The background of the cover is a photograph of a road stretching into the distance at sunset. The sky is a gradient of blue and orange, and the road is illuminated by the low sun. Overlaid on the image are several large, semi-transparent arrow patterns pointing towards the right, composed of multiple parallel lines. The arrows are larger in the foreground and smaller in the distance, creating a sense of depth and movement.

Sunshine Coast Council
Transport Levy Annual Report
2022-2023

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Acknowledgements

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Reference document

This document should be cited as follows:

Sunshine Coast Council
**Transport Levy Annual
Report 2022-2023**

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.

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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.

Foreword

Sunshine Coast Council's 2022-2023 Transport Levy provided critical resources needed to improve how we get to work and enjoy all the region has to offer.

This Transport Levy program continues to facilitate our ability to plan and advocate for a smarter, healthier, more environmentally integrated approach to how we travel and connect our communities across the region.

Council's endorsement of the well-researched ThinkChange program has been a key step towards recognising the importance of challenging habitual patterns of travel and working with our partners and the community to make more informed travel choices.

The Transport Levy has been key to bus stop improvements, supporting two Flexilink services as well as providing the Council Link travel service to give eligible people access to their nearest centre.

As the Sunshine Coast is one of Australia's most car dependant and fastest growing regions, the Transport Levy is vital to help Council prepare for, advocate, and invest in, future transport needs.

Your contribution to the Transport Levy has helped Council and the community work towards a healthier, more sustainable and better-connected Sunshine Coast.

Mayor Mark Jamieson
Councillor Rick Baberowski



Where did your Transport Levy go in 2022-2023?

The Transport Levy assists Council in meeting its responsibilities for the future transport needs of the Sunshine Coast. The Levy plays an important role in funding key projects across the Sunshine Coast that support Council's strategic transport goals for today, and for the future.

