

Pelican Waters Local Community Facility Community Engagement Program Results

Why did Council engage with the Pelican Waters community?

Sunshine Coast Council owns 6,000m² of land at Spitfire Banks Drive, Pelican Waters. The land use is allocated for a local community facility that provides a multipurpose space for the general community.

A preliminary assessment of the region's local community facilities has indicated that there is a potential shortfall of local community facilities within the Pelican Waters locality.

The *Sunshine Coast Community Strategy 2019-2041* requires that the planning and delivery of community infrastructure be based on evidenced need, and that Council will:

“Develop and invest in a network of community infrastructure that is evidenced by population growth and community need and seeks to utilise or enhance existing infrastructure (e.g. through partnerships with schools or powers/managers of identified under-utilised facilities) before creating new or temporary community infrastructure.”

Council undertook a community engagement program to better understand the current need and demand for a new community facility in Pelican Waters and the current use of community facilities by residents and community groups in Pelican Waters, Golden Beach and Caloundra.

What did the community engagement program involve?

The community engagement was delivered over 27 days, between 26 April 2022 to 23 May 2022 with a total of 243 people engaged. The program included the following community engagement activities:

- Interviews with 13 key community groups and stakeholders
- Online poll (165 responses)
- Online survey (40 responses)
- Online workshop (2 attendees)
- Online ‘Share your Story’ activity (1 response)
- Pop-up at Pelican Waters Shopping Centre (22 attendees)

Engagement program findings

Some of the key findings include:

- 93.94% of online survey respondents indicated a community facility in Pelican Waters was important to the local community and 6.06% said a facility was not important (*Figure 1*)
- 60% of online survey respondents said they had gone to a local community facility in the last six months and 40% of respondents had not gone to a community facility in the last six months
- The most common reasons respondents visited the facility was to participate in: (*Figure 2*)
 - Community & support groups
 - Social activities
 - Health and recreation activities
 - Arts and cultural activities
 - Education & self-development
- Almost half of the survey respondents visit a community facility weekly (45%), with a large majority responding they would like to visit this community facility more often (91%)
- When asked what stops respondents from visiting this community facility more often, the most common responses related to the types of activities offered (37%) and other commitments (25%)
- Community members and stakeholders indicated the following gaps existed in the current network of community facilities in Pelican Waters:
 - lack of publicly owned community facilities in Pelican Waters
 - accessibility of other community facilities (parking capacity, accessibility for people with disability, need for car travel)
 - availability of free community meeting places.
- Community members would like a community facility in Pelican Waters to offer:
 - health and recreation activities (e.g., fitness and dance classes, exercise groups, Yoga, Pilates)
 - social activities (e.g., card and board game groups, social clubs, book clubs)
 - community and support group activities (e.g., community groups, cultural support groups, support groups).

- The community engagement findings will be reviewed to determine Council's appetite on progressing a local community facility in Pelican Waters, and in consideration of regional strategy directions and budgetary factors.