to a minimum
- Choose local native plants for landscaping and revegetation
- Dispose garden waste responsibly

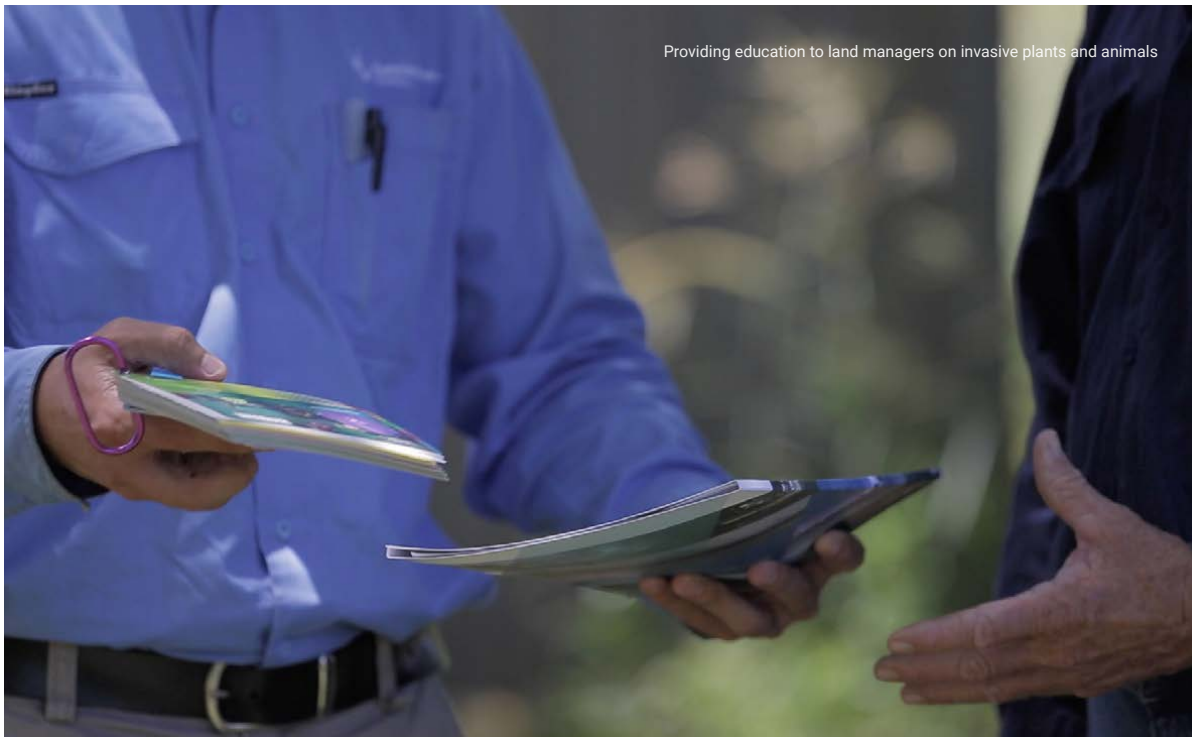
### Reduce spread

- Control, minimise or eliminate the impacts and/or risk of spread of alert and locally significant invasive species into high value assets by following best practice control and disposal methods ([see the Queensland Government other invasive plants website<sup>5\)</sup>](#)), which may include: conducting chemical treatments; physical or mechanical removal; maintaining weed free buffers; preventing further spread; maintaining competitive vegetation/crops/pastures; utilising biological control agents
- Develop a property invasive plant management plan (map infestations, prioritise management options, and monitor progress towards targets)









Providing education to land managers on invasive plants and animals

## 6. Compliance

To achieve the reasonable and practical management objectives for priority invasive plants and animals, Council's authorised persons use a range of flexible and targeted compliance measures in conjunction with educational programs. Council prioritises voluntary and assisted compliance to ensure land managers can meet their GBO.

This is achieved through education and a range of partnership programs undertaken with land managers. Biosecurity Orders, Enter and Clear Notices, or Penalty Infringement Notices are issued for regulated species when voluntary and assisted options have failed to meet the required outcomes. Council's generalised approach and process to biosecurity compliance is presented in Figure 5.

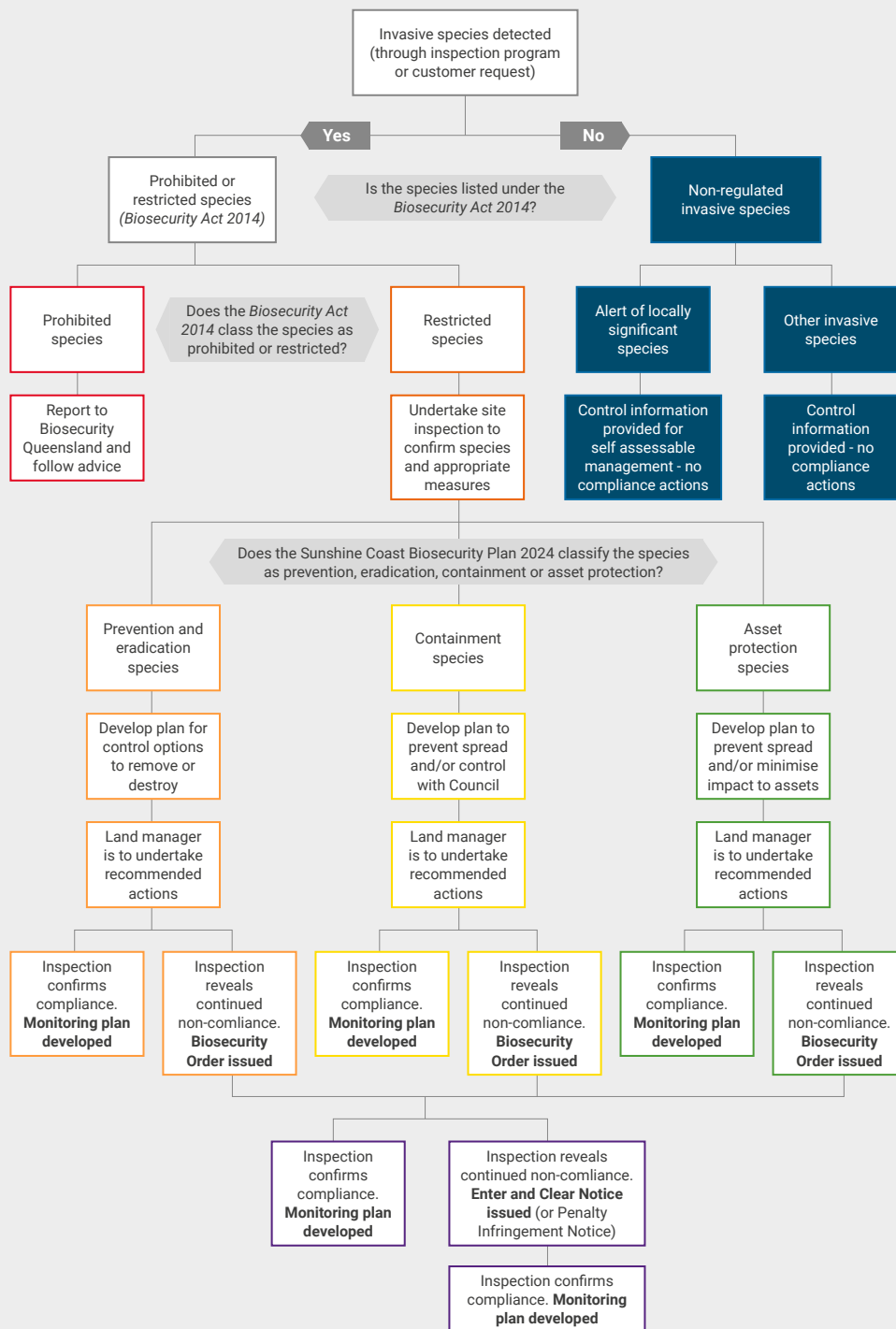


Figure 5. Sunshine Coast Council's generalised approach and process to biosecurity compliance.



## 7. Implementation

Implementation of this plan is central to reducing invasive plant and animal biosecurity risk on the Sunshine Coast. Council will coordinate a collaborative approach to ongoing implementation of this plan to assist in guiding the invasive plant and animal management responsibilities of the entire Sunshine Coast community.

A collaborative approach will primarily be facilitated through the the multistakeholder Invasive Weed Taskforce and the internal Council Biosecurity Working Group.

These groups meet on a regular basis to guide the implementation of this plan, review priority invasive plants and animals, identify emerging threats, outline strategic responses, discuss current activities, and assist with reporting on the implementation of this plan.

The Sunshine Coast Council Biosecurity Implementation Plan 2024 outlines how Council is meeting its own GBO and implementing the vision and objectives for invasive plant and animal management.



## 8. References

- 1 Summary for Policymakers of the Thematic Assessment Report on Invasive Alien Species and their Control of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (2023). Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services. Roy, H. E., Pauchard, A., Stoett, P., Renard Truong, T., Bacher, S., Galil, B. S., Hulme, P. E., Ikeda, T., Sankaran, K. V., McGeoch, M. A., Meyerson, L. A., Nuñez, M. A., Ordonez, A., Rahlao, S. J., Schwindt, E., Seebens, H., Sheppard, A. W., and Vandvik, V. (eds.). IPBES secretariat, Bonn, Germany.
- 2 Fighting plagues and predators Australia's path towards a pest and weed-free future (2021). Sheppard, A., and Glanznig A. CSIRO, Canberra, Australia.
- 3 Climate change in Queensland (2019). State of Queensland Department of Environment and Science, Brisbane, Australia.
- 4 *Biosecurity Act 2014* (Current as at 2 June 2023). Authorised by the Parliamentary Counsel State of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia.
- 5 Other invasive plants - Learn about other invasive plants that are not prohibited or restricted - [business.qld.gov.au/industries/farms-fishing-forestry/agriculture/biosecurity/plants/invasive/other](https://business.qld.gov.au/industries/farms-fishing-forestry/agriculture/biosecurity/plants/invasive/other)





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## Sunshine Coast Council Biosecurity Implementation Plan 2024



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#### Reference document

This document should  
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Sunshine Coast Council  
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## Traditional Acknowledgement

Sunshine Coast Council acknowledges the Sunshine Coast Country, home of the Kabi Kabi peoples and the Jinibara peoples, the Traditional Custodians, whose lands and waters we all now share.

We recognise that these have always been places of cultural, spiritual, social and economic significance. The Traditional Custodians' unique values, and ancient and enduring cultures, deepen and enrich the life of our community.

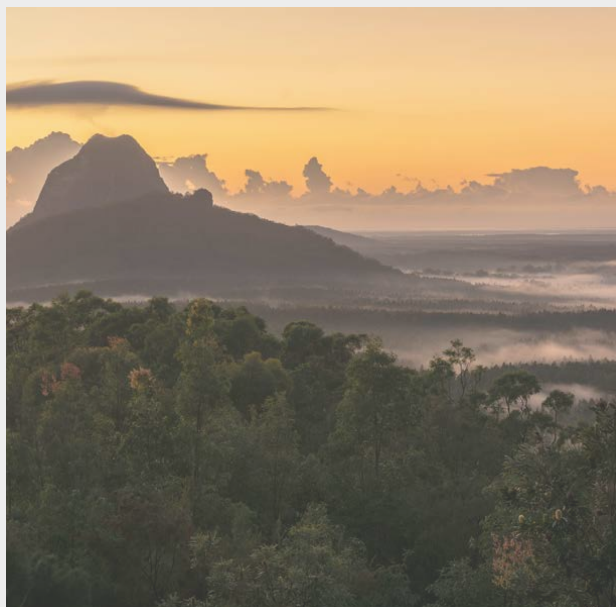
We commit to working in partnership with the Traditional Custodians and the broader First Nations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) communities to support self-determination through economic and community development.

Truth telling is a significant part of our journey. We are committed to better understanding the collective histories of the Sunshine Coast and the experiences of First Nations peoples. Legacy issues resulting from colonisation are still experienced by Traditional Custodians and First Nations peoples.

