Agenda

Ordinary Meeting

Thursday, 13 November 2025

commencing at 9:00am

Sunshine Coast City Hall Chamber, 54 First Avenue, Maroochydore

Sunshine Coast COUNCIL

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ORDINARY MEETING

NOTICE

31 October 2025

Dear Councillors, Directors and relevant staff,

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

13 November 2025

commencing at 9.00am.

John Baker | Chief Executive Officer

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1 DECLARATION OF OPENING

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

2 WELCOME AND OPENING

3 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

4 RECEIPT AND CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 16 October 2025 be received and confirmed.

5 MAYORAL MINUTE

6 INFORMING OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

6.1 PRESCRIBED CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

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

(a) immediately inform the meeting of the prescribed conflict of interest including the particulars stated in section 150EL(4) of the Act and

(b) pursuant to section 150EM(2) of the Act must leave the place at which the meeting is being held, including any area set aside for the public, and stay away from the place while the matter is being discussed and voted on.

6.2 DECLARABLE CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

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

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

(a) whether the Councillor may participate in the decision despite the Councillors conflict of interest or

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

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

7 PRESENTATIONS / COUNCILLOR REPORTS

8 REPORTS DIRECT TO COUNCIL

8.1 SUNSHINE COAST COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORTING

File No: Council Meetings

Author: Manager Strategy and Policy
Business Transformation and Performance

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PURPOSE

To present Sunshine Coast Council's Annual Report 2024-25 (Annual Report) and the 3 regional strategy annual reports, covering the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Under the *Local Government Act 2009* and the *Local Government Regulation 2012* (Section 182) Councils in Queensland must prepare an annual report each financial year containing their audited financial statements and details of their performance and activities.

A Council must adopt its annual report within one month after the day the Auditor-General provides the audit report on Council's financial statements, and it must be published on its website within 2 weeks of adopting the annual report. Council's audited financial statements are presented to Council separately and if adopted, are consolidated into the Sunshine Coast Council's Annual Report 2024-25 for publication.

Council's Annual Report, has been prepared in full accordance with these legislative requirements and each requirement has been addressed as outlined in Queensland Government's Annual Report Checklist for local government.

This year, Council has improved its reporting approach by consolidating 7 individual annual reports into one report to Council. This format strengthens transparency and accountability to our community, ensuring our reporting reflects the breadth and impact of our work.

The Annual Report (**Appendix A**) incorporates the 3 levy reports as appendices - Arts and Heritage, Environment and Transport - offering our community a more comprehensive view of how we are delivering for the region.

Additionally, Council has included our 3 regional strategy annual reports as attachments to the Annual Report to provide further insights into strategic progress and community outcomes:

- Community Strategy Annual Report 2024-25 (**Attachment 1**)
- Environment and Liveability Strategy Annual Report 2024-25 (**Attachment 2**)

- Regional and Economic Development Strategy Annual Report 2024-25 (**Attachment 3**).

A summary of our progress is outlined in the proposal section below.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

(a) receive and note the report titled "Sunshine Coast Council Annual Reporting"

(b) adopt the Sunshine Coast Council Annual Report 2024-25 (Appendix A) and

(c) note the Community Strategy Annual Report 2024-25 (Attachment 1), Environment and Liveability Strategy Annual Report 2024-25 (Attachment 2), and Regional Economic and Development Strategy Annual Report 2024-25 (Attachment 3) for the purpose of promoting the region's community, environment and liveability and economic outcomes.

FINANCE AND RESOURCING

All annual reports are developed using existing internal resources and associated operational budgets and designed to be viewed digitally through Council's website, consistent with Council's sustainability objectives. There will be no hard copies produced of the annual report – printed versions are available on request in accordance with Council's fees and charges register.

CORPORATE PLAN

Corporate Plan Goal:	***Organisational excellence***
Strategic Pathway:	We serve our community by providing this great service
Operational Activity:	S29 - Strategy and Planning - Provision of integrated strategy, corporate planning and performance monitoring that inform corporate reporting and prioritisation processes as well as advocacy for state and federal funding partnerships.

CONSULTATION

Councillor Consultation

Councillor E Hungerford and Councillor J Broderick as Portfolio Councillors for Organisational Excellence have been consulted on the content in the Annual Report.

Portfolio Councillors are updated and kept informed on their respective regional strategy annual reports.

Internal Consultation

The Annual Report and associated attachments have been developed in close consultation with all relevant business areas across Council and has been reviewed and approved by the relevant Director, as part of our planning and reporting processes.

External Consultation

The Queensland Audit Office has reviewed the Sunshine Coast Annual Report 2024-25 as a requirement of the Australian Auditing Standard (ASA 720) and *Auditor-General Act 2009*, to

examine whether the financial information and non-financial information is consistent with the financial statements audited.

No external consultation is required in the preparation of the Community Strategy Annual Report 2024-25, Environment and Liveability Strategy Annual Report 2024-25 and Regional Economic Development Strategy Annual Report 2024-25.

Community Engagement

No external consultation is required in the preparation of the Sunshine Coast Council Annual Report 2024-25, Community Strategy Annual Report 2024-25, Environment and Liveability Strategy Annual Report 2024-25 or Regional Economic Development Strategy Annual Report 2024-25.

All of Council's annual reports are made publicly available to ensure transparency and provide our community with a clear and accountable overview of Council's performance, alongside how Council, our community, and partners have worked side-by-side through collaboration, advocacy, and cooperation to deliver meaningful outcomes for the betterment of our communities.

PROPOSAL

The Sunshine Coast Council Annual Report 2024-25 (Annual Report) provides an update on our performance against each of the Corporate Plan 2024-28 goals and progress indicators, annual disclosures and financial information that incorporated following a separate report to Council. This year the Annual Report also includes the 3 levy annual reports providing a more comprehensive view of Council's progress over the last financial year.

Progress against our Corporate Plan 2024-2028

Our Corporate Plan 2024-2028 establishes 29 progress indicators to help us measure our progress towards achieving our goals and strategic priorities, and this financial year:

- 19 are on target
- 10 are behind target.

Detailed information on all progress indicators is provided in the Annual Report.

Progress against our Operational Plan 2024-25

As of 30 June 2025, 87 per cent of our Operational Plan 2024-25 activities were successfully delivered with 11 of the 86 activities not meeting expected timeframe or budget requirements due to a range of influencing factors that are largely external to Council and beyond our control.

For areas where progress has been slower than anticipated and targets have not been met, Council is proactively managing and monitoring delivery, and providing targeted attention to ensure momentum continues and Council can make informed decisions to adjust where necessary.

Despite significant rainfall and the impacts of Ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred, the Capital Works Program achieved 94 per cent completion which included delivery of the Kawana Aquatic Centre Stage 2 building; Seib Road Bridge and major streetscape works in Eumundi and Stringybark Road Pedestrian and Cycle Bridge in Sippy Downs

Spending of levy funds

Council administers 3 levies: the Arts and Heritage Levy ($20 per rateable land), the Environment Levy ($82 per rateable land) and the Transport Levy ($47 per rateable land) which are used to support community programs, environmental initiatives, and transport upgrades across the region.

Detailed information on the investment into key levy programs is provided in the appendices in the Annual Report.

Progress of regional strategies

Council's commitment to strengthening the region's community, environment and economic objectives are outlined in its regional strategies. An annual report on the progress of each regional strategy is developed to support communication to key stakeholders and promote the region's community, environment and liveability and economic outcomes.

- The Sunshine Coast Community Strategy Annual Report 2024-25 (**Attachment 1)** provides an update on progress to support and enhance our community's health and wellbeing, activate local places and spaces, and foster inclusive, connected, and resilient communities, while continuing to celebrate heritage, culture, and arts.
- The Sunshine Coast Environment and Liveability Strategy Annual Report 2024-25 (**Attachment 2**) provides an update on the strategic directions guiding growth, environmental protection and shaping the region for future generations. These directions focus on the preservation and enhancement of the natural environment and the liveability of the region, enabling a good quality of life for all residents and supporting a strong economy in an accessible and well-connected built environment.
- The Sunshine Coast Regional Economic Development Strategy Annual Report 2024-25 (**Attachment 3**) provides an update on key initiatives that strengthen our region's competitive advantages, foster local-to-global connections, and enhance workforce capability. This includes activating key places and precincts to stimulate local vibrancy and economic activity, delivering targeted support to industry and businesses to build resilience and capacity, attract and grow events that contribute to the region's economy and identity.

Legal

The Annual Report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2009*, the *Local Government Regulation 2012* (the Regulation) and the *Public Sector Ethics Act 1994*.

Policy

All governance disclosures are consistent with Council's policies.

Risk

The Annual Report meets all legislative requirements, and there is no risk of non-compliance. All content has been approved by the relevant Director and Executive Leadership Team, limiting risks associated with this Annual Report.

Previous Council Resolution

Ordinary Meeting, 24 October 2024 (OM24/87)

That Council:

(a) receive and note the report titled "Sunshine Coast Community Strategy Annual Report 2023-24" and

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

Ordinary Meeting, 24 October 2024 (OM24/89)

That Council:

(a) receive and note the report titled "Sunshine Coast Regional Economic Development Strategy Annual Report 2023-24" and

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

Ordinary Meeting, 24 October 2024 (OM24/90)

That Council:

(a) receive and note the report titled "Sunshine Coast Environment and Liveability Strategy Annual Report 2023-24" and

(b) note the Sunshine Coast Environment and Liveability Strategy Annual Report 2023-24 for the purpose of promoting environment, liveability and organisational environmental sustainability outcomes.

Ordinary Meeting, 21 November 2024 (OM24/104)

That Council:

(a) receive and note the reports titled "Sunshine Coast Council Annual Report 2023-24"

(b) adopt the Sunshine Coast Council Annual Report 2023-24 (Appendix A).

Ordinary Meeting, 21 November 2024 (OM24/106)

That Council:

(a) receive and note the report titled "Arts and Heritage Levy Annual Report 2023-24"

(b) note the Arts and Heritage Levy Annual Report 2023-24 for the purpose of promoting Arts and Heritage Levy outcomes and

(c) acknowledge and thank the volunteers of the region's community museums, heritage associations and groups, and the artists and creative communities, that have contributed to the delivery of the Arts and Heritage Levy program outcomes for 2023-24.

Ordinary Meeting, 21 November 2024 (OM24/107)

That Council:

(a) receive and note the report titled "Environment Levy Annual Report 2023-24"

(b) note the Environment Levy Annual Report 2023-24 for the purpose of promoting Environment Levy outcomes and

(c) acknowledge and thank the community groups, landholders, students, teachers and volunteers that have contributed to the delivery of the Environment Levy program outcomes over the 2023-24 financial year.

Ordinary Meeting, 21 November 2024 (OM24/108)

That Council:

(a) receive and note the report titled "Transport Levy Annual Report 2023-24"

(b) note the Transport Levy Annual Report 2023-24 for the purpose of promoting Transport Levy outcomes and

(c) acknowledge and thank the community groups and volunteers that have contributed to the delivery of the Transport Levy program outcomes over the 2023-24 financial year.

Related Documentation

Corporate Plan 2024-2028

Operational Plan 2024-2025

Quarterly Progress Reports 2024-25

2024-25 Environment Levy

2024-25 Arts and Heritage Levy

2024-25 Transport Levy

Sunshine Coast Community Strategy 2019-2041 (2024 refresh)

Sunshine Coast Integrated Transport Strategy

Regional and Economic Development Strategy 2013 - 2033 (2023 edition)

Environment and Liveability Strategy (2023 refresh)

Critical Dates

Under Section 182 (4) of the Regulation, the Annual Report will be published on Council's website within two weeks of adoption by Council.

Implementation

Should the recommendation be accepted by Council, it is noted that the Chief Executive Officer will ensure that the Sunshine Coast Council Annual Report 2024-25 and 3 regional strategy annual reports will be published and made available on the Sunshine Coast Council website

A copy of the Sunshine Coast Council Annual Report 2024-25 will be provided to the Queensland State Library.

Key messages will be developed and distributed through Council's internal and external communication channels.

Sunshine Coast Council

Annual Report 2024–25



Sunshine Coast COUNCIL

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.

Edition November 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 Annual Report 2024–25

Disclaimer

To the extent this document contains future plans, activities, policies and strategies, these matters are aspirational and subject to change at any time without notice.

While the Sunshine Coast Council has exercised reasonable care in preparing this document, no warranty or representation is given by Council or its officers in relation to any of the information or data contained within this document (including as to its accuracy, reliability, completeness or suitability for any purpose).

Council and its officers are not liable (including without limitation, liability in negligence) for any loss, damage, expenses or costs (including any consequential loss or damage) incurred by you relating to any use of, or reliance upon, the information and data contained within this document.

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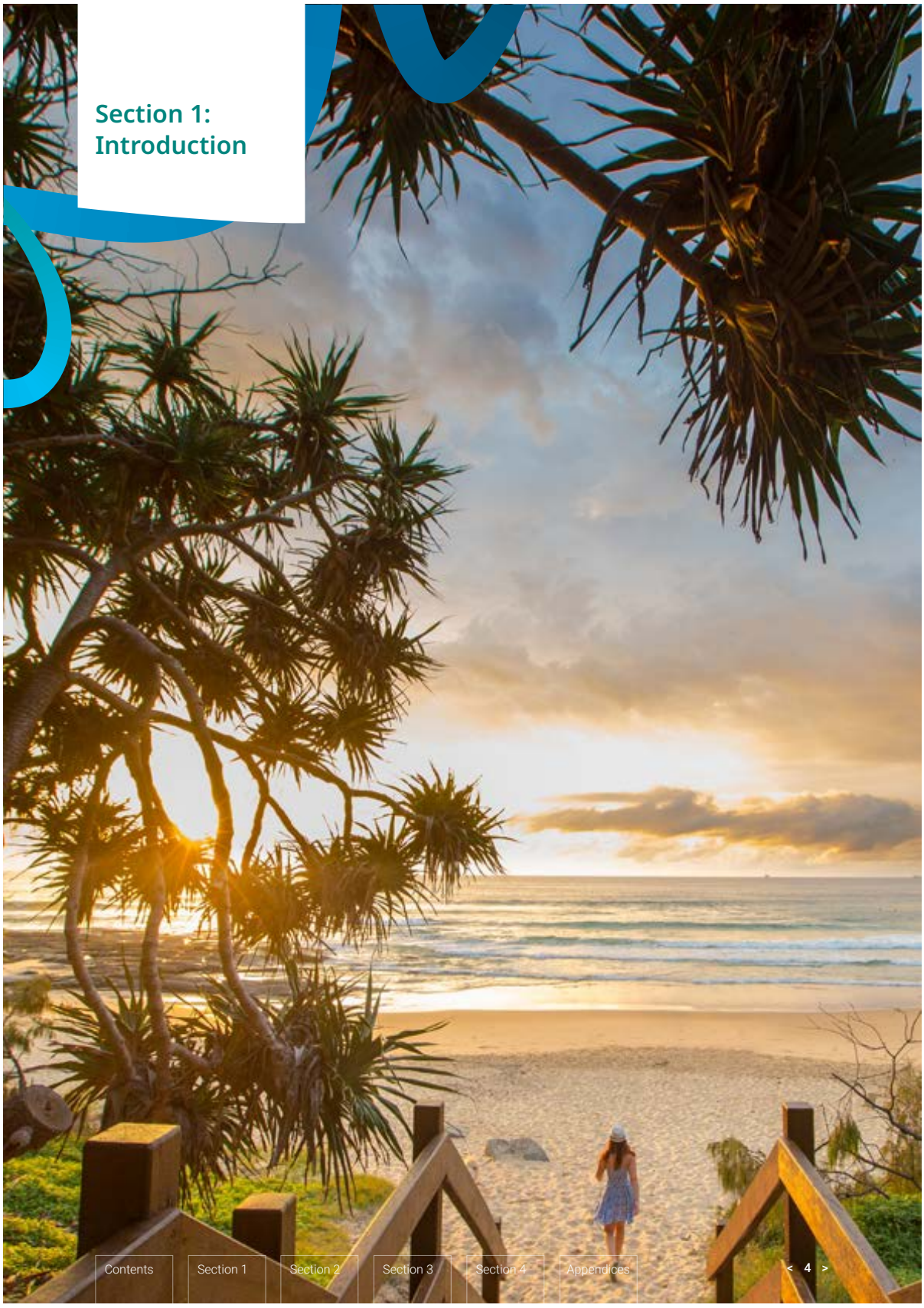
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Section 1: Introduction





Message from the Mayor

Listening, collaborating and delivering for our community now, while carefully shaping the future of our wonderful region - your Council is working for you.

It is an enormous honour and privilege to serve you as Mayor and present the Sunshine Coast Annual Report 2024-25.

The Annual Report is more than a document, it speaks to what Council has been doing for you, and for the places and spaces that you love.

The report highlights the programs, people and actions that have made a difference over the past financial year as Council strives to create a liveable, more connected and thriving environment for residents and the visitors who contribute so much to our prosperity. Focussing on this, while also achieving sustainability, is vital.

As we know, the region is experiencing strong population growth. More than 375,000 people now call the Sunshine Coast home, and this continues to grow at an annual rate of approximately 2.5 per cent. If predictions are right, we will be home to almost 520,000 people by 2041, which, of course, presents both opportunities and challenges.

With the added momentum generated by the excitement of the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games, and the significant role we will play in this global event, the Sunshine Coast is entering what will surely be a golden era.

Thanks to the Games, and our relentless advocacy, we have already seen massive wins, such as the announcement of the long-awaited Direct Sunshine Coast Rail link from the hinterland to the coast, high-frequency bus connections that are part of The Wave, and legacy projects like the Olympic Village in the Maroochydore City Centre, expansion of the Sunshine Coast Stadium and a new, purpose-built mountain bike centre at Parklands.

So, what have we been doing?

Better connecting with those we serve has been a major focus. After all, our community is at the heart of everything we do. I love our region. Regularly engaging with the people who live here allows me to hear many different perspectives - and this informs good decision-making.

What you are telling us is that, above all, we need to continue to protect our natural assets and lifestyle, and care for our Biosphere.

Council adopted a new Corporate Plan 2025-30 in February, and this came into effect on July 1, 2025.

The new Plan was informed by about 17,000 community engagement responses which were analysed as part of setting the priorities for the region over the next 5 years. You spoke - and we listened.

The adoption of the new Plan guided the development of 2025-26 Budget and Operational Plan which will translate our strategic priorities into an annual program of activities and services.

Financial transparency and efficiency have also been a key focus, and I'm pleased to say we have taken important steps to strengthen our financial foundations and ensure greater accountability moving forward.

Levy contributions from the community play a vital role in supporting key initiatives and delivering meaningful outcomes. Levy contributions have supported the following:

- The Environment Levy funded the acquisition of an additional 141 hectares of land, including extensions to East Mt Mellum Nature Refuge, Annie Hehir Road Environment Reserve and Upper Coochin Hills Environment Reserve: Rupari Hill Section.
- The Arts and Heritage Levy supported a range of programs across the region including providing funding of $450,000 to 26 arts and heritage groups and events.
- The Transport Levy continues to fund important projects to support the region's transport needs today, and into the future. There has been a focus on trialing new bus services, improving the safety for our most vulnerable pedestrians, reducing our reliance on cars through our ThinkChange and trial RideScore Active Schools programs, and increasing connectivity and accessibility to bus stops across the Sunshine Coast.

Other achievements include:

- The unveiling of a unique affordable housing project at Marcoola aimed at keeping low-income key workers in our community. Council delivered this project with support from the Queensland Government's $2 billion Housing Investment Fund.
- The allocation of $5.6 million to community groups and individuals through more than 1,150 grants across multiple funding programs.
- Securing $152 million in grant funding for key infrastructure and economic development projects across the Sunshine Coast.
- Support for 57 major events through the Sunshine Coast Major Events Strategy 2018-2028 (2023 refresh) with an estimated economic return of $106 million, exceeding the target of $86 million and reinforcing the value of strategic investment in major events.
- Guiding, supporting and leading our community through the disaster response and recovery phase after Tropical Cyclone Alfred.
- Formal recognition of the Kabi Kabi Peoples Aboriginal Corporation as an equal partner to help deliver Australia's first registered blue carbon farming trial, to establish 165 hectares of estuarine wetland, through the Blue Heart Sunshine Coast partnership.
- Hosting the Board of Brisbane 2032 for their meeting and providing tours of prospective Olympic and Paralympic venues.

I am genuinely excited about what the future holds for our region and the opportunities ahead, as we forge towards a Sunshine Coast that is connected, liveable and thriving - across all sectors.

We are a strong, united and innovative Council with a shared commitment to listening to our community, caring for our environment, and delivering outcomes for current and future generations.

I would like to thank our CEO John Baker, our leadership team and our passionate and hard-working Councillors, Council staff, partners and volunteers.

I can't wait to see what we can achieve next!

Mayor Rosanna Natoli



Image: Ironman Sunshine Coast



Message from the Chief Executive Officer

This is my first Annual Report with Sunshine Coast Council, and also the first time that the Annual Report brings together, the Transport, Arts and Heritage and Environment Levy Annual Reports offering our community a more complete and transparent view of Council's work.

As of 30 June 2025, the majority of our progress indicators and targets demonstrate that we have successfully advanced our strategic priorities from the Corporate Plan 2024-2028. Throughout the year we delivered 87 per cent of our Operational Plan 2024-25 activities which include:

- Upgraded 12 public facilities with technology to support access and inclusion.
- Completed the Critical Infrastructure Failure Project reducing cascading climate risks on Council infrastructure and services when disaster strikes.
- Supported 57 major events that had an estimated economic return of $106 million, exceeding the target of $86 million.
- Assisted more than 289,000 customers through Council's customer contact centres and customer satisfaction with Council services being a notable 7.2 out of 10.

Despite significant rainfall and the impacts of Ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred, the Capital Works Program achieved 94 per cent completion which included delivery of the:

- Kawana Aquatic Centre Stage 2 building
- Seib Road Bridge and major streetscape works in Eumundi
- Stringybark Road Pedestrian and Cycle Bridge, Sippy Downs.

We have also progressed a significant organisational realignment, to improve efficiency and focus on the strategic priorities for the next 5 years as outlined in the Corporate Plan 2025-30 which was adopted in February 2025 and shaped the 2025-26 Budget.

Together we are building a future for our region that is innovative, resilient and connected to the people we serve. I am optimistic about the future - we know there are challenges, but we remain committed to working collaboratively, prioritising what our community needs most and aligning our resources to make a positive impact.

I would like to take the opportunity to recognise the dedication and hard work of our Council, employees, contractors and thousands of volunteers who have helped deliver the outcomes in this Annual Report. We are committed to ensuring we continue to work together with the community at the heart of everything we do.

I invite you to explore our Annual Report to find out how together we have advanced the vision and goals over the financial year.

John Baker
Chief Executive Officer

Purpose

The Sunshine Coast Council (Council) Annual Report 2024-25 (Annual Report) has been developed in line with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2009* (Qld) and the *Local Government Regulations 2012* (Qld).

The Annual Report is one of the ways Council provides transparency and accountability to our Council and community on progress towards achieving our Corporate Plan goals.

Integrated planning and performance

Council's Integrated Planning and Performance Framework below helps to connect strategy with delivery, taking our long-term vision from our Corporate Plan, to prioritise activities for delivery through the annual Operational Plan. Progress towards achieving our strategy and progress on delivery is monitored through annual and quarterly reports to Council.

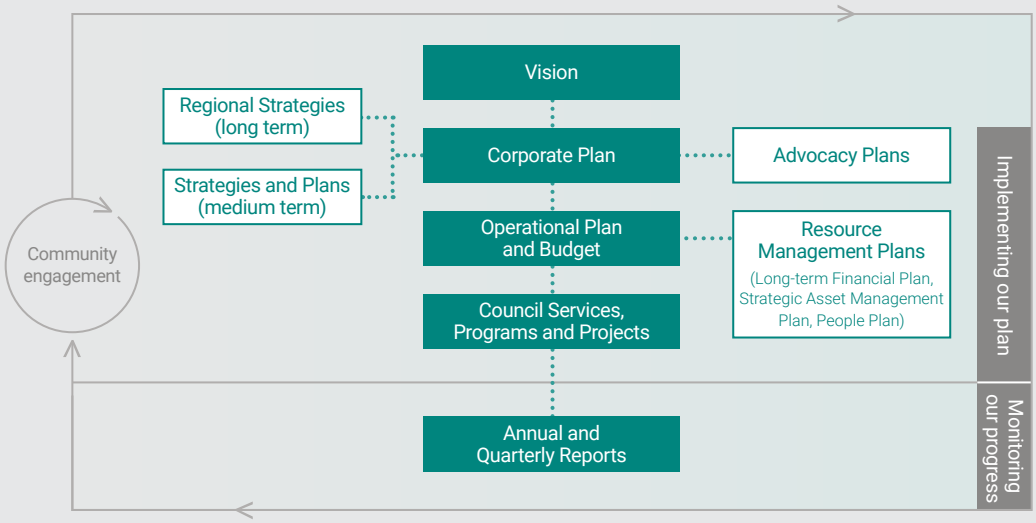




Image left to right: Cr Joe Natoli, Cr Terry Landsberg, Cr Christian Dickson, Cr Ted Hungerford, Mayor Rosanna Natoli, Cr Winston Johnston, Cr Taylor Bunnag, Cr Maria Suarez, Cr Jenny Broderick, Cr Tim Burns and Cr David Law.

Our Councillors

Sunshine Coast Council is served by 11 elected representatives comprising the Mayor and 10 Divisional Councillors who represent the community. They make decisions that benefit their divisions as well as the whole Sunshine Coast region, now and into the future.

As the community's elected representatives, Councillors are responsible for making decisions in the best interest of the region, while considering the needs of both current and future residents.

Mayor Rosanna Natoli

Cr Jenny Broderick
Division 1

Cr Terry Landsberg
Division 2

Cr Tim Burns
Division 3

Cr Joe Natoli
Division 4

Cr Winston Johnston
Division 5

Cr Christian Dickson
Division 6

Cr Ted Hungerford
Division 7

Cr Taylor Bunnag
Division 8

Cr Maria Suarez
Division 9

Cr David Law
Division 10

People

Council's workforce comprises of approximately 1,980 employees, including contingent workers, who operate from administration buildings, depots, libraries, and arts, environmental and heritage precincts across the region.

Our strength lies in our people - their passion, professionalism and commitment to serving the community. The following statistics provide insight into our diverse workforce:

- 51% male
- 49% female
- 55% of leadership roles are held by women
- 2.1% of staff identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander
- 46 years average age and 9 years average tenure.

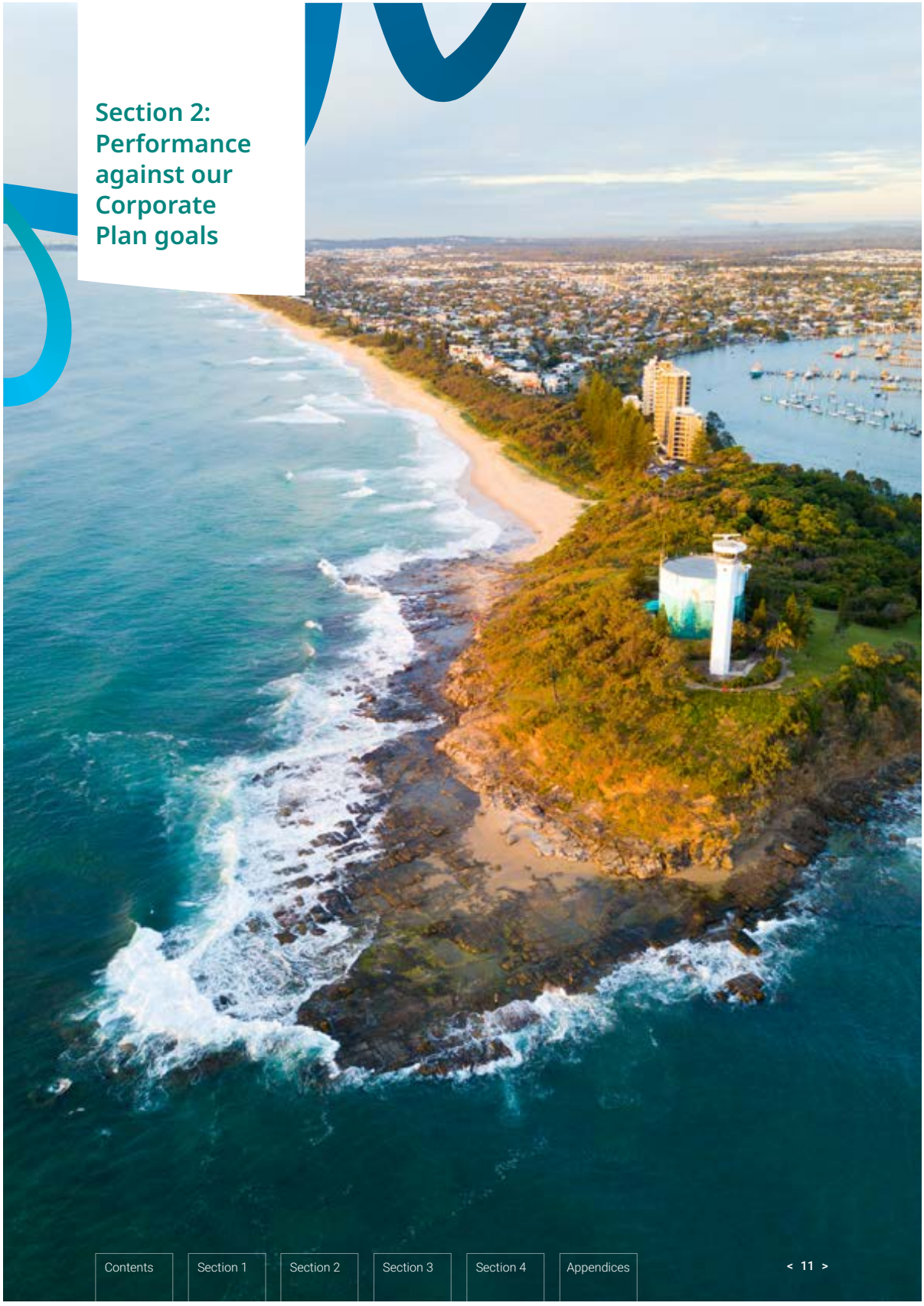
Council services

In addition to delivering on our strategic priorities, Council provides a wide range of services for the region.

Below are just some of the statistics on our services delivered during the 2024–25 financial year:

- More than 1.4 million patrons attended Council's 9 aquatic centres.
- Council awarded 1,152 community grants, distributing more than $5.6 million to support community initiatives.
- More than 6.6 million beachgoers attended Sunshine Coast beaches, with 552 rescues performed by lifeguards.
- Council's Landfill Renewable Energy Facility generated 6,106 megawatt hours of power.
- Council protected and maintained 8,423 hectares of environmental reserves.
- 2,159 parks and open spaces were maintained for community use and enjoyment, with 18,120 hectares of mowing sites and 5,113 hectares of garden beds.
- Sunshine Coast holiday parks generated $22.8 million in revenue, with an average 72% occupancy rate.
- 1,172 community land permits were issued for a range of business and community activities.
- Council maintained 3,192 kilometres of sealed and unsealed roads and 1,578 kilometres of pathways.
- 289,356 customers were assisted through Council's development and customer contact centres.
- 102% of Council's electricity consumption was offset by the Sunshine Coast Solar Farm.

Section 2: Performance against our Corporate Plan goals



Reading the annual report

The table below provides definitions for the wording and symbols used throughout this section.

Name		Definition
Corporate Plan goal		Defines the strategic direction for Council to progress our vision as outlined in our Corporate Plan 2024-2028.
Corporate Plan progress indicators		Monitor progress towards achievement of the goals, delivered through the strategic pathways and priorities.
Measure		A specific, quantifiable measure used to monitor progress towards achieving the Corporate Plan progress indicator.
Target		Defines the target Council is aiming to achieve.
Baseline		A starting point for measuring our progress towards achieving the target.
Result		The result that was achieved at the end of the 2024-25 financial year.
Result status	●	The progress indicator is on track.
	●	The progress indicator is behind target and action is required.

Our Corporate Plan 2024-2028 on a page

Our vision

Australia's most sustainable region.
Healthy. Smart. Creative.

Our purpose

To serve our community with excellence,
to respect our past, and position our region for the future.

Our goals

Strong community

Strategic pathways:

- Healthy and active communities
- Vibrant community places and spaces that are inclusive, accessible and adaptable
- An inclusive community, with opportunities for everyone
- Connected, resilient communities, with the capacity to respond to local issues
- Creative and innovative approaches to building a strong community.

Environment and liveability

Strategic pathways:

- A resilient region shaped by clever planning and good design
- Protection and enhancement of our natural assets and distinctive landscapes
- Responsive, accessible and well managed assets and infrastructure
- Transitioning to a sustainable and affordable way of living
- A reputation for innovation and sustainability.

Resilient economy

Strategic pathways:

- Strong economic leadership, collaboration and identity
- New capital investment in the region
- Investment and growth in high-value industries, innovation and entrepreneurship
- Strong local to global connections
- A natural, major and regional event destination
- Encourage investment in talent and skills.

Service Excellence

Strategic pathways:

- Engage with our customers to design inclusive, contemporary and sustainable community services
- Deliver consistent services that provide positive experiences for our community
- Assess service performance using data driven insights to inform sustainable service delivery
- Optimise our services through operational excellence, digital enablement and agile delivery models.

Outstanding Organisation

Strategic pathways:

- Maintain a sustainable organisation that is well placed to respond to the needs of our growing region
- Embrace a safe, values based workplace culture that attracts and retains high performing and engaged people
- Maintain a contemporary governance framework that inspires trust and confidence in the operations of Council
- Partner with community, business and other tiers of government to fulfil the needs of our region.

Our Strong Community

Our communities are connected, thriving places where people are included, treated with respect and opportunities are available for all.

Corporate Plan performance

The table below presents performance against our Corporate Plan 2024-2028 progress indicators.

Corporate Plan progress indicators	Measure	Target	Result	Result status	Progress commentary
The Sunshine Coast local government area is one of the healthiest regional communities in Queensland	Percentage of the community who report being in good health	82%	83.5%	●	Council's initiatives and infrastructure (such as the Healthy Sunshine Coast Program and investment in sport facilities, walking paths, trail networks and active transport infrastructure), along with support for community and sporting organisations through grants and subsidised leases, all contribute to promoting active and healthy lifestyles.
Residents agree that Council's community infrastructure meets the needs of their community	Percentage of residents who are neutral, agree or strongly agree that Council's community infrastructure meets the needs of their community	80%	79.7%	●	Council continues to invest in infrastructure across the region, including libraries, green spaces, and active transport networks. Enhancements during the year included new developments and upgrades to existing infrastructure, and ongoing maintenance of parks and civic areas.
Improving social and economic opportunities relative to other South East Queensland local government areas.	Overall liveability index score	63.9 (by 2026)	60.50	●	The delivery of infrastructure, access to natural spaces, economic development, activations and events and community engagement continue to contribute to the liveability score of the Sunshine Coast. The Sunshine Coast's liveability score remains higher than South East Queensland (58.3), Queensland (58.1) and Australia (59.5). Key challenges such as housing affordability, traffic flow and public transport are largely influenced by other tiers of government which limits Council's impact in these areas.

Corporate Plan progress indicators	Measure	Target	Result	Result status	Progress commentary
Residents agree they can get help from friends, family, neighbours or community organisations when they need it	Percentage of residents who agree that they can get help from friends, family, neighbours or community organisations when they need it	Greater than or equal to 85%	79%	●	Broader interconnected factors such as social isolation, cost-of-living pressures, declining community participation, population growth and change, and declining trust are impacting this result. Council continues to provide opportunities for social connection through inclusive public spaces, community development programs and events, library activities, volunteering and grants to community organisations.
Growth in social enterprises operating in the Sunshine Coast local government area	Number of social enterprises operating in the Sunshine Coast local government area	22 social enterprises by 2025	18	●	Council engages in a number of initiatives to support innovation and business growth across multiple sectors. The measure relies on voluntary registration with the Queensland Social Enterprise Council, which may not capture all active enterprises. Uncertain business conditions and reduced momentum from other tiers of government in the sector may have contributed to this decline.
Influence the shift of transport mode share through increased passenger vehicle occupancy and use of active and public transport	Percentage of trips using private vehicles, active transport and passenger transport	Less than 85% Private vehicle (PV) trips Greater than 12% Active transport (AT) trips Greater than 3% Passenger transport (PT) trips (by 2041)	PV: 88.7% AT: 9.7% PT: 1.5%	●	The region continues to have a high reliance on the private car as the primary mode of travel. Council is actively planning and advocating for infrastructure and services that support a shift to active and public transport. Key initiatives underway include The Wave being delivered by the Queensland Government that will enhance our public transport network and Council's Draft Active Transport Plan, aimed to guide advocacy, programs, planning and infrastructure over the next 10 years.

Operational Plan delivery

Below is a snapshot of our performance against delivery of our Operational Plan 2024-25 under Our Strong Community goal.

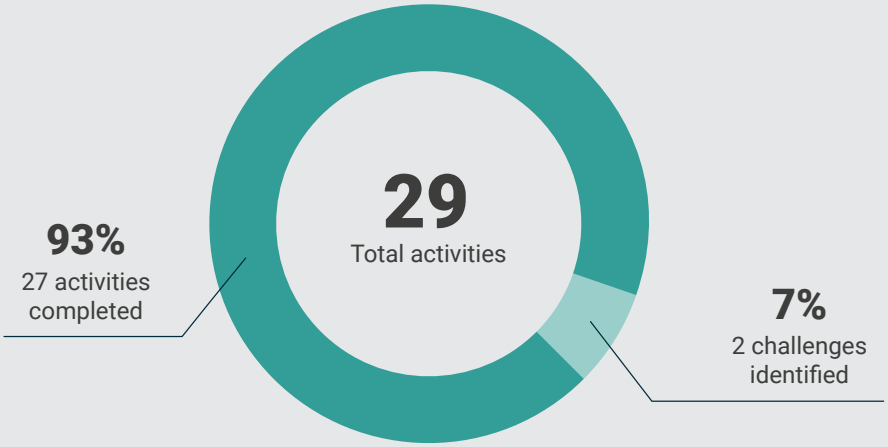


Figure 1: Delivery snapshot as at 30 June 2025.

Challenges identified

- The Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games venue planning was impacted due to the Queensland Government's 100-day review of all new, upgraded and temporary venues. Planning for delivery will recommence in the 2025-26 financial year.
- Wet weather has impacted progress of the Honey Farm Road Sports Complex civil and wetlands works. The Project is still on track to meet agreed sports activation time frames.

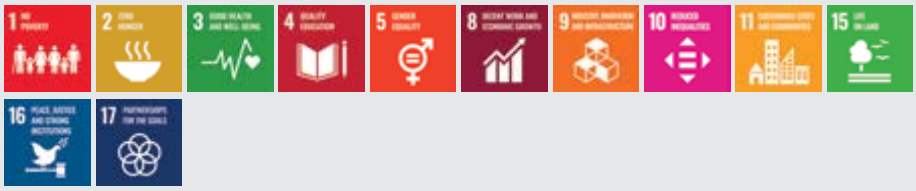
Key activities completed

- The Healthy Sunshine Coast Program delivered nearly 90 health and wellbeing activities across the region, with close to 7,000 registered participants and an expanding online community of over 4,000 Facebook members. A participant survey indicates that 86 per cent of respondents reported improved health and wellbeing, and 90 per cent said the program's affordability enabled their participation.
- Stage 2 of the Kawana Aquatic Centre upgrade was completed in July 2025 and includes a new administration building, change rooms and amenities, enhancing access and services for our community.
- The former Caloundra Administration Building was transformed into Library+ Caloundra - the region's first integrated library, community and corporate facility. The new facility features interactive zones, quiet reading areas, vibrant children's spaces, and outdoor activity areas, all designed to support diverse community needs.

- Eight new prefabricated homes in Marcoola were completed providing affordable housing for low-income key workers with support from the Queensland Government's $2 billion Housing Investment Fund.
- Twelve Council venues were upgraded with technologies focused on improving access and inclusion at public facilities, community events and on digital platforms to assist people with a disability.
- Council allocated $5.6 million to the community through more than 1,152 grants across multiple funding programs.
- The Queensland Government's review of Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games infrastructure approved key competition venues to proceed including the Sunshine Coast Stadium, Mountain Bike Centre and an integrated village and arena proposal.
- The 2025 Horizon Festival delivered over 50 events across 10 locations, attracting an audience of more than 20,000 attendees and delivering a regional economic impact of over $1.4 million.

Alignment to United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

Our Strong Community goal aligns to the following United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.





Our Environment and Liveability

Our natural assets, healthy environment and liveability credentials are maintained and enhanced.

Corporate Plan performance

The table below presents performance against our Corporate Plan 2024-2028 progress indicators.

Corporate Plan progress indicators	Measure	Target	Result	Result status	Progress commentary
Maintain the size of the Regional Inter-urban Break to its 2017 extent	Size of the Regional Inter-urban Break to its 2017 extent	Equal to 32,031 hectares (baseline)	32,031 hectares	●	This result is on target, with no change to the extent of the Regional Inter-urban Break. Council continues to advocate for the long-term protection of the Regional Inter-Urban Break to preserve the Sunshine Coast's unique identity, environment and lifestyle.
Hectares of land per 1000 residents acquired through the Environment Levy for conservation and preservation purposes maintained	Hectares of land per 1,000 residents acquired through the Environment Levy for conservation and preservation purposes maintained	9.60 hectares per 1,000 residents (by 2041)	11.41 hectares per 1000 residents^	●	This result reflects successful land acquisitions over the past 2 financial years supported by Council's Environment Levy Land Acquisition Program. In the 2024–25 financial year, 4 new properties were acquired (totalling 141 hectares), including extensions to East Mt Mellum Nature Refuge, Annie Hehir Road Environment Reserve and Upper Coochin Hills Environment Reserve: Rupari Hill Section.
Hectares of land per 1000 residents for sport and recreation purposes maintained	Hectares of land per 1,000 residents for sport and recreation purposes	5.00 hectares per 1,000 residents (by 2041)	4.50 hectares per 1000 residents^	●	This is a long-term target and key initiatives in achieving the target are Council's strategic land acquisition program and land secured for sport and recreation purposes through development contributions. While the total hectares of land increased in the 2024-25 financial year by 2.67 hectares, it was not rapid enough to achieve the per resident target due to the increase in population.
The region's renewable energy capacity increased	Installed renewable energy capacity (megawatts)	Greater than 497.50 megawatts (MW)	560.3 MW	●	Solar energy offers opportunities for individuals and industry to reduce reliance on traditional electricity sources. Activities that Council delivered during the 2024-25 financial year included the installation of solar at 6 community facilities and assets, and 3 Council buildings.



Corporate Plan progress indicators	Measure	Target	Result	Result status	Progress commentary
Council's greenhouse gas emissions reduced	Total greenhouse gas emissions per resident	Less than 167,317† tCO_2-e* total/ 0.45 tCO_2-e per resident	169,210 tCO_2-e/ 0.44 tCO_2-e per resident^	●	The region's growing population is applying upward pressure on our organisational emissions footprint. Despite mitigation action including increased flaring at landfill sites and reduced electricity use in Council facilities and streetlighting, increased waste volumes and fuel consumption have contributed to an increase in emissions. Council continues to implement measures to reduce emissions and improve sustainability performance.
Waste diversion from landfill	Percentage of total waste collected diverted from landfill	45%	35%	●	Waste diversion from landfill continues to be impacted by the Queensland Government's Container Refund Scheme through reduction in recyclable materials collected at a local government level thereby negatively affecting local diversion targets. Conversely, landfill bound residual waste volumes continue to increase each year due to population growth. Council's progress towards establishing a local Food Organics Garden Organics (FOGO) Processing Facility has been delayed due to uncertainty regarding PFAS limits the Queensland Government has placed on compost products and recommendations to defer roll out of kerbside FOGO collection services outlined in the South-East Queensland Organics Roadmap.

^ Per resident based on estimated resident population of 383,498.

† Methodology update: The organisational emissions footprint result in 2023-24 was 168,281 tCO_2-e. Due to a change in the methodology for waste emissions modelling and correcting an error in the electricity data, the results for the previous years have been updated and corrected. The result for 2023-24 has been updated to 167,317 tCO_2-e.

* tCO_2-e = tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent.

Operational Plan delivery

Below is a snapshot of our performance against delivery of our Operational Plan 2024-25 under Our Environment and Liveability goal.

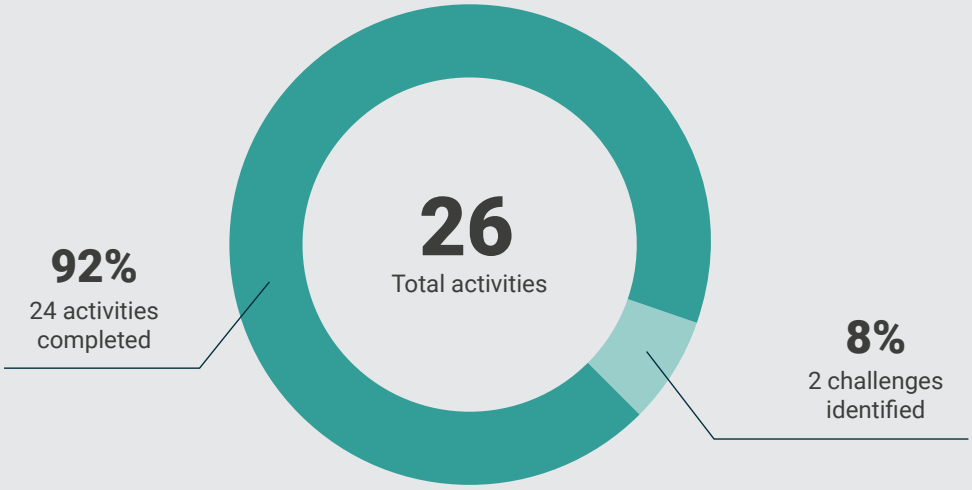


Figure 2: Delivery snapshot as at 30 June 2025.

Challenges identified

- The final draft Shorebird Conservation Plan is progressing with the view to present it to Council for consideration in the 2025-26 financial year.
- Due to difficulties in finding suitable locations, the implementation of large-scale battery energy storage was not finalised and investigations for potential locations are continuing.

Key activities completed

- The Design Guide for Apartments and Townhouses was launched providing design guidance to designers, developers, planners and the community to ensure high quality multi-unit dwellings for the Sunshine Coast and support the Sunshine Coast Planning Scheme with important design advocacy.
- Completion of the Queensland Government's State Interest Review for the proposed planning scheme confirmed Council may proceed to public consultation - subject to changes being made to the draft scheme - scheduled to begin in mid-July 2025.
- Completion of the detailed design for the Resource Recovery Centre hardstand area at the Nambour waste precinct, providing an enhanced recycling and reuse facility.
- Funded through the Environment Levy, Council's Invasive Weeds Project contributed to planting of 35,000 native plants, multiple weed treatment trials, and 19 community information days to engage the community and advance new approaches to invasive plant identification, management, and monitoring.

- Completed the Critical Infrastructure Failure Project that aims to identify and reduce cascading climate risks on Council services associated with failures in critical infrastructure.
- The Blue Heart Sunshine Coast partnership formally recognised the Kabi Kabi Peoples Aboriginal Corporation as an equal partner in the project to help deliver Australia's first registered blue carbon farming trial, to establish 165 hectares of estuarine wetland.
- The Sunshine Coast Biosphere partnership network expanded, and the region gained international recognition through formal membership in the World Network of Island and Coastal Biosphere Reserves.

Alignment to United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

Our Environment and Liveability goal aligns to the following United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.





Our Resilient Economy

Our resilient, high-value economy of choice drives business performance, investment and enduring employment.

Corporate Plan performance

The table below presents performance against our Corporate Plan 2024-2028 progress indicators.

Corporate Plan progress indicators	Measure	Target	Result	Result status	Progress commentary
Percentage of Council's available procurement spend awarded to local businesses	Percentage of Council's available procurement spend awarded to local businesses	70%	75.9%	●	This result reflects a $16.7 million increase in spend with local suppliers supported by an increase in procurement threshold amounts for local only invitations from $250,000 to $500,000.
Growth in Gross Regional Product	Total value of goods and services produced in the region	$24.76 billion	$26.33 billion*	●	The Gross Regional Product growth rate is 5.1%, well above the Queensland average of 2.9% highlighting the region's economic resilience and its ability to attract and support new businesses and residents.
Growth in international and domestic exports	Percentage increase in international and domestic exports	Greater than 18.3%	21.5%*	●	Council's support through industry development and trade initiatives has contributed to growth across key sectors including Transport, Postal and Warehousing, Health Care and Social Assistance, Retail Trade, Financial and Insurance Services, and Manufacturing.
Rebuild and grow direct economic benefit from major events	Direct economic benefit from sponsored major events	$86 million	$106 million†	●	The positive result is due to a strong calendar of 57 sponsored major events and strategic event selection, attracting high-value events and boosting the local visitor economy.
Growth in jobs is equal to or greater than growth in population	Percentage of jobs is equal to or greater than the growth in population	Greater than or equal to 0%	3.5%*	●	Sunshine Coast's population grew by 2.5%, while employment increased by 6% reflecting a strong labour market and a diverse economy, with 16 out of 18 industry sectors reporting employment growth. Council continues to support activities that strengthen the region's ability to attract and retain talent.

* This metric is always reported one financial year in arrears.

† The major event outcomes for the 2024-25 financial year have been calculated from event acquittal reports where available. In the absence of an acquittal report, the result has been assessed against sponsorship application data or past performance.

Corporate Plan progress indicators	Measure	Target	Result	Result status	Progress commentary
Household income levels relative to the Queensland average	Percentage difference between the Sunshine Coast average and the Queensland average household income	Less than 9.3%	4.77%	●	This result is using data from the 2021 Census. Council continues to support initiatives that contribute to economic opportunity and income growth across the region.

Operational Plan delivery

Below is a snapshot of our performance against delivery of our Operational Plan 2024-25 under Our Resilient Economy goal.

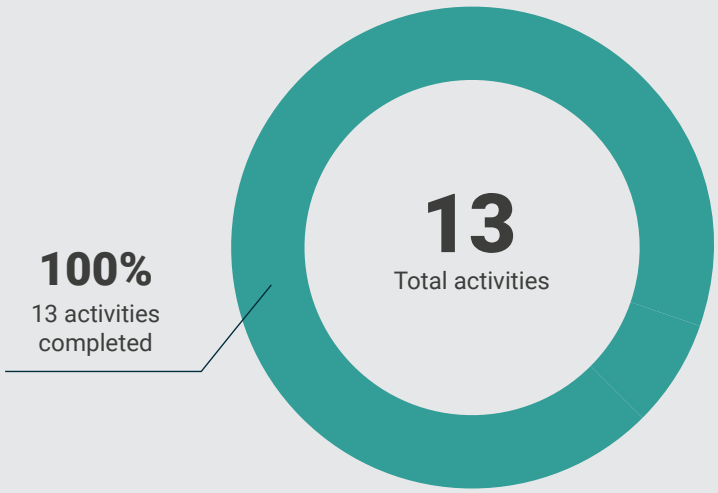


Figure 3: Delivery snapshot as at 30 June 2025.

Challenges identified

- All Operational Plan activities were completed for this goal.

Key activities completed

- Secured Queensland Government funding for the Sunshine Coast Manufacturing Hub and the Turbine Food and Beverage Manufacturing Precinct.
- Invest Sunshine Coast digital marketing activity generated 3.47 million impressions on user's screens, 38,828 engagements and 914 new investment leads, supporting regional business attraction.
- Major construction contract for Stage 2 of the Mooloolaba Foreshore Revitalisation was awarded with construction works commencing mid-2025, providing a revitalised foreshore precinct with improved beachfront parkland, new community facilities, enhanced accessibility and a climate resilient seawall.
- The Local Business Support Program delivered specialist advice and support to 1,045 businesses and delivered 23 events with 2,251 participants, increasing networking opportunities and enhancing resilience across our local business community.
- Attracted investment opportunities that contributed to an estimated $161.4 million in economic impact and the creation of 564 new jobs.
- The first Mayor's Telstra Innovation Masterclass Series: Future Entrepreneurial Leaders, brought together 100 students from years 8 to 10, representing 17 local secondary schools, focused on leadership, creativity and connection.

Alignment to United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

Our Resilient Economy goal aligns to the following United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.





Our Service Excellence

Our services are inclusive and responsive to the needs of our community and deliver positive experiences for our customers.

Corporate Plan performance

The table below presents performance against our Corporate Plan 2024-2028 progress indicators.

Corporate Plan progress indicators	Measure	Target	Result	Result status	Progress commentary
Deliver positive customer experiences	Score of ease of business with Council	4.40	4.47	●	Performance remained relatively stable despite the 9% increase in contact volumes from the integration of Development Services calls and weather-related events such as Ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred.
Delivery of the capital works program	Percentage delivered of the adopted annual capital works budget	90% to 95%	94.2%	●	Despite the region being exposed to an extended period of wet weather, including the impact of Ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred, major projects progressed, such as Library+ at Caloundra, the Honey Farm Road Sport and Recreation Precinct, Stringybark Road Bridge, Nambour Landfill Expansion, and the Kawana Waters Regional Aquatic Centre Project.
Development assessments undertaken within statutory timeframes	Percentage of development assessments undertaken within statutory timeframes	90%	94%	●	A total of 4,642 applications were assessed within the statutory timeframes, representing an increase of 1% from the 2023-24 financial year. The result reflects the value of ongoing business improvement initiatives, including the provision of upfront early advice and the introduction of a Priority Residential Assessment Service, focussing on quicker decisions for low-risk residential development applications.
Asset sustainability ratio	The extent to which the infrastructure assets managed by Council are being replaced as they reach the end of their useful lives	More than 60%	63.3%	●	This positive result reflects Council's strong commitment to renewal of its community assets. Council will continue to enhance its asset management planning to inform the Capital Renewal Program and support long-term sustainability. Refer to Section 4 Financial Information for more detail.

Corporate Plan progress indicators	Measure	Target	Result	Result status	Progress commentary
Customer satisfaction with Council services	Customer satisfaction score	6.90	7.20	●	This strong performance reflects Council's ongoing commitment to improving customer experience, supported by operational enhancements, including refined digital channels, self-service options and the Sunshine Coast Council mobile application (SCC App).

Operational Plan delivery

Below is a snapshot of our performance against delivery of our Operational Plan 2024-25 Our Service Excellence goal.

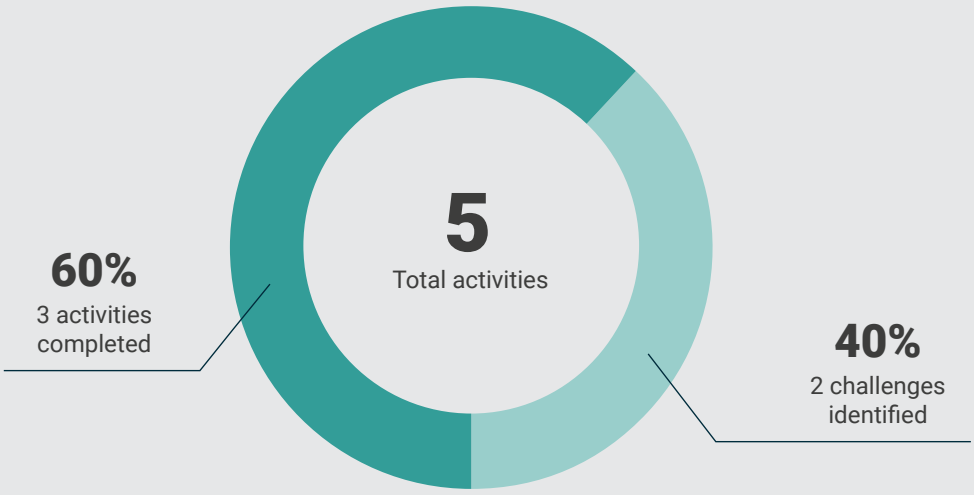


Figure 4: Delivery snapshot as at 30 June 2025.

Challenges identified

- The finalisation of the Strategic Asset Management Plan to prioritise the development of individual Asset Management Plans is expected to be completed in the 2025-26 financial year.
- The Service Review Program has focused on the analysis of the service architecture with the 2 active service reviews now anticipated for completion in the 2025-26 financial year.

Key activities completed

- Achieved 94.2 per cent delivery performance outcome for the Capital Works Program. Key achievements included:
  - Completion of the Kawana Aquatic Centre Stage 2 Building.
  - Completion of major streetscape works and the Seib Road Bridge in Eumundi.
  - Completion of the Stringybark Road Pedestrian and Cycle Bridge, Sippy Downs.
  - Significant progress on the Honey Farm Road Sports and Recreation Precinct works.
- Customer excellence training was delivered to support service improvement and the development of a Customer Experience Policy commenced to reinforce Council's commitment to putting customers at the heart of everything we do.
- Refined digital customer service channels were launched including new self-service options, online Pension Concession form and the Sunshine Coast Council mobile application (SCC App).
- Council's service architecture was reviewed to provide a full cost of each service, along with the people, assets and service levels involved in delivery to improve planning and information to support resourcing and budget decision making.

Alignment to United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

Our Service Excellence goal aligns to the following United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.





Our Outstanding Organisation

Our organisation lives its values and is high performing, sustainable, innovative and community focused, marked by great people, good governance and regional leadership.

Corporate Plan performance

The table below presents performance against our Corporate Plan 2024-2028 progress indicators.

Corporate Plan progress indicators	Measure	Target	Result	Result status	Progress commentary
Operating surplus ratio	Extent to which operating revenues cover operating expenses	More than 0%	-5.5%	●	This result is primarily due to a significant increase in depreciation following asset revaluations in the 2023-24 financial year. Council is closely monitoring the impact of depreciation expense on the operating results and adjusting budgets as needed to support financial sustainability. Refer to Section 4 Financial Information for more detail.
Security of systems and data	Number of notifiable data breaches.	0	0	●	No notifiable data breaches were recorded during the financial year and no incidents required escalation to the Office of the Information Commissioner or the Australian Cyber Security Centre. Continued investment in Council's Cyber Security Program has helped maintain a strong security position and ensured Council remains within its acceptable governance risk thresholds.
Lost time due to workplace injuries	Lost time injury frequency rate	8.96	8.78	●	This result reflects Council's effective implementation of safety protocols, proactive incident prevention and efficient rehabilitation support.
Positive community sentiment with Council's business.	Percentage of people who agree or strongly agree that they can trust Sunshine Coast Council as a local government.	Greater than or equal to 42%	41.9%	●	Council continues to strengthen trust through open communication, clear processes and transparent access to information. Every interaction residents have with Council through services, programs, or engagement with staff contributes to building trust.

Corporate Plan progress indicators	Measure	Target	Result	Result status	Progress commentary
Participation in community engagement activities.	Percentage of the community who believe there are opportunities to have a say on community issues that are important to them.	70%	46%	●	Council is actively improving its approach through the Excellence in Engagement Framework, which sets best practice standards. Perceptions around engagement are influenced by broader sentiment and declining trust in government institutions and critical media coverage.

Operational Plan delivery

Below is a snapshot of our performance against delivery of our Operational Plan 2024-25 under Our Outstanding Organisation goal.

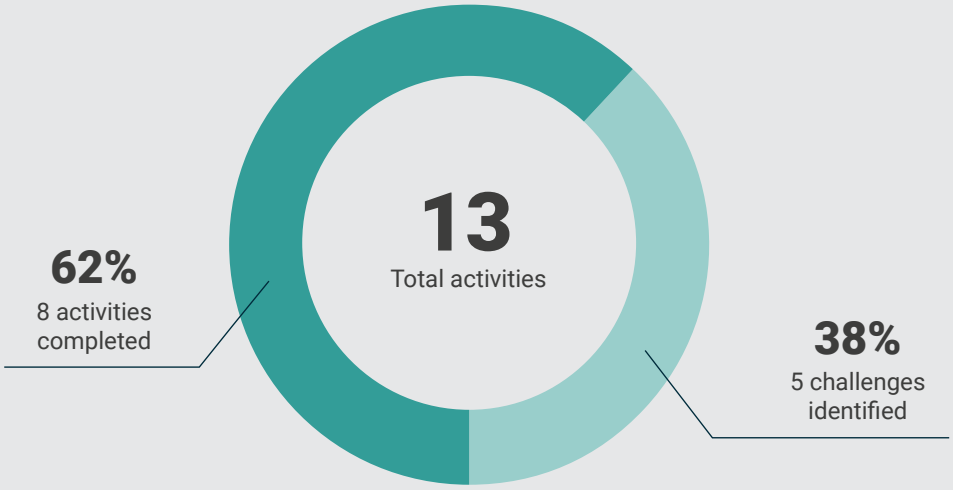


Figure 5: Delivery snapshot as at 30 June 2025.

Challenges identified

- The final Organisational Excellence Strategy was delayed so that it could capture employee survey feedback (released in July 2025), and input from the new Executive Leadership Team (formed in July 2025). It is anticipated to be completed in the first half of the 2025-26 financial year.
- The Long-Term Financial Plan has identified budget challenges that are not able to be resolved by 30 June 2025. An independent review was commissioned in June 2025 to support the development of the 2025-26 Budget, with recommendations accepted for implementation over the next 6-12 months.

- The review of Council's approach to procurement had minor delays to confirm the scope and resourcing requirements, progressing towards completion in the 2025-26 financial year.
- The Depot and Satellite Sites Strategy refresh was paused through Quarter 4 and will remain paused pending future organisation and service review planning.
- The 2024-25 Internal Audit Program was 80 per cent complete at the end of Quarter 4, with items carried forward into the 2025 work program for completion.

Key activities completed

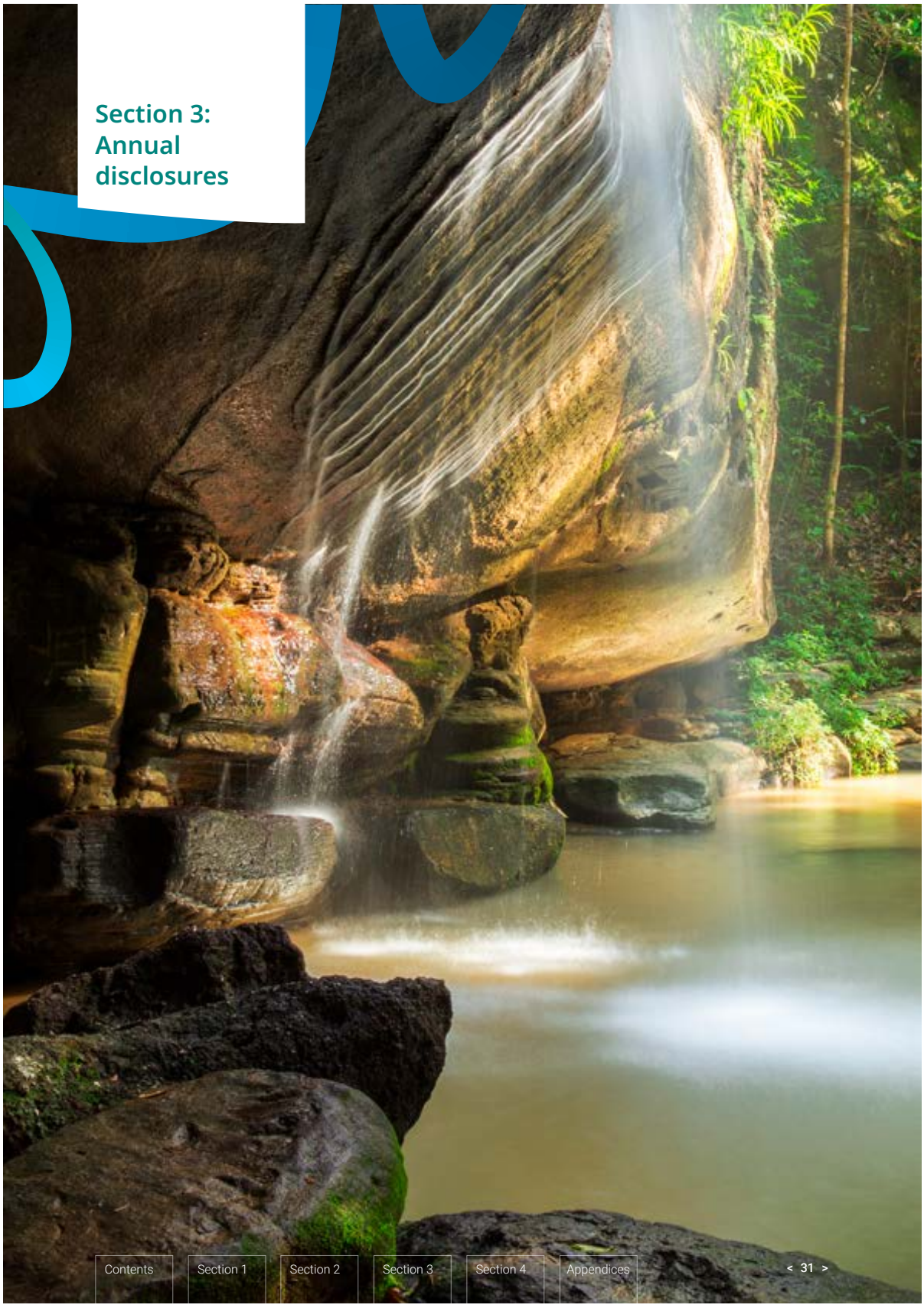
- The Critical Control Management Phase 2 Mowing Pilot introduced:
  - Risk mapping.
  - Engineering improvements.
  - Verification processes built into the safety system.
- Council secured more than $152 million in grant funding for key infrastructure and economic development projects across the Sunshine Coast including:
  - $82.8 million through the Queensland Government's Residential Activation Fund for Maroochydore City Centre East Trunk Infrastructure
  - $11.9 million and $13.6 million through the Australian Government's Growing Regions Fund for First Avenue Streetscape and Honey Farm Road Sport and Recreation Precinct.
- Council's advocacy to the Australian and Queensland governments has assisted in commitments for critical, region-shaping infrastructure:
  - Direct Sunshine Coast Rail Project (The Wave)
  - Sunshine Coast Public Transport Detailed Business Case
  - Mooloolah River Interchange improvements
  - Caloundra Transport Corridor Upgrade.

Alignment to United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

Our Outstanding Organisation aligns to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.



Section 3: Annual disclosures



Organisational governance

Council operates in accordance with legislation, with a focus on ensuring ethical operations which meet reasonable community expectation.

Our Governance Framework, in conjunction with education and training programs, focuses on:

- Accountable leadership that promotes transparency.
- Decision-making that is evidence based and responsive to strategic risks and changing community needs.
- Building and maintaining awareness of organisational responsibilities and accountabilities.
- Strong financial stewardship and fiscal responsibility.
- Compliance with legislation, policy, standards and controls.
- Processes that enable ethical decision-making.
- Continuous improvement activities and transparent reporting.
- Engaging with the community to inform decision-making and achieving collaborative outcomes.

Public sector ethics

Council's administrative procedures and management practices have proper regard to the *Public Sector Ethics Act 1994*. Council's Employee Code of Conduct, policies, procedures and delegations of authority are monitored and regularly reviewed.

Employee Code of Conduct

Council's Employee Code of Conduct (the Code) is a foundation for our shared understanding and is based on the 4 ethics principles outlined in the *Public Sector Ethics Act 1994* and the local government principles set out in the *Local Government Act 2009*. The Code guides the work we do for the Sunshine Coast community and reflects our values and culture. Everyone plays a part in creating our organisational culture, by living behaviours aligned with our values of caring for people and place, respect, trust, being curious and exploring possibilities and connecting. All employees complete regular compulsory training and are expected to be accountable and adhere to Council's core values and comply with the behavioural standards outlined in the Code.

