Governance principles for the biosphere

Governance principles have been developed, with advice from key stakeholders, to inform governance arrangements for the operation and management of the Sunshine Coast Biosphere.

Overarching principle: The Sunshine Coast Biosphere brings people and nature together. (It is important that governance arrangements support all parts of the community in understanding the challenges and opportunities present in the biosphere, empowering involvement in positive action, tracking and communicating performance and adapting action).

Principle 1 - Balanced

• Balances and integrates current and future environmental, community and economic needs;

• Ensures equal and balanced representation of stakeholder groups; and

• Fosters open and collaborative partnerships between varying levels of government, stakeholder and community groups.

Principle 2 - Transparent

• Promotes a common understanding by providing public access to information that is clear and easy to understand;

• Provides access to a global experience of living and managing a successful economy within a biosphere;

• Openness, clarity and trust of UNESCO Man and the Biosphere, government and biosphere group processes for decision making; and

• Regularly reports on monitored performance to encourage understanding and knowledge sharing.

Principle 3 - Inclusive

• Recognises different ages, genders, cultures and values;

• Respects, engages and collaborates with the Traditional Owners and broader First Nations community; Supports and promotes celebrations and events which build knowledge, capacity and networks;

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

• Engages with youth to provide opportunities for active engagement in contributing to responses to the challenges of the biosphere;

• Provides diverse opportunities for all to contribute to decision making processes, actions and initiatives that advance the biosphere; and

• Respects and embraces the diverse knowledge within stakeholders and encourages information and experience sharing.

Principle 4 - Responsive

• Utilises and integrates existing effective structures in preference to creating or duplicating additional management or engagement arrangements (cascading structure linking community (including industry) and stakeholder groups with overarching arrangements);

• Is adaptive to changing circumstances and able to adjust as required;

• Collaborates with and maintains a positive relationship with adjoining biosphere reserves;

• Engages with the Queensland Government as an important partner and landholder;

• Responds to obligations and expectations of UNESCO and the Commonwealth Government;

• Efficiently and consistently delivers actions within appropriate timeframes;

• Decision making is responsive and evidence-based;

• Meets community and stakeholder (including industry) expectations as credible management of the biosphere;

• Demonstrates strong leadership, collaboration and identity; and

• Is financially sustainable and manages funding openly and effectively.

Caveat for all principles: In accordance with Australian law.