

Minutes Appendices

Ordinary Meeting

Thursday, 16 October 2025

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Minutes

Ordinary Meeting

Thursday, 18 September 2025

Sunshine Coast City Hall Chamber, 54 First Avenue, Maroochydore



ORDINARY MEETING MINUTES

18 SEPTEMBER 2025

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Please Note: The resolutions as shown in italics throughout these minutes are the resolutions carried by the Council.

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18 SEPTEMBER 2025

1 DECLARATION OF OPENING

The Chair declared the meeting open at 9am.

2 WELCOME AND OPENING

Councillor D Law acknowledged the Traditional Custodians of the land on which the meeting took place.

Reverend Tania Eichler from St Peter's Anglican Church Maroochydore read a prayer.

Acknowledgement of the passing of former Landsborough Shire and Caloundra City Council, Councillor Francis Geritz.

3 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

COUNCILLORS

Councillor R Natoli	Mayor (Chair)
Councillor J Broderick	Division 1
Councillor T Landsberg	Division 2
Councillor T Burns	Division 3
Councillor J Natoli	Division 4
Councillor W Johnston OAM	Division 5
Councillor C Dickson	Division 6
Councillor E Hungerford	Division 7
Councillor T Bunnag	Division 8
Councillor M Suarez	Division 9 (Deputy Mayor)
Councillor D Law	Division 10

COUNCIL OFFICERS

Chief Executive Officer
 Chief Financial Officer
 Director Business Transformation and Performance
 Director Community Strengthening
 Director Infrastructure and Natural Assets
 Acting Director Sustainable Growth and Planning
 Manager Governance and Executive Services
 Community Connections & Partnerships Lead
 Coordinator Response Services
 Coordinator Financial Services
 Principal Property Officer
 Acting Project Manager

ORDINARY MEETING MINUTES

18 SEPTEMBER 2025

4 RECEIPT AND CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Council Resolution

Moved: Councillor W Johnston

Seconded: Councillor C Dickson

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 21 August 2025 be received and confirmed.

Carried unanimously.

5 MAYORAL MINUTE

NIL

6 INFORMING OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

6.1 PRESCRIBED CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

NIL

6.2 DECLARABLE CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

NIL

ORDINARY MEETING MINUTES

18 SEPTEMBER 2025

PROCEDURAL MOTION

Council Resolution

Moved: Councillor M Suarez

Seconded: Councillor T Burns

That Council allow the introduction of a new item of business onto the Agenda for the Ordinary Meeting held Thursday 18 September 2025 namely "Item 11.2 - Confidential Report - Maroochydore City Centre - Update on Contractual Negotiations" to be considered last on the agenda.

Carried unanimously.

7 PRESENTATIONS / COUNCILLOR REPORTS

NIL

ORDINARY MEETING MINUTES

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8 REPORTS DIRECT TO COUNCIL

8.1 COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP FUNDING PROGRAM RECOMMENDATIONS 2025

File No: Council Meetings

Author: Community Connections & Partnerships Lead
Community Strengthening

Appendices: App A - Community Partnership Funding Program
Recommendations 2025

Council Resolution (OM25/79)

Moved: Councillor T Bunnag

Seconded: Councillor D Law

That Council:

- (a) *receive and note the report titled "Community Partnership Funding Program Recommendations 2025" and*
- (b) *endorse the Community Partnership Funding Program Recommendations 2025 (Appendix A).*

Carried unanimously.

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8.2 RESIDENTIAL TENANCY AGREEMENTS - SUNSHINE COAST HOLIDAY
PARKS

File No: Council Meetings

Author: Contracts Manager (Holiday Parks)
Community Strengthening

This item was withdrawn by the Chief Executive Officer.

ORDINARY MEETING MINUTES

18 SEPTEMBER 2025

8.3 SYSTEMATIC INSPECTION PROGRAM - REGULATED DOGS

File No: Council Meetings

Author: Coordinator Response Services
Community Strengthening

Attachments: Att 1 - Mandatory conditions for keeping a regulated dog

Council Resolution (OM25/80)

Moved: Councillor C Dickson

Seconded: Councillor W Johnston

That Council:

- (a) *receive and note the report titled "Systematic Inspection Program - Regulated Dogs" and*
- (b) *approve the following systematic inspection program for the Sunshine Coast Council area in accordance with the Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008, section 113 (Approval of an inspection program authorising entry):*
 - (I) *to undertake a compliance inspection of the premises within the Sunshine Coast local government area where Council's Regulated Dog Register indicates a regulated dog is being kept, and*
 - (II) *to undertake the program from 14 November 2025 to 13 November 2026.*

Carried unanimously.

ORDINARY MEETING MINUTES

18 SEPTEMBER 2025

8.4 AUGUST 2025 FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE REPORT

File No: Council Meetings

Author: Coordinator Financial Services
Finance and Commercial Partnerships

Attachments: Att 1 - August 2025 Financial Performance Report
Att 2 - August 2025 Capital Grant Funded Project Report

Council Resolution (OM25/81)

Moved: Councillor E Hungerford

Seconded: Councillor J Broderick

That Council receive and note the report titled "August 2025 Financial Performance Report".

