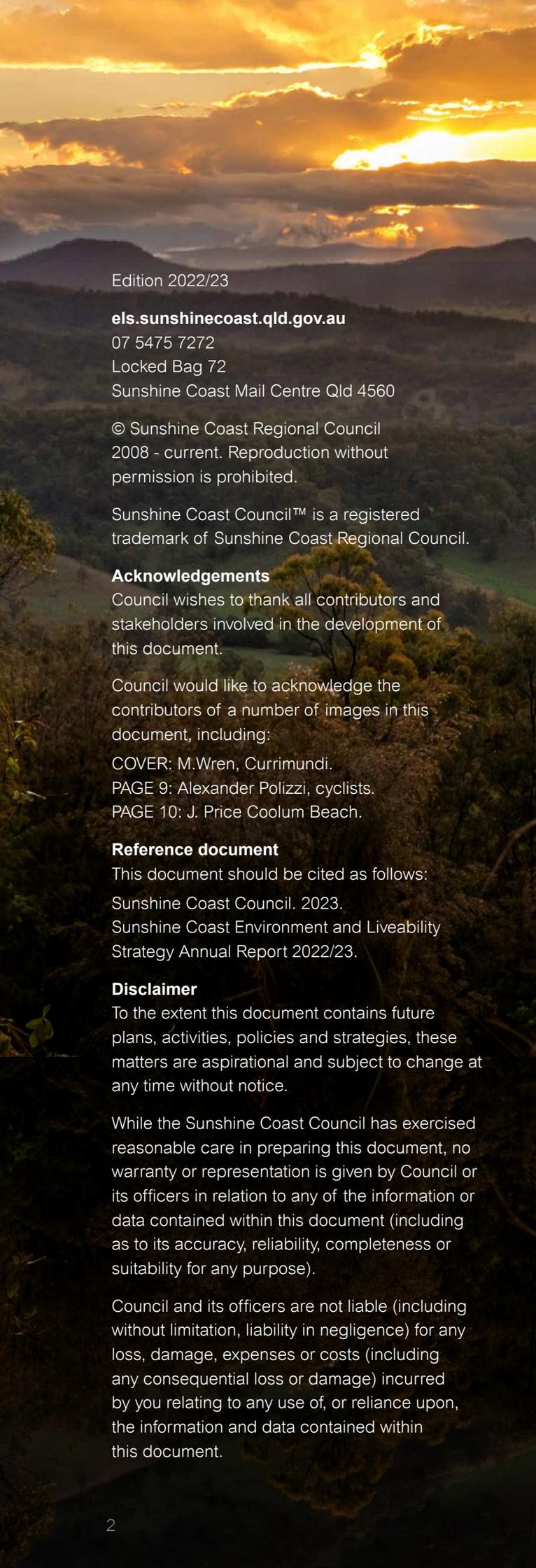


# Delivering a healthy environment and liveable Sunshine Coast

## Sunshine Coast Environment and Liveability Strategy Annual Report 2022/23



A vertical photograph of a sunset over a mountain range. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm orange glow across the sky and the silhouettes of the mountains. The clouds are illuminated from below, creating a dramatic, layered effect.

Edition 2022/23

[els.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au](http://els.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au)

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### **Acknowledgements**

Council wishes to thank all contributors and  
stakeholders involved in the development of  
this document.

Council would like to acknowledge the  
contributors of a number of images in this  
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COVER: M.Wren, Currimundi.

PAGE 9: Alexander Polizzi, cyclists.

PAGE 10: J. Price Coolum Beach.

### **Reference document**

This document should be cited as follows:

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Sunshine Coast Environment and Liveability  
Strategy Annual Report 2022/23.

### **Disclaimer**

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## Traditional Acknowledgement

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

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

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

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

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

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

Together, we are all stronger.

# Message from our Mayor and Environment and Liveability Portfolio Councillors

Here on the Sunshine Coast we are passionate about preserving and enhancing our natural environment and the liveability of our region.

