

Climate change

The information sheet summarises the key planning provisions relating to climate change in the proposed planning scheme.

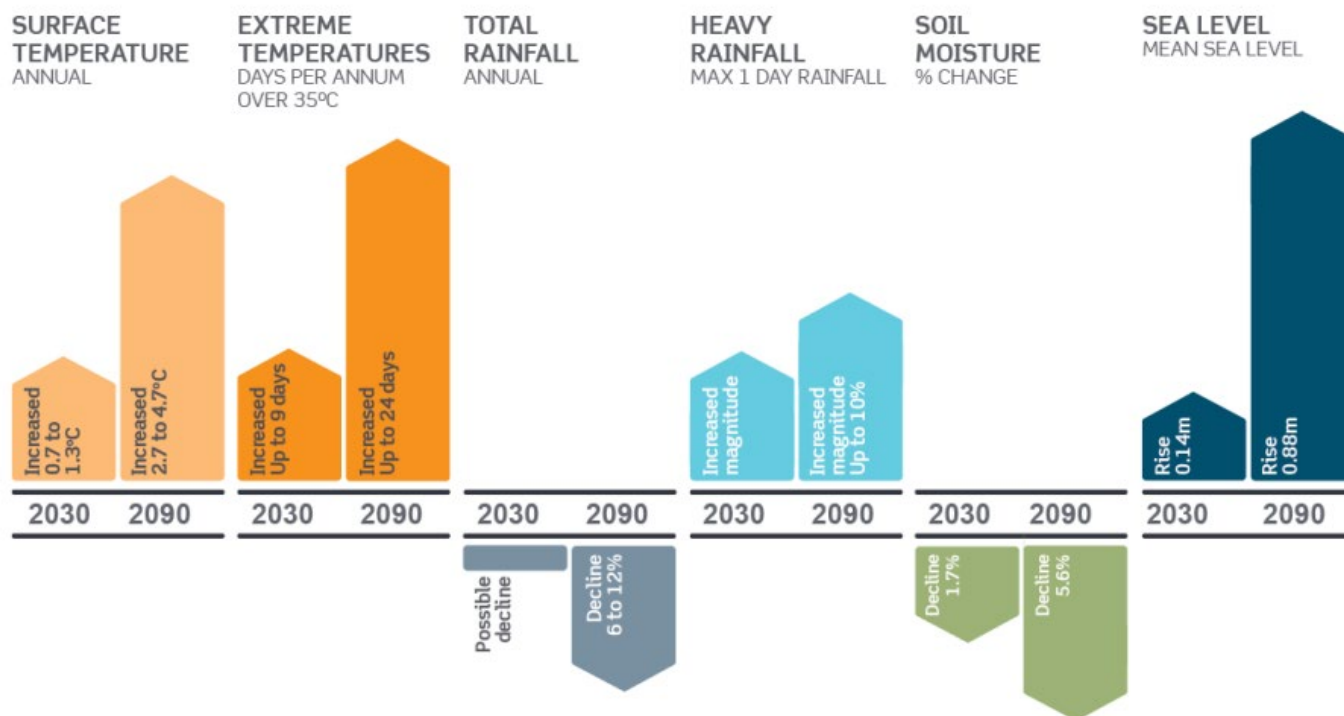
How is climate change affecting the Sunshine Coast?

The global climate is changing. Analysis by the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) indicates that sea levels around Australia are already rising at an average rate of 3.1mm per year. The mean surface air temperature of the Sunshine Coast has increased by almost 1°C between 1910 and 2013. The Bureau of Meteorology and CSIRO report Australia's climate has warmed by an average of 1.47°C for the period 1910-2021 (2022 State of the Climate Report). Council's *Environment and Liveability Strategy 2023 Part A* contains climate projections for the Sunshine Coast (see below).

Modelling shows that over time, the Sunshine Coast will be exposed to:

- increases in average temperatures and in the number of days per year in excess of 35°C
- more extreme rainfall events
- changes in the frequency and magnitude of extreme events including cyclones, storms, droughts, heat waves and flooding
- rising sea level
- becoming drier with total annual rainfall and soil moisture likely to decrease.

Climate change projections continue to evolve in response to further research being undertaken by expert organisations, which will shape planning policy at all levels into the future.



What is the role of the proposed planning scheme in seeking to address climate change?

Climate change has the potential to impact many aspects of how we live on the Sunshine Coast. Responding and adapting to a changing climate is likely to be one of the greatest challenges of our generation. Land use planning plays a key role in responding and adapting to a changing climate.

Whilst the planning scheme is only one of many tools and measures available to combat the issue, and cannot apply retrospectively to existing development, it plays a critical role in ensuring that new development considers the predicted impacts of climate change and shapes growth in a more sustainable way.

How does the proposed planning scheme seek to address climate change?

