



Recognising and upholding excellence in local government

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To: Dr David Moore

By: email

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Dear David

RE: OSCAR SUBMISSION TO THE ELS REFRESH SECOND COMMUNITY CONSULTATION.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed changes to the ELS Strategy Refresh. We acknowledge that we are late in making our submission and thank you in advance for accepting a late response. As mentioned to you the other day there are so many consultations going on across SCRC, and the State Government, including both TMR and the SEQRP and we try to respond to all with detailed, considered submissions developed by the OSCAR Executive with input from member groups.

Thank you also for briefing OSCAR members at our last member group meeting. It was much appreciated by the members and I know that quite a few have made responses.

The following submission is lengthy and the purpose of that is to make it easier for members to read without necessarily having to continually refer back to the full documents.

In order to make it more easily read by staff we have included OSCAR endorsements of proposed changes and or comments in a **brown font colour**.

We congratulate you and the ELS staff for going "above and beyond" in engaging the community. We also thank you all for your commitment to listening to the community and providing feedback

Yours sincerely

Melva Hobson PSM
President
OSCAR
(Organisation Sunshine Coast Association of Residents)

OSCAR response to the second ELS consultation

General Comments

ELS Part C timing and synchronisation

Several OSCAR members believe It is essential that Council finds the resources to revise Part C of the ELS far earlier than the end of 2024 or early 2025 as currently planned. Part A is the Strategic Direction and Part B is the Implementation Plan via Transformational Actions and Tasks.

Part C is the critical element that sets the Desired Standards of Service delivery for Biodiversity, Waterways/Wetlands, Open Space, and Social Infrastructure catchments and networks.

This is incorporated in the Infrastructure Plan and is a major determinant of how land use planning and development assessment operates in the new Planning Scheme.

If this revision is not done so it is synchronised with the writing and public consultation on the new Scheme the opportunity will be lost to introduce new initiatives and higher standards for Council programs and for planning and development requirements.

Achievement of Council's Environment and Liveability sustainability strategy will be weakened if Part C is not updated and synchronised.

Part A: Strategic Directions

Introduction

The Environment and Liveability Strategy (the Strategy) was adopted by Council in September 2017 to provide long-term strategic direction to guide growth and shape the Sunshine Coast for future generations to 2041.

It is one of Council's three regional strategies sitting alongside the Community Strategy 2019-2041 and Economic Development Strategy 2013-2033.

The three regional strategies establish a longterm strategic and integrated platform that enables the region to approach the next 20 years in a positive and confident manner.

The Environment and Liveability Strategy (ELS) specifically provides long-term strategic direction to guide growth and deliver the transformational change required to maintain a healthy environment and liveable Sunshine Coast.

It provides a clear vision and forward plan, responding to key drivers of change for the region and has an integrated framework across 12 themes and Transformational Actions to achieve multiple ecological, economic, and socio-cultural outcomes.

The ELS seeks to guide decision-making and actions that will continue to protect and respect the importance of the natural environment as the foundation for the Sunshine Coast way of life.

The Strategy is based on three interdependent sections:

1. The Natural Environment
- 2 The Environment we Create
3. Living in the Environment

Proposed updates for the ELS 2023 version

Update: Sunshine Coast UNESCO Biosphere Status

Proposed Change *The refresh is proposing to reflect our Sunshine Coast Biosphere status to show our commitment to creating a positive legacy of future generations. Council's Corporate Plan 2023-27 provides an example where recognition of our Sunshine Coast Biosphere has already been made.*

OSCAR supports this change

Update: UN Sustainable Development Goals

Proposed Change *Council is demonstrating leadership by committing to embed the UNSDGs into the ELS by aligning them to the relevant themes. Council's Corporate Plan 2023-27 provides an example of how the UNSDGs have been incorporated into Council documentation.*

OSCAR supports this change.

