Sunshine Coast Council

Shorebird Conservation Plan 2025-30



Sunshine Coast COUNCIL

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Reference document

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Cover image

Simone Bosshard

Traditional acknowledgement

Sunshine Coast Council acknowledges the Sunshine Coast Country, home of the Kabi Kabi peoples and the Jinibara peoples, the Traditional Custodians, whose lands and waters we all now share.

We recognise that these have always been places of cultural, spiritual, social and economic significance. The Traditional Custodians' unique values, and ancient and enduring cultures, deepen and enrich the life of our community.

We commit to working in partnership with the Traditional Custodians and the broader First Nations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) communities to support self-determination through economic and community development.

Truth telling is a significant part of our journey. We are committed to better understanding the collective histories of the Sunshine Coast and the experiences of First Nations peoples. Legacy issues resulting from colonisation are still experienced by Traditional Custodians and First Nations peoples.

We recognise our shared history and will continue to work in partnership to provide a foundation for building a shared future with the Kabi Kabi peoples and the Jinibara peoples.

We wish to pay respect to their Elders – past, present and emerging, and acknowledge the important role First Nations peoples continue to play within the Sunshine Coast community.

Together, we are all stronger.

Contents

Our global commitment 4

United Nations Sustainable Development Goals 5

Making progress together 6

Alignment to the corporate plan 7

Introduction 8

- Background 8
- Purpose 9
- Desired Outcomes 9
- Legislative and Policy Context 9

