



Blue Heart

SUNSHINE COAST



Summary of Blue Heart Landholder drop-in sessions at Valdora Hall on Thursday, June 24, 2021

Event

On the day, Council hosted two drop-in sessions with information displays and staff from various areas of Sunshine Coast Council and Unitywater available to assist with enquiries.

Across both sessions, approximately 25-30 community members attended.

Your feedback

We have gathered your feedback and note particular areas of interest and concern for landholders.

Below is a summary of what you told us.

Land use

As we know, there is a wide variety of land uses within the Blue Heart project area. Landholders who attended the drop-in sessions were well aware that traditional land uses, such as cane farming have a limited time span of viability and are looking for other land use options. Most attendees seemed open and interested in learning about and trialling alternative land use options.

Changes landholders have noticed on their land

We had some really great conversations with landholders about the changes they are noticing in the landscape. These conversations are so valuable as you are our eyes on the ground – local knowledge is so important.

Some of the changes landholders are noticing include:

- changes in the physical landscape (e.g. saltwater encroachment/inundation, couch grasses and weeds)
- increased flooding, saturation of land and high tides coming up
- a change in land use from cane farms to hobby farms
- the positive visual amenity of the view across the floodplain and accessibility to the river for recreation purposes.

Landholder family history of living in the floodplain area

We love hearing about the history of people and places on the Sunshine Coast, and especially within the Blue Heart area. We know that some families will have lived in the area for many generations and will have great stories to tell.



The landholders who attended the drop-in sessions were strongly connected to the history of their land and individual properties. They had important personal stories to share about their families, the way they used the land and the way water flows across the landscape in different areas.

Sharing and documenting personal stories is a critical part of landholders connecting with each other and the land and will help us move towards transition planning.

If you'd be happy to share your family's story with us, please get in touch – we'd love to help capture the history of this special place.

Landholder interests and concerns

Engagement process: Most landholders who attended the drop-in sessions said they receive and share information about the Blue Heart with their neighbours and contractors performing work on the land.

In the future some landholders want to collaborate with Council, Unitywater and other landholders in the local area (neighbours and those up and down the floodplain) to find workable solutions to help them maintain the viability and enjoyment of their land.

Landholders want Council to summarise and share their feedback for everyone to hear and read about, and to upload all types of engagement information (e.g. community feedback, the flyover video) to the Blue Heart webpage.

Topics of interest: landholders are interested in hearing about the following topics in future Council communications:

- Mosquito management
- Weed management
- Slashing
- Fire management
- Drains
- Wild dogs
- Road management

- Land use options: carbon farming and access to offsets, recreation opportunities and planning, exploration of new land use options with Return On Investment, Solar Farm changes (if any)
- Engagement and involvement in the Blue Heart project
- Transitioning from old land use – maximising viability of current use and planning for future use
- Future land use – exploring ideas and opportunities, testing Return On Investment
- Land acquisition processes, land sales and maximising property value
- Changes and improvements in the natural environment in the Blue Heart area
- Protection and maintenance of the landscape
- History of the area – family, land use, landscape changes
- Flood preparedness – homes, people and livestock
- Stormwater management – how it's happening and being managed
- Environment and recreation – being involved in new ideas and opportunities developing/being tested in the Blue Heart project area.

Concerns raised: these were the main concerns that some landholders raised with staff members during the drop-in sessions.

- Perception that Council is planning to flood the Blue Heart on purpose to devalue land and repurpose the whole area (for its own goals/intent)
- Queries about land resumptions
- Council's long-term plan for the area
- Questions about compensation available as a result of council building the new runway, as there is belief that it raised the floodplain.
- Landholders feel revegetation works are devaluing neighbouring properties because it increases fire risk, weeds, mozzies etc

Council will work with landholders to address these concerns and ensure the Blue Heart project's aims and objectives are clear.

We want to work with landholders to deliver important co-benefits for the environment, community and our economy.

Next steps

Sunshine Coast Council will:

- Continue engaging with landholders and seek their feedback and involvement with the project.
- Keep the Blue Heart webpage up to date and add additional resources, information and fact sheets
- Promote link for landholders to register details for future engagement
- Provide landholders with a summary of engagement opportunities
- Investigate options to address topics of interest and concerns – update and involve Blue Heart landholders in this process.



Sign up now: to receive **Blue Heart Sunshine Coast updates.** You'll be the first to know when there's news or upcoming events. If you're already signed-up, consider forwarding this to a friend or neighbour who lives in the local area so they can sign up too.

For more information contact the project team via email:

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Event Images