We recognise our shared history and will continue to work in partnership to provide a foundation for building a shared future with the Kabi Kabi peoples and the Jinibara peoples.

We wish to pay respect to their Elders – past, present and emerging, and acknowledge the important role First Nations peoples continue to play within the Sunshine Coast community.

Together, we are all stronger.





## Contents

1. Introduction .....	5
2. Ongoing Biosecurity Activities .....	6
2.1 Case Studies - Success Stories .....	9
3. Action Plan .....	10
4. Implementation and Monitoring .....	14

Sunshine Coast Council Biosecurity Implementation Plan 2024

Council and contractor discuss control of the priority restricted weed *Thumbergia grandiflora*



3







## 1. Introduction

**Biosecurity is a broad term referring to measures taken to manage harmful organisms. Everyone in Queensland has a general biosecurity obligation (GBO) under the *Biosecurity Act 2014* to take measures to reduce biosecurity risks.**

Invasive plants and animals significantly impact the values of the Sunshine Coast local government area (the Sunshine Coast). They can degrade natural bushland and aquatic environments, reduce the productivity and viability of agriculture areas, reduce the scenic amenity and function of community open spaces, cause harm and health issues for people and pets, damage infrastructure, and increase overall land management costs.

Sunshine Coast Council (Council) has developed the Sunshine Coast Biosecurity Plan 2024 to assist the community and land managers to meet their GBO for invasive plants and animals. The Sunshine Coast Biosecurity Plan 2024 should be referred to by all land managers in order to understand the vision, scope, approach, strategic context, obligations, priority species, and measures to meet their GBO for invasive plants and animals.

The Sunshine Coast Council Biosecurity Implementation Plan 2024 outlines how Council is meeting its own GBO and implementing the vision and objectives for invasive plant and animal management. This is demonstrated in this implementation plan through a suite of ongoing and new biosecurity activities and actions for Council.

Den tracking dogs to assist with coastal fox control program



## 2. Ongoing Biosecurity Activities

Council's integrated approach to biosecurity management includes a broad range of ongoing, business-as-usual activities undertaken across the organisation, and in partnership with stakeholders and the community.

These ongoing invasive species related activities are categorised under the six strategic themes of the Queensland Invasive Plants and Animal Strategy 2019-2024, as presented in Table 1. These activities are current as of 2024 and may be subject to change.

Table 1. Sunshine Coast Council's ongoing invasive species activities.

Prevention and preparedness	
Preventing the establishment and spread of invasive plants and animals	
Activity	Description
Surveillance program for invasive plants	Monitor and survey properties for prohibited and restricted invasive plants*
Biosecurity industry program	Work with industry to prevent the sale and spread of prohibited and restricted invasive plants, in partnership with Biosecurity Queensland
Landfill invasive plant inspections	Monitoring of landfills and green waste management facilities to prevent the spread of invasive plants
Surveillance program for invasive animals	Monitor and survey properties for prohibited and restricted invasive animals*
Responsible pet ownership	Educate and inform the community on responsible pet ownership for happy healthy pets and safe and inclusive places, through public and school education programs, and dog and cat registration
Control	To be advised once reported to Biosecurity Queensland and/or Sunshine Coast Council
Monitoring and assessment	
Information on invasive plants and animals for effective decision-making	
Activity	Description
Invasive plant and animal field data collection	Collection of invasive plant and animal data through mapping software and sharing of information within Council, with Biosecurity Queensland, research institutions, and the community
Invasive animal monitoring	Collection of invasive animal and native animal data to assess progress of management programs, using motion sensor trail cameras, heat maps, activity indexes, and general analytics
Biosecurity Queensland Payment Program	Biosecurity Queensland program receiving contributions from Queensland local governments to fund state wide invasive plant and animal research projects and information sharing outcomes
Invasive plant research trials	Research trials to monitor and improve the effectiveness of invasive plant control methods, including herbicides, manual removal, mechanic controls, and new technologies
Invasive animal research	Research to monitor and improve invasive animal control methods and animal ecology knowledge, including DNA and environmental DNA (eDNA) research, spatial tracking, artificial intelligence trapping

Effective management systems Integrated practices for managing and minimising impacts of invasive plants and animals	
Activity	Description
Control program for invasive plants	Assist, coordinate, and educate residents to identify, prioritise, plan for, and implement invasive plant management and undertake compliance where necessary*
Coastal fox control program	Control and monitoring of fox populations to protect native animals and the community, utilising trapping, canid pest ejectors, and den fumigation in coastal areas between Maroochy River and Peregrine Beach (collaboration between Council, Queensland Parks and Wildlife, Coolool and Northshore Coast Care, Noosa Shire Council, Sunshine Coast Airport and land managers).
Community wild dog program	Wild dog and dingo control utilising chemical baiting and soft-catch foothold trap control methods undertaken in partnership with private land managers to protect native animals, livestock, and domestic pets and reduce disease and health risks**
Feral deer program	Feral deer control utilising field shooting and monitoring activities in partnership with rural private land managers to reduce the environmental, economic, health, and road safety impacts**
Mary River turtle protection program	Fox, cat, pig, deer, and wild dog and dingo control and monitoring on private properties in the Mary River Catchment to protect the threatened Mary River turtle (collaboration between Council, Tiaro Landcare, Mary River Catchment Co-ordinating Committee, Gympie Regional Council, Noosa Shire Council and Fraser Coast Regional Council)**
Feral cat management program	Feral cat control utilising cage traps on participating residents' properties to reduce feral cat impacts on the community and environment**
Feral pig management program	Feral pig management utilising panel or Jager traps, or chemical control to reduce feral pig impacts on community, agriculture, and environment**
Rabbit management program	Rabbit management utilising trapping, field shooting, harbour destruction, and biocontrol methods on participating private properties, to reduce rabbits' impacts on community, agriculture, and the environment**
Indian myna bird trapping program	Indian myna bird management utilising trapping on participating private properties to reduce the Indian myna birds' impacts on community and environment values**
Environmental reserve and natural areas management	Integrated management approach combining revegetation, restoration, and invasive plant control (mechanical, chemical, and biological) activities within Council managed environment reserves to ensure ecological, social, cultural, and economic values are protected and managed (implementation of the Environmental Reserves Network Management Plan)
Biological control programs	Application of biological control agents (natural pathogens or leaf predators) for cats claw creeper vine, lantana, madeira vine, and salvinia to reduce the spread of these invasive plants (adhering to processes established through the <i>Australian Government Biosecurity Act 2015</i> and the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> ) and continue to partner with research institutes
Roadside invasive plant control program	Manage and prevent the spread of priority invasive plants occurring adjacent to roads, utilising foliar spray or manual removal methods, targeting roadsides adjacent to natural areas and agricultural properties
Invasive plant hire equipment	Provide free hire equipment (tree poppers, aquatic weed boom, solarisation materials, wick wipers, quick spray unit, and knapsack kits) to assist private land managers with weed management
Riparian weed control program	Targeted riparian invasive vine control and habitat restoration projects in undertaken in partnership with local land managers and natural resource management groups
Aquatic weed Management	Manage aquatic weeds in Council managed lakes, wetlands, and bioretention basin sites through mechanical, biological, and chemical controls



Effective management systems	
Integrated practices for managing and minimising impacts of invasive plants and animals	
Pest fish management	Pest fish removal and education undertaken as part of fish surveys and lake management activities
Land for Wildlife	Voluntary conservation program supporting land managers to manage wildlife habitat on their property, including habitat restoration through invasive plant and animal management (in partnership with Land for Wildlife South East Queensland)
Voluntary Conservation Agreements	Voluntary program that supports land managers to permanently protect significant areas of privately owned bushland, including financial assistance for on-ground conservation work, including invasive plant management
BushCare Sunshine Coast	Voluntary program supporting the community to conserve and restore natural bushland in Council's environment reserves through volunteer bush regeneration activities, including controlling invasive plants
Awareness and education	
Increasing stakeholder understanding and best practice management of invasive plants and animals	
Activity	Description
Biosecurity education program	Educate and engage with residents at a range of events each year on invasive plant and animal impacts on the environment, economy, and agriculture and provide information and advice on appropriate management strategies
School education program	Educate and engage with school age children to bring awareness about invasive species through workshops, presentations, interactive board games, illustrated books, and activity books
Invasive plant walks and field days	Walks and field days to showcase Council and land managers work undertaken to manage invasive plants, identify plants, discuss management options, book hire equipment, and provide education on invasive plant impacts on the environment, economy, and agriculture
Invasive plant and animal workshops	Workshops held at local community halls to increase the community's awareness of invasive species impacts on the environment, economy, and agriculture and provide information and advice on appropriate management strategies
Invasive plant and animal website	Council website providing easy access to up to date information on priority invasive plants and animals for the Sunshine Coast, including webinars on priority species.
Staff training	Council staff online training for General Biosecurity Obligations, biosecurity planning, and priority invasive plant and animal identification and measures
Commitment, roles, and responsibilities	
Commitment and coordinated approach for land managers, industries, communities, and governments to managing invasive plants and animals	
Activity	Description
Sunshine Coast Council Biosecurity Working Group	Collaborative information sharing Council group with representatives from across the organisation meeting to discuss biosecurity priorities and the implementation of the Sunshine Coast Biosecurity Plan 2024
Invasive Weed Taskforce	Collaborative information sharing multisector group with representatives from government, community, and industry meeting to discuss invasive weed management priorities for the Sunshine Coast
SEQ Regional Biosecurity Sub-committee	Collaborative information sharing multisector group with representatives from government, community, and industry meeting to discuss SEQ region wide biosecurity information and planning

\* Part of Council's endorsed Invasive Plant Surveillance Program

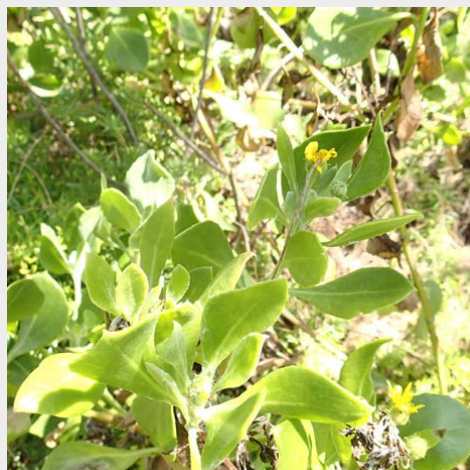
\*\* Part of Council's endorsed Prevention and Control Program for Feral Animals

## 2.1 Case Studies - Success Stories

### Bitou Bush

Bitou bush (*Chrysanthemoides monilifera* ssp. *rotundifolia*) is coastal shrub native to South Africa, that has been historically planted in Australia to revegetate coastal dunes after sand mining. Bitou bush has become highly invasive in Australia and is now the dominant vegetation along much of the New South Wales coastline. In Queensland it is found in small numbers in the coastal areas of Wide Bay, Noosa, North and South Stradbroke Island, Moreton Island, and southern Moreton Bay Islands. Early detection and eradication, combined with ongoing treatments (as the they have large and persistent soil seed banks) are essential to prevent the establishment and rapid spread of this species. Thanks to a partnership between Biosecurity Queensland and Council, bitou bush no longer occurs on the Sunshine Coast. Biosecurity Queensland has undertaken an ongoing statewide eradication campaign involving methodical searches of sites at least twice each year and the destruction of any detected plants. On the Sunshine Coast, Biosecurity Queensland has worked with Council to undertake arial surveys with follow up eradication of detected plants. This concerted and coordinated effort has meant the bitou bush has not established on the Sunshine Coast. If bitou bush is found, it must be reported to Biosecurity Queensland within 24 hours of the sighting and reasonable and practical measures must be undertaken to minimise the biosecurity risks.

