

UNESCO Biosphere

Council's nomination for our region to become a UNESCO Biosphere has reached its final destination. After endorsement by the Queensland and Australian governments, the nomination has now arrived in Paris, France, for UNESCO's assessment.

We look forward to the outcome of UNESCO's assessment, which is anticipated in June 2022.

A biosphere is a special place. It is a place where responsible development and people living sustainably sit alongside active conservation. Just like our region.

- It's about creating a legacy for our children's future.
- It's about caring for our beautiful landscapes and stunning beaches.
- It's about leveraging our economic value to grow local business and employment opportunities.

A UNESCO Biosphere credential will support us to enhance our economy, lifestyle and environment for future generations, aligning it with our vision to be Australia's most sustainable region — healthy, smart, creative.



Image credit: Mount Ngungun, J.Hill

The annual State of our Region address is now available to view online:

www.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au/stateofourregion

The address by Sunshine Coast Council Mayor Mark Jamieson features several community representatives who reflect and celebrate our region's community achievements throughout 2021.



STATE OF OUR REGION

2021

A time to connect, reflect and celebrate



Our region.
**Healthy.
Smart.
Creative.**

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Community achievements

The achievements of our region and our Council are built on the partnerships and contributions of many. Here are just some of our community representatives who, along with Council, are sharing an update on the progress of our region, and the priorities for the year ahead. View the video that features these community representatives, and others, who have helped connect our community throughout the year. [See back of brochure for link.](#)



Mayor
Mark Jamieson

Mayor's message

The last year has been among the most extraordinary I've seen in more than 10 years in local government. Residents across our community have been tested in so many ways as we have worked together to manage the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and through the recovery period.

Despite the many challenges, our region has a lot to be proud of, and the annual State of our Region helps us to recognise many of the outstanding achievements of our region and our community during this time.

From the outset of this pandemic, our Council has had a single and unwavering priority to safeguard the interests and wellbeing of our community in everything we do. The health response has involved all tiers of government, but much of what needed to occur on the ground to keep our community safe fell to our Council – indeed all Councils – to implement.

Through our collective efforts, we have continued to service the needs of our residents and supported local business and industry to keep money circulating locally and keep people employed – all the while, helping each other adjust to the new 'COVID normal'. With the Queensland borders now reopen to domestic travellers, it is with a sense of optimism that we are about to enter a new phase in our region's economic recovery.

Our Council looks forward to working with our community in 2022 as we continue to strive to be Australia's most sustainable region: healthy, smart, creative.



Glasshouse Christian College Students

Ebony Quinlan and LEDPlates Team of Arno Mens, Charlie Bidgood and Josiah provide a young person's perspective as they talk about their achievements for 2021.

"My favourite thing about the Sunshine Coast is the level of opportunity that we have, especially as young people, to demonstrate our idea and share it with the world." Josiah.

"I'd like to see the Sunshine Coast continue to develop its technology and ideas to be one of the most technically advanced places on the planet." Charlie.

"In the future we would love to see our LED plates everywhere around the Sunshine Coast even the world." Arno.

"These programs influence us to connect with community and talk to people willing to help us into the field and start our careers early." Ebony.

Aaron and Khayt Williams

Council has worked alongside local wellbeing experts from Mindstar to deliver a small business support portal. It provides business advice and strategies to support business owners, their staff and our region to B-Well and Prosper.

"We run a national business but what better place to have your head office than the Sunshine Coast. There's so much opportunity and so much growth within small business, within the innovation community. With the technology and the bandwidth we now have, it makes it the ideal place to get that balance between work, health and home with the kids."



Jodi Salmond

Marine researcher and General Manager of Reef Check Australia, which specialises in citizen science, conservation biology and reef ecology and uses hands-on research and community education to encourage everyone to become the best versions of themselves and look after the planet.

"Council has been integral in ensuring Reef Check Australia thrives with support over the last few years through the Environmental Levy partnership, a grant that allows us to do vital reef health monitoring and engage with the community."



David Wardle

Managing Director of Quik Corp, Australia's leading manufacturer of specialised equipment in the agricultural and emergency services sectors shares his experience on growing and leading a business on the Sunshine Coast and the opportunities available for local businesses.

"Exporting to USA, Canada and parts of Southeast Asia enabled us to grow and we're now building a 9500 square metre factory at Coolum. We've got the capability and size to grow in our new site, and numerous jobs available for skilled workers in advanced manufacturing. Ultimately our goal is to run double shifts, and double employment numbers from 150 to 300."

Dr Bridie Kean

Australian wheelchair basketball player, Paralympic silver and bronze medallist, University of the Sunshine Coast Lecturer in Public Health and recently appointed Chair of the Sunshine Coast 2032 Legacy Planning Community Reference Group reflects on 2021 and discusses emerging opportunities stemming from the Sunshine Coast Council's role in the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

"The opportunities for our emerging athletes, para-athletes and what this means for them is really exciting. It's going to basically showcase our part of the world to the rest of the world. I want the legacy of the 2032 games to be that we know and see the Sunshine Coast as the most accessible region in the universe."




