



Sunshine Coast Social Strategy 2015



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Message from the Mayor

We live in one of the best places on earth – thanks to the many who came before us and contributed in so many ways, and it is our responsibility to build on their contributions and achievements.

We are embarking on one of the most exciting chapters in the history of the Sunshine Coast and our opportunities are many and varied. There is a need to be alert and ready for the important challenges that come with growth and diversification of our region if we are to preserve our enviable lifestyle and strong and safe communities.

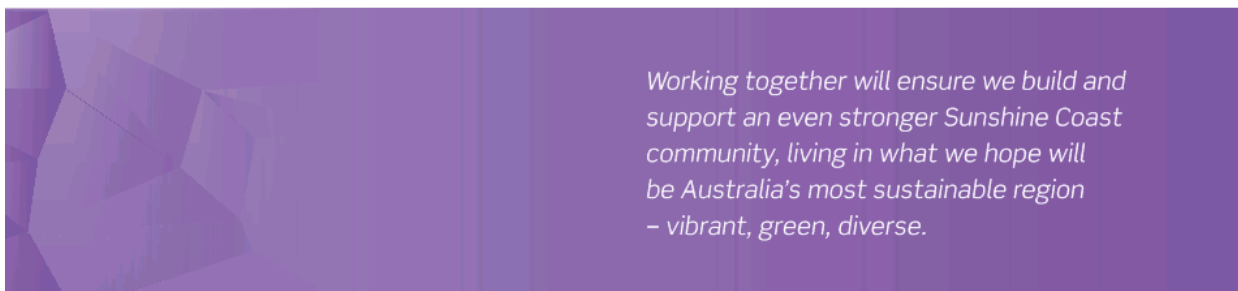
Council will work with the community every day and advocate on behalf of the community for the future of our region. However, council cannot meet all community needs on its own.

Our response to social challenges and the opportunities that arise require leadership, collaboration and partnerships between a range of government agencies, organisations and various communities across the region. Working together will ensure we build and support an even stronger Sunshine Coast community, living in what we hope will be Australia's most sustainable region – vibrant, green, diverse.

The people of the Sunshine Coast have a remarkable history of active involvement in community life. Importantly, we have a community that is passionate about maintaining and celebrating our values and lifestyle, which are second to none.

The Social Strategy provides the focus for this intent and outlines council's social priorities that contribute to a strong Sunshine Coast community. Through these actions council is, and will continue to be, focussed on serving the community and shaping our future. We will do so with vigour, determination and a clear purpose.

Mayor Mark Jamieson





The Sunshine Coast

The Sunshine Coast is one of the best places on earth to live. The natural features of our stunning hinterland landscapes, beautiful sandy beaches, clean air and water and vibrant communities attract people to move here or visit.

Our physical attributes

The Sunshine Coast has developed rapidly over recent decades from dispersed settlements concentrated on agriculture and forestry in hinterland areas, to now include growth along the coast and enterprise corridor which has been driven by lifestyle industries and tourism. The Sunshine Coast is different from other places, in that it is, in many ways, a community of communities. The decentralised nature of our townships on the Sunshine Coast is a great strength, cherished by our residents.

The Sunshine Coast LGA boasts a population of approximately 285,000 people spread over an area of 2,291 square kilometres, from the hinterland areas of Kenilworth to Maleny to Beerwah through to our coastal population which spans the area from Peregrine Springs to Pelican Waters.

The Sunshine Coast is embarking on a period of significant change, which will have a profound impact on how the Sunshine Coast will look and feel over the next few decades. Most notably is that our region is undergoing rapid population growth and change. A population increase of over 185,000 new residents is anticipated by 2036 for the Sunshine Coast LGA.

This will occur alongside a number of major projects occurring across the region, including:

- the building of a new city centre at Maroochydore
- expanding the Sunshine Coast Airport
- the development of the Sunshine Coast Public University Hospital and health hub
- expansion of the University of the Sunshine Coast
- the development of major new communities at Caloundra South and Palmview
- improved highway and rail infrastructure (including light rail)
- building of the Sunshine Coast Solar Farm.

Our social attributes

The Sunshine Coast lifestyle is second to none and as much as physical assets are important, it is the social attributes that make the Sunshine Coast a great place to be. These include:

- our community being passionate about maintaining our values and lifestyle
- the community minded spirit of our residents
- the strong contribution of a significant number of community groups and organisations that make up the region's social fabric
- the opportunity to get involved in a wide range of social and cultural activities
- the voluntary contribution many residents make to a variety of causes
- the way we come together to celebrate and participate in festivals and events.



About this strategy

The Sunshine Coast Social Strategy 2015 (Social Strategy) provides a long-term social direction that builds on the region's positive social attributes and identifies shorter term initiatives for responding to the social needs of the region, and further developing our community strengths.

Why have a Social Strategy?

