

# Minutes Appendices

## Ordinary Meeting

**Thursday, 26 March 2026**

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# Minutes

## Ordinary Meeting

Thursday, 26 February 2026

Sunshine Coast City Hall Chamber, 54 First Avenue, Maroochydore





ORDINARY MEETING MINUTES

26 FEBRUARY 2026

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

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**1 DECLARATION OF OPENING**

The Chair declared the meeting open at 9:01am.

**2 WELCOME AND OPENING**

Councillor J Natoli acknowledged the Traditional Custodians of the land on which the meeting took place.

Rabbi Oshy Goodman from the Chabad Sunshine Coast provided a blessing.

**3 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

**COUNCILLORS**

Councillor R Natoli	Mayor (Chair)
Councillor J Broderick	Division 1
Councillor T Landsberg	Division 2
Councillor T Burns	Division 3
Councillor J Natoli	Division 4
Councillor W Johnston OAM	Division 5
Councillor C Dickson	Division 6 (Absent Items 8.7 - 13)
Councillor E Hungerford	Division 7
Councillor T Bunnag	Division 8
Councillor M Suarez	Division 9 (Deputy Mayor)
Councillor D Law	Division 10

**COUNCIL OFFICERS**

Chief Executive Officer  
Chief Financial Officer  
Director Business Transformation and Performance  
Director Community Strengthening  
Director Infrastructure and Natural Assets  
Director Sustainable Growth and Planning  
Executive Manager  
Principal Development Planner  
Principal Development Engineer (Traffic)  
Principal Development Engineer (Hydraulics)  
Head of Property  
Manager Sport & Community Venues  
Coordinator Financial Services  
Coordinator Strategic Property

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4 RECEIPT AND CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Council Resolution

Moved: Councillor J Natoli

Seconded: Councillor T Burns

*That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 29 January 2026 be received and confirmed.*

**Carried unanimously.**

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5 MAYORAL MINUTE

NIL

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**6 INFORMING OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

**6.1 PRESCRIBED CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

NIL

**6.2 DECLARABLE CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

Councillor R Natoli notified Council of a Declarable Conflict of Interest in relation to Item 8.2 Development Application for a variation approval to establish a residential community at 239 Wises Road, Buderim.

Councillor J Natoli notified Council of a Declarable Conflict of Interest in relation to Item 8.2 Development Application for a variation approval to establish a residential community at 239 Wises Road, Buderim.

**7 PRESENTATIONS / COUNCILLOR REPORTS**

NIL

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**8 REPORTS DIRECT TO COUNCIL**

**8.1 QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT, QUARTER 2 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 2, 2025-26

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**Council Resolution** (OM26/5)

**Moved:** Councillor J Broderick

**Seconded:** Councillor E Hungerford

*That Council:*

- (a) *receive and note the report titled "Quarterly Progress Report, Quarter 2 2025-26" and*
- (b) *endorse the Chief Executive Officer's Quarterly Progress Report - Quarter 2, 2025-26 (Appendix A).*

**Carried unanimously.**

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**8.2 DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION FOR A VARIATION APPROVAL TO ESTABLISH A RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITY AT 239 WISES ROAD, BUDERIM**

**File No:** MCU22/0221 & OPW22/0354  
**Author:** Principal Development Planner  
 Sustainable Growth and Planning  
**Appendices:** App A - Recommended Conditions of Approval (Amended)  
**Attachments:** Att 1 - Detailed Assessment Report  
 Att 2 - Proposal Plans  
 Att 3 - Wises Preliminary Approval Document  
 Att 4 - Setback and Development Controls  
 Att 5 - Extract of SARA Concurrence Agency Response  
 Att 6 - Submitter Location Map

**NOTIFICATION OF INTEREST**

**In accordance with s150EQ(3)(b) of the *Local Government Act 2009* Councillor R Natoli gave notice of a Declarable Conflict of Interest.**

*I, Councillor Rosanna Natoli, notify that I have a Declarable Conflict of Interest in Item 8.2 to be considered at the Ordinary Meeting on 26 February 2026 due to the fact that a submitter to the item being discussed, Mr Ashley Douglas (Doug) Fry, participated in my election campaign by handing out How to Vote cards over a number of days.*

*I have no ongoing relationship with Mr Fry.*

*In addition, Councillor Joe Natoli, who is a related party of mine, was assisted by Mr Fry during his election campaign.*

**The Mayor vacated the Chair at this time.**

**The Deputy Mayor took the Chair at this time.**

**In accordance with s150ES(3)(b) of the *Local Government Act 2009* the eligible Councillors were required to decide whether Councillor R Natoli may participate in a decision in relation to agenda item 8.2, including by voting on the matter.**

**Council Resolution**

**Moved:** Councillor T Landsberg

**Seconded:** Councillor T Bunnag

*In accordance with s150ES(3)(b)(i) of the *Local Government Act 2009*, that despite the conflict of interest, Councillor R Natoli may participate in the discussions and decision relating to Agenda Item 8.2 as the interest is not considered to be sufficient to undermine the ability of the Councillor to form an impartial view and exercise their vote in the public interest.*

**Carried unanimously.**

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In accordance with s150ET(2) of the *Local Government Act 2009*, Councillor R Natoli and Councillor J Natoli were not eligible to vote, and did not vote on this matter.

The Mayor returned to the Chair at this time.

**NOTIFICATION OF INTEREST**

In accordance with s150EQ(3)(b) of the *Local Government Act 2009* Councillor J Natoli gave notice of a Declarable Conflict of Interest.

*I, Councillor Giuseppe (Joe) Natoli, notify that I have a Declarable Conflict of Interest in Item 8.2 to be considered at the Ordinary Meeting on Thursday, 26 February 2026.*

*Councillor Rosanna Natoli, a related party of mine, was assisted in her 2024 election campaign by submitter Mr Ashley Douglas (Doug) Fry by handing out How To Vote Cards.*

*Mr Fry may have handed out my how to vote cards whilst assisting the campaign of Councillor Rosanna Natoli.*

*I have no ongoing relationship with Mr Fry. Mr Fry has left the Sunshine Coast.*

**In accordance with s150ES(3)(b) of the *Local Government Act 2009* the eligible Councillors were required to decide whether Councillor J Natoli may participate in a decision in relation to agenda item 8.2, including by voting on the matter.**

**Council Resolution**

**Moved: Councillor T Burns**

**Seconded: Councillor J Broderick**

*In accordance with s150ES(3)(b)(i) of the Local Government Act 2009, that despite the conflict of interest, Councillor J Natoli may participate in the discussions and decision relating to Agenda Item 8.2 as the interest is not considered to be sufficient to undermine the ability of the Councillor to form an impartial view and exercise their vote in the public interest.*

**Carried unanimously.**

In accordance with s150ET(2) of the *Local Government Act 2009*, Councillor J Natoli and Councillor R Natoli were not eligible to vote, and did not vote on this matter.

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**ORDINARY MEETING MINUTES****26 FEBRUARY 2026**

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**MOTION****Moved: Councillor W Johnston****Seconded: Councillor C Dickson**

That Council:

- (a) receive and note the report titled "Development Application for a Variation Approval to Establish a Residential Community at 239 Wisers Road, Buderim"
- (b) APPROVE application no. MCU22/0221 for Preliminary Approval for a Material Change of Use of Premises including a Variation Request to vary the effect of the Sunshine Coast Planning Scheme 2014 and application no. OPW22/0354 for Development Permit for Operational Work (Bulk Earthworks) at 239 Wisers Road, Buderim, subject to imposition of the conditions of approval identified in Appendix A as amended
- (c) note its intention to consider a special rate or charge (Benefited Area Levy), pursuant to section 94 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, on any lots created as part of this development approval to cover any costs associated with maintaining a higher than normal landscaping standard, with any such special rate or charge to be considered as part of Council's budget process for the relevant financial year and
- (d) note all future requests for a negotiated decision notice and requested changes to the approval to be determined by delegated Council officers where the changes would not have a material impact on the outcome of the original decision.

**AMENDMENT****Council Resolution** (OM26/6)**Moved: Councillor T Bunnag****Seconded: Councillor E Hungerford**

That Council:

- (a) receive and note the report titled "Development Application for a Variation Approval to Establish a Residential Community at 239 Wisers Road, Buderim"
- (b) APPROVE application no. MCU22/0221 for Preliminary Approval for a Material Change of Use of Premises including a Variation Request to vary the effect of the Sunshine Coast Planning Scheme 2014 and application no. OPW22/0354 for Development Permit for Operational Work (Bulk Earthworks) at 239 Wisers Road, Buderim, subject to imposition of the conditions of approval identified in Appendix A as amended and to include the following:

*Insert Condition 38A**38A Zebra crossings on raised platforms must be provided on Sunshine Cove Way. The works must be constructed in accordance with an Operational Work approval and, unless otherwise agreed with Council, must:*

- (a) be constructed prior to lodgement of plan sealing of the first stage of development in Precinct 3 or Precinct 4

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**ORDINARY MEETING MINUTES****26 FEBRUARY 2026**

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- (b) *be provided in place of the existing refuge island crossings at the following locations:*
  - (i) *on the eastern leg of the Sunshine Cove Way / Hervey Chase roundabout*
  - (ii) *on the south-western leg of the Sunshine Cove Way / Bedarra Circuit roundabout*
  - (iii) *on the western leg of the Sunshine Cove Way / Sunrise Drive intersection, except that an assessment must also be made (certified by an RPEQ) and submitted with the operational work application identifying the most appropriate location on Sunshine Cove Way at this intersection for the replacement raised platform crossing, including consideration of moving it to the eastern leg of the intersection, taking into account available sight distance and vehicle speeds. This may require removal and / or realignment of existing path connections*
  - (iv) *on the western leg of the Sunshine Cove Way / Amity Avenue intersection*
- (c) *modify the carriageway and drainage as necessary to maintain safe travel on existing on-road bike lanes*
- (d) *include street lighting.*

*Replace Condition 70 as follows*

*70 The 6200m<sup>2</sup> public local park in Precinct 1 and the additional public local park required in Precinct 2 required by this Preliminary Approval must be designed with the following features, standards and attributes:*

- (a) *direct and publicly accessible road frontage for a minimum two sides or minimum 50% of the perimeter*
- (b) *generally regular in shape (i.e. rectilinear, and approximately similar in width and length)*
- (c) *graded to a maximum 1:33 and minimum 1:50 for the passive and active recreation areas*
- (d) *flood immunity in accordance with the Planning scheme policy for development works*
- (e) *standards matching Council's Recreation Parks Plan 2021 - 2031 and the Planning scheme policy for development works requirements for a 'Local Park'*
- (f) *include public amenities that:*
  - (i) *comply with Council's Open Space Landscape Infrastructure Manual or an equivalent level of performance*
  - (ii) *achieves a minimum 1% AEP flood immunity*
  - (iii) *includes at least one PWD cubicle, designed as a modular unit*
  - (iv) *provides a Council maintenance tap in close proximity*
  - (v) *provides access compliant with AS1428 (Design for Access and Mobility) and all relevant portions, including connection to Council's road verge path network*
- (g) *embellishments in accordance with the Planning scheme policy for development works (with the exception of the provision of a public amenities) and in accordance with Council's Open Space LIM or an equivalent standard as agreed with Council*
- (h) *vehicle restriction devices (e.g. bollards) and maintenance access and emergency services access points in accordance with Council's Open Space LIM, or an equivalent standard as agreed with Council*
- (i) *roadside parking allocation for a Council waste services truck and a maintenance vehicle, signed appropriately, with bins located no more than 50m away*
- (j) *provide a power supply to the park, including a metered supply point designed in*

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- accordance with Council's Open Space LIM standards*
- (k) provide a water meter of sufficient size to service the public amenities and any other water take off points*
  - (l) through-connections to the pedestrian and cycle paths of the wider estate pedestrian network*
  - (m) free of encumbrances that are not directly related to the delivery of the park (e.g. transformers, pump stations, substations, overland flow, underground services not related to the park)*
  - (n) required service connections for a local park (i.e. water, power, stormwater etc.)*
  - (o) endemic species of varying strata levels to promote the urban ecology.*
- (c) note its intention to consider a special rate or charge (Benefited Area Levy), pursuant to section 94 of the Local Government Regulation 2012, on any lots created as part of this development approval to cover any costs associated with maintaining a higher than normal landscaping standard, with any such special rate or charge to be considered as part of Council's budget process for the relevant financial year and*
- (d) note all future requests for a negotiated decision notice and requested changes to the approval to be determined by delegated Council officers where the changes would not have a material impact on the outcome of the original decision.*

**Carried unanimously.**

**The amendment became the motion.**

**The motion moved by Councillor T Bunnag and seconded by Councillor E Hungerford was put.**

**Carried unanimously.**

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ORDINARY MEETING MINUTES

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**8.3 MANAGEMENT OF MAROOCHYDORE CITY CENTRE PROJECT**

**File No:** Council Meetings  
**Author:** Acting Project Manager  
Finance and Commercial Partnerships

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**Council Resolution** (OM26/7)

**Moved:** Councillor J Natoli  
**Seconded:** Councillor M Suarez

*That Council:*

- (a) *receive and note the report titled "Management of Maroochydore City Centre Project"*
- (b) *resolve to take all steps necessary as sole shareholder of SunCentral Maroochydore Pty Ltd ACN 603 652 231 (SunCentral) to cause SunCentral to transition its activities to Council and otherwise cease its trading operations and*
- (c) *delegate to the Chief Executive Officer the power to take the steps required to enable the orderly transition of activities to Council and the cessation of SunCentral's operations including:*
  - (i) *sign shareholder resolutions as Council's body corporate representative*
  - (ii) *give directions or instructions to SunCentral and its Board*
  - (iii) *execute contracts and other instruments for the purpose of the transition of activities and cessation of operations and*
  - (iv) *appoint Council's Chief Financial officer, as sole Director of the SunCentral body corporate entity, following the transition of activities and cessation of operations.*

**Carried unanimously.**

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8.4 SUNSHINE COAST INDOOR SPORT NETWORK PLAN 2026

File No: Council Meetings

Author: Manager Sport & Community Venues  
Community Strengthening

Appendices: App A - Sunshine Coast Indoor Sport Network Plan 2026

Attachments: Att 1 - Human Rights Assessment of Compatibility

---

**Council Resolution** (OM26/8)

Moved: Councillor T Bunnag

Seconded: Councillor D Law

That Council:

- (a) receive and note the report titled "Sunshine Coast Indoor Sport Network Plan 2026"
- (b) adopt the Sunshine Coast Indoor Sport Network Plan 2026 (Appendix A)
- (c) refer the recommendations within the Sunshine Coast Indoor Sport Network Plan 2026 to future budget considerations and
- (d) support the ongoing advocacy for a Council-wide Major Indoor Sport Centre to State and Federal governments.

**Carried unanimously.**

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**8.5 JANUARY 2026 FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE REPORT**

**File No:** Council Meetings

**Author:** Coordinator Financial Services  
Finance and Commercial Partnerships

**Attachments:** Att 1 - January 2026 Financial Performance Report  
Att 2 - January 2026 Capital Grant Funded Project Report

---

**Council Resolution** (OM26/9)

**Moved:** Councillor J Broderick

**Seconded:** Councillor E Hungerford

*That Council receive and note the report titled "January 2026 Financial Performance Report".*

**Carried unanimously.**

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**8.6 BUDGET REVIEW 2**

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

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**Council Resolution** (OM26/10)

**Moved:** Councillor J Broderick  
**Seconded:** Councillor E Hungerford

*That Council:*

- (a) *receive and note the report titled "Budget Review 2 2025-26"*
- (b) *adopt Appendix A as tabled, pursuant to sections 169 and 170 of the Local Government Regulation 2012, Council's amended budget for 2025-26 financial year incorporating:*
  - (i) *the statement of income and expenditure*
  - (ii) *the statement of financial position*
  - (iii) *the statements of changes in equity*
  - (iv) *the statement of cash flow*
  - (v) *the relevant measures of financial sustainability*
  - (vi) *the long-term financial forecast*
  - (vii) *Council's 2025-26 Capital Works Program, endorse the indicative four-year program for the period 2027 to 2030, and note the five-year program for the period 2031 to 2035*
- (c) *note the following documentation applies as adopted 7 July 2025*
  - (i) *the Debt Policy*
  - (ii) *the Revenue Policy*
  - (iii) *the total value of the change, expressed as a percentage, in the rates and utility charges levied for the financial year compared with the rates and utility charges levied in the previous budget, and*
  - (iv) *the Revenue Statement*
  - (v) *the rates and charges to be levied for the 2025-26 financial year and other matters as adopted 7 July 2025*
  - (vi) *the Strategic Environment Levy Policy*
  - (vii) *the Strategic Arts and Heritage Levy Policy*
  - (viii) *the Strategic Transport Levy Policy*
  - (ix) *Prescribed Services Charge Plan (No. 2) 2025-26 Financial Year and*
- (d) *endorse the 2025-26 Minor Capital Works Program (Appendix B).*

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

**Against:** Councillor D Law.

**Carried.**

Councillor D Law raised a point of order in relation to Councillor J Natoli's comments not being related to the item. The Mayor upheld the point of order.

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**8.7 DISPOSAL (LEASE) OF COUNCIL OWNED LAND - MAROOCHYDORE**

**File No:** F25/000161

**Author:** Principal Property Officer  
Finance and Commercial Partnerships

---

**Council Resolution** (OM26/11)

**Moved:** Councillor J Natoli

**Seconded:** Councillor J Broderick

*That Council:*

- (a) *receive and note the report titled "Disposal (Lease) of Council Owned Land - Maroochydore"*
- (b) *resolve that, in accordance with sections 236(1)(c)(iii) and (2) of the Local Government Regulation 2012, an exception applies to disposing of a valuable non-current asset (described as a grant of a lease over the premises at Lot 341 RP88443, 103 Wrigley Street, Maroochydore) on the basis that the disposal is for the purpose of renewing the lease to the existing tenant and*
- (c) *authorise the Chief Executive Officer to publicly release details in relation to the lease, once the lease has commenced.*

**Carried unanimously.**

**Councillor C Dickson was absent for the discussion and vote on this item.**

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**8.8 AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING - 12 FEBRUARY 2026**

**File No:** Council Meetings  
**Author:** Acting Manager Audit, Assurance and Risk Advisory Services  
Finance and Commercial Partnerships  
**Appendices:** App A - Minutes of the Audit Committee Meeting of 12 February  
2026

---

**Council Resolution** (OM26/12)

**Moved:** Councillor J Broderick  
**Seconded:** Councillor E Hungerford

*That Council:*

- (a) receive and note the report titled "Audit Committee Meeting - 12 February 2026" and
- (b) endorse the Minutes of the Audit Committee meeting of 12 February 2026 (Appendix A).

**Carried unanimously.**

**Councillor C Dickson was absent for the discussion and vote on this item.**

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9 NOTIFIED MOTIONS

NIL

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10 TABLING OF PETITIONS

10.1 PETITION - REQUEST FOR SPEED LIMIT REDUCTION AT THE ENTRANCE OF HALCYON NIRIMBA, BANYA AVENUE, BANYA

Council Resolution (OM26/13)

**Moved:** Councillor J Broderick

**Seconded:** Councillor W Johnston

*That the petition tabled by Councillor J Broderick relating to the request for speed limit reduction at the entrance of Halcyon Nirimba, Banya Avenue, Banya be received and referred to the Chief Executive Officer to determine appropriate action.*

**Carried unanimously.**

**Councillor C Dickson was absent for the vote on this item.**

---

10.2 PETITION - REQUEST BY OWNERS OF MARINA WALK, ALEXANDRA HEADLAND TO CHANGE STREET ACCESS AFTER HOURS

Council Resolution (OM26/14)

**Moved:** Councillor J Natoli

**Seconded:** Councillor T Landsberg

*That the petition tabled by Councillor J Natoli relating to the request for Marina Walk, Alexandra Headland to change street access after hours be received and referred to the Chief Executive Officer to determine appropriate action.*

**Carried unanimously.**

**Councillor C Dickson was absent for the vote on this item.**

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**10.3 PETITION - REVIEW OF TRAFFIC SAFETY IN EUDLO**

Council Resolution (OM26/15)

**Moved:** Councillor W Johnston

**Seconded:** Councillor T Burns

*That the petition tabled by Councillor W Johnston relating to the request to review Traffic Safety in Eudlo Village be received and referred to the Chief Executive Officer to determine appropriate action.*

**Carried unanimously.**

**Councillor C Dickson was absent for the vote on this item.**

---

**10.4 PETITION - IMPROVE PEDESTRIAN SAFETY ON DIAMOND VALLEY ROAD, MOOLOOLAH VALLEY**

Council Resolution (OM26/16)

**Moved:** Councillor W Johnston

**Seconded:** Councillor T Burns

*That the petition tabled by Councillor W Johnston relating to the request to improve pedestrian safety on Diamond Valley Road, Mooloolah Valley be received and referred to the Chief Executive Officer to determine appropriate action.*

**Carried unanimously.**

**Councillor C Dickson was absent for the vote on this item.**

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**11 CONFIDENTIAL SESSION**

NIL

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**ORDINARY MEETING MINUTES**

**26 FEBRUARY 2026**

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**12 NEXT MEETING**

The next Ordinary Meeting will be held on 26 March 2026 in the Sunshine Coast City Hall Chamber, 54 First Avenue, Maroochydore

**13 MEETING CLOSURE**

The meeting closed at 2:08pm.

Confirmed 26 March 2026.



CHAIR

---



# Thriving Futures: Sunshine Coast Youth Plan 2026-31



March 2026

[sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au](http://sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au)  
 mail@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au  
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 Sunshine Coast Mail Centre Qld 4560

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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:  
 Thriving Futures: Sunshine Coast Youth  
 Plan 2026-31.

**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  
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**Cover image and all illustration**

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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.

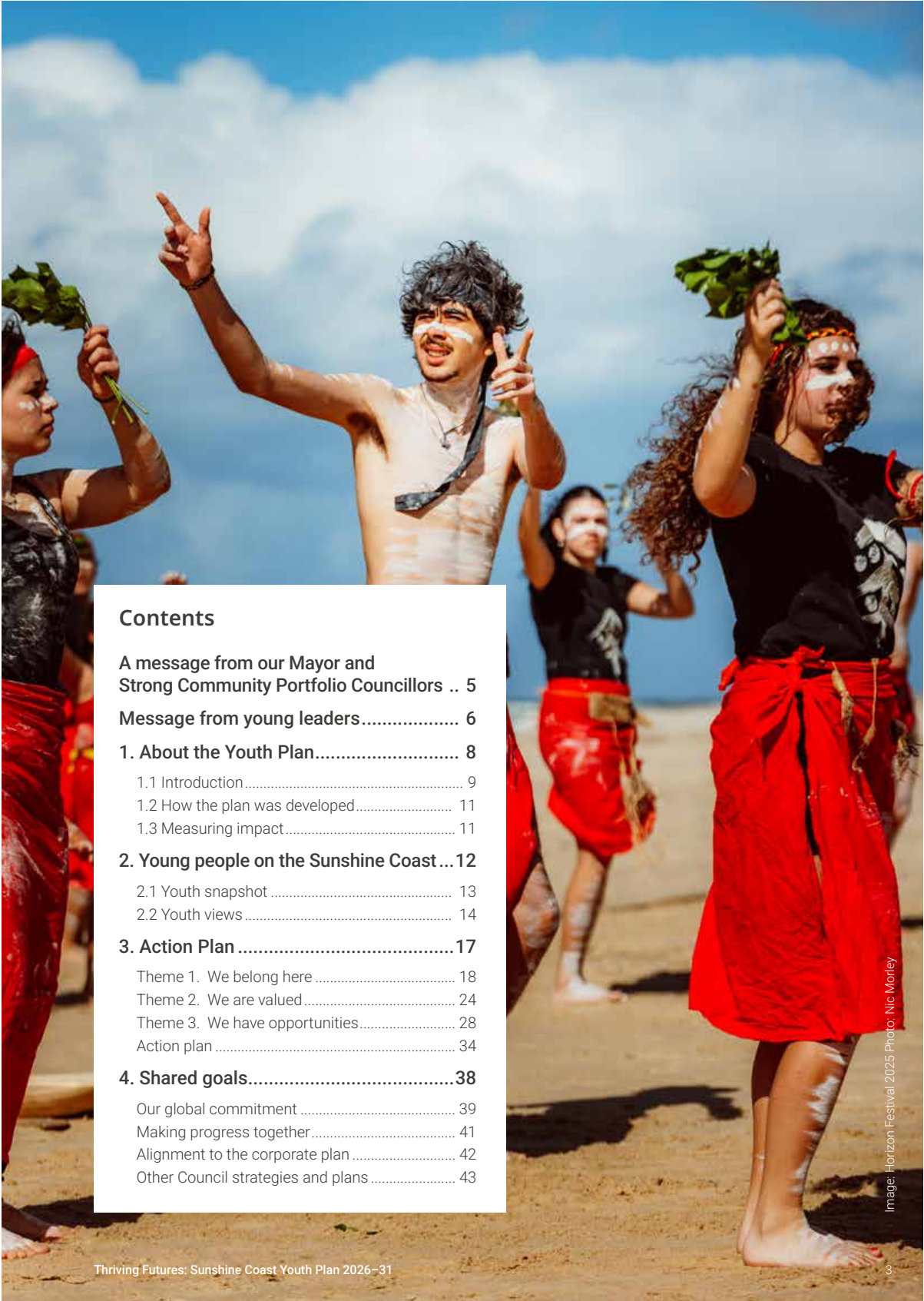
We commit to working in partnership with the Traditional Custodians  
 and the broader First Nations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander)  
 communities to support self-determination through economic and  
 community development.

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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## Message from the Mayor and Strong Community Portfolio Councillors

**Our Sunshine Coast is at its best when young people help shape decisions, when they feel they belong in every neighbourhood, and when they can see a bright future here. Thriving Futures: Sunshine Coast Youth Plan 2026-31 sets a shared direction for how we will listen, act and partner with young people so our region remains connected, liveable and thriving for everyone.**

Over the past year, we invited young people to speak up, and we sought to meet them where they are. They took part online, at the Youth Forum and at pop-up events across the region. More than 1,000 young people told us what matters most to them: from housing and the cost of living to transport, mental health, opportunities to connect and how we care for our environment. Their insights shaped the priorities and actions in this plan and will continue to guide our work into the future.

We also want to recognise the members of the 2025 Young Leaders Academy. Their leadership helped us reach hundreds of young people. They co-created and co-facilitated the Youth Forum, advised us on the best ways to engage their peers and spoke with young people across the region. Their contribution has been invaluable, and they have shown how youth leadership can produce real impact.

This Youth Plan does not claim to solve every challenge. Instead, it gives clear voice to the priorities and challenges being experienced by young people and sets achievable actions we can take together. It also introduces simple, meaningful ways for young people to contribute to the Sunshine Coast they want to see.

Thank you to every young person, parent, carer, teacher and youth worker who took part in the engagement process to create this plan. Together, we can build a Sunshine Coast where every young person belongs, is heard, and has opportunities to learn, work, contribute and thrive.



Thriving Futures: Sunshine Coast Youth Plan 2026-31

Message from  
young leaders



Sunshine Coast Council

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## Message from young leaders

**Being part of the Young Leaders Academy in 2025 has been an incredible experience. We have been involved in workshops, forums and conversations that helped shape the Youth Plan. We have had the chance to listen to young people from across the Sunshine Coast and hear directly about their priorities, their challenges and their hopes for the future. It has shown me just how powerful young voices can be when they are given the space to be heard.**

It has been inspiring to be surrounded by other young leaders who care deeply about our community. Together, we explored issues like accessibility, mental health, employment, housing, transport, safety and inclusion. I got to contribute my perspectives as a young person with lived experience of disability into the mix too, and to make sure all voices were represented. Being part of the process has made me feel valued, empowered and hopeful.

The Youth Plan is important because it gives Council a clear direction on what matters most to young people and how to act on it. It's not just a document, it's a promise to keep listening and to drive real change for our generation and the ones that come after us. We're proud to have played a part in building this vision and to stand alongside other young leaders in shaping a brighter, more inclusive future for the Sunshine Coast.

**Fin, representing members of the Young Leaders Academy 2025**



1. About the Youth Plan

## 1. About the Youth Plan

The Sunshine Coast has a large and growing community of young people who are vital contributors to the region. Young people enjoy many opportunities here but also face challenges like affordability and mental health. We want to work together to help young people achieve their goals. Based on input from young people, this Youth Plan includes actions that will help young people thrive.

### 1.1 Introduction

The Sunshine Coast is home to over 50,000 young people aged 12-24 years – a vibrant and diverse group that contributes significantly to the social, cultural and economic fabric of our region. By 2041, this number is expected to grow by approximately 20,000 people, underscoring the importance of planning for a future that supports young people to thrive.

Young people are at the heart of our community. They are students, workers, carers, volunteers, artists, athletes and entrepreneurs. They bring energy, creativity and innovation to our region. They are also navigating a rapidly changing world – one shaped by global challenges, technological disruption, and shifting social and economic landscapes.

The Sunshine Coast offers young people a range of opportunities, including a great lifestyle, high-quality schools and tertiary education options, good facilities and services, diverse employment opportunities, and access to our amazing natural environment. These are the foundations of a region where young people can achieve their goals.

But young people face real challenges. Through extensive engagement, young people shared their stress and anxiety, the struggle to be heard and taken seriously, and barriers related to affordability, transport, education and employment. Young people shared their hopes for a more inclusive, connected and supportive community – one where everyone feels safe, respected and valued.

Young people are not just the leaders of tomorrow, they are active contributors to our communities today. They are current leaders, innovators, creators and change-makers. Their voices, experiences and aspirations must shape current decision-making, now and for the future.

As a Council and community, improving opportunities for young people is a priority. We all want young people to feel a strong sense of belonging, be respected and included, and see a future for themselves here on the Sunshine Coast. We want young people to know they do not need to leave the region to achieve their goals in life. Instead, we will work together to create a region where young people can thrive.

We belong here



1.1.1 Youth Plan

This Youth Plan helps to prioritise actions that Council, together with young people and community partners, will take to improve the lives of young people. These actions will be implemented over the next five years to 2031.

The actions are grouped into three priority areas: we belong here, we are valued and we have opportunities.

This plan builds on Council's commitment to all residents as outlined in the Sunshine Coast Community Strategy 2019-41 and its goal to contribute to a strong Sunshine Coast community.

Council and the community will go about this work utilising the principles and methods for action outlined in the Community Strategy:

Principles

-  Local
-  Collaborative
-  Evidenced
-  Equitable
-  Outcome-focused.

Methods

-  Encourage community involvement
-  Grow collective capacity
-  Partner and collaborate
-  Invest in community-led initiatives
-  Advocate together.

The Youth Plan also aligns with broader frameworks such as the Young Queenslanders Strategy 2024-26 and the United Nations Youth Strategy 2030.

Through implementation of the plan, Council aims to improve opportunities for young people to participate in our community. Council is committed to investing in our young people and recognising the value of their contributions in shaping our region's future.

We are valued



We have opportunities



## 1.2 How the plan was developed

Throughout 2025, engagement with young people was undertaken to shape the priorities and actions of the Youth Plan.

The lived experience of young people is valued by Council and has been the primary input to the development of this plan. Council has endeavoured to ensure that the experiences, knowledge and views of young people have been heard, understood and reflected in this plan.

### 1.2.1 Young Leaders Academy

The Young Leaders Academy is a youth development program facilitated by Council that focuses on exploring the principles of participatory leadership. This form of leadership prioritises collaboration, shared responsibility and valuing diverse perspectives.

In 2025, a group of eight young people were selected to be involved in the Young Leaders Academy. These young people were instrumental in supporting development of the Youth Plan. They advised Council on ways to engage young people in the development of the plan and co-created and co-hosted a youth forum. They also spoke with many young residents of the region to gather their input.

In the first six months of 2025, the Young Leaders attended eight meetings, the Youth Forum, and multiple engagement activities. They provided ongoing involvement throughout 2025 to help shape the plan. This was a significant commitment, especially when combined with studying, working and other personal responsibilities.

### 1.2.2 Community engagement

The whole Sunshine Coast community was invited to share their input on the priorities and challenges facing young people, as well as ideas for Council and community-led actions. Special efforts were made to encourage young people to participate in this engagement.

This resulted in up to 1,100 young residents of the Sunshine Coast providing input into the project.

A further 35 adults who work with young people completed a youth-services sector survey to provide their views on the needs of young people.

### Youth Forum

Around 85 young people participated in the Youth Forum in May 2025.

The day provided young people with an opportunity to connect and outline their vision for the future of the Sunshine Coast for young people. They also identified challenges facing young people, and potential actions that could improve the lives of young people over the next five years.

They also participated in an activity to share what personal actions they could take, individually or with others, to help make a difference.

The feedback from young people who participated in the youth forum was overwhelmingly positive.

### Online survey and pop-up activities

Input was also gathered through:

- An online survey which gathered 582 responses from young people
- Face-to-face discussions with 450 young residents at 12 engagement pop-up events within their local communities.

### 1.2.3 Feedback on draft Youth Plan

Based on community input and discussion with Council team members, a draft plan was developed. Young people and stakeholders were invited to provide feedback on the draft plan before it was finalised. Over 100 residents of the Sunshine Coast, primarily young people, provided feedback on the draft plan.

Actions in the plan were subsequently updated based on the feedback received.

## 1.3 Measuring impact

Council will implement each action in this action plan between 2026 and 2031. The actions have been spread out during this period to ensure there is capacity and budget within Council to achieve the desired outcomes.

Council will review the action plan halfway through its implementation. Reporting of achievements and impacts of the action plan will be monitored through the existing Community Strategy evaluation and reporting framework.

## 2. Young people on the Sunshine Coast



Sunshine Coast Council

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## 2. Young people on the Sunshine Coast

### 2.1 Youth snapshot



50,770 young people live on the Sunshine Coast, 14.8% of our total population.



The number of young people is expected to grow by around 20,000 people to 2041.



2,198 young people are First Nations people (4.3% of young people).



6,291 young people were born overseas (12.4% of young people).



The top five overseas countries of birth are England (1,763 people), New Zealand (1,311 people), South Africa (562 people), India (274 people) and the USA (240 people).



2,215 young people speak a language other than English at home (4.4% of young people).



An estimated 179 young people are experiencing homelessness and a further 139 are only marginally housed. These are low rates of homelessness compared to Queensland (35/10,000 population, compared to 57/10,000 for Queensland).



1,967 young people are experiencing a severe disability (3.9% of young people).



24,481 young people aged 15-24 years are working, while 2,396 young people are looking for work. This equates to a youth unemployment rate of 8.9%.



32,433 young people aged 15-24 years are engaged in employment, education and/or training (86.8% of young people). This compares to 78.2% for the total population aged 15-64 years.



13.2% of young people aged 15-24 years volunteered in the previous 12 months, compared to 15.7% of total Sunshine Coast residents.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics Census 2021.

## 2.2 Youth views

Measures of a strong community:

- 84% of young people agreed they have strong connections with friends and family
- 61% feel mentally healthy
- 61% feel optimistic about their future on the Sunshine Coast
- 52% think the Sunshine Coast is safe for young people
- 49% feel part of their local community
- 46% agree that social media supports their health and wellbeing
- 40% agree residents of the Sunshine Coast respect young people
- 38% feel young people can have a say on community issues important to them
- 22% agree that accommodation is available and affordable.

What makes the Sunshine Coast a great place to live?

- Friends and family (73%)
- Access to the natural environment (66%)
- Sporting facilities, clubs and activities (50%)
- Relaxed lifestyle (49%)
- Access to health services (49%)
- Easy to get around (48%)
- Education opportunities (47%)
- Safe neighbourhoods (45%).

What are the three most important issues facing young people?

- Mental health (160 responses)
- Safety including youth crime (115 responses)
- Employment concerns (105 responses)
- Cost of living (100 responses)
- Education issues (95 responses).

What needs to change to help young people thrive on the Sunshine Coast?

- Availability and affordability of housing (82%)
- Improved crime and safety (57%)
- Drug and alcohol issues (57%)
- More things to do, activities and events (55%)
- More youth friendly spaces and places (52%)
- More job opportunities (52%)
- Better mental health outcomes (50%).

In ten years, do you want to be living on the Sunshine Coast or elsewhere?

- 40% of young people said they wanted to live somewhere other than the Sunshine Coast in ten years' time.
- A fair proportion of these young people just wanted to try living somewhere else.
- Others wanted to leave to access:
  - More education options
  - More career opportunities
  - Lower cost of living and housing
  - Better public transport
  - A more vibrant community – more things to do, diversity and progressive culture.

Source: Youth Survey 2025, n=582.

**Youth voices:**

**What young people like about living here:**

- 

"I like living here because there is great access to health services, and there are lots of career opportunities that are easily accessible. Most of the neighbourhoods feel safe as well which I love. I also like living here because of the people." (12-17 years, girl, central)
- 

"I like living here because of the nice community and my supportive friends, and I like the beaches and the coastal pathway." (12-17 years, boy, south)
- 


"I like living on the Sunshine Coast because it is a very safe and accepting area with great community and activities." (12-17 years, boy, west)
- 


"I like the strong sense of community, the natural beauty, and the balance between lifestyle and opportunity. It's a place where you can build a meaningful life close to the ocean, the hinterland, and people who genuinely care." (18-24 years, woman, south)
- 


"The Sunshine Coast is growing and changing, and I'm interested to see how it will change. Also, I have grown up here, it's home." (18-24 years, man, north)
- 


"I like the Sunshine Coast because of the quiet and close communities who look out for each other and trust each other, and the beautiful environment." (12-17 years, boy, west)


**Challenges facing young people:**

- 

"Rent and home prices are rising so fast that many young people are being priced out of the area we grew up in. It's making independence and long-term stability really difficult." (18-24 years, woman, north)
  - 

"A lot of us struggle with stress, anxiety, or just feeling overwhelmed." (12-17 years, girl, central)
  - 

"Things can feel a bit limited here, especially for young people who want to be part of something fast-paced or creative. Public transport isn't great, and sometimes it feels like everything closes early or there's not much going on." (12-17, boy, north)
  - 

"I'm struggling to get hired for a first job as everywhere is either not looking for staff or only want experienced people." (12-17 years, girl, south)
  - 

"It's challenging to choose a career that best suits my interests after school." (12-17 years, boy, central)
- Source: Youth Survey 2025, n=582.





Differences between young people who live on the coast versus the hinterland:

- Young people who live in the hinterland are more likely to agree they feel part of their local community.
- Young people who live on the coast are more likely to want more opportunities to meet and make friends.
- Young people who live on the coast are more likely to agree that valued characteristics of the region include safe neighbourhoods, health services, and sporting facilities, clubs and activities.
- Young people who live on the coast are more likely to agree they feel physically healthy.



Differences between young people with different genders:

- Girls and women are more likely to want action to improve safety and reduce discrimination and bullying.
- Boys and men are more likely to agree there are lots of things to do on the Sunshine Coast.
- Boys and men are more likely to agree that they feel mentally healthy, that residents of the Sunshine Coast respect young people, that they can have their say on important community issues, that there are good job opportunities available to them and that accommodation is available and affordable.

Note: There were 17 responses from young people who had a gender other than girl, woman, boy or man. Differences for this group could not be outlined given this number of responses.

Source: Youth Survey 2025, n=582.



Youth voices at the Youth Forum and pop-ups:

- More opportunities for connection including welcoming places and spaces and things to do with other young people.
- Rising cost of living including affordability of accommodation contributing to financial stress and uncertainty.
- Mental health challenges, including anxiety and depression, self-esteem and other challenges.
- Feeling unsafe in neighbourhoods and online, as well as bullying and perceptions of youth crime.
- Lack of learning and employment options.
- Difficulty getting around particularly public transport access.
- Environmental impacts particularly pollution, habitat loss, urban sprawl and climate change.
- Not feeling heard, included or valued.

### 3. Action Plan

Council and our community are already doing a lot to support inclusion and improve opportunities for young people. This plan seeks to recognise that work and extend upon this impact by focusing on new actions to implement over the next five years.

Three priority areas have been identified based on the outcomes we want to see for young people:

- We belong here.
- We are valued.
- We have opportunities.







## Theme 1. We belong here

### Michael's story:

My name is Michael, and I have lived around the Sunshine Coast and Moreton Bay regions for my whole life (closing in on 20 years). I have grown attached to the different communities within the region. I love seeing the oceans from the edge of our country and one day, I dream of venturing past it.

For most of my childhood I resided in the Redcliffe area and for a while I felt like I belonged there, until one day, I left home due to some domestic issues. I lived in an abandoned car for a long time to maintain my health. Since I've moved to the Sunshine Coast, I have seen what strong communities can look like, and I will continue to give what I can to make them better.

To me, people feel a sense of belonging when they are not being judged based on their outer appearance, or religion or sexuality, but they are welcome no matter what. That goes for residents and visitors alike – everyone wants to feel that warmth of belonging.

We all need to treat people the way we would like to be treated, especially new people in our communities. I have felt the difference in this approach. We should choose to make the experience of others as good as our own. Everyone deserves to feel included, respected and connected.

If you feel like you belong in a community, help others feel the same.



### Vision

Our vision of belonging:



**Community connections:** Young people are connected and actively engaged in their communities through clubs, activities and volunteering that foster meaningful relationships.



**Healthy and happy:** Young people live healthy lives with access to physical and mental health services, positive role models and the knowledge to make informed healthy choices.



**Inclusive:** Young people are respected, valued and empowered regardless of background, identity, ability or beliefs.



**Safe:** Young people feel safe at home, school and work, and confident to move freely throughout their communities.



**Places and spaces:** Places and spaces around the Sunshine Coast are welcoming, safe and inclusive for young people and support connection.



**Sense of belonging:** Young people feel connected to a united and welcoming community, where diversity is celebrated and connection is nurtured.



**Vibrant lifestyle with things to do:** The Sunshine Coast offers a safe, affordable and lively mix of arts, music, sports, nightlife, and entertainment activities that keep young people engaged, inspired, and connected.

### Challenges

Current challenges for young people related to belonging:



**Mental health challenges:** Mental health challenges include anxiety and depression, as well as matters of self-confidence, body image, bullying and stress associated with balancing school and work pressures. Young people are also concerned about their financial futures, the changing climate and global affairs. Access to mental health services is also a challenge.



**Feeling unsafe:** Young people are concerned about their physical safety in their neighbourhoods, youth crime (and the impact this has on perceptions of young people), and online safety.



**More things to do:** Many young people feel the Sunshine Coast lacks affordable things to do including arts, music, sports and other entertainment options. Young people want more events, activities and safe places to hang out to feel connected and engaged.



**Opportunities for connection:** Young people feel there is a need for more opportunities to socialise face-to-face to build connections with other young residents around the Sunshine Coast based on similar interests, rather than be limited to making connections at school or university.

These vision statements and challenges were identified by young people of the Sunshine Coast in 2025.







Youth voices

“ I want a future where...

- young people connect with each other. We need life after 5pm, to address issues with social media and reduce bullying.
- there are opportunities to participate in arts and creativity, including music festivals, performances, carnivals and markets.
- the Sunshine Coast is an inclusive community that strives for safety and security within our regions – no matter race, sexuality or gender.
- all kids can walk outside and not worry about their safety. ”

Alignment with UNSDGs



Alignment with Community Strategy

- 1.1 Health and wellbeing
- 2.1 Community places and spaces
- 3.1 Inclusion
- 4.1 Community connection and resilience
- 4.2 Community safety
- 5.1 Arts, heritage and First Nations culture

Examples of current Council activities

- Delivering the Healthy Sunshine Coast program which offers a range of low-cost or free activities focusing on physical and mental health to residents of all ages.
- Coordinating and promoting annual Youth Week activities.
- Delivering various events, activities and programs contributing to the vibrancy of our community.
- Delivering welcoming community places and spaces for young people, including libraries, community meeting spaces, parks and recreation facilities.
- Investing in community organisations that provide services, programs and events to young people through grants.
- Supporting the Youth Connect network made up of representatives from organisations that work with young people.

Sunshine Coast Council



**New Council actions (2026-31)**

**Action 1.1** Facilitate delivery of safe, inclusive and welcoming spaces for young people – which are available for dedicated use by young people and offer areas to socialise, things to do and youth services where appropriate.

**Action 1.2** Facilitate delivery of youth-led initiatives supporting connection and good mental health.

**Action 1.3** Investigate opportunities to deliver a Youth Portal in partnership with others, offering a listing of activities and things to do as well as information relevant to young people (careers, practical skills, health information).

**Action 1.4** Expand Healthy Sunshine Coast to offer youth-focused activities (subject to funding availability).

**Action 1.5** Deliver youth-focused programming, events and resources (through Council libraries, community and sporting venues, arts and heritage venues) to maximise participation of young people.

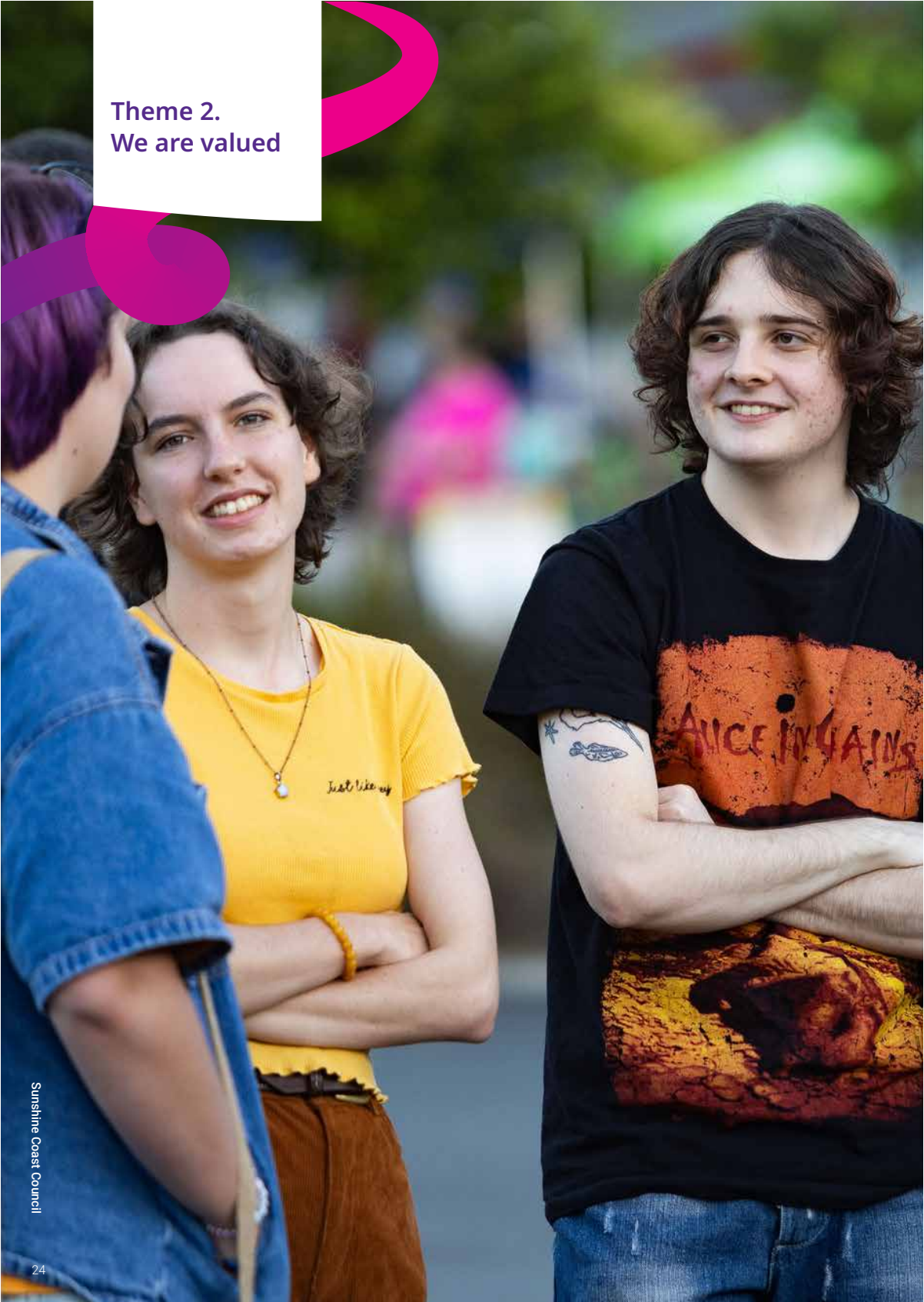
**Action 1.6** Promote and cultivate interest-based community-led social youth groups, with a focus on interests such as creative arts, board games, technology, gaming etc.

**Community actions**

Ideas from young people about ways everyone can contribute to belonging:

- Create more student-led interest-based clubs at school.
- Listen and engage more deeply with friends and peers to see if they need support.
- Start a youth-led community garden and donate the produce.
- Start a social sports group or activity focused on new connections and having fun.
- Spread health information through my social media accounts.
- Share information and messages about respect for women.
- Be friendly and welcoming to people of other cultures by saying hello when I'm out and about.
- Hold a social activity at my local basketball court to encourage connection and promote healthy activities.
- Run a local music event for young people.







## Theme 2. We are valued

### Samantha's story:

Hi, I'm Samantha, and I've lived on the Sunshine Coast for 17 years.

What I love most about the Coast is the connection to nature. The ocean, the mountains, the open space. But more than that, it's the community. There's a relaxed, welcoming vibe here that makes it feel like home.

To me, being heard means more than just someone listening. It's about feeling understood, respected, and taken seriously. It's knowing that your voice has value and that your ideas can help shape change.

In high school I applied to become a school captain. I expected to be brushed off, not having confidence in myself or my ability. But instead, I got the role for 2025. Using this role, I advocated for leadership, my fellow peers and the school community. I felt empowered, respected, and like my voice could actually make a difference. That experience stayed with me.

But there have also been times I've felt overlooked in group settings where older people dominated the conversation, or where decisions about youth programs were made without any young people in the room. In those moments, I felt small and frustrated like my perspective didn't matter.

What I want people to understand is that young people aren't just the "future", we're here now. We have lived experience, ideas, and energy that can bring real value. Being heard is important because it builds confidence and connection. It shows that we belong.

When young people feel genuinely heard, we're more likely to engage, to lead, and to believe we can help create a better future not just for ourselves, but for everyone.



### Vision

Our vision of feeling valued:



**Input into decision making:** Young people are actively involved in shaping their communities, with meaningful opportunities to participate, contribute and influence decisions that affect their lives.



**Recognition:** Young people feel valued and acknowledged for their contributions, talents and perspectives, and their efforts are celebrated.



**Representation:** Young people see themselves reflected in community leadership, ensuring diverse identities and experiences are visible, heard and included in public life.

### Challenges

Current challenges for young people related to feeling valued:



**Not feeling heard, included or valued:** Some young people feel stereotyped, misunderstood or excluded from decision-making. Experiences of discrimination, stigma, and negative media portrayals contribute to a sense of not being valued or heard.



Sunshine Coast Council

These vision statements and challenges were identified by young people of the Sunshine Coast in 2025.

**Youth voices**

**I want a future where...**

- young people have more opportunities to have a say.
- teens are not judged straight away as being up to no good. ””

**Alignment with Community Strategy**

- 3.1 Inclusion
- 3.3 Community engagement
- 4.1 Community connection and resilience

**Alignment with UNSDGs**



**New Council actions (2026-31)**

- Action 2.1** Support Youth Week activities to showcase and celebrate young people.
- Action 2.2** Showcase young people contributing to our community through various platforms and channels.
- Action 2.3** Facilitate the Young Leaders Academy to support young people to develop participatory leadership skills to strengthen their communities.
- Action 2.4** Track the emerging priorities of young people to inform and adapt Council initiatives.
- Action 2.5** Regularly monitor and refine how Council communicates with young people through external communication channels to improve reach.
- Action 2.6** Run a pilot program to recruit diverse Sunshine Coast Youth Connectors who can share information with young people and provide input into Council projects.
- Action 2.7** Hold a youth forum where a diverse group of young people can share youth priorities and shape new Youth Plan actions.

**Examples of current Council activities**

- Facilitating the Young Leaders Academy youth leadership program.
- Supporting the annual Sunshine Coast Biosphere Community Awards and Sunshine Coast Australia Day Community Awards which includes a Young Citizen of the Year category.
- Implementing best-practice community engagement through the application of Council's Excellence in Engagement Framework and Inclusive Engagement Guideline.
- Using social media platforms popular with young people to share opportunities to have a say on Council projects.

