

# Environment and Liveability Strategy Refresh Project

## Phase 2 Engagement Questions and Answers



Thank you to those who participated in the Environment and Liveability Strategy Refresh Project's Community Information Sessions for phase two engagement.

Below is a summary of the common questions received.

### 1. Will a recording of a community information session be available online?

- Yes. A recording is available on the [Have your say project page](#) under the 'Overview' tab.

### 2. Cemeteries are critical social infrastructure. How will the ELS align actions for social infrastructure, including cemeteries, to minimise their environmental impact and work towards sustainable cemeteries and funerals?

- Cemeteries are one component of social infrastructure, and the ELS provides strategic directions including technical detail and planning directions in Part C: Network Plan to support delivery.
- The ELS recognises that cemetery facilities are developed to be culturally ethnically and environmentally responsive.
- Council has adopted the [Sunshine Coast Cemetery Management Plan 2019-2028](#) which provides more details on the location, size, function and future demands of cemeteries.

### 3. Where do the transport options being considered by Council fit into the ELS?

- The ELS recognises that a more sustainable transport network is necessary to protect our natural areas and retain the distinctive lifestyle of the region through changing travel patterns and modes.
- It identifies the need for an integrated and safe network of pedestrian, cycle and public transport networks to support self-contained neighbourhoods.
- It also recognises the need to build capacity for low carbon, resource efficient and resilient communities that will require a shift to lower emission transport options such as electric vehicles, driverless cars and increased use of pedestrian, cycle and public transport.
- Council's [Integrated Transport Strategy](#) responds to the challenges and opportunities facing our region and outlines our vision to address the Sunshine Coast's transport needs.

### 4. Will there be an update of the Biodiversity Report 2020?

- The [Biodiversity Report](#) is intended to be updated and released in 2024.



**5. Will the regional focus of the Transformational Actions ensure action at district and local level e.g. in the provision of district and local parks?**

- Part C: Network Plan of the ELS provides planning direction and technical detail to assist with the implementation of the strategic directions. It includes Desired Standards of Service and specifications to inform the planning, development and management of council owned and controlled open space assets and networks including regional, district and local level recreation parks.
- The Transformation Action “Expanding Green Space” with a supporting task “11.3 *Implement the Network Blueprints and Desired Standards of Service to secure and embellish additional environmental, recreation and sporting land*” assists with the provision of recreational parks.

**6. What is Council’s vegetation offsets management and delivery program**

- Council has a target to maintain the 2016 extent of native vegetation (not net loss) by 2041.
- Vegetation Offsets are considered a last resort and it is council’s position that they are required for unavoidable clearance of native vegetation.
- Council runs an offsets management and delivery program to support internal and external offset requirements.

**7. Is Council going to include the State Government’s Marine Turtles Planning Scheme (PS) code in the drafting of the new planning scheme?**

- The New Planning Scheme intends to include provisions (both text and mapping) to help recognise and protect sea turtle nesting areas. This proposed planning direction was specified in the *Sunshine Coast Land Use Planning Proposal 2041* that was released last year as part of the preliminary consultation for the New Planning Scheme. Outcomes from preliminary consultation can be found [here](#).
- As part of the plan-making process, council officers are currently considering how to appropriately integrate the SPP mapping layer MSES – Wildlife habitat (sea turtle nesting areas) and the principles of the State’s Sea Turtle Sensitive Area Code into the New Planning Scheme.
- Visit council’s webpage for further updates on the [New Sunshine Coast Planning Scheme Project](#).

**8. How does the ELS influence already approved developments?**

- The ELS does not influence already approved developments.
- Already approved developments have been assessed under the relevant planning scheme provisions at the time of assessment.
- The ELS provides long-term strategic directions to shape the region which are being used to inform the drafting of the new Sunshine Coast Planning Scheme and future developments.



**9. How are our green space areas being planned for especially given their important role they play to support local fauna?**

- The ELS recognises the need to conserve and protect our habitat areas to support our native flora and fauna and expand our green space areas for conservation. It recognises key impacts to our biodiversity is habitat loss and fragmentation.
- The refreshed strategy includes the “Conserving our biodiversity” and “Expanding green spaces” Transformation Actions and associated tasks to assist.

**10. How does the Strategy address water quality concerns?**

- The Strategy recognises that natural waterways and wetlands are preserved and enhanced to support healthy and diverse aquatic habitats and species.
- The Strategy includes a “Waterways and Wetlands” target to maintain and improve the ecological health of waterways and wetland across each of the river catchments to a good or excellent grade by 2041.
- The ‘Keeping our waterways healthy’ Transformational Action and associated tasks are focussed on catchment management planning, urban and rural erosion and sediment control, implementing water quality improvement and pollution reduction projects etc to assist.

**11. How will you preserve the green coastal belt?**

- Maintaining our coastal areas is a key direction of the ELS.
- One of the 12 themes is ‘Coastal’ with a target to maintain and improve the health of our coast to good or excellent grade by 2041.
- The implementation plan includes a Transformational Action ‘Healthy coast’ with a supporting task to “Develop and implement a healthy coast management plan” which is intended to assist to manage the coast through a coordinated and integrated approach.

**12. How will Council protect the Inter-urban Break and associated environmental values when the State Government has a leading role?**

- Council continues to advocate to the State Government for the retention of the Regional Inter-urban Break at the current extent and boundaries as defined by Council.
- The refreshed ELS includes a Transformational Action specific to the Regional Inter-urban Break and Sub-regional Inter-urban Breaks including a key advocacy role and promotion of the values.



### 13. Is the preferred development of rail towns for increasing the business area in town or increasing residential?

- The Strategy recognises that future development will be modelled on the principles of self-containment and sustainability encouraging walking, cycling and access to employment, transport, open space and services.
- Development and growth in the hinterland towns is controlled by the [Sunshine Coast Planning Scheme 2014](#), which provides for a variety of business and residential uses to establish across a range of land use zones. Council is currently in the process of preparing a new planning scheme for the Sunshine Coast, informed by the policy directions in the Environment and Liveability Strategy, and other Council and State government strategies and policies. You can find more information [here](#).

#### When is the ELS Part C being updated?

- Part C of the ELS is proposed to be updated by end of 2024 to align with timelines of other key planning projects underway, including the drafting of the new Sunshine Coast Planning Scheme.

### 14. Has the refreshed ELS been a key input to the review of the planning scheme as the planning scheme is a key mechanism to achieve many of the actions?

- The 2017 ELS is one of a number of key regional strategies which will help inform the proposed planning directions for the Sunshine Coast Planning Scheme.
- The ELS Refresh Project Team has been engaging with key Council stakeholders as part of the project including the Planning Scheme team.

*Current as at 15 August 2023*