

# Shaping our Future



Becoming Australia's most sustainable region –  
vibrant, green, diverse



The Sunshine Coast is on the move and Council is working with our community to become Australia's most sustainable region – vibrant, green, diverse.

Protecting and enhancing our enviable lifestyle and natural environment and building a strong economy which creates jobs is at the core of everything we do.

Every day, in a variety of ways, Council is working with our communities so they can continue to enjoy a lifestyle that is second to none.

Whether it is maintaining roads, pathways and bridges; supporting community groups; managing our parks, bushland and reserves; or providing sport, recreation, cultural facilities and libraries, these facilities, services and natural assets all support our communities to remain connected, accessible and vibrant.

Sunshine Coast Council has one of the strongest financial positions among councils in Australia. This enables Council to invest in the facilities and services that our community requires – while at the same time progressing major initiatives to shape a strong future for our residents and future generations.

Very few councils in Queensland have the capacity and resource to do both.

We are shaping a Sunshine Coast where our residents can access what they need, remain connected with the world, pursue a worthwhile career locally and live in an environment that is both beautiful and properly nurtured.

This is what our community expects of Council and it shapes what we do every day.



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# Serving the community

The Sunshine Coast is one of the best places on earth to live thanks to the many who came before us and contributed in so many ways.

We are embarking on one of the most exciting chapters in the history of the Sunshine Coast. It is our responsibility to build on the contributions and achievements of those who came before us and add to the vibrancy and desirability of the Sunshine Coast.

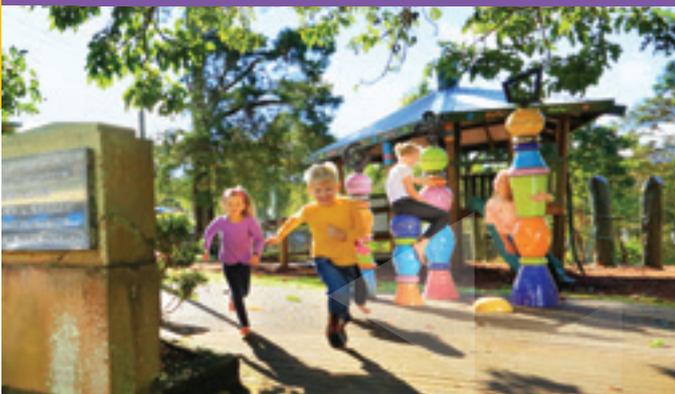
The *Sunshine Coast Social Strategy 2015* outlines Council's priorities in building a stronger Sunshine Coast community.

The strategy aims to achieve four targets:

1. Sunshine Coast to maintain its ranking as the healthiest region in Queensland
2. Increase in the number of people who benefit from Council's funding programs
3. Increase in the frequency that the population attends Council's venues, aquatic facilities, libraries, gallery and events
4. Increase in the population contributing to volunteering from one in five, to one in four.

## Our social vision

Our community will continue to thrive and enjoy a lifestyle that sets us apart. In all of our communities, people are included and treated with respect, and opportunities are available to all.



Underpinning our Social Strategy are the services and facilities Council provides for its residents and visitors alike.

Council serves a community of more than 280,000 permanent residents every day in many ways.

Much of this work often goes unnoticed – however it is crucial for maintaining the liveability of our region.

We achieve this by:

- maintaining nearly 3000 kilometres of roads, 448 bridges and more than 1100 kilometres of pathways
- working with more than 1800 not-for-profit community groups on services and programs that help our community in a variety of ways
- helping our residents to remain informed and connect with each other through our eight libraries and two mobile libraries. There are more than one million visits to our libraries each year
- encouraging active lifestyles through 10 aquatic centres with more than one million visits annually
- supporting the staging of significant events and performances which generate \$65.5 million in economic activity within the region
- through contracted arrangements, providing about 10.4 million domestic and commercial garbage collections each year
- providing more than \$3 million per annum in rate discounts to pensioners
- enhancing beach safety through contracted patrols of 21 beaches
- providing development approval fee reductions and rebate discounts to not-for-profit organisations of more than \$300,000 annually
- supporting the community to lead an active, vibrant, lifestyle through 16 sports venues, 10 performance venues, a gallery and eight community halls.



## Did you know

- The Sunshine Coast region has been ranked the healthiest in Queensland
- 307 not-for-profit organisations benefit from Council's community funding program
- On average, one person attends Council's major venues, aquatic facilities, libraries, gallery and events 10 times per year
- One in five of our population contributes to volunteering
- About 640,000 people enjoyed 4300 events at Council-owned venues.
- Caloundra Regional Gallery friends increased by 157% in 2015.

# Connecting our residents through venues and facilities

Performance and community venues are a valuable asset of the Sunshine Coast, help bring people together and add to the vitality of our region.

These vibrant hubs support many community and cultural activities including theatre, concerts, cinema, major touring productions, cultural initiatives, recreation activities, programs and workshops. School-based activities, conferences, expos, meetings, and community events such as school formals, weddings, graduations and eisteddfods also take place in Council's venues.

Council's community venues hosted almost 4300 events this year, attracting more than 638,000 patrons.

Socially and culturally, these venues are places for interaction and participation in community and cultural life.

'Experiencing a show' extends beyond the stage, and communities can become enlivened by vibrant and diverse arts and cultural experiences.

