



Social Infrastructure

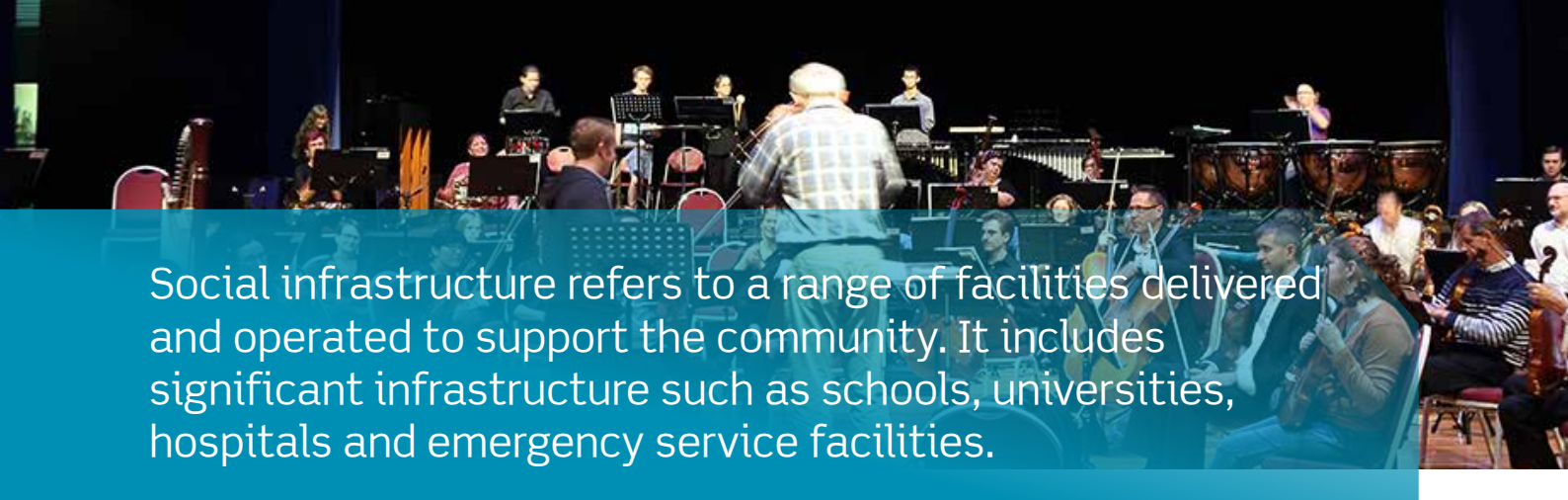
Outcome 2041:

A network of social infrastructure encourages community participation and underpins liveability.

Target:

The principal and each major activity centre host a suite of social infrastructure including a community venue, library, aquatic centre and indoor sport and recreation facility to meet community need by 2041.





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Social infrastructure refers to a range of facilities delivered and operated to support the community. It includes significant infrastructure such as schools, universities, hospitals and emergency service facilities. It includes health and safety facilities such as cemeteries, public amenities and lifeguard services. It also includes places where the community can meet, enjoy indoor sport and recreational activities, engage in creativity and the arts and develop and access information, services and programs.

Social infrastructure is essential for creating communities that are connected, empowered and able to adapt and respond to change. It brings people together creating a sense of place and supports individuals, families and communities to grow and thrive. Investment in social infrastructure promotes and supports community and business interactions, tourism and major events. It is important for the wellbeing, sustainability and economic development of our communities.

The Sunshine Coast's diverse social infrastructure network is provided by all levels of government and community, as well as not-for-profit and private organisations. Within the overall network, council has key responsibilities for:

- **community use facilities**
 - spaces for people to meet, recreate and develop
 - including community venues, libraries and cultural facilities
- **sport and recreation facilities**
 - aquatic facilities, indoor sport and recreation facilities and showgrounds/major outdoor events spaces
- **facilities that support community health and safety**, including lifeguard facilities, cemeteries and public amenities.

Population growth and changing needs is increasing the pressure on existing facilities and creating a demand for new facilities in emerging communities. Careful planning is needed to balance investment between operational needs of the existing network and the needs of emerging communities.

Land available for new social infrastructure is limited and has to be used efficiently to cater for community needs. A forward looking approach, sustainable and climate responsive design, co-location, incorporation of smart technology and collaboration and partnerships will be essential to ensure an ongoing, high-performing social infrastructure network.

Over the next 25 years, key priorities for council are to secure appropriate land and to facilitate a sustainable and coordinated delivery of a diverse network with enhanced community access and involvement. In partnership with the community and not-for-profit organisations such as schools, council will advocate, facilitate and deliver a social infrastructure network that is responsive to changing demands.



Planning for change

The drivers of change will have varying levels of impacts on social infrastructure and will continue to present challenges for the future.

Key impacts may include:

- greater expectations relating to the diversity, functions and quality of infrastructure and services
- higher construction standards and increasing operational costs
- need for more community emergency shelters located close to population centres
- increasing demand for high quality regional infrastructure to cater for events
- increasing demand and provision of smart technology to support community participation.

To proactively respond to these likely impacts and seek new opportunities, a strong set of policy positions has been prepared to achieve the desired outcome.

Council's role

Council plays a key role in setting strategic direction, developing and delivering infrastructure to enable access to social infrastructure for existing and future generations.

In addition council has a role to work with other providers actively seeking opportunities for partnerships and shared arrangements to develop and expand the diversity and quality of facilities available to the community. Council also supports community and volunteer organisations in the valuable management of the social infrastructure network.

Council has a responsibility with the state government to ensure an adequate and functional network of emergency evacuation centres and state emergency services.



Social Infrastructure policy positions

8.1 The social infrastructure network is equitable and accessible to meet the needs of existing and future communities:

- a Places and spaces cater for a wide and diverse range of activities to support community wellbeing.
- b Land and resources are used efficiently and balance the needs of existing and emerging communities.
- c Land to support the network is appropriately located and is retained for community purposes for future generations.
- d Social infrastructure is multipurpose, flexible and adaptable to changing needs.
- e The network is resilient, viable and utilises smart technology and principles of sustainable design.

8.2 Strong partnerships and collaboration deliver an integrated and complementary network:

- a Local history and cultural heritage values are conserved and enhanced.
- b Economic development and investment opportunities are leveraged to achieve viable community outcomes.
- c Co-location with compatible uses and the sharing of spaces and resources increases activity and reduces cost.
- d Access to a diverse range of facilities to meet community needs is complemented through partnerships.

8.3 Social infrastructure facilitates inclusive communities and strengthens cultural heritage, local character and identity:

- a Social infrastructure is inclusive, welcoming and affordable.
- b Infrastructure contributes to the health, safety and resilience of our communities.
- c Community spaces provide a focal point for community participation and activation, contributing to a sense of place and vibrancy.
- d Local history, character and identity is reflected and celebrated through the network.

Refer to Part C for technical detail and planning directions specific to the Social Infrastructure theme.

