

# State of the Region

Healthy  
Smart  
Creative

## From the Mayor

What a momentous year!

There really is no better place to be at this time than on the Sunshine Coast.

As I talk to people right across our region, I detect that sense of excitement and optimism as our efforts over the last four years are delivering positive results.

This has been a year of substantial progress on the Sunshine Coast.

Thanks to our balanced and unwavering focus on protecting our environment, supporting our community, maintaining a lifestyle which is the envy of others and strengthening our economy, the Sunshine Coast Council is continuing to shape a prosperous future for our residents.

I know that in years to come, we will look back on 2016 as an historic marker in time.

This year we have seen a number of our region's game-changer projects move from the drawing board to reality –

projects like the Sunshine Coast Airport expansion, the State Government's new \$1.8 billion Sunshine Coast University Hospital, the Sunshine Coast Solar Farm and the Maroochydore City Centre – which is Australia's only greenfield CBD in an existing urban area at this time.

Our council has been entrusted by Sunshine Coast residents to continue to shape a prosperous future – one which offers enduring employment opportunities, better access to facilities and services, greater connectivity between communities and an outstanding natural environment.

This is not a responsibility we take lightly – and it drives our approach in everything that we do.

When you are shaping a prosperous future for a region of more than 290,000 people, it is important to reflect on – and celebrate – the milestones along the way.



I am pleased to present this snapshot of the State of our Region which highlights just some of our achievements over the past year.

It's a story we should be very proud of and one that is gaining incredible interest around the nation and across the globe.

Our vision for the Sunshine Coast is based on the premise we are healthy, smart and creative – and the future is here, on the Sunshine Coast.

We are looking forward to 2017 with great confidence.

I wish you and your loved ones my very best wishes for the festive season.

MAYOR MARK JAMIESON

# State of the Region

## 2016 A year in review

Gross Regional Product  
**\$16 billion**

growing at a rate on average of nearly 4% per annum



Included as one of only four Australian regions on the

**world's Smart 21 communities for 2017**

Recognised by Infrastructure Australia as

**one of five cities**

(in addition to the State capitals) that will be the focus for the future productivity of the

**Australian economy**

Building approvals at an eight-year high with

**\$1.29 billion**

worth of construction approved last financial year – more than double what it was in 2012



New 12 month record for Sunshine Coast Airport with

**1 million people** flying in and out of the Coast

**\$180 million** of purchasing spend awarded to local business

Unemployment rate **has more than halved** since 2012.



It now sits at 4.7% – lower than the Queensland unemployment rate

**150,000 visitors**



from more than 70 countries attended our World is Coming events, contributing around

**\$100 million** to the economy

Average life expectancy

**82 years**

Two years above the state average



Highest percentage of **non-smokers** in the state, and

**#2** in Queensland for healthy weight

**107.5 hectares** of land acquired this year

using the Environment Levy providing an enduring environmental legacy



Nearly 20% **(591 hectares)**

of council's conservation estate has been acquired since 2012



Greenhouse gas emissions reduced by **23.5 tonnes** per employee

**Second highest**

financial sustainability rating available for a local government

**No other Council in Queensland is higher**

**\$** **Balanced** budget of

**\$717 million** delivered for 2016/17

**177,000** customers



phoned our main call centre

More than **\$10 billion**

committed (or in the pipeline) in major public and private investment in the region



# 10 things to look forward to in 2017

## 1 The Sunshine Coast Solar Farm comes online

When the 15 megawatt (MW) solar farm at Valdora is complete by mid next year, Sunshine Coast Council will become Australia's first local government to offset 100% of its electricity consumption with energy from a renewable source. The solar farm will be the largest in Queensland and will deliver \$22 million in savings, after costs, for our ratepayers over the next 30 years.