**Community actions**

- Ideas from young people about ways everyone can contribute to feeling valued:
- Volunteer on community reference groups.
  - Participate in the student council at school to advocate for change on important challenges.
  - Spread the word about opportunities to have a say.
  - Think about your vote in Council elections.
  - Talk with your local Councillor about challenges and opportunities for young people in your area.
  - Create a group of young people so we can advocate for our concerns.

Theme 3.  
We have  
opportunities





### Theme 3. We have opportunities

#### Jack's story:

Hi! My name is Jack, and I have been fortunate enough to live on the Sunshine Coast since I was born in Nambour.

While I have moved from suburb to suburb throughout my life, the main allures of the region have remained unchanged. The relaxed, community-oriented culture is all I have ever known, and it is something I could not be more grateful for.

Growing up here on the coast, the plentiful opportunities that have been available to me have been paramount in shaping the person I have become and guiding my future aspirations.

In 2024, my love of music drove me to join the Sunshine Coast Youth Orchestra, allowing me to take part in the Australian International Music Festival in Sydney. Performing on a global stage and collaborating with local and foreign musicians was an unforgettable experience that showed me how opportunities can connect people across backgrounds

and inspire leadership through collaboration – lessons that have guided my own aspirations to support and empower others.

Beyond music, on the Coast, I have also been lucky enough to explore leadership and volunteering opportunities through local community organisations and events. Having the chance to work alongside passionate people at Bloomhill Cancer Care throughout 2025 to organise a fundraising event taught me the power of collective action and demonstrated how the Sunshine Coast's supportive spirit can make a meaningful impact on the lives of others.

Looking towards the future, I am hopeful that the strong local programs that have guided and supported me will continue to expand and empower even more young people. I also hope that educational, employment, and creative pathways will continue to develop, ensuring future generations can stay on the Sunshine Coast rather than feeling the need to move to larger regions to find success.

## Vision

Our vision of opportunities:



**Education options:** Young people have access to affordable, flexible and inclusive education options that cater to diverse needs, support transition to adulthood and lead to careers within the region.



**Career opportunities:** There are a wide variety of career opportunities available to young people on the Sunshine Coast. Young people are aware of the growing industries on the Sunshine Coast so they can make informed career decisions.



**Ability to get around:** Young people can move about the region easily, safely and affordably, supported by reliable, regular and inclusive public transport, walkable neighbourhoods and active transport options.



**Affordable housing:** Housing is safe, affordable, diverse and accessible, supporting young people to live independently and remain in the region.



**Protected natural environment:** The region's natural environment is conserved for future generations with support from young people promoting values of sustainability, caring for Country, engaging in education and awareness, and leading conservation initiatives.

## Challenges

Current challenges for young people related to opportunities:



**Cost of living and financial stress:** Young people are concerned about the rising cost of living, including housing affordability, health care costs, education expenses and the price of fuel. Young people feel uncertain about their future financial security and fear they won't be able to afford to live locally or achieve a stable future in the region.



**Lack of learning and employment options:** The limited range of education and career options on the Sunshine Coast is seen as a challenge for young people. Making informed decisions about their future career pathways is also difficult due to a lack of information and understanding of their options.



**Difficulty getting around:** Inadequate public and active transport options limit the ability of young people to travel around independently and their access to education, employment and participation in community activities.



**Environmental degradation:** Young people are concerned about pollution, habitat loss, urban sprawl, climate change and e-waste impacting the natural environment.





Theme 3. We have opportunities

Thriving Futures: Sunshine Coast Youth Plan 2026-31

Theme 3. We have opportunities

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### Youth voices

“ I want a future where...

- kids don't have to worry or stress about whether they will be able to afford to live here.
- there are more education and employment opportunities on the Sunshine Coast, so I'm not forced to move to the city.
- we build up not out. We need to reduce urban sprawl and embrace density that contributes to vibrancy and life after 5pm.
- we have walkable cities and fewer cars. ”

### Alignment with Community Strategy

- 2.2 Transport
- 2.3 Housing and homelessness support
- 3.2 Volunteering

Plus, aligned with the strategies and actions outlined in the Environment and Liveability Strategy and Regional Economic Development Strategy.

### Examples of current Council activities

- Implementing strategies outlined in the Regional Economic Development Strategy that aim to expand employment opportunities in high-value industries.
- Supporting a range of activities and events that promote careers on offer on the Sunshine Coast.
- Attracting students, talent and workforce opportunities for the Sunshine Coast.
- Providing the My Summer Workplace internship program and work experience opportunities at Council.
- Implementing strategies in the Environment and Liveability Strategy aimed at guiding population growth and maintaining a healthy environment.
- Promoting and facilitating community involvement in environmental conservation activities.
- Implementing actions outlined in the Housing and Homelessness Action Plan 2023.

### Alignment with UNSDGs





**New Council actions (2026-31)**

**Action 3.1** Prioritise and invest in Council's entry-level employment programs, including traineeship, internship, apprenticeship, graduate and cadetship programs, to expand employment and skill-building opportunities for young people (subject to funding availability).

**Action 3.2** Promote increased use of public transport, active transport and safe use of e-mobility options through youth-focused programs.

**Action 3.3** Support youth-led advocacy to the Queensland and Australian Government about the challenges facing young people in our region such as housing, transport, safety and career opportunities.

**Action 3.4** Investigate establishment of a 'Youth in Action' initiative, to complement the Kids in Action program, and explore opportunities to connect with global sustainability initiatives through the Sunshine Coast Biosphere (subject to funding availability).

**Action 3.5** Coordinate and promote delivery of life skills workshops featuring practical information and skills (for example, car maintenance, sustainable living, tax and financial advice, cooking, resume development, etc.)

**Community actions**

Ideas from young people about ways everyone can contribute to belonging:

- Advocate for more career advice in schools.
- Volunteer for a charity or group that supports those struggling with homelessness.
- Plant native species in my backyard or join a group revegetating a natural area.
- Clean up litter from my local park.
- Work on dune revegetation at a local beach.
- Advocate for higher-density development to reduce urban sprawl, provide affordable housing and more things to do.
- Develop a youth-led climate action plan for my local neighbourhood.
- Send a letter to my local Queensland Government or Australian Government politician about the challenges of housing affordability and public transport access.
- Organise a regular clothes swap event to reduce environmental impact and socialise with others.

Action Plan



Sunshine Coast Council

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## Action Plan

### Theme 1. We belong here

#	Action	Council role	Timeframe
<b>Action 1.1</b>	Facilitate delivery of safe, inclusive and welcoming spaces for young people – which are available for dedicated use by young people and offer areas to socialise, things to do and youth services where appropriate.	Deliver Facilitate Partner Advocate	Ongoing
<b>Action 1.2</b>	Facilitate delivery of youth-led initiatives supporting connection and good mental health.	Deliver Partner	Ongoing
<b>Action 1.3</b>	Investigate opportunities to deliver a Youth Portal in partnership with others, offering a listing of activities and things to do as well as information relevant to young people (careers, practical skills, health information).	Facilitate Partner	2027-28
<b>Action 1.4</b>	Expand Healthy Sunshine Coast to offer youth-focused activities (subject to funding availability).	Deliver Partner	2026-27
<b>Action 1.5</b>	Deliver youth-focused programming, events and resources (through Council libraries, community and sporting venues, arts and heritage venues) to maximise participation of young people.	Deliver	2026-27
<b>Action 1.6</b>	Promote and cultivate interest-based community-led social youth groups, with a focus on interests such as creative arts, board games, technology, gaming etc.	Deliver	2029-30



Theme 2. We are valued

#	Action	Council role	Timeframe
<b>Action 2.1</b>	Support Youth Week activities to showcase and celebrate young people.	Deliver Facilitate Partner	Ongoing
<b>Action 2.2</b>	Showcase young people contributing to our community through various platforms and channels.	Deliver	Ongoing
<b>Action 2.3</b>	Facilitate the Young Leaders Academy to support young people to develop participatory leadership skills to strengthen their communities.	Deliver	Ongoing
<b>Action 2.4</b>	Track the emerging priorities of young people to inform and adapt Council initiatives.	Deliver	Ongoing
<b>Action 2.5</b>	Regularly monitor and refine how Council communicates with young people through external communication channels to improve reach.	Deliver	2026-27
<b>Action 2.6</b>	Run a pilot program to recruit diverse Sunshine Coast Youth Connectors who can share information with young people and provide input into Council projects.	Deliver	2027-28
<b>Action 2.7</b>	Hold a youth forum where a diverse group of young people can share youth priorities and shape new Youth Plan actions.	Deliver	2030-31



Theme 3. We have opportunities

#	Action	Council role	Timeframe
Action 3.1	Prioritise and invest in Council's entry-level employment programs, including traineeship, internship, apprenticeship, graduate and cadetship programs, to expand employment and skill-building opportunities for young people (subject to funding availability).	Deliver	Ongoing
Action 3.2	Promote increased use of public transport, active transport and safe use of e-mobility options through youth-focused programs.	Deliver	Ongoing
Action 3.3	Support youth-led advocacy to the Queensland and Australian Government about the challenges facing young people in our region such as housing, transport, safety and career opportunities.	Deliver Facilitate	2027-28
Action 3.4	Investigate establishment of a Youth in Action initiative, to complement the Kids in Action program, and explore opportunities to connect with global sustainability initiatives through the Sunshine Coast Biosphere (subject to funding availability).	Deliver	2026-27 (planning) 2027-28 (delivery)
Action 3.5	Coordinate and promote delivery of life skills workshops featuring practical information and skills (for example, car maintenance, sustainable living, tax and financial advice, cooking, resume development, etc.)	Deliver Partner	2028-29



Sunshine Coast Council

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## Our global commitment



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## 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 Thriving Futures: Sunshine Coast Youth Plan 2026–31 supports the SDGs by outlining practical Council-led and community-led actions across all domains of people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnership.

This youth plan contributes to all of the SDGs, particularly:

**SDG 3, 5 and 10** – Good Health and Wellbeing; Gender Equality; Reduced Inequalities

The youth plan emphasises priorities of belonging, safety and mental health, which align with SDGs related to good health and wellbeing (Goal 3), gender equality (Goal 5) and reduced inequalities (Goal 10). By fostering inclusive communities where young people feel safe, respected and supported, the plan contributes to a more equitable and cohesive society. Its focus on connection, mental health, community safety, and inclusive spaces reflects a commitment to safety and holistic wellbeing.

**SDG 4, 8 and 9** – Quality Education; Decent Work and Economic Growth; Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

The youth plan recognises the importance of education and employment and therefore aligns with SDGs related to quality education (Goal 4), decent work and economic growth (Goal 8), and industry, innovation and infrastructure (Goal 9). The plan supports continuing emphasis on youth employment initiatives that build a skilled and empowered youth population that can contribute meaningfully to the region's economic development.

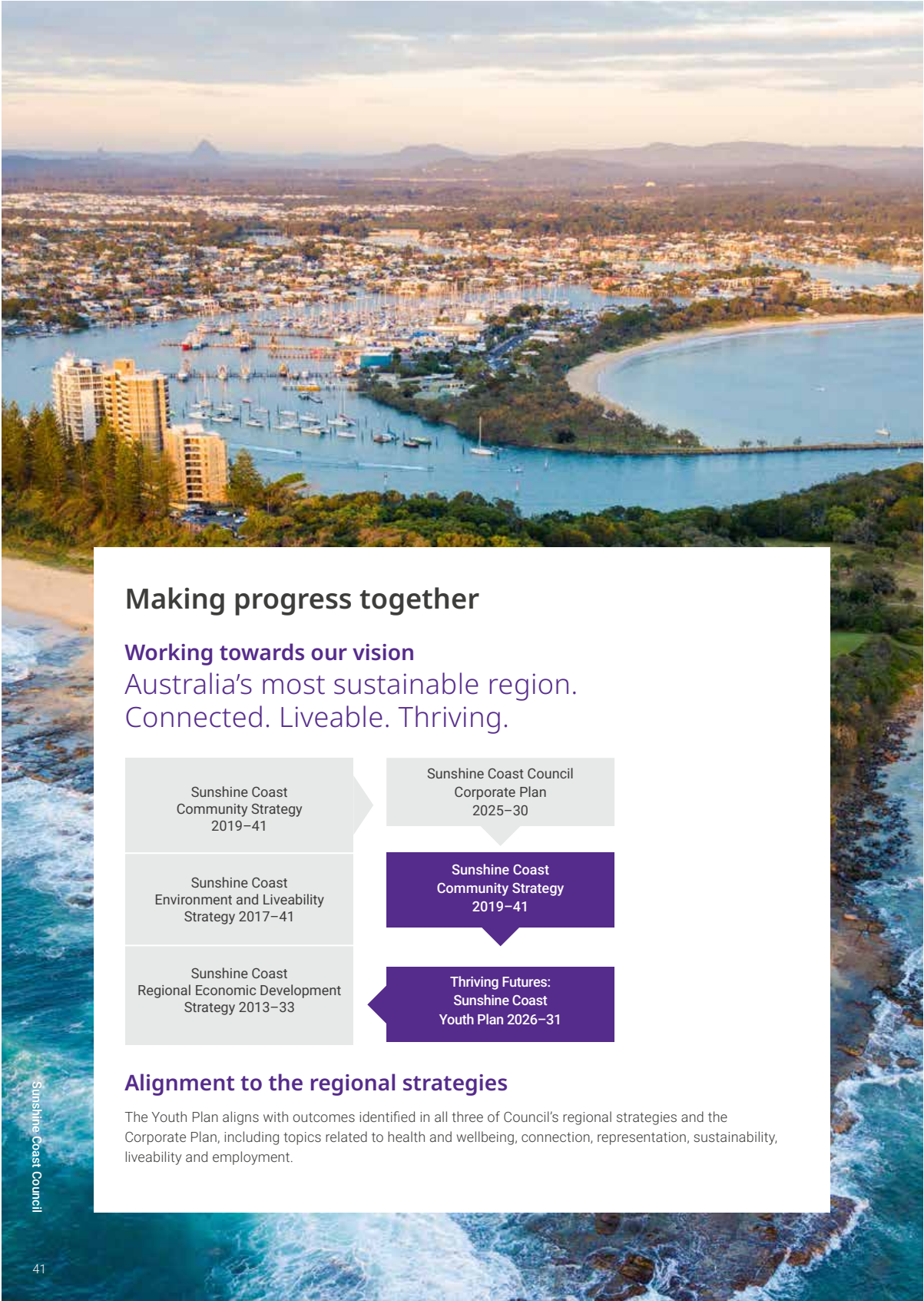
**SDG 11, 13 and 15** – Sustainable Cities and Communities; Climate Action; Life on Land

The environmental focus of the youth plan aligns with SDGs related to sustainable cities and communities (Goal 11), climate action (Goal 13), and life on land (Goal 15). It encourages young people to engage in conservation, advocate for sustainable development and participate in climate initiatives. The youth plan emphasises activities which encourage youth leadership and advocacy and young people being active participants in shaping a resilient and liveable future.

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

The youth plan promotes participatory governance and strong partnerships, aligning with SDGs on peace, justice and strong institutions (Goal 16) and partnerships for the goals (Goal 17). Through initiatives like the Young Leaders Academy and youth forums, the plan ensures that young people have meaningful opportunities to influence decisions. It also fosters collaboration between Council, community organisations and young people, strengthening civic engagement and participation.

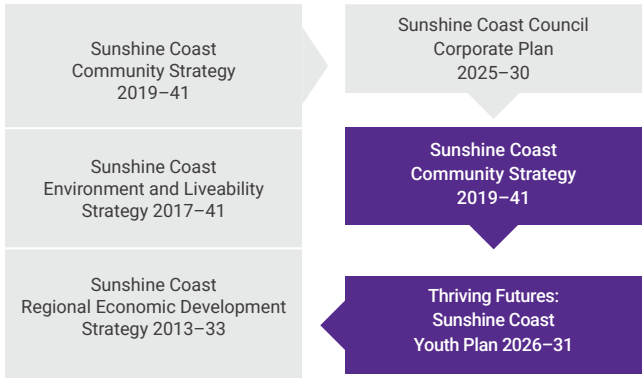




## Making progress together

### Working towards our vision

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



### Alignment to the regional strategies

The Youth Plan aligns with outcomes identified in all three of Council's regional strategies and the Corporate Plan, including topics related to health and wellbeing, connection, representation, sustainability, liveability and employment.

## Alignment to the corporate plan

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



### Strong Community

The Youth Plan is strongly aligned with aspirations related to connection, belonging, safety, mental health and inclusion. The actions outlined in the plan aim to grow stronger community connections and resilience, deliver more inclusive activities and spaces, and offer more ways for young people to participate in community life.



### Managing for Growth

Young people are focused on their financial future and the impact that housing and cost of living pressures may have on their ability to stay in the region. Actions in the plan aim to amplify the voices of young people to advocate for continued focus on managing growth, housing affordability and the liveability of our region for their future.



### Environment and Liveability

The Youth Plan aligns with Council's intent to protect natural assets while creating inclusive and liveable communities. The plan includes actions that have an emphasis on delivering more safe, inclusive places and spaces and youth-friendly activities, encouraging active transport and safe e-mobility options, and engaging young people in sustainability and conservation action.



### Organisational Excellence

The Youth Plan has a strong focus on continuing to consider the priorities of young people in Council processes, including through tracking emerging youth priorities and piloting a Youth Connectors program. Most actions in the plan are outcome-focused to enable flexible delivery methods, and reporting and review processes are outlined to emphasise a focus on evolving priorities. The plan emphasises delivery of actions through collaboration with multiple Council branches, stakeholders and community members.



### Resilient Economy

Council is focused on fostering a resilient Sunshine Coast economy and expanding employment in high-value industries. The plan includes an action to prioritise entry-level employment programs at Council to expand employment and skill-building opportunities for young people. More broadly, the plan emphasises actions that help to position the Sunshine Coast as a vibrant and attractive place to study and work, which will support future industry capacity.

### Other Council strategies and plans

Other relevant Council strategies and plans include:

- Active Transport Plan 2011-31
- All Abilities Action Plan 2024-28
- Community Engagement Policy and Excellence in Engagement Framework 2021
- Community Strategy 2019-41 (2024 Refresh)
- Creative Arts Plan 2023-38
- Environment and Liveability Strategy 2017-41 (2023 Refresh)
- Healthy Coast Management Plan 2025
- Heritage Plan 2021-31
- Housing and Homelessness Action Plan 2023
- Integrated Transport Strategy 2018
- Major Events Strategy 2018-28 (2023 Refresh)
- Recreation Parks Plan 2021-31
- Regional Economic Development Strategy 2013-33 (2023 Refresh)
- Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan 2025-28
- Sport and Active Recreation Plan 2011-26 (2024 Refresh)
- Working with Children and Young People Policy 2025

### State, national and international strategies

Other relevant state, national and international strategies and action plans include:

- Young Queenslanders Strategy 2024-26
- Australia's Youth Policy Framework
- United Nations Youth Strategy 2030
- Hangzhou Strategy and Action Plan for Biosphere Reserves 2026-35.



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Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve  
Lighting Management Plan 2026



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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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# 1.0 Introduction

## 1.1 Background

The Sunshine Coast is widely acknowledged as a highly desirable place to live, work and play. It has a strong reputation as a lifestyle region defined by its subtropical climate, picturesque coastline and beaches, extensive waterways and wetlands, and the hinterland mountain ranges. The natural environment and distinct landscapes are the foundations of the Sunshine Coast way of life.

Since first formed in 2008, Sunshine Coast Council (Council) has been working towards a vision of being Australia’s most sustainable region. Council recognises that the region’s valued natural assets underpin and enhance liveability for the community, and that living sustainably within the environment is key to achieving this corporate vision. This commitment has been reinforced through the adoption of Council’s Environment and Liveability Strategy, which is based on three key pillars as shown in Figure 1.

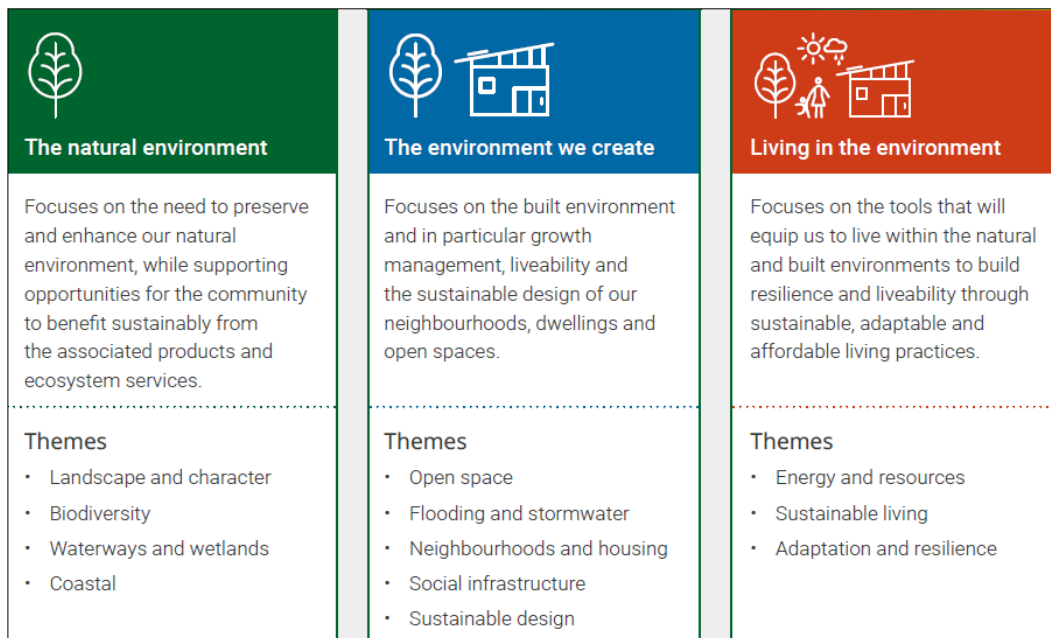


Figure 1: Sunshine Coast Environment and Liveability Strategy sections and themes.

To complement our region’s recognition in 2022 by UNESCO as an international site of excellence – the Sunshine Coast Biosphere, Council has been considering potential mechanisms to recognise the values associated with our night skies.

Our night sky is an important aspect of our valued Sunshine Coast landscape and character and the recognition, protection and celebration of dark skies forms part of our strategic directions to preserve our distinctive and diverse landscapes. A dark sky is the natural occurrence of the sky at night free from human-caused light pollution.

Light pollution is the excessive use of artificial light. The amount of light pollution on the Sunshine Coast could be expected to increase as our population increases across the next 20 years and beyond. Responding to such a challenge and planning for the management of our night skies (by reducing light pollution) can deliver many benefits to the community and our natural environment including health and wellbeing, emissions reduction and wildlife sensitive habitat outcomes.

Aligning with this philosophy, sustainable lighting practices have been at the heart of Council's public lighting framework since 2016. The adoption of the Urban Lighting Master Plan (ULMP) saw a shift away from traditional approaches to public lighting, with increased focus on the environmental implications of light at night.

Formalised accreditation of an International Dark Sky Reserve on the Sunshine Coast provides further long-term protection of the region's natural assets. Recognition as an International Dark Sky Reserve has a number of benefits to the Sunshine Coast region including:

- Reducing light pollution.
- Supporting our overall aspirations for a sustainable Sunshine Coast and enhancing our national and international recognition.
- Helping to preserve the hinterland landscape and character of the reserve area through protection of its dark sky environment.
- Supporting the health and wellbeing of Sunshine Coast residents and visitors.
- Promoting wildlife sensitive environments.
- Recognising community efforts being made to protect the night skies of the designated area.
- Enhancing both local and regional public education on the importance of dark sky environments and how community can contribute.
- Astronomical science opportunities.
- Attracting visitors to the area and bringing economic benefits to surrounding communities associated with astrotourism.

## 1.2 Purpose

This Lighting Management Plan (LMP) has been prepared to provide strategic direction, and shape the selection, placement, installation and operation of outdoor lighting for the Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve. The LMP has been developed in accordance with DarkSky International (DSI) guidelines for a Dark Sky Reserve designation to align with the objectives of the DSI International Dark Sky Places Program.

The implementation of the LMP is to be undertaken in conjunction with associated Council policies and planning tools for the following applications:

- **Council controlled outdoor lighting**

Provide direction for provisioning of new, and upgrade of existing Council-controlled outdoor lighting installations in public open spaces and other public outdoor lighting where appropriate within the Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve.

- **Outdoor lighting controlled by other key stakeholders**

Establish a common set of principles to guide light provisioning by other key stakeholders within the Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve including Energex, Department of Transport and Mains Roads (TMR), Queensland Rail (QR), Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Partnerships (QPWS&P) and the community.

- **New developments**

Provide direction for the application of good practice lighting principles for outdoor lighting associated with new developments within the Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve, to inform the Sunshine Coast Planning Scheme.

- **Community awareness**

Raise community awareness of the Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve and provide education as to how the community can support dark sky aspirations through the application of good practice outdoor lighting principles.

The principles and control measures established under the LMP are intended to shape the use of artificial light at night (ALAN) by prescribing when, where and how much is needed for a specific task.

While the Lighting Management Plan is specifically for the Dark Sky Reserve, it is encouraged that good practice outdoor lighting principles be adopted more broadly across the Sunshine Coast region to help reduce light pollution both within and beyond the Dark Sky Reserve.

Where deemed to be required, the LMP supports planning and decision making to ensure artificial lighting prioritises community safety while minimising the impact of such light on protected outdoor spaces, viewsheds and wildlife.

### 1.3 Policy and planning context

The directions outlined in this LMP have been informed and guided by applicable international, Commonwealth and state legislation, policies, standards and guidelines. The LMP has also been prepared in line with existing Council documents, policies, plans, strategies, and manuals. These key planning documents and policies are highlighted below in Figure 2 and show the relationship between each.

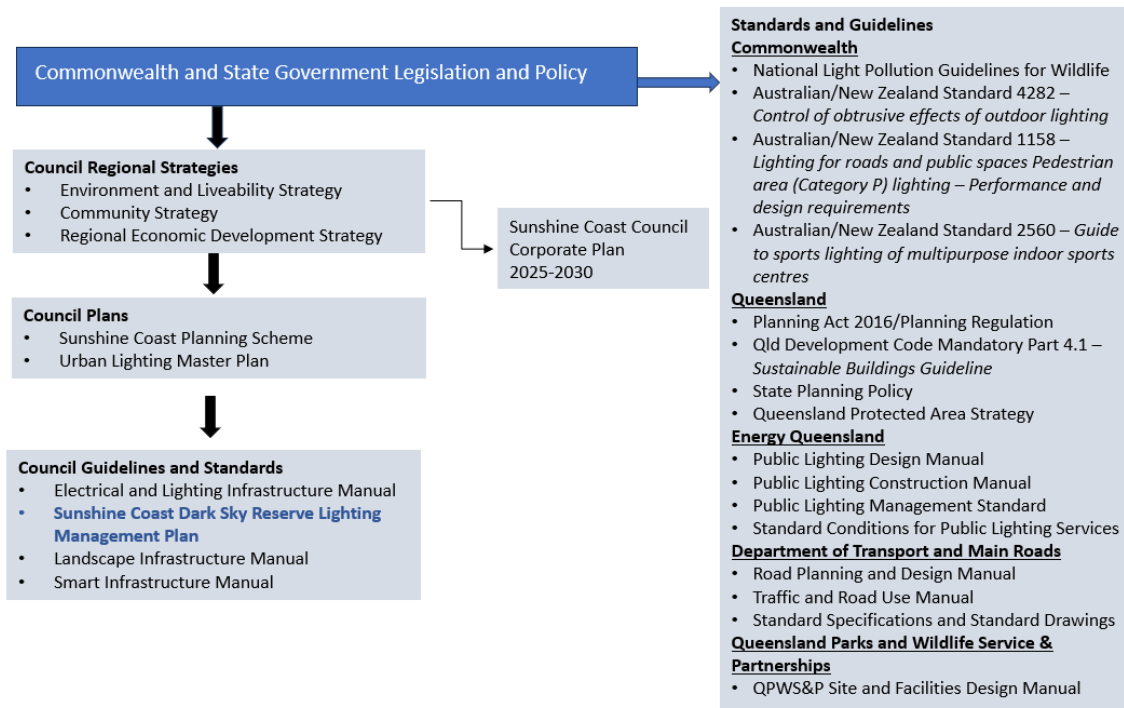


Figure 2: Planning context – lighting management.

### 1.4 Geographic context

The Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve is located in the western region of the local government area (LGA) in the vicinity of Obi Obi, Maleny, Conondale, Mapleton and Kenilworth (Figure 3). The area is approximately 873km<sup>2</sup> in size and is primarily bounded by the Mary River Catchment within the Sunshine Coast Local Government Area.

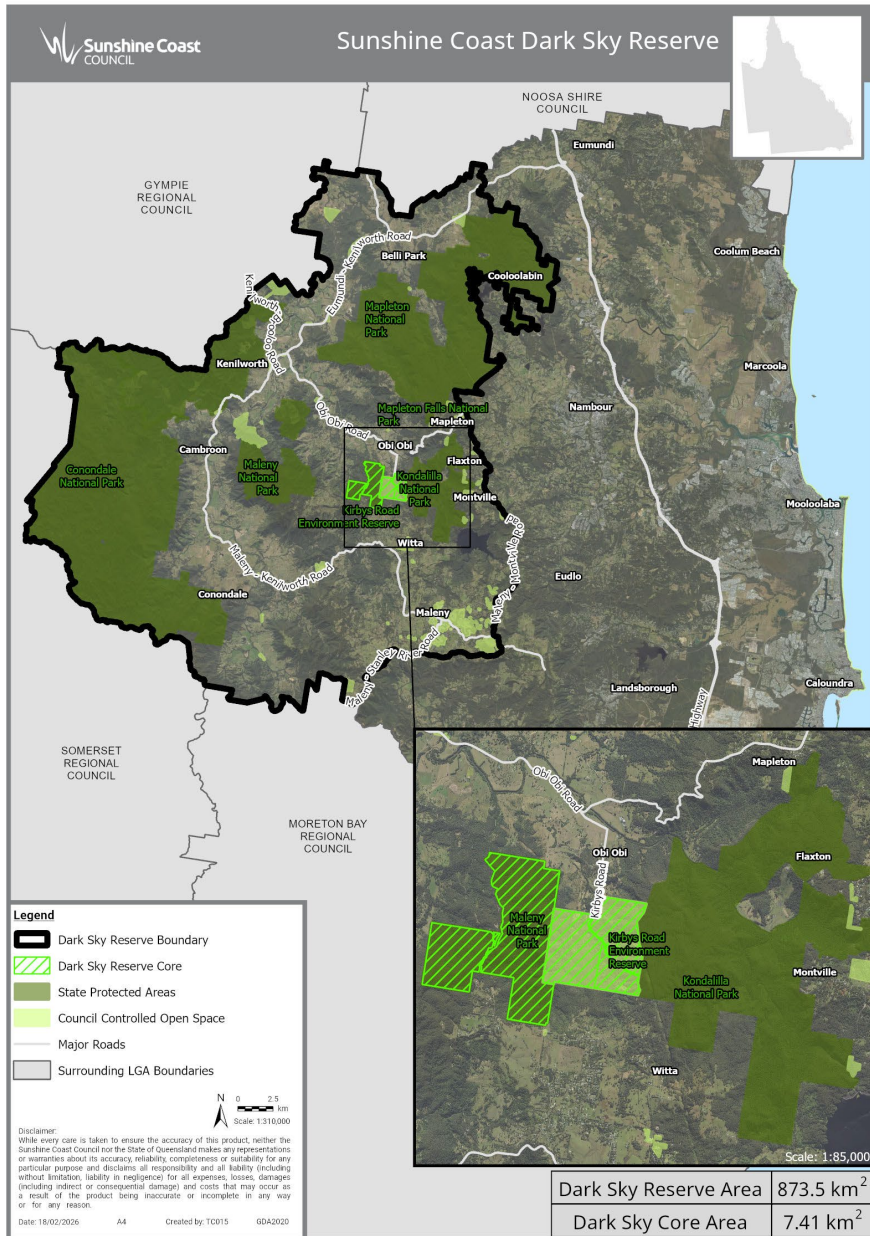


Figure 3: Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve area.

This Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve is characterised by the following features:

- Approximately 40% of the area is government land, with the majority being State Protected Areas.
- Comprises a population of approximately 13,000 residents which includes the townships of (but not limited to) Maleny, Mapleton, Montville, Witta, Flaxton and Conondale.
- Includes two functioning observatories:
  - The Mapleton Observatory, located at the Mapleton School and has been operating since 2002.
  - Maleny Observatory, designated as an observatory in 2021 by the Brisbane Astronomical Society.
- Includes active community groups such as the local chapter of the Brisbane Astronomical Society.

The Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve consists of two key areas as defined by Dark Sky International (DSI) program guidelines. These are summarised in Table 1.

Table 1: Geographic components of the Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve.

Area	Description				
<b>CORE</b>	Kirbys Road Environment Reserve and Maleny National Park (Lot 728 NPW787) is the core of the Dark Sky Reserve due to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pre-existing dark sky qualities</li> <li>• Protected in the conservation estate</li> <li>• Surrounded by National Parks and rural areas</li> <li>• Management and planning aligns to dark sky places program objectives i.e. sustainable nature-based activities.</li> </ul>				
	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 20%;"><b>Land area:</b></td> <td>Approximately 7.14km<sup>2</sup></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Land manager:</b></td> <td>Sunshine Coast Regional Council Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Partnerships</td> </tr> </table>	<b>Land area:</b>	Approximately 7.14km <sup>2</sup>	<b>Land manager:</b>	Sunshine Coast Regional Council Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Partnerships
	<b>Land area:</b>	Approximately 7.14km <sup>2</sup>			
<b>Land manager:</b>	Sunshine Coast Regional Council Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Partnerships				
<b>PERIPHERAL</b>	<p>The peripheral zone surrounds the core.</p> <p>The area follows the Mary River Catchment boundary within the western portion of the Sunshine Coast local government area with the addition of Mapleton National Park and Mapleton Forest Reserves in their entirety.</p> <p>The Mary River is one of the most environmentally and economically diverse catchments in Queensland (Sunshine Coast Biodiversity Report, 2024). Its headwaters are in the Conondale and Blackall Ranges (within the Sunshine Coast local government area) with flows heading north for hundreds of kilometres, influencing the coastal environment of Hervey Bay and ultimately the Coral Sea and Great Barrier Reef.</p> <p>Large areas of the catchment are protected natural areas and support several iconic threatened wildlife species. Within the Sunshine Coast, native vegetation covers 68% of the catchment area and contributes to approximately 65% of the local government area’s native vegetation.</p>				

Area	Description
	The peripheral zone encompasses a number of State Protected Areas including the Conondale, Mapleton, Maleny and Kondalilla National Parks. The area comprises small townships including (but not limited to) Maleny, Mapleton, Montville and Conondale.
	<b>Land area:</b> Approximately 870km <sup>2</sup>
	<b>Land manager:</b> Multiple interests
	<b>Key partners:</b> Energy Queensland (Energex)
	Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads
	Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Partnerships
	Sunshine Coast community

## 1.5 Application of the lighting management plan

### 1.5.1 Document structure and interpretation

The LMP is intended to provide both technical and non-technical support to guide the installation or upgrade of a variety of different possible outdoor lighting types within the Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve. The LMP has been developed in the following sections:

- Purpose:** Establishes the strategic context of the Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve and provides an overview of how the LMP is intended to be used to help protect the integrity of the night sky environment. This section also includes a summary of mandatory versus encouraged application of the LMP. Where an application is considered encouraged, the LMP is intended to be used for education purposes to encourage community participants to follow dark sky friendly practices wherever possible.
- General requirements:** Highlights the fundamental principles that must be considered for all artificial lighting installations within the Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve in order to fulfil the objectives of the LMP.
- Lighting performance criteria:** Provides specific guidance to be applied where necessary to various lighting installations in order to meet the fundamental principles established in Section 2.
- Operational requirements:** Outlines additional operational control measures to be applied where necessary to the Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve.
- Glossary of terms:** Provides a summary of key terms used throughout the LMP.

### 1.5.2 Lighting typology

Within the Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve, there is expected to be a number of different outdoor lighting types, dependent on the location and function of the outdoor space. These lighting installations may be applicable to public areas as well as privately owned and operated businesses and residences. Lighting typologies in the context of their application to Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve areas are summarised in Table 2.

Table 2: Expected lighting typology and relevance to Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve areas.

Lighting Type	CORE	PERIPHERAL
Street lighting (including pedestrian crossings)	X	✓
Pathway lighting	✓	✓
Public activity area lighting	X	✓
Carpark lighting	✓	✓
Sports field lighting	X	✓
Building mounted security / flood lighting	✓	✓
Decorative / feature lighting	X	✓

### 1.6 Partnering for dark skies

Achieving dark skies in our Dark Sky Reserve requires strong partnerships and collaboration to ensure the successful delivery of the LMP. Sunshine Coast Regional Council (Council) is the local government authority which governs the Sunshine Coast local government area and the location of the Dark Sky Reserve. Council manages and maintains a number of public lighting assets across the region including street lighting, public open space lighting, sport field lighting, pathway lighting etc.

There are a number of other stakeholders, such as Queensland Government Departments, and community (residents, businesses etc), who install, manage and maintain public and private outdoor lighting in the Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve area. These include:

- Energy Queensland – Energex**

Energy Queensland is a government-owned electricity company who service customers and communities through their distribution businesses such as Energex. Energex provides energy services to Queenslanders and manages and owns many of the region’s street lights.
- Department of Transport and Main Roads**

The Department of Transport and Main Roads (DTMR) plan, manage and deliver Queensland transport environment including road, rails, air and sea, DTMR own lighting assets on controlled roads and bikeways.
- Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Partnerships**

Queensland Parks and Wildlife Services and Partnerships (QPWS&P) is a division of the Department of Environment Tourism, Science and Innovation (DETSI) in the Queensland Government. QPWS&P manage and maintain State Protected Areas within Queensland including National Parks, State Forests etc. A large portion of the Dark Sky Reserve area is State Protected Areas and some areas include carparking, picnic areas, camping areas, amenities etc. QPWS&P are committed to implementing the LMP within its parks and forests across the Dark

Sky Reserve area and are land manager of Maleny National Park (Lot 728 NPW787) located within the core.

- **Community**

Sunshine Coast community is a key partner of the LMP. There is a population of approximately 13,000 residents within the area including townships of (but not limited to) Maleny, Mapleton, Witta, Flaxton and Conondale.

In Australia, the Commonwealth Government has the highest authority and sets broad national laws and standards. Below that, the Queensland State Government has more power than local councils and controls state legislation, policies, and standards. Energy Queensland Ltd is owned by the Queensland State Government and is the parent company of Energex, which operates the electricity distribution network in South East Queensland, including the Sunshine Coast. Councils and state departments work with Energex to install, maintain, and upgrade lights in line with Commonwealth and State requirements.

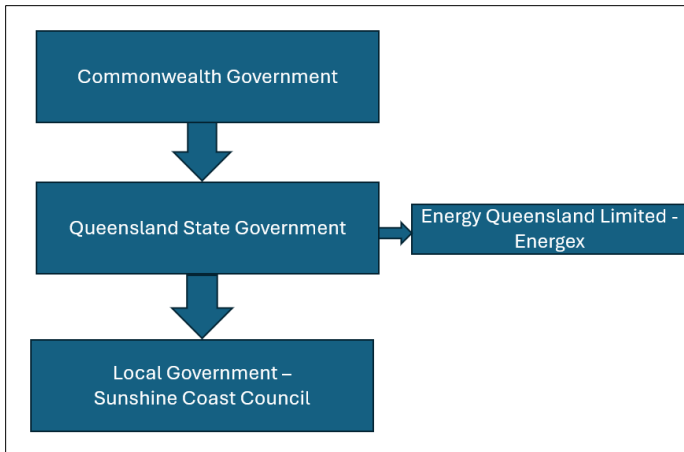


Figure 4: Australian context of authority

As outlined on page 6 of the Dark Sky Reserve Guidelines, lighting required by law under the authority of any entity having higher legal jurisdiction over either the core or peripheral zones may be formally exempted from the requirements of this section. From a Sunshine Coast context, if Commonwealth Government or Queensland Government requires specific lighting, Council's own standards are exempt to comply with that higher obligation.

The implementation of the Dark Sky Reserve aims to strengthen existing partnerships and foster new collaborations, supporting the sustained collective effort required to reduce light pollution and to recognise, protect, and celebrate the region's dark skies.

### 1.7 Lighting management plan application

The LMP is intended to be applied in conjunction with other Council guidelines and specifications, notably the Urban Lighting Master Plan (ULMP) and Electrical and Lighting Infrastructure Manual (ELIM). These two associated guidelines apply to the whole of the Sunshine Coast Local Government Area, while the LMP has been developed for application specifically within the Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve. The lighting requirements established in the LMP have been

developed to complement or exceed whole-of-region expectations as clarified in the ULMP and ELIM.

The LMP is intended to be applied through the following mechanisms:

- **Mandatory application:**

Mandatory application relates to how Council can lead and improve new or upgraded outdoor lighting in the Reserve through management of its own network and planning provisions.

- **Council owned and operated outdoor lighting:** All new or upgraded outdoor lighting provided within the Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve that is owned and operated by Council must comply with the LMP. This generally includes street and roadway lighting, lighting in parks and gardens spaces (including public pathways), Council controlled sports lighting, lighting associated with Council buildings and facilities, etc.
- **New development:** The requirements of the LMP will inform new outdoor lighting provisions in the Sunshine Coast Planning Scheme which would apply to all new assessable development as directed through development conditions, as well as some new accepted development. Existing development would not be affected.

- **Encouraged application:**

- **Existing private development:** While the application of provisions of the LMP are not mandatory to existing lawful private development, principles established in the LMP (refer to Section 2.1) are strongly encouraged for all new or upgraded lighting installations.
- **Energex unmetered public lighting:** Lighting infrastructure provisioned under Rate 1, Rate 2 and Rate 4 tariff arrangements are governed by Energex standard requirements and equipment selections. While the requirements of the LMP are not directly enforceable to these installations, Council's ELIM recognises the collaborative approach with Energex and potential opportunities to further contribute to dark skies.
- **Other public body (non-Council) unmetered public lighting:** Other public bodies such as the Department of Transport and Main Roads or Queensland Rail may control lighting installations under a Rate 3\* tariff arrangement in spaces such as state-controlled roads or rail precincts. Lighting within these areas is governed by the standards and requirements of the relevant public body and are not enforceable under this LMP. It is strongly encouraged that equipment selections and installation factors take guidance from this LMP.

The LMP does not apply to the following installation types:

- Lighting installations required temporarily for the safe performance of nighttime tasks (such as construction works). Refer to Section 4.2 for additional considerations.
- Outdoor lighting controlled with motion-activated switches limiting the duration of illumination to less than five (5) minutes after activation.

\* Rate 3 - Unmetered public lighting supplied, installed, owned and maintained by the public body.

## 2.0 General requirements

### 2.1 Fundamental principles

The technical parameters established under this LMP are derived to satisfy overarching responsible lighting principles established by DSI. These principles are summarised in Table 3.

Table 3: Responsible lighting principles (Source: *DarkSky International*).

Principle	Description and Application
<p><b>Useful</b>  <i>All light should have a clear purpose</i></p>	<p>Outdoor lighting should only be provided to fulfill a defined purpose, enhancing the safety, usability or amenity of a night-time space. Prior to installation or replacement of any lighting within the Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve, consideration must be given to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Whether the light is required and what purpose it will fulfill.</li> <li>• How the light may impact the surrounding area including neighbouring properties, wildlife and the environment.</li> <li>• Whether there are alternatives to permanently installed lighting that may fulfill the same purpose (such as reflective paints or self-luminous markers).</li> </ul>
<p><b>Targeted</b>  <i>Light should be directed only to where it's needed</i></p>	<p>Where fixed lighting is deemed to be required, it must be directed in such a way as to fulfill its intended purpose without causing unnecessary spill or other obtrusive effects to surrounding areas. The following strategies should be utilised to ensure any lighting installed within the Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve is appropriately targeted to fulfill its intended function:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Application of appropriate standards such as <i>AS/NZS 4282 - Control of the obtrusive effects of outdoor lighting</i>.</li> <li>• Undertaking design activities by qualified lighting professionals/RPEQ-Electrical engineers.</li> <li>• Use of appropriate luminaire distribution profiles.</li> <li>• Use of shielding (factory-fitted to the luminaire, or external built elements).</li> </ul> <p><b>Refer to Sections 3.2 and 3.3</b></p>
<p><b>Low Light Levels</b>  <i>Illumination should be no higher than necessary</i></p>	<p>In conjunction with control strategies, when planning for a lighting installation within the Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve, ensure operational factors are carefully considered and well understood to ensure lighting levels adopted are appropriate for the task and any associated risk factors. Within the Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve, the lowest light levels are recommended. Consideration should also be given to surface conditions, as some surfaces may reflect more light into the night sky than was intended.</p> <p><b>Refer to Section 3.4</b></p>

Principle	Description and Application
<b>Controlled</b> <i>Light should be used only when it is useful</i>	Lighting installations must utilise controls such as timers or motion sensors to ensure that light is available when it is needed, dimmed when possible, and switched off when not needed. <b>Refer to Section 3.5</b>
<b>Colour</b> <i>Use warmer-colour lights where possible</i>	Lighting installations within the Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve must limit the amount of shorter wavelength light to the least amount needed. "Short wavelength" is generally regarded as blue and violet light whose wavelengths are below 500 nanometres (nm). <b>Refer to Section 3.6</b>

## 2.2 Design advice

While the LMP is intended to provide standalone guidance for general application to all types of outdoor lighting installations within the Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve, it is recommended that design services or advice be sought when provisioning or upgrading outdoor lighting. Design and documentation services are required for all Council owned / operated lighting installations and as required through planning scheme provisions (refer to Council’s ELIM standard for further guidance). Minimum qualifications for design advice are typically defined as:

- RPEQ Electrical Engineer, or
- Member of Illuminating Engineering Society (MIES).

## 2.3 Obtrusive lighting compliance considerations

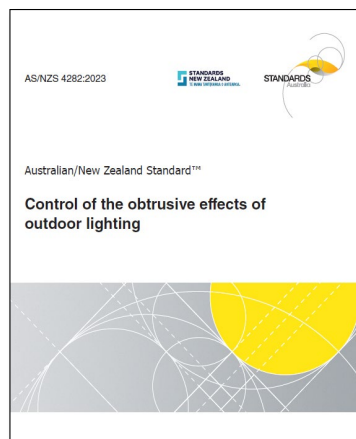
The LMP is intended to work in conjunction with broader compliance requirements and recommendations outlined in AS/NZS 4282. AS/NZS 4282 outlines the process for assessment of the impacts of obtrusive effects of outdoor lighting. Compliance with AS/NZS 4282 is mandatory for all Council-controlled public outdoor lighting installations as established in Council’s ELIM standard. Compliance for private installations assessable under the Planning Scheme will be mandated through development conditions (to suit the nature of the development). Compliance is encouraged for all private lighting installations located within the Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve whether or not the planning scheme applies.

The following points provide guidance for the application of AS/NZS 4282 within the Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve:

- **Environmental zones:** With reference to AS/NZS 4282 Table 3.1, the following environmental zones should be applied within the Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve:
  - Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve core: Zone A0 – Intrinsically Dark
  - Town centres within Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve peripheral: Zone A3 – Medium district brightness
  - Suburban areas within Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve peripheral: Zone A2 – Low district brightness

- All other areas within Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve peripheral: Zone A1 - Dark
- **Public lighting zones:** Selected in accordance with AS/NZS 4282 Table 4.1 and Council's ELIM standard.
- **Curfew:** Unless otherwise established through formalised development conditions, the curfew within the Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve should be interpreted as between the hours of 11:00PM and 6:00AM.

AS/NZS 4282 assessment results and certification must be provided as part of design submissions. This must include a summary of relevant assessment parameters utilised.



## 3.0 Lighting performance criteria

### 3.1 General

The following subsections contain specific guidance and performance criteria that should be achieved for all lighting installations located within the Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve as identified under 'Mandatory application'. As introduced in Section 2.0, prior to installation of lighting elements consideration must be given to justifying the overarching need for lighting in the first instance. The guidance contained within the following subsections assumes that this need has been justified and the required extent of lighting has been confirmed.

Note that whilst this guidance applies across both core and peripheral zones, Core requirements may be more stringent than that required in the peripheral. This will be quantified where applicable.

### 3.2 Shielding

Shielding of light sources is a key mechanism to protect the integrity of the night sky environment. Shielding helps to fulfill two of the fundamental principles of good practice lighting introduced in Section 2.2; ensuring lighting *targeted* towards a specific area and is therefore *useful* in fulfilling its intended purpose.

Shielding within the Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve is considered in two layers:

- All outdoor lighting fixtures emitting greater than 500 initial lumens must be fully shielded.
- Shielding of incidental light emissions from indoor spaces: To the greatest possible extent, light emissions from indoor spaces into the outdoor environment must be limited through consideration of the following:
  - The use of appropriate building materials, reducing transparency and translucency where possible.
  - The use of window coverings such as curtains, blinds or shutters. This should extend to considerations for minimising artificial light transmission through skylights.
  - The installation of physical barriers such as walls or screens.
  - Appropriate control strategies such as timers or occupancy sensors.
  - Other measures as deemed appropriate.

Fully shielded outdoor luminaires permit zero upward waste light (or light beyond the 90° plane tangential to the light source) as highlighted by the reference image in Figure 5.

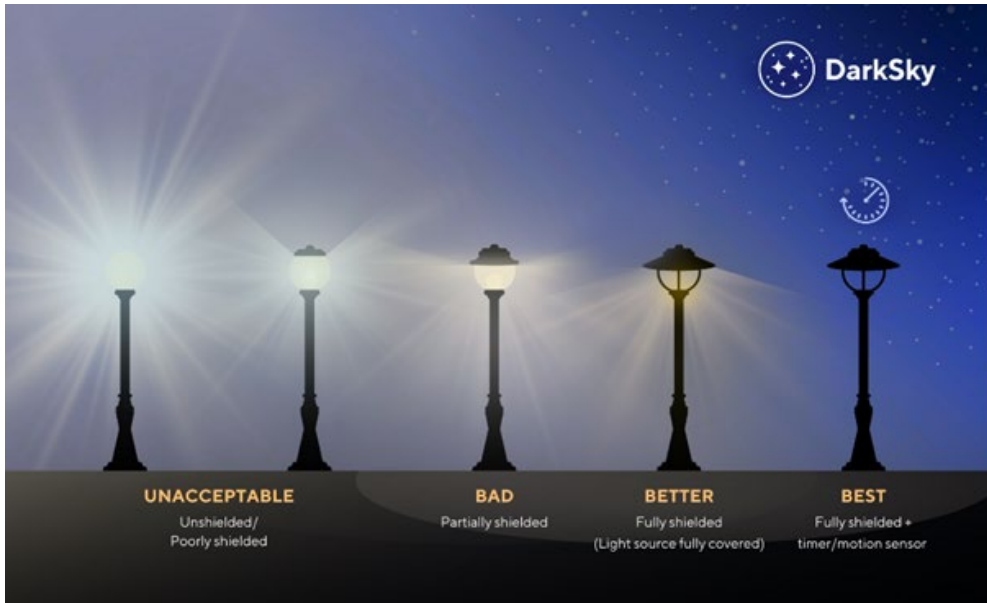


Figure 5: Shielding concepts – reference images (Source: DarkSky International)

Shielding requirements are typically satisfied through the selection of appropriate luminaires that have been manufactured to prevent upward waste light. Examples of these are shown in Figure 6.

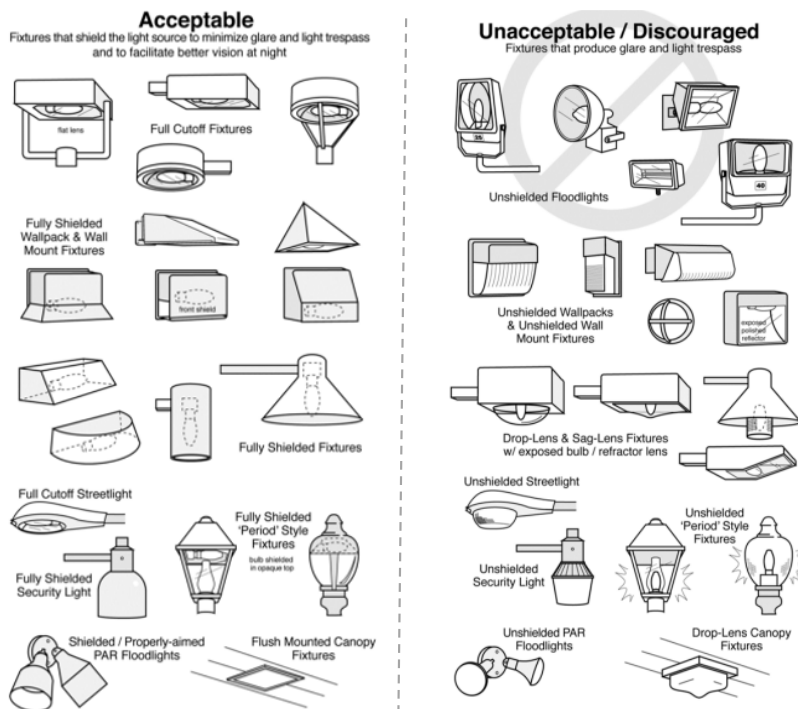


Figure 6: Acceptable/Unacceptable lighting fixtures in relation to glare and light trespass. Source: DarkSky International.