Legislative obligations

Council maintains a current and informed understanding of legislative obligations, which are subject to ongoing change. During the current reporting period, particular emphasis has been placed on emerging obligations relating to records management and information privacy laws.

Policy Framework

Currency and relevance of Council policies are managed through a systematic review process and regular reporting mechanisms with 11 policy reviews completed this year. Council is committed to policy settings which support legislative and regulatory compliance, enable efficient and effective decision-making, and establish clear accountabilities and responsibilities.

Education and training

Council offers employees up-to-date and relevant training designed to ensure employees can undertake their roles and perform to high standards. Delivery of training related to governance is an essential component and emphasises the importance of working together to build a culture of ethical practice, openness, transparency, and integrity. Governance training encompasses the following topics - Code of Conduct (including Public Sector Ethics), Delegations, Human Rights, Information Privacy, Conflicts of Interest, and Authorised Persons.

Risk management

Council operates within a dynamic and continually evolving environment. The region's rapid development, increasing complexities, rising service and project delivery costs, and heightened community expectations make it essential for Council to foster a culture where risk awareness and opportunity assessment are embedded in everyday practices.

To manage risk effectively, Council engages in ongoing research, monitoring, testing, and implementation of control measures and mitigation strategies. It routinely evaluates and adjusts its risk tolerance to ensure operations remain efficient and confident. This proactive approach is underpinned by a comprehensive risk management framework, policy, manual, and a maturing risk-aware culture that supports strong governance.

Risks are consistently reviewed, monitored, updated, and reported to Council, the Audit Committee and the Executive Leadership Team on a regular and continuous basis.

Councillor information

Councillor remuneration

The Mayor and Councillors were remunerated in accordance with section 247 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*. In December each year, the Local Government Remuneration Commission determines the maximum remuneration payable to mayors, deputy mayors and Councillors for the following financial year. The table below sets out the remuneration paid to Sunshine Coast Councillors during the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025.*

Councillors – 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025

Councillors	Salary	Superannuation
Mayor Rosanna Natoli	$252,091	$28,990
Cr Jenny Broderick	$153,055	$18,366
Cr Terry Landsberg	$153,055	$18,366
Cr Tim Burns	$153,055	$18,366
Cr Joe Natoli	$153,055	$18,366
Cr Winston Johnston OAM	$153,055	$18,366
Cr Christian Dickson	$153,055	$18,366
Cr Ted Hungerford	$153,055	$18,366
Cr Taylor Bunnag	$153,055	$18,366
Cr Maria Suarez (Deputy Mayor)	$174,663	$20,959
Cr David Law	$153,055	$18,366

* The remuneration rates paid were in accordance with the Local Government Remuneration Commission's applicable determinations, however, the above amounts vary slightly from the determined amounts because beginning and end of financial year pay periods do not fall precisely on 1 July and 30 June.

Councillor expenses and facilities

In accordance with section 250 (1) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, the Councillor Expenses and Resources Policy (the Policy) provides for the payment of reasonable expenses incurred, or to be incurred by Councillors for discharging their duties and responsibilities as Councillors and for undertaking Council business.

Council business is described as activities conducted on behalf of Council where a Councillor is required to undertake certain tasks to satisfy a legislative requirement, perform ceremonial activities or achieve the business objectives of Council. Council business should result in a benefit being achieved either for the local government and/or the local community.

Reasonable expenses include, but are not limited to, costs for professional development and hospitality, including travel and other costs associated with undertaking these activities.

The following table shows the total expenses incurred by Councillors under the Policy in the 2024-25 financial year.

Councillors – 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025

Councillors	Expenses
Mayor Rosanna Natoli	$2,670
Cr Jenny Broderick	$3,473
Cr Terry Landsberg	$4,908
Cr Tim Burns	$4,684
Cr Joe Natoli	$4,137
Cr Winston Johnston OAM	$844
Cr Christian Dickson	$589
Cr Ted Hungerford	$1,864
Cr Taylor Bunnag	$2,554
Cr Maria Suarez (Deputy Mayor)	$1,640
Cr David Law	$406

The Policy also outlines the facilities provided to Councillors to assist them in carrying out their duties, efficiently and effectively. Councillors were provided with the following facilities and resources to enable them to perform their duties and undertake Council business:

- Operational support.
- Office accommodation, meeting rooms and a reserved car park located in Council operated premises.
- Business and communication tools.
- Vehicle, subject to personal use contribution or alternative arrangement.**
- Access to Council's Employee assistance service.

**It is recognised that demands on the Mayor are such that a private use contribution for the provision of a vehicle will not be sought from the Mayor, unless the Mayor takes personal leave for a period of more than 2 weeks.

Councillor meeting attendance

In the 2024-25 financial year, there were a total of 12 Ordinary Meetings of Council.

The table below shows meeting attendance for all Councillors and the Mayor.

Continuing Councillors	Ordinary Meeting attendance
Total number of meetings held between 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025	12
Mayor Rosanna Natoli	12
Cr Jenny Broderick	12
Cr Terry Landsberg	12
Cr Tim Burns	12
Cr Joe Natoli	12
Cr Winston Johnston OAM	9
Cr Christian Dickson	12
Cr Ted Hungerford	12
Cr Taylor Bunnag	12
Cr Maria Suarez (Deputy Mayor)	12
Cr David Law	12

Note: Councillors are required to notify any absences and reasons for such which may include competing diary commitments, medical leave, annual leave, professional development and personal commitments.

Conduct and performance of Councillors

The *Local Government Act 2009* sets out the roles, responsibilities, and obligations of Councillors. The following table discloses matters relating to the conduct of Councillors that were raised during the financial year.

Conduct and performance of Councillors	
Orders made under section 150I(2) of the Act	Nil
Orders made under section 150IA(2)(b) of the Act	Nil
Orders made under section 150AH(1) of the Act	Nil
Decisions, orders and recommendations made under section 150AR(1) of the Act	Nil
The name of each Councillor for whom a decision, order or recommendation under sections 150I(2), 150AH(1) or 150AR(1) of the Act was made	N/A
A description of unsuitable meeting conduct, inappropriate conduct or misconduct engaged in by each of the Councillors	N/A
A summary of the decision, order or recommendation made for each Councillor	N/A
Complaints referred to the assessor under section 150P(2)(a) of the Act by the local government entities for the local government	Nil
Matters, mentioned in section 150P(3) of the Act, notified to the Crime and Corruption Commission	2
Notices given under section 150R(2) of the Act	Nil
Notices given under section 150S(2)(a) of the Act	Nil
Decisions made under section 150W(1)(a), (b) and (e) of the Act	1
Occasions information was given under section 150AF(3)(a) of the Act	Nil
Occasions the local government asked another entity to investigate, under chapter 5A, part 3, division 5 of the Act for the local government, the suspected conduct breach of a Councillor	Nil
Applications heard by the conduct tribunal under chapter 5A, part 3, division 6 of the Act about whether a Councillor engaged in misconduct or a conduct breach	Nil
The total number of referral notices given to the local government under section 150AC(1) of the LGA during the financial year	Nil
The total number of suspected conduct breaches for which an investigation was not started or was discontinued under section 150AEA of the LGA	Nil
The number of decisions made by the local government under section 150AG(1) of the LGA during the financial year	Nil
The number of matters not decided by the end of the financial year under section 150AG(1) of the LGA	Nil
The average time taken by the local government in making a decision under section 150AG(1) of the LGA	Nil

Disclosures

Audit Committee

The Audit Committee is established under Section 105 (2) of the *Local Government Act 2009*, to assist the Council and the Chief Executive Officer to discharge their duties. In particular, the Audit Committee monitors and reviews:

- The integrity of Council's financial documents and reporting.
- The internal audit function.
- The effectiveness and objectivity of Council's internal auditors.
- The Audit Committee makes recommendations to Council about any matters that the Committee considers need action or improvement.

The Committee typically meets 5 times a year with membership comprised of the following:

- Councillor Ted Hungerford
- Councillor Jenny Broderick
- Mr Mitchell Petrie (Independent Chair)
- Mr Pat McCallum (Independent Member)
- Ms Sue Tindal (Independent Member)

Five meetings were held within the financial year. The table below shows meeting attendance for the Councillors who are members of the Audit Committee.

Councillors	Audit Committee attendance
Meetings held 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025	
Cr Jenny Broderick	5
Cr Ted Hungerford	5

Activities undertaken during the 2024-25 financial year by the Audit Committee included:

- Monitoring the annual preparation of Financial Statements, process and reviewed the draft Financial Statements prior to certification.
- Overseeing governance reporting, including risk management and workplace health and safety.
- Reviewing both external and internal audit plans, reports and recommendations.
- Actively contributing to Council's culture of continuous improvement.

Audit and assurance

Audit and assurance activities were conducted in accordance with best practice principles, including guidance issued by the Institute of Internal Auditors.

Internal audit activities for the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025 included the following:

- Transport Levy Audit Report.
- Contract Management Audit Report.
- Cash Handling Audit Report.
- Grants Audit report.

Ethical standards

In February 2025, Council approved the revised Administrative Action Complaints Management Policy, which outlines the guiding principles and processes for Council and its employees to effectively manage complaints about administrative actions or decisions.

A key feature of the updated Administrative Action Complaints Management Policy is enhanced guidance for the public regarding the types of matters covered and explicitly outlines what issues fall within the policy's scope as well as those which are excluded, providing greater certainty and reducing confusion.

Remuneration packages to senior management

During the 2024-25 financial year, Council's senior executive management, (comprising direct reports to the Chief Executive Officer, with senior management responsibilities), consisted of:

1 July 2024 to 25 May 2025

- Chief Executive Officer
- 6 Group Executives.

26 May 2025 to 30 June 2025

- Chief Executive Officer
- 7 Group Executives.*

*This consisted of the Chief Financial Officer - a new role within the organisation. From 28 July 2025, Council's senior executive team consists of a Chief Executive Officer and 5 Directors.

Total remuneration for these positions (including vehicles) from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025 was $3,156,500.

Senior Executive Management (number)	Total remuneration value range
7	$300,001 - $400,000
1	$500,001- $600,001

National competition policy

Council conducted the following business activities during the 2024-25 financial year:

- Aquatic centres.
- Caloundra Indoor Stadium.
- Caloundra Regional Gallery.
- Cemeteries.
- Festivals.
- Multisport complexes and showgrounds.
- Off-street parking.
- Quarries.
- Retail electricity and the Sunshine Coast Solar Farm.
- Sunshine Coast Holiday Parks.
- Sunshine Coast International Broadband Network.
- Sunshine Coast Stadium and Kawana Sports Precinct.
- Venue 114 and community spaces.
- Waste and resource management.

Waste and resources management was a significant business activity and applied the competitive neutrality principle. There were no new significant business activities.

Note: No investigation notices were issued in the 2024-25 financial year by the Queensland Competition Authority for competitive neutrality complaints.

Registers

Council maintains a number of registers. These include:

- Accommodation parks register.
- Asbestos register.
- Asset register (Confirm Asset Management Information System).
- Biosecurity invasive plants property inspections register.
- Building site delivery noise register.
- Business activities to which the competitive neutrality principle applies.
- Contract register.
- Councillor conduct register.
- Delegation of Authority – Appendix A Financial Authority Limits.
- Delegations register.
- Development Applications register (Development.i).
- Environmentally relevant activities register.
- Extraordinary building work noise register.
- Financial asset register.
- Fleet asset register (Maximo).
- Food business registers – fixed, mobile, temporary.
- Gifts and disclosures register.
- Local Laws register.
- Personal appearance services register.
- Register of general cost recovery fees and commercial charges 2024-25.
- Registered cat register.
- Registered dog register.
- Registers of interests.
- Related Parties register.
- Roads register.
- Temporary homes register.
- Information Asset register.

Beneficial enterprises

Council participated in beneficial enterprises with 4 entities during the 2024-25 financial year.

Beneficial enterprises are entities that Council engages in or helps them to benefit the whole or part of the local government area. These entities were:

- SunCentral Maroochydore Pty Ltd.
- Sunshine Coast Events Centre Pty Ltd.
- Sunshine Coast Arts Foundation Ltd.
- Visit Sunshine Coast Ltd.

Service, facility or activity

There are no details to report for the 2024-25 financial year under section 190(d) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, on action taken for, and expenditure on, a service, facility or activity:

- supplied by another local government under an agreement for conducting a joint government activity, and
- for which the local government levied special rates or charges for the financial year.

Administrative action complaints

Council applies its Administrative Action Complaints Management Policy to effectively manage complaints in a fair, prompt, confidential and respectful manner.

As required under section 187(2) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, the table below summarises the administrative action complaint outcomes for the 2024-25 financial year.

Administrative action complaints	
Number of complaints made in 2024-25	49
Number of complaints completed*	52
Number of complaints not resolved (outstanding) by 30 June 2024	5
Number of administrative action complaints not resolved that were made in the previous financial year	0

*Council dealt with 91% of complaint matters within the agreed timeframes identified to meet the legislative performance reporting requirements. This includes complaints received in the previous financial year.

Overseas travel

Under section 188 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council must provide information about any overseas travel made in a financial year by a Councillor or local government employee in an official capacity.

The below table shows overseas travel undertaken by a Councillor or Council employee during the financial year 2024-25.

Attendee	Destination	Purpose	Month	Cost
Mayor Rosanna Natoli	Paris, France	Mayor Natoli was invited to Paris as part of the official International Olympic Committee (IOC) Family program. Participation in this program allowed access to a range of competition and training venues and the opening ceremony and facilitated engagement with key Games officials and dignitaries. Mayor Natoli also participated in the Paris City Council host city experience program, allowing insight into key roles and responsibilities for local governments during both the Olympic and Paralympic Games.	July - August 2024	$7,557
David Moore, Manager Environment and Sustainability Policy Branch	Paris, France	Attendance at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games Olympic Observer Program (first half of program), which consisted of learning sessions facilitated by Paris 2024, the International Olympic Committee and Paris City Council on operational delivery aspects of the Paris 2024 Games. This program was specifically designed for operational staff with responsibility for Games delivery functions and provided invaluable insights for planning for the 2032 Games.	July - August 2024	$8,737

Overseas travel continued

Attendee	Destination	Purpose	Month	Cost
Grantley Switzer, Sunshine Coast Program Lead - Brisbane 2032	Paris, France	Attendance at the Paris 2024 Games Olympic Observer Program (entire program), which consisted of learning sessions facilitated by Paris 2024, the International Olympic Committee and Paris City Council on operational delivery aspects of the Paris 2024 Games. This program was specifically designed for operational staff with responsibility for Games delivery functions and provided invaluable insights for planning for the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.	July - August 2024	$22,965
Simon Ball, Venue Manager Sunshine Coast Stadium	Paris, France	Attendance at the Paris 2024 Games Olympic Observer Program (second half of program), which consisted of learning sessions facilitated by Paris 2024, the International Olympic Committee and Paris City Council on operational delivery aspects of the Paris 2024 Games. This program was specifically designed for operational staff with responsibility for Games delivery functions and provided invaluable insights for planning for the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.	July - August 2024	$10,110
Stacee Sherriff, Senior Project Officer - Brisbane 2032	Paris, France and London, England	Attendance at the Paris 2024 Paralympic Future Organising Committee for the Olympic and Paralympic Games Activities and Learning Program, which consisted of sessions facilitated by Paris 2024, the International Paralympic Committee and Paris City Council on operational delivery aspects for the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games. This program was specifically designed for operational staff with responsibility for Games delivery functions and provided invaluable insights for planning for the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.	August - September 2024	$11,250
Stephen Patey, Manager Strategic Planning Branch	London, England	Attendance at Property Council of Australia London Study Tour, aimed to provide insights into global best practices in urban development, sustainability, and innovative design through visits to key projects and meetings with industry leaders. Participants viewed new and emerging models of housing, including market and affordable build to rent projects and integrated affordable cooperative housing projects; visited legacy urban regeneration, transport and community infrastructure projects associated with the 2012 London Olympic Games and 2 modern stadiums and learn how well-planned stadium precincts can support broader economic and community development objectives; and learned about an alternative regional planning governance model for a major metropolitan area comparable to South East Queensland.	September 2024	$14,529

Overseas travel continued

Attendee	Destination	Purpose	Month	Cost
David Moore, Manager Environment and Sustainability Policy Branch	Jeju Island, Republic of Korea	Attendance of the 9th Training Course of the World Network of Island and Coastal Biosphere Reserves, of which the Sunshine Coast Biosphere is a member. The purpose of the training is to share experiences and build the capacities of biosphere managers for adapting to climate change and delivering sustainable development. Participation, which focussed on youth engagement in biospheres, provided an opportunity to network with and learn from other biospheres and to showcase Sunshine Coast Biosphere projects, including Kids in Action and our Young Citizen of the Year.	November 2024	$35*
Mayor Rosanna Natoli	Singapore, United Kingdom and France	Mayor Natoli participated in the Council of Mayors South East Queensland mission to meet with global leaders and examine legacy opportunities to keep South East Queensland moving now, during the 2032 Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games, and beyond. The mission undertook over 40 bilateral engagements, briefings, and technical site visits across three international city regions in eight days. Key observations and outcomes emerged that may be applied to South East Queensland in preparation for the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games and beyond, including opportunities for collaboration, infrastructure development, public engagement, industry development and long-term regional planning.	February 2025	$0†
Debra Robinson, Director Sustainable Growth and Planning	Singapore, United Kingdom and France	The Mayors of South East Queensland embarked on a 10-day mission to meet with global leaders and examine legacy opportunities that will help keep South East Queensland moving now, during the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games, and beyond. The delegation, which included Council officers examined transport, urban renewal, housing and waste management opportunities, as well as emerging examples of legacies delivered through major infrastructure and events such as the Paris 24 Games. This included how these city-regions have successfully leveraged public-private partnerships to support infrastructure delivery programs.	February 2025	$10,259

* Participation in the annual training program was through an application process and was funded through the Jeju Secretariat of the World Network of Island and Coastal Biosphere Reserves.

† All costs associated with this overseas trip were covered by the Council of Mayors South East Queensland.

Differential general rate concession

Council grants a general rates concession to land identified in section 120(1)(b) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* to the extent Council is satisfied the land is owned and directly used by an entity whose objectives do not include making a profit, or an entity that provides assistance or encouragement for arts or cultural development, and the entity meets the specific criteria detailed in the 2024-25 Revenue Statement.

Deferral of differential general rate

In accordance with sections 120 and 121 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council will allow deferment of up to 50 per cent of the differential general rate to assist eligible pensioner ratepayers residing in their principal place of residence. The deferment is subject to the ratepayer meeting the eligibility criteria detailed in the 2024-25 Revenue Statement.

Rates and charges debt concession

In accordance with sections 120 and 121 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council may grant property owners a concession by way of an agreement to pay rates and charges by instalments over a period of up to 12 months. This concession may be granted to property owners that satisfy Council that payment of rates and charges for their principal place of residence will cause them hardship. The concession is granted subject to the ratepayers meeting the eligibility criteria detailed in the 2024-25 Revenue Statement.

Pensioner rate concession

In accordance with section 120 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council grants a pensioner rate concession to property owners who are in receipt of either a part or full pension who meet the eligibility criteria detailed in the Queensland Government's Rate Subsidy Scheme and the additional criteria in the 2024-25 Revenue Statement. The concession is a maximum of 25 per cent of the differential general rate up to the maximum amounts detailed in the table below:

Pension rate	Sole title to the property	Joint title to the property
Maximum level of pension (full pension)	$304 per annum maximum	$238 per annum maximum
Not maximum level of pension (part pension)	$152 per annum maximum	$87 per annum maximum

Changes to tenders

Item No.	Contract No.	Contract title	Details of changes
1	ITT2410	Supply and Install Shelving, Equipment, Fixtures and Provide Collection Relocation for Library+ Caloundra.	Revision of scope (additional products).
2	ITT2350	Audio Visual Services for Library + Caloundra.	Clarification of scope requirements (additional drawings).
3	ITT2343	Caloundra Administration Building Library Plus Furniture Package.	Revision of scope (design scope change for items within a separable portion).
4	ITT2339	Repurposing Sports Fields and Associated Infrastructure at Meridan Sports Complex.	Revision of scope (reduction of scope).

Grants to community organisations and discretionary funds

The total allocation of grant funding for the financial year was $5,623,102 including $272,859 in Councillor discretionary funding.

Council's discretionary funding for 2024-25 was as follows:

- The prescribed amount $276,595 (defined in section 201B(5) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* to mean 0.1 per cent of Council's revenue from general rates for the previous financial year).
- Budgeted amount $276,595 (each financial year Council may determine a budget allocation for discretionary funds, not exceeding the prescribed amount, for use by the Mayor and Councillors for the purpose of allocating it for community purposes).

Each Councillor had a budget of $25,145 to allocate to community organisations for community purposes within the financial year. Funding allocated is detailed in the tables over the following pages.

Regional
Mayor Rosanna Natoli

Applicant	Project / Purpose	Date Allocated	Amount Funded
Arts Connect Inc	Funding towards videography fee for 2024 Sculpture on the Edge at Flaxton Gardens.	4 September 2024	$1,000
endED Ltd	Funding towards fencing for Nurture Festival 2024 at Kawana Sports Precinct.	4 September 2024	$1,000
IFYS Limited	Contribution towards venue hire for youth festival, scheduled for 13 September 2024.	4 September 2024	$1,000
Chenrezig Inc.	Contribution towards medical services at Big Love Festival, scheduled for 28 September 2024.	24 September 2024	$701
Sunshine Coast Riding for the Disabled (RDA) Inc	First Aid and CPR training for 12 Volunteer Coaches.	24 September 2024	$1,260
Housing Older Women Movement	Purchase of catering and venue hire costs for a seminar, workshop and networking event supporting housing older women.	14 October 2024	$1,000
Suncoast Gem and Fossicking Club Inc	Maintenance of Faceting Machines.	16 October 2024	$750
Sunshine Coast Choral Society Inc	Contribution towards event costs for choir's final concert of the year.	28 November 2024	$1,000
The Sunshine Coast Official Food Truck Association	Contribution towards State Emergency Service, face painting and movie costs for Caloundra New Years Eve celebrations.	5 December 2024	$2,000
Range of Life Pty Ltd	Contribution towards band and DJ costs for a Valentine's Day ball for adults living with a disability.	4 February 2025	$1,000
Our Mate-Ship Limited	Purchase of 8 inflatable life jackets for onboard vessel.	7 May 2025	$960
Rotary Club of Alexandra Headland Inc	Contribution towards corflutes, brochures and promotional items for annual Swim Event.	13 May 2025	$2,000
endED Ltd	Contribution towards venue hire, lighting and stage hire for fashion and high tea event.	19 May 2025	$2,000
Queensland Air Museum Inc	Purchase of packaging, stationery and information items for attendees of Women in Aerospace event.	27 May 2025	$1,500
Island Swim-Mudjimba to Mooloolaba Inc	Portable toilet hire and facepainting costs for swim event, held at Mooloolaba Spit on 14 June 2025.	27 May 2025	$974
Maroochy Neighbourhood Centre Inc	First aid, Suicide prevention and trauma-informed training of Sunny Coast Sleeper's volunteers.	11 June 2025	$6,000
Multicap Limited	Costs for filming the opening of the Buddina Ocean Chair for the documentary.	11 June 2025	$1,000

Division 1
Councillor Jenny Broderick

Applicant	Project / Purpose	Date Allocated	Amount Funded
Blue Light Queensland - Caloundra / Beerwah Branch	Contribution towards hiring of hall and catering supplies for Beerwah Blue Light Parties.	27 August 2024	$1,000
Nirimba Rugby League Club Incorporated	Purchase of tackle bags and rings.	17 September 2024	$1,193
Glasshouse Country Toastmasters Club Inc.	Venue hire for Toastmasters contest and conference.	19 September 2024	$200
IFYS Limited	Contribution towards marketing and entertainment for youth event held at the Ability Collective, scheduled for 28 March 2025.	3 February 2025	$2,500
Rhythm Initiative Limited	Contribution towards toys and food for Christmas hampers for families in need.	4 February 2025	$1,000
Baringa Football Club Inc.	Purchase of 2 mobile goals.	20 February 2025	$5,990
Glasshouse Districts Cricket Club Inc.	Purchase of Pitch Covers.	21 February 2025	$2,270
Glasshouse Hinterland Australian Football Club Inc.	Purchase and installation of Club Honour Board for Glasshouse AFL Club.	3 March 2025	$2,684
Glass House District Tennis Club	Fees for affiliation with Tennis Queensland.	12 March 2025	$1,500
Glasshouse Mountains Sports Club Inc.	Purchase and installation of security camera system.	17 March 2025	$3,928
Beerwah Writers Group	Contribution towards printing and postage of anthology publication.	27 May 2025	$1,200
Queensland Air Museum Inc.	Contribution towards wireless microphone system for event.	4 June 2025	$500
Bells Reach Community Garden	Contribution towards material for composting area upgrade at community garden in Bells Reach.	5 June 2025	$600

Division 2
Councillor Terry Landsberg

Applicant	Project / Purpose	Date Allocated	Amount Funded
Pelican Waters Caloundra Swimming Club Inc.	Contribution to the purchase of 8 new diving blocks.	29 July 2024	$1,000
Rotary Club of Caloundra Pacific	Contribution towards performer fees for annual event held at Queensland Air Museum.	29 July 2024	$1,000
Blue Light Queensland - Caloundra / Beerwah Branch	Contribution towards hiring of music and video system for Caloundra Blue Light Parties.	8 August 2024	$1,000

Division 2 Councillor Terry Landsberg *continued*

Applicant	Project / Purpose	Date Allocated	Amount Funded
Trinity Youth and Community Services	Contribution towards costs associated with running skating community event.	8 August 2024	$1,500
QCWA Branch Caloundra	Funding for vehicle crossover.	19 August 2024	$2,950
Caloundra Power Boat Club Ltd	Contribution towards BBQ catering, postage, card printing, bait, lures and fishhooks for Take-A-Kid-Fishing Day event.	18 September 2024	$1,000
Youturn Limited	Contribution towards hiring of fencing, lighting and deck chairs for sensory space.	27 September 2024	$1,000
Queensland Police-Citizens Youth Welfare Association	Purchase of catering for youth reengagement program encouraging a positive relationship between students and the Caloundra and Caloundra South Police Divisions.	10 October 2024	$1,000
Roofs to Recovery Inc.	Purchase of food for participants joining an overnight sleep-out in cars to raise awareness of homelessness.	25 October 2024	$350
Queensland Justices Association	Venue hire for Justice of the Peace (JP) and Commissioner of Declarations (CDec) training.	14 November 2024	$476
Caloundra State Emergency Services (SES) Support Group Inc.	Purchase of sausages, onions, condiments and ice for 2 BBQs in Caloundra to support community education regarding preparing for emergencies.	29 November 2024	$800
The Sunshine Coast Official Food Truck Association	Contribution towards event planner fees for Caloundra New Years Eve celebrations.	29 November 2024	$2,000
Caloundra Business Alliance Inc.	Live entertainment costs and chair hire for community Christmas carols, held at Caloundra CBD.	10 December 2024	$2,000
Caloundra Committee of Service to the Ageing	Purchase of replacement laptop.	11 December 2024	$1,000
Caloundra RSL Women's Auxiliary	Contribution towards entry fees and bus hire for group's outing.	30 January 2025	$2,000
Sparkly Aliens Inc.	Contribution towards Mental Health First Aid training for group's team members.	30 January 2025	$1,000
Maroochy Sea Serpents Inc.	Contribution towards food items for dragon boat paddle event.	11 March 2025	$500
The Waves Bowls Club Caloundra Inc.	Contribution towards awning at new clubhouse.	19 March 2025	$1,000
Caloundra City Boxing Association Inc.	Contribution towards club uniforms.	11 April 2025	$500
Caloundra Business Alliance Inc.	Purchase of workshop material and entertainment for community bake sale, held at Felicity Park, Bulcock Street Caloundra.	7 May 2025	$1,069
Queensland Air Museum Inc.	Contribution towards a PA system for event.	4 June 2025	$1,000

Division 3
Councillor Tim Burns

Applicant	Project / Purpose	Date Allocated	Amount Funded
Parent to Parent Association Qld Inc.	Contribution towards bands and performers for all-abilities self advocacy conference and concert.	12 August 2024	$3,000
IFYS Limited	Contribution towards marketing and promotion for youth festival, scheduled for 13 September 2024.	14 August 2024	$3,000
Bamboo Projects Education Ltd.	Purchase of custom boarding platform.	20 August 2024	$1,364
Sunshine Coast Dragon Boat & Outrigger Canoe Club Inc.	Contribution towards pontoon blocks to extend club's dock.	3 September 2024	$2,000
endED Ltd	Funding towards venue hire for 2024 Nurture Festival at Kawana Sports Precinct.	5 September 2024	$3,000
The Stensholm Foundation Ltd	Funding to deliver four-week early intervention mentoring program for local young people aged between 12 and 25 years old at Lookout 07.	5 September 2024	$5,000
Currimundi Catchment Care Group Inc.	Contribution towards hire of light tower and generator to provide power for performers, food vendors and patrons at Lights on the Lake 2024.	9 October 2024	$1,000
Roofs to Recovery Inc.	The Coalition of Community Boards facilitator fees and refreshment cost for group planning workshop.	9 October 2024	$900
Sunshine Coast Indoor Rowing Club Inc.	Contribution towards event costs for rowing championship, held at O2 Performance, Bokarina.	3 February 2025	$1,000
Kawana Park Junior Australian Football Club Inc.	Contribution towards CCTV, recorder and monitoring costs at facility.	11 June 2025	$4,881

Division 4
Councillor Joe Natoli

Applicant	Project / Purpose	Date Allocated	Amount Funded
Bamboo Projects Education Ltd.	Purchase of marine radio, mat, rods and upholstery.	21 August 2024	$2,245
IFYS Limited	Contribution towards roaming entertainment and DJ for youth festival, scheduled for 13 September 2024.	22 August 2024	$2,500
Mooloolaba Surf Life Saving Club Inc.	Contribution towards first aid and water safety requirements for the 2024 Kozii Iron Challenge.	22 August 2024	$1,500
Rotary Club of Mooloolaba Inc.	Contribution towards printed t-shirts for annual walk and talk fundraiser for mental health.	22 August 2024	$2,500
Arts Connect Inc.	Funding towards event photography fee for Sculpture on the Edge 2024 at Flaxton Gardens.	9 September 2024	$2,500
Connect Rugby League Pty Ltd	Hiring of entertainment and printing costs for community awards, held at Caloundra RSL.	20 September 2024	$650
The Creche and Kindergarten Association Limited	Contribution towards Gubbi Gubbi Cultural Education Program for young children at Kuluin Kindergarten.	23 September 2024	$300
Sunshine Coast Chinese Association Inc.	The welcome performance costs at the Xiamen delegation visit.	9 October 2024	$400
Sunshine Coast Chinese Association Inc.	Contribution towards performers and marketing costs for a free multicultural event celebrating Chinese Culture, scheduled for 14 September 2024.	9 October 2024	$5,000
Hair Aid Inc.	Purchase of cutting combs, scissors, capes, neck brushes, clips, rechargeable clippers and neck trimmers for community cuts in Cotton Tree.	22 October 2024	$740
Kawana Island Residents Association	Contribution towards event costs for family friendly event, scheduled for 10 November 2024.	6 November 2024	$3,528
Allocation adjustment	Funds returned from Kawana Island Residents Assoc due to underspend.	30 January 2025	($1,077)
4 Paws Animal Rescue	Funding of tree removal and purchase promotional material.	19 March 2025	$1,200
Rotary Club of Alexandra Headland Inc.	Contribution towards Multi-Sport Registration Platform for annual Swim Event.	9 May 2025	$2,000
Sunshine Coast Orchid Society Caloundra Inc.	Purchase of a laptop, case and mouse for organisation's secretary.	22 May 2025	$649
Queensland Air Museum Inc.	Contribution towards catering for guest speakers and delegates for event.	12 June 2025	$500

Division 5
Councillor Winston Johnston OAM

Applicant	Project / Purpose	Date Allocated	Amount Funded
Returned & Services League of Australia (Queensland Branch) Maleny Sub-Branch Inc.	Contributions towards paint for the completion of exterior painting project.	18 July 2024	$1,000
Arts Connect Inc.	Funding towards cost of purchasing t-shirts for volunteers and sculptors to wear during the 9 days of the event for promotion and identification.	26 July 2024	$2,500
Maleny Garden Club Inc.	Contribution towards the Maleny showgrounds pavilion hire for garden expo and trail.	20 August 2024	$1,000
Lions Club of Maleny Blackall Range Inc.	Contribution towards welcome booklets printing costs for new Maleny residents.	27 August 2024	$1,500
Chenrezig Inc.	Contribution towards three disability toilets at Big Love Festival, scheduled for 28 September 2024.	20 September 2024	$701
Hunchy Community Association Inc.	Contribution Towards Hunchy Annual Community Christmas Celebration.	20 September 2024	$1,500
Woombye Writers Group	Hiring venue, Acknowledgement of Country artwork, promotional material and book printing costs for the book "Footprints" launching event that showcases the collaborative talents of local authors and artists from the Sunshine Coast.	20 September 2024	$2,000
Maleny & District Chamber of Commerce and Industry Inc.	Contribution to 4 x Authors Attendance at Inaugural Event.	1 October 2024	$1,000
Youturn Limited	Contribution towards hiring of deck chairs and tent including delivery costs for sensory space.	1 October 2024	$1,630
Maleny Street Gardeners' Alliance Inc.	Funding towards the 2024 Hanging Basket Competition in Maleny.	23 October 2024	$1,500
Maleny and District Chamber of Commerce and Industry Inc.	Contribution towards traffic management services for community Christmas event, held at Maple Street Maleny.	15 November 2024	$1,000
Maleny Music and Performing Arts Incorporated	Purchase of lanyards and wristbands for volunteers and skip bin hiring costs for 3-day music and camping weekend.	21 November 2024	$1,750
Mooloolah Valley Community Association Inc.	Contribution to festive decoration and lighting of tree in Martin Rungert Park.	21 November 2024	$2,500

Division 5 Councillor Winston Johnston OAM *continued*

Applicant	Project / Purpose	Date Allocated	Amount Funded
Palmwoods Community and Business Association Inc.	Purchase of items for community garden including water pump, tools, PA system, plants and seedling raising mix.	28 November 2024	$1,250
Open Way Zen Buddhist Cultural Association Inc.	Purchase of Buddha Statue.	13 December 2024	$800
Woombye Community & Business Association Inc.	Production and purchase of promotional banners and flags for 1950's and 1960's themed community event, held in Woombye.	18 March 2025	$1,960
Queensland Air Museum Inc.	Purchase of refreshments for attendees of Women in Aerospace event.	27 May 2025	$500
Blackall Range Woodcrafters Guild Inc.	Purchase of laptop, software and accessories.	5 June 2025	$1,054

Division 6
Councillor Christian Dickson

Applicant	Project / Purpose	Date Allocated	Amount Funded
Mountain Creek Neighbourhood Watch Inc.	Purchase of 1000 Neighbourhood Watch branded recyclable shopping bags.	12 July 2024	$1,507
Sunshine Coast Art Group Inc.	Purchase of a cover stitch machine.	12 July 2024	$1,049
4 Paws Animal Rescue	Funding towards waste management and First Aid Officer expenses for Santa Paws in the Park 2024.	24 July 2024	$500
Chancellor Park Soccer Club Inc.	Purchase of replacement Bain Marie.	29 July 2024	$2,295
Headland Buderim Croquet Club Inc.	Contribution to painting of mural on clubhouse wall.	29 July 2024	$5,000
Bamboo Projects Education Ltd.	Contribution towards the purchase of Garmin maps and sounder.	22 August 2024	$3,637
Buderim Water Polo Club	Purchase of training equipment.	23 September 2024	$993
Sunshine Coast Riding for the Disabled (RDA) Inc.	Purchase of 2 filing cabinets.	23 September 2024	$1,792
The Silverfox Initiative Inc.	Costs of providing 100 free coffees on Mental Health Day to increase community access to mental health support in Sippy Downs.	27 September 2024	$500
Hair Aid Inc.	Purchase of recharger clippers, hairdressing scissors, hairdressing capes and mirror for community cuts in Nambour.	3 October 2024	$750
Youturn Limited	Contribution towards hiring of bean bags and delivery costs for sensory space.	3 October 2024	$500

Division 6 Councillor Christian Dickson *continued*

Maroochydore Eagles Basketball Association Inc.	Engagement of consultant for Geotech report.	7 November 2024	$1,200
Buderim Library Association Inc.	Purchase of 35 large print books.	28 November 2024	$1,000
Our Mate-Ship Limited	Contribution towards a marine grade defibrillator.	25 March 2025	$422
Mountain Creek Junior Australian Football Club Inc.	Purchase of uniforms and coaching costs for young girls playing AFL.	11 April 2025	$4,000

Division 7
Councillor Ted Hungerford

Applicant	Project / Purpose	Date Allocated	Amount Funded
Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia Sunshine Coast Sub-branch Inc.	Contribution towards 2024 Vietnam Veterans Day Ceremony.	12 August 2024	$2,500
endED Ltd	Funding towards venue hire for an Elton John Experience event open to broader community to showcase and raise funds for endED.	22 August 2024	$2,000
Buderim Garden Club Inc.	Funding towards security, publicity and photography display panels for 2024 Buderim Garden Festival.	5 September 2024	$2,500
Buderim War Memorial Community Association Inc.	Funding towards band performance and PA sound system fees for 100 Year Celebration Supper Dance in November 2024.	5 September 2024	$1,800
Diddillibah Community Hall and Progress Association Inc.	Purchase of sausages, lolly bags, event public liability and band hire for Christmas event, held at Diddillibah Community Hall.	5 December 2024	$1,500
Calisthenics Buderim Inc.	Contribution towards venue hire and lighting costs for three-day Calisthenics Eisteddfod event.	20 January 2025	$2,000
Buderim War Memorial Community Association Inc.	Funding for AV and waste bins for community event.	12 February 2025	$1,721
Buderim Garden Club Inc.	Contribution towards event security and public and media relation costs for weekend garden festival, held in Buderim.	3 March 2025	$2,500
The Leukaemia Foundation of Australia Limited t/a Bloomhill Cancer Care	Contribution towards resurfacing costs to enhance accessibility for visits at Wellness Centre and Buderim Open Gardens' Weekend.	21 May 2025	$2,000
Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia Sunshine Coast Subbranch Inc.	Contribution towards first aid volunteers, Air Force Cadet Units and chair and bus hiring costs.	3 June 2025	$2,000
Playgroup Queensland Limited	Contribution towards installation of epoxy flooring to undercover area at playgroup.	4 June 2025	$2,500

Division 8
Councillor Taylor Bunnag

Applicant	Project / Purpose	Date Allocated	Amount Funded
Seaside Shores Community Association Inc.	Contribution towards kid's entertainment at annual Christmas event held in Marcoola.	24 July 2024	$700
Seaside Shores Community Association Inc.	Purchase of gardening equipment for community garden.	12 August 2024	$500
Maroochy Canal Action Group Inc.	Contribution to Spring Event of Maroochy Canal Action Group Inc.	16 August 2024	$600
Twin Waters Residents' Association Inc.	Purchase of cake stall supplies, kids glow products and hire of music entertainment and face painters for annual party in the park, scheduled for 20 October 2024.	19 August 2024	$2,000
Twin Waters Residents' Association Inc.	Purchase of event supplies and printing costs for garden competition.	22 August 2024	$500
North Shore Community Centre Inc.	Purchase of Wireless Access Point.	27 August 2024	$2,000
Millwell Road Community Centre Association Inc.	Logo design and website development.	18 September 2024	$2,000
Sunshine Cove Residents' Association	Purchase of event insurance and marquee hire costs for community Christmas event.	18 September 2024	$1,879
Zonta Club of Maroochy Inc.	Contribution towards keynote guest speaker costs at event raising awareness of family and domestic violence.	18 September 2024	$1,000
Twin Waters Residents' Association Inc.	Contribution towards fireworks and flyer costs for Christmas carols at Moorings Circuit Park, scheduled for 15 December 2024.	29 September 2024	$1,900
Coolum District Coast Care Group Inc.	Purchase of cane toad traps, equipment and stationery costs for a cane toad tadpole trapping trial.	17 October 2024	$500
Coastal Community Native Nursery Inc.	Purchase of 2 trolleys for volunteers.	14 November 2024	$1,000
Mudjimba Residents' Association Inc.	Popcorn machine hire including 100 bags of popcorn, and film and screen costs for a community outdoor movie night, held at Power Park Mudjimba.	14 November 2024	$1,692
Maroochy Canal Action Group Inc.	Purchase of lollies and bags for Santa to hand-out to children along Maroochy Canal.	10 December 2024	$400
Range of Life Pty Ltd	Costs to enable 10 support workers to accompany and assist participants during a Valentine's Day ball for adults living with a disability.	23 January 2025	$719

Division 8 Councillor Taylor Bunnag *continued*

Applicant	Project / Purpose	Date Allocated	Amount Funded
Mudjimba Community Garden Incorporated	Purchase and installation of water tank for community garden.	10 February 2025	$2,000
Sunshine Cove Residents Association Inc.	Contribution towards DJ costs for Easter event, held at Sunrise Drive Park.	13 March 2025	$400
Sunshine Coast Chinese Association Inc.	Contribution towards equipment hire and transport costs for social table tennis event bringing together businesses and the multicultural community.	19 March 2025	$500
Allocation adjustment	Funds returned from Twin Waters Residents' Association due to underspend.	7 April 2025	($179)
Twin Waters Residents Association Inc.	Contribution towards catering and entertainment costs for meet and greet for Twin Waters residents.	16 April 2025	$1,179
North Shore Football Club Inc.	Purchase and installation of new soccer goal nets.	8 May 2025	$750
Friends of Yaroomba Inc.	Purchase of relocatable garden beds, seeds and soil for community garden.	16 May 2025	$600
Maroochy North Shore Lions Club Inc.	Purchase of food supplies to provide school students with a breakfast to set them up for the day.	21 May 2025	$500
North Shore Junior Australian Football Club Inc.	Purchase of water bottles for match days and training sessions.	21 May 2025	$1,000
Yaroomba Boardriders Club Inc.	Contribution towards replacement custom marquee roof.	27 May 2025	$1,000

Division 9
Councillor Maria Suarez

Applicant	Project / Purpose	Date Allocated	Amount Funded
Coolum HeARTs Inc.	Purchase of security camera.	21 August 2024	$396
Coolum Beach Junior Rugby League Club Inc.	Purchase of golf cart and tray for use by club volunteers.	10 September 2024	$2,000
Coolum Wedge Inc.	Purchase of large marquee.	4 October 2024	$2,000
Youturn Limited	Contribution towards hiring of umbrellas for sensory space.	4 October 2024	$300
Coolum Football Club Inc.	Replacement of damaged canteen roller doors.	9 October 2024	$2,000
Coolum Common Community Garden Inc.	Concrete slab for the water tank.	20 November 2024	$2,000
Coolum Residents Association Inc.	Temporary image installation showcasing changes in the local area.	10 December 2024	$500

Division 9 Councillor Maria Suarez *continued*

Applicant	Project / Purpose	Date Allocated	Amount Funded
Coolum Beach District Senior Citizens Club Inc.	Purchase of a new bingo machine for weekly seniors meeting.	14 January 2025	$1,148
Range of Life Pty Ltd	Costs to enable 10 support workers to accompany and assist participants during a Valentine's Day ball for adults living with a disability.	28 January 2025	$719
Coolum Beach Meals on Wheels Inc.	Purchase of PC to upgrade IT and increase cyber security and privacy.	24 February 2025	$1,673
The North Coast Aboriginal Corporation for Community Health	First Nations performer fees at youth event held at Jack Morgan Park, scheduled for 5 April 2025.	3 March 2025	$2,000
Coolum Art Group Inc.	Contribution towards event costs for Easter and October Art Expo.	19 March 2025	$400
The Sunshine Coast Official Food Truck Association Inc.	Legal fees associated with Vendor Application and Indemnity.	21 March 2025	$1,320
Coolum Residents Association Inc.	Artist fees and print costings for exhibition in the Galley Art Space.	7 April 2025	$1,500
Coolum Beach Junior Australian Football Club Inc.	Contribution to purchase of mower.	17 April 2025	$2,000
Eumundi School of Rock Incorporated	Contribution towards volunteer t-shirts and marquee for ten-week schedule of events for young musicians.	22 April 2025	$1,000
Bli Bli Tennis Club Inc.	Purchase of tennis balls and racquets for club.	5 June 2025	$1,360
Queensland Air Museum Inc.	Event hiring costs including staging, AV and water cooler.	6 June 2025	$500
Lakeside Veterans Group	Purchase of timber wood for garden bed edging at Avenue of Honour, Parklakes Drive Bli Bli.	6 June 2025	$2,073
Bli Bli Public Hall and Community Association Inc.	Purchase of plants and mulch for community garden.	6 June 2025	$256

Division 10
Councillor David Law

Applicant	Project / Purpose	Date Allocated	Amount Funded
Nambour Men's Shed Inc.	Two men's shed members will undertake online course in Test and Tag accreditation.	19 July 2024	$478
Wuthering Heights of Mapleton	Purchase of PA system and equipment for event held in Mapleton.	19 July 2024	$2,426
The Range Community Kindergarten Association Inc.	Replacement of shade sail.	22 July 2024	$2,659

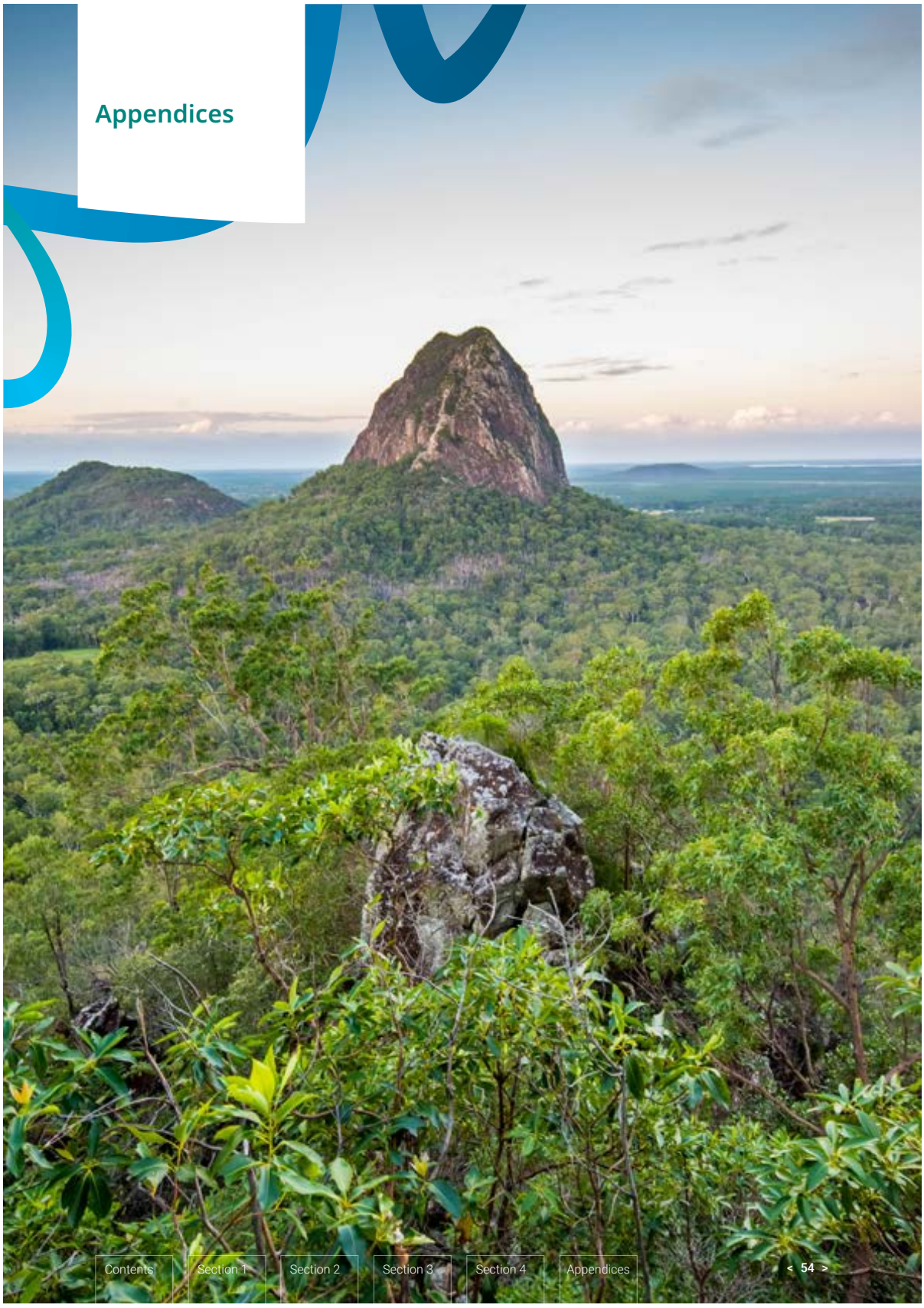
Division 10 Councillor David Law *continued*

Applicant	Project / Purpose	Date Allocated	Amount Funded
Probus Club of North Blackall Range Inc.	Funding for coach hire to transport Club members from Mapleton to Brisbane for 2024 Probus Day (the International Day for Senior Citizens) activity.	24 July 2024	$775
Yandina & District Historical Society Inc.	Funding towards venue hire, street stall fees and hire of display boards for En Plein Air Paint Out exhibition as part of the 2024 Yandina Street Fair.	24 July 2024	$1,000
Nambour and Maroochy District Band Inc.	Purchase of uniforms for band (50 polo shirts).	25 July 2024	$2,508
Eumundi Magpies Futsal Club Inc.	Purchase of aluminium portable goal.	9 August 2024	$1,700
Mapleton Hall & Sportsground Trust	Contribution towards hosting costs for Festival of Small Halls.	16 August 2024	$750
Nambour Rugby League Club Inc.	Contribution towards entertainment at Discobility dance event.	16 August 2024	$700
Sunshine Coast Creative Alliance	Funding towards artist fees for The Keeper Project Nambour 2025.	1 October 2024	$2,500
The Silverfox Initiative Inc.	Costs of providing 100 free coffees on Mental Health Day to increase community access to mental health support in Nambour.	1 October 2024	$500
Hair Aid Inc.	Purchase of haircutting scissors, capes, neck brushes, razors, clips, neck trimmers, extension cord and tripod light for community cuts in Nambour.	2 October 2024	$1,000
Kenilworth Hall Show and Recreation Ground Association Inc.	Hire of waste bins for 2024 Kenilworth Show & Rodeo.	11 October 2024	$1,892
Restoring Hope Parkinson's Therapy	The recording, editing and production costs for a speech practice video assisting people with Parkinson's Disease.	11 October 2024	$480
Nambour Junior Rugby League Inc.	Purchase of interlocking training mats.	13 November 2024	$1,500
Sunshine Coast Riding for the Disabled (RDA) Inc.	Purchase of 9 retractable barriers.	28 November 2024	$900
Yandina Community Christmas Carols Committee	Hire of extra bins for community Christmas event.	29 November 2024	$200
Yandina Chamber of Commerce Inc.	Printing costs of Yandina Heritage Trail Brochure.	24 January 2025	$1,000
Mapleton Bowls Club Inc.	Purchase of stainless-steel shelving for kitchen upgrade.	14 March 2025	$2,160

Section 4: Financial information



Appendices



Appendix A - Arts and Heritage Levy

Purpose

The Arts and Heritage Levy significantly enhances Council's ability to support arts and cultural heritage outcomes in the community, through mentoring and development initiatives, programs, events, and targeted projects. Council recognises the important role that both sectors and industries play in shaping and influencing our sense of community, belonging, cultural vitality and identity in a time of unprecedented growth and change.

The Arts and Heritage Levy enabled Council to deliver a suite of programs to achieve the outcomes articulated in the Sunshine Coast Creative Arts Plan 2023-2038 and the Sunshine Coast Heritage Plan 2021-2031.

Arts and Heritage Levy revenue

In 2024-25 the Arts and Heritage Levy was $20 per annum per rateable property. The levy is charged per household and is included in the rates payment.

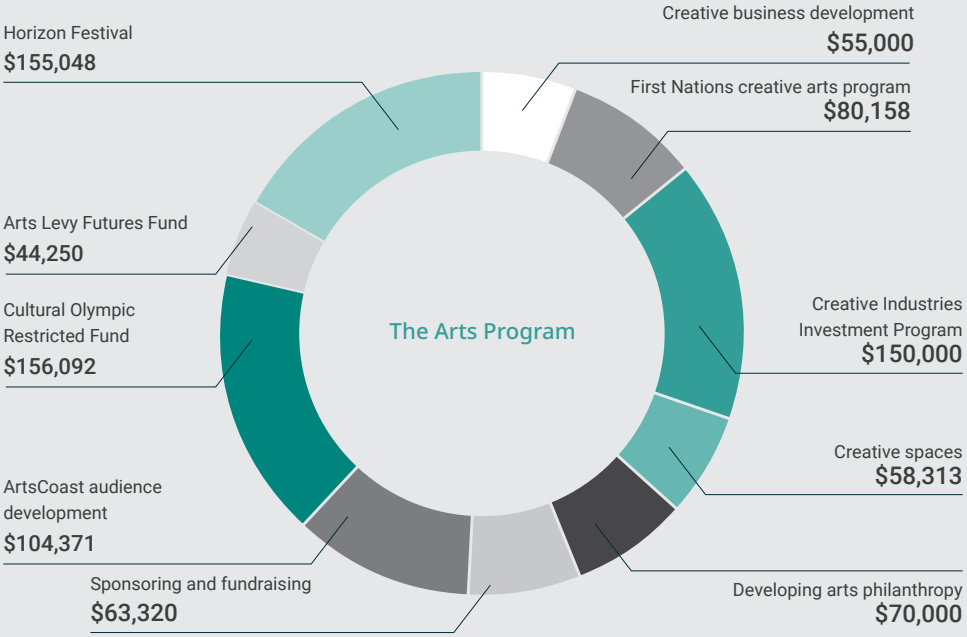
The total Arts and Heritage Levy revenue in 2024-25 was *$3,121,842.

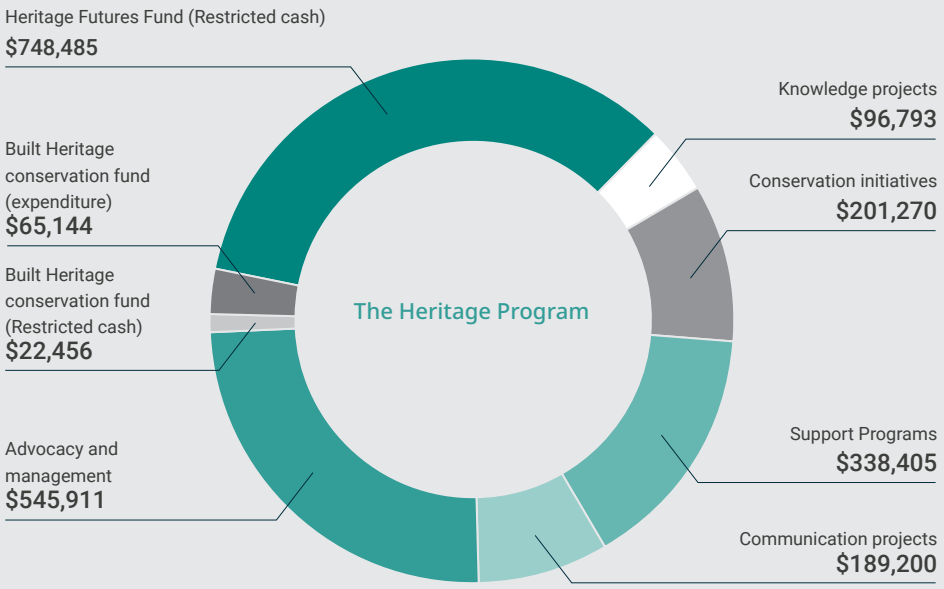
Your Arts and Heritage Levy at work 2024-25

The Arts and Heritage Levy funds 2 programs of work:

1. The Arts program, at $6 per household:
   - aims to develop local artists and local content, grow local participation and audiences, and embed art and creativity into the identity and experience of the Sunshine Coast
   - will be used to achieve the goals within the Sunshine Coast Creative Arts Plan 2023-2038.
2. The Heritage program, at $14 per household:
   - aims to document, research, conserve, protect, promote and provide access to those tangible and intangible items, places, facilities and events that define the stories, history and values of the people, communities and culture of the Sunshine Coast
   - will be used to achieve the 5 key heritage outcome areas and goals, as identified in the Sunshine Coast Heritage Plan 2021-2031.

The expenditure for each program is outlined in the graphics below:





* $11,686 was transferred from the Heritage Levy Fund (restricted cash) for projects from the previous financial year; additional non-Levy funding of $10,688 was secured for the Heritage Program through sales, donations and hire. Total additional revenue $22,374.

Unspent or unallocated Arts and Heritage Levy funds at the financial year's end are directed towards the restricted cash funds and can be accessed in future years to support the delivery of Arts and Heritage Levy initiatives.

How your levy reached the community in 2024-25

Key metrics from the Arts and Heritage Levy-funded programs in 2024–25 are:

Arts and Heritage Levy Initiative	Key Statistics
Arts Program	• 399 artists/arts workers engaged - 169 First Nations artists/ arts workers engaged • 287 volunteers • 18 initiatives supported/delivered - 4,189 participants in initiatives - 21,837 audience of initiatives • 93% rated the funded projects as good to excellent
Heritage Program	• 191 events and programs delivered • 12,865 attendees • 1,537 digital attendees • 109,538 website visitors • 24 volunteers, contributing 3,575 hours • Bankfoot House 5,072 visitors, including 31 school groups (1,527 attendees) experiencing our curriculum-aligned education programs • Landsborough Museum 6,022 visitors • Satisfaction 94% of attendees rated their heritage experience as good to excellent

What your levy helped deliver in 2024-25

The Arts Program supported the following key initiatives:

Creative business development

- Supported delivery of the Refinery Creative Incubator – a 10-week intensive program engaging 30 industry leaders and creatives as mentors, facilitators and presenters.

First Nations creative arts programs

- 6 First Nations events delivered featuring 155 First Nations artists attracting 4,000 attendees.
- 2 First Nations visual art exhibitions at Caloundra Regional Gallery attracting 6,000 visitors with 95% satisfied to very satisfied.
- 164 First Nations participants in development programs.

Creative Industries Investment Program

- IN | artist run initiative – IN | SITE Program at the Old Lock Up, Maroochydore.
- Munimba-ja – Blak Creatives: Indigenous led professional development opportunities embedding cultural safety to support First Nations artistic endeavours on the Sunshine Coast.
- Sunshine Coast Chamber Festival.
- Sunshine Coast Creative Alliance's annual creative development program.
- Eumundi School of Rock
- Red Chair - The Compass Project.
- The Old Ambo - TAKEOVER Project.
- Anywhere Festival.
- Sunshine Coast Film Festival.
- Arts Connect Inc. - Open Studios Sunshine Coast.

Horizon Festival

- Audience of 21,837, of which 58% were first time visitors, attended over 211 events and activities across 10 locations, with 89% rating their experience as good to excellent.
- Featured 557 artists and arts workers, of which 428 were Sunshine Coast-based.
- Attracted over 30% of attendees from outside the region contributing $1,439,316 in economic impact.
- 169 media stories with a reach of 4 million people and value of $337,000.

Creative Spaces

- In 2024-25 12 artist residencies were delivered that supported 190 artists.
- Each residency culminated in a public showing, with a total of 179 attendees; offering valuable opportunities for artists to share works-in-progress, engage audiences and build visibility for their practice.

The Heritage Program supported or delivered the following initiatives:

Knowledge

- 2 professional Historians completed research and delivered a series of public programs on their topics through the Historian in Residence program – Dr Martina Muller "Iconic Pubs that shaped the Sunshine Coast" and Dr Kate Kirby "Bounce, sprint and spirit: three stories of Sunshine Coast sport history".
- The digitisation of over 20,000 photographs by local photographer Bill Robinson, held by the Heritage Library. Documenting the Sunshine Coast's cultural and social history, and the natural and built environment, from the 1950s through to Bill's retirement in 1984.

Advocacy and Management

- The provision of expert advice for a number of heritage listed places and projects including capital projects at Landsborough Museum, Conservation Management Plans for Mooloolah, Buderim and Yandina Cemeteries, Fairview (Maleny), and Kings Beach Pavilion.

Support

- More than $175,000 in grants supported 11 heritage projects and operational support of 14 organisations.
- Museums and heritage organisations received support through training, strategic partnerships, and targeted workshops covering a wide range of topics including volunteer engagement and retention, marketing and museum operations.

Communication

- Several interpretive projects and digital stories were delivered and are online.
- Support for tertiary students and early-career heritage professionals through annual UniSC Cultural Heritage Prizes (4), and 2 internship positions through Council's My Summer Workplace Program.

Conservation

- Restoration, preservation, and collection management projects at Bankfoot House Heritage Precinct and Landsborough Museum.
- Activation at Council's heritage facilities through diverse programming, with highlights including:
  - The annual First Nations Family Fun Day at Bankfoot House in April, delivered in partnership with GATHAA First Nations Markets. Showcasing First Nations culture and offering a range of cultural learning programs and activities, the event supported 18 local businesses and had 557 attendees.
  - The Landsborough Street Festival in May brought the community together to celebrate the relaunch of the Museum with a vibrant mix of live music, classic cars, and family-friendly fun, with 790 attendees.
  - A new sporting display 'Bounce! A Grassroots to Glory Exhibition' opened at Landsborough Museum. Part of an ongoing series leading up to the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games, the exhibition celebrated the region's passion for ball sports through community curated stories and memorabilia.

Appendix B - Environment Levy

Purpose

The Environment Levy plays a crucial role in protecting the Sunshine Coast's natural assets by funding a wide range of environmental projects and programs.

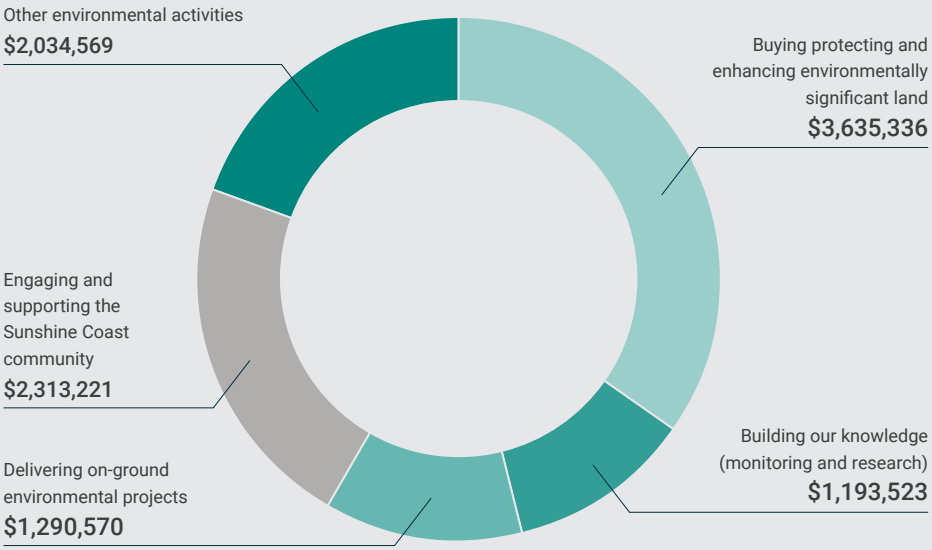
Our region's natural beauty is one of its most defining features, and the health of our environment is central to our recognition as a UNESCO Biosphere. The Environment Levy Program is a key funding mechanism supporting the implementation of the Environment and Liveability Strategy, which provides long-term direction to guide sustainable growth and shape a healthy, liveable Sunshine Coast for future generations. Through this program, we are advancing our vision to become Australia's most sustainable region and building a lasting legacy of environmental stewardship.

Environment Levy revenue

- In 2024-25 the Environment Levy was $82 per annum per rateable property.
- The total Environment Levy revenue in 2024-25 was $12,827,178*.

Your Environment Levy at work

The Levy enables Council and the community to collaborate on a range of strategic projects, programs, and initiatives that protect and enhance our natural environment – particularly our biodiversity, waterways and wetlands, and coastal ecosystems. These efforts are vital to sustaining healthy ecosystems and ensuring the long-term survival of the Sunshine Coast's unique biodiversity.



* The total expenditure on projects varies from year to year and in 2024-25, $10,467,219 was invested. Unspent funds are restricted for investment in future Environment Levy projects

What your levy helped deliver in 2024-25

Protecting habitat for threatened species

The Levy supports the Strategic Land Acquisition Program, which strengthens the protection of significant habitat for a diverse range of threatened animal and plant species. To date 117 properties, totalling 4,376 hectares, have been purchased through the levy, which includes four new properties in 2024-25. This includes an extension to the East Mount Mellum Nature Refuge and 2 new properties:

- 108 hectares at Wootha – expanding Annie Hehir Road Environment Reserve to over 170 hectares and consolidating a critical link to Glass House Mountains National Park. The site contains significant koala habitat as well as threatened flora species.
- 11 hectares at Beerwah – expanding Upper Coochin Creek Environment Reserve to 14.45 hectares, including Rupari Hill, and enhancing connectivity with Mount Coochin and Glass House Mountains National Park. This is one of only 2 sites in the world for the critically endangered Coochin Hills Grevillea (*Grevillea hodgei*).

Supporting community conservation efforts

The Levy serves as a key mechanism for engaging and empowering the Sunshine Coast community through collaborative initiatives that deliver tangible environmental outcomes. In 2024-25, the Levy funded:

- 27,000 seedlings and 74 nest boxes installed on Land for Wildlife properties.
- $635,500 to 22 community partnership groups.
- $323,000 to 86 landholders through the Landholder Environment Grants Program.
- 83 Voluntary Conservation Agreements supporting ecological protection on private land.

Fostering Environmental Stewardship

The Levy promotes environmental stewardship by supporting initiatives that foster community engagement, education, and shared responsibility. In 2024-25, the Levy supported:

- 230 students from 18 schools in the Kids in Action Program.
- 135 community members monitoring 200 nest boxes across 16 Environment Reserves through NatureWatch Sunshine Coast.
- 1,000 attendees at the Shorebird Festival.
- More than 4,000 visits to the Coastal Discovery Van.
- 850 attendees at the 10th annual Australasian Bat Night.
- 840 citizen scientists contributing more than 2,000 observations during the Marine Bioblitz.
- 260 volunteers attending the Sunshine Coast Our Environment Forum.

What your levy helped deliver in 2024-25

Protecting our waterways and coast

The Levy provides essential support for the protection and enhancement of coastal areas and waterways. In 2024-25, the Levy supported:

- $1 million for dune and rocky headland revegetation and restoration.
- $214,000 for erosion and sediment control education and engagement.
- Long term monitoring through the Coastal Health Monitoring Program.
- Riparian rainforest restoration in priority areas along the Maroochy River.
- $148,000 for waterway health monitoring through the Healthy Land and Water Partnership.
- Water quality and biodiversity monitoring through the Mary River Water Quality Monitoring Program.

Protecting against invasive species

The Levy supports targeted efforts to manage invasive species, protecting native ecosystems and biodiversity. Biosecurity education and engagement further strengthen these efforts by raising awareness and promoting preventative action. In 2024-25, the Levy supported:

- Invasive plant control as part of the management of our Environment Reserves network.
- $1 million in invasive species research, action and community engagement including:
  - Innovative research into AI weed detection, eDNA analysis, and herbicide trials to inform future invasive plant management.
  - Targeted invasive plant and animal management at key sites, engagement and education.
  - Education and knowledge sharing through workshops, event stalls, school visits, and demonstration sites showcasing invasive plant management.