At the close of the sixth year implementing Council's Environment and Liveability Strategy we reflect on our steadfast progress in the 2022-2023 financial year, detailed in this annual report.

In July 2022, Council endorsed the Organisational Zero-Net Emissions Plan, setting the framework toward our transformational action to be a zero-net emissions organisation and low-carbon community by 2041.

In the face of the global climate emergency, Council is committed to providing leadership on emissions reduction, while increasing adaptive capacity and resilience through research including the Cool Urban Forests project, investigating Blue Carbon ecological restoration in the Blue Heart and implementing plans such as the Coastal Hazard Adaptation Strategy.

We partnered with Noosa Shire Council to create the Regional Climate Action Roadmap to ensure a coordinated regional approach to respond to climate hazards.

As part of our climate change response, reducing our organisational emissions is an ongoing focus for Council.

Through the management of our waste and electricity, we have reduced our greenhouse gas emissions by more than 20% compared to the previous financial year. That's 45,861 less tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions in our atmosphere.

The largest contributing factor was the expansion of landfill gas infrastructure and a reduction in waste quantities to landfill, resulting in an overall reduction of waste related emissions by more than 20%.

Due to one of our electricity providers being formally verified as providing zero emissions electricity, Council through the purchase of this green energy is now able to reflect that in its own carbon footprint. This has resulted in a reduction in our electricity emissions of more than 40%.

While we have achieved some significant milestones in our first year implementing our Organisational Zero-net Emissions Plan, we will continue our efforts to further reduce emissions and achieve our target to become a zero-net organisation by 2041.

A year on from the Sunshine Coast region's historic designation as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, the team at Council and the Sunshine Coast Biosphere Community Advisory Group have been laying the essential groundwork for the success and shared purpose of our Biosphere.

We are excited to continue to celebrate people and nature in our region with projects including the Biosphere Photography Showcase and the Kids in Action BiospHEROES Program. We are all part of the Biosphere, and it is wonderful to see our community involved.

Our partnerships with the community are vital to maintaining and improving our healthy environment and liveable region. Programs such as TurtleCare, BushCare and the Beach Clean-Up Program continue to deliver objectives of the Strategy. Meanwhile, we partnered with the community for events including Plastic Free July and World Environment Day to encourage and inspire everyone to take action for a better future.

This year we began the process to refresh this Environment and Liveability Strategy to incorporate new information, address any gaps and ensure the document continues to respond to our region's emerging challenges and opportunities. It is critical the Strategy remains forward-facing as we work to deliver a healthy environment and liveable Sunshine Coast to 2041.

We encourage you to read this annual report to learn more about the work Council and our community does in partnership, as we work towards our vision of being Australia's most sustainable region.  
Healthy. Smart. Creative

**Mayor Mark Jamieson**  
**Councillor Peter Cox**  
**Councillor Maria Suarez**



# The Environment and Liveability Strategy

Our strategy was adopted in September 2017. This Annual Report showcases our sixth year of implementation.



## OUR ENVIRONMENT AND LIVEABILITY GOAL

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

This is one of five strategic goals of Sunshine Coast Council's *Corporate Plan 2023-2027* that provides the blueprint to advance our vision over the next five years on behalf of our community.

### Strategic pathways

Outcomes are being delivered through five strategic pathways:

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

## What is the purpose of the strategy?

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

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

## Why is it needed?

In this rapidly changing world there are many challenges and opportunities for our much-loved Sunshine Coast way of life. We face an increasing population, changing climate, economic growth and emerging technologies.

