

Environment and Liveability Strategy Refresh Project

Engagement summary – phase one



Thank you to everyone who contributed to phase one of the community engagement process for the Environment and Liveability Strategy (ELS) Refresh Project.

Now in its 6th year of implementation, the ELS is being refreshed to ensure it remains future focused and continues to provide a contemporary approach.

We received close to 300 contributions during phase one engagement in May 2023.

Phase one focussed on:

1. Understanding what the emerging issues are for the Sunshine Coast; and
2. The priority actions required to deliver a healthy environment and liveable Sunshine Coast.

Highlights of engagement results included:

Emerging issues

- Protecting, managing and enhancing our natural assets including our coastal environments.
- Managing continued population growth and maintaining the positive aspects of the Sunshine Coast lifestyle.
- Responding to climate change.
- Addressing affordable housing including diversifying housing options and housing availability.
- Providing adequate public infrastructure to service current and future growth. In particular providing more transport infrastructure and public transport including active transport options.
- The development of the new Sunshine Coast Planning Scheme and how it responds to growth and development.

Many of the emerging issues raised are reflected within the existing Strategic Directions (Part A) of the Strategy. The refresh will look at how these issues can be strengthened within the document and priority actions identified and delivered.

Priorities Actions

Respondents identified a number of priority actions to deliver a healthy environment and liveable Sunshine Coast. Top priorities included:

- Protecting and restoring our natural assets and providing more green spaces.
- Greening our neighbourhoods – ensuring cool places and spaces, shady streets, green roofs, and a good balance of built form to green space.
- Protecting our coastal environments and coastal communities.
- Ensuring affordable housing and more housing options.
- Responding to climate change to improve the region's resilience.
- Improving public infrastructure to service current and future growth including providing better transport solutions.
- Connecting nature and people by providing more opportunities to experience the natural environment.
- Integrating good sustainability practices and delivering on sustainability initiatives.
- Delivering sustainable development.
- Community involvement.

What's next?

Feedback received during engagement will be considered as part of the Strategy refresh.

Phase 2 community engagement commencing 21 July – 13 August 2023 is seeking feedback on the proposed updates to the Strategic Directions (Part A) and Implementation Plan (Part B).

Following phase 2 engagement and consideration of feedback received, the Refreshed Strategy (Part A and B) will be presented to Council in late 2023 for consideration.

Current as at July 2023