Carried unanimously.

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8.5 BUDGET REVIEW 1

File No: Council Meetings
Author: Coordinator Financial Services
 Finance and Commercial Partnerships
Appendices: App A - 2025-26 Amended Budget Financial Statements
 App B - 2025-26 Amended Minor Capital Works Program

Council Resolution (OM25/82)

Moved: Councillor E Hungerford
Seconded: Councillor J Broderick

That Council:

- (a) *receive and note the report titled "Budget Review 1" and*
- (b) *adopt Appendix A as tabled, pursuant to sections 169 and 170 of the Local Government Regulation 2012, Council's amended budget for 2025-26 financial year incorporating:*
 - (i) *the statement of income and expense*
 - (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 2025-26 Capital Works Program, endorse the indicative four-year program for the period 2027 to 2030, and note the five-year program for the period 2031 to 2035.*
 - (viii) *Debt Policy*
- (c) *note the following documentation applies as adopted 7 July 2025*
 - (i) *Revenue Policy*
 - (ii) *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*
 - (iii) *the Revenue Statement*
 - (iv) *the rates and charges to be levied for the 2025-26 financial year and other matters as adopted 7 July 2025*
 - (v) *the Strategic Environment Levy Policy*
 - (vi) *the Strategic Arts and Heritage Levy Policy*

ORDINARY MEETING MINUTES

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- (vii) *the Strategic Transport Levy Policy*
- (viii) *Prescribed Services Charge Plan (No. 2) 2025-26 Financial Year and*
- (d) *endorse the Minor Capital Works Program (Appendix B).*

For: Councillor R Natoli, Councillor J Broderick, Councillor T Landsberg,
Councillor T Burns, Councillor J Natoli, Councillor W Johnston, Councillor
C Dickson, Councillor E Hungerford, Councillor T Bunnag and Councillor
M Suarez.

Against: Councillor D Law.

Carried.

Councillor D Law raised a Point of Order regarding the comments made by Councillor J Natoli.

The Mayor upheld the Point of Order.

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8.6 AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING - 1 SEPTEMBER 2025

File No: Council Meetings

Author: Manager Audit, Assurance and Risk Advisory Services
Finance and Commercial Partnerships

Appendices: App A - Minutes of the Audit Committee Meeting of 1 September 2025

Council Resolution (OM25/83)

Moved: Councillor J Broderick

Seconded: Councillor E Hungerford

That Council:

- (a) receive and note the report titled "Audit Committee Meeting - 1 September 2025" and
- (b) endorse the Minutes of the Audit Committee Meeting of 1 September 2025 at Appendix A to this report.

Carried unanimously.

ORDINARY MEETING MINUTES

18 SEPTEMBER 2025

9 NOTIFIED MOTIONS

NIL

10 TABLING OF PETITIONS

10.1 PETITION - REDUCE THE SIZE OF MCU25/0215 DEVELOPMENT AT 31 BRUCE PARADE, GLASS HOUSE MOUNTAINS

Council Resolution (OM25/84)

Moved: Councillor J Broderick

Seconded: Councillor T Burns

That the petition tabled by Councillor J Broderick relating to the request to reduce the size of MCU25/0215 development at 31 Bruce Parade, Glass House Mountains be received and referred to the Chief Executive Officer to determine appropriate action.

Carried unanimously.

10.2 PETITION - REGULATION OF LONG-TERM AND UNSAFE ON-STREET PARKING OF CARAVANS, CAMPERVANS, MOTORHOMES

Council Resolution (OM25/85)

Moved: Councillor J Broderick

Seconded: Councillor J Natoli

That the petition tabled by Councillor J Broderick relating to the request for Regulation of long-term and unsafe on-street parking of caravans, campervans, motorhomes be received and referred to the Chief Executive Officer to determine appropriate action.

For: Councillor R Natoli, Councillor J Broderick, Councillor T Landsberg, Councillor J Natoli, Councillor W Johnston, Councillor C Dickson, Councillor E Hungerford, Councillor M Suarez and Councillor D Law.

Against: Councillor T Burns and Councillor T Bunnag.

Carried.

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**10.3 PETITION - AGAINST MEDIUM DENSITY RESIDENTIAL ZONING
PROPOSED UNDER THE SUNSHINE COAST PROPOSED PLANNING
SCHEME 2025 FOR AREAS IN MOOLOOLABA TO THE WEST OF DOUGLAS
STREET AND SOUTH OF MARJORIE STREET**

Council Resolution (OM25/86)

Moved: Councillor J Natoli

Seconded: Councillor E Hungerford

That the petition tabled by Councillor J Natoli relating to the request Against Medium Density Residential zoning proposed under the Sunshine Coast Proposed Planning Scheme 2025 for areas in Mooloolaba to the west of Douglas Street and south of Marjorie Street be received and referred to the Chief Executive Officer to determine appropriate action.

Carried unanimously.