Our performance and community venues also attract investment, growth and provide employment.

Council has five key performance and community venues:

- The Events Centre Caloundra – Council's primary performance venue welcomed 100,000 patrons in 2015
- Lake Kawana Community Centre – Council's primary community venue

- Coolum Civic Centre which has been newly refurbished and adjoins the upgraded 2.6 hectare Jack Morgan Park
- Kawana Community Hall
- Beerwah and District Community Hall

Council is also working with the Majestic Cinemas to ensure the former Nambour Civic Centre continues to contribute towards the revitalisation of Nambour.





About

**800,000** people enjoyed

Sunshine Coast Stadium,  
Caloundra Indoor Stadium,  
Nambour Showgrounds and  
Maroochydore Multi Sports Complex.

## Kicking goals in sport

The Sunshine Coast Stadium is the premier venue for sport, leisure and outdoor entertainment for the Sunshine Coast.

It is adjacent to Lake Kawana, making it an attractive venue for a wide range of large scale events both on land and water.

The stadium has a capacity of 1050 in the tiered grandstand, and can accommodate 15,000 people at an outdoor event.

The surrounding Kawana Sports Precinct has hosted many large scale events including the National Dragon Boat Titles, Touch Football National Youth Championships, AOCRA (outriggers), Australia vs NZ under 19s Gridiron International and the Swisse Color Run.

The stadium has also played host to the Wallabies Rugby Union team and the Brisbane Roar for training and pre-season activities during 2015.

An exciting new partnership has also been formed with the Melbourne Storm NRL Club and Sunshine Coast Council, with the Sunshine Coast Stadium now the home base for the Storm Under 20s National Youth Competition (NYC) team and Academy. The Academy is a first for the Melbourne Storm and will endeavour to produce the NRL club's next group of superstars. The Storm senior squad will hold pre-season and in-season camps on the Sunshine Coast as well as a trial game in February 2016 against the West Tigers.

Queensland Cricket, Queensland Rugby League, Sunshine Coast Falcons and Sunshine Coast Fire all use the stadium as their local home base and administrative hub.



## Libraries tell a story

Our libraries are a story in their own right and are growing in popularity, with more than 2.5 million items borrowed every year. And our library members also love taking advantage of the free download service – ebooks, audiobooks, emagazines, music and films. Another 32,000 participants enjoy the library events each year and our residents who have English as a second language practised and improved their conversation skills at the more than 100 English Conversation classes. The community has also embraced our new state-of-the-art mobile library which has the latest technology for everyone to enjoy.

Our libraries wouldn't be so successful without the more than 400 library volunteers who donate 20,000 hours of their time every year to help our residents keep connected with information and each other.





## For the love of art

If art is to your liking, then the Caloundra Regional Gallery and the Maroochy Regional Bushland Botanic Garden Arts and Ecology Centre hold regular exhibitions. More than 50 exhibitions and programs are held annually and their popularity is increasing. In fact the number of program attendees doubled in 2015 as residents and visitors discovered these community assets.

The Sunshine Coast Art Prize, now in its tenth year, has seen an increase in national and local recognition as well as increased art prize entries and sponsorship.

## Our heritage – another story in the making

Our heritage is all the things from our past and present which we consider important enough to pass on to future generations.

Our heritage helps us to understand who we are and where we came from – contributing to our sense of identity and belonging, our memory of place and shaping the things we do in the future.

It is a significant contributor to the character and identity of the Sunshine Coast, woven into our natural, built and cultural environments.

Council recognises that acknowledging and appreciating the Sunshine Coast's heritage can only be achieved if we act in an informed, planned and coordinated way.

The *Sunshine Coast Council Heritage Plan (2015-2020)* is a coordinated approach to identifying, conserving and celebrating the region's valued heritage sites and collections.

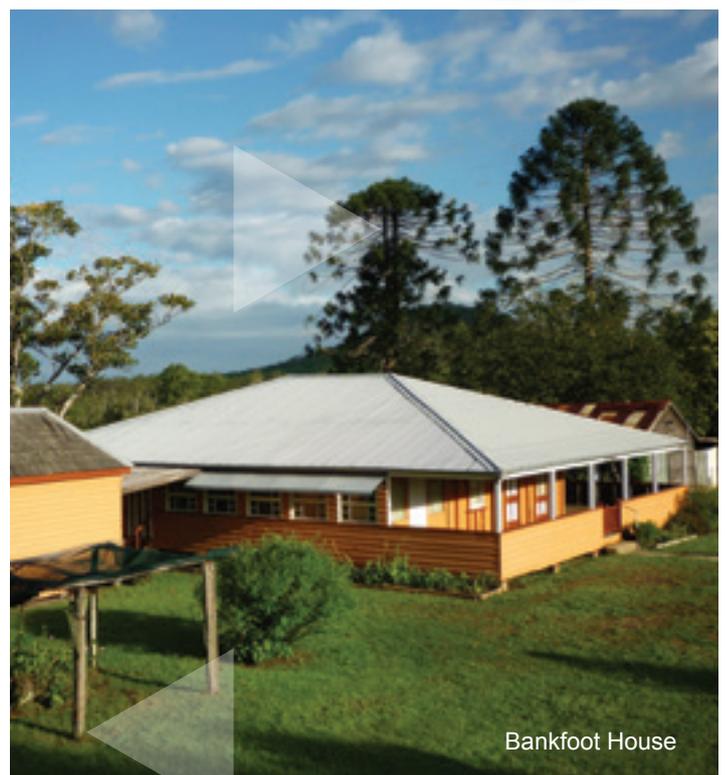
**1 in 5** of our population contributes to volunteering



Mary Grigor Centre



Display at Mary Grigor Centre



Bankfoot House

## Exploring our heritage with Council

### Bankfoot House

Bankfoot House and the new award-winning Mary Grigor Centre document the history of three generations occupying the same house for more than 130 years.