To simplify the selection process for luminaires to be installed within the Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve, it is strongly encouraged that selections be made from either one of the following approved product listings:

- DarkSky International – Dark Sky Approved product program.  
<https://darksky.org/what-we-do/darksky-approved/products-companies/>
- Australasian Dark Sky Association (ADSA) – Approved Light Fitting program  
<https://www.australasiandarkskyalliance.org/certified-luminaires>

Where luminaires to be installed within the Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve are not chosen from these certification programs, there should be sufficient technical data to demonstrate compliance with the requirements of this LMP.

In conjunction with shielding properties of the luminaire itself, consideration may also be given to the fitting of shielding elements or installation of the luminaire in a location that provides the same limitations for light emissions above 90°. This may include one or more of the following strategies:

- Internal shields or baffles, including clip on components that may be provided as an option or accessory from the luminaire manufacturer to assist with minimisation of obtrusive light.
- External shields custom fitted to the luminaire body (note – this may impact on product warranties and should be confirmed with the luminaire supplier prior to fitment).
- Recessed installation in lieu of wall-mounted lighting.
- The use of vertical screening elements or the like to remove upward waste light components.

### 3.3 Light distribution

Distribution and directionality of light is an important factor to consider in conjunction with shielding. Appropriate consideration of light distribution ensures that lighting is *targeted* to fulfill its intended purpose whilst minimising spill light into surrounding areas (as highlighted by Figure 7).

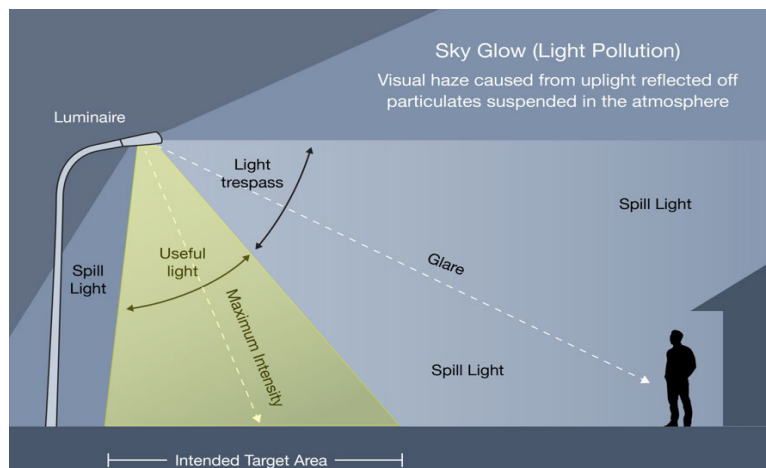


Figure 7: Targeted light distribution. Adapted from: Evluma: <https://evluma.com/dark-sky-friendly-lighting/>

Similar to shielding concepts outlined in Section 3.3, targeted distributions can typically be achieved through careful selection of luminaire products with distribution profiles to suit the required extent of illumination.

Targeted distribution can also be achieved through aiming of adjustable luminaires. However great care must be taken if utilising adjustable luminaires to ensure that:

- Upward waste light requirements are not compromised.
- Aiming does not create issues with direct glare.

### 3.4 Lighting levels

In order to protect the integrity of the night sky environment and fulfill the overarching requirements of classification as a Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve, lighting levels within the Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve must be carefully considered. “Appropriate” illuminance within the Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve would be defined as the minimum illuminance required to fulfill the intended lighting purpose, taking into consideration the relevant operational and risk profile of the area to be illuminated.

The guidance presented in Table 4 should be adopted to suit the nature of the proposed lighting installation, where relevant in the core or peripheral zone.

Table 4: Guidance for selection of appropriate lighting levels.

Installation Type	Lighting Level Guidance
Street / roadway lighting	<p><u>Standard:</u> To AS/NZS 1158.1.1 (Category V) or AS/NZS 1158.3.1 (Category PR)</p> <p>Street lighting levels should comply with AS/NZS 1158 based on the sub-category of the roadway (as nominated by the appropriate Road Controlling Authority) to suit operational characteristics. However, consideration must be given to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Selection of the lowest possible lighting sub-category that meets the minimum operational requirements of the roadway.</li> <li>• Options for dual classification of roadways, with control strategies to switch/dim to lower levels during low usage times. Refer to Section 3.6 for additional information regarding lighting control options.</li> <li>• The use of luminaires with the lowest possible output that meet the compliance requirements of the standard.</li> </ul>

Installation Type	Lighting Level Guidance
Pedestrian crossing lighting	<p><u>Standard:</u> To AS/NZS 1158.4 (Category PX)</p> <p>While pedestrian crossing lighting categories should be chosen in accordance with the guidance in AS/NZS 1158.4, consideration should be given to limiting sub-category classification to PX2 wherever possible. Assessment should take into account broader road safety risk mitigation factors such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Raised crossings to limit vehicle speeds.</li> <li>● Reflective line markings or other visual indicators to enhance crossing visibility.</li> <li>● Limited approach lighting to enhance awareness and visibility.</li> </ul>
Pathway lighting	<p><u>Standard:</u> To AS/NZS 1158.3.1 (Category PP)</p> <p>Pathway lighting levels should comply with AS/NZS 1158.3.1 based on the sub-category of the pathway (as nominated by the appropriate Controlling Authority) to suit operational characteristics. However, consideration must be given to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Selection of the lowest possible lighting sub-category that meets the minimum operational requirements of the pathway.</li> <li>● Options for dual classification of pathways, with control strategies to switch/dim to lower levels during low usage times. Refer to Section 3.6 for additional information regarding lighting control options.</li> <li>● The use of luminaires with the lowest possible output and restrictive glare controls at specific angles that meet the compliance requirements of the standard.</li> <li>● Relaxation of AS/NZS 1158.3.1 compliance requirements such as vertical illuminance and/or surround zone illuminance to suit the risk assessed operational profile of the installation and maintain lower lighting levels with less spill light.</li> </ul>
Public activity area lighting	<p><u>Standard:</u> To AS/NZS 1158.3.1 (Category PA)</p> <p>Lighting of public activity areas is not recommended within the Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve. Where lighting is being considered for a public activity area, it is recommended that risk assessment be undertaken to determine the application and extent of lighting required to suit intended operational and/or safety considerations. If absolutely required, consideration should be given to relaxation of vertical illuminance requirements to minimise overall lighting levels within the area.</p>

Installation Type	Lighting Level Guidance
Carpark lighting	<p><u>Standard:</u> To AS/NZS 1158.3.1 (Category PC)</p> <p>Carpark lighting levels should comply with AS/NZS 1158.3.1 based on the sub-category of the carpark. Sub-categories should be adopted to suit the operational characteristics of the carpark. However, consideration must be given to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Selection of the lowest possible lighting sub-category that meets the minimum operational requirements of the carpark.</li> <li>• Options for dual classification of carparks, with control strategies to switch/dim to lower levels during low usage times. Refer to Section 3.6 for additional information regarding lighting control options.</li> <li>• The use of luminaires with the lowest possible output that meet the compliance requirements of the standard.</li> <li>• Relaxation of AS/NZS 1158.3.1 compliance requirements such as vertical illuminance and reduction or omission of higher compliance levels for disability parking spaces and pedestrian walkways (where justified).</li> </ul>
Sports field lighting	<p><u>Standard:</u> To AS 2560 and relevant sporting body guidelines</p> <p>Lighting levels for sports fields should be considered based on the anticipated level of play as outlined in AS 2560.2 (including any relevant sporting body requirements). In addition to standard guidelines, all sports lighting installations within the Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve should include the following considerations with regards to lighting levels:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The installation should include control mechanisms to facilitate dimming and/or switching of lighting elements to achieve lower levels to suit the on-site operational intent. Refer to Section 3.6 for additional information regarding lighting control options.</li> <li>• The average illuminance on the field of play should be no more than 10% above the average target illuminance levels defined by AS 2560.2 or the sporting body.</li> <li>• No High Intensity Discharge (HID) luminaires are to be utilised. All sports lighting to be Solid-State Lighting (SSL) installed with zero-degree tilt (or as close as practicable).</li> </ul>
Building mounted lighting	<p>Building mounted lighting could be installed for a number of reasons and (where deemed required) must take into account the following considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Operational/task lighting: Lighting levels adopted should reflect the nature of the required task and be located directly over the area of operation.</li> <li>• Security lighting: ensure security lighting is considered in conjunction with other security measures (that may facilitate a reduction in lighting levels) based on a formalised security risk assessment.</li> </ul> <p>Additional guidance is provided in Section 3.7 with regards to illuminated signage and façade lighting.</p>

Installation Type	Lighting Level Guidance
Decorative / feature lighting	<p>Where deemed to be required, decorative lighting elements should be used sparingly, with low light levels adopted to compliment surrounding features. Lighting intensity should provide suitable visibility only from the intended viewing angle and distance.</p> <p>The use of uplighting is discouraged. Colour temperature of decorative lighting elements should be 3000K or lower. RGBW (colour changing) lighting should minimise the use of the blue spectrum.</p>

### 3.5 Lighting controls

Lighting control strategies will vary depending on the nature of the lighting installation. All lighting installed within the Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve must utilise an appropriate control strategy to ensure lighting is used only when required and is not inadvertently left on overnight when not needed to fulfill its purpose.

The guidance presented in Table 5 should be adopted to suit the nature of the proposed lighting installation, where relevant in the core or peripheral zone.

Table 5: Guidance for selection of appropriate lighting controls.

Installation Type	Lighting Control Guidance
Street / roadway lighting	<b>Council controlled:</b> Switching and dimming control via Council Central Management System. Refer to Council’s ELIM standards for specific requirements.
Pedestrian crossing lighting	<b>Council controlled:</b> Switching and dimming control via Council Central Management System. Refer to Council’s ELIM standards for specific requirements.
Pathway lighting	<p><b>Council controlled:</b> Switching and dimming control via Council Central Management System. Refer to Council’s ELIM standards for specific requirements.</p> <p><b>Private installation:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recommended: PE cell and presence detection to facilitate occupancy-based switching and/or dimming modes when in use.</li> <li>• Minimum required: PE cell and time clock to facilitate scheduled switching.</li> </ul>
Public activity area lighting	<b>Council controlled:</b> Switching and dimming control via Council Central Management System or equivalent communication protocol. Refer to Council’s ELIM standards for specific requirements.

Installation Type	Lighting Control Guidance
Carpark lighting	<p><b>Council controlled:</b> Switching and dimming control via Council CMS. Refer to Council’s ELIM standards for specific requirements.</p> <p><b>Private installation:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Recommended: PE cell and presence detection to facilitate occupancy-based switching and/or dimming modes.</li> <li>● Minimum required: PE cell and time clock to facilitate scheduled switching.</li> </ul>
Sports field lighting	<p>Sports field lighting controls must comply with the following requirements (as outlined in <i>DSI Outdoor Sports Lighting Guidelines</i>):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <u>Automatic Controls</u>: Automatic control system with remote control capability via smartphone apps or direct remote communication (eg. SMS messaging) is required to enforce shut-off at the pre-defined curfew time.</li> <li>2. <u>Manual Controls</u>: The automatic control system may include onsite manual and/or remote-control capability to allow for the lights to be turned on or off at will (between dusk and curfew) to ensure that only active sports fields are lit. Manual controls should be accessible to authorized personnel only.</li> <li>3. <u>Dimming Controls</u>: The control system should include automatic and manual dimming capability to implement uniform and variable illumination levels to adapt to different on-field applications (such as level of play to AS 2560). Dimming for the different uses should be programmed as presets for each of the uses.</li> <li>4. <u>Separate Control Zones</u>: Lighting controls are required to separate fields of play into different zones to ensure only fields / playing areas in operation are utilised. Field lighting should be controlled separately from other site lighting elements such as carparks, pathways etc.</li> </ol>
Building mounted lighting	<p>Recommended: PE cell and presence detection to facilitate occupancy-based switching and/or dimming modes.</p> <p>Minimum required: PE cell and time clock to facilitate time-scheduled switching.</p>
Decorative / feature lighting	<p>Recommended: Dimmable control system or equivalent communication protocol to facilitate adjustment of lighting levels to achieve minimum requirements for decorative purpose.</p> <p>Minimum required: PE cell and time clock to facilitate time-scheduled switching.</p>

### 3.6 Spectral composition

Lighting to be installed within the Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve must be chosen to minimise the amount of short-wavelength light emitted into the nighttime environment. To achieve this, all

lighting should comply with one or more of the following requirements (note: these metrics can be sourced from manufacturer data sheets for lighting products):

1. The correlated colour temperature (CCT) of the light source must not exceed 3000K.

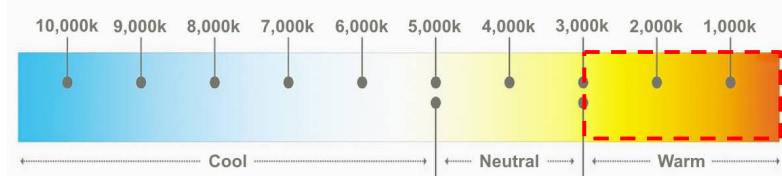
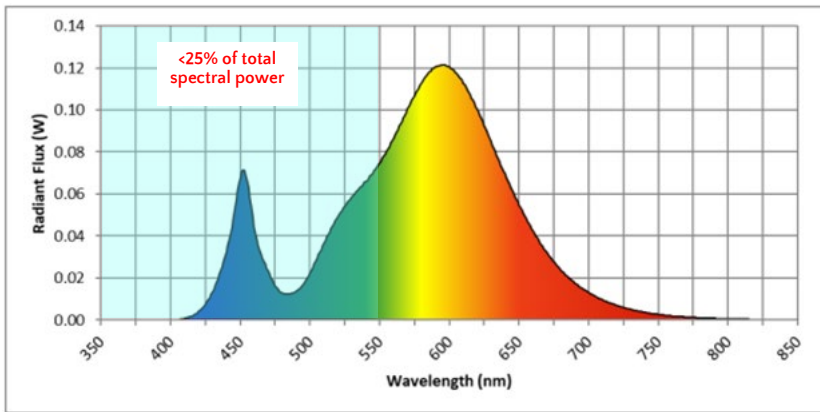


Figure 8: CCT scale.

2. Lighting must not emit more than 25% of its total spectral power at wavelengths shorter than 550nm



3. The scotopic-to-photopic (S/P) ratio of lighting must not exceed 1.3.

### 3.7 Lit surfaces and signage

Lit surfaces are defined as surfaces that may produce obtrusive light either by emitted or reflected light. Examples include internally and externally illuminated signage, façade lighting and other objects such as flag poles. Lit surfaces could also include ground surfaces, walls and/or other general structures located directly adjacent a permanent lighting installation. While there are no specific performance targets for reflectances from incidental surfaces, consideration should be given to the use of darker, less reflective surface finishes to minimise the adverse effects of reflected light.

Sign illumination is permitted only while the associated activity is taking place or sign illumination is switched off from one hour after sunset and one hour before sunrise and minimises sky glow and light spill. For existing business signage within the Reserve, extinguishing sign illumination outside the hours the business is strongly encouraged. Lit surfaces used for illuminated signage within the Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve must comply with the following requirements:

- Sunshine Coast Planning Scheme - Advertising Devices Code and relevant local plan, as applicable
- AS/NZS 4282 Section 3.3.3
- The maximum average luminance of a lit surface must not exceed 100 nits (100 cd/m<sup>2</sup>). Note: lower values are required for AS/NZS 4282 Zones A0 and A1 as defined in AS/NZS 4282 Table 3.4.
- Displays must be single-color on a black background.
- The luminous/illuminated surface area of an individual sign must not exceed 18.6m<sup>2</sup>.

## 4.0 Operational requirements

### 4.1 Visitor activities

**The following requirements must be observed by all persons visiting the Dark Sky Reserve core:**

#### **Kirbys Road Environment Reserve**

- A permit must be obtained for vehicle access overnight to the core.
- As a condition of the permit any lighting brought into the core is to be minimal and only used where necessary to prioritise preservation of natural darkness and minimise disruption to wildlife.
- Lighting of vehicle exteriors, and other personal property of visitors is minimised to ensure natural darkness and character of the environment reserve is maintained and to avoid any potential nuisance for other visitors.
- Appropriate illumination for visitor safety is acceptable - use of low wattage, amber colour lights is recommended (i.e. red-filtered flashlights).
- Subject to permit conditions campfires must be extinguished no later than the curfew of 10pm.
- Inappropriate "light painting," the use of searchlights, and similar activities is prohibited in the core.
- Lighting required in emergency situations is exempt from compliance.

Night-time access is not permitted at Maleny National Park (Lot 728 NPW787).

### 4.2 Temporary lighting installations

Temporary lighting for night-time tasks is permitted in the core however must be limited and controlled to reduce light pollution by adhering to the Lighting Management Plan as far as practical.

All temporary lighting within the core is to be removed as soon as nighttime task is completed.

## Glossary of terms

Table 6: Key terms.

Term	Description
AS 2560	<i>Sports lighting</i> Australian standard providing requirements for sports lighting applications.
AS/NZS 1158.1	<i>Lighting for roads and public spaces Vehicular traffic (Category V) lighting</i> Australian standard providing requirements for lighting of arterial road types where the requirement of the motorist is dominant.
AS/NZS 1158.3.1	<i>Lighting for roads and public spaces Pedestrian area (Category P) lighting</i> Australian standard providing requirements for lighting of local road types and other outdoor spaces where the requirement of the pedestrian is dominant.
AS/NZS 1158.4	<i>Lighting for roads and public spaces Lighting of pedestrian crossings</i> Australian standard providing requirements for lighting of pedestrian crossings.
AS/NZS 4282	<i>Control of the obtrusive effects of outdoor lighting</i> Australian standard outlining guidelines for minimising obtrusive light for exterior lighting installations.
Dark Sky Reserve peripheral	The peripheral zone is the remaining area within the Dark Sky Reserve boundary which surrounds the core zone.
Dark Sky Reserve core	The core zone of the Dark Sky Reserve is Kirbys Road Environment Reserve and Maleny National Park (Lot 728 NPW787).
Correlated Colour Temperature (CCT)	A measure of the "colour" of a light source, expressed in kelvins (K). It corresponds to the temperature of an ideal black body that would emit light of a similar "colour." Measured on a scale from 1,000 to 10,000 K.
ELIM	Electrical and Lighting Infrastructure Manual Council standard outlining requirements for electrical and public lighting infrastructure delivered for Council-controlled open spaces.
Glare	The reduction of visual performance or the disturbance of perception, as caused by high luminances or contrasts in luminance within a visual environment.
LED	Light Emitting Diode. Semiconductor device that emits visible light when an electrical current passes through it.
Luminaire	A complete lighting fixture that includes a light source (such as an LED) as well as any necessary components such as a housing, reflectors, lenses, diffusers, etc.
Obtrusive light	Spill light which, because of quantitative, directional or spectral attributes in a given context, gives rise to annoyance, discomfort, distraction or a reduction in the ability to see essential information. This includes general impacts on humans and the environment.
Rate 1 Lighting	Unmetered public lighting supplied, installed, owned and maintained by Energex.

Term	Description
Rate 2 Lighting	Unmetered public lighting for which all supply and installation costs are funded by the Public Body (or Developer) and then ownership is vested in Energex on completion of the installation. Energex then assumes responsibility for maintenance of the installation.
Rate 3 Lighting	Unmetered public lighting supplied, installed, owned and maintained by the public body.
Rate 4 Lighting	Public Body funds the replacement of Rate 1 luminaire with an LED luminaire and gifts the LED luminaire to Energex. The associated pole and cabling remain owned, operated and maintained by the Energex.
RPEQ	Registered Professional Engineer of Queensland.
Scotopic-to-photopic (S/P) ratio	A method to indicate how good a light source will be under photopic, mesopic and scotopic conditions, which is the scotopic lamp lumens divided by the photopic lamp lumens.
Spectral power density	Specifies the amount of power a light source contains at each wavelength in the visible spectrum.
Spill light	Unwanted light falls outside the target area of illumination. Spill light can be a source of obtrusive light and light pollution.
Tilt	The angle at which a luminaire is tilted above the horizontal (zero degree) plane.
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
Upward waste light	The proportion of the luminous flux emitted by the luminaire above the horizontal, in the installed position.



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Sunshine Coast Council

## Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve

Application for designation to DarkSky International



Edition February 2026

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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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### Evidence summary

Table 1 compares the International Dark Sky Places Program requirements for Dark Sky Reserves against the contents of this application. For each requirement, a summary of how Sunshine Coast Council meets the requirement is provided, along with section and page(s) reference to where the evidence can be found.

Table 1: Evidence summary table - Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve

International Dark Sky Places Program Requirement - Dark Sky Reserves	Evidence	Reference Section/ Page/s
<b>Eligibility</b>		
1. The core of the proposed International Dark Sky Reserve must be a public or private land protected for scientific, natural, educational, cultural, heritage and/or public enjoyment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kirbys Road Environment Reserve - Sunshine Coast Council owned and managed.</li> <li>• Maleny National Park - Queensland Government owned and managed national park.</li> <li>• Both sites are protected for conservation values.</li> </ul>	Section 3 Pages: 17-19
2. Private inholdings and lands similarly situated within the core zones of Reserves are formally exempt from regulation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not applicable - the core zone does not contain any private inholdings and land.</li> </ul>	N/A
3. The core zone boundaries must be drawn according to, and consistent with, the following principles: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) A core area does not have a minimum area requirement but must provide sufficient area to meet the outreach and public access requirements.</li> <li>b) The proposed core area boundary may take any shape and may follow logical or natural geographic features.</li> <li>c) The core need not be a single, contiguous land</li> <li>d) If the core includes a publicly protected area, such as a national or regional park, it must strive to</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The core zone is 7.41 km<sup>2</sup> (741 hectares) in area.</li> <li>• Core zone: Includes the entire Kirbys Road Environment Reserve (284 hectares) and the adjoining full lot of Maleny National Park (457 hectares) to the west.</li> </ul>	Section 2 Figure 2 Page: 16

International Dark Sky Places Program Requirement - Dark Sky Reserves	Evidence	Reference Section/ Page/s
fully encompass the boundaries of that area.		
4. The peripheral zone boundaries must be drawn according to, and consistent with, the following principles: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) The proposed peripheral zone boundary must be singular, contiguous, and completely enclose the core zone. It may take any shape and may follow logical or natural geographic features.</li> <li>b) The peripheral area must encompass a minimum of 700 km<sup>2</sup></li> <li>c) Large areas of open water, such as oceans, bays, and larger lakes, do not count toward the 700 km<sup>2</sup> / 80% requirement.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The peripheral zone is 866 km<sup>2</sup> (86,600 hectares) in area.</li> <li>• The peripheral zone encompasses Mary River Catchment boundary in the Sunshine Coast local government area and adjoining State Protected Areas.</li> <li>• No large areas of open water are present.</li> <li>• The location and topography of the area is ideal, with the Blackall Range acting as a natural shield protecting the area from much of the skyglow from coastal urban areas and surrounding cities and towns.</li> </ul>	Section 2 Figure 2 Page: 16
5. The boundaries of neither core nor peripheral zone must not be arbitrarily drawn to omit areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Core zone: Boundaries follow the lot and plan of the associated environment reserve and national park.</li> <li>• Peripheral zone: Follows Mary River Catchment boundary within Sunshine Coast local government area and includes any State Protected Areas adjoining the boundary.</li> </ul>	Section 2 Figure 2 Page: 16
6. The core must provide an opportunity for regular public nighttime access, with or without supervision. A portion of designated land may meet this requirement, or access must be available for a fraction of the length of the night.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kirbys Road Environment Reserve is a Bushland Reserve which has existing public access.</li> <li>• The Kirbys Road Environmental Reserve Management Plan outlines the purpose of this area is to: <i>protect and restore the biodiversity values associated with the reserve to create, consolidate and protect future connectivity values to link the existing surrounding conservation</i></li> </ul>	Section 4 Page: 25

International Dark Sky Places Program Requirement - Dark Sky Reserves	Evidence	Reference Section/ Page/s
	<i>estate and to facilitate nature-based recreation and education.</i>	
7. The core must provide an exceptional dark sky resource, relative to the communities and cities that surround it.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The average sky quality in the core zone is 21.5 mag/arcsec<sup>2</sup>.</li> <li>The core zone is located in the Obi Obi Valley. The Blackall Range on the eastern boundary acts as a natural shield protecting the Dark Sky Reserve from much of the skyglow from coastal urban areas and surrounding cities and towns where majority of population growth is occurring.</li> </ul>	Section: 8 Page: 34
<b>Minimum requirements</b>		
1. A quality comprehensive Lighting Management Plan (LMP) should be adopted by a sufficient number of communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A Lighting Management Plan has been developed and adopted by Council on behalf of the community.</li> <li>Community consultation outcomes: &gt;90% of survey respondents agree with the Plan's purpose and objectives.</li> </ul>	Section 11 Page: 50  Appendix G Page: 131  Appendix C Page: 74
2. Typical nighttime conditions characterizing the core must be consistent with or exceed the following criteria: a) The Milky Way is readily visible to the unaided eye; b) There are no nearby artificial light sources yielding significant glare; and c) Any light domes present are dim, restricted in extent, and close to the horizon. These conditions correspond approximately to a visual-band zenith luminance of 21.2 magnitudes per square arcsecond (0.4 mcd/m <sup>2</sup> ).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Milky Way readily visible.</li> <li>No artificial light sources in the core or nearby.</li> <li>Light domes are dim.</li> <li>Average sky quality reading: 21.5 mag/arcsec<sup>2</sup>.</li> </ul>	Section 8 Page: 33

International Dark Sky Places Program Requirement - Dark Sky Reserves	Evidence	Reference Section/ Page/s
3. Evidence of community commitment to dark skies and quality outdoor lighting, as shown by at least two-thirds (67%) of existing outdoor lighting fixtures within the core conforming to the LMP at the time of application	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Core zone: There are no lighting fixtures in the core zone - 100% lighting compliant.</li> </ul>	Section 12 Page: 52
4. Lighting inventory and a plan to bring 90% of outdoor lighting in the core into compliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Core: 0 lighting - 100% lighting compliant.</li> </ul>	Section 10 Page: 47
5. A measurement program must be maintained by the core managing agency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Measurement program capturing results daily in the core zone using permanent night sky quality meter. This meter is maintained by Sunshine Coast Council.</li> <li>Dr Ken Wishaw has been collecting measurements since 2017, uploading them to the Globe at Night website, and intends to continue this work following a Reserve's designation.</li> </ul>	Section 8 Page: 33
6. Description of current and suspected future threats to dark skies over the core zone, and a plan to address these threats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Threats identified and a plan to address them - population growth and development.</li> </ul>	Section 15 Page: 70
7. Communities must have a number of examples of conforming lighting installations proportional to the size of the population they serve: a) Approximately 10% of fixtures outside of the core must be retrofitted or brought into compliance with the appropriate regulation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt;35% public lights in the peripheral zone compliant.</li> <li>Lighting upgrades delivered:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Street lighting upgrades across Reserve (161 lights).</li> <li>Maleny Community Precinct (13 lights)</li> <li>Isaac Moore Park, Kenilworth (5 lights).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Section 12 Pages: 52-56
8. Participating communities must have a program, either through education, economic incentives,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Two-year engagement program completed.</li> </ul>	Section 13 Pages: 58-63

International Dark Sky Places Program Requirement - Dark Sky Reserves	Evidence	Reference Section/ Page/s
<p>permitting or regulation, to encourage all new outdoor lighting fixtures to conform.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supporting materials developed for local context.</li> <li>• Ongoing education program as part of project and Proposed Planning Scheme lighting provisions for new developments.</li> </ul>	<p>Section 14 Pages: 64-69</p>
<p>9. The Reserve’s commitment to public education is demonstrated by all of the following:</p> <p>a) The importance of dark skies, natural nighttime darkness, and the benefits of quality lighting should be part of Reserve interpretation/outreach programs.</p> <p>b) Dedicated dark skies programming must occur at least four times per year.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Over 35 workshops and presentations delivered across 2023-2025.</li> <li>• Minimum 4 events delivered each year.</li> </ul>	<p>Section 13 Pages: 58-63</p>
<p>10. Acknowledgement of the protected area by government or regulatory agencies situated higher than community level (county/province/etc.)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recognised by local government authority - Sunshine Coast Council                         <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ New policy position in Council regional strategy</li> <li>○ Inclusion of dark sky reserve area in Proposed Sunshine Coast Planning Scheme.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Section 5 Pages: 27-29</p>
<p>11. Once established, the Reserve must erect and maintain appropriate signage indicating the International Dark Sky Reserve designation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sunshine Coast Council to erect signage on roadway once designated.</li> </ul>	<p>Section 13 Pages: 62</p>
<p>12. The Reserve will submit an annual report each year.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual report to be submitted each year by project working group.</li> </ul>	<p>N/A</p>

### Executive summary

Recognised internationally as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, the Sunshine Coast exemplifies global leadership in sustainability and conservation.

Building on this prestigious designation, we are proudly advancing a visionary initiative to protect one of our region’s most awe-inspiring natural treasures, our night sky.

Our dark skies are vital to the Sunshine Coast’s identity, ecology, and cultural heritage. They nurture wildlife, preserve First Nations astronomical knowledge, and offer transformative opportunities for education, tourism, and community wellbeing.

In collaboration with partners and the community, Sunshine Coast Council is seeking an International Dark Sky Reserve designation in the western part of the local government area.

Spanning over 870 km<sup>2</sup> (87,300 hectares) within the Mary River catchment, this area is naturally shielded by the Blackall Range, creating exceptional night sky conditions with minimal coastal artificial light intrusion.

At the heart of the Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve is a 7.41 km<sup>2</sup> (741 hectares) core zone. The core encompasses Kirbys Road Environment Reserve and Maleny National Park, areas of high ecological value and no artificial lighting present. Managed public access to Kirbys Road Environment Reserve offers immersive experiences in this protected environment. Surrounding the core is an 866 km<sup>2</sup> (86,600 hectares) peripheral zone.

Two formal consultation phases revealed overwhelming public support for the establishment of a proposed dark sky reserve, with 95% of respondents advocating for night sky protection and 94% endorsing the Lighting Management Plan.

Scientific measurements collected over two years between 2023-2025 confirm the area’s

suitability for Dark Sky Reserve designation, with typical night sky brightness of 21.5 mag/arcsec<sup>2</sup> in the core zone.

The core zone is fully compliant with no lighting present, while the peripheral zone has seen over 170 lighting upgrades, enhancing compliance and reducing light pollution since the project’s inception.

Public outreach has been central to this dark sky journey. From stargazing events to community-led education programs, these efforts have inspired stewardship and deepened public understanding of light pollution impacts.

While population growth and urban development present challenges, proactive action including, regional strategy updates, draft planning scheme provisions, cross-government collaboration, and ongoing education contribute to efforts that safeguard the Dark Sky Reserve’s integrity.

DarkSky International representatives have been closely involved throughout the entire project, from the eligibility assessment stage through to lighting requirements, developing the lighting management plan, and preparing the application. Expert guidance has ensured this application meets the designation requirements and presents best practice standards.

The Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve is a bold, future-focused initiative aligning with the Sunshine Coast’s UNESCO Biosphere vision and values. It is supported by government, local First Nations representatives, community organisations, and the tourism sector, demonstrating a shared commitment to recognising, protecting, and celebrating our night skies. Sunshine Coast Council is proud to submit this application for an International Dark Sky Reserve designation, reaffirming our commitment to sustainability and to safeguarding dark skies as a vital natural asset for future generations.

## 1. Introduction

In June 2022, the Sunshine Coast was internationally recognised by UNESCO as a [Biosphere Reserve](#), acknowledging our region as a place where sustainable living, responsible development, and environmental conservation coexist. This [designation](#) places the Sunshine Coast within a global network of biospheres committed to balancing environmental, social, cultural, and economic needs - now and into the future.

This recognition highlights the values we aim to protect and enhance, and brings new opportunities to support our natural environment, community wellbeing, and local economy. Maintaining our Biosphere status is a shared responsibility, with every resident, visitor, business, and government entity playing a vital role in creating a lasting legacy for future generations

As part of our UNESCO Biosphere Reserve status, protecting our dark skies is important to preserving the Sunshine Coast's distinct character, identity and lifestyle. As a community, we are committed to preserving this unique asset, which supports wildlife, connects us to First Nations knowledge and astronomy, and offers opportunities for education and tourism.



Sunshine Coast Council (Council) is proud to submit this application for an International Dark Sky Reserve designation, demonstrating our region's strong commitment to preserving the night sky, protecting nocturnal wildlife, enhancing human health and wellbeing, supporting local business opportunities, and promoting sustainable lighting practices. This initiative is a collaborative effort between Queensland Government (State) agencies, electricity utilities (Energex), community members, scientific experts, and key stakeholders.

### 1.1 About the Sunshine Coast Local Government Area, Australia

The Sunshine Coast local government area is located in South East Queensland, Australia - see Figure 1. The southern boundary of the Sunshine Coast local government area is 53 kilometres north of Queensland's capital city, Brisbane.

The Sunshine Coast local government area is managed by the Sunshine Coast Regional Council (the Council). The Country of two distinct First Nations groups, Kabi Kabi and the Jinibara people, extends across the area.

The local government area covers an area of approximately 2,200 square kilometres and is considered a major urban and economic centre and an emerging city-region. It has a strong reputation as a lifestyle region defined by its subtropical climate, picturesque coastline and beaches, extensive waterways and wetlands, and the hinterland mountain ranges. The natural environment and distinct landscapes are the foundations of the Sunshine Coast way of life.

Across the contrasting landscapes, from hinterland to coastal foreshores, there is a vast diversity of native plants and animals that create the region's highly regarded natural environment and rich biodiversity.

The Sunshine Coast offers an enviable lifestyle, attracting around 8,700 new residents each year over the past decade. This steady population growth is expected to continue into the foreseeable future and has driven urban development and investment in supporting infrastructure. Most residents live within established urban centres along the coastline, contributing to a vibrant and growing community. The region now has an estimated population of over 383,000.

Since first formed in 2008, the Council has been consulting with the community about how best to respond to future pressures and maintain the liveability and natural assets valued by the community. As an evolving region, with an increasing population, along with pressures such as climate change and a changing economy, there are both challenges and opportunities to be met in the future.

The Council has a [vision](#) of *Australia's most sustainable region – Connected. Liveable. Thriving*. The Council recognises that our valued natural assets underpin and enhance our liveability, and that residents living sustainably within the environment is key to achieving the corporate vision for the region.

The Council has demonstrated its commitment to sustainable development and continues to plan for a sustainable future across the region. The actions and achievements of Council, in partnership with the community, have established a healthy and liveable region, creating a strong platform to respond proactively to change.

As the Sunshine Coast continues to grow as a city-region, it is well positioned to respond to changes. It is a living laboratory that can demonstrate a high standard of sustainable development, so that its people can live, work and play sustainably in a landscape that is valued for its environmental significance and important wildlife habitat and ecosystems.

## 1.2 Dark Sky Reserve location – Sunshine Coast hinterland

Sunshine Coast Council is seeking to establish a Dark Sky Reserve (the Reserve) in the western part of the local government area in the vicinity of Obi Obi, Maleny, Conondale, Mapleton and Kenilworth (refer to Figure 2).

The area is 873 km<sup>2</sup> and is primarily made up of the Mary River catchment boundary within the local government area. From a night sky perspective, night sky quality readings demonstrate the area has the attributes of a Dark Sky Reserve.

The location and topography of the area is ideal, with the Blackall Range acting as a natural shield protecting the area from much of the skyglow from coastal urban areas and surrounding cities and towns. Refer to Figure 5 (Page 35): Light pollution across the Sunshine Coast Local Government Area.

There are a number of benefits of the Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve including to:

- support Council's overall aspirations to transition to a more sustainable way of living
- protect the dark sky environment that currently exists
- provide wildlife sensitive environments
- support the health and wellbeing of Sunshine Coast residents and visitors
- bring international recognition of the efforts made to protect our dark skies.
- provide an opportunity for education on the benefits of responsible outdoor lighting at night to the major population region of Queensland.

Within this area (core and peripheral zones):

- approximately 40% is government owned land – majority of this government land is State Protected Areas.
- a population of approximately 13,500 residents and includes (but not limited to) the townships of Maleny, Mapleton, Montville, Witta, Flaxton and Conondale.
- approximately 700 public lighting assets exist which are mostly street lights.

Two observatories (Figure 4 - Page 26) exist:

1. The Mapleton Observatory is located at the Mapleton School and has been operating since 2002.
2. Maleny Observatory – designated observatory in 2021 by the Astronomical Society of Australia.

### 1.3 Navigating the process with DarkSky International

DarkSky International has been instrumental in guiding this project from its inception through to the preparation of this application, ensuring alignment with Dark Sky Reserve Guidelines and designation requirements. Their involvement has included:

- **Investigation stage (2021-2022):**  
 Provided expert guidance on the International Dark Sky Places Program including designation types,

through briefings and presentations to Council and Council staff to build understanding and support.

- **Eligibility assessment (2023):**  
 Offered positive, constructive feedback and advice on the proposed designation type, confirming the Sunshine Coast's suitability for a Dark Sky Reserve.
- **Technical documentation (2024-2025):**  
 Assisted with templates and resources for night sky quality measurements and lighting inventory preparation.  
 Reviewed the Draft Lighting Management Plan prior to community consultation to ensure compliance with best practice standards.
- **Application preparation (2025):**  
 Played an instrumental role in shaping the structure and content of the application, ensuring all required steps, evidence, and information are included to meet designation requirements.

Through this extensive involvement, DarkSky International's support and ongoing guidance have ensured a strong, compliant process that gives the Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve the best opportunity for a successful designation.



Figure 1: Sunshine Coast local government area in context of Queensland, Australia.

## 2. Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve map and boundary

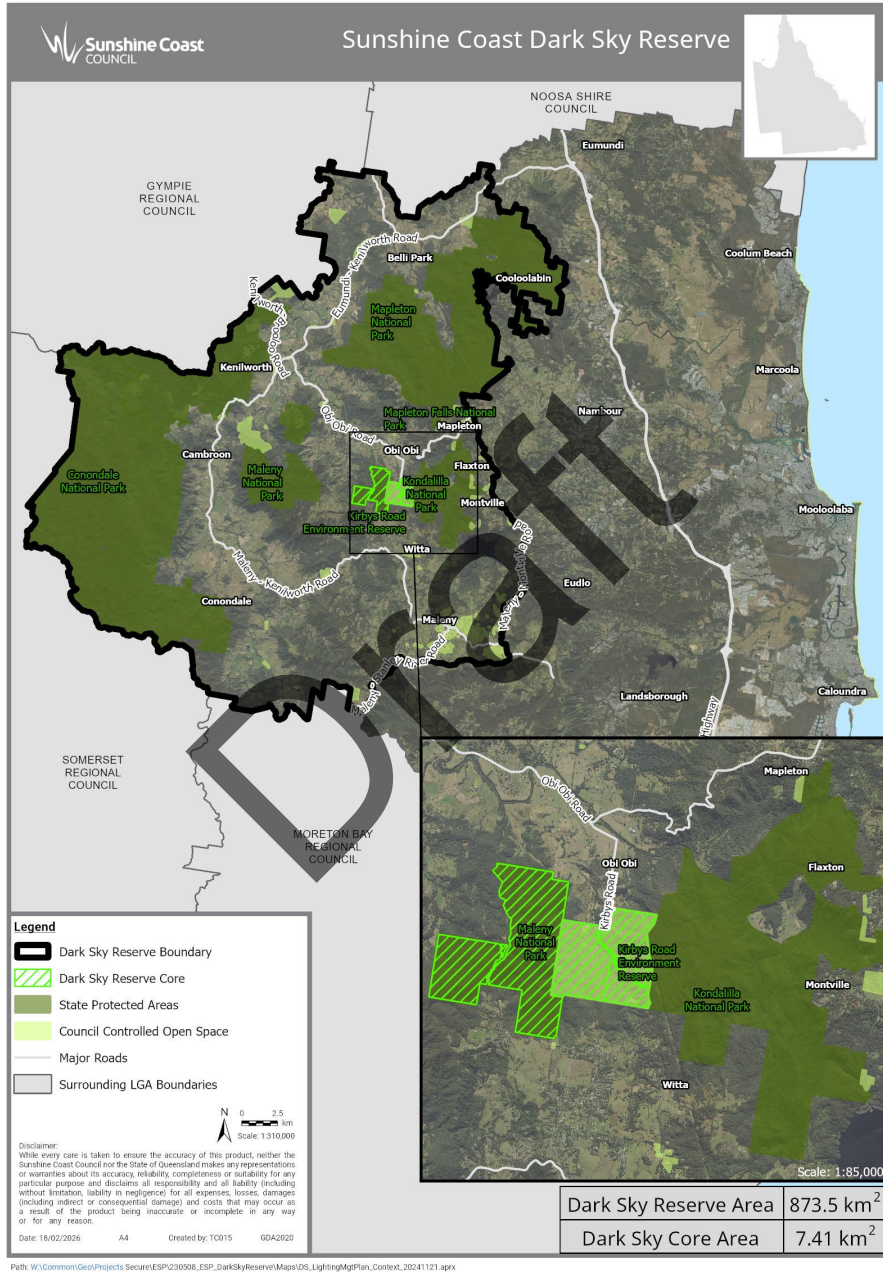


Figure 2: Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve map and boundary.

Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve: Application to Dark Sky International

### 3. Site environment

Guidelines section compliance

*Eligibility:*

Item: 1,3,5

*Minimum requirements for all Reserves:*

Item: 2

The core:

- protected in the public conservation estate
- sky quality - 21.5 mag/arcsec<sup>2</sup>
- Milky Way is readily visible to the unaided eye
- there are no nearby artificial light sources
- any visible light domes are dim and limited in extent
- permanent night sky quality meter installed
- location surrounded by national parks and rural land
- current and future management and planning frameworks to support long-term conservation.

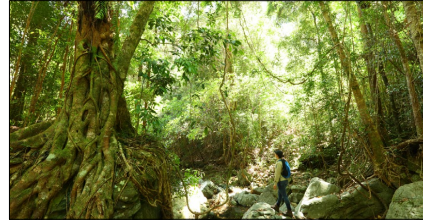


Image: Landscape of the core zone.

**Kirbys Road Environment Reserve**

Kirbys Road Environment Reserve is part of Sunshine Coast Council's protected estate and was purchased through [Council's Environment Levy Land Acquisition Program](#). The reserve is approximately 3km<sup>2</sup> and a vital ecological and cultural link between Maleny and Kondalilla National Parks.

This environment reserve is located on the native title determined lands of the Jinibara Peoples. It was purchased in 2011 and an additional parcel added in 2022 - for the purpose of protecting and restoring the sites conservation values.

Kirbys Road Environment Reserve is located in the upper Mary River catchment with permanent and seasonal creeks flowing into the lowland reaches of the Obi Obi Creek. The environment reserve contributes to connectivity, while facilitating nature-based recreation and education and cultural opportunities.

#### 3.1 The core

At the heart of the Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve is a protected core area that provides the foundation for long-term conservation of natural darkness. This core is made up of two adjoining reserves: Kirbys Road Environment Reserve, owned and managed by Sunshine Coast Council, and Maleny National Park (Lot 728 NPW787) owned and managed by the Queensland Government. Together, these areas form a contiguous protected landscape of 7.41km<sup>2</sup>, offering high ecological value and minimal light pollution. Refer to Figure 2 - Page 16.



Image: Kirbys Road Environment Reserve in the core.

[Kirbys Road Environment Reserve Management Plan](#) outlines the reserve's ecological, cultural, social and economic values and the associated management actions required to maintain or enhance these values. The environment reserve supports five Regional Ecosystems (vegetation communities) including one Endangered; two Of Concern; and two Least Concern. Of these, three rainforest regional ecosystems are also listed under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, as Critically Endangered Lowland Rainforest of Subtropical Australia. 298 native plant species have also been identified in the environment reserve. The area supports four observed Endangered, Vulnerable, or Near Threatened (EVNT) plant species.

The reserve has a high diversity of fauna. Field surveys identified 133 native vertebrate fauna species, comprising the following numbers of species in each of the major terrestrial vertebrate fauna groups:

- 84 bird species
- 13 ground dwelling and arboreal mammal species
- 8 micro bat species
- 13 reptile species.

Eight EVNT fauna species are known to occur at this site.

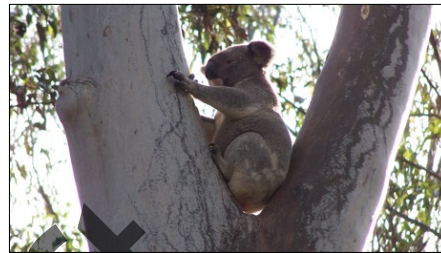


Image: Koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*) at Kirbys Road Environment Reserve. The koala is listed as Endangered in Queensland.



Image: Elf Skink (*Ericoscincus graciloides*). Photo credit: S. Wilson.



Image: Grey-headed flying fox (*Pteropus poliocephalus*), Vulnerable species in Australia. Photo credit: J. O'Connor.

**Maleny National Park (Lot 728 NPW787)**

Maleny National Park is a significant conservation area located in Curramore.

Spanning approximately 1,880 hectares, the national park plays a vital role in preserving the region’s natural landscape, flora, and fauna. Formerly known as Maleny Forest Reserve and Walli Forest Reserve, it was gazetted as a national park in 2006.

Maleny National Park represents a relatively large sub-coastal remnant area that protects important vegetation links with several other protected areas, including Kondalilla National Park, Conondale National Park, Imbil State Forest, and Mapleton National Park. This national park is also located within the Jinibara People’s native title lands.

The national park is home to over 500 species of plants and animals protects several values similar to those of Kirbys Road Environment Reserve, including regional ecosystems listed as Critically Endangered Lowland Rainforest of subtropical Australia. A key natural value of Maleny National Park is that it provides habitat for the vulnerable cascade treefrog (*Litoria pearsoniana*), rusked frog (*Adelotus brevis*) and the plumed frogmouth (*Podargus ocellatus plumiferus*).



Image: Cascade treefrog (*Litoria pearsoniana*), a Vulnerable species in Queensland. Photo credit: S. Wilson.



Image: Tusked frog (*Adelotus brevis*), a Vulnerable species in Queensland. Photo credit: S. Wilson.

Only Lot 728 NPW787 is included in the core zone of the Dark Sky Reserve, as it directly adjoins Kirbys Road Environment Reserve, creating a contiguous protected area.

This national park has no formalised visitor access or facilities. Visitor numbers are very low, helping maintain the park’s significant ecological values.

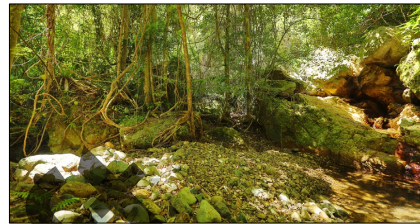


Image: Kirbys Road Environment Reserve.

### 3.2 Core selection process

The core area within the Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve was determined through a 4-step process:

1. **Identify locations in the Dark Sky Reserve that meet core requirements i.e.**
  - Centrally located protected areas within the Reserve boundary.
  - Sites that meet night sky quality of 21.2 mag/arcsec<sup>2</sup> or higher.
2. **Determine which identified sites are under Council control.**
  - Review protected estate and prioritise Council-owned conservation areas as the lead organisation for the Dark Sky Reserve application.
  - Consideration of connectivity of the identified areas with surrounding protected estate.

3. Investigate site conditions, accessibility and opportunities.

- Sites that support nature-based recreation and education were prioritised. Kirbys Road Environment Reserve was selected because its management plan focuses on biodiversity protection, connectivity with surrounding conservation areas, and nature-based recreation and education.
- Locations with good night-sky viewing conditions were considered. Many protected areas are extremely remote, prone to fog, or highly sensitive, where public access is discouraged/not permitted.

4. Collaborate with other land managers to potentially expand the core:

- Consideration of surrounding protected areas managed by the Queensland Government.

3.3 Management planning for the core

Recent enhancements to the Kirbys Road Environment Reserve include the construction of a car park, native vegetation plantings, and the development of a summit trail.

Planned future improvements will focus on bush regeneration, weed and fire management, fauna monitoring, and the establishment of a campground (subject to funding).



Image: Tree planting day at Kirbys Road Environment Reserve.

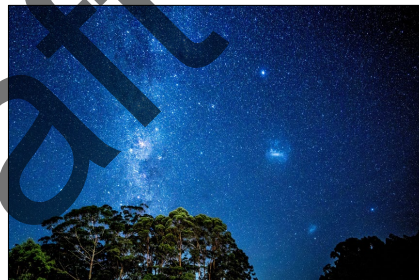


Image: Kirbys Road Environment Reserve night sky. Photo credit: Dr Ken Wishaw and Dr Geoff Simon.

### 3.4 The peripheral zone

**Guidelines section compliance**

**Eligibility:**

Item: 4,5

The peripheral zone:

- Size - 866 km<sup>2</sup>
- boundary is singular, contiguous and fully encloses the core zone
- the boundary has been drawn based on topography considerations, following the Mary River catchment boundary in the Sunshine Coast local government area as well as incorporating adjoining State Protected Areas.

The peripheral zone surrounds the core and makes up the remaining area of the Reserve boundary. The area follows the Mary River catchment boundary within the western portion of the local government area with the addition of Mapleton National Park and Mapleton Forest Reserves in their entirety.



Image: Mary River in the peripheral zone.  
 Photo credit: D. Dicker

#### 3.4.1 Mary River Catchment

The Mary River is one of the most environmentally and economically diverse catchments in Queensland, supporting a range of activities including agriculture and tourism. Its headwaters are in the Conondale and Blackall Ranges (within the Sunshine Coast local government area) and it flows

northwards for hundreds of kilometres to the Great Sandy Strait, influencing the coastal environment of Hervey Bay and ultimately the Coral Sea (including the [Great Barrier Reef](#)).

Large areas of the catchment are protected natural areas and support several iconic threatened species – notably the Mary River cod (*Maccullochella mariensis*), Mary River turtle (*Elusor macrurus*) and Queensland lungfish (*Neoceratodus forsteri*).

Within the Sunshine Coast, native vegetation covers approximately 68% of the catchment area and the Mary River catchment contributes 65% of the local government area’s native vegetation.

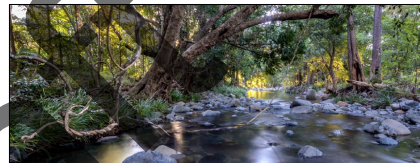


Image: Mary River in the peripheral zone.  
 Photo credit: T. Fauser

This peripheral zone is a distinctive hinterland region of the Sunshine Coast characterised by elevated plateaus, scenic rural landscape and proximity to significant National Parks. It comprises small hinterland townships including (but not limited to) Maleny, Mapleton, Montville, Conondale and Kenilworth with a resident population of approximately 13,500.

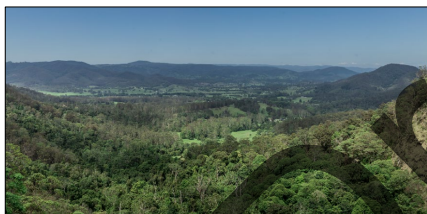
Each township contributes to the area’s unique identity and together offer a mix of residential communities, rural lifestyles, and tourism destinations. Set among creeks, rainforest pockets, and panoramic views, these communities share a low-density rural identity that blends lifestyle, tourism, and conservation values.



Image: Maleny township in the peripheral zone.



Image: Sub-tropical rainforest in the peripheral zone.  
 Photo credit: B. Hettrick.



Images: Landscape of peripheral zone.

The peripheral zone is predominantly in private ownership, accounting for more than half of the area. The remaining area is under government control.

The peripheral zone is made up of:

- 61% - private land.
- 35% Queensland Government (State)
- 1% - Sunshine Coast Council
- 3% other government land (including road and water parcels).

