

SUNSHINE COAST
BIOSPHERE



Our region.
Healthy.
Smart.
Creative.

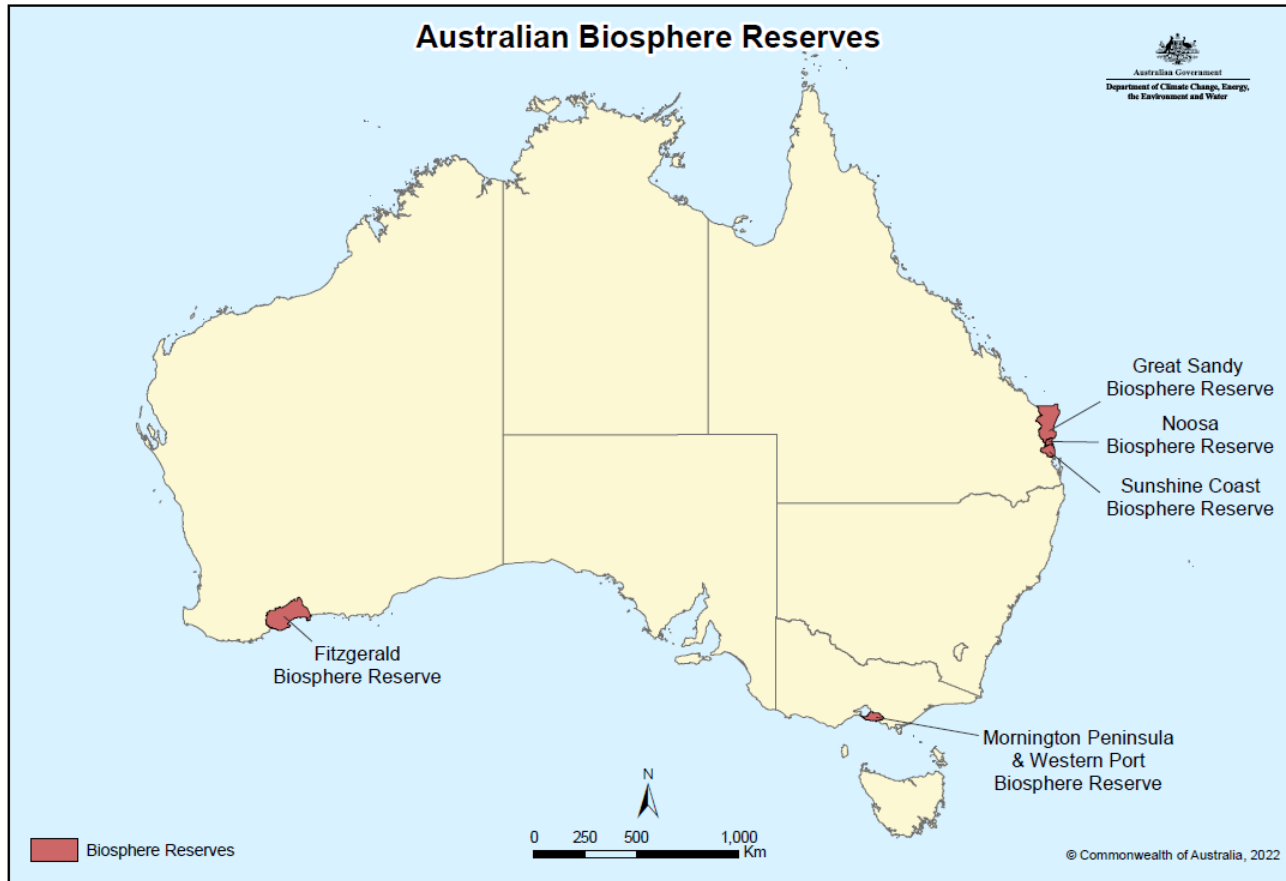
Tilba Community – 17 October 2022
Dave Moore – Manager Environment and Sustainability Policy



SUNSHINE COAST BIOSPHERE

Internationally renowned as a place where people live, learn, work and play sustainably.

A National Biosphere Network



Our Sunshine Coast Biosphere

- joins a global network of 738 biosphere reserves in over 134 countries
- is one of five biosphere reserves in Australia
- is for the whole local government area.



1970's



1980's



1990's



Today





Changing Landscapes

Environment and Liveability Strategy

We're delivering a healthy environment and liveable Sunshine Coast. It's our aim for all residents to have a good quality of life, while we preserve and enhance the natural environment.

[About the strategy](#) | ▶



What Program should we consider?

- Opportunity identified to seek further recognition for the region's values, credentials, vision and future initiatives
- Review of available national and international mechanisms
- UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Program was identified as being best placed to support journey
- Council committed to investigating becoming a Biosphere under the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Programme and consulted the community



Why a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve?

