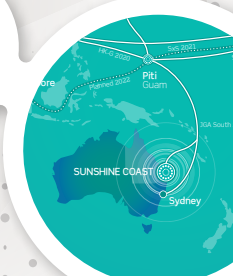


Sunshine Coast
Healthy. Smart. Creative.

2020 STATE ELECTION

Priorities for our region

Building a
**Liveable,
Connected and
Prosperous**
Sunshine Coast





Message from the Mayor

Never before has a State election been more critical for the future of Queensland and for the future of our Sunshine Coast.

This election comes at a time when our region – like others in Queensland – is endeavouring to chart a course for recovery from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

With the Australian economy now in recession and communities staring down the barrel of a long and challenging road to recovery, the essential need for our state and for our Sunshine Coast is a clear, coherent and deliverable plan for a new future following the pandemic.

That alone should not be a hard ask - but unfortunately for our Sunshine Coast, it is something that has so far been distinctly lacking from the political parties and candidates contesting the State election.

Not only is our region needing to recover from the economic fallout from the pandemic, but it is also dealing with the implications of a long legacy of under investment by successive State governments (led by both major parties) in the core infrastructure needs of our Sunshine Coast.

Maintaining the liveability of our region is a high priority for our 340,000 residents. Our liveability and the productivity of our region's economy are however, under threat given the lack of firm, funded commitments to deliver on the State's well established infrastructure responsibilities in our region.

Our Council has done a lot of the heavy lifting to strengthen our region's economy. Since 2012, we have committed to – and delivered - major region-shaping infrastructure and provided a platform for wider scale industry investment and associated jobs growth in order to provide the Sunshine Coast with a stronger economic base and make the region less susceptible to global fluctuations.

What is long overdue however, is a corresponding commitment to address the State's infrastructure responsibilities on the Sunshine Coast.

For our region to respond strongly and be well positioned for the future as the Sunshine Coast continues to grow, we need a plan from whomever forms government after 31 October 2020 that delivers enduring economic recovery that is sustainable and responsive to the lifestyle values of our residents. That plan needs to be supported by clear investment commitments relating to the State's responsibilities.

Our council is not advocating a long shopping lists of unreasonable or unjustified funding and policy commitments. What we seek is:

- 1 **a clear plan for economic recovery that builds and shapes the future resilience and prosperity of our Sunshine Coast**
- 2 **a commitment that the next government will step up and take responsibility for delivering the State's critical infrastructure responsibilities in this region – particularly in the areas of road and public transport – within the next five years**
- 3 **a modest range of policy commitments – some of which won't cost the State anything - but will go a long way to helping to preserve the liveability of our Sunshine Coast as it grows to over 518,000 people in the next 20 years.**

Our council will work with whomever forms government after 31 October 2020 to achieve these objectives.

From our perspective this is not about politics. In fact if anything, the COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated that the time for political rhetoric and one-upmanship is well and truly over.

For our Council, the commitments we are seeking at this State Election are about the future of our residents, our communities and our region – and enhancing our Sunshine Coast's already significant contribution to the Queensland economy.

MAYOR MARK JAMIESON

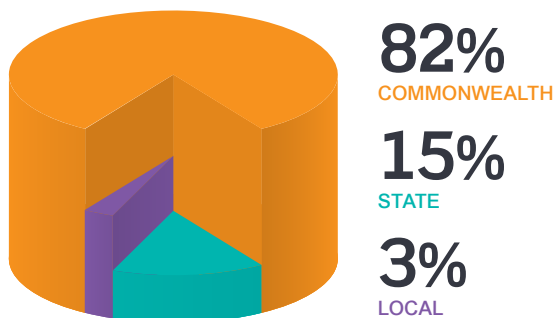
SUNSHINE COAST SNAPSHOT



What has been DELIVERED



CONTRIBUTIONS TO GOVERNMENT



Based on 2016/17 Australian Bureau of Statistics taxation data, the Sunshine Coast contributes approximately \$5 billion (82%) to Commonwealth taxation revenue and **\$1.6 billion (15%) to State revenue every year.**

WHAT DO WE NEED?

