

Sunshine Coast Council
Transport Levy Annual Report
2017-2018





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Acknowledgements

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August 2018

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Message from the Mayor Your Transport Levy in action



The annual Transport Levy continues to play an important role in improving connectivity within the region.

In the past 12 months, we have witnessed some great examples of the Transport Levy in action with council-led initiatives across our region.

Transport Levy funds enabled council to assist TransLink with the introduction of the *go explore* card, which offers unlimited one-day travel on Sunshine Coast Sunbus services.

The Transport Levy also helps keep our Hinterland residents connected, supporting the Conondale to Maleny (via Witta) and Peachester to Beerwah Flexilink services, providing an important and affordable transport service.

Our Council Link services, growing in popularity with our older and less mobile residents, help around 300 passengers a week to stay connected with their communities.

We've also upgraded more than a dozen of our bus stops, with improvements for disability access a major focus.

Our Transport Levy is also helping us plan for the future transport needs of one of Australia's fastest growing regions as we grow by a further 200,000 residents over the next two decades.

Improving the transport infrastructure and services available to our current and future residents and visitors is a high priority for our council.

There remains much to be done, particularly as we encourage people away from their reliance on private vehicles as their primary form of transport.

While the Queensland Government is responsible for the public transport network and associated solutions in our region, the Transport Levy helps us continue to advocate to the state and federal governments for much-needed investment in our region.

In 2017-2018, a significant portion of the Transport Levy funding – just over \$4 million - was allocated to the Transport Futures Fund.

Its current focus is the Sunshine Coast Light Rail Project in the development of a preliminary business case, the next necessary step in obtaining commitment and funding from the other levels of government.

The Transport Levy is helping to improve our connectivity today and achieve better public transport outcomes for our healthy, smart creative region.

Mayor Mark Jamieson



Message from Cr Baberowski Transport Portfolio Councillor



As we continue to focus on becoming Australia's most sustainable region, there is no better time than now to pursue a transport strategy that preserves and enhances our valued lifestyle.

A connected, smart, integrated, safe and efficient transport system is vital to ensure our region's economic viability, sustainability and lifestyle.

Public transport is so vital to achieving our vision and despite it being primarily a state government responsibility, council needs to take an active, advocacy role to ensure the community gets the best integrated transport network possible.

Our annual Transport Levy provides us with the resources to invest in public transport, support infrastructure and to advocate with the State.

In 2017-2108, the Transport Levy increased by \$15 to \$42, raising an estimated \$5.7 million, assisting council to plan for future transport needs, consolidate the Futures Fund and ensure that transport is improved across the Sunshine Coast region.

In addition to ongoing research, planning and investigations, the Transport Levy provides many benefits, including creation and implementation of policies to fund trial service improvements, bus stop upgrades that comply with the *Disability*

Discrimination Act 1992 and provide improved amenity and comfort for patrons.

Council will continue to support travel behaviour change programs that reduce our high dependence on private motor vehicles.

The levy also contributes to the future transport needs via the Transport Futures Fund. In 2017-2018, just over \$4 million went directly towards this fund, which is utilised for business case development on projects such as Sunshine Coast Light Rail, which is an extremely important commitment in helping optimise the Coast's transport future.

The growing population of the Sunshine Coast highlights the need to think about how transport in each location will be managed in the future.

