

Mayor Mark Jamieson
Sunshine Coast Regional Council
Locked Bag 72, Sunshine Coast Mail Centre
QLD, 4560

RE: SUNSHINE COAST BIOSPHERE NOMINATION

Mayor Jamieson,

Our home, the Sunshine Coast, is a highly desirable place to live, learn, work and play. Our community is committed to protecting and enhancing our communities, our culture, our economy, our built environment and our diversity of ecosystems.

To date, the Sunshine Coast community has established a strong sustainability foundation through the development of key partnerships and implementation of a range of sustainability initiatives. Our values and aspirations are aligned with UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Programme ideals, and our credentials are evidence of our ability to deliver.

We recognise that aspiring to be Australia's most sustainable region is a journey of continuous improvement. The nomination to become a UNESCO Biosphere represents an important step in the Sunshine Coast's commitment to ensuring it remains future-facing. It has an emphasis on balanced sustainability, ensuring the environmental, social, cultural and economic needs of today are met, without compromising the ability to meet the needs of future generations.

Our community recognises the future will present both opportunities and challenges for the Sunshine Coast community to embrace. Being recognised as a UNESCO Biosphere will help to bind and unify the Sunshine Coast community, and represents a positive step towards strengthening the connectedness between our 'community-of-communities', and between people and nature.

Becoming a Biosphere also presents the opportunity to further embed a balanced sustainability framework, and strengthens the community's resilience by harnessing the significant will that exists within the community to support and encourage active participation and involvement in the Biosphere.

In continuing on this path, the Sunshine Coast Biosphere aims to become internationally renowned as a demonstration of excellence in balanced sustainability.

The Sunshine Coast Biosphere Nomination Community Reference Group process has facilitated the building of relationships and interaction between diverse sector interests and demographics representing the richness of the Sunshine Coast community.

The process has generated awareness, knowledge and collective responsibility on a range of region-wide issues, and has fostered ongoing interactions between Community Reference Group members.

By becoming a Biosphere, we aspire to having a positive impact on and actively contribute to strengthening the world network of Biospheres. Using technology as a platform to develop local solutions to current and emerging sustainability opportunities and challenges, we look forward to sharing our sustainability learnings with the networked global community.

We, the Sunshine Coast Biosphere Nomination Community Reference Group affirm our support for the Sunshine Coast Biosphere Nomination. We have participated in the development of the nomination and have contributed to the content to ensure that it is inclusive and representative of the interests of the diverse community that is the Sunshine Coast Region.

The Community Reference Group process reflects the Sunshine Coast Regional Council's active engagement and involvement of the community in the development of the Sunshine Coast Biosphere nomination.

We look forward to the continuation of this involvement through the next phase of detailed planning in readiness for Biosphere implementation, including finalising governance structures based on the governance principles supported by the Community Reference Group.

Our aspirations for the Sunshine Coast region align with the shared vision of our community and the Sunshine Coast Regional Council: *To be Australia's most sustainable region: Healthy, Smart, Creative*. It is our desire to see our region continue to maintain its liveability and natural values, whilst managing growth.

It is our intention that this letter of support accompanies the Sunshine Coast Biosphere nomination through all phases of Queensland and Australian Government consideration, as well as UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Programme assessment.

On behalf of the Sunshine Coast community, we strongly commend the Sunshine Coast Biosphere Nomination to be considered for the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Programme.

Yours Sincerely

Will Shrapnel
Independent Chair
Sunshine Coast Biosphere Nomination Community Reference Group

Date:

Attachment 1: Sunshine Coast Biosphere Nomination Community Reference Group Membership

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Name	Interest Representation
Mr Will Shrapnel	Independent Chair
Ms Sandra Arico	Executive Support to the Independent Chair
Ms Lauren Brisbane	Agricultural Industry (Food and Agribusiness Network)
Professor Bill Carter	Research and Education (University of the Sunshine Coast - Sustainability Research Centre)
Ms Samantha Dalla	Tourism (Visit Sunshine Coast)
Ms Melva Hobson	Community / Social (OSCAR - Organisation Sunshine Coast Association of Residents)
Ms Narelle McCarthy	Environment (Sunshine Coast Environment Council)
Ms Kim McCosker	Business (Author)
Ms Rebecca McDonald	Youth 20 to 30 years (Sunshine Coast Regional Council Speak Up and Engage Youth Committee)
Mr Ken Mewburn	Aquatic environment / Community (Take Action for Pumicestone Passage)
Mr Carl Nancarrow	Development Industry (Urban Development Institute Australia – Sunshine Coast Branch)
Miss Ella Woodborne	Youth under 20 years (Sunshine Coast Regional Council Speak Up and Engage Youth Committee)
Mayor Mark Jamieson (Ex Officio)	Mayor
Deputy Mayor, Cr Tim Dwyer	Division 2, and Corporate Strategy & Finance Portfolio
Cr Christian Dickson	Division 6, and Planning & Development Portfolio
Cr Steve Robinson	Division 9, and Economic Development & Innovation
Mr Ashley Robinson*	*External contributor to Community Reference Group business on Open Space Sport and Recreation