COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

Draft Shorebird Conservation Plan 2025-2030

Community Engagement Summary

March 2025

The draft Shorebird Conservation Plan 2025-2030 aims to guide shorebird conservation on the Sunshine Coast for the next five years. The Sunshine Coast provides internationally and nationally significant habitat for migratory and resident shorebirds, where they share limited coastal habitat with a fast-growing urban community. Sunshine Coast Council invited community feedback on the development of the draft Shorebird Conservation Plan.

Community engagement

Engagement was open for a period of four weeks between 21 October - 18 November 2024.

Online engagement activities, hosted on Have your Say Sunshine Coast, included:

- An online survey
- Online activity where people could pin an interactive post about what actions they will take to support shorebird conservation.

The online survey included two parts. Users were asked to assign a priority to 6 proposed actions, and they were asked to what extent they agreed that the draft Shorebird Conservation Plan will achieve its vision, including an option to provide additional comments.

The online survey also provided two options to comment on the proposed actions, as well as on the draft Shorebird Conservation Plan.

An in-person workshop was also held with primary stakeholders prior to the engagement period.

Promotion highlights



51,900 reached on social media



2220 reached via email campaign



1-week radio campaign



173 views of story on OurSC.com.au

Participation highlights



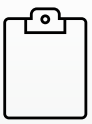
752 contributions on Have Your Say Sunshine Coast



95% responses from local community



7 community group submissions



632 survey responses



20 community actions pinned as interactive notes

Sunshine Coast COUNCIL

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What we heard

There is general support from the community on the draft Shorebird Conservation Plan with a range of feedback and suggestions submitted during the consultation period.

Balance

There is a strong community desire for a balanced approach between shorebird conservation and recreational activities on beaches, particularly for dog walking.

Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation

The feedback highlights the need for a more inclusive and comprehensive approach to wildlife conservation on the Sunshine Coast, addressing broader environmental issues and encompassing more species.

Concerns over funding allocation

Respondents were concerned with allocation of funds and resources, emphasising the need to prioritise effective use of funds, ensuring that sufficient resources are allocated to enforce the plan's proposed actions.

Conservation vs. Development Conflict

The feedback highlights significant tension between urban development and the conservation of shorebird habitat. Respondents expressed concerns over the impact of nearby airports, housing developments, and recreational activities.

Council response to feedback

All feedback will be considered in developing the final Shorebird Conservation Plan.
Specifically, we will:

1. Ensure the Shorebird Conservation Plan balances recreation and conservation values.
2. Provide recommendations to the draft Dog Exercise Area Regional Plan on how to effectively manage and balance shorebird conservation outcomes while maintaining recreation outcomes where possible.
3. Consider the provision of alternate locations for dog exercise areas.
4. Highlight the beneficial impacts the draft Shorebird Conservation Plan will have on other coastal species and habitat.
5. Follow the Environment and Liveability Strategy 2023 for high level direction on comprehensive environmental conservation.
6. Ensure efficient use of budget through the Environment Levy and seek additional funding through grants and sponsors.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the draft Shorebird Conservation Plan community engagement.

Stay informed

Stay informed by signing up to the project mailing list via Have Your Say Sunshine Coast.

What's next?

Council will now finalise the Shorebird Conservation Plan, incorporating feedback from this consultation. The final plan will be peer reviewed by subject matter experts, before being presented to Council at an Council Ordinary Meeting in 2025.

For any questions, please contact the project team via the contact details below.

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