

Together we thrive

Sunshine Coast  
Community Strategy  
Annual report 2021/22





Edition 2021/22

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

07 5475 7272

Locked Bag 72 Sunshine Coast  
Mail Centre Qld 4560

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### **Reference document**

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Sunshine Coast Community  
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### **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 people.

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 and the Jinibara  
peoples.

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

Together, we are all stronger.

## Message from the Mayor and Portfolio Councillor

The Sunshine Coast Community Strategy 2019-2041 is one of three regional strategies which together contribute to the liveability and resilience of our region, the capacity of our natural assets, the productivity of our economy, and the strength of our community.

Our community told us that a strong community is healthy and active, vibrant, inclusive, connected and resilient, and creative and innovative. These are the outcomes that are being pursued collectively by Council and the community under the Community Strategy framework.

We are proud to present the Sunshine Coast Community Strategy Annual Report for 2021/22 which summarises the achievements during the latest financial year. It exemplifies the practical work being undertaken to achieve our collective long-term goals and showcases work reflecting strong social justice principles - equity of access, the efficacy of human dignity and equal opportunities for all.

Council, the Community Strategy Leadership Group, Sunshine Coast Multicultural Advisory Group, Sunshine Coast Youth Council, state and federal government departments, community organisations and community members have worked together to deliver the achievements outlined in the annual report. We will continue to work collaboratively to achieve a connected and inclusive Sunshine Coast community where together we thrive.

The Community Strategy is delivering a pathway to create a strong Sunshine Coast community and Australia's most sustainable region – healthy, smart, creative.

Mayor Mark Jamieson and  
Portfolio Councillor David Law







# The Sunshine Coast Community Strategy 2019-2041

Community Strategy Vision:  
'Together we thrive'



The Sunshine Coast Community Strategy 2019-2041 was adopted in November 2019. It provides long-term direction for how Council and our community will work together to advance our shared goal of achieving a strong community through to 2041.

The 20-year strategy helps us to build on our values and shape a community which is:

- 1 Healthy and active
- 2 Vibrant
- 3 Inclusive
- 4 Connected and resilient
- 5 Creative and innovative.

These are the five desired outcomes of the strategy. Objectives and priority actions are outlined under each outcome.

## This Annual Report

This is the second annual report highlighting achievements aligned with the Community Strategy.

Quantitative and qualitative data is drawn together and presented in this annual report to capture the broad range of outcomes that result from our work. Quantitative liveability data gathered from a survey involving 1500 residents from March 2022 is included under each outcome. Further results from the [Living on the Sunshine Coast survey](#) are available online.

The past twelve months has continued to be a complex and challenging time for Council, our partners and our community. Weather events and the continued COVID-19 pandemic have impacted some services, programs and projects and we have shown our ability to be flexible and nimble in our planning and response.

## Our Progress

We use a range of measures to help us monitor and track progress. The following indicators are the headline measures for the five outcome areas.

### Outcome 1: Healthy, active communities

The Sunshine Coast Local Government Area is one of the healthiest regional communities in Queensland.

87%

Measured by percentage of residents in good/very good/excellent health (CCS)  
2021: Above Target

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.

70%

Measured by percentage of residents who are neutral/agree/strongly agree (CCS)  
2021: Watch Target

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:  
61.6

Measured by overall liveability index (LIP)  
2022: On Target

Target: 63.9 at 2026 and equal to Regional Qld 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.

86%

Measured by percentage of residents who agree/strongly agree (CCS)  
2021: On Target

Target: ≥85% to 2041  
Baseline: 93% in 2016

### Outcome 5: Creative, innovative communities

Growth in social enterprises in the Sunshine Coast local government area.

↑6%  
(19 orgs)

Percentage increase in social enterprises (QSEC)  
June 2022: On Target

Target: >22 at 2025  
(20% increase on 2018 baseline)  
Baseline: 18 in 2021

Abbreviations: CCS: Sunshine Coast Council's Community Connections Survey, LIP: id Consulting's Living in Place Survey, QSEC: Queensland Social Enterprise Council count of social enterprise members.