The State heritage-listed property is owned by Council and located near the township of Glass House Mountains.

It is the oldest surviving residence in the Glass House Mountains, and has played a significant role in the local community for more than a century, providing the lunch stop for the Cobb & Co stage coach, accommodation, the post office, store and butcher shop and a centre for district activities.

The former Caloundra City Council purchased the house and contents from the Ferris family in 2004, establishing the property as a House Museum with a collection of approximately 6000 items. The Mary Grigor Centre (funded through the Cultural Heritage Levy) extends the heritage experience at Bankfoot House and enables better access to, and care of, the collection. The centre received a Gold Award in the 2015 National Trust Queensland Heritage Awards.

### Fairview

Fairview is a Council-owned State heritage-listed property located in North Maleny.

The residence was constructed in 1907, and is one of the oldest surviving pit sawn timber residences in the area.

The property demonstrates both the early development of Maleny as an agricultural settlement and the pattern and expansion of dairying in Queensland in the early 1900s.

Fairview is located within the Maleny Community Precinct and was purchased by the former Caloundra City Council in 1995.

The Friends of Pattermore House have been granted a lease of the house, and will provide a community heritage program into the future.

### Landsborough Museum

The Landsborough and District Historical Society operates the Landsborough Historical Museum located in the heart of the historic town of Landsborough.

The museum is the original Landsborough Shire Council Chambers, designed in 1924 by renowned architect Walter Voller. Council owns this State heritage-listed place, which is leased to the Landsborough and District Historical Society.

The historical society opens the museum's doors to the public four days a week, displaying the large social history collection including personal records and mementoes of renowned explorer, pioneer and politician, William Landsborough. The society also offers a research service, and presents an engaging schools program through a team of committed volunteers.

The museum is one of a number of Council supported, sponsored and funded heritage places and experiences throughout the region.

### Sunshine Coast Council Heritage Library

The Heritage Library is accessible through the Nambour Library and offers an extensive collection of items, including print, digital, oral histories and objects and materials from everyday life, as well as heritage programming and research services. Small collections of local study materials are held at Council's other branch libraries at Beerwah, Caloundra, Coolool, Kawana, Kenilworth, Maleny and Maroochydore. You can also access Heritage Library information on the Sunshine Coast Libraries' website.

The online Arts and Heritage Catalogue offers the community 24/7 access to Cultural Heritage, Public Art and Sunshine Coast Art Collections via the Sunshine Coast Libraries catalogue.

**307** not-for-profit organisations benefit from Council's community funding program

# Nurturing our environment

The Sunshine Coast is without question a special place. Our natural assets and rich biodiversity are a defining feature of our region and are second to none.

And that's why protecting our greatest assets, including our beaches, foreshores and bushland and moving to a clean-energy environment are major priorities.

More than 2700 hectares of land have been purchased by Council to conserve our important environmental assets for future generations – the children who will one day be charged with continuing the work being done now to protect and enhance our Sunshine Coast.

Council is also negotiating to acquire further land to add to our important conservation estate.

The hard work begins once the land has been purchased. This year, \$1 million will go towards preparing 12 reserves to join Council's conservation network. This work includes new access points, fire trail upgrades, bush regeneration and weed control.

Ongoing investments ensure we properly manage our waterways and coastal foreshores and maintain our diversity of native flora and fauna. This includes removing weeds in road reserves, rehabilitating coastal dunes and reserves, and restoring waterway vegetation in the Pumicestone Passage and the Maroochy River.

Council has also "employed" Maya – Australia's only trained koala droppings detecting dog to help our environmental team map the Sunshine Coast's koala populations. Council is implementing the Koala Conservation Plan so we can further protect this endangered animal.

Council is working with the community everyday to maintain our environment:

- 857 Land for Wildlife members are managing 6374 hectares of retained habitat and restoring a further 596 hectares. This is the largest local government managed program of its kind in Australia.
- 18 kilometres of fire trails are maintained in 12 established reserves.
- \$2.1 million has been spent on improving our dunes over the past five years.
- 66 Voluntary Conservation Agreement partners are helping Council protect 1056 hectares of habitat for flora and fauna.
- \$843,000 is being spent this year on removing weeds, rehabilitating coastal dunes, and restoring waterway vegetation.
- \$2.1 million was spent on other environmental management activities, including flying fox and pest management, and supporting Council's environment education facilities.



More than  
**2761 ha**  
of conservation land purchased



**\$2.1 million** has been spent on environmental management activities

Council works closely with the community to protect and enhance our environment and the Sunshine Coast is well known for its many environmental volunteers. Council engages with and supports 24 Sunshine Coast community partnership arrangements and environmental organisations and an army of more than 50 volunteer and community nature conservation groups.

