

## Have Your Say: Draft Refreshed Community Strategy

Feedback on the draft refreshed Community Strategy can be made from **14 May to 10 June 2024** and the new strategy will be finalised before the end of 2024.

Use this template to help structure your feedback. If you only have a small amount of feedback, consider completing the [survey on Have Your Say](#).

### Feedback on Vision, Goal, Drivers of Change, Targets, Principles and Methods:

Your Feedback:	
Do you have any feedback on the vision, goal, drivers of change, targets, principles and methods of the draft refreshed Community Strategy?	
<b>Vision (Page 5)</b>	<p>The Vision is an admirable one which OSCAR supports. Visions are, of course, expected to stretch our view, which this one does. We have several recommendations for your consideration:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Include reference to the Biosphere, where we “live, work and play”. Our suggestion is that such a reference could be included in the context of the last sentence eg: “We all have a vested interest and personal responsibility to contribute to the Sunshine Coast that we want to see in 2041 as we live, work and play within the Sunshine Coast Biosphere.”</li><li>2. OSCAR gives strong support to the paragraph “<i>our transport network etc</i>”, and suggests that the Transport/Infrastructure group considers this aspect of the Community strategy seriously and takes action.</li></ol>

<p><b>Goal (Page 7)</b></p>	<p>All the goals are important to our community. Goals, 2, 3, and 4 are goals in which OSCAR as an organisation has particular interest. There is interconnectedness between a number of goals and some topics could appear in multiple goals. For example – housing could be in either goals 1 or 2, and community safety could be included in several goals.</p> <p>As long as the topics are considered that they may go across a number of goals and not regarded or treated in silos, then the initial heading under which a topic is placed is not the key factor.</p> <p>Pages 8 and 9 consider the Council Vision of <i>“Australia’s most sustainable region - Healthy, Smart, Creative”</i> as demonstrated across the three council regional strategies.</p> <p>OSCAR recommends that given we are now a Biosphere Reserve which refers to “where we live, work and play” the three regional strategies should sit within that framework. That means that the Venn diagram of the three strategies on page 8 should be set within a larger circle named the Biosphere. Similarly with the “Strategic alignment” text on page 9 should be set within the context of the Biosphere.</p> <p>The following comment, although addressed within the Vision and Goals section of the Community Strategy, we suggest should be applied across all 3 Council Regional Strategies. The comments here give examples of how the UNSDG and Biosphere references are related to the Community Strategy.</p> <p>It is noted that reference is made to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, with reference to the Biosphere in the section under <i>“Our global Commitment”</i>. Consideration could be given that those 2 pages (10-11) should be placed before the Vision, Goals, One vision 3 strategies and Strategic alignment pages (8-9).</p> <p>Pages 10 and 11 should be the basis on which we make our decisions – that is where and how we “live, work and play”!</p> <p>With specific reference to UNSDG 9 (<i>Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure</i>), 11, (<i>Sustainable Cities and Communities</i>) and 13 <i>Climate Action</i> (p11) the Community Strategy states that “The Strategy includes an emphasis on improving the resilience of our communities, increasing our adaptive capacity to prepare and respond to increasing climate risks is an important part of community resilience. <b>During times of disaster it is members of the public and in our communities that are each other’s first responders as emergency services coordinate. Education programmes and public awareness raising will help prepare communities facing extreme weather events.</b></p> <p>We note that there is no reference to working to reduce the impacts of Climate change, for example <b>through land use planning, developing</b> areas that are highly likely to be impacted by Climate Change, thus reducing <b>foreseeable climate</b> risks for the community and future generations</p> <p>We note that there is no reference to working to reduce, for example building on areas that are highly likely to be impacted by Climate Change, thus reducing future risks for the community and future generations – eg continuing to build on floodplains that require enormous quantities of fill so</p>
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Your Feedback:	
	<p>building can occur, including evacuation centres and where insurance is not available or is prohibitive in cost.</p> <p>This is an important area for the Community Strategy and we appreciate that any response will probably be directed to the ELS. However, such high risk strategies under any of the 3 Council strategies, will be evidenced strongly in the Community strategy future work, particularly for future generations and our current young people</p> <p>These current and future issues are referenced in the Community Strategy on p15 under Community (para2) where it states – <i>“we are also managing challenges such as ----- and the climate emergency”</i></p> <p>On p16 under the heading “Climate” para 1, sentence 3 the following comment appears:” Higher costs to insure, maintain and repair property <b>may</b> impact our community as well as impacts to health-----.(my emphasis) Some residents, particularly young people also feel anxious or distressed about global climate change”</p> <p>We direct this comment to the whole council including officers and councillors and is not specifically pointed at the Community Strategy, but we know that the above sentence should read “will impact our community, not “may” and that insurance already either is not available or costs thousands of dollars a year for some insurers to insure vulnerable older areas of the SC – eg Marcoola, where one property known to the writer received a quote for house insurance of \$10,000.00 for a property with an RL of approx. 0.8m!</p> <p>From this writer’s perspective, we as a collective, community and council should be ashamed that we are not taking a more forward-looking approach to this life changing issue and coastal management practices that increase our climate risk.</p> <p>Section 2. (p19) About the Community Strategy Purpose and role of Council, we suggest should include in bullet point 3 “setting the requirements for development that support new housing and service delivery that does not increase community vulnerability to climate change impacts.</p>
<b>Principles (Page 23)</b>	<p>OSCAR supports and congratulates the team on the Principles as outlined on page 23. We suggest the addition of the word “transparent” in the last sentence of the Principle “Collaborative”, so it would read: <i>“Collaboration, open and transparent communication ,trust and relationships are hallmarks of the way we work to achieve our goals”</i></p>
<b>Methods (Page 23)</b>	<p>Again OSCAR supports the proposed methods of action and how we work together. We congratulate the team on the change of language and philosophy relating to “growing collective capacity”. This is a clear advance and supports the concept of partnering and collaboration, advocating together and co-investing in community-led initiatives. Thankyou!!</p> <p>As a community organisation we are happy to partner, collaborate and advocate together under the Methods as outlined.</p>