Karen Kim (Haeng-A Kim)

A recent graduate of the Sunshine Coast Migrant Work Ready program, Karen is passionate about creating a better world through education and has volunteered and contributed to Council's long-running Adult Literacy Program.


"The Migrant Work Ready Program was the turning point of my life in Australia. I met so many wonderful mentors and expanded my social network. My favourite thing about living in this community is the welcoming culture. I found the community really family-like and I fell in love with this community."


2021 — a healthy, smart, creative Sunshine Coast community


 The Community Grants Program awarded more than \$5.8 million through 1100 grants for projects, events and partnerships directly benefiting our residents. More than \$1.5 million was awarded to community organisations through the COVID-19 Community Response Grants.


 More than 6000 residents participated in a range of health and wellbeing programs and events which were rolled out throughout the year, including: The Lift Project Sunshine Coast; Healthy Sunshine Coast; Migrant Learn to Swim and Beach Safe program; and the Healthy Ageing Forum — Getting Old is not a Disease!


 Our region's first Changing Places public amenities block for people with high support needs opened in Currimundi in January, setting a new benchmark for inclusivity for our community.

 Sunshine Coast Heritage Plan 2021—2031, a 10-year plan to protect and engage our residents and visitors in our region's cultural heritage, was released.


 The Sunshine Coast Reconciliation Action Plan 2021—2022 is helping Council advance its relationships with the First Nations peoples and further embed reconciliation commitments within the organisation and our region.


 More than 200 people united at Twin Waters in March for our region's inaugural First Nations Self-Determination, Representation and Wellbeing Forum, bringing together voices of First Nations people with a strong focus on fostering relationships, representation and future wellbeing.

 Almost 10,000 businesses accessed Council's various business support programs offering specialist advice, information, workshops and events.

 More than 5900 surf lifesavers from 315 surf clubs assembled on the Sunshine Coast for the Australian Surf Life Saving Championships 'The Aussies' in April.

 An \$8.5 million upgrade of Walan Street, between Venning Street and Smith Street, completed in April, provides better access to some of our top beaches as part of the Mooloolaba Transport Corridor improvements.


 A \$17.6 million congestion-busting road upgrade was completed in April, clearing the path for school runs and daily commutes on Parklands Boulevard, Meridan Plains.


 A live public art project at Coolum Beach — The Keeper Project — started in August.


 The Sunshine Coast Coastal Hazard Adaptation Strategy, adopted in May, will help to prepare and protect our coastal areas and communities from the impacts of a changing climate.


 Council secured more than 500 hectares of additional land for conservation and recreation purposes, taking the total of this category of Council-owned land to 9500 hectares.

 Following Council's purchase of another 94 hectares, Doonan Creek Environment Reserve, in Verrierdale, is now the largest reserve in Council's conservation estate at 474 hectares funded by your Environment Levy.


 Blue Heart Sunshine Coast covers 5000 hectares of natural floodplain in the Maroochy River catchment. It provides flood storage, seeks to improve water quality and habitat areas for our local wildlife, as well as provide nature-based recreational opportunities. Blue Heart is just one example of how we are adapting to a changing climate by managing the land and water to deliver environment, community and economic outcomes.


 The Maleny Showgrounds received a show-stopping new look following a \$1.4 million upgrade.


 Our first Youth Council is improving inclusivity providing advice to Council on youth-related matters.


 The \$6.5 million Nirimba Sports Complex, including a \$620,000 clubhouse funded by Council, opened in June, and is a welcome addition to the growing Aura community.


 The Automated Waste Collection System in Maroochydore City Centre launched in June, an Australian first within a CBD.


 Queensland hosted and won the Ampol Women's Rugby League State of Origin event at Sunshine Coast Stadium in June for the second year in a row.


 Council welcomed the International Olympic Committee's announcement in July, that Brisbane secured the rights to host the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.


 Busy and vibrant community places including our libraries, gallery, historic houses, aquatic centres, community venues and sporting venues continued to service more than two million patrons this year.


 The \$3.5 million Nambour Aquatic Centre upgrade is underway — the car park has been completed, and the Splash Pad and new water slides are progressing.


 Bulcock Street, Caloundra, was recognised as one of the finest examples of urban design on display at the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects 2021 Awards.


 Beerwah Community Meeting Place was officially opened in September, creating a beautiful and spacious resource for our community to enjoy.


 The Landsborough community's ideas and aspirations for Cribb Street, Landsborough, have become a reality with Stage 1 of the \$3.3 million Cribb Street Streetscape Upgrade now completed. The Landsborough Heritage Trail and Stage 2 works are underway.