## 2 The first season of the Sunshine Coast Lightning

Excitement is building as the first Sunshine Coast team to compete in a national professional sporting competition prepares to play its inaugural season in the Suncorp Super Netball League. Televised nationwide on Channel Nine, the competition starts on February 18 with the Lightning against the Queensland Firebirds in Brisbane. The first home game will be at the upgraded USC Sports Stadium on February 26.

## 3 Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Naming of the Sunshine Coast

We are getting set to celebrate half a century of people, places and events in the region since the Sunshine Coast officially received its name. The 50th Anniversary of the Naming of the Sunshine Coast will be commemorated on August 1 and we're planning celebrations throughout 2017 to mark this special occasion. Keep an eye out for the calendar of events which will be released early in the New Year.

## 4 Our new city centre emerges

Get ready as our new Maroochydore City Centre – Australia's only greenfield CBD within an existing urban area – takes shape. Construction will start on great new city streets, parks and a stunning new central waterway in 2017. The project will deliver more than 30,000 jobs by 2040, contribute \$4.4 billion to the Sunshine Coast economy and is attracting world-wide interest.

## 5 Opening the Mt Ninderry trail

Great news for everyone who loves to get outdoors and enjoy our beautiful environment. The second stage of the Mt Ninderry trail upgrade will open in 2017 with three viewing areas set to provide views out to the Blackall Range, north to Lake Weyba and across Mt Coolum to Mooloolaba. New directional signage will also be installed to help walkers enjoy the area.

## 6 Bulcock St lights up

A modern, dynamic canopy lighting feature will be installed in Bulcock Street following this year's streetscape upgrade. The bespoke LED lighting feature will weave across the street and use innovative region-first technology to light up the area at night and provide shade during the day.

## 7 Discover Mary Cairncross Scenic Reserve

One of the Coast's most popular destinations is about to become even better. Visitors to the Mary Cairncross Scenic Reserve will enjoy an educational experience at the new Discovery Centre, with an elevated viewing platform and boardwalk and meeting theatre when it opens next year.

## 8 Construction starts on the Sunshine Coast Airport expansion project

Scheduled for completion in 2020, the airport expansion will link our region directly to new destinations in Australia, Asia and the Western Pacific. It will enable more choice, more flights and will directly connect with key tourism, investment and export markets. It will generate 2230 jobs and contribute \$4.1 billion to our local economy through to 2040.

## 9 Sunshine Coast University Hospital opens

The State Government's new \$1.8 billion public hospital will open in April 2017 and will continue to be a major contributor to our region's economy. When it is fully commissioned more than 10,000 patients each year will no longer have to travel to Brisbane for complex treatment.

## 10 A winter cycling escape

Thousands of riders and their friends and family will converge on our region for the ultimate winter cycling escape, Velothon Sunshine Coast, from July 13-16. Based at Mooloolaba, the race for elite and age-group competitors will be part of the Velothon Series, which includes events in Germany, Canada, Sweden and Wales, and is expected to inject about \$3.5 million into our local economy.

## Solar Farm

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> \$10 million  
economic benefit