Shorebird Conservation 11

Vision 12

Conservation Actions 13

Desired Outcome 1 13

- Objective 13

Desired Outcome 2 13

- Objective 13

Desired Outcome 3 13

- Objective 13

Desired Outcome 4 13

- Objective 13

Desired Outcome 5 13

- Objective 13

Monitoring, Implementation, Evaluation, Plan Review 15

References 15

Implementation Plan 16

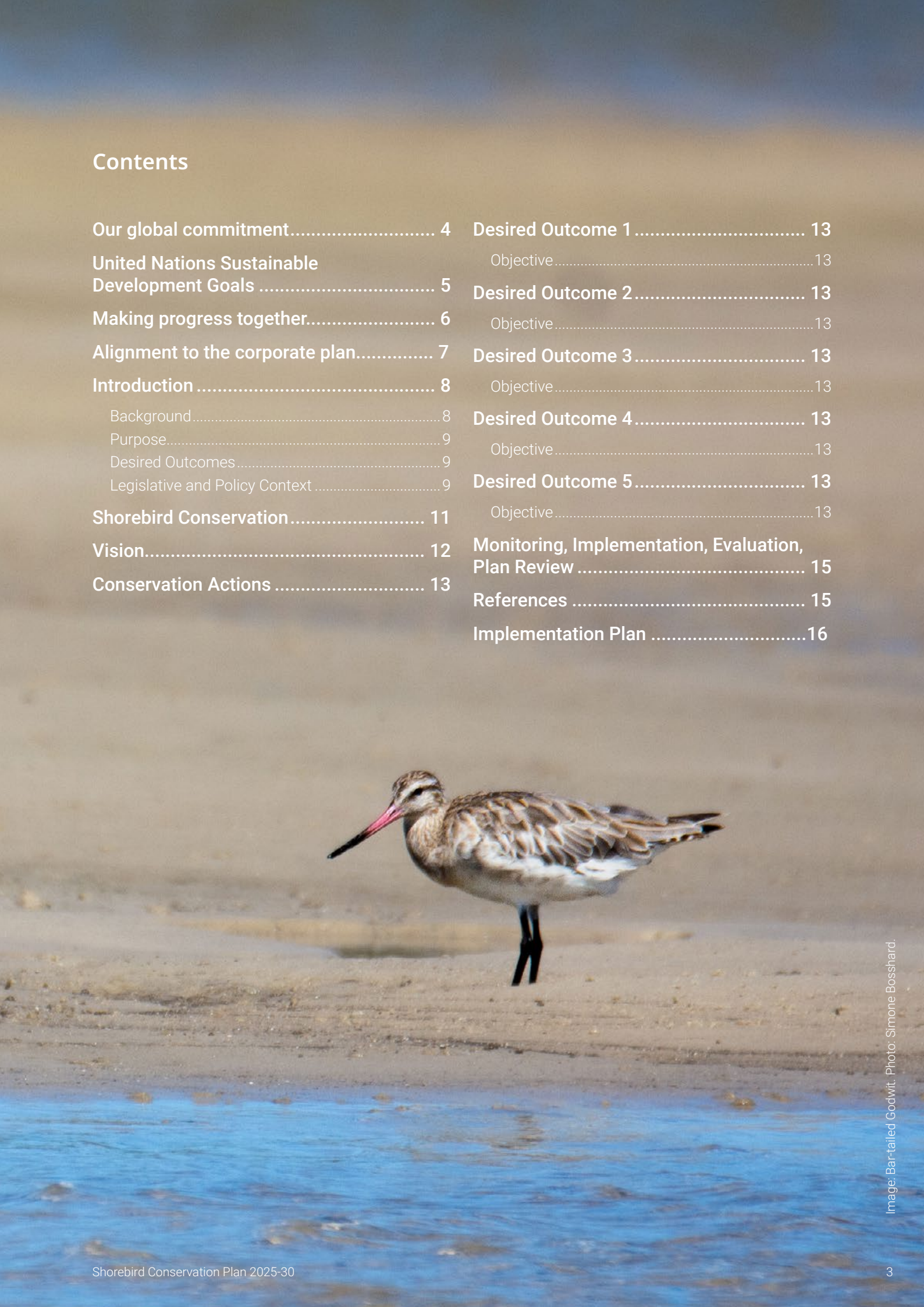


Image: Bar-tailed Godwit. Photo: Simone Bosshard.

Our global commitment

SUNSHINE COAST BIOSPHERE

In our Sunshine Coast Biosphere, we work together with our community for a sustainable future where we celebrate people and nature.

This is an international recognition as part of a World Network of Biosphere Reserves, demonstrating our commitment to contribute to a sustainable planet and create a positive legacy for future generations. This also aligns with Council's vision as Australia's most sustainable region. Connected. Liveable. Thriving.

We all have a role to play in the Sunshine Coast Biosphere now and for all those who will live, work, learn and play here in the future.

Our biosphere spans the Sunshine Coast local government area and three nautical miles off the coast.

Caring for this special place brings new opportunities and a range of possible benefits to our natural environment, community, lifestyle and economy.

The Sunshine Coast Biosphere is centred around our four key objectives, all of which are intrinsically linked:

- **People** - A Sunshine Coast community that actively fosters and promotes sustainable practices, use and stewardship
- **Conservation** - Conserving, maintaining, and enhancing our natural environment from the hinterland to the coast, and connecting people and nature
- **Development** - Demonstrating leadership in delivering a diverse and resilient economy
- **Logistical support** - Inspiring and celebrating creativity, innovation, research, and a learning community.



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Image: Eastern Curlews. Photo: Simone Bosshard

United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Implementing the Sunshine Coast Biosphere involves local actions delivering on the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. As we advance our vision as Australia's most sustainable region, the environmental, social, cultural and economic activities across the region must be carefully balanced to ensure we create a sustainable future.

Council is demonstrating regional leadership by committing to embed the SDGs in our strategies, plans and associated progress reporting. The Shorebird Conservation Plan supports the SDGs by by protecting biodiversity, enhancing climate resilience, and fostering inclusive community stewardship

This Shorebird Conservation Plan contributes to the following goals:

SDG 13 - Climate action

This plan provides a framework to monitor climate change impacts on shorebird populations and their habitats. It aims to detect early warning signs of climate-induced pressures through systematic surveys, enabling mitigation strategies to preserve ecological resilience. The plan integrates strategic planning with actionable outcomes, ensuring alignment with national policies. A key focus is on empowering local communities through ongoing education and awareness initiatives, to address emerging threats and build resilience.

SDG 14 - Life below water

This plan promotes active sustainable management of marine and coastal ecosystems to enhance shorebird habitat health for the recovery of shorebird populations. Protecting shorebird habitat through the plan is expected to enhance ecosystem resilience and productivity.
The plan encourages legal frameworks for sustainable ocean-related practices and aims to improve ecosystem productivity through targeted habitat protection.