The Social Strategy provides the corporate social narrative for the region, providing a touchstone for future corporate strategies and plans and informing corporate operational activities.

Development of the Regional Social Strategy

The Social Strategy has been informed by the *Sunshine Coast Community Plan* and policy and strategic directions of the Sunshine Coast Council, current trends in social and community planning and, literature, and targeted engagement with community sectors. The stages in preparing this strategy are outlined below.



The Social Strategy is supported by the Sunshine Coast Social Strategy Background Paper. The background paper explores social issues, the role of council, regional challenges and proposes a way forward. The strategy document develops the social direction by way of a vision, outcomes, aims and initiatives to deliver the social outcomes for the region.

Social Strategy	Background Paper
Key challenges Role of Council Strategic alignment Vision Outcomes Aims Key initiatives	Context Roles Key challenges Way forward

Key challenges for the Sunshine Coast

Although our community is supported by a wide range of individuals and organisations who contribute to the liveability and wellbeing of our region, we face a number of key challenges.

1. Population Growth

The Sunshine Coast is a rapidly growing local government area. Population growth requires adequate provision of community infrastructure and access to the social services, facilities and programs essential for the health, wellbeing and economic prosperity of our communities.

With growth and expansion, an essential strength of our communities will need to be resilience and awareness of our vulnerability to natural hazards and climate change, the impact of non-renewable energy consumption, increasing waste, unsustainable transport behaviour and food security.

In addition, the integration of newcomers and existing residents through the development of shared values, the maintenance of the unique character of the Sunshine Coast and the acknowledgment, celebration and

protection of the rich European, Aboriginal and Torres Strait and South Sea Islander history, heritage and culture will become an increasingly important social consideration.

2. Population Change

Our community is ageing and becoming more diverse, with new and different needs emerging. There is a need to recognise opportunities for older people to contribute back to their communities and prepare for the implications of our ageing population on government finances, labour supply, economic output, infrastructure requirements and social services. Ageing also contributes to the increasing number of people with disabilities. Along with younger people with a disability, there will be a greater need to recognise ability and promote equity and access for all.

The outmigration of young adults contributes to an ageing population profile, and along with other implications, retaining our younger people will be important to our social structure and workforce.

We will need to work to overcome the barriers for young adults who wish to stay in the region.

Our population is becoming more diverse. Welcoming and embracing increasing cultural diversity among



residents and tourists will assist in building a cohesive community.

Our changing population is bringing with it different kinds of households. Recognising the mismatch between housing supply and housing needs and its implications for the cost of living and housing security, and working to encourage the provision of appropriate and affordable housing on the Sunshine Coast, will be increasingly more important to the wellbeing of our community.

3. Low income and workforce participation

Pockets of disadvantage and low income make it difficult for some people to meet the costs of living.

Promoting access to opportunity and reducing barriers to full time employment for all people in our community (regardless of disability, cultural background, education and language) will improve participation in the workforce. This is particularly an issue for young people in the region who suffer from high unemployment.

Working with local agencies and organisations to encourage the provision of adequate safety nets for people with low incomes struggling to meet the costs of living will continue to be important.

4. Active and engaged lifestyles

The trend for less active and less healthy lifestyles leads to health and wellbeing issues. Although the Sunshine Coast fairs better in comparison to other areas of the State, there is a need to continue to provide environments and stimulating activities which help residents to undertake sufficient physical activity and participate in community life.

This needs to be supported by the maintenance of people's perception and feelings of safety on the Sunshine Coast, access to council's services, facilities and programs that are equally available to people from all age groups, abilities and backgrounds, and the promotion of innovative opportunities for social inclusion.

In addition, meaningful engagement with the community in ways that allows them to be involved and participate in community life and the promotion of community and cultural development establishes more engaged and healthy lifestyles for our communities.



The role of council

Council must be alert to the key challenges facing our region and create opportunities for others (including private corporations) to contribute to the strength of our community. It must also remain vigilant in ensuring it does not take on the responsibilities of the Federal and State governments or the activities of other organisations responding to the social needs of our community.

Who does what?

The Federal and State governments are primarily responsible for ensuring that people have access to social infrastructure and resources such as health, education, police, housing, communication, emergency relief, and social services that improve the quality of people's lives.


A broad range of non-government (charitable or not for profit) organisations are established or work within the region addressing a diversity of social needs. Some of the areas these organisations work in include youth, disability, access to food, training, aged care, mental illness and emergency accommodation. In addition, there is a growing interest from the private sector in building into their practice the concern for the welfare of others.

It is council's intention to fit within this network and complement existing activities by others in particular those that 'support an engaged, resilient and inclusive community that embraces diversity'.

What can council do?

