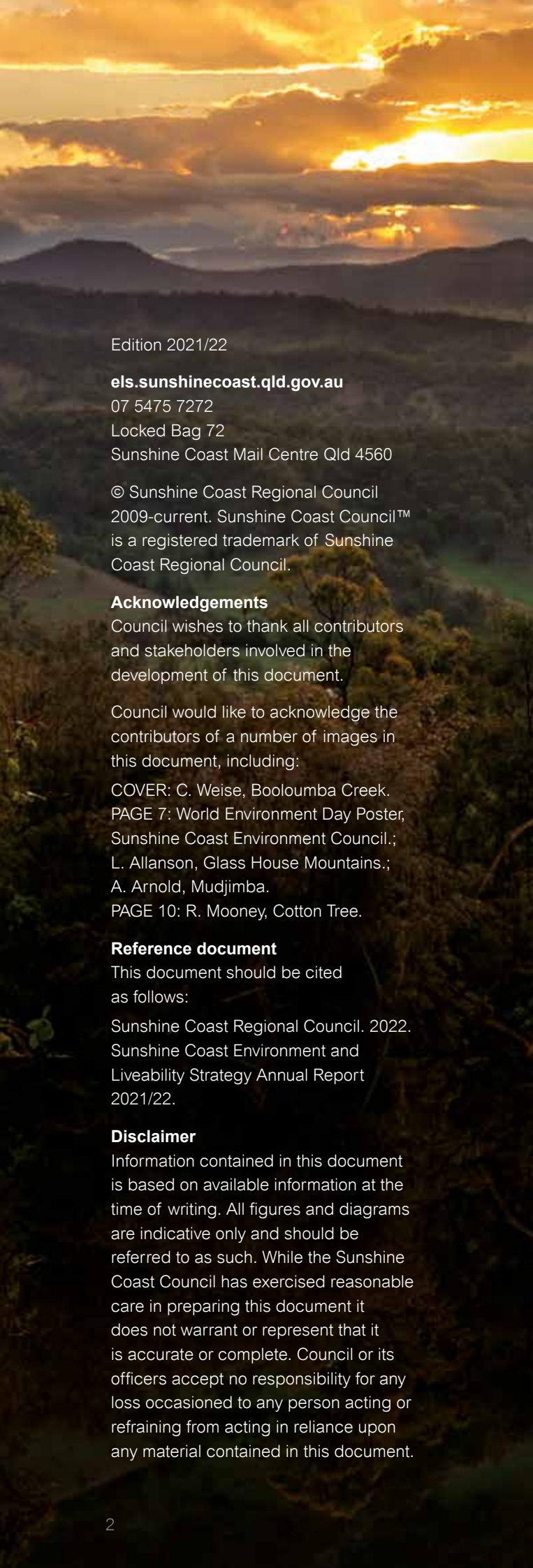


Delivering a healthy environment
and liveable Sunshine Coast

Sunshine Coast
Environment and Liveability Strategy
Annual Report 2021/22





Edition 2021/22

els.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au

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Acknowledgements

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and stakeholders involved in the
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Council would like to acknowledge the
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COVER: C. Weise, Booloumba Creek.
PAGE 7: World Environment Day Poster,
Sunshine Coast Environment Council.;
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PAGE 10: R. Mooney, Cotton Tree.

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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 our Mayor and Environment and Liveability Portfolio Councillors

On the Sunshine Coast we are passionate about preserving and enhancing our natural environment and the liveability of the region.

2021/22 marks the fifth implementation year of Council's Environment and Liveability Strategy (ELS), which continues to assist in the delivery of a healthy environment and liveable Sunshine Coast.

One of three long-term regional strategies, the ELS demonstrates Council's forward thinking and real actions as we plan for our growing population and the challenges and opportunities associated with climate change.

During the 2021/22 financial year, we continued to stay true to our ELS vision and have delivered several incredible initiatives – the biggest of which was our international recognition as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve in conjunction with our community.

It was a historic announcement for our Sunshine Coast and will help us protect and enhance our region, communities, economy and natural environment – now and for future generations.

A biosphere designation celebrates people and nature and shows the world we are a community where responsible development and people learning, working, living, and playing sustainably sit alongside active conservation.

As another outcome, Council recognised that we are in a state of climate emergency that requires urgent and sustained effort to achieve net zero emissions by 2041. This action further supports our proactive approach to developing and implementing strong climate change policy that is evidence-based and aligned with the best available science.