Measures to preserve the liveability of our Sunshine Coast as it continues to grow to more than half a million people in the next 20 years.

A 21st century transport network – road and public transport – which addresses decades of neglect; provides an important economic stimulus; helps to maintain the liveability of the region; and is safe, accessible and reliable.

Major stimulus to help our tourism and construction industries and their supply chain sectors get back on their feet and generate jobs through sustainable development in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.



The Sunshine Coast continues to experience significant population growth at an average annual rate of some 2.5%, with our population forecast to grow to over 518,000 people by 2041 and over 600,000 by 2050.

Over the past 20 years, the population of the Sunshine Coast has grown by 125,500 people or 67.7 per cent. This is the second highest growth rate of any region in Queensland. By comparison, Queensland's population grew by only 35 per cent over the same period.

Population growth continues to place significant pressure on the Sunshine Coast's housing, transport, employment patterns, social infrastructure and the environment. At the same time, failing to plan for how to manage and accommodate growth and do so in a way that maintains the lifestyle and landscape values of the region, will only exacerbate these impacts and undermine the liveability of our region.

Our Council recognises that south east Queensland as a whole is growing rapidly and, in the years ahead, will become home to one in six Australians.

That said, the Sunshine Coast has not received anywhere near the same levels of State investment as other areas of south east Queensland or indeed, other regional centres with smaller populations.

This perpetual oversight of the needs of the Sunshine Coast is impacting on the productivity and liveability of our region. Our state-controlled road and public transport networks are failing and are at a point where critical investment is required from the State government.

Without the necessary investment in the major road and public transport networks, there is little wonder that heavy congestion has become a daily feature of the life of many Sunshine Coast residents and is impacting on business efficiency. With the absence of a viable, accessible and efficient public transport network, the region is heavily dependent on car transport.

Our region has waited for far too long – and our Council does not accept that its critical transport needs should be secondary to those of other regions.

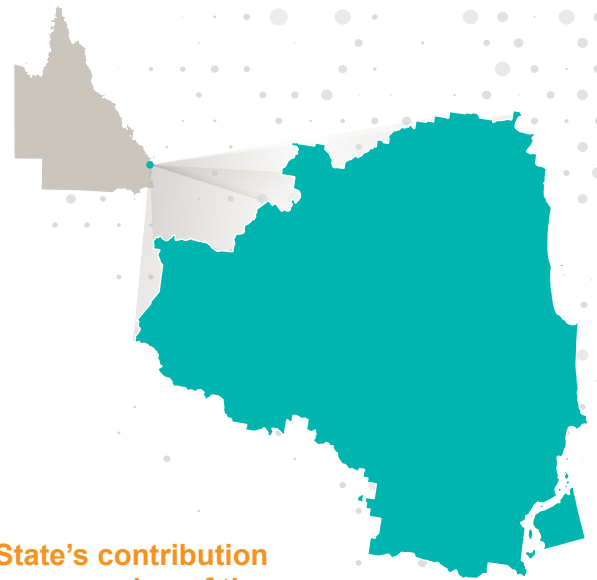
With the overriding need to get people back to work, business and industry employing and productivity improving, now is the time for a clear plan for the Sunshine Coast from whomever forms government after 31 October 2020, which addresses three major challenges:

- 1 helping to preserve the liveability of our region for current and future generations as the region continues to grow**
- 2 addressing the decades of under-investment in the State's infrastructure responsibilities – specifically, our road and public transport networks**
- 3 providing a clear economic stimulus for our Sunshine Coast that creates jobs when and where they are needed most.**



WHAT WE ARE SEEKING

Our Council is seeking the following commitments from the political parties and candidates contesting the 2020 State election.



Provide statutory protection – by primary legislation – to preserve and maintain the **regional inter-urban break**.



Endorse Sunshine Coast Council's **submission to UNESCO** for the region to secure a **Biosphere** designation.



Confirm the State's contribution to, and deliver, the **expansion of the Bruce Highway** from Steve Irwin Way at Beerburrum to the Caloundra Road Interchange **by 2025**.



