

# State of our Region

Connecting our community





## Message from the Mayor

2018 has certainly been another busy and eventful period for our region.

From starting construction of our new Sunshine Coast Airport runway; to the Sunshine Coast Lightning winning back-to-back premierships; to connecting with the world via our new submarine cable; to expanding our conservation estate by another 405 hectares – we have much to celebrate this year.

The momentum is growing as we seek to position the Sunshine Coast as a healthy, smart, creative region that is distinct from the rest of south east Queensland, but connected with the world.

A region that is unparalleled in its lifestyle and natural assets, and where people choose to live because of outstanding employment and learning opportunities, and our great way of life.

The 2018 State of our Region report is an important feedback tool to help our residents and local businesses gain a perspective on how we are progressing as a region, where we are on this journey and what lies ahead.

We have a great story to tell and share.

At the heart of our efforts is ensuring we have the fundamental building blocks in place.

If I can borrow from Kim McCosker, one of the Sunshine Coast's most successful and recognised authors, there are "Four Ingredients" for our region's success now and into the future:

- encouraging a sense of purpose and resilience in our communities
- maintaining and enhancing our natural environment
- getting the economic settings right and
- having a clear plan for how we embrace the future.

In 2018, we have pursued each of these.

We have continued with our clear commitment to developing our economy, supporting and connecting our community, preserving our natural assets and maintaining our lifestyle.

And we have reinforced the links and opportunities between them all.

After all, that is what a healthy, smart, creative region does.

**MAYOR MARK JAMIESON**  
Sunshine Coast Council





"The Land for Wildlife program is really valuable to connect people who have similar values so that we're working together."  
Ian and Chrissie McMaster

"We're a local watering hole, but we're also an exponent for showing off the local fruit in our beers and in our restaurant."

Matt Jancauskas, Brouhaha

"I fundamentally believe that if the creative health of a region is strong, then social well-being, social cohesion and economic stability will flourish."

Nycole Prowse, Peripheral Arts

Connecting with our community to make the Sunshine Coast a healthy, smart, creative region

# 2018 What a year it has been for our Sunshine Coast



Through our **Environment and Liveability Strategy**, Council has acquired a further **405 hectares** using the Environment Levy, taking the entire Council owned conservation estate to nearly **6200 hectares**.



**Motorists** now have **sealed road surfaces** on Kocho Rd and Smallwood Rd, Image Flat; Doonan Bridge Rd, Doonan; Creightons Rd, Yandina; and McGilchrist Rd, Eudlo.



The **\$3 million award winning community** named **Piccabeen Green town square** officially opened in the heart of Palmwoods.



Our **Sunshine Coast Solar Farm** – Queensland's largest, grid connected solar farm – offset more than **100% of council's electricity usage** with energy from a renewable source.



**Sunshine Coast Lightning** won their **second Suncorp Super Netball title**, becoming the most successful start-up club in Australian sports history.



Coolum gained a vibrant new heart to bring the community together with the **\$1 million upgrade** completed at **Jack Morgan Park**.



Around **1.3 million** cubic metres of sand was pumped on-shore to form the foundation of the **Sunshine Coast Airport's** new runway which is on schedule for completion by Christmas 2020.



Our innovative new development and building application tracker **Development.i** was launched and attracted **19,300 page visits** from our community in the first week.



**Building approvals** valued at **\$1.64 billion** were recorded for the year.



Leading up to the **2018 Commonwealth Games**, Sunshine Coast hosted **500 visitors** from **nine countries** training for Commonwealth glory, contributing an estimated **\$1.6 million** to the local economy.



A **new cycleway** over **Mayes Canal** opened, giving people a new link to access Mooloolaba by bike or foot.



Sunshine Coast was named in the **World Smart21 Communities list** for the **fifth time**.



We welcomed more than **500 athletes** and officials from nine countries ahead of the **Commonwealth Games**.



We celebrated the **20th Anniversary of Land for Wildlife**, with our 1095 members caring for **8181 hectares** of habitat and a further **721 hectares** under active restoration.



The Sunshine Coast recorded its **biggest year for Clean-Up Australia Day** activities since 2010, with almost **1500 volunteers** taking part in clean-up activities across 98 sites region-wide.



More than **33,500 artists, participants and audience members engaged with arts programs and creative projects** thanks to the Regional Arts Development Fund program.



Almost **4300 people** took part in **36 TravelSmart events** to support public transport, cycling and walking as a sustainable and healthy mode of transport.



More than **160,000 people on the Sunshine Coast have jobs** - this is almost **25,000 more** than five years ago.



The **\$4 million Burke St to Pelican Waters Blvd extension** opened to give the Golden Beach area a new east-west connection.



Great progress has been made in our new **Maroochydore CBD**. Below-ground infrastructure, footpath paving, public lighting, street furniture and street tree plantings are completed in the first precinct. Motorists are now using the **re-modelled intersection at Aerodrome Rd and First Ave** as a new entry point to Maroochydore.



We celebrated the **150th anniversary of Bankfoot House**, the heritage listed Glasshouse Mountains home with extraordinary pioneering beginnings.



**Flexilink services** in the hinterland connected **300 passengers per week** to their communities funded through the Transport Levy.



The contract was signed to deliver the **Sunshine Coast International Broadband Submarine Cable**, which will provide the **fastest data and telecommunications connection** between Australia and Asia from the Sunshine Coast by mid-2020.