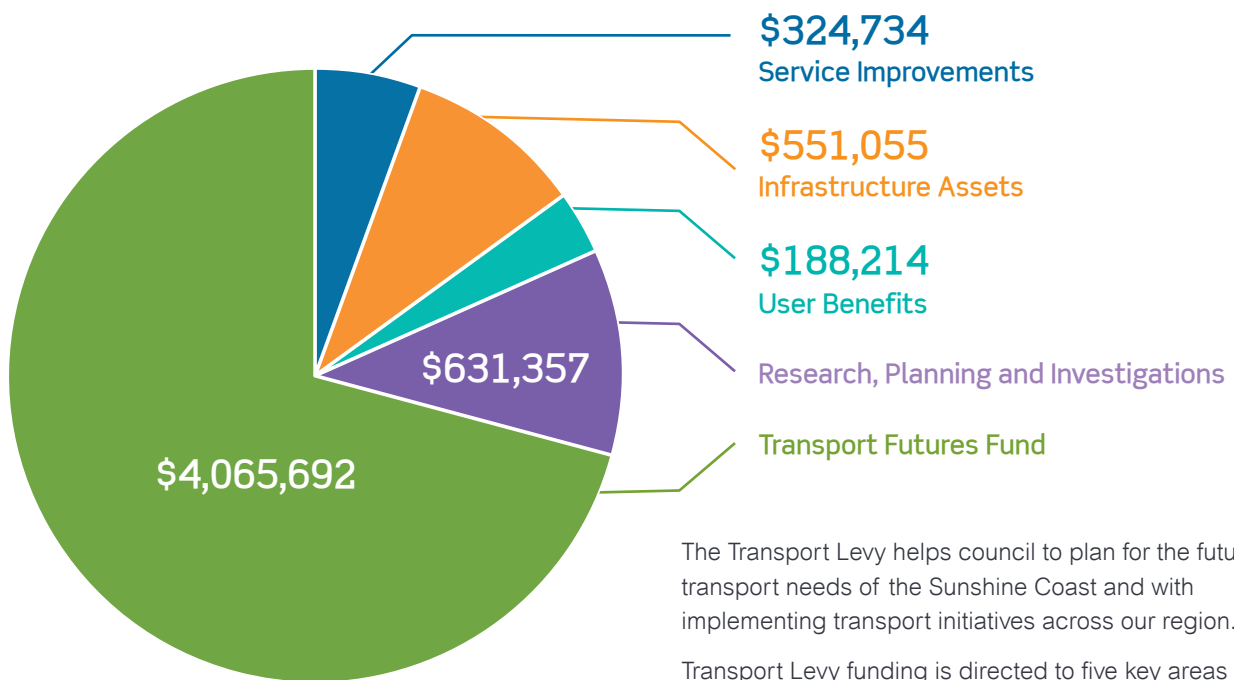
The Transport Levy is an important initiative that will contribute towards the vision identified in council's draft Integrated Transport Strategy (ITS). In addition, the draft ITS positions us to take advantage of new approaches and technologies to meet those challenges.

Cr Baberowski
Transport Portfolio Councillor

Where did your Transport Levy go in 2017-2018?

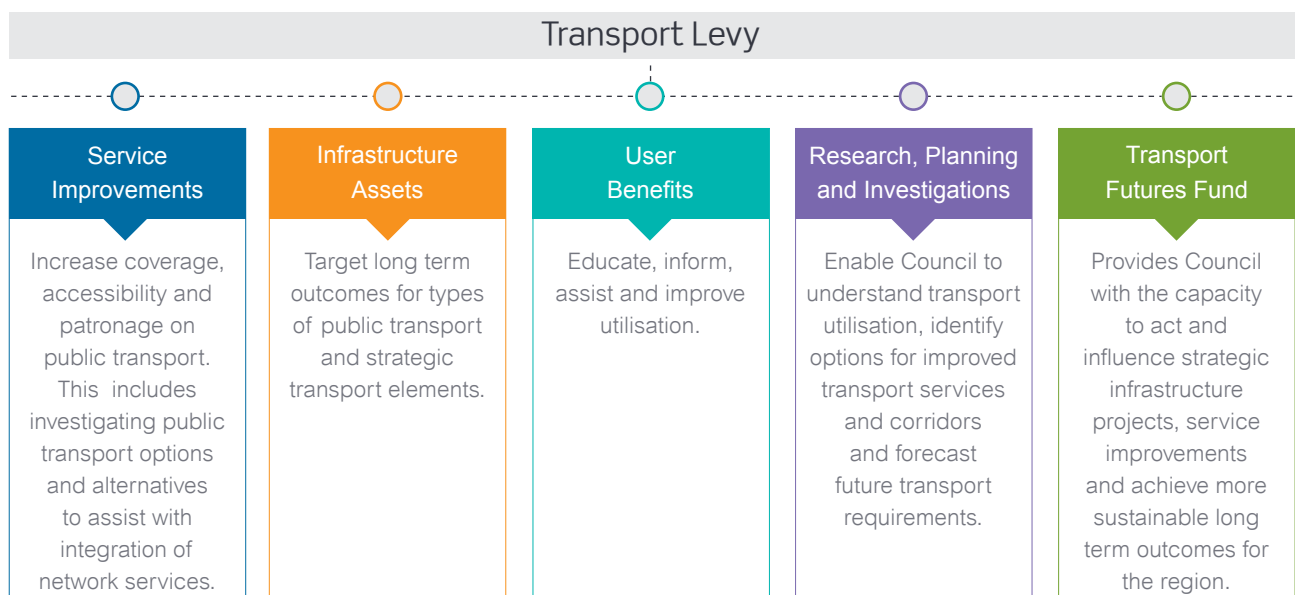
Transport Levy in 2017-2018:
\$42 per annum
 per rateable property