Council can play varying roles depicted in Table 1 through the exercise of its powers, such as:

- regulatory functions such as land use planning, development assessment, local amenity, local laws and public health
- providing a Community Grants program for one-off community projects, events, programs and activities
- the provision of parks and gardens, indoor and outdoor sports complexes, libraries, aquatic centres, showgrounds, community land, walking and riding trails, bike tracks and skate and BMX parks, coastal boardwalks, boat ramps, playgrounds, dogs off leash areas and cemeteries
- acquisition, protection and management of environmentally and culturally significant land
- programs and initiatives that support the growth of a regional economy
- designing and maintaining streets and neighbourhoods so they are safe and encourage social interaction and physical activity
- organising and/or supporting festivals and events
- establishing dialogue, collecting and disseminating information and coordinating resources in the community
- coordination of disaster management prevention, preparation, response and recovery.



It is council's intention to fit within this network and complement existing activities by others in particular those that 'support an engaged, resilient and inclusive community that embraces diversity'.



Leader
 Lead by example, community messaging on important matters

Service Provider
 Fully fund a service or provide a service

Partner
 Contribute funds and/or resources towards an initiative or service that is delivered with or by other parties

Information provider
 Develop resources to promote a common understanding; provide information; distribute and display community information provided by others

Sunshine Coast COUNCIL

Facilitator/Initiator
 Bring together stakeholders to collectively pursue a shared interest or service or to resolve an issue

Regulator
 Specific role in response to legislation which may be direct, specific or general in nature

Owner/Custodian
 Manage community assets including buildings, facilities, public space and reserves

Advocate
 Make representation or seek to influence the outcome on behalf of the community

Table 1: The roles of council

The role of council

What are some outcomes?



Hosting over 20 cultural exhibitions across the Sunshine Coast at council facilities.



Operating the Sunshine Coast Stadium, Caloundra Indoor Stadium, Nambour Showgrounds and Maroochydore Multi Sports regional facilities, which attract over 800,000 visitors annually.



Encouraging the community to remain informed and to interact with each other by operating eight branch libraries and two mobile libraries with more than one million visits annually.



Enhancing beach safety through patrols of 21 beaches.



Encouraging active lifestyles through the provision of 10 aquatic centres with over one million visits annually.



Maintenance of approximately 57 kilometres of canal by canal dredging, beach nourishment and maintenance of beach access and fences along approximately 250 kilometres of coastline.



Supporting significant events and performances across the region, which collectively generate substantial economic benefits for the region (\$47 million in 2014).



Working with over 1500 community based not for profit groups to help the community have access to a range of community services and activities.





Maintaining over 460 recreation parks for community use.



Responding to over 240,000 enquiries annually in our customer contact centre.



Maintaining nearly 3,000 kilometres of roads, 448 bridges and more than 1,100 kilometres of pathways.



Providing over \$3 million in rate relief to pensioners.



Through contracted arrangements, providing about 8.3 million domestic and commercial garbage collections each year.



Providing development approval fee reductions and rebate discounts to not for profit organisations of over \$300,000 annually.



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Strategic alignment

The Sunshine Coast Council Corporate Plan 2014-2019 is the organisations leading document, and sets a vision 'to be Australia's most sustainable region - vibrant, green, diverse'.

The Corporate Plan identifies five goals that it will pursue over the life of the Plan, these are:

1	A new economy.
2	A strong community.
3	An enviable lifestyle and environment.
4	Service excellence.
5	A public sector leader.

The *Sunshine Coast The Natural Advantage - Regional Economic Development Strategy 2013-2033* is the guiding regional strategy that supports the attainment of goal 1 - A new economy – providing the regional policy, regulatory settings and identity that shape a globally competitive economy.

Akin to this approach the *Sunshine Coast Social Strategy 2015* has been developed to be the guiding regional strategy that supports the attainment of goal 2 - 'A strong community' through which council has committed to 'supporting an engaged, resilient and inclusive community that embraces diversity'.

These goals and the goal of 'An enviable lifestyle and environment' are supported by the provisions of the *Sunshine Coast Planning Scheme 2014* that

details the way land, buildings and structures are used and developed on the Sunshine Coast.

Our Outcomes

Four outcomes have been identified in council's corporate plan in relation to the strong community goal which are reflected within this document:

- safe and healthy communities
- resilient and engaged communities
- culture, heritage and diversity are valued and embraced
- people and places are connected.

These are how we hope to achieve the goal of making our community stronger.

What is a Strong Community

Strong communities have been defined as having 'high levels of coordination and cooperation for reciprocal and mutual benefit'. Many advantages have been found to exist with strong communities:

- better educational outcomes for children
- reduced criminality and a greater sense of personal security
- wider job and business opportunities
- better health
- better governance, and
- more efficient use of public and private resources.

Our Response

Council already has a well-established platform of existing policies, strategies, plans and charters which directly or indirectly contribute to building a strong community.

Improvement in these four corporate outcomes areas is the focus of our response to facing the key challenges of our region.