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

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

## Our progress

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

TARGET	BASELINE	2022/23	2022/23 OUTCOME
No loss of the Regional Inter-urban Break in its current extent	32,034 ha	32,034 ha	No change to the current extent
Hectares of land per 1000 residents acquired through Environment Levy for conservation and preservation purposes maintained	9.6 ha per 1000 residents	11.09 ha per 1000 residents*	No land was acquired in 2022/23
Hectares of land per 1000 residents for sport and recreation purposes maintained	4.74 ha per 1000 residents	4.62 ha per 1000 residents*	11.95 ha open space secured
Renewable energy capacity increased	124.8 MW	452.1MW	Increase of 64 MW <sup>^</sup>
Council's greenhouse gas emissions reduced	0.58 tCO <sub>2</sub> e per resident	0.48 tCO <sub>2</sub> e per resident*	Decrease of 0.14 tCO <sub>2</sub> e per resident <sup>^</sup>

\* Based on a estimated resident population of 365,073. Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Queensland Treasury, *Population Projections*, June 2023, [qgso.qld.gov.au](http://qgso.qld.gov.au).

<sup>^</sup> Compared to 2021/22 results.

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

ha – Hectares  
MW – Megawatts  
tCO<sub>2</sub>e – Tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent

## Find out what's happening in your backyard

Scan me!



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

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

For more information go to [els.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au](http://els.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au)

# A snapshot of our achievements

## A better built environment through sustainable design

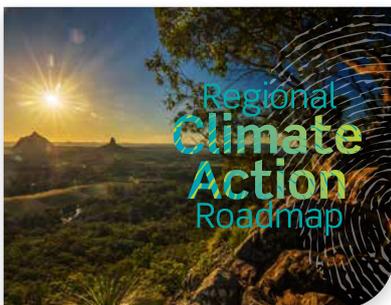


Sunshine Coast City Hall was officially opened on 10 December, 2022. Designed with sustainability at its core, the 10-storey building includes features that will reduce environmental impact and embrace the Sunshine Coast climate.

We developed Cool Homes for the Sunshine Coast design guide, an educational booklet and smart phone compass to help people understand our local sub-tropical climate to inform the design and liveability of our homes.



## Proactive planning for the expected impacts of climate change



Sunshine Coast Council and Noosa Shire Council joined forces to create a Regional Climate Action Roadmap to guide, inform and build regional capacity to develop and prioritise local responses to climate-related risks such as sea level rise, higher temperature, bushfires, floods and droughts.



## Creating great places and spaces



We established the Sippy Downs Forest Park and upgraded playgrounds including:

- Buderim Village Park
- Quota Memorial Park, Nambour
- Turner Park, Beerwah
- Albany Lakes Park, Sippy Downs.



## Zero emissions organisation



Council adopted its organisational zero-net emissions plan to provide a roadmap on how council is to meet its target to be zero-net emissions by 2041.

We expanded our residential waste collection services to include garden organics as part of our efforts to reduce emissions associated with our waste.



## An involved community



We partnered with our community to build a healthy environment and sustainable Sunshine Coast through projects including:

- School Beach Clean Up Series
- Kids in Action program: Catchment Connections – Mountains to the Sea
- National Tree Day tree planting events
- World Environment Day initiatives: Give a Sheet for the Planet
- Plastic Free July: 'Get Your Kit On' campaign
- Grow It Local program: Grow along challenge



## Healthy coast



We continued to support the sustainable use and enjoyment of our coastal environments through:

- Constructing new links at Dicky Beach and Warana as part of our 73 kilometre coastal pathway network
- The successful nearshore sand nourishment trial at Maroochydore as part of our proactive coastal management activities.