## Our community:

- Residents rated their physical health as 7.4 out of 10, and their mental health as 7.5 out of 10 (higher than the Australian averages of 6.5 and 6.8 respectively). The average physical health rating was higher for women than men.<sup>1</sup>
- Residents rated their social wellbeing as 7.2 out of 10 (higher than the Australian average of 6.6).<sup>1</sup>
- Residents rated their access to the natural environment as 8.1 out of 10 (higher than the Australian average of 7.5).<sup>1</sup>
- Residents rated their ability to view and participate in sports and recreation as 6.7 out of 10.<sup>1</sup>

## Outcome 1: Healthy, Active Communities

### This year's key achievements:

#### Sunshine Coast Sports Symposium and Disability Sports Australia National Conference

More than 100 disability sports industry professionals joined the inaugural Sunshine Coast Sports Symposium headlined by the Disability Sports Australia National Conference which was held at the University of the Sunshine Coast (UniSC) on 15-17 June 2022. Presented by Disability Sports Australia and supported by Sunshine Coast Council and UniSC, the Conference brought together leaders in sport, disability, education, allied health, government and community. The 2022 conference theme was 'Runway to Brisbane 2032: Maximising collaborative participation for people with disabilities in sport'. Around 20% of the Australian population have a disability of some kind and the event was designed to break down barriers in sport and physical activity participation of Australians with disabilities.

#### Children growing their active transport participation

Hundreds of children increased their active transport participation through activities supported by Council this year. 2900 students registered with Council to take part in Ride2School Day – the highest number to date. Students of three primary schools were able to celebrate the day by storing their bikes, scooters and skateboards in new bike cage facilities, which were jointly funded by the state government. These three schools were also part of the nine Sunshine Coast schools now enjoying Council's RideScore program, which records and rewards students who ride to school. During Term 1 and 2, the RideScore program contributed to an estimated increase of over 300 children riding a bike, scooter or skateboard to school on an average day across the nine schools that participated.

*"I would love to thank you for your wonderful program [RideScore] as it has excited both my children [...] to want to ride to school. Both my children would nag every day for me to drive them, now that they are involved in this program, they look forward to all the rewards. [...] It [also] makes me feel a little bit more at ease to see the notifications come through that they have arrived at school when I have to work early."*

Parent of two children participating in RideScore program.

## Fast facts:

- Over 7.1 million visitors and 849 lives saved on our 22 patrolled beaches
- 636 recreation parks, civic parks and linear parks were maintained
- 12 community gardens supporting food security
- Around 44,000 residents were involved in formal volunteering in the twelve months to August 2021 (15.7% of the population)<sup>2</sup>
- 90 migrants completed the Migrant Learn to Swim and Beach Safety Program, gaining confidence in the pool and ocean, improving swimming skills and water safety.

*"I definitely have more confidence and have signed up to local pool to try to keep some momentum going and improve stamina/ability"*

Migrant Learn to Swim and Beach Safety Program participant

## Beach clean-up volunteering

Beach clean-up programs saw over 3000 volunteers collectively remove more than 61,000 pieces of rubbish weighing more than one and a half tonnes from 93 Sunshine Coast beach sites in 2021/22. The program incorporated five regional beach clean-up events: School Beach Clean Up, Clean Up for the Hatchlings, Clean Up Australia Day, World Environmental Day Festival and Plastic Free July.

## \$5.7 million invested in lifeguard services for beach safety

A record \$5.7 million was invested into lifeguard services in 2021/22 to ensure residents and visitors could safely enjoy our region's beaches. The investment included refurbishment of the Buddina lifeguard tower which was completed this year. More than 92,000 hours of service were funded across 22 locations, and there were approximately 849 rescues performed in the year.

<sup>1</sup> Living on the Sunshine Coast Survey 2022. Where there is a significant difference between the result for the Sunshine Coast and the Australian average, for men and women, or 2022 compared to 2021, this is specified. Where not a significant difference in values, this is not specified in this report.

