

The background of the entire page is a collage of numerous small, semi-transparent photographs showing various community activities, people, and events. In the foreground, three children are running away from the viewer on a sandy beach. The child on the left is wearing a blue and pink patterned t-shirt and dark shorts. The child in the middle is shirtless and wearing light-colored shorts, holding a long wooden stick or spear high in their right hand. The child on the right is wearing a yellow t-shirt and blue shorts. The scene is bathed in a warm, golden light, suggesting a sunset or sunrise.

Sunshine Coast Council
Community Strategy Annual Report
2022/23

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sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au

07 5475 7272

Locked Bag 72 Sunshine Coast
Mail Centre Qld 4560

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Acknowledgements

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Reference document

This document should be cited as follows:

Sunshine Coast Council.

**Community 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.



Image: Glasshouse Mountains.

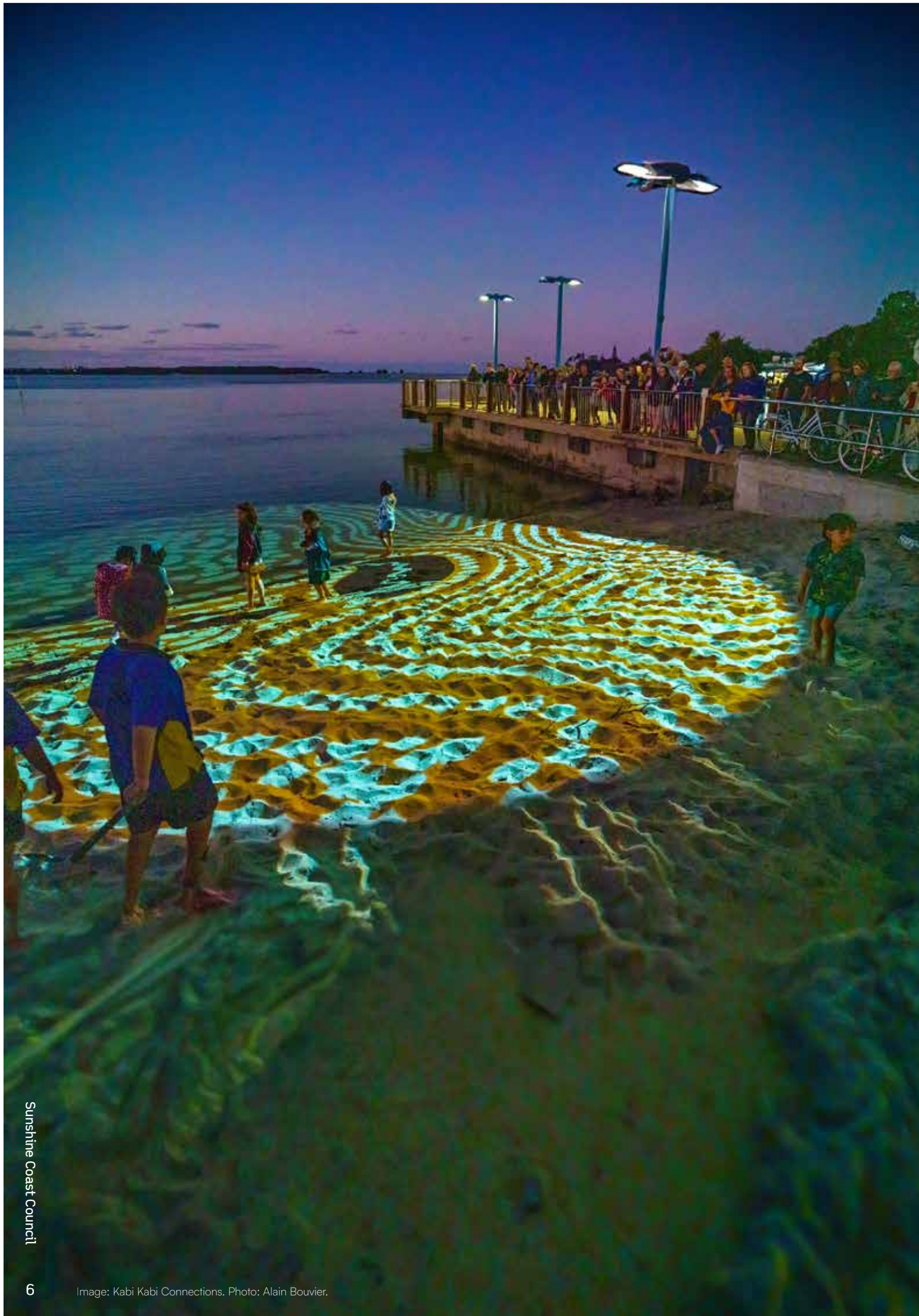


Image: Nambour Aquatic Splash Park



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Mark Jamieson
Mayor

A Message from the Mayor and Portfolio Councillor

We are proud to present this annual report for the Sunshine Coast Community Strategy 2022/23. Through the sharing of data, stories and insights, this report highlights how Council, our community and our partners have collaborated and worked together to deliver on the five outcome areas that progress our goal of being a strong community. The report celebrates our achievements for this latest financial year, while acknowledging challenges and opportunities for our community both now and looking forward.



Cr David Law
Community Portfolio
Councillor

The Sunshine Coast Community Strategy 2019-2041 aligns with Council's overarching vision where 'together we thrive' and is one of three regional strategies which together contribute to the productivity of our economy and natural assets, the liveability and resilience of our region and the strength of our community.

As we approach the fifth and final year of the Community Strategy Action Plan, Council in collaboration with the community is undertaking a review and refresh of the plan to reflect current community priorities. Since the development of the plan the community has changed due to the COVID-19 global pandemic, a rapidly growing population, extreme weather events and more recently, cost of living pressures.

The Community Strategy and its implementation of the five outcome areas is underpinned by shared responsibility. The Community Strategy Leadership Group, made up of diverse community members is a key partner of the strategy and the action plan review.

Council thanks the Community Strategy Leadership Group, our partners and the community, for continuing to work together in delivering the Community Strategy and building a strong community — Together we thrive.

Mayor Mark Jamieson and Community Portfolio Councillor David Law



Image: Empower Her Voice march and candlelight vigil.