And our community's efforts have paid off with Australia Zoo awarding Sunshine Coast Council the Wildlife Warriors' 2015 Group Wildlife Conservation Award recognising a suite of Council environmental programs including the Koala Conservation Plan, Environmental Land Acquisition Program, Environmental Grants Program and volunteer programs such as TurtleCare and Community Nature Conservation.

Congratulations must particularly go to our volunteers for continuing Steve Irwin's work and showing that individually and as a community, we can make a difference and help protect all creatures great and small.

## Protecting the Inter-Urban Break

The inter-urban break – the 613 square kilometres straddling the boundary between Moreton Bay and Sunshine Coast councils – is recognised as our front door. You know when you arrive and you know when you leave.

This is why Council has worked closely with our neighbours in Moreton Bay to jointly advocate and convince the State Government to preserve the regional inter-urban break on both sides of the boundary and to commit to mapping and protecting this space in the revised South East Queensland Regional Plan.

Lose it and we lose our identity as a unique region and we lose one of our most significant environmental features.

Protecting the Ramsar listed Pumicestone Passage and its water quality, economic contribution and invaluable tourism opportunities are just some of the reasons why the inter-urban break should be retained at its current extent and formally protected through the next South East Queensland Regional Plan.



# Game-changing projects

The Sunshine Coast is renowned for many things – our lifestyle, our vibrant and distinct communities and our environmental assets. However it's our vision for the future that really sets us apart.

More than 150,000 additional people are forecast to be living on the Sunshine Coast by 2031 – 70% in the Sunshine Coast Enterprise Corridor, between the Sunshine Coast Airport and Caloundra.

As our region grows and develops, we will need new services, infrastructure and employment opportunities to grow with it, so our residents and visitors can access the services and facilities they need.

This is why Council is looking to the future and making important decisions now that will secure our prosperity, lifestyle and natural assets.

As well as providing essential day-to-day services, Council is building a strong future for the Sunshine Coast through a number of major regional projects which will make the region an even better place to live, work and play for present and future generations.

These game-changer projects include:

- Sunshine Coast Airport Expansion
- SunCentral Marochydore
- Sunshine Coast Solar Farm
- Sunshine Coast Light Rail
- Sunshine Coast International Submarine Cable

Council also works in a variety of ways to generate opportunities for local contractors and residents from the Queensland Government's \$1.8 billion Sunshine Coast University Hospital project.

Council is also advocating to both the Federal Government and the Queensland Government for upgrades of the Bruce Highway and the North Coast Rail Line. Council is pushing hard to see both projects recognised in the Queensland Government's State Infrastructure Plan, which is due for release early in 2016.

## Delivering outcomes

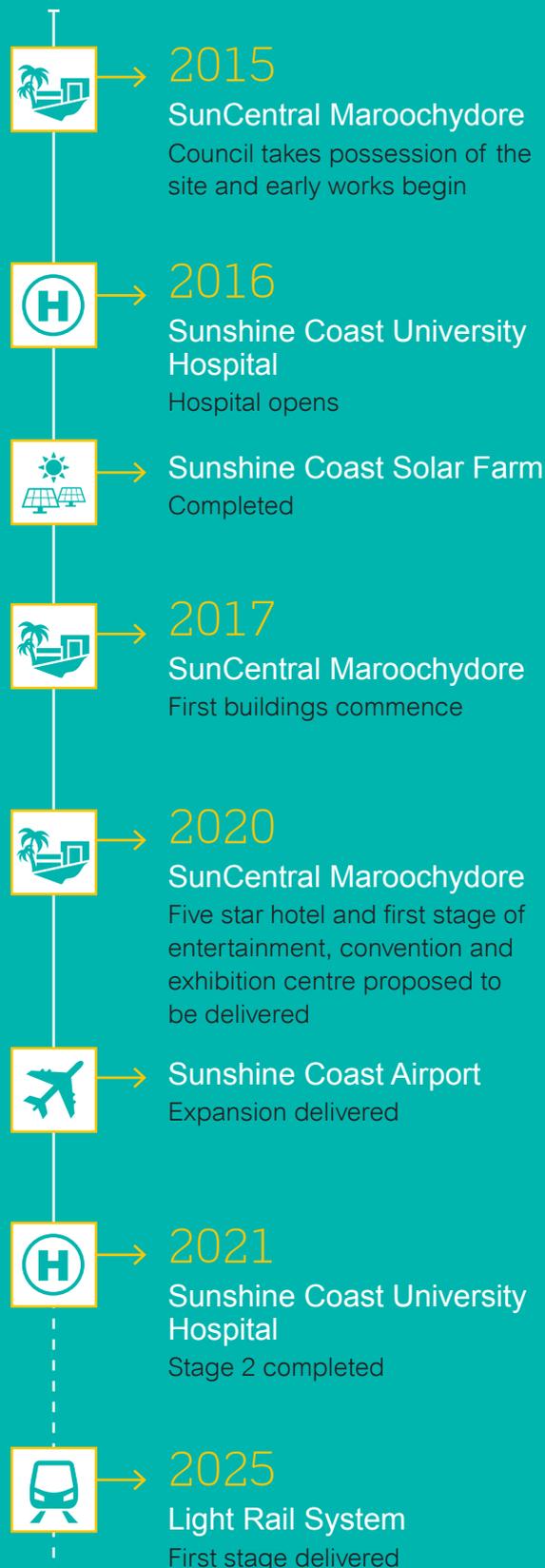
Sunshine Coast Council, businesses, community groups and residents all have an important part to play in achieving our vision to be Australia's most sustainable region.