Conserving our vulnerable species

The Environment Levy funds the protection and management of the Sunshine Coast's rich variety of native fauna, including koalas, kangaroos, flying foxes, and shorebirds. In 2024-25, the Levy supported:

- Research to inform disease management, climate risk planning, and habitat restoration.
- Studies to identify future risks to macropods and guide future management planning.
- Installation of road signage at wildlife collision hotspots and interpretive signage to educate and inform the public.
- Stakeholder and community engagement through multiple events focused on species conservation and management.
- Ongoing habitat restoration projects for vulnerable species at key sites across the Sunshine Coast.

Appendix C - Transport Levy

Purpose

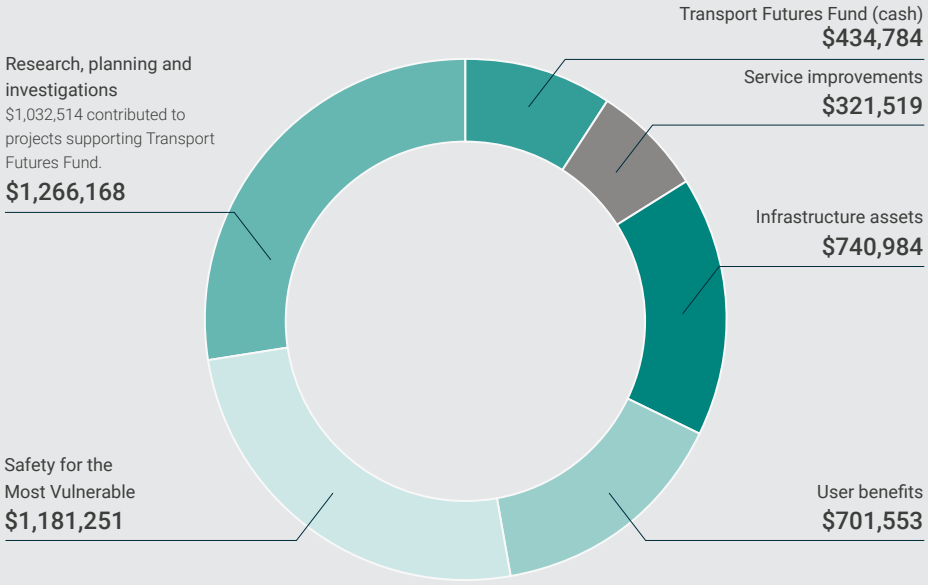
The Transport Levy assists Council in meeting its responsibilities for the future transport needs of the Sunshine Coast. The Levy plays an important role in funding key projects across the Sunshine Coast that supports Council's strategic transport goals for today and for the future. It supports Council to plan and shape a smarter, healthier, more sustainable approach to how we travel and connect people across our region.

Transport Levy revenue

- In 2024-25 the Transport Levy was $47 per annum per rateable property.
- The total Transport Levy revenue in 2024-25 was $8,085,986*.
- Unspent Transport Levy revenue transferred to Transport Levy Restricted Cash at 30 June 2025 was $3,439,727.

Where did your Transport Levy go in 2024-25?

In 2024-25 the Transport Levy introduced a new subprogram Safety for the Most Vulnerable which strengthened Council's commitment to improve connectivity and provide sustainable transport options. The Transport Levy also continued to fund the 5 key areas that have the primary goal of improving transport connectivity across the Sunshine Coast: Service Improvements, Infrastructure Assets, User Benefits, Research, Planning and Investigation and the Transport Futures Fund. The funding spend for each subprogram that occurred in 2024-25 are described in the graphic below.



* This included additional funding leveraged from other sources of **$749,500**

Transport Levy Restricted Cash balance as of 30 June 2025 is **$4,312,750**

Transport Futures Fund balance as of 30 June 2025 is **$31,470,186**

Transport Levy statistics

Key investments of the Levy in 2024-25:

Transport Levy Initiative	Key Statistics
Council Link	• 4,255 passenger bookings • Over 2,920 passenger trips • More than 15,790 km travelled • 136 passenger trips averaged per week.
Flexilink Trial Services (Trial Peachester to Beerwah and Conondale to Maleny Services)	• Over 4,480 passenger trips • More than 34,418 km travelled • 373 passenger trips averaged per month across both services.
Kenilworth Community Transport Service	• 292 registered passengers • Eight volunteer drivers • 17.5 trips averaged per month.
RideScore Program	• 11 schools participating • 1,516 students participating as of 30 June 2025 • 110,374 cycling and scootering trips • 189,858 km travelled by participants reducing private vehicle trips to school • 31.69 tonnes of CO_2 emissions saved.
Pedestrian Vulnerable Program	• 1,313 metres of missing paths delivered • 9 pedestrian crossings constructed • 19 kerb ramps built • 23 designs for raised pedestrian crossings in progress or completed.
Inclusive Network Mapping	• Council's transport model was updated to include more detailed walking and riding data. • Over 7,000 km of paths and cycling routes (including on-road and off-road routes) reviewed to determine opportunities to improve the network across the region.

Transport Levy highlights

The following highlights were delivered across the 5 Transport Levy sub programs in 2024-25.

Service improvements

Trialling new bus services: The successful two-year trial of an extension to Route 631 to Yandina Ginger Factory, has encouraged Translink to continue servicing this extension beyond the conclusion of the trial period.

Connecting our community: Initiatives including the Trial Flexilink and Trial Council Link services provided essential transport options for seniors, people with mobility issues and those in areas without any public transport available. These services supported people to connect to their nearest centres making it easier for them to access shopping centres, medical appointments and other public transport options.

Safety for the Most Vulnerable

Improving pedestrian mobility and safety for the most vulnerable: Initiatives that prioritised our most vulnerable pedestrians were delivered. Investing in paths and crossings to make walking safer, more accessible and inclusive for the region's children, elderly and vision and mobility impaired were prioritised to foster a healthier and more connected community.

Infrastructure assets

Increasing accessibility to public transport: Accessibility to public transport was supported through the delivery of improved paths to connect selected bus stops with their immediate surrounding environment. The early provision of bus shelters also supported accessibility goals making the bus stops more inclusive and comfortable in all weather conditions.

Research, planning and investigation

Developing smart digital tools: Walking and riding data was assessed and mapped to identify where the network is working well and where there are opportunities to improve safety and support our lesser confident riders to use active transport. These tools will assist decision making for future investment in active transport that will encourage people of all ages, genders, and abilities to feel safe to walk and ride.

Future-proofing public transport: The continued planning and advocacy for the delivery and integration of major public transport projects within the region was supported. Ensuring the Sunshine Coast is ready for future growth, and well positioned to leverage the benefits of future public transport projects is necessary to support reducing the region's reliance on private car use.

Travel surveys to monitor the transport network: Understanding how the Sunshine Coast community travels is important to ensure future planning delivers the right transport modes, services and infrastructure for the region. Council continued to contribute to the Queensland Government's Household Travel Survey supporting additional interviews in the region and enable greater confidence in the data used for decision on the Sunshine Coast.

User benefits

Empowering our next generation: The Trial RideScore Active Schools program continued to expand. The program was delivered at 11 primary schools and encouraged safe riding and scootering to school, promoting healthy habits, reducing traffic congestion and reassuring parents and care givers that students were arriving and leaving school.

Reducing car dependence: The ThinkChange program continued to help residents rethink their travel habits, encouraging the use of public and active transport and reducing the number of car trips.

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Sunshine Coast

Community Strategy Annual Report 2024–25



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October 2025

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Disclaimer

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Traditional acknowledgement

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

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

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

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

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

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

Together, we are all stronger.



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A message from our Mayor and Community Portfolio Councillors

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

It is with great pride that we present the 2024–25 Annual Report for the Community Strategy. This report offers a moment to pause and reflect on the collective achievements. It showcases how Council, our community, and partners have worked side-by-side through collaboration, advocacy, and cooperation to deliver meaningful outcomes across five key areas.

This marks the fifth annual report for the Community Strategy 2019–2041, originally endorsed in 2019, and the first report under the new Community Strategy Action Plan 2024–2029. We have actively listened to our community – understanding what matters most, what is needed, and the opportunities and challenges we face together.

Following three stages of community engagement, the refreshed Strategy and new Action Plan were adopted in October 2024. These documents were designed to be clearer and easier to read, with achievable actions, transparent targets, and a vibrant design that reflects the energy of our community.

Over the past year, we have worked to support and enhance our community's health and wellbeing, activate local places and spaces, and foster inclusive, connected, and resilient communities, while continuing to celebrate heritage, culture, and arts.

Key highlights included:

- adopting and implementing the **refreshed Community Strategy and Action Plan**
- the **Lived Experience Inclusion Project – Street Up**
- advancing to a **Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan**
- the second instalment of the **Shine a Light on Racism** campaign
- hosting the **Sunshine Coast Youth Forum**, in collaboration with the Young Leaders Academy
- introducing the **MadeSC** creative development program
- the **Kawana Aquatic Centre** upgrades
- opening **Namba Meeting Place** and a new **pump track** in Buderim.

We also awarded more than $5.6 million across 1152 grants, supporting community groups to continue delivering the incredible programs, events, and activities that help our communities thrive.

We extend heartfelt thanks to our partners and the community for working with us to deliver the Community Strategy. As we look ahead, we acknowledge that we cannot do this alone. In partnership with internal and external stakeholders and community organisations, we remain committed to building a strong community, where together we thrive.

Mayor Rosanna Natoli
Councillor David Law
Councillor Taylor Bunnag





Making progress together

Working towards our vision

Australia's most sustainable region.

Sunshine Coast Community Strategy 2019–2041

Sunshine Coast Environment and Liveability Strategy 2017–2041

Sunshine Coast Regional Economic Development Strategy 2013–2033

Sunshine Coast Council Corporate Plan 2024–28

Community Strategy Annual Report 2024–25

Image: Dawn Awakening. Photo: Nic Morley.



One vision – three strategies

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

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

Vision

Together we thrive

Goal

Our Strong Community

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

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

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

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



01 Healthy, active communities



02 Vibrant communities



03 Inclusive communities



04 Connected, resilient communities



05 Creative, innovative communities



Our global commitment

SUNSHINE COAST BIOSPHERE

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.

United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Implementing the Sunshine Coast Biosphere involves local actions delivering on the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). 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 Sunshine Coast Community Strategy 2019–2041 supports the SDGs by outlining Council-led and community-led actions across all domains of people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnership.

This Strategy contributes to the following goals:

SDG 1 – No Poverty

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

SDG 2 and 3 – Zero Hunger; Good Health and Wellbeing

The strategy prioritises both physical and mental health with specific outcomes and actions relating to food security, health and wellbeing. Other important topic areas that influence health and wellbeing include community connection, safety, transport, inclusion and volunteering.

SDG 4, 5 and 10 – Quality Education; Gender Equality; Reduced Inequalities

Inclusion and equity are core principles in the strategy and flow through all of the topic areas covered. Outcomes and actions related specifically to inclusion are outlined in the inclusion topic.

SDG 8 and 9 – Decent Work and Economic Growth; Industry Innovation and Infrastructure

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

SDG 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities

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

SDG 9 and 13 – Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure; Climate Action

The strategy seeks to improve the resilience of our communities, increasing our adaptive capacity to prepare and respond to increasing climate risks. The strategy also prioritises community connections, which improve our resilience to a multitude of shocks and stressors.

SDG 16 and 17 – Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions; Partnerships for the Goal

The Strategy includes outcomes and actions related to community safety as well as community engagement to help promote inclusive participation in decision-making. It also fosters collaboration between Council, community organisations and other levels of government to drive shared outcomes and meaningful impact.





This Annual Report

This report highlights and celebrates the meaningful progress made over the past year in advancing the priorities of the Community Strategy, achieved through strong collaboration with our community and community partners.

This is the fifth annual report since the Community Strategy came into effect in November 2019 and the first report since the Community Strategy 2019–2041 was refreshed and Community Strategy Action Plan 2024–2029 was adopted.

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

Measuring impact

We will use the following measures to track progress towards our shared goal of a strong community. We all have responsibility for contributing to the outcomes we want to see in our community and we will need to work together to achieve these targets. Further context and commentary on the measures and targets is detailed at Appendix A.

Target	Baseline	Latest	2041 Target
Residents in agreement that the Sunshine Coast is a strong community	NA	63%	75%
01 Healthy, active communities			
1.1 Residents who rated their health as good, very good or excellent as a ranking within Regional Queensland (Health of Queenslanders, Queensland Government)	#2	#2	#1-3
02 Vibrant communities			
2.1 Residents in agreement that Council's community infrastructure meets community need	NA	55%	60%
2.2 Personal travel by active transport and passenger transport (Queensland Household Travel Survey, Queensland Government)	15%	12%	30%
2.3 Residents in agreement that they can find the type of accommodation they need	37%	34%	40%
03 Inclusive communities			
3.1 Residents in agreement that it is a good thing for a society to be made up of people from different cultures	85%	75%	90%
3.2 Residents who volunteered for an organisation in the preceding twelve months (ABS Census)	21%	16%	20%
3.3 Residents in agreement that there are opportunities to have a say on community issues that are important to them	70%	45%	70%
04 Connected, resilient communities			
4.1 Residents in agreement that they live in an active community where people get involved in local issues and activities	77%	54%	75%
4.1 Residents in agreement that they can get help from friends, family, neighbours or community organisations when they need it	93%	79%	90%
4.2 Residents in agreement that they feel safe all the time on the Sunshine Coast	77%	60%	75%
05 Creative, innovative communities			
5.1 Cultural vitality	TBD	TBD	TBD

Source: Sunshine Coast Council Community Connections Survey unless noted otherwise.

Grants

Community Grants Program 2024-25

Council's Community Grants Program continues to enable and support community groups, individuals and over 29,000 volunteers to deliver sustainable community-led initiatives in response to community needs and opportunities. Grants support the delivery of programs across all Community Strategy outcome areas.

Total Grants related to Community Strategy Outcomes
1152 grants awarded, over $5,623,062 allocated

Partnership Grants

$2,162,390 million
for 198 groups

$1,172,904 for 144 partner community groups

$919,486 for 49 sports fields groups

$70,000 for 5 recreation trail groups

Community Grants

$2,058,266 million
for 782 projects

$1,353,515 for 252 major grants

$129,184 for 88 minor grants

$76,366 for 27 emergency grants

$162,143 for 53 festive and commemorative events grants

$56,943 for 176 individual development grants

$280,115 for Councillor Discretionary Funding over 186 grants

Arts and Heritage

$421,906
for 59 projects

$49,798 for 10 heritage groups (Heritage Levy funded)

$182,108 for 38 regional arts development projects

$190,000 to support 11 creative industry investment programs

Environment Levy

$980,500
for 113 grants awarded

$325,000 for 86 landholder grants

$20,000 for 5 Environment projects

$635,500 for 22 partnerships with environment groups



There is a continued high level of support to build the capacity of community organisations to apply for grants, and to respond to all grant enquiries and requests for assistance. A series of grant writing workshops were hosted during July and August 2024 and February 2025, both online and in-person, to build the capacity and knowledge of community groups to successfully apply for and manage grant funding. These workshops continue to be of high value to our community, with 94 per cent of participants rating the sessions as excellent or very good.

In February 2025, Council hosted its inaugural Grants Information and Networking Session at Venue 114, attracting 68 community members. The event featured presentations from external funding bodies including Queensland Gives, Queensland Sport and Recreation, and the Gambling Community Benefit Fund, providing valuable insights into available funding opportunities.

Major grants strengthening connections

2024 Multicultural Moon Festival

The 2024 Multicultural Moon Festival, supported by Council's Major Community Grant funding, was held on the closest night to the mid-autumn full moon in September, celebrating Chinese culture and community connections. The free family friendly community event held in Mooloolaba, is one of the most significant celebrations in Chinese culture and in many other east and southeast Asian countries. The event included a series of family-friendly activities, live entertainment, a multicultural market and food stalls, moonlight dancing on the beach and fireworks.

The Multicultural Moon Festival was first established in 2021 by the Arts and Culture Federation of Sunshine Coast. In 2024, the Chinese Association secured major grant funding for the event for the second time. The two organisations have co-hosted the festival, with support from other community groups. The 2024 Multicultural Moon Festival drew a record crowd of over 10,000 attendees, more than triple the attendance of the previous year.

The grant funding played a vital role in delivering a vibrant and memorable event, helping cover costs for event management, staging, sound and equipment, DJ entertainment, and a spectacular fireworks display.

> "I'd like to express our sincere gratitude for the support provided by this funding. It has played a pivotal role in the success and growth of our project, enabling us to expand the scale and impact of the event over the past two years. Thanks to the funding, we've been able to hire a professional team to handle the planning and execution, which has allowed us to elevate the quality of the event and create a more engaging experience for participants."
>
> Community grant recipient 2024–25

Outcome one





My story

Healthy, active communities

Danielle's story – rugby connects

My name is Danielle Lenord, and I've lived on the Sunshine Coast for around 17 years. I'm the proud mother of two adult children with disabilities.

While my children choose to keep the part of their diagnoses private, I can share that our family has experienced its fair share of challenges, heartbreak, and triumphs. A few years ago, we reached a crisis point. I began searching for ways to support my children's physical, emotional, and social wellbeing. I needed something to help them connect, build resilience, and for them to feel like part of something meaningful. That journey led us to sport – and a timely conversation with Chris Flannery, CEO of the Sunshine Coast Falcons, sparked the idea that became Connect Rugby League.

Connect Rugby League was founded in 2022, after seeing a clear gap in inclusive sport opportunities. Connect Rugby League is an all-abilities rugby league for men, women and teens 16 years and above. What began as a small initiative has grown beyond anything I imagined.

We now proudly partner with three community clubs – Kawana Dolphins, Noosa Pirates, and Caboolture Snakes Rugby League – and we're a community partner of the NRL Dolphins. These partnerships have had a profound impact, helping players develop confidence, social skills, self-worth, and a true sense of belonging on and off the field while also connecting families and club personnel.

> "Inclusion in sport isn't just about participation – it's about belonging."

This program has been life-changing – for the players, families, and for me. Watching players of all abilities step onto the field with pride and excitement is truly heartwarming. Personally, I've gained purpose, perspective, and a deepened commitment to making sport accessible for everyone. I've found community, connection, and the determination to keep pushing forward.

Inclusion in sport isn't just about participation – it's about belonging.

It improves physical health, yes, but it also nurtures mental wellbeing, resilience, and connection. It gives families hope and creates environments where everyone feels seen, valued, and celebrated. There have been moments of doubt and frustration, especially seeing how isolated some families still feel. But more often, I've felt proud, hopeful, and incredibly grateful. Hearing a player say, "We never thought this was possible," reminds me every time why this matters.

Inclusion changes lives.

Everyone deserves to wear a jersey, join a team, and be cheered on – no matter their ability. This is more than sport; it's a movement. All it takes is support, understanding, and a little kindness to shift the game – for everyone.

Outcome one: Healthy, active communities



Healthy Sunshine Coast – building a stronger, healthier community

The Healthy Sunshine Coast program continues to grow and evolve, offering low-cost or free holistic health and wellbeing activities for all ages and abilities in the community. The program offers over 85 regular activities delivered by over 35 providers.

The Healthy Sunshine Coast program has grown to nearly 8,000 members, with expanded offerings including Qi Gong and Meditation, Parents and Bubs Fitness, Extra Strength and Stability for Older People, alongside inclusive classes such as Fun and Fitness for All Abilities. Two new Chair Yoga class were also introduced – one in partnership with Council's Access and Inclusion working group, and the other in partnership with a local developer, Stockland Birtinya.

To better understand community needs, a participant survey was conducted at the end of 2024, receiving over 500 responses. The feedback showed that the Healthy Sunshine Coast program continues to have a positive impact, with the annual survey of participants highlighting that 87 per cent of participants agreed or strongly agreed that their overall health and wellbeing had improved, and 93 per cent agreed or strongly agreed that the lower cost of the program enabled them to participate in activities that they would not be able to afford otherwise. One participant noted, "**These classes have helped me feel more connected and confident in managing my health.**" The top five benefits identified by participants included overall health; connection; enjoyment and fun; improved fitness; and mental wellbeing. The most common barriers to participation included location, activity time and need for more information. The insights gathered will inform future program development and ensure activities remain relevant and impactful.

Healthy Sunshine Coast has also played a key role in promoting and sharing the latest evidence-based research in health and wellbeing to the community, with strong interest and participation in events highlighting information on how to age and live well. The IRT Healthy Ageing Seminar, held on 17 July 2024 in Buderim, brought together experts from UniSC, the Thompson Institute, and aged care specialists to explore topics such as 'Healthy Ageing: Enjoy it, Not Endure it,' 'Mind Your Head – Avoid Cognitive Decline,' and 'Not Just About Gym – Get Creative'. Council also joined UniSC's launch of the 'Healthy Ageing Research Cluster' in November 2024, reinforcing its dedication to innovative, interdisciplinary approaches to ageing well. In February 2025, nearly 200 participants attended the 'Old Habits Die Hard: Lifestyle for a Healthy Future' workshop, held in partnership with UniSC's Thompson Institute. The workshop explored how brain imaging and behavioural research can support healthy lifestyle changes for brain ageing.

Council's commitment to evidence-based health education was further demonstrated through its partnership with UniSC, Country to Coast PHN, Sunshine Coast Hospital Institute, Comlink Australia, and Healthy Ageing Partnerships (HAP). Together, they delivered the 'Fuelling Resilience: Frailty Prevention & Management' seminar on 26 June, attracting over 100 attendees and offering practical strategies for maintaining wellbeing in later life.

The program's reach has extended to diverse communities through events like the Multicultural Wellness Day at Nambour Community Centre, where Po Mei's Laughter Yoga session brought joy and connection to attendees. In May and June, Healthy Sunshine Coast partnered with the Sunshine Coast Bushwalking Club to offer free guided bushwalks across the region. The initiative was met with strong interest, with waiting lists forming for several walks.

Beyond physical health, Council continues to advocate for improved access to mental health services, with a strong focus on youth wellbeing. Through the Youth Connect network, Council has worked closely with youth sector organisations to promote practical strategies for supporting young people's mental health. The initiative has strengthened communication between service providers, enabling more effective referral pathways and building a more connected and responsive support system for young people across the region.



> Healthy Sunshine Coast classes have helped me feel more connected and confident in managing my health.

Growing our food, our knowledge and our connections

Community gardens are a great way to meet people, share gardening skills and grow our own food. There are currently 18 community gardens across the Sunshine Coast and Council is committed to continuing to provide advice for community groups to start a community garden. There are currently three new pop-up gardens being established at Meadowlands Park, Yaroomba; Buderim Lions Lookout Park; and Eaton Park, Sippy Downs where a food pantry was also installed. In April 2025, a networking event was run by Council and Friends of Yaroomba, inviting the community to come together to deliver and manage the new pop-up garden at Meadowlands Park. Members of the Golden Beach Community Garden recently replanted the empty garden bed located behind Caloundra Library using perennial herbs.

Council hosted a lively Community Gardens Networking Event at the UniSC Moving Feast Community Garden, bringing together passionate gardeners and representatives from community gardens across the region. The gathering was a celebration of connection, with attendees sharing stories, swapping tips, and even trading fresh, homegrown produce. It was a chance to strengthen relationships and inspire new ideas for growing vibrant, sustainable gardens. Council staff also shared valuable information about available grant programs, empowering community groups to expand and sustain local food initiatives.

These initiatives not only help to promote physical and mental wellbeing, but they foster lifelong learning and knowledge sharing, strengthen community connection and cohesion, and help to ease cost-of-living pressures through access to fresh, affordable produce. They play a vital role in building a healthier and more sustainable Sunshine Coast.

Sport for everyone

Council has reaffirmed its commitment to making sport more inclusive by partnering with Get Skilled Access, founded by Paralympian and former Australian of the Year Dylan Alcott. Through this collaboration, Council appointed a Sport4All Inclusion Officer who has worked closely with local sporting clubs and schools to promote inclusive practices and build strong networks.

Commencing in January 2025, the partnership has established strong connections with all-abilities providers, peak sporting bodies, and educational institutions, and has supported several clubs in adopting inclusive training modules. These efforts reflect Council's broader vision of an active, healthy Sunshine Coast where everyone, regardless of ability, can participate fully in sport and recreation.

On 29 August 2024, families across the Sunshine Coast were invited to attend a free Paralympics LIVE event at UniSC's Sports Arena. The action-packed event was a great way to celebrate the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games and to show support for our local Paralympians and para-athletes.




Outcome two



My story

Vibrant communities

Nola and Nada's story – finding happiness at home

> Having someone in the house has made a huge difference to my life.

Nola (Renter)

I contacted Better Together Housing which is designed for women over 55 years who are increasingly experiencing homelessness. The program is created for women by women and connects women who own or rent, with women looking for a place to live.

I've been an independent businesswoman all my life and I was finding the rent just exorbitant. The thought of having someone live with me was a big step and a big lifestyle change; particularly finding someone who is compatible because I have my own little routines, my own little way of doing things.

But it hasn't been as hard as I thought. It's been really easy actually. Nada added a new dimension to my life. I love my garden, and the lovely thing is that Nada is a gardener too.

I hadn't realised, living alone, that I was in fact lonely. Having someone in the house has made a huge difference to my life. I'm feeling much more happy and relaxed about life in general.

I would recommend to women who've been living alone, living in these big houses on their own, that they could have companionship. It is a big life improvement for yourself.

We did not expect to be this successful really. And we're just having fun. Don't be afraid because it can work.

Nada (Looking for accommodation)

I emigrated to Australia in the early 80s. I have two children born in Australia and one who was born in Croatia. A difficult life led me to be separated and left alone as a single parent, struggling through life.

I found myself searching for affordable accommodation. I wanted to be able to share with somebody with the same interests and in the same age group. Where I was living, I was not happy, and it was really disturbing and not good for my health.

I went to Google and searched. I came across the organisation, Better Together Housing. I got in contact with Nola and said, 'Can we meet, please?' We met for coffee and the rest is history.

She is a similar age, and she was offering me what I was looking for. My own privacy, my own bedroom and everything else needed. Sharing life with somebody enriches your life and health too. Make the first step.

Nola and Nada share their story further in the **Better Together Housing video**.

Outcome two: Vibrant communities



Sunshine Coast Libraries – creating welcoming spaces and fostering inclusion for all

Sunshine Coast Libraries continuously transform to meet the needs of our changing community. No longer just places to borrow books, libraries are vibrant hubs for connection, inclusion, lifelong learning, and access to Council services.

This past year, Sunshine Coast Libraries welcomed over 900,000 visits, with membership growing to 144,000 – a 14 per cent increase from the previous year. Libraries also hosted 2178 programs attended by more than 80,000 community members, supporting people from early childhood through to older age.

Libraries have strengthened their commitment to inclusion through partnerships with Sunshine Sign and Sing, First 5 Forever, and Council's Parks and Gardens team. Through the partnership, ten communication boards were developed for a younger audience and individuals with communication difficulties, and installed in local parks, creating more inclusive public spaces.

Each communication board features Key Word Sign (KWS) – a system that adds signs to spoken words, borrowing from Auslan, to support understanding and expression. QR codes link to demonstration videos, helping families learn and use signs confidently. Library staff also incorporate KWS into Rhymetime sessions, making early literacy programs more accessible and engaging. One attendee shared that she felt "encouraged by the initiative and hopeful to see more like it in the community".

This year, libraries introduced Cerge, a digital concierge tool that enhances accessibility for people with disability across all library branches. The Cerge app provides a series of accessible tools so people can "know before they go" and understand venue accessibility ahead of time, as well as notify of specific service preferences – ensuring everyone feels welcome and supported.

The Languages Other Than English (LOTE) collection was expanded and made more visible through dual-language signage, resulting in a 37 per cent increase in loans, and the Weekly Conversation Circles and literacy classes continue to provide safe, welcoming spaces for people to connect, practice English, and build confidence.

Sunshine Coast Libraries continue to champion connection and inclusion – empowering individuals of all ages and backgrounds to learn, grow, and thrive.

Building an inclusive legacy for Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games

As part of the preparations for the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games, two major venues will be delivered on the Sunshine Coast: the upgraded Sunshine Coast Stadium and a new Mountain Bike Centre at Parklands. In partnership with all tiers of government and key stakeholders, the venue upgrades are being redesigned and delivered with inclusion, accessibility, and long-term community benefit at their core.

The Sunshine Coast Stadium currently has limited accessibility and does not fully support inclusive event experiences. Planned venue upgrade improvements include increased seating capacity, enhanced facilities for athletes and officials, multi-purpose community spaces, and universal amenities for people of all abilities. The planned upgrades will transform the Stadium into a world-class, accessible venue that meets growing demand and attracts national and international events, bringing economic and social opportunities to the region.

The new Mountain Bike Centre, co-located with the Parklands trail network, offers a key legacy opportunity creating a network of adventure experiences across the region. The site will provide recreational and commercial opportunities beyond Brisbane 2032 and provides for an accessible, inclusive facility which will diversify sport and recreation opportunities for people with disability. The venue also provides an opportunity for the celebration and sharing of Kabi Kabi culture, language and stories.





New and upgraded community places and spaces

Namba Meeting Place opened its doors to the community in February 2025. A new community space for hire in the heart of Nambour, was part of the upgrades to Council's Eddie De Vere building. Namba Meeting Place is now a versatile and accessible space for small community events, meetings and workshops. The name 'Namba' acknowledges the area's rich First Nations history, referring to the red-flowering tea-tree. The upgrade is part of Council's broader vision to revitalise the Nambour administration precinct into a vibrant, community-centred hub.

The **Kawana Aquatic Centre** has undergone a $14 million upgrade, supported by $938,000 from the Federal Government, enhancing its role as a key sporting and wellness hub on the Sunshine Coast. The upgrades include a new 20-metre, five lane enclosed pool, modern changerooms, expanded amenities, offices, cafes, picnic area and additional car parking. The improvements also include a Changing Places facility for people with high support needs and their carers, reinforcing the centre's commitment to accessibility and inclusion. As part of the broader Kawana Sports Precinct, the centre continues to support community wellbeing, elite training, and recreational activities, while strengthening the region's reputation as a premier destination for sport and leisure.

A **new pump track** at Forestwood Drive Park, Buderim was finished in mid-June after weather delays. The design has a focus on beginner and intermediate riders and offers a space and experience that encourages families and friends to come together, stay active and enjoy the outdoors.

The location and concept design were shaped by our community, who were invited to have their say on the park's design and outcomes. The design of the pump track and surrounds, including buffer planting and barriers, more seating and shade trees is reflective of community feedback received, and the delivery of the facility is responsive to the desire for more diverse and informal sport opportunities for teenagers and young adults in the area.

Leading the way in active and accessible transport

The Sunshine Coast's **RideScore Active Schools program** was spotlighted in the international Journal of Transport and Health in October 2024, setting a new global benchmark for active school travel. Over just four months in terms 1 and 2 2022, the pilot program achieved a 55 per cent increase in bike and scooter trips to school – a result that outpaces similar programs across Australia and internationally. The success of the program has been attributed to easing parents' concerns about independent travel through automated arrival and departure messages via a dedicated app, while also motivating students with gamified incentives, competitions, and leaderboards.

This success is supported by the region's growing network of off-road cycleways, on-road bike lanes, shared pathways and accessible bus routes, making it easier and safer for students to choose active travel. Overall, the program continues to make a positive impact, with 1516 students participating in the program this past year and 189,858km travelled between January to June 2025.

Council has refreshed and enhanced its promotional strategy towards the **Council Link community transport service**, to better connect residents with essential services. The updated marketing and communications plan now includes a wider mix of platforms: digital media, print, and social channels, expanded outreach to key locations and regional publications, and a new six-monthly review process to keep the strategy responsive and effective. Improved promotion and communications enable people to stay informed of additional services such as the expansion to Banya and Nirimba. These enhancements reflect Council's commitment to ensuring our community are aware of the services available to them, while elevating inclusive, accessible transport options for all residents.

New doors open for affordable housing

Council is building 22 homes on the Coast across 11 sites in Marcoola. The project, supported by the Queensland Government's $2 billion Housing Investment Fund, delivers three-bedroom and two-bedroom homes and one-bedroom secondary dwellings, that were prefabricated. These homes will be affordable and rented at 75 per cent of market rent for eligible low-income households and are suitable for singles, couples and small family households. The first eight dwellings are completed and tenanted, providing access to secure housing for key workers. The rental arrangements are being managed by Coast2Bay Housing Group.

Council continues to advocate for increased investment in social and affordable housing from the Federal and State governments.

Transforming the way we understand and respond to homelessness

Council continues to adopt a considered, supportive and compassionate approach to homelessness.

The Street Up initiative was launched during Homelessness Week in August 2024. Street Up emerged from the 2023–2024 Lived Experience Inclusion Project. This initiative aims to amplify and elevate the voices of people with lived or living experience of homelessness, and through this to raise awareness and contribute to shaping policies and responses that address homelessness. An evaluation of the Street Up program by UniSC identified three key outcomes: increased empowerment, strengthened community networks and effective and policy influence. Personal stories have helped shift public perceptions, with the 2024 Lived Experience team supporting Council to develop an educational video and training session to raise awareness and foster community participation in responding to homelessness.

Council continues to support community-led initiatives, such as Better Together Housing, transitional housing programs, and has assisted the Maroochy Neighbourhood Centre to provide training to volunteers to support the Sunshine Coast Sleeper Bus.

Council has strengthened its place-based approach to supporting people experiencing homelessness in public space through the newly recruited Public Space Liaison Officer (PSLO). The PSLO brings a trauma informed and relational approach in supporting people to meet basic needs and connect with services.

Council partnered with community centres and organisations to supply tents, resources and support for people experiencing homelessness during Cyclone Alfred. Amenity passes for free showers continue to be made available for nine Council Aquatic Centres through community centres, libraries and outreach services.

In May 2025, Council supported the community-led initiative to improve the safety and amenity of public space in Nambour, with a coordinated clean-up of the park. The project was led by a community partner, alongside people with living and lived experience of homelessness to create a safer, cleaner and more welcoming space. A monthly clean-up of the park is now ongoing, led by community partners working with volunteers, to maintain public spaces for all members of our community.

A number of Council's senior executive staff again participated in the annual Vinnies CEO Sleepout in June to raise awareness and funds to respond to homelessness on the Sunshine Coast.

Outcome three





My story

Inclusive communities

Walters' story – inclusion is a necessity

> "Talking about racism matters. Naming it matters."

My name is Walters. I first came to the Sunshine Coast from Europe in 2010. I moved here permanently in 2013, when our first child was born. The Sunshine Coast has been home – a place I love, and a place where I've come to understand just how important inclusion and cultural safety really are.

I became involved in the Shine a Light on Racism (SALOR) campaign through my role in the Sunshine Coast Multicultural Advisory Group (MAG). MAG envisioned a campaign to confront the growing issue of racism in our region. When I came on board, I brought urgency to the table. Not because of data – but because I had lived it.

At one point in my journey, I experienced racism at work. I raised my concerns quietly through internal channels, only to become the target of retaliation. I lost my job. My young son, just starting kindergarten, was being isolated and subjected to racial abuse by classmates. I was angry. I wanted change.

Instead of reacting in frustration, I decided to lead with awareness. I visited my son's class and brought in a bunch of leaves, all different shapes, sizes, and colours. We spoke about how, despite their differences, they were all leaves. The kids were fascinated. Something shifted. My son went from being excluded to being embraced. Kids wanted to be his friend. That simple act of awareness created transformation.

That's the spirit I brought into the SALOR campaign. SALOR is about calling out racism.It's about creating awareness, building empathy, and giving people the language and courage to speak up. I'm incredibly grateful we are finally talking about racism openly.

Talking about racism matters. Naming it matters. It gives strength to the dozens of people in our communities who suffer in silence. Not everyone has the courage or the platform to speak up, but campaigns like SALOR make space for all of us.

Racism doesn't just harm individuals, it weakens our whole community. Imagine a Sunshine Coast that feels unwelcoming to newcomers. How can we thrive if our doctors, teachers, essential workers, many from diverse backgrounds, feel excluded? Racism undermines our health system, economy, and our social fabric.

If there's one thing, I hope you take away from my story, it's this: inclusion is not a favour, it's a necessity. It strengthens us all. When we listen, when we make space for others, when we speak up, our whole community becomes better, safer, and more resilient.

Outcome three: Inclusive communities



Advancing reconciliation through meaningful connections

This year, Council reinforced its longstanding commitment to reconciliation, advancing toward a Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP). At a 'Stretch' level, the plan aims to further embed reconciliation into business-as-usual through long-term strategies, high impact commitments and measurable targets and goals. The drafting of the RAP was informed by extensive feedback from Council officers, stakeholders and First Nations community partners. Endorsement will position Council as a leader in reconciliation, being recognised among the top organisations nationally. Throughout development of the new RAP, Council continued to deliver actions to embed reconciliation across our organisation and community.

The **First Nations Community Advisory Group** was formed in June 2024 to support greater engagement with the First Nations community. Made up of 10 local First Nations community members, the group worked alongside Council to help guide development of the Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan and share perspective, cultural advice and knowledge to Council on key initiatives impacting First Nations communities.

During **National Reconciliation Week** (27 May – 3 June) organisations, schools, community groups, and workplaces across the Sunshine Coast came together to explore how everyone could contribute to reconciliation in Australia. The regional calendar featured a wide range of events, including art exhibitions, film screenings, First Nations markets, and the annual Aunty Betty Memorial Reconciliation Walk, held on 28 May 2025, to honour the legacy of Elder Aunty Betty McMahon.

The **Biosphere Community Awards** in June 2025 saw a record number of 12 nominations from First Nations community groups, organisations and individuals with Kabi Kabi Elder Uncle Lyndon Davis winning the Creative Arts Award. The awards were an inclusive and vibrant showcase of community leadership in the region.

Council's partnership with **GATHAA First Nations Markets** supported the delivery of 11 markets with a collective 50 First Nations stall holders, creatives and knowledge holders participating between May 2024 and May 2025. The markets aim to support local First Nations enterprise, cultural exchange, and connection to create a community that embraces First Nations culture.

First Nations participation in the **Community Grants Program** increased, with nine applications received for the March 2025 major grants round, increasing from an annual average of five. Council continues to work to remove barriers for First Nations groups and organisations and provide support where needed to organisations accessing funding programs.

Council hosted the fourth annual **First Nations Supplier Day** on 24 October 2024 at Altitude Nine, in celebration of Indigenous Business Month. The event celebrated the local First Nations economy, bringing together 35 First Nations businesses, industry representatives, and local buyers to connect and create opportunities.

Disability inclusion

Council continues to deliver key actions from the All Abilities Action Plan, working towards a more inclusive Sunshine Coast for people with disability. Some notable activities included:

- Participation in Spinal Life's **Realistic Race** on 18 October 2024, improving understanding and awareness of the challenges and barriers faced by people with disability.
- **FUNctional Market Day** provided inclusive fun for everyone on 30 November 2024 at Millwell Road Community Centre with arts, crafts, workshops and live entertainment.
- On 7 October 2024, the **Fair Day Out** annual event at the Eumundi Markets showcased the artistic talent of people with disability to the wider Sunshine Coast community.
- A new partnership with **Dementia Australia** is driving progress towards becoming a dementia-friendly region.
- Council joined the **Hidden Disabilities Sunflower** initiative in December 2024 to make public spaces more inclusive for people with non-visible disabilities. To date, 80 per cent of Council's frontline staff have completed the required training, and several Council facilities are listed on the Sunflower Ready website to enhance public visibility and awareness.
- Improved digital accessibility tools: **Cérge** and **Mobility Maps** continued to extend their reach, with Cérge technology now active at approximately 30 Council venues, working to improve companion technologies (sensory and audio guides and virtual tours) to help make Council websites and facilities more accessible.
- **Auslan beginner training** was delivered for 50 participants from Council and the tourism sector, supporting preparations for hosting of the 2026 Deaf Games.
- Council's **Have Your Say Sunshine Coast** platform now has a new accessibility widget, making it easier for all of our community to access, navigate the site and have their say on matters that are important to them. Users with visual, hearing or mobility impairments now have the ability to customise the site to their needs.

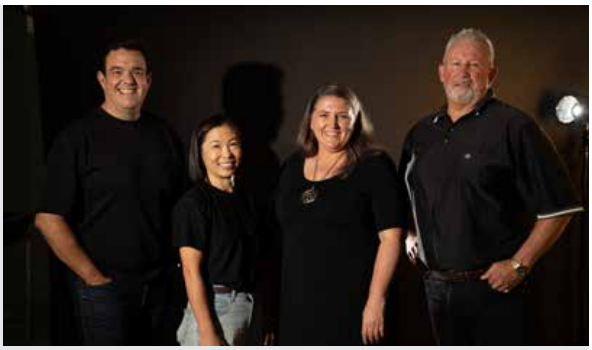
This past year, the Sunshine Coast has also celebrated inclusivity and accessibility with two free **All Access Days** – one event on the beach and the other in the park.

All Access Day at the Beach took place on 9 November 2024 at Dicky Beach. With the support of Dicky Beach Surf Lifesaving Club, the event celebrated diversity and inclusivity while promoting awareness of accessibility to the beach for everyone. 'Dicky Beach has Talent' was the highlight of the day with around 15 participants taking part and showcasing their talents. Beach wheelchairs were in high demand, while others enjoyed a round of seated bocce, face painting, and a performance from the Sorrell Disability Dance Group.

Following the success of the All Access beach event, Council hosted the All Access Day in the Park at Kings Beach on 4 May 2025. Over 300 people enjoyed performances from Stage Ability and NAYLIS, a silent disco, silent Karaoke, as well as a sausage sizzle provided by Currimundi Special school and market stalls from a range of community providers.



Outcome three: Inclusive communities



Working Towards Welcome

Council continues to advance its commitment to inclusion as a member of Welcoming Cities, supporting social, cultural, civic, and economic participation across the region. These efforts align with broader strategies to strengthen workforce participation and build employer readiness for a culturally diverse community.

In partnership with Nambour Community Centre, Council delivered a Disaster Preparedness Program to build community resilience. The program featured Council's disaster recovery team and Emergency Services, enhancing understanding of disaster response and recovery.

Harmony Week 2025 celebrated multicultural communities under the theme 'Everyone Belongs on the Sunshine Coast'. Events included a Conversation Circle at Caloundra Library, creative workshops, and the Sunshine Coast Business Table Tennis Championships, fostering connection and inclusion.

The Sunshine Coast Multicultural Advisory Group (MAG) continued to advise Council on multicultural policy and planning, including participation in a workshop with Brisbane 2032 to commence development of a Vision Statement for the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games, ensuring diverse input into major event planning. We also welcomed blessings from Muslim, Zen Buddhist, Bahá'í, and Hindu faiths at Ordinary Meetings, reflecting the region's spiritual diversity.

Council partnered to deliver the Multicultural Job and Business Expo, attracting over 250 job seekers and showcasing inclusive workplaces. An Employer Peer Network was established to support diversity in local businesses. Council also launched a mentor and internship program for migrant job seekers and opened expressions of interest for the Migrant Business Ready Scholarship to support migrant-led small businesses.

Shine a Light on Racism

Council launched phase two of the Shine a Light on Racism (SALOR) campaign in February 2025, building on the success of its initial phase in 2023. The campaign encourages individuals to take personal responsibility for understanding and addressing racism, promoting active anti-racism through education and action.

Phase two expanded the focus to businesses, organisations, and community groups, calling for improved diversity and inclusion practices, workforce training, and the celebration of cultural diversity.

Ten community Patrons, representing sport, business, and lived experience, support the campaign by sharing their messages in the campaign video and encouraging others to pledge their commitment online.

The campaign promotes three key actions: **Pledge** support for inclusion and to be actively anti-racist, **Learn** through resources and training, and **Celebrate** culture through respectful participation in events.

The campaign reinforces that being anti-racist is not a passive label but an ongoing commitment. It requires individuals and organisations to show up, take action, continue learning, and challenge discriminatory behaviour – even when it is uncomfortable. By focusing on learning and action rather than blame, Shine a Light on Racism empowers the community to engage constructively and meaningfully in anti-racism efforts, fostering a more inclusive and respectful Sunshine Coast.

The **SALOR video** was developed to highlight how the Sunshine Coast can pledge to fight racism, create safe spaces, stand up for diversity, and celebrate unique community.



Young Leaders Academy – building community leaders of the future

The Sunshine Coast Young Leaders Academy was delivered for the first time in 2024 and comprised of eight young people aged from 16 to 25 years. The Young Leaders Academy equips participants with key leadership skills and a strong foundation in participatory and community leadership practices, empowering them to lead sustainable, positive change in their communities.

The first Young Leaders group graduated in November 2024, and shared how they appreciated learning about leadership, active listening, being present, understanding community and working collaboratively. Throughout the year, young leaders shared their lived experience insights and views through participation in reference groups, interviews and panels, and supported the delivery of events including Youth Week and National Reconciliation Week.

The 2025 Young Leaders Academy commenced in January 2025, with nine new young Sunshine Coast locals joining the year-long program. Their initial focus has been in co-designing and co-facilitating the engagement program to shape a new Sunshine Coast Youth Plan.

Working with our Young Leaders Academy to shape a new Youth Plan

Council has been collaborating with the Young Leaders Academy and engaging young people (aged 12 to 24 years) across the Sunshine Coast to develop a new Youth Plan. The plan will help guide actions to improve the lives of young people in our region over the next five years.

On 28 May 2025, a Youth Forum, co-hosted by Council and the Young Leaders Academy, was held at Venue 114. Young people from across the region were able to participate, with a primary focus on attendance from high school students. In total, 85 young people attended, including representatives from 14 schools. The Youth Forum used a variety of participatory engagement methods to ensure young people felt safe and able to participate. A lived-experience panel with members of the Young Leaders Academy started the day, followed by discussions about young people's vision for the future, including what needs to change and what action needs to be taken to achieve the vision.

Phase 1 of the Youth Plan community engagement program commenced on 2 June 2025, and for six weeks Council and members of the Young Leaders Academy heard from young people about what they like about living on the Sunshine Coast and what needs to change. With an array of opportunities to get involved, there were 582 young people who completed the online survey, 450 young people who participated in pop-ups, and 85 young people attended the Youth Forum.

Approximately 1100 young people aged 12-24 years contributed to the project, providing a strong foundation for the Youth Plan to be built upon the voices of young people and their priorities.

Outcome three: Inclusive communities

Gifting time to support our communities and our region

Volunteering is an essential contributor to the social, economic and environmental wellbeing of our region. On the Sunshine Coast, volunteers generously offer up their time to support the community in many ways. To shine a spotlight on some of the region's volunteering initiatives and giving community members, there are:

- 175 Recreational Trail Partnerships volunteers
- 206 Environmental Visitor Centre volunteers
- 215 Parks volunteers contributing over 1100 hours
- 256 TurtleCare volunteers
- 219 NatureWatch volunteers
- 902 Beach Clean Up volunteers
- 1385 BushCare volunteers
- nearly 30,000 volunteers who support the delivery of events, activities and programs
- an average of 175 Library volunteers per month contributing almost 14,000 hours

TurtleCare Sunshine Coast is a shining example of community in action, celebrating its 20-year anniversary in 2025. What began as a small group of passionate locals monitoring turtle nests has grown into a thriving community of dedicated volunteers who have protected thousands of hatchlings, relocated nests to safer areas, and responded to environmental disasters. Since 2007, the program has partnered with the Queensland Government's Turtle Conservation Project, contributing valuable data and supporting long-term research. TurtleCare has influenced national conservation policies and the annual Clean Up for the Hatchlings, which focuses on removing litter on beaches before hatchlings emerge, is now in its eleventh year. With six founding volunteers still active and thousands engaged through education and events, TurtleCare proves that grassroots action can drive lasting environmental impact.

During National Volunteer Week in May 2025, Council celebrated the theme 'Connecting Communities' by showcasing the inspiring work of local volunteers through short **video interviews** at community halls. These stories highlighted how volunteering strengthens social bonds and supports vibrant, connected neighbourhoods. To build on this momentum, Council formed an internal working group to boost volunteer engagement through targeted communications, both within the organisation and across the wider community.

Hearing from the diverse voices in our community

Our community continued to have their say on matters important to them. Council runs regular community engagement activities on a wide range of projects including in-person activities such as community pop-ups and using the **Have Your Say Sunshine Coast** online platform. The platform now has over 15,000 subscribers with a growth of 10 per cent in the past six months. This past year has seen nearly 9000 submissions being made on the Have Your say engagement platform across 29 projects.

Further to this, Council is actively seeking more input from our community, especially the voices we haven't always been able to hear. To do this, Council is establishing its first **Sunshine Coast Citizens' Panel** – a group of community members who come together to learn, deliberate and advise on the big challenges for our region. The panel will serve as an additional mode of community input and advice into Council decision making, complementing and building upon existing engagement activities.

Outcome four





My story

Connected, resilient communities

Adam's story – don't stand by, stand up

> "As a community we do not have to tolerate violence and abuse"

My name is Adam. I have lived on the Sunshine Coast for the past 7 years. Our family relocated form Port Macquarie in NSW after holidaying in the region for many years. I particularly love the beaches and going surfing the across the Sunshine Coast region.

Every year domestic violence services across Australia hold a candle lighting vigil to remember those who have lost their lives due to domestic and family violence in the past 12 months. Since 2006, Centacare has been facilitating the annual Sunshine Coast Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month Candlelight Vigil on the first Wednesday in May. Council has been a key partner and supporter of this event for many years.

As the Area Manager for Centacare on the Sunshine Coast, I am involved in overseeing the event and ensuring everything goes to plan. I could not do this without the partnership and support of Council and its dedicated teams. It has been one of the highlights of my role to see the vigil grow in attendance and significance each year and to strengthen our relationships with community and local stakeholders.

This year's theme, 'Don't Stand By, Stand Up,' called on the community to actively take a stand against domestic and family violence, emphasising the need for collective action and support at a local level. Over 300 community members attended, and the level of community participation and engagement has been extremely powerful. Many attendees have a lived experience of domestic and family violence, and some have come to honour loved ones who have lost their lives to violence. Receiving feedback that we have managed to hold an event that is impactful and educational whilst also remaining focused and respectful is really important and rewarding.

Not all disrespect towards women results in violence. But all violence against women starts with disrespectful behaviour. As a community we do not have to tolerate violence and abuse, there are many people who are willing to take a stand against it. Providing opportunities for the community to safely and respectfully gather and show support helps victims to know they are not alone. It is also a powerful way to message the small things that we each can do to positively influence the people around us, and address language and behaviours of concern.

Outcome four: Connected, resilient communities



Grassroots resilience building in action

From Kenilworth to Maleny, residents are stepping up to lead resilience efforts. The We Recover Better Together project was jointly delivered by Community Praxis and Council through the Community Recovery Resilience Officer Program. Funded by both State and Federal governments, the project aimed to help local communities prepare for better recovery after the 2022 floods. Initially scheduled from June 2023 to June 2024 for the Glass House Mountains, Beerwah, Landsborough, Mooloolah Valley and Eudlo areas, the project was extended until March 2025 due to its success, allowing it to also be delivered in Maleny and Kenilworth.

On 11 December 2024, an overview of the project outcomes was presented to Council's Local Disaster Management team. Community partner Community Praxis and Eudlo residents, alongside Council's Community Development team, shared that by taking a participatory community development approach to recovery, there were significant benefits for the community. This included:

- community members could better express what they need for recovery
- strengthened widespread connections with diverse community members and local relationships between neighbours, groups and businesses to better support one another through disaster
- increased capacity and capability through workshops such as the Building Better Communities course, Community Connectors course, household and business preparedness, Person Centred Emergency Planning, First Aid and CPR, psychological preparedness, trauma-informed care, and riparian land management
- raised awareness of what supports could be made available for disaster recovery
- opportunities for community members to share and reflect on experiences and learnings from past disasters
- strengthened working relationships between community and other key disaster management stakeholders.

Building better communities

Council's partnership with Community Praxis also led to the development of a new training collective, seeking to expand access to the Building Better Communities program. This initiative equips local facilitators to deliver community leadership training, enabling community members to identify strengths, build relationships, and address shared challenges in their local communities. The program promotes sustainable, community-led solutions and strengthens local capacity for change.

Looking out for each other: Ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred

On 9 March 2025, Ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred brought destructive winds and heavy rainfall to the Sunshine Coast, causing widespread flooding in the towns of Nambour, Eudlo and other locations in the region. The severe weather led to road closures and extensive damage to homes and businesses, with Nambour's commercial precinct hit hardest – facing inundation, supply chain disruptions, infrastructure damage, and temporary closures.

Council swiftly activated three Places of Refuge at Nambour Showgrounds, Caloundra Indoor Stadium, and Landsborough Sporting Complex, with local human and social support teams assisting displaced residents.

To coordinate the region's recovery, Council activated its Local Recovery Group, which worked closely with the State Government Recovery Team to provide targeted support, including Disaster Recovery Funding for vulnerable residents and business owners. Council ensured timely communication of recovery updates, while Volunteering Sunshine Coast partnered with the Local Recovery Group to assist in the flood clean-up effort, helping restore affected communities and businesses.





Standing up: Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month highlights

Domestic and Family Violence (DFV) Prevention Month, was marked in May with a powerful series of events and initiatives delivered across the Sunshine Coast, aimed at raising awareness and inspiring action. Across the month, Council contributed to the distribution of over 4000 purple awareness ribbons throughout the community, symbolising solidarity with and support for people affected by DFV. On 7 May 2025, over 300 people gathered in Maroochydore for the 12th annual march and candlelight vigil, united under the theme 'Don't stand by, stand up' – a call for collective responsibility in seeking to end DFV.

Council supported a range of initiatives to strengthen community engagement and raise awareness of domestic and family violence. A corporate volunteering opportunity was facilitated with local charity DV Safe Phone, which collects, repurposes and distributes free mobile phones to victims of DFV through registered agencies. A series of Community Conversations were held across several libraries in the region in partnership with IFYS and Centacare. The conversations offered residents a safe and welcoming space to connect with Council staff and DFV services to access information regarding local supports.

Involvement in the Sunshine Coast Lightning DFV awareness game, helped bring wider attention to prevention of DFV by leveraging the visibility and influence of the team and its players. Council also supported Red Bench unveilings during the month, with these permanent reminders of the impact of DFV helping to spark important conversations and increase visibility of local services.

Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month culminated with the Stand Together event on 26 May 2025 at Altitude Nine, where community and industry experts shared insights into Queensland's new coercive control laws and explored preventative measures that contribute to safer communities.

Engaging men in the conversation

Council continued to partner with community men's groups to explore the role of men in preventing violence. In November 2024, Council co-hosted the powerful She's Not your Rehab event with IFYS and other community partners. Personal experiences and stories of overcoming intergenerational trauma were shared in a raw and authentic session. The event focused on building understanding, encouraging positive male engagement, and supporting perpetrators and survivors of DFV to heal through group counselling. The event brought together our community with a shared resolve to end gender-based violence.

Seeds of Hope

The 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence is an annual global campaign, led by UN Women. Each year, the campaign runs from 25 November to 10 December and calls for the prevention and elimination of violence against women and girls. As part of this important initiative, Council staff and community members gathered on 4 December 2024 for the Seeds of Hope tree planting event.

The event saw the planting of 500 native trees, shrubs, and groundcovers at Point Cartwright Reserve, enhancing habitat for local wildlife and leaving a meaningful legacy for the Sunshine Coast community. The act of planting served as a powerful reminder of the importance of looking after both our natural surroundings and the wellbeing of people in our communities.


Outcome five



My story

Creative, innovative communities

Jennifer's story – Scene through the Screen

> "I think that much can be gained through the space of cultural creativity."

I am a mum, wife, aunty, daughter, granddaughter, sister, cousin, niece and friend. My name is Jennifer Kent and I am an arts practitioner in the Ministry of Reconciliation. I have a sovereign family ancestral connection to the Sunshine Coast region through my Grandmother and I am very fortunate to be blessed with gifts of creativity and a talented family heritage.

I was invited by Elder Jason Murphy who I met through a Butterfly Workshop at Mary Cairncross, to be a part of Scene through the Screen. And of course I accepted, as I wasn't going to forgo such an opportunity to work with renowned artists like Jason and Enid Morris.

'Scene Through the Screen' is a visual art exhibition commission for Horizon 2025 through Council's MadeSC program and curated by Jason Murphy. It is a declaration of the significance of connection to Country that Jinibara creatives embody – an offering of deeply embedded practice, showcasing that culture is alive and evolving and that, in this aliveness, we find culture, truth and thriving arts and cultural practices.

Being a part of this program, there's been many different impacts. Not only do I now know how to screen print, but I have managed to make profits to grow my small business and even teach others how to screen print as well.

I have also helped raise awareness around environmental impacts with the endangered Richmond Birdwing Butterfly and brought education around some cultural subjects.

I also made valuable social connections and some incredible events happened during the process that can only be described as divine, and which had a profound impact on my personal life.

I really love helping people to gain knowledge and better themselves. My hope was that people walk away from the exhibition feeling inspired to have that little bit more knowledge about what they can do for our country and our environment – whether that's planting a vine and helping endangered species like a butterfly, because you never know what a difference one vine can make for one butterfly.

I think that much can be gained through the space of cultural creativity, especially when it comes to raising cultural safety and awareness standards in preserving the environment and the people who live here for future sustainability. By being creative in how we care for people, animals, forests, rivers, beaches and the city, we can ensure the environment thrives well into the future for the sake of the planets (djarra) health and the environment our children's children will inherit.

Outcome five: Creative, innovative communities



Keeping the fire burning

Throughout July, the Sunshine Coast came alive with a rich program of events celebrating NAIDOC Week 2024. The 2024 theme, 'Keep the Fire Burning – Blak, Loud and Proud' honoured the enduring strength and vitality of First Nations culture, with fire symbolic of connection to Country, each other and the rich tapestry of traditions that define Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island peoples.

The celebrations began with a Bushland Holiday Program on 4 July 2024, where children aged 10 and over joined Kabi Kabi Traditional Custodian Brianna Hanson for a Wayapa Wuurrk experience at the Maroochy Regional Bushland Botanic Garden. This earth connection practice, rooted in ancient Indigenous wisdom, encouraged participants to reflect on wellbeing through caring for the Earth.

On 8 July, Caloundra Health Service hosted a NAIDOC celebration, followed by a Yarnup session with Aunty Jude Hammond at Caloundra Regional Gallery. Attendees gained insights into the Contemporary Songlines exhibition and its vision for empowering First Nations youth.

The week continued with Council's official NAIDOC Flag Raising Ceremony on 10 July, at Nambour Library Forecourt, featuring traditional performances by Gubbi Gubbi Dance and stories from some inspiring young leaders talking to theme Blak, Loud and Proud.

Interactive and educational experiences ran throughout the week, including the Dyungungoo digital immersive journey at Bankfoot House, a self-guided bark canoe tour at Landsborough Museum, and Jinibara digital stories screened at City Hall. These installations offered engaging ways for the public to connect with First Nations history and storytelling.

Council partnered with the GATHAA Markets, a First Nations community led market showcasing First Nations artisans and entrepreneurs on the Sunshine Coast, to hold a market at Forest Glen Village on 28 July 2024. The market included performances, bushfood tastings, workshops, and artisan stalls.

Our libraries and galleries hosted cultural workshops during August 2024, including Coolamon-making sessions led by Aunty Jude Hammond and Aunty Leighanne. Libraries also distributed limited edition library cards featuring artwork by Kabi Kabi artists.

On 19 October 2024, Council supported Wan'Diny NAIDOC to deliver the annual NAIDOC Family Fun Day October at Black Swan Park, Cotton Tree. It was a day of cultural celebration for all ages.

Online resources also remain available, including video interviews with local First Nations people and a digital map of First Nations place names, ensuring the spirit of NAIDOC continues to inspire and educate.

Community spirit shines in collaborative creative project

The Buddina Ocean Chair, a stunning mosaic mural spanning approximately 18 square metres, is the culmination of a year-long creative collaboration involving more than 400 collaborators and 20,000 handmade tiles. The Ocean Chair was unveiled to the community on 13 June 2025 and its design creates an opportunity for locals and tourists to gain a deeper understanding of our First Nations cultural history and learn about our local ecology.

The ocean chair, adjacent to Beach Access 229 in Buddina, includes sound files which can be listened to via Council's website. There are 16 poems written by Year 6 students covering four different themes: First Nations culture and history, Turtle Care, marine and dune conservation, and beach safety. The audio also includes a guided meditation by Kabi Kabi leader and Loreman Mack Muckan. Language tiles are also featured within the mosaic design with 16 different Kabi Kabi words visitors can learn.

The mosaic tiles were hand made by supported artists, professional sculptors and 330 students from Buddina State schools. The tiles featuring animals and plants endemic to the region are not only beautiful but also educate and inspire connection to the local environment.





Celebrating our sea, land and mountains

The Sunshine Coast is known for our strong connection to our environment, from the coast to the hinterland. This enduring relationship was celebrated through the exhibition 'From the sea, the land and the mountains', works by Kabi Kabi and Jinibara artists, which showcased First Nations art across the traditional lands of the Kabi Kabi (Gubbi Gubbi) and Jinibara peoples. Artists Kane Brunjes and Zartisha Davis shared powerful stories of culture, identity, and Country, honouring Elders and ancestors through their work.

The exhibition featured a striking series of screen prints titled Scene Through the Screen by Jinibara artists, inspired by local plant species, wildlife, cultural symbols, and the connection between land, health, and story. Curated by Jason Murphy, the prints were displayed on tea towels – an everyday item chosen to reflect how art and activism could be woven into daily life. Jason aimed to prompt viewers to reflect on their relationship with Country and their role in caring for the land. The exhibition also included works by artists such as Uncle Noel Blair, Jennifer Kent, Enid Morris, and Jason Murphy, each contributing unique perspectives and creative expressions. The launch event on 12 June 2025 featured live music by First Nations musician Lea Sanson, with the exhibition running from June 13 to 3 August.

Culture at Caloundra's Gateway

The long-vacant Information Centre at Caloundra has been reborn as The Hope Dreaming Centre, opening its doors to the public on 17 June 2025.

Led by Kabi Kabi cultural leaders, Kerry Neill and Dr Aunty Hope O'Chin, the centre is a hub for local tourism, cultural exchange and community connection. Visitors can find local information, purchase First Nations products and art, browse the dedicated gallery space and grab a bite to eat and a coffee.

As the centre continues to grow, it will also launch First Nations-led local tours, offering immersive experiences that connect visitors with the land, stories, and traditions of our region.

Supporting our local artists

MadeSC is a six-month creative and professional development program designed to support independent artists, creative businesses and arts organisations across the Sunshine Coast, strengthening practice and foster industry connections. The new Council program was established in July 2024 and delivered in collaboration with the local creative sector. Bespoke residencies were facilitated in partnership with independent spaces and businesses to provide space for artists to work and develop their practice.

Since its launch, MadeSC has supported more than 250 artists through residences, project funding and professional development. This includes nine major works for Horizon 2025, now being developed into sustainable touring models. In 2024-25, MadeSC delivered 12 residences with public showings, a one-day Lab for 18 participants and Horizon projects that reached over 12,000 people.

Council continued its support of the Refinery Creative Incubator, supported through the Levy Program. Commencing in June 2024 through to September 2025, nine artists and creative businesses were selected to participate in the intensive 10-week program designed to turn creative ideas into sustainable businesses. The program is delivered by peak body, Sunshine Creative Alliance.

Outcome five: Creative, innovative communities

Celebrating our unique heritage

Council has worked to strengthen our regional museums and heritage organisations through expert support, strategic partnerships, and targeted programs. Over 270 participants benefited from workshops and consultations focused on volunteer engagement, marketing, and museum operations. In collaboration with Museums and Galleries Queensland and the Queensland Museum, Council delivered government-funded training in collection management, mental health, and disaster preparedness. More than $175,000 in grants supported 25 heritage projects, while refreshed marketing, including the Heritage Discovery Guide and seasonal campaigns, boosted public engagement, with 750 guides distributed monthly across the region.

The Historian in Residence program delivered new research by professional historians with fascinating topics revealing insights into the region's history, including Dr Martina Muller 'Iconic Pubs that shaped the Sunshine Coast' and Dr Kate Kirby 'Bounce, sprint and spirit: three stories of Sunshine Coast sport history.'

The digitisation of the collection of local photographer Bill Robinson, held by the Heritage Library, was completed and is now online. This significant collection of over 20,000 photographs documents the Sunshine Coast's cultural and social history, and important aspects of the natural and built environment, from the 1950s through to Bill's retirement in 1984.

To celebrate the Australian Heritage Festival during April and May 2025, Council held two major community events.

- The First Nations Family Fun Day was celebrated at Bankfoot House on 12 April 2025, with the event showcasing First Nations culture and offering a range of cultural learning programs and activities. The event was delivered in partnership with GATHAA First Nations Markets, supporting 18 local businesses and attracting 557 attendees.
- The Landsborough Street Festival held on 17 May 2025, brought the community together to celebrate the relaunch of the Museum with a vibrant mix of live music, classic cars, and family-friendly fun. The festival was a celebration of the region's rich heritage, engaging all ages and cultures in a lively, inclusive atmosphere.

Inside the Landsborough Museum, the festivities continued with the launch of 'Bounce – Grassroots to Glory', a new exhibition exploring the Sunshine Coast's sporting history. Part of the ongoing Grassroots to Glory series leading up to the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games, this year's exhibition celebrated the region's passion for ball sports – from backyard games to international glory. Curated with contributions from the local sporting community, the exhibition showcased personal stories and memorabilia that captured pivotal moments, community spirit, and innovation in sport.

All of these programs were supported by the Arts and Heritage Levy, inviting everyone to reflect on the region's unique past while enjoying community celebrations.

It's a wrap: Horizon 2025

Horizon took a break in 2024 to ensure a better spread of cultural offerings. The 10-day multi-arts showcase is normally celebrated in August, which coincided with a busy calendar of arts and cultural offerings. This year Horizon 2025 was moved to the quieter period of 2 May to 11 May 2025 to enable greatest coordination and participation. The opening weekend happened over Labour Day weekend, allowing more people to come and enjoy the festival.

The festival was attended by 20,186 people who attended 211 events and activities across 10 locations, with 89 per cent rating their experience as good to excellent. These events featured 557 artists/arts workers, of which 428 were Sunshine Coast-based and 155 were First Nations.

Horizon attracted over 30 per cent of attendees from outside the region who visited specifically to attend the festival (a 10 per cent increase on 2023 figures). Horizon contributed $1,439,316 in economic impact into the regional economy. This is an increase on the $1,082,882 from 2023.

Between 2024-2025,

the Caloundra Regional Gallery delivered:

- 187 programs
- Exhibitions to 24,925 attendees
- Programs for 9728 participants
- Digital events and programs for 9033 attendees

Council supported Creative Arts through:

- 838 events, programs and exhibitions
- 82 digital programs
- Engaging 200,438 participants in programs
- 867 contracting local artists and
- 267 First Nations artists
- supporting 923 artists to participate in
- 264 training development opportunities

Council delivered Cultural Heritage Services through:

- 191 events and programs to
- 12,865 attendees and
- 15,537 digital attendees
- the Cultural Heritage website with 109,538 visits
- 24 volunteers contributing 3575 hours
- 5072 visitors to Bankfoot House, including
- 31 school groups experiencing curriculum-aligned education programs
- 6022 visitors to Landsborough Museum

Appendix

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

Headline measure

Measure	Baseline	Latest	2041 Target
Residents in agreement that the Sunshine Coast is a strong community	**68.4%**	**62.9%**	**75%**

Measure source: Sunshine Coast Community Connections Survey (funded by Council).

Baseline/target justification: This measure was first collected in 2023 and therefore this result has become the baseline for future years. The 2041 target reflects that there are opportunities for ongoing improvement in correlated factors, such as views about acceptance of diversity, trust in local government, and an active community getting involved in, and feeling part of the local community.