However, we would like to see more detail re the "how" they will be incorporated and into which of the actions or tasks. The ELS commentary indicates that the inclusion of the UNSDGs can be seen in the Corporate Plan. We would like to see how some will be reflected in the ELS. We also understand that there may be some which are outside the responsibility of Local Government.

Update: Strategic Integration

Proposed Change

- *It is proposed that consistent drivers of change are incorporated into all of our regional strategies to better communicate what we are responding to, and the associated challenges and opportunities.*
- *Based on feedback received consideration is being given to how the contributions made by Council's Regional Economic Development Strategy, Community Strategy, Waste Strategy and Transport Strategy towards achieving the ELS vision - "a healthy environment and liveable Sunshine Coast" can be better communicated (diagrammatically versus text).*
- *It is proposed that wording changes will be made to ensure consistent language and alignment between the ELS and the other strategies and plan*

OSCAR supports this change with the following comment.

However, there needs to be better representation of how the key strategies link. This also needs to be mapped across to the plans and actions that will achieve the strategies. For instance, it is not obvious that the planning scheme is a key delivery mechanism for achieving the ELS directions.

*Monitoring and evaluation is a key component of all good policy and planning cycles and is relevant to how Council develops, implements and integrates its strategies. An additional key direction and supporting actions should be to develop a process for objectively evaluating and **monitoring the strategy**. The evaluation should occur at least every 5 years and should include the use of an independent expert panel. The expert panel should include community representatives, First Nations representation and experts in the fields of recreation planning, ecology and the environment, social science, town planning and built environment. Ideally the panel should have an independent chair and should be administered by Council staff.*

Update: State of Climate Emergency

Proposed change

A refreshed strategy will incorporate wording to recognise the state of climate emergency and the increased urgency and sustained effort required across the next 10 years to reduce emissions, build organisational and community adaptive capacity and resilience into our environment, community and economy. Existing policy positions which reference climate change will be reviewed and strengthened as required.

OSCAR is disturbed that this proposed change does not refer to “avoidance” of certain activities that are not consistent with the future landscape changes that will/may occur as a result of climate change – eg building on floodplains!

OSCAR recommends that Council Include interim targets dates for climate change actions:

**2041 for zero emissions target is insufficient to demonstrate real action to reduce emissions. To respond to UN statistics that categorize Australia as having ‘highly insufficient targets’ for reducing emissions there needs to be a 2030 target of reducing emissions by 50%.*

**The Paris Agreement requires countries to set a target for 2025 or 2030, and then successive interim targets every five years. The Agreement also includes a process by which these targets are reviewed and, ideally, increased. Councils’ targets should correspond to these dates.*

OSCAR recommends that Council develop, coordinate and implement specific Council, business and community actions to reduce regional emissions through energy efficiency initiatives; promoting transition to battery and electric vehicles and personal mobility active transport modes; and much greater solar rooftop and solar farm renewable energy production within the region to displace fossil fuel electricity and gas and achieve greater regional self-sufficiency and resiliency in meeting our energy requirements.

Council should prioritise an update and refresh to the Sunshine Coast Council Disaster Resilience Plan 2019-2022. This plan is now out of date and there is no mention in the detailed actions that the plan will be refreshed.

Update: Recognise biodiversity loss

Proposed change. It is proposed a refreshed strategy will incorporate wording to recognise the global biodiversity loss and council and the communities ongoing efforts to deliver on the protection and enhancement of our natural environment.

OSCAR suggests insertion of the term “local’ after the word “global” eg to recognise the global and local biodiversity loss.

*In view of the current and emerging Biodiversity crisis, **OSCAR suggests that “Recognise biodiversity loss” should be re-defined as ‘Halt biodiversity loss’.** In relation to this key direction, the Strategic pathway 2 identifies that Council will “Develop and implement a vegetation offsets management and delivery program”*

It is important to note in the document that vegetation offsets should be a last resort and cannot be seen as an appropriate mechanism to halt biodiversity loss. The key mechanisms should be to retain, protect, link and enhance existing habitat.

