

Sunshine Coast Council

**Draft Healthy Coast Management Plan and
Shoreline Erosion Management Plan
Community Engagement Summary**

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sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au

mail@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au

07 5475 7272

Locked Bag 72, Sunshine Coast Mail Centre
Qld 4560

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Introduction

The Healthy Coast Management Plan and Shoreline Erosion Management Plan are critical coastal management plans for the Sunshine Coast. These plans identify how Council intends to sustainably manage coastal values and pressures.

The draft Healthy Coast Management Plan (HCMP) is a new plan that provides a framework to integrate Council's coastal strategies, plans, and management actions to realise the Environment and Liveability Strategy's vision for a Healthy Coast. The HCMP outlines how Council is responding to climate change and population growth pressures by protecting, maintaining, and improving the Coast's public environmental, built asset and sustainable use values, now and into the future.

The draft Shoreline Erosion Management Plan 2025-2035 (SEMP) updates the existing 2014 plan. It is a 10-year action plan that describes key coastal processes, identifies Council assets at risk from coastal hazards and outlines preferred actions to manage coastal erosion. The SEMP is underpinned by sound science, coastal engineering principles and community values.

The HCMP and SEMP are essential for maintaining a healthy coastline. The HCMP captures a broader view of coastal management that includes environmental, built asset, and sustainable use priorities, whilst the SEMP focusses on coastal erosion management. SEMP actions are captured within the HCMP, and there are strong linkages between these two plans. For that reason, engagement activities have been combined.

First Round Engagement

In November 2023, Council undertook a targeted engagement process with key community groups to support drafting of the HCMP and SEMP. This engagement aimed to source local knowledge from those who were working in the community to make our coastal areas better. 89 community groups were informed about the plans, with 42 participants attending across four stakeholder workshops. The engagement uncovered stakeholder views on 229 priority coastal values and suggestions for 122 management interventions.

Second Round Engagement

From 28 October to 25 November 2024, the community were invited to provide feedback on the draft HCMP and draft SEMP. This second round of engagement aimed to confirm the draft plans had incorporated the relevant outcomes from previous engagement. The engagement also offered the broader community opportunity to provide feedback on the plans through four drop-in sessions and a Council Have Your Say Webpage.

89 community, sporting, recreation, government, research, and industry groups were invited to four targeted stakeholder workshops held along the coast, from Coolool Beach to the Pumicestone Passage. The broader community was invited to four drop-in sessions held after each of the stakeholder workshops. Approximately 125 participants attended across the four workshops and four drop-in sessions. 277 individual responses were captured through the engagement workshops and drop-in sessions.

A dedicated HCMP and SEMP Have Your Say webpage was developed for broad community engagement on the draft plans. The key engagement tool was an interactive mapping product that allowed users to view the HCMP and SEMP coast management units and download the HCMP management overview and SEMP summary pages for each of the coast units. Users were asked two key input questions on the values and management priorities outlined in the draft plans.

A total of 81 response were received through the Have You Say webpage. From these submissions, 171 individual topics or issues were derived. Additional responses were received via email from key Sunshine Coast community and environmental groups, with a further 188 topics derived from these emails.

The high level of engagement and quality of responses was received through the workshops, drop-in sessions, Have Your Say page, and additional emails has provided great value to the projects. Relevant feedback has been used to improve the content of the final plans.

The engagement was supported by a good level of communications and media outputs, including a media release, OurSC story, social media posts and advertisements, digital advertisements on SCNews website and OurSC, homepage spotlight on Council website, community newspaper spotlight advertising, radio advertising, ABC Sunshine Coast radio interview with Cr Suarez, and Hot FM and Zinc FM news bulletin interviews with Cr Burns.

Engagement Results

The following overarching observations were made regarding the round two (October-November 2024) engagement:

- A general high degree of support was indicated for the draft plans.
- The workshops were attended by a diverse range of stakeholders from across a range of recreational area users, residents, and environmental advocates.
- A high level of appreciation was voiced for Council's engagement approach that included the two engagement rounds.
- Holding four separate workshops and drop-in sessions, focussing on four engagement zones encompassing the entire length of the coastline, proved a successful strategy to focus on local issues and topics.
- As only a small percentage of engagement responses were focussed on additional values, it is generally assumed the existing values represent community values.
- Most engagement responses related to management priorities and actions, with a number being either out of scope of the plans or were already captured within the plans.
- More information was requested on how the plans will be implemented, including detail on the budget, timing, performance, and ongoing monitoring of the stated management priorities.
- A keen desire for the engagement to continue during the implementation of the plans was expressed.
- A concern was voiced regarding the lack of Kabi Kabi engagement and content in the draft plans at one of the workshops, with the project team noting recent and ongoing engagement with the Kabi Kabi Aboriginal Corporation.