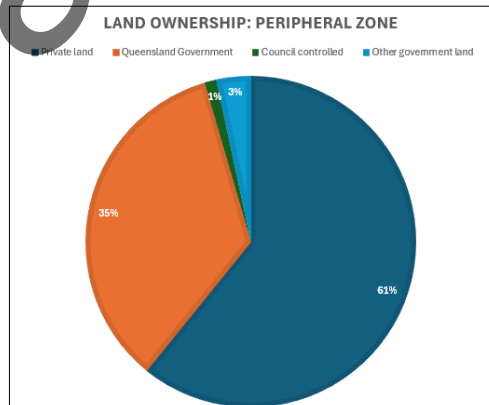


Figure 3: Land ownership: peripheral zone.

### 3.4.2 State Protected Areas (Queensland)

State Protected Areas in the peripheral zone include Conondale, Mapleton, Maleny and Kondalilla National Parks. Conondale National Park is the largest single Core Habitat Area in the region totalling 19,252 hectares.

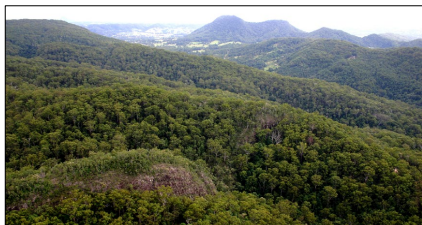


Image: Vegetation in Conondale.

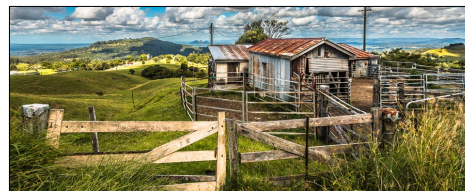


Image: Farm property, Maleny. Photo credit: B. DeLAMotte.

### 3.5 Significant nocturnal species, Sunshine Coast

Across the Sunshine Coast region there are a number of conservation significant nocturnal species which are listed in Appendix A.

Notably, the Southern Pink Underwing Moth (*Phyllodes imperialis smithersi*) is a rare and endangered species found in subtropical rainforests of South East Queensland and North East New South Wales including within the Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve. It is considered a flagship species for rainforest conservation due to its dependence on intact, undisturbed habitat and its sensitivity to light and environmental changes.

### 3.6 Dark Sky Reserve partners

[Sunshine Coast Council](#) - the local government authority for the Sunshine Coast region in Queensland, Australia. Sunshine Coast Council is responsible for public lighting assets across its jurisdiction including some street lighting, pathway lighting and sports lighting etc.

[Queensland Parks and Wildlife Services and Partnerships](#) - a division of the Queensland Government's Department of Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation, which plays a central role in conserving and managing a vast network of protected areas, including national parks and state forests across the Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve. Maleny National Park, which forms part of the core of the Reserve, is also managed by this division.

*See support letters on pages 75 and 78.*

[Energy Queensland \(Energex\)](#) - Energy Queensland is the group of electricity distribution, retail and energy services business who deliver electricity across the State of Queensland including Sunshine Coast. Energy Queensland is owned by the Queensland Government and is responsible

for maintaining public assets such as street lights.

*See support letter on pages 76-77.*

[Department of Transport and Main Roads](#) - a key department of the Queensland Government responsible for managing and delivering an integrated transport system across the State. This includes responsibilities for road lighting particularly on state-controlled roads and bikeways.

**Sunshine Coast community** - has an estimated resident population of 383,498 across the local government area (June 2023) making it the third most populous region in Queensland, Australia. Most residents reside in the coastal communities with growing populations also in the hinterland communities including the Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve. There is a population of approximately 13,500 residents within the Dark Sky Reserve area.

*See community organisations support letters on page 79, 80, 82, 85, 86-87 and community consultation results in Section 13.2.*

### 3.7 Dark Sky Reserve lighting responsibilities

Entity	Department/ Area	Lighting responsibility
Queensland Government (State)	Queensland Parks and Wildlife and Partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National Parks</li> <li>State Forests.</li> </ul>
	Department of Transport and Main Roads	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>State-controlled roads.</li> </ul>
	Energex	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintenance and operation of public street lighting across Reserve.</li> </ul>
Local Government	Sunshine Coast Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council owned public lighting assets i.e. Rate 3 street lights, pathway lighting, carpark lighting.</li> </ul>
Sunshine Coast community		Private property lighting.

Table 2: Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve lighting responsibilities

## 4. Night-time access to the Dark Sky Reserve

### 4.1 The core

**Guidelines section compliance**

*Eligibility:*

Item: 6

The core:

- Kirbys Road Environment Reserve is a Council-managed site with existing public access.

Public access to the core zone is via Kirbys Road Environment Reserve.

**Kirbys Road Environment Reserve** is a Council owned and managed environment reserve within the protected estate.

There is existing public access and an established carpark at the entrance of the environment reserve.

As part of future master planning, consideration is being given to allowing overnight vehicle access through a permit system. Subject to funding, plans are also underway to establish a campground in the environment reserve that will provide further opportunities for night sky viewing. Areas of the environment reserve have open grass land offering ideal locations to support stargazing opportunities.

Access to **Maleny National Park (Lot 728 NPW787)** is not permitted to the public as the site does not have adequate public infrastructure.

### 4.2 The peripheral zone

The peripheral zone offers a variety of formal and informal stargazing opportunities, where access is easier and more convenient.

#### 4.2.1 Formal stargazing

- Maleny Observatory - [The Brisbane Astronomical Society](#) offers public viewing nights at the Maleny Observatory throughout the year.
- [Mapleton Observatory](#) - The Mapleton Observatory is located at Mapleton State School and offers open nights including private viewing nights.

#### 4.2.2 Informal stargazing

Sunshine Coast Council managed parks and lookouts and associated facilities offer a great informal stargazing experiences:

- Balmoral Ridge Lookout, Balmoral Ridge
- Howells Knob Lookout, Reesville
- Isaac Moore Park, Kenilworth
- Little Yabba Rest Area, Cambroon
- Pioneer Park, Gheerulla
- Russell Family Park, Montville
- Tete Park, Conondale.

Refer to Figure 4 - Page 26 for stargazing locations across the Dark Sky Reserve.



Image: Stargazing location in the peripheral zone - Howell's Knob Lookout, Reesville. Photo credit: Dr Ken Wishaw.

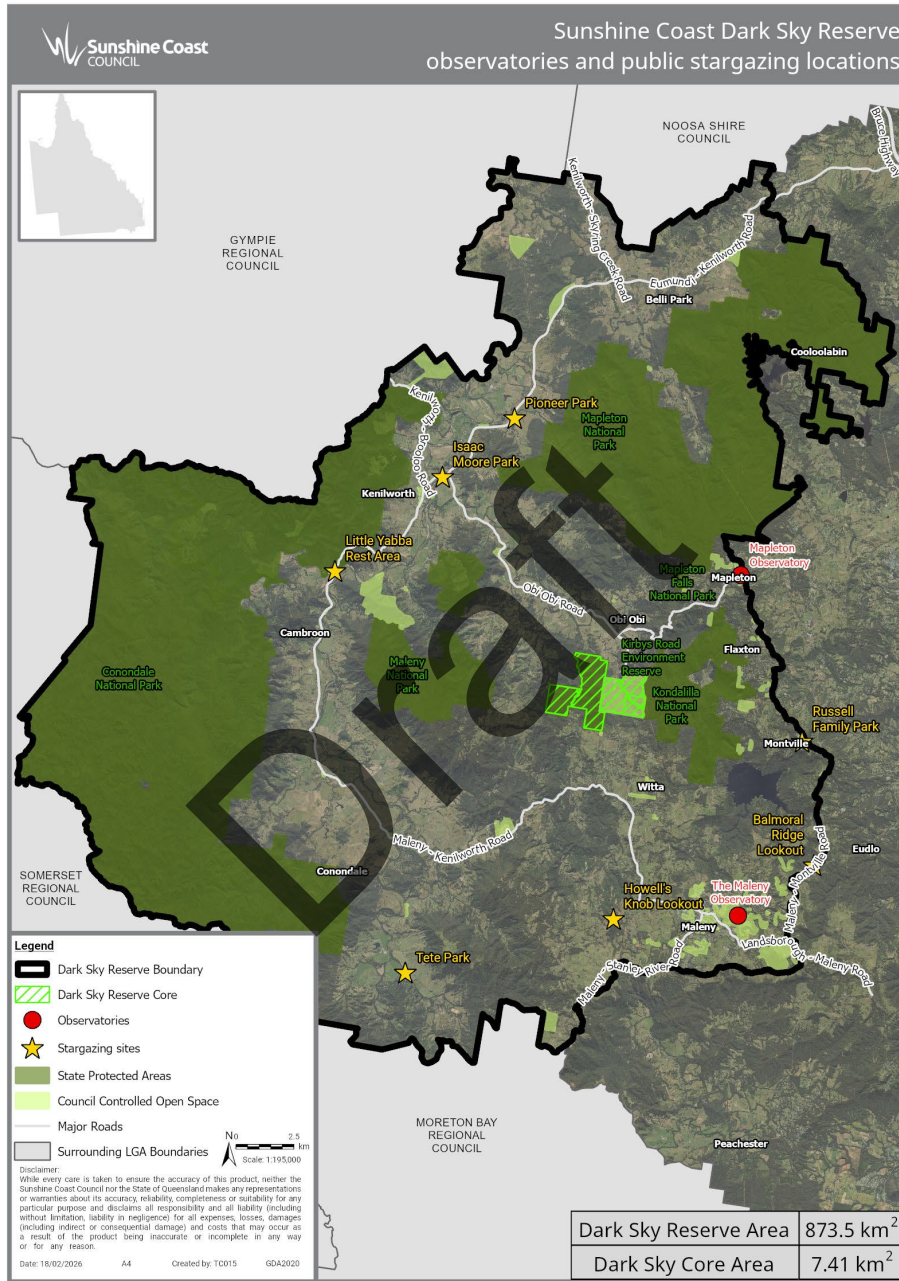


Figure 4: Dark Sky Reserve observatories and stargazing locations map.

Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve: Application to Dark Sky International

## 5. Support wording in documents

### Guidelines section compliance

*Minimum requirements for all Reserves:*  
 Item: 10

- preservation of dark skies in long term planning documentation.

A range of International, Commonwealth, Queensland and local government documents support efforts to reduce light pollution and protect dark skies.

### 5.1 International

#### UNESCO Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme

The [UNESCO MAB Programme](#) supports communities around the world to live sustainably while protecting natural environments. As part of this global network the [Sunshine Coast Biosphere Reserve](#) promotes a balance between conservation, cultural heritage, and responsible development. Protecting our dark skies aligns strongly with the goals of the MAB Programme. Natural nightscapes are important for wildlife, cultural connection, especially First Nations astronomy, and sustainable tourism.

The [Hangzhou Strategic Action Plan](#) developed under UNESCO's MAB Programme, sets out global targets to strengthen sustainability across Biosphere Reserves. Action Target 8 focuses on reducing pollution from all sources through integrated local approaches. By 2035, all Biosphere Reserves are expected to conduct baseline assessments, set measurable targets, and coordinate efforts across authorities and stakeholders.

#### United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs)

The [United Nations Sustainable Development Goals \(UNSDGs\)](#) provide an internationally recognised framework for promoting peace, prosperity, and sustainability for people and the planet. Sunshine Coast Council is demonstrating leadership by embedding the UNSDGs into its strategies, plans, and progress reporting.

Protecting dark sky values contributes directly to UNSDGs, including

- Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities
- Goal 13: Climate Action
- Goal 15: Life on Land
- Goal 17: Partnerships for the Goals.

### 5.2 Commonwealth

#### National Light Pollution Guidelines

The [National Light Pollution Guidelines for Wildlife](#), developed by the Australian Government's Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW), provide a comprehensive framework for assessing and managing the impacts of artificial light on wildlife. The guidelines promote key dark sky principles such as:

- minimising artificial light at night.
- using lighting only where and when needed
- shielding lights and
- using warm-colour temperatures.

### 5.3 Queensland (State)

#### Destination 2045 Plan

The [Destination 2045 Plan](#), released by the Queensland Government in 2025 provides a strategic roadmap to guide the future of tourism over the next 20 years. It has a

strong commitment to dark sky tourism as part of its broader ecotourism strategy including committing to expanding the Queensland's Dark Sky Reserve network.

The plan also promotes the light footprint accommodation in ecologically sensitive areas aligning to dark sky principles by minimising artificial light and preserving natural night environments.

**Energex Public Lighting Explanatory Statement**

Energex has a [plan](#) to upgrade all public lighting across Queensland to LED aeroscreen lights by 30 June 2030. These lights are designed to reduce light pollution by directing light downward (zero-degree upcast) and use a warm 3000K colour temperature in the Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve. As part of this upgrade, smart control devices will also be installed to improve how lighting is managed and to increase energy efficiency.

**South East Queensland Natural Resource Management Plan 2009-2031**

The [South East Queensland Natural Resource Management Plan](#) (SEQ NRM Plan) is a regionally endorsed, non-statutory plan that guides collaborative action across government, industry and community to protect and enhance the region's natural assets.

The SEQ NRM Plan includes a specific target related to light pollution: By 2031, light pollution will be at or below 1998 levels.

**5.4 Local Government**

**Environment and Liveability Strategy**

The [Environment and Liveability Strategy](#) is Council's long term strategic policy focusing on the natural environment as well as liveability of the Sunshine Coast region. It recognises the importance of dark skies and incorporates a policy position to:

*1.1 The distinctive and diverse landscape is preserved to maintain the beauty of the area:*

*e) Dark skies are recognised, protected and celebrated.*

The Strategy also has an action in its implementation plan to *'investigate opportunities to recognise, protect and celebrate the Sunshine Coast dark sky, in partnership with the community'.*

**Community Strategy**

The [Sunshine Coast Community Strategy](#) sets out a vision for a strong, connected, and sustainable community, where people and nature thrive together. Preserving our dark skies supports this vision by protecting a valued natural asset that contributes to community wellbeing, biodiversity, cultural heritage, and sustainable tourism.

**Regional Economic Development Strategy**

The [Sunshine Coast Regional Economic Development Strategy \(REDS\)](#) outlines a long-term vision for a resilient, innovative, and sustainable regional economy. The strategy supports initiatives that enhance the region's natural assets while creating new opportunities for investment, tourism, and local business growth. The Dark Sky Reserve aligns with the REDS by promoting astro-tourism, supporting eco-friendly development, and encouraging community-led environmental stewardship. Protecting the night sky not only preserves the region's unique character and biodiversity but also contributes to a diversified economy that values sustainability and liveability, key pillars of the REDS framework.

**Proposed Sunshine Coast Planning Scheme**

A planning scheme is a statutory document prepared and administered by local government under relevant planning legislation such as the *Planning Act 2016 (Qld)*. The [Proposed Sunshine Coast Planning Scheme](#) recognises the Dark Sky Reserve in the Sunshine Coast hinterland in the Strategic Framework mapping (refer to Appendix B). and explicitly supports the protection of dark skies by requiring that

external lighting associated with new development within the Dark Sky Reserve be carefully positioned and managed to minimise light pollution.

The Proposed Sunshine Coast Planning Scheme includes detailed outdoor lighting provisions that apply to all new assessable development within the Dark Sky Reserve. These provisions are implemented through development conditions and also apply to certain forms of assessable development. They require downward-directed, fully shielded lighting, restrict short-wavelength emissions (e.g. CCT ≤ 3000K), and mandate the use of timers or motion sensors to minimise unnecessary illumination.

The Proposed Sunshine Coast Planning Scheme also discourages the use of illuminated and digital display signage. It includes specific provisions within the Dark Sky Place, including illuminated signage being switched off between 7pm and 6am and designed to minimise light pollution, using low luminance (maximum 100 nits), downward-directed and shielded lighting, and simple, single-colour displays on a black background.

**Sunshine Coast Marine Turtle Conservation Plan 2023-2033**

The [Sunshine Coast Marine Turtle Conservation Plan](#) recognises light pollution as a critical threat to marine turtles and includes strategic actions to reduce artificial light impacts and promote turtle sensitive lighting across the region including a desired outcome of DO2:  
*Development and implementation of lighting policies and standards that deliver a commitment to Dark Sky objectives and a naturally dark coastline at night, with minimisation of direct light sources and ambient light visible from sensitive nesting beaches and adjacent marine areas.*

**Sunshine Coast Council Electrical and Lighting Infrastructure Manual (ELIM)**

The [ELIM](#) was endorsed in 2024 and is Council's guide for planning, designing and constructing public lighting and electrical infrastructure. The manual incorporates dark sky principles aligning with standards from DarkSky International and the [Australasian Dark Sky Alliance](#). The principles are embedded to reduce light pollution, preserve the nature night sky and minimise disturbance to nocturnal wildlife especially in sensitive areas.



6. Letter of nomination

Guidelines section compliance

*Requirement:*

Item: Step 3 of application

- Letter of nomination from qualified Dark Sky International member nominator
- Nominator: Dr Ken Wishaw, DarkSky Defender Award Recipient 2024.

***Dr Ken Wishaw***

28 October 2025

Board of Directors  
 Dark Sky International

Dear Board of Directors,  
 As Convenor of Maleny Observatory for the Brisbane Astronomical Society, and 2024 recipient of the DarkSky International Oceania DarkSky Defender Award, I commend to you the application for gazetting the Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve.

This reserve has been a priority project for the Sunshine Coast Council (SCC) for over 5 years.

**Preservation**  
 In line with its vision to be “Connected Liveable and Thriving”, SCC aspires to be Australia’s most sustainable region. A cornerstone of this, is its designation as a UNESCO Biosphere in 2022, and preservation of the night environment is a key element of maintaining this status.

SCC has been a national leader in responsible outdoor lighting with its Sunshine Coast Urban Lighting Master Plan (2016) which has been copied around the country and its Lighting Management Plan (2025) for the reserve will no doubt have the same results. All new streetlights (other than main roads) installed since 2016 in the region have been fully dark sky compliant and a further conversion of 4,000 old technology streetlights to dark sky compatibility is nearing completion.

SCC has been tireless in bringing the community and government stakeholders on board with the concept.

**Inspiration**  
 The proposed dark sky reserve, in spite of being only 40 km from the urban coastal region and 100km from Brisbane, Queensland’s capital city of 2.6 million people, well exceeds the darkness requirements of a reserve with 90% of the entire reserve periphery complying with core darkness criteria. This is by virtue of protection by a surrounding volcanic crater rim. It is truly a place of peace, serenity and wonder on a clear winter’s night with the Milky Way overhead.

Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve: Application to Dark Sky International

**Education**

The location of a dark sky reserve close to Queensland's major population centres creates an opportunity for education of the public and policy makers that does not occur in isolated and darker areas of the state. The region is a major tourism hub and the potential for dark sky education is very high.

Already, as the project has proceeded, the education of policy makers has been profound.

For example, through discussion of the needs of the reserve, Energy Queensland has embarked on a project to replace all old technology streetlighting in Queensland with zero-degree upcast lighting by 2030.

The southern section of the reserve falls within the state electorate of Glass House. The sitting member for Glass House (Andrew Powell) has been a strong supporter of the reserve concept and is the current Queensland Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Education. He has directed his departments to follow the lead of Sunshine Coast Council to create dark sky places throughout the state as a top priority. The designation of the Sunshine Coast Reserve is therefore the cornerstone of a potential massive rollout of similar projects state and Australia wide.

I therefore recommend designation of the reserve and have no doubt such recognition would be welcomed by the Council and community with great pride.

Dr Ken Wishaw  
 M.B.B.S. F.A.N.Z.C.A. A.F.H.E.A. Grad Cert Science (Astronomy)  
 Honorary Senior Fellow & Senior Lecturer  
 University of the Sunshine Coast

Recipient 2024 DarkSky International - DarkSky Defender Award

Committee Member and Msleny Observatory convenor.  
 Brisbane Astronomical Society

Dark Sky Ambassador  
 International Astronomical Union

Founding Board Member  
 Australasian Dark Sky Alliance [www.australasiandarkskyalliance.org](http://www.australasiandarkskyalliance.org)  
 Email [kenwishaw@gmail.com](mailto:kenwishaw@gmail.com)  
 Mobile No. 0412 947 429



## 7. Letters of support/acknowledgement

### Guidelines section compliance

#### *Minimum requirements for all Reserves:*

Item: 10

- Community commitment
- Support from core managing agency.

To demonstrate community support for the Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve, letters of support and formal acknowledgements were proactively sought from a diverse range of key stakeholder groups and organisations (Refer to Appendix C).

Correspondence was received from:

#### Commonwealth Government

- Department of Climate Change, Energy, Environment and Water - Migratory Species Section.

#### Queensland Government (State)

- Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Partnerships - As a core managing agency, Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Partnerships have provided formal support for the project via correspondence as outlined in Appendix C.

- Minister for Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation.
- Department of Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation - Tourism Division.
- Energex.

#### Community

- Maleny Commerce.
- Mapleton and District Community Association
- Sunshine Coast Environment Council.
- Organisation Sunshine Coast Association of Residents

#### First Nations

- Jijibara People Aboriginal Corporation.

#### Tourism

- Visit Sunshine Coast.

#### Adjoining Local Government

- Gympie Regional Council.

## 8. Darkness measurement and program development

### Guidelines section compliance

#### Minimum requirements for all Reserves:

Item: 5

- two years of data capture at 20 locations across the Reserve
- core result - 21.5 mag/arcsec<sup>2</sup>.

From December 2023, seasonal night sky quality data has been systematically collected across a number of locations within the Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve.

Seasonal measurements were undertaken by Dr Ken Wishaw (DarkSky International Dark Sky Defender Awardee, 2024) using a handheld SQM-L, in accordance with Dark Sky Reserve guidelines and the associated darkness measurement template. These measurements complement the long-term data Dr Wishaw has been collecting since 2017, with all data uploaded to the Globe at Night website. Measurements were conducted on clear nights during a new moon, following the end of astronomical twilight.

In addition to seasonal measurements, two permanent night sky quality meters have been installed by Sunshine Coast Council to enable continuous data collection, one located in the core of the Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve (refer to Table 3) and the other within the peripheral zone at Imbil State Forest.

A summary of results from each location over the past two years is available on Council's project webpage via an [online map](#) and in Table 3 and 4 below.

For detailed data, including all completed night sky quality DarkSky International spreadsheets, refer to Appendix D.

Table 3: Night sky quality readings in the core zone (Kirbys Road Environment Reserve).

Date	(mag/arcsec <sup>2</sup> )
December 2023	21.6
April 2024	21.6
June 2024	21.3
Sept 2024	21.5
November 2024	21.6
April 2025	21.4
July 2025	21.6
September 2025	21.7

Table 4: Average night sky quality results within the peripheral zone

Suburb	Average reading (mag/arcsec <sup>2</sup> )
Balmoral Ridge	21.1
Belli Park	21.4
Cambroon (site 1)	21.4
Cambroon (site 2)	21.5
Conondale (site 1)	21.6
Conondale (site 2)	21.6
Conondale (site 3)	21.5
Flaxton	21.1
Kenilworth (site 1)	21.6
Kenilworth (site 2)	21.4
Kenilworth (site 3)	21.5
Kidaman Creek	21.3
Mapleton	21.4

North Maleny (site 1)	21.1
North Maleny (site 2)	21.1
Obi Obi	21.4
Reesville	21.3
Witta (site 1)	21.3
Witta (site 2)	21.3



Image: Permanent meter, Imbil State Forest (peripheral zone).



Image: Permanent meter, Kirbys Road Environment Reserve (core).

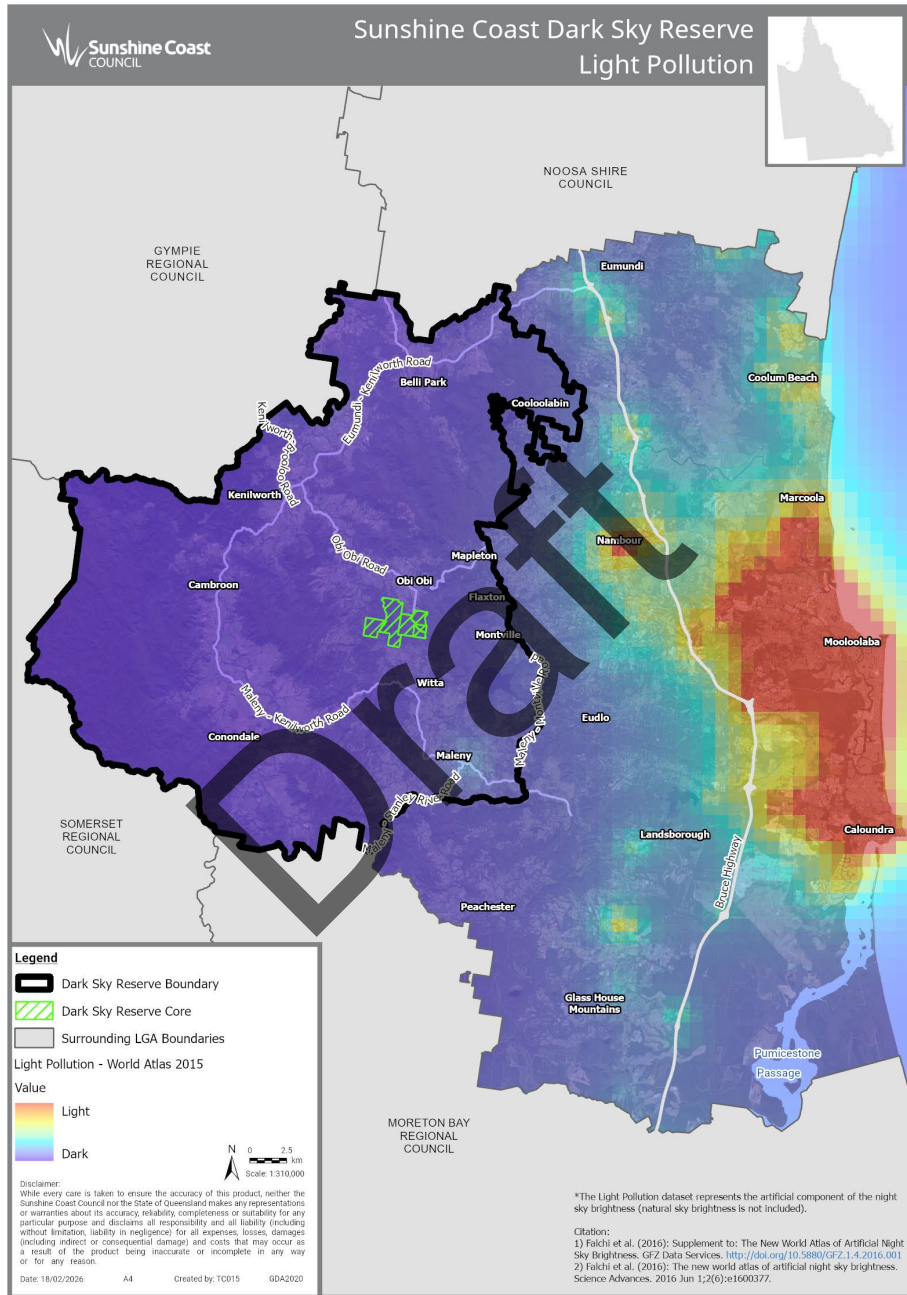


Figure 5: Sunshine Coast region light pollution map.

Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve: Application to Dark Sky International

## 9. Night sky photography

### Guidelines section compliance

#### *Minimum requirements for all Reserves:*

Item: 2

- two years of night sky photography captured at three locations across the Reserve.

As part of each seasonal survey, night sky photography was captured to visually document and contextualise the quality of the night sky within the Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve. These images complement the quantitative data and provide a visual reference (see Figure 6) and horizon glow for across the Reserve.

Night sky photography was taken by Dr Ken Wishaw at:

- Eastern Mary River Road, Kenilworth
- Howells Knob, Reesville
- Obi Obi Rd turnoff, Obi Obi.

Photography was undertaken using the same camera lens and settings and no post-production was applied. From June 2024 exposure was increased from 20 seconds to 30 seconds.

At each site, photographs were taken facing north, south, east, and west to capture directional variations in sky quality. These directional images provide valuable insight into the influence of surrounding urban and coastal environments on light pollution levels including:

- South-facing images reveal light pollution originating from Brisbane, the nearest capital city.
- East-facing images show some light encroachment from coastal development and infrastructure.
- North and west-facing images, by contrast, consistently demonstrate the

darkest and most pristine sky conditions, highlighting the Reserve’s potential for high-quality astronomical observation and ecological preservation.

The sites were chosen to quantify horizon glow from the southern reserve boundary (Howell’s Knob), the middle of the reserve (eastern Mary River Road) and the northern part of the Reserve (Obi Obi turnoff).

Howell’s Knob is on the southern border of the Reserve, represents the highest point of the landscape, has a direct view to the coastal community to the east and Queensland’s capital city, Brisbane to the south. These photographs clearly demonstrate the skyglow of the coast and Brisbane and the effectiveness of the Blackall Range in protecting the Reserve from this skyglow.

For a complete collection of photographs captured during each survey period, refer to Appendix E, Figure 6 (page 37) illustrates the spatial distribution of photography sites across the Reserve.

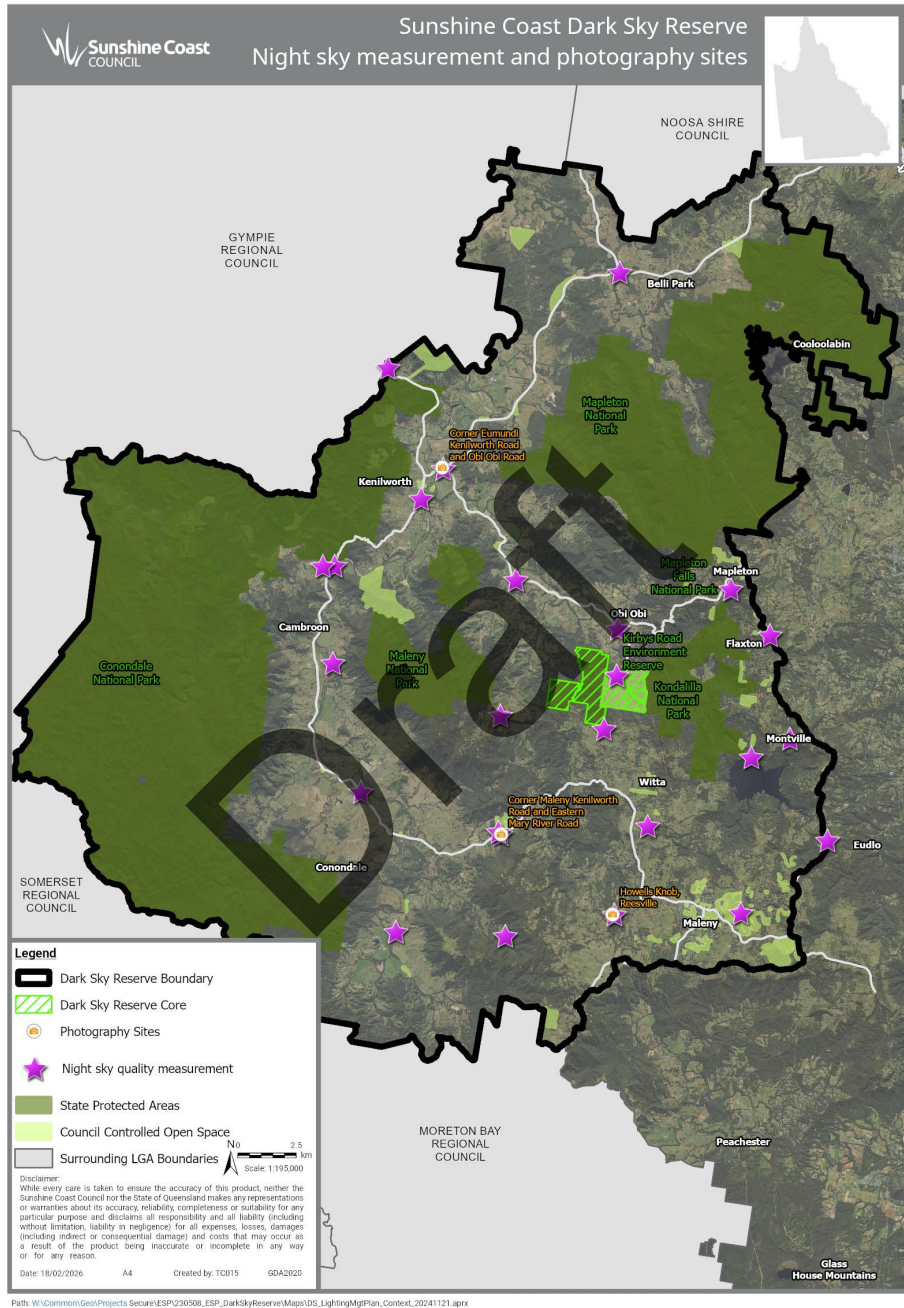


Figure 6: Night sky measurement and photography sites map.

Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve: Application to Dark Sky International

Corner Maleny-Kenilworth Rd and Eastern Mary River Rd, Kenilworth

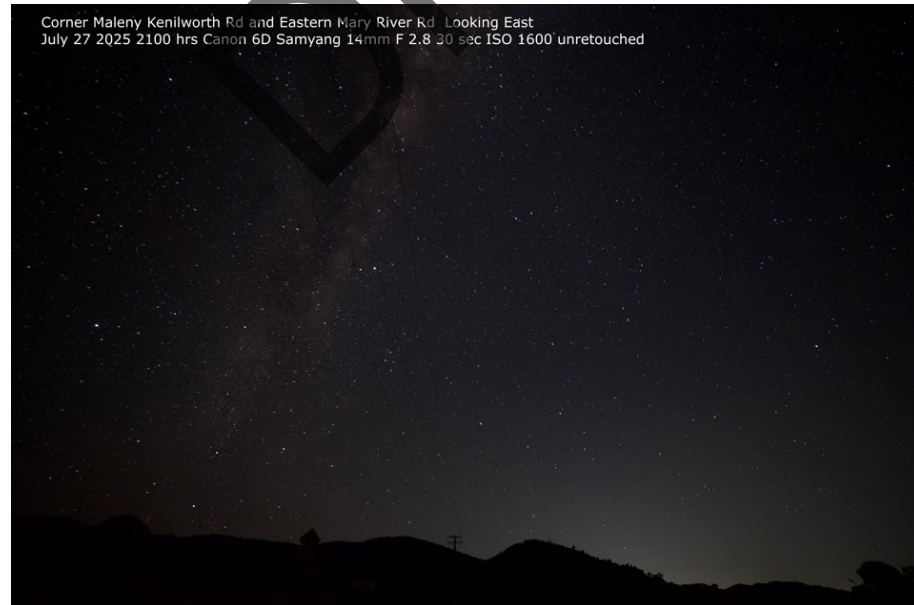


Figure 7: Cnr Maleny-Kenilworth and Eastern Mary River roads, Kenilworth: context to capital city, Brisbane and coastal urban areas.

2025 - Cnr Maleny-Kenilworth Rd and Eastern Mary River Rd, Kenilworth looking east



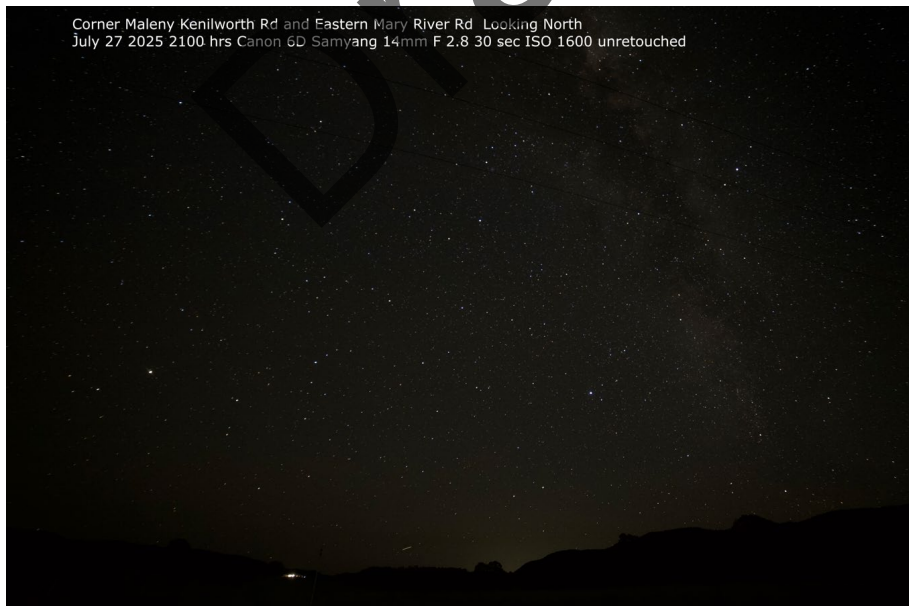
2025 - Cnr Maleny-Kenilworth Rd and Eastern Mary River Rd, Kenilworth looking east



2025 - Cnr Maleny-Kenilworth Rd and Eastern Mary River Rd, Kenilworth looking west



2025 - Cnr Maleny-Kenilworth Rd and Eastern Mary River Rd, Kenilworth looking north

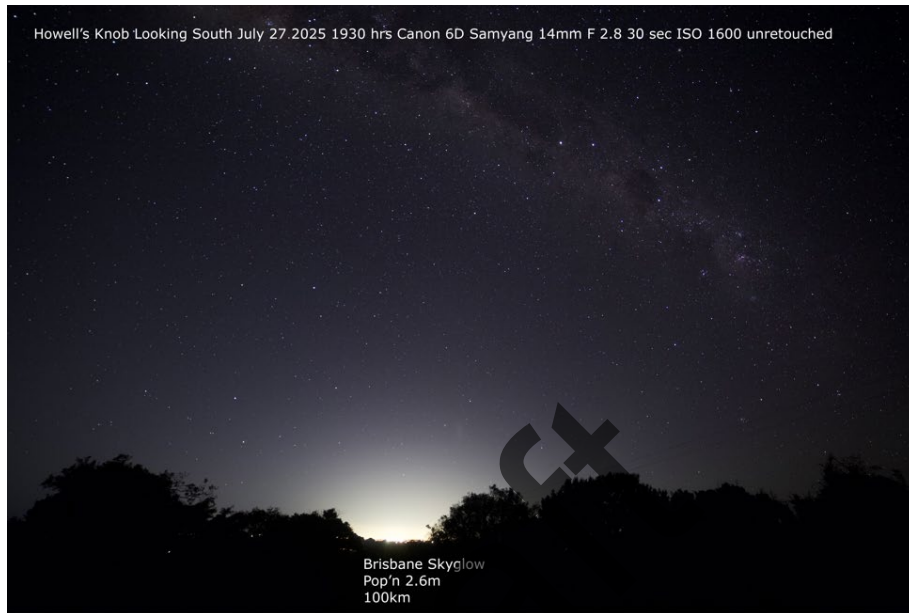


Howell's Knob, Reesville

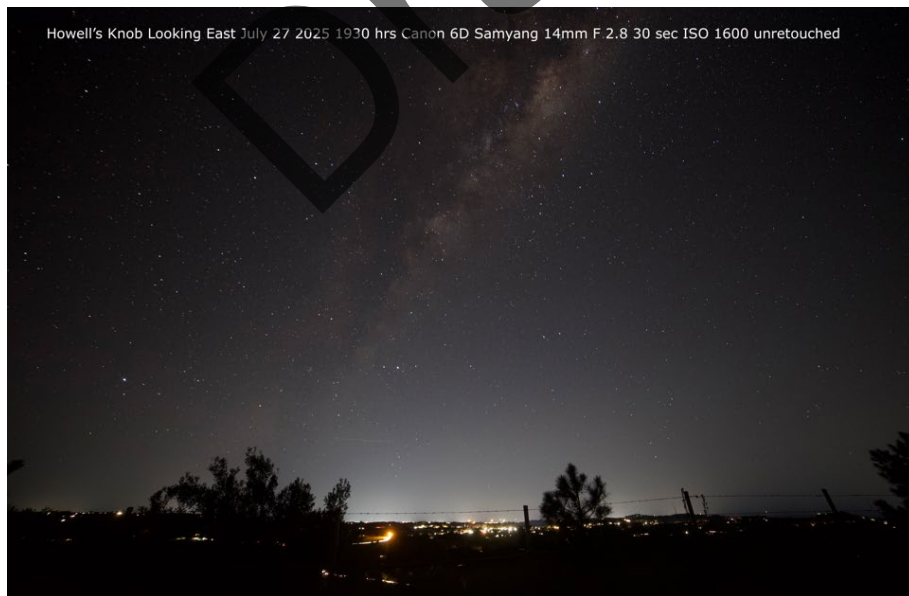


Figure 8: Howell's Knob, Reesville: context to capital city, Brisbane and coastal urban areas.

2025 - Howell's Knob, Reesville looking south



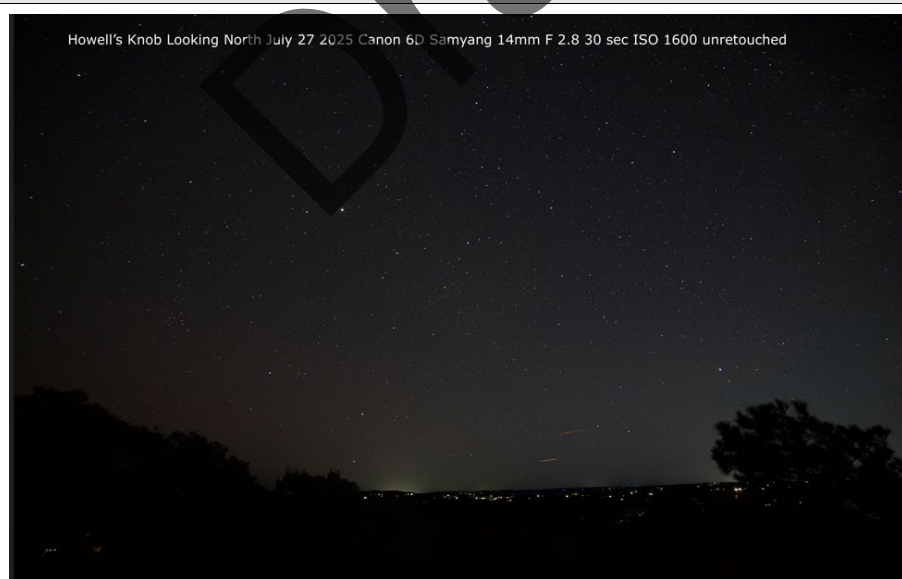
2025 - Howell's Knob, Reesville looking east

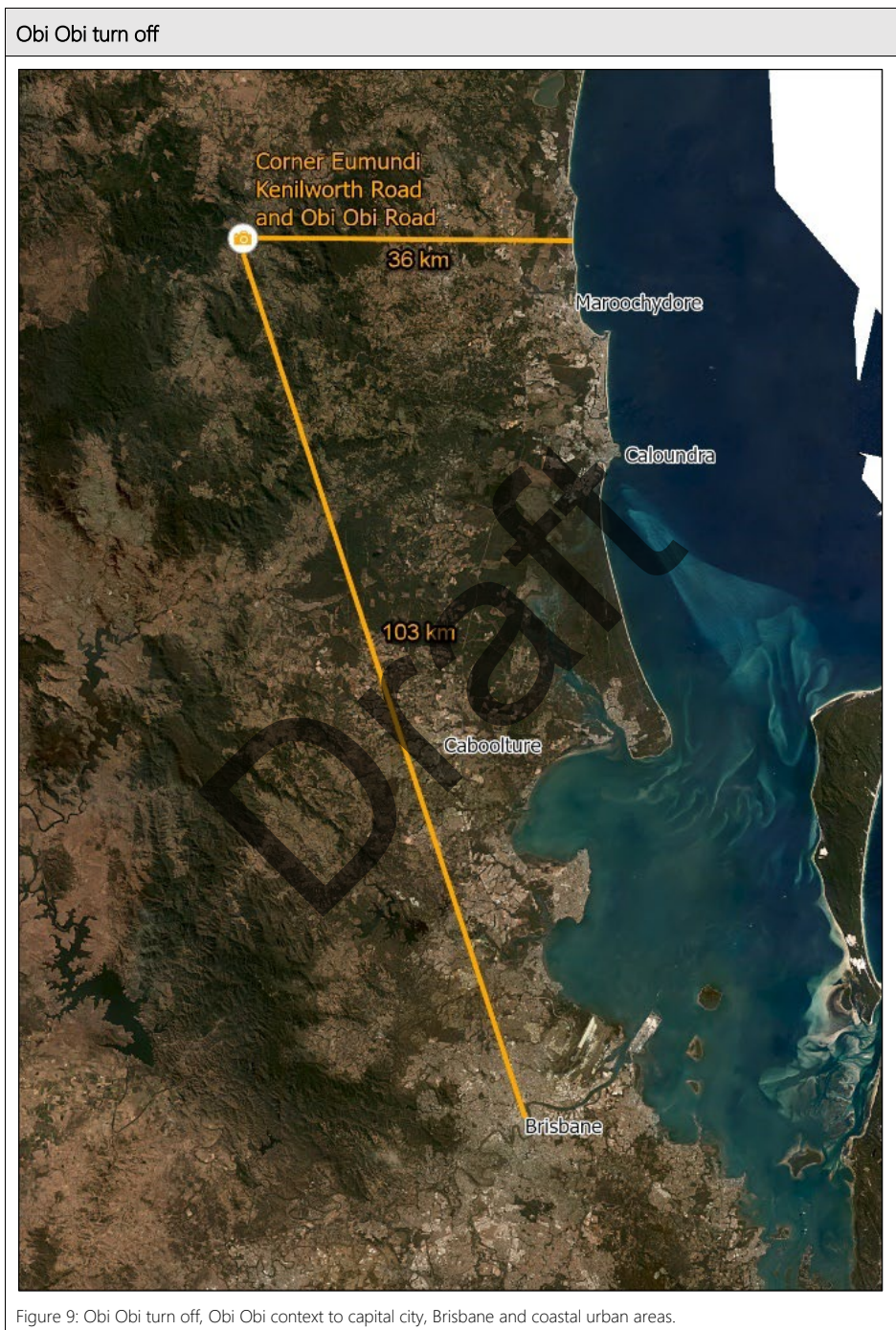


2025 - Howell's Knob, Reesville looking west



2025 - Howell's Knob, Reesville looking north

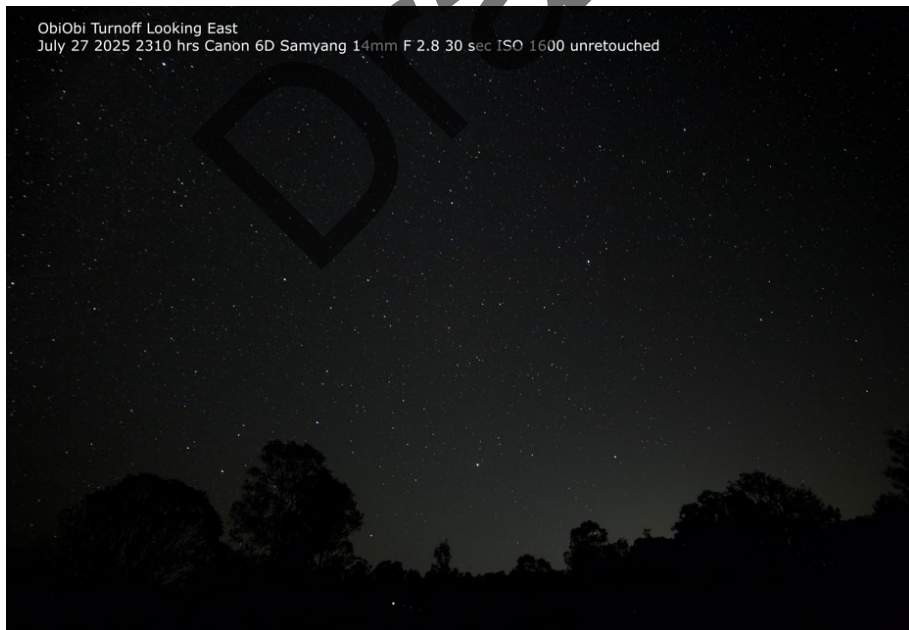




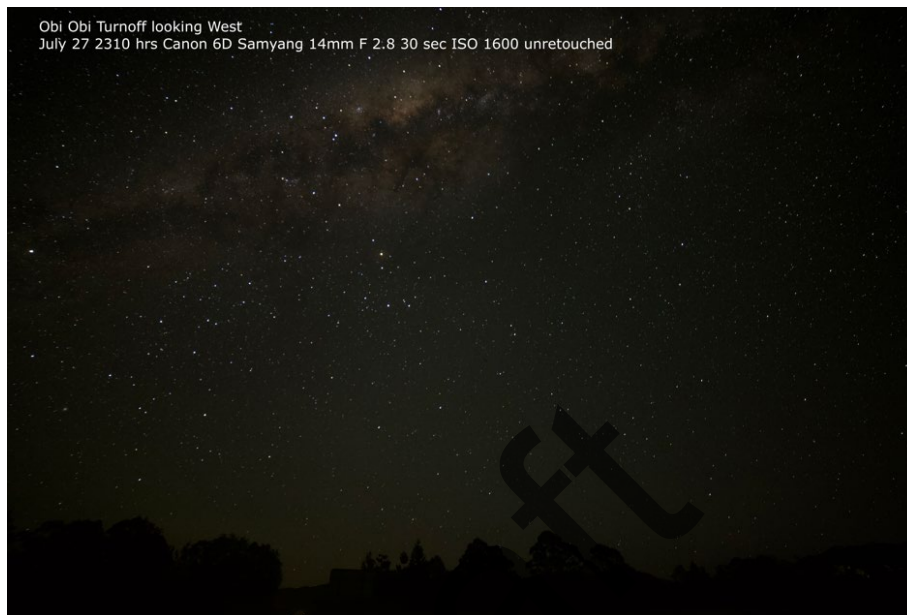
2025 - Obi Obi turn off looking south



2025 - Obi Obi turn off looking east



2025 - Obi Obi turn off looking west



2025 - Obi Obi turn off looking north



## 10. Lighting inventory

A lighting inventory has been developed for both the core and peripheral zones, in accordance with Dark Sky Reserve guidelines to outline existing lighting within the Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve and current level of compliance.

### 10.1 The core

#### Guidelines section compliance

##### Minimum requirements for all Reserves:

Item: 3, 4

- core zone 100% compliant - no artificial lighting present
- lighting inventory completed.

Table 5: Lighting inventory - core zone.

Location	No. of fixtures	% of compliance
Kirbys Road Environment Reserve	0	100
Maleny National Park (Lot 728 NPW787)	0	100

Kirbys Road Environment Reserve and Maleny National Park contain no artificial lighting within its boundaries. This absence of lighting supports the area's role as the core area of the Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve, helping to preserve natural night sky conditions and minimise light pollution impacts on local ecosystems and astronomical observations.

### 10.2 The peripheral zone

#### Guidelines section compliance

##### Minimum requirements for all Reserves:

Item: 7

- lighting inventory completed
- 700 public lights - 35% compliant.

Within the Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve peripheral zone, there a number of different outdoor lighting types, dependent on the location and function of the outdoor space. These lighting installations may be applicable to public areas as well as privately owned and operated businesses and residences.

It is estimated that there are 700 public outdoor lighting assets (Energex street lights and Council managed/maintained outdoor lights). These include a mix of street lights, path lights, carpark lights, and sports field lights. The breakdown of these assets is outlined in the table below:

Table 6: Public lighting - peripheral zone.

Lighting type	No. if fixtures	% of compliance
Street lighting (Energex data, Jan 2024)	560	29%
Council electrical lights includes carpark, path, sports and street lighting (rate 3) (Council data May, 2025)	140	61%
<b>Total</b>	<b>700</b>	

The Energex street lighting network within the Reserve consists of 560 lights, including sodium, LED, mercury vapour, and compact fluorescent fittings. Since the inception of the Dark Sky Reserve Project, 29% (161 lights)

have been upgraded to meet Dark Sky compliance.

Council's electrical lighting network comprises 140 lights across a range of types including car park, pathway, sports facilities, and street lighting. Notably, 61% are dark sky compliant, featuring cut-off shielding and adaptive controls such as motion sensors and central management systems to reduce light pollution and enhance energy efficiency. Fittings use LEDs with colour temperatures between 2700K and 3000K.

An inventory of all street lights and Council electrical lights in the categories above is available in Appendix F.

Refer to Figure 11 - Page 57 illustrating retrofit project including street lights.

Draft

## 11. Lighting Management Plan

See the full plan in Appendix G.

### Guidelines section compliance

#### *Minimum requirements for all Reserves:*

Item: 1

- Lighting Management Plan developed and adopted for the Reserve.
- Core land managers commitment received to implementing the Lighting Management Plan within the Reserve.
- Community consultation on Lighting Management Plan completed.
- 91% of respondents agreed with the Draft Lighting Management Plan's purpose and objectives.
- 85% agreed with what Draft Lighting Management Plans application.