This will be achieved by identifying our vision, what is important for council to continue and to improve on to satisfy that vision and key actions for each outcome area.



Our social vision

Change is often led by governments who can reach out and think big, or differently. This involves being more open than closed, more willing to look at new ideas and work with ambiguity, more willing to be an initiator of change and understanding the story about where we are going.

We want to work across a wide range of disciplines and develop new initiatives that support our communities in helping the vulnerable and creating opportunities for all.

We need to tap into a deeper level of humanity, of who we really are and who we want to be as a community.

It is so important to create a generative society, which brings beneficial outcomes and has a built in tendency to be socially fair and economically and ecologically sustainable.

Our social vision is that:

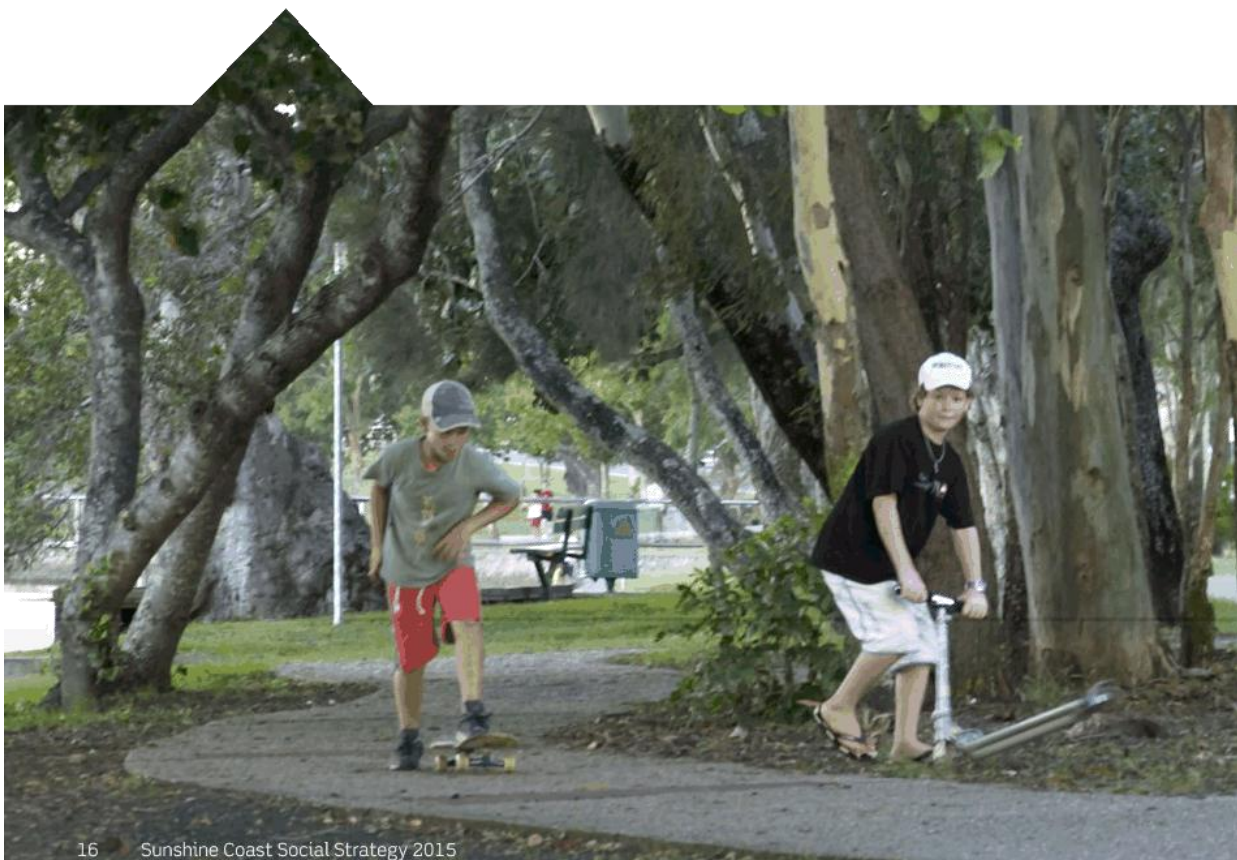
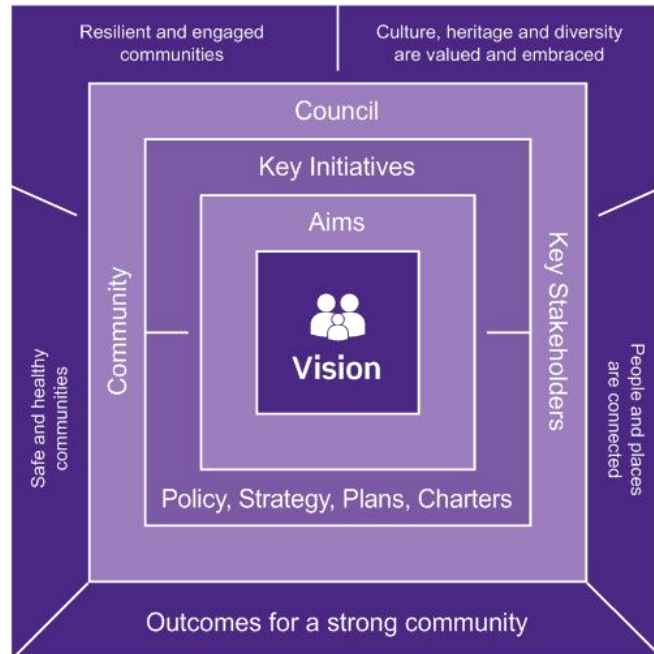
Our community will continue to thrive and enjoy a lifestyle that sets us apart. In all of our communities, people are included, treated with respect and opportunities are available to all.