Healthy Coast Management Plan Feedback

Feedback on the HCMP comprised of the following overarching topics (with number of responses noted in brackets):

- Active transport - (7)
- Boat and jet-skis - (8)
- Coastal Health Report - (26)
- Coastal pathway - (16)
- Dog management - (28)
- Dune ecosystems - (41)
- Education - (3)
- Encroachment issues - (14)
- Event's impacts - (3)
- Fishing - (2)
- Flooding - (2)
- Governance - (14)
- HCMP wording and format - (103)
- Headland ecosystems - (60)
- Illegal camping issues - (6)
- Litter impacts - (6)
- Marine ecosystem - (4)
- Parks and gardens - (27)
- Planning scheme - (15)
- Shorebirds - (17)
- Sports and recreation - (4)
- Stormwater - (31)
- Surf life saving - (10)
- Traffic - (6)
- Turtle conservation - (33)
- Water quality - (21)

The following are key engagement feedback points and the resulting changes to the HCMP:

Environmental Values and Pressures

- Requests for additional areas for dune revegetation works
 - Alexandra Headland beach included as a priority for dune vegetation
- Issues raised regarding residential encroachment into foreshore reserves, informal access path creation, and illegal camping
 - The HCMP addresses these issues within priority coast units
 - Wording added to promote correct reporting of impacts to Council
 - Wording added to reflect transient nature of these impacts and requirement of adaptive management responses
- Suggestions for additional environmental values
 - Additional threatened and protected species identified, records confirmed, and added to Environmental Values

Sustainable Use Values and Pressures

- Suggestions to include major events and commercial activities that occur on the Coast
 - Addition of major events and permitted commercial activities held on the Coast in Sustainable Use Values sections for each Coast Unit HCMP Part 2
- Recommendation to identify popular recreation fishing locations
 - Recreational fishing added to Sustainable Use Values sections for each Coast Unit HCMP Part 2
- Suggestions for additional sustainable use values
 - Additional popular surfing locations identified and added to Sustainable Use Values

Governance and HCMP Content

- Questions on how the HCMP will be implemented (governance and budget)
 - Wording added referencing a HCMP annual implementation plan
- Suggestions provided for additional community groups not listed in HCMP Part 2
 - Additional community groups added to Coast Unit Management Overviews (HCMP Part 2)
- Recommendation to include key commitments relevant to the Sunshine Coast Biosphere
 - Addition of Sunshine Coast Biosphere four key objectives to HCMP Part 1

- Questions regarding where other coastal plans (such as SEMP, CHAS, MTCP) fit within Coastal Management Policy, Planning and Program Framework
 - Wording added that the framework is supported by the HCMP Information Road Map (Appendix 1), which provides details and linkages to other relevant plans
- Suggestion to add hyperlinks to referenced plans, reports to improve accessibility and readability
 - Hyperlinks added throughout HCMP
- Questions regarding the results and methodology of the Coastal Health Report summaries in the HCMP
 - Hyperlinks added to Coastal Health Report Cards for further details on results and methodology
 - Percentage component of scores removed as they were not clearly understood without background
 - Statement included that program will be ongoing with reporting against this baseline occurring approximately every three years

The following points address additional areas of feedback received for the HCMP:

Environmental Values and Pressures

- Viewshed clearing - Addressed at current priority locations in HCMP, with responses including monitoring cameras, screens, and revegetation
- Marine ecosystem monitoring - Undertaken through Sunshine Coast Marine BioBlitz
- Marine turtle conservation - Management priorities addressing impacts of lighting on turtle nesting listed in HCMP with all other turtle conservation issues are addressed through the SCC Marine Turtle Conservation Plan and associated actions
- Education and signage to address human impacts on dune ecosystems - Moveable signage is considered at highly impacted sites when required
- Litter pollution - Council partners with volunteers, schools, businesses and community groups to protect our local beaches and coastal environments from litter and marine debris
- Gross pollutants (litter) - Gross pollutant traps installed in the broader catchment with further opportunities to be investigated, subject to funding and resources.
- Water quality testing - Council undertakes a comprehensive water quality monitoring program, supported by monitoring by State Government (DETSI), and Healthy Land and Water
- Water quality improvement - Council supports water quality improvement through upgrades to stormwater infrastructure, compliance of new developments, education of the building industry, stormwater litter removal, and funding catchment based sustainable land management, restoration and education projects

Sustainable Use Values and Pressures

- Active transport (e-bikes and e-scooters) - Council's Active Transport Plan addresses safety education and path separation issues, with compliance the responsibility of the State Government
- Boat and jet-ski wash - Erosion and shorebirds impacts forwarded to Maritime Safety Queensland
- Coastal pathway - Continuation and upgrades are subject to ongoing budget considerations
- Dog management - Council has dedicated animal education and pro-active enforcement team to address community concerns and a Dog Exercise Area plan will be introduced to Council in 2025 to propose a future network that meets user needs and aligns with environmental and community values
- Shade trees - Council is committed to providing shade trees through the active street tree program and Street Tree Master Plan
- Parks and gardens and infrastructure - Recommendations to be considered as part of future asset project scheduling
- Recreational water quality - Sunshine Coast waterways are suitable for recreational activities most of the time, however, waiting two or more days after a rainfall is recommended

Shoreline Erosion Management Plan Feedback

General support was received regarding the proposed SEMP actions. Feedback provided valuable wording and formatting updates to the plan. The following points outline how key feedback was addressed:

- Requests to 'let nature take its course', i.e. no intervention
 - Considered as part of the SEMP options assessment, however is not always feasible when infrastructure is threatened
- Suggestions that more data is required to inform decision making
 - Data capture is subject to ongoing budget considerations. State Tidal Work approvals require data/modelling to address the performance outcomes. A gap analysis in SEMP Volume 1 notes studies that are desirable, future budget will be sought for these
- Suggestions to review existing dredging and nourishment activities
 - Noted in applicable SEMP coast units and will be reinforced in terms of wording
- Requests to focus on using nature-based solutions (sand nourishment, revegetation, etc) before building hard infrastructure, principally focussed around Golden Beach
 - SEMP notes that nature-based solutions will be considered as part of the options appraisal. Words to the effect of 'hybrid approaches will be investigated' will be added to the SEMP
- Questions regarding why SCC use 0.8m by 2100 as a sea level rise figure when recent international reports suggest otherwise.
 - 0.8m sea level rise by 2100 is State directed. Council will continue to seek advice from the State on changes to this figure and consider all implications should a change occur. Through the Coastal Hazard Adaptation Plan 2021 development, Council has strived for leading practice by undertaking sensitivity analysis utilising a 1.1m sea level rise factor to inform adaptation responses.
- Feedback looking beyond the lifetime of the SEMP
 - To be considered should actions be brought forward into the ten-year timeframe of this SEMP, or will be referred to in the early stages of planning for the next SEMP
- Comments from the Golden Beach area suggesting Council should have acted prior to the breakthrough in terms of infrastructure provision
 - Not feasible without knowing the extent of post breakthrough changes, with SEMP actions for Golden Beach addressing the changes following the breakthrough
- Questions regarding Council's response to managing Bribie Island
 - Bribie Island is managed by the State and wording in the SEMP will be reinforced noting this and that many Golden Beach SEMP actions are in response to the breakthrough

Additional Stakeholder Engagement

Consultation with Kabi Kabi Peoples Aboriginal Corporation, State Government agencies, regional bodies, and research organisations has occurred throughout the development of the draft HCMP and SEMP.

Next Steps

Council will continue to consider all community feedback received as part of this engagement to finalise the HCMP and SEMP.

Further feedback on the final draft SEMP will be sought from the State Government.

The final plans will be taken to a future Council Ordinary Meeting for consideration.

Once finalised, the final plans will be shared and Council will continue to work with the community on implementing the plans so everyone can play their part in creating a healthy coastline.



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