Total revenue 2017-2018:
\$5,761,052



The Transport Levy helps council to plan for the future transport needs of the Sunshine Coast and with implementing transport initiatives across our region.

Transport Levy funding is directed to five key areas that aim to improve connectivity across the Sunshine Coast for today, and into the future.





Transport Levy 2017-2018 Program snapshot

Service improvements

Whilst the provision of public transport systems is a state government responsibility, council continues to advocate investment opportunities across the Sunshine Coast region, so that viable public transport choices can be offered to our residents and visitors.

When opportunities arise, council is able to utilise Transport Levy funding to bring forward service improvements to TransLink services across the Sunshine Coast. The Levy also enables council to fund important community transport services to areas currently not serviced.

In 2017-2018, the Transport Levy continued to fund community transport programs Council Link and Flexilink.

Council Link

The Council Link service provides an affordable, door-to-door transport service for people aged 60 or over and for people with disability or a mobility impairment. The service plays an important role in connecting the community and reducing social isolation. In 2017-2018 the Council Link program delivered by ComLink, serviced 58 suburbs across the Sunshine Coast. The suburbs of Glenview and West Woombye were added to the service area in 2017-2018. Council Link provided 15,999 passenger trips in 2017-2018.

Flexilink Trial Services

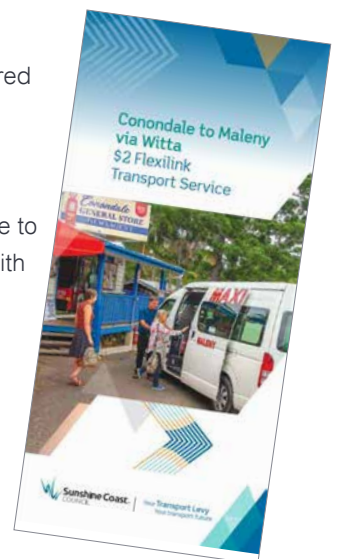
Flexilink services are pre-booked scheduled transport services that operate in areas that have limited access to public transport. To utilise the service, users must have a secure booking in place.

In 2017-2018 Transport Levy delivered two Flexilink Trial Services to the Sunshine Coast Hinterland region. These include the Peachester to Beerwah service and the Conondale to Maleny (via Witta) service, linking with existing public transport routes to allow onward travel for passengers.

The Conondale to Maleny Flexilink service is a well-utilised service for local residents delivering 3400 passenger trips in 2017-2018.

With approximately 260 passenger trips in 2017-2018, the Peachester to Beerwah Flexilink service continues to provide an important transport service for the local community, however council will monitor patronage of this service to evaluate feasibility and continuity moving forward.

The two Flexilink trial services are delivered by Suncoast Cabs, with the existing contract now extended by a further 12 months, to 30 June 2019.



35,960km
travelled on Flexilink services

1,925
Flexilink trips undertaken

3,660
passenger trips taken on
Flexilink services



User benefits

In December 2017, TransLink introduced the *go explore* card, allowing visitors and tourists short-term unlimited daily travel on TransLink's Sunshine Coast bus services.

