

# Sunshine Coast Ecological Park - Stage 1 Engagement Summary

The community was invited to participate in Stage 1 engagement of the project between 2 May and 27 May 2022.

## Engagement purpose

Testing the project's vision and values and determining community sentiment and desired outcomes for an ecological park.

## Engagement activities

- Online questionnaire
- Community pop-up events
- Information sessions
- Static displays in Council libraries and at Mary Cairncross Senic Reserve Rainforest Discovery Centre.

## Response

The online questionnaire received 473 responses with 577 individual comments, 160+ community members attended pop-up events.

There is strong community sentiment for the project and engagement identified shared interests, concerns and preferences across the community.

## Project vision

"A place of cherished nature and ecological wonder for generations to discover and enjoy"

## Project values

- **An ecologically valuable resilient and connected landscape** - 95% of participants strongly agree or agree
- **A place that welcomes people to learn, play and contribute to the future** – 71% of participants strongly agree or agree
- **A place inspired by nature** – 90% of participants strongly agree or agree
- **An immersive experience that promotes balance, respite and revival** – 76% of participants strongly agree or agree

- **A place of spontaneous discovery** – 87% of participants strongly agree or agree
- **A place that shares the stories of local people and the natural history of the region** – 80% of participants strongly agree or agree.

## Key themes

### Access and accessibility

Ensuring the park is accessible to everyone.

Adequate car parking to be included in the design however not impact the park.

### Recreation

Designated areas for activity and nature play with restricted access to environmentally sensitive areas.

Uncertainty around the types of recreation proposed.

### Connectivity

Mixed support and clarity sought around the intent to physically and intrinsically link with Mary Cairncross Scenic Reserve.

### Revegetation, Flora and Fauna

Overwhelming support for revegetation and creating habitat for wildlife.

### Water

Regeneration of wetlands and waterways and interest in including water play interaction.

### First Nations Representations

Spaces to experience the stories, history and value of Jinibara People, the traditional custodians of the ecological park.

### Community stewardship

Opportunities for stewardship of the landscape, restoration activities and legacy planting.

## Next step

Stage 2 engagement activity is proposed late August 2022, encompassing a variety of engagement activities. Taking the lessons learned from Stage 1, Stage 2 will test the emerging strategies and proposed spatial design elements.