The Sunshine Coast Community Strategy 2019 – 2041

Vision

Together We Thrive

Goal

Our Strong Community

The Community Strategy outlines Council's commitment to working with our community to advance our shared goal of achieving a strong community through to 2041. It provides the long-term direction for how Council and our community will work together to ensure that people and places remain connected, inclusive and cohesive as we grow.



The strategy provides a clear framework that helps us to build on our values and shape a strong community which is:

- 01 Healthy and Active
- 02 Vibrant
- 03 Inclusive
- 04 Connected and resilient
- 05 Creative and innovative

This Annual Report

This report draws together a range of data, stories and insights to highlight and celebrate the valuable work achieved over the past year to deliver on the priorities of the Community Strategy, in collaboration with our community partners.

This is the third annual report since the Community Strategy came into effect in November 2019.

Council continues to measure and report on the progress towards our community outcomes drawing upon both quantitative and qualitative data to capture the broad range of outcomes that result from our work.

In February 2023, one thousand residents participated in Council's Community Connections Survey. The quantitative results from these surveys are included under each outcome area throughout the report.

Our Progress

Council uses a range of measures to help us monitor and track progress. The overall headline measure is the proportion of the population who agree that the Sunshine Coast is a strong community.



The Sunshine Coast is a strong community:
68% agreed or strongly agreed

The following indicators are the headline measures for the five outcome areas

**Outcome 1:
Healthy, Active Communities**
Our community is one of the healthiest regional communities in Queensland.



84% (Above Target)
Percentage of community who report being good/very good health
Target: ≥ 82% to 2041
Baseline: 82% in 2016

**Outcome 2:
Vibrant Communities**
Residents agree that Council's community infrastructure meets the needs of their community.



82% (Above Target)
Percentage of residents who are neutral, agree or strongly agree that Council's community infrastructure meets the needs of their community
Target: ≥ 80% to 2041
Baseline: 70% in 2021

**Outcome 3:
Inclusive Communities**
Improving social and economic opportunities relative to other South East Queensland local government areas.



Index: 60.9 (Watch target)
Measured by overall liveability index
Target: 63.9 at 2026 and equal to Regional Queensland result (but no less than 63.9) to 2041
Baseline: 60.9 in 2021

**Outcome 4:
Connected, Resilient Communities**
Residents agree that they can get help from friends, family, neighbours or community organisations when they need it.



87% (Above target)
Percentage of residents who agree that they can get help from friends, family, neighbours or community organisations when they need it
Target: ≥ 85% to 2041
Baseline: 93% in 2016

**Outcome 5:
Creative, innovative Communities**
Growth in social enterprises in the Sunshine Coast local government area.



25 organisations (32% growth) (Above target)
Growth in social enterprises operating in the Sunshine Coast local government area
Target: ≥ 22 at 2025 (20% increase on 2018 baseline)
Baseline: 18 in 2021

Sources: Sunshine Coast Council's Community Connections Survey, and id Consulting's Living in Place Survey



Image: Horizon Opening Ceremony. Photo: Nic Morley.





Outcome 1: Healthy, Active Communities



90% of residents

rated their quality of life as good, very good or excellent. Quality of life declined slightly from 2021, with fewer residents stating they had excellent quality of life. Quality of life was lower for people earning lower incomes, people with disability and younger people.



84% of residents

rated their overall health as good or better. This was a decrease from 87% in 2021.



81% of residents

do at least 2.5 hours of physical activity each week (no change from 2021).

Source: Community Connections Survey 2023, Sunshine Coast Council

This Year's Key Achievements:

Keeping our Beaches Safe

As the Sunshine Coast community continues to grow, Council remains committed to ensuring our region's beaches remain safe for residents and visitors.

Our world-renowned beaches are strongly supported by Surf Life Saving Queensland and an extensive network of volunteer lifesavers. The 2022/23 financial year saw more than 7.3 million visitors, 691 rescues performed and 3254 people receiving first aid.

Council entered a new five-year contract with Surf Life Saving Queensland in October 2022, investing over \$5 million per year into lifeguard services.

The new agreement enables Surf Life Saving Queensland to employ 16 full-time lifeguards, 16 part-time lifeguards, and to maintain a casual pool of approximately 50 lifeguards during peak season across 22 patrolled beaches. The agreement also contributes towards equipment and vehicle costs.

Grow it Local

For the first time in 2022, Council partnered with master gardener and celebrity chef, Paul West and the Grow it Local program. Joining 52 other local councils and almost 19,000 growers across Australia, more than 100 local residents, businesses, schools, and community groups joined the sustainable living initiative to grow, share and eat locally grown produce.

The initiative is more than an opportunity to learn new gardening skills. Its mission is about making growing more accessible, encouraging the community to share and eat locally grown food, help build strong and more resilient communities, increase composting, and reduce organic waste going into landfill, all while having fun.

Volunteers Making Vital Community Contributions

Volunteers continue to play an important role in supporting our community. It is recognised that volunteering is a vehicle for social contribution and connection, but there are barriers that currently exist in the volunteering sector.

In an effort to increase volunteering on the Sunshine Coast, the Building Community: Gifting Time Co-Lab initiative was developed in collaboration with the University of the Sunshine Coast to understand the volunteering climate on the Sunshine Coast. A community forum was held to share ideas and identify opportunities to support volunteering in the region.

In 2022/23, volunteers continued to support the delivery of various programs and services including surf lifesaving, beach clean ups and library services. Volunteers contributed over 7345 hours to our library services, delivering literacy services including 1:1 tutoring, literacy classes and conversations, and almost 1200 volunteers participated in the 2023 Clean Up Australia Day, collecting 4.2 tonnes of rubbish and almost 1 tonne of recyclables.

“ Just wanted to say how fortunate I feel to have access to such high-quality programs at such affordable prices!! I love the activities I’m doing! Thank you! ”

Healthy Sunshine Coast
Participant feedback.

RideScore — Active School Travel

Council in partnership with We Ride Australia and Deakin University, continued to deliver the RideScore program encouraging active and safe travel to and from school. Bluetooth sensors enable real-time notifications to be sent to parents on the arrival and departure of students.