The proposed planning scheme is the first planning scheme for the Sunshine Coast to comprehensively address climate change adaptation in relation to future land use and development.

Climate change is a complex and multi-faceted issue and, as such, policy responses have been included at multiple levels and in multiple parts of the proposed planning scheme.

Some of the ways in which the proposed planning scheme is seeking to ensure that future development is appropriate and responsive to the challenges of climate change include the following measures detailed below.

Settlement pattern

The proposed settlement pattern represents a shift towards urban consolidation, providing for more compact, transit-oriented living close to centres, jobs, services, and other attractors, while also protecting the green frame of the Sunshine Coast. This approach to accommodating future growth helps to reduce car dependence, make



efficient use of existing and planned infrastructure and improve our communities' resilience to the predicted impacts of climate change.

Coastal, flooding and stormwater hazards

- Continued strong focus on not expanding greenfield development into critical natural hazard areas, as well as new provisions to increase the resilience of existing urban areas subject to hazards.
- Integration of Council's *Coastal Hazard Adaptation Strategy* (CHAS) land use planning policy directions into the planning scheme.
- Extensively revising the Coastal Hazards Overlay to deal with matters such as open coast and estuarine erosion, storm tide inundation, storm tide wave action areas and permanent tidal inundation areas (areas predicted to be subject to sea level rise).

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- Introducing new Coastal Hazards Adaptation Precincts which identify areas at higher risk from climate-related hazards such as open coast erosion and sea level rise (permanent tidal inundation). These are intended to build on the outcomes of the CHAS and will allow for localised approaches to specific at-risk areas to be reflected in the planning scheme over time as more detailed investigations are completed.
- Incorporation of new flood risk mapping and stronger provisions relating to development in high risk flood areas.
- Identification and protection of new flood storage preservation areas where filling is limited to preserve necessary flood storage space.
- More specific recognition of the critical role of the Maroochy River Floodplain in flood storage preservation for coastal urban communities, with corresponding limits on filling and new development within this area.
- Provisions to help future proof coastal urban areas, including filling requirements for coastal urban areas subject to flooding/permanent tidal inundation, as well as allowing for the possible raising of roads and other urban infrastructure in future.
- New provisions relating to flood resilient development design (noting that planning schemes have a limited ability to address matters within the scope of the Building Assessment Provisions e.g. the *Building Act 1975* and National Construction Code).
- Revised stormwater management provisions and new stormwater risk mapping to better protect important overland flow paths, help address capacity issues arising from increased rainfall intensity and improve regulation of inter-allotment drainage.

Other natural hazards

- Revised and updated bushfire hazard mapping and code provisions.
- Updated code provisions for development on landslide hazard and steep land areas.



Sunshine Coast Design and landscaping

- A new focus on incorporating [Sunshine Coast Design](#) principles in new development, including sub-tropical and sustainable design principles (noting that the planning scheme has limited ability to address matters within the scope of the Building Assessment Provisions).
- New provisions to require integrated living landscapes and deep planted landscapes in development, as well as protection of identified urban habitat and amenity areas. This will assist with managing predicted urban heat effects as well as maintaining character, amenity and microhabitats in urban areas.

Environmental protection

- A continued strong focus on environmental and biodiversity protection, including provision of ecological linkages and specific recognition of the wide range of ecosystem

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services provided by the natural environment on the Sunshine Coast, including in relation to climate resilience.

Agricultural land protection

- Introduction of a new Agricultural Land Overlay to aid in protecting good quality agricultural land for local food production.

Emerging technologies

- Specific recognition of new and emerging technologies such as EV charging requirements, accommodating personal EV mobility devices, ride share, battery storage facilities and green hydrogen.

How can I find out more?

Go to the following [information sheets](#)

- Coastal Hazards Overlay
- Flood Hazard Overlay
- Bushfire Hazard Overlay
- Landslide Hazard Overlay
- Biodiversity, Waterways and Wetlands Overlay
- Go to the following parts of the [proposed planning scheme](#)
 - Strategic Framework Theme 1 Shaping Sustainable Growth and Theme 2 A Healthy and Resilient Environment
 - Flood hazard overlay mapping and code
 - Coastal hazards overlay mapping and code
 - Bushfire hazard overlay mapping and code
 - Biodiversity, waterways and wetlands overlay mapping and code
 - Agricultural land overlay mapping and code
 - Stormwater management code
 - Transport and parking code

- Sunshine Coast Design Planning Scheme Policy
- Go to Council's [Environment and Liveability Strategy 2017-2041](#)
- Go to Council's [Coastal Hazards Adaptation Strategy \(CHAS\)](#)
- If you have a question, contact Council's planning scheme team:
 - Email: newplanningscheme@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au
 - Phone: 07 5409 0570

To explore the proposed planning scheme or make a submission, scan the QR code or visit:

<https://haveyoursay.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au/newplanningscheme>



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