Latest commentary: The latest result is well below target. The result in 2025 is 5.6% (pp) lower than in 2023 and is 12.1% (pp) below target. It reflects declines in correlated factors including acceptance of diversity (see below).

01 Healthy, active communities

Measure	Baseline	Latest	2041 Target
Topic 1.1 Resident who rated their health as good, very good or excellent as a ranking within Regional Queensland	**#2**	**#2**	**#1-3**

Measure source: Queensland Preventative Health Survey (undertaken by the Queensland Government). This measure is for the Sunshine Coast hospital and health service (HHS) area - not LGA, compared to Regional Queensland (which excludes the Metro North and Metro South HHS).

Baseline/target justification: This measure was first collected for the Community Strategy for the 2019/20 financial year. The 2041 target reflects an ambition to maintain the relative strength in health for Sunshine Coast residents compared to other regional areas of Queensland.

Latest commentary: The latest result has Sunshine Coast HHS maintaining the second highest self-rated health score of the 13 HHS districts in Regional Queensland.

02 Vibrant communities

Measure	Baseline	Latest	2041 Target
Topic 2.1 Residents in agreement that Council's community infrastructure meets community need	**55.9%**	**54.6%**	**60%**

Measure source: Sunshine Coast Community Connections Survey (funded by Council).

Baseline/target justification: This measure was first collected in 2021, however was rewritten in 2023 (to reflect broader community need rather than individual need) resulting in a substantial change to the result. Therefore, the 2023 result is used as the baseline for this measure. The 2041 target reflects an opportunity for modest improvement considering the challenge of expected strong population growth.

Latest commentary: The result in 2025 is similar to the 2023 result. The latest result is 5.4% (pp) below target which demonstrates the need for ongoing investment in community facilities given strong population growth.

Measure	Baseline	Latest	2041 Target
Topic 2.2 Personal travel by active transport and passenger transport	**15%**	**12%**	**30%**

Measure source: Queensland Household Travel Survey (Queensland Government).

B**aseline/target justification:** The baseline for this measure and the 2041 target was adopted by Council in the Integrated Transport Strategy in December 2018. The target is aspirational. Achievement of the target will be influenced by infrastructure investment and urban development that take time to be delivered. The Queensland Government and Australian Government have significant influence on this measure through investment.

Latest commentary: The latest result is well below target. This target represents an ambitious goal to be achieved in 2041. Achievement of this target will require significant infrastructure investment and behaviour change, which take time to be realised. A new Sunshine Coast Active Transport Plan (in the works to finalisation) is anticipated to provide further direction and initiatives to drive this measure forward.

Measure	Baseline	Latest	2041 Target
Topic 2.3 Residents in agreement that they can find the type of accommodation they need	**36.6%**	**33.8%**	**40%**

Measure source: Sunshine Coast Community Connections Survey (funded by Council).

Baseline/target justification: This measure was first collected in 2021 and therefore this is the baseline for this measure. The 2041 target reflects a realistic ambition for a modest improvement in the availability and affordability of accommodation on the Sunshine Coast given the challenge of strong population growth and tourism growth.

Latest commentary: The latest result is well below target. The result in 2025 is similar to the 2021 and 2023 results (a decrease but not statistically significant). The most recent results reflect the housing crisis being experienced on the Sunshine Coast, with low residential vacancy rates and growing dwelling prices and rents. In addition, there was limited universal housing and social housing. Significant national and local attention across government and community may help to address the current housing crisis, including delivery of actions and initiatives as guided by Council's Housing and Homelessness Action Plan.

03 Inclusive communities

Measure	Baseline	Latest	2041 Target
Topic 3.1 Residents in agreement that it is a good thing for a society to be made up of people from different cultures	**85%**	**74.5%**	**90%**

Measure source: Sunshine Coast Community Connections Survey (funded by Council).

Baseline/target justification: This measure was first collected in 2016 as part of the first ever Community Connections Survey. The 2041 target reflects an opportunity for modest improvement in community perceptions related to diversity and inclusion, which was considered achievable given trends at the time, and a desirable target for maintaining community cohesion.

Latest commentary: The latest result is well below target. The result in 2025 is 9.3% (pp) lower than in 2023 and is 15.5% (pp) below target. This decrease may be related to rhetoric around the Voice Referendum, Australian Government elections and global events and conflicts. Rising cost of living may also have contributed to concerns about migration and multiculturalism in the region.

Measure	Baseline	Latest	2041 Target
Topic 3.2 Residents who volunteered for an organisation in the preceding twelve months	**20.7%**	**15.7%**	**20%**

Measure source: Census (Australian Bureau of Statistics).

Baseline/target justification: The baseline for this measure was recorded in 2016 which was the latest data available at the time the Community Strategy was adopted. The 2041 target reflects a continuation of volunteering participation while adjusting for demographic change. The target is ambitious given changes in volunteering towards informal/ episodic volunteering.

Latest commentary: The 2021 result was 5.0% (pp) lower than in 2016, and 4.3% (pp) below target. The 2021 result is likely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic which reduced rates of volunteering due to restrictions and health concerns.

Measure	Baseline	Latest	2041 Target
Topic 3.3 Residents in agreement that there are opportunities to have a say on community issues that are important to them	**70%**	**45.5%**	**70%**

Measure source: Sunshine Coast Community Connections Survey (funded by Council).

Baseline/target justification: This measure was first collected in 2016 as part of the first ever Community Connections Survey. The 2041 target reflects an ambition (in 2019) to maintain the baseline result. Returning to this baseline may be difficult given broader national trends and noting results since 2021 have been consistently lower.

Latest commentary: The latest result is well below target. The result in 2025 is 5.4% (pp) lower than in 2023 and is 24.5% (pp) below target. Notably, 33.2% of residents neither agreed nor disagreed with this statement, an emerging trend that is demonstrating apathy amongst the community, and 21.4% disagreed. Council is aware of growing community sentiment and perceptions that community views are not being heard and acted on by Council. This sentiment is generally consistent with sentiment in other regions and levels of government and combines with factors of trust. Media fragmentation and social media are also contributing to echo chambers and misinformation and disinformation that are critical of Council, which are increasingly making it difficult to reach and communicate accurately with residents.

04 Connected, resilient communities

Measure	Baseline	Latest	2041 Target
Topic 4.1 Residents in agreement that they live in an active community where people get involved in local issues and activities	**77%**	**53.8%**	**75%**

Measure source: Sunshine Coast Community Connections Survey (funded by Council).

Baseline/target justification: This measure was first collected in 2016 as part of the first ever Community Connections Survey. The 2041 target reflects an ambition (in 2019) to maintain the baseline result. Returning to this baseline may be difficult given broader community trends and the consistency of results since 2021, but remains a stretch target to advance a connected and involved community.

Latest commentary: The latest result is well below target. The 2025 result is similar to the 2021 and 2023 results (a decrease but not statistically significant). The 2025 result is 21.2% (pp) below the 2041 target. Current financial pressures being experienced by residents may be impacting this measure as well as other social trends (as outlined in the Community Strategy).

Measure	Baseline	Latest	2041 Target
Topic 4.1 Residents in agreement that they can get help from friends, family, neighbours or community organisations when they need it	**93%**	**79.0%**	**90%**
Measure source: Sunshine Coast Community Connections Survey (funded by Council). **Baseline/target justification:** This measure was first collected in 2016 as part of the first ever Community Connections Survey. The 2041 target reflects an ambition (in 2019) to maintain the baseline result. Returning to this baseline may be difficult given broader community trends. **Latest commentary:** The latest result is well below target. The result in 2025 is 8.2% (pp) lower than in 2023 and is 11.0% (pp) below target. Current financial pressures being experienced by residents may be impacting this measure as well as other social trends (as outlined in the Community Strategy).			

Measure	Baseline	Latest	2041 Target
Topic 4.2 Residents in agreement that they feel safe all the time on the Sunshine Coast	**77%**	**59.6%**	**75%**
Measure source: Sunshine Coast Community Connections Survey (funded by Council). **Baseline/target justification:** This measure was first collected in 2016 as part of the first ever Community Connections Survey. The 2041 target reflects an ambition (in 2019) to maintain the baseline result. **Latest commentary:** The result in 2025 is similar to the 2023 result (a decrease but not statistically significant) but lower than in 2021 by 12.2% (pp). The result is 15.4% (pp) below target. Council is aware of a growing community perception around perceived issues of crime and safety. This may continue to grow as the region becomes more densely populated. Crime statistics can be used to better understand differences between perceptions and actual levels of crime.			

05 Creative, innovative communities

Measure	Baseline	Latest	2041 Target
Topic 5.1 Cultural vitality	**TBD**	**TBD**	**TBD**
TBD			

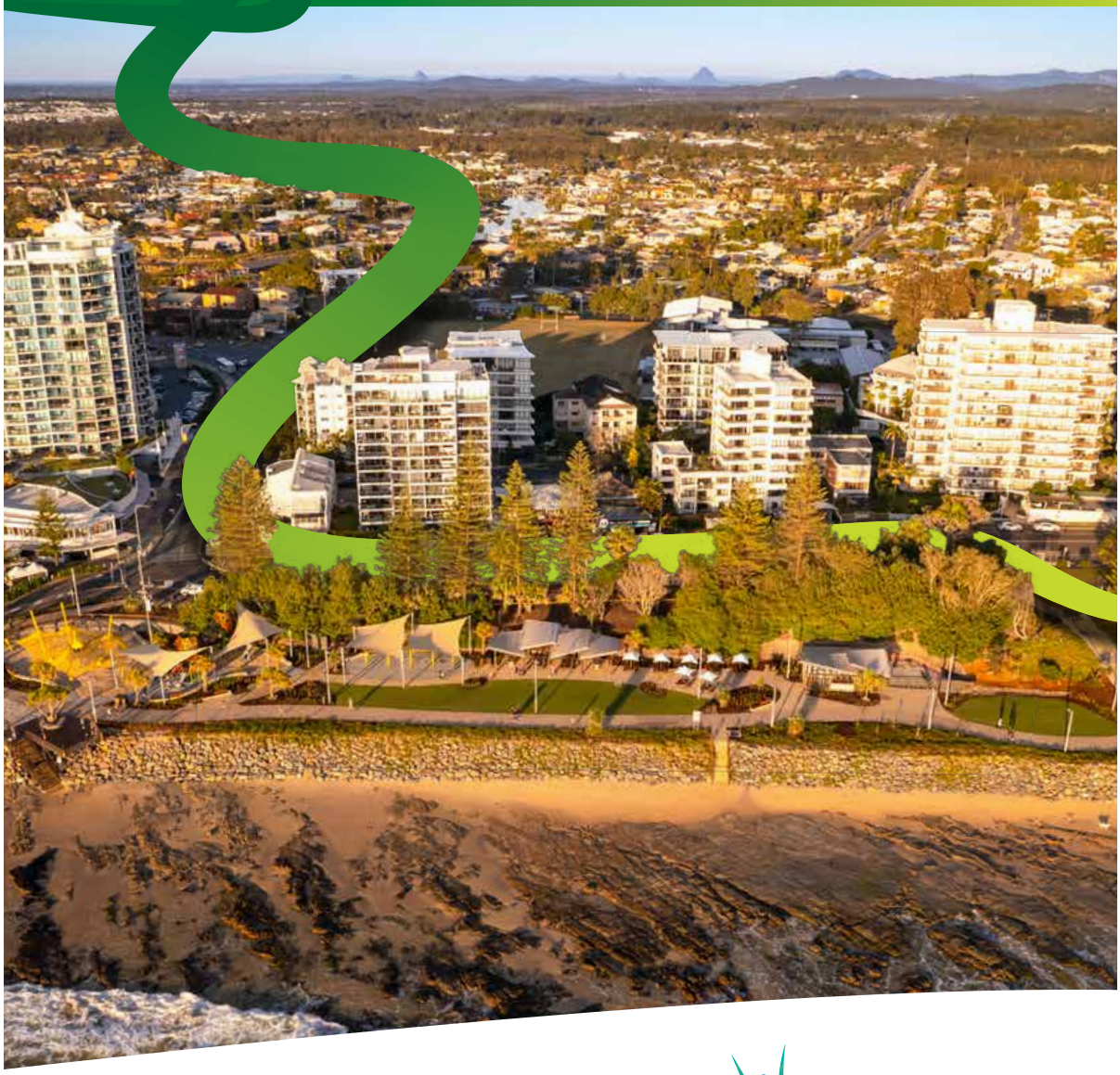
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Sunshine Coast Council

Environment and Liveability Strategy Annual Report 2024-25



Sunshine Coast COUNCIL

Edition 2024-25.

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Cover image

Mooloolaba Foreshore.

Traditional acknowledgement

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

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

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

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

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

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

Together, we are all stronger.



Message from our Mayor and Environment and Liveability Portfolio Councillors

Here on the Sunshine Coast we are passionate about nurturing and enhancing our natural environment and quality of life. In our Sunshine Coast Biosphere, people and nature are intertwined. All our actions can contribute to a sustainable future as a connected, liveable and thriving region.

We are proud to present this 2024-25 annual report, in which we share insights into our ongoing progress in implementing the Environment and Liveability Strategy.

Expanding green spaces remains a priority. In 2024-25, we secured more than 200 hectares of land for conservation and recreation purposes.

We continued work in delivering a healthy coast, finalising the Healthy Coast Management Plan and the Shoreline Erosion Management Plan. These plans contribute to strong foundations that support the beautiful coastal spaces we all love. We have also completed a new section of the 73km Coastal Pathway in Warana, encouraging both recreation and active transport in the natural environment along our shoreline, while a new seawall at Golden Beach has improved resilience and protected adjacent public spaces for residents to continue to enjoy.

Recognising the importance of providing affordable accommodation for our region's key workers, Council delivered eight new homes in Marcoola, as a first stage of a total of 22 homes to be delivered on Council owned land. These homes are a critical step towards ensuring everyone in our community has access to safe and affordable housing, reflecting our commitment to inclusive urban transformation. The Queensland Government's $2 billion Housing Investment Fund is supporting Council to deliver these homes.

This year also saw our region's passion for science and conservation come to life at the inaugural Sunshine Coast Marine BioBlitz, an event which brought together community-driven scientific exploration, arts and culture.

We have developed the 2024 Sunshine Coast Biodiversity Report, empowering evidence-based decision-making with a comprehensive snapshot of natural assets, including the native vegetation that covers 57 per cent of our region.

In addition, Council has taken strategic steps towards creating a climate-ready region. The completed Critical Infrastructure Failure and Cascading Climate Risks Project strengthens Council's understanding of the impacts of climate hazards on Council's services and, through collaborative planning and action, this work will help reduce risks and minimise community disruptions.

Each of these accomplishments is a step forward for our region. We invite you to reflect on these achievements and how you could join us in shaping a vibrant community where people and nature flourish together, now and into the future.

Mayor Rosanna Natoli
Councillor Maria Suarez
Councillor Tim Burns



The Environment and Liveability Strategy

Delivering a pathway to a healthy environment and liveable Sunshine Coast.

This Annual Report showcases our eighth year of implementation.

Our environment and liveability goal

Natural assets are preserved and enhanced as we continue to create a built environment and living practices that support a sustainable community.

This is one of five strategic goals of Sunshine Coast Council's Corporate Plan 2025-30 that provides the blueprint to advance our vision over the next five years on behalf of our community.

Strategic pathways

Our environment and liveability outcomes are being delivered through five strategic pathways:

1 Clever planning, good design
2 Natural assets, distinctive landscapes
3 Sustainable living
4 Well-planned infrastructure
5 Innovative and sustainable.



Sunshine Coast Council

What is the purpose of the strategy?

The strategy provides long-term strategic direction to guide growth and shape the Sunshine Coast for future generations to 2041.

It focuses on the natural environment and how it can be preserved and enhanced, as well as the liveability of the region. It enables a good quality of life for all residents, while supporting a strong economy in an accessible and well-connected built environment.

Why is it needed?

In this rapidly changing world there are many challenges and opportunities for our much-loved Sunshine Coast way of life. We face changes in population, climate, economy and technology.

The strategy helps us to navigate through these challenges while harnessing opportunities. Its integrated and long-term approach to guiding development on the Sunshine Coast offers clarity, inspiration and direction.

The strategy is a forward-looking document and seeks to do things differently.

Our progress

We use annual performance measures to help us monitor and track progress.

Target	Baseline	2024-25	2024-25 Outcome
No loss of the Regional Inter-urban Break in its current extent	32,031 ha	32,031 ha	No change to the current extent
Hectares of land per 1000 residents acquired through Environment Levy for conservation and preservation purposes maintained	9.6 ha per 1000 residents	11.41 ha per 1000 residents+	141 ha acquired. Total Environment Levy purchased land is 4,376 ha
Hectares of land per 1000 residents for sport and recreation purposes maintained	4.74 ha per 1000 residents	4.50 ha per 1000 residents+	2.67 ha of open space secured
Renewable energy capacity increased	124.8 MW	560.3 MW	Increase of 62.8 MW^
Council's greenhouse gas emissions reduced*	0.59 tCO_2-e per resident	0.44 tCO_2-e per resident+	Decrease of 0.01 tCO_2-e per resident^

ha = Hectares MW = Megawatts tCO_2-e = Tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent

+ Based on an estimated resident population of 383,498. Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Queensland Treasury, Population Projections, June 2023, qgso.qld.gov.au.

The annual performance measure for sport and recreation purposes includes strategic lands for which open space categories will be confirmed through future master planning and may result in changes to the performance measure outcome.

^ Compared to 2023-24 results.

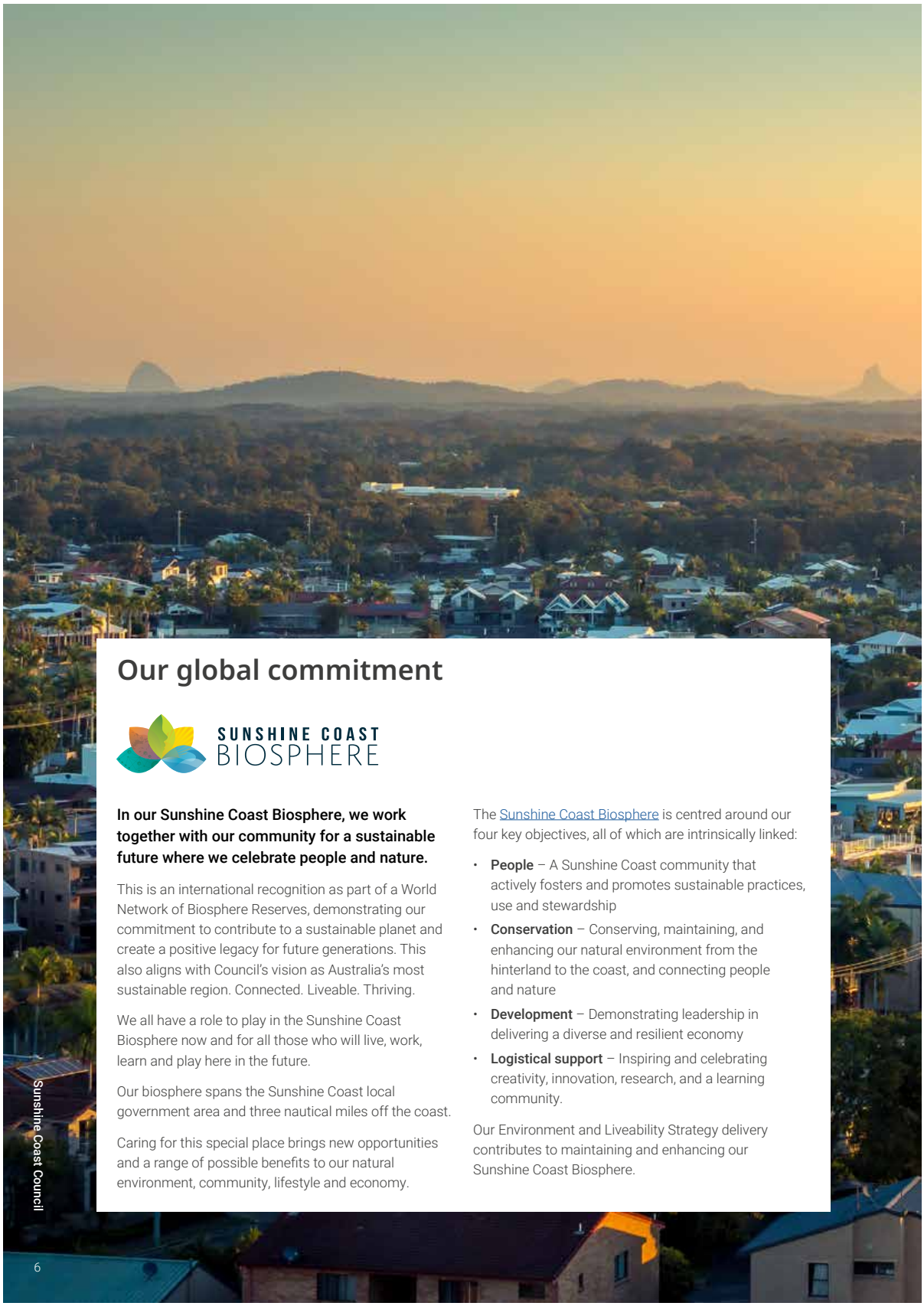
* Greenhouse gas emissions methodology update: Waste and electricity data calculations have been revised, prompting updates to emissions related metrics. Organisational footprint figures have been adjusted from 2018 onwards using the new methodology. The change in results from previous years were calculated using the updated figures.

Find out what's happening in your backyard

There's an easy way for you to stay up-to-date on what's happening in your local area and across the whole region.

Search online via your postcode to view Council projects and initiatives that are helping to deliver a healthy environment and liveable Sunshine Coast.

For more information go to els.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au



Our global commitment

SUNSHINE COAST BIOSPHERE

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.

Our Environment and Liveability Strategy delivery contributes to maintaining and enhancing our Sunshine Coast Biosphere.

Sunshine Coast Council



United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Implementing the Sunshine Coast Biosphere involves local actions delivering on the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). 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 UNSDGs in our strategies, plans and associated progress reporting. Each Corporate Plan goal identifies how it contributes to the UNSDGs and, in doing so, assists to progress our Sunshine Coast Biosphere aim and objectives.

A snapshot of our achievements

Strategic pathways	
1	Clever planning, good design
2	Natural assets, distinctive landscapes
3	Sustainable living
4	Well-planned infrastructure
5	Innovative and sustainable

Greening our neighbourhoods



As part of implementing the Sunshine Coast Street Tree Master Plan, 3,280 new trees were planted across urban areas to enhance canopy cover and cool local streets.

Strategic Pathway	**1**	2	3	4	5

Creating our climate ready region



The Critical Infrastructure Failure Project was completed, focusing on understanding and reducing cascading climate risks on Council's services associated with failing critical infrastructure.

The Storm Tide Study was endorsed with updated hazard mapping to reflect recent changes in coastal dynamics, including the Bribie Island breakthrough.

The Sunshine Coast Local Disaster Management Plan was updated, outlining coordinated procedures for disaster preparedness, response and recovery across the region.

Strategic Pathway	**1**	2	3	4	5

Sustainable and affordable living through urban transformation



We delivered eight new homes as the first stage of 22 in Marcoola to provide affordable housing for low-income key workers including those in health, aged care, retail, and hospitality sectors. The Queensland Government's $2 billion Housing Investment Fund is supporting Council to deliver these homes.

Strategic Pathway	**1**	2	3	4	5

A better built environment through sustainable design



Image: Shane Hastings

The Design Guide for Sunshine Coast Apartments and Townhouses was released, providing practical tips and inspiration for creating medium-density housing that reflects the region's climate, character and lifestyle.

Strategic Pathway	**1**	2	3	4	5

Conserving our biodiversity



The third Sunshine Coast Biodiversity Report (2024) was developed, providing a comprehensive snapshot of the region's biodiversity. It highlights that over 57 per cent of the Sunshine Coast remains covered in native vegetation.

We completed a wildlife-sensitive lighting installation at Shelly Beach to protect critically endangered loggerhead turtles and other nocturnal wildlife. The project involved adjusting, replacing, or shielding 31 lights, including street, car park, amenities and shelter lighting.

The Cresswell Road wildlife bridge in Caloundra was upgraded to enhance safe passage for native species across Caloundra Road. As the Sunshine Coast's only land-based fauna bridge, it connects key conservation areas and features a vegetated corridor, rope bridge, and habitat pods to support species like echidnas, sugar gliders, and reptiles.

Strategic Pathway	1	**2**	3	4	5

Managing our invasive plants and animals



The Sunshine Coast Biosecurity Plan was adopted, setting a five-year framework for managing 81 priority invasive plant and animal species across the region.

Strategic Pathway	1	2	3	**4**	5

Delivering a healthy coast



The Healthy Coast Management Plan and updated Shoreline Erosion Management Plan were finalised to guide the sustainable management of our coastline.

A new 1km long, 3m wide concrete path was completed in Warana as part of our 73km Coastal Pathway, which has improved accessibility.

A new seawall at Jellicoe Street, Golden Beach was completed, which was designed to adapt to future climate hazards, protect adjacent parklands and infrastructure, enhance access and provide seating. The project received funding assistance from the QCoast2100 Program.

Strategic Pathway	1	2	3	**4**	5

Celebrating people and nature



We celebrated a healthy environment and sustainable Sunshine Coast in partnership with our community through a number of activities and initiatives:

- Biosphere Community Awards
- BiospHERO Day
- Clean up for the Turtle Hatchlings
- 10th Annual Australasian Bat Night
- Kids in Action environmental program
- National Tree Day
- Sunshine Coast Open House.

Strategic Pathway	1	2	**3**	4	5

Creating great places and spaces



New community spaces in Nambour were completed, featuring an upgraded community lounge, a new bookable venue space, and improved accessibility. The project also included enhancements to the Local Disaster Coordination Centre, strengthening our emergency response capabilities.

We opened the Concert Avenue Park in Palmview and upgraded playgrounds including:

- Charles Clarke Park, Mooloolaba
- Power Memorial Park, Mudjimba
- Lions and Norrie Job Park, Coolum Beach
- La Balsa Park, Buddina
- Forestwood Drive Park, Buderim.

Strategic Pathway	1	2	3	**4**	5

Blue Heart Sunshine Coast partnership



The Blue Heart Sunshine Coast partnership continued with:

- the Kabi Kabi Peoples Aboriginal Corporation formally joining the Blue Heart project as an equal partner
- the start of Australia's first registered blue carbon farming trial, as we work to establish 165 hectares of estuarine wetland by introducing tidal waters to generate carbon credits and enhance biodiversity.

Strategic Pathway	1	2	3	**4**	5

Expanding green spaces



We secured over 200 hectares of land for conservation and recreation purposes, expanding our environment reserve estate and securing recreation parks in emerging communities.

Strategic Pathway	1	2	3	**4**	5

Getting waste sorted



Community behaviour change remains a key priority of the Council's waste education programs, which continues to help more households recycle right and reduce waste to landfill.

Strategic Pathway	1	2	3	4	**5**

Building our knowledge

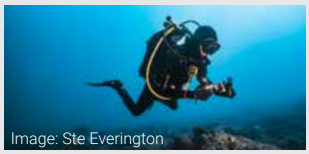


Image: Ste Everington

We held our first Sunshine Coast Marine BioBlitz multi-day event, showcasing community-driven conservation, scientific exploration, arts and culture for marine enthusiasts.

The fifth Living on the Sunshine Coast Survey tracked residents' perceptions of liveability, including safety, housing, health services and access to nature.

Strategic Pathway	1	2	3	4	**5**

Sustainability in focus

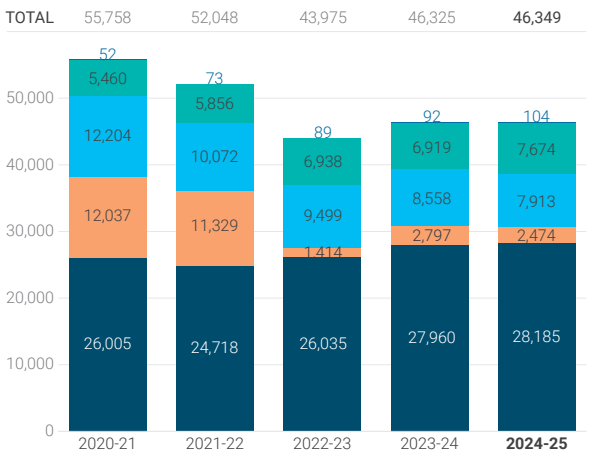
Transitioning to a zero-net emissions organisation by 2041 is a Transformational Action of Council's Environment and Liveability Strategy and a key action of a climate ready Council.

In 2022 Council adopted the Organisational Zero-net Emissions Plan. This Plan provides a roadmap on how we are to meet our target to be a Zero-net Emissions organisation by 2041.

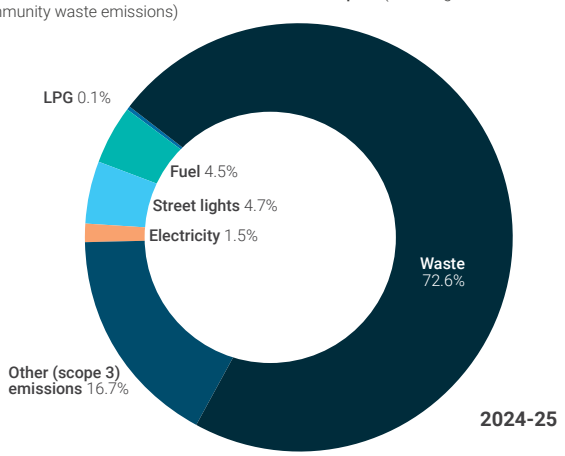
Each year Council reports against a number of sustainability metrics. It provides a comprehensive view of any trends, changes and/or challenges we are facing on our journey to achieving sustainability objectives.

The data on these pages is a snapshot of our 2024-25 performance. Waste, fuel and electricity emissions have been calculated using an updated methodology and applied to all previous results.

Council emissions in tCO_2-e (excluding Council and community waste emissions)



Council emissions as a % of the total emissions footprint (including Council and community waste emissions)



Waste (including Council and community waste)	122,861 tCO_2-e from waste in landfills	72.6%
Other (scope 3) emissions	28,185 tCO_2-e including goods and services produced by a third party	16.7%
Electricity from our large and small sites[€]	2,474 tCO_2-e	1.5%
Street lights	7,913 tCO_2-e from our street lights	4.7%
Fuel	7,674 tCO_2-e from our fleet vehicles and bulk diesel supply	4.5%
Liquid petroleum gas (LPG)	104 tCO_2-e that is used at Council's sites	0.1%

[€] Streetlight consumption has been accounted for separate from 'electricity' as it is a significant proportion of the Electricity emissions.

Electricity

24,100 MWh consumed

Annual change — **6.21%** decrease

Renewables

16,251 kW solar installed

Annual change — **2.3%** increase

Water

683,772 kL used

Annual change — **11.49%** decrease

Transport

470 fleet vehicles

Annual change — **8.56%** decrease

24 Low carbon vehicles — **20%** increase

Fuel

2,279,687 litres used

Annual change — **10.61%** increase

Greenhouse gas emissions

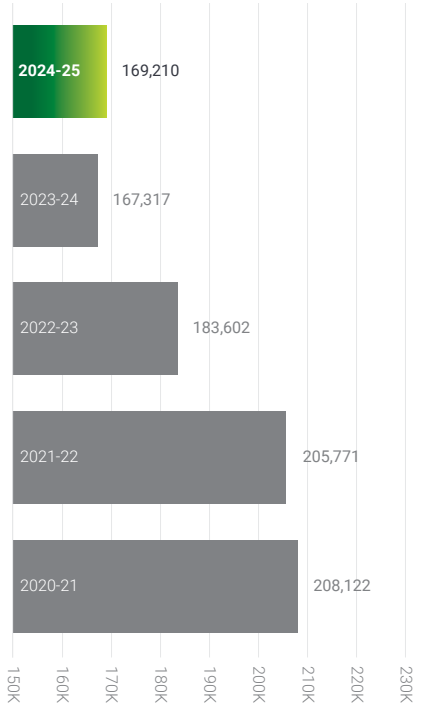
169,210 tCO_2-e

Council target: *Zero-net emissions by 2041*

Total emissions — **1.1%** increase

0.44 tCO_2-e per resident — **0.01** tCO_2-e decrease

Greenhouse gas emissions (tCO_2-e) by fiscal year



More information on our sustainability performance is available on Sunshine Coast Council's website.

We won a handful of awards

The **Sunshine Coast Ecological Park Project** won the **Landscape Architecture Award for Landscape Planning** at the **Australian Institute of Landscape Architects Awards**. It was also a **finalist** at the **Parks and Leisure National Awards of Excellence.**

The **Buderim Village Park** and **Kings Beach Park and Community Precinct** received the prestigious **Green Flag Award for 2025**, a global benchmark for excellence in park management.



Focus for the year ahead

In 2025–26, we will continue the delivery of our priorities and key Council services.


Image: Melanie Ballantyne

Delivering a healthy coast

Implement strategic activities for the protection, sustainable use, and enjoyment of our **coastal environments**.



Conserving our biodiversity

Optimise the **protection of our habitat areas** to ensure our natural environment thrives and provides opportunities for our community to connect with nature.



Getting waste sorted

Facilitate **resource recovery and circular economy outcomes** to effectively manage waste going to landfill and region-wide carbon emissions.



Sustainable and affordable living through urban transformation

Facilitate **self-contained communities**, supported by essential infrastructure, to provide sustainable and affordable living options.



Greening our neighbourhoods

Implement activities that **deliver cool, shady and connected streets and places** to enhance our neighbourhoods and improve resilience, biodiversity and community wellbeing.



Expanding our green space

Facilitate the protection and activation of strategic spaces for **conservation, flood mitigation and sport and recreation** to support a sustainable future.



Creating our climate-ready region

Prioritise a **climate risk reduction response** to increase the region's ability to adapt and build resilience.



Celebrating people and nature

Progress the implementation of the **Sunshine Coast Biosphere**, working together with community and industry to live, learn, work and play sustainably.

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Sunshine Coast Council

Regional Economic Development Strategy Annual Report 2024-25



Sunshine Coast COUNCIL

Edition October 2025

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Cover image

Visit Sunshine Coast - Kings Beach Pool

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.

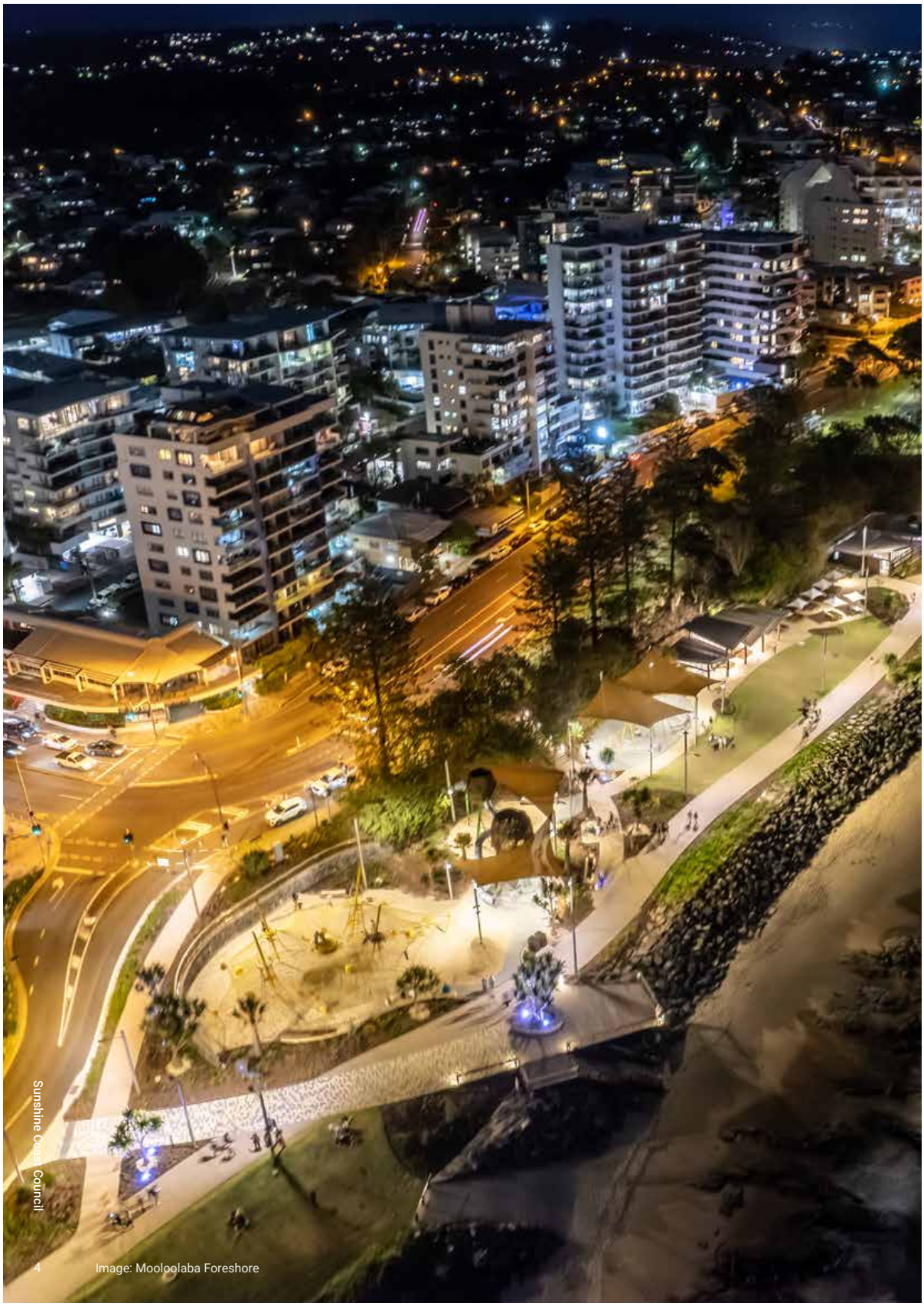
We recognise our shared history and will continue to work in partnership to provide a foundation for building a shared future with the Kabi Kabi peoples and the Jinibara peoples.

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.



Image: Study Sunshine Coast Ambassador Greet



4 Image: Mooloolaba Foreshore

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Sunshine Coast Major Events Strategy 2018-2028 - 2023 Refresh 45



Image: Mayor Natoli officially opening McCormick's new sustainability facility. From L to R Michael Anderson GM of Aerofloat, Marty Hunt MP, Mayor Natoli, Paris Golden MD of McCormick, Minister Powell and Project Manager Tim Cooney



Image: Study Sunshine Coast Student Ambassadors



Image: Study Sunshine Coast Surf Awareness

A message from our Mayor and Economic Development Portfolio Councillors

The Sunshine Coast continues to thrive as one of Australia's most desirable regions to live, work and play.

With community at the heart of every decision, Council is proud to support a dynamic and resilient economy that reflects the aspirations of our residents and businesses.

The Sunshine Coast Regional Economic Development Strategy remains a strong foundation for delivering meaningful outcomes, and we are already seeing impressive progress toward our 2033 goals. Gross Regional Product has reached $26.33 billion, and high-value industries are now providing over 112,000 employment opportunities – exceeding our original target nine years ahead of schedule – with a new goal to reflect this momentum.

Key highlights in the 2024–25 financial year include Council's Economic Development Branch providing expert advice and support to 8,450 businesses and delivering a diverse calendar of events and programs attended by more than 5,000 people. These included Testing Tech in Paradise, the Thriving Through Change Business Resilience Expo, the Sunshine Coast Business Awards, Future Careers Immersive Showcase, Meet the Makers, FWD Fest and more.

Through the Major Events Sponsorship Program, 57 major events generated an economic impact of $106 million in direct economic return, while nearly 60,000 community members enjoyed place activation events in Mooloolaba, Caloundra and Nambour.

Our Invest Sunshine Coast campaigns generated 914 new leads, contributing an estimated $161 million in economic impact (direct and indirect) and creating 564 new jobs.

As we look ahead, we remain focused on building a more diverse, higher-value industry base with better-paying jobs to address affordability challenges and support families. At the heart of our strategy is a commitment to putting families and residents first. By fostering higher-paying jobs, supporting local businesses and driving innovation, we're helping create healthier lifestyles, stronger communities and enduring opportunities for all.

The rise of artificial intelligence presents both opportunities and challenges, and Council is proactively guiding the region through this transformation. A cross-sector advisory group has been established to ensure our innovation economy continues to grow in a way that benefits all.

We invite you to explore this report and discover the impactful initiatives being driven by Council, the business community and our industry partners.

Together, we are shaping a future with initiatives that are creating lasting opportunities and shaping a strong, resilient economy for generations to come.

Mayor Rosanna Natoli
Councillor Terry Landsberg
Councillor Joe Natoli



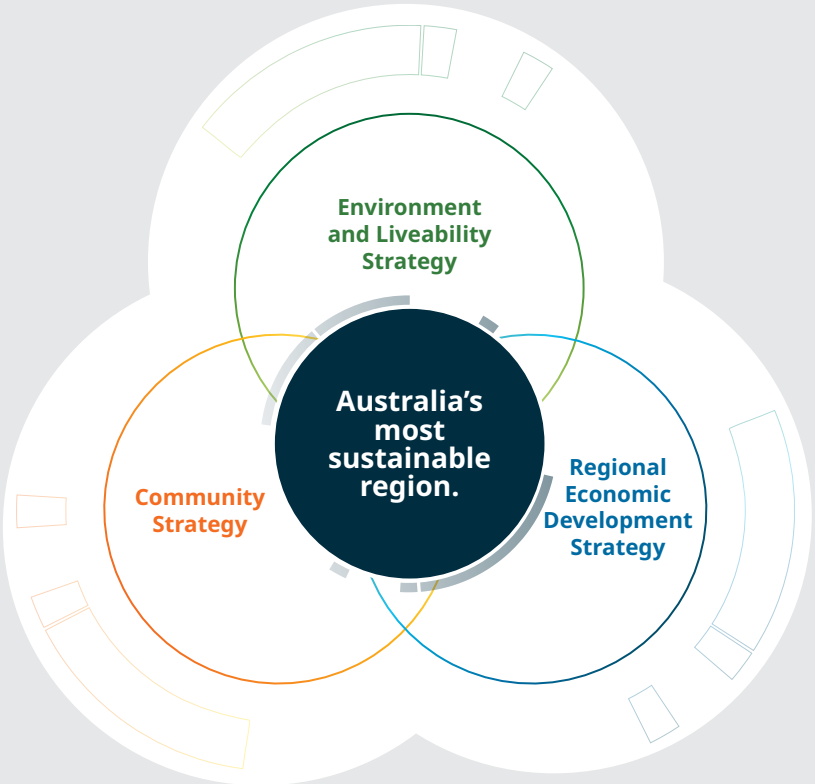
About the strategy

The Regional Economic Development Strategy (REDS) was adopted in 2013, with a forward-looking 20-year timeframe. With over a decade now passed since its adoption, a comprehensive review of the REDS was conducted in 2023 and the direction of this strategy redefined and updated to reflect the changing times.

Having undergone extensive community consultation in its creation, the REDS Refresh was adopted by Council on 26 October 2023. This holistic approach provided a set of strategic pathways to transition the Sunshine Coast into a regional economy that is innovative, adaptive, resilient and climate ready.

It encourages a more sustainable and equitable future economy by attracting investment and supporting local businesses to innovate, grow, and enable diverse employment opportunities. Additionally, it seeks to act as a mechanism for change, guiding the future evolution and transformation of the economy over time.

Council's vision for the region is supported by three long-term strategies. These regional strategies collectively provide the strategic framework and desired outcomes for Council to work collaboratively across our community, with business and other tiers of government to advance our vision as Australia's most sustainable region. To achieve the vision for the region, it is critical to progress our community, environment and economic objectives, understanding that all three are integrated and critical to the success and overall sustainability and liveability of our region.



United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Council is demonstrating regional leadership by embedding the SDGs into its strategies, including the Sunshine Coast Regional Economic Development Strategy 2023–2033. REDS supports sustainable development by building industry capability, promoting innovation, supporting First Nations and small businesses, and connecting talent with emerging sectors. Through collaborative partnerships, infrastructure investment, and responsive policy settings, the REDS drives economic resilience, addresses workforce challenges, and ensures the region remains globally competitive and future-ready.

SDG 3 - Good Health and Well-Being
SDG 4 - Quality Education:

The REDS supports health and education by creating local jobs, reducing commute times, and promoting inclusive growth. It strengthens families and communities, empowers learners through partnerships, and builds career pathways via showcases, awards, and workforce programs, contributing to a more resilient, educated Sunshine Coast.

SDG 8 - Decent Work and Economic Growth

The REDS drives economic growth by supporting local businesses, attracting investment, and creating high-value jobs. It fosters innovation, promotes inclusive employment, and builds a resilient workforce, empowering individuals and boosting regional prosperity.

SDG 9 - Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

The REDS accelerates industry, innovation and infrastructure by investing in smart city technologies, supporting advanced manufacturing, and enabling digital connectivity through initiatives like the Google TABUA cable. It fosters entrepreneurship, strengthens innovation ecosystems, and positions the Sunshine Coast as a globally competitive hub for sustainable, tech-driven economic development.

SDG 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities

The REDS fosters sustainable communities through inclusive growth, smart infrastructure, and vibrant places. It boosts liveability by supporting local jobs, businesses, and town centres. Investment in digital connectivity and engagement builds resilient urban environments across the Coast.

SDG 12 – Responsible Consumption and Production
SDG 13 – Climate Action:

The REDS drives responsible consumption and climate action through circular economy programs like ASPIRE and low-emission practices. It helps businesses cut waste, reuse materials, and reduce emissions. By investing in innovation, biosphere engagement, and infrastructure, it supports environmental leadership and positions the Sunshine Coast for regenerative, climate-ready growth.

SDG 17 - Partnerships For The Goals

The REDS builds strong partnerships by encouraging collaboration across government, industry, education, and community sectors. Strategic alliances with UniSC, TAFE, FAN, MEF, and Study Sunshine Coast drive innovation, shared economic outcomes, and a coordinated approach to a sustainable and inclusive regional future.



Strategy on a page

Our Resilient Economy: Driving jobs and prosperity across the region

Knowledge economy

Digital economy

Production economy

Green economy

Visitor economy

Place based economy

Industries

- Knowledge industries and professional services
- Education and research
- Health and wellbeing
- Technology
- Screen
- Cyber security
- Defence
- Aviation and aerospace
- Food and agribusiness
- Advanced manufacturing
- Pharmaceutical
- Cleantech
- Circularity
- Smart Construction
- Green energy
- Circular economy
- Decarbonisation
- Tourism, sport and leisure
- Experiences
- Major events
- International students
- Construction and trades
- Local business
- Night-time economy
- Music industry
- Creative industries
- Retail and hospitality

Strategic pathway Leadership, sustainability and equity

Strategic pathway Investment and growth

Strategic pathway Business retention and expansion

Strategic pathway Innovation, technological advancement and scaling up

Strategic pathway Talent and skills

Key delivery partners

- Allied Health Taskforce
- Health Panel
- Study Sunshine Coast
- Study Queensland
- Sunshine Coast Tech
- Industry Alliance (SCTechIA)
- Silicon Coast
- Sunshine Coast Screen Collective
- Manufacturing Excellence Forum (MEF)
- Food and Agribusiness Network (FAN)
- Cleantech Industries
- ASPIRE
- Biosphere Community Advisory Group
- Visit Sunshine Coast (VSC)
- Sunshine Coast Events Board
- Sunshine Coast Sports
- Tourism and Events Queensland
- Caloundra Downtown Taskforce
- Nambour Business Groups
- Sunshine Coast Music Industry Collective
- Sunshine Coast Creative Alliance

Sunshine Coast Business Council - Chambers of Commerce - UniSC - TAFE Queensland - Sunshine Coast Airport - Queensland Government Critical Infrastructure - Information Sharing Analysis Center (CI-ISAC) - Regional Development Australia (RDA) - Sunshine Coast Business Awards

2033

The REDS sets forth a visionary 20-year blueprint aiming to transition the traditional economy to a new economy that is resilient and globally competitive. The strategy is unique and bold, setting four ambitious goals to achieve the new economy by 2033.

- **$33 billion in Gross Regional Product**
- **100,000 jobs in the high-value industries**
- **20% exports from the region**
- **Household income above state average**

Sunshine Coast Council

10



Image: Buderim Ginger harvesting



Performance indicators/goals

Regional Economic Development Strategy Aspirational Goals

	Baseline Results[1]	2024-25 Outcomes[2]	2013 to 2025 Progress	2033 Aspirational Goals[2]
Goal 1 Gross Regional Product growth	A **$13.8 billion** economy	A **$26.33 billion** economy	**91%** growth over the 12-year period	Gross Regional Product growth up to **$33 billion** by 2033
Goal 2 Jobs growth in high-value industries	High-value industries provided **59,000** employment opportunities	High-value industries providing **112,393** employment opportunities	**90%** growth over the 12-year period	Jobs growth in high-value industries up to **131,000** by 2033[3]
Goal 3 Regional household income levels to exceed Queensland household income levels	Household income levels were **22.3%** below the State average	Household income levels **4.8%** below the Queensland average	**17.5%** reduction in income gap over the 12-year period	Regional household income levels to exceed Queensland household income levels by 2033
Goal 4 Increase goods and services produced for export outside the region	**13.6%** of goods and services were produced for export outside the region	**21.5%** of goods and services were produced for export outside the region[4]	**7.9%** increase over the 11-year period	Increase goods and services produced for export outside the region up to **20%**

1. Combined Sunshine Coast and Noosa; 2. Sunshine Coast, excluding Noosa; 3. Due to the original REDS 2033 HVI job's goal being achieved nine years early, a new target of 131,000 has been formulated. Considering projected population growth and demographic shifts, this new aspirational goal for 2033 reflects the region's evolving economic opportunities and long-term employment growth potential. 4. While this update indicates that the Sunshine Coast has met its 2033 export target through strong growth in international and domestic trade, this outcome reflects both opportunity and volatility. Rather than revising the goal, the priority will be to sustain this achievement consistently and ensure export growth supports a balanced, resilient regional economy without compromising long-term stability.

Progress indicators

Since 2013, the Sunshine Coast Regional Economic Development Strategy has provided a vision and blueprint for the new economy — a prosperous, high-value economy of choice for business, investment and employment, while offering an enviable lifestyle and environment

The Sunshine Coast LGA ended the 2024-25 with the following results:

- **Gross Regional Product**
  $26.33 billion[1]
- **Local jobs**
  181,931[1]
- **Locally employed residents**
  198,837[1]
- **Employment growth 3.1%**[2]
- **Unemployment rate**
  3.1% with a 0.6% increase[2]
- **Exports of goods and services produced in region**
  $9.4 billion[1]
- **Businesses**
  38,138[3]
- **Annual consumer expenditure in the region increased 3.1% year on year to June 2025**[4]

Regional Economic Development initiatives resulting in:

$248.28 million
Economic impact
Target: $250 million

1527 Jobs
Supported/created
Target: 1500

13,532
Clients/businesses assisted
Target: 3300

Data sources: 1. National Institute of Economic and Industry Research (NIEIR) ©2025. ©2025 Compiled and presented in economy.id. 2. ABS, Labour force Australia, detailed, released 21 August 2025, 11:30am (AEST). Compiled and presented in QGSO Regional labour force (report). 3. Australian Bureau of Statistics, Counts of Australian Businesses, including Entries and Exits. Compiled and presented in economy.id. 4. Spendmapp by Geografia 2025.

Economic development family and community ties

It is pleasing to see significant progress across our four key performance indicators, however, a strong regional economy is not just about the four goals in the Regional Economic Development Strategy (economic growth, high value employment, regional exports and household income growth).

Internationally, governments are increasingly recognising the value of broader measures of wellbeing. Countries such as Scotland, Wales, Canada, New Zealand and Germany have used wellbeing frameworks to raise the profile of non-economic outcomes and to improve policy making.

A strong regional economy is essential for a thriving, liveable region. It impacts on every aspect of our community life, including better health outcomes, improving family stability, reducing crime, reducing the proportion of households experiencing financial stress and creating more trusted and resilient communities.

While the economic statistics can look 'dry', behind them are local family stories. For example, our focus on growing household incomes means fewer family members having to travel outside of the region for work. Currently, 32 per cent[1] of our top earners leave the region daily for work, which not only creates economic leakage, it also places strain on our community's cohesiveness. By creating more higher paying jobs locally, we can free up hours of commute time per week that can be used for sport, health and family time. We know that there is a cost of absence on a family.

Therefore, while the economic indicators can look dry, our successful delivery against them will deliver significant community benefits. Significant progress has been made since 2013 but there is still a lot of work ahead.

1. Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2021 Census - employment, income and education, LGA (POW) by INCP Total Personal Income (weekly) by LGA (UR), accessed 7 August 2025.

Economic Development Initiatives:



- Improve family stability by increasing household wealth.
- Improve work–life balance by creating more local jobs, reducing commuting time and work–family conflict, helping families spend more quality time together.
- Improve retention of high earners by developing high-paying local jobs, reducing the need for long commutes.
- Improve community health outcomes by driving economic growth, as higher incomes are linked to fewer chronic conditions and nearly double the rate of reported good health.
- Improve life satisfaction by driving inclusive economic development that raises incomes and education, leading to better health, stronger coping, and happier communities.
- Improve public safety by strengthening the local economy.

Looking ahead

For a Council that puts the community at the heart of its decision making, the Sunshine Coast Regional Economic Development Strategy is well placed to deliver meaningful outcomes, but significant work lies ahead.

The Sunshine Coast has consistently ranked as a top destination for internal migration with many young families and professionals seeking lifestyle and remote work options, particularly driven by the impacts of COVID-19.

While these trends have created strong economic benefits, the demand for housing (in addition to constrained supply) has led to a median sales price growth of 71.4 per cent over the past five years, putting it in Queensland's top five price growth areas.

Over the past five years, our region's property prices have grown three to four times faster than our regional wages creating significant affordability pressures for families. With the current median house price at more than $1 million and the average salary below $100,000, the challenge to get onto the property ladder is self-evident. Our focus on creating a more diverse, higher value industrial base with higher paying jobs is critical.

Adding to the challenge is the emergence of artificial intelligence (AI). It is clear that we are entering into a period of significant disruption. Council has a strong focus on driving its innovation economy and this has formed the backbone of a number of advocacy campaigns to both federal and state governments.

While AI has the potential to deliver significant productivity and broader benefits, it also has the ability to displace a number of jobs. A cross sector advisory group representing business, higher education and local government has been established to help guide the region through this significant period of change.



REDS pathways

This annual report highlights the program of activities delivered during 2024-25 against the strategy's five critical pathways and their respective priorities.

Pathways	Priorities
Leadership, sustainability and equity	• Advocate to state and commonwealth governments to support investment into key catalytic infrastructure • Deliver strong economic leadership and collaboration by government, business and industry • Champion the Sunshine Coast Biosphere, sustainability and support circular economy principles • Support inclusion and equity across the economy for the advancement of First Nations peoples, people with disabilities and residents experiencing socio-economic disadvantage
Investment and growth	• Market and promote the region to attract investment and support local businesses to grow export markets • Ensure sufficient development assets are available and an efficient planning process to support population and business growth • Leverage the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games to create legacy economic assets for the future • Leverage key assets to elevate the region's key sectors and benefit from the utilisation of the foundation infrastructure • Providing a regulatory environment that encourages investment and growth
Business retention and expansion	• Support local businesses and key delivery partners to expand on the Sunshine Coast • Build local business capacity and increase business resilience • Champion local procurement, including supporting local First Nations businesses through the supply chain • Support identified Gateway Precincts and town centres through activation and place making initiatives
Innovation, technological advancement and scaling up	• Promote innovation, research and development activities of local businesses and institutions • Support local entrepreneurship networks and activities to help scale up local businesses • Advance Smart City infrastructure to further support local businesses and leverage the Sunshine Coast International Broadband Network • Identify and expand the Innovation Ecosystem to grow the regions capabilities
Talent and skills	• Support local education and training providers to build pathways for local workforce and connect to local businesses • Conduct talent attraction, development and retention programs to provide a high quality workforce to local businesses • Support youth development and innovation initiatives that foster talent and skills for the future • Attract international students and connect local students to opportunities within the region

Pathway 1



Sunshine Coast Council

Image: Anderson Silveira, Google, Mayor Rosanna Natoli and Craig Scroggie, NEXTDC - partners in the new Google TABUA cable

Pathway 1: Leadership, sustainability and equity

Advocate to state and commonwealth governments to support investment into key catalytic infrastructure.

Advocacy Projects

Economic Development played a key role in advocating for state and federal government funding for an Innovation Hub (The Hub) in the Maroochydore City Centre Innovation Precinct.
The Hub was identified as an advocacy priority for the region, stemming from the Sunshine Coast Innovation Mapping Project and the Sunshine Coast Regional Economic Development Strategy (2023 refresh).
A Business Case for The Hub has been completed, showing strong demand which will drive further advocacy.

Economic Development successfully advocated for increased support for Advanced Manufacturing in the region with the Queensland Government announcing funding for the Sunshine Coast Manufacturing Hub as well as committing funding for the Turbine Food and Beverage Manufacturing Precinct.

Deliver strong economic leadership and collaboration by government, business and industry.

The announcement of Australia Connect, a new international submarine cable developed by Google, NEXTDC and Sunshine Coast Council, marks a significant advancement in the region's digital infrastructure. This initiative complements the Sunshine Coast's existing technology capabilities through the Sunshine Coast International Broadband Network (SCIBN) and supports the continued development of the Maroochydore City Centre as a key investment destination.

The Australia Connect cable will deliver faster, more reliable internet connectivity to emerging Pacific markets, positioning the Sunshine Coast as a strategic digital gateway and enhancing its competitiveness in attracting technology-focused investment.



Image: Leaders Panel at 2024 Sunshine Coast First Nations Supplier Day

Champion the Sunshine Coast Biosphere, sustainability and support circular economy principles

ASPIRE Circular Economy

ASPIRE is an online marketplace for businesses to sell, exchange and trade unwanted materials – essentially a tool to encourage and foster circular activity. The platform helps hundreds of businesses unlock cost savings, resolve issues around waste, create new supply chains, reuse materials destined for landfill and reduce their carbon emissions. Sunshine Coast Council has invested in an enterprise license to offer free registration to any Sunshine Coast ABN-holder with up to 100 employees. Organisations registered include businesses, community groups, charities, sporting groups and schools. Currently 559 local organisations are registered and trading with ASPIRE.

Sunshine Coast Biosphere

The Sunshine Coast Biosphere Festival was supported through industry engagement and promotion, particularly through the Biosphere Industry Partners, the Food and Agribusiness Network (FAN) and the Manufacturing Excellence Forum (MEF) who have participated in a range of workshops and events throughout the year.

Support inclusion and equity across the economy for the advancement of First Nations peoples, people with disabilities and residents experiencing socio-economic disadvantage

First Nations Supplier Day

Economic Development and the First Nations Partnerships Team delivered the First Nations Supplier Day at Altitude Nine. 25 First Nations businesses were represented at the event, connecting to 97 attendees across government, industry and buyers.

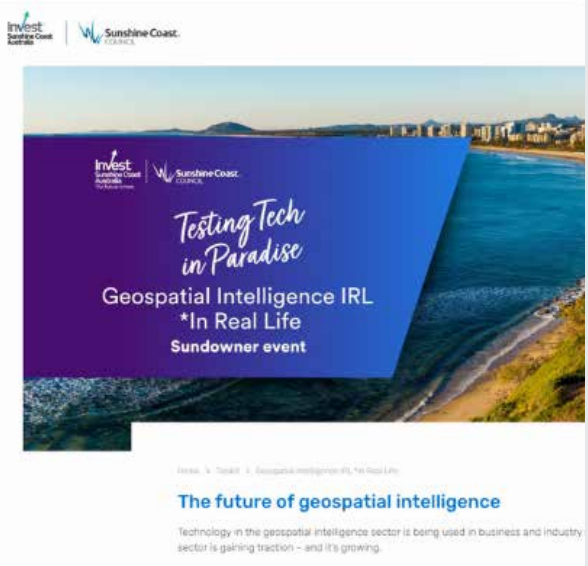
First Nations Stronger Business Connect

Economic Development partnered with AUSIndustry, the First Nations Partnerships Team, RDA Moreton Bay Sunshine Coast and the Department of State Development to deliver the First Nations Stronger Business Connect event. The event aimed to create connections between First Nations business operators with service providers that can help their business grow.

Pathway 2



Image: Sunshine Coast Seafood showcased in Singapore





Pathway 2: Investment and growth

Market and promote the region to attract investment and support local businesses to grow export markets

Invest Sunshine Coast delivers out-of-region marketing initiatives to influence the region's business identity and value proposition to target investment audiences. In 2024-25, combined organic and paid digital activity generated 3,469,585 impressions, 38,828 engagements and 914 new investment leads, supporting strategic efforts to attract business investment to the region. Key targeted advertising campaigns included:

Testing Tech in Paradise Geospatial IRL* In Real Life

Advertising campaign for three weeks to promote the Testing Tech in Paradise Geospatial IRL* In Real Life event on 4 December 2024.

This campaign achieved:

- **632,007** impressions,
- **2,849** clicks
- **94** new leads.

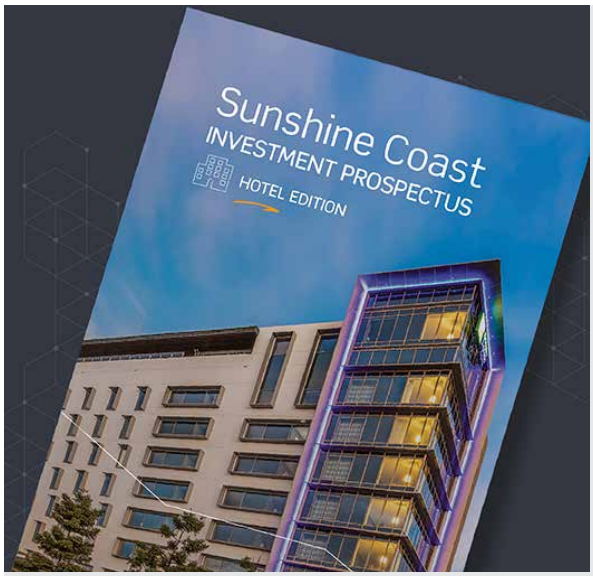
Google cable announcement

The announcement of Australia Connect, the new submarine cable by Google, NEXTDC and Sunshine Coast Council, was promoted through Invest Sunshine Coast organic social media and a short four-week LinkedIn campaign 'The Google Factor' to raise awareness of the opportunity this brings to the Sunshine Coast and business.

This global announcement from Google complements the Sunshine Coast's existing technology capabilities, supports Maroochydore City Centre's growth as a key investment destination and will create faster more reliable internet infrastructure for emerging Indo-Pacific markets.

The 'Google Factor' achieved:

- **237,396** impressions,
- **962** clicks





Hotel Investment Attraction
'Prosper in Paradise' campaign

The hotel investment attraction campaign titled Prosper in Paradise was launched in April across Singapore, Hong Kong and Australia. The campaign positions the Sunshine Coast as a premium destination for hotel investment and highlights iconic regional assets such as Australia Zoo.

From 14 April to 24 June 2025, the campaign achieved:

- **967,100** impressions,
- **122,889** video views
- **4,900** clicks and
- **80** new leads.

Three of these leads have progressed to active investment opportunities and are currently being progressed by Council's Hotel Investment Lead.

Tech in Paradise campaign

The Tech in Paradise advertising campaign was launched in April to promote the Sunshine Coast International Broadband Network, including the newly announced Google TABUA cable, alongside Council's Smart City infrastructure.

From 22 April to 24 June across Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane, the campaign generated

- **234,296** impressions,
- **94,202** video views
- **5302** clicks and
- **189** new leads.



Image: Investment Outcome Cybermerc

Blogs shared throughout the year showcasing regional assets and local business success and innovation. These included Maroochydore CBD update, Zone RV, Priority Industry Projects for the Sunshine Coast, Advanced Aquarium Technologies, Hotel Investment Incentives, Open Access Telecommunications Network, Silver Sea Seafoods, Ozzi Kleen, Sunshine Coast subsea cable hub webinar, the Testing Tech in Paradise client, Soulbotix, using AI Avatar 'Laura', Testing Tech in Paradise client, Bundle of Rays' health-tech trial leveraging Council's unique digital infrastructure, the Sunshine Coast Seafood export success in Singapore, Cure Marine's launch of a new production catamaran and business support networks for success that underscore the region's connectivity and strong support for new business investment.

Manufacturing Excellence Forum (MEF) bus tour on 4 July 2025 was attended by 15 local businesses to visit Zone RV to hear from Dave Biggar and his journey with business and exporting. The Food and Agribusiness Network (FAN) Grow National Export Workshop was held at the Innovation Centre and attended by 35 businesses. SCBWN Export and Grants Workshop was held on 30 July at Vitality Village and attended by 20 businesses.

Trade & Investment Qld (TIQ) – Taste of Qld was held in Brisbane with 18 local businesses participating in the event. Council hosted buyers from Hong Kong, China and Singapore as part of TIQ Taste of Qld, to showcase and highlight the seafood businesses and do site visits and famils including Walker Seafoods, Silver Sea Seafoods, Mooloolah Fisheries and Fraser Spanner Crabs.

Bundle of Rays 'Test and Trial' project remotely training nurses in Sri Lanka demonstrated how export can occur leveraging the fibre cable connections, opening up new opportunities for local business to undertake international business.

Local business, Advanced Aquarium Technologies (AAT), was crowned as Business of the Year at the Sunshine Coast Business Awards and took out the awards for Export and Building and Construction (large business).

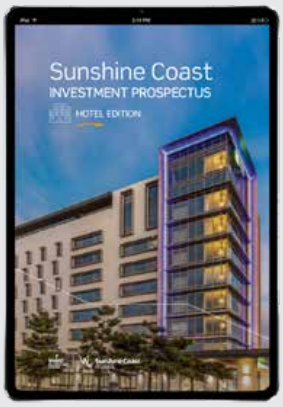


Image: Tatebayashi student delegation

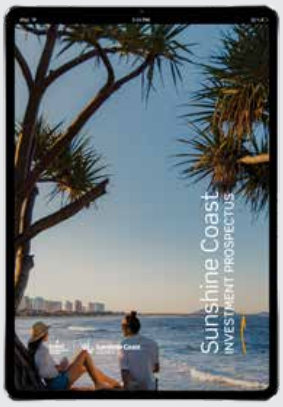
A briefing with TIQ Middle East & Africa Trade Commissioner Kassem Younes discussed investment opportunities in Sunshine Coast, with 13 local export businesses attending to explore the Middle East market potential.

A highly successful launch event was held on 13 May 2025 at Oumi Restaurant in Singapore to promote Sunshine Coast seafood. The event welcomed 40 attendees, including renowned chefs from prestigious restaurants such as Hilton, Hyatt, W Hotel, and Marina Bay Sands. The initiative resulted in new sales for Fraser Isle Spanner Crab and San Antone Food Group's Whiting, while also boosting orders for Silver Sea Seafoods through Orca Group. Marketing activities surrounding the event generated export interest from China and attracted importer and distributor engagement for upcoming events including Meet the Makers (FAN) and The Curated Plate. Building on the success of this pilot initiative—delivered in partnership between Sunshine Coast Council and Trade and Investment Queensland (TIQ) Sunshine Coast—TIQ Singapore has secured funding for the 2025–26 financial year to host a Queensland seafood promotion in Singapore and Malaysia.

Sister City Tatebayashi, Japan participated in a student exchange with 20 students, five teachers from Ministry of Education with Palmwoods and Woombye State Schools, plus a visit from Izumisano Deputy Mayor and small delegation from the education department. Xiamen City, China held a 25 year celebration event of Friendship Charter with Xiamen Media Group, six journalists and six delegates from Municipal People's Congress and Xiamen Foreign Affairs Office.