Halting Biodiversity Loss is a stronger strategic direction that needs to be supported by substantially greater Council funding capacity. We recommend Council explore avenues for new and greater funding e.g. replacing the flat \$82 per year Environment Levy with a progressive rate in the dollar property valuation Levy similar to that in Brisbane, and introducing a Biodiversity and Landscape Enhancement Green Infrastructure charge on all development approvals, which is included in a revision of the Council Infrastructure Plan. .

Update: Recognise dark skies

Proposed change. It is proposed a refreshed strategy will incorporate a new policy position in the “Landscape and Character” theme under Policy position 1.1 that:

1.1 The distinctive and diverse landscape is preserved to maintain the beauty of the area:

- a. The landscape is retained and continues to underpin the character of the Sunshine Coast*
- b. The urban form is contained within the defined urban footprint.*
- c. The natural landscape remains intact, undiminished and protected from development that is incompatible with its values*
- d. Prominent natural landscape features are protected and celebrated*
- e. Dark skies are recognised, protected and celebrated***

OSCAR supports this change with the following comment:

There is no indication of where the dark sky place is in the region. Protection of dark sky places fits hand in glove with limiting urban and peri-urban growth and protecting existing green space and vegetation. It needs to be part of land use planning and development assessment via the new Planning Scheme. E.g. The Blackall Range currently supports 3 observatories at Maleny, Mapleton and Wappa Falls in recognition of the dark skies landscape in this part of the region. These sites and adjacent dark sky areas including

Kennilworth in the Mary River Valley and the Mapleton, Kondalilla and Connondale Range National Parks should be recognized as dark sky places.

Update: Strengthen waste strategic directions

Proposed change To strengthen our strategic approach to waste management, the refreshed strategy proposes to incorporate new “waste management” policy positions under the “Energy and Resources” theme:

10.2 Waste Management adopts leading global best practices to maximise resource recovery, reduce waste and deliver low emission and circular economy outcomes:

- a) New models, infrastructure and partnerships maximise resource recovery to support and grow a circular economy and emerging and complementary industries.*
- b) Innovative waste management solutions, processes and technologies are investigated, and adopted where feasible to support waste and emissions reduction and energy generation optimisation.*
- c) Regional waste management solutions are identified and delivered through government and industry partnerships and collaboration.*
- d) Waste management assets, operational and procurement activities are designed, managed and delivered to minimise climate risks and avoid service disruptions.*
- e) Community and business collaboration through waste education, behaviour change and action support waste reduction.*

Incorporating these new policy positions into this theme will also require some adjustment to the existing policy positions of the “Energy and Resources” theme to better integrate to these strategic directions and remove any duplication.

It is also proposed to incorporate a new Transformational Action “Lets get Waste sorted” with associated tasks to support implementation.

OSCAR supports this change.

Update: The Environment we create

It is proposed that a refreshed strategy will strengthen language where relevant to continue to recognise the important role our built form plays in a sustainable Sunshine Coast and in particular as it relates to greening of our neighbourhoods, community connectedness, affordable housing and liveability, active transport and mobility, accessibility for all and community health and wellbeing.

Specifically the Implementation Plan proposes some reworked Transformational Actions and tasks to support the delivery of this outcome – see Transformational Actions 2: A better built environment through sustainable design, 3: Sustainable and affordable living through urban transformation and 5: Greening our neighbourhoods.

OSCAR supports this change

Update: Community role and partnerships

Where relevant, the refreshed strategy will look to strengthen the recognition of the community's role in implementation of the strategy. The Transformational Action "Celebrating People and Nature" is focussed around the implementation of our Sunshine Coast Biosphere and aims to Inspire and empower the community to value the environment and play their part as we live, learn, work and play sustainably.

OSCAR suggests the addition of the word "engagement" and recognition of the -----.