The program was run in 10 schools with over 1800 students registered across the Sunshine Coast supporting the development of riding skills, knowledge of road rules and safe travel behaviours. Council intends to expand the program into 2023/24 to new schools. Additionally, the Bike Restoration Program saw bicycles from waste facilities and charities restored and distributed to RideScore schools for children-in-need.

The promotion of active travel also saw a successful Ride to School Day in 2023 with 37 schools and 2400 students registered noting increased participation in both coastal and hinterland areas. The growing participation in RideScore, Ride to School Day and Cycle Skills is encouraging and reinforces Council’s commitment to continually improve the region’s active transport infrastructure to provide healthy and sustainable travel options.

Go For Gold — An Enduring Legacy

The Sunshine Coast is counting down until the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games, with the Sunshine Coast to host the Olympic and Paralympic competition events of the inaugural mountain biking event, on road cycling, marathon, race walk, kiteboarding, football, and basketball.

On 23 July 2022, Council held a free community event at the Sunshine Coast Mountain Bike trails at Parklands, to celebrate exactly 10 years until the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Game's opening. The day was an invitation for everyone to #HaveaGo, watch demos and experience the trails alongside world-class mountain biking champions.

In preparation for the games, Council worked with the Sunshine Coast 2032 Legacy Plan Community Reference Group to launch the ‘10+10+ legacy vision’ in January 2023. The Vision outlines what the region is seeking to achieve from being a key delivery partner in the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.



Image: Healthy Sunshine Coast.



Sunshine Coast Council



Fast Facts



Over 7.3 million visitors and 691 lives saved on our 22 patrolled beaches



12 Community Gardens supporting food security



170 park volunteers helped maintain our parks network consisting of 1314 number of parks



45 residents completed the Migrant Learn to Swim and Beach Safety Program



2 beaches now provide accessible beach matting and wheelchairs



200 people attended the Healthy Ageing Forum 2022 held in partnership with UniSC, learning about maintaining physical and mental wellbeing, a good quality of life, and a positive attitude towards ageing



1038 students from 14 schools helped remove 214kgs of rubbish from 15 beaches as part of the School Beach Clean Up Super Series.

Project Spotlight

Healthy Sunshine Coast returns — Improve your health and wellbeing, have fun and meet new friends

Healthy Sunshine Coast, the popular health and wellbeing initiative returned in November 2022, offering a range of low-cost and free activities and events at various locations around the Sunshine Coast. The relaunch of the initiative has a renewed focus with an expanded offering of classes that focus on holistic health and wellbeing for people of all ages and abilities. The inclusive program focusses on moving well, eating well, sleeping well, thinking well, and connecting well with others. Session times are varied and include weekends, thus catering for a broad demographic and reach.

There are currently close to 4000 people registered for the program with over 40 health and wellbeing activities offered on a regular basis by 28 providers. These activities include Strength and Stability for Older People, Kids Yoga, Meditation, Pilates, Tai Chi, Aqua Aerobics and Finding Presence in Nature.

Healthy Sunshine Coast aims to encourage:

- Positive mental health and resilience
- Regular physical activity
- Healthy eating and nutrition
- Strong social connections, and
- Participation across all ages and abilities.





Outcome 2: Vibrant Communities



82% of residents

were neutral, agreed or strongly agreed that Council's community facilities meet the needs of their community.

Source: Community Connections Survey 2023, Sunshine Coast Council

This Year's Key Achievements

Nambour Aquatic Splash Park Opens

Council officially opened the Nambour Aquatic Splash Park on 16 September 2022, with more than 4000 visitors enjoying the new facility over the opening weekend. The \$3.2 million project provides a new destination for people of all ages and abilities to connect and enjoy an active, healthy, and fun activity.

The facilities include a zero-depth and fully accessible splash pad, toddler slides, water jet features, tipping buckets and two giant water slides measuring 60 and 67 metres in length.

The Splash Park featured in the Courier Mail's Queensland's Top 10 Water Parks.

'This will be a meeting place for many families for years to come, connecting our communities and enhancing the active and healthy lifestyle that we most enjoy.' — Mayor Mark Jamieson

Sunshine Coast Stadium – a premier venue for sport, music, entertainment and leisure

Sunshine Coast Stadium continued to be a major sports and event destination, hosting 46 major events and 3093 bookings. To support the increasing utilisation of the stadium and activation of the space, a new car park was opened with 157 formalised car parks, fencing, lighting, boom gate controls and a new big screen installed inside the stadium.

The stadium hosted some significant events for the very first time in our region, including:

- Two NRL pre-season games and two premiership matches with the NRL's newest team, the Dolphins playing their first ever match at the Stadium
- 2022 Oceania Rugby U20 Championships
- Rugby World Cup Qualifier
- Pacific Youth Rugby Festival
- A Cabaret with over 1400 attendees
- Groovin the Moo with 24,559 attendees.

Other events hosted at the stadium included two Queensland OzTag State Cups, the Canberra Raiders training camp, and local rugby league and rugby union grand finals.

Busy Places and Spaces

Aquatic Centres

885,207 visits across
9 aquatic centres

10% increase since 2021/22

Historic Houses

10,128 visits

61% increase since 2021/22

Libraries

839,016 visitors

91% Customer Satisfaction Rating

Venue 114

50,632 over 502 events

Caloundra Indoor Stadium

149,421

attendees across 55 major events and

2372 venue bookings

Sunshine Coast Stadium

254,905

attendees at 46 major events

382,891

attendees across 3093 bookings

Venue 114

In the past financial year, Venue 114 hosted 502 events. Of highlight was the inaugural 'Mega Youth Market' providing Sunshine Coast youth with an exciting opportunity to connect young sellers and buyers to preloved and handmade goods. With forty stallholders, the event provided an exciting and meaningful platform for young people to connect, engage, shop sustainably and showcase their talents.

Venue 114 has also welcomed in some major music artists including Noiseworks, Lime Cordiale, The Jungle Giants and Spacey Jane to perform to the Sunshine Coast community.

Four other Council owned and managed spaces including the Kawana Community Centre and Bellvista Meeting Place attracted 100,214 attendees across 2753 bookings.