Images: Hotel Prospectus Relocation Guide Investment Prospectus

Ensure sufficient development assets are available and an efficient planning process to support population and business growth

The Economic Development branch provided advice on a range of state government, council and private projects in FY25. Examples include the proposed Sunshine Coast Planning scheme, Sunshine Coast Airport PDA, Birtinya Town Centre Masterplan and Caloundra Art Precinct. Economic Development also played a key role in various advocacy work on behalf of Council to support population and business growth, including the funding of a new Innovation Hub, adoption of a Hotel Temporary Local Planning Instrument, commitment of Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games infrastructure, The Wave transport solution as well as the 20 year tourism strategy, Destination 2045.

Leverage the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games to create legacy economic assets for the future.

The Queensland Government announced its delivery plan for the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games with significant outcomes for our region including funding for a new integrated Athlete Village, arena and cultural precinct in the Maroochydore City Centre and a new public transport solution, 'The Wave', from Beerwah to the Sunshine Coast Airport.

The opportunity to leverage the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games continues to be communicated with the business community via a range of communication channels including through presentations to chambers of commerce and industry groups, in Council's Business e-newsletter and through social media and promotional activities.

The Investment Prospectus, Hotel Investment Prospectus, and Relocation Guide were refreshed and published on the Invest Sunshine Coast website and provided to the Mayor for use during the Paris Olympics, supporting international promotion of the region's investment opportunities.

Invest Sunshine Coast actively marketed the announcement of the $10 billion infrastructure investment ahead of the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games as a strategic opportunity to attract business investment. Through digital communications, the initiative was positioned as a catalyst for regional growth, supporting lead generation and reinforcing the Sunshine Coast's value proposition to prospective investors.



Image: Xiamen Delegation

Leverage key assets to elevate the region's key sectors and benefit from the utilisation of the foundation infrastructure

Council hosted the Senior Trade Commissioner for the Pacific to discuss trade and investment opportunities associated with the new Google TABUA submarine cable. The cable will significantly enhance digital connectivity across Pacific nations, enabling growth in sectors such as HealthTech, digital education, and remote service delivery, while reinforcing the Sunshine Coast's role as a strategic hub for international investment and innovation.

As part of ongoing investment attraction efforts, the Investment Lead attended the AI Summit in Brisbane on 19 September 2024, showcasing the Sunshine Coast's advanced digital infrastructure. This strategic engagement generated two qualified investment leads, reinforcing the region's positioning as a competitive destination for technology-driven business growth.

New Zealand Trade and Enterprises (NZTE) partnered with Council for a NZ based webinar (facilitated by the Auckland Chamber of Commerce) to promote Sunshine Coast opportunities and provide support for NZ companies expanding to Australia.

As part of the NZ Tech Week program, the Investment Lead hosted a webinar on 20 May 2025 titled Expand Your Tech to Paradise, featuring a panel of 14 guest speakers. The event attracted strong interest, generating 418 page views, 129 registrations, and 80 live attendees from six countries. The session resulted in four immediate investment leads.

Council hosted an Investor Briefing and Smart City Tech Tour for selected REMIX25 Summit delegates. This event showcased the region's advanced digital infrastructure and new CBD offerings, leading to four qualified leads from the immersive technologies sector who were briefed on local investment opportunities. The Investment Lead also presented a Sunshine Coast Investor Briefing to the Hong Kong Trade and Investment Queensland (TIQ) audience during a Queensland Tech and Innovation online session.

Accommodation Hotel Incentives Policy was adopted on 29 August 2024. As part of this policy, a new Temporary Local Planning Instrument (TLPI) supporting hotel development in Maroochydore and Caloundra was formally adopted on 4 April 2025. The announcement was shared with key partners across Australia to support coordinated investment messaging. A detailed hotel investment opportunities and incentives briefing was subsequently held with Trade and Investment Queensland (TIQ), attended by more than 30 officers. Representatives from Stockland, Sunshine Coast Airport and SunCentral presented a unified message promoting the region's hotel investment potential. Following the session, the presentation, media kit and supporting research materials were distributed to TIQ offices globally to support international engagement.

A hotel investment attraction campaign 'Prosper in Paradise' was targeted across Singapore, Hong Kong and Australia. This campaign aimed to promote awareness of the Sunshine Coast as a hotel investment destination and generate leads, to help bridge the shortfall of approximately 2,500 hotel rooms needed by 2032. The campaign generated 80 new leads, two of which, and one lead from TIQ, have progressed to active investment opportunities and are currently being nurtured by Council's Hotel Investment Lead.



Image: Local seafood businesses showcased in Singapore


Image: REMIX25 Delegation

Providing a regulatory environment that encourages investment and growth

Investment outcomes for 2024–25 achieved an estimated total economic impact of $161.49 million to the Sunshine Coast economy, supporting the creation of 564 new jobs across the region. Among the businesses investing were Cybermerc, a national cyber-security firm, selected the Sunshine Coast for its first base outside Canberra. Sunshine Coast Commercial Laundry invested in a new facility at Chevellum, while Bebrok Excavations established a new site at Kalangoor. Cure Marine launched its first production catamaran, the Cure 55, from its advanced manufacturing facility in the Coolum Eco Industrial Precinct, reinforcing the region's innovation and marine manufacturing capabilities.

BG&E expanded to the Sunshine Coast with an office in Maroochydore, following engagement at the 2022 Investor Briefing in Brisbane. McCormick marked its expansion with the opening of a new Trade Waste Facility in Palmwoods. Calix Ltd, an environmental technology company from Victoria, established a facility Caloundra West, supporting the waste collection and treatment sector. Simplimate relocated from Melbourne, contributing to the professional, scientific, and technical services sector. Cardboard Display Australia expanded with a manufacturing facility in Yandina, and Converse Advisory, a boutique professional services firm, relocated from Brisbane.

Note: economic impact (direct and indirect) is determined through economy.id

Sunshine Coast Industrial Park (SCIP) Stage 2 – Investment Assistance Program: Sunshine Coast Council has created an Investment Assistance Program to encourage targeted investment and reinvestment in the Sunshine Coast. The aim of the Program is to fast-track the establishment of precincts such as SCIP Stage 2, diversify the regional economy, create a platform for sustained economic growth and encourage the creation of employment opportunities for the region.

In August, a complimentary concierge Investment & Growth Toolkit discovery session was held with the President of Sunshine Coast Chinese Association (SCCA) to run through the online platform and demonstrate the types of services, tools and resources are available for investors looking to come to the region. This tool will be used by SCCA as a resource when speaking with enquiries from China.



Image: Sourdough Mumma

Pathway 3:
Business retention and expansion

Support local businesses and key delivery partners to expand on the Sunshine Coast.

Local Business Support

The Local Business Support Program delivered specialist advice and support to 1,045 small businesses across the region. There were 23 events delivered for small business in support of the Sunshine Coast Regional Economic Development Strategy involving 2,251 participants including the Thriving Through Change Business Expo, the Sunshine Coast Business Awards, the Business Woman of the Year Awards and a range of business planning workshops.

Thriving Through Change Business Expo

The fourth annual Thriving Through Change Business Expo was held at the Maroochy RSL. The event has had overwhelmingly positive feedback with 100 per cent of survey respondents saying they were satisfied with the event and likely to recommend this event to other business owners. Almost 300 attendees enjoyed two masterclasses; a keynote presenter; an exhibition that offered access to 36 business support organisations; and a networking event wrapped up the evening.

Level Up Your Business

The Level Up Your Business program provides resources, tools, information and support to small businesses to help them overcome challenges and take advantage of opportunities. The suite of resources were refined, consisting of updated website content; a hard copy and online brochure including the support available from all levels of government; a one page fact sheet and promotion of the resources to the business community.

Small Business Month

As part of Queensland Small Business Month in May - an initiative celebrating the vital role small businesses play in our communities - the Business and Industry Development team attended the Small Business Month Breakfast on 1 May 2025 at Maroochy RSL. The event brought together 200 Sunshine Coast business leaders for a morning of networking, inspiration and celebration. The event set a positive tone for the month-long program of workshops, forums, and events designed to support, connect, and empower small businesses across the region.

Hinterland Connection

The Business and Industry Development team attended the Maleny Chamber breakfast event at Spicers Tamarind Retreat, engaging with 30 local businesses to promote resilience and sustainable growth. The team was invited to present The Resilient Business Series, providing practical tools and strategies to help small businesses prepare for unexpected events and build long-term resilience. The session strengthened connections with the Maleny business community, raised awareness of available support programs, and encouraged participation in regional business awards—contributing to greater visibility and confidence among local businesses.

The Business and Industry Development team attended the Montville Chamber Coffee Catch-Up at The Candle & Quill to engage with local businesses and promote business support initiatives. The team delivered a presentation on The Resilient Business Series, equipping attendees with tools to strengthen business continuity. Buy Local Day was promoted, encouraging participation in this region-wide campaign to boost local spending and community support. Following the event, the team conducted targeted outreach by door-knocking along the main street of Montville, raising awareness and driving engagement with Buy Local Day. This proactive approach helped increase visibility of council-led programs and fostered stronger connections with the Montville business community.

Food and Agribusiness

Established by the industry for the industry with ongoing support from Sunshine Coast Council, the Food and Agribusiness Network (FAN) is a not-for-profit food industry cluster that has been operating since 2015. FAN aims to grow the industry by creating an ecosystem that supports collaboration, accelerates innovation and drives trade locally and globally. Now with 255 members, FAN delivered events across the year that were attended by more than 2,500 local businesses and made 1,200 direct connections for their members with customers, collaborators and key stakeholders.

The Project Crafted Agritourism Familiarisation Tour to Queensland's Scenic Rim region supported six Sunshine Coast businesses to attend and engage with local farmers, producers, and artisans to learn about their sustainable practices and innovative approaches to agritourism and to network with fellow industry professionals and exchange insights on agritourism development and best practices.

An Export Market Development Workshop and Presentation was held as part of the Food and Agribusiness Network's (FAN) Grow National Program. The workshop was attended by 25 aspiring Sunshine Coast food and beverage exporters and covered essential topics, including setting an export vision and goals, resourcing for export success, export pricing, market entry strategies, activation, pitch development and more. This session was followed by a presentation by Trade and Invest Queensland (TIQ) who talked the participants through how TIQ can support their business, and things to consider when preparing to export.

Food and Agribusiness Network (FAN) announced their collaboration with Food and Beverage Accelerator (FaBA). FaBA is backed by the Federal Government and invests in small to medium enterprises, start-ups and large corporations to help grow their business and achieve commercial success by bringing together industry and universities to deliver innovations, ingredients, products, and skills. By working together, they will assist FAN members to thrive in the ever-evolving food and beverage manufacturing market.

Queensland's Sunshine Pantry (A Curated Plate Signature Event) was held at The Station, Birtinya. The event showcased the finest local produce from more than 50 of the region's top producers and makers and included appearances from celebrity chefs Hayden Quinn and Peter Kuruvita. More than 1,200 people attended the event.

Council partnered with FAN to support the Grow National Program participants to exhibit at Fine Food Australia under the Queensland's Sunshine Pantry brand. Fine Food Australia is the leading trade event for the food industry and was held at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre. Grow National is a business growth program that aimed to build capacity and scale 52 businesses from across the region.

Council supported the Food and Agribusiness Network (FAN), Manufacturing Excellence Forum (MEF) and the Sunshine Coast Business Women's Network (SCBWN) to deliver the Meet the Female Makers — Cash Flow Workshop, bringing together nearly 100 women from across the region. The event combined practical financial insights with vibrant networking opportunities, celebrating the achievements and potential of women in the food and manufacturing sector



Image: FAN Queensland





Image: Buy Local Day

Build local business capacity and increase business resilience.

Resilience Business Series

The Business and Industry Development team launched the Resilient Business Series, a new initiative by Sunshine Coast Council designed to help local businesses prepare for, respond to, and recover from unexpected disruptions. The series offers a free, practical, month-by-month program that guides business owners through the essential steps of continuity planning. Each month focussing on a different theme—such as risk assessment, cyber security, financial resilience, emergency planning and more, providing actionable tools, templates, and checklists to help businesses build a tailored continuity plan. The program aims to strengthen the region's economic resilience by empowering small businesses to navigate challenges like natural disasters, cyberattacks, and supply chain disruptions with greater confidence and preparedness.

Sunshine Coast Business Awards

The Sunshine Coast Business Awards 2024 program culminated with a fantastic Gala dinner held on the 9 November at the Sunshine Coast Convention Centre. The event reached capacity with over 830 people in attendance and celebrated 31 local business winners across 16 industry categories, plus the Export Award, the Sunshine Coast Business of the Year Award, and Hall of Fame recipients. The 2024 Business of the Year was awarded to Advanced Aquarium Technologies presented by Mayor Natoli

Sunshine Coast Music Industry Awards

The inaugural Sunshine Coast Music Awards took place on 1 June 2025 at The Station in Birtinya and was attended by more than 200 members of the music industry. The Awards are delivered by local not-for-profit organisation the Sunshine Coast Music Industry Collective as a way to showcase and support music industry professionals and provide a platform to develop the night-time economy on the Sunshine Coast.

Sunshine Coast Business Woman of the Year Awards

The Sunshine Coast Business Woman of the Year Gala Awards was held at the Maroochy RSL. The winner of the six categories were announced and celebrated by more than 340 attendees. Sunshine Coast Council sponsored the Sustainable Business Woman of the Year category which was won by Jodi Salmond for her work with Reef Check Australia. The winners will represent their category for a full year with a range of speaking, professional development and event opportunities across the region.

Disaster Preparedness

Economic Development held an information session with the Economic Recovery Local Advisory Group which consists of representatives from chambers of commerce, industry groups, Visit Sunshine Coast and state government, to discuss their respective roles during a major weather event and the processes that in place to ensure efficient economic recovery post disaster event. Resources, information and templates were provided to the group to support them and the business community with emergency event planning and preparedness in preparation for storm season to ensure impacts to business continuity are mitigated.


Image: Thriving Through Change



Image: Thriving Through Change

Champion local procurement, including supporting local First Nations businesses through the supply chain.

Doing Business with Council

The Business and Industry Development team delivered the Doing Business with Council workshop at the Community CoLab in Maroochydore. 20 local businesses participated in the workshop which provided practical guidance on what businesses need to be attractive to government buyers. This workshop is one of several supplier capability building initiatives from the team which also included an introductory webinar attended by 74 local businesses. Businesses now have access to a Doing Business with Council Fact Sheet which provides clarity around council's procurement policy and requirements.

Support identified Gateway Precincts and town centres through activation and place making initiatives.

Place Activation

The Place Activation team delivered support to 2,040 businesses and delivered 35 key events in Nambour, Mooloolaba and Caloundra that were attended by more than 58,800 members of the community. This included the Winter Wunderland, Stadium Cabaret and Christmas Street Party in Caloundra, the Beat Street Forecourt event, Sunshine Coast Hinterland Writers Festival and TramFest Christmas Party in Nambour, and the Friday Night Lights beach volleyball events, 'Tallo Billa' Whale Season Launch, and an esplanade tree-lighting project in Mooloolaba. Central to this was a deep engagement with the business community within each of these locations to ensure all events and initiatives delivered on the aim of driving consumer activity and raising awareness of the destination as an active and vibrant destination.

Mooloolaba Foreshore Revitalisation Project

The Mooloolaba Foreshore Revitalisation Project commenced on 17 July 2025, following the contract signing with SEE Civil. To support local businesses, Economic Development established and worked closely with a Mooloolaba Business Activation Group and the broader business community over an 18-month period to develop and implement a Mooloolaba Business Activation Plan. Significant pre-construction activities were delivered including business readiness programs, a tree-lighting project along the esplanade, and a range of events such as 'Tallo Billa' for the launch of the Whale Watching season. Engagement with the business community continues.



Image: Nambour Cyclone Alfred Damage


Image: Buy Local Day

Ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred Economic Recovery

Ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred impacted the region on 9 March 2025, bringing winds and heavy rainfall across the region. Businesses in Nambour were most heavily impacted, facing significant challenges including premise inundation, temporary closures, supply chain disruptions, loss of stock and infrastructure damage. The broader economic impact across the region was felt in multiple sectors including retail trade, accommodation, food services, construction, tourism and more. The Economic Recovery Local Advisory group was activated to collect business impact intel that was then shared with the Local Disaster Management Team and state government. The Business and Industry Development team provided resources and support to more than 100 impacted Nambour businesses.

Building Better Businesses

The Business and Industry Development team facilitated the delivery of the Build a Better Business program in collaboration with TAFE Queensland which saw seven business owners participate in four face-to-face workshops and three online workshops with the guidance of an industry expert. Participants are rewarded with a Cert IV in New Business and Entrepreneurship, and walk away with focused business plans, finance plans and marketing plans.

Buy Local Day

The Business and Industry Development team collaborated with chambers of commerce, industry groups and local businesses to deliver the 2025 Buy Local Day campaign. The region-wide campaign aimed to inspire the community to support local independent businesses on Buy Local Day (28 June) and beyond while encouraging local businesses to leverage the campaign to engage new and current customers. Seven Buy Local Day events were delivered by partnering with key stakeholders and more than 10,000 businesses benefitted from the campaign.

Pathway 4



Image: Testing Tech in Paradise - Bundle of Rays

Pathway 4: Innovation, technological advancement and scaling up

Promote innovation, research and development activities of local businesses and institutions.

Advanced Manufacturing

The Manufacturing Excellence Forum (MEF) is a grassroots not-for-profit industry group established with support from Sunshine Coast Council to help grow the Sunshine Coast's manufacturing sector. Through ongoing support from a range of key partners, MEF works directly with local manufacturers to help them connect, improve, and grow through events, workshops and best practice tours.

The MEF membership and reach has continued to expand, with 370 manufacturer members and more than 2,700 on the broader network. The group are approaching 4,000 followers on LinkedIn and monthly events consistently attract approximately 120 attendees. Since its inception, MEF has delivered 55 events with more than 4,600 total attendees. MEF has connected business and industry with more than $7 million in successful grant funding outcomes and have assisted in placing 55 jobs within the region.

MEF delivered a range of key programs and initiatives delivered with the support of Sunshine Coast Council including Generative AI in Manufacturing Workshop Series attracting 60 participants, Employment Law, Performance Management and Mental Health workshop attracting 30 participants, Practical workshop on quantifying ROI in Automation attracting 25 participants, PCB Connect 2025 at Caloundra Air Museum attracting 350 attendees, Advanced Manufacturing Tour to Brisbane visiting EGR Extrusion and Corematic which had 15 participants, and a Lean Manufacturing Workshop Series that saw 20 participants attend.

Sunshine Coast Screen Summit 2024

The Sunshine Coast Screen Summit 2024 attracted 108 registrations and received overwhelmingly positive feedback from attendees and Screen Collective members, who voiced strong support for continuing this annual event. The enthusiasm highlighted the Summit's value in fostering industry growth and collaboration on the Sunshine Coast. This is the third year the event has been held and in 2024, the Screen Collective took a lead role in programming the event, with a focus on capability building and the potential benefits government offset programs could bring to the region.

ShowDown MAX

The Sunshine Coast Screen Collective launched Showdown MAX to over 150 industry in attendance. ShowdownMAX is an initiative that has evolved from the Sunny Coast Showdown, aiming to establish the Sunshine Coast as a leading Australian screen hub. With up to $250,000 in funding, it supports the development and production of a single commercially viable project. Four shortlisted projects each receive $10,000 for professional development before pitching to a final panel.

The winning project secures more than $200,000 in production funding and support. The program, backed by Sunshine Coast Council since 2022, seeks to boost the local screen industry, talent, and economy.



Image: AIDC Regionality Sunshine Coast 2025

SunCon Cyber Security Conference

The inaugural SunCon Cyber Security Conference was held at UniSC bringing together 125 cybersecurity professionals, academia and government. The theme was innovation, collaboration and community in cyber security, providing two dedicated streams for leaders and technologists. The excellent event run by members of the Sunshine Coast Cyber Security Network has the ability to become an annual event.

Something Tech Delegation

A delegation of 10 local industry members were supported to attend Something Tech in Brisbane 28 - 30 August 2025 via an Industry Vertical Partnership. This partnership enabled a strong presence at the event including two speaking opportunities, exhibition and Sunshine Coast Council branding. Held as part of Something Fest, this tech innovation event provided an opportunity for the Sunshine Coast ecosystem to showcase local innovation on a national stage, network with industry, government and investors.

FWD Fest

FWD Fest 2025, held from 7–9 May 2025, was a three-day innovation and entrepreneurship festival themed 'Riding the Wave', with Sunshine Coast Council as a Strategic Sponsor alongside Advance Queensland and Regional Development Australia. The event attracted 357 unique attendees, featured 60 expert speakers across four thematic streams and showcased 21 local founders. Key highlights included a Procurement Pitch connecting local entrepreneurs with major procurement leaders, a Celebration Dinner attended by the Mayor and the Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation recognising regional innovation leadership, and the FWD ACT Think Tank exploring strategies to boost regional investibility. The festival reinforced the Sunshine Coast's reputation as a thriving hub for innovation and entrepreneurship.

Space to Sea Accelerator Program

Council was a Collaborative Partner alongside UniSC and Advance Queensland in the delivery of the Space to Sea Accelerator Program. Eight companies were selected through an EOI process to participate in the program which is designed to propel innovative ventures from concept to reality in just six months. Participants received support and resources to refine their ideas, culminating in a 'Demo Night' that showcases their progress to potential investors and industry leaders.

GovHack Sunshine Coast

Sunshine Coast Council partnered with UniSC, Unitywater and Silicon Coast to create the GovHack Sunshine Coast Node event which was held at the UniSC Innovation Centre Auditorium and attended by 20 participants. GovHack provides government at all levels with the ability to directly engage with a passionate 'hacker' community (or problem solvers) to find creative and innovative solutions to defined (or not so defined) civic problems using government agency open data. GovHack showcases the potential of open data to help solve the challenges facing government and its citizens, it also provides a talent attraction opportunity for Council.

Health Tech Roundtable

A Health Tech Leaders Roundtable discussion was facilitated to highlighted themes that identified several strengths and recognised barriers to the growth of the ecosystem. Looking ahead, the discussion focused on global collaboration and pragmatic partnerships that connect and support startups, research and commercialisation in the region.



Image: FWD Fest 2025


Image: TTiP Bundle of Rays


Image: TTiP Geospatial IRL

Support local entrepreneurship networks and activities to help scale up local businesses.

EvokeAG

Evoke Ag is the leading global agrifood technology and innovation event that unites the agrifood innovation community across the Asia Pacific and around the world. The EvokeAg Conference and associated Agtech Summit was attended and supported in partnership with FAN with positive feedback regarding opportunities and business development achieved. This event provided a powerful platform for FAN's delegation of 20 to delve into national innovation and build valuable connections to drive future growth.

From Space to Sea: Harnessing Geospatial Data for Agrifood

Delivered in partnership with FAN, this future-focused event explored how geospatial data and high-speed connectivity are transforming agriculture and aquaculture. Held at Altitude Nine during the week of EvokeAg 2025, From Space to Sea brought together national leaders in agtech, research and data innovation for a keynote, panel discussion and behind-the-scenes tour of the region's edge data infrastructure. From on-farm application to smart city potential, the event showcased how space-to-sea data is reshaping what's possible for sustainable food production.

LEAP FWD

Silicon Coast launched the LEAP FWD Accelerator and Incubation Program in partnership with ACS Labs and Sunshine Coast Council under the Advanced Queensland Regional Enablers Grant. Each program will take five start-up founders through a six-month program providing access to national expertise, mentorship, education, resources, talent and industry connections.

GAME ON: Sunshine Coast Digital Games Summit 2024

In partnership with the University of Sunshine Coast (UniSC), the Sunshine Coast Screen Collective, Screen Queensland and Jobs Queensland, the inaugural Sunshine Coast Digital Games Summit attracted 81 industry, education and stakeholder attendees. This sold-out event aimed to identify key stakeholders in the local game development industry and develop a prioritized action plan to grow the region's game development industry. A list of priority actions was devised and voted on at the event with a focus on ecosystem building, sourcing a place for game development and business support for local developers to scale. A core industry group will meet in December to discuss the next steps and form an advisory panel.

Season of the Dev

The Sunshine Coast welcomed the Jobs Queensland and Screen Queensland funded Season of the Dev digital games event series which commenced with a Community Day (150pax) and Game Jam (40pax). Season of the Dev consists of a series of events held across the Sunshine Coast region between 13 March and 9 May 2025 with the aim of providing capability building and networking opportunities for the local digital games industry

Australian International Documentary Conference

137 delegates attended the Australian International Documentary Conference (AIDC) Regionality Sunshine Coast conference at the Maroochy RSL with over half originating from outside of the Sunshine Coast and Noosa Local Government Area's (LGA). Presented by AIDC and Screen Queensland with the support of Sunshine Coast Council and in collaboration with the Screen Collective, this expertly curated event attracted delegates, speakers and decision-makers from around Australia including Screen Australia, Screen Queensland, ABC, SBS, Paramount, Mile End Films, Wildbear Entertainment, Brown Cabs and Doc Society.



Image: Testing Tech in Paradise Soulbotix



Image: TTiP NZ Tech Week

Advance Smart City infrastructure to further support local businesses and leverage the Sunshine Coast International Broadband Network.

The Testing Tech in Paradise VIP Tech Tour and Sundowner Networking events on 3 July 2024 achieved significant interest in 'smart cities' infrastructure and activities in the CBD. The Sundowner attracted more than 100 attendees who were predominantly executive audience. Testing Tech in Paradise (TTiP) Australia in Space second webinar was held with guest presenters inclusive of the CEO of the Critical Infrastructure - Information and Sharing Analysis Centre, a national body for identifying and managing intelligence around cyber threats, who invited members of the audience to also consider the Sunshine Coast for undertaking tech-based trials, research and residency.

The announcement of Australia Connect, the new TABUA submarine cable by Google, NEXTDC and Sunshine Coast Council, was promoted through Invest Sunshine Coast organic social media and a 4-week LinkedIn campaign to raise awareness of the opportunities this brings. This global announcement from Google complements the Sunshine Coast's existing technology capabilities, supports Maroochydore City Centre's growth as a key investment destination and will create faster more reliable internet infrastructure for emerging Pacific markets. More than 130 guests attended the Testing Tech in Paradise Geospatial Intelligence event held at Altitude Nine on 4 December 2024, and 31 stakeholders participated in the follow up Teams Workshop. Testing Tech in Paradise project with Soulbotix and 'Laura' the avatar, took place in City Hall.

This project aimed to improve accessibility through Council's digital kiosks by providing AI driven search engine based on ChatGPT and combine with a hologram using data from council's systems only.

Council staff trialled and tested the customer interface, which was refined before trialling with members of the public for three weeks. A case study was developed and promoted through Invest Sunshine Coast social media channels showcasing how testing technology on Council's unique digital infrastructure can help improve business tech development for commercialisation.

A further Testing Tech in Paradise project trial involving local firm Bundle of Rays, ran for two weeks from a Landing Pad at City Hall. This project aims to deliver global healthcare education remotely to Sri Lanka using the Maroochydore WiFi 6 network and demonstrating the export of services using the fibre assets. A case study was produced and shared on Invest Sunshine Coast social media channels highlighting running e-health business from the region.

The Tech in Paradise advertising campaign, launched in April 2025, promoted the Sunshine Coast International Broadband Network, the newly announced Google TABUA cable, and Council's Smart City infrastructure. This campaign targeted tech-related business, developers and innovators across Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane generating 189 new investment leads.

As part of NZ Tech Week program, the Investment Lead hosted a 'Expand Your Tech to Paradise' webinar on 20 May 2025, featuring 14 guest speakers. The session attracted 418 page views, 129 registrations and 80 live attendees from six countries, generating four immediate investment leads.

Investment Attraction also hosted an Investor Briefing and Smart City Tech Tour for selected REMIX25 Summit delegates, showcasing the region's digital infrastructure and new CBD offerings. This initiative resulted in four qualified leads from the immersive technologies sector. Further international engagement included a Sunshine Coast Investor Briefing delivered to the Hong Kong TIQ audience during a Queensland Tech and Innovation webinar. Additionally, V2i Group was selected for the Space to Sea Accelerator Program and presented a 3D GIS project proposal to Council's GIS Working Group.



Image: FAN Space to Sea

Identify and expand the innovation ecosystem to grow the region's capabilities.

Ecosystem Enablers

Council continued to provide support and collaborate with the key delivery partners identified in the Regional Economic Development Strategy to build capacity, share knowledge and create opportunities to expand and grow the innovation ecosystem on the Sunshine Coast. These partners include the Manufacturing Excellence Forum (MEF), Food and Agribusiness Network (FAN), Sunshine Coast Tech Industry Alliance (SCTechIA), Silicon Coast, Sunshine Coast Screen Collective, Study Sunshine Coast, Sunshine Coast Music Industry Collective, Visit Sunshine Coast, the Sunshine Coast Events Industry Association, UniSC, TAFE Queensland East Coast, RDAMBSC, and chambers of commerce.

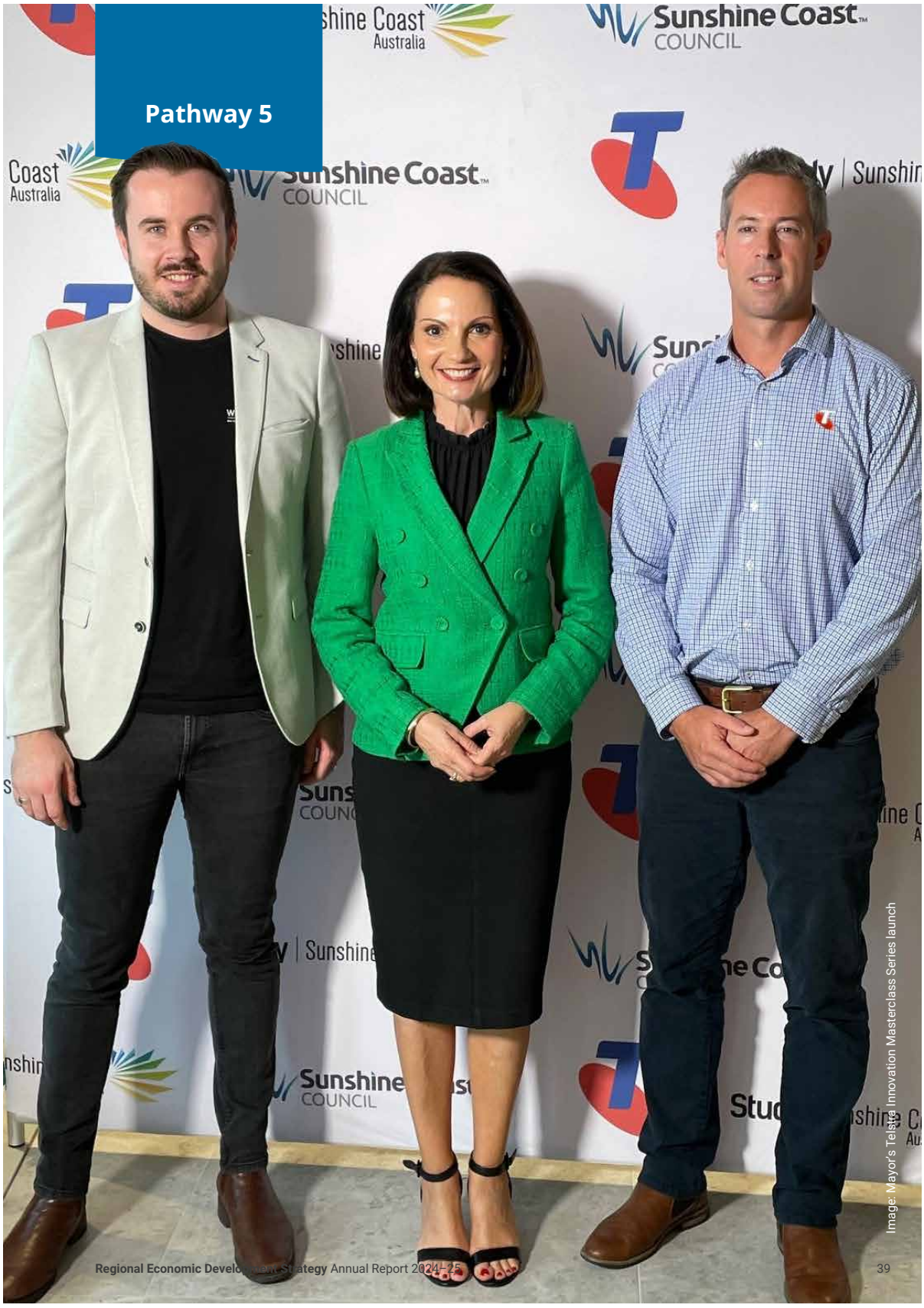


Image: Mayor's Telstra Innovation Masterclass Series launch



Image: Future Careers Immersive showcase

Pathway 5: Talent and skills

Support local education and training providers to build pathways for local workforce and connect to local businesses.

Sunshine Coast Regional Jobs Committee

Sunshine Coast Council participated as a committee member of the Sunshine Coast Regional Jobs Committee (RJC) which is a Queensland Government funded initiative that brings together a proactive and diverse group of representatives from the community who voluntarily contribute their knowledge, skills, insight and passion for the region, its people and its future growth. The role of the RJC is to:

- identify local workforce challenges and connect stakeholders with government programs, resources, and events
- address barriers to training, workforce participation and business growth
- develop strategies to resolve skills gaps and workforce issues
- support regional job growth and plan for future employment needs
- foster collaboration among local businesses, industry leaders, government, training providers and schools to align local skills with economic activity.

Multicultural Jobs Fair

The Business and Industry Development team participated in the Multicultural Job Fair and Business Expo held at Mooloolaba TAFE on 28 May 2025. This well attended event brought together job seekers, students and graduates from diverse cultural backgrounds, offering them access to employment opportunities, training providers, and business support services.

Attendees were also connected with the Sunshine Coast Jobs Hub and Student Jobs Hub.

Employer Peer Network

The Employer Peer Network Breakfast was held at Sunshine Coast City Hall and brought together 16 local employers and industry representatives to discuss inclusive workforce development. Hosted by Study Sunshine Coast in collaboration with key regional and state partners, the event focused on attracting and retaining culturally diverse talent, including international students and graduates. Attendees shared experiences, identified common challenges, and contributed ideas for shaping a regional Employer Peer Network to support workforce inclusion and create meaningful career pathways.

Vocational Education Reference Group

Economic Development attended the Vocational Education Reference Group (VERG) in support of Vocational Education programs in High School environments. The VERG showcased students undertaking assessment in their chosen VET program including construction, hospitality and health.

Careers in Health

Sunshine Coast Council supported the Sunshine Coast Health Institute: Careers in Health Showcase event. More than 200 students with an interest in health careers attended to participate in simulations and had hands on experiences through Virtual Reality on what it would be like to work in hospital environments with patients.



Image: Study Sunshine Coast Cultural Competency

Conduct talent attraction, development and retention programs to provide a high-quality workforce to local businesses

Regional Workforce Research Collaboration

The Regional workforce attraction, development, and retention: Employer and Employee Perspectives report was completed. The study undertaken by researchers at the UniSC in collaboration with the Sunshine Coast Council examines both employer and employee perspectives pertaining to workforce attraction, development and retention in the Sunshine Coast region and Australia more broadly. The report can be found on the UniSC Research Bank.

Career Aspirations in STEM Research

The Encouraging Early Career Aspirations in STEM: Sunshine Coast project report was completed. The study undertaken by researchers at the University of the Sunshine Coast in collaboration with the Sunshine Coast Council is a crucial resource to inform industry, identify opportunities and drive change in education for the region. The report provides a rigorous analysis of STEM education in the early years. The report will bring about systematic change to enhance the talent pool and skill sets within the region. Consequently, it will support the creation of a dynamic, resilient and competitive local economy ensuring that the region remains at the forefront of education, technological advancements and economic progress. The report can be found on the UniSC Research Bank.

Support youth development and innovation initiatives that foster talent and skills for the future.

Future Careers Immersive Showcase

Sunshine Coast Council partnered with the Sunshine Coast Regional Jobs Committee, Noosa Council, RDAMBSC and the Department of Trade, Employment and Training (DTET) to deliver the Future Careers Immersive Showcase for Year 10 students at UniSC Stadium on Friday 14 March. More than 2,500 students from 23 schools attended the event which aimed to engage with students to inspire them to understand the opportunities that exist for them locally when they consider their career path and also connect with leaders from across business and industry. A Future Career Teacher Dinner and Parent Webinar were also held and attended by more than 250 people.

Mayor's Telstra Innovation Awards

Sunshine Coast Council partnered with Telstra and Study Sunshine Coast to deliver the 2024 Mayor's Telstra Innovation Awards to high school students on the Sunshine Coast. The 2024 Mayor's Telstra Innovation Awards and Pitch night was attended by more than 100 people in support of the 12 student teams who pitched their final innovative ideas and products in front of the judging panel.



Image: RoboRave



Image: Mayors Telstra Masterclass

Mayor's Telstra Innovation Masterclass Series

The first Mayor's Telstra Innovation Masterclass Series: Future Entrepreneurial Leaders, brought together 100 students from Years 8 to 10, representing 17 local secondary schools, for an inspiring full-day experience focused on leadership, creativity and connection. Participants were selected from a competitive pool of 117 applicants across the Sunshine Coast region. The initiative is designed to build leadership capacity in young people while offering insights into future career pathways and emerging industries.

Generation Innovation GI Challenge

Supported through Council's Community Grants Program, the GI Challenge is an independently run entrepreneurship program for 15–21 year-olds from the Sunshine Coast and Noosa that unleashes the innovation of young people. Three finalists presented their pitch videos and answered questions from a panel of judges. More than 100 people attended to hear the innovative ideas and celebrate the winning team.

RoboRave

The RoboRave 2024 World Championships were held at the UniSC Stadium. This is the first time Australia had hosted the World Championship event which attracted 1,164 competitors across 465 teams from 13 countries, plus 128 volunteers and over 900 spectators. The event was supported by Sunshine Coast Council through the Major Events Sponsorship Program.

Attract international students and connect local students to opportunities within the region.

Study Sunshine Coast Student Employability

Study Sunshine Coast was proud to host two fully funded First Aid and CPR courses for 40 students held at UniSC. Delivered by local business First Aid Pro, students learnt life saving techniques and gained qualifications to help them in industry placements linked to their area of study.

The Global Mindset Cultural Competency Program was delivered with 20 students from across Europe, Asia and Australia. The program is an initiative designed to build cultural competency, deepen cross-cultural understanding and foster global awareness. Students reported significant personal growth, particularly in their ability to adapt, communicate and connect across cultures.

Study Sunshine Coast delivered an employability workshop for students studying on the Sunshine Coast to assist them in leveraging Artificial Intelligence (AI) to optimise their LinkedIn profiles in time for summer job opportunities. Students learnt how to engage with AI tools to craft profiles that truly attract future employers and were provided with professional profile pictures for their newly created LinkedIn profiles.



Image: Study Sunshine Coast Cultural Immersion

Study Sunshine Coast Industry Engagement

Study Sunshine Coast, in collaboration with the Sunshine Coast Young Chamber of Commerce, recently hosted the Homegrown: Sustainability and Industry event at the wharf attended by 43 students and industry. Designed to equip students with essential employability skills, local industry connections and the confidence to build a professional network, the event gave them a clear pathway to explore meaningful careers right here on the Sunshine Coast.

Study Sunshine Coast partnered with the Manufacturing Excellence Forum (MEF) to deliver a successful industry networking event hosted at BFX furniture manufacturer. With more than 100 attendees, the event offered valuable opportunities for connection and collaboration. Guests were also treated to an exclusive tour of BFX's state-of-the-art facility, showcasing their impressive $20 million expansion. It was a fantastic evening celebrating innovation and industry growth.

Study Sunshine Coast Student Experiences

Study Sunshine Coast invited 55 International students to participate in an unforgettable day of cultural immersion at TribalLink in the beautiful Sunshine Coast Hinterland. Attendees received a traditional First Nations Welcome to Country, followed by a guided bush walk and a bush tucker morning tea and lunch with the aim of promoting the Sunshine Coast as a destination for student experiences.

Study Sunshine Coast hosted the Student Surf Awareness & Beach BBQ at Alexandra Headland Beach. The event welcomed 15 students, including both international and domestic participants from TAFE Qld and UniSC, who engaged in vital water safety training and enjoyed an introduction to surfing under expert guidance.

The day concluded with a traditional Australian beach BBQ, fostering cultural integration and social connection among attendees. The event successfully strengthened local partnerships and showcased the Sunshine Coast as a welcoming destination for students.

Study Sunshine Coast connected with more than 500 new students at the UniSC Orientation Day. The team also attended that UniSC Welcome to Australia Connect Desk Event at the Brisbane International Airport as part of the Study Queensland initiative to welcome international students to Queensland and promote the study destinations.

Study Sunshine Coast welcomed its 2025 Ambassador cohort at Sunshine Coast City Hall, where Mayor Rosanna Natoli greeted ten new international and domestic ambassadors. The Mayor connected with the students, shared her vision for a sustainable and inclusive Sunshine Coast, and the event included a guided tour of City Hall. This event marked the start of the ambassadors' role in representing the region and promoting student experiences throughout 2025.

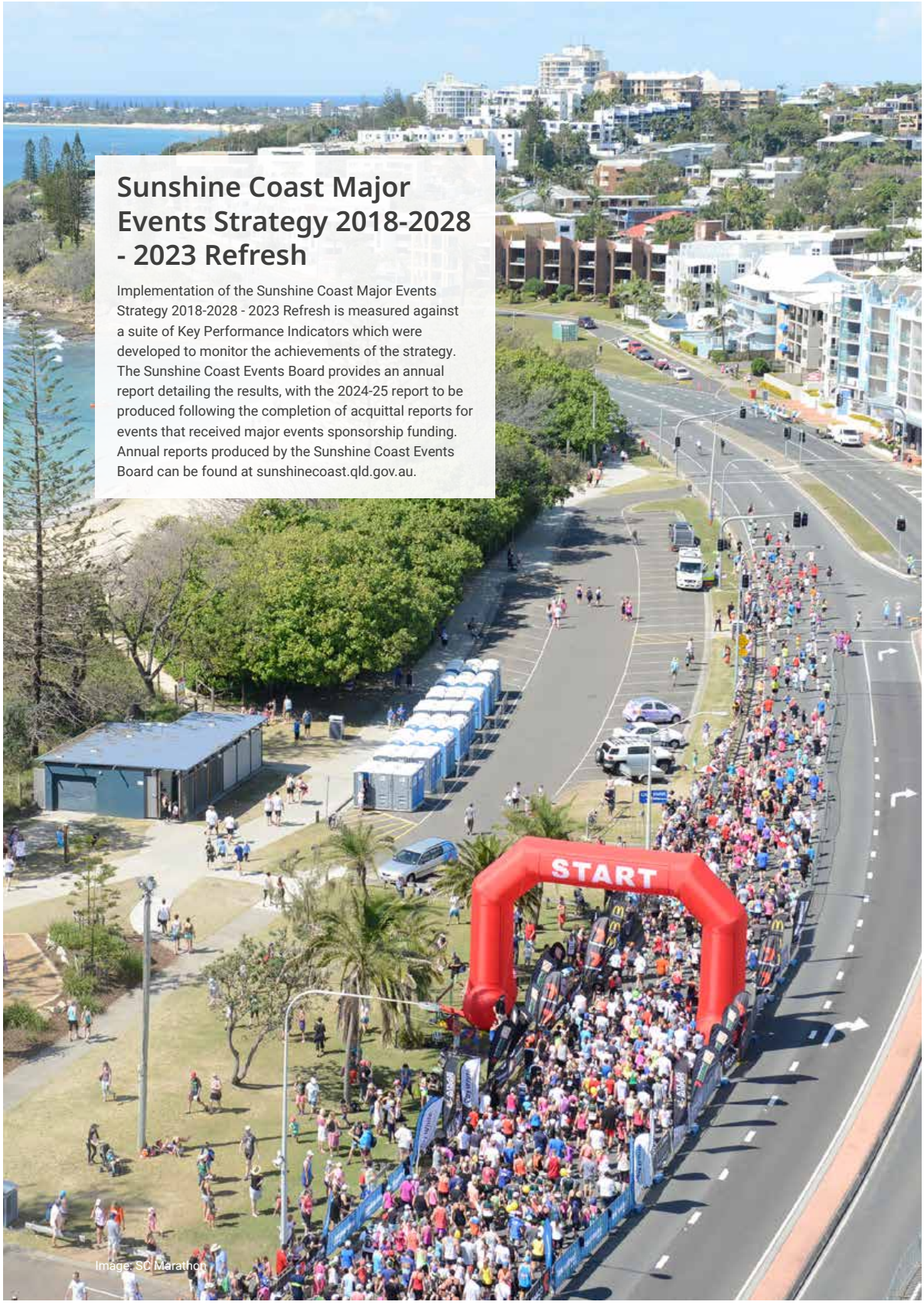
Study Sunshine Coast Student Attraction and Retention

Study Sunshine Coast collaborated with the Union Institute of Language (UIL) to host 20 education agents from key market areas including China, Korea, Japan, Philippines, Taiwan and Vietnam for a Familiarisation Tour (Famil) on the Sunshine Coast, showcasing the region's exceptional educational offerings and strong community connections.

Study Sunshine Coast participated in the Study Queensland delegation to the Australian International Education Conference in Melbourne. Representing the region at the Study Queensland stand within the Study Australia area, Study Sunshine Coast distributed key information packs on behalf of the region and its key members. Engaging in valuable discussions with industry members, the event provided deep insights through workshops and keynote sessions. It was especially enlightening to learn about the initiatives other Study states are pursuing in employability and career development.

Study Sunshine Coast were proud sponsors of the 2024 UniSC Student Leadership and Volunteer Awards Ceremony which was attended by 100 students, university representatives and community. This annual event is dedicated to celebrating and recognising the incredible contributions of student volunteers who have devoted their time and skills to various causes throughout their academic journey.





Sunshine Coast Major Events Strategy 2018-2028 - 2023 Refresh

Implementation of the Sunshine Coast Major Events Strategy 2018-2028 - 2023 Refresh is measured against a suite of Key Performance Indicators which were developed to monitor the achievements of the strategy. The Sunshine Coast Events Board provides an annual report detailing the results, with the 2024-25 report to be produced following the completion of acquittal reports for events that received major events sponsorship funding. Annual reports produced by the Sunshine Coast Events Board can be found at sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au.

Image: SC Marathon

Sunshine Coast COUNCIL

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8.2 QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT, QUARTER 1 2025-26

File No: Council Meetings

Author: Manager Strategy and Policy
Business Transformation and Performance

Appendices: App A - Chief Executive Officer's Quarterly Progress Report - Quarter 1, 2025-26..... 189

PURPOSE

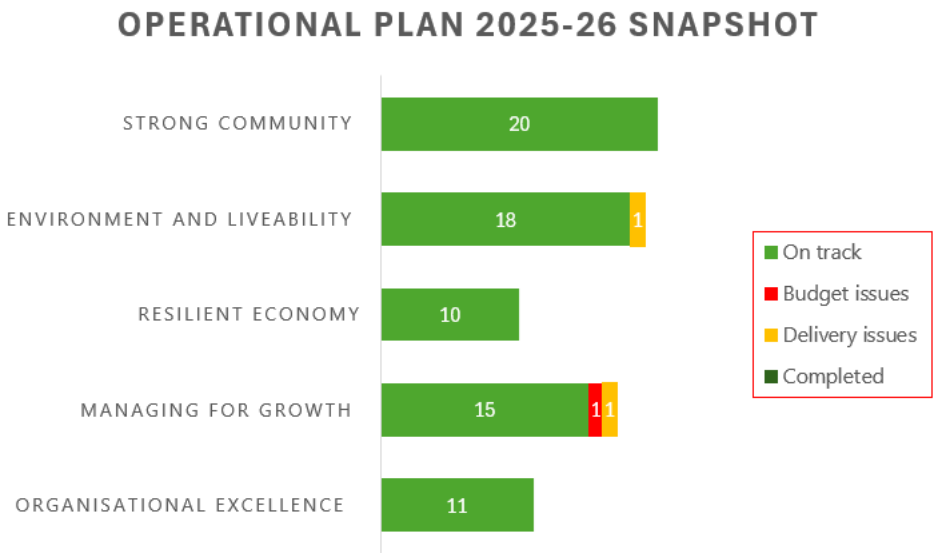
To present the Chief Executive Officer's Progress Report for Quarter 1, 2025-26 (Report) which covers the period from 1 July to 30 September 2025. The Report provides Council and the community with an update on progress of the 77 activities in Council's Operational Plan 2025-26.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Under section 174(3) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012,* the Chief Executive Officer is required to provide a regular report to Council at intervals of not more than 3 months, outlining progress in delivering its annual operational plan activities.

At the end of Quarter 1, 2025-26, 96 per cent of operational plan activities were progressed as planned, with 3 activities not meeting current timeframe and/or budget expectations.

The snapshot below provides a summary of progress of operational activities against the goals in the Corporate Plan 2025-30.



Key highlights from Quarter 1 2025-26 include:

- The new Library+ Caloundra officially opened to the public on 22 September 2025, transforming the former Caloundra administration building into a vibrant, inclusive and future-focused community space.

- The final 14 (of 22) dwellings of the Marcoola Affordable Housing Project were completed for eligible low-income, key worker households.
- Feasibility investigation for a Medium Density Demonstration Project has progressed and once complete will showcase well-designed medium density housing that sets a benchmark for future development in the region.
- The 10-week public consultation for the proposed Sunshine Coast Planning Scheme and associated Planning Scheme policies closed on 19 September, with Council reviewing submissions to determine required changes before considering whether to proceed with the proposal.
- The 2-year project examining how critical infrastructure systems are likely to be disrupted during climate events has concluded providing insights to boost our region's resilience to the changing climate.

The list below provides an exception-based report of the 3 activities that did not meet current timeframe or budget expectations.

- Site conditions and material availability has caused delays for the central and eastern sections of the Moffat Beach seawall. Council is adjusting construction methodology, providing additional construction hours and applying lessons learned to manage future project delays.
- Public tender for the construction for the Caloundra Transport Corridor Upgrade (Section 1 and Section 2) is delayed pending the Australian Government's approval of the controlled action under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* and is expected to be released in late-2025.
- The delivery of the Strategic Parking Framework did not commence in Quarter 1 and prioritisation of delivery of this activity is currently under review.

The Chief Executive Officer's Quarterly Progress Report - Quarter 1, 2025-26 **(Appendix A)** provides details of all 77 activities and their progress for the quarter, under each of the goals in our Corporate Plan 2025-30.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

(a) receive and note the report titled "Quarterly Progress Report, Quarter 1 2025-26" and

(b) endorse the Chief Executive Officer's Quarterly Progress Report - Quarter 1, 2025-26 (Appendix A).

FINANCE AND RESOURCING

Quarterly reports are developed and funded within operational budgets and existing resources.

CORPORATE PLAN

Corporate Plan Goal: ***Organisational excellence***
Strategic Pathway: We serve our community by providing this great service

Operational Activity: S29 - Strategy and Planning - Provision of integrated strategy, corporate planning and performance monitoring that inform corporate reporting and prioritisation processes as well as advocacy for state and federal funding partnerships.

CONSULTATION

Councillor Consultation

This report has been discussed with Councillor E Hungerford and Councillor J Broderick as Portfolio Councillors for the Organisational Excellence goal.

Portfolio Councillors are updated and kept informed on activities within their respective portfolios.

Internal Consultation

All Departments have contributed to progress information against their Operational Plan activities, and Directors have approved the content that has informed the development of this report.

External Consultation

This is a statutory reporting requirement and does not require external consultation.

Community Engagement

This is a statutory reporting requirement and does not require community engagement, noting that community engagement is an inherent part of progressing many of the activities in the Operational Plan.

PROPOSAL

Under section 174(3) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012,* the Chief Executive Officer is required to provide a regular report to a Council meeting at intervals of not more than three months, outlining progress in delivering its operational plan activities.

Progress report

The Chief Executive Officer's Quarterly Highlights Report – Quarter 1, 2025-26 (Appendix A) consists of a summary of achievements under each of the Corporate Plan goals with details on the implementation of the 77 activities outlined in Council's Operational Plan 2025-26. It includes the status of each activity including percentage complete, on time and on budget indicators as well as progress commentary.

Legal

This report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of section 174 (3) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*.

Policy

There are no policy requirements for the presentation of a quarterly progress report.

Previous Council Resolution

Ordinary Meeting 21 August 2025 (OM25/70)

That Council:

(a) receive and note the report titled "Quarterly Progress Report, Quarter 4 2024-25" and

(b) endorse the Chief Executive Officer's Quarterly Progress Report - Quarter 4, 2024-25 (Appendix A).

Related Documentation

- Corporate Plan 2025-30
- Operational Plan 2025-26

Critical Dates

The *Local Government Regulation 2012* requires progress reports to be presented to Council at intervals of not more than three months. Council meets these requirements by providing quarterly progress reports that are usually presented to Council within eight weeks of the end of the calendar quarter, subject to the scheduled Council meeting cycle.

Implementation

The Report will be published and made accessible via Council's website and a digital copy will be provided to the State Library of Queensland as required by legislation.

Sunshine Coast Council

Chief Executive Officer's Report Quarter 1, 2025-26

Progress against Operational Plan 2025-26 activities

Sunshine Coast COUNCIL

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.

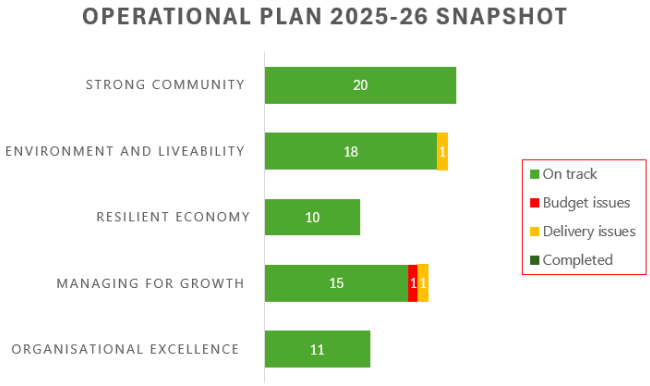
Message from the Chief Executive Officer



Welcome to the first quarterly progress report for the 2025-26 financial year, outlining the progress of activities for the period 1 July to 30 September 2025 in Council's Operational Plan 2025-26.

I am pleased to report that the year is off to a strong start, with 96 per cent of our Operational Plan 2025-26 activities progressing as planned, with only 2 activities experiencing minor delays to their expected delivery timeframes, and one activity is currently under review.

A snapshot of the progress of activities against Council's Corporate Plan 2025-30 goals is provided below, with detailed commentary on each activity included within this Report.



During the quarter, Council launched the Sunshine Coast's first Citizens' Panel, bringing together 53 residents who reflect the different backgrounds and characteristics of our community. The first meet and greet session was held in September, marking an important step in strengthening our engagement with the community. The Panel provides an additional way for Council to listen, learn and make informed decisions on the issues that matter to our region.

Another significant milestone was the official opening of the new Library+ Caloundra in September. This marks the transformation of the former Caloundra administration building into a vibrant, inclusive and future-focused community space - one that responds to the needs of a growing population and evolving community expectations. The facility features a state-of-the-art district library that reimagines how our community accesses and experiences library services and includes community meeting spaces, a modern customer contact centre, and Council administration offices accommodating around 130 staff.

These are just a sample of the many activities delivered during this first quarter and I invite you to read on to find out more about the work Council is doing with and for our community.

I thank Madam Mayor, Councillors, staff, volunteers and contractors who continue to actively support the work of our Council as we seek to make the Sunshine Coast Australia's most sustainable region. Connected. Liveable. Thriving.

John Baker
Chief Executive Officer

Summary

Operational Plan activities

Quarter 1, 2025-26

Strong community

Goal: Communities thrive through connection with people, places and spaces and staying true to our principles as a welcoming, caring and vibrant community, with opportunities to participate for all.

Operational Plan 2025-26 delivery

Operational Activities:	Progressing as planned				Challenges identified	
	Completed		On Track		Time	Budget
20	-		20		-	-

Key activity highlights

Library+ Caloundra opening

- The new Library+ Caloundra officially opened to the public on 22 September 2025, attracting more than 2,700 visitors on opening day. The facility includes:
  - a state-of-the-art district library
  - community meeting spaces,
  - a modern customer contact centre
  - Council administration offices accommodating around 130 staff
  - a visitor liaison service ensuring customers seeking assistance are connected to the most appropriate services for their specific needs.

Affordable housing and support for homelessness

- Council continued to take practical steps to increase access to affordable housing and support people experiencing homelessness including:
  - Completion of the Marcoola Affordable Housing Project delivering the final 14 (of 22) dwellings for eligible low-income key worker households.
  - Established the Nambour Homelessness Response Forum, bringing together key government and community stakeholders to strengthen collaboration and develop coordinated solutions for people experiencing homelessness.
  - Supported The Shack's monthly homelessness camp clean-ups and coordinated a 2-day clean-up of flood-affected sites, improving safety, amenity, and waste management for people living rough and the wider community.

Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan 2025-2028

- Council adopted its Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan 2025-2028 on 24 July 2025, following an 18-month development process shaped by feedback from stakeholders and First Nations community partners which includes:
  - 18 actions and 89 deliverables aimed at strengthening partnerships with Traditional Custodians and First Nations community stakeholders, driving tangible social and economic change, and creating inclusive workplaces and communities that value First Nations cultures.



Environment and liveability

Goal: Natural assets are preserved and enhanced as we continue to create a built environment and living practices that support a sustainable community.

Operational Plan 2025-26 delivery

Operational Activities:	Progressing as planned				Challenges identified			
	Completed		On Track		Time		Budget	
19	-		18		1		-	

Key activity highlights

Medium Density Demonstration Project

- Council's Medium Density Demonstration Project is setting a benchmark for future development in the region. It continues to progress through the feasibility investigation stage including internal workshops and targeted research exploring potential sites, design requirements, planning considerations and insights from similar projects across Queensland.
- The study is exploring delivery models and funding strategies to ensure the project is both viable and impactful.

Development of the Sunshine Coast Landscape Design Guide

- Development of the Sunshine Coast Landscape Design Guide is progressing with strong engagement across internal teams and industry stakeholders which includes:
    - information to celebrate the region's unique landscape identity and highlight the critical design elements such as front boundaries and setbacks to deliver shade and greening in our neighbourhoods
    - a series of workshops, to focus on creating cool, green, walkable streets, with practical guidance on planting strategies that support climate resilience and liveability in new developments.

Planning for regional trails and tracks

- The region's recreational tracks and trails network planning is being progressed in alignment with the Queensland Government's Destination 2045 Plan and Council's Environment and Liveability Strategy. Key projects include:
    - Sugar Bag Mountain Bike Trails, Caloundra
    - Parklands Conservation Reserve and Mountain Bike Olympic facility
    - Glass House Mountains 7 Peaks Trail
    - Nambour to Coolum Trail.



Resilient economy

Goal: Resilient, high-value economy of choice drives business performance, investment and enduring employment.

Operational Plan 2025-26 delivery

Operational Activities:	Progressing as planned			Challenges identified	
	Completed	On Track		Time	Budget
10	-	10		-	-

Key activity highlights

Mooloolaba Foreshore Revitalisation Project

- Construction of Stage 2 of the Mooloolaba Foreshore Revitalisation Project commenced on 14 July 2025, which includes.
  - a Central Meeting Place and Southern Parklands Seawall, designed to make way for new, improved public spaces
  - the demolition of the existing amenities building and section of the old seawall
  - ongoing stakeholder communication with the community and recommendations from the Business Activation Group, support local businesses during construction.

Sunshine Coast Innovation Ecosystem Development Project

- Council continued to drive innovation and business development through the Innovation Ecosystem Development Project, supporting collaboration, capability and knowledge across the region. Key initiatives included:
  - Something Tech 2025
  - Sunshine Coast HealthTech Ideation Session
  - Manufacturing Excellence Forum
  - Support for Silicon Coast to deliver an Innovation Powerhouse Roadmap session
  - Sunshine Coast Screen Collective hosted global entertainment industry strategist, David Gouge, to explore the impact of artificial intelligence on the screen, marketing and advertising sectors
  - Food and Agribusiness Network delivered Meet the Makers 2025.

Council-sponsored major events

- Council supported the delivery of 20 major events, contributing to regional tourism, economic activity and community connection. Key events included:
  - The Curated Plate
  - Sunshine Coast Marathon
  - IRONMAN 70.3
  - Queensland Garden Show
  - International Mathematical Olympiad
  - Australian Wearable Art Festival
  - Brisbane Bullets verse Melbourne United National Basketball League pre-season game
  - Queensland Oztag All Schools Championships.



Managing for growth

Goal: Growth is well managed, connecting urban and transport planning, to maintain our region's unique characteristics and support sustainable development.

Operational Plan 2025-26 delivery

Operational Activities:	Progressing as planned			Challenges identified			
	Completed	On Track		Time		Budget	
17	-	15		2		1	

Key activity highlights

Transport Levy Program

- Delivery of Transport Levy initiatives are underway and support improved transport options for the community, including:
  - commencement of the late-night transport trial in partnership with Translink, providing services between the Maroochydore Entertainment Precinct with Palmview via the University of the Sunshine Coast
  - preparation of contract documentation to procure a provider for the similar trial to support the Nambour Special Entertainment Precinct
  - commencement of the safety for the most vulnerable program of projects
  - preparations to expand the RideScore Active Schools Program at 3 new schools in 2026.

Proposed planning scheme update

- Council completed formal public consultation for the proposed Sunshine Coast Planning Scheme and associated planning scheme policies between 15 July and 19 September 2025 including 26 in-person events held across the region to inform the future of the proposal.

Road safety initiatives

- Council continues to deliver a range of initiatives to improve safety and efficiency across the Sunshine Coast's road network including:
  - received 460 road safety requests, with 437 completed, resulting in 85 work orders aimed at improving road safety in key locations
  - implemented 5 speed limit reductions across targeted areas to improve driver and pedestrian safety
  - rotated 4 speed awareness monitoring signs to address community concerns and promote safer driving behaviour
  - reviewed 8 crash locations, with applications for Australian Government Black Spot funding submitted for 5 priority sites.



Organisational excellence

Goal: An agile organisation that achieves high performance by being community centred, building trust and providing a great place to work.

Operational Plan 2025-26 delivery

Operational Activities:	Progressing as planned			Challenges identified			
	Completed	On Track		Time		Budget	
11	-	11		-		-	

Key activity highlights

Critical infrastructure and cascading climate risks

- Council successfully completed the 2-year project examining how critical infrastructure systems are likely to be disrupted during future climate events to inform how Council prepares for and boosts our resilience to the changing climate.
- Project outcomes were shared with the Queensland Reconstruction Authority, and Council is now in the process of embedding climate risk reduction actions across a range of its business processes and forms a core component of creating a climate ready organisation and region.

Customer experience

- Council continues to place a strong focus on customer experience and this quarter a range of initiatives were implemented to enhance accessibility, responsiveness, and operational readiness including:
    - upgrades to critical customer-facing systems, supporting seamless and scalable service delivery
    - foundational customer experience training delivered through corporate orientation to embed service principles across the organisation.
- During the rates and animal registration periods, Council assisted more than 87,000 and maintained strong service standards with 94% of customers reporting ease of contact.

Development of a service catalogue

- A Service Catalogue has been progressed to provide greater awareness of the services Council delivers to the community. This will be used to inform a Councillor workshop to discuss the priority of Council services; and will be used as an input into the Citizens' Panel on service delivery and budgets that will help shape future work programs and resource allocations based on community priorities.

Council services

Council services are the foundation of our daily operations and provide essential support for the wellbeing and functionality for the community we serve. Through our services and operational plan activities, we provide a holistic approach to meeting the needs of our community and continue to progress towards our vision as Australia's most sustainable region. Connected. Liveable. Thriving.

Service statistics

The list below presents key service statistics for the quarter, highlighting the scope and impact of our services across the region.

- **413** community grant applications awarded, worth more than **$3.2 million**
- **175,634** people attended community events at Council's venues
- **935** street trees planted as part of the Street Tree Master Plan
- **4,245 hectares** of landscape and garden beds maintained
- **27,517 tonnes** of greenhouse gases flared or combusted for power generation
- **$93.2 million** spent with local businesses through procurement activities, representing **72%** of the available of procurement spend
- **3,988 businesses** accessed specialist advice and information
- **20 sponsored major events** generated an estimated economic impact of **$47.9 million**
- **305** community land permits issued
- **$7.8 million** invested in rehabilitating **9 kilometres** of roads for the safety of our community
- **87,052** customers assisted through our customer contact centres
- **7.3 out of 10** rating for experience with Council services
- **7.1 out of 10** rating - customers trust Council to act in the community's best interest

Operational Plan Activities Progress Report Quarter 1, 2025-26

Corporate Plan Goal: Strong Community

Goal: Communities thrive through connection with people, places and spaces and staying true to our principles as a welcoming, caring and vibrant community, with opportunities to participate for all.

Strategic pathway: Healthy, active communities

Code	Activity	Progress	On Time	On Budget	Activity Update
1.1.1	Deliver a broad range of inclusive health and well being events and initiatives as part of the Healthy Sunshine Coast Program.	25%			The Healthy Sunshine Coast Program continues to deliver a diverse and inclusive range of health and wellbeing activities across the region. With over 90 regular holistic sessions available, the program supports community members of all ages and abilities to stay active, connected, and well. The program has expanded its reach with recent activity additions including Chair Yoga sessions tailored for all abilities, Mum and Bubs Fitness, Kid's Yoga and Meditation, and Dance Exercise Movement. A total of 6,144 people attended sessions this quarter, which reflects Council's ongoing commitment to creating healthier, more connected communities through inclusive and accessible wellbeing opportunities.
1.1.2	Deliver a winter lifeguard service at Coolum North and additional resourcing at Marcoola, Mudjimba and Discovery Beaches as outlined in the Lifeguard Service Plan 2023-2028. Commence review of remaining activities recommended for future years.	25%			Sunshine Coast lifeguards responded to challenging conditions, with August seeing a significant increase in rescues and decreased attendance due to unseasonal surf and weather. Training initiatives included the onboarding of 22 new recruits, enhancing readiness and critical incident capability across the service. The quarter also marked the launch of the volunteer lifesaving season, with volunteer patrols commencing on 20 September 2025 and continuing through to May 2026. The 2025 season enhancements began with the introduction of a roving lifeguard north of the Maroochy River and the implementation of a winter lifeguard service at Coolum North. Additional lifeguard support will gradually roll out across Marcoola, Mudjimba, and Discovery Beaches during peak holiday periods. Due to budget constraints, plans for further service increases under the Lifeguard Service Plan are currently under review and are anticipated to be finalised by the end of 2025.