## Feedback on Outcome Statements and Actions:

### Topic 1.1 Health and Wellbeing

#### Outcome Statements (Page 29):

##### **1.1.1 Everyone has access to information, services and programs to improve their physical and mental health and wellbeing:**

- a) Information is available to residents to improve their health and wellbeing.
- b) Everyone has access to a diverse range of affordable health and wellbeing activities.
- c) Everyone has access to affordable healthy food.
- d) People work to improve their own health and wellbeing and that of their families, where possible.
- e) Organisations work collaboratively to share health information and local research.

#### Actions (Page 69):

- Expand Council's Healthy Sunshine Coast program to deliver a broad range of low cost, convenient and inclusive health and wellbeing activities.
- Support community sporting clubs to access programs that improve inclusion.
- Advocate and partner to improve access to mental health services and programs (including youth mental health and healthy ageing).
- Collaborate to undertake and share health information and research focusing on health challenges (such as healthy ageing, suicide prevention, youth mental health, skin cancer risk, alcohol consumption, smoking/vaping, etc.).
- Promote and support food security and healthy eating initiatives such as community gardens, food sharing programs, farmer's markets and growing food at home.

### **Your Feedback - Health and Wellbeing:**

#### Proposed additional Action

Support children and young people unable to participate in sporting activities and teams for financial reasons, through targeted and designated support to community sporting groups to reduce the cost of participation.

OSCAR supports the Outcome Statements and the Actions as proposed. We suggest an addition that relates to the Outcome Statement in Topic 2.1, but is not necessarily part of Community Places and Spaces.

We also question why the following previous actions appear not to be being continued or is it that the actions listed in the Strategy are new, additional actions to those already being undertaken?

- Funding life-guard services delivered by Surf Lifesaving Queensland (SLSQ) at 21 beaches
- Supporting community gardening on Council owned land.

#### Rationale:

Surfing is one of the major sporting activities on the coast and beach swimming is basic to the Sunshine Coast and beach safety is critically important to the tourism industry. If community comments did not include this activity maybe people are not necessarily aware that Council funds this activity.

In relation to community gardening, we question why this is not listed for continuance?

## Topic 2.1 Community Places and Spaces

### Outcome Statements (Page 33):

#### **2.1.1 Community places and spaces meet community needs:**

- a) Community places and spaces are well-planned and provided to meet the needs of existing and future communities.
- b) People have access to safe, accessible, inclusive and welcoming community places and spaces.
- c) Community places and spaces are designed to contribute to a unique sense of place and community pride.
- d) The social and economic benefits of community places and spaces are maximised through appropriate delivery, management, and operational models.
- e) Community places and spaces are maintained to support their purpose.

**Note:** Council delivery of community places and spaces are primarily influenced through the *Environment and Liveability Strategy* and the *Planning Scheme*. These documents should be reviewed alongside the *Community Strategy* to understand the full scope of Council action in this area.

#### **2.1.2 Community places and spaces are vibrant with activity:**

- a) Community places and spaces are activated with a range of events, activities and programs and are well utilised by the community.

### Actions (Page 70):

- Continue to plan and deliver priority social infrastructure and open space.
- Develop a *Community Venues Plan* that outlines future requirements for community venues and considers appropriate management models and leasing arrangements to maximise use, provide equitable access and meet changing community needs.
- Support community venue managers to develop and implement *Venue Utilisation Plans*.
- Simplify processes for community-run events and local activation initiatives.

## **Your Feedback - Community Places and Spaces:**

Appreciating that delivery of community spaces is influenced by the ELS, there are some topics issues that should be reflected in the Community Strategy. These include:

- There appears to be a discrepancy between the Outcome Statements and Actions listed in the Strategy compared with the Community Priorities as listed on p31 none which appear to be reflected in the Actions section. If the community gives priorities, and they do not see them reflected in the Strategy then the level of confidence and trust between the Council and the community is reduced.
- Given the expected population increase, OSCAR member groups have expressed that parks and active spaces must not be repurposed but should be updated in several instances.
- Appreciating that the budget allocation process does not cover all requests, our member groups wish to ensure that existing active spaces and parks are updated, particularly in relation to, for example play equipment in parks. There are several great new parks and active spaces being developed across the LGA. However, there is a need for updating of equipment in some of our older parks. Some just get a paint job on old equipment and may get a new seat but no new modern equipment.
- The ELS Transformational Action 12 states:

Creating 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,

## Your Feedback - Community Places and Spaces:

community and active/passive experiences. 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. (Page 12 ELS)

The ELS refers to demonstrated community need.