It requires everyone to engage in positive and productive dialogue about the Sunshine Coast and its future. After all, the region's reputation is in everyone's hands.

Many of the region-building projects that will help make the Sunshine Coast an even better place to live and work will be delivered over the next decade. Council's project delivery timeline shows what will be delivered and when.



## Project delivery timeline



# Sunshine Coast Airport Expansion



## The Sunshine Coast Airport Expansion Project will:

- contribute \$4.1 billion to the Sunshine Coast economy (from 2020-2040)
- generate more than 2230 jobs (2020-2040)
- ensure the region has an airport for jet aircraft into the future
- result in 3500 fewer dwellings being affected by noise each day (2020)
- enable more direct flights to more locations in Australia, Asia and the Western Pacific
- help boost tourism
- help our export businesses, particularly those operating in the food and agribusiness sectors, get their products and services to markets faster and more efficiently
- provide access for larger, more fuel efficient aircraft
- be completed by 2020, subject to obtaining all necessary approvals and funding.



Sunshine Coast Airport will contribute

**\$4.1 billion** to the

Sunshine Coast economy (from 2020-2040)

Generate more than **2230 jobs**

(2020-2040)

## The Sunshine Coast Airport is going from strength to strength and has recently been named Australia's fastest growing airport.

The strong demand for more direct services to and from the Airport is clearly evidenced in recent passenger statistics. More than 250,000 passengers travelled through Sunshine Coast Airport in the first three months of the 2015/16 financial year – a 12% increase on the previous quarter and the highest September quarter traffic on record.

For two consecutive months Sunshine Coast Airport has led the way in passenger growth in Australia with a passenger increase percentage more than three times its closest major airport challengers. In August 2015, Sunshine Coast Airport total passenger movements grew by 14.9%\* compared to the same period in 2014, the highest growth rate of the top 20 airports in Australia. Domestic and regional passenger movements grew by 14.5% with international travellers increasing by 24.6%.

Maintaining the upward trend, a total of 91,062 passengers used the Airport's flight services in October, the busiest October on record and the second highest number of passengers per month since January 2009.

More flights are being scheduled to cater for the Sunshine Coast's increasing popularity as a business, tourist and residential destination.

### Recent announcements:

**More Air New Zealand flights:** The number of weekly Sunshine Coast – Auckland flights will increase again in 2016, growing from three to four flights per week during peak season.

**Qantas returns to the Sunshine Coast:** Qantas daily services to Sydney will recommence from 21 December 2015 with business friendly flight times

starting in February 2016. The new services will provide an additional 68,000 seats each year.

**More Jetstar and Virgin Australia flights:** Jetstar has added 40,000 seats to their Sydney and Melbourne flights and Virgin Australia has increased Melbourne services.

These new services are a win for Sunshine Coast residents. And there is so much more potential. Our residents have told Council they want to travel to a greater variety of destinations directly from the Sunshine Coast. To do so, they need to travel on larger, more fuel efficient aircraft which need a wider and longer runway from which to take off and land.

That's why the Sunshine Coast Airport expansion is so important, it will provide access for more fuel efficient aircraft able to travel longer distances. The expansion will open the Sunshine Coast up to new markets including Asia, the Western Pacific, Christchurch and Perth, enabling access to connecting flights to the rest of the world.

Flying direct from the Sunshine Coast Airport will mean our residents can:

- avoid highway traffic and potential delays
- save money on transport costs and more affordable parking
- have access to more business and tourism opportunities.

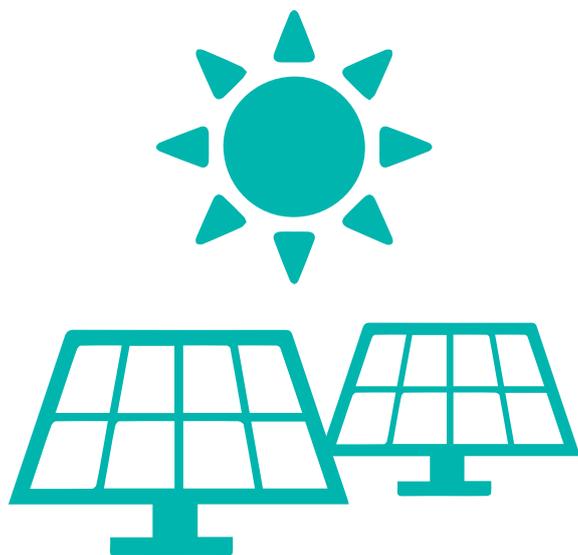
Council is looking at the best way to attract private and public investment in the Airport, so ratepayers will not bear an ongoing cost from the expansion project.

Council will keep the community informed as it makes important decisions on the future of the Sunshine Coast Airport and the funding that will be needed to ensure the expansion project is delivered.

\*August 2015 Commonwealth Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Economics.



# Sunshine Coast Solar Farm





### The Sunshine Coast Solar Farm:

- will be a 15 megawatt utility-scale grid-connected solar farm
- will generate sufficient power to offset all of Council's electricity demand
- will generate significant cost savings for Council
- should be operational by December 2016

Over the next three decades, the electricity costs for Sunshine Coast Council will be more than \$320 million in today's terms. This is a significant cost to ratepayers and, given the uncertainty of future electricity price rises, Council has been looking at options to reduce that cost.

