

Attachment Folder

Item 8.8 & 8.9

Ordinary Meeting

Wednesday, 21 May 2025

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Sunshine Coast Council

Healthy Coast Management Plan

Part 1 - Healthy Coast context



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 people. 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 and the Jinibara peoples. We wish to pay respect to their Elders – past, present and emerging, and acknowledge the important role First Nations people continue to play within the Sunshine Coast community. Together, we are all stronger.

Sunshine Coast Biosphere

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 global effort of 759 biospheres in 136 countries to balance the environmental, social, cultural and economic needs of today, without compromising the ability to meet the needs of future generations. Caring for this special place together brings new opportunities and a range of possible benefits to our natural environment, community, lifestyle and economy.

Being recognised as a UNESCO Biosphere reserve is our region's commitment to create a positive legacy for future generations. Everyone has a key role to play in the Sunshine Coast Biosphere now for and all those who will live, work, learn and play in the future.

The [Sunshine Coast Biosphere](#) is centred around four key objectives, each being intrinsically linked to the Healthy Coast Management Plan (HCMP):

- People - A Sunshine Coast community that actively fosters and promotes sustainable practices, use and stewardship
- Conservation - Conserving, maintaining and enhancing our natural environment from the hinterland to the coast and connecting people and nature
- Development - Demonstrating leadership in delivering a diverse and resilient economy
- Logistical support - Inspiring and celebrating creativity, innovation, research and a learning community.

Sustainable Development Goals

As we advance our vision as Australia's most sustainable region, 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. The UNSDGs most aligned to coastal management for the Sunshine Coast are:

UNSDG9 - *Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure – Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation.*

The HCMP aims to develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure in coastal areas, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on equitable access for all.

UNSDG11 - *Sustainable Cities and Communities – Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.*

The HCMP aims to provide access to public spaces and green spaces in coastal areas that are safe, inclusive and accessible. These spaces support positive economic, social and environmental linkages and climate change resilience.

UNSDG13 - *Climate Action – Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.*

The HCMP aims to strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to coastal hazards by integrating climate adaptation measures into coastal planning, management and awareness raising.

UNSDG14 - *Life Below Water – Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.*

The HCMP aims to sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to minimise significant adverse impacts from climate change and population pressures, including strengthening coastal hazard resilience and environmental restoration actions.

UNSDG15 - *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.*

The HCMP aims to ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use and management of the terrestrial elements coastal areas and their services.

UNSDG17 - *Partnerships for the Goals – Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development.*

The HCMP aims to encourage and promote effective public, public-private and multi-stakeholder partnerships to mobilise and share coastal management knowledge, expertise and technology.

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1. Introduction

Our coastal environments contribute significantly to our Sunshine Coast identity and lifestyles. Locals and tourists continue to admire and value the coastal landscapes and access the coastal environment to enjoy various activities. Our coastal areas are critical for the tourism industry, which is a significant part of the regional economy.

The management of our 'Coast', which includes our beaches, headlands, coastal lagoons, lower estuaries and adjoining public lands, presents both challenges and opportunities as we deliver our strategic environment and liveability, community and economic outcomes for a Healthy Coast in our Sunshine Coast Biosphere.

In delivering on these outcomes, Council services the community through a number of complementary coastal management functions related to our natural environment, built environment and the sustainable use of this valued asset. Management for a Healthy Coast is complex and diverse, with many overlapping areas of interest, differing objectives, and complex legislation, planning and responsibilities.

1.1. The Healthy Coast Management Plan

In response, the Healthy Coast Management Plan (HCMP) provides an integrated, overarching strategic management framework to realise Sunshine Coast Council's vision for a Healthy Coast, as outlined in our Environment and Liveability Strategy Part A: Strategic Directions (2023 edition), that:

our coastal areas are healthy, resilient to climate change impacts and support sustainable use.

The HCMP outlines how the Coast's environmental, built assets and sustainable use values are managed, now and into the future. The HCMP provides strategic guidance for coastal planning and service delivery. This is achieved through a policy, planning and program framework that integrates our coastal strategies, plans and management actions.

The HCMP supports both Council and the community to deliver a Healthy Coast by proactively responding to the challenges and opportunities associated with population change and climate change. The plan focuses on the current and future management of coastal public lands and infrastructure, while also recognising the critical interface with adjoining landward areas, including private land and assets.

The HCMP is structured in two parts:

- Part 1 – Healthy Coast context:
 - Outlines what the Coast is, why the Coast is important, and what we know about the Coast at a regional scale, including the relevant legislative, policy and planning information
- Part 2 – Healthy Coast management:
 - Outlines how we manage the Coast at a local scale, identifying values, pressures and forward-looking management priorities for specific locations along the Coast.

The plan is supported by a coastal management Information Road Map (Appendix 1) that provides the scope and relevance of international conventions and agreements, Commonwealth and State legislation (Acts, regulations and statutory documents), as well as Sunshine Coast Council's local laws, planning scheme, strategies, plans and other documentation relevant to coastal management.

The HCMP is also supported by an annual implementation program that focuses on coastal operational and capital priorities. This implementation plan details key coastal actions and management priorities for the ensuing year, will be shared with the public each year.

1.2. Vision

Council's Environment and Liveability Strategy outlines a future state for the Coast where *"our coastal areas are healthy, resilient to climate change impacts and support sustainable use"*.

The HCMP furthers this vision, and seeks to ensure the Coast is:

a healthy, functional, and an adaptive coastal environment that contributes to the liveability of the Sunshine Coast and is enjoyed, cared for, and protected by all who live on and visit the Coast.

1.3. Objectives

Implementation of the HCMP will achieve the vision for a Healthy Coast by ensuring:

- natural coastal processes, landforms, habitats, vegetation, fauna and water quality of the Coast are respected and protected
- the Coast is a valued, healthy and sustainably managed asset that is adaptive to the increasing and changing pressures from climate change and a growing population
- the Coast is a shared asset that provides diverse and sustainable recreation experiences and supports equitable, safe and connected access for people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds
- positive partnerships are built and maintained through ongoing engagement with residents, industry, government and the broader community
- the Coast supports opportunities for all people to connect with each other, their communities, their cultural heritage and the environment
- First Nations' values, connections, rights, aspirations and knowledge are recognised, respected and supported through their role as traditional custodians of the Coast
- coastal management and planning is based on the best available evidence.

2. About the Coast

Located in South East Queensland (SEQ), the Sunshine Coast Council local government area covers approximately 2300 square kilometres and has an estimated population in 2024 of 374,285 residents. The Sunshine Coast is a major urban and economic centre with abundant natural assets and offers both coastal and hinterland lifestyles - making for a highly desirable place to live, work and play.

Our valued natural assets combined with a strong economy, a thriving community and ongoing First Nations connections, contribute to the Sunshine Coast's liveability, enviable lifestyle and international identity. Our Healthy Coast is an integral part and contributes significantly to this.

The 'Coast', as defined by the Healthy Coast Management Plan (HCMP), is the tidal foreshore and adjacent areas, which includes beaches, dunes, headlands, rocky shores, lower estuaries, coastal lagoons, nearshore marine waters and the adjoining natural and developed areas. Our Coast extends from Coolum Beach in the north to Bribie Island in the south.