ORDINARY MEETING MINUTES

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11 CONFIDENTIAL SESSION

CLOSURE OF THE MEETING TO THE PUBLIC

Council Resolution

Moved: Councillor C Dickson

Seconded: Councillor T Landsberg

That the meeting be closed to the public pursuant to s254J(3)(g) & (h) of the Local Government Regulation 2012 to consider the following items:

11.1 Confidential - Not for Public Release - Acquisition of Land - Alexandra Headland

11.2 Confidential - Not for Public Release - Maroochydore City Centre- Update on Contractual Negotiations.

Carried unanimously.

RE-OPENING OF THE MEETING TO THE PUBLIC

Council Resolution

Moved: Councillor M Suarez

Seconded: Councillor T Bunnag

That the meeting be re-opened to the public.

Carried unanimously.

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18 SEPTEMBER 2025

**11.1 CONFIDENTIAL - NOT FOR PUBLIC RELEASE - ACQUISITION OF LAND -
ALEXANDRA HEADLAND**

File No: F23/00361

Author: Principal Property Officer
Finance and Commercial Partnerships

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.

ORDINARY MEETING MINUTES

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Council Resolution (OM25/87)

Moved: Councillor J Natoli
Seconded: Councillor C Dickson

That Council:

- (a) *note that Council Resolution OM22/86 authorised the Chief Executive Officer to commence negotiations to acquire land for the Sugar Road upgrade project, including Lot 1 on RP176929*
- (b) *delegate authority to the Chief Executive Officer to commence the process under the Acquisition of Land Act 1967 to compulsorily acquire Lot 1 on RP176929 for the Sugar Road upgrade project*
- (c) *note that if there is an objection to a Notice of Intention to Resume, a report on the objection will be presented to Council for it to consider and decide whether Council should amend the Notice of Intention to Resume, discontinue the resumption or make an application to the Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Manufacturing, and Regional and Rural Development to take Lot 1 on RP176929 under section 9 of the Acquisition of Land Act 1967*
- (d) *if no objections are received, delegate authority to the Chief Executive Officer to make an application to the Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Manufacturing, and Regional and Rural Development to take Lot 1 on RP176929 under section 9 of the Acquisition of Land Act 1967*
- (e) *delegate authority to the Chief Executive Officer to settle claims for compensation if Lot 1 on RP176929 is compulsorily acquired and*
- (f) *authorise the Chief Executive Officer to publicly release details in relation to the acquisition of the land parcel identified in this report, once the transfer of ownership of land to Sunshine Coast Regional Council has registered with Titles Queensland.*

For: Councillor R Natoli, Councillor J Broderick, Councillor T Landsberg, Councillor T Burns, Councillor J Natoli, Councillor W Johnston, Councillor C Dickson, Councillor E Hungerford, Councillor T Bunnag and Councillor M Suarez.

Against: Councillor D Law.

Carried.

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11.2 CONFIDENTIAL - NOT FOR PUBLIC RELEASE - MAROOCHYDORE CITY CENTRE- UPDATE ON CONTRACTUAL NEGOTIATIONS

File No: Council Meetings

Author: Acting Project Manager
Finance and Commercial Partnerships

In preparing this report, the Chief Executive Officer recommends it be considered confidential in accordance with Section 254J (3) (g) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* as it contains information relating to negotiations relating to a commercial matter involving the local government for which a public discussion would be likely to prejudice the interests of the local government.

In preparing this report, the Chief Executive Officer recommends it be considered confidential in accordance with section 254J (3) (g) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* as it contains information relating to negotiations of a commercial matter involving the local government for which a public discussion would be likely to prejudice the interests of the local government. The information contained in this report is confidential as it relates to the terms and parameters that Council is being asked to consider in the context of finalising a contractual negotiation with a third party for land within the Maroochydore City Centre Priority Development Area. The disclosure of this information would breach commercial confidentiality undertakings with another party and potentially undermine Councils negotiations.

Council Resolution (OM25/88)

Moved: Councillor J Natoli

Seconded: Councillor E Hungerford

That Council delegate authority to the Chief Executive Officer to finalise negotiations for the proposed Maroochydore City Centre Project Agreement generally in accordance with the conditions outlined in this report.

Carried unanimously.

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12 NEXT MEETING

The next Ordinary Meeting will be held on 16 October 2025 in the Sunshine Coast City Hall Chamber, 54 First Avenue, Maroochydore

13 MEETING CLOSURE

The meeting closed at 1:14pm.

Confirmed 16 October 2025.



CHAIR

Sunshine Coast Council
**Shorebird
Conservation Plan
2025-30**



Edition Month September 2025

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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 Council Shorebird Conservation
 Plan 2025-30 (September 2025)

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Cover image

Simone Bosshard

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.

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Shorebird Conservation Plan 2025-30

Image: Bar-tailed Godwit. Photo: Simone Bosshard.

3

Our global commitment



In our Sunshine Coast Biosphere, we work together with our community for a sustainable future where we celebrate people and nature.

This is an international recognition as part of a World Network of Biosphere Reserves, demonstrating our commitment to contribute to a sustainable planet and create a positive legacy for future generations. This also aligns with Council's vision as Australia's most sustainable region. Connected. Liveable. Thriving.

We all have a role to play in the Sunshine Coast Biosphere now and for all those who will live, work, learn and play here in the future.

Our biosphere spans the Sunshine Coast local government area and three nautical miles off the coast.

