

Sunshine Coast Council Transport Levy Annual Report 2014-2015

August 2015 edition





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Acknowledgements

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Message from the Mayor

Your Transport Levy in action for 2014-2015

As one of the fastest growing regions in Australia, more than half a million people are expected to call the Sunshine Coast home in the next 20 years. Council's challenge is to visualise our desired future and plan to ensure we shape a future that continues to offer outstanding liveability.

Sunshine Coast Council's vision is to be Australia's most sustainable region – vibrant, green, diverse. We are committed to providing transport options that not only meet the needs of our growing population but also offer sustainable outcomes. Council is looking at transport solutions that will help protect and enhance our much-envied Sunshine Coast lifestyle, into the future.

The Transport Levy, contributed by all rateable properties, enables Council to invest in trials, investigations and long term planning that may not

otherwise be funded. Transport Levy funds have been used for important service trials of transport options, such as Council Link and Flexilink service programs that provide important links in the transport network across the region. The Levy program has been instrumental in bringing forward service improvements on a number of TransLink bus services and has enabled the upgrade of bus stops to maximise community accessibility. Funds have also been used to progress feasibility studies for a proposed Sunshine Coast Light Rail link between Maroochydore and Caloundra.

I am delighted to share with you the significant achievements of 2014/15 and look forward to continued success as we pursue our vision to become Australia's most sustainable region.

Cr Mark Jamieson
Mayor

Where did your Transport Levy go in 2014-2015?

Total revenue 2014-2015:
\$2,545,717





Transport Levy 2014-2015 Program snapshot

Service improvements

Your Transport Levy funds help provide improved and alternative public transport options to Sunshine Coast residents.

In 2014/15 the Transport Levy funded:

- Three flexilink services across the Sunshine Coast
- The Council Link program
- Jointly funded the Maleny-Landsborough-Beerwah bus service in partnership with TransLink
- Jointly funded the Hinterland Connect bus service in partnership with TransLink. This has since become a permanent service bringing a lasting benefit to hinterland residents.



Infrastructure assets

Investment from the Transport Levy contributes to upgrading bus stop infrastructure across the Sunshine Coast to benefit all users, ensuring compliance with the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* and meeting of Federal Government targets.



Hinterland Connect Bus service

\$101,768

contribution to the operation of the Hinterland Connect trial bus service. Now progressing to a permanent State Government funded bus service.

Council Link

serviced 82
suburbs across
the Sunshine Coast

providing a one day
per week service to a
nearby shopping centre
for eligible passengers.

8,535
passenger
trips taken on
Council Link



3 Flexilink
Services

Conondale to Witta to
Maleny, Peachester to
Beerwah, Kenilworth to
Mapleton providing up to

3 return services
per day, **6 days a week**



Artist's impression.

User benefits

Your Transport Levy funds brought forward the implementation of Real Time Information for TransLink services on the Sunshine Coast, delivered the taxi rank identification program and delivered a new Public Transport Guide, all benefiting residents and visitors to the Sunshine Coast.

Research, planning and investigations

Your Transport Levy funds are progressing the Sunshine Coast Light Rail Feasibility Study between Maroochydore and Caloundra. Transport Levy funds also assist with monitoring of existing initiatives as well as planning and investigation into future transport initiatives.

Transport Futures Fund

The Transport Futures Fund allows Council to accumulate funding specifically to achieve strategic, long-term, multi-modal transport outcomes directed at securing the future transport needs of the Sunshine Coast as well as alleviate current transport issues in a staged manner.



Sunshine Coast
first to use
Real Time Information

on TransLink bus services



Taxi Rank
Identification signage
installed to

36 Taxi
Ranks

across the Sunshine Coast



\$304,104

to progress the
Light Rail
Feasibility Project



\$602,031

upgrading

27

bus stops
across the
Sunshine Coast

4,885

passenger trips
taken on Flexilink



Sunshine Coast
Public Transport Guide

20,000

copies of the new and
improved guide distributed
across the Sunshine Coast

\$767,961

contribution
towards future
transport needs





What is the aim of the Transport Levy Policy?

The Transport Levy Policy provides a basis for using revenue raised through a Transport Levy on rateable properties in the Sunshine Coast Region. It lists options for improving the strategic transport network and supporting its users.

Raising Awareness

The Transport Levy enables Council to raise awareness within the community of travel choices, encouraging a change in travel behaviour and an increase in the use of more sustainable travel modes. The Transport Levy also assists in increasing community awareness on current and future transport issues facing the Sunshine Coast.

Partnership

Your Transport Levy funds provide Council with the opportunity to enter into partnerships with the State Government to jointly fund eligible transport infrastructure, services and initiatives on the Sunshine Coast and to test demand through joint funding trials of public transport services.