Address the \$230 million funding shortfall for the **duplication of the North Coast Rail Line** from Beerburrum to Landsborough.



Maintain the existing \$7.5 million commitment to deliver the detailed business case for **Stage 1 of the Mass Transit solution by December 2022**, with the Department of Transport and Main Roads to lead the development of the detailed business case.

Subject to the outcome of the business case for the **Mooloolah River Interchange upgrade** (which is due to be completed by December 2020), **commit to fund and deliver** this critical project within the next term of government.



Provide \$100 million (to be matched by the Federal Government) to deliver the \$226 million **Sunshine Coast Convention and Exhibition facility** by 2023-2024.



Contribute \$20 million towards the \$68 million required to deliver stage 1 of the **expansion of the Sunshine Coast Stadium** (to be matched by the Federal Government).

Commit to finalise a City Deal for south east Queensland by the end of July 2021 and support the development of the candidature file (ie. bid) to **host the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games** in Queensland.



Provide policy and regulatory support for the Sunshine Coast to position itself as a **Digital Trade Hub**.

REGIONAL INTER-URBAN BREAK

The Moreton Bay to Sunshine Coast Regional Inter-urban break defines the Sunshine Coast from greater Brisbane and has considerable natural, environmental, economic and rural values that are important to protect for the Sunshine Coast today and for the decades ahead.

In the 2017 South East Queensland Regional Plan, as a result of Council's advocacy efforts, the State Government for the first time, mapped the extent of our inter-urban break. While this is a positive step forward, it does not include the area known as Halls Creek and it will not guarantee the extent of the inter-urban break is not reduced in the future.

While statutory protection should not impact on existing use rights for landowners in that area, it does signal that this landscape will continue to evolve in a way that preserves the values of the area.

Council is seeking a clear and unequivocal commitment that through primary legislation, statutory recognition and protection will be afforded to the inter-urban break, so that it cannot easily be eroded by future governments or councils.



SUNSHINE COAST UNESCO BIOSPHERE NOMINATION

On 24 October 2019, Council unanimously resolved to progress a biosphere nomination to UNESCO for the Sunshine Coast local government area.

Becoming a Biosphere will help to ensure that our Sunshine Coast community's focus on sustainability in every sense and our deep attachment to our natural environment are reflected in everything that we do. It will also be invaluable to the future, as the region seeks to contain urban sprawl by maintaining the urban footprint in future iterations of the South East Queensland Regional Plan.

Importantly, a Sunshine Coast Biosphere reserve will also embed our community values and ensure their longevity as we welcome new residents to our region as it continues to grow over the next 20 years.

Council is seeking a commitment that whomever forms government after 31 October 2020 will endorse our Biosphere nomination as an immediate priority.



BRUCE HIGHWAY

The Bruce Highway is the primary land-based transport connection between the Sunshine Coast and the rest of south east Queensland. It is already at capacity and the congestion is impeding the productivity of the Sunshine Coast, as well as areas to the north of the region that rely on the Bruce Highway for the transportation of freight and other goods and services to Brisbane.

The Federal and State governments have made a number of commitments under the 80/20 funding formula for the National Land Transport Network Agreement to facilitate the expansion of the Bruce Highway and these commitments are greatly appreciated.



What remains uncertain however, is the funding required from the State to complete the expansion of the Bruce Highway between the Steve Irwin Way interchange at Beerburrum and the Caloundra Road interchange.

With this in mind, Council is seeking a commitment to *fund and deliver* the expansion of the Bruce Highway from Steve Irwin Way at Beerburrum to the Caloundra Road Interchange by 2025.



MOOLOOLAH RIVER INTERCHANGE

The Kawana Way/Sunshine Motorway/Brisbane Road area of the region's road network (known as the Mooloolah River Interchange) is a serious bottleneck for traffic and has become more so, since the opening of the Sunshine Coast University Hospital in April 2017.

As the December 2017 Building Queensland pipeline states, the existing infrastructure at this location *"is congested and lacks capacity to accommodate forecast travel demand"*.

This was nearly three years ago and the failure of this part of the region's State controlled road network has become a daily feature of the lives of Sunshine Coast residents.