Caring for this special place brings new opportunities and a range of possible benefits to our natural environment, community, lifestyle and economy.

The [Sunshine Coast Biosphere](#) is centred around our four key objectives, all of which are intrinsically linked:

- **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.



Sunshine Coast Council

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Image: Eastern Curlews. Photo: Simone Bosshard

United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Implementing the Sunshine Coast Biosphere involves local actions delivering on the United Nations' 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 create a sustainable future.

Council is demonstrating regional leadership by committing to embed the SDGs in our strategies, plans and associated progress reporting. The Shorebird Conservation Plan supports the SDGs by protecting biodiversity, enhancing climate resilience, and fostering inclusive community stewardship

This Shorebird Conservation Plan contributes to the following goals:

SDG 13 - Climate action

This plan provides a framework to monitor climate change impacts on shorebird populations and their habitats. It aims to detect early warning signs of climate-induced pressures through systematic surveys, enabling mitigation strategies to preserve ecological resilience. The plan integrates strategic planning with actionable outcomes, ensuring alignment with national policies. A key focus is on empowering local communities through ongoing education and awareness initiatives, to address emerging threats and build resilience.

SDG 14 - Life below water

This plan promotes active sustainable management of marine and coastal ecosystems to enhance shorebird habitat health for the recovery of shorebird populations. Protecting shorebird habitat through the plan is expected to enhance ecosystem resilience and productivity. The plan encourages legal frameworks for sustainable ocean-related practices and aims to improve ecosystem productivity through targeted habitat protection.

SDG 15 - Life on land

This plan identifies and promotes actions to protect critical shorebird habitats to reduce land degradation. It outlines targeted conservation actions for threatened species, promoting their long-term survival and the health of terrestrial ecosystems.

SDG 17 - Partnerships for the Goals

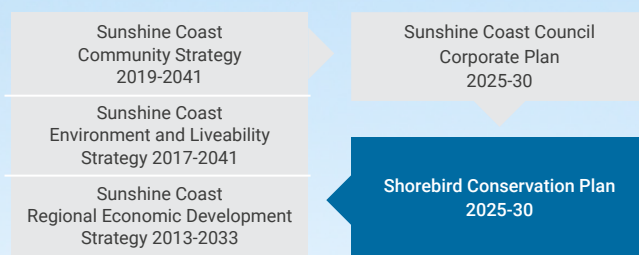
The Shorebird Conservation Plan fosters inclusive partnerships and shared outcomes that support the Sunshine Coast Biosphere's vision for a thriving, sustainable future. Collaboration across communities and sectors is a core principle embedded in all our plans and initiatives.



Making progress together

Working towards our vision

Australia's most sustainable region.
Connected. Liveable. Thriving.



Alignment to the regional strategies

The Shorebird Conservation Plan 2025–30 aligns with the Sunshine Coast Community Strategy by promoting inclusive, resilient, and nature-connected communities, and supports the Regional Economic Development Strategy by enhancing the region's green and visitor economies through habitat protection, eco-tourism, education, and climate resilience—contributing to a connected, liveable and thriving Sunshine Coast.



Sunshine Coast Council

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Image: Sooty Oystercatchers. Photo: Simone Bosshard.

Alignment to the corporate plan

The Sunshine Coast Council's Corporate Plan 2025-30 outlines an integrated approach to achieving our vision, informed by Council's long and medium-term strategies and plans. Our commitment to reconciliation is reflected under the five goals.



Strong Community

The Shorebird Conservation Plan fosters a strong community by engaging residents, Traditional Owners, schools, and volunteers in shorebird conservation. Through education campaigns, citizen science, and inclusive partnerships, it builds awareness and shared stewardship of coastal ecosystems. By promoting respectful recreation and cultural collaboration, the plan strengthens social connection and pride in place, inviting all community members to participate in conservation efforts that protect our natural heritage and support wellbeing.



Managing for Growth

The plan supports well-managed growth by integrating shorebird habitat protection into urban and recreational planning. It informs land use decisions, guides infrastructure away from ecological sensitive areas, and ensures recreation areas and trails are designed to minimise ecological impact. By embedding conservation into planning frameworks, the plan helps balance population growth with environmental sustainability, preserving the region's unique coastal character.



Environment and Liveability

The plan enhances environment and liveability by protecting critical shorebird habitats and mitigating threats through planning, legislation, and on-ground action. It aligns with the Environment and Liveability Strategy and UNESCO Biosphere values, ensuring biodiversity is preserved and enhanced alongside sustainable recreation. By guiding infrastructure away from sensitive areas and promoting habitat restoration, the plan supports a healthy coastal environment that underpins the region's liveability and ecological resilience.



Organisational Excellence

The Shorebird Conservation Plan exemplifies organisational excellence through evidence-based decision-making, cross-sector collaboration, and transparent monitoring. It aligns with national and international conservation frameworks and embeds adaptive management practices. Annual reviews and stakeholder engagement ensure accountability and continuous improvement. By integrating science, policy, and community values, the plan reflects Council's commitment to high performance and responsive governance.