Library Services

Council's library services had a busy year as they continued to provide a hybrid offering of online and in person programs and services, supported strongly by community volunteers. Key highlights and initiatives from the 2022/23 year include:

- Lifelong Learning Program delivered 2024 programs to 93,760 attendees
- Summer Reading Club saw a 309% participation increase from the previous year
- Attendance at the Early Literacy Program grew by 133%
- Launch of the online platform, Hoopla, providing digital content including books, comics, movies, newspapers and music
- The Makerspace Showcase and workshop series successfully launched at the Beerwah Heart Precinct
- Three significant author events attracting 1062 attendees
- 600 participants attended the Storytellers Festival connecting Local authors and providing a range of workshops
- Multicultural Morning tea at Maroochydore Library for 140 residents
- Festive Garden 2022 —including a themed pop-up, nightly Storytime program, reading and arts corners for children, which engaged with 8000 residents.

Libraries continued to provide information and services to our community with over 2.9 million loans (physical and digital) and over 830,000 visits to the library branches.

Kings Beach gains International Recognition

The Kings Beach Park and Community Precinct became only the fourth Queensland park to receive the prestigious international Green Flag Award. The accolade recognises and rewards well-managed parks and green spaces, setting the benchmark standard for recreational outdoor management around the world. Winning the award brings the community opportunities for increased tourism, economic and social benefits.



Winner of the International Green Flag Award

New and Upgraded Facilities:

- Quota Park Playground, Nambour
- Nambour Aquatic Centre Splash Park
- Caloundra Lighthouses
- Warana Coastal Pathway
- Buderim Village Park Stage 9
- Honey Farm Sport and Recreation Precinct — Ongoing
- Moss Day Pavilion Indoor Equestrian Arena at Nambour Showgrounds
- Construction of Clubhouses at North Shore Multi-Sports Complex and Palmwoods Football Club
- Field lighting at Coolum Sports Complex
- Kawana Aquatic Centre Upgrade commenced
- Sunshine Coast Stadium Car Park
- Beerburrum Street — Interpretive Area
- Ben Bennett Bushland Trail Resurfacing
- Frank McIvor Park Amenities
- Kestrel Park Playground Renewal
- Kawana Library & Hall Rotunda Roof Replacement
- Maleny Balmoral Ridge Lookout Park — Shelter Revitalisation
- Coolum Civic Centre
- Sippy Downs Forest Park
- Park Lakes RSL Cenotaph and Avenue of Honour

“ We have developed a very strong relationship with Council over the last few years and we are now confident that our voice is being heard. ”

Sunshine Coast Access Advisory Network President



Fast Facts



495 amenity reserves



26 new parks and open spaces provided



374 playgrounds



74 basketball courts



28 skate parks

Average of



79% occupancy across Council holiday parks



Over 350 capital projects within the Parks and Gardens program



Volunteers contributed **more than 2000 hours per week** to maintain sports fields across the region

Project Spotlight

Mobility Maps create a more accessible and inclusive community

Council launched the award-winning mobility maps in March 2023, using modern mapping technology to categorise clear routes and allow users of all abilities to make informed choices before visiting popular locations across the Sunshine Coast. The Sunshine Coast is the most mapped local government area in Australia for 2023. Following the successful trial of the pilot project in 2022, the official launch marks an important step in ensuring our community spaces are inclusive and accessible.

The innovative pilot project was created in collaboration with local, lived experience pilots and Briometrix, using advanced mapping technology to track popular pathways including gradient, crossing points, key services and amenities. Accessible footpath and trail infrastructure creates social connectivity and reduces inhibitors that might impact usage. The maps currently cover Maleny, Nambour, Mooloolaba, Maroochydore and Caloundra, with more maps being developed across the region.

Council is committed to promoting community health and wellbeing by improving accessibility and inclusion for people of all abilities to enjoy our public spaces according to their needs and abilities.



Awarded 2022 Productivity through Infrastructure award at the 2022 National Awards for Local Government.

Image: Mobility mapping.





Outcome 3: Inclusive Communities



51% of residents

agreed or strongly agreed that there are opportunities to have a say (no change from 2021).



84% of the community

value cultural diversity in society (no change from 2021)



40% of residents agreed

or strongly agreed that they would be able to afford to stay in the area they would like to live (decrease from 47% in 2021)



33% of residents agreed

or strongly agreed that they are able to find accommodation with the transport options they need (decrease from 39% in 2021)

Source: Community Connections Survey 2023, Sunshine Coast Council

This Year's Key Achievements:

First Nations Partnerships

The second annual First Nations Self-Determination Representation and Wellbeing Forum was held in August 2022, coinciding with the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples. The forum created an opportunity and space for First Nations peoples to come together, make connections and learn from one another. The Sunshine Coast Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) outlines Council's commitment to developing respectful and engaged relationships with Traditional Custodians and First Nations communities and advancing reconciliation. During 2022/23, implementation of the Innovate RAP continued with 72 practical actions completed and a small number of actions continuing.

The First Nations Supplier Day was held for the second year on 10 October 2022. The event fostered engagement and collaboration with First Nations business and stakeholders at the Nambour Showgrounds, which was a traditional Kabi Kabi meeting place used by the community for economic trade and celebration of significant events. Over 45 local First Nations businesses, creatives, performers, and service providers attended showcasing their products and services. The event was an opportunity for government, non-government organisations, businesses, and the public to meet local First Nations suppliers, as well as an opportunity for connections and collaboration between local First Nation businesses.

Reconciliation Week — Be a Voice

Reconciliation Week 2023 launched on Jinibara Country at TribalLink in Mapleton, with a fire ceremony, traditional dance, and presentation from Sunshine Coast Elders. The theme was *Be a Voice for Generations*, with Council calling on the community to be a voice for reconciliation in tangible ways in our everyday lives — where we live, work, and socialise. The week provided opportunity for the community to learn about First Nations culture and heritage through an array of activities and events.

Welcoming Cities

On 26 May 2023, Council officially committed to participate in the Welcoming Cities Network. Welcoming Cities is a national network supporting local governments to advance communities where everyone can belong and participate in social, cultural, economic and civic life.

Joining Welcoming Cities strengthens our commitment to cultural diversity and inclusion and provides Council with access to a national and global community of practice. 1 in 5 people living on the Sunshine Coast was born overseas and our region receives more than 2.3 million international visitors each year.



Image: Suncoast Spinners.

