

2022 STATE OF OUR REGION



Connect.
Reflect.
Celebrate.





Mayor
Mark Jamieson

Mayor's message

This last year has been a very memorable one with so many historic announcements for our region and plenty of reasons for our community to connect, reflect and celebrate.

The Sunshine Coast was named a UNESCO Biosphere and joined just four other sites in the country to earn this important recognition.

Council established the 2032 Sunshine Coast Legacy Plan Community Reference Group to help shape the region's legacy plan ahead of the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

We marked 10 years until Brisbane 2032 at the Sugar Bag Road Mountain Bike Trails, and hosted a visit by the Brisbane 2032 Organising Committee Board so they could experience all our region has to offer.

We have inspired a suite of local businesses to tap into the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity... after all, there is no better place to live, learn, work and play sustainably than the Sunshine Coast.

Our community embraced one of the largest and most successful engagement exercises ever undertaken on the Sunshine Coast, with the draft new planning scheme community consultation.

More than 8000 people had their say on Council's proposed planning directions and the large volume of feedback has provided considerable detail for Council to consider when preparing the new planning scheme.

Our Council looks forward to continuing to work with our community in 2023 as we strive to be Australia's most sustainable region. **Healthy. Smart. Creative.**

Watch the State of our Region 2022 video story

Hear from Mayor Mark Jamieson and a number of community members as they reflect on 2022 and provide an update on our region's economic, community and environmental projects.

This year's State of Our Region video features community champions who have helped connect our community throughout the year, including:

- **Will Shrapnel** - Chair of the Biosphere Community Advisory Group
- **Jason Grant and Jonathan Leishman** - Founders and directors of Barns Lane Farm
- **Ali Khan** - owner and operator of Narrows Escape Rainforest Retreat
- **Sienna Bell and Agnes Jain** - members of the Sunshine Coast Youth Council
- **Dane Cross** - Spinal Life Australia Senior Advisor – Access and Advocacy and Mobility Mapping Project pilot
- **Bevan Kearsley** - Spinal Life Australia Access and Advocacy Officer and Mobility Mapping Project pilot
- **Mark Ellis** - Maroochy Neighbourhood Centre Community Development Coordinator and Sunshine Coast 2022 Citizen of the Year
- **Teisha Jenkins** - Sunshine Coast lifeguard
- **Moksha Thakral and Akhil Bajaj** - Migrant Learn to Swim and Beach Safe program participants

 WATCH NOW



Community

First Nations partnerships

The region's second First Nations Self-Determination, Representation and Wellbeing Forum was held, with a strong focus on fostering relationships, representation and future wellbeing.



Community Grants Program

More than \$4.6 million was allocated under our Community Grants Program, helping local community organisations achieving great things across the region.

Powerful voices

The Shine a Light on Racism campaign was launched and called on residents to "Do the Work", respond to racism and actively learn to become an ally.

Community Strategy

We delivered a range of programs and events to support healthy lifestyles and stronger social connection, including active transport programs with schools, Migrant Learn to Swim program and the Healthy Ageing Forum.

Here for our community

We responded to more than 304,000 customer contacts across phone, counter, email and call-backs, with more than 93 per cent of customers finding the experience of contacting Council easy. More than 706,000 people visited our Sunshine Coast Libraries.

Service Excellence

Our passionate front line and field workers continue to focus on delivering our services, which includes looking after more than 1200 parks across the region, holding 115 educational events on responsible pet ownership, collecting 99 per cent of waste services on schedule and resurfacing and/or rehabilitating 83.5km of roads, which included fixing more than 14,200 potholes.



Unsung heroes

More than 870 passionate active volunteers partnered with Council to deliver vital services such as helping people learn to read, looking after our environment and wildlife, preserving our history, delivering exciting events and sharing our region's stories.



Economy

High-value industries

Our Regional Economic Development Strategy has been instrumental in attracting higher-paying industries to close the gap in household income levels. In 2013 those levels were 22.3 per cent below the State average. The latest Census results indicate this gap has decreased significantly to 4.7 per cent.



Showcasing the Sunshine Coast to the world

We hosted 45 delegates representing the diplomatic and consular corps of 35 nations at the Sunshine Coast International Forum in partnership with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Queensland Office.



Supporting local business

We partnered with the Australian Government to host two Jobs Fairs which attracted 845 job seekers and more than 50 local employers offering 900 jobs. Four campaigns were run to call on the region's community to support local businesses.



Small Business Friendly Program

Council signed the Small Business Friendly Charter, a Queensland Government initiative, which recognises local governments that actively support small businesses in their community.



Environment

Cleaner, greener Sunshine Coast

Council's garden organics bin collection service expanded across the Sunshine Coast in July, giving residents an easy and convenient way to recycle their garden waste while also helping the environment.



Purchasing land for our environment

The Environment Levy has continued to support purchasing environmentally significant land to protect and enhance habitat areas and biodiversity corridors. During the year, we purchased 68 hectares at Witta, 65 hectares at Coochin Creek, 19 hectares in the Blue Heart and 13 hectares in Verrierdale.



Blue Heart beats strongly

Our Blue Heart secured a \$2 million Commonwealth Government Grant, which will contribute to further understanding of Blue Carbon ecosystems and the benefits they provide to biodiversity, fishing, water quality, recreation and coastal protection.



Search ~ Blue Heart Sunshine Coast

Proposed Sunshine Coast Ecological Park

We undertook community consultation regarding this wonderful place in the hinterland, at Maleny, for recreation and wellness, ecology and restoration, research, education and culture.



Looking forward



Climate change action

Our Environment and Liveability Strategy builds a pathway to a healthy environment and liveable Sunshine Coast in 2041 through two key targets: to be a net-zero emissions organisation and the community to be low carbon.

Supporting the vulnerable

We are developing and will implement a Housing and Homelessness Action Plan to advocate and prioritise collective action to address homelessness and housing affordability and availability on the Sunshine Coast.



First Nations

We will develop and begin delivering on a new Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan that strengthens relationships and supports social and economic opportunities for the First Nations community.

First-class sporting facilities

We have progressed the planning for key pieces of Olympic and Paralympic Games infrastructure that will be able to be enjoyed by our community many years before and after 2032.



New Planning Scheme

Feedback from our community indicated Council's proposed planning directions for the new planning scheme are guided by the right principles. Preparation of the new planning scheme is expected to be completed over the next two years.

Economic Development

We are developing a new five-year implementation plan for the Regional Economic Development Strategy to reflect changing economic conditions and to take advantage of new opportunities including the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.



Sunshine Coast Biosphere

This international designation will provide our region with a competitive advantage to facilitate sustainable growth along with a range of benefits to our natural environment, lifestyle and economy.



Mooloolaba Foreshore

Many people had their say on design concepts for the next wave of improvements to the region's largest beachfront parkland destination. This vital community input will help Council determine the final design for everyone to enjoy.



Keeping our community safe

We will continue to encourage our community to be prepared for natural disasters, plus activate our Local Disaster Management Group and support our community during major weather events.





OurSC connects you to your local Sunshine Coast Council and is your home for the latest:

- News on Council's community, environment and economic projects and programs
- Upcoming Council events and activities, including school holiday fun and Sunday Adventures
- Local business advice and development updates
- Podcasts: listen in for educational, environmental, business or disaster preparedness episodes
- 'Have your say' Local engagement opportunities to share your thoughts on upcoming Council projects.

oursc.com.au



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

www.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au/stateofourregion

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