Resilient Economy

By supporting sustainable nature-based tourism, the Shorebird Conservation Plan contributes to a resilient economy. It partners with local tourism operators to promote bird-watching experiences and builds regional identity around conservation values. The plan's emphasis on education, stewardship, and ecological health enhances the Sunshine Coast's reputation as a destination for responsible travel, while protecting the natural assets that underpin long-term economic prosperity.



Image: Whimbrels- Photo: Simone Bosshard.

Introduction

Migratory shorebirds are remarkable birds that journey thousands of kilometres across the globe to spend the summer with us on the Sunshine Coast. Watching them in their natural environment evokes a wonderful human emotional, intellectual, and spiritual response. Yet, like all migratory species, their movements across the globe make them particularly vulnerable to natural and human-induced impacts along their migratory route, resulting in global population declines. Shorebirds rely on a connected network of high-quality wetlands and are key indicators of coastal ecosystem health.

Like links in a chain, these coastal habitats support their survival, and in return they play a crucial role in keeping these ecosystems healthy by cycling nutrients and supporting natural balance. For all these reasons, shorebirds deserve and need our attention at local, regional, national, and international levels, to ensure the survival of these remarkable birds and the ecosystems they inhabit are preserved for future generations.

Background

The Sunshine Coast provides important habitat for migratory and resident shorebirds, where they share limited coastal habitat areas with a fast-growing urban community. Much of the region's rapidly growing population (predicted to exceed 500,000 by 2041) lives along the urban growth corridor between Caloundra and Maroochydore - areas that are also important for shorebirds.

Each year, around 2 million migratory shorebirds, many of them listed as threatened from extinction under Commonwealth and State legislation, fly more than 10,000 km from their breeding grounds in the Arctic tundra to Australia. Many spend the summer in the estuaries of the lower Maroochy River and Pumicestone Passage, as well as along rocky foreshores and Mudjimba Island (for details and monitoring data see Background Paper). The Pumicestone Passage is recognised as an internationally significant wetland, while the Maroochy River is considered nationally significant (Weller et al. 2020).

While in their non-breeding habitats, the daily lives of shorebirds are determined by the tides. At high tide, they roost (sleep) in flocks above the water level. As the tide drops, they move onto intertidal sandflats and mudflats to feed in the soft sediment. Therefore, both high-tide roosting sites and low-tide feeding areas are critical to their survival. To minimise energy expenditure, shorebirds prefer locations where roosting and feeding areas are close together, reducing the time and energy required to travel between the tides.

Resident shorebird species live in Australia year-round. The foreshore provides habitat for their entire life cycle: roosting, foraging, and breeding. They lay their eggs on dunes or rocky shores above the high tide mark, where their breeding success is affected by natural factors such as high tides and storms, as well as human-induced habitat destruction, introduced predators, and disturbance from recreational activities along the coast.

Most shorebird species are rapidly declining. Global threats include habitat loss, climate change and sea-level rise. On the Sunshine Coast, disturbance by people and domestic animals presents the biggest threat (for details see Background Paper). Any disturbance to migratory shorebirds severely impacts their ability to build the energy reserves needed for their long journeys and breeding season in the Arctic. Effective conservation of these species depends on local management that balances our enjoyment of coastal areas with the ecological values that make them unique. Protecting existing habitat, especially high tide roost sites, is the most cost-effective and impactful way to support shorebird conservation at the local level.

Purpose

The purpose of this five-year Shorebird Conservation Plan is to recommend and implement evidence-based conservation actions to mitigate threats and protect habitat for migratory and resident shorebirds on the Sunshine Coast.

Desired outcomes

The strategic framework of the Shorebird Conservation Plan comprises the following desired outcomes:

1. Current and future high value shorebird habitat is recognised and protected.
2. Threats to shorebirds on the Sunshine Coast are understood and addressed effectively.

3. Shorebird conservation is achieved through education, advocacy, and partnerships with the community, research institutions, local tourism operators, and expert advocacy groups.
4. Management is evidence-based and informed by contemporary research and knowledge of shorebirds on the Sunshine Coast.
5. Local shorebird conservation supports local, regional, national, and international efforts through effective collaboration and partnerships.

Legislative and policy context

The protection of shorebirds involves multiple stakeholders across many jurisdictions, countries, and political boundaries. Australia has entered bilateral agreements to conserve migratory birds with Japan (JAMBA, 1974), China (CAMBA, 1986), and the Republic of Korea (ROKAMBA, 2007).

As a signatory to the *Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals* (CMS or Bonn Convention), all migratory species listed in Appendix I or Appendix II are protected under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act 1999*.

Migratory shorebirds are identified as matters of national environmental significance (MNES) under the EPBC Act 1999, Australia's key piece of environmental legislation. Sixteen species of migratory shorebirds are listed as threatened with extinction under the EPBC Act as of January 2024.

All migratory and resident shorebirds in Queensland are protected under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992 (Qld)*, and under the Marine Parks (Moreton Bay) Zoning Plan 2019 within the Moreton Bay Marine Park.

Under these international, national, and state regulatory frameworks, local governments have an obligation to protect shorebirds and their habitat within their respective local government areas. Sunshine Coast Council's Environment and Liveability Strategy 2023 outlines policy positions relating to the conservation of shorebirds in Part A: Strategic Directions. The development of the Shorebird Conservation Plan is an action in the Sunshine Coast Council Operational Plan 2025/26.