Update: Strengthen the recognition of First Nations

Proposed change *A refreshed strategy proposes to incorporate a new guiding principle "Respect" with supporting considerations in Part B. Respect - Respecting and embracing our diverse community, we acknowledge our yesterday, celebrate our today and collectively build towards our tomorrow.*

Furthermore, ongoing action is required to build stronger partnerships with our First Nations Peoples which is recognised as an updated task:

8.2 Work collaboratively with our traditional owners to recognise connection to country, protect values and knowledge, build stronger relationships and enrich our collective response for a sustainable future

OSCAR supports this change.

However we are concerned that there are insufficient strategic pathways to ensure that traditional owners are fully engaged in informing and influencing future planning and programs e.g. protecting heritage values via the planning scheme, and in relation to Connecting nature and people; Changing our ways; and Building our knowledge

Update statistics and facts

The Strategy contains a number of statistics and facts throughout the document to provide a snapshot of environment and liveability on the Sunshine Coast. For example:

- Number of residents
- Native vegetation percentages and iconic species
- Number of boat ramps, jetties and playgrounds
- Area of open space and number of community venues
- Number of households which have solar power.

Proposed Change *A refreshed strategy proposes to review and update these statistics and facts with the latest information available.*

OSCAR suggests that while there is a need to have aggregated, higher order regional statistics, there is also a need to have statistics that reflect the situation at a more local or sub-regional level as indicators of environment and liveability. E.g. Can statistics be developed at the Local Area Plan level, which is the planning unit in the Planning Scheme? This can also inform the desired level of service requirements in Part C of the ELS.

Part B - Implementation Plan: Transformational Actions and Tasks

Strategic Pathway 1. A resilient region shaped by clever planning and good design

1. Protecting the Regional Inter-urban Break and Sub-regional Inter-urban Breaks

Securing and protecting the Regional Inter-urban Break and Sub-regional Inter-urban Breaks in perpetuity to frame our neighbourhoods, secure the environmental, production and recreation values and strengthen the identity of our community of communities.

Tasks

- 1.1 Continue to promote the values of the Regional Inter-urban Break and advocate for its retention at the current extent and boundaries
- 1.2 Advocate for the containment of urban development to the defined urban footprint.
- 1.3 Continue to advocate and plan for the protection of the green frame provided by the Sub-Regional Inter-urban Breaks
- 1.4 Implement the Inter-urban Break Outdoor Recreation Plan in partnership with stakeholders.

OSCAR supports these Tasks

2. A better built environment through sustainable design

Embedding sustainable, liveable and affordable design into our built environment that celebrates the subtropical lifestyle of the Sunshine Coast and supports our growing community.

Tasks

- 2.1 Implement the Sunshine Coast Design Strategy that celebrates our unique identity (inclusive of public realm, landscape corridors and streetscapes in compact and self-contained neighbourhoods)

2.2 Develop and implement relevant guidelines including climate resilient and subtropical sustainable design, tools and standards to complement the Sunshine Coast Design Strategy

2.3 Plan and deliver excellence in sustainable design outcomes for council owned and managed assets

2.4 Develop metrics to support building assessments at the design stage and identify the reuse potential of materials to reduce carbon emissions and environmental impact

2.5 Continue to investigate and plan for the infrastructure requirements (active/public transport, stormwater, open space, social infrastructure and conservation)

2.6 Facilitate the accelerated uptake of renewable energy assets to reduce emissions, support affordability and community resilience

2.7 Investigate the establishment of a pilot eco-Neighbourhood that incorporates sustainable design that advances liveability neighbourhood sustainability and affordable living options

2.8 Explore potential partnerships and work with industry, community and research institutions to recognise and promote excellence in sustainable urban and building design

OSCAR supports these task and particularly actions 2.7 and 2.8.

3. Sustainable and affordable living

Facilitating sustainable and affordable living options through urban transformation and self-contained communities supported by essential infrastructure.

Tasks

3.1 Continue to refine council's 2041 Growth Management Strategy with an emphasis on integrating land use and active/public transport outcomes

3.2 In consultation with the community, develop and implement an urban transformation strategy to support higher density living for the coastal corridor from Maroochydore to Caloundra

OSCAR suggests that. this task would be enhanced if SCRC genuinely engaged with the community, listening to their concerns and working to agreed solutions.