Our strategy

To achieve our social vision a series of aims and key initiatives have been developed and aligned within our four outcome areas in this Social Strategy.

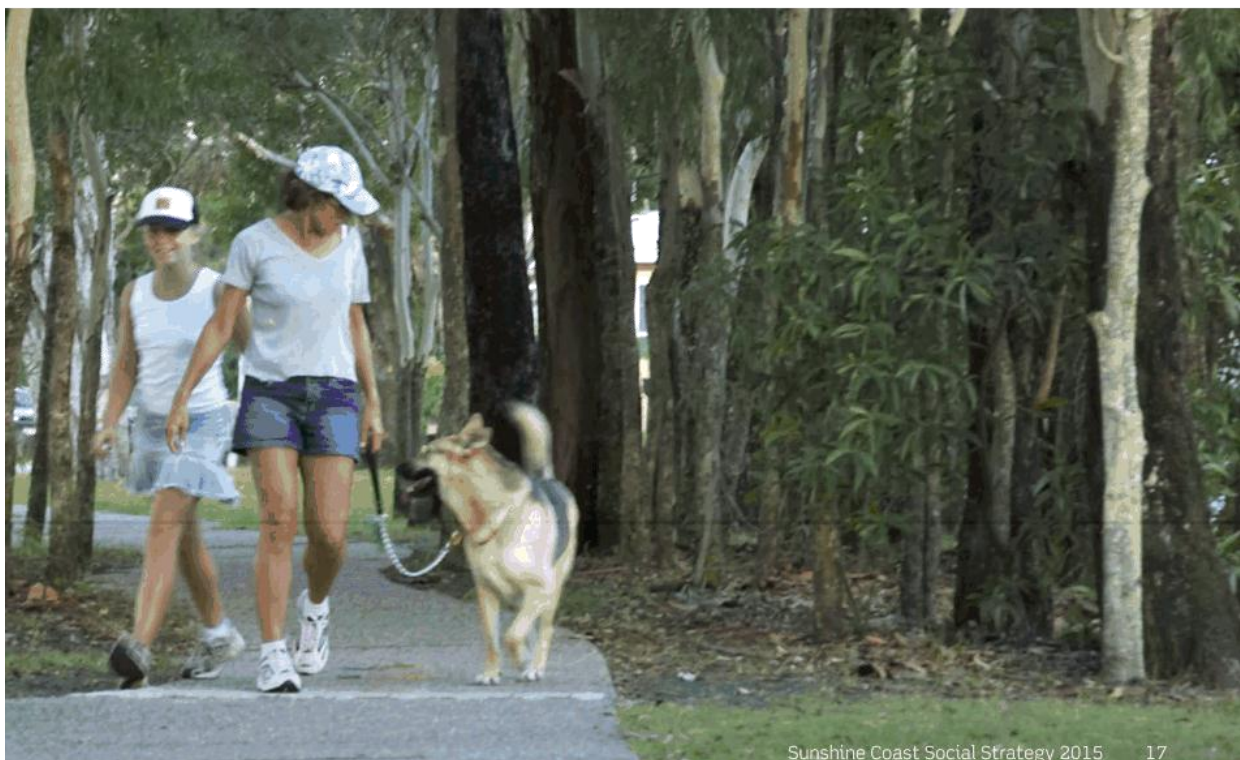
Through the implementation of key initiatives and the execution of policy and strategy focused on the attainment of these aims, council in partnership with the community and key stakeholders will continue to make our communities stronger.



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Our targets

Measuring progress towards targets will keep us on track.



Outcome 1 Safe and healthy communities

Overview

Communities thrive when people are able to come together in safe, inviting public spaces and when our environment encourages healthy lifestyles, fosters wellbeing for all members of the community and improves the overall liveability of our region.

Perceptions of safety can strongly influence how active and engaged a person is in their community. Maintaining safe environments and high feelings of safety have a positive influence on healthy lifestyles.