Shorebird conservation

The Sunshine Coast hosts hundreds of migratory and resident shorebirds from at least 20 different species throughout the year. Some species are transient and only spend a few weeks here on their way to their final habitat destination. This plan outlines actions to support the conservation of all shorebird species present on the Sunshine Coast, including the regularly occurring species listed in Table 1. These actions will also benefit other coastal bird species that rely on the same intertidal habitats, including the recently listed vulnerable Little Tern.

Common Name	Scientific name	Qld NCA listing	EBPC listing
Far Eastern Curlew	<i>Numenius madagascariensis</i>	Critically endangered	Critically endangered, migratory, marine
Western Alaskan Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica baueri</i>	Endangered	Endangered, migratory, marine
Eurasian Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	Special least concern	Migratory, marine
Pacific Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis fulva</i>	Special least concern	Migratory, marine
Grey-tailed Tattler	<i>Tringa brevipes</i>	Special least concern	Migratory, marine
Wandering Tattler	<i>Tringa incana</i>	Special least concern	Migratory, marine
Double-banded Plover	<i>Charadrius bicinctus</i>	Special least concern	Migratory, marine
Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	Critically endangered	Critically endangered, migratory, marine
Red-necked Stint	<i>Calidris ruficollis</i>	Special least concern	Migratory, marine
Pied Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus longirostris</i>	Least concern	Not listed
Sooty Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus fuliginosus</i>	Least concern	Not listed
Red-capped Plover	<i>Charadrius ruficapillus</i>	Least concern	Marine
Beach Stone-curlew	<i>Esacus magnirostris</i>	Vulnerable	Marine
Pied Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	Least concern	Marine
Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>	Special least concern	Vulnerable, migratory, marine
Common Tern	<i>Sternula hirundo</i>	Special least concern	Migratory, marine
Greater Crested Tern	<i>Thalasseus bergii</i>	Special least concern	Migratory, marine
Lesser Crested Tern	<i>Thalasseus bengalensis</i>	Least concern	Marine
Australian Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>	Least concern	Migratory, marine
Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	Special least concern	Migratory, marine

Table 1: Regularly occurring species and their conservation status under the Queensland Nature Conservation Act 1992 (NCA) and the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Act 1999 (EPBC Act).

Vision

To support the recovery of ecologically sustainable migratory and resident shorebird populations across their range by reducing threats, protecting habitat, and working with an educated community.



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Image: Wandering Tattler. Photo: Simone Bosshard.

Conservation actions

The strategic framework for the Shorebird Conservation Plan comprises the following desired outcomes:

Desired outcome 1

Current and future high value shorebird habitat is recognised and protected.

Objective

High value shorebird habitat is recognised and protected through legislation and planning.

The plan outlines a precautionary approach to protecting high value shorebird habitats through regular monitoring and assessments, mapping, and strategic planning of recreational areas. These actions aim to minimise human disturbance while balancing conservation and community use.

Desired outcome 2

Threats to shorebirds on the Sunshine Coast are understood and addressed effectively.

Objective

Human-induced disturbance is eliminated at high value roost sites and minimised in high value feeding areas.

The plan focuses on strengthening collaboration across jurisdictions to reduce threats to shorebirds by minimising disturbance and providing temporary nest protection for beach nesting birds to safeguard sensitive habitats.

Desired outcome 3

Shorebird conservation is achieved through education, advocacy and partnerships with the community, research institutions, local tourism operators, and expert advocacy groups.

Objective

Effective stakeholder collaboration and increased community awareness result in positive behaviour change and support for shorebird conservation.

The plan focuses on fostering community stewardship and awareness through targeted education, signage, citizen science, and engagement with Traditional Owners and tourism operators. These initiatives aim to reduce disturbance to shorebirds while promoting sustainable coastal experiences.

Desired outcome 4

Management is evidence-based and informed by contemporary research and knowledge of shorebirds on the Sunshine Coast.

Objective

Develop a better understanding of local shorebird population dynamics and habitat.

The plan aims to prioritise evidence-based decision making through ongoing monitoring, research, and evaluation of conservation efforts. It intends to build resilience to future threats, including climate change and sea-level rise, by improving ecological understanding of shorebirds and their habitat.

Desired outcome 5

Local shorebird conservation supports regional, national, and international efforts through effective collaboration and partnerships.

Objective

Effective collaboration on a local, regional, national, and international level.

The plan aims to strengthen shorebird conservation through strategic partnerships and collaborations from a local to an international level. These efforts support coordinated habitat protection, monitoring, and shared conservation efforts.



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Image: Red capped Plover on eggs. Photo: Simone Bosshard.

Monitoring, implementation, evaluation, plan review

Sunshine Coast Council is responsible for the implementation of the Shorebird Conservation Plan, in collaboration with delivery partners and stakeholders.

The Chief Executive Officer will support the operational implementation of the Shorebird Conservation Plan 2025-30 through a Shorebird Conservation Implementation Plan.

An annual review and report on activities, outcomes and expenditures will be provided as part of the Sunshine Coast Council Annual Report. A comprehensive evaluation, review, and updates (where required) will be undertaken as part of the five-year plan.