*To ensure the Lighting Management Plan met the expectations of DarkSky International and complied with the International Dark Sky Places Program requirements, the draft plan was reviewed by DarkSky International prior to community consultation. Their feedback was considered and incorporated, resulting in a plan that aligns with program standards before being presented for formal community consultation.*

### 11.1 Overview

The Lighting Management Plan (LMP) for the Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve will shape the selection, placement, installation and operation of all new, replacement or retrofitted lighting.

The LMP has been prepared in consultation with key stakeholders and the Sunshine

Coast community. A dedicated community consultation program was undertaken on the draft plan seeking feedback.

The plan is intended to be applied with other endorsed Council guidelines and specifications including the Urban Lighting Master Plan and Electrical and Lighting Infrastructure Manual. These two associated guidelines apply to the whole of the Sunshine Coast local government area.

The Lighting Management Plan:

- provides direction for new or upgraded Council-controlled outdoor lighting installations in public open spaces and other public lighting where appropriate within the Dark Sky Reserve.
- establishes a common set of principles to guide lighting provided by other key stakeholders within the Dark Sky Reserve including Energex, Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Partnerships, Department of Transport and Mains Roads and the community.
- provides direction for the application of good practice lighting principles to inform the Sunshine Coast Planning Scheme in regard to outdoor lighting associated with new developments within the Dark Sky Reserve.
- raises community awareness of the Dark Sky Reserve and educates how the community can support dark sky aspirations through good practice lighting principles.

The Lighting Management Plan outlines the five overarching responsible lighting principles established by Dark Sky International and provides technical guidance on how to achieve these principles. The principles aim to ensure lighting is:

1. **useful** – use light only if it is needed.

2. **targeted** – direct lighting so it falls only where it’s needed.
3. **low light level** – light should be no brighter than necessary.
4. **controlled** – use light only when it is needed.
5. **warm in colour** – use warmer-colour lights where possible.

The Lighting Management Plan has two levels of application for how it will be used:

1. mandatory
2. encouraged.

**Mandatory application** refers to Council owned and operated lighting in the Reserve. This means any new or upgraded outdoor lighting within the Reserve owned and operated by Council must follow the Lighting Management Plan. For example, street and roadway lighting, lighting in parks and gardens spaces, Council controlled sports lighting and lighting associated with Council buildings and facilities.

**Encouraged application** applies to all other stakeholders responsible for outdoor lighting within the Reserve such as existing private developments and Queensland Government assets etc.

**New development:** The plan will also inform new outdoor lighting provisions in the Proposed Sunshine Coast Planning Scheme. The Proposed Sunshine Coast Planning Scheme includes detailed outdoor lighting provisions that apply to all new assessable development within the Dark Sky Reserve. These provisions are implemented through development conditions and also apply to certain forms of assessable development. They require downward-directed, fully shielded lighting, restrict short-wavelength emissions (e.g. CCT ≤ 3000K), and mandate

the use of timers or motion sensors to minimise unnecessary illumination.

**11.2 Authority and jurisdictions**

In Australia, the Commonwealth Government has the highest authority and sets broad national laws and standards. Below that, the Queensland State Government has greater power than local councils and controls state legislation, policies, and standards.

Energy Queensland Ltd is owned by the Queensland State Government and is the parent company of Energex, which operates the electricity distribution network in South East Queensland, including the Sunshine Coast. Councils and state departments work with Energex to install, maintain, and upgrade lights in line with Commonwealth and State requirements.

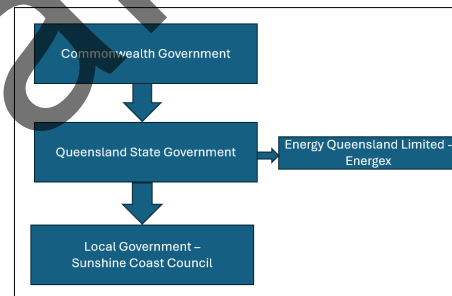


Figure 10: Australian context of authority.

As outlined on page 6 of the Dark Sky Reserve Guidelines, lighting required by law under the authority of any entity having higher legal jurisdiction over either the core or peripheral zones may be formally exempted from the requirements of this section. From a Sunshine Coast context, if Commonwealth Government or Queensland Government requires specific lighting, Council’s own standards are exempt to comply with that higher obligation.

Through this project, positive outcomes however have been achieved in partnership with the Queensland State Government. Their collaboration has delivered on the program's objectives and compliant lighting outcomes within the Dark Sky Reserve.

[Energex's 2025–2030 strategy](#) is to deploy LED aeroscreen luminaires with zero-degree upcast, available in 3000K, replacing conventional street lights across their network in the Reserve and more broadly throughout Queensland by 30 June 2030. Refer to Appendix C - Pages 76-77.

Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Partnerships have committed to ensuring any new or upgraded outdoor lighting within State-owned National Parks and Forests managed by Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Partnerships across the Reserve will comply with the Lighting Management Plan. Refer to Appendix C - Page 75

The Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) lighting policy provides for replacing legacy lighting that emitted significant wasteful light above the horizontal plane with modern LED aeroscreen luminaires. TMR standards now require zero-degree upcast mounting brackets for all new installations, with a replacement program scheduled for completion by June 2026. Road lighting is only provided where there is a demonstrated safety benefit for motorists or pedestrians, and all lighting levels comply with the relevant Australian Standards.

The policy also allows for the use of lower-impact 3000K light sources in environmentally sensitive areas where appropriate. In addition, TMR is deploying smart lighting controllers alongside the LED upgrade program, enabling reduced lighting levels at times when safety is not compromised.

See Section 12 - Lighting compliance plan for our approach to lighting management in collaboration with key partners.

### 11.3 Draft Lighting Management Plan community consultation outcomes

Between 16 June and 11 July 2025, community engagement for the Draft Lighting Management Plan was undertaken. 550 surveys were completed and revealed:

- 94% of respondents think it is important preserve dark skies in their community.
- 91% of respondents agreed with the Draft Lighting Management Plan's purpose and objectives.
- 85% agreed with what Draft Lighting Management Plan's application.

## 12. Lighting compliance plan

This section outlines current lighting compliance in the core and peripheral zones, along with projects completed to deliver dark sky compliant lighting across the Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve. It also describes the future approach to managing outdoor lighting within the Reserve.

### 12.1 The core

**Guidelines section compliance**

*Minimum requirements for all Reserves:*  
Item: 3, 4, 5

- 100% compliant - no lighting present
- a lighting inventory has been completed
- installation of a permanent night sky quality meter
- night sky quality measurement program maintained by Council
- adoption of the Lighting Management by core land managers.

As outlined in Section 10 - lighting inventory, the core zone, Kirbys Road Environment Reserve and Maleny National Park is 100% compliant with no lighting present.

Any future lighting proposed within the core zone will comply with the requirements outlined in the Lighting Management Plan.

A permanent dark sky meter is within the core measuring night sky quality daily.

### 12.2 The peripheral zone

**Guidelines section compliance**

*Minimum requirements for all Reserves:*  
Item: 7

- visible, proportional examples of compliant lighting installations across the Reserve - Maleny, Kenilworth, and street lighting across the Reserve
- 10% of fixtures outside the core are brought into compliance - >170 lights (24%) upgraded to dark sky compliant since project's inception.
- 35% compliant across peripheral zone
- complimentary lighting projects surrounding the Reserve have also been delivered.

Sunshine Coast Council in partnership has completed a number of projects to improve outdoor lighting within the Reserve since commencing the establishment of the Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve.

#### LED Street Lighting Replacement Project

The LED Street Light Replacement Project was delivered partnership with Energex, upgrading approximately 4,000 Energex-owned street lights to energy-efficient LED technology across the entire Sunshine Coast region. This includes street lights located within the Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve which were upgraded across 2024/2025.

As of December 2025, 161 street lights within the Reserve have been replaced with dark sky compliant fittings, supporting efforts to reduce light pollution and enhance night sky visibility. All new luminaires are 3000K CCT, complying with dark-sky aligned design intent (zero-degree upcast). Refer to Appendix H for luminaire specifications and

Figure 11 - Page 57 for sites upgraded in the Reserve.

This project is being delivered through funding received from the Australian Government's Local Road and Community Infrastructure Program (LRCIP).



Images: Old lighting verse new lighting.

**Isaac Moore Park, Kenilworth**

Lighting upgrades at Isaac Moore Park, an identified stargazing site within the Dark Sky Reserve, involved replacing five existing lights in the amenities block with 3000K LED lights fitted with motion sensors. This upgrade aimed to minimise uncontrolled light distribution and reduce excessive upward light spill, supporting the preservation of dark sky conditions. Refer to Figure 11 - Page 57 for location of Isaac Moore Park lighting upgrades within the Reserve.

**Maleny Community Precinct, Maleny**

Adjoining the Maleny observatory site, eight carpark and street lights as well as five solar bollard lights were replaced to dark sky compliant lighting.

The street light and carpark lights were replaced with Australasian Dark Sky Alliance Certified (ADSA) certified MOD 2.0 Urban, 2200K, 5140 lumens, 44W lighting which have zero upward light emission and precise optical controls.

The solar bollard lights were replaced with a 3000K solar wall light with no upward light emission and an output of 27 lumens.

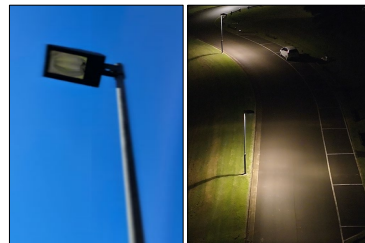


Image: old lighting, Maleny Community Precinct.



Image: New luminaires at Maleny Community Precinct.



Image: New solar bollard light, Maleny Community Precinct.

Refer to Figure 11 - Page 57 for location of Maleny Community Precinct lighting upgrades within the Reserve.

**Smart nodes**

To help manage light pollution, dimming functionalities have been incorporated into integrating/streamlining Central Management System (CMS) and Asset Management System (AMS) by installing 3000 smart nodes across the Sunshine Coast region.

### 12.3 Future approach to lighting management

As part of our lighting compliance strategy and our ongoing commitment to minimising light pollution within the Reserve, we are implementing a series of initiatives, either planned or currently underway, to achieve full compliance of public outdoor lighting in the peripheral zone over time.

Building on the successful outcomes of this project, we are working partnership to support the objectives of the Dark Sky Places program. Collaborations with State Government and Energex will guide future lighting practices across national parks, state forests, and street lighting within the Dark Sky Reserve, ensuring alignment with the program’s vision and contributing to the reduction of light pollution:

- **Council owned and maintained outdoor public lighting** - All new or upgraded public outdoor lighting within the Reserve that is owned and operated by Council will comply with the LMP at the time of installation or required upgrade. Across the next five years our goal is to ensure all street lighting owned and maintained by Council is 100% compliant. For other lighting types such as sports lighting, these will be delivered when upgrades are required.
- **New development** - the Proposed Planning Scheme includes detailed outdoor lighting provisions that apply to all new assessable development within the Dark Sky Reserve. These provisions are implemented through development conditions and also apply to certain forms of assessable development. It is aimed the proposed Planning Scheme is finalised in 2026/2027.

- **Energex street lighting** - Energex’s 2025–2030 strategy is to deploy LED aeroscreen luminaires with zero-degree upcast, available in 3000K, replacing all remaining conventional street lights across their network in the Reserve and more broadly throughout Queensland by 30 June 2030.
- **National Parks and State Forests** - All new or upgraded outdoor lighting within State-owned National Parks and Forests managed by Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Partnerships across the Reserve will comply with the Lighting Management Plan.

### 12.4 Complementary lighting projects across the Sunshine Coast region

To demonstrate our commitment to reducing light pollution beyond the Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve area, additional measures across the broader Sunshine Coast region to further support best-practice lighting management have been implemented.

#### Train station lighting - Landsborough

As a result of a successful community-led campaign, Queensland Rail implemented a two-phase lighting adjustment to support dark sky preservation whilst maintaining public safety. The changes occurred in June 2024 and included:

- dimming light to 70% from dusk until 9pm
- further dimming to 40% from 9pm until sunrise.

#### Wildlife sensitive lighting, coastal areas

As part of Council's turtle conservation efforts, street, carpark and amenity lighting along the coastal areas have been retrofitted to help protect wildlife such as our marine turtles from the impacts of light pollution.

The project included installation of dual engine human and turtle-centric lighting (PC Amber / 2700K) infra-red sensor lighting in carpark and improvements to facilities and local street lighting. A total of 38 lights were retrofitted and one light was removed.

Ongoing artificial light at night studies including dark sky brightness and photometric measurements, and citizen science hatchling orientation data collection are ongoing to monitor outcomes.

This project was led by Sunshine Coast Council and supported by the Commonwealth Government Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water.



Image: Before image of lighting upgrade, Shelly Beach.

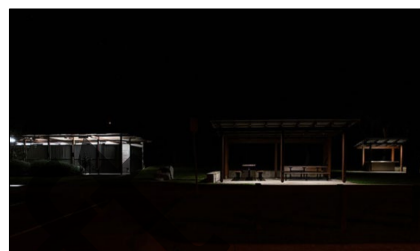


Image: After images of lighting upgrade, Shelly Beach.

#### Bulcock Beach pedestrian lighting upgrade

A lighting upgrade was completed at Bulcock Beach to improve the nighttime environment for pedestrians whilst reducing the impact on the surrounding environment. The project used 2200K luminaires and AEC reflector optic. It achieved zero sky glow and very low DGI.



Image: Before and after images of lighting upgrade, Bulcock Beach. Source: HBW Lighting

**LED Street Lighting Replacement Project - completion**

The LED Street Light Replacement Project is nearing completion, with approximately 4,000 street lights across the Sunshine Coast region upgraded to 3000k energy-efficient LED technology complying with dark-sky aligned design intent (zero-degree upcast).

**LED lighting across Queensland**

Across 2025-2030 Energex are deploying LED lighting on all remaining conventional lights in their network in the State of Queensland by 30 June 2030 and 3000K in the Sunshine Coast region.

**Queensland Government building lighting upgrades**

\$250,000 has been committed to lighting upgrades in Maleny by the Queensland Government to fast-track lighting upgrades to protect the Sunshine Coast Dark Sky

Reserve. The funding is anticipated to replace outdated state-controlled lighting on government buildings such as the police station, hospital etc.

**Central Management System of Street Lighting**

Council is upgrading its own street lights (Rate 3) with a Central Management System (CMS) on 70% of its 3,000 LED lights. These smart lights can be dimmed to 50% during off-peak hours (11pm–5am) while still meeting safety standards. This change is part of a broader national update to electricity and retail rules, with new metering systems expected by mid-2026. Future dimming of street lights through a Central Management System will reduce light pollution and help preserve the natural night environment.

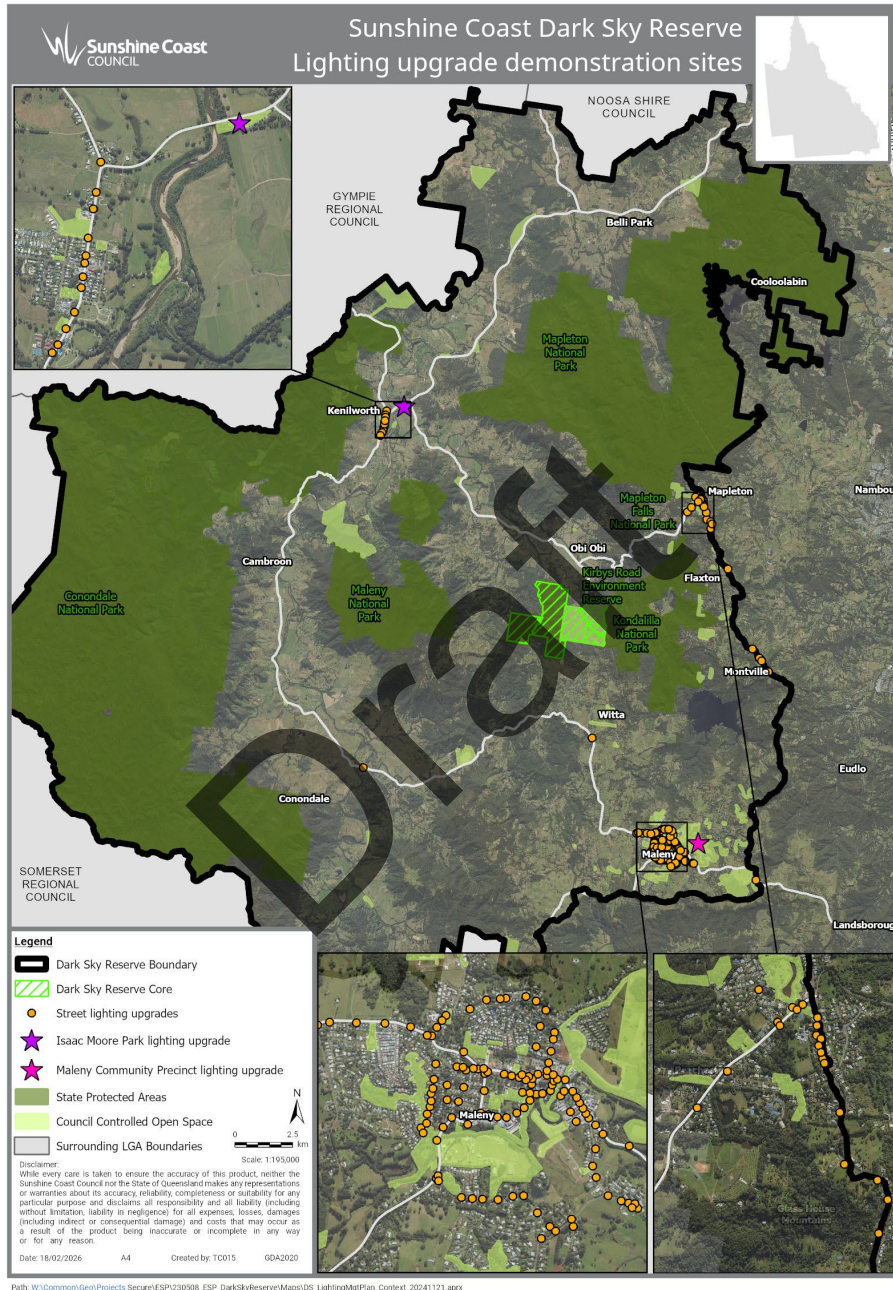


Figure 11: Lighting upgrade demonstration sites as part of the project.

Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve: Application to Dark Sky International

### 13. Outreach and education

**Guidelines section compliance**

*Minimum requirements for all Reserves:*

Item: 8, 9

- participating community providing engagement and education
- commitment to public education
- 4 public events per year
- 35 presentations/workshops delivered.

Outreach and education has been an ongoing focus for the Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve Project with both successful education and well as engagement initiatives delivered.



Image: Library display as part of engagement program, Caloundra.

#### 13.1 Communication campaigns

Since December 2023, Sunshine Coast Council has successfully delivered a comprehensive communication program to support the Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve Project. The campaign has utilised a diverse mix of tools including informative videos, targeted social media posts, media releases, and a dedicated webpage to raise awareness and engage the community. See Appendix I for examples of media stories captured.



Image: Dark skies foyer video on Council foyer screen, Maroochydore as part of engagement program.

#### 13.2 Community consultation

Two formal community consultation phases were delivered.

##### Stage 1: May/June 2024

The May/June 2024 consultation program invited our communities inside and outside the Reserve area to have their say and participate in a range of conversations, surveys and events.

Community feedback was received through:

- online surveys
- community conversations at drop-in sessions and local events
- community information sessions and presentations
- individual submissions.

A summary fact sheet of engagement outcomes for stage one is in Section 14: Interpretive products.

The majority of feedback received through the engagement process, including 95% of survey respondents, expressed support for the protection of our night sky for future generations. The community see a Dark Sky Reserve designation through the International Dark Sky Places Program as a great initiative and positive approach towards protecting our night skies. The community recognises our night sky as an important natural asset of the region and the role it plays in people's connection to place. Feedback received also acknowledged the many benefits of protecting the night sky including preserving wildlife and ecosystems

as well as for human experiences (i.e. health and wellbeing, recreation and astro-tourism).

**Stage 2: June/July 2025**

Between 16 June and 11 July 2025, the second stage of community engagement for the Dark Sky Reserve project was undertaken and revealed strong ongoing public support for preserving the night sky for future generations. This phase focused on updating the community, exploring local impacts of light pollution, and gathering feedback on the Draft Lighting Management Plan.

Key themes from the feedback included: widespread support with minimal suggested changes; increased public understanding of the project and Draft Lighting Management Plan; recognition of broad benefits for nature, people, and businesses; a desire to balance low lighting with safety; interest for expanding the initiative; emphasis on continued communication and education; and a sense of urgency to implement the plan.

94% of respondents think it is important to preserve dark skies in their community. 91% of respondents agreed with the Draft Lighting Management Plan’s purpose and objectives.

A summary fact sheet of engagement outcomes for Stage one and two is in Section 14.



Image: Local expo display as part of community engagement, Maleny.

**13.3 Materials and collateral**

To further support outreach, Council has also developed a variety of printed collateral, including brochures, fact sheets, maps, postcards, banners, and other visual materials, helping to communicate key messages across both digital and physical platforms. These efforts have effectively highlighted the Reserve’s significance, encouraged public participation, and reinforced Council’s commitment to preserving the region’s night skies.

See Section 14: Interpretive products for examples of materials and collateral.



Image: Council City Hall foyer display as part of community engagement efforts, Maroochydore.

### 13.4 Community-led education and outreach

In addition to Council’s communication and engagement efforts, the community has played an active and inspiring role in supporting the Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve project. Local groups and passionate individuals have organised public events including stargazing nights and educational presentations to raise awareness about the importance of dark skies and the impacts of light pollution. These grassroots initiatives have complemented Council’s outreach, fostering a shared sense of stewardship and deepening public understanding of the value of preserving the night sky.

Dr Ken Wishaw, the 2024 Dark Sky Defender Awardee and the 2025 Sunshine Coast Biosphere Community Awards, Senior Citizen of the Year, has been a key driver of implementing a Dark Sky Reserve within the Sunshine Coast and has provided invaluable support and technical expertise to the process and educating the community.

Table 7: Education and outreach delivered by Dr Ken Wishaw.

Date	Education and outreach
<b>2023</b>	
July	Maleny Observatory
August	Queensland Astrofest
September	Maleny Observatory
October	Maleny Observatory
December	University of the Sunshine Coast School of Business and Tourism
<b>2024</b>	
March	Mapleton Environmental Group
April	Brisbane Astronomical Society
	University of the Sunshine Coast School of Business and Tourism
May	University of the Sunshine Coast Environmental Group
	Montville Village Association
June	Mapleton and District Community Association
	Mapleton Mystic Mountain Tour Group
	Maleny Observatory
July	University of the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Age Caloundra
August	Maleny Observatory
	University of the Sunshine Coast
	Brisbane Astronomical Society
	University of the Sunshine Coast
	Lake Cooby International Conference
September	Maleny Observatory
	University of the Sunshine Coast

Date	Education and outreach
November	Maleny Observatory
	U3A Caloundra
	Brisbane Astronomical Society
<b>2025</b>	
February	ADSA National Meeting Melbourne 19th February
April	Maleny Golf Club
May	Lighting Council of Australia Scientific Meeting Melbourne
	Lady Elliott Island
July	Buderim Men’s Shed
	University of the 3rd Age
September	U3A, Sippy Downs
October	Hinterland Lions Club
	Light source lighting designers and lighting engineers, Brisbane
November	Biosphere Dark Sky Community Event
	Bat Festival, Maleny

**Brisbane Astronomical Society**

The local chapter of the Brisbane Astronomical Society conducts stargazing nights at the Maleny Observatory within the Dark Sky Reserve. These evenings include a presentation, laser guided tour of the night sky and interaction with high-end telescopes. The demand for these events is ever increasing, with a free but ticketed system requiring implementation to cap the number of attendees. Numbers are capped at 150 attendees and these free tickets regularly sell out within just a few hours of being released.



Image: Public stargazing night 2024 as part of engagement program, Maleny.

Table 8: Dark sky community events 2024-2025.

Month	Event
<b>2024</b>	
May/June	Dark Sky Project Community consultation program of activities (various locations)
April	Public Stargazing night, Maleny Observatory
June	Public Stargazing night, Maleny Observatory
August	Public Stargazing night, Maleny Observatory
	Astronomy Dark Sky Workshop, Mooloolaba
<b>2025</b>	
June/July	Dark Sky Project Community Consultation program of activities

August	Public Stargazing night, Maleny Observatory
November	Dark Sky Community Event, University of the Sunshine Coast
	Australasian Bat Night, Maleny

interactive Q&A sessions are intended to be offered. All events will feature a component addressing light pollution.

**Presentations and workshops**

- *Delivered to:*
  - community groups
  - universities
  - tourism and local business.

**Education and collateral**

- Print and digital materials:
  - banners, postcards, fact sheets for local community events
  - resources for local residents and visitors
  - social media campaigns and short videos.

**13.5 Ongoing education and outreach**

As part of the Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve’s ongoing education and outreach efforts, the following initiatives are proposed to form an inclusive engagement program:

Website Hub

- *Dedicated Dark Sky Reserve page on Council’s website featuring:*
  - interactive map of the Reserve area
  - educational content and collateral on light pollution and its impacts
  - Lighting Management Plan
  - stargazing locations.

**Tourism and visitor engagement**

- Dark Sky Reserve branding and signage at a main Reserve entry point.
- Local tourism operators offering dark sky experiences.
- Visitor education through accommodation providers and tour guides.
- Interpretive signage and educational installations.

**Public stargazing nights and events**

- *Hosted by local astronomy groups including the local chapter of the Brisbane Astronomical Society*
  - regular public nights
  - presentations on light pollution and astronomy
  - naked-eye viewing
  - Telescope viewing

In 2026 local astronomy groups in the Reserve are planning eight public stargazing events (weather permitting). For nights affected by cloud cover, local astrophotography presentations and

**First Nations engagement**

Sunshine Coast Council recognises our shared history and works in partnership with the Kabi Kabi and Jinibara peoples to support a shared future grounded in respect, understanding and collaboration. Council is committed to respectful engagement with First Nations peoples and actively seeks input from Traditional Owners through ongoing consultation across planning, policy development and project delivery.

Council values First Nations knowledge, culture and enduring connection to Country, and seeks to ensure this knowledge informs inclusive outcomes that respect cultural heritage and support shared stewardship of the Sunshine Coast.

Council has a dedicated First Nations Partnerships team that supports Council's commitment to working in partnership with the Kabi Kabi and Jinibara peoples. The Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve project team will work closely with this team to ensure ongoing engagement with the Kabi Kabi and Jinibara peoples and to support the implementation of Dark Sky Reserve activities and initiatives across the wider Sunshine Coast community.

First Nations remain an important part of a sustainable Sunshine Coast and continue to play an active role in the governance arrangements of our Sunshine Coast Biosphere. Engagement has also occurred through the proposal to establish a Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve, including First Nations stories shared through a free community event, supporting broader community understanding of Country and cultural connections to the night sky.

In 2026, as part of exploring visitor experiences within the Dark Sky Reserve while ensuring the long-term protection of the night sky, First Nations groups will be invited to share their cultural perspectives and connections to the night sky.

Draft

### 14. Interpretive products

Guidelines section compliance

*Minimum requirements for all Reserves:*  
Item: 8, 9

- Collateral developed to support local outreach and education efforts - websites, fact sheets, brochure etc.

Guided by DarkSky International’s established collateral and best-practice principles, we have developed locally tailored interpretive products to enhance community understanding and engagement. These included:

- dedicated webpages
- brochures, fact sheets, and postcards
- maps
- pull up banners
- frequently asked questions (FAQs) resource to address common queries.

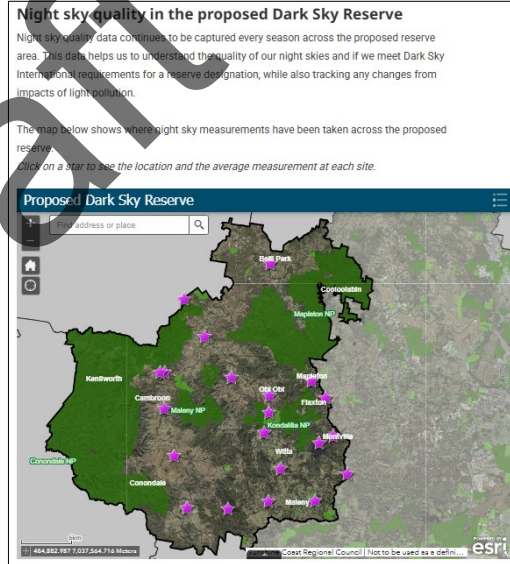
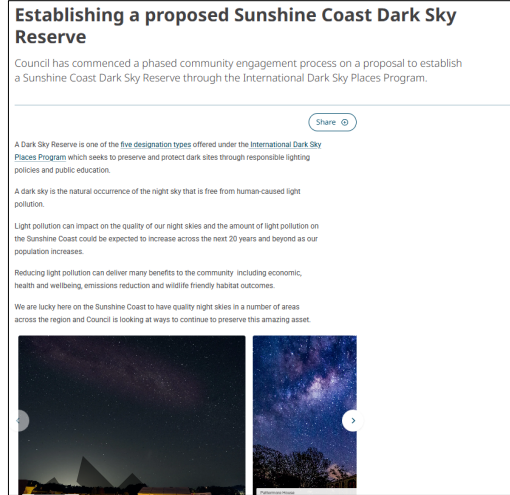


Image: [Project webpage](#).

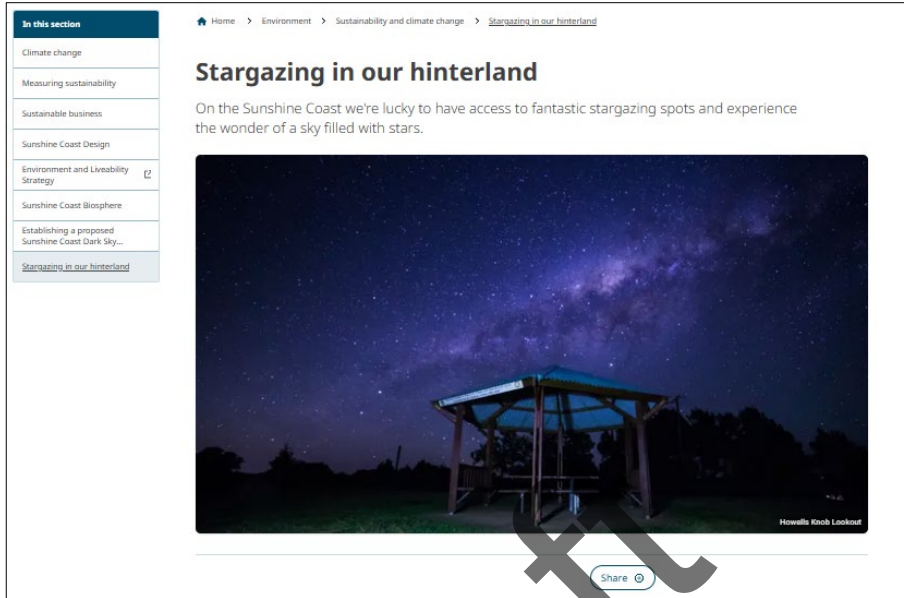


Image: [Stargazing webpage.](#)

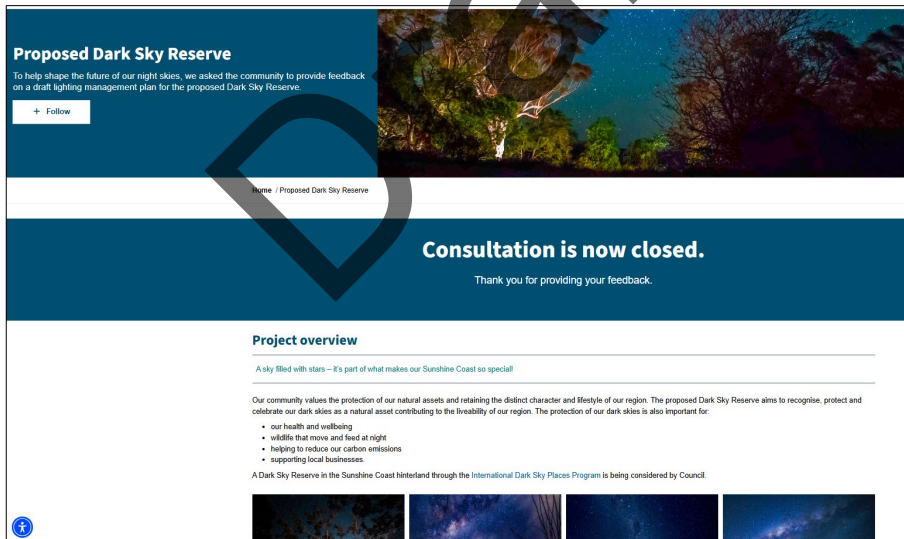


Image: [Have your Say webpage.](#)

**FACT SHEET**

Establishing a proposed Dark Sky Reserve  
**Project update**  
June 2025

**A sky filled with stars is part of what makes the Sunshine Coast so special.**

**Our dark sky journey is continuing**

Keeping our night sky dark and reducing light pollution is important for:

- our health and wellbeing
- wildlife that move and feed at night
- helping to reduce our carbon emissions
- supporting local businesses.

We are in Phase Two of the project to establish a proposed Dark Sky Reserve in the Sunshine Coast hinterland. Phase Two includes community engagement and developing technical documentation.

**Community engagement**

Phase Two of the project has two stages of community engagement.

The first stage of engagement occurred in May-June 2024. This initial consultation aimed to understand community interest in protecting our night skies, the Dark Sky Reserve concept, and willingness to play a part in reducing light pollution.

A community consultation summary for the 2024 formal consultation can be found [here](#).

This second stage of community consultation across June-July 2025 shares the latest project outcomes and seeks feedback on a Draft Lighting Management Plan for the proposed reserve.

Ongoing engagement with key stakeholders is also a critical part of the project and has continued across 2025. Stakeholders include:

- community groups
- Dark Sky International
- State Government agencies
- Energy
- Australasian Dark Sky Alliance.

**Night sky quality measurement program**

Night sky quality data continues to be captured every session across the proposed reserve area at over 20 locations. This data helps us to understand the quality of our night skies and if we meet Dark Sky International requirements for a reserve, while also tracking any changes from impacts of light pollution.

Two permanent night sky quality meters have also been installed within the proposed reserve and are capturing data daily. For a summary of data results, visit the project page on [Council's website](#).

**Lighting inventory**

A lighting inventory is a formal audit of outdoor lighting in an area.

Sunshine Coast COUNCIL

**FACT SHEET**

Establishing a proposed Dark Sky Reserve  
**Draft Lighting Management Plan**  
June 2025

**A balanced approach to lighting**

A lighting management plan helps to balance the need for artificial lighting with preserving our night skies, the environment, our health and well-being and energy and resources.

It guides the selection, placement, installation and operation of all new, replacement or retrofitted lighting. A lighting management plan is also a requirement under the International Dark Sky Places Program for a Dark Sky Reserve designation.

Council has prepared a Draft Lighting Management Plan for the proposed Dark Sky Reserve and we are seeking your feedback.

The draft plan is intended to be applied with other endorsed Council guidelines and specifications including the [Urban Lighting Master Plan](#) and [Electrical and Lighting Infrastructure Manual](#). These two associated guidelines apply to the whole of the Sunshine Coast Local Government Area.

**What is the purpose of the draft plan?**

The Draft Lighting Management Plan:

- provides direction for new or upgraded Council-controlled outdoor lighting installations in public open spaces and other public lighting where appropriate within the proposed Dark Sky Reserve.
- establishes a common set of principles to guide lighting provided by other key stakeholders within the proposed Dark Sky Reserve including Energy, Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Partnerships, Department of Transport and Main Roads and the community.
- provides direction for the application of good practice lighting principles to inform the Sunshine Coast Planning Scheme in regard to outdoor lighting associated with new developments within the proposed Dark Sky Reserve.
- raises community awareness of the proposed Dark Sky Reserve and educates how the community can support dark sky aspirations through good practice lighting principles.

Sunshine Coast COUNCIL

Image: Fact sheets.

**A sky filled with stars**

It's part of what makes our Sunshine Coast so special

Light pollution in our region is expected to increase as our population grows. To help protect our precious dark skies, Sunshine Coast Council is needing to work with the community to establish a Dark Sky Reserve.

Keeping our night sky dark and filled with stars is important for:

- Our health and wellbeing
- Wildlife that move and feed at night
- Helping to reduce our carbon emissions
- Supporting local businesses.

**Why establish a Dark Sky Reserve?**

A Dark Sky Reserve in our Sunshine Coast hinterland, designated through the International Dark Sky Places Program, would help protect our starry dark skies for the future.

It would support responsible lighting practices and bring our communities together in celebration of our night sky.

A Dark Sky Reserve would place our region among Australian leaders in the dark sky movement and attract national and international astrotourism visitors, supporting our hinterland businesses.

There are only four Dark Sky Places in Australia as of May 2024, and only one of those is a Dark Sky Reserve, which is characterised by community involvement and partnerships.

**Where would the reserve cover?**

The proposed reserve would encompass the Mary River catchment and adjoining State protected areas within the Sunshine Coast local government area. This is a mix of private and public land.

It includes townships such as Maleny, Mapleton, Morville, Witta, Flatton and Conondale.

Excellent night sky quality has been measured throughout the proposed reserve area.

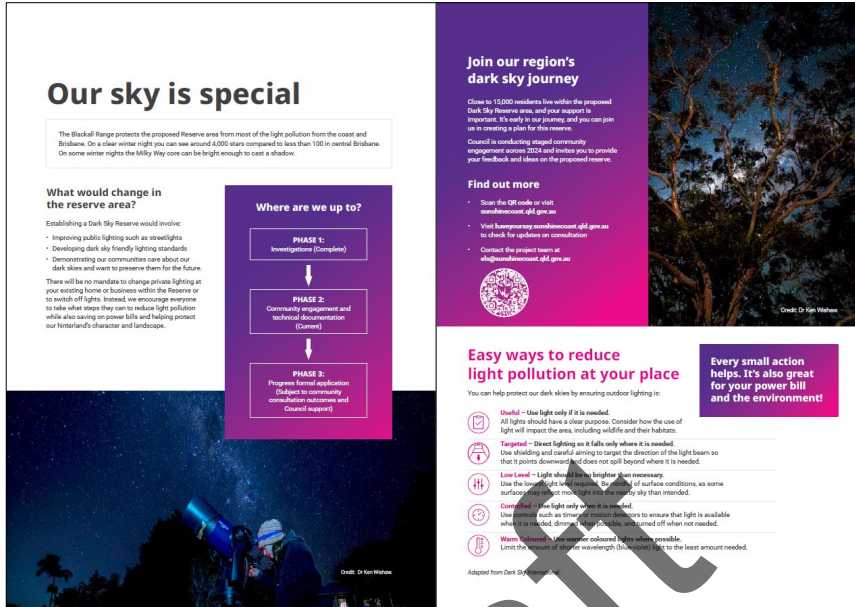


Image: Brochure

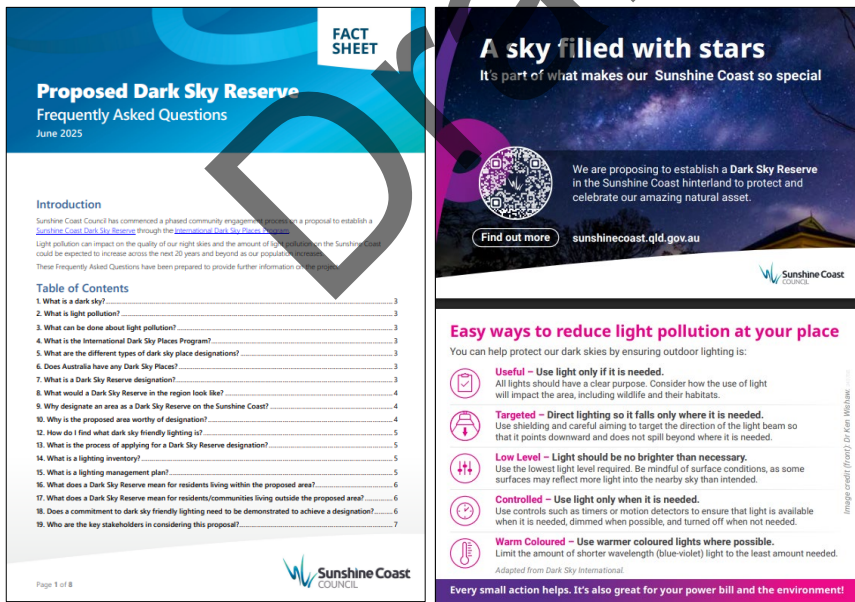


Image: Frequently asked questions document and postcard.

Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve: Application to Dark Sky International



Image: Pull up banners.

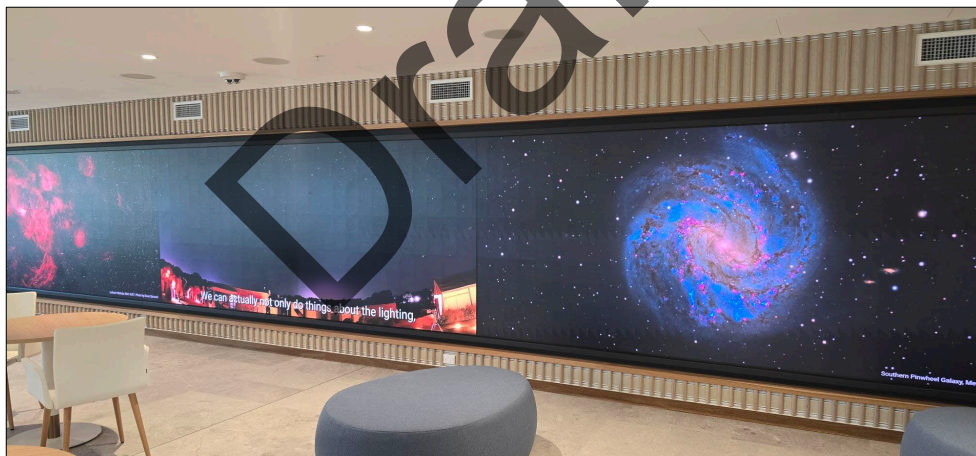


Image: Foyer video.

**FACT SHEET**

**Establishing a proposed Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve  
Community Engagement Summary**  
August 2024

A dark sky is the natural occurrence of the sky at night, free from human-caused light pollution. Light pollution can impact on the quality of our night skies and the amount of light pollution on the Sunshine Coast is expected to increase as our population grows.

To help recognise, protect and celebrate our dark skies, Sunshine Coast Council has been investigating potential opportunities to assist.

As part of these investigations, establishing a Dark Sky Reserve in the Sunshine Coast hinterlands under the International Dark Sky Places Program was identified as an appropriate mechanism.

In November 2023, Council commenced a phased community engagement process with formal community consultation between 20 May to 16 June 2024, seeking feedback on the proposal to inform ongoing considerations.

The May/June 2024 consultation program invited our communities inside and outside the proposed reserve area to have their say and participate in a range of conversations, surveys and events.

Community feedback was received through:

- Online surveys
- Community conversations at drop-in sessions and local events
- Community information sessions and presentations
- Individual submissions.

**Promotion highlights**

- 3 have star sky program signage and outdoor canopy
- 6 community drop-in sessions
- 5 promotions at local events
- 1 starlight event
- 1 community information session
- social media promotion
- print, online and radio advertising
- 12 starlight

**Participation highlights**

- 1,213 survey responses
- 48% of all households in the Sunshine Coast hinterland area
- 35 individual submissions
- 1 community presentation
- >150 community conversations
- 130 contact with attendees

Sunshine Coast COUNCIL

**FACT SHEET**

**Establishing a proposed Dark Sky Reserve  
Community Engagement Summary | Round Two**  
October 2025

**Overwhelming support continues for a proposed Dark Sky Reserve designation, and now too for the Draft Lighting Management Plan.**

A dark sky is the natural occurrence of the sky at night, free from human-caused light pollution. Light pollution can impact on the quality of our night skies and is expected to increase as our Sunshine Coast population grows.

Following a successful first round of engagement in 2024, Sunshine Coast Council invited further community feedback on a proposal to establish a Dark Sky Reserve in the Sunshine Coast hinterland.

From 16 June to 11 July 2025, this second round of engagement indicated a continued, high level of community support for the protection of our night sky for future generations.

Engagement methods used were:

- an online survey
- community and key stakeholder meetings
- community and key stakeholder correspondence/communications
- individual submissions, feedback panels and drop-ins

This second round of engagement was designed to deepen conversations and involvement with community via:

- providing an update on the project
- understanding light pollution impacts locally and the importance of dark sky preservation for our residents
- seeking feedback on the [Draft Lighting Management Plan \(DLMP\)](#).

**What is the Draft Lighting Management Plan?**

The [Draft Lighting Management Plan \(DLMP\)](#) guides the selection, placement, installation and operation of new and replacement/retrofitted lighting in the proposed Dark Sky Reserve.

The plan will assist in the management of light pollution and allow Sunshine Coast Council to meet eligibility requirements under the [International Dark Sky Places Program](#) for a Dark Sky Place designation.

Sunshine Coast COUNCIL

Image: [Community consultation outcome summaries.](#)

## 15. Threats and opportunities

**Guidelines section compliance**

*Minimum requirements for all Reserves:*  
 Item: 6

- Current and suspected future threats to dark skies of the core identified - population growth and development.

The Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve in the hinterland presents both exciting opportunities and notable challenges ahead.

The core zone of the Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve is situated within a protected national park and Council-managed environment reserve, ensuring a high level of conservation. The core zone is further buffered by rural areas including Nature Refuges. The Sunshine Coast hinterland areas within the Dark Sky Reserve, experience lower levels of development in comparison to the coastal areas of the region, where majority of the Sunshine Coast's current and projected population growth is. This supports the long-term viability of maintaining dark sky conditions and enhancing the Reserve's potential for successful designation and preservation.

### 15.1 Threats

**Population growth and urban development**

As the Sunshine Coast continues to grow, increased development and infrastructure could lead to more light pollution if not carefully managed both within the Reserve itself and surrounding areas.

*Mitigation:*

- **Proposed Sunshine Coast Planning Scheme:** adopts a balanced and sustainable approach to managing population growth, with a strong emphasis on urban consolidation. By concentrating development in areas

with access to infrastructure, services, and employment, the proposed planning scheme aims to reduce urban sprawl and protect natural and rural landscapes. This includes areas such as the Dark Sky Reserve. The proposed planning scheme also incorporates specific outdoor lighting provisions for new developments with the Dark Sky Reserve ensuring lighting design aligns with dark sky values.

- **ongoing education and awareness:** an ongoing education and awareness program to inform key stakeholders and the Sunshine Coast community as a whole about the impacts of artificial light and the benefits of responsible lighting practices. Education initiatives could include communication campaigns, new interpretive materials and workshops with key audiences.
- **government collaboration and advocacy:** Advocacy and cross-government collaboration are essential to effectively address the growing threat of light pollution. Engaging with adjoining local government areas through advocacy strengthens regional commitment to dark sky protection and encourages the adoption of complementary planning provisions. Collaborative approaches also support shared learning, resource efficiency, and unified messaging.
- **lighting in the core:** Any future lighting proposed within the core zone of the Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve will be managed in accordance with the Reserve's Lighting Management Plan, ensuring

installations are dark sky compliant and environmentally sensitive.

**15.2 Opportunities**

**Supporting our Sunshine Coast vision**

As an area striving to be Australia’s to be Australia’s most sustainable region protecting natural nightscapes, reducing light pollution, and promoting environmentally responsible practices will support our vision. A Dark Sky Reserve reinforces long-term conservation goals while enhancing community awareness, ecological resilience, and sustainable tourism opportunities.

**Preserving hinterland’s landscape and character**

Protecting dark skies is essential to preserving the distinctive and diverse landscape of the Sunshine Coast hinterland. The Dark Sky Reserve will help maintain the natural beauty, rural character, and ecological integrity of the region.

**Supporting wildlife sensitive environments**

Reducing light pollution supports nocturnal wildlife and improves ecosystem health. With a large percentage of the Dark Sky Reserve area consisting of national park, a designation will further support conservation efforts within the Sunshine Coast hinterland.

**Community health and wellbeing**

Dark skies play a vital role in supporting community health and wellbeing by promoting better sleep, reducing stress, and fostering deeper connections with nature. Access to natural nightscapes also encourages outdoor recreation, mindfulness, and cultural engagement, contributing to a healthier and more resilient community.

**Sustainable and dark sky compliant lighting outcomes**

The project supports ongoing efforts to implement sustainable and dark sky compliant lighting region wide.

**Tourism**

A Dark Sky Reserve designation will showcase the values of our Sunshine Coast hinterland and the astro-tourism opportunities. The hinterland’s proximity to airports and urban centres makes it more accessible than many remote dark sky sites, offering a unique opportunity to attract national and international stargazing tourists.

Getting the balance right is important to the community to ensure our region’s landscape, character and local amenity is retained and the natural areas preserved, while ensuring tourism or any increased visitation within the Dark Sky Reserve area does not negatively impact on the values a Dark Sky Reserve designation seeks to protect.

**Recognising community efforts**

The initiative recognises and celebrates the community’s ongoing efforts to protect dark skies, acknowledging the strong local support and advocacy that have been instrumental in shaping its success.

**Ongoing community engagement and education on dark skies and impacts of light pollution**

The project has already inspired strong community involvement, with public stargazing evenings helping to build awareness and stewardship for dark skies. A designation will further provide engagement and education around the importance of dark skies and reducing light pollution region wide.

**Appendix A: Conservation significant nocturnal species, Sunshine Coast region.**

Scientific name	Common name
<i>Phyllodes imperialis smithersi</i>	southern pink underwing moth
<i>Litoria freycineti</i>	wallum rocketfrog
<i>Litoria olongburensis</i>	wallum sedgefrog
<i>Litoria pearsoniana</i>	cascade treefrog
<i>Adelotus brevis</i>	tusked frog
<i>Crinia tinnula</i>	wallum froglet
<i>Mixophyes fleayi</i>	Fleay's barred frog
<i>Mixophyes iteratus</i>	giant barred frog
<i>Podargus ocellatus plumiferus</i>	plumed frogmouth
<i>Ninox strenua</i>	powerful owl
<i>Dasyurus hallucatus</i>	northern quoll
<i>Xeromys myoides</i>	water mouse
<i>Petaurus australis australis</i>	yellow-bellied glider (southern subspecies)
<i>Potorous tridactylus tridactylus</i>	long-nosed potoroo
<i>Petauroides volans volans</i>	southern greater glider
<i>Pteropus poliocephalus</i>	grey-headed flying-fox
<i>Tachyglossus aculeatus</i>	short-beaked echidna
<i>Acanthophis antarcticus</i>	common death adder
<i>Anilius silvia</i>	striped blind snake

Source: Queensland Government, WildNet.