As shown in Figure 1, the coastal ecosystems and geographic scope of the Coast is a combination of:

- Open Beaches
 - Open beaches are the narrow strip separating the land from the water with a sandy substrate.
 - The HCMP considers open beaches as a 400m wide area, that includes a 200m wide area of open coast waters and a 200m wide area of adjacent landward area.
- Headlands
 - Headlands are characterised by breaking waves, rocky shores and a general absence of sandy beaches.
 - The HCMP considers headlands as a 400m wide area, that includes a 200m wide area of open coast waters and a 200m wide area of adjacent landward area.
- Lower Estuaries
 - Lower estuaries are where the river meets with sea and begins to flow into the ocean.
 - The HCMP considers lower estuaries as the estuary waters and a 100m wide area of adjacent landward area.
- Coastal Lagoons
 - Coastal lagoons are waterways that cycle between being open and closed to the sea and tides.
 - The HCMP considers coastal lagoons as the lagoon waters and a 100m wide area of adjacent landward area.

A healthy Coast incorporates an abundance of highly significant environmental, social, cultural and economic values. These coastal values coincide with areas that support a growing population and some of the region's highest levels of community and recreational use. A changing climate and the associated coastal hazards also present both challenges and opportunities to ensure these coastal values are protected and enhanced as we build a resilient community.

Council plays a key role in the planning and management of our Coast through a combination of

regulatory and legislative powers, as an infrastructure planner and provider and as an advocate to other levels of government and private landowners. Collaborative partnerships and information sharing with the community are also valued components of Council's strategic and coordinated approach to coastal management.

As we deliver a Healthy Coast as part of a sustainable and liveable Sunshine Coast, the community has shared that there is a need to find a balance. This balance must manage the competing needs and desires of individuals, communities, businesses and industries, and meet the social, economic and environmental needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.



Figure 1. Healthy Coast Management Plan Coast Units.

2.1. A Changing Coast

From the deep First Nation Kabi Kabi peoples connections stretching back millennia to today, the Coast has undergone immense changes that have, and will continue to, influence and shape social, environmental and economic aspects of the Coast.

<p>The first inhabitants of the Sunshine Coast were the people of the Kabi Kabi language group, whose ancestors came to the region as far back as 30,000 years. Their lands stretched from Burrum River in the north, to Pine River in the south, and west to the Conondale Ranges. Some Dreamtime stories reference the creation of coastal areas and the coastline itself. Mount Coolool was once a young warrior, whose head was knocked off, rolling into the sea to form Mudjimba Island.</p>
<p>In 1770, Captain Cook first observes Pumicestone Passage, and in 1824, the Moreton Bay Penal Settlement brought more Europeans to the area. In 1864, Durundur settler Alexander Archer rowed from Brisbane up the Passage and back. He wrote that Caloundra would "make a capital sea bathing place as there are beautiful sites for houses and there is good garden soil, but it is too far from Brisbane to be much frequented for such purposes for many years to come".</p>
<p>The natural environment is reflected in the names of our coastal suburbs. Caloundra is derived from words in the Gubbi dialect – 'kal'owen' and 'dha' meaning 'place of beech tree', which were plentiful in the region before being cut out by timber-getters. Cotton Tree was named after the native plant <i>Hibiscus tiliaceus</i> which once flowered prolifically in that region. Golden Beach was named after the golden blooms of Wattles which flowered along and around Pumicestone Passage.</p>
<p>Moffat Head was the original location of the 'Queen of Colonies' Pandanus tree which stood on the headland above the site where 13 passengers in a small boat from the Queen of the Colonies ship were cast ashore in stormy weather in 1863. The trunk of the Pandanus tree was inscribed with the name of the ship but has since been relocated to the Royal Queensland Historical Society Museum in Brisbane.</p>
<p>The Maroochyodre Surf Life Saving Club was established in 1916 and volunteer patrols at Coolool in 1919. Other surf clubs establish over next 100 or so years, creating local community hubs. Surf life saving developed into both a community service and sporting event. Cotton Tree Lagoon was utilised as a training area.</p>
<p>As Mooloolah Heads became a popular holiday destination, a boarding house was built by Charles Clarke in front of the public wharf on River Esplanade in 1928. He also established a store, cafe, and a fleet of hire boats. In 1965, Charles Clarke Park was named in recognition of his contribution to the development of the area.</p>
<p>As more and more households acquired motor vehicles in the 1950s, day trips to our coastal areas exploded. The 1970s and 1980s saw much development along the coastline, including the Sunfair Central Tower in 1971 (now Ramada hotel), The Sands Shopping Centre, as well as the duplication of the Bruce Highway.</p>
<p>During the 1950s and 1970s, many residents campaigned against land clearing, including Kathleen McArthur who was a strong voice for the preservation of Pumicestone Passage and remnant coastal heath land on the northern bank of Currimundi Creek. In 1962, she co-founded the Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland.</p>
<p>Throughout the 1960s and 1970s, some Aboriginal families lived at what is now Power Park in Mudjimba in caravans or tents along the shoreline, fishing and hunting around the area. There were good views of Old Woman Island (Mudjimba Island) as the vegetation had been cleared or burnt and the dunes had become flattened.</p>
<p>In 1997 Coolool Coast Care was established, followed by dune care groups and TurtleCare in 2005 and Coolool and North Shore Coast Care Turtle Program in 2008.</p>
<p>The Sunshine Coast has always experienced the direct and indirect impacts of tropical cyclones (TC) and what we now call East Coast Lows. Storms such as TC Wendy (1972), TC Ruth and Simon (1980), TC Nancy (1990) caused substantial flooding and natural erosion of the coastal systems.</p>
<p>In 2001, Kings Beach Park opens and hosts the Mountains to the Sea Festival. In 2008, Cotton Tree caravan park becomes heritage listed as the oldest campground in Queensland.</p>
<p>After the 1980s, the Sunshine Coast experienced rapid population growth. As of 2016 it had become one of the fastest-growing regions in Australia. In 2021, the Sunshine Coast had a population of 351,424 residents and is expected to grow to over 500,000 people by 2041.</p>
<p>As the landscape changed and the built environment increased, so has the extent of flooding and tidal inundation. Most recently in 2019 ex-Tropical Cyclone Oma made her presence felt on local beaches and the 2022 floods impacted many coastal green spaces, such as Moffat Beach.</p>
<p>Upcoming events, activities, development and climate change may impact and put increasing pressure on the Coast, including from the 2032 Brisbane Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games, major transport projects, Sunshine Coast Airport 2040 Master Plan and an estimated sea level rise of 0.8m by 2100.</p>

Figure 2. Timeline of the Coast.

2.2. Healthy Coast values

Environmental values

Our coastal environmental values are foundational to the character and identity of the Sunshine Coast, contributing significantly to the region's economy, sustainable use and community connections. Community surveys have found 'natural ecosystems and wildlife' and 'unique landscape features and natural beauty' were the most important values for 67 per cent of respondents. Clean, debris-free and non-polluted environments were values that also featured prominently.

Coastal habitats

The Coast is home to numerous important coastal habitats, including marine waters, beaches, dunes, wetlands, mangroves, seagrass, rocky headlands, estuary waters and coastal lagoons. These habitats support a diverse range of flora and fauna species, including dolphins, whales, migratory birds, turtles, the water mouse and wallum frogs.

These habitats provide critical ecosystem service functions, including buffering of the built environment from coastal hazards, improving water quality and supporting cultural, recreational and tourism opportunities and benefits.