The Community Strategy in the actions does say how active spaces will reflect, for example different age groupings in the community. Often many of the play areas in our parks, and some of the older parks do not include play equipment beyond about a 5-6 year old child leaving a gap in the 7-10 and 11-15 year olds.

- There appears to be a gap for example in the provision of active spaces for 11-15 year old young people who are bike riders and where there is no "pump" track type facility within riding distance from the coastal suburbs on the north shore area.
- We should also ensure that play spaces and equipment must include accessibility for those with disabilities
- On page 32 of the Community Strategy there are no usage statistics for the Council and community provided venues. Such statistics would be very useful in understanding the next stage of implementation of the Actions.
- Action 2 (p70) Develop a *Community Venues Plan* that outlines future requirements for community venues and considers appropriate management models and leasing arrangements to maximise use, provide equitable access and meet changing community needs.

In developing this plan it is important that this is undertaken with staff experienced in community engagement and that engagement activities must be undertaken in consultation with the individual venues as well as venues collectively. Reports have been made to OSCAR of engagement with some venues that has initially been most unsatisfactory until the Community themselves have sought a collective solution.

## Topic 2.2 Transport

### Outcome Statements (Page 37):

#### **2.2.1 Our transport network connects people and places, supports future population growth and serves the economy:**

- a) People have access to an integrated, reliable, safe and inclusive transport network.
- b) Our transport network provides increased travel choice and mobility for all.
- c) Our transport network supports efficient movement of people and goods.
- d) Our transport network prioritises walking, cycling and passenger transport and encourages a shift to these modes of travel.
- e) Parking is managed to balance lifestyle, economic activity and improvements in passenger transport.

### Actions (Page 70):

- Continue to invest, plan and advocate for identified priority transport projects and road infrastructure to support future growth.
- Prioritise investment in new active transport network connections and supporting infrastructure.
- Promote active and public transport options and encourage behaviour change away from private vehicle use.
- Expand community transport services to improve convenience and access to additional locations and services.

## Your Feedback - Transport:

OSCAR supports the Outcome Statements and has been advocating for several years for all of the above. Having quickly reviewed the key components of the Integrated Transport Strategy, it appears to be considerably out of date. Endorsed by Council in 2018, some 6 years ago and still is promoting “light rail” which clearly both the community and the State have rejected. It needs a dramatic Refresh and should be on the Agenda for 2025.

Basically the only actions really that Council can take is to “prioritise investment in new active transport network connections and supporting infrastructure” (Bullet point 2) and Expand community transport services to improve convenience and access to additional locations and services. (Bullet point 4)

The action relating to “*Promote active and public transport options and encourage behaviour change away from private vehicle use.*” is limited until feeder buses are implemented. OSCAR has been calling on both Council and the State Government to do exactly that. The State Government’s current trial of 50 cent fares will deliver interesting data, but imagine what a difference “feeder” buses would make to that data if they had been trialled over the last few years on key routes as opposed the massive spend on trying to implement “light rail”!

However, we believe there is quite a lot more that Council could be doing in that area for relatively modest expenditures — and with State and Federal funding assistances available.

The Coastal Pathway is clearly a popular active transport success - even with its deficiencies. We wish to advocate for a matching east-west pathway such as Nambour to Coolumberr.

In the Coolumberr local area for example, there are quite a few opportunities that deserve attention as set out in a Coolumberr Residents Association (CRA) submission from 2022 (included as an attachment).

Clearly the increasing availability of e-bikes in the community is also rapidly gaining traction as an alternative transport mode. We need more safe separate pathways for them.

OSCAR members think that Council could and should be doing a lot more with Active Transport.

In that context we note that Council is currently calling for community feedback on its proposed New Active Transport Plan <https://haveyoursay.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au/sunshine-coast-new-active-transport-plan>.

OSCAR suggests that Action 4 along with Action 2 should be the priority. It goes without saying that advocacy by both Council and the community to the State and Commonwealth Governments should and will continue.

The strategy refresh adopts the inclusion of the route extension by TransLink into Yandina town centre as a success story, after successful negotiations have occurred between council and TransLink and this collaboration should continue to expand as a priority.

OSCAR has made submissions to all Council and State SC transport strategies over the last 6 years and will continue to do so. However, we need to see an updated realistic Transport Strategy from the Infrastructure Group.

OSCAR recognises that the Community Strategy can only do so much, but as a community group we need to use all the opportunities at our disposal to get the message across to some areas of Council.

We can only hope that with advocacy by both Council and the Community, the 2032 Olympics Mobility Transport Strategy may bring some change to the Sunshine Coast. According to the Recent Olympics Amendment Bill this strategy has to be completed in 18 months.

### Your Feedback - Transport:

However, in the meantime we would encourage the Community Strategy group to apply pressure to encourage some community trials relevant to that strategy.

