

Delivering a healthy environment
and liveable Sunshine Coast

Environment and Liveability Strategy
Annual Report 2020/21



Acknowledgement of Country

Sunshine Coast Council acknowledges the traditional Country of the Kabi Kabi Peoples and the Jinibara Peoples of the coastal plains and hinterlands of the Sunshine Coast and recognises that these have always been places of cultural, spiritual, social and economic significance. We wish to pay respect to their Elders – past, present and emerging – and acknowledge the important role Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people continue to play within the Sunshine Coast community.

Council is committed to ongoing communication and consultation with the Traditional Owners and the broader Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community of the Sunshine Coast in the implementation of the strategy.

© Sunshine Coast Regional Council 2009-current. Sunshine Coast Council™ is a registered trademark of Sunshine Coast Regional Council.

Reference document

This document should be cited as follows:
Sunshine Coast Regional Council. 2021. Sunshine Coast Environment and Liveability Strategy Annual Report 2020/21.

Disclaimer

Information contained in this document is based on available information at the time of writing. All figures and diagrams are indicative only and should be referred to as such. While the Sunshine Coast Regional Council has exercised reasonable care in preparing this document it does not warrant or represent that it is accurate or complete. Council or its officers accept no responsibility for any loss occasioned to any person acting or refraining from acting in reliance upon any material contained in this document.

Message from our Mayor and Environment and Liveability Portfolio Councillors

Our Environment and Liveability Strategy (ELS) demonstrates Council's forward thinking and real actions to plan for our growing population and manage our response to climate change, while also delivering a healthy environment and liveable Sunshine Coast for our community.

The ELS is one of three regional strategies which collectively, provide a compelling blueprint for a balanced approach to maintaining the liveability of our region, the productivity of our economy and retaining and strengthening our natural assets.

During the 2020/21 financial year, our Council was the proud recipient of the 2020 Banksia Government Award. This national recognition reinforces the value of our Council's longstanding efforts to maintaining and enhancing our natural landscapes and ecosystems and reducing our environmental footprint.

Our ELS seeks to take advantage of opportunities today, while looking ahead to 2041 and beyond, to create a legacy that will benefit our community for many years. It focuses on preserving and enhancing the Sunshine Coast's natural environment and enabling a good quality of life for all residents in an accessible and well-connected built environment.

This year Council has continued to progress region-shaping projects like Blue Heart Sunshine Coast and our UNESCO Biosphere nomination. Our Council also secured more than 500 hectares of new land for conservation and recreation purposes, finalised a Coastal Hazard Adaptation Strategy for our region – and opened the Caloundra Renewable Energy Facility which converts landfill gas (mostly methane) to energy.

This annual report also provides a snapshot of our organisation's environmental sustainability results including our greenhouse gas emissions.

By continually monitoring and measuring our environmental sustainability performance, we can track our progress and identify opportunities to improve how we operate as well as new models for how we deliver Council services sustainably into the future.

This annual report contains so much more and we encourage everyone to learn more about the extensive environment and liveability projects our Council is delivering across the region via els.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au.

The Environment and Liveability Strategy is delivering a pathway to create a healthy environment and liveable Sunshine Coast: Australia's most sustainable region – healthy, smart, creative.

Mayor Mark Jamieson
Councillor Peter Cox
Councillor Maria Suarez



The Environment and Liveability Strategy

Our strategy was adopted in September 2017.

This Annual Report showcases our fourth year of implementation.

What is the purpose of the strategy?

The strategy provides long-term strategic direction to guide growth and shape the Sunshine Coast for future generations to 2041.

It focuses on the preservation and enhancement of the natural environment and the liveability of the region. It enables a good quality of life for all residents, while supporting a strong economy in an accessible and well-connected built environment.

Why is it needed?

In this rapidly changing world there are many challenges and opportunities for our much-loved Sunshine Coast way of life. We face an increasing population, changing climate, economic growth and emerging technologies.

The strategy helps us to navigate through these challenges while harnessing opportunities. Its integrated and long-term approach to guiding development of the Sunshine Coast offers clarity, inspiration and direction.

The strategy is a forward-looking document and seeks to do things differently.

Our progress

We use annual performance measures to help us monitor and track progress.