SDG 15 - Life on land

This plan identifies and promotes actions to protect critical shorebird habitats to reduce land degradation. It outlines targeted conservation actions for threatened species, promoting their long-term survival and the health of terrestrial ecosystems.

SDG 17 - Partnerships for the Goals

The Shorebird Conservation Plan fosters inclusive partnerships and shared outcomes that support the Sunshine Coast Biosphere's vision for a thriving, sustainable future. Collaboration across communities and sectors is a core principle embedded in all our plans and initiatives.



Making progress together

Working towards our vision

Australia's most sustainable region.
Connected. Liveable. Thriving.

Sunshine Coast Community Strategy 2019-2041

Sunshine Coast Environment and Liveability Strategy 2017-2041

Sunshine Coast Regional Economic Development Strategy 2013-2033

Sunshine Coast Council Corporate Plan 2025-30

Shorebird Conservation Plan 2025-30

Alignment to the regional strategies

The Shorebird Conservation Plan 2025–30 aligns with the Sunshine Coast Community Strategy by promoting inclusive, resilient, and nature-connected communities, and supports the Regional Economic Development Strategy by enhancing the region's green and visitor economies through habitat protection, eco-tourism, education, and climate resilience—contributing to a connected, liveable and thriving Sunshine Coast.



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Image: Sooty Oystercatchers. Photo: Simone Bosshard.

Alignment to the corporate plan

The Sunshine Coast Council's Corporate Plan 2025-30 outlines an integrated approach to achieving our vision, informed by Council's long and medium-term strategies and plans. Our commitment to reconciliation is reflected under the five goals.



Strong Community

The Shorebird Conservation Plan fosters a strong community by engaging residents, Traditional Owners, schools, and volunteers in shorebird conservation. Through education campaigns, citizen science, and inclusive partnerships, it builds awareness and shared stewardship of coastal ecosystems. By promoting respectful recreation and cultural collaboration, the plan strengthens social connection and pride in place, inviting all community members to participate in conservation efforts that protect our natural heritage and support wellbeing.



Environment and Liveability

The plan enhances environment and liveability by protecting critical shorebird habitats and mitigating threats through planning, legislation, and on-ground action. It aligns with the Environment and Liveability Strategy and UNESCO Biosphere values, ensuring biodiversity is preserved and enhanced alongside sustainable recreation. By guiding infrastructure away from sensitive areas and promoting habitat restoration, the plan supports a healthy coastal environment that underpins the region's liveability and ecological resilience.



Resilient Economy

By supporting sustainable nature-based tourism, the Shorebird Conservation Plan contributes to a resilient economy. It partners with local tourism operators to promote bird-watching experiences and builds regional identity around conservation values. The plan's emphasis on education, stewardship, and ecological health enhances the Sunshine Coast's reputation as a destination for responsible travel, while protecting the natural assets that underpin long-term economic prosperity.



Managing for Growth

The plan supports well-managed growth by integrating shorebird habitat protection into urban and recreational planning. It informs land use decisions, guides infrastructure away from ecological sensitive areas, and ensures recreation areas and trails are designed to minimise ecological impact. By embedding conservation into planning frameworks, the plan helps balance population growth with environmental sustainability, preserving the region's unique coastal character.



Organisational Excellence

The Shorebird Conservation Plan exemplifies organisational excellence through evidence-based decision-making, cross-sector collaboration, and transparent monitoring. It aligns with national and international conservation frameworks and embeds adaptive management practices. Annual reviews and stakeholder engagement ensure accountability and continuous improvement. By integrating science, policy, and community values, the plan reflects Council's commitment to high performance and responsive governance.



Image: Whimbrels. Photo: Simone Bosshard.

Introduction

Migratory shorebirds are remarkable birds that journey thousands of kilometres across the globe to spend the summer with us on the Sunshine Coast. Watching them in their natural environment evokes a wonderful human emotional, intellectual, and spiritual response. Yet, like all migratory species, their movements across the globe make them particularly vulnerable to natural and human-induced impacts along their migratory route, resulting in global population declines. Shorebirds rely on a connected network of high-quality wetlands and are key indicators of coastal ecosystem health.