<sup>2</sup> ABS Census 2021

## Project Spotlight

### Mooloolaba Northern Parkland and Adventure Playground

Council officially unveiled the Mooloolaba Northern Parkland in June 2022, marking a milestone to be remembered by the Sunshine Coast community for many years to come. The new \$16 million world-class beachfront parkland extends to 1 hectare along 350 metres of the Mooloolaba beachfront.

The area is a key connection for active recreational activities along the foreshore and provides facilities for hours of healthy and active beachfront fun on one of the region's most beloved coastlines. Over 10,000 new plants and 120 trees were included in the project to provide shade and green areas so the area can be enjoyed year-round.

The revitalisation project also included a new adventure playground with inclusive play elements – features which foster the physical, cognitive, sensory and social skills in children of all abilities and contribute to healthy child development.

The broader Mooloolaba Foreshore Revitalisation Project will increase beachfront parkland in Mooloolaba by 40% over the coming years and contribute further to the mix of inclusive facilities that support healthy and active lifestyles for our residents and visitors.

## Our community:

- Residents rated their access to shopping, leisure and dining experiences as 6.3 out of 10.<sup>3</sup>
- Residents rated their access to cultural facilities as 4.7 out of 10 (lower than the Australian average of 5.4).<sup>3</sup>

## Outcome 2: Vibrant Communities

### This year's key achievements:

#### Busy places and spaces



##### Aquatic centres

794,000 visits across 9 aquatic centres



##### Historic Houses

4000 visits



##### Libraries

706,000 visits across 8 branches and mobile libraries



##### Venue 114

40,000 attendees over 558 events



##### Caloundra Regional Gallery

15,000 visits



##### Sunshine Coast Stadium and Caloundra Indoor Centre

204,000 attendees at major event

### Supporting community infrastructure partnerships

Under the Community Grants Program, Council contributed more than \$490,000 across 64 projects to support community facilities improvements and development and more than \$1.2 million towards the operational and maintenance costs of 135 community facilities. Supporting the region's community organisations and their facilities is contributing to creating a network of community infrastructure that is safe, welcoming, inclusive, adaptable, well used and activated.

An example of the effectiveness of these investments was the grant awarded to the Maleny and District Men's Shed. The relatively small grant of \$6394 will be combined with other grants and donations to allow the group to erect an additional shed, which will be larger than their existing space. This will allow the club to expand the range of activities they can undertake together including leatherwork, lead lighting, cards and computer activities, as well as having a breakout space for meals and information sessions.

*"This shed is required to provide a quiet space for the members to gather for personal counselling, general get togethers and to attend talks on various men's health issues. Many of our members are dealing with both emotional and physical health issues and a quiet and friendly space is essential for the support and encouragement they require."*

Men's Shed member.

3 Living on the Sunshine Coast Survey 2022



## Community venues check-in

A Community Venues Check-In was undertaken by Council in 2021/22 to better understand the many community venues operating on the Sunshine Coast. Community venues provide important spaces for the community to come together through facilitated activities, groups and events, building community connections, participation and ownership. More than 400 community venues were invited to participate in the audit. Data was collected on the features of each venue, as well as their utilisation, accessibility, and improvement plans. The project provides a strong evidence base for planning of community venues, including investments to better utilise existing infrastructure.

## New and upgraded facilities

- Sunshine Coast City Hall nearing completion
- Beerwah Community Meeting Place
- Nambour Aquatic Centre splash park
- Mooloolaba Northern Parkland and Adventure Playground
- Dicky Beach skate park
- Purchase of land at Meridan Plains for sport, recreation and conservation land
- Purchase of land at Bli Bli for future sport and recreation spaces
- Palmwoods AFL/Cricket Clubhouse
- Yandina Cricket Clubhouse
- Refurbishment of Caloundra Little Athletics Clubhouse
- Lighting upgrades for Coolum Cricket, Coolum Rugby League and Coolum Football Club
- Works at Nambour Library and forecourt
- Dicky Beach, Mudjimba and Buddina Lifeguard Tower refurbishments
- Basketball facilities at Bellvista Meeting Place in Caloundra