Furthermore, OSCAR does not support increasing densification of key transport routes before the improvement of the key transport infrastructure.

## Topic 2.3 Housing and Homelessness Support

### Outcome Statements (Page 41):

#### **2.3.1 Our community has access to affordable and appropriate accommodation with low rates of homelessness:**

- a) Our accommodation and dwelling mix matches the needs of households, in terms of diversity, affordability and suitability.
- b) Universal and inclusive design is integrated into housing and tourist accommodation.
- c) People have the capacity and support to maintain long-term housing.

**Note:** *Delivery of housing and accommodation by the private and community sector is primarily influenced by Council through the Environment and Liveability Strategy and the Planning Scheme. These documents should be reviewed alongside the Community Strategy to understand the full scope of Council action in this area.*

#### **2.3.2 People experiencing homelessness are supported, safe and included:**

- a) Facilities, services and support are available to assist people experiencing homelessness.
- b) People are aware of the facilities, services and support available.
- c) People work together with people experiencing homelessness to improve outcomes.
- d) People are aware and educated about homelessness and demonstrate compassion towards people experiencing homelessness.

### Actions (Page 70):

- Implement actions identified in the *Housing and Homelessness Action Plan*.
- Continue to facilitate and support community-led initiatives to improve outcomes for people experiencing homelessness.
- Collaborate to undertake and utilise research (including lived experience) and build awareness and understanding of homelessness.



## Your Feedback - Housing and Homelessness Support:

OSCAR supports the Outcome statement for 2.3.1 and 2.3.2.

However, it appears that the Housing and Homeless Action Plan has been developed separately from the Community Strategy Group and needs urgent revisions to remove patronising language such as “Council will build community Capacity” and clearly ageist references and illustrations such as over 65 people being identified by having a walking stick!!!! Perhaps the developers of the plan might talk with the team who wrote the strategy about contemporary language.

Provision of housing is a complex and challenging issue, particularly when retrofitting and planning in already developed areas.

In newly developing areas the inclusion of a range of housing is possible and Council should be able to designate different forms of housing be included. As the notes under the Topic 2.3 *Housing and homeless support* states in reference to increasing diversity of housing: “*From a community perspective, the benefits of*”.

While agreeing in principle with the bullet point following that (p39), bullet point 4 is clearly not worded appropriately. It states: “*Smaller dwellings can be more affordable for low-income households and can be located closer to services and employment centres reducing transport costs*”.

This statement must be reworded on the basis of the following:

- Smaller dwellings are NOT necessarily fit for purpose for many families with several children. Low incomes should not force families to live in situations that do not match their needs. This topic needs to be revisited with better suggestions for how such living needs can be addressed. Packing families into smaller house may have the result of increasing intra family stress.
- Given our society has and will continue to have a higher population cohort in the above 65 category, many may wish to downsize into smaller houses, regardless of their income and/or because of being on fixed incomes. Not all in that cohort want to live or may not have the financial ability to live in retirement villages or over 50's centres or high-rise buildings. The strategy should be referencing the concept of “gentle density” done well ie duplexes, triplexes etc.
- It would be appropriate for the Community Strategy to support alternative sources of supply of housing such as “build to rent”.
- OSCAR would like to see Council consider sites within the Sunshine Coast where there can be a range of dwellings such as Manufactured homes and Tiny homes. This could be a “land lease” concept, where houses could be built, manufactured houses could be brought in and sites could be allocated for Tiny homes that include toilet and bathroom facilities or connections.

We have advocated re this to the State in our responses to the Housing summit documents and have included them as attachments.

Recommendations related to housing should be made to both the new PS team and the ELS team and the Community strategy group should promote and advocate for these to both groups. We have included s attachments our submissions to both the State Government Housing Summit and the Summit Outcomes documents.

### Outcome Statements 2.3.1

OSCAR supports these outcomes. However, we suggest some wording changes to point (d):

“People are aware and educated about homelessness and demonstrate compassion towards people experiencing homelessness”.

We question the use of the term “educated” about homelessness and suggest finding a word/s that has less formality and less associated with formal learning, particularly for adults. Perhaps a sentence about lived experience as expressed by those who are homeless. Further to that we suggest that the term compassion be replaced with empathy. Compassion implies “feel sorry” whereas empathy includes “the action of understanding, being aware of, being sensitive to, and vicariously experiencing the feelings, thoughts, and experience of another” Websters Internet or as the Oxford Dictionary puts it: “the power of identifying oneself mentally with (and so fully comprehending) a person or object of contemplation”.

Actions (Page 70):

- Implement actions identified in the *Housing and Homelessness Action Plan*.
- Continue to facilitate and support community-led initiatives to improve outcomes for people experiencing homelessness.
- Collaborate to undertake and utilise research (including lived experience) and build awareness and understanding of homelessness.

OSCAR supports these actions and suggests some changes to the wording as suggested above.

### Topic 3.1 Inclusion

Outcome Statements (Page 45):

**3.1.1 Everyone feels valued, respected and welcomed:**

- a) People are aware and embrace the value of diversity, in all its forms.
- b) Reconciliation is progressed with First Nations people.
- c) Newcomers are welcomed and connected into our community.
- d) Barriers to participation are minimised or eliminated.
- e) People feel they belong and contribute to community life.