3.3 Create a street-scale demonstration project to showcase sustainability, good urban design and the *benefits*? of higher density living in partnership with government and industry

OSCAR supports this initiative in principle.

This is something that OSCAR has proposed to SCRC for nearly 2 years. However OSCAR maintains that this should be undertaken in partnership with Government, Industry **and the Community**. A somewhat similar concept was proposed in the 2017 version of the ELS. There it referred to an eco-village concept. Has anything been undertaken re that concept?

One also wonders how SCRC intends to convince young families and many other members of the community of the so-called "benefits" of higher density living??

There needs to be a massive improvement in the higher density offerings in terms of open space, greening and recreation on site. Many working families do not have the time to take young children to the park after they get home from work.

There are examples of higher density 6 storey dwellings where the lift and the entrance was too small to move even pieces of artwork, let alone furniture.

Consideration should also be given to ensuring that there are residences for permanent residents and separate buildings for tourists. Short term accommodation is an issue in some residential higher density dwellings.

3.4 Progress discussions with industry, government and community on housing diversity, design, barriers, innovation and affordable living options

Comment from the State Government is that STA's is not a problem we just need more supply! The 2021 Census clearly demonstrated that on the Sunshine Coast STA and holiday houses has removed some 13000 properties from the potential rental market.(Figures quoted in July 27 Ordinary Meeting)

OSCAR recommends that SCRC talk further with the State Government re the impact of short term accommodation (STA) and seek development of a STA Framework in conjunction with Local Government. OSCAR also recommended this approach to the State in our Submission on the Housing strategy

4. Creating a climate ready region

Proactively responding to reduce our climate risk to increase the adaptive capacity and build the resilience of the region.

Tasks

4.1 Develop an organisational climate risk mitigation framework and embed into our systems and processes to support an integrated response to localised climate hazards and associated risks

4.2 Investigate and plan for the impacts of cascading climate risks on our critical public infrastructure and service delivery

4.3 Implement the Coastal Hazard Adaptation Strategy in partnership with the community

4.4 Develop and implement an integrated Coastal Hazard Adaptation infrastructure planning program, including a Blue Heart Transition Plan

4.5 Develop an urban cooling strategy that incorporates urban greening initiatives to respond to risks associated with increased heat

4.6 Implement the Disaster Resilience Plan

4.7 Implement the Stormwater Management Strategy

4.8 Increase community access to information on risks, resilience and priorities for adaptation investment

4.9 Build capacity to plan and respond to the impacts of climate hazard events and minimise the associated risks

OSCAR supports all the tasks 4.1-4.9, however has some questions/comments relating to a few of the listed tasks:

Task 4.3 *Implement the Coastal Hazard Adaptation Strategy in partnership with the community.*

OSCAR and other groups across the LGA are interested in partnering with SCRC in the Implementation of the CHAS.

Task 4.4 *Develop and implement an integrated Coastal Hazard Adaptation infrastructure planning program, including a Blue Heart Transition Plan*

OSCAR is very supportive of the Blue Heart programme. One of our member groups has questioned why there is not a similar programme based on the Mooloolah River.

Task 4.5 Develop an urban cooling strategy that incorporates urban greening initiatives to respond to risks associated with increased heat.

OSCAR is concerned that in some low density areas, there is a wonderful range of urban greening that has occurred naturally or has been planted. Whatever, increase in density occurs as per the SEQRP, we need to ensure that current greening is not compromised or removed and residential blocks broken into small lots or have too many units constructed on the one site.

Task 4.7 Implement the Stormwater Management Strategy

We are very concerned and feel that it is remiss of Council not to include flooding in this topic as was done in the previous version of the ELS. Flooding is a real issue and one that potentially will involve all residents of coastal areas in some way or another, be it personal cost and/or rate increases proving to be incredibly expensive

OSCAR recommends that flooding be reincorporated in the ELS and that a policy of not placing inappropriate activities in areas subject to flooding be strengthened and incorporated into the Planning Scheme.