## Fast facts:

- Over 107,000 library members
- 2.8 million physical and digital library items borrowed
- 491 amenity reserves

*"I found the [Aura] workshop engaging and interactive. It provided me with a great opportunity to both connect with others and learn from them."*

Our People, Our Places, Our Aura  
Community Workshop participant

## Project Spotlight

### Our People, Our Places, Our Aura Engagement

The "Our People, Our Places, Our Aura" engagement project exemplifies Council's place-based approach to community planning as it was designed to gather information on community views that will inform work by various Council teams across community planning, infrastructure planning, community development and engagement. This included:

- Ascertaining the values, vision and aspirations of the existing and emerging Caloundra South community, including collecting foundational community profiling information such as demographics, needs and strengths.
- Scoping the need and demand for community facilities in the area, including community perspectives on the purpose, use and value of facilities.
- Informing future community development and engagement approaches, including preferred channels for ongoing communication and consultation, and opportunities to build connectedness, cohesion, and a sense of belonging in these new suburbs.

The engagement included an online community survey and children's quiz, as well as pop-up activities and community workshop throughout the new suburbs of Baringa and Nirimba. The engagement utilised vibrant imagery to attract attention and four animated characters to appeal to the younger demographic of the locality, all with the aim to build a vibrant, connected Aura community now and into the future.

## Our community:

- The overall liveability index of the Sunshine Coast was 61.6 in 2021, this was slightly below the averages for Regional Queensland (63.9), Queensland (64.9) and Australia (65.2).<sup>4</sup>
- Residents rated social cohesion in their communities as 6.4 out of 10.<sup>4</sup>
- Residents rated access to education opportunities as 6.7 out of 10.<sup>4</sup>
- Residents rated access to job opportunities as 5.0 out of 10 and access to affordable housing as 4.3 out of 10 (lower than the Australian averages – 5.8 and 5.4 respectively but both improved since 2021).<sup>4</sup>
- Overall, residents rated access to opportunities for all as 6.0 out of 10.<sup>4</sup>



## Outcome 3: Inclusive Communities

### This year's key achievements:

#### Responding to homelessness

Council officers maintained collaborative relationships with stakeholders providing important services and support for people on the Sunshine Coast experiencing homelessness. Most notably an improved coordinated assertive outreach response enhancing responsive and timely assistance and referrals for people experiencing homelessness resulted in 85 housing outcomes since January 2022. This collaborative approach has supported the Sunshine Coast Housing and Homelessness Network to develop an action plan to respond to homelessness, as well as state government endorsement and support for a Sunshine Coast Council Housing and Homelessness Action Plan to be developed in the coming year.

#### Youth engagement

The Sunshine Coast Youth Engagement program ran over seven weeks between March and May 2022. The engagement received 1778 visitors to the online site consisting of 2745 views across the site and 614 completed surveys, plus another 16 stories contributed. The engagement found that the top three things young people loved most about living on the Sunshine Coast was their relationships with friends and family; outdoor spaces; and the environment broadly. The top three concerns for young people were youth mental health; drug and alcohol issues; and public safety. These findings will provide direction for the Youth Council to deliver collaborative actions and youth-led initiatives in some of these priority areas in the year ahead.

#### Working within Council and across communities towards Reconciliation

Council progressed implementation of its third Reconciliation Action Plan 2021-2022 (RAP) to further embed reconciliation commitments within the organisation and the region. The action plan includes 84 actions that Council and its partners will take to foster meaningful partnerships and relationships to strengthen and support social and economic opportunities for the

<sup>4</sup> Living on the Sunshine Coast Survey 2022



First Nations community. With 32 actions completed by June 2022 and a further 51 actions progressing well, achievements to date are wide ranging and include:

- **Council activities:** The installation of Acknowledgment of Country signage and Traditional Custodian plaques at additional community facilities, inclusion of a Traditional Welcome to Country at all significant events, the flying of the Aboriginal flag at Council administration buildings, work to support career development for Council's First Nations employees, and internal cultural awareness training and development for all employees.
- **Working together:** Ongoing collaborative relationships were maintained and strengthened with the introduction of monthly meetings with the Sunshine Coast First Nations Accord and Sunshine Coast First Nations Network Group to further promote a regional approach to reconciliation.
- **Events and activities:** Various events and activities were successfully organised and delivered with the First Nations community, organisations and suppliers to celebrate National Reconciliation Week and NAIDOC Week and as part of Horizon Festival. Council also supported organisations, through the Community Grants Program, to deliver cultural and family activities as part of National Reconciliation Week and NAIDOC Week. The inaugural Sunshine Coast First Nations Supplier Day was held to showcase local First Nations businesses and their ongoing contributions to the local economy.

## Anti-racism campaign developed

The "Shine a Light on Racism" campaign was developed through community partnerships using co-design practices and will be launched in early 2022/23.

The campaign is a regionally focused anti-racism campaign that calls on residents to "Do the Work" and respond to racism and actively learn to become an ally. Spearheaded by seven local patrons, the powerful [campaign video](#) and striking printed materials will be used over the following year to "Shine a Light on Racism" at various events including NRL games at the Sunshine Coast Stadium, conversations with community, sporting and business groups, and multicultural celebrations.

## Project Spotlight

### Community Strategy Leadership Group renewal

Members of the first Community Strategy Leadership Group completed their two-year tenure this year, collectively contributing over 500 hours of their time to help advance our shared goal of a strong community by delivering the priority actions outlined in the Sunshine Coast Community Strategy 2019-2041 and supporting Action Plan.

Achievements included collectively advocating for alternative approaches and understanding of housing and homelessness responses and leading the Community Strategy Forum (May 2021), which brought together approximately 100 people representing various Sunshine Coast organisations and community representation.

A new group was established and met for the first time in June 2022. The renewed group includes seven new members and four continuing members, and consists of representatives from government, community groups, organisations, agencies and service providers. In the coming year, the new group will work on guiding delivery of a stakeholder forum and the review of the Community Strategy Action Plan to continue delivering collective and responsive action with our community.

*"Everyone from their diverse background came with their own piece of the jigsaw which made us a whole. With that we were so much more powerful to advocate and be very solutions focused."*

Vicky Meyer, Community Sector Leader and 2020-2022 CSLG member



## All Access Day at the Beach celebrating International Day of People with Disability

Council partnered with Mooloolaba Surf Life Saving Club and 11 disability support services to celebrate International Day of People with Disability. All Access Day at the Beach was a free family fun event held on 3 December 2021 featuring 12 all-abilities activities, including rugby and Tai Chi. The event was attended by an estimated 200 people and promoted the importance of inclusion and accessibility on local beaches across the Sunshine Coast. A new QR code for the beach access wheelchairs has also been developed to allow Council to track ongoing usage of the service and understand satisfaction levels.

*“Thank you for all of the work [...] the team put in for this event. I think it was really valuable and I wholeheartedly support this becoming an annual event.”*

NDIS/Carers Qld

## New planning scheme preliminary engagement program

One of the largest stakeholder and community engagement programs this year was the preliminary consultation on proposed region-wide and local planning directions for the development of Council’s new planning scheme. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the extensive engagement program was initially online-only, and later some face-to-face engagement was undertaken as restrictions eased. Engagement activities included live-streamed information sessions, drop-in information sessions, presentations, interviews, workshops and an extensive marketing and communication program. Multimedia tools were used to present the consultation material in an accessible and engaging format – including videos, images, maps and icons. More than 57,000 people visited the engagement website, and over 6000 online surveys were submitted. Almost 26,000 documents were also downloaded from the website. The delivery and reach of this preliminary (non-statutory) consultation program was largely recognised by the Sunshine Coast community as a successful engagement campaign.