The inadequacy of this element of the road network (both now and into the future) has become even more pronounced. Council appreciates the need for investment decisions of this nature to be properly informed and evaluated and welcomed the commencement in 2019 of the detailed business case to inform the decision-making process. Council understands the detailed business case will be completed by December 2020.

Subject to the outcome of the business case, Council seeks a commitment to *fund and deliver* the Mooloolah River Interchange upgrade within the 2020-2024 term of government.



NORTH COAST RAIL LINE DUPLICATION

The Sunshine Coast's transport network connectivity to Brisbane is debilitating, with the current rail link a single track, on an alignment that has been in place since the 1880s and located away from where over 80% of the region's population reside.

The future productivity of the region is heavily dependent on being able to move people between where they work, live and recreate in an efficient and sustainable manner, in order to not compromise the liveability of the Sunshine Coast as it continues to grow.



An upgraded, 21st century rail link to Brisbane is consistent with the priorities in the South East Queensland Regional Plan, the Sunshine Coast Regional Economic Development Strategy and the Sunshine Coast Integrated Transport Strategy and is long overdue. It is unacceptable that at this point in time, there remains a funding shortfall, largely due to short-sighted political brinkmanship.

Council is seeking a commitment that whomever forms government will resolve the \$230 million funding deficit for the duplication of the North Coast Rail Line from Beerburrum to Landsborough.



MASS TRANSIT DETAILED BUSINESS CASE

Our region's lifestyle and its natural environment are at risk due to the very high dependence on private motor vehicle travel and the absence of a reliable, accessible public transport network.

A more efficient, accessible and reliable public transport network to service the high-growth coastal corridor and which connects to the regional rail network is critical to relieving current and future congestion of the road network as the population continues to grow at forecast rates. Investing in road infrastructure alone is not the solution.

Forecasts already show that 830,000 extra car trips are anticipated each day on our roads if the focus remains on catering for vehicular traffic, without shifting people to more sustainable transport options like public transport, in the areas where the majority of these vehicular movements are occurring.

The Sunshine Coast Mass Transit project is an important element of Council's plan to manage the region's forecast growth – to provide a step change to public transport that can set the region on a path to sustainable transport and appropriate urban development.

Council is therefore, seeking a commitment to honour the existing \$7.5 million contribution (approved in May 2019 by the Queensland Government) towards the development of the detailed business case for the mass transit solution – and that consistent with the approach taken with detailed business cases, the Department of Transport and Main Roads will lead this work in consultation with Council.



SUNSHINE COAST STADIUM EXPANSION – STAGE 1

The \$68 million, first stage of the expansion of the Sunshine Coast Stadium will deliver a venue with the capability to stage national sport and large entertainment events. A national standard stadium is a 'missing piece' of the core economic and community infrastructure mix for a region of this size and its projected growth.



Sunshine Coast Stadium services a catchment population of more than one million people and has already demonstrated the ability to attract and host major events, including NRL regular season fixtures and major entertainment acts such as Sir Elton John. The venue has also played host as the 'home ground' for the Melbourne Storm during most of the 2020 NRL season.

The expansion of the Stadium is forecast to deliver an estimated 300 jobs and provide a significant boost to the tourism sector in the region through the ability to attract a wider range of events. In this context, this project provides an important economic stimulus measure that will support the construction, tourism, major events and sport and entertainment industries.

The expansion will provide an increase in total seating capacity to 16,618 seats (10,572 fixed seats) and a higher standard of player and spectator experience, allowing an even greater opportunity to attract national and international events, bringing with them significant economic benefit to the region and Queensland.

Through contributions from Sunshine Coast Council (\$17 million) and local philanthropic sources (\$11 million), the region is committing \$28 million towards this project. The balance of funding (i.e. \$40 million) is being sought as a collective commitment from each of the Australian and Queensland governments.

Council is seeking a commitment of \$20 million towards the \$68 million required to deliver stage 1 of the expansion of the Sunshine Coast Stadium.