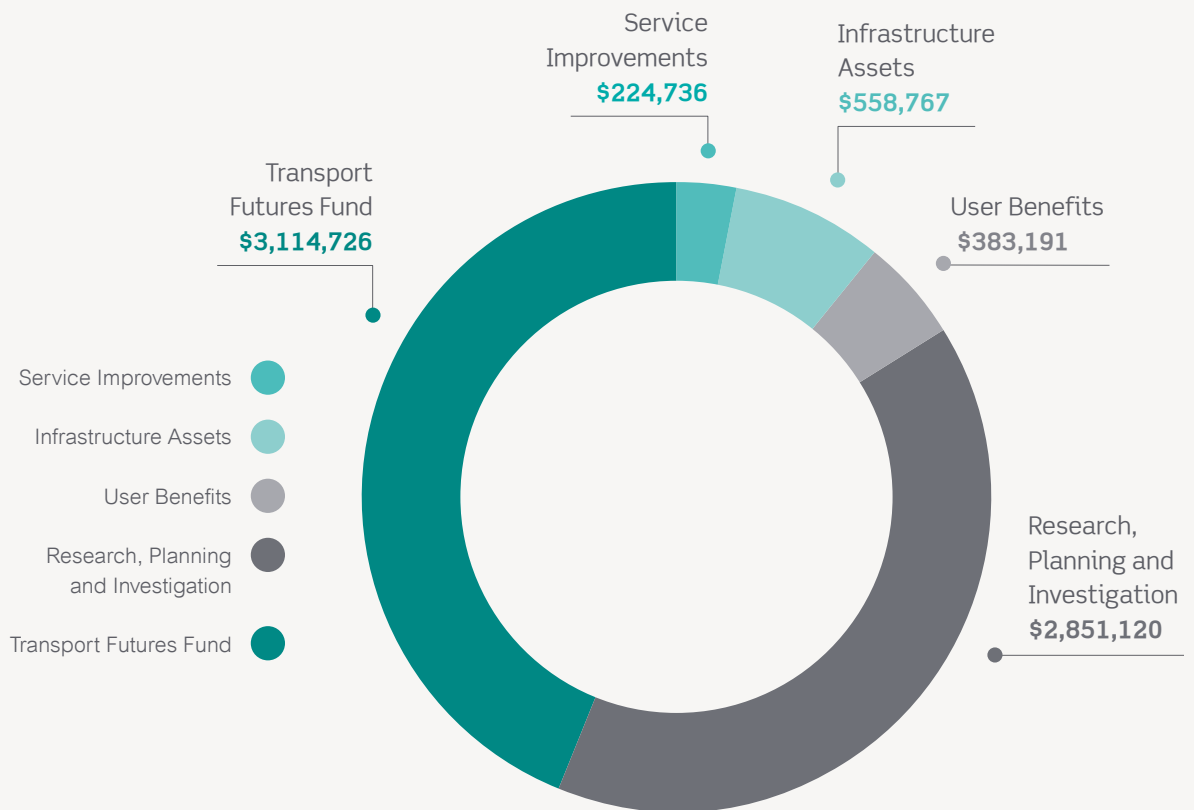


In 2022-2023 the Transport Levy was **\$45** per annum per rateable property

The total Transport Levy revenue in 2022-2023 was **\$6,834,293**



In 2022-2023 the Transport Levy continued to focus the funding allocation to five key areas that have the primary goal of improving connectivity across the Sunshine Coast. These five key areas and the funding spend on each area that occurred in 2022-2023 are:



Additional Funding leveraged from other sources is **\$298,249**

Transport Futures Fund balance as of 30 June 2023 is **\$24,686,435**



Transport Levy 2022-2023 Program snapshot

Research, Planning and Investigations

Sunshine Coast Public Transport Project

Council has been working collaboratively with the Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) to progress the Detailed Business Case for the Sunshine Coast Public Transport Project, with the Memorandum of Understanding executed in March 2023.

Key positions within TMR and consultancy teams have been appointed and a combined communications campaign with the Direct Sunshine Coast Rail Line, Mooloolah River Interchange and Kawana Motorway projects was launched mid-2023. It is anticipated the Detailed Business Case will be finalised mid-2024.

Electronic Household Travel Survey

The project enables Council and TMR to better understand and track travel behaviour across the region. The Household Travel Survey results for the Sunshine Coast are used to report on the Integrated Transport Strategy's 2041 mode shift targets through Council's Corporate Plan. In the pooled household travel survey data (below), the impacts of COVID-19 can be seen in terms of lower PT and higher AT mode shares in 2021.

Mode Share	2011	2016	2017	2018	2021
AT	9%	12%	11%	8.9%	11.4%
PT	3.3%	3%	3%	3.6%	1.6%
Car	87.6%	85%	86%	87.5%	86.9%

(Note: The 2021 figure represents pooled data from 2020/21 and 2021/22 survey years)

Mass Vehicle Movements Data Source

This initiative trialled the value of real-world travel information that could be obtained from motorised vehicles that are connected to the internet. Currently, not all vehicles are connected to the internet so only a sample of total vehicles using the road network can be collected. Attributes that can be estimated from sample data typically includes speed and adverse braking events that are used to inform safety.

The trial found that, on the Sunshine Coast, more vehicles need to be connected to the internet to achieve higher sample sizes to inform what travel has occurred between areas. The viability of connected vehicle datasets to inform network wide travel information will continue to be monitored for future re-evaluation.

Infrastructure Assets

Bus Stop Upgrades

During the 2022/2023 period, the Sunshine Coast Council successfully attained compliance with the Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport by ensuring the accessibility of 730 public bus stops, leaving just 11 bus stops which have been upgraded but are unable to achieve full compliance.

A total of \$558,767 was spent from the Transport Levy funding, along with other funding, including external grants.



Upgrades were carried out on **24** Sunshine Coast bus stops to provide universal access to the bus transport network for all users.

Upgrades included construction of new pathways to connect existing bus stops to the pathway network, targeting locations which supports seniors' accessibility to the Public Transport Network.

Service Improvements

In 2022-2023, the Transport Levy continued to fund a number of transport service trials in some Sunshine Coast community areas.

Council Link

Council Link provides an affordable, door-to-door transport service for people aged 60 and over and for people with disabilities or mobility impairment. This service, which is currently delivered by Suncoast Cabs, collects people from their homes and takes them to and from their local shopping centre. In 2022-2023 Council Link achieved the following:



Flexilink Trial Services

In 2022-2023 the Transport Levy continued to deliver trial Flexilink transport services to two areas of the Sunshine Coast that currently have no access to public transport; the Peachester to Beerwah Flexilink service and the Conondale to Maleny Flexilink service. Flexilink services are pre-booked scheduled transport services with each service offering six one-way trips that can be booked daily, Monday to Saturday.



The Peachester to Beerwah service experienced record growth in 2022-2023 with the service averaging 72 passenger trips per month.