## Strategic pathways

1	A resilient region shaped by clever planning and good design
2	Protection and enhancement of our natural assets and distinctive landscapes
3	Responsive, accessible and well managed assets and infrastructure
4	Transition to a sustainable and affordable way of living
5	A reputation for innovation and sustainability

### Managing our pest plants and animals



We continued to manage invasive plants and animals to reduce their social, economic and environmental impacts including:

- Continuation of the Feral Animal Prevention and Control and Biosecurity surveillance programs
- Undertaking a variety of weed management control options and trials at key locations
- Exploring alternative weed management practices including using innovative technology
- Ongoing management of targeted species on Council land
- Raising awareness and providing education and support
- Operation of Invasive Weeds Taskforce

Strategic Pathway	1	2	3	4	5
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### Building our knowledge



We built our knowledge through projects to enable evidence-based decision making:

- Cool Urban Forests project – A partnership study with University of the Sunshine Coast to find hot spots of the Sunshine Coast using high-tech 3D modelling to inform ways to cool them down.
- Ecosystem function mapping – World first mapping product to explore and understand the different services provided by our ecosystems.
- Living sea wall – A trial in Brightwater Lake at Mountain Creek in partnership with University of the Sunshine Coast of 50 panels to create a living seawall.
- In partnership with the Department of Environment and Science, we tracked two nesting Loggerheads and followed their movements during the inter-nesting and post-nesting migrations from the nesting beaches of the Sunshine Coast.

Strategic Pathway	1	2	3	4	5
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### Living on the Sunshine Coast Community Survey



More than 1500 residents completed the 2022 Living on the Sunshine Coast community survey and provided insight into their perceptions about liveability in their local neighbourhoods.

Strategic Pathway	1	2	3	4	5
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### Healthy waterways



The Regional Erosion and Sediment, Education and Trial (RESET) site was opened for business, designed to assist the construction, development, agricultural and environment industries in improving ESC management, practice and understanding.

Strategic Pathway	1	2	3	4	5
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# Achievement highlights

## Environment and Liveability Strategy Refresh Project



We commenced a project to refresh our Environment and Liveability Strategy to incorporate new information, address any gaps and ensure it remains future focused and continues to provide a contemporary approach.

Strategic Pathway	1	2	3	4	5
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## Sunshine Coast Biosphere 12-month progress



# SUNSHINE COAST BIOSPHERE

A year on from the historic designation, essential groundwork was laid to ensure the success and shared purpose of our Biosphere. Community partnership projects were delivered during 2022/23 including the Biosphere Photography Showcase and Kids in Action BiospHEROES program. Governance arrangements were implemented including the establishment of our Coordinating Committee and Community Advisory Group.

Strategic Pathway	1	2	3	4	5
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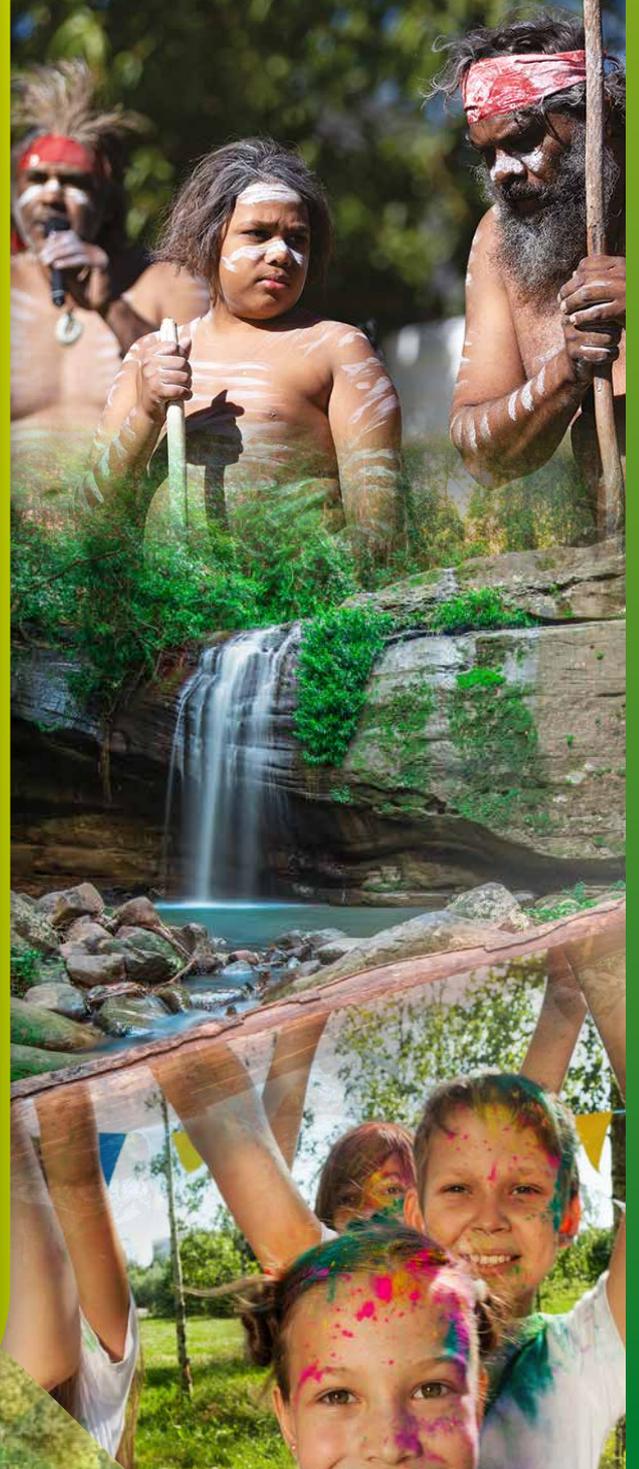