 The \$1.46 million upgrade at Palmwoods AFL and Cricket Clubhouse was completed in September.

 Council partnered with community organisations to celebrate International Day of People with Disability in December, with a free family All Access — Day at the Beach event at Mooloolaba.


 The Nambour Forecourt, in front of Council's Eddie De Vere building, was given a fresh new look with the rejuvenated space boasting splashes of colour, festoon-inspired lighting, leafy green accents and plenty of shaded seating for the community to enjoy, such as 'Nambour Forecourt Live!', a community-led live music, craft, library activities and local food and drinks initiative.

 The first part of the new Northern Parkland in Mooloolaba opened in November, connecting Alexandra Headland and Mooloolaba with an accessible boardwalk.

 Our community provided extensive feedback on future Mass Transit options and an Options Analysis Report was progressed to the Queensland Government for further investigation.

 The inaugural First Nations Supplier Day in November provided a new platform to showcase local First Nations businesses and their ongoing contributions to the economic fabric of the Sunshine Coast.

 Eumundi, Woombye and Eudlo communities had their say on their new streetscape projects.

 The region continued to host major and regional COVID safe events worth an estimated \$61.1 million in economic benefit.

Projects supported by the Queensland Government
* Cycle Network Local Government Grant ^ Works for Queensland Program

Looking forward to 2022

New Sunshine Coast Planning Scheme

Work will continue on the development of a new Planning Scheme for the Sunshine Coast. Developing a new planning scheme requires careful analysis, research and engagement to ensure the scheme can properly accommodate our growing population, while retaining the liveability of our region, and preserving and enhancing our natural environment. A number of Sunshine Coast residents have joined a new community reference group to guide future opportunities for the community to have a say on developing our new planning scheme.

Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games

The Sunshine Coast will play an integral role in the delivery of the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games, with our region home to four key venues and several sporting events. These include football, basketball, marathon, mountain biking, cycling and kiteboarding. The Sunshine Coast will also host multiple days of road-based events (marathon and road cycling). The Sunshine Coast Legacy Plan Community Reference Group will be established and provide a powerful voice so our region is well positioned to secure the 10+10+ legacy intent of The Games.

Maroochydore Multi Sports Complex

This popular complex will become the home-ground for the AFLW Brisbane Lions for the 2022 season, an exciting outcome for our aspiring young sportswomen.

Garden organics bin

Community feedback from more than 7500 residents in 2021 revealed overwhelming support for the garden organic bin service which will be expanded to households across the Sunshine Coast from July 2022, creating a cleaner, greener environment.

Sunshine Coast Design

Council will increase the focus of this project on youth, home buyers, renovators, and partnerships with the development industry. Free online short courses will be available. The Sunshine Coast Design book, affectionately referred to as the 'yellow book', is a must-have for anyone designing and renovating houses, buildings, streets, parks, public spaces and neighbourhoods. It was produced by Council in partnership with the community and the design and development industry and is available for purchase at Harry Hartog, Berkelouw Books, Nambour Book Exchange and Council's Customer Contact Centres.

Climate change

Council recognises the Earth is in a state of climate emergency, and will continue urgently reducing greenhouse gas emissions and accelerate the great work already being done across the region. We have consistently taken a proactive approach to developing and implementing strong climate change policy which is evidence-based and aligned with the best available science and will continue to work with our community so together, we can play a role in responding to climate change.

Caloundra District Library

Work is anticipated to start on the new Caloundra District Library and community meeting rooms when Council employees move to the new Sunshine Coast City Hall at Maroochydore. The renovation and refurbishment of the current Caloundra administration building will deliver a contemporary, spacious library, meeting rooms with after hours access and continue to accommodate Council employees in the Caloundra CBD.

Connecting community

Don't waste it, re-use it

More than 100 local businesses are taking part in the ASPIRE online platform improving sustainability outcomes. A business can list their interest in other businesses' waste streams and/or list waste streams they can provide. The business tool matches supply and demand opportunities linking business to business.

www.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au/Business

Get Ready Sunshine Coast podcast series

Launched in September to help residents prepare for disaster. The podcast series will also help our community better understand and manage the impacts of disasters. It immerses listeners in these real experiences, by sharing life changing stories and their impacts.

Available now at www.oursc.com.au

Find your next event

An online events hub was launched in May linking residents and visitors with events across the Sunshine Coast. It's easy to search by event category, timing or location, so you can enjoy all our region has to offer.

www.events.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au

Healthy Sunshine Coast

Our popular Healthy Sunshine Coast program will be relaunched early in 2022, with low-cost activities available right across the region. HSC will also diversify to include broader health and wellbeing offerings that support people's efforts to live active and healthy lifestyles.

Register next year at: www.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au/healthysunshinecoast