Shine a Light on Racism — #DotheWork

The ‘Shine a Light on Racism’ campaign launched on 22 July 2022, calling on the Sunshine Coast community to #DotheWork in responding to racism and actively learning how to become an ally. The campaign was spearheaded by seven local patrons and supported the community to become ‘anti-racist’ through education and engagement.

The community co-designed campaign was backed by the South Sydney Rabbitohs and Vodafone Warriors at their NRL game at the Sunshine Coast Stadium on 6 August 2022.

The campaign resulted in more than 188,000 impressions across social media platforms during its promotion.



The campaign was recognised by the Queensland Human Rights Commission and received a Silver Gov Design Award 2023 under the Better Future — Equity and Inclusion category.

Inclusion Action Plan for People with Disability

The draft Inclusion Action Plan for People with Disability 2024-2028 commenced broad community engagement in June 2023. The Plan has been drafted following targeted consultation with people with lived experience of disability and their carers, support workers, an Inclusion Action Plan Reference Group and internal consultation with Council staff at the start of the process to form the action plan’s priorities and directions. Guided by a suite of inclusive principles and actions, the Plan will go a long way to improving inclusion for people with disability on the Sunshine Coast.



shine a light on racism

#DoTheWork ▶

Youth Focussed/Led Action

In response to our young people identifying mental health as a key concern, the Sunshine Coast Youth Council partnered with Yeturn Support Services and Headspace Maroochydhore to provide a 'Chill Out' zone at the 2022 Caloundra Music Festival and 2023 Groovin the Moo.


In April 2023, 30 students from state and private schools participated in the inaugural Youth Infrastructure Summit. The summit provided opportunities for future leaders to present their vision for the Sunshine Coast by 2050 to other leaders at the Mayor's Infrastructure Summit. Building infrastructure that facilitates and builds healthy communities was a key focus that young people presented to summit attendees.

Youth Week was also celebrated in April with a range of free events and activities organised collaboratively by Council, IFYS and other agencies which included a Beerwah Skate and Scooter Competition, Beerwah Movie Night and the Kings Beach Youth Fest. The week was a great opportunity to celebrate the region's young people and the contributions they make to our vibrant community.

National Pride Month

Sunshine Coast Council is committed to being a respectful and inclusive employer, a champion of diversity and inclusion. In May, Council employees launched an internal Pride Network on International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia (IDAHOBIT) to show support to staff. Council also participated in the Sunshine Coast Mardi Gras on 10 June 2023, with representatives sharing Council's commitment to grow and support diversity within the workplace and across our community.

Fast Facts

-  **Distribution of 5000+**
Housing and Homelessness Directories
-  **2.4%**
of the population identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
-  **1 in 5 residents**
are born overseas
-  **2.3 million**
international visitors annually
-  **The first cohort of Youth Council representatives**
completed their two-year term in June 2023
-  **26 residents graduated**
from the Migrant Work Ready and Business Ready Programs





“Thank you for an amazing event. I have been in the church for over 30 years and this is the first time I have been to an event where churches gathered with local government support to respond to human need in our communities. We have much to learn from each other.”

Hope for Homes Forum Participant

Project Spotlight

Response to Housing and Homelessness

With the Sunshine Coast continuing to record high population growth rates, Council remains committed to providing guidance and establishing new initiatives to achieve more secure and suitable housing for our community. The Sunshine Coast is currently experiencing significant housing affordability and accessibility challenges with increased levels of homelessness.

Council remains committed to its response to homelessness with front line staff participating in Homelessness Awareness Training, co-designed with QShelter in May 2023 and the continued implementation of the Responding to Homelessness Guideline.

A pilot program was developed to give people with lived experience of homelessness a voice and included in the decisions that most impact them.

The annual Vinnies CEO Sleepout saw Council representatives unite with other community and business leaders to help raise funds for homelessness services and shine a light on breaking the cycle of homelessness.

Council worked in partnership with Goodlife Community Centre (Buderim), The Shack Nambour and the Salvation Army to support the Hope for Homes Forum. The

forum, represented by 25 churches across the Sunshine Coast, allowed community, charitable and government organisations to share key learnings and information in an effort to foster a collaborative response to homelessness and explore further opportunities.

Council prepared the draft Housing and Homelessness Action Plan 2023 to build on Council's existing commitments to provide guidance and establish new initiatives towards a more secure and sustainable housing future for our community. The Plan clearly articulates how Council can contribute to more diverse, affordable living outcomes for our community and reduce the impacts and risk of homelessness in our region. Council remains committed to supporting community-led initiatives such as the SleepBus, Roofs to Recovery and the 'Mean While' women's transitional housing project.

Caloundra Regional Gallery in collaboration with Sunshine Coast Libraries presented the 'Changing Perceptions of Homelessness by Clair Letitia Reynolds' exhibition that aimed to challenge and change current perceptions and stigmas associated with homelessness.





Outcome 4: Connected, Resilient Communities

This Year's Key Achievements:

2022 Rangebow Festival – Major Grants supporting connected communities

The Rangebow Festival 2022, supported by funding from Council's Major Community Grants program, celebrated the creative life and spirit of the Sunshine Coast primarily across the hinterland communities of Maleny, Montville, Flaxton and Mapleton. This event aligned with the Creative Development category of the grants program, which aims to support events that strengthen the creative ecology of the Sunshine Coast by nurturing connections, promoting experimentation and inspiring collaboration.

With a focus on inclusion and connection, the Rangebow Festival invited the community to come together, engage and enjoy a wide variety of free or low-cost events that celebrated the rich contribution brought to communities by individuals of diverse backgrounds, personality, life experiences and beliefs.

The program was delivered in collaboration with local community groups, artisans, businesses, performers and schools, and enabled a wide variety of rich experiences in spectacular landscapes. A highlight of the festival was the sell-out Moonlight Symphony event, with students from local state schools forming The Rangebow Children's Orchestra and performing with the Sunshine Coast Symphony Orchestra. The event was supported with \$10,000 in grant funding.

Sunshine Coast says NO to Domestic and Family Violence

Council partnered with local domestic and family violence services in planning the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence held from 25 November to 10 December 2022, calling for the prevention and elimination of violence against women and girls. Community volunteers showed their support for the campaign at a Seeds of Hope tree planting day with over 200 native trees planted in the dunes at Cotton Tree.