Like links in a chain, these coastal habitats support their survival, and in return they play a crucial role in keeping these ecosystems healthy by cycling nutrients and supporting natural balance. For all these reasons, shorebirds deserve and need our attention at local, regional, national, and international levels, to ensure the survival of these remarkable birds and the ecosystems they inhabit are preserved for future generations.

Background

The Sunshine Coast provides important habitat for migratory and resident shorebirds, where they share limited coastal habitat areas with a fast-growing urban community. Much of the region's rapidly growing population (predicted to exceed 500,000 by 2041) lives along the urban growth corridor between Caloundra and Maroochydore - areas that are also important for shorebirds.

Each year, around 2 million migratory shorebirds, many of them listed as threatened from extinction under Commonwealth and State legislation, fly more than 10,000 km from their breeding grounds in the Arctic tundra to Australia. Many spend the summer in the estuaries of the lower Maroochy River and Pumicestone Passage, as well as along rocky foreshores and Mudjimba Island (for details and monitoring data see Background Paper). The Pumicestone Passage is recognised as an internationally significant wetland, while the Maroochy River is considered nationally significant (Weller et al. 2020).

While in their non-breeding habitats, the daily lives of shorebirds are determined by the tides. At high tide, they roost (sleep) in flocks above the water level. As the tide drops, they move onto intertidal sandflats and mudflats to feed in the soft sediment. Therefore, both high-tide roosting sites and low-tide feeding areas are critical to their survival. To minimise energy expenditure, shorebirds prefer locations where roosting and feeding areas are close together, reducing the time and energy required to travel between the tides.

Resident shorebird species live in Australia year-round. The foreshore provides habitat for their entire life cycle: roosting, foraging, and breeding. They lay their eggs on dunes or rocky shores above the high tide mark, where their breeding success is affected by natural factors such as high tides and storms, as well as human-induced habitat destruction, introduced predators, and disturbance from recreational activities along the coast.

Most shorebird species are rapidly declining. Global threats include habitat loss, climate change and sea-level rise. On the Sunshine Coast, disturbance by people and domestic animals presents the biggest threat (for details see Background Paper). Any disturbance to migratory shorebirds severely impacts their ability to build the energy reserves needed for their long journeys and breeding season in the Arctic. Effective conservation of these species depends on local management that balances our enjoyment of coastal areas with the ecological values that make them unique. Protecting existing habitat, especially high tide roost sites, is the most cost-effective and impactful way to support shorebird conservation at the local level.

Purpose

The purpose of this five-year Shorebird Conservation Plan is to recommend and implement evidence-based conservation actions to mitigate threats and protect habitat for migratory and resident shorebirds on the Sunshine Coast.

Desired outcomes

The strategic framework of the Shorebird Conservation Plan comprises the following desired outcomes:

1. Current and future high value shorebird habitat is recognised and protected.
2. Threats to shorebirds on the Sunshine Coast are understood and addressed effectively.
3. Shorebird conservation is achieved through education, advocacy, and partnerships with the community, research institutions, local tourism operators, and expert advocacy groups.
4. Management is evidence-based and informed by contemporary research and knowledge of shorebirds on the Sunshine Coast.
5. Local shorebird conservation supports local, regional, national, and international efforts through effective collaboration and partnerships.

Legislative and policy context

The protection of shorebirds involves multiple stakeholders across many jurisdictions, countries, and political boundaries. Australia has entered bilateral agreements to conserve migratory birds with Japan (JAMBA, 1974), China (CAMBA, 1986), and the Republic of Korea (ROKAMBA, 2007).

As a signatory to the *Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals* (CMS or Bonn Convention), all migratory species listed in Appendix I or Appendix II are protected under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act 1999*.

Migratory shorebirds are identified as matters of national environmental significance (MNES) under the EPBC Act 1999, Australia's key piece of environmental legislation. Sixteen species of migratory shorebirds are listed as threatened with extinction under the EPBC Act as of January 2024.

All migratory and resident shorebirds in Queensland are protected under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992 (Qld),* and under the Marine Parks (Moreton Bay) Zoning Plan 2019 within the Moreton Bay Marine Park.