Council sees the development of its own solar farm – which will offset all of Council's electricity consumption – as an innovative way to reduce electricity costs.

This project will reduce those costs by millions of dollars over a 30-year period. This is a saving for the ratepayer on the annual operating costs of Council.

It is also consistent with our commitment to become Australia's most sustainable region and will help to attract other clean technology businesses – particularly solar businesses – to the region.

The Sunshine Coast Solar Farm, to be built at Valdora near Coolum, will be the first council-owned grid connected, utility-scale farm in Australia.

As well as electricity cost savings, Council expects to see \$10 million in economic benefits delivered to the region through long-term employment, research and development opportunities and tourism potential.

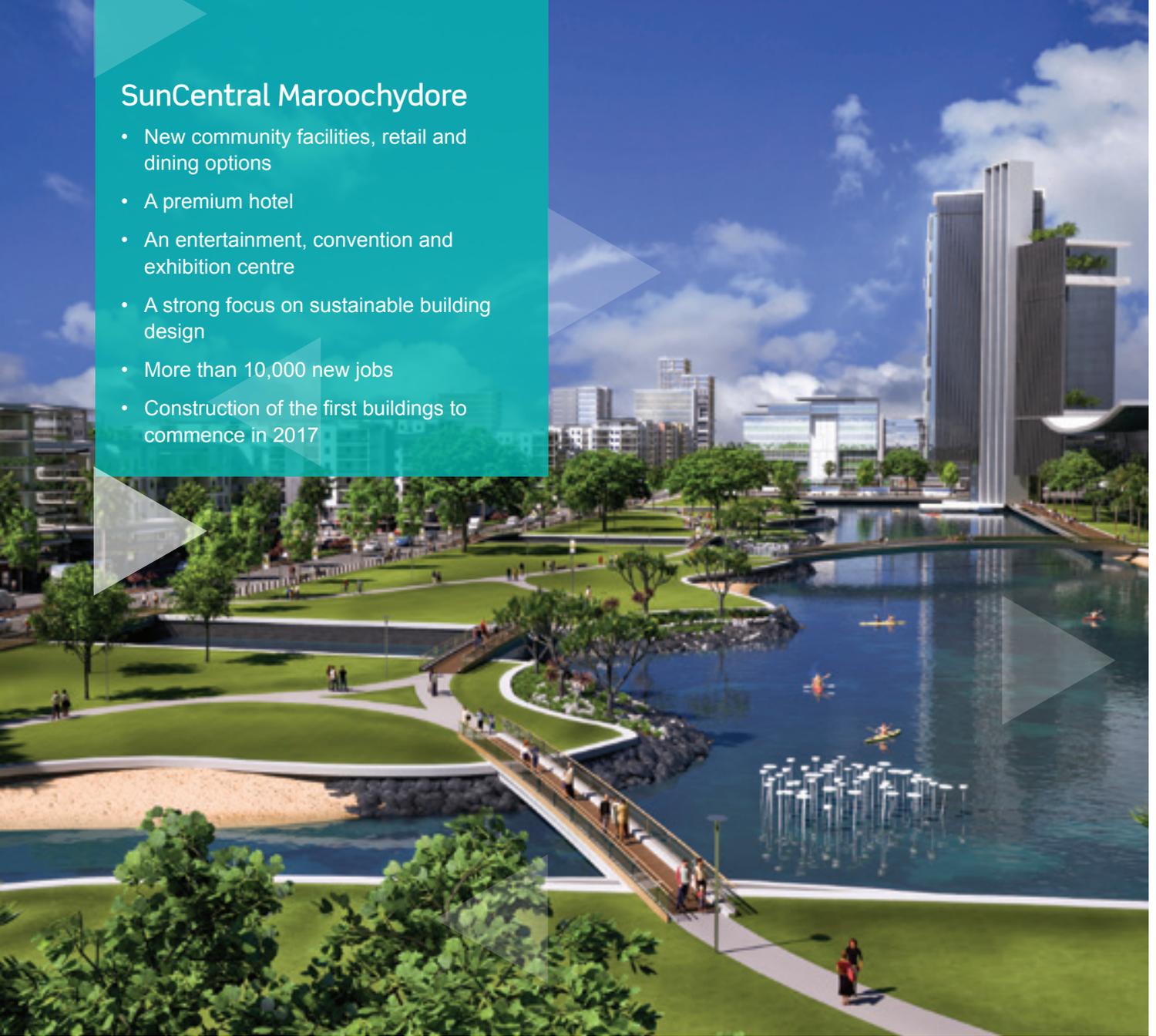
This will be a win for the environment, a win for ratepayers and a great opportunity to encourage new jobs in sustainable industries.

The Sunshine Coast Solar Farm is expected to be operational by late 2016.

**\$10 million** expected  
in economic benefits

## SunCentral Maroochydore

- New community facilities, retail and dining options
- A premium hotel
- An entertainment, convention and exhibition centre
- A strong focus on sustainable building design
- More than 10,000 new jobs
- Construction of the first buildings to commence in 2017



**40%** of the site will be open space and waterways



# SunCentral Maroochydore

Australia's only greenfield CBD at this time, SunCentral Maroochydore, will enter an exciting new phase in 2016.