Bitou bush



### Mexican Bean Tree

The Mexican bean tree species (*Cecropia pachystachya*, *C. palmata* and *C. peltate*) are fast growing trees native to Central and South America. In Queensland they have the potential to outcompete native plants and pose a significant threat to riparian and rainforest ecosystems. The Mexican bean tree is a Prohibited species under the Queensland *Biosecurity Act 2014*, and all sightings must be reported to Biosecurity Queensland within 24 hours. Thanks to a coordinated Mexican bean tree surveillance program, established by Biosecurity Queensland and Council, the tree has not become established on the Sunshine Coast. The program has detected trees in gardens at Buderim, Mount Mellum, Maleny, and Glenview. The dedication of Biosecurity Queensland and Council to this program has ensured these trees did not result in the spread of this highly invasive plant into nearby sensitive bushland areas.

Mexican bean tree





### 3. Action Plan

In addition to the ongoing activities being undertaken by Council and its partners to reduce biosecurity risk and impacts on the Sunshine Coast, additional actions have been identified for implementation (Table 2). The actions are categorised under the six strategic themes of the Queensland Invasive Plants and Animal Strategy 2019-2024. Each action is accompanied by information on implementation methods, partners, timeframes and performance measures.

Table 2. Sunshine Coast Council biosecurity action plan.

Prevention and preparedness					
Preventing the establishment and spread of invasive plants and animals					
Action	Method	Partners	Timeframe	Measures	Budget
Contractor biosecurity responsibilities	Embed biosecurity management measures into Council's contractor procurement guidelines, including weed hygiene protocols and preference for locally sourced materials that reduce risks for the transportation and introduction of invasive plants	Contractors	2024 - 2025	Annual adoption of Procurement Framework containing environmentally sustainable direction regarding biosecurity	Within existing budget
Council vehicle clean down facilities	Design, procure, install, and operate vehicle clean down facilities at targeted locations (e.g. at Council depots) to meet Council's GBO to reduce invasive plant spread		2024 - 2029	Number of Council vehicle clean down facilities operating (and being used) at key locations	Additional budget required
Monitoring and assessment					
Information on invasive plants and animals for effective decision-making					
Action	Method	Partners	Timeframe	Measures	Budget

Sunshine Coast Council

Monitoring and assessment					
Information on invasive plants and animals for effective decision-making					
Invasive plant and animal data coordination	Coordinate the capture, storage, analysis, display, and sharing of invasive plant and animal data to facilitate efficient and effective use of information (including alerts, tracking, and monitoring to ensure management objectives are being met for priority species)	Land managers, catchment and industry groups, research bodies, and other levels of government	2024 - 2026	Establishment and ongoing implementation of an invasive plant and animal data platform	Within existing budget
Innovative research and technology	Establish research partnerships to trial innovative solutions to assist with management of priority invasive plants, including drone technology and eDNA	Research bodies	2024 - 2026	New technology utilised in invasive plant monitoring programs	Within existing budget
Climate change impacts on biosecurity risk	Increase knowledge and understanding of impacts of climate change on invasive plant and animal risks, and develop recommendations for improved management and adaptation responses	Research bodies	2024 - 2029	Implementation of recommendations to reduce climate change related biosecurity risk	Within existing budget
Effective management systems					
Integrated practices for managing and minimising impacts of invasive plants and animals					
Action	Method	Partners	Timeframe	Measures	Budget
Invasive plants in road reserves	Facilitate land managers to manage invasive plants occurring in road reserves adjoining their property	Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads	2024 - 2026	Management of invasive plants in road reserves by adjoining land managers	Within existing budget
Eradication program for priority species	Develop and implement program to target 'Prevention' and 'Eradication' priority species, including use of enforcement, prevention, and control programs	Biosecurity Queensland	2024 - 2029	Implementation of an effective program to meet eradication targets	Within existing budget
First Nation cultural burning	Partner with First Nations to expand knowledge of cultural burning practices for effective invasive plant management	First Nations	2024 - 2029	Implementation of improved First Nation cultural burning practices	Within existing budget
Biosecurity for tenancy agreements	Tenancy Agreements (upon renewal) are to include clearly defined responsibility for the management of biosecurity obligations, and a targeted site-based risk inspection program to be undertaken to ensure compliance of all tenancy agreements' biosecurity obligations		Ongoing	Holders of tenancy agreements meet the GBO obligations identified under the relevant tenancy agreement	Within existing budget
Fire ant detection and eradication	Take reasonable measures to meet Council's GBO in responding to fire ants, through collaboration with Biosecurity Queensland, staff training, education, monitoring, and appropriate risk management	National Fire Ant Eradication Program Biosecurity Queensland. Other local governments	2024-2029	Meet fire ant related GBO for all Council assets and services (including immediate reporting of fire ants to Biosecurity Queensland)	Additional budget required



Awareness and education					
Increasing stakeholder understanding and best practice management of invasive plants and animals					
Action	Method	Partners	Timeframe	Measures	Budget
Online sales of locally significant invasive plants	Undertake education program targeting commercial online selling of Alert and Locally Significant invasive plants	Biosecurity Queensland	2025 - 2027	Number of education activities targeting online selling of Alert and Locally Significant invasive plants	Within existing budget
Weeds Network email distribution program	Improve connections and community partnerships through a Weeds Network email distribution program that provides information on biosecurity risks and priority invasive species	Land managers and catchment and industry groups	2024 - 2029	Number of Weeds Network email communications	Within existing budget
Biosecurity risks when transferring materials	Develop and implement an awareness and education program for meeting GBO when transferring materials that may spread invasive species (such as mulch, soil, animal feeds, nursery stock)	Biosecurity Queensland	2025 - 2027	Number of awareness and education activities undertaken	Within existing budget
Invasive plant citizen science	Promote invasive plant and animal citizen science data collection and sharing tools through online tools and mobile applications, such as iNaturalist	Land managers, catchment and industry groups, and research bodies	2024 - 2029	Increased number of citizen science invasive plant records	Within existing budget
Invasive Species Month	Promote invasive species month with library displays, book readings, displays, and webinars to increase awareness of invasive plants and animals		2024 - 2029	Number of communication and engagement activities	Within existing budget
Strategic planning and management					
Risk-based strategic directions to maximise stakeholder responsibility in managing invasive plants and animals					
Action	Method	Partners	Timeframe	Measures	Budget
Biosecurity and the Environment Reserve Network Management Plan	Integrate priority invasive species and locally significant invasive plants (as outlined in this Biosecurity Plan) into the update of Council's Environment Reserve Network Management Plan		2024 - 2025	GBO and locally significant invasive plants incorporated in Environment Reserve Network Management Plan	Within existing budget
Biosecurity and new development	Integrate the Sunshine Coast Biosecurity Plan priorities into the Sunshine Coast Planning Scheme as required		2024 - 2025	Sunshine Coast Biosecurity Plan priorities incorporated into Sunshine Coast Planning Scheme	Within existing budget

Commitment, roles, and responsibilities					
Commitment and coordinated approach for land managers, industry, community, and government to managing invasive plants and animals					
Action	Method	Partners	Timeframe	Measures	Budget
Improved customer care	Improve communication and understanding between Council, natural resource management groups, and industry groups by providing land managers with broader information as part of invasive species inspection programs	Catchment and industry groups	2024 - 2029	Number of invasive species inspections where broader information made accessible	Within existing budget
Locally significant species in the Biosecurity Act	Advocate to the state government for recognition of priority locally significant invasive species in the <i>Biosecurity Act 2014</i> to facilitate improved compliance measures	Local Government Association of Queensland. Other local governments.	2024 - 2027	Recognition of priority locally significant invasive species in the <i>Biosecurity Act 2014</i>	Within existing budget

Biosecurity community presentation Belli Park Hall



Sunshine Coast Council Biosecurity Implementation Plan 2024



## 4. Implementation and Monitoring

Implementing, monitoring, and tracking the ongoing activities and new actions outlined in this plan is critical to ensure Council is meeting its GBO and reducing invasive plant and animal biosecurity risk across the Sunshine Coast.

Council's internal Biosecurity Working Group will be primarily responsible for coordinating the implementation, monitoring, tracking of actions against performance measures, and an annual review of this implementation plan. Collaboration with the Invasive Weed Taskforce will also be undertaken to ensure broader understanding and success of this implementation plan.

Sunshine Coast Council



Thermal photos of Deer at Conondale











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**8.6 SUNSHINE COAST STORM TIDE STUDY 2024****File No:** Council Meetings**Author:** Principal Engineer  
Customer & Planning Services Group**Appendices:** App A - Sunshine Coast Storm Tide Study (JBP, 2024) .....5/75   
App B - Defined Storm Tide Event (Inundation) Map .....43/75   
App C - Defined Storm Tide Event (Wave Action) Maps ...45/75   
App D - Disaster Management Storm Tide Hazard Map ...47/75 

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**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is to present an updated Sunshine Coast Storm Tide Study to Council for endorsement.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Sunshine Coast Council's currently adopted storm tide study was prepared in 2013.

Two notable issues have arisen in recent years that have necessitated an update to Council's storm tide information:

- In early 2022, a breakthrough occurred across the northern spit of Bribie Island, generating increased tidal attenuation and wave action on land in close proximity to Pumicestone Passage.
- New data from recently installed tide gauges in a number of small coastal creeks, indicating observed levels during storm tide events above adopted 2013 storm tide levels.

In September 2022, officers engaged the services of JBP Scientists and Engineers to prepare a new storm tide study for Sunshine Coast Council. This is provided as Appendix A – Sunshine Coast Storm Tide Study (JBP, 2024).

The Sunshine Coast Storm Tide Study (JBP, 2024) has concluded that infragravity waves are the mechanism elevating storm tide levels in coastal creeks. A 0.4 metre freeboard allowance (additional to the standard 0.5 metre freeboard allowance) is recommended above the defined storm tide level, when calculating minimum floor levels for new buildings in locations affected by wave setup.

The recommendations of the Queensland Floods Commission of Inquiry Final Report in 2012 highlighted the need for Councils to maintain up-to-date flood mapping.

An update of Council's public flood mapping products is proposed to incorporate:

- A new defined storm tide event map, which includes storm tide inundation as shown in Appendix B - Defined Storm Tide Event (Inundation) Map and storm tide wave action area as shown in Appendix C - Defined Storm Tide Event (Wave Action) Maps.
- Appendix D – Disaster Management Storm Tide Hazard Map showing areas affected by storm tide wave action, and storm tide inundation 0.5 metre, 1.0 metre and 1.5 metre above highest astronomical tide.

- Storm tide extent and hazard mapping for current climate 1 in 10, 1 in 20, 1 in 100 and 1 in 500 Annual Exceedance Probabilities and future climate 1 in 100 Annual Exceedance Probabilities based on 800mm and 1100mm mean sea level rise.
- The superseding of the Sunshine Coast Storm Tide Study (Aurecon, 2013) with the Sunshine Coast Storm Tide Study (JBP, 2024) on the list of published flood and drainage studies.
- An addendum to the Coastal Hazard Adaptation Strategy mapping to reflect the coastal hazards post Bribie Island break through.

### OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

#### That Council:

- (a) receive and note the report titled “Sunshine Coast Storm Tide Study 2024”
- (b) endorse the Sunshine Coast Storm Tide Study (JBP, 2024) (Appendix A)
- (c) endorse the application of an additional 0.4 metre freeboard allowance for building floor levels in wave setup locations and
- (d) endorse the revision of Council’s public flood mapping products: Defined Storm Tide Event (Inundation) Map (Appendix B); Defined Storm Tide Event (Wave Action) Maps (Appendix C) and Disaster Management Storm Tide Hazard Map (Appendix D).

### FINANCE AND RESOURCING

This report has no new financial or resourcing implications for Council.

### CORPORATE PLAN

**Corporate Plan Goal:** *Our environment and liveability*

**Outcome:**

**Operational Activity:** We serve our community by providing this great service  
S14 - Sustainable growth and network planning – providing land use planning, social policy, infrastructure planning and charges, flood mapping, transportation planning and environmental initiatives.