Ensuring adequate housing as a basic human need is critical to safe and healthy communities.

It is also important that community facilities and open spaces are accessible, affordable and appropriate for leisure, sport and recreational use. Likewise providing a diversity of community infrastructure to cater for all audiences, ages and abilities provides opportunities for people to be active and engaged in their community.

Aims

As the population grows and changes it will be important to:

- retain high perceptions and levels of safety
- encourage active and healthy behaviours
- embrace and cater for an ageing population
- encourage appropriate and affordable living options.

What we currently do

Council's existing commitments to these aims are embodied in a number of existing documents as outlined below.

Sunshine Coast Active Transport Plan 2011-2031 positions walking and cycling as playing an essential part in creating a sustainable transport system for the Sunshine Coast.

Sunshine Coast Affordable Living Strategy 2010-2020 (August 2014 edition) identifies the actions needed to make the Sunshine Coast local government area a more affordable and sustainable place to live.

Sunshine Coast Aquatic Plan 2011-2026 guides the planning and management of council's ten aquatic centres for the next 16 years.

Sunshine Coast CCTV in Public Spaces Policy 2014 provides direction on the establishment and management of the council's Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) system in public spaces.

Sunshine Coast Community Gardens Policy 2012 assists groups to plan and establish community gardens on council-owned or managed land.

Sunshine Coast Community Land and Complementary Commercial Activity Policy 2011 ensures that community use of community land remains paramount, while allowing for the operation of commercial activities in circumstances that also provide a benefit to the community.

Sunshine Coast Community Safety Policy 2014 guides council's contribution to enhancing community safety and partnerships that reduce both the fear and risk of crime and injury.

Sunshine Coast Domestic Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Strategy 2014-2020 recognises that pets are an important part of people's lives and contribute to enhanced wellbeing and the provision of companionship in many homes and families.



Key initiatives

These initiatives supplement council's existing commitments.

- 1.1 Develop partnerships and programs which assist in stimulating activities that help residents undertake sufficient physical activity and lead healthy lifestyles.
- 1.2 Undertake the embellishment of key recreation parks to enable the provision of a range of infrastructure that encourages people of all ages to participate in a range of activities and exercise.
- 1.3 Develop community safety partnerships with state agencies and community groups that assists everyone living in or visiting the region to go about their daily pursuits without fear or risk of harm or injury.

This strategy aims to promote and enhance responsible pet ownership across the region and inform the community about council's role and future priorities in animal management.

Sunshine Coast Open Space Landscape Infrastructure Manual (LIM) 2013 guides the design, development and delivery of council controlled open space while ensuring the incorporation of crime prevention through environmental design principles.

Sunshine Coast Open Space Strategy 2011 (August 2014 edition) aims to ensure the community's need for recreation parks, sports grounds and recreation trails are planned for into the future.

Sunshine Coast Positive Ageing Strategy 2011-2016 aims to address the issues, needs and aspirations of older people on the Sunshine Coast.

Sunshine Coast Skate and BMX Plan 2011-2020 guides the planning, development and management of the region's 27 Skate and BMX facilities.

Sunshine Coast Sport and Active Recreation Plan 2011- 2026 guides council's provision of sport and active recreation facilities and services.

Sunshine Coast Wellbeing Charter 2010 assists council to develop strategies and form partnerships, which aim to enhance wellbeing on the Sunshine Coast.

Sunshine Coast (Draft) Waste Strategy 2015-2025 shapes future waste infrastructure needs for the Sunshine Coast to ensure this essential community service remains cost effective and customer focused whilst protecting our public health and natural environment.

Outcome 2 Resilient and engaged communities

Overview

Strong communities have an ability to utilise available resources in their community to respond to changing circumstances and natural hazards and threats that impact upon their community.

Resilient and engaged communities are communities where engagement and participation in community life facilitates an understanding of community and sharing of information raises awareness of issues, brings people and organisations together, and facilitates community based initiatives that respond to local needs.

In some instances this has resulted in organisations choosing to address social issues through the buying of goods or services that deliver a social benefit.

Aims

In addressing the challenges facing the region it will be important to:

- partner with key stakeholders and state agencies to develop effective and appropriate local responses to underlying social issues
- build the capacity and resilience of the regions community organisations
- consult with the community on important matters
- enhance council's procurement processes to encourage greater consideration of social benefits and outcomes
- build strong community resilience to and awareness of vulnerability to natural hazards and threats.

What we currently do

Council's existing commitments to these aims are embodied in a number of existing documents as outlined below.

Sunshine Coast Coastal Management Policy (Public Lands) 2014 guides and informs council's coastal management activities including capital works, operational works, emergency works and development assessment with the objective of achieving the long term protection, sustainable use and enjoyment of coastal public lands.

