

A group of people, including a woman in a blue dress, a woman in a white top and black skirt, and a man in a dark shirt, are walking away from the camera on a wooden boardwalk. A small black dog is walking with them. The boardwalk is surrounded by dense, green trees and foliage, creating a canopy effect. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day.

Growing sustainably

your questions answered



We are growing

THE SUNSHINE COAST IS A POPULAR PLACE – AND HAS BEEN FOR SEVERAL DECADES. THE HISTORIC GROWTH OF THE SUNSHINE COAST IS CONTINUING WITH MORE PEOPLE COMING HERE FOR WORK AND BUSINESS, AS WELL AS TO ENJOY THE CLIMATE, BEACHES, WATERWAYS, HINTERLAND AND RAINFORESTS WE LOVE.

The good news is a bigger population doesn't have to threaten our local lifestyle on the Sunshine Coast. Council continues to work with our communities to protect our favourite places and environments, all whilst welcoming new people to our area.

When populations increase — good design and thoughtful planning can safeguard a place from changing in negative ways.

If nothing is done, population growth can result in more traffic congestion, higher housing prices and a loss of local identity. A failure to plan positively for the future would be a plan to fail our region.







We all need to think ahead

WE NEED TO THINK AHEAD SO THAT YOU, AS WELL AS YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS, CAN ENJOY OUR CLIMATE, BEACHES, WATERWAYS, HINTERLAND AND RAINFORESTS FOR YEARS TO COME.

Here on the Sunshine Coast, we are taking positive steps to balance environmental and landscape protection with the process of growth and change. How? By protecting green spaces and natural environments, investing in a quality public transport network and asking our communities what they want for the future.

More people more possibilities

THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT HAVING MORE PEOPLE CAN BRING ADDITIONAL CHALLENGES. HOWEVER, MORE PEOPLE CAN ALSO DELIVER BENEFITS FOR OUR COMMUNITIES.

With the right planning, a growing population can lead to more and better:

Places for entertainment and fun

Jobs and places to study

Affordable housing options to suit different incomes and lifestyles

Local health care services

Paths and trails for walking and biking

Public spaces to connect with nature

Quality public transport options that are frequent, safe and speedy

Roads to connect communities









Q HOW DO WE PROTECT WHAT WE LOVE ABOUT THE SUNSHINE COAST IF MORE PEOPLE COME HERE?

A Our planning has a strong focus on protecting the environment and our quality of life. We need to maintain this focus and be thoughtful about where growth takes place and how we design our buildings, public spaces, roads, corridors, as well as bikeways and footpaths. Our local designers, architects, builders and Council can help us do this in a way that protects our current lifestyle.