### CONSULTATION

#### Councillor Consultation

Councillors with coastal areas within their division have been consulted in the preparation of this report, including:

- Councillor J Broderick (Division 1)
- Councillor T Landsberg (Division 2)
- Councillor T Burns (Division 3)
- Councillor J Natoli (Division 4)
- Councillor T Bunnag (Division 8) and
- Councillor M Suarez (Division 9).

**Internal Consultation**

The following Council officers have been consulted:

- Coordinator, Disaster Management
- Coordinator, Planning Scheme and Projects
- Principal Coastal Engineer, Coastal Constructed Water and Planning
- Program Director Urban Growth
- Principal Development Engineer (Hydraulics), Engineering and Environmental Assessment
- Coordinator, Corporate Risk and Insurance
- Senior Building Certifier, Appeals Management and Compliance
- Communication Officer, Media.

**External Consultation**

There has been no external consultation undertaken in relation to this report, outside of the peer reviews of the Sunshine Coast Storm Tide Study (JBP, 2024). The University of Queensland has peer reviewed the draft Sunshine Coast Storm Tide Study. Additionally State Government representatives from the Department of Environment, Science and Innovation have reviewed the draft study.

**Community Engagement**

On release, the mapping update will be promoted for information purposes through Council's social media platforms, the OurSC website with digital advertisements, Council's website and via Council's spotlight advertising column in a number of print publications.

During November 2024, an officer will be available to explain the new mapping to members of the community. Contact details will be available on Council's flood mapping and information web page.

**PROPOSAL**

A Council-commissioned storm tide study has recently been completed along with a review of the associated mapping products. Endorsement of this study and the associated mapping is being sought from Council for official adoption.

The adopted storm tide study will inform:

- Council's flood information searches,
- Council's free access public storm tide mapping available on MyMaps,
- storm tide mapping available on DisasterHub for preparedness purposes,
- land use planning; and
- development assessment and the Development.i website reports.

Council's current adopted storm tide study was published in 2013. In the 11 years since, significant changes in tidal behaviour have occurred in the Pumicestone Passage. Investment



in storm tide monitoring gauges, and collection of data from these gauges has also provided additional information for the 2024 storm tide study.

In 2019, *Storm Tide Resilient Building Guidance for Queensland Homes* was published by the Queensland Government. This differentiated storm tide exposure into two categories:

- storm tide inundation – homes located further from the beach front or close to tidal creeks that are likely to be inundated by storm tide, and
- storm tide wave action - homes located closer to the beach front that are likely to be both inundated by storm tide and affected by waves.

The Sunshine Coast Storm Tide Study (JBP, 2024) has delineated storm tide mapping into storm tide inundation areas and storm tide wave action areas, consistent with the *Storm Tide Resilient Building Guidance for Queensland Homes* (Queensland Government, 2019).

### **Pumicestone Passage**

In early 2022, a breakthrough occurred across the northern spit of Bribie Island, caused by unusually high tides and large waves associated with Ex-Tropical Cyclone Seth. This breakthrough has increased the tidal range and wave action within Pumicestone Passage.

The defined storm tide (inundation) levels, which are based on a year 2100 planning horizon, have not changed within Pumicestone Passage from the 2013 storm tide study. This is because the 2013 mapping assumed that the Bribie Island spit would disappear by the year 2100 as a result of coastal processes and sea level rise.

With the changing face of Bribie Island, the risk of adjacent land being subjected to wave action has now increased.

### **Storm Tide Wave Action Areas**

Storm tide wave action areas are shown in Appendix B - Defined Storm Tide Event (Wave Action) Maps. There are two maps in this Appendix. The Defined Storm Tide Event with the current state of dune protection and without the dune protection.

Without dune protection, the future shoreline position for wave action areas has been based on the position of the year 2100 1% Annual Exceedance Probability Erosion Prone Area (EPA), presented in the Coastal Hazard Adaptation Strategy.

The difference between the storm tide wave action area maps, with and without dune protection, shows the exposure of locations adjacent to the coastline that will be subject to wave action by 2100, should the protection of dunes be compromised by coastal erosion or where the future renewal of current coastal protection has not been confirmed and provided funding certainty.

The forces of wave action impacting on buildings in wave action areas need to be considered as a structural integrity requirement in the construction of new buildings. This will be a matter for local government planning schemes to address as the Queensland Development Code does not provide building assessment provisions in such areas.

The Sunshine Coast Planning Scheme 2014 currently does not contain provisions relating to building in storm tide wave action areas.

Storm Tide Adjustments in Small Coastal Creeks

In September 2023, interim increases in storm tide levels were applied to a number of small coastal creeks as part of a report to Council (OM23/16) titled Flood Mapping and Information Update. The interim increases were based on gauged observations from new water level gauges and the report also highlighted that the levels would be reviewed as part of the new storm tide study.

The Sunshine Coast Storm Tide Study (JBP, 2024) has reviewed the gauged observations and other available information and concluded that infragravity waves or “surf beat” is the mechanism elevating storm tide levels in coastal creeks.

A wave model was developed, and new design storm tide levels were calculated. These new storm tide levels are higher than the September 2023 interim levels.

Creek	2023 Interim Update	2024 Recommended
Stumers	+0.34m	+0.75m
Currimundi	+0.27m	+0.56m
Coondibah	+0.52m	+0.93m
Bunbubah and Tooway	+0.52m	+0.90m
Bells and Lamerough	NA	+0.78m <sup>2100 Horizon</sup>

With the continued erosion of the northern end of Bribie Island, it is predicted that Bells and Lamerough Creeks will also have the potential to experience infragravity waves at some point in the future. For planning purposes, a +0.78 metre increase has been recommended for the year 2100 planning horizon.

The mapping application of these increases is limited to a 55 metre buffer distance from the bank of coastal creeks. This distance relates to the decay of wave forces to a negligible value when on land. These areas are mapped as a separate layer labelled as infragravity wave areas. Within these areas, a 0.4 metre freeboard allowance (additional to the standard 0.5 metre freeboard allowance) is to be provided above the defined storm tide level, in the calculation of floor levels for new buildings.

Storm Tide Inundation Areas

The defined storm tide event inundation area is based on year 2100 conditions. The defined storm tide event levels of the Sunshine Coast Storm Tide Study (JBP, 2024) are largely unchanged from the 2013 storm tide study, noting that in mapping application of the 2013 study Council also assumed no protection from Bribie Island spit by the year 2100.

The storm tide inundation area for current climate annual exceedance probabilities and disaster management storm tide hazard mapping have changed as a result of the Bribie Island breakthrough, with associated increases for Golden Beach, Diamond Head and Pelican Waters.

Peer Reviews

The University of Queensland has peer reviewed the draft Sunshine Coast Storm Tide Study. Additionally State Government representatives from the Department of Environment, Science

and Innovation have reviewed the draft study. Feedback from both reviews has been incorporated in the Sunshine Coast Storm Tide Study (JBP, 2024).

### **Update of Public Mapping Products**

The update of Council's public flood mapping products is proposed to incorporate:

- A new defined storm tide event map, which includes storm tide inundation as shown in Appendix B - Defined Storm Tide Event (Inundation) Map and storm tide wave action area as shown in Appendix C - Defined Storm Tide Event (Wave Action) Maps.
- Appendix D – Disaster Management Storm Tide Hazard Map showing areas affected by storm tide wave action, and storm tide inundation 0.5 metre, 1.0 metre and 1.5 metre above highest astronomical tide.
- Storm tide extent and hazard mapping for current climate 1 in 10, 1 in 20, 1 in 100 and 1 in 500 Annual Exceedance Probabilities and future climate 1 in 100 Annual Exceedance Probabilities based on 800mm and 100mm mean sea level rise.
- The superseding of the Sunshine Coast Storm Tide Study (Aurecon, 2013) with the Sunshine Coast Storm Tide Study (JBP, 2024) on the list of published flood and drainage studies.
- An addendum to the Coastal Hazard Adaptation Strategy mapping to reflect the coastal hazards post Bribie Island break through.

### **Legal**

In accordance with the Queensland Floods Commission of Inquiry 2012 and previous reviews related to public mapping, it is recommended that public flood mapping be kept current.

### **Policy**

This report identifies the need for Council to provide building assessment provisions for storm tide wave action areas. The Sunshine Coast Planning Scheme 2014 currently does not contain provisions relating to building in storm tide wave action areas.

### **Risk**

The risks of this report relate to compliance with the recommendations of the *Queensland Floods Commission of Inquiry 2012*. The risks are mitigated by regular review of the provided information and adherence to the recommendations of the Commission, both of which are addressed by this report (see Related Documentation below).

### **Previous Council Resolution**

#### **Ordinary Meeting 21 September 2023 (OM23/98)**

*That Council:*

- receive and note the report titled "Flood Mapping and Information Update"*
- endorse the revision to Council's public flood mapping products, and*
- endorse the Maroochydore South Master Drainage Plan (Appendix A).*

**Related Documentation***Queensland Floods Commission of Inquiry 2012*

The following recommendations from the Final Report of the *Queensland Floods Commission of Inquiry 2012* are particularly relevant to this report:

- Recommendation 8.1: Councils should, resources allowing, maintain flood maps and overland flow path maps for use in development assessment. For urban areas these maps should be based on hydraulic modelling; the model should be designed to allow it to be easily updated as new information (such as information about further development) becomes available.
- Recommendation 2.7: As far as is practicable, Councils should maintain up-to-date flood information.
- Recommendation 2.16: Councils and the Queensland Government should display on their websites all flood mapping they have commissioned or adopted.
- Recommendation 2.17: Flood maps, and property specific flooding information intended for use by the general public, should be readily interpretable and should, where necessary, be accompanied by a comprehensible explanatory note.

**Critical Dates**

It is desirable that this report is received prior to coastal related community engagement activities scheduled for November 2024.

**Implementation**

Should the recommendation be accepted by Council, it is noted that the Chief Executive Officer will:

1. Update public flood mapping on MyMaps, Development.i and Disaster Hub.
2. Revise relevant information currently available on Council's open data framework.





## 8.7 CALOUNDRA SOUTH PRIORITY DEVELOPMENT AREA - INFRASTRUCTURE AGREEMENT (LOCAL GOVERNMENT INFRASTRUCTURE) - DEED OF VARIATION NO.5

**File No:** Council Meetings

**Author:** Project Manager  
Customer & Planning Services Group

**Attachments:**

Att 1 - Open Space Infrastructure Map .....	49/75	
Att 2 - People's Place South Master Plan .....	51/75	
Att 3 - Aquatic Facility Render .....	53/75	
Att 4 - Draft Deed of Variation No. 5 - <i>Confidential</i>		
Att 5 - People's Place Sinking Fund - <i>Confidential</i>		
Att 6 - Draft Risk Hazard Management Plan - Phase 1 - Design and Construction .....	55/75	

### PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to enable Council to consider an amendment to the Caloundra South Priority Development Area – Infrastructure Agreement (Local Government Infrastructure). The amendment includes developer obligations pertaining to provision of an aquatic facility in a Major Recreation Park (referred to as People's Place) located adjacent the future town centre.

It is proposed that a Deed of Variation to the Infrastructure Agreement be drafted and agreed between the parties, comprising Economic Development Queensland, Stockland and Sunshine Coast Council, to include the necessary amendments to ensure all the developer obligations associated with the aquatic facility are appropriately secured. The key principles of the proposed Deed of Variation include specific provisions relating to:

- Lagoon Sinking Fund (30 years)
- Lagoon Operating Contribution
- Lagoon Defects Period, and
- Infrastructure Standards.

**Attachments 4 and 5** to this report are confidential in accordance with section 254J(3)(g) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* as they contain information relating to negotiations of a commercial nature involving the local government for which public discussion would be likely to prejudice the interests of the local government.

The Deed of Variation will be made public once finalised and executed by all parties.