Sunshine Coast Community Engagement Policy 2009 provides direction for council's community engagement activities to identify shared issues and opportunities, assist with decision making and create partnerships.

Sunshine Coast Community Grants Policy 2013 guides the administration of council's grants programs to ensure valuable funding can be provided by council to community groups for projects, events and activities e.g. offers up to three years funding to help clubs maintain

sports fields in the region and provide high quality venues for our communities.

Sunshine Coast Local Disaster Management Plan 2014 outlines the procedures for a disaster or emergency on the Sunshine Coast to ensure effective and coordinated planning, preparedness, and response and recovery.

Sunshine Coast – The Natural Advantage: Regional Economic Development Strategy 2013-2033 provides a 20-year vision and blueprint for sustainable economic growth. It will help to ensure the region actively participates in the global economy and deliver the lifestyle and opportunities for local residents and businesses alike.

Sunshine Coast Youth Strategy 2010-2015 provides direction for council in meeting the needs of the regions youth population.



Key initiatives

These initiatives supplement council's existing commitments.

- 2.1 Recognise the importance of young people to our social structure and develop partnerships which assist to overcome barriers which lead to their outmigration.
- 2.2 Ensure the manner in which council grant monies to community and not-for-profit organisations are distributed strategically and enhance council's corporate and social vision for the region.
- 2.3* Investigate the development of a Sunshine Coast Trust - to provide opportunities for philanthropic investment to community projects and initiatives.
- 2.4* Incorporate social benefit criterion into council's procurement processes and encourage other key Sunshine Coast organisations to embrace similar practices.
- 2.5* Identify opportunities to increase council's support of social enterprises that assist the most vulnerable in our region.
- 2.6* Identify opportunities to assist in connecting business with not-for-profit organisations and community groups to develop employment generating opportunities and sustainable business models.
- 2.7* Promote/provide leadership through strong messaging on social issues (e.g. domestic violence, disability advocacy, homelessness, multiculturalism).
- 2.8 Advocate to the Federal and State Governments to ensure appropriate funding is available for social services provision.

* New initiative



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Outcome 3

Culture, heritage and diversity are valued and embraced

Overview

Recognising, valuing, and meeting the needs of diverse cultures encourages participation in community life and builds an inclusive community.

The active acknowledgement of our Aboriginal, Torres Strait and South Sea Islander people's and European heritage preserves our heritage. The understanding and promotion of that knowledge is an important contribution to the cohesiveness of our community.

Cultural development plays an important role in establishing socially inclusive, cohesive and creative communities, as well as the contribution creativity and culture can make to an individual's wellbeing. Community spaces and places will become increasingly important as gathering places for the community, and the expression of creativity.

Aims

As the population becomes more diverse it will be important to:

- recognise the value and mix of people from a culturally diverse background
- develop an overall framework to guide the identification, protection, conservation and management of the region's heritage
- recognise the value of celebrating and building the region's creative and cultural communities and ensure cultural development contributes to social wellbeing, place identity and sector resilience.

What we currently do

Council's existing commitments to these aims are embodied in a number of existing documents as outlined below.

Sunshine Coast Community Events and Celebrations Strategy 2010 articulates council's role in community events and celebrations that enliven and reflect the diversity of the region.

Sunshine Coast Cultural Development Policy 2012 guides council's contribution to cultural development and details the position and key priorities to enrich the cultural vitality of the region

Sunshine Coast Events Policy 2010 articulates council's role in supporting, partnering and facilitating, and delivering events across the region.

Sunshine Coast Heritage Levy Policy 2010 directs investment per rateable property for cultural heritage projects that protect and respond to the region's emerging and most critical heritage challenges.

Sunshine Coast Libraries Plan 2014-2024 guides the future form and function of the Sunshine Coast's eight libraries and two mobile libraries to continue to foster and support creative and cultural development initiatives and programs.

Sunshine Coast Major and Regional Events Strategy 2013-2017 guides council and the Sunshine Coast Events Board on building the region's competitive advantage to host major and regional events that boost our economy.

Sunshine Coast Memorial and Plaques Policy 2009 sets the direction for the development, approval, management, placement and maintenance of a range of memorials and plaques.



Key initiatives

These initiatives supplement council's existing commitments.

- 3.1 Strengthen reconciliation practices and ensure the ongoing support of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
- 3.2* Develop actions and partnerships which recognise, value and support people from a culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) background.
- 3.3 Implement actions which guide the identification, protection, conservation, management, celebration and communication of the region's heritage.
- 3.4 Identify and explore ways to preserve Aboriginal, Torres Strait and South Sea Islander cultural heritage values and places of heritage significance on the Sunshine Coast.
- 3.5* Develop processes which enable the consistent management of collectable items (public art in civic spaces, cultural heritage items and visual art by relevant artists) that provides maximum use and benefit to the community.
- 3.6 Support and promote celebrations and events which build the knowledge, capacity and networks of celebrations and event organisers and suppliers.
- 3.7 Continue to recognise and support opportunities which develop and grow the creative and cultural industries on the Sunshine Coast, positioning the region as a key destination for both the industries.