62% of residents

agreed or strongly agreed that they feel safe in the Sunshine Coast area, significantly lower than 72% in 2021.



87% of residents

agreed or strongly agreed that they can get help from friends, family and neighbours when they need it (no change from 2021).



75% of residents

agreed they could raise \$2000 within 2 days in the event of an emergency. This is down from 81% in 2021.



57% of residents

agreed or strongly agreed that they live in a community where people are involved in local issues and activities (no change from 2021).

Source: Community Connections Survey 2023, Sunshine Coast Council

Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month in May 2023 began with the Sunshine Coast Lightning promoting prevention at their home game with Council staff and community partners Refocus, IFYS and Queensland Health supporting the event and handing out 1000 purple ribbons in raising awareness to end this form of abuse.

Community members stood together at the Empower Her Voice march and candlelight vigil held at Cotton Tree Park. The annual event, held by Centacare since 2000, focused on the 'power of listening and learning' as hundreds gathered to support those impacted by a hidden pandemic. The community took time to pause and reflect, as victims and survivors of domestic and family violence bravely shared stories and perspectives and to remember the lives lost.

Council's internal Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Supporters Network has developed over the last year with members receiving training on how to be an effective 'ally' and providing input to developing an online staff training module.

Council collaborated with the Queensland Police Service to build a better understanding of the challenges of domestic and family violence.



Image: City Hall, Maroochydore.



Image: Our People, Our Places, Our Aura engagement pop-up.
Photo: Barry Alsop.

ThinkChange – working together for a healthier, more connected and sustainable Sunshine Coast

ThinkChange is Council’s branded travel behaviour change program and funded under the Transport Levy. The program focuses on helping everyone identify ways to reduce their car use and rethink travel approaches to achieve a healthier, more connected and sustainable Sunshine Coast.

As part of the recently commenced implementation phase of the program three priority categories of Workplaces, Events and Communities have been identified for initial pilot programs.

In June 2023, Council commenced an 18-month trial of 400 e-scooters and 75 e-bikes available at sites throughout Mooloolaba and Maroochydore. The e-scooters and e-bikes are an environmentally friendly transport option with zero emissions and provide an efficient and effective mode of transport for short journeys, encouraging people to enjoy and explore the area. The trial aligns with Council’s goal of a happy, healthy community through healthy, smart and creative solutions.

City Hall now accommodates more than 800 Council employees and is a key Workplace category focus. Council has implemented actions from the Workplaces Travel Program supporting employees to choose sustainable travel options including walking, cycling, carpooling, scooting and public transport.



Flexilink Trial Transport Services

The Flexilink trial services provide affordable, reliable and accessible public transport to communities with limited transport options. The services, funded under Council’s Transport Levy, support people to stay connected and maintain accessibility to services and amenities particularly in the hinterland areas. A two-year trial to extend the bus route to Yandina is being jointly funded by the Queensland Government and Council.

Disaster Management

In helping prepare for a fast-forming weather event and annual storm season, Council participated in ‘Jupiter’s Fury’ — a disaster preparedness, response and recovery training exercise. The training provided an opportunity for the Local Disaster Management Group to put into practice improved processes and learnings from previous disaster events as it continues to prepare and support the Sunshine Coast community in the face of any future disaster.

Council received funding for a Community Recovery and Resilience Officer from the State and Federal government to undertake recovery work in areas most effected by the 2022 flooding event. This work is focusing on hinterland towns and has established a Community Recovery Sub group that will assist in street and neighbourhood level recovery and resilience activities.

Have Your Say Sunshine Coast

Council’s Have your Say online community engagement platform launched 40 new projects in the past twelve months, inviting the community to contribute ideas, submit feedback or exchange views on matters that affect them or their community. In the past year, over 1000 new users signed up to be part of the ‘Have your Say’ community. The increased engagement and participation reflects Council’s view that ‘every voice in our region has value’.

Council continued to work to embed best practice community engagement with the development of an Inclusive Engagement Guideline, which launched in March 2023. The guideline helps to address barriers to participation and provides equitable opportunities for everyone to get involved.

Council was awarded Highly Commended Organisation of the Year at the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) Australasia Core Values Awards in October 2022.



2022 Highly Commended Organisation of the Year

International Association of Public Participation Australasia Awards

Community Grants Program 2022/23

Council's Community Grants Program continues to deliver funding that supports and responds to community-identified needs and opportunities, in line with the Community Strategy.

Total Grants related to Community Strategy Outcomes Over \$5 million allocated

Partnership Grants

\$1.8 million

for 194 groups

\$996,995

for 141 partner
community groups

\$773,697

for 48 sports
fields groups

\$70,000

for 5 recreation
trail groups

Community Grants

\$1.8 million

for 194 groups

\$1,182,081

for 184 major grants

\$212,443

for 132 minor grants

\$26,386

for 10 emergency
grants

\$134,515

for 49 festive and
commemorative
events grants

\$51,398

for 161 individual
development grants

\$256,633

for Councillor
Discretionary Funding
over 153 groups

Arts and Heritage Levy

\$0.36 million

for 54 projects

\$56,401

or 8 heritage groups

\$174,331

for 39 regional
arts development
projects

\$130,000¹

to support 7 creative
industry investment
programs*

Environment Levy

\$951,885

for 106 grants
awarded

\$325,000

for 83 landholder
grants

\$16,889

for 4 environment
projects

\$610,000

for 19 partnerships
with environment
groups

¹The Creative Industries Investment Program is a new funding program that provides up to three years of funding to organisations and groups for established arts and cultural initiatives. Successful applicants must support the strategic development of local arts ecology and deliver significant cultural benefit to the Sunshine Coast Region.



Fast Facts



More than 11,500 submissions

have been made on the Have Your Say engagement platform



1162 Council employees completed Domestic and Family Violence Prevention training



20 Council employees participated in the annual Excellence in Engagement Framework Training program

“ I would like to thank the Sunshine Coast Council for providing opportunities for members of community from all walks of life to be able to contribute to conversations that impact all of us. ”

Stronger Together Forum participant feedback.

Project Spotlight

Stronger Together Forum - Residents helping to create a stronger community

More than 100 people took part in the Stronger Together Forum at Meridan Community Centre on 16 May 2023 to help shape a renewed Community Strategy Action Plan for 2024 to 2029.