Our **20-year Sunshine Coast Arts Plan** was endorsed to grow and **strengthen our creative community**.



More than **20,000 people** attended **Healthy Sunshine Coast** program's free or low-cost fitness classes.

# A healthy, smart, creative 2019 to look forward to



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## National CleanTech conference at Caloundra

In an Australian first, the National Clean Technologies Conference and Exhibition will be at The Events Centre Caloundra from May 29-31, covering areas such as energy, waste, water, built environment and transport.

## 2 Healthy hearts, healthy minds

We'll continue our successful Healthy Sunshine Coast program and support important events like National Reconciliation Day, NAIDOC Week, White Ribbon Day, National Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month, Queensland Youth Week and International Volunteer Week.

## 3 Sunshine Coast Art Prize a feast for your eyes

Visit the 2019 Sunshine Coast Art Prize exhibition from July 24 – September 15 at the Caloundra Regional Art Gallery and see entries from some of Australia's best established and emerging artists including local indigenous artists.

## 4 Australia's most exciting new culinary festival here in 2019

Food lovers can experience a new "must see" event. The Curated Plate, a new four-day destination food festival, will make its debut on the Sunshine Coast on August 8-11.

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## Sports fans spoil for choice

The NRL will come to the Sunshine Coast with a round five clash between the South Sydney Rabbitohs and NZ Warriors on April 13.

Carlton, Melbourne and Western Bulldogs AFL clubs are locked in for pre-season training camps at the Maroochydore Multi Sports Complex.

The two-time champions, Sunshine Coast Lightning, will defend their Suncorp Super Netball title at an expanded USC Sports Stadium.

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## The Events Centre set to shine with \$6m upgrade.

Patrons of The Events Centre Caloundra will be able to enjoy the benefits of a \$6 million redevelopment, adding new facilities to the region's premier performing arts venue when it reopens in mid-2019.

## 7 Enjoying our great outdoors

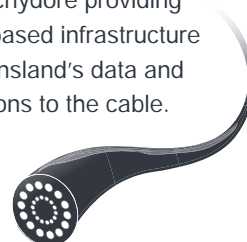
Golfing enthusiasts will love tackling the six new holes at the picturesque Maleny public golf course, making Maleny a full 18-hole layout.

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## Cable project takes a step forward

Work will start on the International Broadband Submarine Cable landing station at Maroochydore providing the critical land-based infrastructure to connect Queensland's data and telecommunications to the cable.



# 9



## An Integrated Transport Strategy for our future

We will implement the Integrated Transport Strategy to ensure we respond to the opportunities and challenges facing our growing region.

# 10



## Immerse yourself at HORIZON festival

The award-winning Horizon Festival of Arts and Culture will run region-wide from Friday, August 23 to Sunday, September 1. There'll be more than 200 events in visual art, film, literature, performance, comedy, music, theatre and new media.

## 11 Boosting the beach side experience

The Mooloolaba Beach Holiday Park at Parkyn Parade will undergo a \$3.5 million redevelopment alongside the upgrade of the popular Mooloolaba boardwalk which provides some of the best coastal views in the state.

## 12 Road and cycleway network boost

Major investments in the local road network are on the way including:

- \$7.6 million for the Sippy Downs four-lane upgrade project to improve traffic flow and create an entry statement into the Sunshine Coast's Knowledge Precinct
- \$2 million for the Parklands Blvd duplication project at Meridan Plains
- \$1.7 million for the ongoing upgrade of a 1.2km stretch of McGilchrist Rd, Eudlo
- \$1.6 million to upgrade Image Flat Rd at Nambour
- \$1.5 million to upgrade Roys Rd at Beerwah.

# 13



## Delivering a healthy environment and a liveable Sunshine Coast

Stay tuned for the Environment and Liveability Strategy's game-changer projects, soon to be unveiled. We'll continue our unwavering commitment to partner with The Traditional Owners, the Kabi Kabi and Jinibara peoples to protect and preserve our natural environment so our valued Sunshine Coast way-of-life continues throughout 2019 and beyond.

## 14 Let's go swimming

New learn-to-swim facilities at Beerwah Aquatic Centre will get underway and we'll create a new splash park and kids' interactive play area at Nambour Aquatic Centre.

## 15 Be part of Kids in Action 2019

Expressions of interest are open. Kids in action is delivered through your Environment Levy and offers each student an engaging, empowering and educational experience to remember. Registrations close April 2019.

## 16 Our new CBD continues to emerge

The early stage city streets in the new Maroochydore CBD will open to the public, construction will begin on the first buildings and we'll open an urban square. There will be further announcements on commercial investment in the first stage as these negotiations are brought to commercial close.

# 17



## Runway takes shape

Construction will continue on the new runway at Sunshine Coast Airport with the project on track to be operational by Christmas 2020.

## Kids in Action

It takes all ages to really connect a community.

Our future environmental ambassadors are equipped to make a real difference today and in the years to come thanks to the Kids in Action program. Every year, students from across the region get out of the classroom and back to nature. They love getting their hands dirty and their feet wet as they learn how to build a resilient community.

Kids in Action is proudly supported by council's Environment Levy.

"This program has shown us that optimism, creativity, collaboration and commitment are the key to changing climates: changing lives and that when many little people do many little things we can change the face of the world. Thank you for inspiring us and our whole learning community."

Participating teacher,  
Brightwater State School



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