Estuaries and coastal lagoons provide important interfaces between freshwater and marine ecosystems. They are important nursery and specialist habitats for many aquatic species, such as fish, rays, sharks, crabs, prawns and oysters. Marine ecosystems along the Coast include shallow reefs and rock habitats that support a high diversity of corals, molluscs, crustaceans and fish species. Marine plants provide food and habitat for marine fauna, including seagrass, saltmarsh plants and mangroves in the estuaries and lagoons, and numerous macroalgae species in marine waters.

Habitat connectivity is critical to the health and resilience of ecological communities. Connected habitats allow wildlife to move and disperse throughout the landscape to access food, water, shelter, roosting and breeding habitats and supports genetic flow and diversity, which is crucial for the long-term survival of flora and fauna populations. Connectivity of ecological habitats within the Coast is varied and consists of a broader mosaic of reserves, smaller parks and scattered trees which offer refugia for native animals. The majority of the Coast is within state-recognised biodiversity corridors.

The riparian (stream edge) vegetation along our coastal estuaries and lagoons form important east to west habitat linkages, providing ecological connections between beach habitats and inland habitats, such as Kawana Forest and Mooloolah River National Park. The Coast's waterways also play a vital role for the movement of fish and other aquatic species, especially for fish species that rely on movement between fresh and salt waters to complete their breeding cycles.

Many of these coastal habitats are protected within the Sunshine Coast's protected conservation estate: a network of state and Council reserves, including terrestrial conservation areas, marine parks and fish habitat areas. In 2024, the open beaches and headlands contain over 832 hectares of protected environment reserves, while the estuary and lagoons have over 2017 hectares.

The Pumicestone Passage area within the Coast forms part of the protected Moreton Bay Marine Park, which covers the waters of Moreton Bay from Caloundra to the southern tip of South Stradbroke Island. The Pumicestone Passage is also recognised as an internationally significant

Ramsar wetland, containing important seagrass meadows, mangrove, salt flats, saltmarshes, swamp sedge and melaleuca habitats.

Coastal flora

Open beach and headland areas contain 15 types of state-mapped regional ecosystems, covering 403 hectares. Regional ecosystem 12.2.14 (foredune complex of spinifex grassland and casuarina woodland) is the most dominant ecosystem on the open beach and headlands, making up 55 per cent of the mapped vegetation. This ecosystem is not only important for providing habitat for coastal fauna, but it also plays a crucial role in stabilising and protecting dunes by absorbing wave and wind energy and reducing flooding, wind and storm surge impacts. Regional ecosystem 12.2.7 (melaleuca forest on sand plains) is the second most widespread mapped ecosystem on the open beaches and headlands. There are six regional ecosystems classified as 'of concern' under the *Vegetation Management Act 1999* on the open beaches and headlands.

The estuary and lagoon areas contain 14 mapped regional ecosystems, covering 797 hectares. The most dominant regional ecosystem in the estuary and lagoon area is 12.1.3 (mangroves on marine clay plains and estuaries), making up 44 per cent of the mapped ecosystems. Regional ecosystems 12.2.7 (melaleuca on sand plains) and 12.1.2 (saltpan grassland, herbland and sedgeland on marine clay plains) are the second and third largest mapped ecosystems in the estuary and lagoon area. Three regional ecosystems are classified as 'of concern' under the *Vegetation Management Act 1999* in the estuary and lagoon area.

The Commonwealth Government identify, describe and list Threatened Ecological Communities under the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC). The Coast has three EPBC listed Threatened Ecological Communities: Lowland Rainforest of Sub-tropical Australia (critically endangered), Coastal Swamp Oak (*Casuarina glauca*) Forest of NSW and SEQ (endangered) and Subtropical and Temperate Coastal Saltmarsh (vulnerable).

Marine plants protected under the *Fisheries Act 1994* are also present along the Coast. Marine plants are important for fish habitat, breeding grounds and supporting recreational and commercial fisheries. They include mangroves, seagrass, marine algae, saltmarsh and salt couch grasses, dead marine wood and samphires.

Coastal fauna

The Queensland Government WildNet database records 693 coastal flora and fauna species on the Coast, with plants and birds being the most common (Table 1). These records have been collated by government agencies, researchers, natural resource management bodies and citizen science programs.

Of this coastal biodiversity, 25 fauna and six flora species (Table 2) are considered threatened under the Queensland Government's *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (NCA) and/or the Australian Government's *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC).

Table 1. WildNet Flora and Fauna Species Records for the Coast (excludes fish, invertebrates and fungi).

Species	Total Recorded Species
Amphibians	17
Birds	256
Mammals	41
Reptiles	35
Plants	344

Table 2. Threatened species recorded on the Coast, listed under the Nature Conservation Act 1992 (NCA) and/or Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC).

Scientific Name	Common Name	Legislation		Coastal Ecosystem	
		NCA*	EPBC*	Open Beach / Headland	Estuary / Lagoon
Fauna					
<i>Acanthopis antarcticus</i>	common death adder	V			Y
<i>Adelotus brevis</i>	tusked frog	V		Y	Y
<i>Ardenna pacifica</i>	wedge-tailed shearwater	V		Y	Y
<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	curlew sandpiper	CE	CE		Y
<i>Calidris tenuirostris</i>	great knot	CE	CE		Y
<i>Calyptorhynchus lathami lathami</i>	glossy black cockatoo (eastern)	V	V	Y	
<i>Caretta caretta</i>	loggerhead turtle	E	E	Y	
<i>Charadrius leschenaultii</i>	greater sand plover	V	V		Y
<i>Charadrius mongolus</i>	lesser sand plover	E	E		Y
<i>Crinia tinnula</i>	wallum froglet	V		Y	
<i>Diomedea exulans</i>	wandering albatross	V	V	Y	Y
<i>Dugong dugon</i>	dugong	V			Y
<i>Esacus magnirostris</i>	beach stone-curlew	V			Y
<i>Hirundapus caudacutus</i>	white-throated needletail	V	V	Y	Y
<i>Lathamus discolor</i>	swift parrot	E	CE		Y
<i>Limosa lapponica baueri</i>	Western Alaskan bar-tailed godwit	V	V		Y
<i>Litoria freycineti</i>	wallum rocketfrog	V		Y	
<i>Litoria olongburensis</i>	wallum sedgefrog	V	V	Y	
<i>Macronectes giganteus</i>	southern giant-petrel	E	E		Y
<i>Macronectes halli</i>	northern giant-petrel	V	V		Y
<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>	humpback whale		V	Y	
<i>Numenius madagascariensis</i>	eastern curlew	E	CE	Y	Y
<i>Pezoporus wallicus</i>	ground parrot	V			Y
<i>Pteropus poliocephalus</i>	grey-headed flying-fox		V	Y	Y
<i>Sousa sahalensis</i>	Australian humpback dolphin	V			Y
Flora					
<i>Allocasuarina emuina</i>	Mt. Emu she-oak	E	E		Y
<i>Coleus acariformis</i>	Mt Emu mint bush	E		Y	
<i>Cryptocarya foetida</i>	stinking cryptocarya	V	V	Y	
<i>Eucalyptus conglomerata</i>	swamp stringybark	E	E	Y	Y
<i>Rhodomyrtus psidioides</i>	native guava	CE	CE	Y	
<i>Zieria exsul</i>	banished stink bush	CE	CE		Y

* V = Vulnerable; E = Endangered; CE = Critically endangered.

