

# Environment and Liveability Strategy 2017

## EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

### Sunshine Coast Ecological Park Community Reference Group

**Help the Sunshine Coast Council plan for the establishment of an ecological park like no other.**

Sunshine Coast Council (Council) is committed to ongoing engagement with residents, community members and visitors to help inform the master planning process for the new Sunshine Coast Ecological Park (the project). Council will appoint a Community Reference Group (CRG) as part of a broader engagement approach to inform and refine a master planning process for the new park.

#### Sunshine Coast Ecological Park

The proposed Sunshine Coast Ecological Park (SCEP) is located on land adjacent to Mary Cairncross Scenic Reserve in Maleny. It aims to showcase the unique environmental and cultural qualities of the area, whilst offering diverse learning, social and recreational opportunities.

The intent of the SCEP is to provide residents and visitors with an enhanced open space network by creating a large recreation park with nature-based experiences and strengthen ecological values in the hinterland of the Sunshine Coast.

Refer to the attached Fact Sheet for more information.

#### ***Vision and Values***

To ensure the project delivers on the original intent of over 60 hectares of land purchased, Council has developed a clear vision and a set of values to guide all phases of the project through to construction and operation. The vision and values form a fundamental foundation for decision making and the progression of the master planning process.

The vision is:

***“A place of cherished nature and ecological wonder for generations to discover and enjoy”***

The six values that underpin this vision include:

1. An ecologically valuable, resilient and connected landscape.
2. A place that welcomes people to learn, play and contribute to the future.
3. A place to be inspired by nature.
4. An immersive experience that promotes balance, respite and revival.
5. A place of unexpected & spontaneous discovery.
6. A place that shares the stories of people, culture and the natural history of the region.

#### Purpose of the Community Reference Group

The CRG is a forum for selected community representatives to receive detailed information on the project, provide feedback on proposed engagement activities and discuss the planning and design of the new park. The group will make communication and design suggestions and raise any potential concerns or opportunities directly with the project team. The CRG will:

- Inform the planning of the Sunshine Coast Ecological Park
- Consider and share feedback on design opportunities for the park
- Ensure sunshine coast knowledge and perspectives inform the planning process
- Assist Council in connecting with the sunshine coast community and stakeholders to circulate project information
- Build community advocacy, awareness and understanding of project



- Assist in effective communication and engagement with the broader public

The CRG will work in an advisory capacity and while it may be used to inform certain planning and design elements of the project, they do not have a decision-making role within the project.

## Establishment of the Group

Sunshine Coast Council will establish the CRG through this Expression of Interest (EOI) nomination to ensure a transparent selection process. The EOI period will be open for a period of 14 days from 7 March – 21 March 2022.

The CRG is proposed to comprise of up to 10 Sunshine Coast community members from diverse backgrounds, interests and age groups. Nominations are encouraged from individuals from across the Sunshine Coast region with an interest progressing the Sunshine Coast values through parks, environment reserves and public places.

The project team will review the EOIs and select candidates based on their:

- Understanding of the sunshine coast values especially in relation to parks, environment reserves and places.
- Previous experience, skills and background to represent the community's interests.
- Willingness to openly share ideas, feedback and identify opportunities for the park planning
- Availability and commitment to participate in discussions and meetings

Positions on the CRG are open to all Sunshine Coast community members.

There will not be an interview process. Candidates will be selected based on the content of the EOI application. Successful candidates will be informed by Friday 15 April 2022 and asked to sign the Terms of Reference document which outlines the purpose, goals and code of conduct (including confidentiality agreements) of the CRG and its members. If a successful candidate cannot join the CRG, a suitable

replacement will be appointed at the discretion of Council, or the position will be left vacant.

Council has identified the following categories for representation to be considered during the appointment process:

- Community / social
- All abilities
- Education/research
- Environment
- Sustainability
- Cultural development and the Arts
- Tourism
- Business / industry sector
- Outdoor Recreation

## Meetings

The CRG will meet a minimum of three times but possibly four, over the course of the project. Meeting times and dates will be confirmed as early as possible.

The CRG will be facilitated and chaired by a Council representative and will be supported by the project team to ensure the preparation and accuracy of the minutes.

It is proposed that meetings will be held primarily in person after hours however may be moved to an online platform if required.

The proposed meeting schedule is as follows:

- |             |   |
|-------------|---|
| Meeting 1 – | Formation<br>Late April 2022 (date to be confirmed) |
| Meeting 2 – | Progressing ideas and options<br>August 2022        |
| Meeting 3 – | Testing the draft<br>early 2023                     |

## Remuneration

Membership of the SCEP EAP is on a voluntary basis. However, Council will cover reasonable costs associated with attending meetings.

## Applications

Applications must be submitted by 5pm on Monday, 21 March 2022

## **Applicant Support**

For further information or assistance, please contact via email:

[SunshineCoastEcologicalPark@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au](mailto:SunshineCoastEcologicalPark@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au)

## **Privacy Statement**

Council will use any personal information provided for the purpose of processing your application and for remaining in contact with you. Council is authorised to collect this information in accordance with the Local Government Act 2009 and other local government Acts. Your personal information is only accessed by persons authorised to do so.

Please note the information provided on your application and in any related documentation/discussions may be provided to members of the assessment panel in order to assist us in considering your expression of interest.

Your personal information is dealt with in accordance with council's [Privacy Policy](#).