A recent article by the Insurance Industry commented that where housing is built in these areas, where flood insurance is almost unaffordable, such houses are primarily occupied by vulnerable people.

Task 4.9 Build capacity to plan and respond to the impacts of climate hazard events and minimise the associated risks.

*Please explain what you think this means. One presumes that you are looking to build the capacity of SCRC officers and Councillors? **We recommend that whatever intention this Action should be expressed in more meaningful terms. It could be along the lines of: “support the community and the organisation” to plan etc***

5. Greening our neighbourhoods

Delivering cool and shady streets and places to connect and enhance our neighbourhoods and promote biodiversity, resilience and community wellbeing.

Tasks

5.1 Implement the Street Tree Master Plan

5.2 Implement the Recreation Parks Plan

5.3 Investigate the role and function of urban greening and incorporate into planning and decision making

5.4 Investigate feasibility of identifying 'green infrastructure' as a new appreciating asset class derived from the multiple benefits it provides to our community

5.5 Develop canopy cover targets and increase urban greening to support community health and wellbeing

OSCAR supports all of the actions under this topic. However, we question whether there is any need for further investigation (Task 5.3) Investigate the role and function of urban greening and incorporate into planning and decision making).

Surely there is sufficient information available across the world re the value of urban greening. This information can be sourced by a Literature Review in time to enable incorporation into the 2024/25 Planning Scheme.

Task 5.5 should not just be about new planting but also about maintaining existing established trees and well developed shrubbery on urban blocks. This could be one of the findings of any investigation into vegetation as infrastructure assets.

In developing canopy targets consideration must be given to those being applied to small lot housing and medium density developments. Having a canopy around the edge of a large swathe of units is of extremely limited value to the majority of the units.

Strategic Pathway 2. Protection and enhancement of our natural assets and distinctive landscapes

6. Conserving our biodiversity

Connecting and protecting our valued habitat areas to support our native flora and fauna and providing the community with opportunities to participate in conservation and to experience the natural environment.

Tasks

6.1 Strategically acquire environmental land to protect and enhance biodiversity values and ecological processes

6.2 Develop and implement conservation/management plans for key threatened and iconic species

6.3 Plan and deliver priority projects that support improved fauna movement

6.4 Continue to plan and deliver opportunities to connect with nature through the council managed environment reserve network

6.5 Deliver community conservation partnerships, education and stewardship programs

6.6 Develop and implement a vegetation offsets management and delivery program

OSCAR supports tasks 6.1 to 6.5. We question task 6.6 Develop and implement a vegetation offsets management and delivery program.

Offsets should only be used as a last resort and where there is no alternative to the clearing of said vegetation. Offsets do not have a good history in many parts of Australia. Offsets should be based on the principle of like for like.

Offsets should not be used to clear areas within the urban footprint of natural vegetation and be redirected to rural areas. Coastal vegetation is essential to the future health and amenity of the Sunshine Coast. Much of our native coastal vegetation also supports a wide range of biodiversity which we are losing at a rapid rate.

7. Keeping our Waterways healthy

Delivering healthy catchments that continue to support our lifestyle and livelihoods through integrated management, including reducing the impacts of sediment, nutrients and pollutants.

Tasks

7.1 Deliver catchment management planning for the five major Sunshine Coast catchments

7.2 Design and implement a waterway health monitoring program for the Mary River

7.3 Plan and implement riparian, in-stream and wetland rehabilitation activities

7.4 Develop and implement a comprehensive Urban and Rural Erosion and Sediment Control Program

7.5 Develop and implement collaborative water quality improvement and pollution reduction projects

OSCAR supports Tasks 7.1 – 7.5.

We question in Task 7.2 Design and implement a waterway health monitoring program for the Mary River and question why it is only the Mary River? OSCAR recommends that all catchments on the Sunshine Coast have regular waterway health monitoring programmes. An annual assessment by Healthy Land and Water is insufficient.