Although not recorded in the Wildnet data, the following EPBC listed threatened species are also known to occur in the Coast:

- *Chelonia mydas* - green turtle (vulnerable)
- *Dugong dugon* - dugong (marine migratory)
- *Sousa sahalensis* - Australian or Indo-Pacific humpback dolphin (marine migratory and threatened listing assessment)
- *Xeromys myoides* - water mouse (vulnerable).

Marine turtles

Six of the world's seven species of marine turtle have been recorded on the Sunshine Coast, with three calling the Coast home, and three others recorded visiting adjacent marine waters or stranded on Sunshine Coast beaches. The loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*) and green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) both nest on the Coast.

Council's [Marine Turtle Conservation Plan](#) and [TurtleCare program](#) aim to support the recovery of self-sustaining populations of marine turtles on the Coast by reducing threats to marine turtles, such as light pollution, and strengthen support of the dedicated community volunteer programs. The plan focuses on nesting and hatchling success of the critically endangered loggerhead and vulnerable green turtle populations. These two species arrive every year to lay their eggs on our beaches, with the entire length of the Coast identified as a State-significant nesting beach for threatened marine turtles.

Shorebirds

The Sunshine Coast provides important habitat for migratory shorebirds and is also home to resident shorebirds, that live here all year long. They gather in large numbers on the sandbanks, dunes and mudflats of the lower Maroochy River and Pumicestone Passage, as well as on rocky headlands such as Point Cartwright, Caloundra Headland and Point Arkwright. Several of these migratory shorebirds are among the world's most threatened.

Council's [Shorebird Conservation Action Plan](#) aims to raise the profile and increase awareness of migratory shorebirds and provide safe roosting areas to improve conservation outcomes for these protected species.

Built asset values

Framed within our natural coastal environment are our coastal built assets - places, parks, structures and urban landscapes that support our sustainable use of the Coast.

Our sustainable use of the Coast is dependent upon the provision of appropriately designed and managed built assets. Council plans for, and maintains coastal built assets under the following categories:

- Building and facilities - public buildings, centres and associated infrastructure, as well as community, lifeguard, sports and visitor information facilities
- Environment infrastructure - infrastructure associated with conservation reserves, waterways, wetlands, constructed lake systems, fire and recreation trails

- Coastal infrastructure - revetment walls, locks & weirs, sand pipelines, canals, jetties, boat ramps, beach/foreshore amenity and access
- Holiday parks - management services of individual holiday parks
- Parks and gardens - recreational parks and associated assets, including formalised parks and gardens, playgrounds and associated fixtures
- Stormwater – stormwater assets including pipes, pits, culverts/structures, open drains, retardation basins, gross pollutant traps, bio-pods, sediment basins
- Transportation - roads, roadside infrastructure, bridges, pathways, car parks and drainage
- Waste and resources management – landfills, resource recovery centres, transfer stations, material recovery facility, education facility, public place waste receptacles.

Other asset categories situated within the Coast include:

- Private infrastructure - privately owned assets located on freehold land, including residential dwellings and commercial premises
- Utilities - potable water, wastewater, energy and communication utility network infrastructure.

In designing and managing our built coastal environment, the Sunshine Coast Design Strategy recognises that “we treasure our ocean, beaches and waterways” as one of four values the community respects the most about the Sunshine Coast. Creating places that preserve and reflect the beauty of our living waterways and ocean is a fundamental characteristic of good Sunshine Coast design, with the strategy outlining the following key coastal-related values:

- the presence of blue is just as important to us as the abundance of green
- our lifestyles are focused around water, with many of our places founded along riverbanks and beaches
- the rivers, creeks, wetlands and ocean all support plant and animal life, tourism, commercial endeavours, and provide a beloved playground
- we work hard to protect and nurture our marine environment and waterways.

Open space

The Coast’s plentiful open-space areas, including beaches, parks and environment reserves, are easily accessed and provide residents and tourists with recreational opportunities and essential social services. Many of these open space areas also provide important secondary natural environment functions.

Council-managed open space reserves are managed through an integrated reserve management approach that sustains an open-space network with biodiversity values. To assist with planning, development and management, Council’s open space areas are grouped into sub-networks based on their primary use:

- landscape
- recreation
- sport

- environmental and coastal
- other open space areas (caravan parks, drainage reserves etc).

The dominant types of open space located within the Coast are the Council-wide Parks category (16.2 hectares) and the District Recreation Parks category (21.4 hectares).

Much of the open space along the Coast is linked by the Sunshine Coast Coastal Pathway. This 73km long pedestrian path stretches from Bells Creek in the south to Coolum in the north. The pathway embraces the spectacular Coast running beside beaches, parks and leisure areas. The pathway is very well used by residents and visitors walking, jogging, or cycling to explore the Coast.

The Coast is intersected by over 300 beach access points, providing safe access to our open beaches, headlands, estuaries and lagoons. These beach accesses can take many forms, from sandy tracks to raised boardwalks, and often include features such as engineered stairs, shower facilities and viewing platforms.

The Coast offers opportunities for inclusive access as Council works with local Surf Life Saving Clubs and the Compass Institute to make beaches more accessible. Beach matting, wheelchairs and life jackets are available to use at no charge.

Dog walking is one of the most popular activities to occur in the Coast's open space areas. The Coast provides designated beach locations for on- and off-leash dog walking. These areas are managed by regulations that aim to protect the community and wildlife by ensuring dogs are safely and appropriately controlled.

Transport

Council is committed to achieving a connected, smart, integrated, safe and efficient transport system that services and supports a rapidly growing population. The Coast's transport network consists of roads, pathways cycleways and urban bus services. The Sunshine Coast currently has a high reliance on private vehicle transport, however, the future predicted increases in electric powered vehicles, connected and autonomous vehicles, mass transit systems, emerging smart mobility technologies, and a more compact urban form will influence changes to the Coast's transport network.

The Coast's transport network also includes water-based transport and its associated infrastructure. Maritime infrastructure are critical values of the Coast, such as the Mooloolaba State Boat Harbour, navigation markers and sand movement infrastructure, required to facilitate safe maritime navigation in estuaries and bar crossings.

Sustainable use values

From a deep First Nations connection to the post-European settlement, the Coast exhibits a rich and diverse cultural and social history. Today, the Coast continues to contribute significantly to the region's identity and lifestyles that draws people to the region.

The Coast is integral to the region's sense of community belonging, relaxed lifestyle, place attachment, character, identity and connection to nature. The Coast provides a multitude of experiences and opportunities for the community, including passive and active recreation, scenic views, nature appreciation, business and tourism activities, volunteering, education, heritage recognition and community events and activities.

The experiences and opportunities provided by the Coast require a balance between the natural and built environments.

First Nation cultural values

First Nations Peoples hold a longstanding and ongoing connection to the Coast. The Coast has supported, and continues to support, the customs, spiritual beliefs, cultural values and provision of resources to Kabi Kabi peoples. The Sunshine Coast community recognises the enduring connection of Traditional Owners to Country and the desires to preserve and celebrate that connection. First Nations partnerships, knowledge, cultural tourism, community development and environmental management are all critical coastal values.

Kabi Kabi cultural heritage is present throughout the Coast area, and management of sites of cultural significance and any areas where Kabi Kabi peoples can continue to practice their culture is critical. A healthy natural environment is intrinsically linked to Kabi Kabi cultural values, with natural areas playing an important role in practice and teaching. When environmental values are protected, maintained and improved, so are many of the Kabi Kabi cultural values.

Council supports and encourages partnerships with First Nations and investment through its Sunshine Coast Reconciliation Action Plan, grants program and partnerships.

