3.8 Community identity, character and social inclusion

Key concepts

| (1) | Recognition of the Sunshine Coast as a special place with a unique identity. |
| (2) | Maintenance of the Sunshine Coast as a place that is distinct from and separate to other parts of metropolitan South East Queensland. |
| (3) | Protection of prominent landscape features so that they remain intact and undiminished with high levels of scenic and cultural significance. |
| (4) | Urban environments that are generally less intensive when compared with other metropolitan areas in South East Queensland with a further reduction in intensity evident in those areas outside of the Sunshine Coast Enterprise Corridor. |
| (5) | Distinct coastal urban, rural town, rural village, rural residential and rural communities. |
| (6) | Communities that value their history and cultural associations, with a strong sense of place. |
| (7) | Locally responsive built form and landscaping. |
| (8) | Protection for places of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal cultural heritage significance. |
| (9) | Consolidation of Maroochydore as the civic and cultural heart of the Sunshine Coast. |
| (10) | Meeting places, community facilities and open space, sport and recreation opportunities for all communities and abilities. |

3.8.1 Strategic outcomes

The strategic outcomes for the community identity, character and social inclusion theme are the following:-

(a) In 2031, the Sunshine Coast is still a special place with a unique identity derived from the strong interrelationships that exist between character, lifestyle and environment attributes. These attributes are protected and enhanced as the basis for the region’s natural (competitive) advantage.

(b) The Sunshine Coast remains distinct from and separate to other parts of the South East Queensland region with large areas of natural and rural landscape providing enduring regional and sub-regional inter-urban breaks between urban and rural residential areas.

(c) The prominent landscape features which contribute to the diversity and richness of the Sunshine Coast landscape, including beaches, headlands, high dune systems, creeks and rivers, islands, mountains, ridgelines, foothills and escarpments remain intact and undiminished. In 2031 these features are clearly identifiable in the landscape and retain a high level of visual, scenic and cultural value.

(d) The Sunshine Coast continues to be renowned for the many important views and vistas which contribute to the identity and attractiveness of the region. Local views of importance to residents are recognised and respected.

(e) Greenspace, nature and shaded, leafy places are incorporated within creatively designed built environments producing neighbourhoods, streets and places with a relaxed and settled subtropical ambience.

(f) Although parts of the coastal urban area within the Sunshine Coast Enterprise Corridor display the characteristics of a complex and reasonably intense urban environment, other parts of the region are generally characterised by a less intensive scale and form of development.

(g) The individual character of urban and rural residential areas is recognised within the context of coastal urban, rural town, rural village and rural residential settings. The diversity of rural settings and communities is also recognised and respected.
(h) Communities continue to value their history and cultural associations and retain a strong sense of place. In 2031 the Sunshine Coast is still a community of communities.

(i) Places of Aboriginal cultural heritage significance are protected, thus preserving the traditional owners’ association with history, country and tradition.14

(j) Places of non-Aboriginal cultural heritage significance are protected, thus connecting today’s society with the historical places, values and tradition.15

(k) The Sunshine Coast has a diverse and sophisticated culture which values quality learning environments and cultural institutions. Universities, libraries and multi-purpose community and entertainment facilities provide the basis for cultural experiences and community interaction and engagement.

(l) As the principal regional activity centre, Maroochydore has developed as the civic and cultural heart of the Sunshine Coast supporting major investments in civic and cultural facilities, and associated public spaces.

(m) Each community is provided with meeting places, community facilities and open space, and sport and recreation opportunities that promote social inclusion and healthy, active living.

(n) People with disability have the same opportunity as other people to access and utilise places of community interest.

Implementation framework

The elements and specific outcomes for the community identity, character and social inclusion theme are the following:-

3.8.2 Element 1 – Landscape elements and features

3.8.2.1 Specific outcomes

(a) The landscape elements identified conceptually on Strategic Framework Map SFM 6 (Community identity, character and social inclusion elements) which include regional and sub-regional inter-urban breaks, high value scenic areas, regional gateways and scenic routes are protected and enhanced.

(b) Regional and sub-regional inter-urban breaks are not reduced, fragmented or otherwise adversely impacted by urban or rural residential development.

(c) Coastal urban and rural town and village communities remain distinct and separated by scenic landscape and inter-urban breaks.

(d) Scenic routes are protected and enhanced as major transport routes providing a high level of scenic and visual amenity to travellers.

(e) The prominent landscape features identified in Table 3.8.2.1 (Regionally significant landscape features) and important views to these features are protected from intrusion from buildings and other aspects of urban development.

(f) The landscape features contained within National Parks, Conservation Parks, State Forest Reserves and other areas of conservation estate are protected.

(g) Other views and vistas, including those identified in local plans or which are important in a local context are also protected, particularly from development which exceeds specified building heights.

(h) Development maintains and where possible and appropriate, enhances public access to landscape features.

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14 Aboriginal cultural heritage is protected under the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003.
15 Torres Strait Islander cultural heritage is protected under the Torres Strait Islander Cultural Heritage Act 2003.
(i) Building forms, landscaping and signage complement landscape features and provide for these features to remain intact and undiminished.