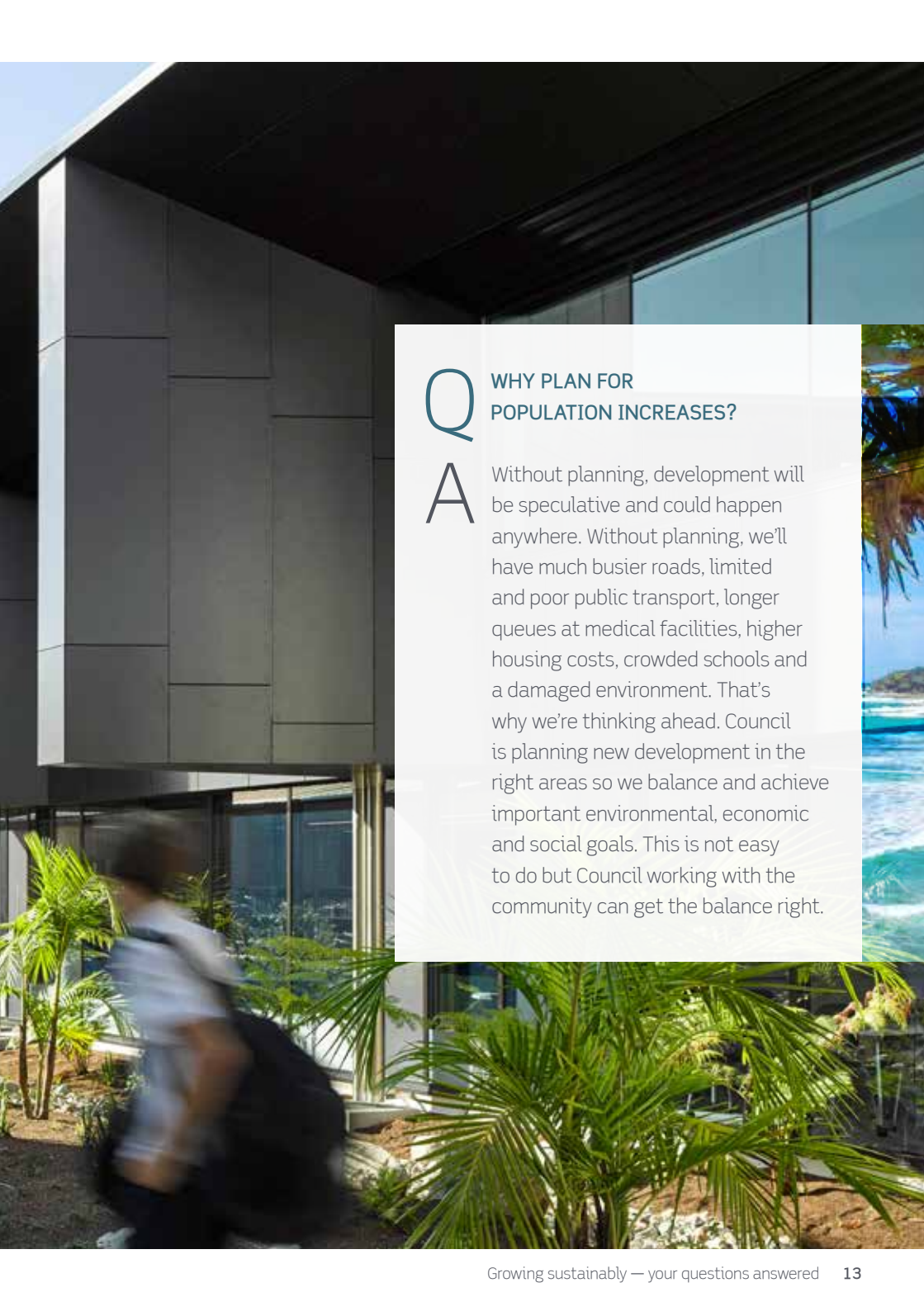


Q WHY ARE SO MANY PEOPLE MOVING HERE?

A Lots of people love the Sunshine Coast as a beautiful place to live and work. The COVID-19 pandemic drove people to move to the Sunshine Coast, as well as encouraging more locals to stay or return. It's no surprise that the Sunshine Coast and our communities are so appealing to so many. Council can't stop people moving here, but we can balance the need for new housing and workplaces with protecting what we love about where we live.