European heritage values

The first Europeans to live on the Sunshine Coast were drawn to the region's abundant natural resources, predominately for timber getting and livestock grazing. Until the 1950s the Coast was not considered much more than a holiday destination with simple beach shacks constructed near beaches and the small beachside towns of Caloundra, Mooloolaba and Coolum being unconnected by road. Breakthroughs for tourism and development came in 1959 with the completion of the David Low Way linking Maroochydore to Noosa, and the construction of a road connecting Caloundra and Mooloolaba in 1960. The 1960s saw a major movement for the region away from hinterland farming to coastal development and growth of the tourism industry.

Today the European heritage values of the Coast are physically represented by 236 formally recognised heritage places, including buildings, memorials, graves, reserves, heritage walks, parks and trees in Council planning. Council's identification, protection, conservation and management of the region's heritage values is delivered through the Sunshine Coast Heritage Plan 2021-2031.

Sports and recreation

Key sports and recreation activities undertaken within the Coast's open space include socialising, relaxation, enjoying nature, picnicking, barbecues, walking, running, cycling, recreational fishing, surfing, kite surfing, sail boarding, swimming, boating, jet skiing, water skiing, rowing, kayaking, canoeing, camping, sailing, surf life saving activities, scuba diving and snorkelling. The recent Coastal Health Report Community Survey revealed that walking and running, enjoying nature and swimming were the three most popular recreation activities undertaken on the Coast.

Many organised and informal clubs and groups are based on a common appreciation of the Coast, and they often contribute to the preservation and safe enjoyment of the Coast's values. The surf life saving movement and surfing culture continue to be iconic components of the Sunshine Coast

community and are supported by surf life saving and boardrider clubs, lifeguard towers, patrolled beaches and bathing reserves.

The Coast is also home to several major sporting events, including the Australian Surf Life Saving Championships. These events attract offer significant promotion and economic benefits to the Coast.

Beach fishing is another key recreational pastime undertaken on the Coast. Recreational fishers utilise open beaches, headlands and estuaries to target fish species such as bream, whiting, flathead, tailor and dart, as well as sand and mud crabs.

Recreation boating, sailing and kayaking are important activities on the Coast, enjoyed by many locals and visitors to the region. Boating, sailing and kayaking activities are supported by several clubs in the region, providing a local, family-friendly community of recreational users enjoying the Coast. The Australian Volunteer Coast Guard play a critical role in maintaining the safety of recreational boating by providing monitoring, rescue services and training opportunities.

Commercial

The Coast provides a unique setting and opportunity for commercial activity and the business sector. Many commercial enterprises are dependent on the Coast, such as boat charters, bait and tackle businesses and surf shops. The Coast also provides opportunity for permit-regulated commercial activities, such as surf schools, board and watercraft hire businesses, weddings, private events and fitness and wellness classes.

A variety of market-type events regularly occur at various locations within the Coast, including the Currimundi Lake Twilight Market situated on the foreshore of Currimundi Lake. Other commercial uses of the Coast include events, festivals, pop-up restaurants and food trucks. Markets, festivals and events attract many visitors that benefit the local economy through accommodation, retail and hospitality spending, both on and off the event site.

Commercial fishing is also an important contributor to the Coast's economy and job market. On the Coast, the commercial fishing industry includes prawn trawlers and offshore fishing ventures. The Port of Mooloolaba is a focal point of the commercial fishing industry on the Coast.

Tourism

The Sunshine Coast region is a high profile and popular tourist destination, with tourism forming a key part of the region's economy. Data from Tourism Research Australia estimates there are over 4.1 million domestic visitors each year to the coastal areas of the Sunshine Coast. Data from the national annual survey of travellers, summarised by Tourism and Events Queensland, found that "going to the beach (including swimming)" was one of the top three Queensland tourist activities. This strongly indicates that a healthy coastal environment is critical to supporting the region's important tourism economy.

Economic activity continues to flourish, with a multitude of hotel accommodation choices, diverse dining options and local tourist attractions benefiting from the high levels of visitation by residents and tourists enjoying the Coast.

3. Pressures on the Coast

An increased demand for access to coastal areas for tourism and social and recreational use, combined with an increasing frequency and severity of coastal hazards associated with climate change, present ongoing challenges for coastal management. Such pressures can significantly impact on the Coast's, environment, built asset and sustainable use values.

3.1. Population change

Population growth and the resulting urban development places significant pressure on our coastal values. This can occur through direct impacts of new development, increased traffic and visitation and higher levels of regional, national and international tourism.

In 2021, the region had a population of 351,424 residents with 146,000 dwellings. This is expected to grow to over 500,000 people by 2041 with approximately 100,000 new dwellings. A high percentage of this forecast population growth is expected to occur close to the Coast, and this will result in increased social, recreational and business-related use and demand pressure on our coastal values.

The coastal corridor between the Sunshine Coast Airport and Caloundra South (Aura), known as the Sunshine Coast Enterprise Corridor, has been identified as the key regional location for commercial and residential growth over the next 20 years. More than 80 per cent of the region's projected population growth and most new business investment in the high value industries is planned to be accommodated within the corridor. Planning for the corridor will consider four key issues: economic and financial sustainability, transport and congestion, community needs and affordability, and natural and landscape values.

Environment

Increasing population growth can significantly impact our natural environment through increased vegetation clearing and habitat loss, poorer water quality and hydrological modifications. Such impacts could contribute to the loss of the natural coastal landscape, changes to coastal ecosystem dynamics, loss of coastal biodiversity, and changes in the distribution and numbers of coastal plant and animal species.

The natural values of the Coast can also be adversely affected by existing urban, commercial and industrial activities, through issues such as:

- impacts from invasive plants on biodiversity values and function through smothering or outcompeting native species
- invasive animals directly preying upon or displacing native wildlife, with the European red fox considered the most significant invasive animal threat within the Coast
- encroachment by private residents through unapproved works or objects on public natural or parkland areas creating environmental impacts
- general litter, discarded fishing gear, marine debris and litter impacting wildlife species
- increased threat of marine oil spills due to increased shipping volumes

- stormwater runoff pollutants (including sediment, nutrients, oils, chemicals and heavy metals) flowing into estuaries and lagoons
- nitrogen and phosphorus present in treated sewage discharges impacting the health of waterways by causing excessive water plant and algal growth.

Urban development and rural activities, combined with rainfall events within the broader Maroochy, Mooloolah and Pumicestone catchments, can affect waterway health. High pollutant and sediment loads entering of waterways from both urban and rural areas can affect the health of coastal lagoon, lower estuary, mangrove and nearshore marine ecosystems, including water quality. The increased frequency and severity of rainfall events due to climate change, may further exacerbate these impacts. The Healthy Land and Water Report Card Program is an important tool to monitor and assist with planning to address these waterway health pressures.

Built assets

Growing populations place increased pressure on our coastal built assets through increased demand and use. Ongoing planning and investment will be required to ensure our community shared assets, such as public open space, buildings and facilities, transport infrastructure and utilities are designed, constructed and maintained to be resilient and continue to support the community's needs.

There are a number of major transport projects required to improve connectivity across the Coast, including motorway upgrades, new rail projects and active transport initiatives. As these projects are delivered to meet community demand, considered planning is required to ensure these projects find a balance between private vehicle, active transport and public transport modes. This balance is required to ensure impacts on the Coast (such as noise, pollution and safety) are minimised.

