

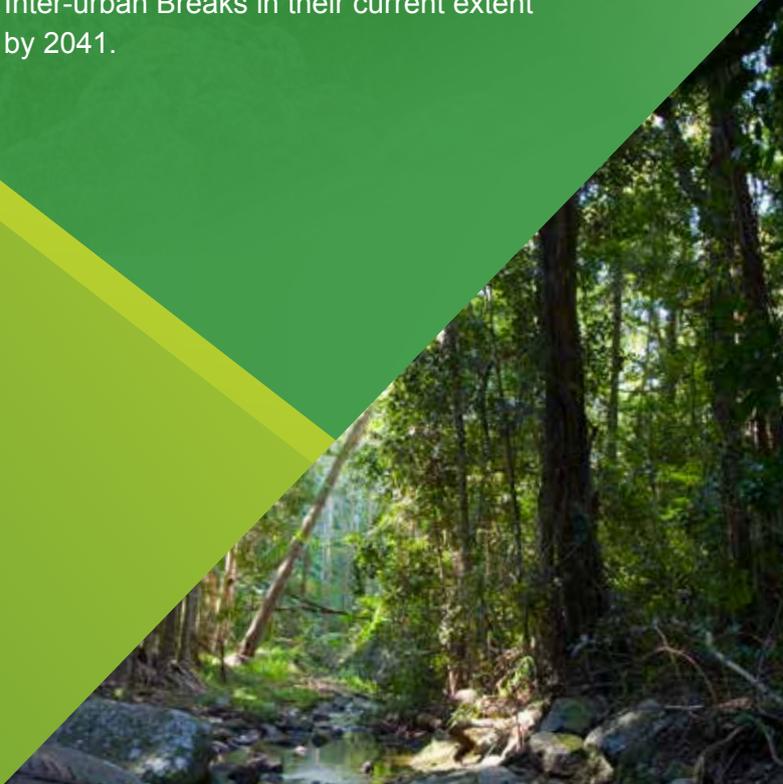
Landscape and Character

Outcome 2041:

The landscape and character and unique identity is preserved and enhanced.

Target:

No loss of the Regional and Sub-regional Inter-urban Breaks in their current extent by 2041.



The landscape and character of the Sunshine Coast can be described as how we value both the natural and built environments and their associated geological, ecological and cultural histories.

The natural environment is a living network of landforms and catchments, wetlands, waterways, terrestrial ecosystems, coastal foreshores and marine waters. The built environment refers to the built form – the structures and places that we create in our rural and urban settings.

Our natural history and our stories strengthen our connection to the land and environment. Every person and community has a different experience with the natural and built environments, and it is these connections that create a sense of place and local identity.

The landscape and character of the Sunshine Coast is the essence of our region and helps to define our identity and culture.

The natural and built elements have their own intrinsic ecological, social and economic value. In combination they create our local and iconic views and vistas, scenic corridors, open space environments and the character of our region.

The Sunshine Coast consists of a diversity of places, each with their distinctive identity. The conservation, agricultural and recreational lands – the green frame, that separate our neighbourhoods, towns and centres contribute significantly to our 'community of communities'.

The landscape values of the Sunshine Coast can be broadly grouped into four zones which are summarised below:

- **Coast:** the region is known for its beautiful beaches, bays, coastal headlands, islands and communities near the sea. Our coast is a national and international drawcard for tourism.
- **Coastal plain:** extending from the coast to the foothills of the Blackall Range and Peachester escarpment, this low-lying area supports extensive waterways and wetlands with unique plant and animal populations, prominent volcanic landforms and expanses of farming, forestry, other rural activities and urban living.

- **Foothills:** this area starts where the coastal plain rises up to the Blackall Range and Peachester escarpment, and is home to numerous railway corridor towns, tall open eucalypt forests and riparian rainforests.
- **Hinterland:** features towering eucalypts, lush rainforests and spectacular views over surrounding landscapes. The hinterland comprises distinctive landmarks, towns and essential elements that add to the character of the Sunshine Coast.

A key feature of the landscape is the **Regional Inter-urban Break**, which is a mosaic of rural, forestry, environmental and recreational areas in the south of the Sunshine Coast. It contains the nationally recognised Glass House Mountains, the internationally significant Pumicestone Passage and defines the region from the Brisbane–Caboolture urban growth front.



Map and profile of landscape zones

Planning for change

The drivers of change will have varying levels of impacts on landscape and character and will continue to present challenges for the future.

