

Draft Sunshine Coast  
**Community Strategy**  
**2019-2041**

Information Sheet 2:  
Community Engagement (Phase 1) Summary

# Strong community involvement shaped the new draft Community Strategy

## Background

Council adopted the Sunshine Coast Community Strategy 2019-2041, and supporting Action Plan 2019-2024, in 2019.

In 2023, after four years and significant change in our community, Council began a project to refresh the Community Strategy and develop new actions to achieve by 2029.

A new draft of the Community Strategy has now been written. Significant input from the Sunshine Coast community has shaped this refreshed strategy and identification of priority actions.

This information sheet summarises the considered input received from the community and how it has shaped the outcomes.

Council is now checking in to make sure we've got it right. Feedback on the draft Community Strategy can be made from 14 May to 10 June 2024 and the new strategy will be finalised before the end of 2024.



Image: Participants discuss community priorities at the Stronger Together Community Forum, May 2023

## Project Timeline 2023

| General Date | Details                                                                                            |
|--------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Feb 2023     | Internal consultation with Council teams                                                           |
| Apr-May 2023 | Broad community engagement – Have your Say, survey, information sheets, Conversation Toolkit, etc. |
| Apr-May 2023 | Discussions with representative groups                                                             |
| May 2023     | Stronger Together Community Forum                                                                  |
| Sep-Oct 2023 | Internal consultation and information sessions with Council teams                                  |
| Nov-Dec 2023 | Workshops with targeted external stakeholders                                                      |

## How you contributed:

Community members were asked to tell Council:

- What are the current challenges and opportunities for the Sunshine Coast community?
- What actions should our community focus on to address these priorities?
- What other changes to the Community Strategy are needed to help achieve our shared goal of a strong community to 2041? Community engagement was undertaken in April and May 2023 to understand how the Community Strategy should be updated to reflect changing community priorities.

Special effort was made to ensure a diverse mix of residents were able to participate and have their say. The decision was made to run multiple engagement activities over an extended eight-week period. Engagement included:

- **Community Strategy Leadership Group (CSLG) workshops.** Members of the CSLG are representatives from government agencies, community groups, service providers and residents who have a focus on providing local, social and community services and outcomes. The group has been involved throughout the refresh of the Community Strategy.
- **Stronger Together Community Forum.** A full-day forum on 16 May 2023 was attended by community members from across the Sunshine Coast (identified and invited by members of the CSLG). Special effort was made to invite residents of all ages, abilities and backgrounds to ensure the forum represented the diverse voices of our community.
- **Have Your Say website.** The website utilised videos and information sheets to provide information about the Community Strategy in multiple accessible formats.
- **Community Survey.** A survey was available online and in physical format and remained open for an 8-week period.
- **Targeted stakeholder conversations.** Presentations and workshops were held with a range of stakeholder groups relevant to the topics covered in the Community Strategy. This allowed detailed discussions about current community priorities and opportunities to discuss collaborative action.
- **Community Conversation Toolkit.** A toolkit was developed that would allow community groups or residents to host their own conversations and record feedback. The toolkit included information, prompts and templates to successfully facilitate a conversation and record the discussion outcomes.

## What you told Council

Over **1850 people** contributed their knowledge, experience and ideas about how we can work together as Council and community to strengthen the Sunshine Coast community. The input received by the Sunshine Coast community was valuable, insightful and comprehensive.

## The input received included



### 1600 surveys completed by residents

from across the Sunshine Coast.  
The survey gathered over **6000** individual comments from residents.



### 8500 people

visited the Have Your Say website.



### 110 people participated

in the Stronger Together Community Forum (including Council staff and members of the CSLG who also contributed to discussions).

You told Council the top four community priorities were:

- **Housing and homelessness:** including affordability, local laws and planning regulation, social housing, homelessness support, temporary locations for sleeping rough, emergency housing, and the need to work with other levels of government and community to develop innovative responses.
- **Infrastructure provision:** including additional and upgraded community facilities to meet population growth, and ensuring community spaces and places were accessible, safe, well maintained and activated with a range of activities, programs and events.
- **Transport:** including convenient, affordable, frequent and efficient public transport, generally supportive of shift away from private vehicle use, road upgrades and safety.
- **Cost of living.**

You also identified the following additional priorities:

- Activities and facilities for young people
- Further recognition of First Nations culture
- Inclusion of diversity, in all its forms
- Personal and community connection to address isolation.

Environmental sustainability was also an overarching theme. The lifestyle and characteristics of the Sunshine Coast beaches and green areas were highly valued and there was strong desire to see this protected.

There were also suggestions made about how to improve the next iteration of the Community Strategy with feedback toward simplifying language and having clear and achievable actions.

A more detailed summary of the engagement findings is available on Council's Have Your Say website.

## How you shaped the draft refreshed Community Strategy

Council has refreshed the Community Strategy to reflect your input:

- The refreshed Community Strategy more visibly reflects community priorities such as housing and cost of living, climate change, transport and population growth impacting liveability, quality of life and participation. Council understands that these issues are significant priorities and has ensured the new draft reflects these challenges. Commentary about these challenges is included in the Drivers of Change section. Council also included distinct topics on Housing and Homelessness Support, Transport, and Community Places and Spaces to make it easier to locate content about these priorities.
- The draft also more appropriately highlights the importance of First Nations reconciliation, mental health, social connection and activities for young people. These are important elements of a strong community and have been made more visible in the new draft. Actions related to First Nations people are included in multiple topics, mental health is more directly highlighted in the Health and Wellbeing topic, social connection has been elevated in the Community Connection and Resilience topic and an action to develop a comprehensive Youth Action Plan has been included.
- The structure of the new draft Community Strategy has been simplified and actions are easier to understand. The structure has been simplified so that readers can focus on the sections that they want to read. Actions have been written to be shorter and more focused on actions that can be completed. There are fewer actions that are business-as-usual activities of Council, with a focus on new actions.



Image: Participants sharing their ideas for future actions for our region at the Stronger Together Community Forum, May 2023

## How you shaped Council actions for 2024-29

The actions identified in the Community Strategy for completion by 2029 are based on input from the community or Council teams, or reviews of other similar strategies and evidenced priorities. They were then shaped by internal Council teams and targeted stakeholders to ensure they are achievable and refined down to the most important actions to focus over the next 5 years.

Council considered each suggested action, to determine:

- Is it an action Council should lead or someone else?
- Is it already being worked on or part of what is considered Council's business-as-usual activities?
- Is it achievable within the next five years?

This resulted in the 48 actions in the new draft Community Strategy. The achievement of some actions is dependent on the future allocation of funds from within Council's budget.

## Have your Say

Visit Council's **Have Your Say** website to learn more about providing feedback on the new draft Community Strategy. The community engagement period closes on 10 June 2024.



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