## Migrant Work Ready Program and New Business Ready Program

A further 26 migrants graduated from Council's award-winning Migrant Work Ready Program which helps to prepare new migrants for work in Australia and build connections with businesses seeking to employ a diverse and talented workforce. The program includes employment ready workshops, mentoring and networking opportunities that help job-seeking participants with confidence and skills that add value to the local job market. Council has worked in partnership with Nambour Community Centre, Maroochydore Chamber of Commerce, TAFE Queensland, Volunteering Sunshine Coast and Sunshine Coast Chamber Alliance Business Mentor Program to deliver the program. A new Migrant Business Ready Scholarship program was also run for those interested in starting a business. Seven people participated in the program in 2021, and all agreed that the program helped them to grow and implement their business ideas and improve their business skills.

*"This program is a magic program – I got a local job after participating in it. I [am] full of confidence after finishing this program, I love all the mentors and classmates. Finally I feel like I belong to Australia. Thanks to all the organisers and the mentors."*

Migrant Work Ready Program participant

### Fast facts:

- 40+ community engagement projects on Council's Have Your Say site
- Over 10,000 community members currently registered to the Have your Say site to keep up to date with community engagement activity
- Around 50% of participants of the Migrant Work Ready 2022 program have secured work
- A further 3500 Housing and Homelessness Directories were distributed to meet demand
- 8331 residents identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people making up 2.4% of our population<sup>5</sup>
- 70,000 residents were born overseas making up 20.7% of our population<sup>5</sup>
- 99% of Council employees have completed Council's First Nations Cultural Awareness training online, and 20% of all staff have completed face-to-face and On-Country training (June 2022)



## Our community:

- Residents rated their experience of a strong sense of community as 6.6 out of 10.<sup>6</sup>
- Residents rated their experience of feeling safe as 7.2 out of 10.<sup>6</sup>
- Residents rated their ability to make their way to and from services with relative ease as 5.4 out of 10 but rated their access to public transport as 4.4 out of 10 (both significantly lower than the Australian averages at 6.7 and 6.3 respectively). The average ability to access services rating was higher for women than men.<sup>6</sup>

## Outcome 4: Connected, Resilient Communities

### This year's key achievements:

#### Community Grants Programs

More than \$4.6 million was awarded through 875 grants for projects, events and partnerships for activities that provide direct benefits to our residents and align to Council's priorities for the year. Council's grants programs include grants to not-for-profit organisations, as well as grants to individuals such as landholder environment grants. Council's grant programs are one way Council partners with our region's community organisations to deliver important and valuable projects, programs and initiatives that enhance wellbeing and respond to community needs.

#### Response to rain event

In response to the significant rain event in February 2022, Council provided a range of supports to assist with disaster response and recovery alongside other agencies and organisations. This included coordinating evacuation centres which were utilised by 91 residents and travellers, and advising on suitable locations for outreach team to provide support and information. Council also managed 1050 requests for assistance, managed immediate and longer-term repairs for road damage and managed temporary and emergency grants for community and sporting organisations. Council worked with Volunteering Sunshine Coast to coordinate support to remove flood-damaged goods from affected properties. Council officers also participated in disaster management and recovery meetings to share information between stakeholders and monitor impacts to assist with recovery needs.





## Building collaborative partnerships with housing and homelessness sector

Council officers facilitated or attended more than 20 community meetings to support community-led initiatives and solutions that are responding to homelessness in various ways. For example, by providing permits for suitable locations to the Maroochy Neighbourhood Centre Sleepbus initiative and facilitation of a working group to hold a forum for community organisations. Council also continued to support the Homeless Hub initiative by making Sunshine Coast Stadium available for the provision of support services.

## Online engagement platform and engagement register

Council launched its new 'Have your Say' online engagement platform, offering an exciting range of participation tools and features to enhance community engagement projects and provide creative ways of engaging with our community. As a result, there has been a 27% increase in subscribers. This coincided with ongoing training and support for Council employees to deliver best-practice engagement, as outlined within the Community Engagement Policy and Excellence in Engagement Framework. A new online internal Community Engagement Register was also developed to support an improved and coordinated approach to the planning and delivery of Council's community engagement activities.