There was and still is in Victoria, NSW and ACT a community managed and delivered citizen science program called Waterwatch. It is our understanding that there are some community groups monitoring waterways, eg Take Action Pumicestone Passage (TAPP) and Maroochy Catchment Care..

Anybody who cares about the local environment can become a citizen scientist. The Waterwatch network is made up of individuals, community groups and school groups who regularly check their local waterways, undertake actions to help maintain good water quality, and help raise community awareness about water. (Waterwatch Portal)

The Waterwatch programme was designed and oversighted by scientists and with training and support is a very effective program.

8. Celebrating our landscape and character

Identifying, understanding and planning for the defining landscapes, character and history of the Sunshine Coast to enable growth and development to be respectful and complementary for the future.

Tasks

8.1 Document our Sunshine Coast landscape and character to inform planning

8.2 Work collaboratively with our traditional owners to recognise connection to country, protect values and knowledge, build stronger relationships and enrich our collective response for a sustainable future

8.3 Investigate opportunities to recognise, protect and celebrate the Sunshine Coast dark sky

OSCAR supports these tasks

Strategic Pathway 3. Responsive, accessible and well managed assets and infrastructure

9. Growing the natural economy

Strengthen the economic base around our natural assets and distinctive landscape features by enhancing a network of nature-based and cultural experiences supported by overnight accommodation and day visitor options.

Tasks

9.1 Continue to build our understanding of our natural assets and the services they provide as we advocate for and grow the natural economy

9.2 Undertake eco-tourism planning, investigate cultural tourism opportunities and promote in partnership with community, industry and government

OSCAR supports these tasks.

10. Healthy Coast

Providing a strategic and coordinated approach to the protection, sustainable use and enjoyment of our dunes, beaches, rocky shores and near-shore marine waters.

Tasks

10.1 Develop and implement a healthy coast management plan

10.2 Implement the Shoreline Erosion Management Plan

10.3 Undertake coastal rehabilitation activities in partnership with the community

10.4 Promote and celebrate beach culture and coastal values through community engagement and education

10.5 Implement a Healthy Coast Monitoring and Reporting Framework

OSCAR supports these tasks

11. Expanding the green space

Securing and activating space for future generations to improve conservation, flood mitigation and sport and recreation opportunities.

Tasks

11.1 Plan, protect and manage our five major green spaces:

- Blue Heart
- Coast
- Mountain View
- Lower Mooloolah River
- Regional Inter-urban Break

11.2 Progress planning and delivery of major sport and recreation precincts within identified green spaces

11.3 Implement the Network Blueprints and Desired Standards of Service to secure and embellish additional environmental, recreation and sporting land

11.4 Progress planning and delivery of the Sunshine Coast Ecological Park

11.5 Plan for and expand the recreation trails network

OSCAR supports these tasks. However some of our member groups have questioned whether there are other opportunities for an ecological park or similar in other areas of the Sunshine Coast that are or could be an ecological park demonstrating other elements of biodiversity.

12. Great places and spaces

In partnership with industry and community develop a network of contemporary and accessible places and spaces that provide and support opportunities for creative, community and active/passive experiences.

Tasks

12.1 Plan and deliver priority social infrastructure

12.2 Implement Network Blueprints and Desired Standards of Service in partnership to enhance public access spaces and services to meet demonstrated community need

12.3 Facilitate delivery of infrastructure for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games to ensure a strong legacy for the Sunshine Coast community

OSCAR supports these tasks, however some of our member groups question the proposed arrangements for the SC Stadium area which potentially will see the loss of some sporting fields for youth and general community members.

13. Managing our invasive plants and animals

Providing a collaborative, effective and efficient response to the management of invasive plants and animals to reduce their social, economic and environmental impacts.

Tasks

13.1 Implement the Sunshine Coast Local Government Area Biosecurity Plan

OSCAR supports this task, however notes that the SC LG Area Biosecurity Plan was developed in 2017. Should the wording for this task be “continue” the implementation of----? How much of the existing plan has been implemented?