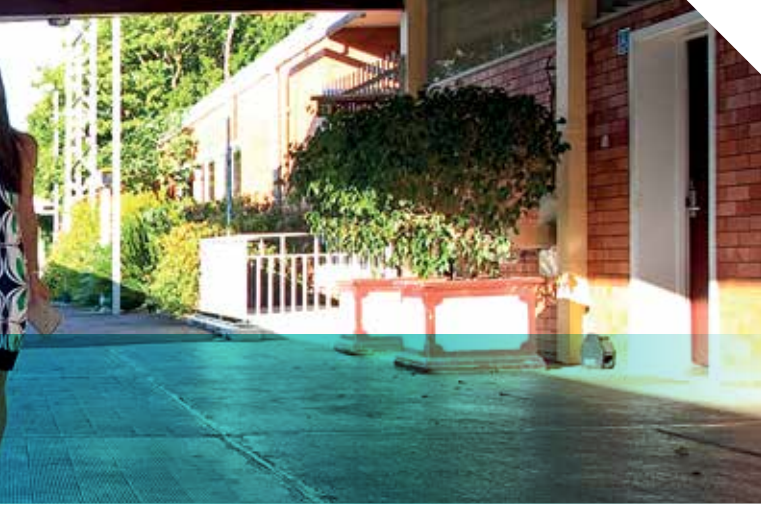
Community Benefit

The Transport Levy supports Council's funding of selected transport projects and initiatives that provide benefit to the Sunshine Coast community. The Transport Levy also aims to promote and encourage use of transport facilities and of transport services by the community.

Investment

Your Transport Levy funds contribute to a Transport Futures Fund, enabling Council to build a funding pool to attract State funding toward major strategic transport network outcomes that address current needs and lead to long term benefits.





Transport Levy achievements

Delivering tangible benefits today

Focus areas of the Transport Levy Policy

Transport Levy Policy initiatives are delivered under five sub-programs.

Service improvements

Focusing on public transport, service improvements aim to:

- increase coverage and accessibility
- improve patronage and utilisation
- investigate options and alternatives
- assist with the integration of network services and between modes.

Infrastructure assets

Initiatives under the infrastructure assets program target long term outcomes for transport modes and strategic transport elements.



User benefits

User benefits, and consequently wider community benefits, will arise from travel behaviour initiatives that aim to:

- educate
- inform
- assist
- improve travel choice.

Research, planning and investigations

These initiatives allow Council to:

- understand transport demand and utilisation
- identify options for improved transport services and transport corridors
- Forecast future transport requirements

Transport Futures Fund

This strategic fund provides Council with the capacity to act on strategic transport infrastructure projects and improvements and the ability to influence more sustainable long term transport outcomes for the Sunshine Coast.





Transport Levy Policy Your Transport Future Beyond 2015

The focus for the Transport Levy Policy for 2015/16 and beyond is:

- Contribution to achieving all access bus stops on the Sunshine Coast
- Completion of the Light Rail Feasibility Study
- Continuation of service trials (Flexilink services, Maleny-Landsborough-Beerwah bus service and Council Link program)
- Continue to build the Transport Futures Fund.

Council will also continue to:

- Advocate and deliver public transport infrastructure improvements
- Advocate for improved TransLink services, with funding to partner

- Research and develop future service improvements, technology, transport trends, joint initiatives
- Identify opportunities to improve transport on the Sunshine Coast for long term benefits
- Improve the Sunshine Coast Multi Modal Transport Model (SCIMMM) to enable forecasting of modal usage for proposed transport network improvements
- Undertake travel behaviour change activities to influence travel choices into more sustainable transport outcomes.





Message from Cr Baberowski Transport Portfolio Councillor

As we look to become Australia's most sustainable region, we need to focus strategically on the Sunshine Coast's current, emerging and long-term transport needs. We are creating a legacy for our future and we want to be sure we get it right.

The Transport Levy Policy supports the Sustainable Transport Strategy 2011-2031 and enables Council to focus on strategic transport network improvements to the Sunshine Coast while still concentrating on public transport improvements.

The Transport Levy Policy increases council's ability to achieve strategic transport outcomes for the Sunshine Coast that also contribute to

increased economic activity, cater for growth and be a well connected community of communities.

The Levy also supports a Transport Futures Fund that will assist to attract State and Federal Government investment for joint transport solutions, such as a proposed light rail and other initiatives that cater for forecast travel demand.

Increasing travel choice and reducing the reliance on the private car is a key outcome to achieve a more sustainable transport network and the many associated benefits to the Sunshine Coast.

Cr Baberowski
Transport Portfolio Councillor





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