Actions (Page 71):

- Implement actions identified in the *Reconciliation Action Plan* in partnership with Traditional Custodians and First Nations people.
- Implement actions identified in the *All Abilities Action Plan*.
- Develop and implement a *Youth Action Plan* to guide Council action on the priorities of young people.
- Utilise the *Welcoming Cities Framework* to become a more welcoming and cohesive community.
- Collaborate and partner to deliver events, activities and programs that promote and support best-practice diversity and inclusion.
- Develop and promote local stories showcasing the diversity of people and places of the Sunshine Coast.
- Support initiatives that strengthen social enterprises and for-impact businesses to address community priorities.

### **Your Feedback - Inclusions:**

OSCAR supports the Outcome Statements and the Action Plans as proposed.

We do have some suggestions, mainly around using more inclusive language in a couple of areas.

In the introductory section on page 43 in the first box we suggest:

- Bullet point 2 – could the words people of all ages be used or birth -100 – This is a relatively minor issue.
- Bullet Point 4 rather than people “with minority religions” should be “people of all faiths”. Using the term minority is not conducive to inclusion. You may notice that on many occasions, and increasingly so the various faiths regardless of their numbers in the community come together to speak as one. This is a serious point.

### **Topic 3.2 Volunteering**

#### Outcome Statements (Page 49):

##### **3.2.1 Residents volunteer to support community needs:**

- a) Information about volunteering opportunities is clear and easy to find.
- b) Volunteers and potential volunteers have the capabilities required to contribute to community priorities.
- c) Organisations that engage volunteers have the skills and capacity to attract, manage and retain volunteers.
- d) Volunteers are recognised and rewarded for the work they do.

#### Actions (Page 71):

- Encourage large employers to grow staff volunteering and encourage Council staff to utilise leave available for volunteering.
- Improve initiatives recognising residents who contribute to community, including volunteering.
- Collaborate to deliver training to assist volunteering organisations improve volunteering recruitment, retention and management.
- Collaborate to deliver a Sunshine Coast Volunteer Showcase to raise awareness of volunteering opportunities and offer training and recognition of volunteers.
- Participate in and leverage off the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games volunteering program.

### **Your Feedback - Volunteering:**

OSCAR supports both the Outcome Statements and the Actions for this topic.

## Topic 3.3 Community Engagement

### Outcome Statements (Page 53):

#### **3.3.1 Our community is engaged and heard on matters that are important to them:**

- a) People actively participate in community matters and decision-making processes.
- b) People have opportunities to meaningfully contribute to matters that impact them and our region.
- c) Information and ways to participate are available in a range of formats to meet the needs of our diverse community.
- d) People's contributions into community engagement processes are valued.
- e) Community engagement outcomes inform decision-making and planning processes.

### Actions (Page 72):

- Review Council's *Excellence in Engagement Framework* to further embed and model leading engagement practice.
- Develop guidelines for engaging with First Nations individuals and groups to ensure their meaningful contribution into decision-making.
- Deliver the *Young Leaders Academy* developmental program to foster civic engagement and community leadership.
- Review and strengthen Council use of community advisory and reference groups and participatory engagement processes.
- Develop a guide on how to co-design solutions in collaboration with people with lived experience to improve inclusive and authentic engagement.

## **Your Feedback - Community Engagement:**

OSCAR supports the Outcomes Statements as listed. However, there are some word changes and additions we would like to see included in 3.3.1:

- (b) "*People have opportunities to contribute meaningfully to matters that impact them and our region*". Removing the split infinitive in this particular Outcome will read correctly if the change suggested above is applied.
- (d) "*People's contributions into community engagement processes are valued*" – we suggest adding – and are applied wherever feasible/possible
- (e) "*Community engagement outcomes inform decision-making and planning processes*"
- (f) As documents are amended, updated etc. following community engagement on an issue the community will be informed as to how the responses have been incorporated in the revised document.

OSCAR would also like to see bullet point 4 of the Community Priorities (p52) – more transparency, accountability and communication about how community input has influenced Council decision-making.

In principle OSCAR supports the 5 Actions outlined in the Strategy. We have made suggested amendments within the particular action where we feel some amendment is required.

### Actions (Page 72):

- Review Council's *Excellence in Engagement Framework* to further embed and model leading engagement practice.

OSCAR supports this action with some suggestions:

## Your Feedback - Community Engagement:

- The at times condescending and patronising language be removed – as you have done with this strategy. It will make the Framework more contemporary
- In Stage 3 of the Framework - Build the Plan – Step 8 “Confirm resources and roles of those involved” (p20 of the Framework) Table 5 Resourcing the engagement – under Time add an additional bullet point along the lines of: Identify other community engagement activities underway or planned across the Council and how this engagement will impact other engagements and the community who are asked to respond.
- In conjunction with First Nations people develop guidelines for engaging with First Nations individuals and groups to ensure their meaningful contribution into decision-making. Suggest change of wording for this Action – Add to the start of the sentence – In conjunction with First Nations people develop guidelines etc.
- Deliver the *Young Leaders Academy* developmental program to foster civic engagement and community leadership.
- Review and strengthen Council use of community advisory and reference groups and participatory engagement processes. In doing this ensure that in any CRG or CAG that reports of meetings are made available to members of groups for distribution to their members.
- Develop a guide on how to co-design solutions in collaboration with people with lived experience to improve inclusive and authentic engagement.