Located on the former Horton Park Golf Course, SunCentral Maroochydore will become the region's new city heart, featuring prime commercial office space, retail and dining precincts, community and cultural facilities and inner city living.

This project will include an entertainment, convention and exhibition centre and a premium hotel, with 40% of the 53-hectare site retained as parkland and waterways.

Demolition works are now complete and bulk earthworks are scheduled to commence early in 2016, followed by construction of new civil infrastructure.

SunCentral Maroochydore will create opportunities for local businesses to expand, attract new investment to our region and generate more than 10,000 new jobs over the 20-year life of the project.

The city centre will also become home to many new businesses particularly in the professional services and knowledge industries, helping to strengthen the local economy.

To maximise the site's appeal to potential investors and future tenants, digital communications and 'smart city' infrastructure will be embedded in the design and in the core civil infrastructure.

The city centre will also connect Maroochydore's existing residential, retail, dining and community precincts with new transport options to improve accessibility and reduce traffic congestion.

Council has established a separate company, SunCentral Maroochydore Pty Ltd, to oversee the development and marketing of the site.

The project will pay for itself as each stage is developed and released to market, with cost outlays recouped through land sales.

When completed, Council and the community will own \$300 million worth of community assets, including roads, parkland and waterways.

This new city heart will transform Maroochydore into one of the most functional and commercially competitive regional cities in the nation.

It represents a once in a lifetime opportunity to establish a new capital city for the Sunshine Coast as we strive to become the most sustainable region in Australia.

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**53 ha** of Council-owned  
land in the centre  
of Maroochydore



# International Submarine Cable linking us globally

Sunshine Coast Council plans to link the region directly to global communications systems in Asia, the Pacific and the United States, providing faster, more reliable and affordable broadband connectivity for Queensland.

Council has lodged a submission with the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) to start the process to declare an offshore cable protection zone, to encourage the private sector to deliver an international submarine broadband cable.

If the cable protection zone is granted and the cable delivered, the Sunshine Coast will be the only regional centre in Australia able to offer direct international broadband connectivity to global markets.

The Sunshine Coast would then be the closest digital connection point in Australia to leading markets of Asia and the United States.

The granting of a cable protection zone will facilitate private investment in Australia's next offshore broadband connection to the rest of the world – landing right here on the Sunshine Coast.

This offshore cable will come ashore and link to Australia's terrestrial networks like the National Broadband Network (NBN).

There are only five international cable connections into Australia now – four within a short stretch of coastline in Sydney and one into Perth.

The Sunshine Coast is in the best possible location to provide a new cable landing point on the eastern

seaboard, taking into account the topography of the coastline and marine environment and the existence of a significant population centre sufficiently distant from Sydney.

If this protection zone is achieved and the cable delivered, the shape of the region's economy and our attractiveness to new businesses will change profoundly – and forever.

It will provide milli-seconds of advantage and significantly improved speed and bandwidth from Queensland – all from the Sunshine Coast. Milli-seconds are integral to banking and finance, digital solutions developers and those businesses and industries that are heavily dependent on online transactions.

And this benefit is not confined exclusively to the Sunshine Coast. South East Queensland – in fact the whole State – will be advantaged by an international connection from the Sunshine Coast.

The opportunity to market the Sunshine Coast as a place in which to invest and operate a business will also be exceptional.

Independent modelling by the AEC group forecasts that delivering an international broadband submarine



Generate

**\$1.1 billion** annually

to the State's economy

cable connection to the Sunshine Coast will generate an additional \$700 million to the Sunshine Coast economy every year and \$1.1 billion annually to the State's economy.

This proposal fits perfectly into Council's strategy for Sunshine Coast to be a technology hub and centre for innovation.

Both the Prime Minister and the Premier have confirmed their full support for Council's submission to ACMA.

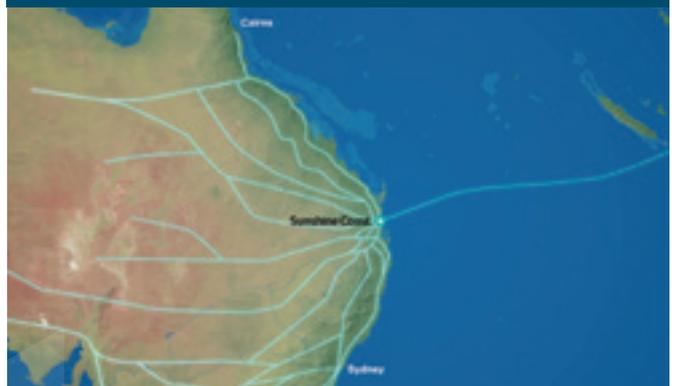
If ACMA accepts the submission, it is required to undertake a full regulatory assessment process as part of considering whether to declare a cable protection zone.

This process includes extensive public consultation and all stakeholders will have the opportunity to have input.

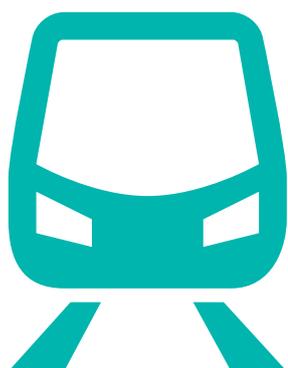
This is an important opportunity for our region – it means jobs for the future, investment in facilities and a wider range of services and experiences potentially available to our residents.