Mayor Mark Jamieson
Councillor Peter Cox
Councillor Maria Suarez

As part of our ongoing climate change response, Council in partnership with Noosa Shire Council progressed the development of a Regional Climate Action Roadmap to identify paths forward to address climate risk and opportunities and to build our collective capacity to respond efficiently and innovatively to a changing climate.

We also endorsed our Recreation Parks Plan which outlines the strategic direction for parks across the region until 2031. Our parks provide the region with spaces for social, recreational and cultural activities, connecting people with nature and providing a huge variety of opportunities to enjoy. This plan is critical as we deliver recreation parks that provide even better experiences for users with appropriate functions, activities and infrastructure.

This annual report also provides a snapshot of our organisation's environment sustainability results, including our greenhouse gas emissions.

By continually monitoring and measuring our environment sustainability performance, we can track our progress and identify opportunities to improve how we operate as well as new models for how we deliver sustainable council services into the future.

We encourage you to read this annual report to learn more and share with others about the wonderful work we all continue to do on our proactive journey to becoming Australia's most sustainable region. Healthy. Smart. Creative.



The Environment and Liveability Strategy

Our strategy was adopted in September 2017. This Annual Report showcases our fifth year of implementation.



OUR ENVIRONMENT AND LIVEABILITY GOAL

Our natural assets, healthy environment, liveability attributes and environment credentials are maintained and enhanced.

This is one of five strategic goals of Sunshine Coast Council's *Corporate Plan 2022-2026* that provides the blueprint to advance our vision over the next five years on behalf of our community.

Strategic pathways

Outcomes are being delivered through five strategic pathways:

- 1 A resilient region shaped by clever planning and good design
- 2 Protection and enhancement of our natural assets and distinctive landscapes
- 3 Responsive, accessible and well managed assets and infrastructure
- 4 Transition to a sustainable and affordable way of living
- 5 A reputation for innovation and sustainability.

What is the purpose of the strategy?

The strategy provides long-term strategic direction to guide growth and shape the Sunshine Coast for future generations to 2041.

It focuses on the natural environment and how it can be preserved and enhanced, as well as the liveability of the region. It enables a good quality of life for all residents, while supporting a strong economy in an accessible and well-connected built environment.

Why is it needed?

In this rapidly changing world there are many challenges and opportunities for our much-loved Sunshine Coast way of life. We face an increasing population, changing climate, economic growth and emerging technologies.

The strategy helps us to navigate through these challenges while harnessing opportunities. Its integrated and long-term approach to guiding development of the Sunshine Coast offers clarity, inspiration and direction.

The strategy is a forward-looking document and seeks to do things differently.

Our progress

We use annual performance measures to help us monitor and track progress.

TARGET	BASELINE	2021/22	2021/22 OUTCOME
No loss of the Regional Inter-urban Break in its current extent	32,034 ha	32,034 ha	No change to the current extent
Hectares of land per 1000 residents acquired through Environment Levy for conservation and preservation purposes maintained	9.6 ha per 1000 residents	11.25 ha per 1000 residents*	165.5 ha acquired
Hectares of land per 1000 residents for sport and recreation purposes maintained	4.74 ha per 1000 residents	4.65 ha per 1000 residents*	230 ha secured
Renewable energy capacity increased	124.8 MW	388.1MW	Increase of 69.5 MW [^]
Council's greenhouse gas emissions reduced	0.58 tCO ₂ e per resident	0.62 tCO ₂ e per resident*	Increase of 0.05 tCO ₂ e per resident [^]

* Based on a population forecast figure of 360,108 (30 June 2022). Queensland Treasury, *Queensland Government population projections*, 2018 edition, medium series.

[^] Compared to 2020/21 results.

The annual performance measure for sport and recreation purposes includes strategic lands for which open space categories will be confirmed through future master planning and may result in changes to the performance measure outcome.

ha – Hectares
MW – Megawatts
tCO₂e – Tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent

Find out what's happening in your backyard

There's an easy way for you to stay up-to-date on what's happening in your local area and across the whole region.

Search online via your postcode to view Council projects and initiatives that are helping to deliver a healthy environment and liveable Sunshine Coast.

For more information go to els.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au



Scan me!

A snapshot of our achievements

Expand our green space



We secured more than 450 hectares of new lands for conservation and recreation purposes.

Strategic Pathway	1	2	3	4	5
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Create great places and spaces



We secured land at Baringa and Birtinya for new community facilities and future opportunities for creative, community and active experiences.

Beerwah Community Meeting Place opened providing flexible, multi-functional and adaptable meeting areas for our community.