Council acknowledges and understands that community challenges and opportunities inevitably shift and change over time. The Stronger Together Forum, co-hosted with the Community Strategy Leadership Group, brought together 100 community members of all ages, abilities, backgrounds and interests to share unique experiences, insights, and ideas on opportunities to build strong and thriving communities.

Health and wellbeing, community connection, transport, volunteering and a greater voice in decision making were among the topics discussed.

Through storytelling, conversations, connection and group activities, Council was able to gather information that will help inform and shape a refreshed Community Strategy Action Plan that is responsive and reflective of current community needs and priorities, and where together we thrive.

Image: Stronger Together Forum. Photo: Barry Alsop.



OUTCOME 5: CREATIVE, INNOVATIVE COMMUNITIES



Outcome 5: Creative, Innovative communities



78% of residents

agreed or strongly agreed that Sunshine Coast has a unique identity that sets us apart (no change since 2021).



88% of residents

agreed or strongly agreed that they feel proud to be part of the Sunshine Coast community.

Source: Community Connections Survey 2023, Sunshine Coast Council

This Year's Key Achievements:

Sunshine Coast Jobs Hub

The Sunshine Coast Jobs Hub is a platform created by Council in partnership with Study Sunshine Coast, connecting local talent with local industry with over a thousand jobs listed. The platform provides information and key insights and opportunities on the high value industries and employers throughout the region. It is an important initiative to boost business, industry growth and help the region thrive by providing local businesses an avenue to advertise job opportunities at no cost, removing barriers in finding staff, and retaining and developing local talent.

Heritage Celebrations

A number of signature programs were delivered as part of the National Trust's Australian Heritage Festival at Bankfoot House and the Landsborough Museum. The successful delivery of the programs resulted in 61% increased visitation to the historic sites from 2021/2022.

The theme for 2023 was 'Shared Stories', encouraging the community to 'actively wonder, investigate, and learn about natural, cultural, Indigenous, living and built heritage around the nation.'²

The 'First Nations Family Fun Day' was held at the heritage listed Bankfoot House in April 2023. The Kabi Kabi peoples and Jinibara peoples shared their stories and culture, providing activities and workshops in art, symbolism, weaving, storytelling, bush food and dance.

The Landsborough Museum Street Festival celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the Landsborough & District Historical Society in May 2023, relaunching the museum with new exhibitions and improved visitor experiences. The museum opened the original 1924 building with the removal of some non-original walls and revitalised storytelling exhibitions featuring key people and places from the region. The celebration included face painting, vintage cars, BBQ provided by local Scouts, talks and demonstrations from Jinibara peoples and Kabi Kabi peoples, native plant giveaways and photographic displays from the Heritage Library.

Historic Maritime Beacon Preserved

The heritage listed Caloundra lighthouses received important rehabilitation work in 2022, with the installation of new timber decking, balustrading, waterproofing and roof works. The 1896 lighthouse is the town's oldest surviving building, and its 1968 neighbour is one of only two of its kind in Australia.

Friends of the Caloundra Lighthouse volunteer their time to host tours of the iconic site, which has welcomed more than 13,000 visitors over the past 15 years.

The funding through the Arts and Heritage Levy allowed Council to undertake the works to ensure that the region's maritime and cultural history remains for future generations to come.



Image: Refinery, Odessa Mahony-deVries. Photo: Patrick Want.

The Refinery 5.0

The Sunshine Coast Creative Alliance launched 'The Refinery 5.0' program in January 2023, with Council acting as the major investment partner. The 10-week program aims to strengthen the region's creative ecology, offering support to 20 artists, creative practitioners, and entrepreneurs and five identified First Nations positions. The Refinery is an annual creative incubator program, providing mentorship and leadership to support independent artists and creative industry practitioners to establish and grow viable and sustainable businesses.

Horizon Festival 2022

The 10-day Horizon Festival 2022 enjoyed a stunning and immersive opening weekend at the Wonderland Spiegel tent Festival Hub in Cotton Tree. The festival commenced with an opening ceremony paying respects to the Traditional Custodians, the Kabi Kabi peoples and Jinibara peoples. A key feature of the opening ceremony was the illuminating Kabi Kabi Connections projection of works of Traditional Custodians and visual arts of the Kabi Kabi peoples onto the Maroochy River.

The festival is deeply connected to place, celebrating the natural landscape of the Sunshine Coast and honouring stories and artworks of the region's First Nations peoples. The festival included music, visual art, dance, family entertainment, comedy and workshops featuring local and nationally recognised artists. The festival injected \$1.7 million economic benefit with over 21,400 attendances recorded across the 127 events.

Project 24

Council invited artists and collectives of all disciplines to apply to be a part of Project 24, an artist residency program that hosts two artists every month for 12 months at 2ndSpace studio in Nambour. The residency aims to support established and emerging artists to create, develop and showcase their work and continue to invest in Nambour as the artistic heart of the region.





Fast Facts



2023 Top7 Intelligent Community
for four of the last five years



17 artists
participated in the Project 24 program



13,183 people attended
The Caloundra Music Festival in 2022.

Project Spotlight

Caloundra Music Festival receives new support

The Caloundra Music Festival won the People’s Choice Award for Festival of the Year at the 2023 Queensland Music Awards. Caloundra Music Festival 2022 marked the 15th year at the award-winning beachside location of Kings Beach showcasing 70 artists, including 30 local acts and attracting attendees from every state. 500 volunteers from Sunshine Coast, South East Queensland and even interstate ensured the successful delivery of the event. The festival injects more than \$3 million into the local economy each year and provides a platform for charities, venues, businesses, accommodation providers and schools.

Council renewed its commitment to deliver the event through to 2025, acknowledging the impact the event has in promoting accessibility, diversity, and inclusivity. Inclusion of all patrons and their ability to enjoy and experience the festival as a complete experience is an important element of the festival. Accessibility viewing is available at all festival stages and event zones with volunteer Accessibility Assistants providing support where required.

In 2022, the festival had an integral focus on sustainability, with more than 80% of the waste generated from the festival successfully diverted away from landfill. Future festivals will measure water, energy and visitor activities to determine carbon emissions. The festival aims to become the region’s first zero net emissions music event by 2027.