Prior to implementation, the *go explore* card was promoted via media releases, information displays at Visitor Information Centres, meet and greets at the P&O cruise arrival and attendance at Sunshine Coast networking events.

In 2017-2018, a Transport Levy awareness campaign was developed and rolled out to inform the community of its initiatives, increase its profile and promote its viability across the region. Some of the activities undertaken during the awareness campaign included:

- advertising on Sunshine Coast Sunbus buses
- advertising through print media, radio, social media and council's website
- installation of signage at 34 upgraded bus stop locations to identify Transport Levy funding
- public information displays at the Maleny Show and World Environment Day festivities at Cotton Tree.

To help the community obtain information and updates regarding public transport, five pop-up displays were held in March 2018 across council's libraries. In addition,

displays were also located at the University of the Sunshine Coast Orientation Day and at the Volunteering Sunshine Coast Volunteers Expo. These displays were promoted via media release, Facebook, councillor columns, library e-news, library events page and council's event page.

In addition, council worked with partners to secure locations to install real-time display screens in high-frequency locations.



“I am so grateful for this service and I can't rate it highly enough”

Council Link

Supported by Sunshine Coast Council

15,999

passenger trips
on Council Link
were undertaken

58 suburbs across
the Sunshine Coast
were serviced by Council Link in 2017/18

71,000km
were travelled by
Council Link



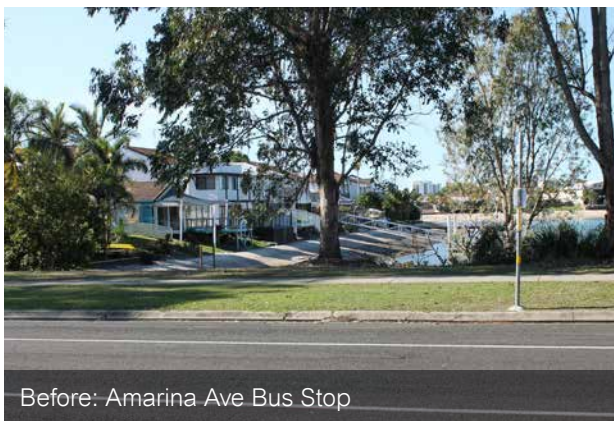
Program snapshot

Infrastructure assets

The public transport network is an integral part of the Sunshine Coast's strategic transport network and its effectiveness is imperative in order to achieve a modal shift away from the private vehicle. In 2017-2018, the Transport Levy continued to contribute funding to a number of bus stop infrastructure upgrades across the Sunshine Coast. These bus stop upgrades benefit all users, ensuring compliance with the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* and meeting federal government targets.

As part of the bus stop upgrade program, the Transport Levy contributed \$551,055 in 2017-2018 and attracted an additional \$319,781 in external funding from TransLink's Public Transport Accessible Infrastructure Program. Upgrade works were undertaken at 17 locations across the Sunshine Coast and included:

- installation of tactile ground surface indicators
- upgraded footpath connections to some bus stop locations
- new bus shelters at 17 bus stop locations.



Before: Amarina Ave Bus Stop



After: Amarina Ave Bus Stop



Before: Wurtulla Shopping Village Bus Stop



After: Wurtulla Shopping Village Bus Stop

Research, planning and investigations

In 2017-2018, the Transport Levy continued to support the Sunshine Coast Light Rail Project in progressing the foundation work for the preliminary business case, including the preparation of demographic datasets and transport modelling, along with further preliminary corridor alignment studies.