TARGET	BASELINE	2020/21	2020/21 OUTCOME
No loss of the Regional Inter-urban Break in its current extent	32,034 ha	32,034 ha	No change to the current extent
Hectares of land per 1000 residents acquired through the Environment Levy for conservation and preservation purposes maintained	9.6 ha per 1000 residents	10.82 ha per 1000 residents*	242 ha acquired
Hectares of land per 1000 residents for sport and recreation purposes maintained	4.74 ha per 1000 residents	4.11 ha per 1000 residents**	132 ha of open space secured
Renewable energy capacity increased	124.8 MW	318.6 MW	Increase of 97.51 MW^
Council's greenhouse gas emissions reduced#	0.58 tCO ₂ e per resident	0.57 tCO ₂ e per resident*	Decrease of 0.04 tCO ₂ e per resident^

ha – Hectares MW – Megawatts tCO₂e – Tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent

*Based on a population forecast figure of 351,424 (30 June 2021). Source: Queensland Treasury, Queensland Government population projections, 2018 edition, medium series.

+During this period 90 ha of sport and recreation land was transferred to the environment reserve network. ^Compared to 2019/20 results. #Decrease in emissions is due to a recalculation for scope 3 emissions against the Climate Active Standard.



Find out what's happening in your backyard

There's an easy way for you to stay up-to-date on what's happening in your local area and across the whole region.

Search online via your postcode to view Council projects and initiatives that are helping to deliver a healthy environment and liveable Sunshine Coast.

For more information go to els.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au



A snapshot of our achievements

Expand our green space

We secured more than 500 hectares of new lands for conservation and recreation purposes.

Nirimba Sports Complex opened, providing a facility for local netball, rugby league, cricket clubs and the growing community in Caloundra South.



Be prepared

We drafted our first Stormwater Management Strategy to provide the framework for effective stormwater management. This will help to deliver healthy waterways and support a growing community in a changing climate.



Connect nature and people

Council and the Maroochy Wetlands Sanctuary Support Group, with funding support from the Australian Government, launched the Sunshine Coast's first ClimateWatch walking trail at Maroochy Wetlands Sanctuary.

The initiative allows visitors to contribute to understanding how changes in temperature and rainfall are affecting the seasonal behaviour of plants and animals at the wetlands.

Proactive impacts of

We finalised our Adaptation Strategy with our community guide to preparing our coastal areas and from coastal hazards into



Sustainable design for our built environment

Maroochydoore Administration Building achieved its formal Green Building Council of Australia 5-Star Green Star certification for the Design Review stage, representing Australian excellence in environmentally sustainable building practices.



Your Environment Levy in action

We delivered a \$12.8m Environment Levy Program to support land acquisitions, on-ground activities and research and community partnerships that protect and enhance our natural environment.



An involved community

The annual clean-up for the turtle hatchlings event was a success at 19 locations across the Sunshine Coast. Nearly 700 volunteers removed close to 500 kilograms of rubbish from our beaches and waterways as part of the event.



Our work has received State and National recognition

The Environment and Liveability Strategy won the **Government** category at the **Banksia Sustainability Awards**.

The Environment and Liveability Strategy received a Commendation award under the **Improving Planning Processes and Practices** category at the **PIA Qld Awards for Planning Excellence**.

The Sunshine Coast Design Strategy and book was awarded a winner in the **Research, Policy and Communications** category of the **AILA National Landscape Architecture Awards**.

Sunshine Coast Design also won the **Gold Design Award** at the **Design Australia** and the **Minister's Award for Design** in the **Policy**

Create great places and spaces

We secured two parcels of land for new community facilities in Pelican Waters and Nirimba providing future opportunities for creative, community and active experiences.

Transition to a sustainable, resilient and low carbon life

The Caloundra Renewable Energy facility was opened which converts landfill gas (mostly methane) to energy. The facility creates enough energy to power 1200 homes, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.



Community events for a sustainable future

We continued to deliver our Living Smart Program and also held and partnered on events and activities within our community including:

- World Environment Day Festival
- Crafting a Circular Economy
- Nightquarter Repair Lab
- National Recycling Week
- Plastic Free July.



ASPIRE platform launched

Supported by Council to facilitate increased circular economy outcomes in the region. It is a free online tool for Sunshine Coast businesses to trade, exchange or sell unwanted waste as a resource – reducing disposal costs and the amount of waste sent to landfill.

Planning for expected climate change

Our Coastal Hazard Study in partnership with the Queensland Government, a long-term plan for managing and protecting our coastal communities into the future.



Productive partnerships

Council and other partners supported Healthy Land and Water to deliver the Pumicestone Catchment Convergence. Hundreds of community, industry and government participants collaborated to identify priorities for preserving and enhancing the Passage and its catchment.

Did you know?

Our services contribute to a liveable Sunshine Coast

716,170 visitors
to our local libraries



More than **12,547 garbage trucks**
of waste diverted from landfill



784,269 patrons
to our aquatic facilities



11,936 hours
dedicated by volunteers as part of the BushCare Sunshine Coast program



More than 40 kilometres
of new/upgraded pathways



Building our knowledge

The second Sunshine Coast Biodiversity Report was completed to better understand our biodiversity assets, monitor progress and inform investment decisions and conservation management strategies.