Under these international, national, and state regulatory frameworks, local governments have an obligation to protect shorebirds and their habitat within their respective local government areas. Sunshine Coast Council's Environment and Liveability Strategy 2023 outlines policy positions relating to the conservation of shorebirds in Part A: Strategic Directions. The development of the Shorebird Conservation Plan is an action in the Sunshine Coast Council Operational Plan 2025/26.



Image: Pied Stilt. Photo: Simone Bosshard

Shorebird conservation

The Sunshine Coast hosts hundreds of migratory and resident shorebirds from at least 20 different species throughout the year. Some species are transient and only spend a few weeks here on their way to their final habitat destination. This plan outlines actions to support the conservation of all shorebird species present on the Sunshine Coast, including the regularly occurring species listed in Table 1. These actions will also benefit other coastal bird species that rely on the same intertidal habitats, including the recently listed vulnerable Little Tern.

Common Name	Scientific name	Qld NCA listing	EBPC listing
Far Eastern Curlew	*Numenius madagascariensis*	Critically endangered	Critically endangered, migratory, marine
Western Alaskan Bar-tailed Godwit	*Limosa lapponica baueri*	Endangered	Endangered, migratory, marine
Eurasian Whimbrel	*Numenius phaeopus*	Special least concern	Migratory, marine
Pacific Golden Plover	*Pluvialis fulva*	Special least concern	Migratory, marine
Grey-tailed Tattler	*Tringa brevipes*	Special least concern	Migratory, marine
Wandering Tattler	*Tringa incana*	Special least concern	Migratory, marine
Double-banded Plover	*Charadrius bicinctus*	Special least concern	Migratory, marine
Curlew Sandpiper	*Calidris ferruginea*	Critically endangered	Critically endangered, migratory, marine
Red-necked Stint	*Calidris ruficollis*	Special least concern	Migratory, marine
Pied Oystercatcher	*Haematopus longirostris*	Least concern	Not listed
Sooty Oystercatcher	*Haematopus fuliginosus*	Least concern	Not listed
Red-capped Plover	*Charadrius ruficapillus*	Least concern	Marine
Beach Stone-curlew	*Esacus magnirostris*	Vulnerable	Marine
Pied Stilt	*Himantopus himantopus*	Least concern	Marine
Little Tern	*Sternula albifrons*	Special least concern	Vulnerable, migratory, marine
Common Tern	*Sternula hirundo*	Special least concern	Migratory, marine
Greater Crested Tern	*Thalasseus bergii*	Special least concern	Migratory, marine
Lesser Crested Tern	*Thalasseus bengalensis*	Least concern	Marine
Australian Tern	*Gelochelidon nilotica*	Least concern	Migratory, marine
Caspian Tern	*Hydroprogne caspia*	Special least concern	Migratory, marine

Table 1: Regularly occurring species and their conservation status under the Queensland Nature Conservation Act 1992 (NCA) and the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Act 1999 (EBPC Act).

Vision

To support the recovery of ecologically sustainable migratory and resident shorebird populations across their range by reducing threats, protecting habitat, and working with an educated community.



Image: Wandering Tattler. Photo: Simone Bosshard.

Conservation actions

The strategic framework for the Shorebird Conservation Plan comprises the following desired outcomes:

Desired outcome 1

Current and future high value shorebird habitat is recognised and protected.

Objective

High value shorebird habitat is recognised and protected through legislation and planning.

The plan outlines a precautionary approach to protecting high value shorebird habitats through regular monitoring and assessments, mapping, and strategic planning of recreational areas. These actions aim to minimise human disturbance while balancing conservation and community use.

Desired outcome 2

Threats to shorebirds on the Sunshine Coast are understood and addressed effectively.

Objective

Human-induced disturbance is eliminated at high value roost sites and minimised in high value feeding areas.

The plan focuses on strengthening collaboration across jurisdictions to reduce threats to shorebirds by minimising disturbance and providing temporary nest protection for beach nesting birds to safeguard sensitive habitats.

Desired outcome 3

Shorebird conservation is achieved through education, advocacy and partnerships with the community, research institutions, local tourism operators, and expert advocacy groups.