Strategic Pathway 4. Transitioning to a sustainable and affordable way of living

14 Celebrating people and nature

Supporting, enabling and inspiring the community to value the environment and play their part as we live, learn, work and play sustainably in our Sunshine Coast Biosphere.

Tasks

14.1 Implement the Sunshine Coast Biosphere in partnership with the community including sustainability performance reporting

14.2 Promote a healthy environment and liveable Sunshine Coast throughout our community

14.3 Develop an effective model to deliver a coordinated behaviour change program to enhance community understanding and uptake of sustainable living practices

14.4 Develop a low carbon community plan in consultation with community, government, industry and research bodies

14.5 Investigate options to increase community investment in renewable energy transition projects

14.6 Promote and support urban backyard and balcony biodiversity and local food production programs, systems and initiatives

14.7 Investigate and develop engagement opportunities that support diversity and inclusion

OSCAR supports these tasks. We make the following comments.

14.5 It is all very well to “investigate”, but we would expect the Council to advocate for options which might involve Commonwealth and/or State Government Legislation/Regulation. We would like to see an advocacy statement in this task.

14.6 There does seem to be some inconsistency in the opportunities re 14.6, where the new SEQRP is proposing greater density across areas within the urban footprint, which in many cases will see the demise of the backyard

15. Zero emissions organisation

Delivering a zero-net emissions organisation and transitioning to a renewable energy future.

Tasks

15.1 Implement and report on the organisational zero-net emissions plan including progress towards reduction targets

15.2 Continue to deliver organisational awareness and education programs relating to emissions reductions

15.3 Pilot and implement feasible emission reduction and renewable energy projects for council operations and infrastructure

15.4 Expand Councils integrated clean energy program to support emissions reduction, community uptake and increase council’s financial sustainability

15.5 Facilitate and support the roll-out of a strategic electric vehicle charger network

15.6 Develop an organisational emissions offsetting policy

OSCAR supports tasks 15.1 – 15.5 and has serious concerns re task 15.6, the use of offsetting organisational emissions.

OSCAR consider developing an offsetting policy to be “the easy way out” and should only be a “last resort” option and would not expect to see it in a document that has currency for the next few years.

16. Attracting sustainable industries and businesses

Strengthening our region's sustainability vision by attracting and nurturing research and sustainable industries and businesses.

Tasks

16.1 Leverage partnerships with business and research organisations to develop sustainable business opportunities

OSCAR supports this task as long as it does not include locating, siting and/or encouraging High Impact Industries adjacent to residential areas as has been encouraged with the Turbine project at the Sunshine Coast airport.

17. Getting waste sorted

Delivering leading global best practices to maximise resource recovery, reduce waste and deliver low emission and circular economy outcomes.

Tasks

17.1 Review and implement the Waste Strategy

17.2 Develop sustainable and feasible waste management projects and initiatives which are aligned with a circular economy and support emerging and complementary industries

17.3 Plan and deliver Food Organics Garden Organics collection services and investigate treatment and diversion opportunities that reduce waste to landfill and greenhouse gas emissions

17.4 Explore and implement feasible innovative waste recovery and treatment options, including waste to energy opportunities and partnerships

17.5 Deliver intuitive and engaging waste education services that will compliment and support sustainable waste management services

OSCAR supports these tasks.

18. Building our knowledge

Enabling evidence-based decisions for a healthy environment and liveable Sunshine Coast.

Tasks

18.1 Report annually on organisational environmental sustainability performance to inform business improvement

18.2 Undertake targeted monitoring, modelling, research and other data collection

18.3 Develop and maintain a user-friendly interface to enable the provision of accessible, current and accurate data

18.4 Maintain and enhance partnerships with research institutions, government and non-government organisations to grow our collective knowledge

18.5 Develop and trial new and emerging tools and technologies to improve knowledge, data capture and business integration

OSCAR supports these tasks.