Following a decline in patronage as a result of COVID, passenger numbers on the Conondale to Maleny service increased significantly during 2022-2023 with an average of 281 passenger trips per month.



Kenilworth Community Transport Service

Now in its fourth year of operation, the Kenilworth Community Transport Service is operated and managed by a community group of dedicated volunteers. It provides isolated residents with a much-needed transport service to shopping in nearby towns, appointments and medical facilities. The service is delivered through fares and some funding assistance from the Transport Levy.

Through the Kenilworth Community Transport Service, residents from Belli Park, Cambrook, Conondale (part), Coolabine, Eerwah Vale, Gheerulla, Kenilworth, Kidaman Creek and Obi can access transport services to Nambour, Maleny, Mapleton, and Eumundi for \$12 per return trip, or Sunshine Coast University Hospital for \$30 per person per return trip.





Bus Service Improvements / Trials

Council have agreed to jointly fund an initiative to improve public transport access for tourists and families visiting Buderim Ginger Factory and workers employed within the Yandina Industrial Estate. Advocacy to TransLink has brought a trial two year service change to route 631. This trial commenced 5 June 2023, with Council constructing the new bus stop for this change in 2022-2023 and contributing to the trial service change for two years commencing 2023/24.

User Benefits

RideScore Active Schools Program

The RideScore program entered its second year of operation in 2022-2023 with the later addition of Nirimba State School in the Caloundra South development bringing the total number of schools participating to ten.



1,640 students are registered in the program as of May 2023.



The RideScore App uses Bluetooth technology. Parents receive real-time notifications on arrival and departure of their children riding and scooting to and from school. The program encourages independent school travel and greater physical activity into the daily routine of children.

In the 2022 school year 117,782 cycling and scooting trips by the participants across the nine schools was recorded since the program launched on 21 February 2022. This resulted in a significant reduction of private vehicle trips to and from school. This has had a positive impact on reducing school traffic congestion and enhancing safety surrounding the school precincts.

At the end of 2022 a survey was conducted to determine participation in the program prior to RideScore versus current behaviours. The results from the targeted schools indicated:



Prior to RideScore **30%** of students did not ride or scoot to school – since joining RideScore **73%** of students are riding or scooting more.

Feedback from participating parents has been overwhelmingly positive with over 300 comments relating to motivation to ride or scoot, physical and mental benefits and parental peace of mind.



ThinkChange™

Council endorsed the **ThinkChange** Program to commence a number of pilot initiatives involving Council and partner organisations, with a focus on events, workplaces, schools and the Aura Stockland community.

Resources are in place to progress delivery through the next phase of implementation of the **ThinkChange** program.

A major focus of the **ThinkChange** program is delivery of a Workplace Travel Plan to assist in managing the travel requirements and options for over 1000 plus Council employees relocating from major administration centres in the region to City Hall in Maroochydore. The learnings from this pilot initiative will be recorded and transferred to future activities.



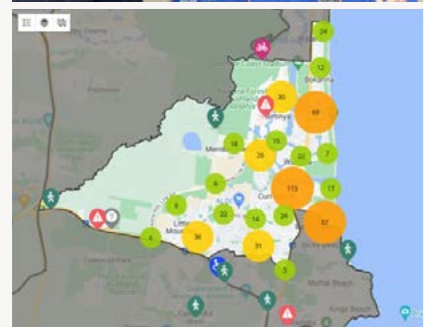
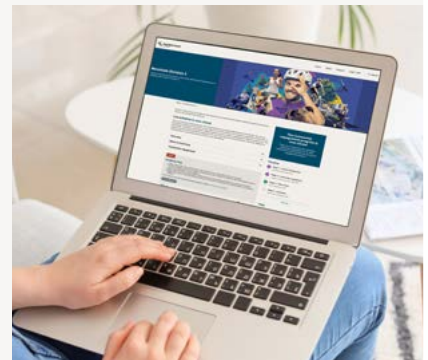
MoveSafe Program

The MoveSafe Program is an initiative that aims to improve the safety and accessibility of active transport across the region. In April and May 2022/23, a pilot project in Division 3 (between Aroona and Wurtulla) was undertaken. Residents, visitors and businesses were asked to identify their transport challenges and highlight locations they believe active transport improvements could be made.

The MoveSafe Program Have Your Say webpage:



33% of posts related to perceived hazards,
21% were new or extended pathway requests
and **13%** related to the behaviour of others.