## Project Spotlight

### Domestic and Family Violence Prevention

Throughout Domestic and Family Violence (DFV) Prevention month in May, a range of initiatives were delivered in line with Council's intention to foster a safe and inclusive workplace and community.

The month started with the Sunshine Coast Lightning commemorating DFV Prevention month at a home game with the team and spectators wearing purple or purple ribbons.

More than 250 people united as one at a march and candle-lighting vigil held at Cotton Tree Park organised by Centacare and supported by Council. The vigil and march's theme was "Hear Her Voice", which asked the community to hear the voices, stories and perspectives of women and children experiencing violence.

Council also finalised the donation of 100 mobile phones to DV SafePhone, which were provided to women fleeing violence and provide a safe lifeline to essential services.

Internal efforts to support DFV prevention included new supportive signage across all Council workplaces, the provision of training presented by the DFV Prevention Council to 25 staff and the creation of an internal working group to support this work.

The month concluded with the first Darkness to Daylight walk held for Council staff at Alexandra Headland Bluff, one of the region's 4 Red Bench sites. The walk provided a meaningful opportunity for 30 staff to walk and talk about violence prevention and the role we can all play in creating safe communities.



## Inclusive-mapping pilot project

A pilot project was undertaken this year turning wheelchairs into mapping tools with specially trained local 'wheelchair pilots' and new technology to track the accessibility of routes from Maroochydore to Mooloolaba. The data was used to create an online mobility map published on Council's website for residents and visitors to use when getting around. The mobility map identifies footpaths, shared pathways, and trails accessible for people of all abilities, from mums and dads with toddlers in tow to the elderly with walkers, people using mobility aids, and anyone with wheels on pathways.

*"The Sunshine Coast Mobility Mapping exercise was a great example of how councils can work in collaboration with people with disability to co-design initiatives that can bring benefits to the community. The end result is a fantastic resource on the Sunshine Coast Council website, which people in the community (both residents and visitors) can use to reliably plan their journey when out and about within the mapped areas."*

Dane Cross, Spinal Life Australia

## Get Ready Queensland Week for Disaster preparedness

Talented Year 5 students from St Joseph's Primary School, Nambour put their own funky twist on disaster messaging for Council's annual Get Ready Queensland Week campaign in October 2021. The [colourful rap](#) calls on locals to prepare for a disaster, by asking 'When mother nature hits, will you know what to do?' and 'So get ready Sunshine Coast, make a plan to show that you know when to stay and you know when to go'. The creative tune inspired residents of all ages to take action to prepare for disaster events.

### Fast facts:

- 11,203 passenger bookings delivered and 53,924 km travelled by Council Link



## Community Grants Program:

Grant investments which align with the Community Strategy for 2021/22.

### Total Grants related to Community Strategy Outcomes

Over \$4.0m allocated

#### Partnership Grants:

\$2.4 million for 209 groups

**\$990,105**  
for 138 partner community groups

**\$763,711**  
for 48 sports fields groups

**\$610,000**  
for 19 environment groups

**\$55,000**  
for 4 recreation trail groups

#### Community Grants:

\$1.4 million for 366 projects

**\$1,155,506**  
for 179 major grants

**\$171,713**  
for 105 minor grants

**\$52,726**  
for 22 emergency grants

**\$53,655**  
for 14 festive and commemorative events grants

**\$14,450**  
for 46 industry development grants

#### Other Grants:

\$0.2 million for 39 projects

**\$61,655**  
for 10 heritage groups

**\$155,121**  
for 29 regional arts development projects

Note: \$581,192 of grants under Environment Levy and Councillor Discretionary programs are not shown in this diagram





## Outcome 5: Creative, Innovative Communities

### This year's key achievements:

#### Horizon Festival 2021

The 10-day Horizon Festival 2021 was re-imagined in response to the COVID-19 lockdown in August and was delivered in a hybrid digital and physical format over four months. A total of 53 events were delivered to audiences of over 12,000 people providing a platform for local artists to extend their practice and a way for communities to engage, experience and be inspired. Events included: I Sea U exhibition which attracted 4117 visitors to Caloundra Regional Gallery; Final Call exhibition at Maroochy Regional Bushland Botanic Garden which engaged over 4000 people; Field Trip Online Symposium which attracted 206 international digital delegates with 80 delegates at the in-person tour of Final Call; and The Bunker sold-out event which featured 23 spoken-word artists.