* New initiative

Sunshine Coast Performance and Community Venues Service Plan 2014-2029 provides clear direction for six of council's key performance and community venues for the next fifteen years to ensure council offers accessible venues and a high quality experience.

Sunshine Coast Public Art Policy 2011 guides the provision of public art in the Sunshine Coast region to ensure there is expression and acknowledgment of the unique characteristics of local communities through innovative public art.

Sunshine Coast Reconciliation Action Plan 2011-2016 promotes the understanding between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and other Australians living on the Sunshine Coast.

Sunshine Coast Recreational Trail Plan 2012 includes a network blueprint which prioritises upgrades to existing trails, and proposes new trails and areas for further investigation.

Outcome 4 People and places are connected

Overview

A connected community is where individuals, groups and organisations are able to interact and contribute to the development of a shared sense of wellbeing, where social infrastructure, programs and services meet community needs and where a community is supported through diverse active and public transport networks, a resilient economy and great places and spaces.

Being connected also means that residents will develop strong social networks both in the physical and the virtual world. These networks will support people finding local solutions in their community.

Aims

As the population grows and the community expands it will be important to:

- ensure the provision of community infrastructure contributes and responds to community needs
- strengthen the focus on social inclusion, building social capital and connection within communities
- create spaces which can be used as incubators for social gathering, activities and developing social enterprises
- strengthen the substantial and ongoing contribution made by volunteers and community groups
- recognise and maintain the identity and character of our community of communities.

What we currently do

Council's existing commitments to these aims are embodied in a number of existing documents as outlined below.

Sunshine Coast Access and Inclusion Plan 2011-2016 aims to enable people to engage in society and move about the region with dignity and independence.

Sunshine Coast Access and Inclusion Policy 2011 guides access and inclusion practices to local government programs, facilities, open space, services, resources and information. The policy also endeavours to promote social justice, social inclusion and identify and reduce barriers to civic and community participation.

Sunshine Coast Cemetery Plan 2012-2027 aims to enhance the cultural value, community awareness and benefits of cemetery services and facilities at our 16 cemeteries.

Sunshine Coast Place Making Charter 2012 is a commitment by council to protect our quality of life and strengthen our unique and internationally recognised identity through a Place Making approach.

Sunshine Coast Place Making Policy 2012 supports a localised place-based approach to improve council's responsiveness to each of its individual communities.

Sunshine Coast Rural Futures Strategy 2013 sets out activities that will help strengthen and enhance the existing role of the hinterland as a location for agriculture production, tourism activities, economic opportunities, rural lifestyles, community cohesion and diverse natural assets.



Key initiatives

These initiatives supplement council's existing commitments.

- 4.1* Develop an interactive community facility database which clearly identifies all available social infrastructure for community use across the region.
- 4.2* Implement Smart City Initiatives using technology and infrastructure to increase connectivity and support inclusive and dynamic community places for linking people, technology, knowledge and culture.
- 4.3 Support initiatives that recognise and show appreciation for the substantial and ongoing contribution made by volunteers and voluntary groups to the livability of the Sunshine Coast.
- 4.4 Support initiatives that endeavour to improve the capacity of volunteers and provide ongoing opportunities for people to undertake volunteering activities.

* New initiative

Sunshine Coast Social Infrastructure Strategy 2011 (August 2014 edition) provides a framework to ensure that existing and future communities have access to a full range of social infrastructure for the next 20 years.

Sunshine Coast Sustainable Transport Strategy 2011-2031 (August 2014 edition) identifies what is required to provide a sustainable, integrated and safe transport system. Council also administers a Public Transport Levy which assists in the provision of affordable and accessible public transport to communities with fewer alternative transport options.

Implementation, monitoring and review

This strategy is a long term planning document. In the shorter term the intent of the strategy will be progressed through:

- the ongoing implementation of council's existing commitments
- a review or refresh of our existing commitments (as required) being aligned with the vision, aims and initiatives of this strategy
- the key initiatives being actioned over the next five years
- monitoring of our progress towards identified targets
- refining our direction and actions as necessary.

An implementation plan will be prepared to support and inform the progress of the strategy's implementation, achievements and challenges in the long term.

The implementation plan should contain timeframes, estimated costs, funding options, initiatives and assign responsibility to branches of Council.

Monitoring of the outcomes of the strategy's implementation will be important to its success. Annual review of the strategy by measuring progress towards identified targets will provide a status report and identify where changes are necessary to achieve the desired outcomes.

An implementation plan will be prepared to support and inform the progress of the strategy's implementation, achievements and challenges in the long term.