100% of council's electricity offset by renewables

## Submarine cable

\$1.1 billion  
per annum to  
Queensland economy

\$700m per annum to Sunshine Coast economy

## Airport

2230 jobs

\$4.1 billion contribution to economy

## Sunshine Plaza

\$400 million  
expansion

creating 5200  
construction  
and retail jobs

## Maroochydore

15,000  
jobs by 2025

\$4.4 billion contribution to economy

## University

\$81 million  
expansion complete  
20,000 students by 2020

## Palmview

\$3 billion+  
development  
17,000 residents

## Hospital

4600 jobs  
\$1.8 billion investment

## Light Rail Project

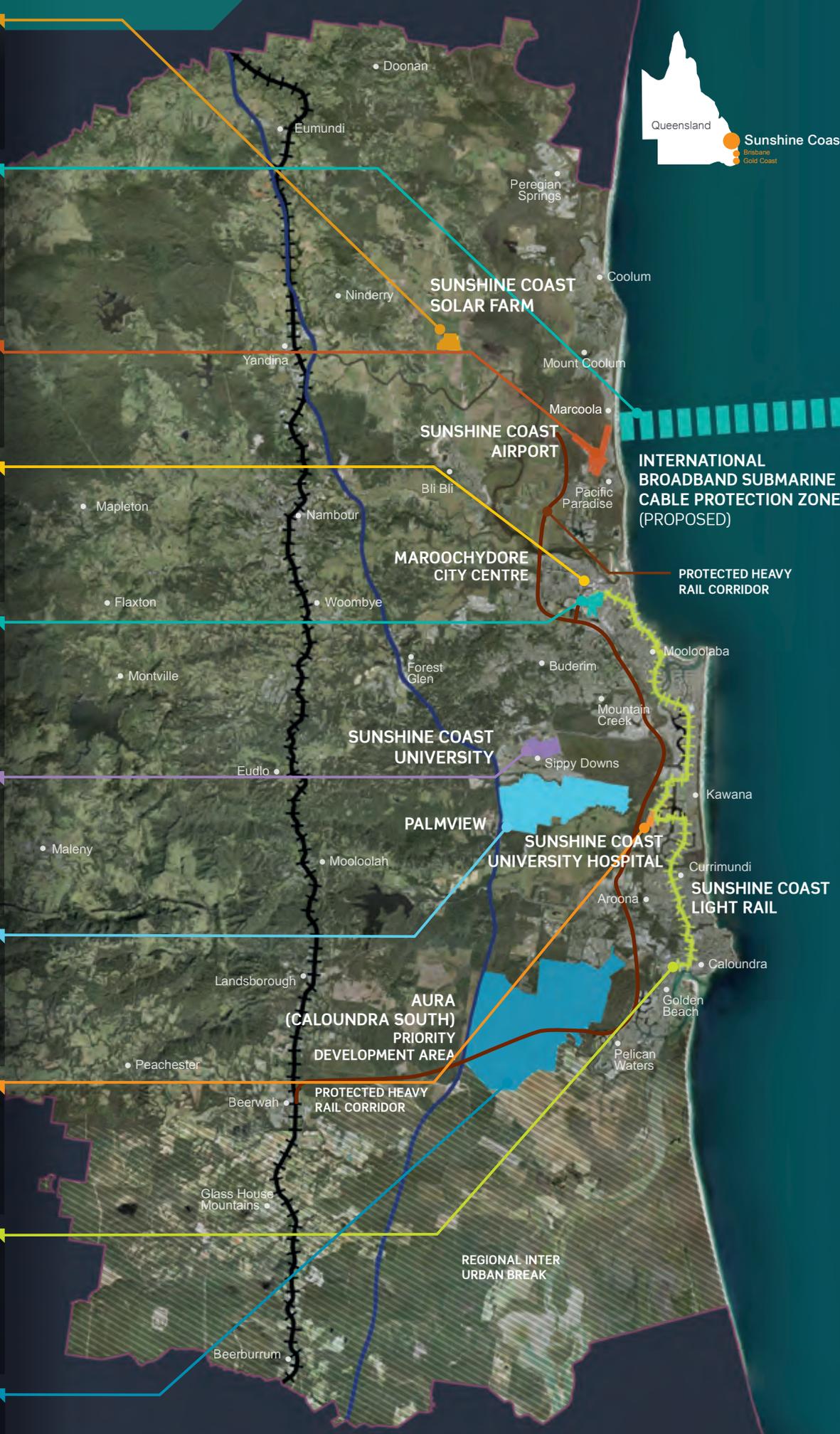
Stage 1 by 2025  
9000 jobs

\$3.6 billion contribution to economy

## Aura (Caloundra South)

50,000  
residents

\$7 billion+ investment



# Sunshine Coast Major Projects

Current as at 9 December 2016