

Environment and Liveability Strategy

OVERVIEW



A healthy environment and liveable Sunshine Coast in 2041

Building a pathway to a healthy environment and liveable Sunshine Coast:

- Maintain and nurture our natural environment
- Respond to the challenge of population growth
- Build resilience against the potential impacts of climate change
- Create liveable spaces and places to live, work and play
- Drive renewable energy, efficiency and technical know-how
- Live up to the expectations of future generations



For more information
www.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au

Did you know?

1. 54% of the Council area has **native vegetation**.
2. The Sunshine Coast's waterway network is **12,000km** in length and includes **3,700km** of creeks and rivers.
3. The Sunshine Coast has **60km of open shoreline** and 51km of coastal pathways.
4. We have **8,800ha of open space** managed by Council.
5. There are **over 470 recreational parks**.
6. Average of **172L of water** consumed per person per day.
7. Community generates **24,700 garbage trucks** of waste per year.

Environment and Liveability Strategy

What is its purpose?

The Environment and Liveability Strategy (strategy) has been developed to provide long-term strategic direction to guide growth and shape the Sunshine Coast for future generations to 2041.

It focuses on the natural environment and how it can be preserved and enhanced, as well as the liveability of the region – enabling a good quality of life for all residents and supporting a strong economy in an accessible and well-connected built environment.

Why is it needed?

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

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

Relationship to existing Council strategic directions

The strategy, along with the Regional Economic Development Strategy and the Social Strategy, form the three long-term strategic policy positions of the council and work together to inform corporate and operational planning and delivery.

The strategy may inform amendments to council's planning scheme and will also inform the drafting of a new planning scheme which will occur within the next decade. It does not replace or seek to circumvent the planning scheme.

How will it be used?

The strategy ensures, as a rapidly growing region, the Sunshine Coast is prepared for the challenges the future will bring. It will be used to:

- inform planning
- guide decision-making
- drive implementation
- engage stakeholders.



The structure of the Environment and Liveability Strategy

The strategy is presented in three important and integrated parts:

Part A – Strategic Directions

Part A explains council’s strategic direction and policy positions under the umbrella of three sections and associated themes that are central to achieving a healthy environment and liveable Sunshine Coast in 2041. The integration of these three sections within the one strategy ensures we do not plan for the protection of the natural environment in isolation, and highlights the importance of the relationship our built environment and our lifestyle have with these natural assets.

The three sections and their themes are:



Part B – Five-Year Implementation Plan

This part of the strategy sets a delivery framework of services and Transformational Actions needed to achieve the strategic directions set out in Part A.

Developed as a five-year outlook and to be updated annually, the implementation plan seeks to track progress and report on the strategy’s performance.

Part C – Network Plan

The Network Plan provides direction and technical detail to assist with the implementation of the strategy to achieve the best outcomes and standards.

Part C outlines the Desired Standards of Service for specific themes and a geographical network plan for the region.





Why should we act now?

Long-term planning is necessary but action must start now.

By acting now, we can retain our natural environment, respond to the challenge of population growth in different and better ways, actively prepare to meet the needs and expectations of future communities and build a landscape and community that is resilient to the forecast impacts of climate change.

Tracking our progress

Monitoring and tracking our progress are critical to ensure the effectiveness of the strategy. Regular and meaningful reporting on the strategy will be undertaken using a number of targets and supporting indicators.



Transforming the Sunshine Coast

To activate and implement the long-term strategic directions set in the strategy, 26 Transformational Actions will deliver an integrated and targeted approach. These actions will deliver significant advancements in:

- the way our environment is managed
- how liveable communities are shaped
- supporting sustainable living.

Four examples of these actions include:



Expanding the green space

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



Better buildings through sustainable design

Embedding sustainable, liveable and affordable design into our built environment that celebrates the subtropical lifestyle of the Sunshine Coast.



Being prepared

Proactively planning for the potential impacts of climate change and natural hazards to build the resilience of the region.



Finding the happy medium

Create a street-scale demonstration project to showcase sustainability, good urban design and the benefits of medium density living in partnership with industry.

For more information visit www.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au



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