

# Draft Sunshine Coast Marine Turtle Conservation Plan Community engagement summary

Consultation dates: 19 May to 16 June 2023



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COUNCIL

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#### Acknowledgements

Council wishes to thank all contributors and stakeholders involved in the development of this document.

#### Disclaimer

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## Introduction

The Draft Marine Turtle Conservation Plan has been prepared in collaboration with Kabi Kabi First Nation Peoples, Sunshine Coast Council officers and elected representatives, Queensland Government scientific experts and community leaders of TurtleCare, Bribie Island Turtle Trackers and Coolum and North Shore Coast Care volunteers.

Our plan supports our vision to be Australia’s most sustainable region: healthy, smart, creative and is a clear demonstration of our commitment to marine turtle conservation.

## Summary of feedback

Thank you for taking the time to provide your feedback on the Draft Sunshine Coast Marine Turtle Conservation Plan.

The Draft Marine Turtle Conservation Plan and the Action Plan were available for consultation from 19 May to 16 July 2023.

Two engagement opportunities were offered at [haveyoursay.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au](https://haveyoursay.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au). The community was asked to use a participatory budget tool that identified ten new actions that would be delivered under the draft plan. Further feedback was also provided under an open comment field.

Five community members/organisations submitted further feedback via email.

## Survey feedback

### Fund-it: Participatory Budget Tool feedback

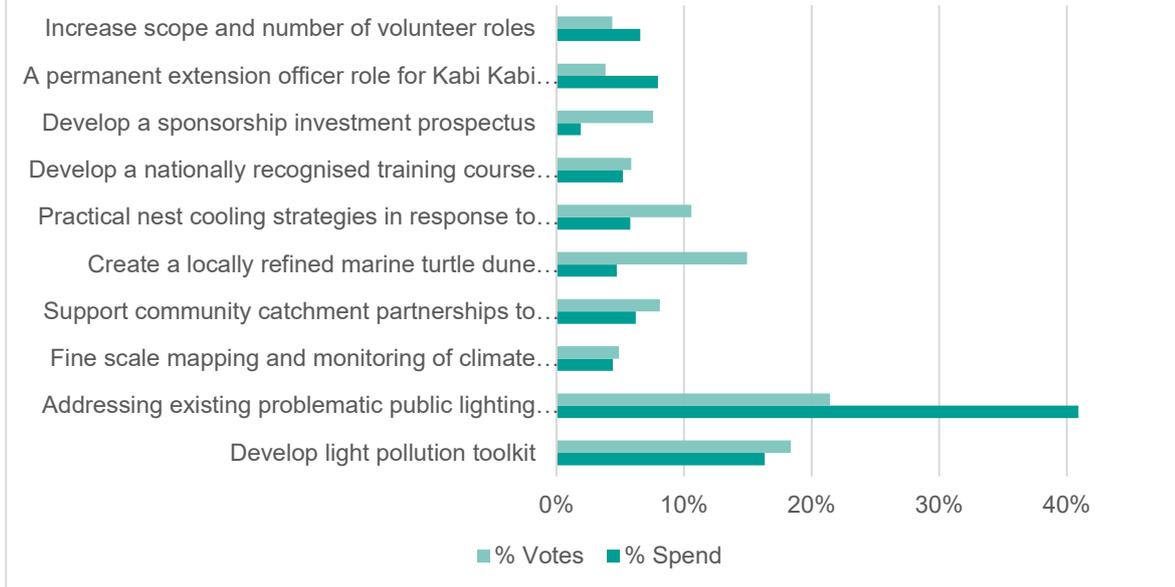
Participatory Budget Tool (Fund-It): this tool received 243 contributions from 198 contributors.

Ten new projects representative of the 10 desired outcomes of the draft plan were highlighted in this tool. Participants were given \$100,000 to fund (to varying amounts) the projects most important to them. The Fund It tool allows community members to help prioritize key projects relating to the draft plan. As members can choose to allocate a variable spend between \$5000 – \$100,000, Council can accurately assess community buy-in and sentiment towards the draft plan.



Contributors: 198	Contributions: 243
Average projects funded per contribution: 3.86	Total spend: \$23,540,000

## Participatory Funding Tool Marine Turtle Conservation Plan



### Key insights

Addressing problematic public lighting in sensitive areas and development of a light pollution toolkit were the top two projects in both number of votes and percentage spend. This was reflected in the open comments field with greater than 33% of comments relating to the threat of light pollution.

Development of a locally refined marine turtle dune vegetation plan was highly supported by contributors, but less so by spend – this may be influenced by the low cost of the project for delivery.

A permanent Kabi Kabi extension officer role was highly supported in total spend, but less in votes. Indicating that this is strongly supported as an important priority for part of the community.

Typically, program administration related actions such as increasing volunteer scope and numbers, development of an investment prospectus and development of a recognised training course for turtle citizen scientists received less votes than the action-based projects. This was supported by the open comment feedback, where in two responses the phrase ‘actions not words’ was used.