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

People's Place is intended to be an exciting new "Southbank Style" urban parkland destination for the Sunshine Coast, offering a wide range of attractions, leisure facilities and event spaces that will be a drawcard for residents and visitors of all ages. It is in the southern

portion of People's Place that Stockland proposes to provide an aquatic facility similar to Streets Beach at Brisbane's Southbank and Orion Lagoon at Springfield.

The Infrastructure Agreement provides the ability for an aquatic facility to be established in People's Place, subject to an appropriate management plan and determination for all financial implications for Council, outside of the normal operating expenses for a Major Recreation Park.

Since 2018, Council officers have been progressing negotiations in relation to the design of the aquatic facility and the terms under which Council would accept ownership and responsibility of such a significant asset.

Detailed design has now progressed to a high level certainty in relation to the infrastructure standards to which the aquatic facility must be constructed, the maintenance and renewal costs over a 30 year period and the provision of all the required plant, equipment and amenities to support the operation of the aquatic facility.

Council officers, in conjunction with subject matter experts Liquid Blu, have resolved the terms under which Council may consider accepting the proposed aquatic facility as a contributed asset, which are documented in proposed Deed of Variation No. 5.

Proposed Deed of Variation No. 5 includes specific provisions relating to:

- Lagoon Sinking Fund (30 years)
- Lagoon Operating Contribution
- Lagoon Defects Period, and
- Infrastructure Standards.

## OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

**That Council:**

- (a) **receive and note the report titled "Caloundra South Priority Development Area - Infrastructure Agreement (Local Government Infrastructure) - Deed of Variation No.5"**
- (b) **delegate authority to the Chief Executive Officer to finalise and execute Deed of Variation No.5 to the Caloundra South Priority Development Area – Infrastructure Agreement (Local Government Infrastructure) and**
- (c) **authorise the Chief Executive Officer to make available Deed of Variation No. 5 (Attachment 4) following finalisation and execution by all parties.**

## FINANCE AND RESOURCING

Sufficient funds to finalise the Deed of Variation are available in the Urban Growth Projects Branch budget for 2024/2025.

Further information with respect to financing and resourcing is provided in confidential Attachments 4 and 5.

## CORPORATE PLAN

**Corporate Plan Goal:** *Our environment and liveability*

**Outcome:** We serve our community by providing this great service

**Operational Activity:** S14 - Sustainable growth and network planning – providing land use planning, social policy, infrastructure planning and charges, flood mapping, transportation planning and environmental initiatives.

## **CONSULTATION**

### **Councillor Consultation**

Project updates have been provided at key intervals to the following Councillors:

- Councillor J Broderick (Divisional Councillor & Outstanding Organisation Portfolio),
- Councillor T Hungerford (Outstanding Organisation Portfolio), and
- Councillor C Dickson (Service Excellence Portfolio).

### **Internal Consultation**

During the course of negotiations, the following Council officers have assisted with negotiations and the technical review of plans, specifications and other supporting documents:

- Chief Financial Officer – Business Performance
- Head of Property – Business Performance
- Coordinator Commercial Analysis – Business Performance
- Coordinator Smart City Infrastructure – Business Performance
- Program Director Urban Growth – Customer and Planning Services
- Urban Design & Architecture Lead – Customer and Planning Services
- Manager Audit Assurance and Risk Advisory Services – Civic Governance
- Coordinator Sports Venues & Development - Economic and Community Development
- Team Leader Aquatic & Lifeguard Contracts – Economic and Community Development
- Coordinator Business & Technical – Built Infrastructure

### **External Consultation**

Regular meetings have been held to progress financial arrangements and infrastructure standards relating to the aquatic facility. These meetings have involved representatives from Economic Development Queensland and Stockland, along with the subject matter experts advising Council and Stockland.

### **Community Engagement**

No updates on the progress of the Deed of Variation negotiations between Stockland, Economic Development Queensland and Council have been provided to the community at this point in time, as doing so may prejudice the ongoing negotiations.



**PROPOSAL**

People's Place North (MR2) and People's Place South (MR3) are proposed to ultimately form one large central major recreation park that becomes the landmark public place for the entire Caloundra South Priority Development Area with an estimated capital investment from the developer of approximately \$45 million (refer Attachment 1 – Open Space Infrastructure Map).

People's Place South is intended to be an exciting new "Southbank Style" urban parkland destination for the Sunshine Coast, offering a wide range of attractions, leisure facilities and event spaces that will be a drawcard for residents and visitors of all ages.

People Place South is proposed to incorporate an aquatic facility and all supporting infrastructure including plant room and equipment, lifeguard tower and supervision zones, kiosk, duty manager office, staff lunch room and amenities, first aid room, storage areas, public change rooms and amenities, dedicated changing places facility, BBQ areas and shelters, water play, wallum forest, ripple lawn event space, playground space, network of pathways, green pedestrian and bicycle bridge over Central Avenue and car parking (refer Attachment 2 – People's Place South Master Plan).

The aquatic facility is designed as the central feature of People's Place South comprising approximately 2,100m<sup>2</sup> of water surface area. The design incorporates graded edges for all abilities access, stepped edges to ensure no drop offs directly into deep water and a maximum depth of 1.8m (refer Attachment 3 – Aquatic Facility Render).

The lagoon is proposed to be unfenced and reliant on lifeguard services and security patrols after hours to ensure public safety is maintained. To further complement lifeguard and security services, it is proposed that a comprehensive smart city network be incorporated into the precinct design, including provision for programmable lighting, CCTV, anti-drowning detection devices, digital signage, broadcast speakers, distress buttons, Wi-Fi, weather station, car park management and general data collection such as patronage, dwell times, etc.

Council will undertake a targeted procurement process to appoint a tier 1 aquatic facility operator who will have responsibility to provide all required staff (including lifeguard service) and undertake day to day operational duties.

It is proposed that the aquatic facility will be operational by late 2026.

As previously mentioned, the Infrastructure Agreement provides the ability for an aquatic facility to be considered in People's Place, subject to an appropriate management plan and determination for all financial implications for Council, outside of the normal operating expenses for a Major Recreation Park.

In light of the above, Council officers, in conjunction with subject matter experts Liquid Blu, have resolved the terms under which Council may consider accepting the proposed aquatic facility as a contributed asset, which are documented in the proposed Deed of Variation No.5 (refer Confidential Attachment 4 – draft Deed of Variation No.5).

The sinking fund has progressively evolved over the last 12 months and is now accepted by Council officers and Council's external subject matter expert as appropriately covering all maintenance and renewal items in relation to the key aspects (refer Confidential Attachment 5 – People's Place Sinking Fund) including:

- Lagoon shell and structures
- UV Filtration
- Pumps
- Chlorination
- Filtration
- Process Plant
- Civil maintenance
- Fixtures, control systems and unplanned maintenance.

A detailed breakdown of all operational costs associated with the aquatic facility has been produced in consultation with aquatic operators and specialist experts and has been used to inform the Lagoon Operating Contribution. Further information with respect to the Lagoon Operating Contribution is provided in Confidential Attachment 4 – draft Deed of Variation No.5.

Agreement has been reached in relation to extending the developer's defects liability period by a further 24 months beyond the typical 12 month defects liability period (resulting in a total defects liability period of 36 months).

Agreement has been reached on the specifications for all of the infrastructure standards to which the aquatic facility must be constructed, including:

- Lagoon Shell and Structure,
- Lagoon Finishes and Fixtures.
- Lagoon Pumproom and Systems.
- Lagoon Kiosk and Office.
- Public Amenity and Change Room Buildings.
- Plantroom Building.

### **Legal**

Council's Legal Services Branch has been assisting with the negotiation and drafting of Deed of Variation No. 5 and will continue to provide support until the Deed of Variation is executed by all parties.

### **Policy**

In the context of the recommendations of this report, there is no identifiable non-compliance with Council policies.

### **Risk**

As part of the design process and consideration of risks and hazards associated with an aquatic facility of this type and scale, Council's Risk and Insurance team has been engaging closely with Council's insurer to ensure line of sight is maintained in relation to how risk is being considered as part of the design and through to operation.

Council's Risk and Insurance team has prepared a Risk Hazard Management Plan for the People's Place aquatic facility. Refer Attachment 6 – draft Risk Hazard Management Plan – Phase 1 – Design and Construction.

The Risk Hazard Management Plan sets out the requirements for implementing risk management throughout the phases of the People's Place project. Phase one (1) risk assessment for the project covers the Design and Construct Phase of the People's Place Lagoon Phase two (2) covers the handover of the constructed Lagoon and Phase three (3) covers the operational takeover of the area and ongoing water safety. Council officers have instituted an approach that ensures risks and opportunities will be identified and managed, monitored and reviewed throughout the life of the project.

This Risk Hazard Management Plan provides information about how the Project Team manages risks, including examples of how medium to high risks are managed using a four-step process. It also provides a framework for the project, outlining roles, responsibilities and an overall reference guide for undertaking risk assessment.

### **Previous Council Resolution**

There is no previous Council resolution relevant to this report.

### **Related Documentation**

- Caloundra South Priority Development Area – Infrastructure Agreement (Local Government Infrastructure).

Website:

[https://publicdocs.scc.qld.gov.au/hpecmwebdrawer/RecordHtml/21889482?utm\\_source=sunshine%2Bcoast%2Bcouncil&utm\\_medium=website](https://publicdocs.scc.qld.gov.au/hpecmwebdrawer/RecordHtml/21889482?utm_source=sunshine%2Bcoast%2Bcouncil&utm_medium=website)

### **Critical Dates**

Although there is no statutory timeframe for the finalisation of the proposed Deed of Variation to the Caloundra South Priority Area – Infrastructure Agreement (Local Government Infrastructure), there is an element of urgency from the developer to finalise detailed design of the aquatic facility and commence procurement of contractors with a view to commence construction early 2025, subject to Council resolving to finalising and executing Deed of Variation No. 5.

### **Implementation**

Should the recommendation be accepted by Council, the Chief Executive Officer will undertake the necessary actions to finalise and execute Deed of Variation No.5 to the Caloundra South Priority Development Area – Infrastructure Agreement (Local Government Infrastructure).

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**8.8 SEPTEMBER 2024 FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE REPORT****File No:** Council Meetings**Author:** Coordinator Financial Services  
Business Performance Group**Attachments:** Att 1 - September 2024 Financial Performance Report..... 303    
Att 2 - September 2024 Capital Grant Funded Project Report .. 315  
 

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**PURPOSE**

To meet Council's legislative obligations, a monthly report must be presented to Council on its financial performance and investments.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This monthly financial performance report provides Council with a summary of performance against budget as at 30 September 2024, in terms of the operating result and delivery of the capital program.

**Operating Performance****Table 1: Operating Budget as at 30 September 2024**

	<b>Original Budget \$000</b>	<b>Current Budget \$000</b>
Total Operating Revenue	610,085	611,533
Total Operating Expenses	587,086	589,838
<b>Operating Result</b>	<b>22,999</b>	<b>21,696</b>

Details of the monthly financial report are contained in **Attachment 1**.

**OFFICER RECOMMENDATION**

**That Council receive and note the report titled "September 2024 Financial Performance Report".**

**FINANCE AND RESOURCING**

This report sets out the details of Council's financial performance and investments for the month ending 30 September 2024, and meets Council's legislative reporting requirements.



**CORPORATE PLAN**

<b>Corporate Plan Goal:</b>	<b><i>Our outstanding organisation</i></b>
<b>Outcome:</b>	We serve our community by providing this great service
<b>Operational Activity:</b>	S28 - Financial and procurement services – financial and procurement management and governance, ensuring effective business management and legislative compliance, coordination and development of Council's budget process, administration of financial systems, sundry debtors, accounts payable, financial and asset accounting, treasury, procurement, contract and supply functions.

**CONSULTATION****Councillor Consultation**

Consultation has been undertaken with the Portfolio Councillors, E Hungerford and J Broderick.