Sustainable use

The Coast offers one of the region's most popular areas for social and recreational use. A growing population and an influx of people visiting the Sunshine Coast will place increasing pressures on how we access and use our valued coastal areas in a sustainable way.

Commercial businesses and activities contribute to the Coast's community vibrancy by activating open spaces and providing services that are not typically provided by Council. It is important that the potential pressure to increase the provision of these commercial activities, such as kiosks, cafes and surf schools in the Coast's open space areas are managed to ensure they do not impact on the social or environmental values of the Coast.

3.2. Climate change

Predicted changes in climate to 2100, including a sea level rise of 0.8m, are likely to increase the area and number of natural and built assets and coastal communities exposed to coastal erosion, storm tides and permanent tidal inundation. Future climate modelling also shows the Coast will be exposed to an increased average temperature, reduced total annual rainfall and an increased frequency and magnitude of extreme events, such as cyclones, rainfall events, storms, droughts, heat waves, bushfires, flooding and coastal erosion.

Such events will have impacts on the environmental, built assets and sustainable use values of the Coast.

The Coast is a dynamic, constantly changing environment, with the shoreline eroding and building in response to the natural processes that shapes it. The interaction of energy from wind, waves, currents and tides, with the various coastal landforms, creates a very active and complex natural system. Human-made changes to the Coast, such as sea walls, groynes, dredging and sand nourishment, add another level of complexity to this continually changing and multifaceted environment.

Coastal processes occur when the physical, meteorological and biological actions interact with geology and sediments, resulting in distinct coastal system environments. These coastal processes maintain the balance of sediments (primarily sand) between beaches, dunes and near-shore sand bars.

In Queensland, coastal processes are significantly influenced by the prevailing southeast trade winds and extreme events driven by low pressure systems. Combined, these result in a general south to north long-shore movement (or drift) of sand along the Queensland coastline. On a local scale, during storm events such as east coast lows and cyclones, increased sea levels and powerful waves and currents can result in a short-term shift in the balance of sand from beaches and dunes to the near shore wave break area. This sand returns to beaches under calmer conditions where it may be blown landward to contribute to the formation of dunes which are often stabilised by coastal vegetation. The Coast's estuaries also play a role in coastal processes, as they act as a sink and source of sediment and sand to enter nearshore waters.

When natural coastal processes, such as erosion and inundation, have the potential to impact on buildings, assets and communities, they are termed coastal hazards. The interaction of landform, sea level, tides, wind, waves, currents, sediment transport, accretion and erosion processes all combine to influence the Coast's exposure and resilience to coastal hazards. Council's Coastal Hazard Adaptation Strategy 2021 (CHAS) is a regional risk and change management initiative that prepares Council and the community to proactively respond to changing coastal hazard risks. This includes to mitigate and adapt to the social, cultural, economic and environmental risks associated with current and future coastal hazards.

The CHAS addresses the three dominant forms of coastal hazards:

- **Coastal erosion** - the process of winds, waves and coastal currents shifting sediment away from the shoreline, either in the short-term shift (erosion due to storm activity that gradually rebuilds), or in the long-term (when beaches do not rebuild between storm events due to changing sediment supply or climate conditions)
- **Tidal inundation due to sea level rise** - regular or permanent inundation from the tidal cycle, that is affecting an increasing area of low-lying coastal land due to the sea level rise (expected to be 0.8 m sea level rise by 2100)
- **Storm tide inundation** - flooding of low-lying coastal land from a locally temporarily elevated sea level (the 'storm tide') elevated by predicted tide, storm surge, wind and wave action.

Environment

Coastal erosion and tidal inundation are the most direct climate change hazards affecting the Coast's natural environment values. Several ecosystems have considerable existing and future exposure to these hazards, including erosion of dunes and coastal wetlands, inundation of significant wetlands and expanding saltwater intrusion into freshwater habitats. The capacity of coastal ecosystems and their associated biodiversity to change and adapt to the predicted increase in these coastal hazards will depend on a range of factors, including the rate of change and type of ecosystem. Some coastal ecosystems, such as freshwater wetlands, are likely to be more vulnerable than others.

Threats from bushfire is also predicted to increase due to climate change induced extreme heat and drought events, which will place further pressure on fire sensitive coastal ecosystems and wildlife. Climate change impacts may also affect individual fauna species behaviours, with a prominent example on the Coast being changes in the arrival period for migratory birds.

The Sunshine Coast region has been identified as a potentially important climate change refuge for flora and fauna due to its relatively stable rainfall and temperature conditions. It is predicted that inland species may increasingly move to the Coast as they retreat from extended drought and bushfire conditions, which may place pressure on existing coastal flora, fauna and ecosystems.

Built assets

An asset risk assessment undertaken as part of the CHAS revealed coastal hazards will result a notable increase in risk for buildings on the Coast. Transport assets (roads and paths), beach and foreshore assets (such as playgrounds, boat ramps, BBQs and park tables) and water cycle management assets (culverts, pipes, waterways and stormwater infrastructure) will all have an increased exposure to coastal hazards.

The CHAS estimates the potential average annual costs for damages associated with coastal hazard impacts on private and public infrastructure assets will increase from the present-day figure of \$40 million, doubling by 2070 and more than tripling by 2100. The predicted increase in tidal areas, as a result of forecast sea level rise, is the main driver of this forecast increase.

A growing number of coastal hazard events and the resulting potential loss of green space also places pressures on the future of commercial activities undertaken on the Coast. The loss of these commercial activities would result in a reduced local economic activity, as well as a diminished flow on tourism activity.

Sustainable use

Population growth means more people and more assets will be exposed and vulnerable to the consequences of these natural hazards. Exposure to increased natural hazards for communities on the Coast means potential impacts such as:

- damage to property and community infrastructure
- disruption to access (roads) and services (utilities and communications)
- reduced recreational amenity and safety
- greater health risks from increased temperatures and heat waves
- increased need for awareness and effort in disaster management planning, response and recovery

- damage and loss of places of European and First Nations cultural heritage.

Coastal hazards exacerbated by rising sea levels are also likely to damage and reduce the amount of recreational and public activity taking place on the Coast. The CHAS identified that waterfront and marine industry, sport and recreation, principal centre and open space areas are at the highest risk of impact from coastal hazards. A case study was developed for the CHAS that considered the fictional scenario of a year-long closure to Maroochydore Beach due to climate impacts. It was estimated the beach closure would result in an annual loss of \$34 million in revenue for local businesses.

4. What has the community told us?

The development of the HCMP has been strongly guided by community consultation.

In 2021 and 2022, ten significant pieces of community consultation were undertaken for various coastal-related projects (including the Coastal Hazard Adaptation Strategy, Coastal Health Report, Living in Sunshine Coast Survey and multiple placemaking projects). This consultation has encompassed over 10,000 individual community responses and represented the whole Sunshine Coast area. The following are key community insights gained from this analysis:

- Environment
 - The Sunshine Coast has a rich natural environment that is loved by its residents.
 - Community members are concerned over environmental degradation of coastal areas.
 - Residents call for a balanced approach to coastal protection that incorporates nature-based and hard engineering solutions.
- Sustainable use
 - Sunshine Coast residents feel a strong sense of community and personal connection with coastal environments.
 - Coastal parks and beaches play a significant role in the everyday lives of Sunshine Coast residents.
 - Sunshine Coast residents experience local conflicts of use within Coast areas, such as dog management issues.
 - There is a strong demand among residents for improved park services and parking facilities, but balance is needed.
 - Access to and connectivity with diverse social gathering and recreational opportunities are perceived as being important attributes of great public spaces.