### Appendix B: Proposed Sunshine Coast Planning Scheme Dark Sky Place mapping

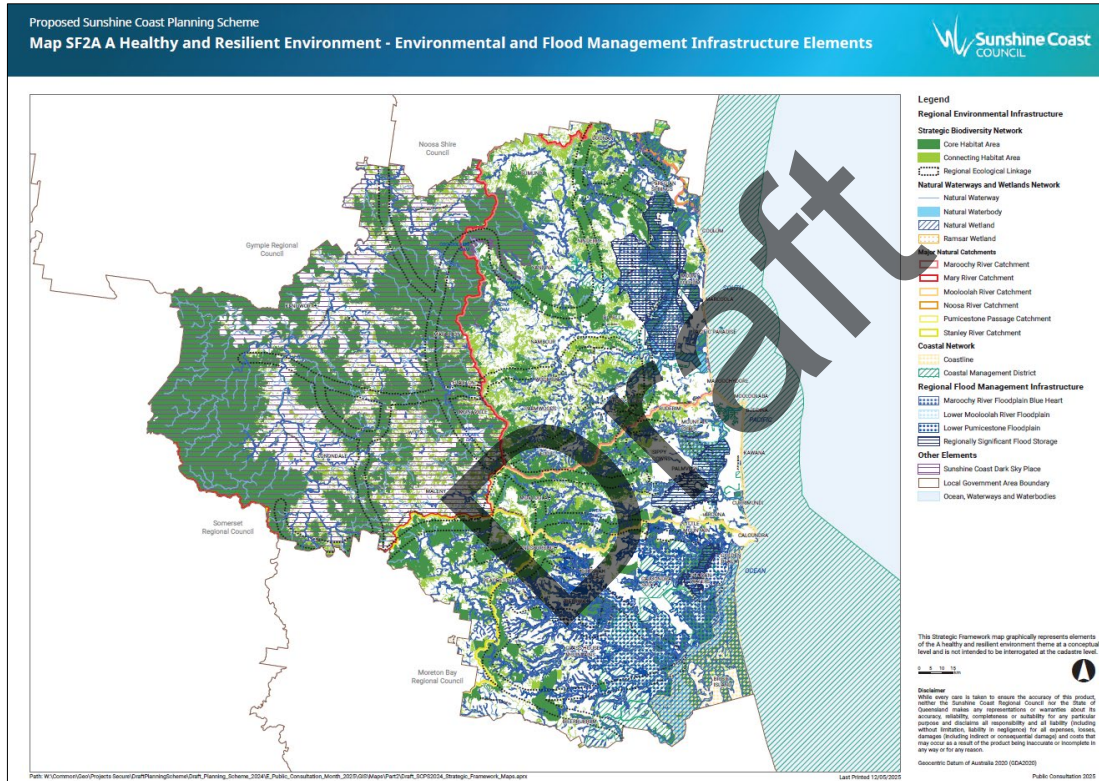


Figure 12: Proposed Sunshine Coast Planning Scheme Strategic Framework - Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Place map

Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve: Application to Dark Sky International

## Appendix C: Letters of support/acknowledgements

*Subject to the outcome Council's consideration of the Sunshine Dark Sky Reserve at the March 2026 Ordinary Meeting - include Council resolution.*

Draft

Our Ref: CTS13660/25

16 October 2025

Ms Judy Bailey  
A/Director Sustainable Growth and Planning  
Sunshine Coast Regional Council  
judith.bailey@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au

Dear Ms Bailey

Thank you for your letter dated 26 September 2025 regarding establishment of the Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve.


Firstly I am pleased to reiterate the Department of Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation's (the department) support for establishing the Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve. The proposal strongly aligns with the Queensland Government's Destination 2045 Tourism Strategy, in particular the objective to increase dark sky tourism experiences in Queensland, and contributes towards the department's priority to protect, conserve and showcase Queensland's environment for current and future generations.

The department has reviewed Council's proposal to include Maleny National Park in the core dark sky area and the request for Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Partnerships (QPWS&P) to adopt dark sky compliant lighting standards in line with Council's Draft Lighting Management Plan. I understand that QPWS&P officers have also met with Council officers to discuss these matters. I can confirm the department's full support for incorporation of Maleny National Park into the core dark sky area, and I can confirm that QPWS&P will implement Council's Draft Lighting Management Plan within its parks and forests across the proposed dark sky area. QPWS&P will continue to work with Council to progress these matters.

Further, to this, and in line with the Destination 2045 Tourism Strategy, QPWS&P is keen to work with Council to explore opportunities for the protected area estate associated with the dark sky reserve. This may include opportunities to incorporate dark sky values into existing visitor experiences in protected areas, investigating conservation initiatives that may benefit from dark skies and exploring opportunities for commercial astro-tourism in the area.

Should you require any further information, you may contact Ms Kristie Gray, Manager – Permissions Management and Ecotourism, of the QPWS&P division of the Department on telephone (07) 3338 9349 or by email at [ecotourism@detsi.qld.gov.au](mailto:ecotourism@detsi.qld.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



Ben Klaassen  
Deputy Director-General  
Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Partnerships

PO Box 15187 City East  
Queensland 4002 Australia  
Telephone 13 QGOV (137 468)  
Website [www.detsi.qld.gov.au](http://www.detsi.qld.gov.au)  
ABN 46 640 294 485

Page 1 of 1



14 October 2025

Mr John Baker  
Chief Executive Officer  
Sunshine Coast Council  
Locked Bag 72  
Sunshine Coast Mail Centre QLD 4560

CC:  
Dr David Moore  
Manager, Environment and Sustainability Policy  
Sunshine Coast Council  
david.moore@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Baker

**Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve Project**

Energex appreciates the opportunity to provide input into the Sunshine Coast Council's proposal to establish a Dark Sky Reserve under the International Dark Sky Places Program. We acknowledge the importance of preserving the natural night environment and commend Council's leadership in progressing this initiative.

We are pleased to confirm that *Energex's Public Lighting Explanatory Statement* outlines a forward-looking strategy for the 2025–30 regulatory control period, which aligns with the objectives of the proposed Dark Sky Reserve. Specifically, our strategy includes:

- Full deployment of LED aeroscreen luminaires with zero-degree upcast by 30 June 2030, available in 3000K colour temperature, replacing all remaining conventional lights across our network in Queensland.
- Integration of smart control devices, enabling enhanced lighting management and energy efficiency.
- Support for Queensland and Australian Government carbon reduction targets, contributing to broader environmental and sustainability goals.

This transition to LED technology will not only deliver significant energy savings and operational efficiencies but also provide greater flexibility in managing light levels and reducing light pollution, key considerations for a Dark Sky Reserve.

In addition to our long-term strategy, we are proud to continue our partnership with Sunshine Coast Council through the LED Street Light Replacement Project. This important initiative will see the replacement of 4,000 Energex-owned streetlights with energy-efficient LED lighting across the entire Sunshine Coast region, including within the proposed Dark Sky Reserve and is anticipated to be completed by end of 2025.

The project is being delivered with funding support from the Australian Government's Local Road and Community Infrastructure Program and reflects our shared commitment to sustainability.

We acknowledge our role as a key stakeholder and are committed to working collaboratively with Sunshine Coast Council to ensure that public lighting infrastructure within the proposed Dark Sky Reserve fully supports the program's objectives. In particular, we will ensure that any new or upgraded lighting—where Sunshine Coast Council is the customer—meets dark sky compliance requirements (specifically, 3000K colour temperature, zero-degree upcast, and aeroscreen lenses) as outlined in the Proposed Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve Draft Lighting Management Plan 2025.

Energex will continue to engage with Council and other stakeholders to explore opportunities for tailored lighting solutions that balance community safety, environmental protection, and night sky preservation.

Thank you for including Energex in this important initiative. We look forward to contributing to the success of the Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve and shaping a more sustainable future for our communities.


Please do not hesitate to contact Tim Gleaves 0459 843 777 or [tim.gleaves@energyq.com.au](mailto:tim.gleaves@energyq.com.au) should you require any further information or clarification.

Yours sincerely



Jason Farrell  
Manager Contestable Works

**Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation**

**DELIVERING FOR QUEENSLAND** |  **Queensland Government**

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GPO Box 2454 Brisbane  
Queensland 4001 Australia  
Telephone +61 7 3719 7300  
Email [environment@ministerial.qld.gov.au](mailto:environment@ministerial.qld.gov.au)

Your reference: D2025/522657  
Our reference: CTS 15353/25

11 AUG 2025

Councillor Rosanna Natoli  
Mayor  
Sunshine Coast Regional Council  
Locked Bag 72  
SUNSHINE COAST MAIL CENTRE QLD 4560

Dear Mayor *Rosanna*

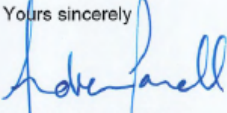
Thank you for your letter of 7 July 2025 regarding Sunshine Coast Regional Council's (SCRC) proposed Dark Sky Reserve.

SCRC's proposed Dark Sky Reserve strongly aligns with the Queensland Government's *Destination 2045: Delivering Queensland's Tourism Future* initiative of expanding Queensland's Dark Sky Reserves network by identifying more stargazing sites, including on protected areas, and delivering an experience program.

The Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation (the department) is currently investigating potential Dark Sky Place sites across Queensland's protected areas that may be suitable for future certification, including locations that may align with the proposed Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve and nearby parks and forests.

I am advised that departmental officers have met with SCRC officers to discuss the Dark Sky Reserve proposal as well as SCRC's offer of potential collaboration opportunities to assist in expanding Queensland's Dark Sky Reserves network. The department acknowledges that establishing a Dark Sky Reserve in the hinterland will further enhance SCRC's commitment of focusing on the natural environment and how it can be preserved and enhanced, while providing residents a strong economy and lifestyle.



If your advisors require any further information or assistance in relation to this matter, they may contact my office on (07) 3719 7300 or by email at [environment@ministerial.qld.gov.au](mailto:environment@ministerial.qld.gov.au).

Yours sincerely  
  
**Andrew Powell MP**  
Minister for the Environment and Tourism  
Minister for Science and Innovation

*Looking forward to working with you on this. Regards Andrew*

Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve: Application to Dark Sky International

JINIBARA PEOPLE ABORIGINAL CORPORATION NTBC



Jinibara People Aboriginal Corporation NTBC ICN: 7794  
PO Box 1263 Woodford Q 4514  
[admin@jinibaracorp.org](mailto:admin@jinibaracorp.org)

24 July 2025

Dr David Moore  
Manager, Environment and Sustainability Policy  
Sunshine Coast Council  
Email: [David.Moore@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au](mailto:David.Moore@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au)

**RE: Support for Proposed Dark Sky Reserve in the Sunshine Coast Hinterland**

Dear Dr Moore

On behalf of the Jinibara People Aboriginal Corporation (JPAC), I write to express our strong support for the Sunshine Coast Council's proposal to establish a Dark Sky Reserve encompassing parts of the Sunshine Coast hinterland, including areas within the Mary River catchment.


As the registered Native Title Body Corporate for the Jinibara People, we hold enduring responsibilities for caring for Jinibara Country – including its lands, waters, skies, and all living things. The night sky has always been and continues to be a vital part of our cultural knowledge systems, navigation, seasonal calendars, and storytelling. Our ancestors read the stars to understand time, ceremony, and the cycles of life. Preserving the clarity and natural darkness of the night sky aligns deeply with our cultural values and obligations.

We welcome the steps being taken in Phase 2 of the project, particularly the development of a Draft Lighting Management Plan and ongoing stakeholder engagement. The inclusion of First Nations perspectives is essential in shaping meaningful and culturally respectful approaches to conservation, and we appreciate the opportunity to be consulted on this important initiative.

JPAC supports the establishment of the Dark Sky Reserve under the International Dark Sky Places Program, and we commend the Sunshine Coast Council for its leadership in this area. We look forward to continuing to engage with Council as the project progresses and would welcome opportunities for co-designed interpretation, education, and cultural knowledge sharing.

Should you require any further information or wish to discuss our support in more detail, please do not hesitate to contact me.


Yours sincerely



Uncle Colin Ross  
JPAC Director/Chairperson

Jinibara People Aboriginal Corporation NTBC ICN: 7794  
PO Box 1263 Woodford Q 4514 [admin@jinibaracorp.org](mailto:admin@jinibaracorp.org)

35 Howard Street | PO Box 269  
Nambour Qld 4560  
info@scec.org.au  
T 07 5441 5747  
www.scec.org.au



Sunshine Coast Council  
Dark Sky Reserve Project Team  
54 First Avenue  
MAROOCHYDORE QLD 4558

24 July 2025

Dear Sunshine Coast Council,

On behalf of the Sunshine Coast Environment Council, we are writing to express our strong support for the proposed Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve for the Sunshine Coast hinterland. As a community organisation committed to environmental protection, stewardship and sustainable development, we consider this initiative reflective of the collective commitment our community has consistently demonstrated for a sustainable future in our Sunshine Coast Biosphere.


Established in 1980, the Sunshine Coast Environment Council (SCEC) is the peak, not for-profit environmental advocacy organisation and Regional Conservation Council for the Greater Sunshine Coast and surrounding regions. SCEC currently proudly represents 60 member groups across the Noosa and Sunshine Coast Hinterlands, the World Heritage listed K'gari and along the coast from Cooloola to Yarun (Bribie Island) encompassing six magnificent and dynamic catchments. Our member groups predominantly work in the areas of natural resource management, conservation, environmental restoration and protection and sustainability. This membership represents a collective of almost 40,000 individuals with a further 5000 people as SCEC supporters.

The designation of a Dark Sky Reserve under the International Dark Sky Places Program offers considerable and numerous benefits that align with and support our values and objectives;

- Environmental and nature protection
- Sustainability and emissions reduction
- Health and wellbeing
- Cultural and educational value
- Complementary economic opportunities

We commend the Council for its proactive approach and its' inclusive and meaningful community engagement process. We are confident and excited at the prospect of the establishment of a Dark Sky Reserve as a legacy project for our community and broader region that enhances the Sunshine Coast's reputation as a leader in sustainability.

Please consider this letter as a formal endorsement of the proposal which we see as a significant and timely opportunity to protect and promote these special qualities and attributes for the long-term benefit of the region. We look forward to supporting the initiative in any way we can and contributing to its success and the preservation of dark skies generally.

Yours sincerely,  


**Narelle McCarthy**  
Advocacy and Engagement Manager  
Sunshine Coast Environment Council Inc.

SUNSHINE COAST ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL Inc. ABN 23 500 966 589

*our environment, our lifestyle, our choices*



**Letter of Support for the Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve Proposal**

On behalf of Visit Sunshine Coast, the Regional Tourism Organisation for the Sunshine Coast, I am writing to express our strong support for the proposed Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve. This initiative represents a significant opportunity to enhance our region's tourism offerings, align with state-wide strategic objectives and promote sustainable practices that benefit both our community and visitors now and into the future.

The establishment of a Dark Sky Reserve in the Sunshine Coast hinterland is poised to position our region as a premier destination for astro-tourism – nationally and globally. With the Sunshine Coast welcoming over 4.3 million overnight visitors last year, the addition of an internationally accredited Dark Sky Reserve offers a unique, nature-based experience that caters to the growing demand for meaningful and sustainable travel.

Astro-tourism has demonstrated success in other regions, such as the Aoraki Mackenzie Dark Sky Reserve in New Zealand, which has become a significant drawcard for international visitors. By offering similar experiences, the Sunshine Coast can attract new visitor segments, extend average lengths of stay, and stimulate economic growth in our hinterland communities.

The Dark Sky Reserve initiative aligns seamlessly with the Queensland Government's Destination 2045 plan, which aims to position the state as a global leader in tourism through the development of 45 new ecotourism experiences by 2045, including dark sky tourism. This proposal to protect our dark sky supports the plan's strategic priorities by delivering the opportunity for more nature-based experiences, promoting sustainable tourism and supporting the regional economy.

Visit Sunshine Coast supports the Dark Sky Reserve project and the opportunity to further tourism infrastructure in the Hinterland. We commend the Sunshine Coast Council for its leadership in pursuing this visionary project and look forward to working together to enhance our region's appeal as a sustainable and innovative tourism destination.

Matt Stoeckel

CEO

Visit Sunshine Coast

**MADCA**  
Connecting community

Mapleton and District Community Association  
P.O. Box 381  
Mapleton, 4560  
madca.inc@gmail.com  
www.madca.com.au

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CEO  
Sunshine Coast Council  
11/07/2025

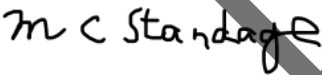
**Re: Proposed Dark Sky Reserve**

Dear Sir,

I am writing on behalf of the Mapleton and District Community Association (MADCA) in response to the current community consultation being carried out by Council on the proposed Dark Sky Reserve. A key proponent of the Reserve, Dr. Ken Wishaw, has presented last year at a MADCA general meeting, and received a strong endorsement of the proposal at that meeting.

Having reviewed the details presented in the consultation process, MADCA remains strongly supportive of the proposal and welcomes the prospect of the establishment of the Dark Sky Reserve and being located in it. Residents are generally supportive of reduced light pollution to the benefit of residents and the environment and the provision of a further visitor attraction to the hinterland region.

MADCA welcomes the Council's initiative in this matter and looks forward to Council's positive engagement with State Government agencies, such as TMR, to cooperate in reducing light pollution across the Sunshine Coast.

Yours sincerely,  
  
President MADCA



Department of the  
Environment, Tourism,  
Science and Innovation

Our Ref: CTS 13758/25  
Your Ref: D2025/506718

4 July 2025

Mr Bill Hadrill  
Group Executive, Liveability and Natural Assets  
Sunshine Coast Council  
Locked Bag 72  
SUNSHINE COAST MAIL CENTRE QLD 4560  
els@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Hadrill

Thank you for your letter of 23 June 2025 regarding the Sunshine Coast Council's (Council) proposed Dark Sky Reserve in the hinterland under the International Dark Sky Places Program.

In 2022, I am aware Council was accredited by United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) as a Biosphere Reserve, making Queensland unique in that there are three Biospheres adjacent to each other.

Establishing a Dark Sky Reserve in the hinterland under the International Dark Sky Places Program will further enhance Council's commitment of focusing on the natural environment and how it can be preserved and enhanced, while providing residents with a strong economy and lifestyle.

I understand the proposed Dark Sky Reserve covers the Mary River catchment and adjoining State protected areas, including the townships of Maleny, Mapleton, Montville, Witta, Flaxton, Kenilworth and Conondale.

The proposed Dark Sky Reserve strongly aligns with an initiative under the Queensland Government's *Destination 2045: Delivering Queensland's Tourism Future* of expanding Queensland's Dark Sky Reserves network by identifying more stargazing sites, including on protected areas, and delivering an experience program.

I am aware officers from the Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation (DETSI) recently met with Council officers to discuss Council's Dark Sky Reserve proposal and current progress, including Council's offer of potential collaboration opportunities to assist in expanding Queensland's Dark Sky Reserves network.

I look forward to hearing of your progress and note this initiative helps to protect night skies through responsible lighting and public education, as well as providing a unique ecotourism experience.


Should you require any further information, you may contact Mr Peter Evans, Acting General Manager - Investment, Infrastructure and Grants, Tourism Division, DETSI on (07) 3333 5273 or by email at peter.evans@detsi.qld.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

Natalie Patch  
Acting Deputy Director-General  
Tourism Division

Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve: Application to Dark Sky International

OFFICIAL

 Australian Government  
Department of Climate Change, Energy,  
the Environment and Water

Dr David Moore  
Manager, Environment and Sustainability Policy  
Sunshine Coast Council  
Locked Bag 72  
SUNSHINE COAST MAIL CENTRE QLD 4560

Dear Dr Moore

Thank you for your correspondence of 18 June 2025 requesting support for Sunshine Coast Council's application to Dark Sky International to create a Dark Sky Reserve in the Sunshine Coast's hinterland.


I am pleased attention is being drawn to Australia's pristine dark skies and their importance to conservation initiatives and support your application to become an International Dark Sky Place. I commend Sunshine Coast Council on its extensive environmental conservation efforts to protect the night sky from light pollution, particularly over the past several years. The Sunshine Coast is a valued example of environmental stewardship, community and sustainability.

The Australian Government recognises the conservation, scientific and cultural value of dark skies and is committed to conserving and maintaining Australia's unique environmental heritage, which includes preserving our dark skies. Light pollution poses a threat to many of Australia's threatened and migratory species. In recognition of this threat the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water published its *National Light Pollution Guidelines for Wildlife* in 2020 and subsequently updated them in 2023. These guidelines were also endorsed internationally through the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals. I am pleased to see that these guidelines have helped support and inform the proposed *Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve Draft Light Management Plan*.

Australia derives important social, cultural, environmental and economic benefits from the environmental conservation work facilitated by Sunshine Coast Council. I believe that Australia should be globally recognised for its exceptional night skies, and I strongly support your proposal to become an International Dark Sky Place.

Thank you for raising this matter with me.

Yours sincerely



Narelle Montgomery  
Director, Migratory Species Section  
Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment, and Water

26 June 25

DCEEW.gov.au  
John Gorton Building - King Edward Terrace, Parkes ACT 2600 Australia  
GPO Box 3090 Canberra ACT 2601 ABN: 63 573 932 849

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CLASSIFICATION  
OFFICIAL

Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve: Application to Dark Sky International



Maleny & District Chamber of Commerce & Industry Inc.

president@malenycommerce.org.au

PO Box 482 MALENY QLD 4552  
ABN: 53 996 389 725

23 June 2025

Sunshine Coast Council  
Dark Sky Reserve Project Team  
54 First Avenue  
MAROOCHYDORE QLD 4558

Dear Sunshine Coast Council,

On behalf of Maleny Commerce we are pleased to express our strong support for the proposed Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve.

As a local organisation representing and advocating for businesses and community in Maleny, we see this initiative as a unique opportunity to strengthen our local economy while preserving the natural assets that make our hinterland so special.

The designation of a Dark Sky Reserve not only aligns with our community's values but also opens the door to sustainable tourism, innovation in eco-friendly business practices, and new educational and cultural experiences.

We believe the Dark Sky Reserve will:

- Enhance the Sunshine Coast's brand as a destination, showcasing a community that is committed to sustainability and demonstrating our Biosphere values.
- Create new economic opportunities for local businesses through astro-tourism, eco-accommodation, guided night tours, and hospitality services.
- Preserve the ecological integrity of our hinterland, protecting biodiversity and our valued hinterland landscape and character.
- Foster community pride and engagement through education, cultural storytelling, and environmental stewardship.

We commend the Council for its leadership. This project represents a forward-thinking legacy that showcases the importance of environmental preservation leading to economic development.

Please consider this letter a formal endorsement of the Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve proposal. We look forward to working collaboratively with Council and our community to support the project's ongoing success and encourage our local businesses to be active participants in this exciting journey.

Yours sincerely

Spencer Shaw

President Maleny Commerce

85



Mail: PO Box 105  
Coolool Beach QLD 4573

Email: [mail@oscar.org.au](mailto:mail@oscar.org.au)  
Mobile: 0433 214 320

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*Recognising and upholding excellence in local government*

13 February 2026

To: Dr David Moore  
 Manager-Environment and Sustainability Policy  
 Sunshine Coast Regional Council  
 Email: [david.moore@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au](mailto:david.moore@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au)

Dear David

**RE: OSCAR SUPPORT FOR SUNSHINE COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL DARK SKY RESERVE APPLICATION**

The Sunshine Coast Association of Residents Inc. (OSCAR) is a non-partisan, not-for-profit peak body representing resident and community organisations across the Sunshine Coast and Noosa Local Government Areas in South East Queensland.

OSCAR currently comprises more than 36 member groups spanning from Pumicestone Passage to Noosa and from the Coast to the Hinterland and Ranges. Collectively, these organisations represent several thousand engaged, community-minded residents who are deeply committed to protecting the environmental, cultural and social values of our region.

OSCAR’s overarching Vision states:

*“The residents of this region enjoy being part of a connected and engaged community living in an area of outstanding natural beauty. They recognise that they are custodians of the unique and abundant biodiversity, beaches and green spaces of the region.”*

OSCAR holds that “dark skies” belong alongside biodiversity, beaches and green spaces as defining environmental assets of the Sunshine Coast. Protection of our night skies is a natural and essential extension of our long-standing commitment to environmental stewardship. OSCAR hopes that we will be able to add to our vision “*beaches, dark skies and green spaces*”.

Therefore, OSCAR strongly endorses of Sunshine Coast Regional Council’s (Council) application to the International Dark Sky Association for declaration of a Dark Sky Reserve in the hinterland under the International Dark Sky Places Program.

The proposed 873 km<sup>2</sup> reserve, encompassing the Mary River catchment and adjoining State-protected areas within the Sunshine Coast Local Government Area — including but not limited to Maleny, Mapleton, Montville, Witta, Flaxton, Kenilworth and Conondale — represents a visionary and strategically important initiative. It will safeguard a significant natural asset for current and future generations while reinforcing the region’s environmental leadership.

As we are aware, protection of dark skies delivers measurable environmental benefits, including support for nocturnal wildlife, biodiversity conservation, reduced energy consumption and mitigation of light pollution impacts. It also strengthens community wellbeing, educational opportunities, eco-tourism potential and regional identity.

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Page 1 of 2

At OSCAR's General Meeting of 24 July 2025, members formally resolved:

*Motion: That OSCAR issue a letter of support for the Sunshine Coast Regional Council Dark Sky Reserve Project application to the International Dark Sky Association.*

This motion reflects clear and united backing from our extensive membership base.

OSCAR commends Council for the thorough, evidence-based and community-centred approach undertaken since endorsement of the concept in the Refreshed Environment and Liveability Strategy (ELS) in late 2023. Within a relatively short timeframe, Council has:

- researched the topic;
- established the requirements for such protection;
- conducted two rounds of extensive community consultation conducted;
- published reports on those consultations; and
- completed the application ready for submission within two and half years of the refreshed ELS, with Council approving the related policy document.

Activities that were part of the extensive consultation included:

- An online survey;
- Community drop-in sessions at local libraries;
- A fully booked stargazing event;
- Community information sessions;
- Presentations at exhibitions and events;
- Direct written submissions;
- Over 5,800 letters and emails to property owners within the proposed reserve area.

The amazing photos of the night sky in the hinterland taken by Dr Ken Wishaw and other sky gazers on the "Have your Say" page, the photos presented throughout the commentary, the Information and Fact sheets, the activities and presentations for this community engagement, plus 95% support of the 1200 survey respondents say it all – our dark skies need to be protected!

Given the Sunshine Coast's status as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve and its globally recognised natural values, pursuit of Dark Sky Reserve designation is not merely appropriate — it is both logical and aligned with the region's strategic environmental commitments. This initiative is an example of Local Government leadership in sustainable planning and environmental custodianship.

OSCAR strongly supports Council's application and respectfully urges the International Dark Sky Association to recognise the Sunshine Coast Hinterland as a Dark Sky Reserve.

OSCAR commends Council for its process for undertaking activities required to support this application and we wish them well in making its presentation to the International Dark Sky Association.

Yours sincerely



Melva Hobson PSM  
 President OSCAR

Organisation Sunshine Coast Association of Residents



## Appendix D: Darkness measurement and program development

All measurements were taken by astronomer, Dr Ken Wishaw using a handheld SQM-L (serial number 0919) as per Dark Sky International guidelines. All measurements have been uploaded to the Globe At Night website.

December 2023

SQM Model	End Astronomical Twilight	SQM Serial Number	Version (SQM or SQM-L)	Observer 1	Observer 2					
SQM-L	20:03	919	SQM-L	Ken Wishaw						
Date (DDMMYYYY and Time Zone)	20 Dec 23									
Location 1		Location 2	Location 3	Location 4	Location 5	Location 6	Location 7	Location 8	Location 9	
Kenworthy Club Observatory		Howells Knob Lookout	Schutz Road Lookout	Curmudgeon Ridge	Green Park	Eastern Mary River Rd & Maleny Kent	Eastern Mary River Road north 18	Little Yabba Rest Area		
Latitude (in decimal degrees)	-26.795	-26.795	-26.688	-26.683	-26.728	-26.729	-26.862	-26.825	-26.825	
Longitude (in decimal degrees)	152.864	152.859	152.805	152.761	152.76	152.761	152.703	152.688	152.688	
What/words location	rodeo market adventure	comfy reading enclosure	gravel exit apron	aroma negotiated habits	farmhouses, chipsticks, togs	badly bug crowd they	ingrids, widgeys, node	parrot chapter nearest		
Time (24-hour clock)	20:29									
SQM Reading - #1	21.35	21.37	21.54	21.54	21.54	21.62	21.65	21.72	21.72	
SQM Reading - #2	21.37	21.37	21.54	21.54	21.64	21.61	21.67	21.74	21.74	
SQM Reading - #3	21.37	21.37	21.56	21.56	21.64	21.62	21.68	21.75	21.75	
SQM Reading - #4	21.37	21.37	21.54	21.54	21.63	21.61	21.68	21.71	21.71	
SQM Reading - #5	21.365	21.365	21.545	21.545	21.6375	21.615	21.6725	21.73	21.73	
Location SQM Average	21.37	21.37	21.54	21.54	21.64	21.615	21.675	21.73	21.73	
% Cloud Cover	50% abandoned	10%	70% thin cloud, abandoned	20%	5%	0	0	0	0	
% Moon Visibility	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Air Temperature (F or C)	19	19	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	
Other Notes	Cloud band over coast		intermittent thin cloud before readings		Horizon photos					
Horizon photos										

SQM Model	End Astronomical Twilight	SQM Serial Number	Version (SQM or SQM-L)	Observer 1	Observer 2					
SQM-L	20:03	919	SQM-L	Ken Wishaw						
Date (DDMMYYYY and Time Zone)	9/10 April 2024									
Location 9		Location 10	Location 11	Location 12	Location 13	Location 14	Location 15	Location 16	Location 17	
Kenworthy foreground		Brooks	Old Obi Rd turnoff	Borney lane, Bell Park	Loggans Creek Road	Lower Sussex pocket rd	Hapilton, Somers Rd			
Latitude (in decimal degrees)	-26.599	-26.544	-26.507	-26.511	-26.513	-26.849	-26.634	-26.634	-26.599	
Longitude (in decimal degrees)	152.227	152.213	152.213	152.736	152.736	152.736	152.812	152.868	152.822	
What/words location	appraise ranches sonar	birded almost loss	water negotiators glitters	heartless slope telescope	transax under empty	rocks left empty	along spear jiffy			
Time (24-hour clock)	23:17									
SQM Reading - #1	21.05	21.61	21.61	21.61	21.59	21.41	21.41	21.41	21.41	
SQM Reading - #2	21.04	21.61	21.59	21.59	21.42	21.39	21.42	21.42	21.39	
SQM Reading - #3	21.04	21.61	21.58	21.58	21.41	21.38	21.41	21.41	21.38	
SQM Reading - #4	21.05	21.66	21.56	21.56	21.44	21.4	21.4	21.4	21.3	
SQM Reading - #5	21.0375	21.63	21.585	21.585	21.405	21.405	21.405	21.405	21.3	
Location SQM Average	21.045	21.625	21.585	21.585	21.41	21.405	21.4	21.405	21.3	
% Cloud Cover	0	0	0	0	0	10	20%	10	20%	
% Moon Visibility	0	0	10%	10%	0	0	0	0	0	
Air Temperature (F or C)	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	
Other Notes	Extensive light pollution from nearby lights									
Horizon Photos										

April 2024

SQM Model	End Astronomical Twilight	SQM Serial Number	Version (SQM or SQM-L)	Observer 1	Observer 2							
SQM-L	20:03	919	SQM-L	Ken Wishaw								
Date (DDMMYYYY and Time Zone)	9/10 April 2024											
Location 9		Location 10	Location 11	Location 12	Location 13	Location 14	Location 15	Location 16	Location 17	Location 18	Location 19	Location 20
Kenworthy foreground		Brooks	Old Obi Rd turnoff	Borney lane, Bell Park	Loggans Creek Road	Lower Sussex pocket rd	Hapilton, Somers Rd			Brooks Pocket Park	Brooks Lookout	Kenworthy foreground
Latitude (in decimal degrees)	-26.795	-26.795	-26.688	-26.683	-26.728	-26.729	-26.862	-26.825	-26.825	-26.599	-26.599	-26.599
Longitude (in decimal degrees)	152.864	152.859	152.805	152.761	152.76	152.761	152.703	152.688	152.688	152.227	152.227	152.227
What/words location	rodeo market adventure	comfy reading enclosure	gravel exit apron	aroma negotiated habits	farmhouses, chipsticks, togs	badly bug crowd they	ingrids, widgeys, node	parrot chapter nearest	appraise ranches sonar			
Time (24-hour clock)	23:17											
SQM Reading - #1	21.04	21.32	21.42	21.41	21.39	22.16	21.28	22.17	22.17	22.17	22.17	22.44
SQM Reading - #2	21.05	21.31	21.39	21.41	21.39	21.41	21.39	21.42	21.39	21.42	21.42	21.3
SQM Reading - #3	21.05	21.33	21.38	21.45	21.45	21.39	21.41	21.45	21.4	21.42	21.42	21.28
SQM Reading - #4	21.04	21.31	21.41	21.42	21.39	21.41	21.39	21.41	21.39	21.41	21.39	21.31
SQM Reading - #5	21.05	21.31	21.37	21.41	21.39	21.44	21.4	21.4	21.4	21.405	21.4	21.3
Location SQM Average	21.0375	21.3125	21.3875	21.4075	21.4075	21.4075	21.4	21.405	21.4	21.405	21.4	21.3
Location SQM Median	21.045	21.31	21.385	21.415	21.39	21.405	21.4	21.405	21.4	21.405	21.4	21.3
Time (24-hour clock)	23:17											
NELM	5	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
% Cloud Cover	0%	0%	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
% Moon Visibility	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Air Temperature (F or C)	18	18	18	17	15	17	18	18	18	18	18	18
Other Notes	Dry but steady via through telescope											
Photos taken												

SQM Model	End Astronomical Twilight	SQM Serial Number	Version (SQM or SQM-L)	Observer 1	Observer 2						
SQM-L	20:03	919	SQM-L	Ken Wishaw							
Date (DDMMYYYY and Time Zone)	9/10 April 2024										
Location 10		Location 11	Location 12	Location 13	Location 14	Location 15	Location 16	Location 17	Location 18	Location 19	Location 20
Brooks		Old Obi Rd turnoff	Borney lane, Bell Park	Hapilton, Somers Rd	Lower Sussex pocket rd	Loggans Creek Road	Platan Gardens/Hapilton	Monroble west	Monroble east	Brooks Pocket Park	Brooks Lookout
Latitude (in decimal degrees)	-26.599	-26.544	-26.507	-26.511	-26.513	-26.513	-26.849	-26.849	-26.849	-26.634	-26.722
Longitude (in decimal degrees)	152.227	152.213	152.213	152.736	152.736	152.736	152.812	152.812	152.812	152.868	152.868
What/words location	appraise ranches sonar	birded almost loss	water negotiators glitters	heartless slope telescope	transax under empty	rocks left empty	along spear jiffy	rocks left empty	rocks left empty	appraise ranches sonar	appraise ranches sonar
Time (24-hour clock)	23:17										
SQM Reading - #1	21.04	21.32	21.38	21.39	21.39	21.41	21.39	21.39	21.39	21.42	21.39
SQM Reading - #2	21.04	21.31	21.38	21.39	21.39	21.41	21.39	21.39	21.39	21.42	21.39
SQM Reading - #3	21.05	21.33	21.38	21.45	21.45	21.39	21.41	21.41	21.41	21.42	21.39
SQM Reading - #4	21.04	21.31	21.41	21.42	21.39	21.41	21.39	21.41	21.39	21.41	21.39
SQM Reading - #5	21.04	21.31	21.37	21.41	21.39	21.44	21.4	21.4	21.4	21.405	21.3
Location SQM Average	21.0375	21.3125	21.3875	21.4075	21.4075	21.4075	21.4	21.4	21.4	21.405	21.3
Location SQM Median	21.045	21.31	21.385	21.415	21.39	21.405	21.4	21.405	21.4	21.405	21.3
Time (24-hour clock)	23:17										
NELM	5	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
% Cloud Cover	0%	0%	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
% Moon Visibility	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Air Temperature (F or C)	18	18	18	17	15	17	18	18	18	18	18
Other Notes	Photos taken										

June 2024

SQM Model	SQM Serial Number	Version (SQM or SQM-L)	Observer 1	Observer 2						
SQM-L	919	SQM-L	Kevin Whitehouse							
Date (DDMMYYYY and Time Zone)	9/10 April 2024									
Location Name	Location 1	Location 2	Location 3	Location 4	Location 5	Location 6	Location 7	Location 8	Location 9	Location 10
Latitude (in decimal degrees)	-28.795	-28.698	-28.668	-28.683	-28.729	-28.729	-28.625	-28.625	-28.599	-28.599
Longitude (in decimal degrees)	152.864	152.869	152.865	152.761	152.761	152.761	152.761	152.761	152.761	152.761
What/words location	rodna market adventure	comfy relaxing encroached	great sunset apron	aroma regulated habitat	farmhouse chopsticks logs	bedbug crowd they	gifting widgets node	parrot chapter realist	appraise ranches sanar	
Time (24-hour clock)	21:04	21:32	21:47	21:41	21:50	22:16	22:28	23:17	23:27	23:41
SQM Reading - #1	21:04	21:32	21:47	21:41	21:50	22:16	22:28	23:17	23:27	23:41
SQM Reading - #2	21:01	21:3	21:36	21:41	21:39	21:42	21:39	21:42	21:39	21:3
SQM Reading - #3	21:06	21:39	21:39	21:46	21:39	21:41	21:41	21:4	21:42	21:39
SQM Reading - #4	21:04	21:31	21:41	21:42	21:39	21:43	21:39	21:41	21:39	21:31
SQM Reading - #5	21:05	21:31	21:37	21:41	21:39	21:44	21:4	21:4	21:3	21:3
Location SQM Average	21:03	21:30	21:39	21:42	21:40	21:42	21:4	21:4	21:45	21:3
Location SQM Median	21:05	21:31	21:38	21:41	21:39	21:42	21:4	21:45	21:4	21:3
NELM	5	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
% Cloud Cover	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
% Moon Visibility	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Air Temperature (F or C)	19				15		17	18	18	
Other Notes	Dry but misty via through telescope									

SQM Model	SQM Serial Number	Version (SQM or SQM-L)	Observer 1	Observer 2						
SQM-L	919	SQM-L	Kevin Whitehouse							
Date (DDMMYYYY and Time Zone)	8/10 April 2024									
Location Name	Location 1	Location 2	Location 3	Location 4	Location 5	Location 6	Location 7	Location 8	Location 9	Location 10
Latitude (in decimal degrees)	-28.795	-28.698	-28.668	-28.683	-28.729	-28.729	-28.625	-28.625	-28.599	-28.599
Longitude (in decimal degrees)	152.864	152.869	152.865	152.761	152.761	152.761	152.761	152.761	152.761	152.761
What/words location	rodna market adventure	comfy relaxing encroached	great sunset apron	aroma regulated habitat	farmhouse chopsticks logs	bedbug crowd they	gifting widgets node	parrot chapter realist	appraise ranches sanar	
Time (24-hour clock)	21:04	21:32	21:47	21:41	21:50	22:16	22:28	23:17	23:27	23:41
SQM Reading - #1	21:04	21:32	21:47	21:41	21:50	22:16	22:28	23:17	23:27	23:41
SQM Reading - #2	21:01	21:3	21:36	21:41	21:39	21:42	21:39	21:42	21:39	21:3
SQM Reading - #3	21:06	21:39	21:39	21:46	21:39	21:41	21:41	21:4	21:42	21:39
SQM Reading - #4	21:04	21:31	21:41	21:42	21:39	21:43	21:39	21:41	21:39	21:31
SQM Reading - #5	21:05	21:31	21:37	21:41	21:39	21:44	21:4	21:4	21:3	21:3
Location SQM Average	21:03	21:30	21:39	21:42	21:40	21:42	21:4	21:4	21:45	21:3
Location SQM Median	21:05	21:31	21:38	21:41	21:39	21:42	21:4	21:45	21:4	21:3
NELM	5	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
% Cloud Cover	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
% Moon Visibility	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Air Temperature (F or C)	19				15		17	18	18	
Other Notes	Dry but misty via through telescope									

August/September 2024

SQM Model	SQM Serial Number	Version (SQM or SQM-L)	Observer 1	Observer 2						
SQM-L	919	SQM-L	Kevin Whitehouse							
Date (DDMMYYYY and Time Zone)	4-Aug-24									
Location Name	Location 1	Location 2	Location 3	Location 4	Location 5	Location 6	Location 7	Location 8	Location 9	Location 10
Latitude (in decimal degrees)	-28.795	-28.698	-28.668	-28.683	-28.729	-28.729	-28.625	-28.625	-28.599	-28.599
Longitude (in decimal degrees)	152.864	152.869	152.865	152.761	152.761	152.761	152.761	152.761	152.761	152.761
What/words location	rodna market adventure	comfy relaxing encroached	great sunset apron	aroma regulated habitat	farmhouse chopsticks logs	bedbug crowd they	gifting widgets node	parrot chapter realist	appraise ranches sanar	
Time (24-hour clock)	21:40	21:35	22:51	21:29	21:29	22:29	21:29	21:28	20:58	21:27
SQM Reading - #1	21:40	21:35	22:51	21:29	21:29	22:29	21:29	21:28	20:58	21:27
SQM Reading - #2	21:19	21:19	21:27	21:32	21:32	21:31	21:29	21:27	21:11	21:07
SQM Reading - #3	21:24	21:39	21:37	21:36	21:36	21:35	21:35	21:35	21:12	21:07
SQM Reading - #4	21:24	21:39	21:37	21:36	21:36	21:35	21:35	21:35	21:12	21:07
SQM Reading - #5	21:24	21:39	21:37	21:36	21:36	21:35	21:35	21:35	21:12	21:07
Location SQM Average	21:25	21:39	21:38	21:36	21:36	21:35	21:35	21:35	21:11	21:07
Location SQM Median	21:25	21:39	21:38	21:36	21:36	21:35	21:35	21:35	21:11	21:07
NELM	6	5	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
% Cloud Cover	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
% Moon Visibility	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Air Temperature (F or C)	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18
Other Notes	clear and dry									

SQM Model	SQM Serial Number	Version (SQM or SQM-L)	Observer 1	Observer 2						
SQM-L	919	SQM-L	Kevin Whitehouse							
Date (DDMMYYYY and Time Zone)	4-Aug-24									
Location Name	Location 1	Location 2	Location 3	Location 4	Location 5	Location 6	Location 7	Location 8	Location 9	Location 10
Latitude (in decimal degrees)	-28.795	-28.698	-28.668	-28.683	-28.729	-28.729	-28.625	-28.625	-28.599	-28.599
Longitude (in decimal degrees)	152.864	152.869	152.865	152.761	152.761	152.761	152.761	152.761	152.761	152.761
What/words location	rodna market adventure	comfy relaxing encroached	great sunset apron	aroma regulated habitat	farmhouse chopsticks logs	bedbug crowd they	gifting widgets node	parrot chapter realist	appraise ranches sanar	
Time (24-hour clock)	21:40	21:35	22:51	21:29	21:29	22:29	21:29	21:28	20:58	21:27
SQM Reading - #1	21:40	21:35	22:51	21:29	21:29	22:29	21:29	21:28	20:58	21:27
SQM Reading - #2	21:19	21:19	21:27	21:32	21:32	21:31	21:29	21:27	21:11	21:07
SQM Reading - #3	21:24	21:39	21:37	21:36	21:36	21:35	21:35	21:35	21:12	21:07
SQM Reading - #4	21:24	21:39	21:37	21:36	21:36	21:35	21:35	21:35	21:12	21:07
SQM Reading - #5	21:24	21:39	21:37	21:36	21:36	21:35	21:35	21:35	21:12	21:07
Location SQM Average	21:25	21:39	21:38	21:36	21:36	21:35	21:35	21:35	21:11	21:07
Location SQM Median	21:25	21:39	21:38	21:36	21:36	21:35	21:35	21:35	21:11	21:07
NELM	6	5	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
% Cloud Cover	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
% Moon Visibility	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Air Temperature (F or C)	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18
Other Notes	clear and dry									

November 2024

Table with columns: SQM Model, SQM Serial Number, Version (SQM or SQM-L), and Observer 2. Includes data for 1-Nov-24 with locations 1-5 and various SQM readings.

Table with columns: SQM Model, SQM Serial Number, Version (SQM or SQM-L), and Observer 2. Includes data for 1-Nov-24 with locations 6-10 and various SQM readings.

April 2025

Table with columns: SQM Model, SQM Serial Number, Version (SQM or SQM-L), and Observer 2. Includes data for 27-Apr-25 with locations 1-13 and various SQM readings.

Table with columns: SQM Model, SQM Serial Number, Version (SQM or SQM-L), and Observer 2. Includes data for 27-Apr-25 with locations 12-20 and various SQM readings.

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July 2025

SQM Model	SQM Serial Number	Version (SQM or SQM-L)	Observer 1	Observer 2
SQM-L	919		Ken Wishaw	
Date (DDMMYYYY and Time Zone)	Austr Eastern St Time +10C 27-Jul-25			
Location Name	Makery Golf Club Observatory	Howe's Knob Lookout	Sommer Fuel Supplies Witta	Curramore Ridge
Latitude (in decimal degrees)	-26.795	-26.725	-26.725	-26.683
Longitude (in decimal degrees)	152.864	152.809	152.824	152.761
Whatwords location	rodos market adventure	comfy relaxing encrusted	lunging importing imploded	aroma negotiated habits
Time (24-hour clock)				
SQM Reading - #1	21.3	21.28	21.35	21.43
SQM Reading - #2	21.3	21.29	21.36	21.42
SQM Reading - #3	21.3	21.29	21.37	21.41
SQM Reading - #4	21.32	21.28	21.37	21.41
SQM Reading - #5	21.28	21.27	21.38	21.4
Location SQM Average	21.18	21.305	21.365	21.41
Location SQM Median	21.18	21.31	21.385	21.41
Time (24-hour clock)	19:30	20:05	20:30	20:50
NELM				
% Cloud Cover	0%	0%	0	0
% Moon Visibility		2%		0
Air Temperature (F or C)		12	11	12
Other Notes	from 19 July 2025			7
	yes			6
	Too much Moon crescent on July 27th at 19:00			

SQM Model	SQM Serial Number	Version (SQM or SQM-L)	Observer 1	Observer 2
SQM-L				
Date (DDMMYYYY and Time Zone)				
Location Name	Location 8	Location 9	Location 10	Location 11
Latitude (in decimal degrees)	-26.625	-26.596	-26.548	-26.587
Longitude (in decimal degrees)	152.889	152.727	152.713	152.736
Whatwords location	marist chapel nearest	applebee ranches solar	lashed silvered box	wider negotiators gitters
Time (24-hour clock)				
SQM Reading - #1	21.42	21.33	21.52	21.52
SQM Reading - #2	21.44	21.31	21.51	21.5
SQM Reading - #3	21.41	21.33	21.5	21.52
SQM Reading - #4	21.44	21.34	21.52	21.5
SQM Reading - #5	21.44	21.34	21.52	21.5
Location SQM Average	21.4305	21.33	21.5125	21.52
Location SQM Median	21.44	21.335	21.515	21.52
Time (24-hour clock)	22:55	22:12	23:10	23:45
NELM				
% Cloud Cover				
% Moon Visibility				
Air Temperature (F or C)	6	8	6	7
Other Notes				

October 2025

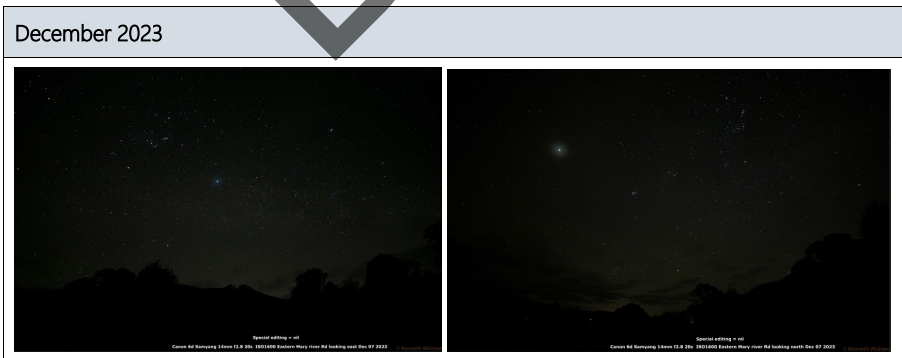
SQM Model	SQM Serial Number	Observer	Moon Phase
SQM-L	919	Ken Wishaw	Waxing Gibb
Date (DDMMYYYY and Time Zone)	Austr Eastern St Time +10GMT 22-Oct-25		
Location Name	Location 1	Location 2	Location 3
Latitude (in decimal degrees)	-26.795	-26.76	-26.725
Longitude (in decimal degrees)	152.864	152.809	152.824
Whatwords location	rodos market adventure	comfy relaxing encrusted	lunging importing imploded
Time (24-hour clock)	19:35	20:18	20:44
SQM Reading - #1	20.86	21.31	21.31
SQM Reading - #2	20.86	21.32	21.43
SQM Reading - #3	20.85	21.31	21.32
SQM Reading - #4	20.84	21.32	21.31
SQM Reading - #5	20.84	21.32	21.42
Location SQM Average	20.8475	21.318	21.396
Location SQM Median	20.845	21.32	21.43
NELM			
% Cloud Cover	0%	0%	0%
% Moon Visibility	19	19	19
Air Temperature (F or C)	19	19	19
Other Notes	Clear and dry	yes	yes
horizon photos			

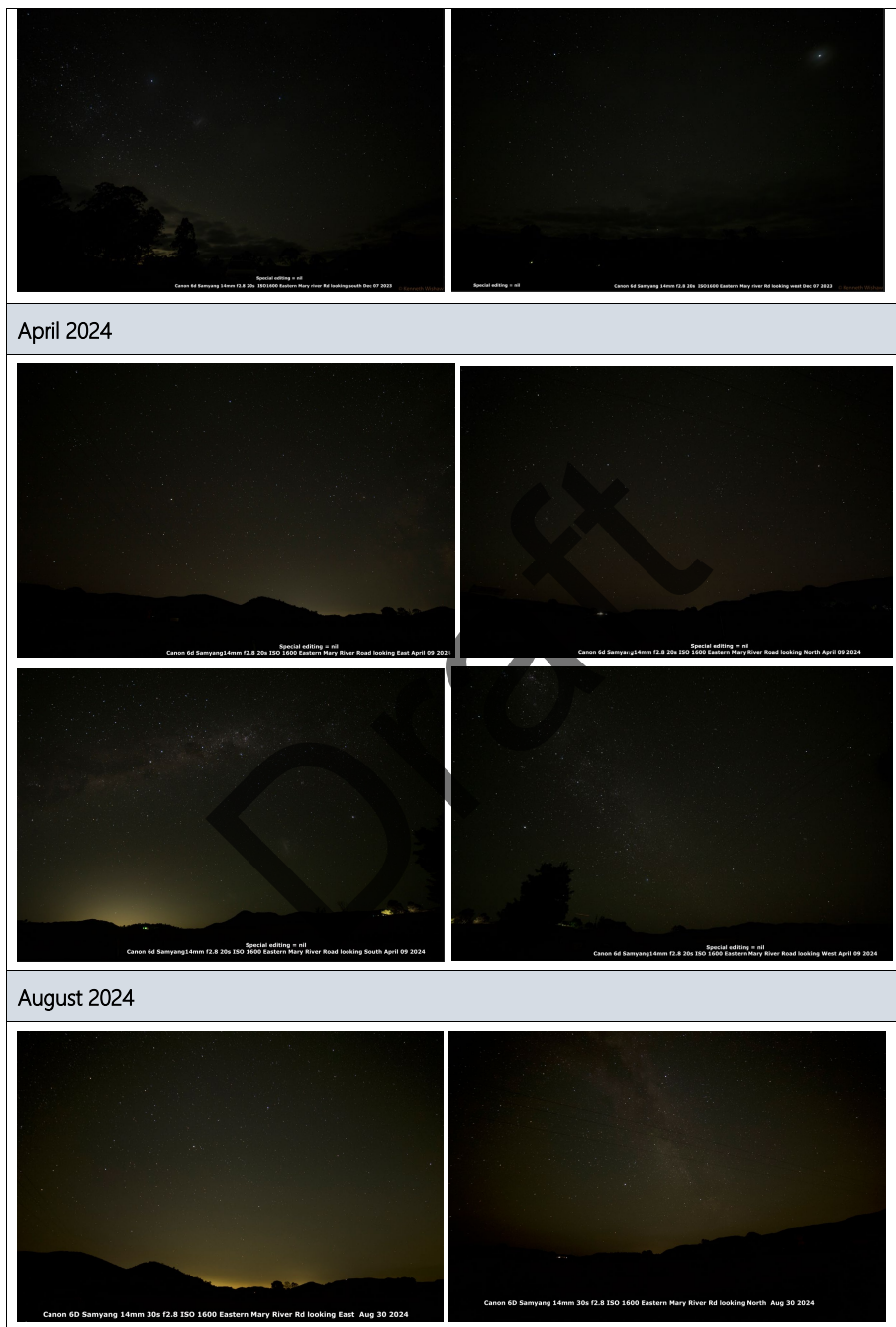
SQM Model	SQM Serial Number	Observer	Moon Phase
SQM-L			
Date (DDMMYYYY and Time Zone)			
Location Name	Location 7	Location 8	Location 9
Latitude (in decimal degrees)	-26.795	-26.625	-26.596
Longitude (in decimal degrees)	152.793	152.809	152.727
Whatwords location	gylfing rd/gt roads	marist chapel nearest	applebee ranches solar
Time (24-hour clock)	22:08	22:26	22:35
SQM Reading - #1	21.59	21.62	21.61
SQM Reading - #2	21.59	21.62	21.62
SQM Reading - #3	21.59	21.62	21.62
SQM Reading - #4	21.59	21.62	21.67
SQM Reading - #5	21.58	21.61	21.66
Location SQM Average	21.59	21.618	21.624
Location SQM Median	21.59	21.62	21.66
NELM			
% Cloud Cover	0%	0%	0%
% Moon Visibility			
Air Temperature (F or C)	20	19	19
Other Notes			
horizon photos			

### Appendix E: Night sky photography

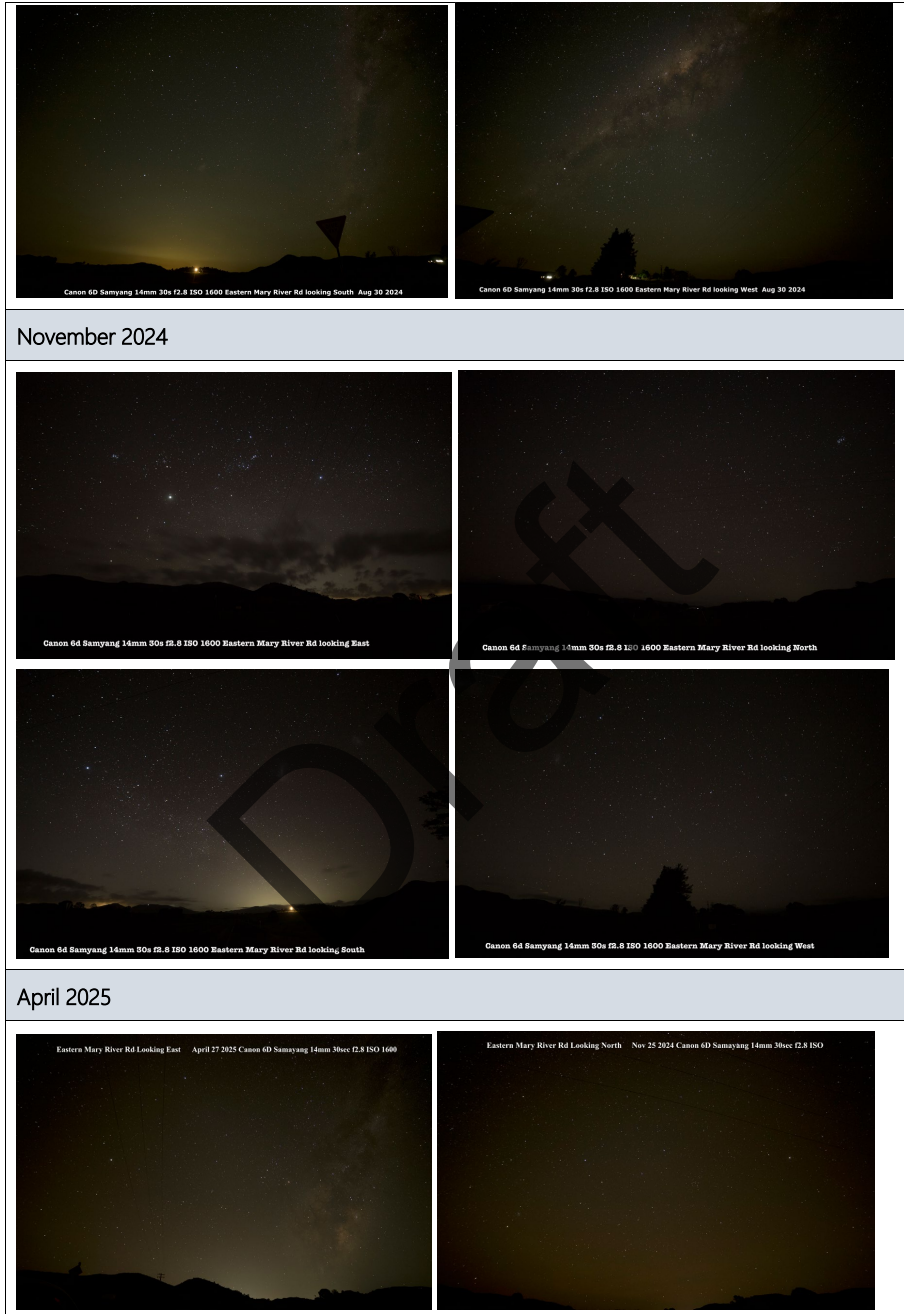
Night sky photography was conducted by Dr Ken Wishaw using the same camera lens and settings and no post- production applied. From June 2024 exposure was increased from 20 seconds to 30 seconds.