Strategic Pathway	1	2	3	4	5
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Proactive planning for the expected impacts of climate change



Council recognised that we are in a state of climate emergency that requires urgent and sustained effort to achieve net zero emissions by 2041.

We undertook a collaborative approach with Noosa Shire Council to address climate risk now and into the future.

Strategic Pathway	1	2	3	4	5
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Your environment levy in action



We delivered a \$13.17m Environment Levy Program to support land acquisitions, on-ground activities and research and community partnerships that protect and enhance our natural environment. Highlights include the construction of the Regional Erosion and Sediment, Education Trial site and delivery of the Weeds Taskforce project.

Strategic Pathway	1	2	3	4	5
-------------------	---	---	---	---	---

An involved community



The 2021 Sunshine Coast Schools Beach Clean-up was a huge success with 10 schools participating, removing almost 100kg of rubbish from 14 beaches across the region.

Strategic Pathway	1	2	3	4	5
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Be prepared



Council adopted the Stormwater Management Strategy to set the framework and direction for effective stormwater management in the region.

We released updated flood mapping and information to inform emergency preparedness and land use planning.

Strategic Pathway	1	2	3	4	5
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Connect nature and people



We endorsed the Recreation Parks Plan outlining the strategic direction for parks across the region until 2031.

The Mooloolaba Northern Parkland opened extending 340 metres along the beachfront. It offers healthy and active fun including a playground, boardwalks and a viewing deck and public amenities.

Sunshine Coast Ecological Park planning continued with the establishment of a Community Reference Group and Excellence Advisory Panel to help inform the development of the master plan. Master planning for Point Cartwright and La Balsa Park was also progressed.

Strategic Pathway	1	2	3	4	5
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Build our knowledge



We installed 50 environmental sensors across the region to understand conditions such as heat in our urban areas, enabling us to improve future design decisions and develop better mitigation strategies for urban heat.

In partnership with the University of the Sunshine Coast and Friends of Maroochy Regional Bushland Botanic Gardens, we have used heat-seeking drones and detector dogs to uncover how many koalas live in the Maroochy Regional Bushland Botanic Garden and how healthy they are.

Strategic Pathway	1	2	3	4	5
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Blue Heart Sunshine Coast partnership



Blue Heart Sunshine Coast was successful in securing additional funding to support the delivery:

- Over \$35m as part of the SEQ City Deal to help ensure the Maroochy River catchment continues to play its important flood storage role and maintain its biodiversity into the future.
- \$2m from the Commonwealth Government to deliver a blue carbon wetland restoration project – restoring former farming land to coastal wetlands.

Strategic Pathway 1 2 3 4 5

Our Resilient Coast. Our Future.



Council commenced implementation of the Coastal Hazard Adaptation Strategy including:

- Stage 2 of Maroochy Groyne Field Renewal Project commenced to help shield the Cotton Tree foreshore from the current and future impacts of coastal erosion.
- Nearshore Beach Nourish Trial commenced at Maroochydoore Beach to reduce the risk of coastal erosion.
- The CoastSnap program, a citizen science project designed to measure beach erosion/changes and recovery over time.
- Successful in receiving grant funding to compare coastal hazard adaptation options at Maroochydoore and Mooloolaba.

Strategic Pathway 1 2 3 4 5

SUNSHINE COAST BIOSPHERE

The Sunshine Coast was officially recognised internationally as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. The region now proudly stands as an international site of excellence and an area of natural beauty. A biosphere is a special place. It is a place where responsible development and people living sustainably sit alongside active conservation.

- It's about creating a legacy for our children's future.
- It's about caring for our beautiful landscapes and stunning beaches.
- It's about leveraging economic opportunities to grow local businesses.

Strategic Pathway 1 2 3 4 5

Community events for a sustainable future



We continued to deliver our Living Smart Program and also held events and activities for our community including:

- World Environment Day Festival 50th year celebration
- National Recycling Week
- Plastic Free July
- Sunshine Coast Open House.

Strategic Pathway 1 2 3 4 5

Protecting the Regional Inter-urban Break



We advocated to the State Government for the protection of the entire Regional Inter-urban Break to secure the environmental, production and recreation values.

