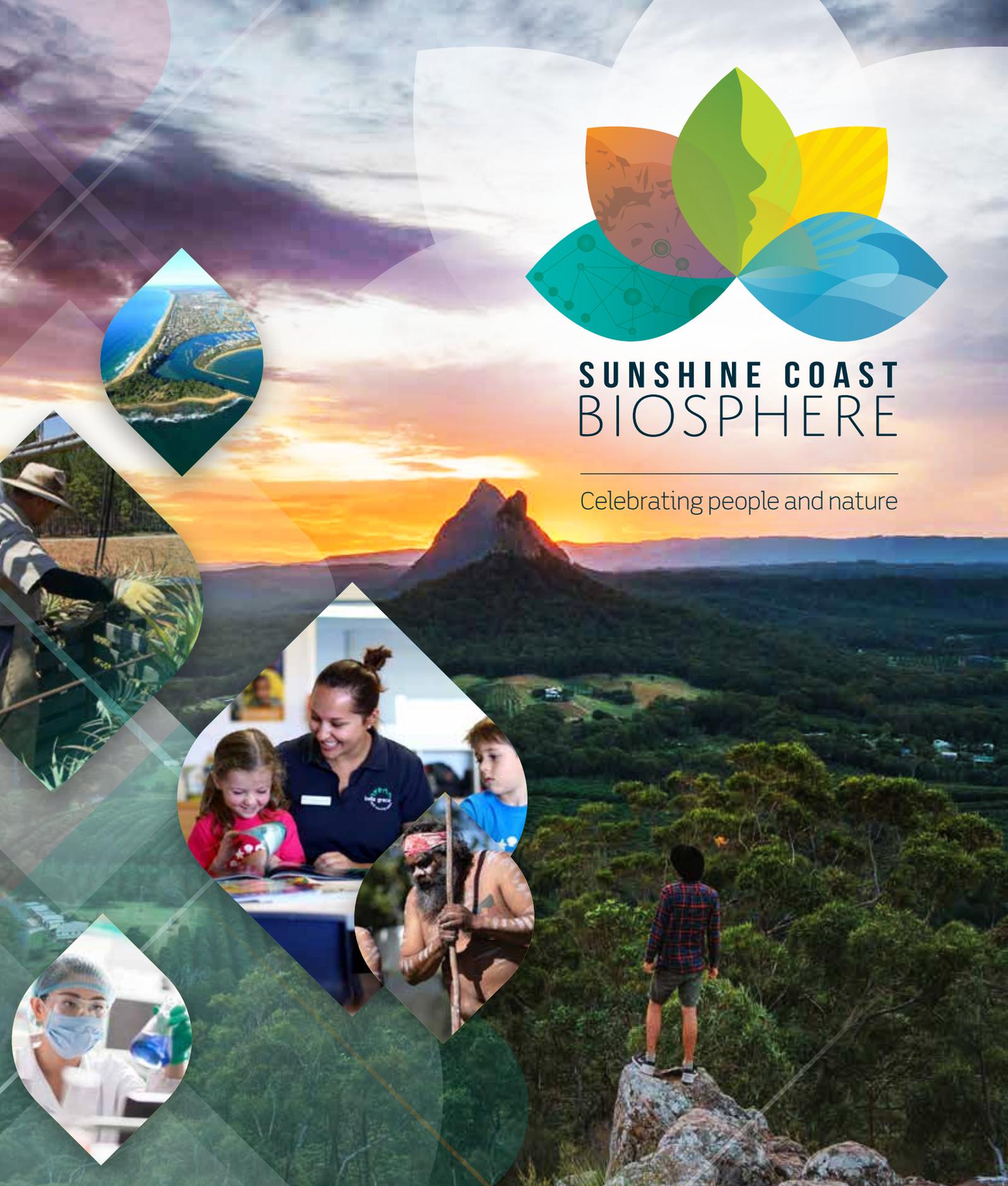




SUNSHINE COAST BIOSPHERE

Celebrating people and nature



Our Sunshine Coast region is recognised by UNESCO as an international site of excellence, known as a biosphere.



Our Sunshine Coast Biosphere is a special place where responsible development and people working, living and playing sustainably sit alongside active conservation.

Becoming a UNESCO biosphere reserve demonstrates the Sunshine Coast's commitment to remain future-facing and will assist to:

- create a legacy for our children's future
- care for our beautiful landscapes and stunning beaches
- leverage international recognition and economic opportunities to grow local businesses
- protect, share and celebrate the cultural heritage of our communities.



Sunshine Coast Council acknowledges the Kabi Kabi and Jinibara peoples as the traditional custodians of the Sunshine Coast, and wishes to pay respect to their elders past, present and emerging.