**Internal Consultation**

This report has been written in conjunction with advice from:

- Acting Chief Executive Officer
- Acting Group Executive Business Performance
- Chief Financial Officer

**External Consultation**

No external consultation is required for this report.

**Community Engagement**

No community engagement is required for this report.

**Legal**

This report ensures that Council complies with its legislative obligations with respect to financial reporting in accordance with Section 204 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*.

Investment of funds is in accordance with the provisions of the *Statutory Bodies Financial Arrangements Act 1982* and the associated Regulations and the *Local Government Act 2009*.

**Policy**

Sunshine Coast Council's 2024-25 Investment Policy, and  
Sunshine Coast Council's 2024-25 Debt Policy.

**Risk**

The 2024-25 budget has been developed to ensure long term financial sustainability for the Sunshine Coast region. A key element to long term financial sustainability is achieving the targeted operating result.

Council's operating result includes savings initiatives of \$14.7 million. Failure to achieve the budgeted operating result will negatively impact Council's financial sustainability both in the short term and long term.

Continued monitoring of the delivery of the capital works program within budgeted scope and cost.

**Previous Council Resolution****Special Meeting 20 June 2024 (SM24/4)**

*That Council:*

**1. STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FINANCIAL POSITION**

*receive and note Appendix A, pursuant to section 205 of the Local Government Regulation 2012, the statement of the financial operations and financial position of the Council in respect to the 2023-24 financial year.*

**2. ADOPTION OF BUDGET**

*adopt Appendix A as tabled, pursuant to sections 169 and 170 of the Local Government Regulation 2012, Council's budget for 2024-25 financial year incorporating:*

- i. the statement of income and expenditure*
- ii. the statement of financial position*
- iii. the statement of changes in equity*
- iv. the statement of cash flow*
- v. the relevant measures of financial sustainability*
- vi. the long-term financial forecast*
- vii. the Debt Policy (adopted by Council resolution on 30 May 2024)*
- viii. the Revenue Policy (adopted by Council resolution on 30 May 2024)*
- ix. the total value of the change, expressed as a percentage, in the rates and utility charges levied for the financial year compared with the rates and utility charges levied in the previous budget*
- x. the Revenue Statement*
- xi. Council's 2024-25 Capital Works Program, endorsing the indicative four-year program for the period 2026 to 2029, and noting the five-year program for the period 2030 to 2034*

- xii. *the rates and charges to be levied for the 2024-25 financial year and other matters as detailed below in clauses 3 to 10*
- xiii. *the 2024-25 Minor Capital Works Program*
- xiv. *the Strategic Environment Levy Policy*
- xv. *the Strategic Arts and Heritage Levy Policy*
- xvi. *the Strategic Transport Levy Policy and*
- xvii. *Prescribed Services Charge Plan (No. 2) 2024-25 Financial Year.*

**Ordinary Meeting 26 September 2024 (OM24/82)**

*That Council:*

- (a) *receive and note the report titled "Budget Review 1 – 2024-25" and*
- (b) *adopt Appendix A as tabled, pursuant to sections 169 and 170 of the Local Government Regulation 2012, Council's amended budget for 2024-25 financial year incorporating:*
  - i. *the statement of income and expenditure*
  - ii. *the statement of financial position*
  - iii. *the statement of changes in equity*
  - iv. *the statement of cash flow*
  - v. *the relevant measures of financial sustainability*
  - vi. *the long-term financial forecast*
  - vii. *Council's 2024-25 Capital Works Program, endorse the indicative four-year program for a period 2026 to 2029, and note the five-year program for the period 2030 to 2034*
- (c) *note the following documentation applies as adopted 22 June 2024*
  - i. *the Debt policy*
  - ii. *the Revenue policy*
  - iii. *the total value of change, expressed as a percentage, in the rates and utility charges levied for the financial year compared with the rates and utility charges levied in the previous budget*
  - iv. *the Revenue statement*
  - v. *the rates and charges to be levied for the 2024-25 financial year and other matters as adopted 22 June 2024*
  - vi. *the Strategic Environment Levy Policy*
  - vii. *the Strategic Arts and Heritage Levy Policy*
  - viii. *the Strategic Transport Levy Policy*
  - ix. *Prescribed Services Charge Plan (No. 2) 2024-25 Financial Year and*

*(d) endorse the Minor Capital Works Program (Appendix B)*

**Related Documentation**

2024-25 Adopted Budget

**Critical Dates**

There are no critical dates for this report.

**Implementation**

There are no implementation details to include in this report.





# 2024-25 BUDGET

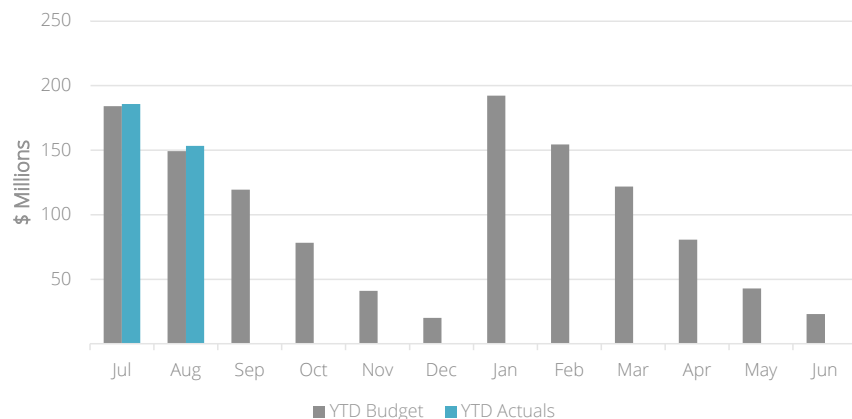
Financial Performance Report

September 2024



# Statement of Income and Expenses

2024/25 Operating Result



Council had an operating result of \$124.4 million, which was \$2.8 million (2.3%) above current budget

Statement of Income & Expenses							September 2024
	Annual		YTD				Annual
	Original Budget \$000	Current Budget \$000	Current Budget \$000	Actuals \$000	Variance \$000	Variance %	Year End Forecast \$000
<b>Operating Revenue</b>							
General Rates	319,728	319,728	156,806	157,507	701	0.4%	319,728
Cleansing Charges	78,328	78,328	39,774	41,922	2,148	5.4%	80,476
Levies	29,552	29,552	14,695	15,914	1,218	8.3%	30,770
Fees and Charges	77,152	77,152	23,798	22,629	(1,169)	(4.9%)	75,983
Interest Received from Investments	14,883	14,883	3,706	3,075	(631)	(17.0%)	12,870
Operating Grants and Subsidies	16,129	17,339	10,791	10,448	(343)	(3.2%)	17,339
Operating Contributions	320	320	277	261	(16)	(5.8%)	320
Unitywater Participation	52,500	52,500	8,665	8,665	(0)	(0.0%)	52,500
Other Revenue	18,775	19,013	4,637	5,870	1,233	26.6%	19,013
Internal Sales/Recoveries	2,720	2,720	1,220	1,220	-	-	2,720
<b>Total Operating Revenue</b>	<b>610,085</b>	<b>611,533</b>	<b>264,369</b>	<b>267,510</b>	<b>3,140</b>	<b>1.2%</b>	<b>611,718</b>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>							
Employee Costs	186,081	186,404	40,376	41,974	1,598	4.0%	188,104
Materials and Services	234,321	236,707	57,283	55,719	(1,564)	(2.7%)	235,111
Finance Costs	13,284	13,284	3,417	3,528	111	3.3%	13,284
Company Contributions	4,149	4,149	4,149	4,149	-	-	4,149
Depreciation Expense	115,664	115,664	28,916	28,916	-	-	126,800
Other Expenses	29,587	29,630	6,697	6,837	140	2.1%	29,630
Recurrent Capital Expenses**	4,000	4,000	1,992	1,992	-	-	4,000
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>587,086</b>	<b>589,838</b>	<b>142,830</b>	<b>143,115</b>	<b>286</b>	<b>0.2%</b>	<b>601,078</b>
<b>Operating Result</b>	<b>22,999</b>	<b>21,696</b>	<b>121,539</b>	<b>124,394</b>	<b>2,855</b>	<b>2.3%</b>	<b>10,640</b>
<b>Capital Revenue</b>							
Capital Grants and Subsidies	25,000	43,238	10,024	10,024	-	-	43,238
Capital Contributions - Cash	33,629	33,629	4,915	4,915	-	-	33,629
Capital Contributions - Fixed Assets	74,538	74,538	-	-	-	-	74,538
<b>Total Capital Revenue</b>	<b>133,167</b>	<b>151,405</b>	<b>14,939</b>	<b>14,939</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>151,405</b>
<b>Non-recurrent Expenses</b>							
Profit/Loss on disposal, revaluation & impairment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Movements in landfill and quarry provisions	2,982	2,982	745	745	-	-	2,982
Recurrent Capital Expenses - Prior Year**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Assets Transferred to Third Parties	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Non-recurrent Expenses</b>	<b>2,982</b>	<b>2,982</b>	<b>745</b>	<b>745</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,982</b>
<b>Net Result</b>	<b>153,185</b>	<b>170,119</b>	<b>135,733</b>	<b>138,588</b>	<b>2,855</b>	<b>2.1%</b>	<b>159,064</b>

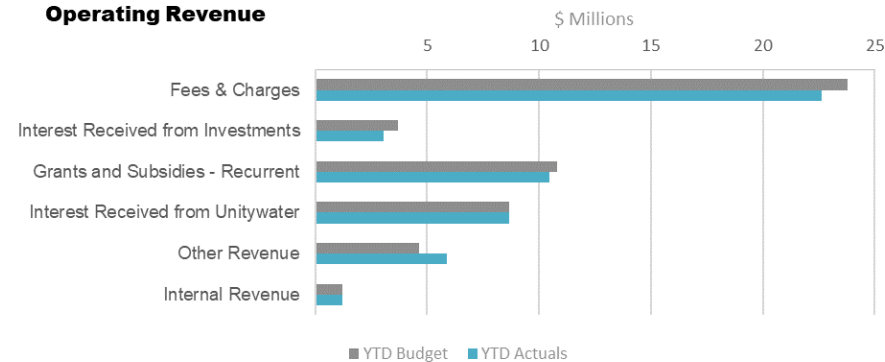
## Operating Result - Revenue

\$267.5 million in operating revenue received which is \$3.1 million higher than budget

- Waste collections revenue higher than budget for domestic bulk collections \$1.9 million and Commercial Waste Levy \$1.2 million
- Sunshine Coast Holiday Park Fees \$719,000 higher than budget
- Interest Received from Investment \$631,000 lower than budget

Operating Summary			September 2024			
	Annual		YTD			
	Original Budget \$000s	Current Budget \$000s	Current Budget \$000s	Actuals \$000s	Variance \$000s	Variance %
Operating Revenue	610,085	611,533	264,369	267,510	3,140	1.2%
Operating Expenses	583,086	585,838	140,837	141,123	286	0.2%
Recurrent Capital Expenses	4,000	4,000	1,992	1,992	-	-
<b>Operating Result</b>	<b>22,999</b>	<b>21,696</b>	<b>121,539</b>	<b>124,394</b>	<b>2,855</b>	<b>2.3%</b>
Capital Revenue	133,167	151,405	14,939	14,939	-	-
Non-recurrent Expenses	2,982	2,982	745	745	-	-
<b>Net Result</b>	<b>153,185</b>	<b>170,119</b>	<b>135,733</b>	<b>138,588</b>	<b>2,855</b>	<b>2.1%</b>