OSCAR has suggested to Council on many occasions that Council should undertake a demonstration project in relation to how good design and planning can develop higher density dwellings that create liveable communities as opposed for eg. the wall of high density dwellings along Bradman Ave. Such a co-designed collaboratively developed demonstration site could involve council planner, developers and community members along with residents who have experience living in high density dwellings

One of our member group’s representative is away in remote north Australia and has asked that the following comments from their group be included:

Outcomes for Topic 3.3 Community engagement and How community engagement contributes to a strong community.

Page 51 suggests

"A lack of interest and participation in local community engagement may grow due to perceptions that individual input is not reflected in decisions or does not lead to meaningful change"

There is NO commitment in this section to meaningful community consultation of community-impacted major projects and history provides relevant examples. For example, the Indoor Stadium .....

SUGGESTION, Please adopt a firm commitment to undertaking genuine community consultation and considering community feedback in the decision-making process. Importantly, this document ought to identify that Council must not allow replication of this disregard for the community. Yes, it's implied in the various codes of conduct, however this ought to be specifically stated, very clearly in this document (and perhaps others).

Page 52 states:

"Examples of Council's current activities

- Undertaking inclusive community engagement for a variety of projects to influence decision-making ..."

This does NOT reflect a commitment to meaningful community consultation on major projects.

### Your Feedback - Community Engagement:

**\*\* SUGGESTION:** Please AMEND the first dot point, from only including "a variety of projects" to "all community-impacted projects" or similar wording to ensure community views are captured and influence the decision-making, particularly for major projects.

The words "a variety of projects" is wide-open to selective abuse, "the captain's pick" of projects for consultation and those where the community engagement is either not valued or perhaps is expected to result in negative feedback that might influence the Council decision (again, see the Kawana Stadium example above).

**\*\* SUGGESTION:** Please reflect similar changes elsewhere in the document, where appropriate, using words of genuine commitment to support the community rather than "loose words" that are vague.

### Topic 4.1 Community Connection and Resilience

#### Outcome Statements (Page 59):

##### **4.1.1 People have many, diverse connections:**

- a) People have many, diverse connections to reduce social isolation and to call upon in times of need.
- b) Local community events, activities, programs and services support and strengthen connections between people and their communities.

##### **4.1.2 People work together to proactively identify, research and respond to community priorities:**

- a) People lead collective action to proactively identify, research and respond to current and emerging community priorities.
- b) Local organisations support collaborative, community-led initiatives aligned to community priorities.

##### **4.1.3 Our community is adaptive and resilient to increasing climate risks, disasters and emergencies:**

- a) Government agencies, businesses and community members work collaboratively to build adaptive capacity and resilience.
- b) People have access to the information and resources necessary to continually increase their own adaptive capacity and resilience.
- c) People maximise their self-reliance by taking personal responsibility to understand their risks and take appropriate action.

#### Actions (Page 73):

- Collaborate, partner and invest to deliver free and low-cost initiatives within local communities and neighbourhoods to build community connections.
- Support residents and community organisations to deliver collaborative, community-led responses to identified community priorities.
- Partner to support local community-led resilience, adaptation planning and recovery activities.
- Continue to expand and promote Disaster Hub, including the ability to provide more personalised information and notifications.
- Improve inclusion at Council evacuation centres and raise awareness of these centres and their inclusion features.

### Your Feedback - Community Connection and Resilience:

Comments on the concepts sections on page 55 and 56.

Section 2 Community resilience

## Your Feedback - Community Connection and Resilience:

Community resilience section, paragraph two in the context of disasters, emergencies and climate change states:

“In the context of disasters, emergencies and climate change, community resilience is focused on how we prepare for significant events to reduce their disruptive impact. To do this, we need to be aware of our current and future risks and take responsibility to prepare ourselves with our families, friends and neighbours” (page 55)

OSCAR agrees with this statement but is concerned that it says absolutely nothing about **avoiding** future risks in our planning and development. Council and State Government legislation is allowing planning decisions being made by Council that increase future risk owing to climate change. Council can be brave and will be supported by many in the community if it states that “to avoid future risks from climate change for current and future generations Council will not permit development on floodplains and in coastal management/hazard areas.”

Section 4 (Box)

Bullet Point 3 refers to new technologies. We presume that in part this refers to Social Media. Social media in particular may not only lead to social isolation but also to serious health issues, eating disorders and suicide in young people. This topic should be of concern to us all and maybe as both communities and council this is something we must consider and see how communities can help – maybe it starts with adults looking at their own use of social media.

Bullet Point 4 refers to churches. This should be amended to places of faith.