## 10+10+ Legacy Vision



Council launched its 10+10+ legacy vision in January 2023, which outlines what our region should seek to achieve from being a Games Delivery Partner in the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games, including environment and liveability outcomes for a sustainable Sunshine Coast.

Strategic Pathway	1	2	3	4	5
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## Council's sustainability in focus

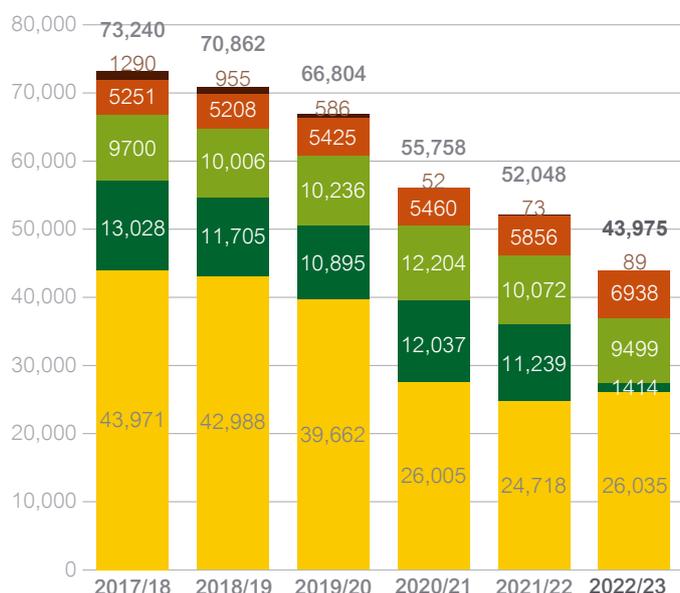
Becoming a Zero-net Emissions organisation by 2041 is a Transformational Action of Council's Environment and Liveability Strategy and a key action to deliver on Council's Climate Emergency resolution.

