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Sunshine Coast Council Queensland Budget Submission 2026-27

The Sunshine Coast is entering an exciting chapter as we prepare for the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games and the significant benefits this global event will bring to our community. It promises a long-lasting legacy for our region and will showcase Australia to the world.

Sunshine Coast Council continues to champion projects that deliver the infrastructure and services required to address our region's continued population growth, forecast to reach 518,000 by 2041 (+38%), while ensuring we deliver exceptional experiences for the 11 million people who visit the Sunshine Coast each year.

We recognise and appreciate the Queensland Government's significant commitments to investments for the Sunshine Coast Region including:

- Exhibition and Convention Centre
- The WAVE public transport system
- Mooloolah River Interchange
- Caloundra Congestion Busting initiatives including the Caloundra Transport Corridor Upgrade
- Maroochydore City Centre

We look forward to the realisation of further commitments to the next stages of the Mooloolah River Interchange (including Kawana Motorway) and further investment in the Caloundra Transport Corridor Upgrade project by way of the Active Transport Fund.

Sunshine Coast Council's immediate priorities remain clear:

- Delivering vital community infrastructure
- Upgrading roads and public transport
- Assisting the housing crisis
- Driving job growth through tourism and industry.

Sustained, long term and ongoing investment in the Sunshine Coast region will be key to building on the benefits that recent Queensland Government commitments will provide.

Sunshine Coast Council looks forward to working with the Queensland Government on existing key priority projects and encourages further investment for the projects outlined in attachment 1.

Below is summary of the requests we have made on behalf of our community:

1. COMMUNITY SPACES

Sunshine Coast Council seeks a 2026–27 Queensland Budget commitment to:

1. Work with the Australian Government to co-fund a \$162 million Regional Indoor Community Sports Centre for the Sunshine Coast.
2. Support with \$8 million in funding to finish the revitalisation Nambour's streetscape, creating vibrant public spaces that strengthen community life, support local business and attract new investment, helping Nambour reclaim its role as a thriving hinterland hub.

2. TRANSPORT

Sunshine Coast Council seeks a 2026–27 Queensland Budget commitment to:

1. Unlock the next state of regional connectivity with funding to duplicate the Sunshine Motorway between Pacific Paradise and Coolum Beach.
2. Expand bus services in line with the Sunshine Coast Public Transport business case to give our communities more frequent, reliable and accessible travel options.
3. Deliver a modern, high-capacity Bli Bli bridge on David Low Way to improve safety, reduce congestion and support the region's continued growth.
4. Grow the Active Transport Program pool through to 2032 to accelerate safer walking and cycling networks that support healthy, connected communities.

3. HOUSING

Sunshine Coast Council seeks a 2026–27 Queensland Budget commitment to:

1. Partner with the Australian Government to invest \$120 million in supported accommodation facilities in Nambour, Caloundra, and Maroochydore, ensuring both the construction and long-term operation of high-quality community housing.
2. Work with Community Housing Providers to deliver at least 260 new social housing dwellings annually on State Government land in key activity centres

(Nambour, Caloundra, Maroochydore, Beerwah) representing an annual investment of approximately \$160 million.

3. Commit \$75 million in capital funding to enable at least 100 new affordable homes near major activity centres in Nambour, Caloundra, and Maroochydore by 2029, strengthening housing security for local residents.
4. Collaborate with Community Housing Providers and private developers to accelerate the delivery of affordable rent and purchase options for low-income households through targeted financial support.

4. TOURISM

Sunshine Coast Council seeks a 2026–27 Queensland Budget commitment to:

1. Invest \$10 million to create legacy nature-based recreation infrastructure and new access trails at the Parklands Mountain Bike Centre, strengthening its appeal as a premier outdoor destination.
2. Allocate \$5 million to deliver link trails and wayfinding for the 7 Peaks Glasshouse Mountain Trail, enhancing visitor experience and expanding regional trail connectivity.
3. Partner with the Australian Government to establish a \$200 million Hotel Investment Fund that tackles statewide accommodation shortages and supports long-term tourism growth.

Sunshine Coast Council thanks the Queensland Department of Treasury for the opportunity to make a 2026-27 Pre-Budget submission and we look forward to working with the Queensland Government on key projects that will provide enormous benefit for residents and visitors to the Sunshine Coast region.

Yours sincerely,

Mayor Rosanna Natoli