### Table 3.8.2.1 Regionally significant landscape features

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Landscape features</th>
<th>Blackall Range</th>
<th>Conondale Range</th>
<th>Mooloolah Range</th>
<th>Glass House Mountains</th>
<th>Mount Coolum</th>
<th>Mount Eerwah</th>
<th>Mount Emu</th>
<th>Mount Mellum</th>
<th>Mount Ninderry</th>
<th>Mount Pererian</th>
<th>Peacherescarpment</th>
<th>Malenyescarpment</th>
<th>Buderimescarpment</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mountains, ridgelines, escarpments and foothills</td>
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<tr>
<td>Waterways</td>
<td>Mary River</td>
<td>Maroochy River</td>
<td></td>
<td>Pumicestone Passage</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Water bodies</td>
<td>Cooloolabin Dam</td>
<td>Ewen Maddock Dam</td>
<td>Lake Baroon</td>
<td>Wappa Dam</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Other landscape elements</td>
<td>Beaches</td>
<td>Parabolic high dunes</td>
<td>Coastal headlands</td>
<td>Islands, particularly Mudjimba Island and Bribie Island</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

3.8.3 **Element 2 – Sub-tropical character and locally responsive design**

3.8.3.1 **Specific outcomes**

(a) The sub-tropical character of the Sunshine Coast is reflected and enhanced throughout the built environment.

(b) Sub-tropical landscapes, including appropriate street tree planting create shade and cooling micro-climates, and attractive, leafy urban environments.

(c) A high standard of urban design and landscaping is provided that:-

(i) is sensitive to a local setting as described in local plans;

(ii) enhances the character, identity, and natural and cultural associations of the local area;

(iii) reinforces the positive elements of character, identity and landscape of the local area;

(iv) responds to relevant topographic and landscape influences;

(v) contributes to a sense of place and the creation of pleasant, living environments; and

(vi) creates healthy and safe environments that support community activity and participation, healthy lifestyles and the prevention of crime.

(d) The height of buildings and other structures recognises the distinctive character and amenity of the Sunshine Coast as a place with a predominantly low-medium rise built form which is intentionally distinct from other places in metropolitan South East Queensland.

(e) Areas of higher buildings are limited to regional activity centres and nominated areas within the Sunshine Coast Enterprise Corridor which are intended to be the focus for economic activity, tourism and infill residential development.

3.8.4 **Element 3 – Cultural heritage and character**

3.8.4.1 **Specific outcomes**

(a) Places of cultural heritage significance, including areas of built environment character, areas of streetscape and landscape heritage, and Aboriginal and non-aboriginal places are protected and managed in accordance with the Australia ICOMOS Burra Charter.
(b) Development is sensitive in its design response and the manner in which it relates to and addresses places of cultural heritage significance.

(c) Where a distinctive historical character is formed by a cluster of buildings or streetscapes, that character is maintained and enhanced.

(d) The adaptive re-use of local heritage places is encouraged where sympathetic to cultural heritage values.

3.8.5 Element 4 – Community, educational and cultural facilities

3.8.5.1 Specific outcomes

(a) A diverse and appropriate range of community services and facilities are provided to support the physical, safety, cultural, educational, health and social needs of the Sunshine Coast Region and are connected by active transport networks.

(b) Major regional social infrastructure and services and community and cultural facilities are directed to the Maroochydore Principal Regional Activity Centre so as to reinforce the role of this centre, provide a focus for facilities and services, reduce transport demands and provide better access to facilities and services for the whole of the region.

(c) Other types of social infrastructure and services and community and cultural facilities are generally established within regional activity centres to support their role in servicing the needs of sub-regional population catchments.

(d) Community meeting places that are integrated with community facilities and/or open space and sport and recreation facilities and which encourage the congregation or people and community interaction are established within activity centres.

3.8.6 Element 5 – Open space and sport and recreation facilities

3.8.6.1 Specific outcomes

(a) Open space and sport and recreation facilities are well located, and designed to encourage healthy, active living and to support the outdoor lifestyle enjoyed by residents and visitors to the Sunshine Coast.

(b) All communities have the opportunity to access green areas and green corridors throughout the urban environment including through ensuring that new development contributes to the availability of useable on-site open space, public space and communal areas to promote activity and community interaction.

(c) Regional recreational trails provide key corridors for exploring rural and natural landscapes outside of urban areas.

3.8.7 Element 6 – Inclusion and equity

3.8.7.1 Specific outcomes

(a) People of all abilities are able to access and utilise meeting places, community facilities, open space and other places of community interest.

3.8.8 Strategic framework maps

(1) Strategic Framework Map SFM 6 (Community identity, character and social inclusion elements) identifies elements of the strategic framework as relevant to the community identity, character and inclusion theme and in particular identifies the following:-

(a) The regional inter-urban break separating the Sunshine Coast from the Brisbane to Caboolture metropolitan area;
(b) the sub-regional inter-urban breaks that separate individual places within the Sunshine Coast;

c) coastal urban, rural town, rural village, rural residential and rural settings;

d) high value scenic areas;

e) scenic routes;

(f) significant mountains, hills, escarpments, ridgelines and headlands;

g) lookouts;

(h) headlands; and

(i) regional gateways.

(2) Strategic Framework Map SFM 5 (Natural environment elements) is also relevant to the community identity, character and social inclusion theme in that it identifies the major natural environment elements that contribute to the landscape character and identity of the Sunshine Coast.