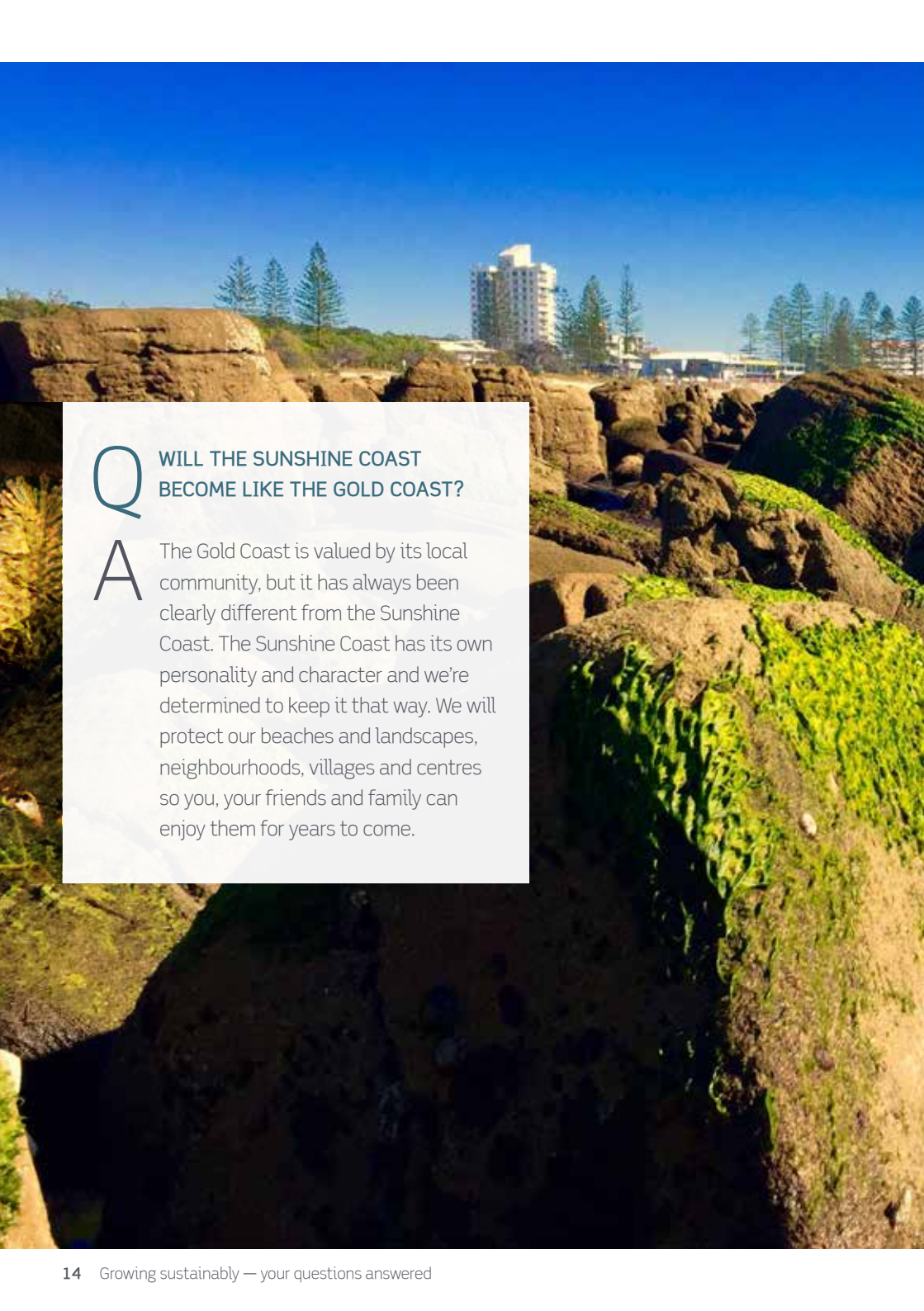






Q WHY PLAN FOR POPULATION INCREASES?

A Without planning, development will be speculative and could happen anywhere. Without planning, we'll have much busier roads, limited and poor public transport, longer queues at medical facilities, higher housing costs, crowded schools and a damaged environment. That's why we're thinking ahead. Council is planning new development in the right areas so we balance and achieve important environmental, economic and social goals. This is not easy to do but Council working with the community can get the balance right.



**Q WILL THE SUNSHINE COAST
BECOME LIKE THE GOLD COAST?**

A The Gold Coast is valued by its local community, but it has always been clearly different from the Sunshine Coast. The Sunshine Coast has its own personality and character and we're determined to keep it that way. We will protect our beaches and landscapes, neighbourhoods, villages and centres so you, your friends and family can enjoy them for years to come.








Q HOW IS COUNCIL PROTECTING WHAT WE LOVE ABOUT THE SUNSHINE COAST?

A Council is balancing different interests to protect the Sunshine Coast identity, character and natural environment. The Sunshine Coast has many projects to protect the environment, improve transport, develop new workplaces and housing. These projects help to support a strong economy, provide essential infrastructure and reduce the pressure of more growth and development on our natural environment. Council has taken a strong stance on the protection of green spaces, limiting building heights and setting growth limits as key elements of a long term growth management strategy.



Q WHAT CAN BE DONE ABOUT THE HIGH PRICE OF BUYING AND RENTING A HOME ON THE SUNSHINE COAST?

A Housing prices on the Sunshine Coast have increased and are now well beyond national and state averages. This is because the Sunshine Coast is a very desirable place to live and there is not enough housing to match the demand from existing and new residents. This has led to high prices for buying and renting homes.

Council is working to address the mismatch between housing demand and supply by seeking more opportunities to build quality affordable homes. Those homes might be single houses, townhouses or apartments. A good mix of these housing types will be built into our future planning requirements.

Council is also working with partners such as the State government and community housing companies to provide more public and community housing for people who are homeless or at risk of becoming so.







Q HOW IS THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT GOING TO BE PROTECTED?

A To protect our natural environment, Council's Plan clearly identifies the areas that can be developed. Any new development must be contained within these areas. This approach intentionally shapes and manages the physical extent of growth, protects large tracts of habitat, agricultural and rural lands, and the identity of our neighbourhoods, towns and villages.

Got **more** questions
you want answered?

**CONTACT COUNCIL'S
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