Transport Futures Fund

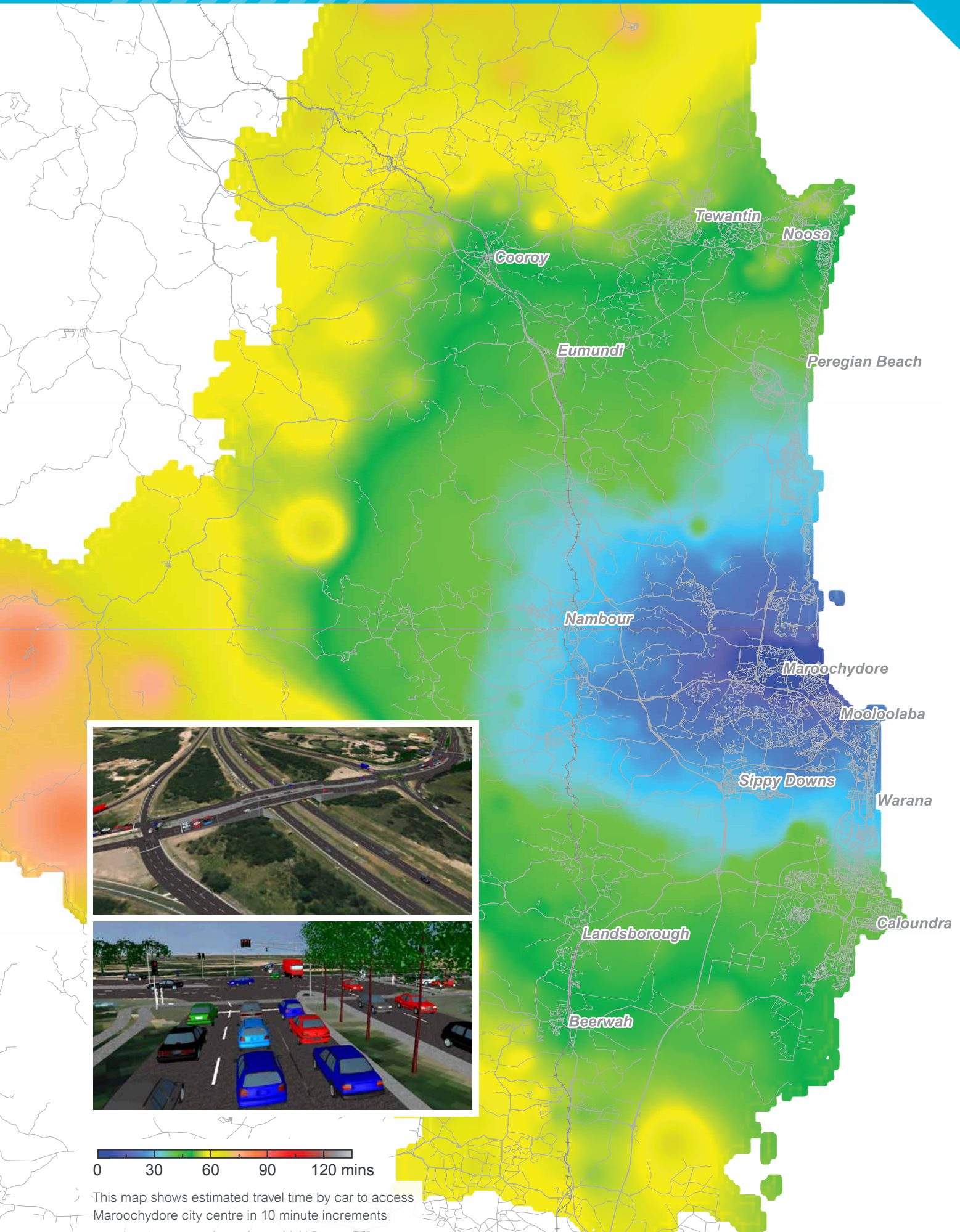
A significant portion of the Transport Levy funding (just over \$4 million) was allocated to the Transport Futures Fund in 2017-2018.

The Fund is a critical element of the Transport Levy structure as it enables council to fund strategic transport outcomes for the region. This funding, which would not be available otherwise, is likely to include the provision of projects and initiatives aimed at achieving major, long term, multi-modal infrastructure outcomes and strategies. This Fund is not intended to replace the funding of projects that are typically delivered through existing capital works programs.

The current focus of the Fund is the Sunshine Coast Light Rail Project, where council's intention is build the funding to a level that will enable council to be a co-contributor to the provision of the project.



Artist impression



Outputs from Council's Transport Planning Model which is partially funded by the Transport Levy



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