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Printed on environmentally responsible stock.

24091818

Sunshine Coast Council

Shorebird Conservation Implementation Plan 2025-30



Edition October 2025

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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 Shorebird Conservation Implementation Plan 2025-30 (October 2025)

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Vision

To support the recovery of ecologically sustainable migratory and resident shorebird populations across their range by reducing threats, protecting habitat, and working with an educated community.

Introduction

The Shorebird Conservation Implementation Plan outlines a coordinated, evidence-based approach to protecting migratory and resident shorebirds on the Sunshine Coast. It translates the strategic goals of the Shorebird Conservation Plan 2025–30 into practical actions that mitigate key threats, safeguard critical habitats, and promote community stewardship. It aligns with the Sunshine Coast Council Environment and Liveability Strategy (2023) and reflects our commitment as a UNESCO Biosphere to balance conservation with community needs. The plan will be reviewed and adapted over time to ensure best-practice management and lasting outcomes for biodiversity and future generations.

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Environment and Liveability Strategy 2023, Sunshine Coast Council.

<https://els.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au/>

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Implementation Plan

DO1: Current and future high value shorebird habitat is recognised and protected				
Objective: High value shorebird habitat is recognised and protected through legislation and planning.				
No.	Action	Success Indicator	Priority	Threat to be mitigated
1.1	Conduct assessment of shorebird habitat to identify high value shorebird habitat areas for roosting, feeding, and nesting.	The conservation values for all for migratory and resident shorebirds habitat sites are assessed based on DESI's guidelines (Local government dog off-leash areas in State Marine Parks 2022).	High	Habitat Loss, Anthropogenic disturbance
1.2	Map and declare identified high value shorebird habitat and improve site protection.	High value shorebird habitat is formally recognised and appropriately protected consistent with State mapping of Environmental Significance.	High	Habitat Loss, Anthropogenic disturbance
1.3	Close high value shorebird roost sites to the public between October and April.	Local laws are amended to allow seasonal closure of high value roost sites.	High	Anthropogenic disturbance
1.4	Assess conservation and recreational value of currently unprotected shorebird feeding and nesting areas using DESI's guidelines (Local government dog off-leash areas in State Marine Parks 2022) and implement dog management areas as required between October and April.	Local laws are amended to reflect respective dog management areas for all identified high value shorebird feeding and nesting areas.	High	Anthropogenic disturbance
1.5	Work with relevant planning stakeholders to ensure dog exercise areas are situated in convenient and attractive locations but separate from high value shorebird habitat.	All dog exercise areas are spatially separated from high value shorebird habitat.	High	Anthropogenic disturbance
1.6	Plan and implement open space elements such as tracks and trails to improve recreation outcomes and user experience, while guiding people away from high value shorebird habitat.	Recreational infrastructure is spatially separated from high value shorebird habitat.	High	Anthropogenic disturbance

1.7	Update publicly available mapping for identified high value shorebird habitat and dog exercise areas.	The community can easily access mapping of high value shorebird habitat and dog exercise areas.	Medium	Anthropogenic disturbance
1.8	Investigate suitable locations for artificial roost sites.	At least one suitable site per catchment is identified.	Medium	Habitat Loss, Climate change
1.9	Identify and monitor erosion of high value roost sites. Use sand nourishment to stabilise current extent of high value roost sites where required.	Permits are in place for sand nourishment to occur if required.	Medium	Habitat Loss, Climate change

DO2: Threats to shorebirds on the Sunshine Coast are understood and addressed effectively				
Objective: Human-induced disturbance is eliminated at high value roost sites and minimised in high value foraging areas.				
No.	Action	Success Indicator	Priority	Threat to be mitigated
2.1	Collaborate with State Agencies and council's Regulatory Services to prioritise and coordinate compliance and effective enforcement of legislation regulating shorebird disturbance in all jurisdictions.	Consistent enforcement of available legislation is achieved.	High	Anthropogenic disturbance
2.2	Implement and enforce seasonal access restrictions to high value roost sites.	Access to high value roost sites is reduced by 80%.	High	Anthropogenic disturbance
2.3	Implement and enforce seasonal dog management to high value feeding and nesting areas.	Disturbance to high value feeding and nesting areas is reduced by 80%.	High	Anthropogenic disturbance
2.4	Erect temporary fencing around identified nests until chicks hatch (must be monitored regularly - dependent on Action 4.3).	No egg loss of known and monitored nests through trampling or predation.	Medium	Anthropogenic disturbance
2.5	Adopt and implement the Marine Park LIFE (Low Impact Firework Event) Planner throughout the Sunshine Coast LGA	No fireworks between October and April during mid-high tide near shorebird roost sites.	Medium	Anthropogenic disturbance
2.6	Coordinate and collaborate with State Agencies on assessment and conditioning of commercial use of foreshore areas to minimise disturbance to shorebirds.	No disturbance to shorebirds by commercial foreshore use.	Medium	Anthropogenic disturbance