SUNSHINE COAST CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION FACILITY

The proposed \$226 million Sunshine Coast Convention and Exhibition facility is based on more than 20 years of planning and is region-shaping infrastructure that will stimulate the business and cultural hub of the Sunshine Coast. It will offer a major contribution to growing the diversity and strength of the region's tourism, premier events and knowledge industries.

At more than 23,000 square metres, the convention and exhibition facility will be the most flexible meeting and indoor events venue between Brisbane and Cairns, situated in the Maroochydore City Centre.

The detailed business case for this facility, which was jointly funded by the Queensland Government and Council and completed in June 2019, presents a compelling case for government investment in this facility. The detailed business case confirms that the facility is viable; will increase business tourism and events; increase high-value employment opportunities; and its flow-on impacts will provide a \$423 million benefit to the region's economy.

A project of this nature offers an opportunity for a substantial and meaningful economic stimulus with enduring benefit for the Sunshine Coast. The detailed business case forecasts this project is expected to generate 354 fulltime equivalent (FTE) jobs during construction and a further 286 FTE jobs during each year of operation.

Council has always identified that this project will need to be funded by State and Federal governments and that it will generate substantial employment opportunities, both in construction and in ongoing operations, as well as supporting growth in supply chain sectors.

Council is seeking a commitment of \$100 million (to be matched by the Federal Government) to deliver the Sunshine Coast Convention and Exhibition facility by 2023-2024.



DIGITAL TRADE HUB

In March 2020, the Sunshine Coast international broadband submarine cable network was commissioned into service, providing the fastest direct data and telecommunications connectivity from the eastern seaboard of Australia to Asia.



The submarine cable network provides a platform to fundamentally change the fabric of industry and employment on the Sunshine Coast.

The demand for data, transmission speed and reliability has escalated phenomenally during the COVID-19 pandemic and this provides an opportunity to position the Sunshine Coast as a knowledge based, digital trade hub which leverages off its direct international broadband connectivity.

The Sunshine Coast is ideally placed to become Australia's first recognised digital trade hub. A digital trade hub encourages support for private sector investment in cybersecurity and new technologies such as digital twin laboratories and Blockchain technology. This provides new avenues for the growth in precision engineering and advanced manufacturing and helps to expand the export of our agricultural products, health, wellbeing, sport science and rehabilitation and education services.

Council cannot establish a digital trade hub on its own. It will require policy and legislative support from the State, research and development and export promotion in new markets.

Council is seeking a commitment that policy and regulatory support will be provided for the Sunshine Coast to position itself as a digital trade hub.



SOUTH EAST QUEENSLAND CITY DEAL AND 2032 OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES

The proposed South East Queensland (SEQ) City Deal provides the opportunity to lock in commitments by all tiers of government over the next 15-20 years to major infrastructure for SEQ, including the Sunshine Coast.



A centrepiece of the proposed City Deal is a connected SEQ, with investment in a contemporary fast rail solution which would potentially connect the Sunshine Coast with Brisbane in approximately 45 minutes, and from there to other locations in SEQ.

The fast rail solution provides the opportunity to connect the Sunshine Coast with SEQ in a seamless and accessible manner, which will assist to alleviate congestion on the major arterial road network and enhance the liveability of our region.

The City Deal also provides the platform for the delivery of the transport infrastructure and network that would underpin a successful bid for Queensland to host the

2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Hosting the Games will provide a substantial economic boost for the region in the lead up to, and following, the Games, providing a much-needed stimulus to the tourism and construction industries over the course of the next decade and placing our Sunshine Coast on the map as a key location for the staging of a number of Olympic and Paralympic events.

The City Deal and the Games bid cannot be allowed to languish and fail, given the substantial economic and community development opportunities they will deliver for our region.

To this end, Council is seeking a commitment to agree to negotiate with the Federal Government and the Council of Mayors South East Queensland (COMSEQ) to finalise a City Deal for south east Queensland by the end of July 2021 and support the development of the candidature file (i.e. bid) to host the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Queensland.





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Authorised by Mayor Mark Jamieson for the Sunshine Coast Council. 130-134 Currie Street Nambour Qld 4560.
Printed by The Ink Spot Printers. 4/123 Sugar Road Maroochydore Qld 4558.