Our credentials are worthy of international recognition

The Sunshine Coast is **rich in Indigenous heritage** with Traditional Owners maintaining a **connection to land and water** over tens of thousands of years. **Jinibara and Kabi Kabi country** extends across the region

We were recognised as a **Smart21 Community in 2022** and one of the **Top 7 intelligent Communities of 2020**

We won the **2018 Smart Cities Leadership City Award** in recognition of our **liveability, workability and sustainability** outcomes from technology and data solutions

Our region's **sustainability achievements** have been recognised on **three occasions through the National Banksia Awards**

We are the **first local government in Australia to offset our entire electricity cost from renewable energy** (generated by the award winning Sunshine Coast Solar Farm)

Our residents are sustainability focused, as **53% of our dwellings have solar power** (compared to the 30% average across Australia)

We have more than **9700 hectares of open space** which includes over **800 hectares of recreational parks**

Our council area has **55% native vegetation** and **63% of our coastline is in a natural or near natural state.**



What is a biosphere?

A biosphere is an international site of excellence, recognised by UNESCO as an area of natural beauty where people live and work. Biospheres are places, just like our region, where active conservation sits alongside responsible development and people living sustainably.

The Sunshine Coast Biosphere is one of five biospheres in Australia, joining a global network of more than 700 reserves in over 130 countries.

Our international recognition as a biosphere follows a successful nomination for the Sunshine Coast which was endorsed by Council, on behalf of the community in 2019. The nomination was informed by our community, a diverse range of industry sectors, interest groups and government.

What does this mean for me?

A biosphere is non-statutory. This means that as long as people are following local, state or federal laws then nothing needs to change. People can continue to operate their business or enjoy the outdoors as they currently do and will be encouraged to continue adopting sustainable practices.

There are many benefits associated with being a biosphere that Sunshine Coast residents can take advantage of. A biosphere credential, coupled with harnessing these benefits, will ensure our region adapts to change, while maintaining our special natural areas and our unique lifestyle.

What are the benefits of being a biosphere?

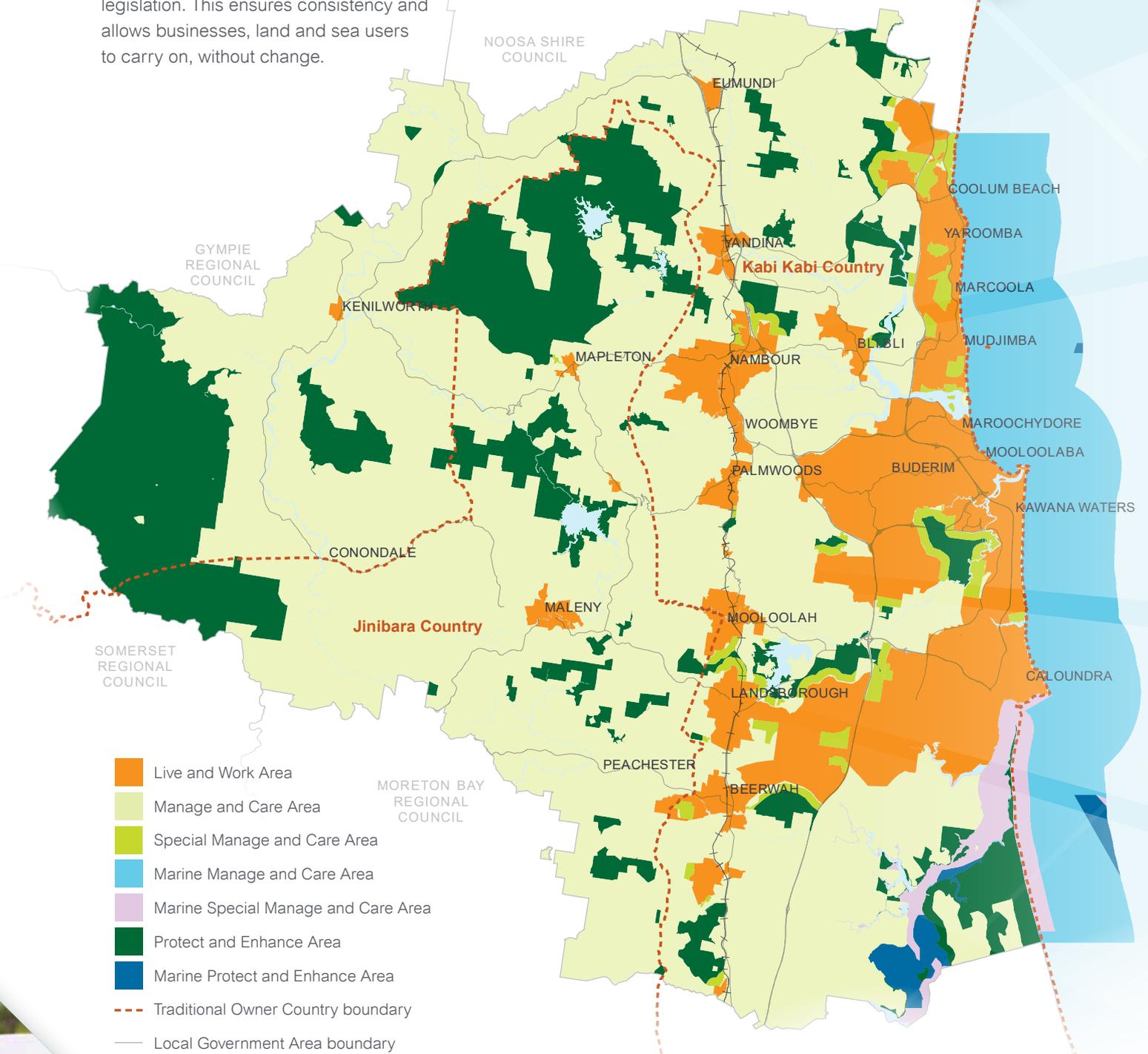
Benefits include:

- **Lifestyle** – ensures we continue to have a healthy environment and liveable Sunshine Coast.
- **Environment** – further enhances and maintains our landscape and character, biodiversity, waterways, wetlands and coastal areas.
- **Economy and business** – attracts more investment to our region and helps local business grow through the creation of niche markets for our region's products and services, facilities and practices.
- **Agriculture, forestry and fisheries** – provides a premium brand to increase the value of products and services through a sustainable 'Produced on the Sunshine Coast' brand. It also protects these industries as an important part of our economy.
- **Development and construction** – assists to achieve planning principles of urban consolidation and sustainable design to deliver inclusive and vibrant communities.
- **Partnerships** – increases collaboration between schools, academia, business and government with a focus on sustainability projects.
- **Tourism** – raises the profile of the Sunshine Coast and increases the desirability of our region as a holiday destination (domestically, abroad and to new market segments).



Sunshine Coast Biosphere Map

Our biosphere's mapped areas are clear, simple and easy to understand. The areas apply to the land in the local government area and the sea out to three nautical miles. Areas align with council's existing planning scheme, state and federal planning, policy and legislation. This ensures consistency and allows businesses, land and sea users to carry on, without change.



- Live and Work Area
- Manage and Care Area
- Special Manage and Care Area
- Marine Manage and Care Area
- Marine Special Manage and Care Area
- Protect and Enhance Area
- Marine Protect and Enhance Area
- Traditional Owner Country boundary
- Local Government Area boundary

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What does our Sunshine Coast Biosphere look like?

Live and Work Area

- Multiple land-uses where people live and make a living.
- Sustainable development and resource management practices are promoted and developed.
- Green spaces, parks, waterways, dunes and beaches are key natural assets.

Manage and Care Areas

- Rural lifestyle and living areas where primary producers use the land for business.
- Care is taken to manage land and sea activities, minimise impacts on Protect and Enhance Areas and to connect Protect and Enhance Areas with Live and Work Areas.
- Manage and Care Areas must surround Protect and Enhance Areas but can stand alone.
- The width of the Manage and Care Area must be at least 500 metres whenever possible to buffer the Protect and Enhance Area (where there is a Live and Work Area immediately adjacent).

Special Manage and Care Area

- These areas are small protected areas that are mostly surrounded by Live and Work Areas.
- These small areas still remain legally protected. We recognise that these areas are significant and highly valued protected areas.

Protect and Enhance Area

- A legally protected area that is publically owned and devoted to long term conservation.
- It is over 20 hectares to meet conservation objectives.
Examples: larger national parks, part of some marine parks and Council's environment reserves.

What will our Sunshine Coast Biosphere do?

Our community, a diverse range of industry sectors, interest groups and government have provided input to inform what the Sunshine Coast Biosphere aims to achieve.

Our biosphere will seek to balance the environmental, social, cultural and economic needs of today, without compromising the ability to meet the needs of future generations.

It will be internationally renowned as a place where people live, learn, work and play sustainably with a focus on:

People

A Sunshine Coast community that actively fosters and promotes sustainable practices, use and stewardship.

Conservation

Conserving, maintaining and enhancing our natural environment from the hinterland to the coast, and connecting people and nature.

Development

Demonstrating leadership in delivering a diverse and resilient economy.

Logistical support

Inspiring and celebrating creativity, innovation, research and a learning community.





SUNSHINE COAST BIOSPHERE

Sunshine Coast Biosphere brand

Our branding depicts fanned leaves positioned in a radial pattern to show the energy of our region and the outward vision of our Biosphere.

The elements within each of the 'leaves' represent the following:

- Our networking and relationships – social, environment and economic.
- Our hinterland, geology and ancient history.
- Us. The people element of our biosphere and the central role we play in caring for our region.
- Sunshine. The brightness and energy of our region.
- Our coastal environment and waterways.

These elements underpin our Sunshine Coast Biosphere as we celebrate people and nature.

Next steps

- Steps will be taken to transition from planning to our implementation phase.
- Sunshine Coast Council will continue to work with key stakeholders to manage our Sunshine Coast Biosphere, including implementing governance and performance measurement frameworks.
- The community is encouraged to get involved and contribute to our Sunshine Coast Biosphere.



We invite you to join us
as we celebrate people
and nature in the
Sunshine Coast Biosphere



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au

mail@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au

Locked Bag 72 Sunshine Coast Mail Centre Qld 4560