Operating Revenue



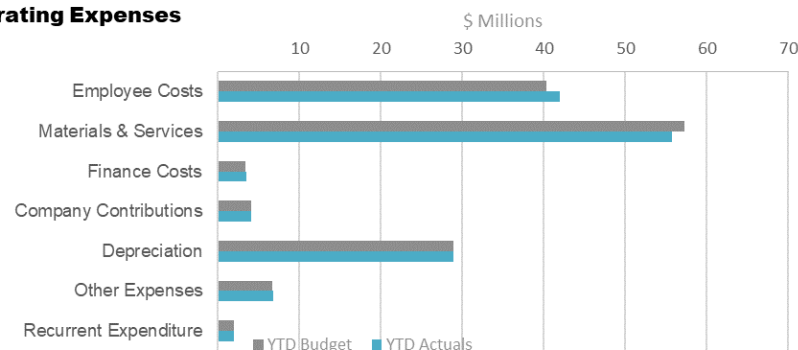
## Operating Result - Expenses

\$143.1 million in operating expenses incurred which is \$286,000 (0.2%) higher than budget

- Materials and Services under budget \$1.6 million (2.7%)
  - Contract expenditure below budget in Environmental Operations, Parks and Gardens and Transport Network Operations
- Employee costs above budget \$1.6 million (4.0%)
  - Vacancy Rate YTD \$2.1 million

Operating Summary			September 2024			
	Annual		YTD			
	Original Budget \$000s	Current Budget \$000s	Current Budget \$000s	Actuals \$000s	Variance \$000s	Variance %
Operating Revenue	610,085	611,533	264,369	267,510	3,140	1.2%
Operating Expenses	583,086	585,838	140,837	141,123	286	0.2%
Recurrent Capital Expenses	4,000	4,000	1,992	1,992	-	-
<b>Operating Result</b>	<b>22,999</b>	<b>21,696</b>	<b>121,539</b>	<b>124,394</b>	<b>2,855</b>	<b>2.3%</b>
Capital Revenue	133,167	151,405	14,939	14,939	-	-
Non-recurrent Expenses	2,982	2,982	745	745	-	-
<b>Net Result</b>	<b>153,185</b>	<b>170,119</b>	<b>135,733</b>	<b>138,588</b>	<b>2,855</b>	<b>2.1%</b>

### Operating Expenses





## Capital Expenditure

\$62.4 million (25.5%) of Council's \$244.9 million total capital works budget has been expensed.

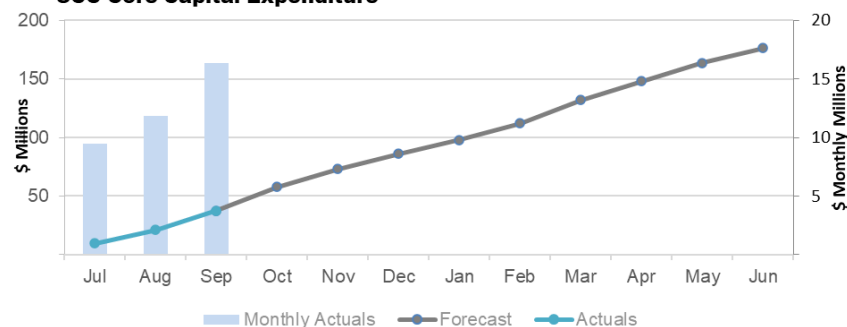
This is compared to the same period last year with \$63.1 million (19.0%) expensed of Council's \$332 million total capital works budget.

The Core Capital Program has expensed \$37.7 million, 26.3% of budget.

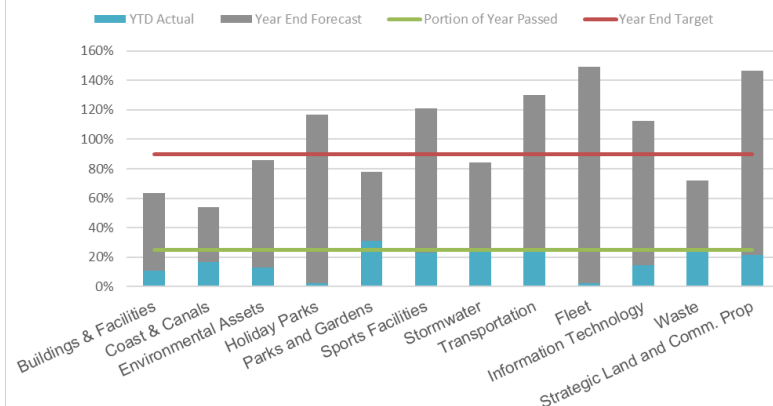
Capital Expenditure September 2024						
	Annual		YTD		Year End	
	Original Budget \$000s	Current Budget \$000s	Actuals \$000s	% of FY Budget Spent	Forecast Year End Actual	Forecast Year End Variance to Budget
Core Capital Works Program						
Aerodromes	1,525	1,525	63	4.1%	710	(815)
Buildings and Facilities	28,286	26,933	2,857	10.6%	17,098	(9,835)
Coast and Canals	6,200	7,919	1,336	16.9%	4,289	(3,629)
Environmental Assets	4,120	4,370	560	12.8%	3,752	(618)
Minor Works	5,862	8,888	1,625	18.3%	4,762	(4,125)
Holiday Parks	2,881	2,807	64	2.3%	3,275	468
Parks and Gardens	10,480	9,941	3,099	31.2%	7,733	(2,208)
Sports Facilities	20,738	21,971	5,086	23.1%	26,618	4,647
Stormwater	14,318	14,983	3,573	23.8%	12,669	(2,314)
Transportation	99,213	74,122	19,420	26.2%	96,475	22,353
Budget Review 2 Deferrals	-	(30,000)	-	-	-	-
<b>Total SCC Core Capital Program</b>	<b>193,624</b>	<b>143,458</b>	<b>37,682</b>	<b>26.3%</b>	<b>177,382</b>	<b>3,924</b>
Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements	4,590	10,772	4,416	41.0%	6,294	(4,477)
Fleet	3,500	3,583	77	2.1%	5,337	1,754
Information Technology	10,000	10,680	1,543	14.5%	12,038	1,358
Waste	12,882	24,488	5,764	23.5%	17,672	(6,816)
Corporate Major Projects	39,730	39,602	10,199	25.8%	38,478	(1,124)
Strategic Land and Commercial Properties	18,992	12,332	2,675	21.7%	10,068	(2,264)
<b>Total Other Capital Program</b>	<b>89,694</b>	<b>101,456</b>	<b>24,738</b>	<b>24.4%</b>	<b>89,952</b>	<b>(11,505)</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>283,317</b>	<b>244,915</b>	<b>62,420</b>	<b>25.5%</b>	<b>267,334</b>	<b>(7,581)</b>
**The above program of works includes recurrent and non-recurrent expenditure, reported in the operating statement						
Recurrent Expenses	4,000	4,000	1,992			
Non-Recurrent Expenses	-	-	-	-		

# Capital Expenditure

**SCC Core Capital Expenditure**



**% YTD spent compared to profiled budget by Program**



## Building and Facilities

Program YTD spend at 10.6% of total budget. Current year end forecast at 63.5%. 91% of Projects are less than 25% YTD.

## Coast & Canals

Program YTD spend at 16.9% of total budget. Current year end forecast at 54.2%. Moffat Beach Seawall stabilisation and Mooloolaba Foreshore Seawall 1.2% and 4.9% spend YTD respectively.

## Parks and Gardens

Program YTD spend at 31.2% of total budget. Current year end forecast at 77.8%. Coastal Pathway 62% YTD spend. Recreation Park and Landscape Amenity Sub-Program 21% YTD spend.

## Sports Facilities

Program YTD spend at 23.1% of total budget. Honey Farm Sports & Rec Precinct 26% YTD spend.

## Transportation

Program YTD spend at 26.2% of total adjusted budget. Bus Stop Program 19% spend YTD. Road Resurfacing 24% spend YTD.

## Strategic Land and Commercial Properties.

Program YTD spend at 21.7% of total budget. Brisbane 2032 Mountain Trail Bike Land payment \$5.5 million.

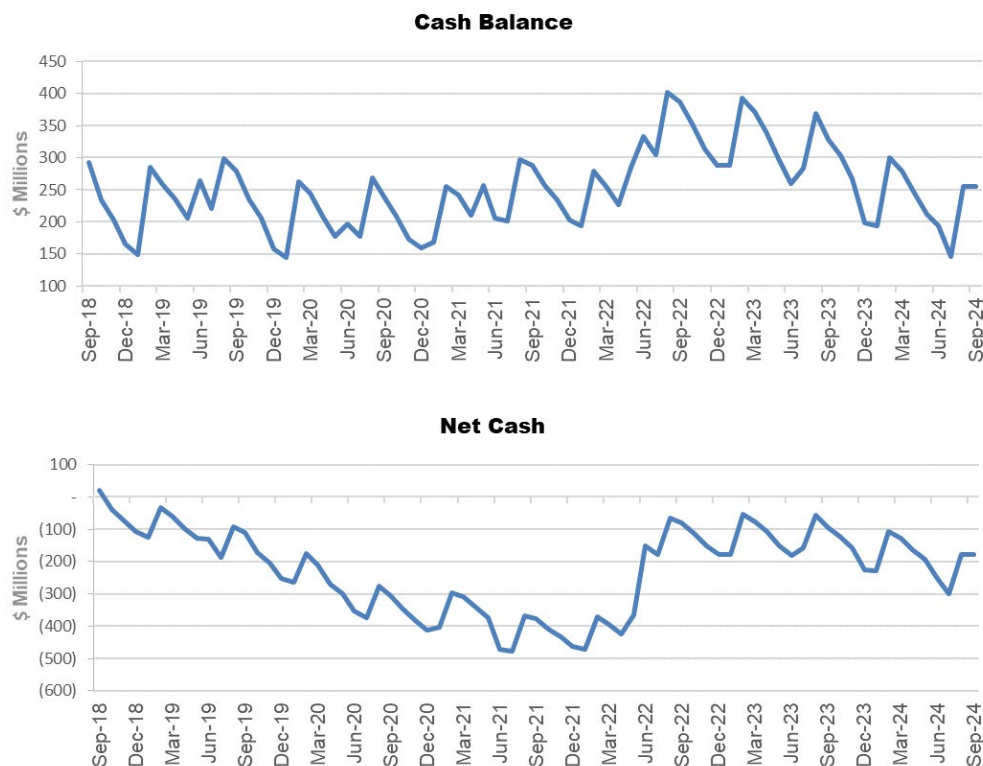
## Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements

Program YTD spend at 41% of total budget. Council have requested an extension of time for delivery for Buderim Tramway Landslide and Trail Repair and David Low Way Landslip scheduled to be completed by 30 June 2025. Moffat Beach Seawall and Golden Beach Foreshore Upgrade are scheduled to be completed next financial year in September 2025 and December 2025 respectively.

## Cash Flows and Balance Sheet

- Cash balance at 30 September \$255.2 million excluding Trust
- Debt balance at 30 September was \$433.8 million

Cash and Balance Sheet 2024-25	
	Current Budget \$000s
<b>CASH FLOWS</b>	
Opening Cash	193,347
Net Cash Inflow/(Outflows) from:	
Operating Activities	83,826
Investing Activities	(73,214)
Financing Activities	(5,681)
<b>Net Increase/(decrease) in Cash Held</b>	<b>4,931</b>
<b>Cash at year end</b>	<b>198,279</b>
<b>BALANCE SHEET</b>	
Current Assets	278,014
Non Current Assets	7,500,848
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>7,778,862</b>
Current Liabilities	187,312
Non Current Liabilities	487,150
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>674,462</b>
<b>Net Community Assets/Total Community Equity</b>	<b>7,104,400</b>



## Debt

Council's current debt balance is \$433.8 million.

During August, a debt repayment occurred reducing the debt principal by \$12.6 million.

Sunshine Coast Council's debt program is governed by the 2024-25 Debt Policy, which was adopted with the Original Budget adoption on 20 June 2024.

New borrowings are undertaken in accordance with the Queensland Treasury Corporation Guidelines, the Statutory Bodies Financial Arrangements Act 1982 and Section 192 of the Local Government Regulation 2012.