“ A great weekend of fun in the sun with awesome music, lifelong friendships, connection and community. ”
Caloundra Music Festival participant

Image: Caloundra Music Festival. Photo: Bruce Haggie.

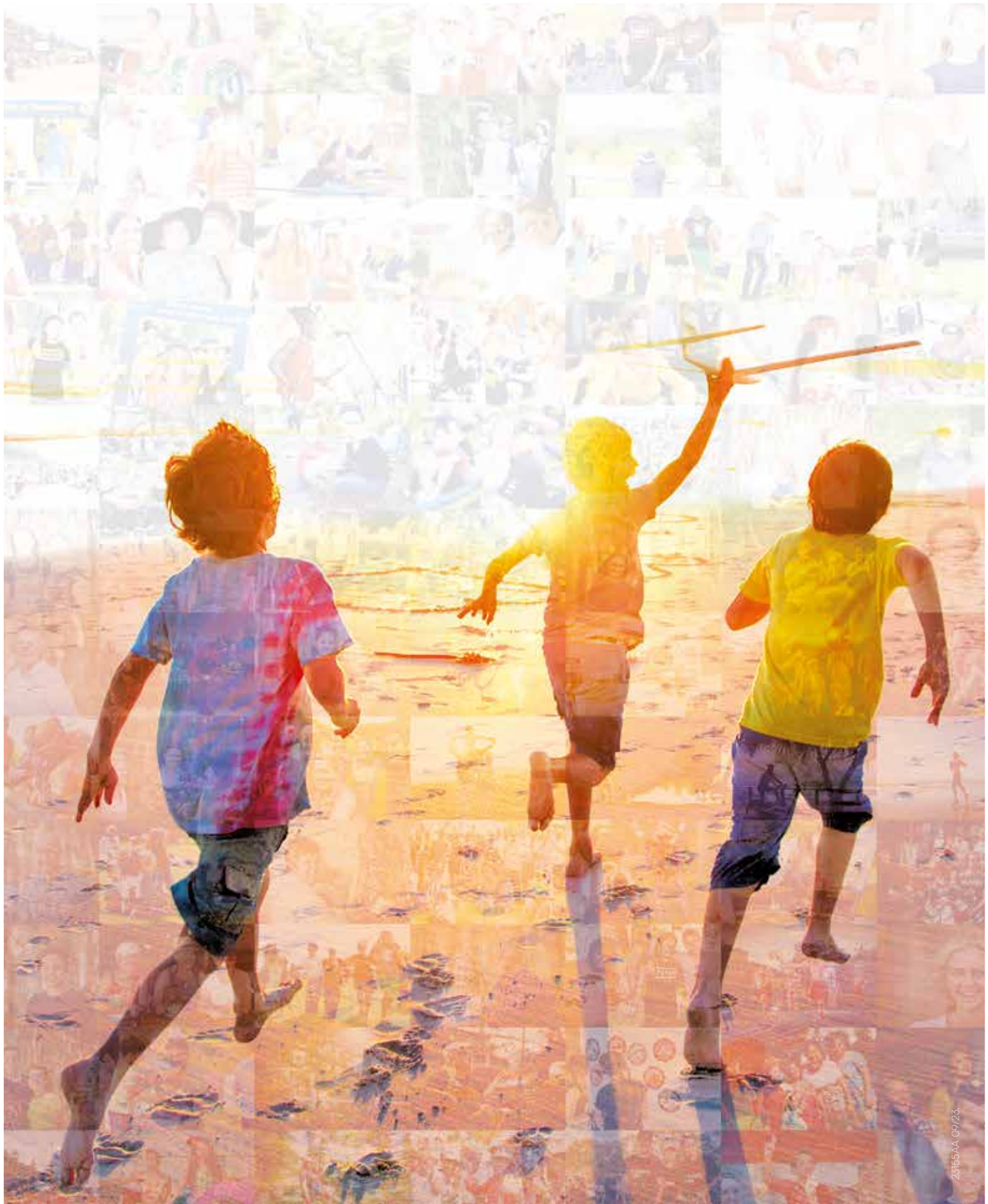
FOCUS for the Year Ahead

In 2023/24, we will maintain our work to achieve the outcomes outlined in the Sunshine Coast Community Strategy 2019-2041 and the Community Strategy Action Plan 2019-2024.

- Implement health and wellbeing initiatives that support healthy and active lifestyles through the Healthy Sunshine Coast program.
- Work to strengthen the substantial and ongoing participation of and contribution by volunteers to community life.
- Continue to plan for and invest in our network of sports, arts and community infrastructure to meet the needs of our diverse communities.
- Implement the refreshed Creative Arts Plan once endorsed by Council, with updated prescriptive action plan and acknowledgement of the annual Arts Program.
- Develop Council's Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan.
- Work collaboratively to advocate for, raise awareness and implement initiatives on domestic and family violence prevention.
- Continue to deliver, capture and celebrate our inclusion and diversity work and progress through the Welcoming Cities Framework.
- Implementation of the Housing and Homelessness Action Plan.
- Continue to ensure the voices and needs of our community are heard using best practice engagement approaches to inform Council action and decision-making.
- Deliver projects that foster youth leadership, active citizenship and empower young people to advocate and implement youth-led and youth focussed initiatives.
- Continue collaboration to support local community-led resilience and recovery activities.
- Deliver the Horizon Festival for 2023 to engage the community in arts and culture and showcase and build capacity of the local arts sector.
- In collaboration with the Community Strategy Leadership Group, deliver the new Community Strategy Action Plan 2024-2029.
- Work to finalise and implement the Inclusion Action Plan for People with Disability 2024-2028 to improve accessibility and inclusion for people with disability.
- Continue to deliver the Community Grants Program, enabling community organisations to respond to community needs and opportunities aligned with strategic priorities.
- Actively include and engage the community in the legacy planning for the Sunshine Coast as a key delivery partner in the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.



Image: Dawn Awakening, Horizon Festival, Photo: Nic Morley.



23155AA 09/23



Our region.
Healthy. Smart. Creative.

sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au
mail@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au
07 5475 7272
Locked Bag 72 Sunshine Coast Mail Centre Qld 4560