Contributors recognised the importance of water quality, with supporting community partnerships to improve stormwater quality scoring above average in both votes and spend.

Development of fine scale mapping and monitoring of climate change refugia for turtles (forward planning) was supported, but low in votes and total spend. Commentary in the open comment field indicated that the contributors felt this was something the research community should lead. This is consistent with the comments for practical nest cooling in response to climate change, which received above average votes but not spend.

Theme 1: Turtle Sensitive Lighting and coastal development

Theme 2: Regional Marine Turtle Recovery Actions

Theme 3: Community based TurtleCare program delivery

<i>Project</i>	<i>Total Votes</i>	<i>% Votes</i>
<i>Addressing existing problematic public lighting in sensitive areas</i>	201	21.45%
<i>Develop light pollution toolkit</i>	172	18.36%
<i>Create a locally refined marine turtle dune vegetation plan</i>	140	14.94%
<i>Practical nest cooling strategies in response to climate change</i>	99	10.57%
<i>Support community catchment partnerships to improve stormwater quality</i>	76	8.11%
<i>Develop a sponsorship investment prospectus</i>	71	7.58%
<i>Develop a nationally recognised training course for citizen scientists</i>	55	5.87%
<i>Fine scale mapping and monitoring of climate change refugia</i>	46	4.91%
<i>Increase scope and number of volunteer roles</i>	41	4.38%
<i>A permanent extension officer role for Kabi Kabi First Nations person</i>	36	3.84%

<i>Project</i>	<i>Total Spend</i>	<i>% Spend</i>
<i>Addressing existing problematic public lighting in sensitive areas</i>	\$9,629,250	40.91%
<i>Develop light pollution toolkit</i>	\$3,840,750	16.32%
<i>A permanent extension officer role for Kabi Kabi First Nations person</i>	\$1,875,000	7.97%
<i>Increase scope and number of volunteer roles</i>	\$1,545,000	6.56%
<i>Support community catchment partnerships to improve stormwater quality</i>	\$1,465,000	6.22%
<i>Practical nest cooling strategies in response to climate change</i>	\$1,360,000	5.78%
<i>Develop a nationally recognised training course for citizen scientists</i>	\$1,225,000	5.20%
<i>Create a locally refined marine turtle dune vegetation plan</i>	\$1,110,000	4.72%
<i>Fine scale mapping and monitoring of climate change refugia</i>	\$1,040,000	4.42%
<i>Develop a sponsorship investment prospectus</i>	\$450,000	1.91%

## Open comment feedback

There was 104 responses from 100 contributors for the open comment form.

### Results by sentiment

50.96% Positive		22.12% Mixed		1.9		25% Neutral	
Sentiment	Percent	Count	Notes				
Positive	50.96%	53					
Negative	1.9%	2					
Mixed	22.12%	23	<i>Mixed responses were generally in support of the plan, but critical of Council action or inaction.</i>				
Neutral	25%	26	<i>Neutral responses did not indicate support or otherwise of the plan and referred to issues related to marine turtle conservation (eg. Draft Point Cartwright Masterplan or Sekisui Court appeal decision).</i>				

### Top 16 grouped responses by theme

Response	Percent	Count
Stronger policy on light pollution from development	23.08%	24
Lead by example (light pollution)	7.69%	8
Great work	6.73%	7
Stronger protection	4.81%	5
Thank you	3.85%	4
Increased awareness	3.85%	4
Increase funding	3.85%	4
Introduced predator management	3.85%	4
Research Partnerships	2.88%	3
Advocate for Sunshine Coast Marine Park	2.88%	3
Seasonal dog-off leash	2.88%	3
Trees for Turtles	2.88%	3
Address existing light pollution on private property	2.88%	3



to be able to live with and assist an endangered species and we have an obligation to the future generations to ensure we do everything we can to protect the Loggerheads. In addition, the SCC is a UNESCO Biosphere and is obligated to 'provide local solutions to global challenges' and in 'understanding and managing changes and interactions between social and ecological systems, including conflict prevention and management of biodiversity'. Let's lead the way on this and have Turtle Conservation and the Turtlecare program embedded in Council priorities for the future.

Contribution 1 of 3 | 24 May 2023

## Email submissions feedback

Five email contributions were received, with varying levels of support and constructive feedback for the draft plan. One identical letter was received twice by different contributors. Note some commentary below has been redacted that could personally identify people.

### **Featured email contributions**

Establishment of a Marine turtle discovery/ experience centre (3.13.2 p 25 of table 1). Where is the proposed location for this centre? Will it be at Shelly Beach? More information is required. If it is at Shelly Beach this would cause more traffic to the area and reduce the amenity of the place to local residents. Where would visitors to this centre park? There is no place at Shelly Beach where these visitors could park.

Contribution from email

It is acknowledged that the turtles that nest and hatch on Shelly Beach require some form of acknowledgement and protection. However local residents do have respect for the local turtles and do wish to live in harmony with them. Speaking for myself, I at all times have been willing to address issues relating to lighting.