#### Foundation research for social enterprise support

Important foundation research was undertaken this year on the local social enterprise sector. Research was undertaken to understand the existing local context, identify relevant stakeholders and determine potential areas where Council can work with community to influence, collaborate and strengthen the sector. The research will assist with identifying future shared actions supporting our Community Strategy goal to increase the number of social enterprises operating in the Sunshine Coast and supporting local social, cultural and environmental impact.



## Heritage sector development

Several assessments were commissioned to support regional museums continue their work to preserve and share our local heritage, including significance assessments for Peachester Heritage Centre and Caloundra RSL Military Display, and preservation needs assessments for Landsborough Museum (now owned and operated by Council) and the archival collection of the Queensland Air Museum. These assessments will assist museums in prioritisation and planning, as well as providing practical advice and strategic direction for the organisations for the years ahead.

## Arts sector development

Around 260 programs were undertaken across the breadth and depth of artistic practice to support development and growth of the arts sector. Sector development included 1586 meetings with artists and arts workers, including 595 meetings with First Nations artists, organisations and arts workers. In addition, 1048 people participated in a diversity of development workshops and programs, which included 47 First Nations participants. There were 194 First Nations artists profiled and commissioned across the gallery, creative arts and the Horizon Festival, and a further five First Nations artists were employed through a partnership with seven organisations as part of a regional cross-council project.

### Fast facts:

- 2280 arts and cultural events, exhibitions and programs
- 200,000 attendees at arts events and programs
- 92% of community attendees to arts and cultural physical programs and events rated their experience as good to excellent
- 19 local social enterprise members registered on the Queensland Social Enterprise Council website.

## Project Spotlight

### Landsborough Museum

At the request of the Landsborough and District Historical Society, Council accepted responsibility to manage one of the largest community museums in south-east Queensland this year, including its collection of more than 15,000 objects.

The Landsborough and District Historical Society has operated the Landsborough Museum since 1976 and managed its collection in the former Landsborough Shire Council Chambers – a council-owned, State heritage-listed building. Due to the challenge of attracting a volunteer base, with the skills and experience required to maintain the collection and run the museum, the society requested that Council take over the reins.

Council agreed to take on the museum in November 2021 and have worked to develop plans for the management of the collection, improvements to the visitor experience and interpretation in the museum, and a strategic plan to map the future of the museum will be completed by late 2022. The museum is a key component of the planned heritage precinct in Landsborough and is critical to maintaining and sharing the region's heritage.



## Focus for year ahead

In 2022/23, 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.



Develop and deliver a new Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan that strengthens relationships and supports social and economic opportunities for the First Nations community.



Work collaboratively to raise awareness and implement initiatives on domestic and family violence prevention.



Work collaboratively to implement the Anti-Racism "Shine a Light on Racism" campaign to foster social inclusion within our community.



Develop and implement a Housing and Homelessness Action Plan to advocate and prioritise collective action to address homelessness and housing affordability and availability on the Sunshine Coast.



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 a Youth Council program that fosters youth leadership and empowers young people to advocate and implement youth-led initiatives.



Deliver the Sunshine Coast Horizon Festival for 2022 to engage the community in arts and culture and showcase and build capacity of the local arts sector.



Support and encourage growth in local employment, business and social impact through growth in social enterprises and the creative sector.



In collaboration with the Community Strategy Leadership Group, deliver a community engagement program to progress a review of the Community Strategy Action Plan 2019-2024.



Work collaboratively 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.





[sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au](http://sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au)  
[mail@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au](mailto:mail@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au)  
07 5475 7272  
Locked Bag 72 Sunshine Coast Mail Centre Qld 4560