Objective

Effective stakeholder collaboration and increased community awareness result in positive behaviour change and support for shorebird conservation.

The plan focuses on fostering community stewardship and awareness through targeted education, signage, citizen science, and engagement with Traditional Owners and tourism operators. These initiatives aim to reduce disturbance to shorebirds while promoting sustainable coastal experiences.

Desired outcome 4

Management is evidence-based and informed by contemporary research and knowledge of shorebirds on the Sunshine Coast.

Objective

Develop a better understanding of local shorebird population dynamics and habitat.

The plan aims to prioritise evidence-based decision making through ongoing monitoring, research, and evaluation of conservation efforts. It intends to build resilience to future threats, including climate change and sea-level rise, by improving ecological understanding of shorebirds and their habitat.

Desired outcome 5

Local shorebird conservation supports regional, national, and international efforts through effective collaboration and partnerships.

Objective

Effective collaboration on a local, regional, national, and international level.

The plan aims to strengthen shorebird conservation through strategic partnerships and collaborations from a local to an international level. These efforts support coordinated habitat protection, monitoring, and shared conservation efforts.



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Image: Red capped Plover on eggs. Photo: Simone Bosshard.

Monitoring, implementation, evaluation, plan review

Sunshine Coast Council is responsible for the implementation of the Shorebird Conservation Plan, in collaboration with delivery partners and stakeholders.

The key mechanism for implementing and monitoring success in achieving the desired outcomes is the Implementation Plan, which prioritises actions, defines timing of implementation, identifies responsibilities and resources required.

An annual review and report on activities, outcomes and expenditures will be provided as part of the Sunshine Coast Council Annual Report. A comprehensive evaluation, review, and updates (where required) will be undertaken as part of the five-year plan.

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Implementation Plan

DO1: Current and future high value shorebird habitat is recognised and protected.

Objective: High value shorebird habitat is recognised and protected through legislation and planning.

No.	Action	Success Indicator	Priority	Threat to be mitigated
1.1	Conduct regular assessments of shorebird habitat to identify high value shorebird habitat areas for roosting, feeding, and nesting.	The conservation values for all for migratory and resident shorebirds habitat sites are assessed based on Queensland Government's guidelines **(Local government dog off-leash areas in State Marine Parks 2022).**	High	Habitat Loss, Anthropogenic disturbance
1.2	Map and declare identified high value shorebird habitat and improve site protection.	High value shorebird habitat is formally recognised and appropriately protected, consistent with State mapping for Matters of State Environmental Significance (MSES).	High	Habitat Loss, Anthropogenic disturbance
1.3	Recommend local law amendments to seasonally close high value roost sites at Maroochy North Shore and Goat Island sandbanks to the public between October and April.	Public access to high value roost sites is seasonally restricted.	High	Anthropogenic disturbance
1.4	Collaborate with State Government agencies to advocate for seasonal closure of high value roost sites to the public between October and April in the Moreton Bay Marine Park, Bribie Island National Park and Recreation Area, and Maroochy River Conservation Area.	Public access to high value roost sites under State jurisdiction is seasonally restricted.	High	Anthropogenic disturbance
1.5	Assess conservation and recreational values of currently unprotected shorebird feeding and nesting areas using Queensland Government's guidelines **(Local government dog off-leash areas in State Marine Parks 2022)** and recommend relevant local law amendments between October and April.	Dogs are seasonally restricted from identified high value shorebird feeding and nesting areas.	High	Anthropogenic disturbance
1.6	Work with relevant planning stakeholders to ensure dog exercise areas are situated in convenient and attractive locations but separate from high value shorebird habitat.	All dog exercise areas are spatially separated from high value shorebird habitat.	High	Anthropogenic disturbance
1.7	Plan and implement open space elements such as tracks and trails to improve recreation outcomes and user experience, while guiding people away from high value shorebird habitat.	Recreational infrastructure is spatially separated from high value shorebird habitat.	High	Anthropogenic disturbance
1.8	Update publicly available mapping for identified high value shorebird habitat and dog exercise areas.	The community can easily access mapping of high value shorebird habitat and dog exercise areas.	Medium	Anthropogenic disturbance
1.9	Investigate suitable locations for artificial roost sites.	At least one suitable site per catchment is identified.	Medium	Habitat Loss, Climate change
1.10	Identify and monitor erosion of high value roost sites. Use sand nourishment to stabilise current extent of high value roost sites where feasible and cost-effective.	Permits are in place for sand nourishment to occur if required.	Medium	Habitat Loss, Climate change

DO2: Threats to shorebirds on the Sunshine Coast are understood and addressed effectively.