The Coastal Health Report Survey, undertaken in 2021, revealed a very high number of residents (88 per cent of survey respondents) are satisfied with their local coastal areas. The survey also concluded that communities with the highest levels of connection are motivated to use and protect the Coast and gain psychological benefit from doing so.

In late 2023, a series of coastal stakeholder engagement workshops were undertaken to specifically inform the development of the HCMP. The engagement was focused on gaining the community representative's views on the most important values of the Coast and the management interventions required to protect, maintain and improve these values. Representatives from key community,

resident, industry, commerce, environmental, sporting and recreation groups attended the workshops. The results of this engagement were fundamental in developing the draft HCMP.

In late 2024, a second round of engagement was undertaken for stakeholders and the community to provide feedback on the draft HCMP through targeted stakeholder workshops, drop-in sessions and a Council Have Your Say Webpage. The high level of engagement and quality of responses received provided great value to the finalisation of the plan.

5. Strategic approach

Sunshine Coast Council's strategic approach to coastal management is informed and guided by a range of international, Australian and Queensland legislation and policies (see Appendix 1 - Information Road Map).

In Queensland, coastal planning and management is driven specifically by the *Coastal Protection and Management Act 1995*, Coastal Management Plan 2013, *Planning Act 2016* and the *State Planning Policy 2017*. These key state legislative frameworks provide for the protection and conservation of the Coast's environmental, social, cultural and economic values.

Locally, Council's Environment and Liveability Strategy, along with the Community Strategy and the Regional Economic Development Strategy, form the three long-term strategic policy positions of the Council and work together to inform corporate and operational planning and delivery of our vision as Australia's most sustainable region, including our approach to coastal management.

Environment and Liveability Strategy 2023

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, are both a key 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 embraces the Coast as one of four strategic natural environment themes, and strives to ensure coastal areas are healthy, resilient to climate change impacts and support sustainable use. The strategy aims to maintain and improve the health of our Coast to good or excellent grade by 2041.

Part A of the ELS outlines the following three key coastal policy positions:

- The natural values and function of coastal environments are preserved.
- A healthy Coast and near-shore marine environment is preserved to sustain our valued coastal lifestyle and economy.
- Coastal hazard risks are known and avoided or otherwise appropriately addressed, forming part of long-term adaptation planning.

A Transformational Action of Part B of the ELS, is a "Healthy Coast", which seeks to provide a strategic and coordinated approach to the protection, sustainable use and enjoyment of our dunes, beaches, rocky shores and near-shore marine waters (with a specific task to develop and implement a Healthy Coast Management Plan)

The ELS Part C Network Plan outlines the Coastal Desired Standards of Service for the integration of coastal management principles with planning, management and servicing of all public coastal lands, with particular focus on coastal foreshores and the adjacent dunes. The Network Plan also outlines the Coastal Network Blueprint and provides guidance to Council and other stakeholders for the spatial planning and delivery associated with the preservation, enhancement and facilitated sustainable use of our coastal foreshores.

Community Strategy 2019-2041

The Coast is a focus point for our community's lifestyle, and its protection and management are integral to the outcomes of the Community Strategy. The strategy 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, parks, open space, civic spaces, affordable living options, smart infrastructure and sense of place in the public realm, which are all relevant to the Coast.

Regional Economic Development Strategy 2013-2033

The Regional Economic Development Strategy provides a 20-year vision and blueprint for sustainable economic growth. Maintaining a strong synergy between coastal management and the implementation of the Regional Economic Development Strategy is an imperative given the significant economic values that are reliant on a healthy Coast, including our tourism industry.

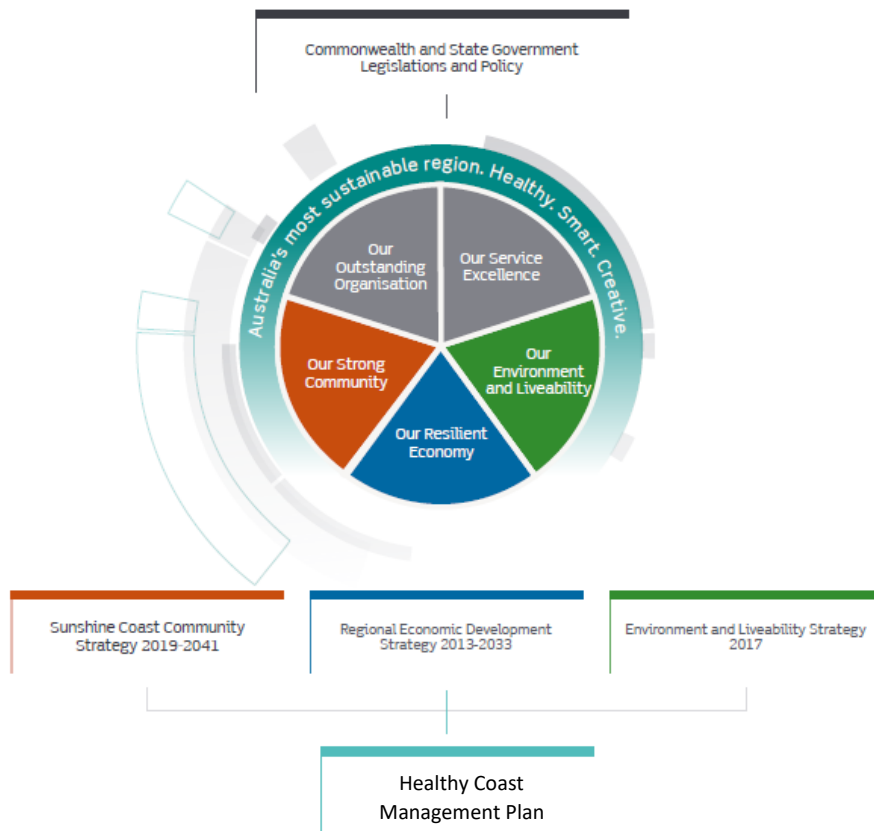


Figure 3. Council's vision and key strategies.

A coastal policy, planning and program framework (the framework) has been developed to support the delivery of our organisational coastal management activities. The current coastal management related legislation and knowledge base that further supports this framework are presented in Appendix 1 - Information Road Map.