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

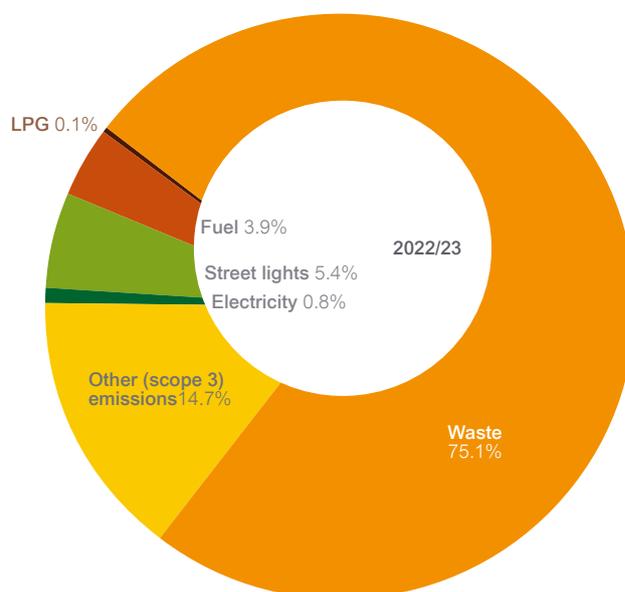
Each year Council reports against a number of organisational sustainability metrics. It provides a comprehensive view of any trends, changes and/or challenges we are facing on our journey to achieving sustainability objectives.

The data on these pages is a snapshot of our 2022/23 performance. A copy of the full report is available via Council's website.

**Council emissions** (excluding Council and community waste emissions)



**Council emissions** (including Council and community waste)



<b>Waste</b> (including Council and community waste)	132,688 tCO <sub>2</sub> e from waste in landfills	<b>75.1%</b>
<b>Electricity from our large and small sites</b>	1414 tCO <sub>2</sub> e	<b>0.8%</b>
<b>Street lights<sup>€</sup></b>	9499 tCO <sub>2</sub> e from our street lights	<b>5.4%</b>
<b>Fuel</b>	6938 tCO <sub>2</sub> e from our fleet vehicles and bulk diesel supply	<b>3.9%</b>
<b>Liquid petroleum gas (LPG)</b>	89 tCO <sub>2</sub> e that is used at Council's sites	<b>0.1%</b>
<b>Other (scope 3) emissions</b>	26,035 tCO <sub>2</sub> e including goods and services produced by a third party	<b>14.7%</b>

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

**GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS**  
**176,663**  
tCO<sub>2</sub>e



**ZERO-NET EMISSIONS BY 2041**

TOTAL EMISSIONS	↓	20.6% decrease
PER RESIDENT	↓	0.48 tCO <sub>2</sub> e decrease

**ELECTRICITY**  
**25,091**  
megawatt hours  
**CONSUMED**



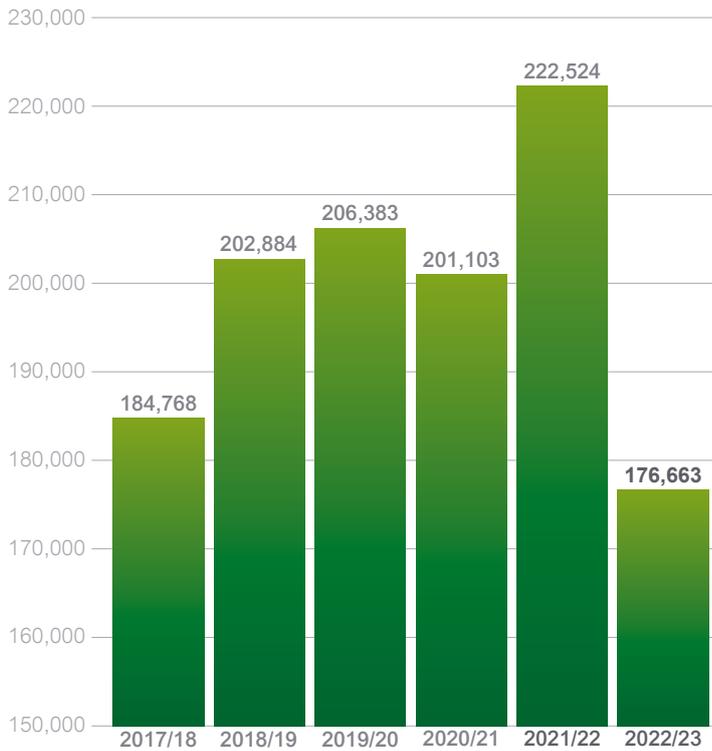
ANNUAL CHANGE	↓	5.3% decrease
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**RENEWABLES**  
**15,495**  
kilowatts solar  
**INSTALLED**