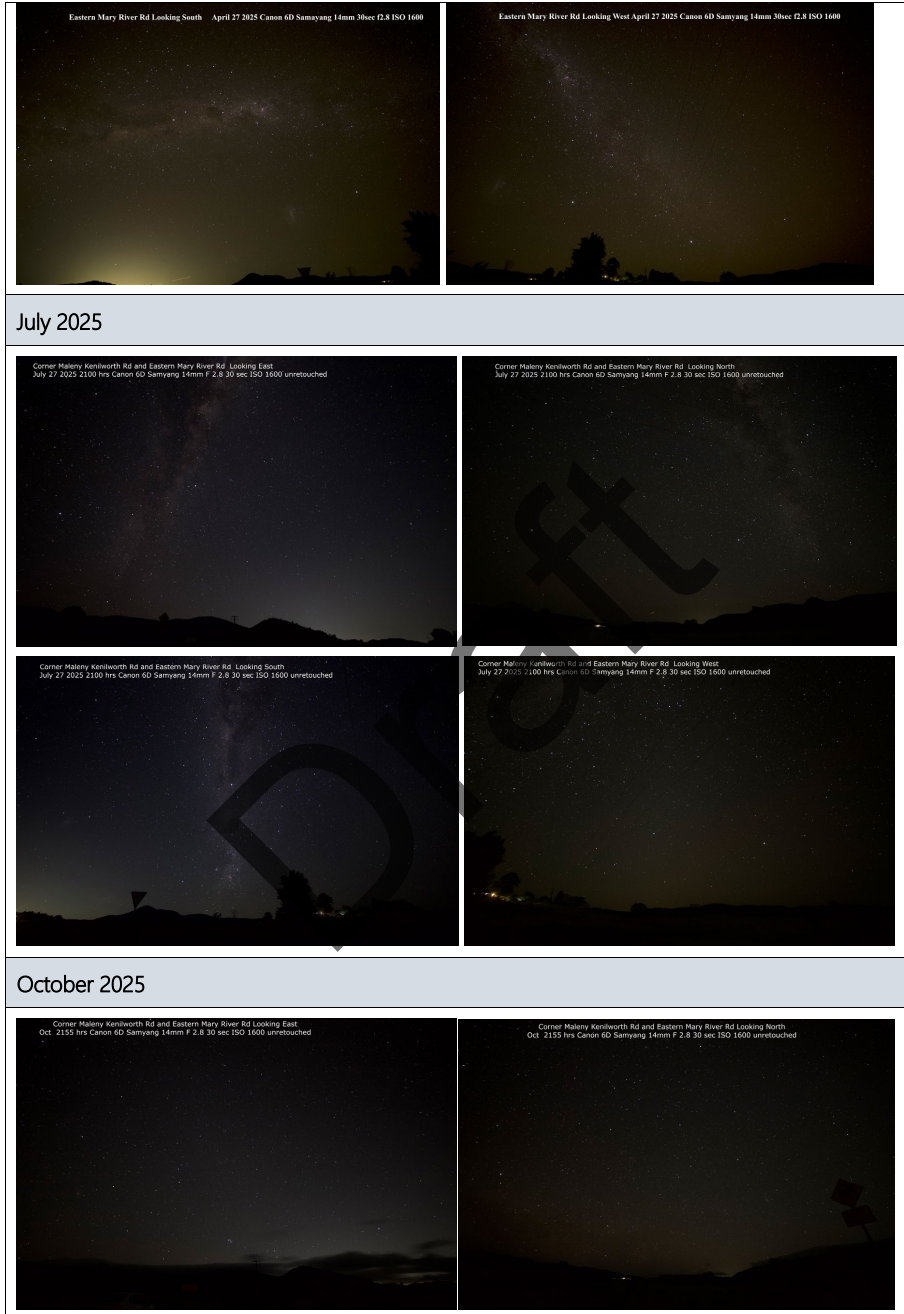
#### Site 1: Eastern Mary River Road, Kenilworth





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Site 2: Obi Obi turn off, Obi Obi



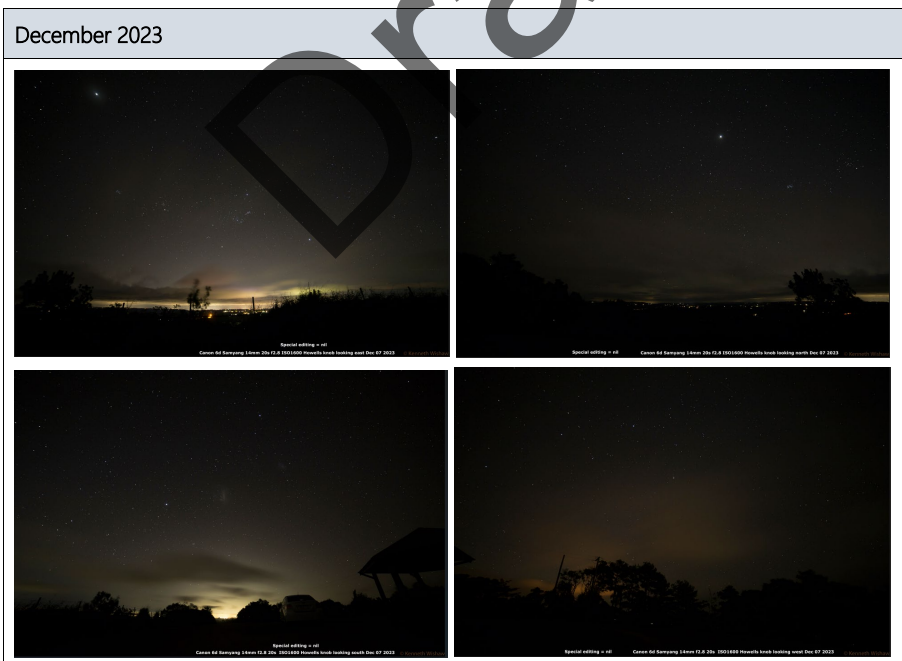


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Site 3: Howell's Knob, Reesville

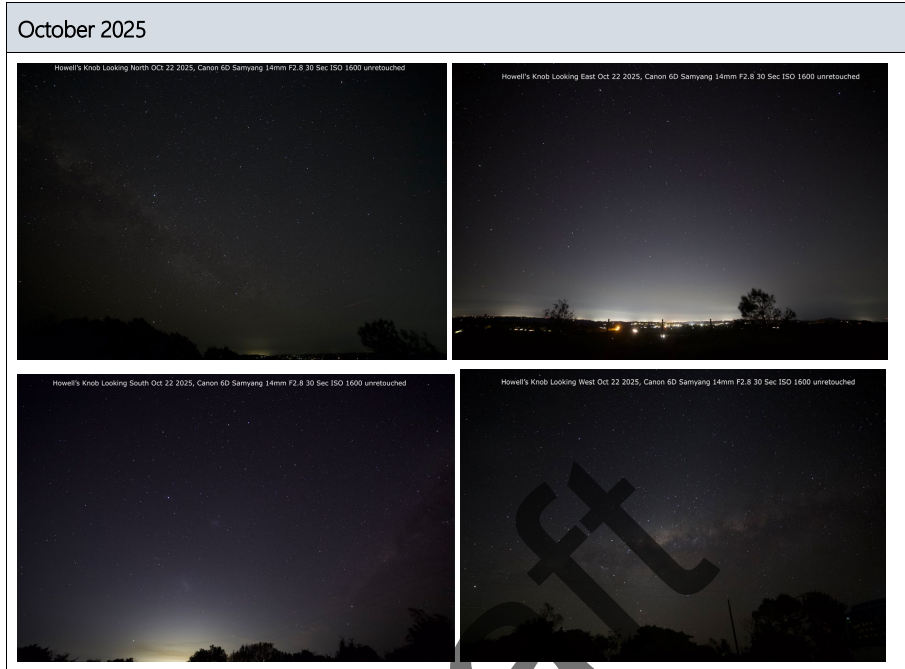




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**Appendix F: Lighting inventory**

**1. Council electrical lighting**

Lighting type	Fittings	CCT	Shielded Y/N	Adaptive controls	Dark Sky Compliant Y/N	Total Lights
Carpark lighting	LED	3000K	Full cut off	4 x Yes Motion sensor or Telensa CMS	Yes	6
Carpark lighting	LED	2700K	Full cut off	4 x Yes	Yes	4
Path lighting - bollard	LED	3000K			Yes	5
Path lighting - pole	LED	3000K	5 x Full cut off 36 x Semi cut off	2 x Yes 39 x No	Yes	40
Sports lighting	16 x LED			N/A - Switched off throughout the night	12 x Yes (Witta) 46 x No (Maleny)	56
Street - Road Light	LED	3000K	Full cut off	Yes - Telensa CMS	Yes	15
Street - Road Light	LED	2700K	Full cut off	Yes	Yes	4
Street - Road Light	LED	4000K	Full cut off	Yes - Telensa CMS	No	10
<b>Total</b>						<b>140</b>

2. Street lighting including upgrades

DEVICE ID	Locality	Original luminaire	Luminaire upgrade since project inception / Future luminaire	Dark Sky compliant status
100066901	MALENY	FLUORO 36.6W	StreetLED 13.7W 3K Aero	Compliant
5861491	MALENY	FLUORO 36.6W	StreetLED 13.7W 3K Aero	Compliant
5224788	MALENY	FLUORO 36.6W	StreetLED 13.7W 3K Aero	Compliant
100066891	MALENY	FLUORO 36.6W	StreetLED 13.7W 3K Aero	Compliant
5224922	MALENY	LED 13.7W	StreetLED 13.7W 3K Aero	Compliant
5224818	MALENY	FLUORO 36.6W	StreetLED 13.7W 3K Aero	Compliant
5211909	MAPLETON	LED 24.4W	StreetLED 24W LED 3K Aero	Compliant
5224817	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 139.2W	StreetLED 24W LED 3K Aero	Compliant
5224675	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 139.2W	StreetLED 24W LED 3K Aero	Compliant
5224704	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	StreetLED 13.7W 3K Aero	Compliant
5813242	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	StreetLED 13.7W 3K Aero	Compliant
5224824	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	StreetLED 13.7W 3K Aero	Compliant
105399925	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	StreetLED 13.7W 3K Aero	Compliant
5224720	MALENY	FLUORO 36.6W	StreetLED 13.7W 3K Aero	Compliant
5224739	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	StreetLED 13.7W 3K Aero	Compliant
5224740	MALENY	LED 13.7W	StreetLED 13.7W 3K Aero	Compliant

DEVICE ID	Locality	Original luminaire	Luminaire upgrade since project inception / Future luminaire	Dark Sky compliant status
5224733	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	StreetLED 13.7W 3K Aero	Compliant
5224732	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	StreetLED 13.7W 3K Aero	Compliant
5224667	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	StreetLED 13.7W 3K Aero	Compliant
104082013	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	Avenue II 3K 14W LED	Compliant
5907255	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	Avenue II 3K 14W LED	Compliant
5907253	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	Avenue II 3K 14W LED	Compliant
5907250	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	Avenue II 3K 14W LED	Compliant
5224937	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	StreetLED 13.7W 3K Aero	Compliant
5224861	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	StreetLED 13.7W 3K Aero	Compliant
104082001	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	Avenue II 3K 14W LED	Compliant
5861489	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	StreetLED 13.7W 3K Aero	Compliant
5225018	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	StreetLED 13.7W 3K Aero	Compliant
5224822	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	StreetLED 13.7W 3K Aero	Compliant
5224654	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	StreetLED 13.7W 3K Aero	Compliant
5224653	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	StreetLED 13.7W 3K Aero	Compliant
5224673	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	StreetLED 13.7W 3K Aero	Compliant
5224672	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	StreetLED 13.7W 3K Aero	Compliant
5224936	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	StreetLED 13.7W 3K Aero	Compliant

DEVICE ID	Locality	Original luminaire	Luminaire upgrade since project inception / Future luminaire	Dark Sky compliant status
5224661	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	StreetLED 13.7W 3K Aero	Compliant
5827096	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	StreetLED 13.7W 3K Aero	Compliant
5224781	MALENY	LED 13.7W	StreetLED 13.7W 3K Aero	Compliant
5224779	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	StreetLED 13.7W 3K Aero	Compliant
5224823	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	StreetLED 13.7W 3K Aero	Compliant
100066890	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	StreetLED 13.7W 3K Aero	Compliant
100066899	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	StreetLED 13.7W 3K Aero	Compliant
100066892	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	StreetLED 13.7W 3K Aero	Compliant
100066893	MALENY	LED 13.7W	StreetLED 13.7W 3K Aero	Compliant
100066895	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	StreetLED 13.7W 3K Aero	Compliant
100066896	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	StreetLED 13.7W 3K Aero	Compliant
5224447	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	StreetLED 13.7W 3K Aero	Compliant
5224926	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	StreetLED 13.7W 3K Aero	Compliant
5224449	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	StreetLED 13.7W 3K Aero	Compliant
5224925	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	StreetLED 13.7W 3K Aero	Compliant
5224436	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	StreetLED 24W 3K Aero	Compliant
5224471	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	StreetLED 13.7W 3K Aero	Compliant

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DEVICE ID	Locality	Original luminaire	Luminaire upgrade since project inception / Future luminaire	Dark Sky compliant status
105698549	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	StreetLED 13.7W 3K Aero	Compliant
5224914	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	StreetLED 13.7W 3K Aero	Compliant
5224664	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	StreetLED 13.7W 3K Aero	Compliant
5224786	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	StreetLED 13.7W 3K Aero	Compliant
5224935	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	StreetLED 13.7W 3K Aero	Compliant
5224660	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	StreetLED 13.7W 3K Aero	Compliant
5224404	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	StreetLED 13.7W 3K Aero	Compliant
5224795	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	StreetLED 13.7W 3K Aero	Compliant
5224793	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	StreetLED 13.7W 3K Aero	Compliant
5224521	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	StreetLED 13.7W 3K Aero	Compliant
5224520	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	StreetLED 13.7W 3K Aero	Compliant
5224799	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	StreetLED 13.7W 3K Aero	Compliant
5224801	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	StreetLED 13.7W 3K Aero	Compliant
5224785	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	StreetLED 13.7W 3K Aero	Compliant
5224784	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	StreetLED 13.7W 3K Aero	Compliant
103581192	MAPLETON	LED 13.7W	StreetLED 13.7W 3K Aero	Compliant
5211689	MAPLETON	LED 13.7W	StreetLED 13.7W 3K Aero	Compliant

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DEVICE ID	Locality	Original luminaire	Luminaire upgrade since project inception / Future luminaire	Dark Sky compliant status
5907241	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 92.4W	Avenue II 3K 14W LED	Compliant
5907243	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 92.4W	Avenue II 3K 14W LED	Compliant
5907246	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 92.4W	Avenue II 3K 14W LED	Compliant
5907248	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 92.4W	Avenue II 3K 14W LED	Compliant
104062934	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 92.4W	StreetLED 13.7W 3K Aero	Compliant
100066894	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 92.4W	StreetLED 13.7W 3K Aero	Compliant
5224803	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 92.4W	StreetLED 13.7W 3K Aero	Compliant
5224804	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 92.4W	StreetLED 13.7W 3K Aero	Compliant
5224802	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 92.4W	StreetLED 13.7W 3K Aero	Compliant
105570955	MALENY	SODIUM 85.2W	StreetLED 24W LED 3K Aero	Compliant
104797971	MALENY	SODIUM 85.2W	StreetLED 24W LED 3K Aero	Compliant
103304622	MALENY	SODIUM 85.2W	StreetLED 24W LED 3K Aero	Compliant
103527516	MALENY	SODIUM 85.2W	StreetLED 24W LED 3K Aero	Compliant
5224639	MALENY	SODIUM 85.2W	StreetLED 24W LED 3K Aero	Compliant
5224816	MALENY	SODIUM 85.2W	StreetLED 24W LED 3K Aero	Compliant
5224783	MALENY	SODIUM 85.2W	StreetLED 24W LED 3K Aero	Compliant
100043172	MALENY	LED 32.5W	StreetLED 24W LED 3K Aero	Compliant
5224842	MALENY	SODIUM 85.2W	StreetLED 24W LED 3K Aero	Compliant

DEVICE ID	Locality	Original luminaire	Luminaire upgrade since project inception / Future luminaire	Dark Sky compliant status
5224917	MALENY	SODIUM 85.2W	StreetLED 24W LED 3K Aero	Compliant
5224434	MALENY	SODIUM 85.2W	StreetLED 24W LED 3K Aero	Compliant
105762349	MALENY	SODIUM 85.2W	StreetLED 24W LED 3K Aero	Compliant
106799990	MALENY	SODIUM 85.2W	StreetLED 24W LED 3K Aero	Compliant
5224797	MALENY	SODIUM 85.2W	StreetLED 24W LED 3K Aero	Compliant
5211901	MAPLETON	LED 24.4W	StreetLED 24W LED 3K Aero	Compliant
5211907	MAPLETON	LED 24.4W	StreetLED 24W LED 3K Aero	Compliant
5232900	KENILWORTH	MERCURY VAPOUR 273.3W	Philips RoadFlair 38W	Compliant
5224934	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 273.3W	Philips RoadFlair 61W LED	Compliant
5224776	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 273.3W	Philips RoadFlair 61W LED	Compliant
5232915	KENILWORTH	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	Philips RoadFlair 38W LED	Compliant
5232862	KENILWORTH	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	Philips RoadFlair 38W LED	Compliant
107072443	KENILWORTH	SODIUM 116.6W	Philips RoadFlair 113W LED	Compliant
5842391	KENILWORTH	SODIUM 116.6W	Philips RoadFlair 38W LED	Compliant
5224764	MALENY	SODIUM 116.6W	Philips RoadFlair 38W LED	Compliant
5224765	MALENY	SODIUM 116.6W	Philips RoadFlair 38W LED	Compliant
5224766	MALENY	SODIUM 116.6W	Philips RoadFlair 38W LED	Compliant

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DEVICE ID	Locality	Original luminaire	Luminaire upgrade since project inception / Future luminaire	Dark Sky compliant status
5224767	MALENY	SODIUM 116.6W	Philips RoadFlair 38W LED	Compliant
5224769	MALENY	SODIUM 116.6W	Philips RoadFlair 38W LED	Compliant
5224480	MALENY	SODIUM 116.6W	Philips RoadFlair 38W LED	Compliant
5224479	MALENY	SODIUM 116.6W	Philips RoadFlair 38W LED	Compliant
103588616	MALENY	SODIUM 116.6W	Philips RoadFlair 38W LED	Compliant
5225014	MALENY	SODIUM 116.6W	Philips RoadFlair 38W LED	Compliant
5224777	MALENY	SODIUM 116.6W	Philips RoadFlair 38W LED	Compliant
5224774	MALENY	SODIUM 116.6W	Philips RoadFlair 38W LED	Compliant
5225021	MALENY	SODIUM 116.6W	Philips RoadFlair 38W LED	Compliant
106898320	MALENY	SODIUM 116.6W	Philips RoadFlair 38W LED	Compliant
5224787	MALENY	SODIUM 116.6W	Philips RoadFlair 38W LED	Compliant
5211903	MAPLETON	SODIUM 116.6W	Philips RoadFlair 38W LED	Compliant
5211904	MAPLETON	SODIUM 116.6W	StreetLED 24W 3K Aero	Compliant
5211892	MAPLETON	SODIUM 116.6W	Philips RoadFlair 38W LED	Compliant
5211893	MAPLETON	LED 80.8W	Philips RoadFlair 38W LED	Compliant
5211894	MAPLETON	SODIUM 116.6W	Philips RoadFlair 38W LED	Compliant
5873958	MAPLETON	SODIUM 116.6W	Philips RoadFlair 38W LED	Compliant

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DEVICE ID	Locality	Original luminaire	Luminaire upgrade since project inception / Future luminaire	Dark Sky compliant status
5873959	MAPLETON	SODIUM 116.6W	Philips RoadFlair 38W LED	Compliant
5873960	MAPLETON	SODIUM 116.6W	Philips RoadFlair 38W LED	Compliant
5809233	MAPLETON	SODIUM 116.6W	Philips RoadFlair 38W LED	Compliant
102497909	MAPLETON	SODIUM 116.6W	Philips RoadFlair 38W LED	Compliant
105923355	MAPLETON	SODIUM 116.6W	Philips RoadFlair 38W LED	Compliant
5211889	MAPLETON	SODIUM 116.6W	Philips RoadFlair 38W LED	Compliant
5211891	MAPLETON	SODIUM 116.6W	Philips RoadFlair 38W LED	Compliant
5211902	MAPLETON	SODIUM 116.6W	Philips RoadFlair 38W LED	Compliant
107283828	MONTVILLE	SODIUM 116.6W	Philips RoadFlair 38W LED	Compliant
107283829	MONTVILLE	SODIUM 116.6W	Philips RoadFlair 38W LED	Compliant
5224868	MONTVILLE	SODIUM 116.6W	Philips RoadFlair 38W LED	Compliant
5224753	FLAXTON	SODIUM 168.5W	Philips RoadFlair 61W LED	Compliant
5232855	KENILWORTH	SODIUM 168.5W	Philips RoadFlair 38W	Compliant
105901375	MALENY	SODIUM 168.5W	Philips RoadFlair 61W LED	Compliant
105901373	MALENY	SODIUM 168.5W	Philips RoadFlair 61W LED	Compliant
5224770	MALENY	SODIUM 168.5W	Philips RoadFlair 61W LED	Compliant
105694249	MALENY	SODIUM 168.5W	Philips RoadFlair 61W LED	Compliant

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DEVICE ID	Locality	Original luminaire	Luminaire upgrade since project inception / Future luminaire	Dark Sky compliant status
5224475	MALENY	SODIUM 168.5W	Philips RoadFlair 61W LED	Compliant
100043169	MALENY	SODIUM 168.5W	Philips RoadFlair 61W LED	Compliant
5224476	MALENY	SODIUM 168.5W	Philips RoadFlair 61W LED	Compliant
5224854	MALENY	SODIUM 168.5W	Philips RoadFlair 61W LED	Compliant
105694216	MALENY	SODIUM 168.5W	Philips RoadFlair 61W LED	Compliant
104890716	MALENY	SODIUM 168.5W	Philips RoadFlair 61W LED	Compliant
5211833	MAPLETON	SODIUM 168.5W	Philips RoadFlair 61W LED	Compliant
5211888	MAPLETON	SODIUM 168.5W	Philips RoadFlair 61W LED	Compliant
5224836	MONTVILLE	SODIUM 168.5W	Philips RoadFlair 61W LED	Compliant
5224829	MONTVILLE	SODIUM 168.5W	Philips RoadFlair 61W LED	Compliant
104682582	CONONDALE	SODIUM 273W	Philips RoadFlair 70W	Compliant
5224450	MALENY	SODIUM 273W	Philips RoadFlair 61W	Compliant
5224445	MALENY	SODIUM 273W	Philips RoadFlair 143W LED	Compliant
5224919	MALENY	SODIUM 273W	Philips RoadFlair 61W	Compliant
105694252	MALENY	SODIUM 273W	Philips RoadFlair 143W LED	Compliant
5224851	MALENY	SODIUM 273W	Philips RoadFlair 143W LED	Compliant
106898324	MALENY	SODIUM 273W	Philips RoadFlair 143W LED	Compliant
5232909	KENILWORTH	SODIUM 85.2W	Philips RoadFlair 38W LED	Compliant

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DEVICE ID	Locality	Original luminaire	Luminaire upgrade since project inception / Future luminaire	Dark Sky compliant status
5232868	KENILWORTH	SODIUM 85.2W	Philips RoadFlair 38W LED	Compliant
5232863	KENILWORTH	SODIUM 85.2W	Philips RoadFlair 38W LED	Compliant
103875767	KENILWORTH	SODIUM 85.2W	Philips RoadFlair 38W LED	Compliant
5232867	KENILWORTH	SODIUM 85.2W	Philips RoadFlair 38W LED	Compliant
5232866	KENILWORTH	SODIUM 85.2W	Philips RoadFlair 38W LED	Compliant
5232853	KENILWORTH	SODIUM 85.2W	Philips RoadFlair 38W LED	Compliant
5224724	MONTVILLE	FLUORO 36.6W	FUTURE - StreetLED 13.7W 3K Aero	Not Compliant
5224958	MONTVILLE	LED 16.9W	FUTURE - StreetLED 24W LED 3K Aero	Future - TBA
5211688	MAPLETON	LED 32.5W	FUTURE - StreetLED 24W LED 3K Aero	Future - TBA
5211910	MAPLETON	LED 32.5W	FUTURE - StreetLED 24W LED 3K Aero	Future - TBA
5224433	MONTVILLE	LED 32.5W	FUTURE - StreetLED 24W LED 3K Aero	Future - TBA
5232893	CONONDALE	MERCURY VAPOUR 139.2W	FUTURE - StreetLED 24W LED 3K Aero	Not Compliant
5211687	MAPLETON	MERCURY VAPOUR 139.2W	FUTURE - StreetLED 24W LED 3K Aero	Not Compliant
5224428	MONTVILLE	MERCURY VAPOUR 139.2W	FUTURE - StreetLED 24W LED 3K Aero	Not Compliant
5224426	MONTVILLE	MERCURY VAPOUR 139.2W	FUTURE - StreetLED 24W LED 3K Aero	Not Compliant
5814238	BALMORAL RIDGE	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	FUTURE - StreetLED 13.7W 3K Aero	Not Compliant
5232891	CONONDALE	LED 13.7W	FUTURE - StreetLED 13.7W 3K Aero	Future - TBA

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DEVICE ID	Locality	Original luminaire	Luminaire upgrade since project inception / Future luminaire	Dark Sky compliant status
5224951	FLAXTON	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	FUTURE - StreetLED 13.7W 3K Aero	Not Compliant
100233973	FLAXTON	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	FUTURE - StreetLED 13.7W 3K Aero	Not Compliant
5232905	KENILWORTH	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	FUTURE - StreetLED 13.7W 3K Aero	Not Compliant
5232875	KENILWORTH	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	FUTURE - StreetLED 13.7W 3K Aero	Not Compliant
5842419	KENILWORTH	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	FUTURE - StreetLED 13.7W 3K Aero	Not Compliant
5232874	KENILWORTH	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	FUTURE - StreetLED 13.7W 3K Aero	Not Compliant
5232906	KENILWORTH	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	FUTURE - StreetLED 13.7W 3K Aero	Not Compliant
5232857	KENILWORTH	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	FUTURE - StreetLED 13.7W 3K Aero	Not Compliant
5232889	KENILWORTH	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	FUTURE - StreetLED 13.7W 3K Aero	Not Compliant
5232858	KENILWORTH	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	FUTURE -StreetLED 13.7W 3K Aero	Not Compliant
5232871	KENILWORTH	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	FUTURE - StreetLED 13.7W 3K Aero	Not Compliant
5232870	KENILWORTH	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	FUTURE - StreetLED 13.7W 3K Aero	Not Compliant
5232872	KENILWORTH	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	FUTURE - StreetLED 13.7W 3K Aero	Not Compliant
5232886	KENILWORTH	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	FUTURE - StreetLED 13.7W 3K Aero	Not Compliant
5232860	KENILWORTH	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	FUTURE - StreetLED 13.7W 3K Aero	Not Compliant
5232859	KENILWORTH	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	FUTURE - StreetLED 13.7W 3K Aero	Not Compliant
106083669	KENILWORTH	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	FUTURE - StreetLED 13.7W 3K Aero	Not Compliant

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DEVICE ID	Locality	Original luminaire	Luminaire upgrade since project inception / Future luminaire	Dark Sky compliant status
5232894	KENILWORTH	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	FUTURE - StreetLED 13.7W 3K Aero	Not Compliant
5232911	KENILWORTH	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	FUTURE - StreetLED 13.7W 3K Aero	Not Compliant
5232895	KENILWORTH	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	FUTURE - StreetLED 13.7W 3K Aero	Not Compliant
5232912	KENILWORTH	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	FUTURE -StreetLED 13.7W 3K Aero	Not Compliant
104422430	KENILWORTH	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	FUTURE - StreetLED 13.7W 3K Aero	Not Compliant
5232864	KENILWORTH	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	FUTURE - StreetLED 13.7W 3K Aero	Not Compliant
5212725	MAPLETON	LED 13.7W	FUTURE - StreetLED 13.7W 3K Aero	Future - TBA
5211906	MAPLETON	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	FUTURE - StreetLED 13.7W 3K Aero	Not Compliant
5211720	MAPLETON	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	FUTURE - StreetLED 13.7W 3K Aero	Not Compliant
5211299	MAPLETON	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	FUTURE - StreetLED 13.7W 3K Aero	Not Compliant
5211381	MAPLETON	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	FUTURE - StreetLED 13.7W 3K Aero	Not Compliant
5211382	MAPLETON	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	FUTURE -StreetLED 13.7W 3K Aero	Not Compliant
5211690	MAPLETON	LED 13.7W	FUTURE - StreetLED 13.7W 3K Aero	Future - TBA
5211692	MAPLETON	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	FUTURE -StreetLED 13.7W 3K Aero	Not Compliant
5211693	MAPLETON	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	FUTURE - StreetLED 13.7W 3K Aero	Not Compliant
102701434	MAPLETON	MERCURY VAPOUR 92.4W	FUTURE - StreetLED 13.7W 3K Aero	Not Compliant
102701435	MAPLETON	MERCURY VAPOUR 92.4W	FUTURE - StreetLED 13.7W 3K Aero	Not Compliant

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DEVICE ID	Locality	Original luminaire	Luminaire upgrade since project inception / Future luminaire	Dark Sky compliant status
102854957	MONTVILLE	LED 13.7W	FUTURE - StreetLED 13.7W 3K Aero	Future - TBA
5848784	MONTVILLE	MERCURY VAPOUR 92.4W	FUTURE - StreetLED 13.7W 3K Aero	Not Compliant
5232907	CONONDALE	SODIUM 85.2W	FUTURE - StreetLED 24W LED 3K Aero	Future - TBA
5224634	FLAXTON	SODIUM 85.2W	FUTURE - StreetLED 24W LED 3K Aero	Future - TBA
5224953	FLAXTON	SODIUM 85.2W	FUTURE - StreetLED 24W LED 3K Aero	Future - TBA
5232884	KENILWORTH	SODIUM 85.2W	FUTURE - StreetLED 24W LED 3K Aero	Future - TBA
5232854	KENILWORTH	SODIUM 85.2W	FUTURE - StreetLED 24W LED 3K Aero	Future - TBA
104001836	KENILWORTH	SODIUM 85.2W	FUTURE - StreetLED 24W LED 3K Aero	Future - TBA
5232865	KENILWORTH	SODIUM 85.2W	FUTURE - StreetLED 24W LED 3K Aero	Future - TBA
5232898	KENILWORTH	SODIUM 85.2W	FUTURE - StreetLED 24W LED 3K Aero	Future - TBA
5211665	MAPLETON	SODIUM 85.2W	FUTURE - StreetLED 24W LED 3K Aero	Future - TBA
5212785	MAPLETON	SODIUM 85.2W	FUTURE - StreetLED 24W LED 3K Aero	Future - TBA
5211908	MAPLETON	SODIUM 85.2W	FUTURE - StreetLED 24W LED 3K Aero	Future - TBA
5211380	MAPLETON	SODIUM 85.2W	FUTURE - StreetLED 24W LED 3K Aero	Future - TBA
5224826	MONTVILLE	SODIUM 85.2W	FUTURE - StreetLED 24W LED 3K Aero	Future - TBA
5224908	MONTVILLE	SODIUM 85.2W	FUTURE - StreetLED 24W LED 3K Aero	Future - TBA
5224674	MONTVILLE	SODIUM 85.2W	FUTURE - StreetLED 24W LED 3K Aero	Future - TBA

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DEVICE ID	Locality	Original luminaire	Luminaire upgrade since project inception / Future luminaire	Dark Sky compliant status
5224429	MONTVILLE	SODIUM 85.2W	FUTURE - StreetLED 24W LED 3K Aero	Future - TBA
100064368	MONTVILLE	SODIUM 85.2W	FUTURE - StreetLED 24W LED 3K Aero	Future - TBA
5224867	MONTVILLE	SODIUM 85.2W	FUTURE - StreetLED 24W LED 3K Aero	Future - TBA
5224464	MONTVILLE	SODIUM 85.2W	FUTURE - StreetLED 24W LED 3K Aero	Future - TBA
106313775	CONONDALE	FLUORO 36.6W	TBD	Not Compliant
106313794	CONONDALE	FLUORO 36.6W	TBD	Not Compliant
5224468	FLAXTON	FLUORO 36.6W	TBD	Not Compliant
5224508	MALENY	FLUORO 36.6W	TBD	Not Compliant
5224513	MALENY	FLUORO 36.6W	TBD	Not Compliant
106342934	MALENY	FLUORO 36.6W	TBD	Not Compliant
106342932	MALENY	FLUORO 36.6W	TBD	Not Compliant
106650167	MALENY	FLUORO 36.6W	TBD	Not Compliant
106650165	MALENY	FLUORO 36.6W	TBD	Not Compliant
106447035	MALENY	FLUORO 36.6W	TBD	Not Compliant
106447033	MALENY	FLUORO 36.6W	TBD	Not Compliant
106447031	MALENY	FLUORO 36.6W	TBD	Not Compliant
106447028	MALENY	FLUORO 36.6W	TBD	Not Compliant
106650159	MALENY	FLUORO 36.6W	TBD	Not Compliant
103609018	MALENY	FLUORO 36.6W	TBD	Not Compliant
106342926	MALENY	FLUORO 36.6W	TBD	Not Compliant
106342929	MALENY	FLUORO 36.6W	TBD	Not Compliant
106342931	MALENY	FLUORO 36.6W	TBD	Not Compliant
106650154	MALENY	FLUORO 36.6W	TBD	Not Compliant
106650156	MALENY	FLUORO 36.6W	TBD	Not Compliant

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DEVICE ID	Locality	Original luminaire	Luminaire upgrade since project inception / Future luminaire	Dark Sky compliant status
106650157	MALENY	FLUORO 36.6W	TBD	Not Compliant
106650160	MALENY	FLUORO 36.6W	TBD	Not Compliant
5907290	MONTVILLE	FLUORO 36.6W	TBD	Not Compliant
106883083	NORTH MALENY	FLUORO 36.6W	TBD	Not Compliant
106883088	NORTH MALENY	FLUORO 36.6W	TBD	Not Compliant
106883080	NORTH MALENY	FLUORO 36.6W	TBD	Not Compliant
106883084	NORTH MALENY	FLUORO 36.6W	TBD	Not Compliant
106883085	NORTH MALENY	FLUORO 36.6W	TBD	Not Compliant
5224967	FLAXTON	LED 16.9W	TBD	Future - TBA
103776774	FLAXTON	LED 16.9W	TBD	Future - TBA
5211391	FLAXTON	LED 16.9W	TBD	Future - TBA
100233972	FLAXTON	LED 16.9W	TBD	Future - TBA
105960463	FLAXTON	LED 16.9W	TBD	Future - TBA
5224715	FLAXTON	LED 16.9W	TBD	Future - TBA
5224716	FLAXTON	LED 16.9W	TBD	Future - TBA
5859493	FLAXTON	LED 16.9W	TBD	Future - TBA
5224573	FLAXTON	LED 16.9W	TBD	Future - TBA
5224559	FLAXTON	LED 16.9W	TBD	Future - TBA
5232856	KENILWORTH	LED 16.9W	TBD	Future - TBA
5224938	MALENY	LED 16.9W	TBD	Future - TBA
5224604	MALENY	LED 16.9W	TBD	Future - TBA
5224605	MALENY	LED 16.9W	TBD	Future - TBA
5224435	MALENY	LED 16.9W	TBD	Future - TBA

DEVICE ID	Locality	Original luminaire	Luminaire upgrade since project inception / Future luminaire	Dark Sky compliant status
103278199	MALENY	LED 16.9W	TBD	Future - TBA
5211630	MAPLETON	LED 16.9W	TBD	Future - TBA
5211721	MAPLETON	LED 16.9W	TBD	Future - TBA
5211638	MAPLETON	LED 16.9W	TBD	Future - TBA
5211691	MAPLETON	LED 16.9W	TBD	Future - TBA
5212596	MAPLETON	LED 16.9W	TBD	Future - TBA
5212597	MAPLETON	LED 16.9W	TBD	Future - TBA
5212625	MAPLETON	LED 16.9W	TBD	Future - TBA
107773958	MONTVILLE	LED 16.9W	TBD	Future - TBA
107774189	MONTVILLE	LED 16.9W	TBD	Future - TBA
107662990	MONTVILLE	LED 16.9W	TBD	Future - TBA
5224534	MONTVILLE	LED 16.9W	TBD	Future - TBA
5224731	MONTVILLE	LED 16.9W	TBD	Future - TBA
5224465	FLAXTON	LED 21.1W	TBD	Future - TBA
5224466	FLAXTON	LED 21.1W	TBD	Future - TBA
5224407	FLAXTON	LED 21.1W	TBD	Future - TBA
5907328	FLAXTON	LED 21.1W	TBD	Future - TBA
5907330	FLAXTON	LED 21.1W	TBD	Future - TBA
5224467	FLAXTON	LED 21.1W	TBD	Future - TBA
103731475	FLAXTON	LED 21.1W	TBD	Future - TBA
103436251	MALENY	LED 21.1W	TBD	Future - TBA
5922138	MALENY	LED 21.1W	TBD	Future - TBA
5922149	MALENY	LED 21.1W	TBD	Future - TBA
102635234	MALENY	LED 21.1W	TBD	Future - TBA
103416294	MALENY	LED 21.1W	TBD	Future - TBA
103571619	MALENY	LED 21.1W	TBD	Future - TBA

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DEVICE ID	Locality	Original luminaire	Luminaire upgrade since project inception / Future luminaire	Dark Sky compliant status
105073363	MALENY	LED 21.1W	TBD	Future - TBA
103502426	MAPLETON	LED 21.1W	TBD	Future - TBA
102922996	MAPLETON	LED 21.1W	TBD	Future - TBA
102922976	MAPLETON	LED 21.1W	TBD	Future - TBA
102922993	MAPLETON	LED 21.1W	TBD	Future - TBA
102922991	MAPLETON	LED 21.1W	TBD	Future - TBA
102922987	MAPLETON	LED 21.1W	TBD	Future - TBA
102922986	MAPLETON	LED 21.1W	TBD	Future - TBA
102922995	MAPLETON	LED 21.1W	TBD	Future - TBA
102922979	MAPLETON	LED 21.1W	TBD	Future - TBA
102922980	MAPLETON	LED 21.1W	TBD	Future - TBA
102922983	MAPLETON	LED 21.1W	TBD	Future - TBA
102922985	MAPLETON	LED 21.1W	TBD	Future - TBA
5224558	MONTVILLE	LED 21.1W	TBD	Future - TBA
5224524	MONTVILLE	LED 21.1W	TBD	Future - TBA
5224525	MONTVILLE	LED 21.1W	TBD	Future - TBA
5224954	FLAXTON	LED 32.5W	TBD	Future - TBA
5224950	FLAXTON	LED 32.5W	TBD	Future - TBA
5224635	FLAXTON	LED 32.5W	TBD	Future - TBA
107707601	MALENY	LED 32.5W	TBD	Future - TBA
5224807	MALENY	LED 32.5W	TBD	Future - TBA
5224916	MALENY	LED 32.5W	TBD	Future - TBA
103435935	MALENY	LED 32.5W	TBD	Future - TBA
5224791	MALENY	LED 32.5W	TBD	Future - TBA
5211659	MAPLETON	LED 32.5W	TBD	Future - TBA
103436222	MALENY	LED 21.1W	TBD	Future - TBA

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DEVICE ID	Locality	Original luminaire	Luminaire upgrade since project inception / Future luminaire	Dark Sky compliant status
103436230	MALENY	LED 35.9W	TBD	Future - TBA
100121673	MALENY	LED 35.9W	TBD	Future - TBA
102922981	MAPLETON	LED 35.9W	TBD	Future - TBA
103435938	MALENY	LED 80.8W	TBD	Future - TBA
107822085	MALENY	LED 98.5W	TBD	Future - TBA
107822107	MALENY	LED 98.5W	TBD	Future - TBA
5211390	FLAXTON	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	TBD	Not Compliant
5224665	FLAXTON	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	TBD	Not Compliant
104055584	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	TBD	Not Compliant
102667376	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	TBD	Not Compliant
102667381	MALENY	LED 13.7W	TBD	Future - TBA
104062999	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	TBD	Not Compliant
104063000	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	TBD	Not Compliant
104063002	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	TBD	Not Compliant
5224514	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	TBD	Not Compliant
104055516	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	TBD	Not Compliant
104055528	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	TBD	Not Compliant
104055526	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	TBD	Not Compliant
104055523	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	TBD	Not Compliant
104055581	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	TBD	Not Compliant
104055577	MALENY	LED 21.1W	TBD	Future - TBA
104055578	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	TBD	Not Compliant
104055532	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	TBD	Not Compliant
103436243	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	TBD	Not Compliant
105042772	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	TBD	Not Compliant
105042774	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	TBD	Not Compliant

Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve: Application to Dark Sky International

DEVICE ID	Locality	Original luminaire	Luminaire upgrade since project inception / Future luminaire	Dark Sky compliant status
5224505	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	TBD	Not Compliant
5224506	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	TBD	Not Compliant
5224507	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	TBD	Not Compliant
5224509	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	TBD	Not Compliant
5224511	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	TBD	Not Compliant
5224512	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	TBD	Not Compliant
5922159	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	TBD	Not Compliant
5922162	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	TBD	Not Compliant
5224510	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	TBD	Not Compliant
103609038	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	TBD	Not Compliant
103609047	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	TBD	Not Compliant
5224606	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	TBD	Not Compliant
103962083	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	TBD	Not Compliant
103962086	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	TBD	Not Compliant
103609026	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	TBD	Not Compliant
103609027	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	TBD	Not Compliant
103609036	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	TBD	Not Compliant
103609037	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	TBD	Not Compliant
104081985	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	TBD	Not Compliant
103609041	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	TBD	Not Compliant
103416313	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	TBD	Not Compliant
103416281	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	TBD	Not Compliant
103416286	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	TBD	Not Compliant
103416314	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	TBD	Not Compliant
103416311	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	TBD	Not Compliant
103436223	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	TBD	Not Compliant

DEVICE ID	Locality	Original luminaire	Luminaire upgrade since project inception / Future luminaire	Dark Sky compliant status
103436219	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	TBD	Not Compliant
103436218	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	TBD	Not Compliant
103436220	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	TBD	Not Compliant
103571712	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	TBD	Not Compliant
103571698	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	TBD	Not Compliant
103571700	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	TBD	Not Compliant
103571711	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	TBD	Not Compliant
103571707	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	TBD	Not Compliant
103571703	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	TBD	Not Compliant
5224515	MALENY	LED 21.1W	TBD	Future - TBA
5224516	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	TBD	Not Compliant
105042770	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	TBD	Not Compliant
105042768	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	TBD	Not Compliant
103609044	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	TBD	Not Compliant
105073366	MALENY	LED 21.1W	TBD	Future - TBA
105073368	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	TBD	Not Compliant
103571705	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	TBD	Not Compliant
103571715	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	TBD	Not Compliant
103571713	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	TBD	Not Compliant
5922145	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	TBD	Not Compliant
5922140	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	TBD	Not Compliant
5922142	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	TBD	Not Compliant
5922132	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	TBD	Not Compliant
5922135	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	TBD	Not Compliant
103571718	MALENY	LED 21.1W	TBD	Future - TBA
103571721	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	TBD	Not Compliant

DEVICE ID	Locality	Original luminaire	Luminaire upgrade since project inception / Future luminaire	Dark Sky compliant status
103571723	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	TBD	Not Compliant
104055522	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	TBD	Not Compliant
104055518	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	TBD	Not Compliant
104055531	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	TBD	Not Compliant
102635236	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	TBD	Not Compliant
102635231	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	TBD	Not Compliant
102635238	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	TBD	Not Compliant
103416288	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	TBD	Not Compliant
103416278	MALENY	LED 21.1W	TBD	Future - TBA
103416274	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	TBD	Not Compliant
103416289	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	TBD	Not Compliant
103416297	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	TBD	Not Compliant
103571683	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	TBD	Not Compliant
103416295	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	TBD	Not Compliant
103416276	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	TBD	Not Compliant
103416273	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	TBD	Not Compliant
103416285	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	TBD	Not Compliant
103571690	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	TBD	Not Compliant
103571689	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	TBD	Not Compliant
103416296	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	TBD	Not Compliant
103571682	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	TBD	Not Compliant
103571679	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	TBD	Not Compliant
103571676	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	TBD	Not Compliant
103571688	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	TBD	Not Compliant
103571686	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	TBD	Not Compliant
103571675	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	TBD	Not Compliant

DEVICE ID	Locality	Original luminaire	Luminaire upgrade since project inception / Future luminaire	Dark Sky compliant status
5224519	MALENY	LED 21.1W	TBD	Future - TBA
5224518	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	TBD	Not Compliant
5224517	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	TBD	Not Compliant
104081944	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	TBD	Not Compliant
104081968	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	TBD	Not Compliant
103278204	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	TBD	Not Compliant
103278207	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	TBD	Not Compliant
105073359	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	TBD	Not Compliant
105073362	MALENY	LED 21.1W	TBD	Future - TBA
105073355	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	TBD	Not Compliant
5922129	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	TBD	Not Compliant
105073357	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	TBD	Not Compliant
103609030	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	TBD	Not Compliant
103609025	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	TBD	Not Compliant
100493999	MAPLETON	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	TBD	Not Compliant
100494000	MAPLETON	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	TBD	Not Compliant
100494001	MAPLETON	LED 21.1W	TBD	Future - TBA
5224630	MONTVILLE	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	TBD	Not Compliant
5224394	WITTA	MERCURY VAPOUR 61.7W	TBD	Not Compliant
5224957	FLAXTON	MERCURY VAPOUR 92.4W	TBD	Not Compliant
102667373	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 92.4W	TBD	Not Compliant
102667371	MALENY	LED 21.1W	TBD	Future - TBA
103057243	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 92.4W	TBD	Not Compliant
102667379	MALENY	LED 21.1W	TBD	Not Compliant
5224432	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 92.4W	TBD	Not Compliant
103210043	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 92.4W	TBD	Not Compliant

DEVICE ID	Locality	Original luminaire	Luminaire upgrade since project inception / Future luminaire	Dark Sky compliant status
103210040	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 92.4W	TBD	Not Compliant
104062995	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 92.4W	TBD	Not Compliant
104055534	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 92.4W	TBD	Not Compliant
104055574	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 92.4W	TBD	Not Compliant
103436238	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 92.4W	TBD	Not Compliant
103436245	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 92.4W	TBD	Not Compliant
103436248	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 92.4W	TBD	Not Compliant
103436237	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 92.4W	TBD	Not Compliant
103436231	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 92.4W	TBD	Not Compliant
103436234	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 92.4W	TBD	Not Compliant
103436235	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 92.4W	TBD	Not Compliant
104055585	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 92.4W	TBD	Not Compliant
104055586	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 92.4W	TBD	Not Compliant
104055589	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 92.4W	TBD	Not Compliant
104055571	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 92.4W	TBD	Not Compliant
104055575	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 92.4W	TBD	Not Compliant
103278201	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 92.4W	TBD	Not Compliant
103278203	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 92.4W	TBD	Not Compliant
102667384	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 92.4W	TBD	Not Compliant
103436224	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 92.4W	TBD	Not Compliant
103436247	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 92.4W	TBD	Not Compliant
103942834	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 92.4W	TBD	Not Compliant
103942844	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 92.4W	TBD	Not Compliant
103942833	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 92.4W	TBD	Not Compliant
103942836	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 92.4W	TBD	Not Compliant
103942843	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 92.4W	TBD	Not Compliant

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DEVICE ID	Locality	Original luminaire	Luminaire upgrade since project inception / Future luminaire	Dark Sky compliant status
103942826	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 92.4W	TBD	Not Compliant
105946621	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 92.4W	TBD	Not Compliant
105946622	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 92.4W	TBD	Not Compliant
103435923	MALENY	LED 13.7W	TBD	Future - TBA
103435922	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 92.4W	TBD	Not Compliant
103435917	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 92.4W	TBD	Not Compliant
103435933	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 92.4W	TBD	Not Compliant
103435918	MALENY	LED 13.7W	TBD	Future - TBA
104055592	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 92.4W	TBD	Not Compliant
104062997	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 92.4W	TBD	Not Compliant
104062933	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 92.4W	TBD	Not Compliant
104062990	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 92.4W	TBD	Not Compliant
104062993	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 92.4W	TBD	Not Compliant
102714699	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 92.4W	TBD	Not Compliant
104055521	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 92.4W	TBD	Not Compliant
100121633	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 92.4W	TBD	Not Compliant
105003832	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 92.4W	TBD	Not Compliant
105003829	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 92.4W	TBD	Not Compliant
105003828	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 92.4W	TBD	Not Compliant
100121635	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 92.4W	TBD	Not Compliant
103210039	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 92.4W	TBD	Not Compliant
102714695	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 92.4W	TBD	Not Compliant
102714696	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 92.4W	TBD	Not Compliant
102714697	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 92.4W	TBD	Not Compliant
100121631	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 92.4W	TBD	Not Compliant
5224815	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 92.4W	TBD	Not Compliant