DO3: Management is evidence-based and informed by contemporary research and knowledge of Sunshine Coast shorebird populations				
Objective: Develop a better understanding of local shorebird population dynamics and habitat requirements				
No.	Action	Success Indicator	Priority	Threat to be mitigated
3.1	Research and define benchmarks to evaluate effectiveness of management actions	Clear and well-defined benchmarks allow objective evaluation of effectiveness of management actions.	High	
3.2	Secure funding for staff resources to continue required monitoring.	Sufficient resources guarantee ongoing monitoring required to assess against benchmarks.	High	Anthropogenic disturbance, Habitat loss, Climate change
3.3	Assess resident shorebird breeding success and egg and chick survival (Dependent on Action 4.3)	Nests, chicks and survival rate are regularly monitored by trained Beach-nesting Birds volunteers.	High	Anthropogenic disturbance, Habitat loss
3.4	Continue tracking and banding collaboration with QWSG to improve understanding of local habitat use.	Habitat use data to inform management of shorebird habitat.	Medium	Habitat loss, anthropogenic disturbance
3.5	Understand recreational users, their impacts and their needs to understand how to modify their behaviour using social sciences and/or marketing research.	Behaviour-change strategies to minimise disturbance are developed based on current research.	Medium	Anthropogenic disturbance
3.6	Identify and protect climate change refugia by understanding habitat requirements for roost sites, identifying potential future sites, and protecting and rehabilitating those sites.	At least one future roost site per catchment is identified and protected.	Medium	Habitat loss, Climate change
3.7	Investigate funding opportunities and research collaborations to research benthic invertebrates in shorebird habitat to understand prey availability, accessibility, and potential temporal and spatial changes.	Fully funded research collaboration to assess benthic invertebrates and substrate penetrability on the Sunshine Coast.	Medium	Prey availability

DO4: Shorebird conservation is achieved through education, advocacy and partnerships with the community and experts				
Objective: Effective stakeholder collaboration and increased community awareness result in positive behaviour change and support for shorebird conservation				
No.	Action	Success Indicator	Priority	Threat to be mitigated
4.1	Continue community education campaign using targeted education material and an annual communication plan. Use a values-based engagement approach that builds on recreation values to build a shared identity of people and creatures that love the coast.	Knowledge of shorebirds and their conservation needs is widespread among community. The community engages online, at events, presentations or in the field.	High	Anthropogenic disturbance
4.2	Secure funding for staff resources to manage educational activities and the Beach-nesting Birds volunteer citizen science program, to monitor resident nesting shorebirds.	Beach-nesting Birds and education programs are adequately staffed and well managed.	High	Anthropogenic disturbance
4.3	Continue to use temporary and permanent interpretive signage to educate the community and raise awareness for shorebird conservation. Collaborate with State Government to develop joint educational signage.	Effective signage is developed with relevant stakeholders and is installed as needed and reviewed regularly.	High	Anthropogenic disturbance
4.4	Create a Shorebird/coastal wildlife watching and photographing Code of Conduct or guideline to be distributed in holiday accommodation etc.	The community and visitors are aware of and adhere to the Code of Conduct/guidelines.	High	Anthropogenic disturbance
4.5	Engage with traditional owners to incorporate traditional knowledge and practices into education and on-ground management.	Kabi Kabi knowledge is considered in all actions and management. Active collaboration with Kabi Kabi Land and Sea Rangers.	High	
4.6	Provide Avian Influenza information to the community and provide timely alerts for public health hazards relating to Avian Influenza outbreaks.	The community is well informed of Avian Influenza public health hazards and the recommended behaviours to stay safe.	High	
4.7	Provide guided shorebird viewing experiences for the community.	Shorebird viewing experiences are well attended by a community eager to learn about shorebird conservation.	Medium	Anthropogenic disturbance

4.8	Empower community members to become local shorebird conservation champions to promote good behaviours in their local area.	Community-led campaign fosters a sense of ownership and investment for shorebird conservation.	Medium	Anthropogenic disturbance
4.9	Provide free and accessible opportunities to view shorebirds from a distance, such as binoculars or bird hides.	The community learns about shorebird conservation by frequently using free and easy-to-use shorebird observation opportunities.	Medium	Anthropogenic disturbance
4.10	Develop a school shorebird program and promote at local schools.	Regularly present at schools to teach students about shorebirds.	Medium	Anthropogenic disturbance
4.11	Work with local artists to create shorebird sculpture-signs along Golden Beach and Cotton Tree.	Two interpretive sculpture-signs installed in each catchment.	Medium	Anthropogenic disturbance

DO5: Local shorebird conservation supports conservation efforts throughout the East Asian-Australasian Flyway through international collaboration and partnerships.				
Objective: Effective international collaboration				
No.	Action	Success Indicator	Priority	Threat to be mitigated
5.1	Collaborate with partners throughout Flyway Network Sites to develop flyway-wide approaches to enhance the conservation status of migratory shorebirds, including monitoring and habitat protection.	Ongoing partnership is established with regular exchange of data and information.	Medium	Anthropogenic disturbance, Habitat loss, Climate change
5.2	Investigate the scope of establishing a sister wetland program.	Suitable sites are identified and conversations with potential partners have commenced.	Medium	Anthropogenic disturbance, Habitat loss, Climate change