Strategic Pathway 1 2 3 4 5

Strategic Pathways	1	A resilient region shaped by clever planning and good design
	2	Protection and enhancement of our natural assets and distinctive landscapes
	3	Responsive, accessible and well managed assets and infrastructure
	4	Transition to a sustainable and affordable way of living
	5	A reputation for innovation and sustainability

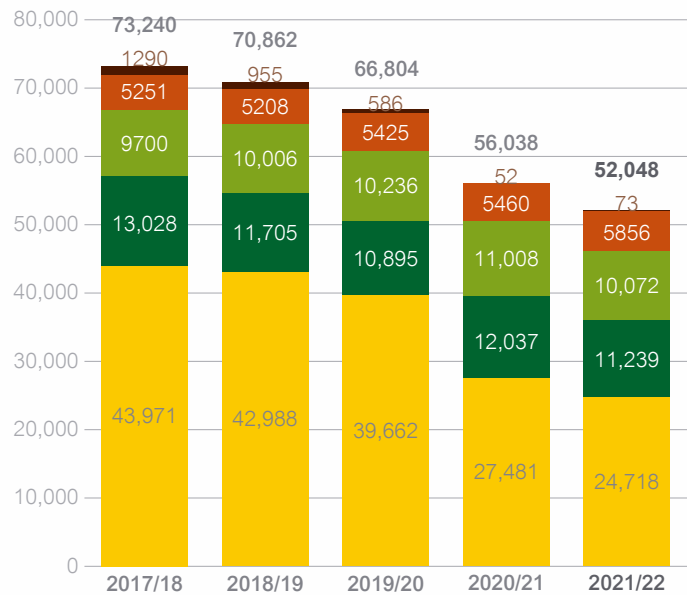
Sustainability in focus

Becoming a zero-net emissions organisation by 2041 is a Transformational Action of Council's Environment and Liveability Strategy.

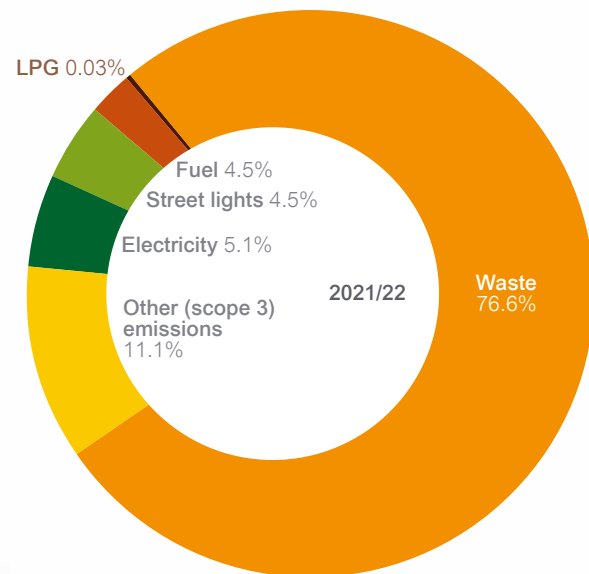
To track our progress, we need to understand our current greenhouse gas emissions and environmental sustainability performance. Each year Council prepares an Organisational Environmental Sustainability Benchmarking Report. It provides a comprehensive view of any trends, changes and/or challenges we are facing on our journey to achieving sustainability objectives. The report allows Council to track our environmental sustainability performance over time and monitor our progress towards important targets.

The data on these pages is a snapshot of our 2021/22 performance. A copy of the full report is available via Council's website.

Council emissions (excluding Council and community waste emissions)



Council emissions (including Council and community waste)



Waste (including Council and community waste)	170,476 tCO ₂ e from waste in landfills	76.6%
Other (scope 3) emissions	24,718 tCO ₂ e including goods and services produced by a third party	11.1%
Electricity from our large and small sites	11,329 tCO ₂ e	5.1%
Street lights[€]	10,072 tCO ₂ e from our street lights	4.5%
Fuel	5856 tCO ₂ e from our fleet vehicles and bulk diesel supply	2.6%
Liquid petroleum gas (LPG)	73 tCO ₂ e that is used at Council's sites	0.03%

€ Streetlight consumption has been accounted for separate from 'electricity' as it is a significant proportion of the electricity emissions.

GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS
222,524
tCO₂e

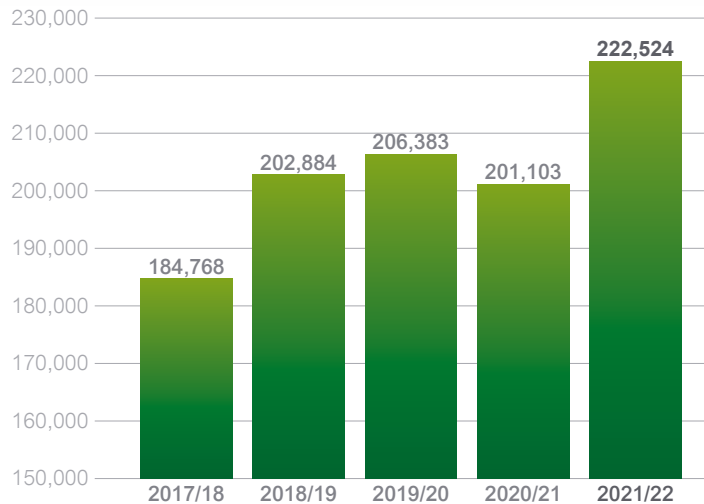


ZERO-NET EMISSIONS BY 2041

TOTAL EMISSIONS ↑ **10.7%** increase

PER RESIDENT ↑ **0.05 tCO₂e** increase

Change in greenhouse gas emissions (tCO₂e)



ELECTRICITY
26,422
megawatt hours
CONSUMED



ANNUAL CHANGE ↓ **0.3%** decrease

RENEWABLES
15,485
kilowatts
solar **INSTALLED**



ANNUAL CHANGE ↑ **6kW** increase

WATER
517,928
kilolitres
USED



ANNUAL CHANGE ↑ **2.7%** increase



WASTE
5789
tonnes
GENERATED
by Council

3580
tonnes of
Council waste
DIVERTED
from landfill

ANNUAL CHANGE ↓ **22.6%** decrease ↓ **32.9%** decrease

TRANSPORT
561
fleet vehicles



4.3% hybrid/electric ↑ **+3** hybrid vehicles



PROGRAMS + PROCESSES
\$300M
SPENT with local
business

TOTAL PURCHASING EXPENDITURE **71%** Local spend ↑ **8.6%**

FUEL
2,142,492
litres
USED



ANNUAL CHANGE ↑ **6.9%** increase

For this reporting year, the methodology for calculating waste emissions was updated in line with new methane global warming potential for legacy waste and more accurate audit data, resulting in a proportionate increase to our total emissions footprint.

We won a handful of awards

Australia's first smart city streetscape in Caloundra, has won a **national award** for its innovation at the **Australian Institute of Landscape Architects 2021**.

Sunshine Coast Design received **commendation** in the Strategic Planning Project category at the **2021 Awards for Planning Excellence – QLD**.

Mooloolaba Boardwalk and Parkland Project awarded the **2021 Green Space Urban Award** by the **Australian Institute of Horticulture Inc.**

Sunshine Coast Recreation Parks Plan won the **Strategic and Master Planning Award** at the **Parks and Leisure Australia – QLD awards**.

Nambour Forecourt Revamp won the **Landscape Architecture Award for Small Projects** and the **Regional Achievement Award** for Sunshine Coast at the **Australian Institute of Landscape Architects Awards 2022 – QLD**.

Cribb Street Landsborough Activation Project was a finalist in the **Community Contribution** category of the **Australian Institute of Landscape Architects Awards 2022 – QLD**.

Council's Maroochy Groyne Project won the **Excellence Award for best project between \$1-2 million** and received a **High Commendation for Coastal Engineering** at **2021 Institute of Public Works Engineering Australasia Queensland**.

The Landsborough Placemaking Activation Program was the winner of the **Gold Urban Design award** at the **Driven x Design Gov Design Awards 2022**.

Focus for year ahead

In 2022/23, we'll maintain our momentum and continue the delivery of our 26 Transformational Actions and key Council services.



Zero emissions organisation

Delivering a zero-net emissions organisation and transitioning to a renewable energy future.



Healthy coast

Providing a strategic and coordinated approach to the protection, sustainable use and enjoyment of our dunes, beaches, rocky shores and near-shore marine waters.

For a full suite of actions and tasks visit our website – els.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au.



Greening our neighbourhoods

Delivering cool and shady streets and places to connect and enhance our neighbourhoods and promote biodiversity, resilience and community wellbeing.



Great places and spaces

In partnership with industry and community develop a network of contemporary places and spaces that provide and support opportunities for creative, community and active experiences.



Being prepared

Proactively planning for the impacts of climate change and natural hazards to build the resilience of the region.



Expanding the green space

Securing and activating space for future generations through accelerated strategic land programs to improve conservation, flood mitigation and sport and recreation opportunities.

It's been five years

The ELS has been implemented for the last five years since Council adoption in 2017. In 2022/23, planning is underway to review the strategy to ensure it remains future focused and continues to provide long-term strategic directions to deliver a healthy environment and liveable Sunshine Coast in 2041.



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