Urban heat pilot

To better understand the impact of increasing heat across the Sunshine Coast, we're trialling the installation of several ambient temperature sensors, a weather station and people counter sensors to evaluate people's movement and behaviour in relation to increasing or decreasing urban heat.



Design Book
Good
the **Good**
Awards and
award for **Urban**
category.

Golden Beach and Bellara Avenue Storm Watered Street Tree Trial Project received highly commended in the **Excellence in Research and Innovation category** at the **Stormwater Queensland Awards for Excellence**.

Caloundra Main Street Urban Revitalisation project won the **Urban Design and Regional Achievement Awards** at the **AILA Queensland Landscape Architecture Awards**.

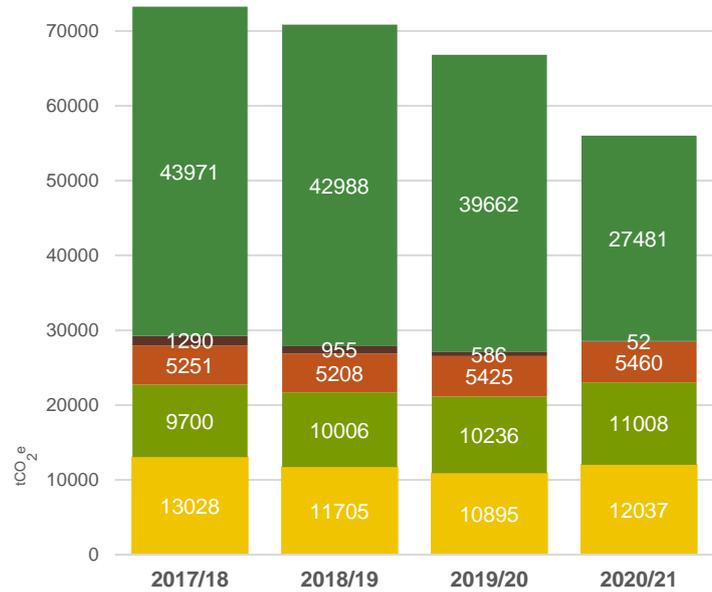
Blue Heart Sunshine Coast won the **Regional Innovation Project of the Year award** at the **2020 Cities Power Partnership Climate Awards**.

Sustainability in focus

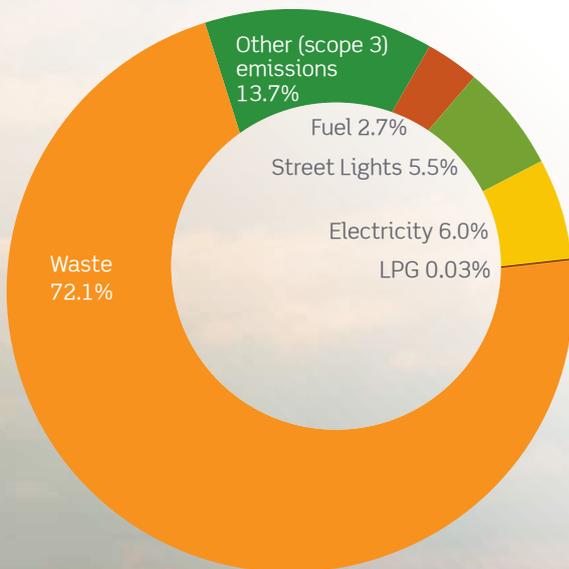
Becoming a zero-net emissions organisation by 2041 is a Transformational Action of Council's Environment and Liveability Strategy.

To track our progress, we need to understand our current greenhouse gas emissions and environmental sustainability performance. Each year Council prepares an Organisational Environmental Sustainability Benchmarking Report. It provides a comprehensive view of any trends, changes and/or challenges we are facing on our journey to achieving sustainability objectives. The report allows Council to track our environmental sustainability performance over time and monitor our progress towards important targets.

Council emissions (excluding council and community waste emissions)



Council emissions (including council and community waste)



Waste (including council and community waste) 145,345 tCO ₂ e from waste in landfills	72.1%
Electricity 12,037 tCO ₂ e from our large and small sites	6.0%
Street lights[€] 11,008 tCO ₂ e from our street lights	5.5%
Fuel 5460 tCO ₂ e from our fleet vehicles and bulk diesel supply	2.7%
Liquid petroleum gas (LPG) 52 tCO ₂ e that is used at Council's sites	0.03%
Other (scope 3) emissions 27,481 tCO ₂ e including goods and services produced by a third party	13.7%

€ Street lighting has been separated out from the 'Electricity' area as it is a significant source of greenhouse gas emissions and it is calculated as a different emissions source.