Objective: Human-induced disturbance is eliminated at high value roost sites and minimised in high value foraging areas.

No.	Action	Success Indicator	Priority	Threat to be mitigated
2.1	Collaborate with relevant State agencies and Council's Response Services team to coordinate compliance and effective implementation of legislation regulating shorebird disturbance in all jurisdictions.	Consistent implementation of available legislation is achieved.	High	Anthropogenic disturbance
2.2	If supported by future amendments to local laws, implement and manage seasonal public access restrictions to high value roost sites.	Access to high value roost sites is reduced by 80%.	High	Anthropogenic disturbance
2.3	If supported by future amendments to local laws, implement and manage seasonal dog access to high value feeding and nesting areas.	Disturbance to high value feeding and nesting areas is reduced by 80%.	High	Anthropogenic disturbance
2.4	Erect temporary fencing around identified shorebird nests until chicks hatch (must be monitored regularly - dependent on Action 3.2).	No egg loss of known and monitored nests through trampling or predation.	Medium	Anthropogenic disturbance
2.5	Align Council's temporary event permitting process with the State Government's Low Impact Firework Event planning framework.	No or low impact fireworks between October and April during mid-high tide near shorebird roost sites.	Medium	Anthropogenic disturbance
2.6	Coordinate and collaborate with State agencies and commercial businesses on assessment and conditioning of commercial use of foreshore areas to minimise disturbance to shorebirds.	No disturbance to shorebirds by commercial foreshore use.	Medium	Anthropogenic disturbance

DO3: Shorebird conservation is achieved through education, advocacy and partnerships with the community, research institutions, local tourism operators, and expert advocacy groups.

Objective: Effective stakeholder collaboration and increased community awareness result in positive behaviour change and support for shorebird conservation.

No.	Action	Success Indicator	Priority	Threat to be mitigated
3.1	Continue community awareness campaign using targeted educational material and an annual communication plan. Use a values-based engagement approach that builds on recreational values to build a shared identity of people and species that love the coast.	Knowledge of shorebirds and their conservation needs is widespread among community. The community engages online, at events and presentations, or in the field.	High	Anthropogenic disturbance
3.2	Secure funding for staff resources to manage educational activities and the beach-nesting birds volunteer citizen science program to monitor and protect resident nesting shorebirds.	Beach-nesting birds and education programs are adequately staffed and well managed.	High	Anthropogenic disturbance
3.3	Continue to use temporary and permanent interpretive signage to engage the community through awareness raising and education about shorebird conservation. Collaborate with State Government to develop joint educational signage.	Effective signage is developed with relevant stakeholders and is installed as needed and reviewed regularly.	High	Anthropogenic disturbance
3.4	Develop a shorebird and coastal wildlife watching and photographing Code of Conduct or guideline to be promoted and distributed to tourism operators, environmental groups, and holiday accommodation.	A shorebird and coastal wildlife Code of Conduct is developed and distributed. Local tourism operators are actively incorporating shorebird education and sustainable bird watching practices into their tours.	High	Anthropogenic disturbance
3.5	Work with local tourism operators to support shorebird education, stewardship and sustainable bird watching experiences.	Local tourism operators are supported to provide shorebird education and viewing experiences.	High	Anthropogenic disturbance
3.6	Engage and collaborate with Traditional Owners to enhance education and on-ground management.	Kabi Kabi knowledge is considered in all actions and management. Active collaboration with Kabi Kabi Land and Sea Rangers.	High	Anthropogenic disturbance, Habitat loss, Climate change
3.7	Provide avian influenza information to the community and provide timely alerts for public health hazards relating to avian influenza outbreaks.	The community is well informed of avian influenza public health hazards and the recommended behaviours to stay safe.	High	Avian influenza
3.8	Support guided shorebird viewing experiences in a shorebird-safe way for the community.	Shorebird viewing experiences are well attended by the local community and visitors eager to learn about shorebird conservation.	Medium	Anthropogenic disturbance
3.9	Encourage and facilitate community participation as shorebird conservation champions to promote good behaviours in their local area.	Community-led campaign fosters a sense of ownership and investment for shorebird conservation.	Medium	Anthropogenic disturbance
3.10	Provide free and accessible opportunities to view shorebirds from a distance, such as binoculars or bird hides.	The community and visitors learn about shorebird conservation by frequently using free and easy-to-use shorebird observation opportunities.	Medium	Anthropogenic disturbance
3.11	Develop a school shorebird program and promote at local schools.	Staff or volunteers regularly present at schools to teach students about shorebirds.	Medium	Anthropogenic disturbance
3.12	Work with local artists to create large, shorebird-shaped interpretive signs along Golden Beach and Cotton Tree.	Two large, shorebird-shaped interpretive signs installed in each catchment.	Medium	Anthropogenic disturbance