Council's forecast borrowings for the 2024-25 financial year are \$20.3 million and relate to:

- \$10.5 million for Waste
- \$1.5 million for Holiday Parks
- \$7 million for Sunshine Coast Stadium \*
- \$1.3 million for Caloundra Aerodrome Master Plan

\* Borrowings to be reviewed at Budget Review 2

Debt - 2024/25				
	Opening Balance	Debt Redemption	New Borrowings	Closing Balance
	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
Sunshine Coast Council Core	345,795	20,064	20,294	346,025
Maroochydore City Centre	100,213	5,784	-	94,429
<b>Total</b>	<b>446,008</b>	<b>25,847</b>	<b>20,294</b>	<b>440,455</b>



## Investment Performance

At month end Council has \$255.2 million cash (excluding Trust funds), with an average interest rate of 5.01%, being 0.61% above benchmark. This is compared to the same period last year with \$350.7 million cash (excluding Trust funds) with an average interest rate of 4.79%, being 0.59% above benchmark.

The benchmark used to measure performance of cash funds is the Bloomberg AusBond Bank Bill Index (BAUBIL).

All investment parameters remain within the guidelines established by the Investment Policy.

Investment Performance - September 2024					
Liquidity as at:			30/09/2024		
			\$'000's		
<b>At-call accounts</b>					
QTC + CBA (excl. trust)			175,197	62.54%	
Maturities within 7 days			-	0.00%	
<b>Total at-call</b>			<b>175,197</b>	<b>62.54%</b>	
Investment Policy Target				10.00%	

Term deposits maturing:			30/09/2024	
			\$'000's	Count
within 30 days			10,000	1
30-59 days			20,000	2
60-89 days			30,000	2
90-179 days			20,000	3
180-364 days			-	-
1 year - 3 years			-	-
<b>Total</b>			<b>80,000</b>	<b>8</b>

INVESTMENT SUMMARY (including Trust) as at:							Investment Policy	
	30/09/2024		30/06/2024		30/09/2023		Individual Limit	Group Limits
A1+ (QTC)	145,263	52%	117,489	53.8%	83,533	22.5%	100%	100%
A1+ (Other)	134,879	48%	90,812	41.6%	238,443	64.1%	100%	100%
A1	-	0%	-	0.0%	30,000	8.1%	60%	100%
A2	-	0%	10,000	4.6%	20,000	5.4%	60%	90%
A3	-	0%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	10%	30%
Total Funds	280,142		218,300		371,976			
FUND SUMMARY								
General Funds	255,197		194,164		350,668			
Trust Funds	24,945		24,136		21,308			
Total Funds	280,142		218,300		371,976			



## Risks

The 2024-25 budget has been developed to ensure long term financial sustainability for the Sunshine Coast region. A key element to long term financial sustainability is achieving the targeted operating result.

The following items need continued attention:

- The achievement of revenue targets
- The delivery of the \$14.7 million in savings initiatives included in the operating result

Failure to achieve the budgeted operating result will negatively impact Council's financial sustainability both in the short term and long term.

Continued monitoring of the delivery of the capital works program within budgeted scope and cost. Confirmation of capital works deferrals will need to be addressed during the Budget Review 2 process.



[sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au](http://sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au)



2024-25 Financial Year Grant Funding							
	Description	Division	Suburb	Estimated Construction Start Month	Construction Completed Month	TOTAL Grant Revenue \$'000	Project Expenditure to date \$'000
Federal Government						(\$10,098)	\$4,493
1	Roads to Recovery Program					(\$4,800)	
Local Road and Community Infrastructure Grant Funding - Round 4						(\$4,898)	\$4,482
2	H3732 - Oval Avenue and Gosling St Upgrade	Division 02	Caloundra	July 2024	June 2026	(\$1,758)	\$1,445
3	H5683 - LRCIP4 Venue 114 - Stage 1 Solar Install	Division 03	Bokarina	February 2024	September 2024	(\$200)	\$621
4	H7797 - LRCIP4 Kawana Waters Regional Aquatic Centre	Division 03	Bokarina	March 2023	June 2025	(\$347)	\$977
5	K3827 - LRCIP4 Charles Clarke Park Revetment Wal	Division 04	Mooloolaba	February 2024	September 2024	(\$500)	\$627
6	H4607 - LRCIP4 Maple Street - Maleny Streetscape	Division 05	Maleny	July 2024	June 2025	(\$600)	\$35
7	H7584 - LRCIP4 Mountain View Road Maleny Lookout	Division 05	Maleny	March 2024		(\$500)	\$576
8	H2063 - LRCIP4 Power Memorial Park Renew Play Equipment	Division 08	Mudjimba	October 2024	November 2024	(\$98)	\$166
9	K4113 - LRCIP4 Lions and Norrie Job Coolum Park	Division 09	Coolum Beach	June 2024	October 2024	(\$500)	\$26
10	K3519 - LRCIP4 Nambour Yandina United Football Club	Division 10	Yandina		May 2024	(\$196)	\$1
11	K2901 - Solar System Replacement	Whole of Council				(\$200)	\$10
Local Road and Community Infrastructure Grant Funding - Round 3						(\$400)	\$11
12	K2732 - LRCIP3 WOR LED Streetlighting Upgrades	Whole of Council		July 2024	December 2024	(\$400)	\$11
State Government						(\$23,640)	\$2,017
13	Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements					(\$12,323)	
Disaster Ready Fund - Round 1						(\$500)	\$0
14	H7884 - Mooloolaba Foreshore Central Meeting Place Seawall	Division 04	Mooloolaba			(\$500)	\$0
Blackspot Funding						(\$1,238)	\$70
15	K4895 - BlackSpot - Old Gympie Road Beerburnum	Division 04	Maroochydhore			(\$500)	\$54
16	K6053 - BlackSpot Cotton Tree Area - Speed Reduction	Division 04	Maroochydhore			(\$50)	\$0
17	K6054 - BlackSpot Sixth Ave Maroochydhore - side	Division 04	Maroochydhore			(\$350)	\$2
18	K3444 - BlackSpot Ilkley Road Ilkley	Division 05	Ilkley			(\$70)	\$10
19	K6056 - Blackspot - Mons Road Forest Glen	Division 07	Forest Glen			(\$268)	\$3
Community Sustainability Action Grant - Round 8						(\$14)	\$1
20	K7987 - Bankfoot House - Dairy Shingle Road Rene	Division 01	Glass House Mountains			(\$14)	\$1
Minor Infrastructure and Inclusive Facilities Fund						(\$474)	\$20
21	K7686 - MSSWP2 - Ocean View Avenue and Palm Driv	Division 04	Mooloolaba	April 2025	April 2025	(\$112)	\$0
22	K7687 - MSSWP3 - Meta Street and Douglas Street	Division 04	Mooloolaba	March 2025	April 2025	(\$112)	\$1
23	K7596 - Maleny Skate Park Upgrade Phase 2	Division 05	Maleny			(\$250)	\$19
Minor Infrastructure Program						(\$125)	\$526
24	H3892 - Lions-Norrie Job Park, Coolum Landscape Plan	Division 09	Coolum Beach			(\$125)	\$526
Queensland Transport Cycle Network Program						(\$2,665)	\$404
25	K2705 - Coastal Pathway BA 233 to 229 Warana	Division 04	Warana			(\$575)	\$404
26	H3839 - LGIP Stringybark Rd Footbridge-Pathway	Division 07	Sippy Downs			(\$1,400)	\$4,585
27	H8416 - Emu Mountain Road Pathway Construction	Division 09	Coolum Beach			(\$690)	\$20
2022-24 Local Government Grants and Subsidies Program						(\$98)	\$158
28	H5637 - Caloundra Headland Coastal Pathway	Division 02	Kings Beach	September 2023	July 2024	(\$98)	\$158
Walking Network Plans						(\$36)	\$0
29	K3037 - Walking Network Plans	Whole of Council				(\$36)	\$0
30	Passenger Transport Accessible Infrastructure Program					(\$422)	
School Transport Infrastructure Program						(\$821)	\$10
31	K7471 - STIP - Landsborough State School - Pathw	Division 01	Landsborough	September 2024	September 2024	(\$492)	\$1
32	K7376 - STIP - Brightwater State School Dianell	Division 06	Mountain Creek	December 2024	December 2024	(\$300)	\$7
33	K7377 - STIP - Good Samaritan Catholic College	Division 09	Bli Bli			(\$29)	\$1
South East Queensland Community Stimulus Program						(\$3,160)	\$737
34	K2914 - Beerwah Cemetery entrance feature and carparking	Division 01	Beerwah			(\$310)	\$1
35	K6414 - Khancoban Drive Park - District Park Development	Division 06	Buderim			(\$250)	\$13
36	K7394 - Albany Lakes Park - Public Amenity	Division 06	Sippy Downs			(\$400)	\$4
37	H5133 - South Coolum Road Coolum New Pathway	Division 08	Coolum Beach			(\$250)	\$7
38	K7568 - Sundew Street MUDJIMBA - East Section kerb and channel	Division 08	Mudjimba			(\$800)	\$2
39	K3347 - Lions Norrie Job Park Coolum Pump Track	Division 09	Coolum Beach			(\$550)	\$4
40	H4605 - SEQCSP Eumundi Town Centre Placemaking	Division 10	Eumundi	August 2024	March 2025	(\$600)	\$706
Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme						(\$1,764)	\$92
41	H4613 - Cotton Tree Precinct Improvements	Division 04	Maroochydhore	March 2025	March 2025	(\$150)	\$0
42	K1771 - Petrie Creek Road Shoulder Widening from Paynters Creek Road to Celestine Place	Division 07	Rosemount			(\$457)	\$58
43	K1719 - Ridgeview Drive and Havana Road West Junction	Division 09	Peregian Springs			(\$132)	\$5
44	H9072 - North Arm Yandina Creek Road Seal Wideni	Division 09	Yandina Creek	November 2024	May 2025	(\$1,025)	\$28
Project Complete							





**8.9      AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING OCTOBER 2024**

Report to be provided.

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**9 NOTIFIED MOTIONS****10 TABLING OF PETITIONS**

Petitions only eligible for submission if:

- \* Legible
- \* Have purpose of the petition on top of each page
- \* Contain at least 10 signatures
- \* Motion limited to:
  - Petition received and referred to a future meeting
  - Petition received and referred to the Chief Executive Officer for report and consideration of recommendation
  - Petition not be received



**11 CONFIDENTIAL SESSION****11.1 CONFIDENTIAL - NOT FOR PUBLIC RELEASE - STORMWATER UPGRADES  
- BATTERY HILL**

**File No:** Council Meetings  
**Author:** Senior Engineer  
Customer & Planning Services Group

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In preparing this report, the Chief Executive Officer recommends it be considered confidential in accordance with Section 254J (3) (h) *of the Local Government Regulation 2012* as it contains information relating to negotiations relating to the taking of land by the local government under the Acquisition of Land Act 1967 (Qld) (the Act).

This report is confidential in respect to the content and timeframes of negotiations with land owners and recognising that, until a voluntary acquisition is settled or a compulsory land acquisition is gazetted, the acquisition has no certainty.

Public disclosure at this time would potentially impact adversely on the negotiation process and Council's ability to secure the land parcels at market value. Further, it would potentially impact the compulsory land acquisition process under the Act by prematurely releasing sensitive planning information that is still subject to change instead of as part of the resumption process under the Act, which formally commences with the serving of a Notice of Intention to Resume and associated background information, current at that time, to affected land owners.

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**11.2 CONFIDENTIAL - NOT FOR PUBLIC RELEASE - PLANNING APPEAL -  
DIVISION 9**

**File No:** Council Meetings  
**Author:** Senior Development Planner  
Customer & Planning Services Group

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In preparing this report, the Chief Executive Officer recommends it be considered confidential in accordance with Section 254J (3) (e) *of the Local Government Regulation 2012* as it contains information relating to legal advice obtained by the local government or legal proceedings involving the local government including, for example, legal proceedings that may be taken by or against the local government.

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**12      NEXT MEETING**

The next Ordinary Meeting will be held on 21 November 2024.

**13      MEETING CLOSURE**