The data on these pages is a snapshot of our 2020/21 performance. A copy of the full report is available via Council's website.



GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS
201,103
tCO₂e

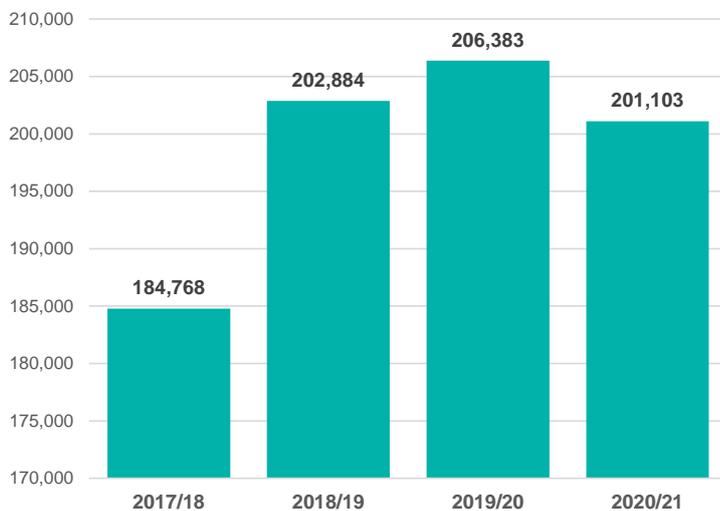


ZERO-NET EMISSIONS BY 2041

TOTAL EMISSIONS ↓ **2.6%#** decrease

PER RESIDENT ↓ **0.04 tCO₂e** decrease

Change in greenhouse gas emissions (tCO₂e)



ELECTRICITY
26,491
megawatt hours
CONSUMED



ANNUAL CHANGE ↑

1.5%
increase

RENEWABLES
15,479
kilowatts
solar **INSTALLED**



ANNUAL CHANGE ↑

138kW
increase

WATER
531,911
kilolitres
USED



ANNUAL CHANGE ↓

3%
decrease



WASTE
7481
tonnes **GENERATED**
by Council

5338
tonnes **DIVERTED**
from landfill

ANNUAL CHANGE ↓ **17%** decrease

↓ **9%** decrease

TRANSPORT
551
fleet vehicles



4%
hybrid/electric

↑ **+14**
hybrid vehicles



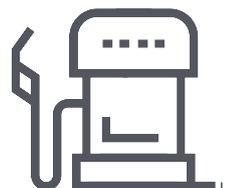
PROGRAMS + PROCESSES
\$276.3M
SPENT with local business

TOTAL PURCHASING EXPENDITURE

75%

Local spend ↑ **2.9%**

FUEL
1,920,817
litres
USED



ANNUAL CHANGE ↓

4%
decrease

Council's total emissions reduced largely as a result of a technical emissions boundary realignment for Scope 3 emissions as per the Climate Active standard.

The year ahead

In 2021/22, we'll maintain our momentum and continue the delivery of our 26 Transformational Actions and key Council services.

For a full suite of actions and tasks visit els.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au.

Protecting the green frame

Securing and protecting the Regional Inter-urban Break and Sub-regional Inter-urban Breaks in perpetuity to frame our neighbourhoods and strengthen the identity of our community of communities.



Healthy coast

Providing a strategic and coordinated approach to the protection, sustainable use and enjoyment of our dunes, beaches, rocky shores and near-shore marine waters.

Building our knowledge

Enabling evidence-based decisions for a healthy environment and liveable Sunshine Coast.



Zero emissions organisation

Delivering a zero-net emissions organisation and transitioning to a renewable energy future.

Great places and spaces

In partnership with industry and community develop a network of contemporary places and spaces that provide and support opportunities for creative, community and active experiences.



Expanding the green space

Securing and activating space for future generations through accelerated strategic land programs to improve conservation, flood mitigation and sport and recreation opportunities.



els.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au

els@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au 07 5475 7272

Locked Bag 72 Sunshine Coast Mail Centre Qld 4560



Acknowledgements

Council would like to acknowledge the contributors of a number of images in this document, including:

FRONT COVER

R.M. Anning – Buderim Forest Park, sun rays.

D. Carroll – Buderim, *Buckinghamia* in bloom.

DOUBLE PAGE SPREAD

N. Brady – Kings Beach, fragments.

Z. Jones – Bells Creek, Glass House Mountains.

BACK COVER

A. Arnold – Mudjimba.