Strategic pathway: Vibrant communities

Code	Activity	Progress	On Time	On Budget	Activity Update
1.2.1	Identify and secure an enduring legacy for the Sunshine Coast as a key delivery partner in the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games and work collaboratively with our key partners to identify and implement Sunshine Coast specific themes, opportunities and challenges.	25%			Council continues to advocate for the delivery of legacy outcomes through current infrastructure projects relating to venues and transport and other associated initiatives including Brisbane 2032 procurement opportunities. Council has an endorsed 2032 Legacy Vision which is in the process of being developed into a 2032 Legacy Action Plan. This work is being undertaken with input from Sunshine Coast Legacy Community Reference Group, with a view of being presented to Council for adoption in the first half of 2026.
1.2.2	Partner in the planning, design and delivery of the Sunshine Coast Stadium expansion project and Sunshine Coast Mountain Bike Centre as part of the region's Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games venues.	25%			Council continues to be active in the planning of the region's 2032 Games venues. In respect to the Sunshine Coast Stadium, the Games Independent Infrastructure Coordination Authority (GIICA) has responsibility for the delivery of this project and has completed an expression of interest process for design services for the project. On ground project delivery for the Sunshine Coast Mountain Bike Centre will be overseen by Council. Council is currently awaiting to be presented with a Project Framework Agreement and Funding Deed by GIICA which will enable commencement of the project.
1.2.3	Deliver prioritised actions from the Sunshine Coast Sport and Active Recreation Plan 2011-2026 and the Sunshine Coast Aquatic Plan 2011-2026: • review the Aquatic Plan for regional network planning • finalise the Sunshine Coast Indoor Sports Plan • develop operational plans for the activation and use of the Honey Farm Sport and Recreation Precinct, and • activate the Nirimba Rugby League Grounds and Baringa Sports Complex.	25%			Review of the Sunshine Coast Aquatic Plan has commenced with operators of local aquatic centres informed, noting there will be further review and feedback engagement opportunities. The Sunshine Coast Indoor Sports Network Plan is nearing finalisation and is scheduled to be presented to Council's Ordinary Meeting in December 2025. Draft Management Plan and User Agreements are currently being developed for use at the Honey Farm Sport and Recreation Precinct, and proposed user groups will be consulted on these. Tenure documents for the Nirimba Rugby League Grounds and Baringa Sports Complex have been finalised and sent to proposed users for review.
1.2.4	Finalise the Sunshine Coast Library Services Plan 2025-2035 and deliver priority projects in the Sunshine Coast Library Network Plan, including the opening of the new Library+ Caloundra and ongoing operations.	25%			The Draft Library Services Plan is in review after stakeholder engagement was completed in September 2025. Library+ Caloundra was officially opened on 22 September with more than 2,700 visitors to the building on opening day. The library, community spaces and meeting rooms, Customer Service Centre and workspaces are now fully operational. Libraries continue to explore opportunities for community activation and partnerships for the maker space. A visitor liaison service is established, and new digital direction displays have been built and installed to support "No Wrong" door approach at Library+ Caloundra.

Code	Activity	Progress	On Time	On Budget	Activity Update
1.2.5	Identify opportunities to develop and attract events at Council venues including Caloundra Indoor Stadium, Maroochydore Multi Sports Complex, Nambour Showgrounds, Sunshine Coast Stadium and Venue 114 and other community spaces.	25%			Nambour Showgrounds hosted key regional and state level events including the Queensland Garden Show, Let's Go Sunshine Coast Caravan & Camping Expo, and the Nambour Monster Trucks - Mayhem, Thrills and Stunts Show. Favourable weather and attendances for the majority of events ensured positive experiences. Venue 114 hosted a variety of events including the Australian Wearable Art Festival, National Travel Expo, Sunshine Coast Citizenship Ceremony, Business Women's Awards, Orchid Festival, Hidden Disability Sunflower Initiative and Women in Workforce Network launch at Altitude Nine. Attendance at all events across Council's sport and community venues increased by 15% from the same quarter last year, with 288,728 attendances this quarter.
1.2.6	Deliver initiatives in collaboration with community organisations and government agencies that raise awareness, enhance people's understanding, and support improved outcomes for people experiencing homelessness	25%			In collaboration with community organisations and government agencies, several initiatives have been delivered to improve outcomes for individuals experiencing homelessness. The Nambour Homelessness Response Forum was established this quarter, bringing together key government and community stakeholders, and fostering active collaboration on solutions for people experiencing homelessness in Nambour. Community-led responses continued in Nambour, including ongoing patrols and engagement to connect people with services, support for The Shack's monthly homelessness camp clean-up and coordination of a 2-day clean-up of flood-affected sites. These efforts have enhanced waste management and improved safety and amenity for those living rough and the community. Council also remains an active partner in 'Advance to Zero' a national initiative to end homelessness.
1.2.7	Deliver prioritised projects that achieve affordable housing outcomes as outlined in the Sunshine Coast Housing and Homelessness Action Plan 2023.	25%			The delivery of the remaining 14 dwellings as part of Marcoola Affordable Housing Project were completed and Coast2Bay Housing Group will manage these tenancies to eligible low-income key worker households.

Strategic pathway: Inclusive communities

Code	Activity	Progress	On Time	On Budget	Activity Update
1.3.1	Deliver prioritised actions set out in the Sunshine Coast Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan in partnership with Traditional Custodians and the First Nations community.	25%			The Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan 2025-2028 was adopted by Council on 24 July 2025. The plan was developed over 18 months, informed by input from Council officers, stakeholders, and First Nations community partners. It outlines 18 actions, and 89 deliverables focused on strengthening partnerships with Traditional Custodians and First Nations community stakeholders, driving tangible social and economic change, and creating inclusive workplaces and communities that value First Nations cultures. NAIDOC Week was also celebrated across the region this quarter from 6 to 13 July, with over 10 community events hosted. Council's annual NAIDOC Flag Raising was held on 8 July 2025, with First Nations young people leading the event in line with the 2025 theme "The Next Generation: Strength, Vision & Legacy". Council refreshed its First Nations training provider panel to deliver cultural awareness training to employees over the next 3 years. The panel will deliver on-Country and formal training and includes both Kabi Kabi and Jinibara training providers. A meet and greet was held between Council's Executive Leadership Team and Jinibara and Kabi Kabi Traditional Custodians, providing a valuable opportunity for connection and setting a foundation for ongoing partnership and collaboration.
1.3.2	Deliver on the prioritised actions set out in the All Abilities Action Plan 2024-2028 that educate and raise awareness of, and provide support for disability in the community.	25%			Council continues to deliver on priority actions under the All Abilities Action Plan 2024-2028, with a strong focus on education, awareness, and inclusive community engagement. A second Realistic Race simulation was held in partnership with Spinal Life, welcoming broader participation from organisations including Headspace and Visit Sunshine Coast, helping to understand the barriers faced by people with disability in workplaces and communities. The Hidden Disabilities Sunflower initiative was launched at Council venues to support individuals with invisible disabilities to feel welcomed, respected and understood when accessing Council services. Planning and collaboration have also been a key focus this quarter, with collaborative and co-design efforts commencing to deliver a dynamic campaign for Disability Action Week to be held from 23 to 30 November 2025.

Code	Activity	Progress	On Time	On Budget	Activity Update
1.3.3	Develop a Youth Action Plan for youth led initiatives as part of the Young Leaders Academy Program that fosters civic engagement and participatory leadership practices.	60%			The initial phase of engagement to inform drafting of a Sunshine Coast Youth Plan was completed in July 2025, following a 6-week consultation period. Council heard from approximately 1,100 young people, equating to around 2% of our young residents. More than 580 young people completed the online survey, 450 young people participated at pop-ups and 85 young people attended the Youth Forum. These engagement activities were delivered with significant input from members of the Young Leaders Academy who co-designed and facilitated the Youth Forum, talked with young people at pop-up engagements, and input into the online survey development and tested the Have your Say Sunshine Coast webpage. The Young Leaders also engaged in early discussions around proposed actions for the plan, with amendments made in response to their feedback. This process has been instrumental in ensuring the plan reflects youth-led perspectives and supports civic engagement and participatory leadership, in line with the objectives of the Young Leaders Academy Program.
1.3.4	Deliver the Shine a Light on Racism Campaign, migrant employment and business opportunities and other key initiatives that foster a welcoming, inclusive and culturally diverse community.	25%			Council continues to deliver initiatives that foster a welcoming, inclusive, and culturally diverse community. Activities have aligned with national events including Welcoming Week and Multicultural Queensland Month. A highlight was the Welcoming Week Multicultural Picnic at Cotton Tree Park hosted on 21 September 2025 - a family-friendly event which brought together 80 residents to celebrate diversity. Council also participated in FESTURI, Thriving for Change, and International Allyship Day, promoting inclusive initiatives such as the Shine a Light on Racism campaign and Migrant Business Ready program. The Multicultural Advisory Group continued to meet regularly to provide input on the challenges and opportunities facing multicultural communities, helping to make the Sunshine Coast a welcoming place where everyone is included, respected and has equal opportunities. The Employer Peer Network - a local initiative that brings employers together to share ideas and practical strategies for hiring and keeping migrant and multicultural workers, held its first official meeting in July 2025, with 12 companies represented. Council is now recognised as a Premium Member of the national Welcoming Cities network and commencing accreditation against the Welcoming Cities Standard.

Code	Activity	Progress	On Time	On Budget	Activity Update
1.3.5	Implement the Excellence in Engagement Framework and commence a review to further embed best practice community engagement.	25%			Hearing from the community about the future growth of the region was a key engagement focus this quarter with the Proposed Planning Scheme engagement commencing from 15 July and running for a 10-week period until 19 September 2025. During this formal consultation phase, residents could have their say via a range of methods, including an online survey on the Have your Say Sunshine Coast web hub created with various information, maps and resources. There was also opportunity to attend one of 26 in-person events, to drop in to Council's Sunshine Coast City Hall foyer, or by emailing the project team, or requesting a call back. Council also launched the Sunshine Coast's first Citizens' Panel, bringing together 53 residents, who represent the different backgrounds and characteristics of our community, to share advice on important issues facing our region. The first Meet and Greet session took place on 17 September 2025. The panel is an additional engagement tool for Council to listen, learn and make better-informed decisions.

Strategic pathway: Connected, resilient communities

Code	Activity	Progress	On Time	On Budget	Activity Update
1.4.1	Deliver the Horizon Festival, citizenship ceremonies, community awards, the festive season program and other community events that contribute to connected and resilient communities.	25%			Planning for the 2026 Horizon Festival is underway, with program development, sponsorship, ticketing and artist contract reviews in progress. The Sky Whales show (postponed from the 2025 festival due to weather) was delivered in August to 1,500 attendees. New Year's Eve planning is progressing with pyrotechnic procurement complete and the communications strategy and stakeholder engagement underway. This quarter, 14 applications were approved for funding under the Festive and Commemorative Events Grants program. A total of 1,054 new citizens were conferred across 4 citizenship ceremonies this quarter with 1,200 guests in attendance. Planning for the 2026 Sunshine Coast Australia Day Community Awards is underway with a media launch to take place on 2 October 2025.

Code	Activity	Progress	On Time	On Budget	Activity Update
1.4.2	Deliver the Community Grants Program to support community organisations deliver projects, events and operate facilities that meet community's need.	25%			A total of $3,223,217, was allocated to the community through 413 funding applications. This included 150 multi-year allocations through the Community Partnership Funding Program, 22 multi-year allocations through the Environment Levy Funding Program, 49 through Sports Field Maintenance Funding and 35 multi-year allocations through Festive and Commemorative Events Grants. An additional 14 Festive and Commemorative Events Grants were awarded to single-year grant recipients. Six grants were also awarded through Emergency Grants, 45 Individual Development Grants and 88 Councillor Discretionary Funding Program grants for one-off projects. This is an increase of 89 applications compared to 324 applications received in the same quarter last year.
1.4.3	Deliver coordinated planning, preparedness, response and recovery for the region in response to disaster events and undertake a review of Council's Local Disaster Management Plan.	25%			Council's Local Disaster Management Plan has been refreshed and is ready for distribution. Community resilience building workshops and Get Ready Schools visits progressed across the region.
1.4.4	Deliver initiatives that raise awareness and understanding of domestic and family violence in collaboration with community organisations and government agencies.	25%			Council continues to collaborate with key stakeholders and community partners to support initiatives that raise awareness and understanding of domestic and family violence. A dedicated men's group meets monthly and continues to focus on initiatives that support men's wellbeing, connection, and positive mental health. Through open dialogue and supporting initiatives that engage men, the group aims to promote respectful relationships and challenge harmful behaviours. In the lead-up to the 16 Days of Activism campaign, several impactful activities are underway, including Council partnering with Caloundra Community Centre, Integrated Family and Youth Service and Zonta on a community education project to support the sharing of lived experiences to build awareness and understanding of domestic and family violence. These efforts are an important part of Council's broader commitment to addressing domestic and family violence by engaging all members of the community in prevention and education.

Strategic pathway: Creative, innovative communities

Code	Activity	Progress	On Time	On Budget	Activity Update
1.5.1	Deliver prioritised actions from the Sunshine Coast Creative Arts Plan 2023-2038, including: • an annual program of development opportunities for the creative sector • the Regional Arts Development Fund •the Regional Public Art Strategy and a broad program of exhibitions and events for the Regional Gallery • Council's annual Arts Levy Program including a First Nations Arts Strategy • Creative Industries competitive investment and business development programs, and • arts philanthropy in the region.	25%			Two development programs for artists, creative businesses and arts organisations, FutureNOW and MadeSC, are underway. Consultation on the draft First Nations Strategic Arts Plan is underway. A public art cross-council working group was established and their first quarterly meeting was held. The group will ensure public art activity across the region is planned, shared and in line with the Regional Public Arts Plan. Caloundra Regional Gallery recorded more than 2,000 visitors a month to exhibitions including a NAIDOC exhibit featuring six local Kabi Kabi and Jinibara artists, the Gallery's 25-year jubilee showcase, and the annual Sunshine Coast National Art Prize launch.
1.5.2	Deliver priority projects as outlined in the Sunshine Coast Heritage Plan 2021-2031 and annual Heritage Levy Program, including: • a Regional Collections store and managing Council's museums and cultural collections • programming of Landsborough Museum and Bankfoot House, and • deliver grants for the heritage sector and our First Nations traditional owners.	25%			Staff and volunteers are currently systematically documenting the Landsborough Museum collection, gifted to Council in 2022. Bankfoot House featured a range of exhibitions and markets and hosted 20 school groups. Total visitation for the quarter totalled 2,383 people, an increase of 38% from the same quarter last year. Landsborough Museum showcased Bounce! and Transformations exhibitions, story times and talks, with 1,853 visitors this quarter, an increase of 6% from the same quarter last year. Applications were called for the Arts & Heritage Levy funded Heritage grants this quarter, with a total of $200,000 in funding available.

Corporate Plan Goal: Environment and Liveability

Goal: Natural assets are preserved and enhanced as we continue to create a built environment and living practices that support a sustainable community.

Strategic pathway: Clever planning and good design

Code	Activity	Progress	On Time	On Budget	Activity Update
2.1.1	Deliver feasibility research and approach relevant stakeholders regarding a potential partnership to deliver a Medium Density Demonstration Project in a growth area of the Sunshine Coast.	25%			The feasibility investigation for a Medium Density Demonstration Project is progressing well, supported by internal workshops and targeted research into potential sites, design requirements, planning considerations, and insights from similar projects across Queensland. The study is exploring ideas for delivery models and funding strategies to ensure the project is both viable and impactful, with the overarching goal of showcasing well-designed medium density housing that raises awareness and sets a benchmark for similar future development in the region.
2.1.2	Deliver tree planting initiatives as part of the Annual Street Trees Program within urban areas to provide shade and cool our neighbourhoods.	25%			A total of 900 trees were planted during the quarter, keeping the Program slightly ahead of the quarterly target of 800. The Program is currently on track to meet the annual target of 3,200 trees.
2.1.3	Develop a Sunshine Coast Landscape Design Guide to assist consultants, designers, the development industry and local residents and encourage a greener Sunshine Coast region.	25%			Progress is tracking well on the development of a Landscape Design Guide for the Sunshine Coast, aimed at showcasing the region's unique landscape identity and the critical role of front boundaries and setbacks in delivering shade and greening. Through internal and external workshops, the Guide is being shaped to focus on creating cool, green, walkable streets, with practical guidance on planting strategies that support climate resilience and liveability in new developments.

Strategic pathway: Natural assets, distinctive landscapes

Code	Activity	Progress	On Time	On Budget	Activity Update
2.2.1	Review the Shorebird Conservation Plan to support the recovery and conservation of Shorebird populations on the Sunshine Coast.	100%			The review of the Shorebird Conservation Plan has been finalised and will be considered at a future Council Ordinary Meeting.
2.2.2	Deliver the priority programs, projects and activities funded through the Environment Levy including the Strategic Land Acquisition Program, partnerships and grants.	25%			The 2025-26 Environment Levy Program was supported by Council in the recently endorsed budget. New properties continue to be considered as part of the Strategic Environment Levy Land Acquisition Program. The first year of investment into the Regional Resilient Rivers Partnership is providing on-ground outcomes with restoration activities along key Sunshine Coast waterways.

Strategic pathway: Sustainable living

Code	Activity	Progress	On Time	On Budget	Activity Update
2.3.1	Progress the staged design of the Caloundra Community and Creative Hub precinct, commencing with the new Town Square and new Regional Gallery concept design.	25%			The Caloundra Community and Creative Hub precinct achieved a significant milestone in Quarter 1 with the official opening of Library+ Caloundra to the public. The community was welcomed into the new integrated library, community and corporate facility on 22 September 2025. Procurement for detail design of the town square was finalised in Quarter 1 with Urbis engaged following an open market tender.
2.3.2	Deliver prioritised actions to repurpose the Nambour administration buildings.	25%			Asset intervention works were scoped for the Eddie De Vere building, with open market procurement underway. These works are focused on roof and glazing upgrades to improve the building's condition and usability. In parallel, an options analysis for the medium-term activation of both the Fred Murray and Eddie De Vere buildings progressed.
2.3.3	Progress the implementation of the First Avenue streetscape by confirming the design and proceeding to construction commencement, satisfying the key milestones and deliverables of the approved grant funding agreement.	20%			The tender package for the First Avenue streetscape has now been released. It is anticipated that the contract will be awarded by late 2025, with construction expected to commence in early 2026. Key milestones and deliverables are within funding agreements.
2.3.4	Deliver strategic actions outlined in the Recreation Parks Plan, including: • finalise the Play Opportunities Plan • develop guidelines for park trees which meet urban forest objectives, and • provide additional opportunities for community tree planting in recreation parks.	25%			The Play Opportunities Plan has been endorsed and is now being actively used to provide strategic direction for Council managed open space in the region. The vision is ensuring 'everyone on the Sunshine Coast has access to quality, unstructured, outdoor play every day'. The refresh of the Street Tree Master Plan is progressing which will see a review of species selection, adding park trees and the inclusion of canopy coverage targets for footpaths and cycleways. Community engagement is scheduled for October 2025.
2.3.5	Deliver the Dog Exercise Area Regional Plan and Network Blueprint that will guide the future provision of dog exercise areas and support the health and lifestyle needs of our region's communities.	75%			The development of the Dog Exercise Area Regional Plan and Network Update is progressing as scheduled and is on track to be presented at a future Council Ordinary Meeting.
2.3.6	Deliver coastal hazard adaptation precinct planning at Golden Beach, Caloundra, Maroochydore and Mooloolaba as part of the Integrated Coastal Management Program.	25%			Coastal hazard adaptation precinct planning has continued and is being coordinated through the Coastal Planning and Hazard Management Project Steering Group, which met on 6 August 2025. Planning for the second phase of community engagement on the Golden Beach coastal hazard adaptation precinct plan is underway and scheduled for Quarter 2.

Code	Activity	Progress	On Time	On Budget	Activity Update
2.3.7	Deliver critical coastal seawall reconstruction projects for Moffat Beach and TS Onslow, Golden Beach.	40%			The western section of the Moffat Beach seawall - funded by the Queensland Reconstruction Authority - is currently 53% complete. Council funded central and eastern sections are currently at 2% complete due to challenging site conditions, unfavourable swell and beach conditions and material availability. Amendments to construction methodology, additional construction hours, application of learnings from works completed to-date and ongoing monitoring of progress against milestones is being undertaken to manage any project delays. The TS Onslow seawall at Golden Beach is 32% complete. Demolition and removal of the hardstand area, boat ramp and concrete beach structures is completed with the material being sent for recycling. The concreting for new bleachers is progressing. This seawall is progressing from the southern end with rock bags installed for scour protection.
2.3.8	Investigate and commence establishment of a regional tracks and trails network that provides world-class experiences and builds on existing discreet trail experiences, including commencing recreation trail planning and implementation as part of Blue Heart Sunshine Coast.	25%			The region's recreational tracks and trails network planning is being progressed in alignment with the Queensland Government's Destination 2045 plan and Council's Environment and Liveability Strategy. The key projects currently being investigated, in planning, or underway are: • Management and improvements to the Sugar Bag Mountain Bike Trails, Caloundra • Parklands Conservation Reserve and Mountain Bike Olympic Venue legacy facility for a nature-based recreation precinct • Glass House Mountains 7 Peaks trail development • Nambour to Coolum Trail Joint Working Group, including investigating opportunities for sections of the Nambour to Coolum trail to be delivered through the $5 million City Deal funding for Sunshine Coast Blue Heart recreation outcomes. Council is developing a trail usage monitoring system to inform maintenance schedules and are developing a whole of life asset maintenance schedule and renewal planning.

Code	Activity	Progress	On Time	On Budget	Activity Update
2.3.9	Deliver design initiatives as outlined in the Sunshine Coast Ecological Park Masterplan and explore strategic and financial partnerships.	25%			The Sunshine Coast Ecological Park's focus remains on delivering design initiatives outlined in the park's masterplan and progressing strategic and financial partnership opportunities to support the project's long-term success. Activities included hosting a Walk on Country with the Jinibara People to strengthen cultural connections and embed Traditional Owner knowledge into the planning. Engagement with Queensland Government departments explored collaborative opportunities. Site surveys and investigations advanced, including baseline water monitoring and seasonal ecological surveys, to inform sustainable design and management. Community activation featured the launch of the “7 Years to Grow” Olympic Legacy initiative. In partnership with Friends of Mary Cairncross Association, early revegetation efforts advanced with 500 native plants established in priority areas.

Strategic pathway: Well-planned infrastructure

Code	Activity	Progress	On Time	On Budget	Activity Update
2.4.1	Partner with the community to deliver initiatives that raise community awareness and understanding of the Sunshine Coast Biosphere and how they can play a role.	25%			Sunshine Coast Biosphere was represented at the 5th World Congress of Biosphere Reserves, which convenes once every ten years to evaluate progress, share experiences and learnings, and set future directions for the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Programme. Sunshine Coast Biosphere outreach activities continued and included a family friendly activation at the Curated Plate 'Picnic on Kings' event, as well as Biosphere presentations at a range of external events and meetings to raise awareness across sectors.

Strategic pathway: Innovation and sustainable

Code	Activity	Progress	On Time	On Budget	Activity Update
2.5.1	Develop a Master Plan for the Sustainability Park at Corbould Park to support the establishment of a new waste management precinct in order to prepare for the region's future growth and waste recovery requirements.	100%			The Master Plan for Sustainability Park has been completed.
2.5.2	Finalise the procurement process for a Food Organics and Garden Organics Facility which would support achieving landfill diversion targets and improve emissions reductions.	25%			Tenders have closed and are being assessed.

Code	Activity	Progress	On Time	On Budget	Activity Update
2.5.3	Construct a new Resource Recovery Centre within the Nambour waste precinct to support ongoing modernisation of Council's waste management facilities.	25%			The construction of a new hardstand area to support ongoing waste management operations has been successfully completed and opened to the public on 8 September 2025. This new hardstand provides a durable and stable surface for vehicle access, equipment handling, and operational efficiency, helping improve safety, reduce environmental impact, and support the long-term functionality of the site. In addition, the detailed design for a new primary sorting infrastructure (for sorting items) is currently underway.
2.5.4	Investigate and engage with our community regarding opportunities and the costs to introduce alternative large items waste services such as kerbside collection, vouchers and skip bag collection.	25%			As part of the ongoing improvements to waste management facilities, a Consultants Options and Costing Report has been prepared. This Report outlines potential infrastructure solutions, associated costs, and the estimated financial impact on the waste utility charge.

Corporate Plan Goal: Resilient Economy

Goal: Resilient, high-value economy of choice drives business performance, investment and enduring employment.

Strategic pathway: Leadership, sustainability and equity

Code	Activity	Progress	On Time	On Budget	Activity Update
3.1.1	Manage Council's statutory governance and contractual responsibilities and leverage the economic opportunities associated with the Maroochydore City Centre project.	25%			Council has continued to work with SunCentral Maroochydore Pty Ltd and Walker Maroochydore Developments Pty Ltd to further develop the Maroochydore City Centre. Projects in the Maroochydore City Centre Priority Development Area continue to progress, including Maroochy Private Hospital, the 50 First Avenue commercial building by Walker and the residential development, Sol by Walker (on Lots 600+50). Sol by Walker continues with strong pre-sales and early works has commenced on the site. Development of the Sunshine Coast Athletes Village for Brisbane 2032 is being considered.

Strategic pathway: Investment and growth

Code	Activity	Progress	On Time	On Budget	Activity Update
3.2.1	Leverage current and emerging key infrastructure including Sunshine Coast Airport, Maroochydore City Centre and the Sunshine Coast's digital assets to enable economic investment and growth for the region.	25%			Council delivered the following activities: • Launched Australia's only "Data Connect" invest service alongside Google & NEXTDC "Tech in Paradise - The Google Factor". • Hotel attraction progressed via The Urban Developer promotion. • The Geospatial Intelligence workshop attracted 57 stakeholders, with ecosystem mapping, skills development, and data use cases progressing. • The Sunshine Coast Industrial Park Stage 2 investment support program advanced with 16 development applications submitted across 25 lots. • Export and international engagement continued with Fraser Isle Spanner Crabs securing new orders from United Arab Emirates, Hong Kong and the United States of America following the Council and Trade Investment Queensland Singapore seafood showcase. Silver Sea Seafoods also won new contracts. Inbound delegations hosted from Tatebayashi, Izumisano and Australian Government strengthening international relationships in the lead up to the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Code	Activity	Progress	On Time	On Budget	Activity Update
3.2.2	Commence construction of the Mooloolaba Foreshore Revitalisation Project, Stage 2 - Central Meeting Place and Southern Seawall - in line with funding agreements and the Mooloolaba Master Plan.	20%			Stage 2 of the Mooloolaba Foreshore Revitalisation construction commenced on 14 July 2025 including the Central Meeting Place and Southern Parklands Seawall construction. As part of this stage, the existing amenities building and much of the existing seawall have been demolished to make way for new, improved public spaces. Stakeholder communication continues in line with the approved communications plan, primarily through: • Emailed construction notifications • Webpage updates • Face-to-face meetings. In response to recommendations from the Business Activation Group, the Mooloolaba Business Activation Plan has been revised to reflect updated priorities and implementation strategies. The amended plan is currently awaiting formal endorsement. Meanwhile, Stage 4 of the Mooloolaba Transport Corridor remains on hold.
3.2.3	Progress Stage 1 of the Caloundra Aerodrome Master Plan 2042 to transform the aerodrome into a modern aerospace and innovation hub through significant infrastructure investment and strategic land development.	25%			The Stage 1 implementation will be a multi-year project. The expansion area is currently at 60% Preliminary Design. When further developed, release to the market for leasing opportunities can occur. Negotiations are progressing with earlier respondents.

Strategic pathway: Business retention and expansion

Code	Activity	Progress	On Time	On Budget	Activity Update
3.3.1	Identify key priority initiatives in collaboration with Chambers of Commerce and industry associations that support local business to build capability and resilience.	25%			Council delivered specialist advice and support to 1,158 small businesses across the region, in collaboration with chambers of commerce, industry groups and other key partners. These initiatives included the Thriving Through Change Business Expo, the Sunshine Coast Business Woman of the Year Awards, the Sunshine Coast Supplier Briefing, and workshops on supply chain development, carbon accounting and doing business with Council.
3.3.2	Review the Local preference, Social Benefit and First Nations Procurement Guidelines and deliver priority procurement activities identified in the Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan.	25%			Review of the Procurement Guidelines has been completed and metrics including percentage of spend with local companies and First Nations businesses continue to be measured and monitored to ensure the Guidelines continue to meet their intended objectives. Priority procurement activities for the 2025-26 financial year identified in the Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan are the development and implementation of a First Nations procurement strategy and working towards achieving 2% of procurement spend from First Nations owned businesses.

Strategic pathway: Innovation, technological advancement and scaling up

Code	Activity	Progress	On Time	On Budget	Activity Update
3.4.1	Deliver an Artificial Intelligence Planning Assistant Tool to assist employees and customers with queries relating to residential development.	25%			Development of the Artificial Intelligence Planning Assistant Tool, in collaboration with an external vendor and funded by the Australian Government, is meeting all identified milestones and contractual agreements. A soft launch external release is planned for 1 October 2025.
3.4.2	Deliver the Sunshine Coast Innovation Ecosystem Development Project and grow the region's innovation and business capacity.	25%			Council progressed a number of initiatives regarding the Development Project and growing the regions innovation and business capacity, these included: • Something Tech 2025 • Sunshine Coast HealthTech Ideation Session • Manufacturing Excellence Forum. • Silicon Coast supported to deliver an Innovation Powerhouse Roadmap session • Sunshine Coast Screen Collective hosted David Gouge, a global entertainment industry strategist to explore the impact of artificial intelligence on the screen, marketing, and advertising sectors • The Food and Agribusiness Network (FAN) delivered Meet the Makers 2025.

Strategic pathway: Talent and skills

Code	Activity	Progress	On Time	On Budget	Activity Update
3.5.1	Deliver initiatives that support the attraction of talent and international students to the region through Study Sunshine Coast.	25%			A Study Sunshine Coast Industry Connection event was held at The MET, with 40 students from UniSC and TAFE attending. The event was delivered in collaboration with the Sunshine Coast Tech Industry Alliance to connect students with industry. Study Sunshine Coast welcomed over 600 students at the University of the Sunshine Coast Orientation Week. The Sunshine Coast International Education and Training Network came together for an energising industry program, welcoming Assistant Minister for Multicultural Affairs and International Student Attraction Mr Hermann Vorster.

Strategic pathway: A major and regional event destination

Code	Activity	Progress	On Time	On Budget	Activity Update
3.6.1	Review the portfolio of major events sponsorships and work with key partners to ensure economic benefits are maximised.	25%			Council advanced delivery of the refreshed Major Events Strategy 2018-2028, with a focus on maintaining a balanced calendar, planning for Olympic legacy opportunities, and supporting emerging events. A total of 20 sponsored major events were delivered, contributing to regional tourism, economic activity, and community engagement. Key events included The Curated Plate, Sunshine Coast Marathon, IRONMAN 70.3, Queensland Garden Show, International Mathematical Olympiad, and the Australian Wearable Art Festival. Additional highlights such as the Pacific Club Championships, Brisbane Bullets verse Melbourne United National Basketball League pre-season game, and Queensland Oztag All Schools Championships further showcased the region's diversity and capacity in hosting high-impact events.

Corporate Plan Goal: Managing for Growth

Goal: Growth is well managed, connecting urban and transport planning, to maintain our region's unique characteristics and support sustainable development.

Strategic pathway: A safe, efficient and integrated transport network

Code	Activity	Progress	On Time	On Budget	Activity Update
4.1.1	Develop the scope to review the Integrated Transport Strategy and modal shift targets to reflect proposed changes in the transport network, including the Direct Sunshine Coast Rail Line and the Sunshine Coast Public Transport Project.	25%			Initial scoping activities have commenced to identify where the Integrated Transport Strategy remains relevant and where it has been influenced by time or other factors.
4.1.2	Finalise the tender and progress construction of section 1 of the Caloundra Transport Corridor Upgrade Project and advocate for funding of Section 2 to provide safer and more direct road and active transport access to Caloundra.	10%			Design of the new transport corridor (Section One: Omrah Avenue to Arthur Street and Section Two: Arthur Street to Nicklin Way/Industrial Avenue) is complete. Construction documents, including specifications and environmental management plans are being finalised. A public tender for the construction works for Section 1 and Section 2 is expected to be released in late-2025, with construction commencement pending the Australian Government's approval of the controlled action under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999. Council has received funding confirmation from the Queensland Government for the delivery of Section 2 of the project. Council has previously committed to funding Section 1.
4.1.3	Deliver input and advice to the Queensland Government's detailed business case and early works investigation for the Sunshine Coast Public Transport Project.	25%			Council is currently awaiting advice from the Queensland Government as to the finalisation of the detailed business case and how it is to be progressed for an investment decision.
4.1.4	Maximise project and community benefits through partnering with the Department of Transport and Main Roads on the planning and delivery of Direct Sunshine Coast Rail Line.	25%			Council has continued to provide extensive input into various aspects of the Direct Sunshine Coast Rail Line project including input into the project scope and technical requirements documentation, preparation of land agreements and an interface deed to ensure assets to be returned to Council meet our requirements and to ensure financial arrangements between parties have been agreed.
4.1.5	Deliver planning, stakeholder consultation and community engagement for the major corridor upgrade projects including the Maud Street and Sugar Road transport corridor upgrade and the extension of South Coolum Road and Suncoast Beach Drive to the Sunshine Motorway.	25%			The tender has been prepared and advertised to engage consultants for the detailed design of the Sugar Road and Maud Street upgrade. Council and the Department of Transport and Main Roads are continuing to collaborate regarding the delivery of the Sunshine Motorway connection to the extension of the Suncoast Beach Drive.

Code	Activity	Progress	On Time	On Budget	Activity Update
4.1.6	Deliver key road safety initiatives that support a safe road network, including usage of speed awareness monitoring signs, review of crash data, undertaking a bi-annual Australian Road Assessment, and review safety and transport mode choice at 5 schools.	25%			The following initiatives were completed to support a safe road network: • 460 road safety requests were received with 437 now completed, resulting in • 85 work orders aimed at improving road safety. • 5 speed limit reductions were implemented, aimed at improving safety across targeted areas. • 4 speed awareness monitoring signs were rotated to address community concerns and promote safer driving behaviour. • 8 crash locations were reviewed, with applications submitted for Australian Government Black Spot funding for 5 crash locations.

Strategic pathway: Smart and sustainable mobility

Code	Activity	Progress	On Time	On Budget	Activity Update
4.2.1	Review the Active Transport Plan to emphasise walking and riding as an essential part of an integrated transport system by offering greater transport options and improved liveability, safety and wellbeing benefits.	25%			Community engagement for the Draft Active Transport Plan will commence in Quarter 2. Community engagement will be undertaken using Council's Have Your Say platform and 6 pop-ups across the region. A survey has been developed to collect feedback from the community on the Draft Plan and the draft mapping. It is proposed to publish the findings from the community engagement prior to the conclusion of 2025.
4.2.2	Deliver priority projects as identified in the Transport Levy Program that encourages sustainable travel and supports major public transport enhancements, travel behaviour change programs, safety for the most vulnerable and connecting our local communities with trial transport services.	25%			The delivery of Transport Levy initiatives is currently underway. The late-night transport trial in partnership with Translink, which connects the Maroochydore Entertainment Precinct with Palmview (via the University of the Sunshine Coast) has commenced. The contract documentation is being prepared to go to the market to procure a provider for the late-night transport trial to support the Nambour Special Entertainment Precinct. Delivery of the safety for the most vulnerable program of projects has commenced. Preparations have begun to deliver the RideScore Active Schools program at 3 new schools in 2026.
4.2.3	Deliver a Strategic Parking Framework that optimises parking solutions and supports sustainable growth and economic activity.	0%			The Strategic Parking Framework has not commenced in Quarter 1, and prioritisation of delivery of this activity is currently under review.

Strategic pathway: Well-managed community assets

Code	Activity	Progress	On Time	On Budget	Activity Update
4.3.1	Review the 12 Asset Management Plans against service performance measures to assist renewal planning, forecasting and investment in new and upgraded infrastructure.	75%			A series of stakeholder meetings were held, resulting in a comprehensive level of service and risk matrix. This has allowed Council forecast requirements and risk assessments for multiple level of service scenarios across new and upgrade, and renewal lifecycle costs. The major review of the asset management plans focused on improved infrastructure service prioritisation. The documents are considered a 'living document' - a document that will be continually edited and updated as new information becomes available - therefore the review and update will be ongoing. Council will continue to refine our processes and communication strategy.
4.3.2	Develop and implement an Asset Management Plan for tenanted community buildings, focusing on consolidation and optimisation to support financial sustainability.	25%			Foundational work has been completed to support the development of the Asset Management Plan. A 10-year capital planning framework has been finalised, with the 2025-26 Capital Works Program currently in progress for delivery within the financial year. Asset capture manuals are under review to ensure consistency in data collection and asset condition reporting. Collaboration is underway with the internal and external stakeholders, to align asset maintenance standards with the requirements of various state sporting bodies or regional community organisations. A preliminary assessment has identified 10 community assets nearing end-of-useful-life. Council is actively working with tenants to facilitate relocation and plan for decommissioning of these facilities subject to an assessment against regional network needs. The activity remains budget neutral, with the majority of development being undertaken in-house, ensuring the program is on budget and progressing on schedule.
4.3.3	Deliver priority stormwater upgrade projects as part of the Capital Works Program to address existing network deficiencies.	25%			The major stormwater inlet upgrade at Suncoast Beach Drive has been completed. Work has now commenced on the rehabilitation of a failed retaining wall in Forestwood Drive Buderim, which will prevent blockage of a major drainage channel and possible flooding to a number of private properties.
4.3.4	Deliver the Capital Works Program based on robust scopes, cost and risk assessment with well sequenced delivery schedules aligned to corporate priorities and long-term financial plans.	15%			Adjustments were made to incorporate a range of carry-over works from the previous financial year, alongside the commencement of new projects for the 2025-26 financial year. A number of significant infrastructure projects are continuing, including: • Honey Farm Road upgrades • Mooloolaba Foreshore revitalisation • Seawall improvements at Moffat Beach and Golden Beach • Black Spot road safety projects. Additionally, the Nambour Landfill expansion has reached a key milestone, with the new cell now open and receiving landfill.

Strategic pathway: Well-defined land use and settlement patterns

Code	Activity	Progress	On Time	On Budget	Activity Update
4.4.1	Undertake community consultation to inform the proposed planning scheme in line with the Queensland Government's processes and deliver the final planning scheme for consideration and approval.	25%			Between 15 July and 19 September, Council conducted 10 weeks of formal public consultation on the Proposed Sunshine Coast Planning Scheme and associated planning scheme policies. The consultation program achieved high levels of community awareness and engagement, and included 26 in-person events held across the region. With public consultation completed, attention will now turn to consideration of submissions. This process will help Council determine whether to proceed with the proposed planning scheme and what changes may be required in response to community feedback.
4.4.2	Deliver input and advice to contribute to the delivery, and any review of, the South East Queensland Regional Plan, ensuring Council's key growth management positions for the Sunshine Coast are appropriately considered in the Regional Planning Framework.	25%			Council continues to engage with the Queensland Government on the implementation priority actions for the South East Queensland Regional Plan (ShapingSEQ 2023), on an 'as needed' basis. Council has also commenced engagement with the Queensland Government on the scope of the ShapingSEQ 2023 review.
4.4.3	Advocate for the protection of the Regional Inter-urban Break to secure environmental, production and recreation values through its retention at the current extent and identify and acquire strategic land.	25%			Council continues to advocate for the protection of the Regional Inter-urban Break by providing accessible online information highlighting its role in preserving the Sunshine Coast's distinct character, identity, and lifestyle. The Regional Inter-urban Break is recognised in the proposed Sunshine Coast Planning Scheme which was out for community consultation, as a key component of the region's green frame, reinforcing Council's commitment to preserving its environmental, cultural, and landscape values.
4.4.4	Manage and monitor the delivery of infrastructure obligations for existing and future growth areas within the region.	25%			Infrastructure obligations for Caloundra South, Maroochydore City Centre, Kawana Waters and Palmview are being monitored to ensure compliance with the timing/triggers specified in their respective Infrastructure Agreements.

Corporate Plan Goal: Organisational Excellence

Goal: An agile organisation that achieves high performance by being community centred, building trust and providing a great place to work.

Strategic pathway: Sustainable service delivery

Code	Activity	Progress	On Time	On Budget	Activity Update
5.1.1	Review and implement the Financial Sustainability Plan to guide Council's decision making and ensure our services and resources are sustainable now and into the future.	25%			Review of the Financial Sustainability Plan has commenced.
5.1.2	Develop a Council service catalogue that describes the service outputs and activities, associated resourcing, and service levels.	25%			The draft service catalogue was improved through internal consultation and was used to inform a Councillor workshop in August 2025 to discuss the priority of Council services delivered to our community. It will be an input into the Citizens' Panel on service delivery and budgets that will help shape future work programs and resource allocations.
5.1.3	Deliver a program of service performance reviews across Council to assess service levels to ensure the budget investment is appropriate and service delivery to our community is efficient and effective.	30%			Service reviews have progressed and are nearing completion for: 1) Procurement, and 2) Communications, Marketing, Community Engagement and Advocacy. The review processes to date have included desktop analysis, benchmarking, staff workshops and development of draft reports that will go through a final stakeholder engagement process to consider options and develop final recommendations.

Code	Activity	Progress	On Time	On Budget	Activity Update
5.1.4	Deliver prioritised actions as outlined in the Digital Plan, including managing core systems and data, establishing artificial intelligence capabilities, and protection of Council services through strong cyber security.	25%			The Digital Plan implementation has progressed this quarter, and highlights included: • Council's Cyber Security program supporting zero reportable cyber security breaches. • Rationalising duplicate or redundant services supporting Council financial sustainability targets • A 2-year Property and Rating Program streamlining over 360 business processes improving the customer experience for the community by 2026. d) Successful delivery of the new Caloundra Library+ precinct in September 2025. • Implemented Microsoft Artificial Intellegence Copilot Chat to all staff with 220+ active users realising significant efficiencies. A Proof Of Value is underway with CoPilot Microsoft 365 with staff. • Digitising and classifying physical records in Council to streamline business processes contributing to Council financial sustainability targets whilst providing the community with greater access and transparency to public records. • A geospatial environment was delivered in support of the Planning Scheme consultation. • A geospatial tool for mowing contract management was deployed.
5.1.5	Advocate to Queensland and Australian governments to secure investments for major infrastructure and key projects across the region.	25%			There have been limited new opportunities during the quarter. Applications have progressed for Blackspot and Safer Local Roads and Infrastructure Program. Council has a number of live applications currently under assessment and is delivering projects that successfully attracted funding in previous years.

Strategic pathway: Build community trust

Code	Activity	Progress	On Time	On Budget	Activity Update
5.2.1	Develop and implement the Customer Experience Plan to support Council's communication, responsiveness to customer requests and improved access to services.	20%			Council continued to prioritise customer experience, delivering a range of initiatives that enhance accessibility, responsiveness, and operational readiness: • Council progressed upgrades to critical customer-impacting systems, supporting seamless and scalable service delivery. • Foundational customer experience training was delivered at corporate orientation to embed service principles. • Library+ Caloundra opened as a vibrant hub for learning and engagement, housing our busiest service counter it reinforces our commitment to accessible, responsive service. Council enhanced its customer and service insights capability. Customer experience was rated 7.38 out of 10 and for trust 7.10 out of 10. Customer insights inform targeted service improvements and planning. More than 87,000 customers were assisted during the busy rates and animal registration periods. Strong service standards were maintained, with 94% of customers reporting ease of contact. These actions reflect Council's ongoing commitment to community-focused services and building trust through transparency, responsiveness, and innovation. Work on formalising the Customer Experience Plan will continue throughout the financial year, ensuring these initiatives are embedded and sustained.

Strategic pathway: Be a great place to work

Code	Activity	Progress	On Time	On Budget	Activity Update
5.3.1	Deliver priority actions in the People Plan, including 5 branch workforce plans, 4 components of the Leadership Development Program and leadership succession planning.	30%			Workforce planning and succession planning are 2 of the high priority deliverables of the People Plan. We are on track to deliver the People Plan priorities in terms of delivery of Branch Workforce Plans and commencement of succession planning activities. There has been pleasing progress to date with one workforce plan complete and actions now underway and positive stakeholder feedback received. Workforce planning for a second branch has begun, building on lessons learnt. Leadership development programs are being delivered across all four cohorts, ranging from Executives to emerging leaders. Succession planning is integrated into both branch workforce plans, with planning for leadership levels 3 and 4 scheduled to commence in early 2026.

Code	Activity	Progress	On Time	On Budget	Activity Update

5.3.2	Deliver key activities to support a safe, values based workplace, including: the culture calendar which reflects our commitment to fostering a supportive and inclusive workplace and the Voices in Building Engagement (VIBE) employee listening program.	30%			The culture calendar reflects Council's commitment to inclusion, wellbeing, and values-based leadership. Key events delivered since July 2025 include:
					• Plastic Free July
					• SC Marathon & Run Fest (3 August)
					• Homelessness Week (4-10 August)
					• Welcoming Week (1 October)
					• Ride to Work Day (15 October).
					These events were supported by internal communications.
					The first Culture Health Survey under the VIBE program was conducted from 28 April to 14 May 2025, with key outcomes and actions:
					Organisational-Level Actions
					• Five key themes identified: wellbeing, values and shared behaviour, systems/processes, professional development, and trust in leadership
					• Action planning includes:
					  ○ Updating position profiles.
					  ○ Reviewing delegations for consistency across systems.
					  ○ Linking actions to organisational values to reinforce cultural alignment
					  ○ Planning sessions to review results and confirm priorities commenced and a communication plan was developed to promote survey actions.

5.3.3	Deliver priority projects of the Wellbeing Health and Safety Management Plan that commit to our corporate values, provide a healthy workplace for all and deliver critical control standards and systems that support preventing harm.	25%			Delivery of priority projects under the Wellbeing Health and Safety Management Plan continues to reflect our commitment to corporate values and a safe, healthy workplace. The Critical Control Management Project is progressing through Phase 2 - Mowing Pilot with implementation scheduled to commence in Quarter 2 upon arrival of medium risk slope mowers (Cub Cadets). The Psychosocial Risk Management Project is progressing steadily across the organisation, supporting proactive risk identification and mitigation. The Safe Work Method Statement declutter initiative has experienced a delay due to competing operational priorities, with revised timelines under review. The Contractor Safety Management Project has transitioned into active delivery this quarter, with continued development and engagement planned throughout the year.

Strategic pathway: Climate ready organisation

Code	Activity	Progress	On Time	On Budget	Activity Update
5.5.1	Deliver key climate ready activities for the organisation through emissions reduction and climate risk management, including ongoing collaboration with critical infrastructure providers.	25%			The 2-year collaboration with critical infrastructure providers to better understand how cascading climate risks from critical infrastructure failure impacts Council service delivery has now concluded. The project outcomes have been provided to the Queensland Reconstruction Authority and Council is in the process of embedding climate risk reduction actions across a range of its business processes as a core component of creating a climate ready organisation and region.
5.5.2	Implement large-scale battery energy storage systems to increase utilisation of renewable energy and reduce energy costs.	25%			Commissioning the 100 kilo-volt-amperes (kVA) solar photovoltaic (PV) and 200kVA battery energy storage systems at Library+ Caloundra in August 2025 is a major step forward in delivering Council's Zero Net Emissions Plan. The system provides the opportunity to charge the battery when spot electricity prices are low and export stored energy when spot pricing is high. Planning for the development of a 1.8 megavolt-amperes battery at Nambour landfill is continuing.

8.3 OCTOBER 2025 FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE REPORT

Report to be provided.

8.4 2024-25 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND COMMUNITY FINANCIAL REPORT

File No: **Council Meetings**

Author: **Coordinator Financial Accounting**
Finance and Commercial Partnerships

Attachments:
Att 1 - Independent Auditors Report and Certified General Purpose Financial Statements 2024-25 ..... *5/147*
Att 2 - Queensland Audit Office Final Management Report 2024-25 ..... *65/147*
Att 3 - Community Financial Report 2024-25 ..... *75/147*
Att 4 - SunCentral Maroochydore Pty Ltd 2024-25 Annual Report *83/147*
Att 5 - Sunshine Coast Events Centre Pty Ltd 2024-25 audited financial statements *115/147*
Att 6 - Sunshine Coast Arts Foundation Ltd 2024-25 audited financial statements *131/147*

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to present to Council the audited financial statements for the financial year ended 30 June 2025, Queensland Audit Office Final Management Letter 2024-25 and Community Financial Report 2024-25 in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2009* and *Local Government Regulation 2012*.

The 2024-25 annual reports or audited financial statements are attached where available for Council's controlled entities SunCentral Maroochydore Pty Ltd, Sunshine Coast Events Centre Pty Ltd and Sunshine Coast Arts Foundation Ltd, as per s213B of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The **Independent Auditor's Report and Certified General Purpose Financial Statements for 2024–25** (Attachment 1) have been audited by Council's external auditors, the Queensland Audit Office (QAO), to ensure compliance with accounting standards and legislative requirements. QAO has issued an unmodified audit opinion, marking the 17th consecutive year that Sunshine Coast Council has achieved this outcome. The result of Council's audit will be included in the annual Auditor-General's report to Parliament, which outlines the results of local government audits across Queensland.

The **Queensland Audit Office Final Management Report for 2024–25** (Attachment 2) is also provided. This report contains details of audit matters and other key information related to the audited financial statements.

In accordance with legislative requirements, Council has prepared the **Community Financial Report for 2024–25** (Attachment 3). This report presents a summary and analysis of Council's financial performance and position for the financial year and will be included in Council's Annual Report for 2024-25.

Council also has three **controlled entities**: SunCentral Maroochydore Pty Ltd, Sunshine Coast Events Centre Pty Ltd, and Sunshine Coast Arts Foundation Ltd. The 2024–25 financial statements for these entities have been audited by the Queensland Audit Office and are included as Attachments 4, 5, and 6. All three entities received an unmodified audit opinion for their financial statements from the Queensland Audit Office.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

(a) receive and note the report titled "2024-25 Financial Statements and Community Financial Report" and

(b) note that the 2024-25 Community Financial Report, 2024-25 Financial Statements and associated financial information will be included as Section 4 of Council's 2024-25 Annual Report.

FINANCE AND RESOURCING

The estimated audit fee for the financial year was $357,500 with the final fee being $366,500 due to additional consultation required regarding:

- prior year errors and issues related to property, plant and equipment, and
- the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure (LRCI) grant acquittals.

In response to the deficiencies raised by the Queensland Audit Office regarding asset systems, data and processes, Council has allocated project resources from the Asset Management Program to work with business areas in addressing these issues.

Council's audited operating result for 2024-25 was a deficit of $34.5 million compared to a budgeted operating result of $11.1 million surplus.

The below table provides a reconciliation from the Interim June 2025 Financial Performance Report presented to Council's July Ordinary Meeting, to the final audited results.

$'000	
(28,995)	Operating deficit as per Interim June 2025 Financial Performance Report
	Year end adjustments
(2,022)	Depreciation expense in excess of forecast
733	Additional transfer to prior period adjustment
(6,475)	Year end accruals
(1,321)	Depreciation expense relating to backlog in contributed assets
(38,080)	Operating result prior to required adjustments
	As per the Financial Management (Sustainability) Guideline 2024, the following items are to be excluded from calculation of the operating result
328	Interest on leases
3,271	Depreciation on right-of-use assets
3,599	
(34,481)	Adjusted operating result

CORPORATE PLAN

Corporate Plan Goal: ***Organisational excellence***
Strategic Pathway: We serve our community by providing this great service
Operational Activity: S31 - Financial Management - Strategic management of Council's finances, assets, procurement and contracts that support effective supplier relationship, resource allocation and financial sustainability.

CONSULTATION

Councillor Consultation

Councillor E Hungerford and Councillor J Broderick have received advice of this report through the Audit Committee process.

Internal Consultation

Internal consultation occurred with various staff members within Finance Branch, Asset Management Branch, and other areas of Council in compiling the supporting information to this report.

External Consultation

- Queensland Audit Office
- Local Government Association Queensland
- Stantec Australia Pty Ltd
- Marsh Pty Ltd
- Australis Asset Advisory Group Pty Ltd
- Department of Local Government, Water and Volunteers

- Queensland Treasury Corporation
- Unitywater
- SunCentral Maroochydore Pty Ltd
- Sunshine Coast Events Centre Pty Ltd
- Sunshine Coast Arts Foundation Ltd

External auditors Queensland Audit Office have audited the draft 2024-25 financial statements and Current Year Financial Sustainability Statement. The Long-Term Financial Sustainability Statement is not able to be audited as it is based on forward estimates.

Community Engagement

No community engagement was required for this report.

PROPOSAL

The **Independent Auditors Report and Certified General Purpose Financial Statements 2024-25** along with comparative figures for 2024 are attached (Attachment 1)

These financial statements have been reviewed through the Audit Committee process as follows:

- Draft financial statements presented to Audit Committee on 1 September 2025
- Draft financial statements audited by Queensland Audit Office during September/October 2025
- Final draft financial statements and Queensland Audit Office Closing Report for the year ended 30 June 2025 presented to Audit Committee on 23 October 2025.

Queensland Audit Office has issued an unmodified audit opinion for Council's 2024-25 financial statements, and its controlled entities (the Group) SunCentral Maroochydore Pty Ltd, Sunshine Coast Events Centre Pty Ltd and Sunshine Coast Arts Foundation Ltd. This means the financial report:

a) Gives a true and fair view of Council's and the Group's financial position as at 30 June 2025, and of its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended

b) Complies with the *Local Government Act 2009*, the *Local Government Regulation 2012* and Australian Accounting Standards.

This is the 17th consecutive unmodified audit opinion achieved by Sunshine Coast Council.

These results will be included in the annual Auditor-General report to parliament on the results of Local Government audits, published in early 2026.

Council vs Consolidated Statements

Council's Financial Statements are presented in consolidation format, with two columns representing Council's stand-alone position, and another two columns where Council's interest in its subsidiaries is disclosed.

On consolidation, Council's interest in its wholly owned subsidiaries SunCentral Maroochydore Pty Ltd, Sunshine Coast Events Centre Pty Ltd and its associate Unitywater, is included. The financials for Sunshine Coast Arts Foundation Ltd were not consolidated into Council's financial statements as the amounts were not material to Council.

Council's stand-alone results are reported below as they are more directly comparable to Council's Budget and Monthly Financial Performance Reports. In addition, the operating result and cash flows for Council are considered to be a better reflection of Council's operations.

The consolidated statements include accounting entries to recognise a share of profits of Council's subsidiaries and associated entities. In the case of Unitywater, this share of profit is not directly available to Council until received in the form of dividends in future years.

Council's key outcomes for 2024-25 are as follows:

The below table provides a comparison between 2024-25 results and the prior year.

	Council	Council	Variance	
	2024-25	2023-24 Restated		
	$'000	$'000	$'000	%
Recurrent revenue	626,144	573,146	52,998	9%
Recurrent expenses	(664,224)	(609,404)	(54,820)	9%
Operating result (unadjusted)	(38,080)	(36,258)	(1,822)	-5%
As per the Financial Management (Sustainability) Guideline 2024, the following items are to be excluded from calculation of the operating result				
Interest on leases	328	252	75	30%
Depreciation on right-of-use assets	3,271	3,358	(87)	-3%
Adjusted operating result	(34,481)	(32,647)	(12)	-0.04%
Cash	193,235	193,347	(112)	0%
Debt	442,753	445,355	(2,602)	-1%
Net cash	(249,518)	(252,008)	2,490	1%

Sustainability Ratios

The below table provides the audited sustainability ratios for 2024-25 for Council, as per the Financial Management (Sustainability) Guideline 2024.

Type	Measure	Overview	Target	Council		
				Actual Current Year	5-Year Average	Current year target achieved?
Liquidity	Unrestricted Cash Expense Cover Ratio (months)	Indicates the unconstrained liquidity available to a council to meet ongoing and emergent financial demands, which is a key component of solvency. It represents the number of months a council can continue operating based on current monthly expenses.	> 2 months	0.7	NA	no
Operating Performance	Operating Surplus Ratio (%)	An indicator of the extent to which operating revenues generated cover operational expenses.	> 0%	-5.5%	-3.5%	no
	Operating Cash Ratio (%)	Measures Council's ability to cover its core operational expenses and generate a cash surplus excluding depreciation, amortisation, and finance costs.	> 0%	22.2%	20.2%	yes
Asset Management	Asset Sustainability Ratio (%)	Approximates the extent to which the infrastructure assets managed by a council are being replaced as they reach the end of their useful lives.	> 60%	63.3%	70.6%	yes
	Asset Consumption Ratio (%)	Approximates the extent to which Council's infrastructure assets have been consumed compared to what it would cost to build a new asset with the same benefit to the community.	> 60%	66.5%	67.7%	yes
Debt Servicing Capacity	Leverage Ratio (times)	Indicates Council's ability to repay its existing debt; measures the relative size of Council's debt to its operating performance.	0 - 4 times	3.2	4.9	yes

Commentary on audited ratios

Unrestricted cash expense cover ratio - indicates the unconstrained liquidity available to a council to meet ongoing and emergent financial demands, which is a key component of solvency. It represents the number of months a council can continue operating based on current monthly expenses.

Council has not achieved the target for 2024-25, and as per the Financial Management (Sustainability) Guideline 2024 (the Guideline), and this low ratio suggests limited unconstrained liquidity available to use for capital investment or in an emergency. Where a council also has a negative operating cash ratio, a very low or negative unrestricted cash expense cover ratio is an indicator of potential solvency concerns.

This measure has been adversely impacted by a transfer of $61.4 million from internally imposed expenditure restrictions to externally imposed expenditure restrictions. The amount relates to constrained works held for Local Government Infrastructure Planning (LGIP).

Council has addressed this risk in the 2025-26 budget through the planned establishment of a working capital facility to assist with short-term cash flow requirements.

Operating surplus ratio - an indicator of the extent to which operating revenues generated cover operational expenses.

Council has not achieved the target for either the current year or the 5-year average.

As per the Guideline, an operating surplus ratio below 0% is an indication that a council's operating expenses exceed its revenue. An operating deficit in any one year is not a cause for concern if, over the long term, a council achieves a balanced operating result or small surplus. Operating deficits over the long term affect a council's ability to internally fund its capital requirements and other initiatives as and when they fall due, potentially requiring external funding support.

The current year has been impacted by a $35 million (27.5%) increase in depreciation expense compared to the prior year, mainly due to the impact of asset revaluations in 2023-24.

The below table provides Council's Operating Result and Operating Surplus Ratio for the past 5 years.

	Council					
	Actual Current Year	2024	2023	2022	2021	5-Year Average
Operating Result ($'000)	(34,481)	(32,647)	(10,042)	10,249	(27,815)	(18,947)
Operating Surplus Ratio (%)	-5.5%	-5.7%	-1.2%	1.7%	-6.6%	-3.5%

Commentary is provided below.

- In 2021 Council refinanced its existing loan portfolio and increased the principal amount which resulted in one-off early repayment costs of $34 million. The refinanced amount resulted in lower interest rates and freed up cash flow through lower repayments over the life of the loan portfolio.

  The early repayment costs impacted the Operating Surplus Ratio, and if this hadn't occurred, the ratio would have been 1.4% which is within the targeted range.
- In 2022 Council derived an operating surplus and positive operating surplus ratio.
- In 2023 Council had a $15 million or 15.5% increase in depreciation expense compared to the prior year due to a combination of increases to Council's asset base along with the impact of revaluation increases from the prior year.
- In 2024 Council also experienced an operating deficit resulting in an operating surplus ratio of (5.7)% due to increases in employee benefits, materials and services, and depreciation expense combined of approximately 10% or $55 million compared to the prior year.

Operating cash ratio - measures Council's ability to cover its core operational expenses and generate a cash surplus excluding depreciation, amortisation, and finance costs.

This ratio is on target for both the current year and the 5-year average and as per the Guideline, indicates that a council is generating surplus cash from its core operations, which indicates that Council has the ability to self-fund its capital expenditure requirements.

Asset sustainability ratio - approximates the extent to which the infrastructure assets managed by Council are being replaced as they reach the end of their useful lives.

This result has decreased from 72.3% in 2024 to 63.3% in the current year due to the large increase in depreciation expense in 2025.

As per the Guideline, an asset sustainability ratio close to 100% suggests that a council is spending enough on the renewal of its assets to compensate for the deterioration in its asset base as loosely proxied by its reported depreciation, with outcomes too far below this level being potentially indicative of underspending against capital replacement requirements.

However, as this measure uses depreciation in lieu of more rigorous asset planning data, it does not account for councils with large investments in new capital assets such as those with strongly growing population bases. In these instances, a lower asset sustainability ratio is not of concern provided a council is meeting the capital needs of its current and future community.

The statutory target for Sunshine Coast Council is 60% and this has been achieved for both the current year and the 5-year average.

Asset consumption ratio - approximates the extent to which Council's infrastructure assets have been consumed compared to what it would cost to build a new asset with the same benefit to the community.

As per the Guideline, the minimum target of 60% indicates that a council's assets are being broadly consumed in line with their estimated useful lives.

Council has achieved this target for both the current year and the 5-year average.

Leverage ratio - indicates Council's ability to repay its existing debt; measures the relative size of Council's debt to its operating performance.

As per the Guideline, a higher leverage ratio indicates an increasingly limited capacity to support additional borrowings due to already high debt levels and/or decreasing operational performance, while a lower ratio indicates the opposite.

A lower leverage ratio is not itself a guarantee that further debt will be approved for a council, while councils with higher leverage ratios are not necessarily precluded from having additional borrowings approved due to other mitigating circumstances.

Council has achieved the target for the current year but not over the 5-year average.

The 5-year average leverage ratio has been impacted by the following:

> In 2021 Council's debt peaked at $679 million due to borrowings for construction of the new Sunshine Coast Airport runway. The airport runway debt of $261 million was repaid in 2022 on sale of the runway and receipt of final payments totalling $314 million.

The following table provides the contextual (unaudited) sustainability ratios for 2024-25.

Contextual Ratios (unaudited)

Type	Measure	Overview	Target Tier 2	Council		
				Actual Current Year	5-Year Average	Target achieved?
Financial Capacity	Council-Controlled Revenue (%)	Indicates Council's financial flexibility, ability to influence its operating income, and capacity to respond to unexpected financial shocks.	N/A	82.0%	81.5%	N/A
	Population Growth (%)	Population growth is a key driver of a council's operating income, service needs and infrastructure requirements into the future.	N/A	2.7%	2.7%	N/A
Asset Management	Asset Renewal Funding Ratio (%)	Measures the ability of Council to fund its projected asset renewal/replacements in the future.	N/A	61.0%	NA	NA

Commentary on contextual ratios (unaudited)

Council-controlled revenue - indicates Council's financial flexibility, ability to influence its operating income, and capacity to respond to unexpected financial shocks.

A higher council-controlled revenue ratio indicates a stronger ability to generate operating revenue without relying on external sources. Councils with a high ratio generally have a healthy rate base and are better able to respond to unexpected financial obligations such as natural disaster recovery.

A lower council-controlled revenue ratio indicates that a council has limited capacity to influence its operating revenue and that it is more reliant on external (and usually less reliable) sources of income such as operational grant funding, sales and recoverable works contracts, and rental income.

Population growth is a key driver of a Council's operating income, service needs and infrastructure requirements into the future.

A growing council population indicates a greater capacity to generate its own source revenue through rates as well as statutory charges. Population growth also puts additional pressure on councils to invest in new community infrastructure to support service needs.

Conversely, a council with a shrinking population base will have increasingly limited opportunities to generate operating revenue through its rateable property base, and over time will need to adjust its capital and operating spending decisions to reflect the reducing utilisation of its infrastructure and community assets.

Asset renewal funding ratio measures the ability of Council to fund its projected asset renewals/replacements in the future.

Ideally, the asset renewal funding ratio should be as close to 100% as possible, as this indicates that a council is appropriately funding and delivering the entirety of its required capital program as outlined by its asset management plans.

A ratio that is too far in excess of 100% indicates capital spending above and beyond what is proposed by a council's asset management plans. A ratio that is too far below 100% may indicate an underfunded capital program and therefore a potentially increasing infrastructure backlog and asset failures. Either scenario suggests a mismatch between a council's capital

requirements and forecast capital program, whether due to poor planning and/or limited resources or skills to deliver the assets required by the community.

Council's 2025-26 Budget indicates an improvement of this ratio over the 10-year forecast period.

The **Queensland Audit Office Final Management Report** for the 2024-25 financial statements (Attachment 2) provides details on audit matters and other important information related to the audited financial statements.

The report also provides a summary of issues that have been previously raised but are not yet resolved, along with an update on actions taken to resolve these issues.

One new deficiency was raised as part of the final audit regarding the scope to improve the process for estimating accrued expenses at year end. Council will address this by extending the accrual processes to include June invoices received up to the end of August each financial year.

Three prior year deficiencies have been elevated to significant deficiencies meaning Council should take immediate action to progress the remedy of these matters. The issues relate to delays in recording of assets contributed by third parties and the effectiveness of controls over asset data in Council's asset management system and fixed asset register. Council's Asset Management Program will address these issues in conjunction with relevant business areas.

Two issues have been resolved with a further seven resolved pending audit clearance.

A summary is below with full details in Attachment 2.

Rating legend
S = significant deficiency
D = deficiency / M = moderate financial reporting issue
O = other matter

Ref	Rating	Issue	Status	Action Date
25FML-1	D	Scope to improve the process for estimating accrued expenses at year end	Work in progress	31 August 2026
25IR2-1	D	Users with passwords set to never expire	**Resolved pending audit clearance**	14 August 2025
25IR2-2	D	Inappropriate domain level administrator access	**Resolved pending audit clearance**	14 August 2025
25IR2-3	D	Lack of manual and automated disabling of inactive users	**Resolved pending audit clearance**	14 August 2025
25IR2-4	D	Lack of regular user access reviews performed	**Resolved pending audit clearance**	31 July 2025
25IR2-5	D	Lack of segregation of duties over developers and migrators of setting changes	**Resolved pending audit clearance**	31 July 2025
25IR2-6	D	Access changes performed not aligned with ticket requests	**Resolved pending audit clearance**	31 July 2025
25IR2-7	O	Policy, procedure and process guideline documentation are missing controls and pending review	**Resolved pending audit clearance**	31 July 2025

Ref	Rating	Issue	Status	Action Date
25IR-1	D	Payroll officers' system access allows them to manually update employee pay rates and hours worked, without initiating an approval workflow in the system	**Resolved**	
24CR-1	D	Comprehensive Property Plant & Equipment revaluations and techniques adopted to estimate fair value	Partially resolved	31 March 2026
24CR-2	D	Adoption of unit rates provided by engaged external expert	**Resolved**	30 June 2025
24IR-1	D	Unknown reason for parking revenue reconciliation discrepancies between parking meter management system and TechOne general ledger	Work in progress	31 December 2025
24IR-3	S (was D)	Controls and processes to mitigate risks arising from incomplete/inaccurate data in Corporate Asset Management Systems	Work in progress	31 March 2026
23CR-1	S	Comprehensive valuation process	Work in progress	31 March 2026
23CR-2	S (was D)	Delays in recognising contributed assets	Work in progress	31 March 2026
23CR-3	S (was D)	Assets not previously recognised	Work in progress	31 March 2026
23CR-4	D	Delays in classifying project costs to operating expense	Work in progress	31 March 2026
22IR-8	D	Other infrastructure asset class - comprehensive	Work in progress	31 March 2026
22FR-1	M	Formal review of remaining useful lives for assets is required	**Resolved**	

Council is required to prepare a **Community Financial Report** (Attachment 3) for each financial year. The report contains an easy-to-understand summary and analysis of Council's financial performance and position for the financial year and will be included in the Annual Report.

The 2024-25 financial statements of **Council's controlled entities** namely SunCentral Maroochydore Pty Ltd, Sunshine Coast Events Centre Pty Ltd and Sunshine Coast Arts Foundation Ltd have been audited by the Queensland Audit Office. All three entities received an unmodified audit opinion.

The financial results of SunCentral Maroochydore Pty Ltd and Sunshine Coast Events Centre Pty Ltd have been included in the consolidated columns of Council's financial statements. The Sunshine Coast Arts Foundation Ltd financial results have not been included as they are not material to Council.

The below table shows revenue and expenses for the controlled entities included in Council's consolidated financial statements.