Contribution from email

Biosphere Reserve as declared by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) (see page 14);

What is the ramification of this to the local area?

Page 24 of MTCP attachment 1 point 3.13.1 mentions 'highlight the regional aspiration to be a global leader in community-driven recovery of marine turtles in conjunction with the Biosphere initiative'.

What is the 'Biosphere initiative'?

Contribution from email

[REDACTED]

The intent of the refurbishment of lighting as presented to the residents by its proponents, was to reduce power consumption and electricity costs to the Body Corporate by transitioning to LED luminaires with appropriate smart-lighting control. Unfortunately, the changes implemented resulted in some areas of the complex (including the basement carpark and pool area) having a severely impoverished lighting environment with consequent safety implications and loss of amenity. Many residents were quick to complain, saying they no longer felt safe and that the lighting was simply inadequate to maintain the function and appearance of a premium residential unit complex. Working with the building manager and his preferred electrician, the Committee was able to restore acceptable levels and durations of lighting.

Whilst the case study infers that 99 light fixtures were replaced on the exterior of the building, the luminaire proposed for the 70-odd unit balconies (described in the blog) was universally rejected by

the Committee. Subsequently, an LED oyster luminaire has been approved as the preferred balcony replacement. Around the pool, the loss of uplighting resulted in almost immediate and wide-spread complaint. The uplights were quickly reinstalled.

[REDACTED] The relative contribution of the Duporth Riverside to sky-glow is clearly illustrated in the blog's final photograph: in the context of the adjacent commercial precinct (and now growing CBD), the Duporth is almost invisible!

To maintain the integrity of the draft and indeed of Council's Marine Turtle Conservation Plan, it's critical both that what you present is factual and that the Plan's focus is on what achieves real and substantive benefit. To do otherwise, simply diminishes the credibility of both Council and the draft Plan (not to mention, failing to deliver value to Council's constituents). Its concerning that of the Plan's 27 'success indicators' only 4 appear to relate directly to the conservation of nesting and foraging habitat.

Turtle conservation, and particularly protecting key nesting sites is a very worthy endeavour. However, short-term gains based on what may come to be perceived as 'misinformation' can only prove counter-productive in the long-run. Aesop's fables are worth a re-read.

Contribution from email

Given the number of volunteers and hours contributed, greater council resourcing to support this extensive and potentially larger unpaid 'workforce' should be seen as a great 'return on investment'. WPSQ members believe that any funding provided should be targeted at supporting and enhancing volunteer skills within Turtle Care program. To achieve this we fully support the indicated intent of engaging a full time staff person to liaise with and deliver the TurtleCare program and consider this to be a priority funding consideration.

Contribution from email

## Other relevant feedback

The Draft Marine Turtle Conservation Plan engagement strategy was highlighted as 'excellence in engagement' in the monthly online newsletter of Social Pinpoint Community Engagement Platform

The screenshot shows a newsletter from Social Pinpoint. The header includes the Social Pinpoint logo and the 'pinpoint' brand name. The main content area has a light blue background with the text: "Hi Flora, welcome to our June edition of Pinpoint – we can't wait to show you what projects are inspiring our team this month!". Below this text is an illustration of a diverse group of people talking. To the right, there is a tablet displaying a project selection interface. The interface shows a budget of \$50,000 and two project cards: "Develop light pollution toolkit" with a budget of \$25,000 and "Addressing existing problematic public lighting in sensitive areas" with a budget of \$0. Below the tablet, the text reads: "Marine Turtle Conservation" followed by a paragraph: "Sunshine Coast Council have recently launched their Draft Marine Turtle Conservation Plan to help guide council decision making to achieve future conservation and management goals. The primary goal of this project is to support the recovery of self-sustaining populations of marine turtles on the..."

## Conclusion and next steps

Based on the feedback there are minor changes required to the draft Marine Turtle Conservation Plan. The purpose/intent of the plan and all desired outcomes are supported.

The most highly prioritised actions by both spend and votes in a participatory budget tool engagement exercise were for the two projects to reduce light pollution impacts to marine turtles.

Specifically, the top three supported actions in the plan (by votes and spend) were:

1. Addressing the existing problematic public lighting in sensitive areas.
2. Development of a light pollution toolkit.
3. Create a locally refined marine turtle dune vegetation plan (by votes) and equally,
3. A permanent extension officer role for Kabi Kabi First Nations person (by spend).

It is recommended to make the following changes to the MTCP Part 1 – Plan.

- Addition of aligned UN Sustainable Development Goals.

It is recommended to make the following changes to MTCP Part 2 – Action Plan:

- Removal of actions relating to a marine turtle discovery centre, tourism opportunities for turtles as these were not supported by community engagement.
- Removal of the light pollution case study on private land due to conjecture on outcomes provided by a resident.
- Addition of actions that address potential threats to turtle populations through willful vegetation damage and dogs off-leash.
- Addition of language to ensuring funding obtained through sponsorship include external partners that are appropriate.
- Modification of volunteer targets from 1000 volunteers to 500 volunteers by 2033 in line with resourcing limitations.



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