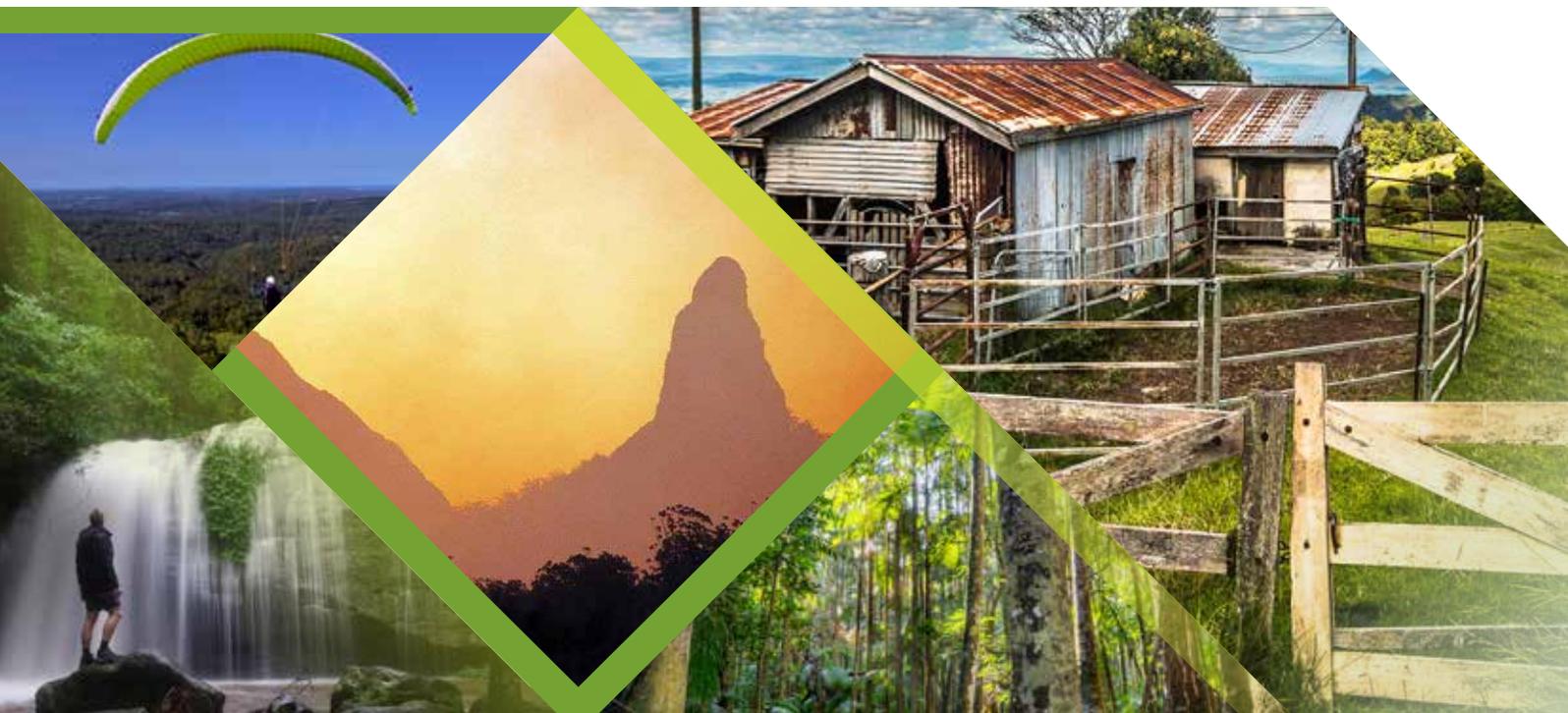
Key impacts may include:

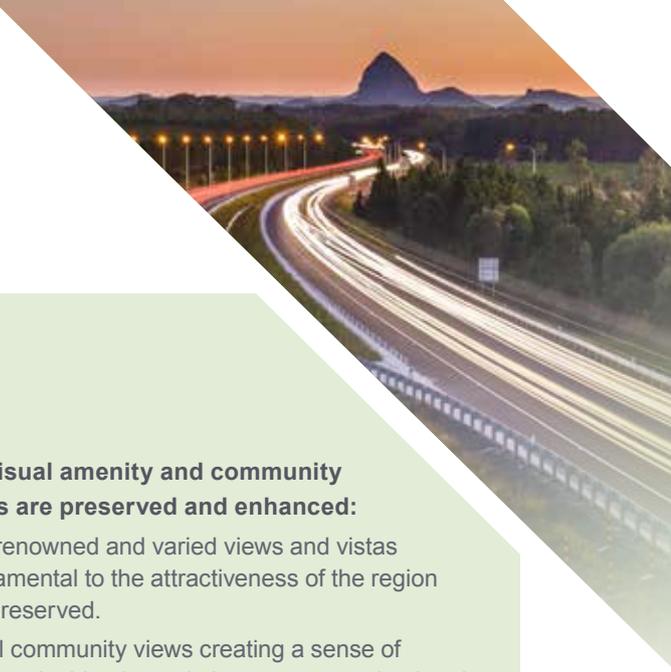
- loss of landscape and amenity values due to an increased visual prominence of the built environment and infrastructure
- changes to the extent of low-lying coastal and open space landscapes
- changes to the character of natural and rural areas and communities due to increased use by residents and visitors
- loss of Regional and Sub-regional Inter-urban Breaks.

To proactively respond to these likely impacts and seek new opportunities, a strong set of policy positions has been prepared to achieve the desired outcome.

Council's role

Council has a key role in setting the strategic direction which shapes the character and protects the landscape of the Sunshine Coast. It is council's role to protect and enhance outcomes on the ground through planning regulations, delivering responsible infrastructure, advocating to federal and state governments and working collaboratively with local industries and community to influence the region's landscape and character.





Landscape and Character policy positions

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.

1.2 The landscape, character and heritage values retain the unique identity of the area:

- a The natural, cultural, spiritual and heritage values of the landscape are recognised and preserved.
- b The Sunshine Coast's character, heritage and identity are strengthened to remain distinctive.
- c The local character and identity of neighbourhoods, towns and rural communities are recognised and reflected in our future.
- d Connections of Aboriginal Traditional Owners to the landscape and their role as traditional custodians is recognised and respected.

1.3 The visual amenity and community view lines are preserved and enhanced:

- a The renowned and varied views and vistas fundamental to the attractiveness of the region are preserved.
 - b Local community views creating a sense of community identity and place are recognised and respected.
 - c The Regional Inter-urban Break and Sub-regional Inter-urban Breaks are maintained and enhanced.
 - d Emerging urban form complements the landscape and character of the Sunshine Coast.
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