



Sunshine Coast Community Strategy 2019-2041 Community Engagement Program Overview

An extensive program of engagement has been undertaken between September 2018 and July 2019 to ensure that the *Sunshine Coast Community Strategy 2019-2041* is shaped by, and reflective of, the voices of our region. The Community Strategy provides a framework for how council and our community will work together to advance our shared goal for a strong community. This fact sheet provides a snapshot of the two phases of engagement carried out to inform the Strategy's development.

Phase 1: Between September and October 2018, approximately 750 community members and stakeholders from across the Sunshine Coast shared their views on what a strong community means for our region.

Phase 2: Between June and July 2019, more than 850 people were engaged on the draft Community Strategy and contributed their ideas to the formation of the Strategy's action plan.

Overall, approximately **1600 people** have been **engaged** over the course of the two phases of the engagement program through:

Almost **800 surveys** completed



15 pop-up stalls hosted at events



Over **100 children's drawings** completed at pop-ups



Around **200 people** contributed at workshops with key sector and advisory groups



Approximately **200 stakeholders** took part in 2 stakeholder forums



Photograph visions submitted online



Internal consultation activities and workshops

Broad ranging methods were used to ensure a diversity of voices were heard, with significant contribution from young people, children, people with disability, and Traditional Owners and First Nations people, amongst the broader community. **Stakeholders** consulted throughout the engagement program included government agencies, community organisations, key peak and industry bodies, educational institutions and business, as well as internal council stakeholders.

Throughout, the **Community Strategy Advisory Group** provided strategic advice on the development of the Strategy with representation from a number of key government and non-government stakeholders.

What we heard from the community and stakeholders

During the **first phase** of the engagement program, we heard that a strong community means a community that is **connected with people, places and spaces**. It is also about **inclusion, diversity and equity**; a **supportive, helpful and caring community** that is **safe** and where there are **opportunities for participation**. Participants also told us that we could make our Sunshine Coast community even stronger by continuing to provide and create new opportunities to connect, participate, interact and engage through community events, programs and activities.

Challenges

The areas of greatest concern for the community were housing affordability and homelessness, transport infrastructure, employment and education, and safe communities.

Strengths

The areas that the community told us were improving or remaining the same were social infrastructure, social equity and inclusion, community recovery from disaster, health and wellbeing, and community engagement.

During the **second phase** of the engagement program, the community and stakeholders contributed their ideas to the Strategy's action plan and strategic directions, with significant support for the following:

- Working with other levels of government to develop innovative responses to public transport and mobility options, as well as housing affordability and homelessness
- Seeking increased access to health and wellbeing programs, information and infrastructure
- Supporting the activation of our places and spaces, and offering more events and activities for people of all ages and abilities to participate and connect
- Maintaining a strong emphasis on preserving the natural environment and open space for passive and active use
- Supporting an inclusive, caring community that looks after each other and values diversity
- Being more visible in the community and providing a diversity of ways to engage that enables people to influence matters that impact them.

For more information on the Community Strategy, visit [council's website](#).