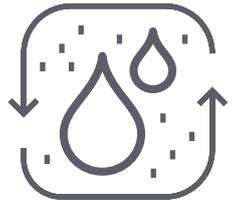


ANNUAL CHANGE	↑	0.1% increase
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Change in greenhouse gas emissions (tCO<sub>2</sub>e)

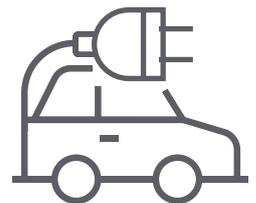


**WATER**  
**630,629**  
kilolitres  
**USED**



ANNUAL CHANGE	↑	5.6% increase
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**TRANSPORT**  
**547**  
fleet vehicles



ANNUAL CHANGE	—	No additional hybrid electric vehicles
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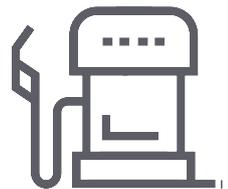


**WASTE**  
**4497**  
tonnes  
**GENERATED**  
by Council

**2027**  
tonnes of  
Council waste  
**DIVERTED**  
from landfill

ANNUAL CHANGE	↓	22.3% decrease	↓	43.4% decrease
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**FUEL**  
**2,173,170**  
litres  
**USED**



ANNUAL CHANGE	↑	1.5% increase
---------------	---	---------------

## We won a handful of awards

Kings Beach and Community Precinct received the **Green Flag Award** through the **International Green Flag Award Scheme**.

The Construction Management and Waterway Protection Taskforce received the **Policy and Education Award** at the **Stormwater Australia's National Awards for Excellence**.

Nambour Forecourt's latest revamp has taken out not one but **two awards** at the **Australian Institute of Landscape Architects awards** along with Sippy Downs Drive infrastructure upgrade and Landsborough's Cribb Street Activation Project.

Mooloolaba's Northern Parkland was crowned **Project of the Year** and also took out the **\$10 million to \$20 million projects category** at the **Institute of Public Works Engineering Australasia Queensland and Northern Territory 2022 Excellence Awards**.

The Sunshine Coast Stormwater Management Strategy was highly commended of **Excellence in the Strategy or Master Planning Award** at the **Stormwater Australia's National Awards of Excellence**.

The Regional Erosion and Sediment, Education and Trial (RESET) project was **highly commended** in the Excellence for Innovation and/or Education to the erosion and sediment control industry category at the **2022 International Erosion Control Association Australasia Environmental Excellence Awards**.

The Sunshine Coast Biosphere received the **Silver GOV Design Awards 2023** – Graphic Design Identity & Branding and the **LGAQ Award for Excellence** - Best Graphic Design.

## Focus for year ahead

In 2023/24, we will finalise the refresh of the strategy to ensure it continues to be a forward-looking document.

We will also continue the delivery of our Transformational Actions and key Council services.



### Zero emissions organisation

Delivering a zero-net emissions organisation and transitioning to a renewable energy future.



### Healthy coast

Providing a strategic and coordinated approach to the protection, sustainable use and enjoyment of our dunes, beaches, rocky shores and near-shore marine waters.

For a full suite of actions and tasks visit our website – [els.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au](https://els.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au).



### Greening our neighbourhoods

Delivering cool and shady streets and places to connect and enhance our neighbourhoods and promote biodiversity, resilience and community wellbeing.



### Great places and spaces

In partnership with industry and community develop a network of contemporary places and spaces that provide and support opportunities for creative, community and active experiences.



### Being prepared

Proactively planning for the impacts of climate change and natural hazards to build the resilience of the region.



### Expanding the green space

Securing and activating space for future generations through accelerated strategic land programs to improve conservation, flood mitigation and sport and recreation opportunities.



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