### The International Submarine Cable will:

- place Sunshine Coast as the closest digital connection point in Australia to the leading markets of Asia and the United States
- provide the opportunity to market the Sunshine Coast as a place in which to invest and operate a business
- generate an additional \$700 million to the Sunshine Coast economy every year
- generate \$1.1 billion annually to the State's economy
- provide milli-seconds of advantage and significantly improve speed and bandwidth from Queensland.



# Sunshine Coast Light Rail on track



## The Sunshine Coast Light Rail system will:

- create 9000 jobs directly and indirectly during construction and operation
- reduce reliance on car travel
- potentially cut pollution by reducing fossil fuel use
- cost an estimated \$1.3 billion for stage one (SunCentral Maroochydore to the Kawana Health Campus).



As one of the fastest growing regions in Australia, the Sunshine Coast will be home to more than half a million people within the next 20 years.

In fact, more than 300,000 people are forecast to live in the area between Maroochydore and Caloundra South by 2031. This will be nearly two-thirds of the entire population of the Sunshine Coast living in that area at that time.

Based on current trends, by 2031 there will be about 600,000 additional daily trips being made by car, which is more than 60% increase in less than 20 years. This would have a dramatic impact on the roads between Maroochydore and Caloundra and on the quality of life that we all enjoy.

Residents and visitors to the region will need to be able to access reliable, frequent and affordable public transport services as they go to work, shop, access services and community facilities.

The delivery of public transport solutions is the responsibility of the Queensland Government. However, Council can (and is) playing a role on behalf of the community by influencing the decisions the State may make on public transport infrastructure and services for the Sunshine Coast.



**\$3.6 billion**  
injection into the regional economy

This is a long-term project. If light rail is selected as a suitable public transport option for the Sunshine Coast, then the first stage would likely be delivered by 2025.

Projects of this nature do have very long lead times so it is important to undertake the planning now – to inform the choices that are made for future public transport solutions and to identify and protect any routes that would be required.

At the present time, a detailed feasibility study is progressing with a view to presenting the findings to Council by mid-2016.

Light rail on the Sunshine Coast could connect to bus and heavy rail networks that provide major linkages for residents across the region.

It has the potential to deliver a range of positive spin-offs for our lifestyle, how our communities function, business activity and the environment. For example, light rail can help alleviate traffic congestion by reducing reliance on car travel, cut pollution by reducing fossil fuel use and provide an affordable means of transport.

It is estimated the project will deliver \$3.6 billion in benefits back into the regional economy by connecting people to major areas of employment, education, health and tourism, and improving mobility for the elderly and people with disabilities.



# Healthy solutions for Australia's healthiest region



The first stage of the Queensland Government's \$1.8 billion Sunshine Coast University Hospital (SCUH) will open in November 2016 with 450 beds, increasing to 738 beds by 2021.

This State Government project will revolutionise the way healthcare is delivered on the Sunshine Coast. Our communities will have better access to healthcare than ever before.

When SCUH is fully commissioned, it will mean about 10,000 fewer patients each year will no longer have to travel to Brisbane for complex treatment.

Queensland Health has entered into a contract with Exemplar Health to design, construct, part-finance, commission and maintain the hospital buildings and grounds for 25 years post opening.

The Sunshine Coast University Private Hospital is a 200-bed co-located hospital operated by Ramsay Health Care. The private hospital, which opened in November 2013, is treating public patients under contract from the Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service until mid-2018, to assist in meeting demand while the new public hospital is being built and commissioned.



- Sunshine Coast University Hospital is scheduled to open in November 2016
- About 10,000 fewer patients each year will not have to travel to Brisbane for complex treatment when SCUH is fully operational.

The Sunshine Coast University Hospital project is boosting the local economy by creating jobs during and after construction, and is a catalyst for local commercial and residential development in the surrounding area.

The new hospital will also generate an expanded health workforce which will continue to grow into the future.

Council has been working closely with Lendlease, the Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service and local contractors to improve the opportunities for the local construction industry to gain contracts and jobs with the project.

Council secured an agreement with Lendlease and the Queensland Government to break down some 30 large works packages on the site into around 300 smaller packages. This provided a more competitive environment and greater opportunities for local companies and contractors.

In partnership with Lendlease, the Federal Government and The Hornery Institute, Council also invested in The Work Shop, a unique, free drop-in service for contractors to register their vacancies and for jobseekers to register their interest – ultimately leading to better matching of employment opportunities for locals.

More than 800 former jobseekers are now working on-site thanks to The Work Shop, with more than 80% of them being Sunshine Coast locals and adding \$115 million in wages and salaries into the economy – providing a further boost to local businesses and service providers.

Of the 807 people who found positions through The Work Shop, 19% were previously unemployed, while 13% were aged between 15 and 24 years. The Work Shop also secured 59 apprenticeships and traineeships.

Council is also working to attract new businesses in the health and medical services fields to land adjacent to the Kawana Health Campus, which will provide high-value, long-term jobs for the region.

Best Western Plus, a full-service corporate hotel located opposite the new public hospital, has also recently opened.





### For further information:

If you would like more information on any Council project, please call us on 07 5475 7272 or email us at [mail@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au](mailto:mail@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au)



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