Controlled entity	SunCentral Maroochydore Pty Ltd		Sunshine Coast Events Centre Pty Ltd	
	2025	2024	2025	2024
	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000
Revenue	2,171	2,760	5,483	5,154
Expense	(2,139)	(2,754)	(5,372)	(5,127)
Surplus/deficit	32	6	111	26

As per s 213B of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* the audited financial statements of Council's controlled entities must be presented at the next ordinary meeting of Council and published on Council's website within 14 days of the ordinary meeting.

The following are attached:

- SunCentral Maroochydore Pty Ltd 2024-25 Annual Report including audited financial statements (Attachment 4)
- Sunshine Coast Events Centre Pty Ltd 2024-25 audited financial statements (Attachment 5)
- Sunshine Coast Arts Foundation Ltd 2024-25 audited financial statements (Attachment 6)

Legal

The Annual Financial Statements have been compiled in line with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2009*, the *Local Government Regulation 2012* (the Regulation) and the *Australian Accounting Standards*.

Policy

There are no relevant policies related to this report.

Risk

Financial sustainability

As indicated by the operating surplus ratio and unrestricted cash expense cover ratio sustainability measures being less than target, Council's future financial sustainability is at risk if these measures aren't corrected.

Operating deficits over the long-term impact Council's ability to internally fund its capital requirements and other initiatives as and when they fall due, potentially requiring external funding support.

A low unrestricted cash expense cover ratio suggests limited unconstrained liquidity available to Council to use for capital investment or in an emergency. For councils with efficient cash management practices and strong borrowing capacity, this is not a concern.

As per Council's long-term financial sustainability forecast, these measures are forecast to be back within target in 2025-26.

Unresolved audit issues

Council has nine unresolved audit issues, three of which are significant deficiencies relating to asset data, systems and processes. Timely resolution of these issues will support timely and accurate financial reporting into the future.

In terms of the unresolved issues, eight of which relate to asset data, systems and processes, Council has commenced an Asset Management Program to specifically target these issues, in conjunction with relevant business areas. A further update regarding planned scope and timeframes will be available in March 2026. In the meantime, stakeholder workshops and process reviews are in progress.

Previous Council Resolution

Ordinary Meeting 21 August 2025 (OM25/73)

That Council receive and note the report titled "Queensland Audit Office: Second Interim Management Report for the Financial Year ended 30 June 2025".

Ordinary Meeting 21 May 2025 (OM25/43)

That Council receive and note the report titled "Queensland Audit Office: First Interim Management Report for the Financial Year Ended 30 June 2025".

Related Documentation

There is no related documentation relevant to this report.

Critical Dates

As per s182 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council must adopt its annual report, containing the audited financial statements, within 1 month after the financial statements are signed by the auditor-general, and publish its annual report on its website within 2 weeks of adoption.

Implementation

The 2024-25 audited financial statements and community financial report will form part of Council's 2024-25 Annual Report.

8.5 SOUTH MAROOCHY DRAINAGE BOARD REVIEW

File No: Council meetings

Author: Director Sustainable Growth and Planning
Sustainable Growth and Planning

Attachments:
Att 1 - Land Use and Drainage Details..... 259
Att 2 - Decision Notice - Ministerial Infrastructure Designation for South Maroochy Drainage Network..... 261
Att 3 - Ministerial Infrastructure Designation 289

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is for Council to provide direction on the proposed arrangements to manage Council's future interactions with the South Maroochy Drainage Board and stormwater drainage issues in the defined South Maroochy Drainage Area.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report considers the past Council relationship with the South Maroochy Drainage Board relating back to around 2002 to the present and proposes how Council should interact with the Board going forward.

The Board was initially formed to manage the constructed drains supporting viable cane farming, a once thriving activity on the Coast. The Board's area of jurisdiction, the South Maroochy Drainage Area, is located to the northeast of Bli Bli's Parklakes developments.

Currently there are no formal or informal arrangements guiding the interactions between Council and the Board.

This report advises on the legislation under which the Board operates. The Board and the South Maroochy Drainage Area were established on 14 July 1977, by a State Government Order in Council pursuant to the now repealed *Water Act 1926*, to provide a coordinated oversight of drain management. The Board currently takes its authority from the *Water Act 2000 (Qld)* and is classified as a "Category 2 Water Authority" and has done so since around 2002. The legislation provides the Board with the power to (i) make and levy rates and charges in respect of the South Maroochy Drainage Area, and (ii) to resume land.

This authority relates to the defined South Maroochy Drainage Area, which is now limited albeit informally, to the non-urban land to the northeast of Bli Bli, downstream of Yandina - Bli Bli Road.

Empowered by the State Government's Order in Council, the Board took control of a major drainage system comprising 6.5km of constructed drains discharging into the Maroochy River and a subsidiary drainage system comprising 10.5km of constructed drains discharging into the major system. These constructed drains initially 'drained the swamp' and were originally constructed and maintained by the South Maroochy Swamp Drainage Syndicate. The drains also provided for contained runoff of minor rainfall events and provided a mechanism for managing major rainfall events through controlled release of floodwaters from cane fields via flood gates, strategically located in bunds constructed along the drains, and operated when

the receiving water levels were low, depending on outgoing tides and receding river flood heights combined. Both functions continue to be provided by the drainage system.

The Board worked with individual property owners, identifying and agreeing on when and where drain maintenance was required. Works were undertaken by the property owners under the oversight of the Board. Investment by the Board also occurred.

In more recent times, State Government approval has been required prior to conducting drain maintenance works, recognising environmental sensitivities when undertaking these works. Many of the drains are within the tidal zone requiring protection of fish habitat, sensitive flora and associated values. To seek and gain State approval every time works are planned to be undertaken would be quite onerous and costly. The Board's preferred option is to have a blanket approval addressing identified works, with conditions listed on how these works are to be undertaken. The Board made application to the State for a Ministerial Infrastructure Designation (Designation), a mechanism that would deliver the required blanket approval. This was obtained on 5 May 2023, with a medium to long-range sunset clause applying and conditions which were suitably informed by a Council submission.

There is discussion around the legislative authority under which the Board operates, recognising that this is open to change, following a 2015 State Government initiative to rationalise like entities across the State, and recognising the Board's statement of desire to change, possibly to a Closed Water Activity Agreement.

As the area over which the Board has jurisdiction falls within Council's Blue Heart project area, together with recognition in Council's Coastal Hazard Adaptation Strategy, the associated implications are also discussed in this report.

This report, in acknowledging that matters described above have been dealt with on an ad hoc basis up to now, seeks to provide clarity through a Council resolution regarding Council's funding obligations of the South Maroochy Drainage Board. The report provides a way forward that aligns with Council's responsibilities, recognises the decline of the cane industry and reflects best community interest outcomes. Future Council interactions need only involve minor dealings regarding drain maintenance within the South Maroochy Drainage Area, respecting the autonomy of the Board.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

(a) receive and note the report titled "South Maroochy Drainage Board Review"

(b) request the Chief Executive Officer to write to the South Maroochy Drainage Board and the Minister for Local Government and Water, addressing the following:

(i) confirmation that Council recognises the Board as a separate and independent entity,

(ii) advising that Council supports whatever entity the Board wishes to operate as, be that a Category 2 Water Authority or a Closed Water Activity Agreement,

(iii) noting that funding of drain upgrades and maintenance activities undertaken by the South Maroochy Drainage Board is the responsibility of the Board, and

(iv) advising that Council is under no obligation to provide funding to the South Maroochy Drainage Board.

FINANCE AND RESOURCING

This report, through intent, has no financial or resourcing implications for Council.

Council's Financial Services Branch advises that there is no known agreement between Council and the Board that places an obligation on Council to make payments to the Board.

There are no Council obligations stipulated in the *Water Act 2000 (Qld)*, which is the legislation the Board operates under.

CORPORATE PLAN

Corporate Plan Goal:	***Organisational excellence***
Strategic Pathway:	5.1 - Sustainable service delivery
Operational Activity:	5.1.5 - Advocate to Queensland and Australian governments to secure investments for major infrastructure and key projects across the region.

CONSULTATION

Councillor Consultation

Councillor M Suarez, Division 9 Councillor, was consulted on the development of this report.

Internal Consultation

Consultation was undertaken with:

- Financial Services Branch
- Strategic Flooding and Stormwater - Urban Growth Projects Branch
- Stormwater Capital Program Management -Transport Network Management Branch
- Development Services Branch
- Strategic Planning Branch
- Environment and Sustainability Policy Branch.

External Consultation

<u>The South Maroochy Drainage Board</u>

A meeting was held on 29 January 2025 at Bli Bli Church Hall with members of the Board.

<u>Past member of the Board</u>

A past member of the Board was contacted to discuss the history of the Board and its workings with Council.

Department of Local Government, Water and Volunteers

The State Government was contacted to clarify the status and currency of operations of the Board.

Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning

The State Government was contacted to better understand the application of the Ministerial Infrastructure Designation.

Community Engagement

There has been no community engagement undertaken in the preparation of this report.

PROPOSAL

Introduction

This report considers the past Council relationship with the South Maroochy Drainage Board, whose operations were authorised by the newly introduced *Water Act 2000 (Qld)*, to the present, and then proposing how Council should interact with the Board going forward.

This report advises on the legislation under which the Board operates, the changing area over which it has jurisdiction, and the purpose and associated works undertaken/overseen by the Board. Future activities of the Board will be carried out under the conditions and rules listed in the Ministerial Infrastructure Designation, applied for and obtained by the Board. These requirements and any implications for Council are discussed in this report.

There is discussion around the legislative authority under which the Board operates, recognising that this is open to change, following a 2015 State Government initiative to rationalise like entities across the State, and recognising the Board's statement of desire to change.

As the area over which the Board has jurisdiction falls within Council's Blue Heart project area, together with recognition in Council's Coastal Hazard Adaptation Strategy, the associated implications are discussed in this report.

This report considers development upstream of the former cane lands, Council's associated development approval processes and the Board's position on the outcomes.

Financial arrangements and Council responsibilities, past and future, are provided.

This report, in acknowledging that matters described above have been dealt with on an ad hoc basis up to now, proposes a way forward that aligns with Council's responsibilities, recognises the decline of the cane industry and reflects best community benefit outcomes. Future Council interactions need only involve minor dealings regarding drain maintenance within the South Maroochy Drainage Area, respecting the autonomy of the Board.

Origins, Structure and Powers of the South Maroochy Drainage Board

The Board and the South Maroochy Drainage Area were established on 14 July 1977 by Order in Council pursuant to the now repealed *Water Act 1926*. The Order in Council provided that the South Maroochy Drainage Area was constituted "to provide continued group drainage facilities for the area and future drainage improvements." Through various legislative transitional provisions, the Board is now recognised as a Category 2 Water Authority under the current *Water Act 2000 (Qld*).

From the outset, the Board was principally concerned with managing drainage in the defined South Maroochy Drainage Area, shown in Attachment 1 - Land Use and Drainage Details aimed at supporting the viable cultivation of sugar cane. The area defined is 1,114Ha. Initially, the South Maroochy Drainage Area totalled 1,114Ha, however with the impact of urban development it has reduced to 721Ha, as shown in Figure 1.

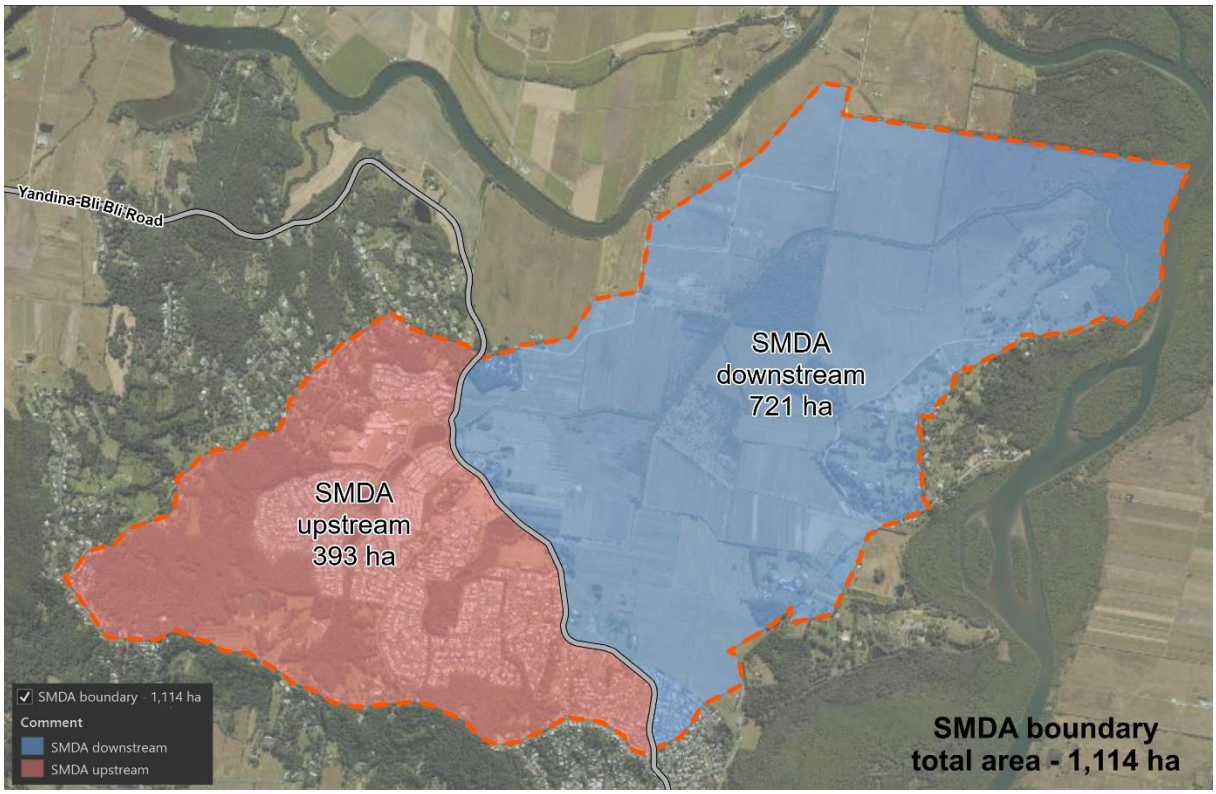


Figure 1. South Maroochy Drainage Area Split

Prior to the establishment of the Board, drainage was managed by the South Maroochy Swamp Drainage Syndicate as well as individual farmers. These constructed drains initially 'drained the swamp' and were constructed and maintained by the Swamp Drainage Syndicate.

Empowered by the Order in Council, the Board took control of:

- A major drainage system comprising some 6.5km of constructed drain discharging into the Maroochy River.
- A subsidiary drainage system comprising some 10.5km of constructed drains discharging into the major system. The drains also provided for contained runoff of minor rainfall events and a mechanism for managing major rainfall events through controlled release of floodwaters from cane fields via flood gates, strategically located in bunds constructed along the drains, and operated when the receiving water levels were low, depending on outgoing tides and receding river flood heights combined.

The South Maroochy Drainage Board's authority originally included the power to:

- Acquire or construct works and to maintain and administer those works
- Maintain the works under its control in a state of efficiency
- Fix and levy rates and charges in respect of the South Maroochy Drainage Area

- Resume land (as a constructing authority within the meaning of the *Acquisition of Land Act 1967*).

On 19 April 2002, the current *Water Act 2000 (Qld)* continued to recognise the South Maroochy Drainage Area and the Board as an "authority area" and "water authority" respectively. The Board is currently classed as a Category 2 Water Authority, established to "carry out water activities" decided by the Authority within the South Maroochy Drainage Area. The Board's control of the drainage system is limited by agreement of the individual property owners in having works carried out through their land, which is a significant limitation.

Under the current *Water Act 2000 (Qld)*, The Board's authority is reduced to the power to:

- Make and levy rates and charges in respect of the South Maroochy Drainage Area
- Resume land (as a constructing authority within the meaning of the *Acquisition of Land Act 1967*).

Under the *Water Act 2000 (Qld)*, "water activities" are further defined to include drainage, including stormwater drainage.

To date, the Board has not resumed any land, does not own any land, or hold any relevant interest in any land, such as licences, leases, or easements. It is important to note that the Board does not have "control" over the drainage system and can only undertake or authorise works with the approval of individual property owners.

The current Board is made up of 4 property owners, as listed on the State Government website, whose appointments extend from 22 September 2023 to 21 September 2026:

- Robert Price (Chair)
- Christopher Baker (Secretary)
- Brenda Baker
- Michelle Price.

In more recent times, Council's interests and dealings with the South Maroochy Drainage Board have come about through consultation around development assessment, including Parklakes I and II and the recent Parklakes III application. Assessment of the Development Application for Parklakes III recognised the drainage implications and the drains associated with the Board contained within the South Maroochy Drainage Area.

The role of the Board in providing input to development assessment within and/or upstream of the South Maroochy Drainage Area is captured as follows:

"While the Board has shown interest in representing South Maroochy Drainage Area property owners' interests when upstream property development assessment is under Council consideration, legislatively the Board has no role or entitlement as an assessment manager and therefore has no formal right to assess any development application or impose conditions. Further, Council cannot condition an applicant to obtain a discharge approval from the Board in a development permit issued under the *Planning Act 2016*. Notwithstanding this, the Board can provide submissions to Council for consideration in assessing development applications impacting on the South Maroochy Drainage Area and property owners' interests. In past times, the Board has elected to be a party to an appeal to

the Planning and Environment Court regarding proposed development relevant to its interests."

The Board does not have access rights to undertake maintenance, and repair works without landowner consent.

South Maroochy Drainage Area

The South Maroochy Drainage Area has changed since it was established in 1977. It initially identified a catchment area that had great agricultural potential (sugar cane) if the flood prone, arable land could first be drained and then supported with a responsive flood management mechanism. With the 17km drainage system continuing to drain the swamp, a managed and maintained drainage system equipped with bunds and flood gates, provided that mechanism.

Urban development has occurred over a significant part of the South Maroochy Drainage Area, best defined as that component upstream of the Yandina - Bli Bli Road. The major developments of Parklakes I and II for example, have delivered several urban lots. As a result of these developments, any cane drains that were located in these now developed areas are gone and responsibilities for all drainage matters in these urban areas now rest with Council. There is no formal agreement between Council and the Board that 'transferred' the management of drainage to Council, but it was a natural progression that such a transfer would take place without the need for formality. The development approval process resulted in urban stormwater infrastructure assets being contributed to Council and therefore established the role of Council as both the asset owner and stormwater management service provider.

Developments upstream of the Yandina - Bli Bli Road, including Parklakes I and II, continue to drain to the Maroochy River via these low lying tidally affected former cane lands.

The constructed drains in the South Maroochy Drainage Area below the Yandina - Bli Bli Road remain in place, with some variations to flow paths affected by alterations. Analysis indicates that the flow capacity of the drains is limited to approximately a 2-year flood event runoff, before spilling to adjacent fields occurs. With this understanding, the drain management changes of note going forward relate to climate change, Council's Blue Heart project and the Coastal Hazard Adaptation Strategy.

Today, land uses include a mix of agricultural pursuits and rural residential outcomes. The Board has advised that agricultural pursuits are fluid and will change over time with prevailing economic and climatic conditions, influenced by the flexibility, individual preference and adaptivity of landowners.

Works undertaken/overseen by the South Maroochy Drainage Board

On advice from a past member of the Board (2005 to 2009) the Board was active in overseeing effective drain maintenance over that period and extending up to 2013. Regular drain inspections informed work schedules that were agreed to by property owners and undertaken by them.

With the Nambour Mill closure in December 2003, reduced area cane production continued with cane being transported to the Maryborough Mill. Interest was also sustained in anticipation that the Nambour based Cow Candy cattle feed project would be a success, however, this project ended in early 2013, mostly marking the end of cane production in the South Maroochy Drainage Area and over the majority of the Sunshine Coast.

In more recent times, the priorities of the Board have focussed on protecting the interests of the rural property owners where perceived flooding concerns have arisen, linked to upstream urban development. The Board is watchful for potential increased stormwater flows emanating from development together with increased duration for stormwater flows. In order to manage these potential impacts, the Board sought/seeks to inform and influence Council's development assessment process through its submissions. The Board's main interest then is in ensuring that it can be demonstrated that upstream development does not increase peak flow discharges to the private drainage infrastructure.

The Board also works with property owners to prepare for and undertake drain maintenance. To this end, the Board has worked with the upstream developers to have downstream drain maintenance planning informed by flood studies, forecasting impacts of future climate as to rainfall intensity and frequency, and changed stormwater runoff characteristics.

These studies provided an ability for downstream property owners to gauge drain maintenance requirements. Upgrades and maintenance work on the drains were identified, recognising future climate conditions. These considerations also identified the need for State Government approval to be secured in order to proceed with undertaking works in sensitive areas such as known Fish Habitat Areas. State Government approval is required each and every time such works are deemed necessary. For a small entity like the Board, multiple and ongoing submissions are seen as an onerous and expensive requirement but can be reduced through obtaining a Ministerial Approval allowing for clearly conditioned works to be undertaken as required, for an extended period.

The Board applied for and was granted a Ministerial Infrastructure Designation for the South Maroochy Drainage Network on 27 April 2023, remaining effective for a period of six years.

Referring to the financial reports of the Board over the last 15 years, only around $85,000 has been spent on Board activities, indicating that limited drain maintenance activities have occurred over the period where the Board has funded the work.

Ministerial Infrastructure Designation for the South Maroochy Drainage Network

The Designation identifies allowable works to be carried out generally in accordance with requirements listed in Table 1 on drains shown on the Plan of Designation, Sheets 1-5. The particular drains involved are summarily shown in Attachment 3 - Ministerial Infrastructure Designation. The Designation includes requirements relating to the location and scale of activities, impacts to marine plants, maintenance and management of works, compensatory planting, construction management and managing acid sulphate soils.

The Designation includes the following requirements:

- Details how vegetation management is to be undertaken.
- Recognises the limitations on earthworks to be undertaken, both in scale and a single side of channel.
- Requires qualified ecologists and arborists are to be used to develop vegetation trimming plans, with copies of which plans are to be provided to State Government.
- Requires that records must be kept and made available on request clearly showing areas of marine plants that have been cleared and trimmed, including before and after photographs.

- Stipulates that planting along the drainage network is to be provided to compensate for the removal of marine plants.
- Requires that prior to commencement of work, a Construction Environmental Management Plan must be prepared and submitted to State Government, addressing such matters as hours of construction, construction noise, waste control and management, a construction communication plan and a contemporary Erosion and Sediment Control Plan.
- Calls for an Acid Sulfate Soil Management Plan. Acid sulfate soil is to be managed in accordance with the prepared Acid Sulfate Soil Investigation and Management Plan with a required focus on:
    - Acid Sulfate Management
    - Water Quality Management
    - Site Inspection Records
    - Affected Soil remediation
    - Qualified Certification of completed works provided to the State.

While the benefits of having a Designation are recognised in avoiding seeking individual approvals, compliance with the Designation brings a new set of challenges to the Board, with limited resources at its disposal. As can be seen from the above and the details within the Designation, the requirements are comprehensive, extensive and onerous. The Board, either as a Category 2 Water Authority or a Closed Water Activity Agreement entity, would need to consider and adopt a funding method to enable compliance with such requirements. The Designation does not place any responsibility on Council to contribute to funding the delivery of the works.

Implications for Council with implementation of the Ministerial Infrastructure Designation for Drain Management

Operationally

The Designation has no implications for Council as it does not approve works or call up changes to the drainage network that conflict with Council's accepted practices. The Designation's conditions require sound vegetation and environmental management. Additionally, Council provided input to the development of the Designation as part of the consultation process, and issues raised were given due recognition.

Planning

From a planning perspective, the Designation recognises a relationship with Council's Blue Heart project and the impacts of climate change as expressed in Council's Coastal Hazard Adaptation Strategy. The Designation includes a 'Cessation of Works' clause providing for reinstatement and removal of drainage infrastructure, in line with a yet unknown but anticipated prescribed trigger, for inclusion in Council's Blue Heart action plan. (This is linked to the future encroachment of tidal waters over the South Maroochy Drainage Area, associated with sea level rise in line with climate change.) In that regard, Council's future planning is recognised and protected in the Designation. Future development of policies relating to the Blue Heart and the Coastal Hazard Adaptation Strategy will progress through the Board and property owner consultation and in line with principles adopted by Council.

Climate Change

It is worth noting that climate change will gradually see most of the South Maroochy Drainage Area increasingly become a tidal wetland. Much of it is below the Highest Astronomical Tide level of 1.5m AHD, expected by 2041. The Highest Astronomical Tide is the highest level that can be predicted to occur under average meteorological conditions and any combination of astronomical conditions. This level will not be reached every year and it is not the extreme level that can be reached as storm surges may cause higher levels to occur, noting that the annual king tides do get close to this level.

Implementing the Ministerial Infrastructure Designation

The need or otherwise to undertake drain maintenance rests with the Board and individual property owners within the defined South Maroochy Drainage Area. Drain maintenance provides a management tool for property owners (downstream of Yandina - Bli Bli Road) to realise the maximum benefit of their land holdings, depending on aspirations sought. The Designation provides expediency in carrying out such works. Where these works are conducted in accordance with the conditions of the Designation, Council involvement is not required.

Blocking the drains

Should drain management works by property owners perform contrary to improving drainage efficiency; for example, blocking the drain to capture flow for irrigation purposes, resulting in more frequent flooding of Yandina - Bli Bli Road, then this would be a matter for the Department of Transport and Main Roads to deal with as this a State Controlled Road. Council officers in the past have made Department of Transport and Main Roads fully aware of flooding implications for the Yandina - Bli Bli Road resulting from drain management activities. Council's involvement will continue to be limited to consultation with the State. Further, if such works also impacted adjacent property owners, then this would be a civil matter to be settled between property owners, not requiring Council intervention.

No drain maintenance scenario

If drain maintenance was not to occur, gradual silting and vegetation growth within the drains would follow but not fully, returning the lands to the condition that existed some 80 years ago. The original habitat of Melaleuca wetland that occurred over much of the area would be unlikely to return due to changes in soil and waterflow conditions, having been cleared long ago. A natural transition will likely result in a more saline-influenced ecosystem of casuarina, saltmarsh and mangrove. This would align with some of the stated objectives of Council's Blue Heart project and would satisfy the ultimate condition recognised in Council's Coastal Hazard Adaptation Strategy of a natural transition to tidal wetlands.

In the short term, it could have flooding implications in minor events for adjoining and upstream properties, and lowered flood immunity for the State Controlled Yandina - Bli Bli Road.

For a major flood event Council, through its development management processes, has sought to manage the location of the Defined Flood Event extent to properties upstream of Yandina - Bli Bli Road zoned as follows:

- Environmental management and conservation zone
- Open space zone

- Sport and recreation zone
- Road reserve
- Rural residential zone
- Low density residential zone where conditioning would contain the flood extent appropriately.

There is no requirement for Council to fund/undertake drain maintenance

The South Maroochy Drainage Board believes that Council should take some responsibility for funding drain maintenance because it has approved upstream development resulting in changed flow characteristics from that urban development.

This is not supported for the following reasons:

- Council has accepted maintenance responsibility and associated costs for drainage in the now developed urban areas. Development has occurred over a significant part of the South Maroochy Drainage Area, best defined as that component upstream of the Yandina - Bli Bli Road. This includes the major developments of Parklakes I and II. Responsibility for all drainage matters in these urban areas now rests with Council, and the Board recognises this informal transfer of responsibility. Drain maintenance responsibility in the undeveloped areas should not reside with Council.
- Protection of downstream property owners was given due consideration in Council's development assessment and approval processes. Council approved development, identifying the major drainage system as being an appropriate lawful point of discharge and included conditions addressing changed stormwater issues. The principle of 'non worsening' applied in dealing with peak flows. The very low flow capacities of the constructed drains (less than Q2) were also recognised, accepting that the inherent low flood immunity of the agricultural land would see events above Q2 result in broad overland flow, effectively acknowledging the original mechanism described back in 1977. Importantly, development approval conditions required construction of the waterbodies for Parklakes I and II, to provide for both stormwater detention and stormwater quality outcomes. Council has provided for effective status quo conditions to apply within the remnant South Maroochy Drainage Area and as such, is not required to take on drain maintenance responsibilities.

There is no requirement for Council to acquire drainage easements

There have been discussions in the past about the need for easements to provide certainty of access to undertake drain maintenance by authorised entities, and to limiting the types of drain works carried out by property owners. The Board has always had the power to acquire easements but has not seen the need to do so, believing that property owners will continue to freely co-operate with the Board where drainage works are involved. Council would only require easements if it had responsibility for drain management and maintenance and was seeking certainty around powers of entry to conduct such works. There is no requirement for Council to undertake drain maintenance. Further, creating and holding easement rights would be an unnecessary cost and generate an expectation that Council has general drain maintenance responsibilities.

Protecting community interest - It is considered that no action is required from Council to protect community interest within the reduced/effective South Maroochy Drainage Area, considering the following:

- The drainage maintenance activities of the Board are to be undertaken in accordance with the conditions set out in the Ministerial Infrastructure Designation, thereby recognising and complying with associated Council Environmental policies.
- Council is under no obligation to fund the activities of the Board and should adhere to this position to safeguard Council's budget.
- Council's land use planning and development assessment processes, in and adjacent to the remnant South Maroochy Drainage Area, are not dependent on the Board's position, notwithstanding recognising the Board's input through the normal, accepted consultation processes.
- Council is not required to acquire easements or undertake drainage works in the remnant South Maroochy Drainage Area downstream of the Yandina - Bli Bli Road.
- Council's approvals of upstream development recognised that:
    - A lawful point of discharge was available to the downstream land/receiving waters.
    - Conditioned works were designed to retain existing flow characteristics.
    - There are no lawful works a downstream owner could undertake to block the drain, however the consequences of a blockage are minor.

However, should Council wish to undertake works on the drains described in the Designation, then this can occur provided all drain works identified in the Designation's coverage area are carried out as per the Designation, along with any other relevant permit that may be required in addition to any Designation requirement. Any intended works would be developed in consultation and concurrence with the Board.

The way forward for the South Maroochy Drainage Board: Transition to an Alternative Institutional Structure

The Board has expressed interest in dissolving from a Cat 2 Water Authority and moving to a Closed Water Activity Agreement. The decision to progress this rests with the Board through application to the State and does not require Council's involvement. Notwithstanding this, the State did seek Council's position on this matter at a time when it initiated the plan to rationalise similar boards in existence across the State. Following a confidential report going to Council on 23 April 2015, the Chief Executive Officer wrote to the Minister advising that Council saw no change necessary to the Category 2 Water Authority status of the Board.

A water authority may formally request its dissolution to an Alternative Institutional Structure if:

- its Board, by special resolution, resolves to make the request and
- the majority of ratepayers in the area agree to the water authority making the request.

The options and processes for dissolution to an Alternative Institutional Structure are provided for in Sections 695, 695A and 696 of the *Water Act 2000 (Qld)*. It is not a simple process and requires unanimous approval of all relevant registered owners of land in the authority area to proceed.

From the Board's perspective, the main advantages of dissolving from a Category 2 Water Authority to an Alternative Institutional Structure such as a Closed Water Activity Agreement are that there would no longer be requirements to:

- provide annual reports and financial statements to the State that comply with formal financial standards to the Queensland Audit Office
- comply with other legislation such as the *Water Act 2000 (Qld), Public Sector Ethics Act, Public Records Act 2002*
- comply with the State Purchasing Policy and
- comply with Queensland Government policy directions.

The main disadvantages of dissolving to a Closed Water Activity Agreement include the:

- Inability to access capital funds from Queensland Treasury Corporation.
- Loss of power under the *Water Act 2000 (Qld)* to make and levy rates and charges on its ratepayers. However, a Closed Water Activity Agreement can establish any rates and charges to cover infrastructure maintenance and capital costs via consultation and agreement with property owners.
- Loss of power to acquire easements.
- Inability to access natural disaster relief funding.

The South Maroochy Drainage Board will determine what direction it wishes to take. The State advises that while it would appreciate knowing Council's opinion, this does not take away from the decision resting solely with the Board.

Officer recommendation (b) "requires the Chief Executive Officer to write to the Board and the Minister for Local Government and Water, advising of Council's position." It is proposed that advice to the Board and Minister for Local Government and Water, amongst other matters, would inform that Council sees the decision as one for the Board and will support whatever decision is made regarding retaining the status quo or dissolving to a Closed Water Activity Agreement.

Future South Maroochy Drainage Area Management

The South Maroochy Drainage Area, in keeping with the Order in Council, reflects a catchment area that included high ground delivering stormwater runoff to an area of agricultural land that required drainage management to ensure the ongoing viability of agricultural activities and the general amenity of the area. The need for drain management and the way it is achieved is up to the Board and individual property owners.

Council's interest in this area falls under policy development for the Coastal Hazard Adaptation Plan and the Blue Heart project. The proposed Transition Plans for the area are yet to be developed but are likely to accept that private property owners may wish to pursue drainage endeavours that favour the ongoing enjoyment of their land in the face of climate related challenges that will ongoingly diminish the effectiveness of these endeavours. The Highest Astronomical Tide will continue to encroach towards the Yandina - Bli Bli Road, with impacted properties eventually transitioning to tidal wetlands. This is a long-term proposition.

Council's Blue Heart project objectives are:

- to protect the most critical areas of the floodplain
- establish wetland and floodplain ecosystems
- improve water quality in the Maroochy River
- provide community and recreation opportunities and
- investigate and support new uses for the surrounding rural and agricultural lands, including economic opportunities for landowners.

Development of Transition and Implementation Plans for these policies will include full consultation with the broader community, the Board and affected property owners, including those within the South Maroochy Drainage Area.

The broader cane drain network within the Blue Heart runs through several different tenures, including lands that are privately owned or publicly owned by Council, State Government and Unitywater. As many of the drains may also include Fish Habitat Areas and marine plants, any works under consideration require approval from the State Department of Primary Industries. Through the delivery of the Blue Heart project, Council will continue working in partnership with stakeholders to better understand the drain network. This will include determining maintenance requirements and an appropriate approach to achieve Blue Heart project objectives together with best agricultural and environmental outcomes.

In combination, the Coastal Hazard Adaptation Strategy includes the Maroochy estuary and floodplain adaptation pathway where, under the Mitigation heading, recognition is given of the need for a Maroochy flood storage preservation area and Blue Heart Project Transition Plan. Mitigation also includes developing a special area adaptation plan for the long-term transition of inundation prone agricultural areas to wetland ecosystem services.

Financial Arrangements and Past Practices

The South Maroochy Drainage Board has the power to fix and levy rates and charges in respect of the South Maroochy Drainage Area, thereby enabling the 'drainage, including stormwater drainage activities' undertaken by the Board, to be funded. This power is provided for under Section 572 of the *Water Act 2000 (Qld)*.

Based on the Board's annual Financial Statements, only $2,569 has been collected from Rates and Charges since 2009/10. Total Revenue over this period was $39,874, funded primarily from calls on Cash Reserves, Investments and Interest.

Over the same period, $87,477 has been spent on Board activities.

The Board's closing balance as at 2023–24 was $18,936.

The last record of payment by Council to the Board was $27,391.07 dated 30 March 2010, reflecting a Levy Notice on Council linked to urban blocks contained within the South Maroochy Drainage Area. One further invoice has been received, dated 6 June 2022 for $18,700 for "Annual fee towards maintenance works of the South Maroochy Drain." Formal advice was provided to the Board that this invoice would not be paid due to the absence of any formal agreement between Council and the Board, the lack of legislative obligation, and that expenditure of ratepayer funds for that purpose could not be justified and would not pass financial audit review.

Council's limited level of investment over the last 15 years, together with the lack of legislative obligation, lack of justification for expenditure of ratepayer funds and that such

expenditure would not pass financial audit review, provide the basis for not funding Board activities into the future.

Legal

The South Maroochy Drainage Board is an autonomous body established by legislation that provides for it to raise its own revenue. The legislation does not recognise a relationship or responsibility link with Council.

Council has not provided funds or a subsidy to the Board for 15 years.

On the basis that there is no evidence of any agreement, legislative or other obligation to fund/subsidise the Board, under the current legislative framework, keeping the status quo of not funding/subsidising Board activities has only a low legal risk.

On these bases, there are no known legal implications for Council associated with this report.

Policy

Council's policy and positions with regard to the area will continue to be influenced by the Environment & Liveability Strategy 2023, where it is identified as one of Council's 5 major green spaces. The development of a Blue Heart Transition Plan, an action out of the Coastal Hazard Adaptation Strategy and the Environment & Liveability Strategy 2023, will provide much more detailed guidance on the future management of the Blue Heart project area within the Lower Maroochy Floodplain. This Transition Plan will be developed in consultation with property owners within the South Maroochy Drainage Area, their representative body, the Board and the broader community. The consultation process will be the mechanism to negotiate a community partnership going forward, noting the uniqueness of the remnant South Maroochy Drainage Area and the properties within.

Risk

There is a financial risk associated with this report in not clarifying Council's position in its dealings with the South Maroochy Drainage Board along the lines of the Officer Recommendation. This clarification aligns with Council's budget guidelines, seeking to ensure long term financial stability and clarity in identifying future ongoing financial commitments, core to this budget objective.

There needs to be certainty around recognition that Council has no requirement to fund the Board's activities, as described in the Officer Recommendation (b) (iii). This speaks to Council's budget principle recognising that all unmanaged financial commitments will negatively impact Council's capacity to complete its combined operational and capital expenditure program.

Previous Council Resolution

At Council's Ordinary Meeting of 23 April 2015, a confidential report responded to a State Government consideration to wind up the Board as part of a program to test the cessation of all Drainage Boards across the State.

The resolution coming from that confidential report determined that "Council advise the Minister for State Development and Natural Resources and Mines, the Hon. Anthony Latham, MP, that its preferred option is Option 5, that is, no change be made to the current arrangement to the South Maroochy Drainage Board."

Ordinary Meeting 23 April 2015 (OM15/57)

That Council advise the Minister for State Development and Natural Resources and Mines, the Hon. Anthony Lynham, MP, that no change be made to the current arrangement to the South Maroochy Drainage Board and request the Chief Executive Officer to have further discussions with the affected parties.

Related Documentation

There is no related documentation relevant to this report.

Critical Dates

There are no critical dates relevant to this report.

Implementation

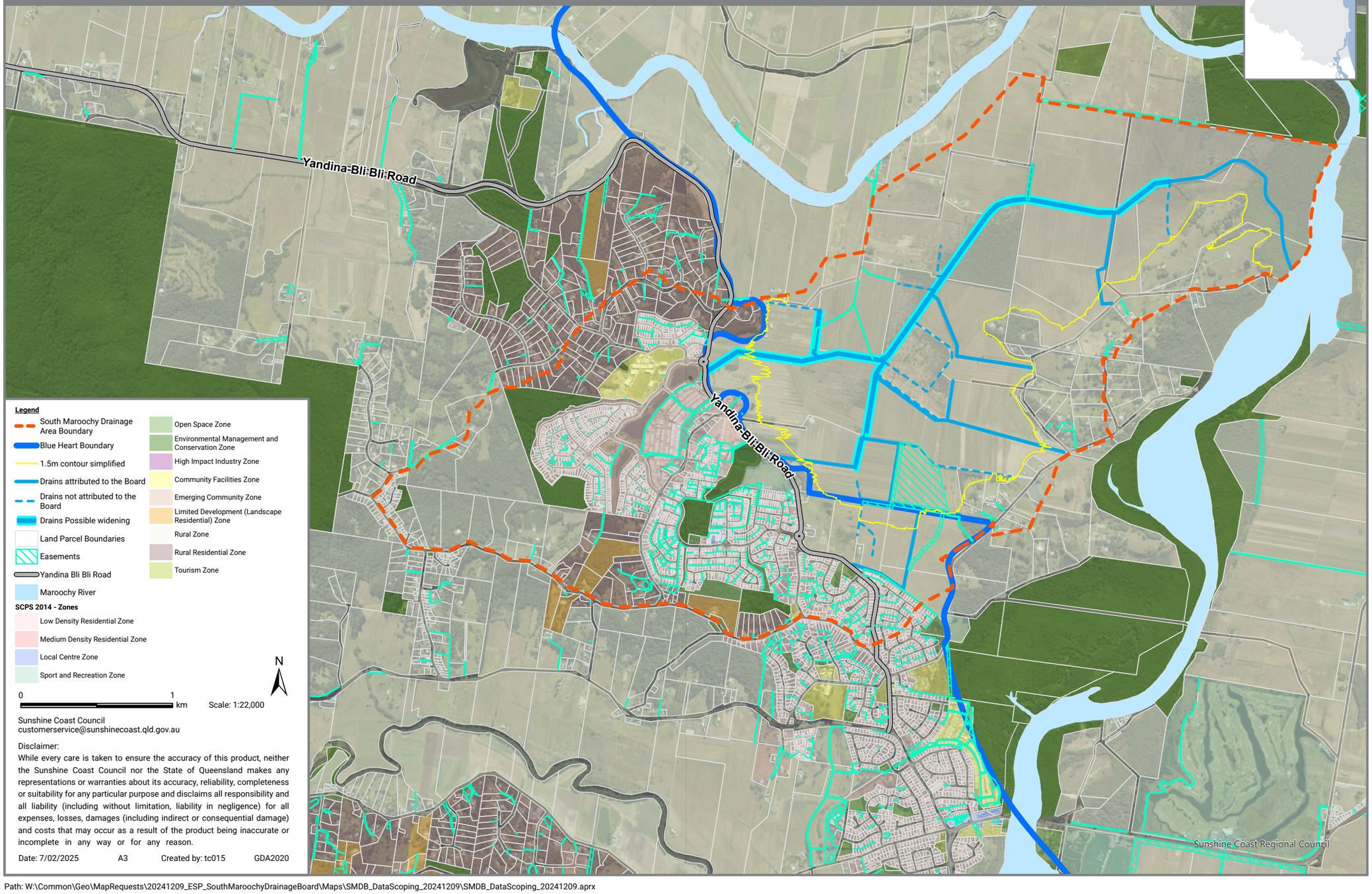
Should Council accept the recommendation, it is noted that the Chief Executive Officer will write to the Minister for Local Government and Water, and the South Maroochy Drainage Board advising of Council's position.

The correspondence will include advice on Council's:

- recognition of the South Maroochy Drainage Board as a separate and independent entity
- support for whatever entity it wishes to operate as - Cat 2 Water Authority, or a Closed Water Activity Agreement and
- position on funding.

A copy of this report and associated attachments would be provided with the letter.

South Maroochy Drainage Area: Land Use and Drainage Details



Legend

- South Maroochy Drainage Area Boundary
- Blue Heart Boundary
- 1.5m contour simplified
- Drains attributed to the Board
- Drains not attributed to the Board
- Drains Possible widening
- Land Parcel Boundaries
- Easements
- Yandina Bli Bli Road
- Maroochy River

SCPS 2014 - Zones

- Low Density Residential Zone
- Medium Density Residential Zone
- Local Centre Zone
- Sport and Recreation Zone
- Open Space Zone
- Environmental Management and Conservation Zone
- High Impact Industry Zone
- Community Facilities Zone
- Emerging Community Zone
- Limited Development (Landscape Residential) Zone
- Rural Zone
- Rural Residential Zone
- Tourism Zone

N

0 1 km Scale: 1:22,000

Sunshine Coast Council
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Hon Steven Miles MP
Deputy Premier
Minister for State Development, Infrastructure,
Local Government and Planning
Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympic and Paralympic Games Infrastructure

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DECISION NOTICE

Ministerial Infrastructure Designation for South Maroochy Drainage Network

Decision details

Decision:	Ministerial Infrastructure Designation (MID) made under section 38 of the *Planning Act 2016*
Date of decision:	27 April 2023
Type of infrastructure:	Planning Regulation 2017, Schedule 5, Part 2: • Item 19: water cycle management infrastructure
DSDILGP reference:	MID-1020-0457

Premises details

Street address:	117 Lefoes Road, 282-304 and 324 Burtons Road, 1-35, 75, 149-159 and 161 Espin Road, 59 Thomas Road and 901 Yandina Bli Bli Road, Bli Bli, QLD, 4560 and 20, 104-196 and 198-278 Burtons Road and 833 Yandina Bli Bli Road, Maroochy River, QLD, 4561
Real property description:	Lots 11 and 13 on SP230344, Lot 20 on SP297910, Lots 1 and 2 on RP151449, Lots 1 and 2 on SP269537, Lot 2 on RP207422, Lot 4 on RP851952, Lot 13 on C31569, Lots 8 and 9 on RP84284, Lots 2 and 3 on SP314107 and Lot 16 on SP287400
Local government area:	Sunshine Coast Regional Council (council)

Infrastructure entity details

Infrastructure entity:	South Maroochy Drainage Board

Requirements

A notice of requirements included in the MID is at **Schedule 1**.

Submissions

A notice of how I have considered submissions is at **Schedule 2**.

MID-1020-0457

Advice to the entity

Despite the MID, the entity is responsible for determining what obligations exist under previous development approvals that apply to the premises.

Effective date

As set out in section 9(3) of the *Planning Act 2016*, the MID will take effect from the date the gazette notice for this MID is published in the Queensland Government Gazette.

Duration of MID

The duration of the MID is set out in section 39 of the *Planning Act 2016.*



STEVEN MILES MP
DEPUTY PREMIER
Minister for State Development, Infrastructure,
Local Government and Planning
Minister Assisting the Premier on
Olympic and Paralympic Games Infrastructure

Enc (2)

MID-1020-0457

Schedule 1 - Notice of requirements included in the MID

Development under the MID is to be carried out in accordance with the requirements included in Table 1.

Table 1 - Requirements	
Plan of designation	
1.	The extent of development is to be carried out generally in accordance with the 'Plan of designation for the South Maroochy Drainage Network' Overall Plan and Sheets 1-5, ref. MID-1020-0457 and included at **Annexure 1** (Plan of designation).
Easements	
2.	Within six years of commencement of works under the designation, undertake best endeavours to establish access easements between affected landowners and the council for the extent of the drainage network, as shown on the plan of designation included at **Annexure 1**.
Impacts to marine plants	
3.	(a) The removal, destruction or damage of marine plants is limited to the areas shown on the plan of designation, included at **Annexure 1**, and for the purposes of: i. the maintenance of the South Maroochy Drainage Board waterway network ii. the upgrade and extension of the South Maroochy Drainage Board waterway network.
4.	(a) Any clearing in the area shaded blue on the plan of designation, included at **Annexure 1**, is limited to: i. the top of the bank and progressing land side to enable the bund wall to be reinstated and maintained ii. the bed of the channel to remove silt and other materials affecting the conveyance capacity of the drainage network. (b) Prior to commencing trimming works in the drainage area shaded blue on the plan of designation, undertake a marine plant survey and prepare a selective trimming plan. (c) The selective trimming plan must be prepared by a suitably qualified ecologist/arborist and include/incorporate the following trimming parameters: i. any branch/trunk greater than 3cm diameter (at 2.5m height from ground level) for *Avicennia marina* must not be cut as they are unlikely to reshoot ii. for *Bruguiera gymnorhiza* and *Casuarina glauca,* any branch/trunk greater than 0.5cm diameter (at 2.5m height from ground level) must not be cut as they are unlikely to reshoot

MID-1020-0457

	iii. any branch/trunk at 2.5m height from ground level for *Excoecaria agallocha*, must not be cut as they are unlikely to reshoot iv. all other marine plant species must not be cut less than 2.5m above ground level. (d) The selective trimming plan must also provide detail on how spoil and removed vegetation will be managed. (e) Submit a copy of the selective trimming plan to the Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning (DSDILGP) (infrastructuredesignation@dsdilgp.qld.gov.au). (f) Trimming of marine plants along the main drain is to be undertaken in accordance with the selective trimming plan. (g) All future maintenance activities are to occur within the previously impacted footprint.
5.	(a) A five metre clearing of the bed and banks of the channel, either side of all existing flood gates, bridges, culvert crossings and stormwater outlets, is to be maintained. (b) For flood gates, bridges, culvert crossings and stormwater outlets located in the drainage area shaded blue on the plan of designation, clearing can occur without the need for a selective trimming plan.
6.	(a) All maintenance works to the drainage channel are to ensure root balls and subsurface vegetation remains undisturbed until excavation activities commence. (b) Sub-surface roots of marine plants must be left in-situ where bank reprofiling is not required.
6.	(a) Records must be kept and made available on request that clearly show the areas of marine plants that have been cleared and trimmed. This includes before and after photographs from specific and repeatable photograph points. (b) Photograph records must include: i. points marked with GPS recorded stakes ii. orientation of photos, to allow replication photographs to be taken periodically for clear comparison of progression achieved at each point.
7.	Marine plants that have been removed or destroyed and other material used in the development (e.g. debris, construction material, soil, etc.) are to be promptly removed from the intertidal zone.
Maintenance and management of works	
8.	(a) Ongoing maintenance of the drainage network is to be carried out in accordance with the following: i. slashing of grass on top of banks annually using a tractor slasher ii. slashing of grass on the side of banks annually using a tractor slasher and flail mower on steeper sides of banks (for areas not shaded blue on the plan of designation)

MID-1020-0457

	iii. slashing of banks in the area shaded blue on the plan of designation is limited to the land side of the bank only iv. annual visual inspection of flood gate and silt levels near flood gates v. silt removal every three to five years using a small excavator vi. partial clearing of drainage banks every five years using an excavator. (b) Any ongoing maintenance involving marine plant disturbance is undertaken at a minimum interval of once every three years. (c) All identified maintenance works are to be undertaken in accordance with the Acid Sulfate Soil Investigation and Management Plan (reference:20239-001-Rev0), dated 22 September 2020, prepared by Tectonic Geotechnical Pty Ltd, and included at **Annexure 2**.
9.	Spoil is not to be disposed of on tidal lands, unless for the use of bund remediation, or within waterways and is to be managed to prevent acid soil development.
Compensatory planting	
10.	(a) Planting along the drainage network is to be provided to compensate for the removal of marine plants. (b) Compensatory planting should be located within existing pockets of terrestrial vegetation above the high bank of the drain.
11.	Following completion of any works, revegetate banks with grass species.
Construction management	
12.	(a) Prior to commencement of work, a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) must be prepared and submitted to DSDILGP (infrastructuredesignation@dsdilgp.qld.gov.au). The CEMP must include/address: i. hours of construction, vibration, and construction noise (including the default noise standards), in accordance with the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* (s440R & 440S) ii. waste control and management, in conjunction with a waste management plan if deemed necessary iii. disposal and management of hazardous materials and regulated waste, including removal by a suitably licenced contractor where deemed necessary iv. chemical and fuel used during construction stored in bunded areas v. access locations for and management of construction vehicle traffic (any construction parking off-site is subject to engagement with Council and relevant landowners) vi. appropriate machine hygiene measures vii. proximity of works to easements and services and any necessary design measures, additional analysis or safe work methods

	viii. other required permits from the council, easement holders or utility providers ix. complaint resolution procedures, including who to contact and a record of how complaints have been addressed x. a construction communication plan including: ▪ how neighbouring properties will be advised of construction and demolition activities for each stage ▪ how the appropriate extent of neighbouring properties to be notified will be determined ▪ timeframes for notification of construction activities, with notification to occur prior to works commencing. (b) Construction of the development is to be undertaken in accordance with the CEMP.
13.	(a) During site works, the following measures must be implemented: i. sediment excavation is to occur progressively in manageable stages to minimise disturbance ii. a silt curtain is to be installed at the upper and lower end of the area where excavation works are being undertaken iii. excavation works are carried out during periods with no or low rainfall forecast and during low, slack tide periods. (b) Erosion and Sediment Control measures which are in accordance with Best Practice Erosion and Sediment Control (BPESC) guidelines for Australia (International Erosion Control Association.
Acid sulfate soils	
14.	(a) Acid sulfate soil (ASS) is to be managed in accordance with the following sections of the Acid Sulfate Soil Investigation and Management Plan (reference:20239-001-Rev0), dated 22 September 2020 and prepared by Tectonic Geotechnical Pty Ltd, and included at **Annexure 2**: i. Section 7.0 Acid Sulfate Soil Management ii. Section 8.0 Water Quality Management iii. Section 9.0 Site Inspection Records.
15.	(a) In the event that the works cause disturbance or oxidisation of ASS, the affected soil must be treated and thereafter managed (until the affected soil has been neutralised or contained) in accordance with the current Queensland ASS Technical Manual: Soil management guidelines, prepared by the Department of Science (DES), Information Technology, Innovation and the Arts, 2014. (b) Certification by an appropriately qualified person, confirming that the affected soil has been neutralised or contained, in accordance with (a) above is to be provided to DES at: – palm@des.qld.gov.au or mailed to:

	– Department of Environment and Science Permit and Licence Management Implementation and Support Unit GPO Box 2454 Brisbane Qld 4001.
Cessation of works	
16.	(a) Prior to the drainage network no longer being required for urban stormwater drainage purposes, as identified in the Sunshine Coast Coastal Hazard Adaptation Strategy Part A: Coastal Hazard Adaptation, prepared by Sunshine Coast Regional Council dated May 2021, undertake the following works: i. remove all bunds, tidal gates and other drainage infrastructure within the designation boundary, as shown on the plan of designation included at **Annexure 1** ii. revegetate the top of banks with grass species.

MID-1020-0457

Schedule 2 – Notice of how submissions were considered

Submissions received during Minister's consultation

On 20 January 2021, I gave a notice to the council and the landowner advising that I was proposing to make the MID and inviting final submissions within 25 business days.

Public consultation actions were also conducted by the entity inviting submissions between 3 and 31 March 2021.

I received nine submissions during this period. The submissions were from the council, landowners and the Sunshine Coast Environment Council.

A summary of how I have considered submissions is provided in the table below.

Matters raised	Response
The continued maintenance of the drainage network is imperative to ensure the drains function as intended since their construction over 80 years ago.	The MID will allow the drainage network to be adequately maintained and managed without the need to seek further planning approvals.
It is critical that all floodgates are continually maintained to ensure there is no debris caught in the floodgates enabling salt water to enter the farm and in turn causing crop loss and rendering farming unviable.	The MID requires that floodgates and other parts of the drainage network are to be maintained in accordance with the agreed maintenance program.
The drains should only be cleaned and desilted and not widened as this will result in further impacts.	The MID facilitates the construction of a new drain, the widening of an existing drain and the ongoing maintenance of the drainage network. The widening and extension of an existing drain is required to support the appropriate and controlled drainage of stormwater generated across the whole catchment. No new floodgates or other supporting infrastructure are proposed as part of the works.
Council supports the issuing of a MID over the drainage network as a medium-term solution in conjunction with the establishment of easements over the drainage system in favour of Council.	The drainage network is currently required to maintain stormwater management for the whole catchment. As the council implements the Blue Heart Sunshine Coast transition plan, the need for the infrastructure will no longer be required. A requirement has been imposed on the proposal to ensure that all drainage related infrastructure is removed once the Transition Plan identifies that the network is no longer required. The proposal is located over a range of individual land holdings, not under the ownership of the proponent, the South

MID-1020-0457

Matters raised	Response
	Maroochy Drainage Board (SMDB) so it is not possible to impose an easement requirement on this proposal. However, a requirement has been imposed that seeks the proponent to liaise with the council on the provision of easements over the network.
Current agricultural practices within the drains include blocking the drains to enable irrigation pumping. This compromises the drainage function and conflicts with the intent of the MID. Council suggests the imposition of a condition to prohibit this activity.	This is an operational matter and should be addressed directly with the SMDB.
The maintenance plan does not provide for the removal of vegetation from the base of the drain. This should be included in the maintenance plan.	The maintenance plan includes the desilting and removal of material (including vegetation) from within the bed of the drainage network.
The proposed plans for the MID do not provide for connectivity of the drainage network to land which may be used for urban purposes in the future (lot 1 RP213115 and Lot 2RP213115). This should be rectified by amendments to the proposal plans or by way of condition.	The MID is limited to the existing drainage network. Future works can be considered through the amendment to the MID.
The ASS report indicated significant disturbed soil due to new excavation. This is significant in the context of the cumulative loss of flood storage and reporting must identify management arrangements or offsets as necessary.	The MID requires an acid sulfate soil (ASS) management plan to be carried out by a suitably qualified person. I am satisfied that these issues will be captured as part of this requirement.
Material excavated from the drains should be limited to bund remediation works or fill associated with approved future urban development. The MID should condition that excavated material is not to be used for a general raising of the land (even as an agricultural use), or for the provision of fill pads for self-assessable building works on land below the defined flood event within the SMDB catchment	The MID requires the use of material removed from the drains for bund remediation works only. Material not used for these works would need to be disposed of via an appropriate facility.
Drainage maintenance should remain subject to application to local and State permit requirements.	Queensland planning legislation includes provisions for the Planning Minister to designate land for a range of purposes specified in the Planning Regulation 2017. These purposes make provision for water cycle management infrastructure. As such, the MID

MID-1020-0457

Matters raised	Response
	process is an appropriate assessment process for this type of development.
The suggestion that permits are continually required from local and State authorities to meet necessary provisions is not supported. This 'argument' appears to be an exaggeration of the actual circumstances to support legitimate agricultural activity and strongly suggests the main objective of this application for a MID is based on addressing the deficiencies in stormwater management of existing urban developments and to facilitate further urban encroachment into the Maroochy River Floodplain.	The proposed works are required to ensure the safe and ongoing operation of a drainage network that was introduced to ensure the proper management of stormwater within the South Maroochy catchment. This purpose is not aligned with any specific land use within this catchment.
How can an increase in discharge rate help prevent downstream flooding issues, in particular the Maroochy CBD? Widening, clearing and creating new channels, particularly when devoid of riparian vegetation as proposed, will undoubtedly increase the velocity, rate and volume of runoff and stormwater discharge causing increased sedimentation and pollutant loads into the Maroochy River system and out to the ocean.	The MID introduces a management and maintenance regime which includes the clearing of silt and other spoil from the existing drainage network. It also includes a widening and extension of a tributary drain. These activities will improve the current carrying capacity of the drainage network. The widening and extension of the tributary drain in the southwest of the site is located upstream of the network and will assist in diverting water from the main drain, helping to manage flow velocity into the Maroochy River.
It is contended that any ongoing management of stormwater discharge from urban development needs to be carefully designed and managed and should be done by a suitably qualified authority such as the council in association with relevant State Government departments.	The council and relevant State Government agencies were consulted in the assessment of the MID. Comments were provided by the Council, the Department of Environment and Science and the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries. Their recommendations have been considered in the decision to make the MID. Any future stormwater matters arising from future urban development will be dealt with as part of the assessment of those individual proposals.
The permanent destruction of almost 7ha of protected marine plants and loss of approx. 20ha of vegetation overall is unacceptable and unnecessary.	The extent of marine plant disturbance has been minimised. The MID restricts the commencement of clearing along the main drain until after a selective trimming plan has been provided and certain tree trimming standards are met.
Unregulated and misguided works within this catchment and its floodplains could irreversibly impact the sustainability and	The council has identified that maintenance works facilitated by the MID are both necessary and appropriate and have not identified it as

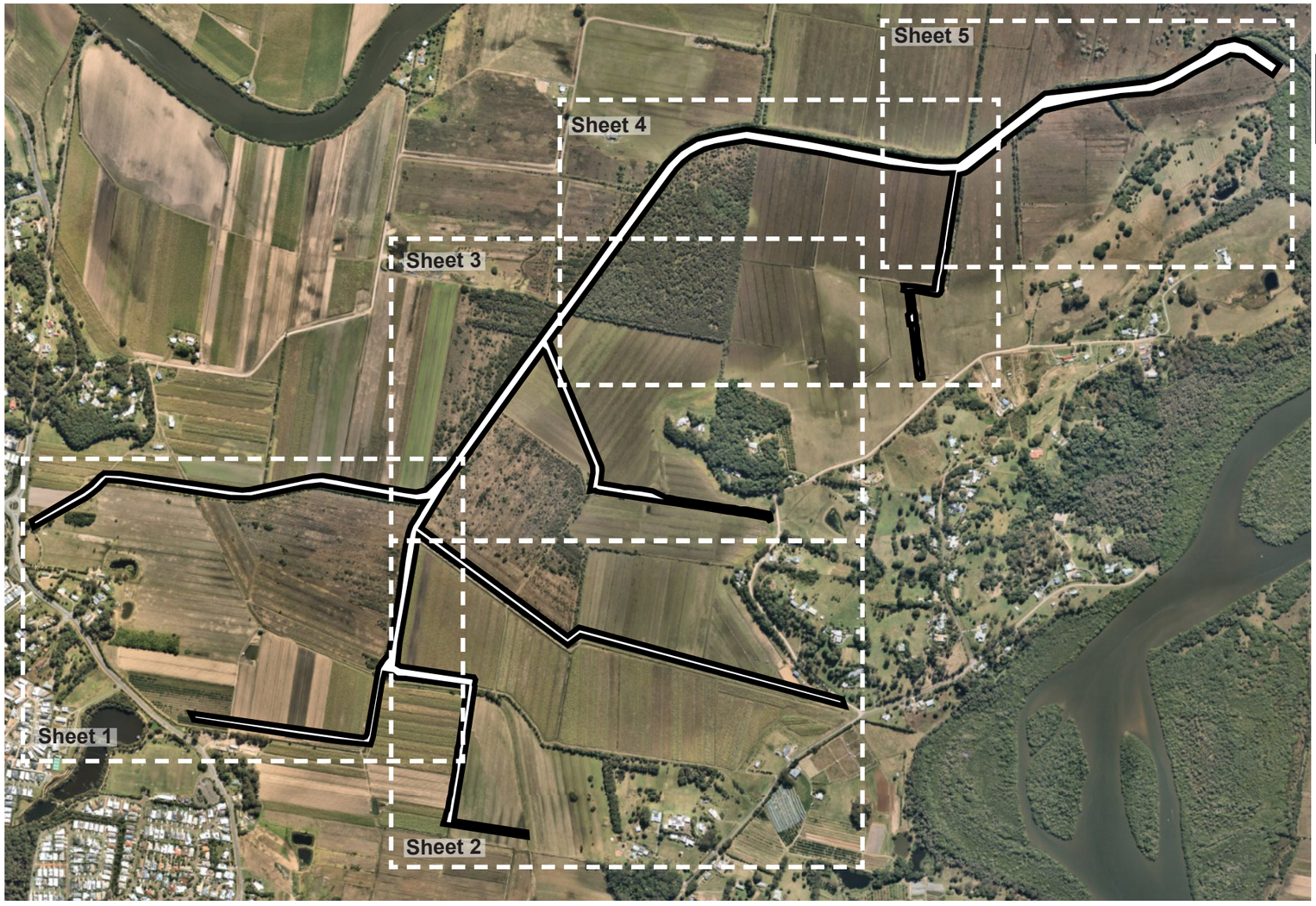
MID-1020-0457

Matters raised	Response
considerable benefits of the Regional Council's Blue Heart Project.	impacting on the intent of the Blue Heart Project at this current time. However, a requirement has been imposed on this proposal to ensure that the drainage network ceases once this has been identified in the Blue Heart Transition Plan

MID-0322-0580

Annexure 1 to Schedule 1 – Plan of designation

Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning

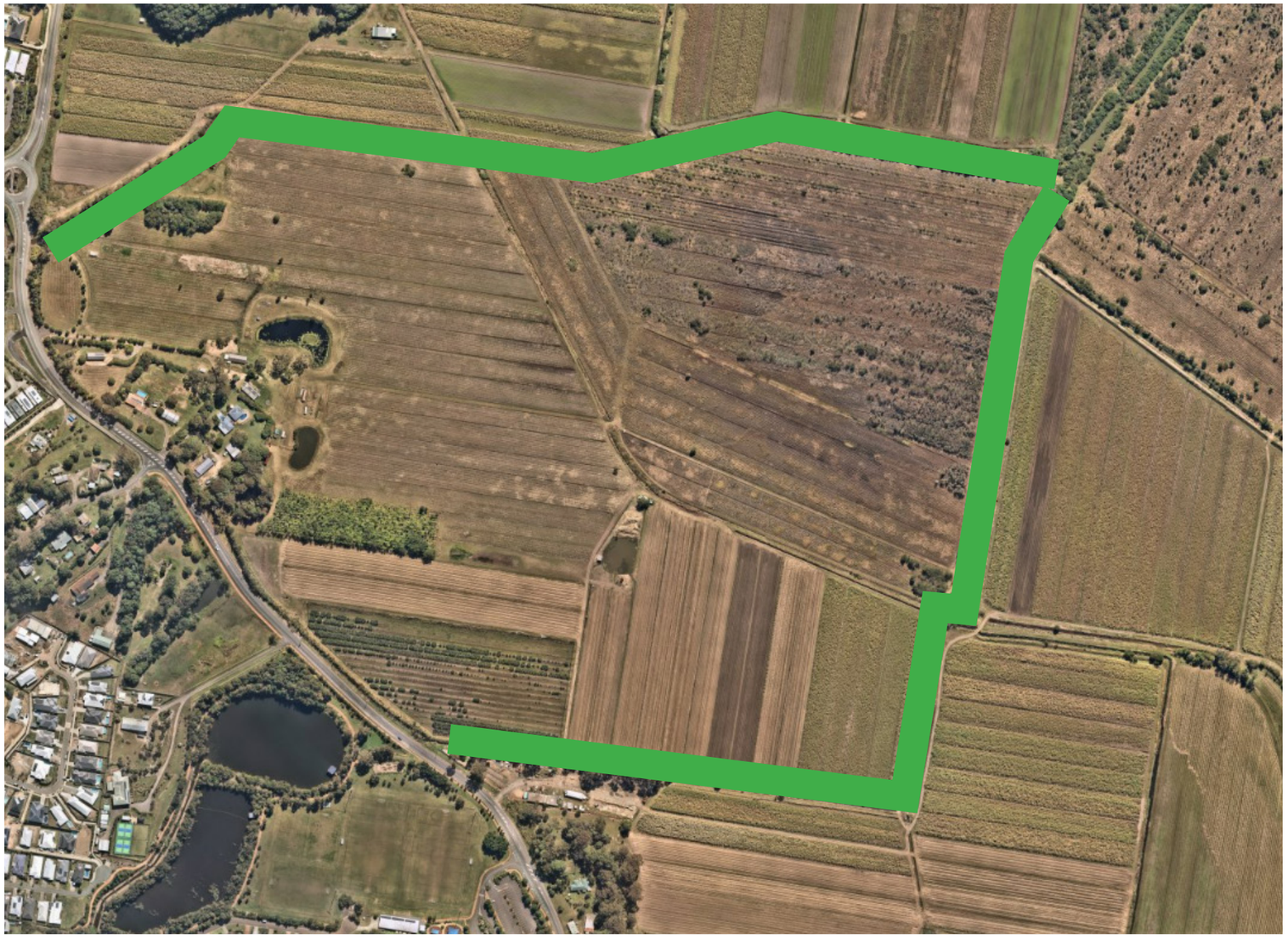


Legend
Designation boundary

Title: Plan of designation for South Maroochy Drainage Network
Address: 117 Lefoes Road, 282-304 and 324 Burtons Road, 1-35, 75, 149-159 and 161 Espin Road, 59 Thomas Road and 901 Yandina Bli Bli Road, Bli Bli, QLD, 4560
20, 104-196 and 198-278 Burtons Road and 833 Yandina Bli Bli Road, Maroochy River, QLD, 4561
Reference: MID-1020-0457
Sheet: Overall Plan

Scale (kilometres)
0 0.2 0.4

Queensland Government



Legend

Clear bed and eastern/ southern bank of waterway only

Title: Plan of designation for South Maroochy Drainage Network
Address: 117 Lefoes Road, 282-304 and 324 Burtons Road, 1-35, 75, 149-159 and 161 Espin Road, 59 Thomas Road and 901 Yandina Bli Bli Road, Bli Bli, QLD, 4560
20, 104-196 and 198-278 Burtons Road and 833 Yandina Bli Bli Road, Maroochy River, QLD, 4561
Reference: MID-1020-0457
Sheet: 1 of 5

Scale (kilometres)
0 0.1 0.2

Queensland Government



Title: Plan of designation for South Maroochy Drainage Network
Address: 117 Lefoes Road, 282-304 and 324 Burtons Road, 1-35, 75, 149-159 and 161 Espin Road, 59 Thomas Road and 901 Yandina Bli Bli Road, Bli Bli, QLD, 4560
20, 104-196 and 198-278 Burtons Road and 833 Yandina Bli Bli Road, Maroochy River, QLD, 4561
Reference: MID-1020-0457
Sheet: 2 of 5

Scale (kilometres)
0 0.1 0.2

Queensland Government



Title: Plan of designation for South Maroochy Drainage Network
Address: 117 Lefoes Road, 282-304 and 324 Burtons Road, 1-35, 75, 149-159 and 161 Espin Road, 59 Thomas Road and 901 Yandina Bli Bli Road, Bli Bli, QLD, 4560
20, 104-196 and 198-278 Burtons Road and 833 Yandina Bli Bli Road, Maroochy River, QLD, 4561
Reference: MID-1020-0457
Sheet: 3 of 5

Scale (kilometres)
0 0.1 0.2

Queensland Government



Legend

Clear bed and top of bank on land side only. Works on the channel side of the bank is limited to trimming only.