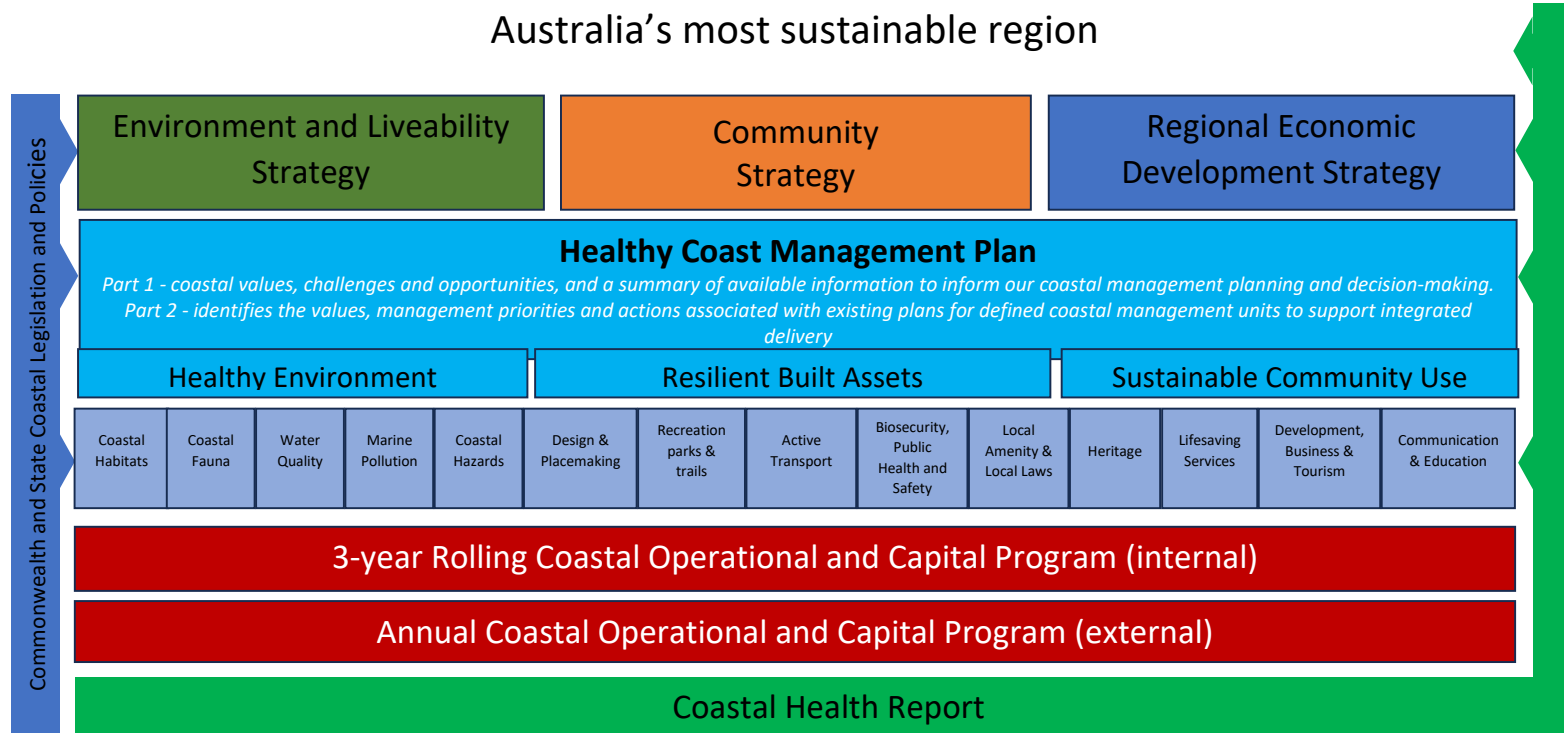


Figure 4. Sunshine Coast Council's Coastal Management Policy, Planning and Program Framework.

Healthy Coast Management Plan

The Healthy Coast Management Plan is an important component of this framework and supports the integrated and coordinated delivery of three strategic coastal management outcomes:

- a healthy environment
- resilient built assets
- sustainable community use.

The document provides users with an improved understanding of what needs to be delivered and a valuable tool to assist in annually prioritising actions.

Coastal management outcomes

To maintain a healthy Coast and deliver on our strategic coastal outcomes, Council and its partners undertake a broad range of coastal management functions (Table 3). In doing so, there are numerous activities that are delivered through Council-wide management programs and initiatives. In delivery, Council uses a number of statutory, regulatory and operational tools, including our planning scheme and local laws.

Table 3: Descriptions of Coastal Management Functions and their alignment with strategic coastal outcomes.

Coastal Management Function	Description	Strategic Coastal Outcomes		
		A Healthy Natural Environment	Resilient Built Assets	Sustainable Community Use
Coastal Habitats	Management of coastal habitats to protect and enhance natural coastal areas, including reserve management and community BushCare programs	✓		
Coastal Fauna	Management of our coastal fauna, including marine turtles and shorebirds	✓		
Water Quality	Managing catchment impacts on coastal water quality, including erosion and sediment control and stormwater	✓		✓
Marine Pollution	Managing marine pollution along our coastline including disaster events, beach clean-up programs and marine strandings	✓		✓
Coastal Hazards	Coastal hazard response guided by our Coastal Hazard Adaptation Strategy and supported planning including Shoreline Erosion Management Plan.	✓	✓	✓
Design and Placemaking	Design and delivery of coastal place revitalisation activities		✓	✓
Recreation Parks and Trails	Design, maintenance and management of Council's public open space for active and passive recreation, including the coastal path		✓	✓
Active Transport	Design, planning and management of coastal-based active transport infrastructure		✓	✓
Biosecurity, Public Health and Safety	Protecting public health by managing declared pests, controlling mosquitoes and administering environmental health regulations			✓
Local Amenity and Local Laws	Maintaining and regulating local amenity through local laws, regulated parking, community land permits and management of animals, overgrown land and abandoned vehicles			✓
Heritage	Management of First Nations and European heritage values in partnership with stakeholders			✓
Life Saving Services	Regular patrolling of beaches to ensure the safety and enjoyment of residents and visitors		✓	✓
Development, Business and Tourism	Guiding coastal development, supporting local businesses, and promoting a healthy Coast and open space networks as part of a world-class destination in building a strong economy	✓	✓	✓
Communication and Education	Undertake broad and targeted coastal communications and community engagement and education to enhance awareness and participation in coastal management.	✓	✓	✓

Annual operational and capital program

Through implementation of this framework, annual operational and capital planning for the Coast will be undertaken to respond to the identified management priorities within available resources and funding. A HCMP annual implementation program, which details the key coastal operational and capital actions and management priorities for the ensuing year, will be shared with the public each year.

Coastal Health Report monitoring program

Under this framework, the [Coastal Health Report for the Sunshine Coast](#) provides the monitoring and evaluation component to understand the health of our beaches, headlands, lower estuaries and coastal lagoons.

The Coastal Health Report aims to assist Council and the community to understand the health of our coastal ecosystems, and to track progress on the ELS target to maintain and improve the health of our Coast to good or excellent grade by 2041. The Coastal Health Report information also contributes to the evidence base to support Council’s coastal management decisions and activities, including implementation of the HCMP, providing a feedback loop to our policy, planning and operational activities.

The Coastal Health Report defines and collects data for 32 reporting units across the four main ecosystems (beaches, headlands, lower estuaries and coastal lagoons). These reporting units are the same as the Coast Units presented in Part 2 of the HCMP. To understand Coast condition, 25 indicators across three monitoring themes (biodiversity, beach and buffer widths and water quality) were monitored. Public benefits were measured through a large survey and direct measures of the extent of public land, to determine how the community values, accesses and uses the Coast.

In the 2023 Coastal Health Report the overall health of our coastal ecosystems was rated as either 'good' or 'excellent' (see Table 4). It is anticipated that the monitoring program will be ongoing with reporting against this baseline occurring approximately every three years.

Table 4. 2023 Sunshine Coast Coastal Health Monitoring Program overall results

Coastal ecosystem	Overall health score	Coastline condition			Public benefits
		Biodiversity	Beach and buffer	Water quality	
Beaches	70%	45%	79%	—	85%
Headlands	75%	71%	—	—	79%
Lower estuaries	80%	59%	—	97%	83%
Coastal lagoons	74%	65%	—	77%	80%

Excellent ≥80%	Good ≥60 — <80%	Fair ≥40 — <60%	Poor ≥20 — <40%	Very poor <20%
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