The program is now being reviewed and data collected and analysed to prioritise potential projects that offer valuable community outcomes.

The success of the pilot project and its potential for expansion to the rest of the region will also be assessed.

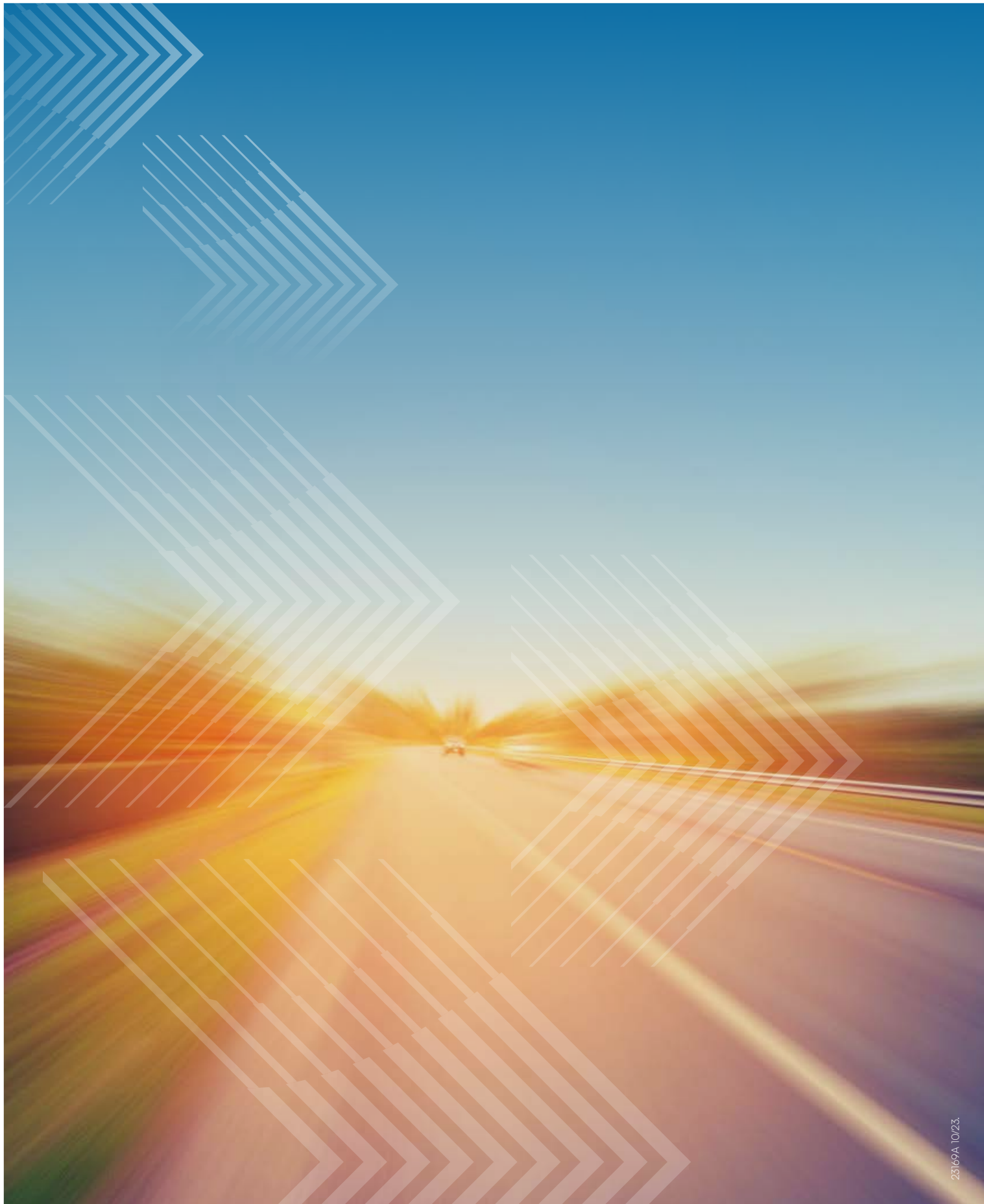
Transport Futures Fund

The Transport Futures Fund positions Council to support major public transport investments by the Queensland Government and the Australia Government, in the future. Transport Futures Fund balance as of 30 June 2023 is \$24,686,435.

Sunshine Coast Council is committed to implementing the United Nations 17 Goals for sustainable development.



“Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.”
sdgs.un.org/goals



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