Clear bed and eastern/ southern bank of waterway only

Title: Plan of designation for South Maroochy Drainage Network
Address: 117 Lefoes Road, 282-304 and 324 Burtons Road, 1-35, 75, 149-159 and 161 Espin Road, 59 Thomas Road and 901 Yandina Bli Bli Road, Bli Bli, QLD, 4560
20, 104-196 and 198-278 Burtons Road and 833 Yandina Bli Bli Road, Maroochy River, QLD, 4561
Reference: MID-1020-0457
Sheet: 4 of 5

Scale (kilometres)
0 0.1 0.2

Queensland Government



Legend

Clear bed and top of bank on land side only. Works on the channel side of the bank is limited to trimming only.

Title: Plan of designation for South Maroochy Drainage Network
Address: 117 Lefoes Road, 282-304 and 324 Burtons Road, 1-35, 75, 149-159 and 161 Espin Road, 59 Thomas Road and 901 Yandina Bli Bli Road, Bli Bli, QLD, 4560
20, 104-196 and 198-278 Burtons Road and 833 Yandina Bli Bli Road, Maroochy River, QLD, 4561
Reference: MID-1020-0457
Sheet: 5 of 5

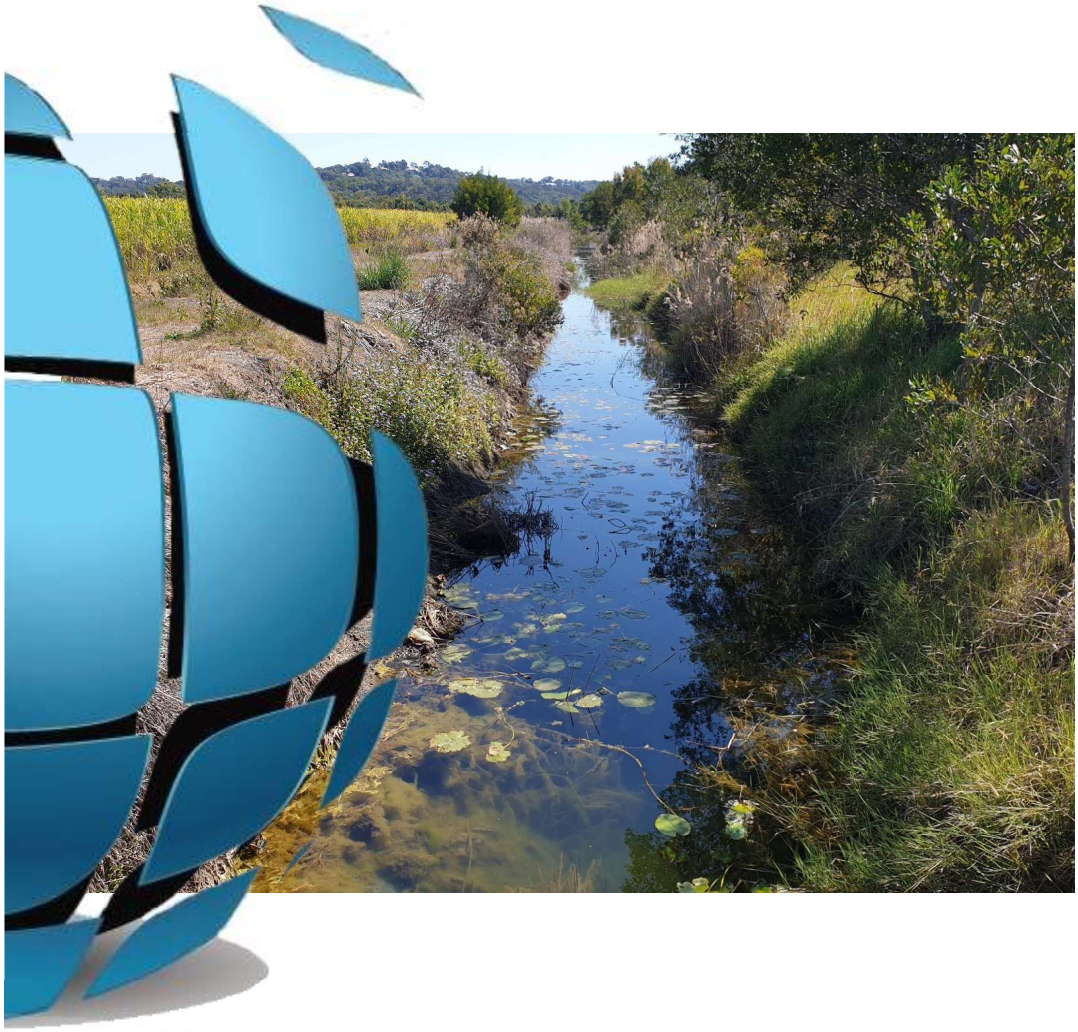
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Queensland Government

MID-0322-0580

Annexure 2 to Schedule 1 – Acid Sulfate Soil Management Plan

Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning



ACID SULFATE SOIL INVESTIGATION & MANAGEMENT PLAN

Proposed Drainage Maintenance Works
South Maroochy Drainage Network

Report for: South Maroochy Drainage Board
C/- Covey Associates Pty Ltd
20239-001-Rev0
22 September 2020

Tectonic Geotechnical Pty Ltd
PO Box 899, Buderim QLD 4556
Office: 07 5478 9016
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geotechnical & environmental engineers

tectonic geotechnical & environmental engineers

PROPOSED DRAINAGE MAINTENANCE WORKS
SOUTH MAROOCHY DRAINAGE NETWORK, BLI BLI

Document Review

Document No.	Revision	Prepared By	Reviewed By	Date Issued
001	0	Mark Thomson	Ashley Davey	22 September 2020

Report Distribution

Revision	Method of Delivery	Issued To
0	Electronic	Jen Mullaney (JenniferM@covey.com.au)

Prepared By:



Mark Thomson BSc, CPESC 7057
Senior Environmental Scientist

Reviewed By:



Ashley Davey RPEQ 8159
Principal Geotechnical Engineer

7.0 ACID SULFATE SOIL MANAGEMENT

The primary objective of this management plan is to provide a framework to allow the proposed works to proceed without causing adverse environmental impacts related to the disturbance of ASS. To successfully achieve this objective, the following issues shall be addressed:

- Mitigation of risk associated with ASS and MBO disturbance via containment, neutralisation of disturbed sediments/soils and successful verification testing of lime treatment;
- Containment, testing and treatment (where necessary) of any surface water collected during the excavation and/or during the neutralisation processes; and
- Limitation of any alteration to the existing groundwater and surface water conditions.

7.1 Training and Orientation

A training and induction program should be conducted by a suitably qualified and experienced geo-environmental professional for all Contractors staff involved in the excavation, transport and handling of earth or earthworks on the site. The sessions should be conducted prior to the commencement of earthworks and at other such regular intervals as required to ensure staff are fully aware of the requirement for field management of ASS and acidic soils, the management strategies to be implemented, and their roles and responsibilities in achieving the desired management outcomes.

7.2 Management of Disturbed Material

Material excavated or otherwise disturbed during construction of the proposed new drain and during re-profiling and de-silting of existing drains must be treated to neutralise the levels of net acidity present. Excavated soil must be mixed with a neutralising agent (fine agricultural lime) at suitable application rates determined by quantitative testing results, as described in Section 7.2.4.

7.2.1 Methodology for Construction of New Drainage Alignment

The following treatment methodology shall be followed for construction of the new drainage alignment:

- Prior to the commencement of any excavation works, an on-site filling / treatment area(s) must be adequately prepared. The treatment area must be of sufficient size to allow for the stockpiling of excavated material during the treatment and verification process. The treatment area may be temporary, or may be located at the final intended destination of excavated material.

- The treatment area(s) will consist of level ground, bordered along the down slope edges by earthen bunds (of non-ASS material or previously treated and verified material), placed to prevent the escape of acidic leachate or runoff from untreated / stockpiled material during the treatment process. Bunds shall be positioned to capture and retain any leachate or runoff from the treatment area and to prevent uncontrolled discharge.

- Runoff generated from the treatment area(s) will be contained within bunding and shall be tested and treated (if necessary, Ref. Section 8) prior to discharge to waterways.

- Excavated material should be spread in layers not greater than 300 mm in thickness and the appropriate quantity of lime applied before thorough mixing of the layer so that the added neutralising agent is homogeneously distributed throughout the treated material. Excavated material must be treated within 24 hours of excavation.

- To verify appropriate treatment, verification testing will be completed on all treated soils at a rate of **1 test per 500 cubic metres of disturbed soil**.

It is anticipated that excavated soil from these new drain works will have a generally soft soil consistency but should be able to be handled and managed using conventional earthworks equipment.

A conceptual layout plan for a typical treatment area for the new drainage alignment is shown in Figure 3a attached at the end of text.

7.2.2 Methodology for Disturbance of Unconsolidated Sediments

Very soft, unconsolidated sediments encountered along the existing drains have been classified as containing significant levels of oxidisable sulfur such that the soils may be classified as ASS and MBO. These materials represent a high environmental risk if allowed to oxidise in an uncontrolled manner and must be excavated and treated carefully.

There are also likely to be inherent difficulties encountered during handling and treatment of these soils due to their very soft, unconsolidated nature. The following treatment methodology will be followed when excavating sediments from the existing drainage lines:

- Any necessary vegetation removal will be completed prior to disturbance of soil or drainage sediments. Vegetation will be chipped and either stockpiled or removed prior to commencement of soil disturbance. Roots balls and subsurface vegetation will remain undisturbed as much as possible and shall be excavated and treated with sediment where necessary.

- Prior to the commencement of any excavation works, fill placement / treatment areas must be adequately prepared. The fill placement / treatment areas should be generally clear of excessive vegetation and will comprise a generally level surface running parallel to the existing drain alignment, where excavated material can be directly placed and spread (rather than requiring transport). Fill placement / treatment areas should ideally grade away from the existing drain to ensure that runoff and associated leachate do not immediately re-enter the waterway. Where not possible, low earthen bunds will be positioned to capture and retain any leachate or runoff from the treatment area and to prevent uncontrolled discharge.

- Sediments are expected to have very soft consistency and will be difficult to contain and handle, given their unconsolidated and flowable state. To help contain the disturbed material, sediment fencing should be installed parallel to the drain, along the perimeter and on lower sides of placement areas. This will aid in containment of the flowing soil and prevent excessive uncontrolled spread of untreated material.

- Excavated material should be spread in layers not greater than 300 mm in thickness before the appropriate quantity of lime is applied, followed by thorough mixing of the layer so that the added neutralising agent is homogeneously distributed throughout the treated material. Disturbed sediments must be treated within 2 hours of excavation or disturbance. It is not acceptable to stockpile untreated drain sediments under any circumstances.

- To verify appropriate treatment of excavated sediments has been achieved, verification testing must be completed at a rate of **1 test per 250 cubic metres of disturbed sediment**.

Excavation of sediments will be completed progressively along the drains, from end to end, to minimise disturbance of water quality as much as possible. Silt curtains will be installed at the upper and lower ends of the progressive works area, to limit migration of sediments (containing iron sulfides) which may become mobilised by works. Silt curtains must be removed daily and in the event of forecast rainfall, so as to not interrupt drain function.

Excavation of sediments should primarily be completed during low, slack tide periods so as to have least impact on surface water conditions.

A conceptual layout plan for a typical treatment area for existing drain maintenance is shown in Figure 3b attached at the end of text.

7.2.3 Verification Testing

Verification testing is to be conducted, and the results assessed, by a suitably qualified and experienced geo-environmental professional.

To verify treatment of the excavated material during construction of the new drain, verification testing will be undertaken at a rate of **1 test per 500 cubic metres on all disturbed soil**.

To verify treatment of the excavated sediments during proposed drainage maintenance works, verification testing will be undertaken at a rate of **1 test per 250 cubic metres** or **1 test per 250 linear m section of drainage,** whichever requires the greater amount of testing.

Records of lime delivery and usage at the site as well as photographic evidence of lime treatment should be maintained by the Contractor to help verify that appropriate treatment has been undertaken.

Each verification sample will be taken by compositing treated material from no less than six subsample locations (including at depth) from treated soil within the treatment area. The laboratory test regime for validation testing will involve the measurement of pH, net acidity (the sum of actual, potential and residual acidity) and acid neutralising capacity (ANC). Where the pH post treatment is greater than 5.5 and the ANC is not less than 1.5 times the net acidity, then the validation shall be deemed successful.

If analysis of any verification sample indicates unsuccessful treatment, re-treatment of the represented soil will be required prior to completion of another series of verification testing. This procedure should be repeated until successful treatment has been verified.

7.2.4 Lime Register & Liming Rates

Soil excavated during construction of the new drainage alignment shall be mixed with agricultural lime at a rate of **35 kg per m^3 of soil** to neutralise existing and potential acidity.

For all sediment and/or soil removed or disturbed during proposed drainage maintenance, agricultural lime will be applied at the rates shown in the **Lime Application Layout Plan, attached as Figure 2**.

Recommended liming rates assume the use of fine grained agricultural lime with a purity of not less than 95%, a soil bulk density of 1.7 tonnes per cubic metre, and a factor of safety of 1.5 to allow for incomplete mixing and the reactivity of the lime. These rates are recommended broad scale application rates only based on neutralisation of 90^{th} percentile and are based on the results of the limited laboratory analysis performed on the samples collected during site investigations. The applicability of these rates to the broader scale of the entire site is a function of the degree to which the samples taken during the investigation are representative of the materials to be excavated as a whole.

To help demonstrate that appropriate quantities of lime have been used as specified to neutralise the ASS, a lime register will be kept, and soil verification testing will be carried out, by the Contractor.

Lime should be stored in a fashion so as to prevent the unplanned release of the lime into the environment, through erosion or runoff. Lime delivery receipts should be kept and filed by the contractor and used to confirm the appropriate volumes of lime have been used for the soil treatment during the works.

7.3 Management of Groundwater & In situ ASS

Lowering of the groundwater table below historical levels has the potential to expose *in situ* pyritic material adjacent to the works areas to oxidation, resulting in generation of acidity. Proposed maintenance works and construction of the new drainage channel are not expected to require dewatering (i.e. works will be carried out “wet”), and the construction works should not have any significant impact on local groundwater conditions. Changes to localised groundwater level caused by excavation of the new drain would be expected to remain within the level of existing tidal fluctuation, would be relatively short term, and limited to within close proximity to the drainage channel itself. Impacts resulting from such groundwater change would be considered negligible.

Any existing acidity which may leach from the freshly cut drains is also likely to be insignificant and is expected to be neutralised by the well buffered tidal waters, which flow in and out daily from Maroochy River.

8.0 WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT

Erosion and sediment control measures are expected to be applied in accordance with current industry best practice to contain and control site runoff waters during construction. Surface water runoff generated from the ASS treatment areas, including excavation activities, will be contained, tested and treated (if necessary) prior to discharge or re-use onsite.

If discharge of contained runoff to the waterways is required, performance criteria detailed in Table 1 must be met prior to release. The Contractor shall be responsible for ensuring relevant water quality criteria are met prior to discharge.

Water quality testing is to be conducted, and the results assessed, by a suitably qualified and experienced geo-environmental professional.

Table 1: Water Quality Release Criteria

Parameter	Release Criteria
pH	Within range of 6.5 - 8.5 pH units
Suspended Solids	50 mg/L maximum
Visual Amenity	No visible plume, litter, sheen or odour washed from the site or deposited in waters

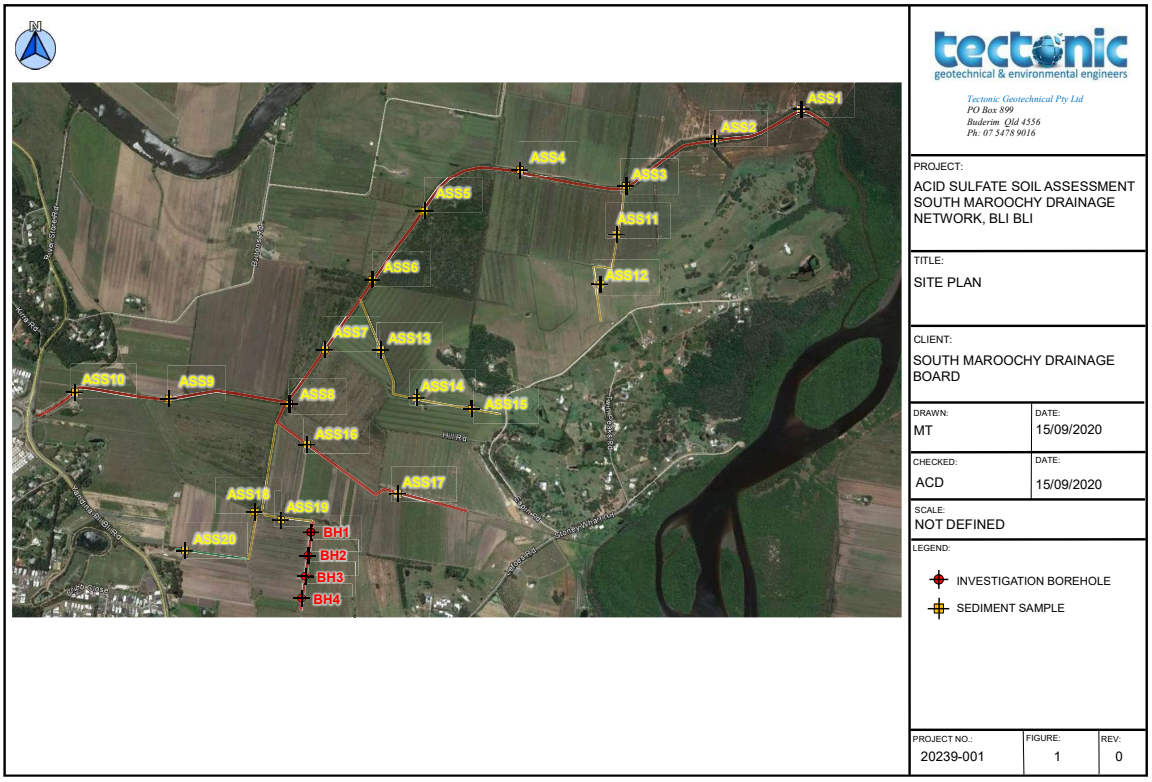
9.0 SITE INSPECTION RECORDS

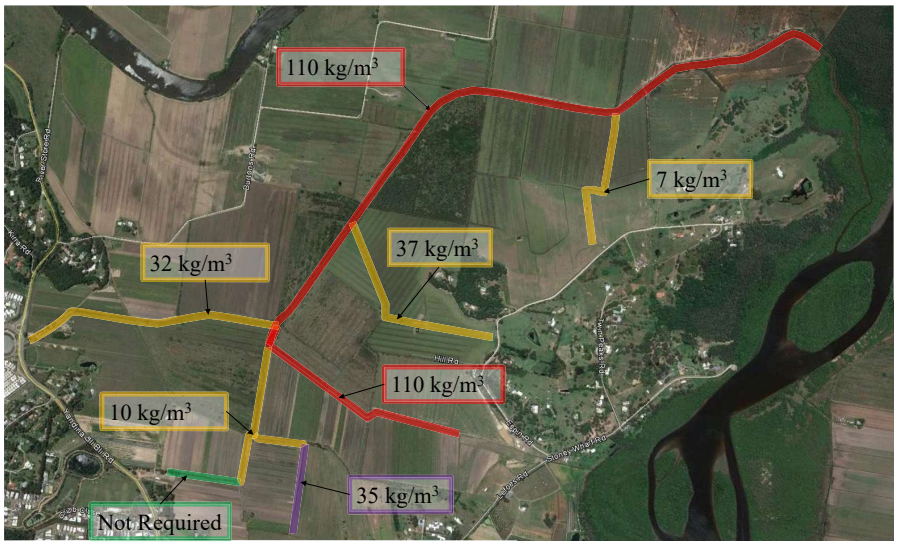
Daily site inspections will be undertaken during construction by the Contractor. All aspects of daily site inspection, including water quality testing results, treatment and releases of construction waters, completed soil treatment and volumes of lime used, and other general site management activities will be documented by the Contractor within a project/site diary.

The site diary and all other construction records shall be clearly detailed and will be maintained by the Contractor for review upon request by the Superintendent or administering authority.

10.0 LIMITATIONS

Your attention is drawn to the document *Limitations*, which is included in Appendix C of this report. The statements presented in this document are intended to advise you of what your realistic expectations of this report should be, and to present you with recommendations on how to minimise the risks associated with the services provided by Tectonic for this project.


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ASS16
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ASS19
ASS20
BH1
BH2
BH3
BH4
tectonic
geotechnical & environmental engineers
Tectonic Geotechnical Pty Ltd
PO Box 899
Buderim Qld 4556
Ph: 07 5478 9016
PROJECT:
ACID SULFATE SOIL ASSESSMENT SOUTH MAROOCHY DRAINAGE NETWORK, BLI BLI
TITLE:
SITE PLAN
CLIENT:
SOUTH MAROOCHY DRAINAGE BOARD
DRAWN: MT
DATE: 15/09/2020
CHECKED: ACD
DATE: 15/09/2020
SCALE: NOT DEFINED
LEGEND:
INVESTIGATION BOREHOLE
SEDIMENT SAMPLE
PROJECT NO.: 20239-001
FIGURE: 1
REV: 0



tectonic
geotechnical & environmental engineers

Tectonic Geotechnical Pty Ltd
PO Box 899
Buderim Qld 4556
Ph: 07 5478 9016

PROJECT:
ACID SULFATE SOIL ASSESSMENT SOUTH MAROOCHY DRAINAGE NETWORK, BLI BLI

TITLE:
LIME APPLICATION LAYOUT PLAN

CLIENT:
SOUTH MAROOCHY DRAINAGE BOARD

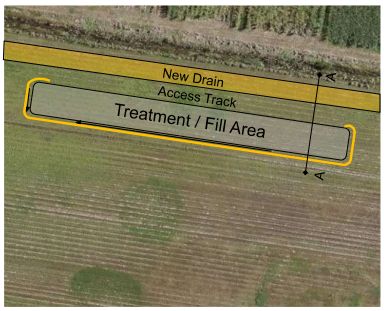
DRAWN:	DATE:
MT	21/09/2020
CHECKED:	DATE:
ACD	21/09/2020

SCALE:
NOT DEFINED

LEGEND:
- ESTUARINE / TIDAL DRAINS
- UPPER REACH CHANNELS
- NEW DRAINAGE ALIGNMENT

PROJECT NO.:	FIGURE:	REV:
20239-001	2	0

Figure 3a – Typical Treatment Area



AA - Section

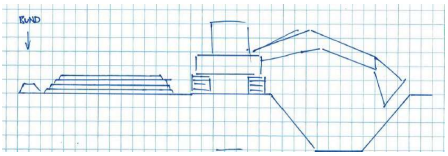
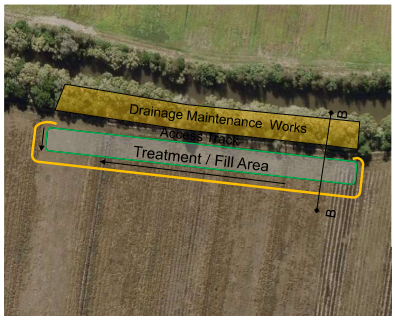
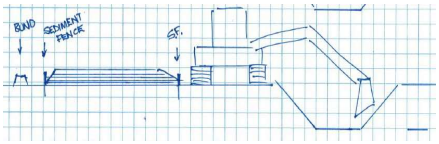


Figure 3b – Typical Treatment / Fill Area



BB - Section



tectonic
geotechnical & environmental engineers

Tectonic Geotechnical Pty Ltd
PO Box 899
Buderim Qld 4556
Ph: 07 5478 9016

PROJECT:
ACID SULFATE SOIL ASSESSMENT SOUTH MAROOCHY DRAINAGE NETWORK, BLI BLI

TITLE:
TYPICAL SOIL TREATMENT AREAS

CLIENT:
SOUTH MAROOCHY DRAINAGE BOARD

DRAWN:	DATE:
MT	21/09/2020
CHECKED:	DATE:
ACD	21/09/2020

SCALE:
NOT DEFINED

LEGEND:
- LOW EARTH BUND
- SEDUIMENT/FILTER FENCE
- DRAINAGE DIRECTION

PROJECT NO.:	FIGURE:	REV:
20239-001	3	0

Sunshine Coast COUNCIL

South Maroochy Drainage Area Ministerial Infrastructure Designation



Yandina-Bli Bli Road

Yandina-Bli Bli Road

Legend

- South Maroochy Drainage Area Boundary
- Blue Heart Boundary
- 1.5m contour simplified
- Yandina Bli Bli Road
- Land Parcel Boundaries

MID drain designation

- Clear bed and top of bank on land side only. Works on the channel side of the bank is limited to trimming only.
- Clear bed and paddock side bank of both waterways only
- Clear bed and eastern/ southern bank of waterway only
- Clear bed and southern bank of waterway only
- Clear bed and southern bank only
- Widen existing and establish new drainage channel and clear bed and eastern/ northern bank only
- Drains not in MID

N

0 1 km

Sunshine Coast Council
customerservice@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au

Disclaimer:
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Date: 21/03/2025 A3 Created by: TC015 GDA2020

8.6 PUBLIC FLOOD MAPPING UPDATE 2025

File No: Council Meetings

Author: Principal Engineer
Sustainable Growth and Planning

Attachments: Att 1 - Changes to Defined Flood Event 297
Att 2 - March 2025 Flood Event Map 299

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek Council endorsement for a minor revision of public flood mapping products.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The recommendations of the Queensland Floods Commission of Inquiry Final Report in 2012 highlighted the need for Councils to maintain up-to-date flood mapping. The key proposed updates of Council's public flood mapping products incorporate:

- Developer supplied flood mapping for recent developed areas of the Caloundra South Priority Development Area (as of April 2025).
- Mapping for the Maroochydore City Centre Priority Development Area that represents the revised development scheme layout (Amendment No. 3, March 2024).
- Flood mapping of the March 2025 (Ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred) rainfall event within Petrie, Paynter and Eudlo Creeks, and Mooloolah River. This event affected the communities of Nambour, Palmwoods, Eudlo and Mooloolah.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

(a) receive and note the report titled "Public Flood Mapping Update 2025" and

(b) endorse the revision to Council's public flood mapping products.

FINANCE AND RESOURCING

This report has no financial or resourcing implications for Council.

CORPORATE PLAN

Corporate Plan Goal: ***Strong community***
Strategic Pathway: 1.4 - Connected, resilient communities
Operational Activity: 1.4.3 - Deliver coordinated planning, preparedness, response and recovery for the region in response to disaster events and undertake a review of Council's Local Disaster Management Plan.

CONSULTATION

Councillor Consultation

In the preparation of this report the following Councillors have been consulted:

- Mayor R Natoli
- Councillor J Broderick - Division 1 Councillor
- Councillor T Landsberg - Division 2 Councillor
- Councillor W Johnston OAM - Division 5 Councillor
- Councillor M Suarez - Division 9 Councillor
- Councillor D Law - Division 10 Councillor

Internal Consultation

The following Council officers have been consulted:

- Coordinator, Disaster Management, Infrastructure and Natural Assets
- Coordinator, Planning Scheme and Projects, Sustainable Growth and Planning Project
- Manager, Urban Growth Projects, Sustainable Growth and Planning
- Principal Development Engineer (Hydraulics), Engineering and Environmental Assessment, Sustainable Growth and Planning
- Communication Officer, Business Transformation and Performance

External Consultation

There has been no external consultation undertaken in relation to this report.

Community Engagement

On release, the mapping update will be promoted for information purposes through Council's social media platforms, OurSC website with digital advertisements, Council's website and via Council's spotlight advertising column in several print publications.

PROPOSAL

The recommendations of the Queensland Floods Commission of Inquiry Final Report in 2012 highlighted the need for all Councils to maintain up-to-date flood mapping.

In August 2021, a major revision of Council's public flood mapping products occurred, based around categories of land use planning, emergency preparedness and general information. A subsequent minor revision also occurred in September 2023.

This proposed update is also considered a minor revision and incorporates the following changes and inclusions.

- Caloundra South (Aura) Priority Development Area

  Stockland provided flood mapping representing development earthworks changes that have occurred between July 2022 and April 2025 (when the information was supplied for the last public flood mapping revision).

Recent development areas in locations that were subject to flooding prior to development earthworks are often affected by insurance affordability issues. Sunshine Coast Council and Stockland are proactively working to address this issue by regularly updating flood mapping to reflect development changes. It is also important that these updates are made available to the Insurance Council of Australia for revision of the National Flood Insurance Database.

- Maroochydore City Centre Priority Development Area

  The Maroochydore City Centre Priority Development Area Development Scheme Amendment No. 3, which took effect on 15 March 2024, includes a consolidation of the waterway and parkland areas into a centralised lake and parkland in the heart of the city centre. The revised layout has been represented in the proposed public flood mapping update.

- Other Minor Revisions
  - Revised mapping following stormwater upgrade project at Battery Hill.
  - Development earthworks at Parklakes II, Bli Bli.
  - Revision of Digital Elevation Model of undeveloped stage of Coolum Industrial Estate.

The above changes affect public flood mapping categorised for emergency preparedness and land use planning purposes. These proposed changes are shown in Attachment 1 - Changes to Defined Flood Event.

A further change is proposed to the information made available as general information.

- March 2025 (Ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred) Event Flood Map

  In March 2025, rainfall from Ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred caused significant flooding in hinterland areas of Petrie Creek, Paynter Creek, Eudlo Creek and upper Mooloolah River. Flooding concerns were reported for the communities of Nambour, Palmwoods and Eudlo townships.

  In Petrie Creek the event was the second highest flood level in Nambour, only exceeded by the 1983 flood in the 46 years of record. In Palmwoods, on Paynter Creek, the event was the highest recorded flood level since gauges were installed in 2005 (20 years). In Eudlo, the flood level was the second highest in the 29 years of record (exceeded by the 2011 level). In Mooloolah Valley township, the flood level was the highest in the 54 years of record but only exceeding the 2022 flood level by 5mm.

  A map has been prepared to show locations estimated to have been affected by creek flooding from this event. The map has been derived using observed flood levels from Council flood gauges, covering the major centres of Nambour, Woombye, Palmwoods, Eudlo and Mooloolah Valley. This map is provided at Attachment 2 - March 2025 (Ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred) Flood Event Map.

The proposed updates affect the following non-statutory mapping products on Council's public flood information portal.

	Update	New	No Change
Emergency Preparedness:			
• Minor Event	✓		
• Moderate Event	✓		
• Major Event	✓		
• Extreme Event	✓		
Land Use Planning:			
• Flood Risk	✓		
• Stormwater Risk			✓
• Defined Flood Event	✓		
• Flood Storage Preservation Area	✓		
General Information:			
• March 2025 (Ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred)		✓	

Legal

Legal advice was provided for Council report (OM21/78) 19 August 2021 which was associated with the original (major) revision of Council public flood mapping. The legal advice strongly recommended the need for public flood mapping to maintain its currency, also in accordance with the recommendations of the Queensland Floods Commission of Inquiry 2012. The proposed update is a minor revision of non-statutory mapping and does not include updates to flood hazard area mapping for building regulation purposes mapping or planning scheme flood overlay mapping. Policy

There are no formal policy implications associated with this report in regard to adopted Council policy. However, the purpose of the report is to update information on Council's web site to meet the recommendations set by the Queensland Floods Commission of Inquiry 2012 which is, effectively, a policy platform relating to publicly available information.

Risk

The risks associated with the content of this report relate to compliance with the recommendations of the Queensland Floods Commission of Inquiry 2012. The risks are mitigated by regular review of the provided information and adherence to the recommendations of the Commission, both of which are addressed by this report (see below Related Documentation).

Previous Council Resolution

Ordinary Meeting 21 September 2023 (OM23/98)

That Council:

(a) receive and note the report titled "Flood Mapping and Information Update"

(b) endorse the revision to Council's public flood mapping products, and

(c) endorse the Maroochydore South Master Drainage Plan (Appendix A).

Ordinary Meeting 19 August 2021 (OM21/78)

That Council:

*(a) receive and note the report titled "**Flood Mapping and Information**"*

(b) receive the following studies:

1. *Maroochy River Flood Study (Appendix A)*
2. *Mooloolah River Flood Study (Appendix B)*
3. *Pumicestone Flood Study (Appendix C)*
4. *Cornmeal Creek Flood Study (Appendix D)*
5. *Addendum to Cornmeal Creek Flood Study (Appendix E)*
6. *Doonan and Yandina Creek Flood Study (Appendix F)*
7. *Obi Obi Creek Flood Study (Appendix G)*
8. *Mary River Flood Study (Appendix H)*
9. *Sunshine Coast Storm Tide Study (Appendix I)*
10. *Flood Modelling of Catchments Upstream of Ewen Maddock Dam (Appendix J)*
11. *Alexandra Headland Master Drainage Study (Appendix K)*
12. *Caloundra Master Drainage Study (Appendix L)*
13. *Landsborough Master Drainage Strategy (Appendix M)*
14. *Nambour East Master Drainage Strategy (Appendix N)*
15. *School Road, Maroochydore Master Drainage Study (Appendix O)*
16. *Cotton Tree to Picnic Point Master Drainage Plan (Appendix P)*
17. *Coolum Beach Master Drainage Study (Appendix Q)*
18. *Kings and Shelly Beach Master Drainage Study (Appendix R)*
19. *Maroochy North Shore Master Drainage Plan (Appendix S)*
20. *Kawana Master Drainage Plan (Appendix T)*
21. *Maroochydore West Master Drainage Plan (Appendix U)*
22. *Nambour West Master Drainage Plan (Appendix V)*
23. *Beerwah Master Drainage Plan (Appendix W)*
24. *Nambour North Master Drainage Plan (Appendix X)*
25. *SMDB Cane Drain Sizing Investigation (Appendix Y)*
26. *Sunshine Coast Council Flood Risk Assessment Methodology (Appendix Z)*

(c) endorse the following maps for consideration in the New Sunshine Coast Planning Scheme Project:

1. *Flood Risk Map (Appendix AA) and*
2. *Flood Storage Preservation Area Map (Appendix AB) and*

(d) endorse engagement with the community, promoting and educating in relation to the received flood study reports and associated flood mapping and report back to Council.

Related Documentation

The documentation of the Queensland Floods Commission of Inquiry 2012 relates to this report.

The following recommendations from the Final Report of the Queensland Floods Commission of Inquiry 2012 are particularly relevant to this report:

- Recommendation 8.1: Councils should, resources allowing, maintain flood maps and overland flow path maps for use in development assessment. For urban areas these maps should be based on hydraulic modelling; the model should be designed to allow it to be easily updated as new information (such as information about further development) becomes available;
- Recommendation 2.7: As far as is practicable, councils should maintain up-to-date flood information;
- Recommendation 2.16: Councils and the Queensland Government should display on their websites all flood mapping they have commissioned or adopted; and
- Recommendation 2.17: Flood maps, and property specific flooding information intended for use by the general public should be readily interpretable and should, where necessary, be accompanied by a comprehensible explanatory note.

These recommendations are being addressed through the work outlined in this report.

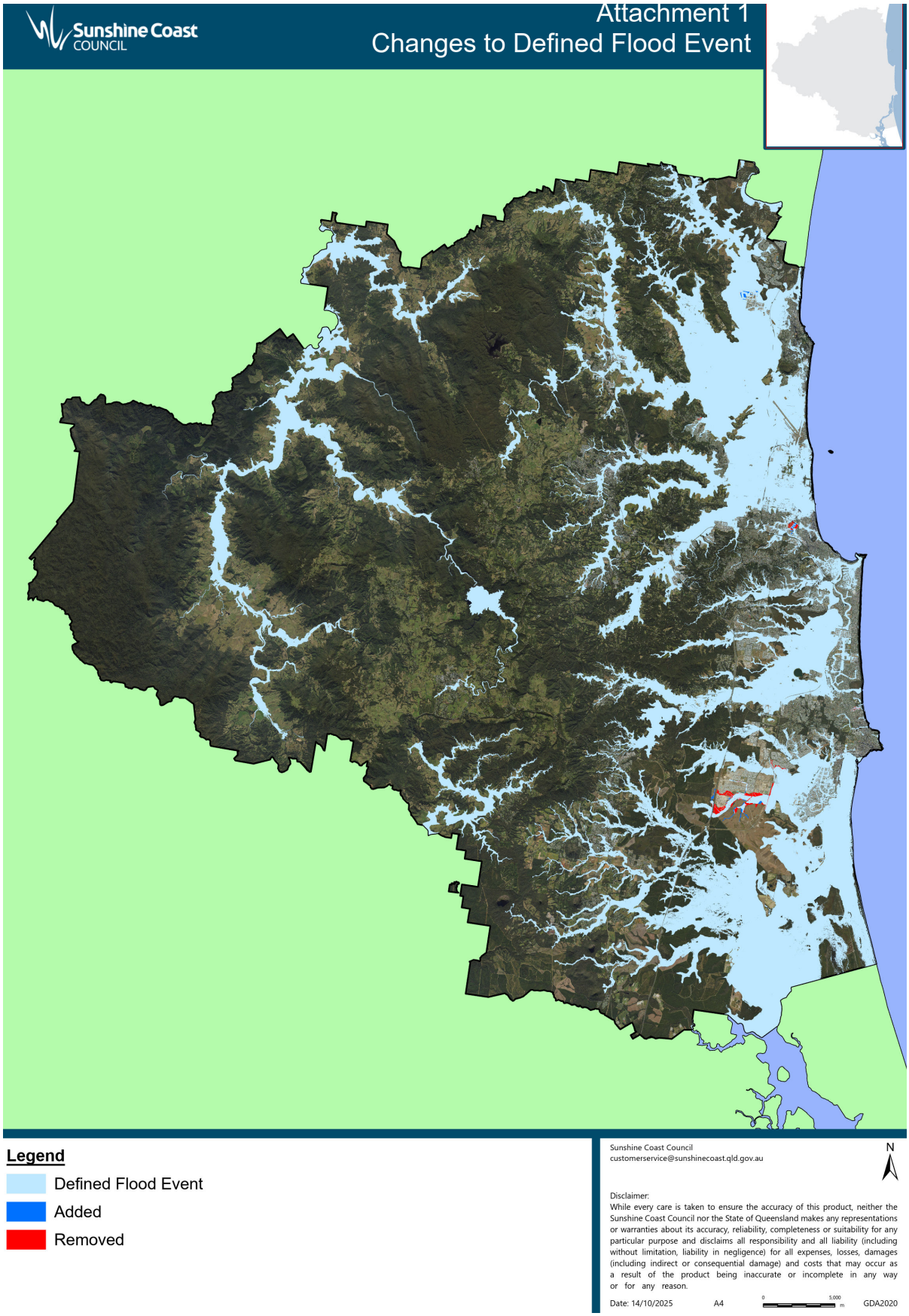
Critical Dates

There are no critical dates relevant to this report.

Implementation

Should the recommendation be accepted by Council, it is noted that the Chief Executive Officer will:

1. update public flood mapping on MyMaps, Development.i and Disaster Hub
2. make available current climate flood information in GIS format on Council's open data framework
3. continue to promote insurance affordability through the provision of best and most current information to community and industry and
4. undertake pro-active communication to alert residents and ratepayers to the updated flood mapping for the areas contained within this report.


Sunshine Coast COUNCIL
Attachment 1
Changes to Defined Flood Event
Legend
Defined Flood Event
Added
Removed
Sunshine Coast Council
customerservice@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au
N
Disclaimer:
While every care is taken to ensure the accuracy of this product, neither the Sunshine Coast Council nor the State of Queensland makes any representations or warranties about its accuracy, reliability, completeness or suitability for any particular purpose and disclaims all responsibility and all liability (including without limitation, liability in negligence) for all expenses, losses, damages (including indirect or consequential damage) and costs that may occur as a result of the product being inaccurate or incomplete in any way or for any reason.
Date: 14/10/2025
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Sunshine Coast COUNCIL
Attachment 2 - March 2025
(Ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred) Flood Event Map
Legend
March 2025 Estimated Flood Extents
Area of Mapping Coverage
Sunshine Coast Council
customerservice@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au
N
Disclaimer:
While every care is taken to ensure the accuracy of this product, neither the Sunshine Coast Council nor the State of Queensland makes any representations or warranties about its accuracy, reliability, completeness or suitability for any particular purpose and disclaims all resporsibility and all liability (including without limitation, liability in negligence) for all expenses, losses, damages (including indirect or consequential damage) and costs that may occur as a result of the product being inaccurate or incomplete in any way or for any reason.
Date: 14/10/2025
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8.7 AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING, 23 OCTOBER 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 23 October 2025..... 307

PURPOSE

To provide Council with a report on matters reviewed at the Audit Committee ("the Committee") meeting held on 23 October 2025 and recommendations made by the Committee to Council.

This report is provided in fulfillment of Council's obligations under section 105 of the *Local Government Act 2009* and section 211 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Under section 105 (2) of the *Local Government Act 2009*, Council is required to establish and maintain an Audit Committee. Council's Audit Committee is comprised of Mr Mitchell Petrie (Independent Chair), Mr Pat McCallum (Independent Member), Councillor E Hungerford and Councillor J Broderick.

Under Clause 6 of the Audit Committee Charter, the Committee meets (at a minimum) four times each year or as determined by Council or the Committee.

The agenda for the Audit Committee on 23 October 2025 covered these matters:

- Meeting Minutes and Audit Committee Resolutions/Action Items
- Chief Executive Officer Update
- Draft 2024/2025 Financial Statements and Current Year Financial Sustainability Statement

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

(a) receive and note the report titled "Audit Committee Meeting, 23 October 2025" and

(b) endorse the Minutes of the Audit Committee meeting of 23 October 2025 at Appendix A to this report.

FINANCE AND RESOURCING

There are no financial or resourcing issues specifically associated with this report. The report fulfils the statutory reporting obligations of Council.

CORPORATE PLAN

Corporate Plan Goal:	***Organisational excellence***
Outcome:	We serve our community by providing this great service
Operational Activity:	S30 - Corporate Governance - Provision of corporate governance, legal, audit and risk management services that builds adaptation, resilience and supports transparent, ethical and informed decision making.

CONSULTATION

Councillor Consultation

Councillors Broderick and Hungerford attended and participated in the Audit Committee meeting on 23 October 2025.

All Councillors received the Audit Committee agenda and papers prior to the meeting.

Internal Consultation

The Chief Executive Officer and other Executive Leadership Team (ELT) members participated in the Committee meeting and contributed to the development of the Committee Agenda papers.

Other officers consulted in the preparation of papers for consideration at the Audit Committee meeting on 23 October 2025:

- Coordinator Financial Accounting

The Chief Executive Officer and all ELT members received the Audit Committee agenda and papers prior to the meeting.

External Consultation

The independent members of the Committee were present at the Committee meeting on 23 October 2025.

All attendees received the Audit Committee agenda and papers prior to the meeting.

PROPOSAL

Under section 105 (2) of the *Local Government Act 2009*, Council (as a large local government) must establish and maintain an Audit Committee. The Act provides the Audit Committee has the following functions:

(a) monitors and reviews—

  (i) the integrity of financial documents; and

  (ii) the internal audit function; and

  (iii) the effectiveness and objectivity of Council's internal auditors; and

(b) makes recommendations to Council about any matters that the Committee considers need action or improvement.

The Committee has no delegated decision-making authority. The Committee is, however, a source of independent advice to Council and the Chief Executive Officer.

The Committee is comprised of Mr Mitchell Petrie (Independent Chair), Mr Pat McCallum (Independent Member), Councillor E Hungerford and Councillor J Broderick.

The overall objective of the Committee is to assist Council and the Chief Executive to discharge their responsibilities, in particular:

- corporate governance and responsibilities in relation to the organisation's financial reporting, internal control structure, risk management systems and the external and internal audit functions
- maintain an independent and objective forum promoting transparency, accountability and an ethical culture throughout Council
- maintain open lines of communications with Council, Executive Management, External Audit and Internal Audit, to exchange information and views
- oversee and appraise the quality and efficiency of audits conducted by both the Internal and External Audit functions and
- ensure both the Internal and External Audit functions are independent and effective.

Under section 211 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, the Committee must provide Council with a written report about the matters reviewed at its meetings and make recommendations to Council on any matters the Committee considers need action or improvement. The Committee meets at least four times each year.
The most recent meeting of the Audit Committee took place on 23 October 2025. The minutes of the Committee meeting are provided at **Appendix A** to this report.

Legal

This report to Council has been developed in fulfillment of Council's statutory obligations under the *Local Government Act 2009* and *Local Government Regulation 2012.*

Policy

Conducted in accordance with any requirements of the:

- Audit Committee Charter
- Internal Audit Charter

Risk

Specific risks associated with each matter contained in the Committee Agenda reports have been raised and addressed in the briefings to the Committee.

Previous Council Resolution

Ordinary Meeting 18 September 2025 (OM25/83)

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.*

Ordinary Meeting 19 June 2025 (OM25/55)

That Council:

*(a) receive and note the report titled "**Audit Committee Meeting 19 May February 2025**";*

(b) endorse the Minutes of the Audit Committee meeting of 19 May 2025 at Appendix A to this report; and

(c) accept the recommendation of the Audit Committee dated 19 May 2025 and in doing so, approved the 2025 - 2026 internal Audit Program of Work at Appendix B.

Ordinary Meeting 27 February 2025 (OM25/12)

That Council:

*(a) receive and note the report titled "**Audit Committee Meeting 10 February 2025**" and*

(b) endorse the Minutes of the Audit Committee meeting of 10 FEBRUARY 2025 at Appendix A to this report.

Ordinary Meeting 12 December 2024 (OM24/125)

That Council:

*(a) receive and note the report titled "**Audit Committee Meeting 25 November 2024**" and*

(b) endorse the Minutes of the Audit Committee meeting of 25 NOVEMBER 2024 at Appendix A to this report.

Ordinary Meeting 12 December 2024 (OM24/126)

That Council:

(a) receive and note the report titled "Appointment of Independent Audit Committee Member"

(b) approve the appointment of the independent Audit Committee member as recommended, for a term of four years from and including 1 January 2025 and concluding on 31 December 2028 and

(c) authorise the Chief Executive Officer to publicly release the name of the person appointed as a member of the Audit Committee, should Council endorse the recommendations in this report.

Ordinary Meeting 21 November 2024 (OM24/116)

That Council:

*(a) receive and note the report titled "**Audit Committee Meeting 29 October 2024**" and*

(b) endorse the Minutes of the Audit Committee meeting of 29 OCTOBER 2024 at Appendix A to this report.

Related Documentation

There is no related documentation relevant to this report.

Implementation

Implementation of the Audit Committee resolutions and the internal and external audit recommendations are overseen by the Chief Executive Officer and the Executive Leadership Team and monitored by the Audit Committee.

Minutes

Audit Committee

Thursday, 23 October 2025

Teleconference | Eudlo Rooms, Level 1, City Hall

AUDIT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Councillor J Broderick	Division 1
Councillor E Hungerford	Division 7
Mr M Petrie	External Member (Chair)
Mr P McCallum	External Member

Sunshine Coast COUNCIL

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

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1 DECLARATION OF OPENING

The Chair declared the meeting open at 9:00am.

2 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

AUDIT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Councillor J Broderick	Division 1 (via Teams)
Councillor E Hungerford	Division 7
Mr M Petrie	External Member (Chair) (via Teams)
Mr P McCallum	External Member (via Teams)

COUNCIL OFFICERS

Chief Executive Officer
Director Infrastructure and Natural Assets
Director Community Strengthening
Director Sustainable Growth and Planning
Director Business Transformation and Performance
Chief Financial Officer, Finance and Commercial Partnerships
Manager Audit, Assurance and Risk Advisory Services (via Teams)
Coordinator Financial Accounting
Manager Finance
Acting Manager Asset Management
Assistant Accountant

ATTENDEES

Councillor T Landsberg	Division 2
Councillor T Burns	Division 3
Councillor M Suarez	Division 9
Councillor D Law	Division 10 (via Teams)
Engagement Manager	Queensland Audit Office
Assistant Manager	Queensland Audit Office

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3 INFORMING OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

3.1 PRESCRIBED CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Pursuant to Section 150EL of the *Local Government Act 2009,* no declarations of prescribed conflicts of interest were made during this meeting.

3.2 DECLARABLE CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Pursuant to Section 150EQ of the *Local Government Act 2009*, no declarations of declarable conflicts of interest were made during this meeting.

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4 REPORTS DIRECT TO AUDIT COMMITTEE

4.1 MEETING MINUTES & AUDIT COMMITTEE RESOLUTIONS/ACTION ITEMS

File No: **Audit Committee**

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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Audit Committee Meeting Minutes

The items of business considered by the Committee at its 1 September 2025 meeting are summarised in agenda sequence and minutes. The Minutes of this meeting were presented to Council for consideration at its Ordinary Meeting on 18 September 2025.

Audit Committee Resolutions and Action Items

Resolutions and action items recorded at audit committee meetings refer to specific approvals, recommendations, tasks, actions, or responsibilities assigned to individuals or teams.

Items are documented in meeting minutes and serve as a point of reference to ensure actions agreed are followed through and implemented effectively.

Committee Recommendation (AC25/39)

Moved: **Councillor J Broderick**
Seconded: **P McCallum**

That the Audit Committee receive and note the report titled "Meeting Minutes & Audit Committee Resolutions/Action Items".

Carried unanimously.

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4.2 DRAFT 2024-25 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND CURRENT YEAR FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY STATEMENT

File No: **Audit Committee**

Author: **Coordinator Financial Accounting**
Finance and Commercial Partnerships

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council has a statutory obligation to prepare general-purpose Financial Statements on an annual basis, culminating in audit certification later in October, before publication in Council's Annual Report.

The general-purpose Financial Statements and Financial Sustainability Statement for 2024-25 have been audited by external auditors, the Queensland Audit Office, to ensure accounting and legislative compliance.

Queensland Audit Office expect to issue an unmodified audit opinion for Council's 2024-25 Financial Statements.

A summary of the audit outcome is contained in the Queensland Audit Office Closing Report for the financial year ended 30 June 2025. The Queensland Audit Office's final audit opinion will be provided with the certification of the Financial Statements later in October.

Controlled entities

Queensland Audit Office have also completed the audit of Council's controlled entities: SunCentral Maroochydore Pty Ltd, Sunshine Coast Events Centre Pty Ltd and Sunshine Coast Arts Foundation Ltd.

The Queensland Audit Office have also indicated that they expect to issue unmodified audit opinions for these entities.

The Closing Reports, Final Management Reports and audited Financial Statements for these entities will be included in the November 2025 Audit Committee agenda.

COMMENTS FOR NOTING

The Committee has discharged its oversight of the financial statement preparation process through regular meetings, out of session discussions with the Finance team and in-camera discussions with the Queensland Audit Office (QAO). The Committee thanks officers of the QAO and Council management for contributing to this important responsibility that the Committee discharges on behalf of the Council and to support management.

The Committee has previously noted with concern a number of issues that have impacted the timeliness of preparation of the financial statements and the accounting for non-current assets. These issues have continued in the current financial year. A number of deficiencies identified by the QAO in prior years have this year been escalated to the level of significant deficiencies. The Committee endorses the QAO's view that these issues, related to asset accounting and asset management, require immediate attention by management. The

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Committee also considers that the remediation of many of these deficiencies will impact not just the Finance team, but all parts of Council involved in the asset management process.

The Committee continues to be of the view that a high standard of financial reporting is important for effective decision making by Council.

The Committee would encourage Council to support management's plan to deal with identified deficiencies with the necessary resources to take the remediation process forward with urgency.

Notwithstanding the significant deficiencies noted by them, the Queensland Audit Office expect to issue an unmodified opinion on the financial statements.

Committee Recommendation (AC25/40)

Moved: **P McCallum**
Seconded: **Councillor E Hungerford**

That the Audit Committee:

(a) receive and note the report titled "Draft 2024-25 Financial Statements and Current Year Financial Sustainability Statement"

(b) receive and note the final draft Financial Statements and Current Year Financial Sustainability Statement, and the Queensland Audit Office Closing Report about its audit of these statements for the financial year 2024-25

(c) advise that:

(i) it has been actively involved in monitoring the preparation process throughout the year and in that process has reviewed previous drafts of these statements,

(ii) it has received an update on changes which have occurred in those drafts up to the finalisation of this final draft; and,

(d) are not aware of any issue which would prevent the Council from adopting this draft and approving the Council's Financial Statements for the year 2024-25, based on the work performed by the Committee.

Carried unanimously.

This is not an official copy of Council's Minutes

5 NEXT MEETING

The next Ordinary Meeting will be held on 20 November 2025 Sunshine Coast City Hall, Level 1, 54 First Avenue, Maroochydore.

6 MEETING CLOSURE

The meeting closed at 10:03am.

This is not an official copy of Council's Minutes

8.8 APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT AUDIT COMMITTEE MEMBER

File No: Council Meetings

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

Attachments: Att 1 - Recommended Candidate - ***Confidential***
Att 2 - Audit Committee Charter..... 323

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's approval for the appointment of an Independent Member of Council's Audit Committee.While this is a public report, it is considered the name of the nominated candidate should be maintained as confidential information until such time as Council has made its decision on the recommendations in this report.Accordingly, should Councillors wish to discuss the identity of the nominee for appointment to the Audit Committee, it is recommended that Council resolve to close the meeting under section 254J (1) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* on the basis that the information contained in Confidential Attachment 1 is confidential under section 254J (3) (g) of the Regulation on the basis that it relates 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.

Council will need to resolve its decision on this report in that part of the Council meeting which is viewable by the public.The report also contains a recommendation to authorise the Chief Executive Officer to publicly release the name of the nominee for appointment to the Audit Committee should Council resolve to accept the recommendations in this report.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The term of one of the three Independent Members of the Sunshine Coast Council Audit Committee (AC), Ms Tindal, concluded on 31 July 2025, and Ms Tindal did not seek reappointment.

At this time, the Audit Committee comprised three independent members and two Councillors, namely:

- Mr Mitchell Petrie (Independent Member and Chair)
- Mr Patrick McCallum (Independent Member)
- Ms Suzanne Tindal (Independent Member)
- Councillor E Hungerford (Councillor for Division 7 and Organisational Excellence Portfolio Councillor)
- Councillor J Broderick (Councillor for Division 1 and Organisational Excellence Portfolio Councillor)

The selection of the proposed nominee to the role of independent member of the Audit Committee has occurred in compliance with the requirements of the Audit Committee Charter (Attachment 2).

Subject to Council resolving to accept the recommendations in this report, it is proposed that the recommended appointee be appointed for a term from and including 31 October 2025 and concluding on 31 December 2029.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

(a) receive and note the report titled "Appointment of Independent Audit Committee Member"

(b) approve the appointment of the independent Audit Committee member as recommended, for a term from 31 October 2025 to 31 December 2029 and

(c) authorise the Chief Executive Officer to publicly release the name of the person appointed as a member of the Audit Committee, should Council endorse the recommendations in this report.

FINANCE AND RESOURCING

As at 1 July 2025:

- An independent Audit Committee Member and Chair receives an annual remuneration fee of $10,475.71 GST exclusive. This fee is then divided by the number of meetings and paid per meeting.
- An independent Audit Committee Member receives an annual remuneration fee of $9,145.46 GST exclusive. This fee is then divided by the number of meetings and paid per meeting.

The costs associated with the remuneration for the Audit Committee members are met from within the budget of the Audit, Assurance and Risk Advisory Services Branch in Finance and Commercial Partnerships.

CORPORATE PLAN

Corporate Plan Goal:	***Organisational excellence***
Strategic Pathway:	We serve our community by providing this great service
Operational Activity:	S30 - Corporate Governance - Provision of corporate governance, legal, audit and risk management services that builds adaptation, resilience and supports transparent, ethical and informed decision making.

CONSULTATION

Councillor Consultation

Audit Committee Councillors - Councillor E Hungerford, and Councillor J Broderick.

Internal Consultation

- Chief Executive Officer
- Chief Financial Officer

External Consultation

Given this involves a confidential selection process, it has not been appropriate to engage in external consultation.

Community Engagement

Given this involves a confidential selection process, it has not been appropriate to undertaken community engagement in relation to this matter.

PROPOSAL

Under section 105 (2) of the *Local Government Act 2009,* Council (as a large local government) must establish and maintain an Audit Committee. The Act provides the Audit Committee has the following functions:

(a) monitors and reviews—

  (i) the integrity of financial documents; and

  (ii) the internal audit function; and

  (iii) the effectiveness and objectivity of Council's internal auditors; and

(b) makes recommendations to Council about any matters that the Committee considers need action or improvement.

The Committee has no delegated decision-making authority. The Committee is, however, a source of independent advice to Council and the Chief Executive Officer.

The overall objective of the Committee is to assist Council and the Chief Executive to discharge their responsibilities, in particular:

- corporate governance and responsibilities in relation to the organisation's financial reporting, internal control structure, risk management systems and the external and internal audit functions
- maintain an independent and objective forum promoting transparency, accountability, and an ethical culture throughout Council
- maintain open lines of communications with Council, Executive Management, External Audit, and Internal Audit, to exchange information and views
- oversee and appraise the quality and efficiency of audits conducted by both the Internal and External Audit functions and
- ensure both the Internal and External Audit functions are independent and effective.

Section 210 (1) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* and the Audit Committee Charter provide that the Committee must consist of at least three and no more than six members and:

- should include one, but no more than two, Councillors, and
- at least one member who has significant experience and skills in financial matters.

A review in late 2021 found the larger SEQ Councils had at least three independent members on their respective Audit Committees and the number of independent members always exceeded the number of Councillors. As a consequence of that review, Council resolved on 24

February 2022 (OM22/14) to amend the composition of its Audit Committee to increase the number of independent members from two to three people.

The Committee is currently comprised of Mr Mitchell Petrie (Independent Chair), Mr Patrick McCallum (Independent Member), Ms Suzanne Tindal (Independent Member), Councillor E Hungerford and Councillor J Broderick.

With the conclusion of the term of Ms Suzanne Tindal, Council officers have conducted the process contemplated by the Sunshine Coast Council Audit Committee Charter to arrive at the recommendation in this report (Attachment 1).

Should Council accept the recommendations in this report, the composition of Council's Audit Committee will be maintained at three independent members and two Councillors.

Legal

Section 105 (2) of the *Local Government Act 2009* and section 210 (1) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* are relevant to the appointment recommended in this report.

Policy

The recommendations presented in this report are consistent with the resolution of Council of 24 February 2022 and the Audit Committee Charter endorsed by Council 20 February 2020.

Risk

There are no discernible significant risks to Council in proceeding to consider the recommendation in this report.

Previous Council Resolution

Ordinary Meeting 12 December 2024 (OM24/126)

That Council:

(a) receive and note the report titled "Appointment of Independent Audit Committee Member"

(b) approve the appointment of the independent Audit Committee member, as discussed in confidential session, for a term of three and a half years from and including 31 July 2025 and concluding on 31 December 2028; and

(c) authorise the Chief Executive Officer to publicly release the name of the person appointed as a member of the Audit Committee, should Council endorse the recommendations in this report.

Ordinary Meeting 18 January 2024 (OM24/7)

That Council:

(a) receive and note the report titled "Appointment of Independent Audit Committee Member"

(b) approve the appointment of the independent Audit Committee member, as discussed in confidential session, for a term of three years from and including 18 January 2024 and concluding on 31 December 2026 and

(c) authorise the Chief Executive Officer to publicly release the name of the person appointed as a member of the Audit Committee, should Council endorse the recommendations in this report.

Ordinary Meeting 28 July 2022 (OM22/57)

That Council:

(a) receive and note the report titled "Appointment of Independent Audit Committee Member" and

(b) approve the appointment of the additional independent Audit Committee member, as discussed in confidential session, for a term of three years from and including 1 August 2022 and concluding on 31 July 2025 and

(c) authorise the Chief Executive Officer to publicly release the name of the person appointed as the additional member of the Audit Committee, should Council endorse the recommendations in this report.

Ordinary Meeting 24 February 2022 (OM22/14)

That Council:

(a) receive and note the report titled "Audit Committee Meeting 24 January 2022"

(b) endorse the Audit Committee Minutes 24 January 2022 (Appendix A)

(c) approve an amendment to the composition of the Audit Committee to increase the number of independent members to three persons and

(d) authorise the Chief Executive Officer to commence a process to recruit the additional independent member of the Audit Committee.

Related Documentation

Audit Committee Charter.

Critical Dates

As the next full meeting of Council's Audit and Risk Committee is scheduled to take place on 20 November 2025, it is intended that Council consider this recommendation at the 13 November Ordinary Meeting so that the full complement of the Audit Committee members are in place for that meeting.

Implementation

Should the recommendation be accepted by Council, it is noted that the Chief Executive Officer will:

- advise the nominee of their appointment to the Audit Committee and
- publicly release details relating to the appointment.

AUDIT COMMITTEE CHARTER

1. Establishment of the Audit Committee

The Audit Committee is established in accordance with the Local Government Regulation 2012.

The Audit Committee is an Advisory Committee and has no delegated authority, does not replace the responsibilities of Executive Management and is a source of independent advice to Council and to the Chief Executive Officer.

Accordingly, the Audit Committee is not responsible for supervising the performance of officers and does not become involved in day-to-day operations, management functions, or decision making.

2. The Charter

The Charter will be reviewed by the Audit Committee and endorsed by Council annually.

3. Objectives of the Audit Committee

The overall objective of the Audit Committee is to assist the Council and the Chief Executive Officer to discharge their duties in particular;

- Corporate Governance and responsibilities in relation to the organisation's financial reporting, internal control structure, risk management systems and the external and internal audit functions
- maintain an independent and objective forum promoting transparency, accountability and an ethical culture throughout council
- maintain by scheduling regular meetings, open lines of communications with Council, Executive Management, Internal and External Audit, to exchange information and views
- oversee and appraise the quality and efficiency of audits conducted by both the Internal and External Audit functions
- ensure both the Internal and External Audit functions are independent and effective.

4. Audit Committee Membership – Composition and Appointment

Council will appoint members to the Audit Committee by Council Resolution and in accordance with the Local Government Regulations. The committee must:

a) consist of at least three and no more than six members; and

b) include –

- one, but no more than two, Councillors; and
- At least one member who has significant experience and skills in financial matters

Council's principle is to appoint an independent external chairperson.

Councillors will be appointed to the committee for the full Council term unless otherwise determined by Council.

Independent external members will be recruited via a publicly advertised merit based selection process and will be appointed for the period determined by Council – generally between two and four years. Independent external member appointments will be staggered to ensure appropriate continuity and succession planning.

Independent external members may be recommended for re-appointment following a review of their performance by councillor committee members and the Chief Executive Officer. However, independent external members will serve on the committee for a maximum of two consecutive Council terms i.e. eight years, unless otherwise determined by Council.

Invitees to the Audit Committee may attend meetings with the approval of the Audit Committee. Invitees are not members of the Audit Committee and have no voting rights. The general public may not attend Audit Committee meetings. Permanent invitees include:

- Councillors
- Chief Executive Officer and Group Executives
- Internal and External Audit

5. Quorum

A quorum will consist of at least half the number of members of the Audit Committee.

6. Meetings

As a minimum, the committee will meet four times per year or as determined by Council or the committee. The fourth meeting may occur by teleconference with the external auditor to conduct a final review of the financial statements prior to certification of financial statements.

The Agenda and attachments will be distributed to Councillors, Audit Committee members and to Executive Management prior to the meetings in accordance with the Council's Statutory Meeting Process.

The Audit Committee Agenda with attachments are designed for internal reporting purposes and shall not be released to the general public. However, information may at Full Council's discretion, be made publicly available in a format suitable for external reporting.

As soon as practicable after each meeting, a written report about the matters reviewed at the meeting and the committee's recommendations will be provided to Council.

7. Access to Information and Training

The Audit Committee shall have the authority to seek all information it deems necessary to fulfil its' duties and responsibilities from any person employed by Council, or employees of operations controlled by Council. The committee is also authorised to consult with and seek independent expert advice, as it considers necessary.

Requests will be undertaken through the Chief Executive Officer.

Training that may assist Audit Committee members to undertake their duties within the speciality of the Local Government environment may be requested through the Chief Executive Officer.

8. Duties and Responsibilities

The Audit Committee has a key role in strengthening the control environment and ensuring the establishment of an appropriate ethical culture. The committee's main responsibilities include inter alia:

Financial Reporting

- review the draft Financial Statements for the preceding financial year before the statement is certified
- review the Auditor General's report about the council's financial statements for the preceding financial year.

Internal Control and Risk Management

- evaluate and monitor the integrity, adequacy and effectiveness of finance, administrative and operating systems, policies and procedures through communication with, and reports from management, Internal and External Audit
- monitor the standard of corporate conduct in areas such as arm's-length dealings, likely conflicts of interest, and take an active interest in ethical considerations regarding council policies and practices

- monitor compliance with statutory and regulatory obligations
- ensure that an effective risk management system is operating and monitor risk management strategies, policies and processes controlled through the quality systems.

Internal and External Audit

- review Internal and External Audit Work Plans and make recommendations to maximise the overall cost effectiveness of the audit process
- review Internal and External Audit reports and monitor management's implementation audit recommendations to improve the control environment
- The committee will meet with Internal and External Audit independent of management as determined necessary.

9. Performance Review

To ensure that the Audit Committee is fulfilling charter responsibilities and operating effectively in accordance with current best practice, a formal assessment process will be undertaken biennially or as determined by the committee.

Signed:



Emma Thomas
Chief Executive Officer
11/08/2021

9 NOTIFIED MOTIONS

10 TABLING OF PETITIONS

Petitions only eligible for submission if:

* Legible
* Have purpose of the petition on top of each page
* Contain at least 10 signatures
* Motion limited to:
  - Petition received and referred to a future meeting
  - Petition received and referred to the Chief Executive Officer for report and consideration of recommendation
  - Petition not be received

11 CONFIDENTIAL SESSION

11.1 CONFIDENTIAL - NOT FOR PUBLIC RELEASE - PLANNING APPEAL - DIVISION 5

File No: **APL24/0027**

Author: **Lead Senior Development Planner**
Sustainable Growth and Planning .....

In preparing this report, the Chief Executive Officer recommends it be considered confidential in accordance with Section 254J (3) (e) *of the Local Government Regulation 2012* as it contains information relating to legal advice obtained by the local government or legal proceedings involving the local government including, for example, legal proceedings that may be taken by or against the local government.

12 NEXT MEETING

The next Ordinary Meeting will be held on 11 December 2025.

13 MEETING CLOSURE