### Comments on the Outcome Statements

4.1.1 OSCAR supports Outcome Statement 4.1.1 (a) and (b)

**4.1.2 OSCAR suggests a grammatical change to the wording of the Outcome Statement as suggested.**

**4.1.2 People work together proactively to identify, research and respond to community priorities:**

This heading and point (a) should be reworded as follows:

- a) People proactively lead collective action to identify, research and respond to current and emerging community priorities.
- b) Local organisations support collaborative, community-led initiatives aligned to community priorities.

Question – The term community priorities is extremely broad and OSCAR supports this outcome where for example – this could include, a community fighting and eventually preventing a development which was contrary to the Planning Scheme being built, eg Sekisui at Yaroomba or it could mean seeking improvements to transport or seeking greater transparency from Local Government. The Sekisui Approval and the ensuing community response is a great case study of how a LG action led to the building of a community, not just the fighting of a development!!

We are not sure if this is the context within which this Outcome has been developed. We hope it is.

OSCAR supports this outcome in its broadest sense.

**4.1.3 Our community is adaptive and resilient to increasing climate risks, disasters and emergencies:**

- c) Government agencies, businesses and community members work collaboratively to build adaptive capacity and resilience.
- d) People have access to the information and resources necessary to continually increase their own adaptive capacity and resilience.
- e) People maximise their self-reliance by taking personal responsibility to understand their risks and take appropriate action.

From OSCAR’s perspective this Outcome Statement is probably one of the most disappointing in the document. We appreciate that points (a-c) in their own way are valid. However, one could say that many

### **Your Feedback - Community Connection and Resilience:**

people are NOT aware or do not really appreciate the seriousness of the issues confronting them as a consequence of climate change, particularly in older areas where climate change was not taken into account when developed.

Also during COVID when housing sales went ballistic and in many instances unconditional sales were signed without due diligence in conducting building searches. In many of those instances it was a matter of sign or miss out.

We appreciate that it is a buyer's responsibility to conduct such a search and we need to ensure that if ever a buying frenzy occurs that it is mandatory for building searches to be undertaken. In fact building searches should be mandatory for any sale. Such searches should also include flood mapping details, the RL level of the existing property and the RL required for any reconstruction/rebuild.

At that point we can then expect point (e) reasonably to be applied.

However, that does not consider people who have lived in areas subject to climate change, including rising sea levels in their close and immediate environment and coincident flooding from high rainfall and often localised rain dumps.

Point (e) can only be applied when a resident is aware of where their property sits in changing climate scenarios.

### **Comments on the proposed Actions**

#### **OSCAR gives in Principle support to the actions in this Topic.**

However, before much of what these actions are saying Council has a great deal of work to do in informing, engaging and involving residents in these and the topic of climate change impacts. We suggest that many residents, particularly new residents are not aware of the potential impacts of climate change on their property. This includes considering provisions for mandatory notification of potential climate impacts on sales details of properties and what may be required to mitigate and/or adapt to those conditions.

Again, OSCAR wishes to see Council proactive in excluding some locations from future development – eg floodplains/flood storage areas and coastal management areas. In this way we may be able to confine the impact of climate change to previously developed areas.

Reference is made to Disaster Hub, Evacuation Centres – something which we suggest many in the community would not have any idea of the existence of such facilities. Questions such as where are evacuation centres located, how are they activated, how do they operate and how can they be contacted?

This information should be disseminated to all community groups, Chambers of Commerce, Business Centres and other community organisations.

It is my understanding that Caloundra Residents Association has made a submission and have relayed information about how road closures are identified, notified and how signs to be put in place are determined. Does it require an officer from the Disaster Management area to physically visit the site and that only a designated officer can place any road closure sign? Given current technology are drones for example used to identify such situations and then a pre-arranged local community group used to place the relevant signs?? There are ways designated and trained members of the local the community can assist in some of these situations.



## Topic 4.2 Community Safety

### Outcome Statements (Page 63):

#### **4.2.1 The Sunshine Coast is safe and is perceived as safe:**

- a) Organisations, agencies and community members share information, deliver initiatives and work collaboratively to improve safety.
- b) Community connection and the sharing of information and stories support improved perceptions of safety.

#### **4.2.2 Our community is safe from domestic and family violence:**

- a) Services are available to assist people experiencing domestic and family violence.
- b) Organisations and agencies work collaboratively to prevent domestic and family violence through education and other initiatives.
- c) Our community is aware and educated about domestic and family violence.
- d) People lead collective action to reduce and prevent domestic and family violence.

### Actions (Page 73):

- Promote community programs aimed at improving safety and perceptions of safety.
- Raise awareness of services and accommodation options available for people experiencing domestic and family violence.
- Continue strong messaging that builds knowledge and awareness of domestic and family violence, its prevention and supports.

## Your Feedback - Community Safety:

OSCAR supports the Community Safety Outcome Statements with some suggested additions.

#### **4.2.1 The Sunshine Coast is safe and is perceived as safe:**

- a) Organisations, agencies and community members share information, deliver initiatives and work collaboratively to improve safety.
- b) Community connection and the sharing of information and stories support improved perceptions of safety.

One frequently hears comments about perceived crime in parts of the Sunshine Coast. OSCAR suggests that Council has serious conversations with local politicians and encourage them to be honest in their reporting of crime on the SC.