DEVICE ID	Locality	Original luminaire	Luminaire upgrade since project inception / Future luminaire	Dark Sky compliant status
5224800	MALENY	MERCURY VAPOUR 92.4W	TBD	Not Compliant
100493949	MAPLETON	MERCURY VAPOUR 92.4W	TBD	Not Compliant
103502424	MAPLETON	MERCURY VAPOUR 92.4W	TBD	Not Compliant
5211432	MAPLETON	MERCURY VAPOUR 92.4W	TBD	Not Compliant
5211431	MAPLETON	MERCURY VAPOUR 92.4W	TBD	Not Compliant
103502423	MAPLETON	MERCURY VAPOUR 92.4W	TBD	Not Compliant
103502422	MAPLETON	MERCURY VAPOUR 92.4W	TBD	Not Compliant
103502417	MAPLETON	MERCURY VAPOUR 92.4W	TBD	Not Compliant
104679721	KENILWORTH	SODIUM 116.6W	TBD	Future - TBA
104679727	KENILWORTH	SODIUM 116.6W	TBD	Future - TBA
104679725	KENILWORTH	SODIUM 116.6W	TBD	Future - TBA
107057110	MALENY	SODIUM 116.6W	TBD	Future - TBA
107057103	MALENY	SODIUM 116.6W	TBD	Future - TBA
5224533	MONTVILLE	SODIUM 116.6W	TBD	Future - TBA
105806135	NORTH MALENY	SODIUM 116.6W	TBD	Future - TBA
105806132	MALENY	SODIUM 168.5W	TBD	Future - TBA
103942837	MALENY	SODIUM 168.5W	TBD	Future - TBA
5224768	MALENY	SODIUM 273W	TBD	Future - TBA
5224456	MALENY	SODIUM 273W	TBD	Future - TBA
102620080	MALENY	SODIUM 273W	TBD	Future - TBA
102620078	MALENY	SODIUM 273W	TBD	Future - TBA
105469186	MALENY	SODIUM 273W	TBD	Future - TBA
107014834	MONTVILLE	SODIUM 273W	TBD	Future - TBA
107014851	MONTVILLE	SODIUM 273W	TBD	Future - TBA
107014870	MONTVILLE	SODIUM 273W	TBD	Future - TBA
107014872	MONTVILLE	SODIUM 273W	TBD	Future - TBA

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DEVICE ID	Locality	Original luminaire	Luminaire upgrade since project inception / Future luminaire	Dark Sky compliant status
107014836	MONTVILLE	SODIUM 273W	TBD	Future - TBA
102811976	MALENY	SODIUM 436.5W	TBD	Future - TBA
105694217	MALENY	SODIUM 436.5W	TBD	Future - TBA
102811975	MALENY	SODIUM 436.5W	TBD	Future - TBA
5224496	MALENY	SODIUM 62.5W	TBD	Future - TBA
5224497	MALENY	SODIUM 62.5W	TBD	Future - TBA
5224498	MALENY	SODIUM 62.5W	TBD	Future - TBA
5224499	MALENY	SODIUM 62.5W	TBD	Future - TBA
5224500	MALENY	SODIUM 62.5W	TBD	Future - TBA
5224502	MALENY	SODIUM 62.5W	TBD	Future - TBA
104679719	KENILWORTH	SODIUM 85.2W	TBD	Future - TBA
104679732	KENILWORTH	SODIUM 85.2W	TBD	Future - TBA
104679730	KENILWORTH	SODIUM 85.2W	TBD	Future - TBA
5224501	MALENY	SODIUM 85.2W	TBD	Future - TBA
103571766	MALENY	SODIUM 85.2W	TBD	Future - TBA
103416332	MALENY	SODIUM 85.2W	TBD	Future - TBA
103416329	MALENY	SODIUM 85.2W	TBD	Future - TBA
103416327	MALENY	SODIUM 85.2W	TBD	Future - TBA
102667389	MALENY	SODIUM 85.2W	TBD	Future - TBA
107057105	MALENY	SODIUM 85.2W	TBD	Future - TBA
107057107	MALENY	SODIUM 85.2W	TBD	Future - TBA
105963351	MALENY	SODIUM 85.2W	TBD	Future - TBA
105963348	MALENY	SODIUM 85.2W	TBD	Future - TBA
105963346	MALENY	SODIUM 85.2W	TBD	Future - TBA
105963352	MALENY	SODIUM 85.2W	TBD	Future - TBA
105963345	MALENY	SODIUM 85.2W	TBD	Future - TBA

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DEVICE ID	Locality	Original luminaire	Luminaire upgrade since project inception / Future luminaire	Dark Sky compliant status
104289261	MAPLETON	SODIUM 85.2W	TBD	Future - TBA
104289263	MAPLETON	SODIUM 85.2W	TBD	Future - TBA
102702238	BELLI PARK	SODIUM 85.2W	TBD	Future - TBA

Draft

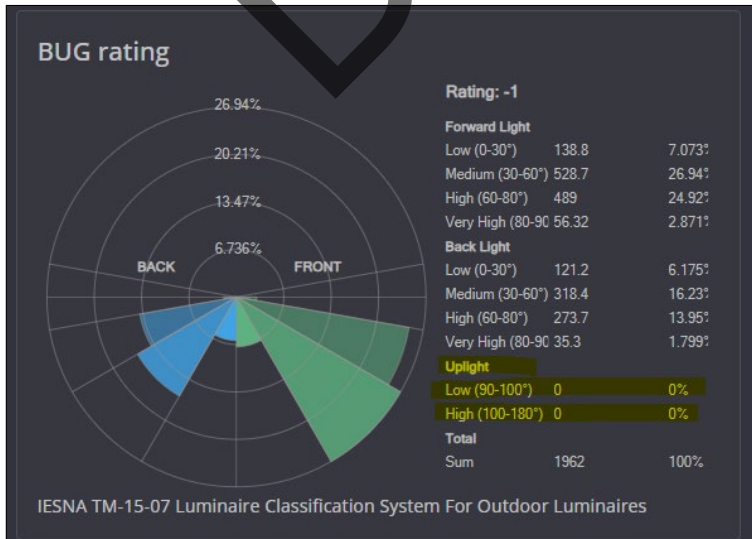
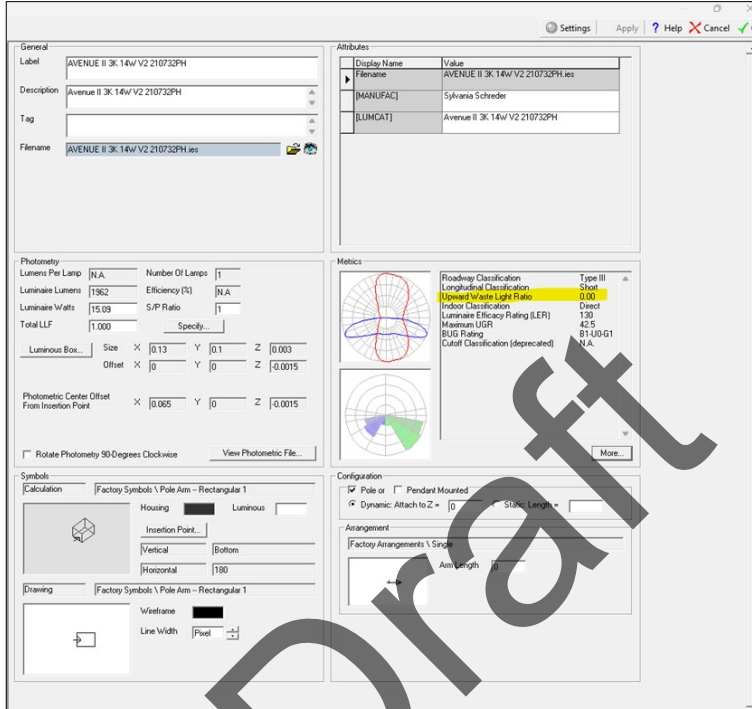
## Appendix G: Lighting Management Plan

*Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve Lighting Management Plan - Refer to Appendix A of the Council Ordinary Meeting Report.*

Draft

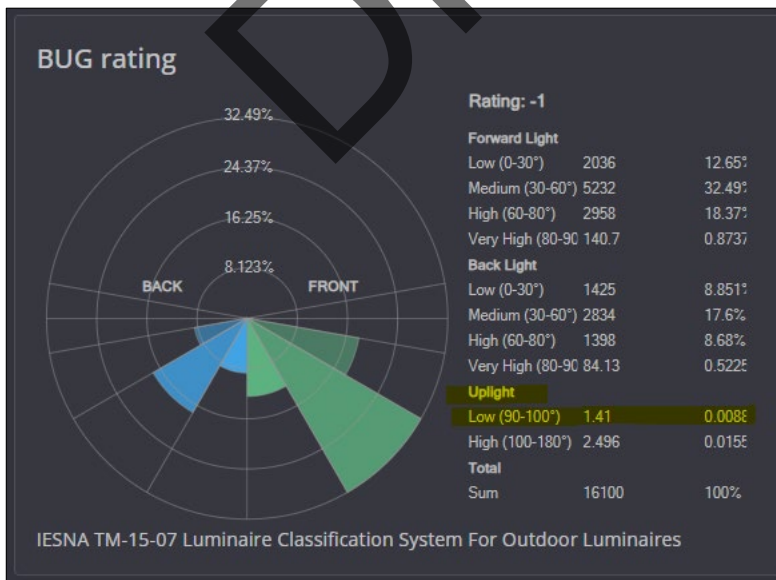
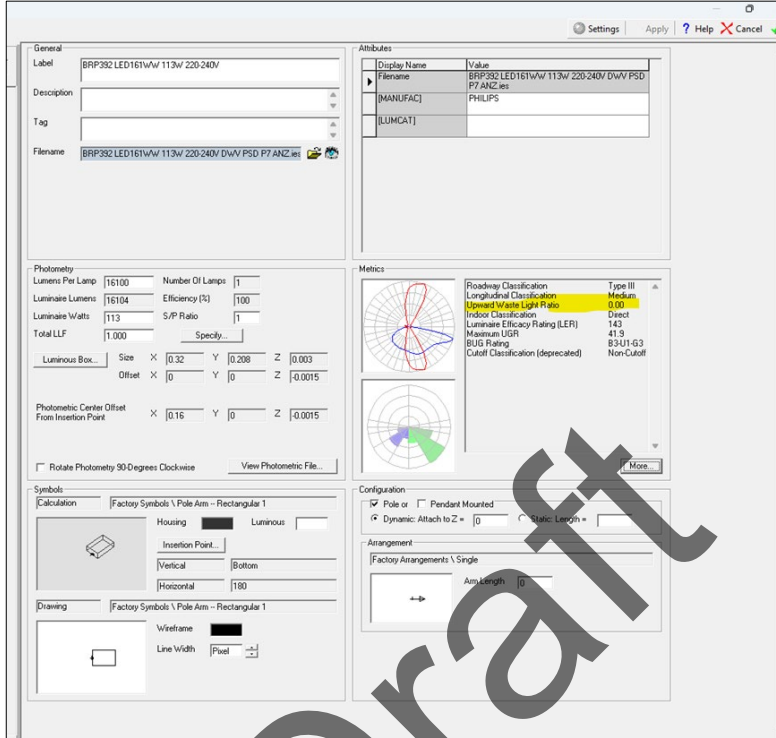
Appendix H: Street lighting upgrades demonstrating upward light ratio compliance

Luminaire: Avenue II 3K 14W LED



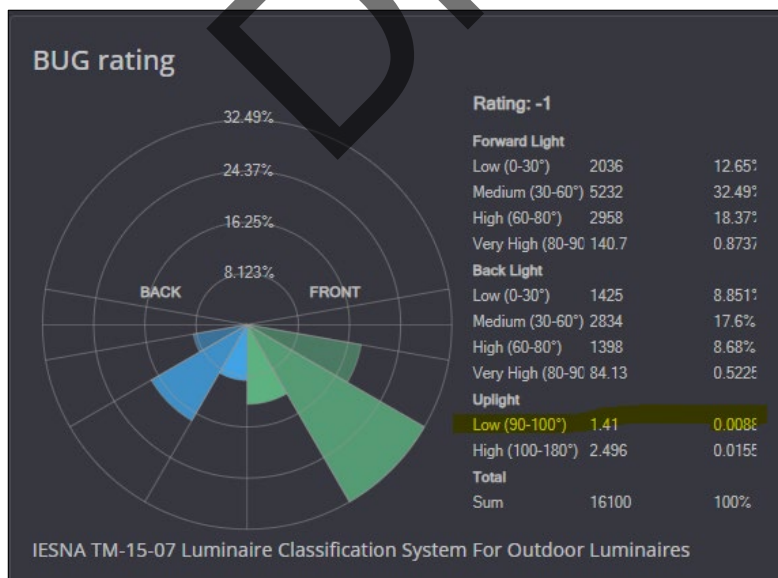
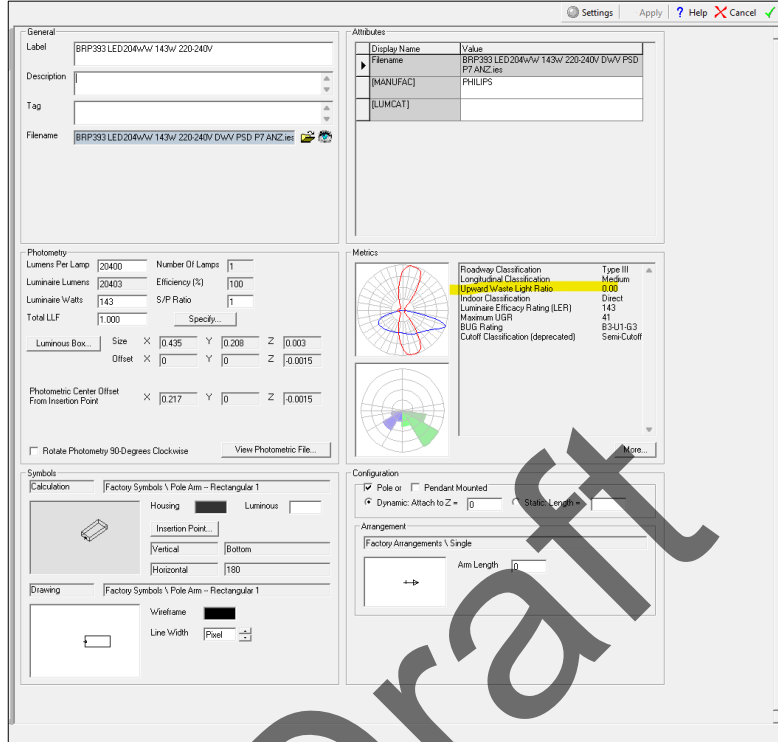
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Luminaire: Philips RoadFlair 3K 113W LED



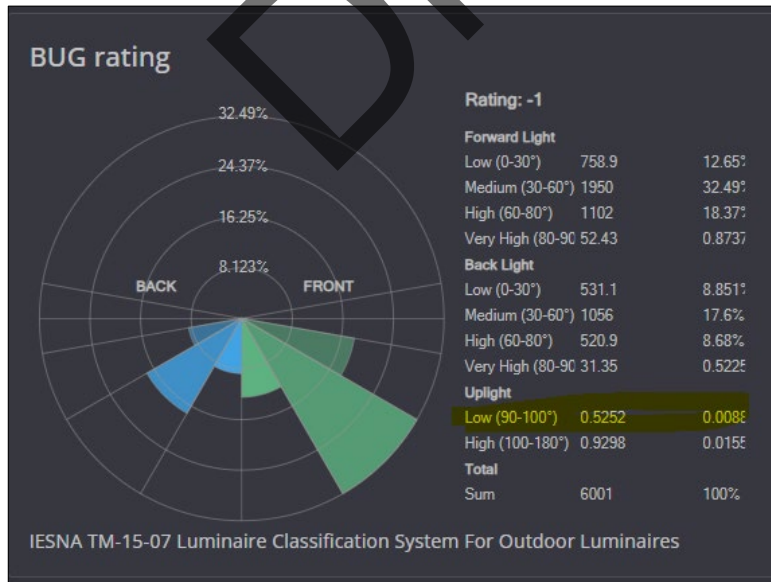
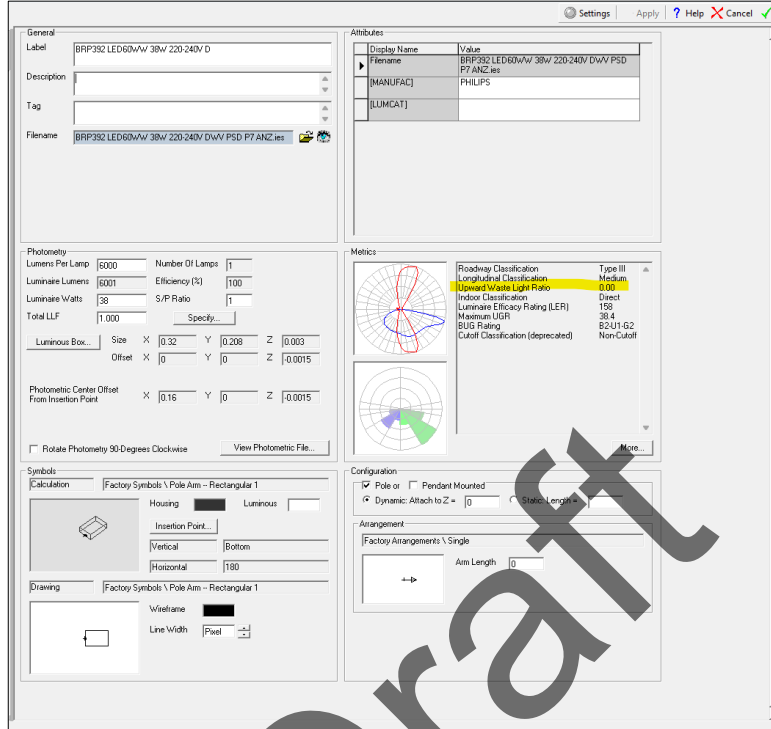
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Luminaire: Philips RoadFlair 3K 143W LED



Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve: Application to Dark Sky International

Luminaire: Philips RoadFlair 3K 38W LED

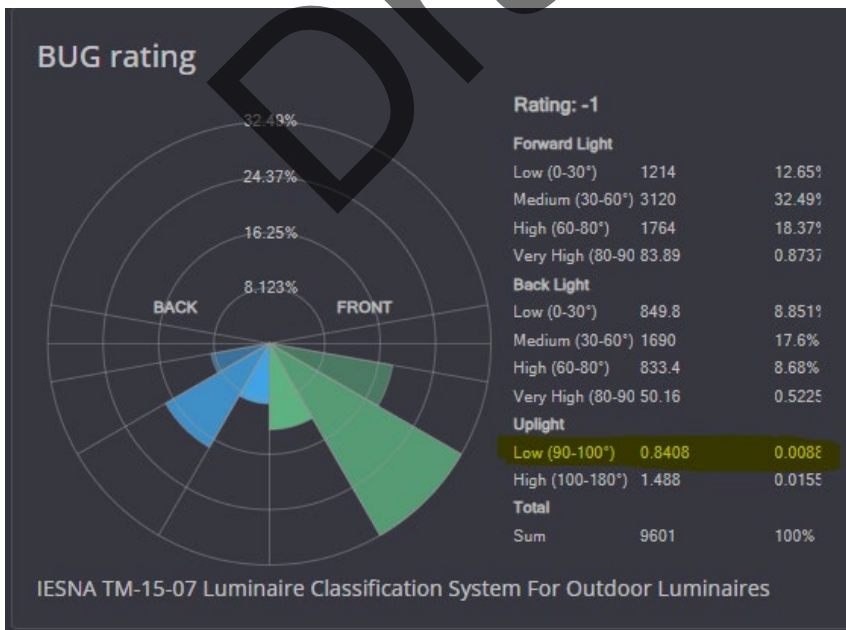


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Luminaire: Philips RoadFlair 3K 61W LED

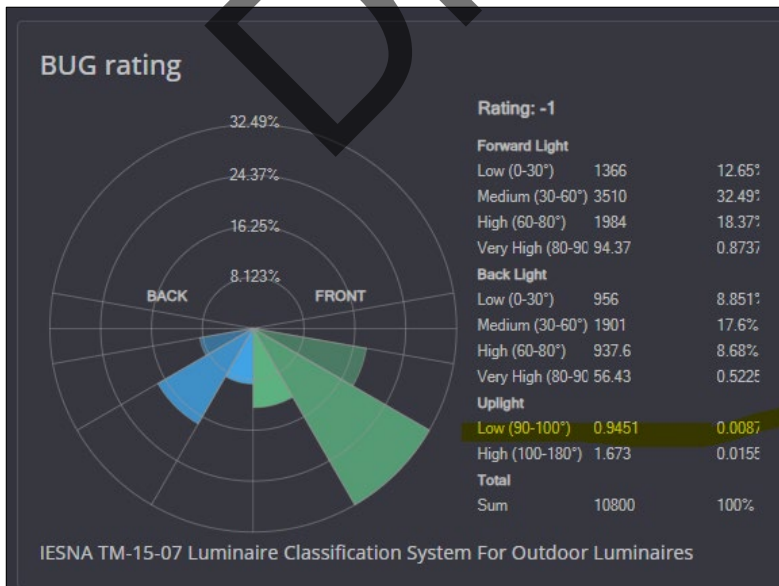
The screenshot shows a software interface for configuring a luminaire. It includes several panels:
 

- General:** Label (BRP392 LED90WW 61W 220-240V D), Description, Tag, and Name (BRP392 LED90WW 61W 220-240V DMV PSD P7 ANZ led).
- Attributes:** Table with columns for Attribute Name, Value, and Manufacturer. Values include BRP392 LED90WW 61W 220-240V DMV PSD, P7 ANZ led, PHILIPS, and (LUMCAT1).
- Photometry:** Fields for Lumens Per Lamp (5600), Number Of Lamps (1), Luminaire Lens (5602), Efficiency (%) (100), Luminaire Watts (51), S/P Ratio (1), Total LFL (1.000), and Luminous Box dimensions (X: 0.32, Y: 0.208, Z: 0.003).
- Configuration:** Options for Pole or Pendant Mounted, Dynamic Attach to Z, and Static Length.
- Arrangement:** Factory Arrangements (Single) and Arm Length (0).
- Metrics:** Roadway Classification (Type III, Medium), Longitudinal Classification, Upward Waste Light Ratio (0.00), Indoor Classification (Direct), Luminaire Efficacy Rating (LER) (157), Maximum UGR (40.1), BUG Rating (B2U1-G2), and Cutoff Classification (Non-Cutoff).
- Symbols:** Calculation and Drawing settings for Factory Symbols \ Pole Arm - Rectangular 1, including Housing, Intersection Point, Vertical, Horizontal, Wireframe, and Line Width.



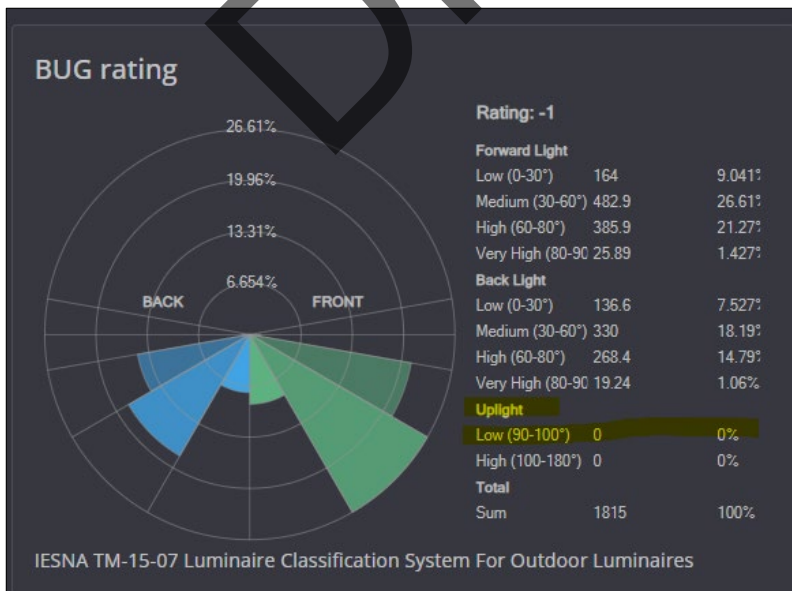
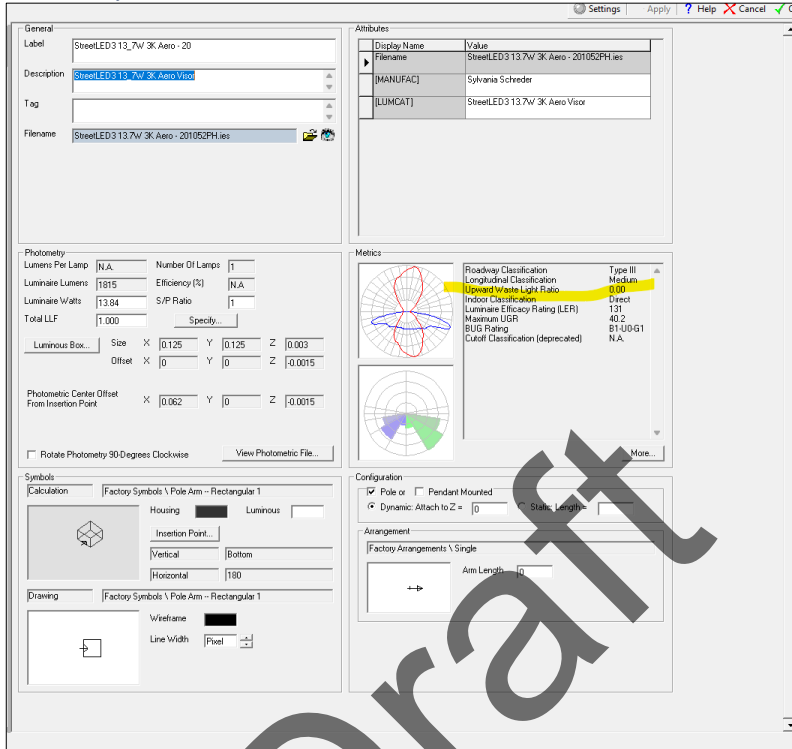
Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve: Application to Dark Sky International

Luminaire: Philips RoadFlair 3K 70W LED



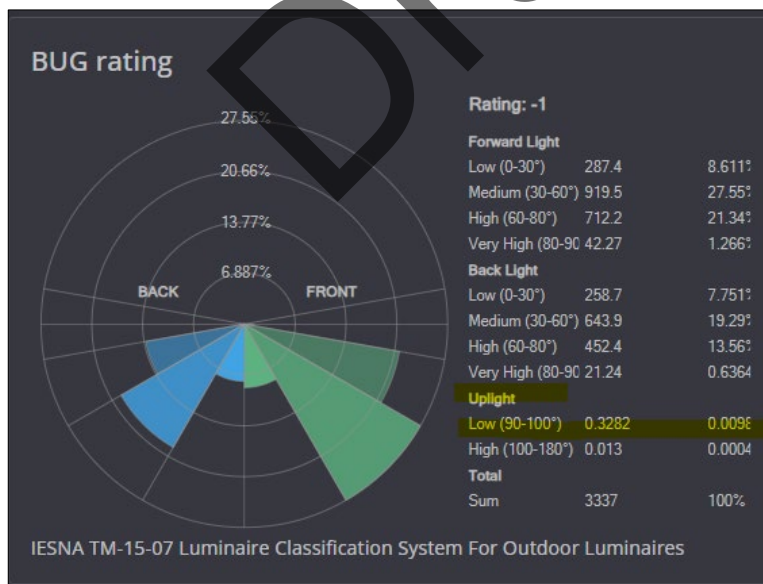
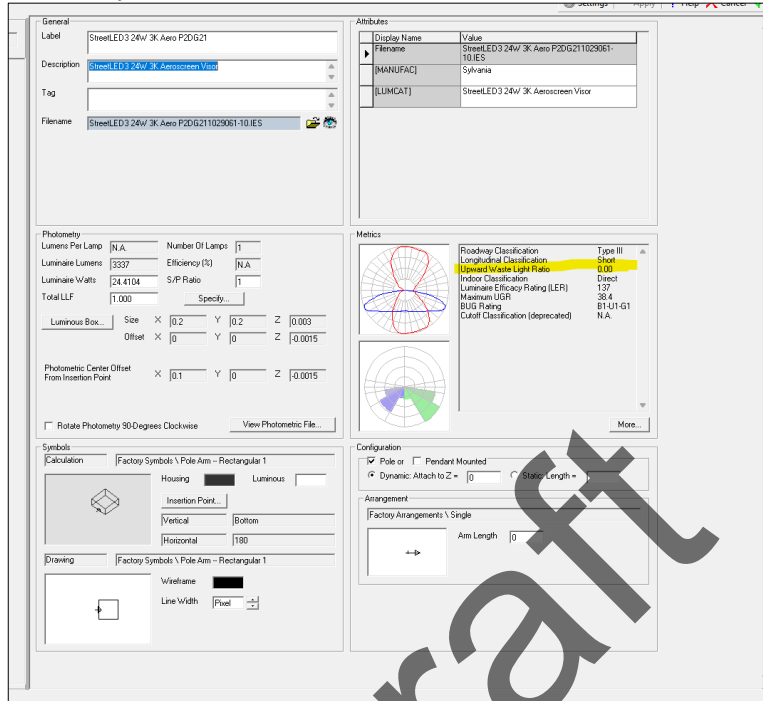
Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve: Application to Dark Sky International

Luminaire: Sylvania Schreder 3K 13.7W LED



Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve: Application to Dark Sky International

Luminaire: Sylvania 3K 24W LED



Source: IES Photometric file

Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve: Application to Dark Sky International

### Appendix I: Media

The project received comprehensive media across 2024 and 2025. Examples of media articles are below.

# Defender of our dark sky

## Local dark sky advocate honoured with prestigious International award

**By Sonia Isaacs**

Dr Ken Wishaw, Senior Fellow at the University of the Sunshine Coast, and Maleny Observatory convener, has been honoured with a prestigious Dark Sky Defender Award from Dark Sky International.

The award recognises his efforts to combat light pollution and his work toward establishing an International Dark Sky Reserve within the Sunshine Coast Hinterland.

"Dark Sky International has over 193,000 members across 70 countries, and only six such awards are granted globally each year, making it a rare and significant honour," Dr Wishaw said.

"I am very flattered to be recognised."

Dr Wishaw's interest in light pollution began almost a decade ago during a star talk at the Grand Canyon, Arizona, USA. Many participants shared that they had never seen stars before, some glimpsing them only during power outages caused by

Hurricane Katrina, when streetlights were off. When the lights returned, the stars disappeared from view. This revelation led Dr Wishaw to discover that over 80 per cent of the world's population lives under light-polluted skies, with light pollution increasing at a



**Dr Ken Wishaw.**

rate of 10 per cent per year.

While only five to ten stars are typically visible in central Brisbane, over 2,000 stars can be seen in the clear night skies of the Obi-Obi Valley. Determined to protect the night skies from excessive artificial lighting, Dr Wishaw co-founded the Australasian Dark Sky Alliance in 2019.

The Alliance has since become the peak advisory body for light pollution issues in Australasia, and Dr Wishaw's research on the human eye's adaptation to night lighting has been published internationally.

He has also served as a technical advisor on eco-friendly lighting to both the Federal Government and the Sunshine Coast Council.

His primary local project involves establishing an International Dark Sky Reserve in the Sunshine Coast Hinterland.

Supported by the Sunshine Coast Council, a recent resident survey showed overwhelming approval for the reserve.

"We are fortunate to have a council that is environmentally conscious and sees the benefits of such a reserve," Dr Wishaw noted. Creating the reserve will also enable education on the importance of responsible outdoor lighting. "Light pollution is easy to fix with current technology," he added. "The main challenge is raising awareness of the issue."

Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve: Application to Dark Sky International

**OUR stargazers**  
WORDS: CINDIE HOLZMAYER

**“WE DEFINITELY TAKE THE STARS FOR GRANTED”**

“I remember looking through the telescope when I was nine years old. I still remember my uncle showing me Saturn for the first time.”

It was an experience that Ken carried with him and he went on to join the Brisbane Astronomical Society and discover an interest in space photography. In 2017, Ken helped establish the Malmsey Observatory.

All of this coupled with his astronomy post-grad certificate, led to Ken co-founding the Australian Dark Sky Alliance, which advises policymakers on light pollution matters (he was also the recipient of the Dark Sky Observer Award for 2024).

While Ken says the skies above the Coast are “generally pretty good”, he isn’t a 100 per cent enthusiast.

“I was in Brisbane six weeks ago”, he says. “I had been in Maleny the night before doing a survey and calculated over 2000 visible stars. In Brisbane the following night – with the same weather conditions, I could count seven. Nobody was looking up.”

“There’s a little risk that the eye plays on us. No matter how light polluted the sky is, we always see black. It’s the way our eyes are designed to adapt.”

ON ANY GIVEN night in the Sunshine Coast hinterland, small groups of people gather in the dark, eyes turned toward. Some bring telescopes, others binoculars, and a few are content to simply look up, letting their eyes adjust to the vast expanse above them.

The quiet hum of conversation drifts through the night – talk of constellations, planets and the occasional excited whisper when someone spots Saturn’s ring or a meteor streaking across the sky.

For Ken Wishaw, the rage of the night sky has been a lifelong fascination. But one moment, thousands of kilometres away, concerned for Ken just how powerful the light of the stars can be.

It was 2016, and the central Sunshine Coast astronomer was enjoying a rafting tour through the Great Canyon. It was his second trip, and he noted the unusual balance of residents on both occasions – all but one or two hailed from Florida.

“I studied why as we sit around a campfire”, Ken recalls. “I was talking about astronomy and was asked to point out the stars where a woman said it was the second night of her life she had seen a star.”

The line, she continued, was when she was 15 years old. It was Jan, and a Hurricane Katrina had just washed her away in the southern American states. The woman had been driving along the freeway to go and meet her mother when the “orange dome” that encompassed Florida disappeared.

The center power grid had failed.

“She said that she stepped right there on the freeway and hopped out of her car”, Ken explains. “Everyone stopped and did the same thing. Twenty minutes later the grid came back up, the orange dome reappeared, and the stars disappeared. All those other people who were from Florida also said they had predominantly come to the Great Canyon to see the stars. They said the Great Canyon itself is pretty good, but nothing when compared to seeing the stars. We definitely take them for granted.”

Ken, who was once taught more of how many people never get the chance to gaze at the night sky’s beauty, came home with a renewed passion and thirst for knowledge.

He discovered that 80 per cent of the world’s population lives under light polluted skies, but only five per cent of people can see the Milky Way from where they live. Go back 100 years and it reverse could see the stars twinkling above.

“I had been thinking about what I could do to remember that would fill my passion. This answered the question”, Ken tells us.

And so, he became a warrior against light pollution. Ken, who was Australia’s first full-time helicopter rescue doctor, co-founder of CareFlight and a medical officer for the Royal Australian Air Force and Australian Army, is now one step away from a challenge – or a lasting opportunity.

Back at the age of 42, he enrolled in a post-grad certificate in astronomy through the University of Southern Queensland.

Ken’s interest in the universe stems back to his childhood. In fact, his family had dabbled in astronomy since the 1800s. For instance, who lived around the Tamworth region, would gaze at the night sky through a family telescope that has been passed through the generations.

Visit this iconic Sunshine Coast tourist attraction!

FREE ENTRY

Ginger and so much more!

Queensland Zoo

**SUNSHINE COAST NEWS**

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100% Locally Owned, Independent and Free

HOME / NEWS

**“Once you lose it, it’s very hard to get back”: doctor pushes preservation of dark sky**

**GET NEWS ON YOUR PHONE FREE**

Australia’s first full-time helicopter rescue doctor is now doing what he can to save the dark night sky.

Sunshine Coast resident Dr Ken Wishaw was an anaesthetist, helicopter rescue doctor and medical officer for the Royal Australian Air Force and Australian Army.

He co-founded CareFlight and the NSW Medical Retrieval Service, pioneered helicopter medicine and helped to develop life-saving initiatives and techniques like battle trauma management and a mobile intensive care unit for transferring patients.

In his retirement, he has turned to fulfilling a lifelong passion, completing a post-graduate certificate in astronomy and becoming an advocate for the night sky.

“Astronomy’s been in my family since the mid-1800s”, he said.

“One of my first memories is my uncle showing me Saturn through the big old brass family telescope.”

**... And let there be (less) light**

By Sonia Isaacs

QUEENSLAND Rail has “seen the light” and will dim lighting at Landsborough Train Station following a lengthy campaign by GCM News and astronomer Dr Ken Wishaw, Caloundra MP.

Jason Hunt, made the announcement last week, saying that Queensland Rail had agreed to lower lighting levels in a way that strikes the right balance between public safety and “preserving dark sky integrity”.

“I’m pleased to be able to have championed this important issue for our community”, Mr Hunt said.

“What is being proposed is a two-phase approach which shows some intelligence has been applied.”

Full story P3

# Dark sky win for hinterland

## Queensland Rail gets on board with dark sky win

By Sonia Isaacs

QUEENSLAND Rail has "seen the light" and will dim lighting at Landsborough Train Station following a lengthy campaign by GC&M News and astronomer Dr Ken Wishaw.

Caloundra MP, Jason Hunt, made the announcement last week, saying that Queensland Rail had agreed to lower lighting levels in a way that strikes the right balance between public safety and "preserving dark sky integrity".

"I'm pleased to be able to have championed this important issue for our community," Mr Hunt said. "What is being proposed is a two-phase approach which shows some intelligence has been applied."

From late June 2024, lighting levels will be permanently dimmed to 70 per cent from dusk until 9pm and then 40 per cent

until sunrise. As reported by GC&M News, Dr Wishaw, had conducted studies that showed Landsborough's

new Park 'n Ride was the most light-polluted location on the Sunshine Coast, outside of the

Maroochydore CBD.

The issue also ran counter to the Sunshine Coast Council's push to create one of the largest Dark Sky Reserves in the Southern Hemisphere, around Maleny.

Dr Wishaw said Mr Hunt's announcement was an excellent outcome and he thanked Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) and Queensland Rail for "supporting dark sky preservation".

"When they first put these lights in, I expressed my concerns. They have

eventually taken notice and decided to do the right thing," Dr Wishaw said.

"They have set a precedent for other government organisations to consider the same thing: not using light when it's not necessary. This decision will make

a significant difference to the light pollution around Landsborough."

Dr Wishaw also thanked GC&M News.

"It's no coincidence that these actions have occurred soon after the issue was raised by GC&M News," he said.

Glasshouse MP Andrew Powell had asked a question on notice to Transport

Minister Bart Meekings in early June.

He said it was a great outcome for the region.

"This is really an outstanding outcome but raises the question why it couldn't have been done when Dr Wishaw first raised the concern," Mr Powell said.

"To every rational person in and around Landsborough it was obvious there was a solution that ensured safety but reduced light pollution. I'm glad QR finally saw the light."

The Sunshine Coast Council's Dark Sky Reserve proposal is currently under consideration. Public consultation has closed.



Jenny Broderick, Division 1

### A NEW FACE IN DIVISION 1

I'm Jenny Broderick and am pleased to introduce myself.

I'm passionate about our community and committed to listening, engaging and communicating. I put myself forward for election as I want a fresh, relevant Sunshine Coast Council that serves with transparency, authenticity and availability.

I'm looking forward to working with residents to make our community even better.

**Division 1 project updates** - I'm happy to share that two new shaded picnic settings have been installed at Settlement Park, Beerwah and that works have started on upgrading the perimeter fence at Pioneer Park, Landsborough. We are also investigating potential upgrades to the Beerwah stormwater infrastructure improvements from Tudor Court to Acadia Drive.

**Landsborough Museum Street Festival** -

On May 18, I was thrilled to attend the centenary celebration at the Landsborough Museum and the Landsborough Schools of Arts. It was lovely to see so many people enjoying the day and making new memories, while reliving old memories.

**It's time to have your say** - Whether you live in the new suburbs of Aura or one of our many historical hinterland towns, I encourage you to have your say at [haveyoursay.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au/](http://haveyoursay.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au/).

**Community Strategy refresh:** Feedback on the draft Community Strategy can be made online until June 10.

**Dark Sky Reserve:** A Dark Sky Reserve in the Sunshine Coast hinterland, through the International Dark Sky Places Program, is being considered by the council and we are seeking your feedback on the proposal by June 16.

**Active Transport Plan:** Residents can assist the council in achieving a connected, safe, healthy and sustainable transport system by completing the online survey by June 17.

**Council Budget** - The council will consider and adopt its 2024-25 budget at a Special Meeting on June 20. I will share the outcomes and highlights for Division 1 following the meeting.

I look forward to seeing you out and about in our community soon.

## Community News

### Help shape the future for our night skies

Ever looked up in wonder at a sky filled with stars? It's part of what makes our Sunshine Coast so special. As our region grows, light pollution is expected to impact our night sky. That's why we are proposing to establish a Dark Sky Reserve in hinterland areas including Maleny, Mapleton, Montville, Witta, Flaxton and Conondale. Now we're seeking your feedback on our proposal. Visit Council's Have Your Say page today.



**HOW TO PLAY A STARRING ROLE IN OUR DARK SKY FUTURE**

Sunshine Coast Council is proposing to establish a Dark Sky Reserve in parts of our hinterland, with the community now invited to provide feedback on the proposal.

About 15,000 residents live in the proposed reserve area, including the townships of Maleny, Mapleton, Montville, Witta, Flaxton and Conondale.

Dark skies, with plenty of visible stars, are important for retaining the character of our hinterland, community wellbeing, hinterland businesses, wildlife and more.

Division 5 Councillor Winston Johnston says stars in the sky are etched into the hinterland identity.

"We're seeking to understand what our dark skies mean for all our residents, groups and businesses, and we need to know if our community supports a Dark Sky Reserve," Cr Johnston says.

Division 10 Councillor David Law says the project would help to nurture and enhance our environment and quality of life.

"We're encouraging our community to get involved and consider the small changes that are in your power: making sure your outdoor lighting is useful, targeted, low-level, controlled and warm coloured wherever possible," Cr Law says

**Visit Council's Have Your Say website to provide your feedback before June 16.**

**Dark Sky reserve rising**

Sunshine Coast set to be sustainability star

By Sonia Isaacs

The Sunshine Coast is on track to be an internationally recognised sustainability star, with plans to establish a designated dark sky site as part of the bid.

The bid to establish an expansive 900 square kilometre Dark Sky Reserve over parts of North Maleny and the Obi Obi Valley is now well underway, with public consultation expected to kick off in June 2024.

Council is commencing a phased community engagement process on its proposal to establish Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve through the International Dark Sky Places Program.

A Dark Sky Reserve is one of the five designation levels offered under the International accreditation program which seeks to preserve and protect dark skies through responsible lighting policies and public education.

If successful, the almost 900 square kilometre Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve would benefit, recognise and protect the safety and integrity of the night sky and nocturnal life, including the Obi Obi Valley and beyond, the north, and arts of the Maleny and Flaxton regions.

Local stakeholders are currently conducting preliminary accreditation surveys with favourable

Australian Dark Sky Alliance founder, Dr Kim Wishaw, said the project had been on the table with Council since 2017, and was now well on track with supporting data currently being collated on light pollution and darkness assessment.

"The valley assessment of the requirements for International recognition. We are now collating public outdoor lighting fixtures and assessing whether they are having a negative impact on the valley," he said.

Dr Wishaw added that while the proposed reserve area was not the darkest in Australia, its proximity to such large population centres would make it a suitable site for a large number of people.

"Astronomy is a very low impact form of environmental tourism and would be a great benefit to the region with minimal impact on our way of life," he said.

"Recognition of the reserve by Dark Sky International recognises good stewardship of the night environment. It would lock in environmentally sound lighting policies which are good for wildlife, human health and stargazing."

A Sunshine Coast Council spokesperson said Council was continuing Phase 2 of the Dark Sky Reserve project, which includes a phased community engagement process and consultation

of supporting technical documents.

"We continue to collect data on night sky quality in the proposed Dark Sky Reserve area," the spokesperson said.

"The project team is briefing and engaging with key stakeholders including State Government, Dark Sky International and Energinet."

"Formal community consultation is proposed to commence for mid-2024, while community members will be invited to provide their feedback."

www.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au/en/regions/dark-sky-reserve/establishing-a-proposed-sunshine-coast-dark-sky-reserve

**Turn it down for our dark skies**  
*Light pollution is expected to increase as our region's population grows, impacting the number of stars visible in the night sky, but we can help minimise the effects with a few simple actions.*

**I**t's International Dark Sky Week, and did you know that on clear nights, we can see about 4000 stars from dark locations in our hinterland? With this week's waning crescent moon, it's one of the best times to look up and appreciate our night skies.

As our region grows, light pollution is expected to impact the natural darkness of our skies and the number of stars visible. That can impact our health and wellbeing, wildlife, local business and our region's character.

Everyone can help reduce light pollution by using lighting only when required, shielding or directing lights downwards and using amber lighting.

To protect our dark skies for the future, Sunshine Coast Council is proposing to establish a Dark Sky Reserve that will encompass much of our region's hinterland.

A Dark Sky Reserve, designated by Dark Sky International, would encourage dark sky friendly lighting and bring the community together to celebrate our wondrous dark skies.

This year, Council will launch consultation activities, inviting the community to contribute ideas and feedback to help create a plan for the reserve.

Scan the QR code or visit [sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au](http://sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au) and search for 'Dark Sky' to find out how you can join our Dark Sky journey.





**'Clear message' from community on dark skies**  
 19 Sep 2024 5:27AM • Our Sunshine Coast  
 Brief: Dark Sky Reserve • 924 words • Market: Australia • Item ID: 1008495459

... includes a broader buffer area including the nearby townships of Maleny, Mapleton, Montville, Witta, Flaxton and Conondale. Sunshine Coast Council sought community feedback on the proposal to establish a Dark Sky Reserve during a formal consultation period ...  
[Read on source site](#)


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**Interview We seem to not have many sanctioned sites. There are a couple of Dark-sky reserves around the nation. There's ...**  
 14 Aug 2024 1:24PM • ABC Radio Brisbane by Katherine Feeney  
 Brief: Dark Sky Reserve • 987 words • Market: Australia • Item ID: R00112480508

Interview We seem to not have many sanctioned sites. There are a couple of Dark-sky reserves around the nation. There's at least one in Queensland, but there's a proposal for a big new reserve on the Sunshine Coast. Joining you for reasons as to why this might be something to consider. Marnie Ogg, founder of the Australasian Dark Sky Alliance and m...  
 AUD 1,604 👤 10,000



 **Community supports bid to reach for stars**  
02 Jul 2024 12:00AM • Glasshouse Country News  
 Brief: Dark Sky Reserve • 279 words • Market: Australia • Item ID: 2087827042

Massive community support propels Dark Sky Reserve proposal forward  
SUNSHINE Coast Council's proposal to establish a Hinterland Dark Sky Reserve has already garnered significant support, with 1,200 submissions lodged during the recent community consultation process. The proposal to establish a Dark Sky Reserve is a key component of the Council's .....


AUD 401  11,925

[View original](#)

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 **... And let there be (less) light**  
25 Jun 2024 12:00AM • Glasshouse Country News  
 Brief: Dark Sky Reserve • 628 words • Market: Australia • Item ID: 2085179463

... conducted studies that showed Landsborough's new Park n Ride was the most light-polluted location on the Sunshine Coast, outside of the , Maroochydore CBD. The issue also ran counter to the Sunshine Coast Councils push to create one of the largest Dark Sky Reserves in the Southern Hemisphere, around Maleny.....

AUD 729  11,925

[View original](#)

### Local advocate champions new national petition to protect dark skies

# Shining light on night

**By Sonia Isaacs**

A NEW national petition aiming to curb light pollution and preserve Australia's night skies is gaining momentum, thanks to the tireless efforts of local dark sky advocates such as Dr Ken Wishaw.

The petition, launched just last week, seeks to gather over 10,000 signatures to push the federal government to adopt robust legislation modelled on international best practices.

Over 2,000 signatures were collected in the first 48 hours.

Dr Wishaw, a leading figure in the dark sky movement, is calling on Australians to support the New Sky Alliance petition, which advocates for national laws to reduce unnecessary artificial lighting.

"The standout success in the world is France, which actually brought in national legislation regarding light pollution and has decreased its amount of light pollution across the entire country by 25 per cent in four years," Dr Wishaw said.

"We believe the best way to tackle this issue is through similar national legislation here in Australia." The petition comes as

dark sky-compliant lighting is rolled out around areas of Maleny, Kenilworth and Conondale.

Across the Sunshine Coast region, local authorities are in the process of replacing around 250 outdoor streetlights in the dark sky reserve with new,

to preserving the night environment.

"We're hopeful that in the next couple of months, we'll see substantial changes to streetlights in Maleny, Kenilworth, and other local areas," Dr Wishaw said.

"That really is the last thing we had to see happen as a key ally, noting their proactive stance and the adoption of national light pollution guidelines for wildlife - guidelines now recognized by 135 countries worldwide."

Dr Wishaw said the stakes are high with research indicating that excessive

average, live five years less than those who aren't." Dr Wishaw noted, referencing a recent study he discussed in a public webinar.

"We want to see that night lighting is only used when and where it's necessary, and it is limited to levels which are safe and fit for purpose."

"All of us, for example, have seen high rise buildings in Brisbane that are lit up right through the entire night for no good reason. It's just wasteful."

With the petition closing September 30, Dr Wishaw urges the public to act quickly. "It literally takes two minutes to fill out," he said. "The more people who sign, the greater our chance of making a real difference." [www.aph.gov.au/petitions/petition/EN7346](http://www.aph.gov.au/petitions/petition/EN7346)

night time lighting not only wastes energy and increases carbon emissions but also poses significant health risks.

"Light pollution from excessive Artificial Light at Night (ALAN) harms human health and disrupts vulnerable flora and fauna. People living in high light pollution areas, on

before putting in our application for dark sky reserve.

"Once the council gives the green light, we'll be ready to go."

But the campaign's ambitions extend far beyond local improvements. Dr Wishaw points to the Department of Climate Change, Energy, and Wildlife

Stargazing at Healey Hall Club (Photo: David Bryant). Inset: Dr Ken Wishaw, and compliant lighting installation Maleny (Photo: Dr Ken Wishaw)

### Sunshine Coast Council's post

Sunshine Coast Council • 1 May 2025

The Eta Aquarids meteor shower is coming! Time to ready the picnic blanket, set the alarm and cross those fingers for clear weather. Here's how to watch the cosmic spectacle. <https://oussc.com.au/your-stargazing-guide-to-eta->

14 comments 30 shares

Like Comment

Did you know Council is proposing a Dark Sky Reserve in our hinterland? Establishing the reserve would support wellbeing and wildlife that move and feed at night. It would guide responsible lighting, support astrotourism, and bring our communities together in celebration of the night sky in our Sunshine Coast Biosphere. Find out more about the proposal here: <https://www.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au/establishing-a->

SUNSHINECOAST.QLD.GOV.AU  
Establishing a proposed Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve | Sunshine Coast Council

### Sunshine Coast Council's post

Sunshine Coast Council • 7 September 2025

Who's watching the total lunar eclipse early Monday morning? During this "blood moon" event in the early hours of 8 September 2025 (for our region), the moon will turn red as it passes through Earth's shadow.

Partial eclipse starts 2:27am

Total eclipse from 3:30pm, peaking 4:11am, ends 4:52am  
Look towards the western horizon!

Love the night sky? Head to the comments for the list of our top stargazing spots and learn about the proposed Dark Sky Reserve for the Sunshine Coast hinterland.

#LunarEclipse #BloodMoon #Stargazing #DarkSkyReserve #SunshineCoast

49 comments 24 shares

# Dark sky win for hinterland

## Queensland Rail gets on board with dark sky win

**By Sonia Isaacs**

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Draft



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07 5475 7272

28/07/26