DO4: Management is evidence-based and informed by contemporary research and knowledge of Sunshine Coast shorebird populations.

Objective: Develop a better understanding of local shorebird population dynamics and habitat.

No.	Action	Success Indicator	Priority	Threat to be mitigated
4.1	Define benchmarks to monitor, review, and evaluate effectiveness of shorebird conservation management actions annually.	Clear and well-defined benchmarks allow objective evaluation of effectiveness of management actions.	High	Anthropogenic disturbance, Habitat loss, Climate change
4.2	Ensure provision of adequate resources to support required monitoring and evaluation for shorebird conservation management.	Sufficient resources guarantee ongoing monitoring required to assess against benchmarks.	High	Anthropogenic disturbance, Habitat loss, Climate change
4.3	Assess resident shorebird breeding success and egg and chick survival (dependent on Action 3.2)	Nests, chicks and survival rate are regularly monitored by trained beach-nesting birds volunteers.	High	Anthropogenic disturbance, Habitat loss
4.4	Continue the shorebird tracking and banding collaboration with the Queensland Wader Study Group to improve understanding of local habitat use.	Habitat use data is collected to inform management of shorebird habitat.	Medium	Habitat loss, Anthropogenic disturbance
4.5	Understand recreational waterway and beach users, their impacts and their needs to support sustainable recreation and shorebird conservation outcomes using social sciences and/or marketing research.	Behaviour-change strategies are implemented to minimise disturbance are developed based on current research.	Medium	Anthropogenic disturbance
4.6	Identify and protect shorebird climate change refugia by understanding habitat requirements for roost sites, identifying potential future sites, and protecting and rehabilitating those sites.	At least one future roost site per catchment is identified and protected.	Medium	Habitat loss, Climate change
4.7	Investigate funding and research collaboration opportunities to investigate benthic invertebrates in shorebird habitat to understand prey availability, accessibility, and potential temporal and spatial changes.	Fully funded research collaboration to assess benthic invertebrates and substrate penetrability on the Sunshine Coast.	Medium	Prey availability

DO5: Local shorebird conservation supports regional, national, and international efforts through effective collaboration and partnerships.

Objective: Effective collaboration on a local, regional, national, and international level.

No.	Action	Success Indicator	Priority	Threat to be mitigated
5.1	Collaborate with partners throughout flyway network sites to develop flyway-wide approaches to enhance the conservation status of migratory shorebirds, including monitoring and habitat protection.	Ongoing partnerships are established with regular exchange of data and information.	Medium	Anthropogenic disturbance, Habitat loss, Climate change
5.2	Investigate establishing a sister wetland program.	Suitable sites are identified and conversations with potential partners have commenced.	Medium	Anthropogenic disturbance, Habitat loss, Climate change
5.3	Develop and enhance local, regional, national, and international collaboration and partnerships to coordinate efforts for shorebird conservation.	Ongoing collaboration efforts are established on all levels.	Medium	Anthropogenic disturbance, Habitat loss, Climate change

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