Recently the writer was in attendance at a Community group on the North Shore where the group had engaged with the local police to understand the extent of any crime in their area. The information they were given was that there was very little crime in their area.

Of course crime reporting in itself can be problematic as it draws attention to the subject and may increase community safety concerns. However, if accompanied by (as the police do) basic ways that people can protect themselves and their assets then that is constructive reporting. Comments made by the police to this group were that many people did not undertake basic security measures – eg locking the car when out of it, particularly if parked in the street etc.

OSCAR supports the Outcome Statement 4.2.2 and all the actions for this topic.

## Topic 5.1 Arts, Heritage and First Nations Culture

### Outcome Statements (Page 67):

#### **5.1.1 People value our rich and diverse histories, heritage and First Nations culture:**

- a) The ancient and ongoing culture of the Kabi Kabi peoples and Jinibara peoples, and broader First Nations community, is valued, shared and celebrated.
- b) Our diverse histories and heritage are explored, shared and celebrated.
- c) Our diverse histories, heritage and First Nations culture contribute to community connection, identity and pride.

#### **5.1.2 Our community values artistic expression, creativity and innovation:**

- a) Creatives, artists and the creative arts sector are professional, skilled and connected.
- b) Arts audiences thrive through genuine participation and a diversity of meaningful and tailored experiences.
- c) Artistic expression, creativity and innovation are embedded in the identity, culture and experience of the Sunshine Coast.

### Actions (Page 73):

- Collaborate with Kabi Kabi peoples and Jinibara peoples to ensure local First Nations history and ongoing culture is protected, respected and celebrated.
- Develop and implement a self-determined *First Nations Arts Strategy* to support and expand the First Nations creative arts sector, including youth-focused development.
- Support the development of local artists and arts content that can be profiled, experienced and exported to build capacity, strengthen engagement and cultivate identity.
- Work with heritage community organisations to grow capacity, resilience and professionalism.

## **Your Feedback - Heritage and First Nations Culture:**

OSCAR supports all the Outcome Statements and actions for this topic.

## Overarching Actions

### Actions (Page 69):

- Develop a *Community Advocacy Plan* that summarises opportunities and challenges related to the Community Strategy to inform joint Council and community advocacy initiatives.
- Develop and implement a Local Community Planning Program that supports local communities to develop their own community action plan.
- Continue to deliver community forums that strengthen community networks, information sharing and collaboration outcomes.

## Your Feedback - Overarching Actions:

OSCAR supports these Overarching Actions and is willing to engage with Council in implementing these actions.

## General Feedback:

### Your overall Feedback:

#### Overall, what do you think about the draft refreshed Community Strategy:

- Does it reflect the needs of your community?
- Does it focus on outcomes significant to your community?
- Is it easy to read and navigate?

Firstly, OSCAR congratulates the team on the Strategy. On the whole it does reflect the needs of the community. It does focus on outcomes significant to members of the community. We are also pleased to see that recommendations we have made previously about contemporary language has been implemented. Congratulations to the team.

A number of OSCAR member groups have also made independent submissions, relating directly to their immediate community needs. We also appreciate the new format where the document is all inclusive. The inclusion of a "print version" and a "Feedback template" were also appreciated.

From OSCAR's perspective at a strategic level we have commented on and made some suggestions for incorporation or change. There is always more that can be done, but we are conscious of budget allocations.

We would also like to recognise the workshops that you ran across the LGA. Your presentations and the manner in which you listened to comments is much appreciated.

Overall there are a few comments OSCAR would like to make.

#### 1. Measurement and reporting

We appreciate that quantitative and qualitative measurement is required and that the annual report includes both components. As a community it would also be helpful to see the expenditure figures associated with the various components of the Strategy. The Annual report includes account of significant grant funding for some of the activities.

#### 2. Joint project teams

### Your overall Feedback:

There are the three Regional Strategies and we note with interest reference to the other 2 Regional Strategies, the ELS and the Regional Economic Development Strategy. Our member groups are interested in hearing how the strategies operate across the Council? Are there joint projects between the 3 strategy groups or do the strategy groups work in silos. We feel that there is value in cross fertilization of ideas, skills and approaches and joint project teams which helps avoid the formation of “silos” within council.

#### 3. Taking a more proactive approach to climate change and planning and development

In our comments we called on Council to focus also in risk avoidance in relation to Council’s role in dealing with Climate Change. Across the board Council focusses on adaptation and resilience. These are both important and immediate. However, OSCAR maintains that as a community and Local Government we have an obligation to future generations to not repeat the mistakes of the past and leave them with a society at great risk. What do we want our legacy to be? The community will support a Council which is brave and advocates to the State Government for example that LG should be able to determine whether planning can exclude areas subject to future flooding and coastal management areas. We need to be more daring in applying the “Precautionary” Principle.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this Strategy Refresh.

Melva Hobson  
President OSCAR

NB. We have included some attachments with this feedback. One is from Coolum Residents Association relating to localised Active Transport and the others are the OSCAR submissions to the Housing Summit and Housing Summit Outcomes.