



## WHAT THE **COMMUNITY** TOLD US

on the proposed Sunshine Coast ecological park

# Sunshine Coast Ecological Park – Stage 3 Engagement Summary

Thank you to everyone who contributed their feedback and comments on the Draft Sunshine Coast Ecological Park Master Plan during the Stage 3 consultation between 6 March and 20 March 2023.

Feedback received will aid Council in making refinements to the Master Plan before being considered by Council.

**78% of respondents said they would visit the Sunshine Coast Ecological Park**

**58% of respondents were supportive of the draft Sunshine Coast Ecological Park Master Plan.**

### Engagement activities

Stage 3 engagement activities included:

- Project video
- Advertising and media (including online)
- Engagement with key stakeholder groups
- Community Reference Group Meeting
- Draft Master Plan released for community viewing
- Online survey and invitation to comment via the Have Your Say Page.

### What the community had to say

The Have Your Say Survey received:

- 197 responses
- 119 additional comments
- 142 suggested refinements.

In addition to the Have Your Say Survey, the project inbox received 49 emails from stakeholders and special interest groups.

There is strong community sentiment for the project and engagement identified common interests, concerns, and preferences across the community.

While majority of feedback was positive and supportive of the draft Master Plan, there were some areas identified that the community wanted Council to focus on:

#### Balance between recreation and conservation

The park aims to find a balance between human-centric recreational activities and creating a safe space for flora and fauna to thrive. Feedback suggested a desire to grow conservation spaces, potentially separate from human interaction.

#### Community and residential impacts

Suggested refinements encouraged Council to review how the proposed park will impact nearby residents and the general community, and consider issues such as patronage, amenities, traffic, construction and operations.



## WHAT THE **COMMUNITY** TOLD US

on the proposed Sunshine Coast ecological park

### Key themes of Stage 3 engagement

	The Hub	Initiatives such as the native nursery, education activities and ranger programs were well supported by respondents. Responses highlighted the opportunity to partner with local community groups to undertake restorative works. Areas of concern were the potential impacts to nearby residents, the proposed access point from Burgess Avenue, and the wildlife and ecology present in the area.
	Balance between ecology and recreation	The balance between recreation and ecology is unclear for some stakeholders. Overall community and stakeholder sentiment desires less human-centric design, and a stronger focus on preserving and protecting the natural environment.
	Traffic and Safety	Traffic impacts, peak congestion periods and concerns for increased numbers of vehicles were clearly communicated by the community, urging Council to consider these issues in their planning.
	Amenities	Parking was a point of discussion for respondents, with questions posed around how parking availability and increased patronage will be managed. Sustainable restroom and rubbish disposal options were also mentioned as worthwhile to be considered.
	Environment	More areas dedicated to revegetation and rehabilitation of rainforest, and the protection of native flora and fauna were overwhelmingly supported in written responses.
	Community impacts	Some concern was expressed around construction and operations. Nearby residents were both supportive of the park and the increased patronage it will bring, and also mindful of the pressure the park and its visitors would place on existing infrastructure.

### What's next

The feedback gathered in Stage 3 will be considered before the Master Plan is presented to Council for their consideration. Subject to the finalisation of the Master Plan, it would then be used as a strategic road map to guide the long-term establishment and evolution of the park.

Further consultation around specific aspects of the design would be undertaken with both community and key stakeholders in future stages and we hope that you will continue to engage with us as we move forward with the creation of the Sunshine Coast Ecological Park.