A UNESCO Biosphere credential will support us to protect and enhance our lifestyle, environment and economy, for future generations.

A biosphere is:

- an international site of excellence;
- recognised as an area of natural beauty where people live and work.
- a learning places for sustainable development
- aligns with council's vision for the region.



The Biosphere Journey – 6 years and counting



Consulting with our Community

- Formal consultation with community and key stakeholders was undertaken March to June 2019
- Key stakeholder engagement continued through July and August
- Traditional owner engagement is ongoing
- Feedback from community and key stakeholder engagement largely indicated support or in-principle support for a biosphere nomination.



Question No.	Wording of question	% Agree or Strongly Agree
3	Maintaining and enhancing the liveability of the Sunshine Coast for future generations is essential.	94%
6	It is important to maintain and further enhance our landscape and character, and our natural environmental values including our biodiversity, waterways, wetlands and coastal areas.	93%
9	Increasing collaboration between schools, academia, business and government, with a focus on sustainability projects is important.	89%
5	International recognition of the Sunshine Coast as a premium brand region producing clean, green and sustainable produce will benefit agribusiness as an important part of our economy	84%
8	Achieving planning principles of urban consolidation and sustainable design to deliver inclusive and vibrant communities is necessary	84%
11	I would be proud to live in a region with UNESCO Biosphere status.	83%
2	International recognition can help support the Sunshine Coast community hold onto those values long into the future.	81%
4	Raising the profile, values and reputation of the Sunshine Coast internationally will benefit tourism as an important part of our economy.	80%
7	International recognition will help local business grow through investment attraction and the creation of niche markets for our region's products, services, facilities and practices.	77%
1	The Sunshine Coast deserves to be internationally recognised for its outstanding values and credentials.	74%
10	I am aware of the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve Program.	72%

What does becoming a biosphere means for the community?

- Continue current business, lifestyle and adopt sustainable practices.

Why be a biosphere?

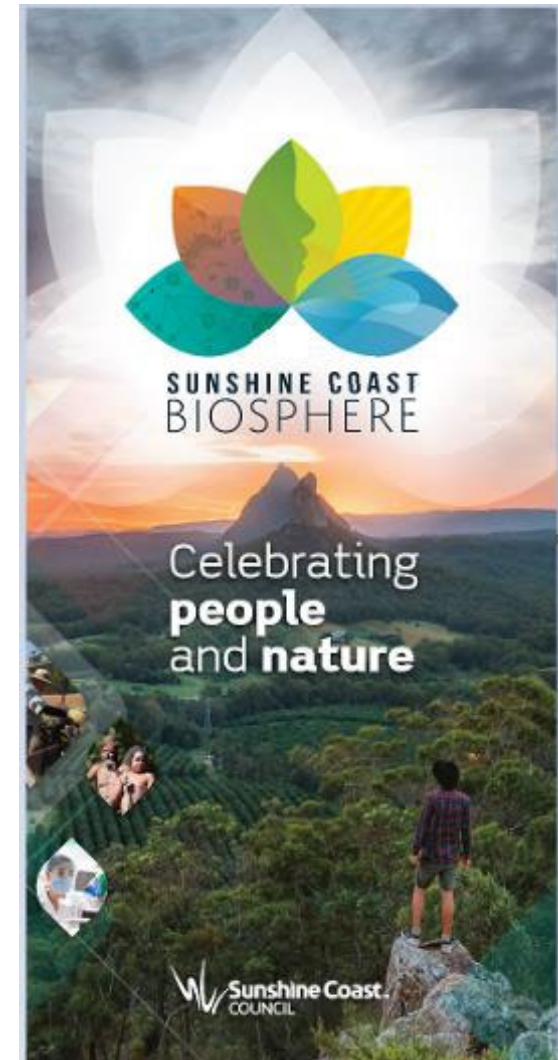
A UNESCO biosphere credential seeks to:

- Further enhance the national and international reputation of the Sunshine Coast
- Leverage the benefits and opportunities that come with international recognition.....which include



Benefits and opportunities

LIFESTYLE	ENVIRONMENT	ECONOMY AND BUSINESS
AGRICULTURE FORESTRY AND FISHERIES	DEVELOPMENT AND CONSTRUCTION	PARTNERSHIPS
	TOURISM	




Community Reference Group

Independent chair – Will Shrapnel (Helimods)

Standing members:



- Kim McCosker - business
- Ella Woodborne – Speak Up and Engage
- Rebecca McDonald - Speak Up and Engage
- Samantha Dalla – Visit Sunshine Coast
- Josh Sondergeld – UDIA
- Lauren Brisbane – FAN
- Narelle McCarthy – SCEC
- Ken Mewburn – TAPP
- Bill Carter – USC
- Melva Hobson – OSCAR
- Braedan Jason– Sport & recreation





 Celebrate people and nature
 Biosphere nomination for the Sunshine Coast

Biosphere CRG members
Chair: Will Shrapnel

Photo	Name	Photo	Name	Organisation and role	Priority area	
	Samantha Dalla		Rebecca McDonald	Speak Up and Engage Youth Committee Landscape architect with Greenedge	Youth	
	Melva Hobson		Ken Mewburn	President, TAPP Take Action Pumicestone passage	Aquatic Environment	
	Lauren Brisbane		Narelle McCarthy			
	Professor Bill Carter		Kim McCosker		Ella Woodborne Speak Up and Engage Youth Committee School student	Youth

Our Biosphere – Aim and Objectives

- **Governing Principle:** Balancing the environmental, social, cultural and economic needs of today, without compromising the ability to meet the needs of future generations.
- **Aim:** The Sunshine Coast Biosphere will be internationally renowned as a place where people live, learn, work and play sustainably.

Objective 1: People – A Sunshine Coast community that actively fosters and promotes sustainable practices, use and stewardship.

Objective 2: Conservation – Conserving, maintaining and enhancing our natural environment from the hinterland to the coast, and connecting people and nature.

Objective 3: Development - Demonstrating leadership in delivering a diverse and resilient economy.

Objective 4: Logistical support – Inspiring and celebrating creativity, innovation, research and a learning community.

Celebrate people and nature



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Healthy. Smart. Creative.



SUNSHINE COAST BIOSPHERE

Governance arrangements

- External consultants engaged
- Fit-for-purpose options that aligned with the governance principles of the Sunshine Coast Biosphere
- Governance principles developed through engagement process when developing nomination

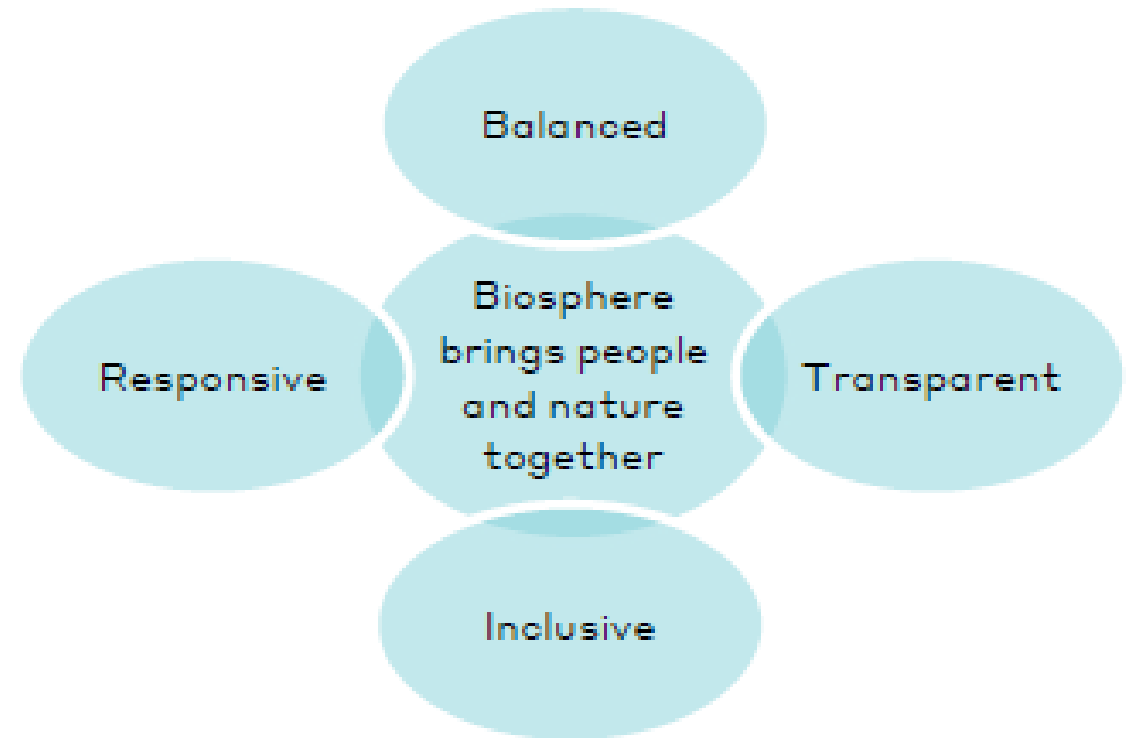
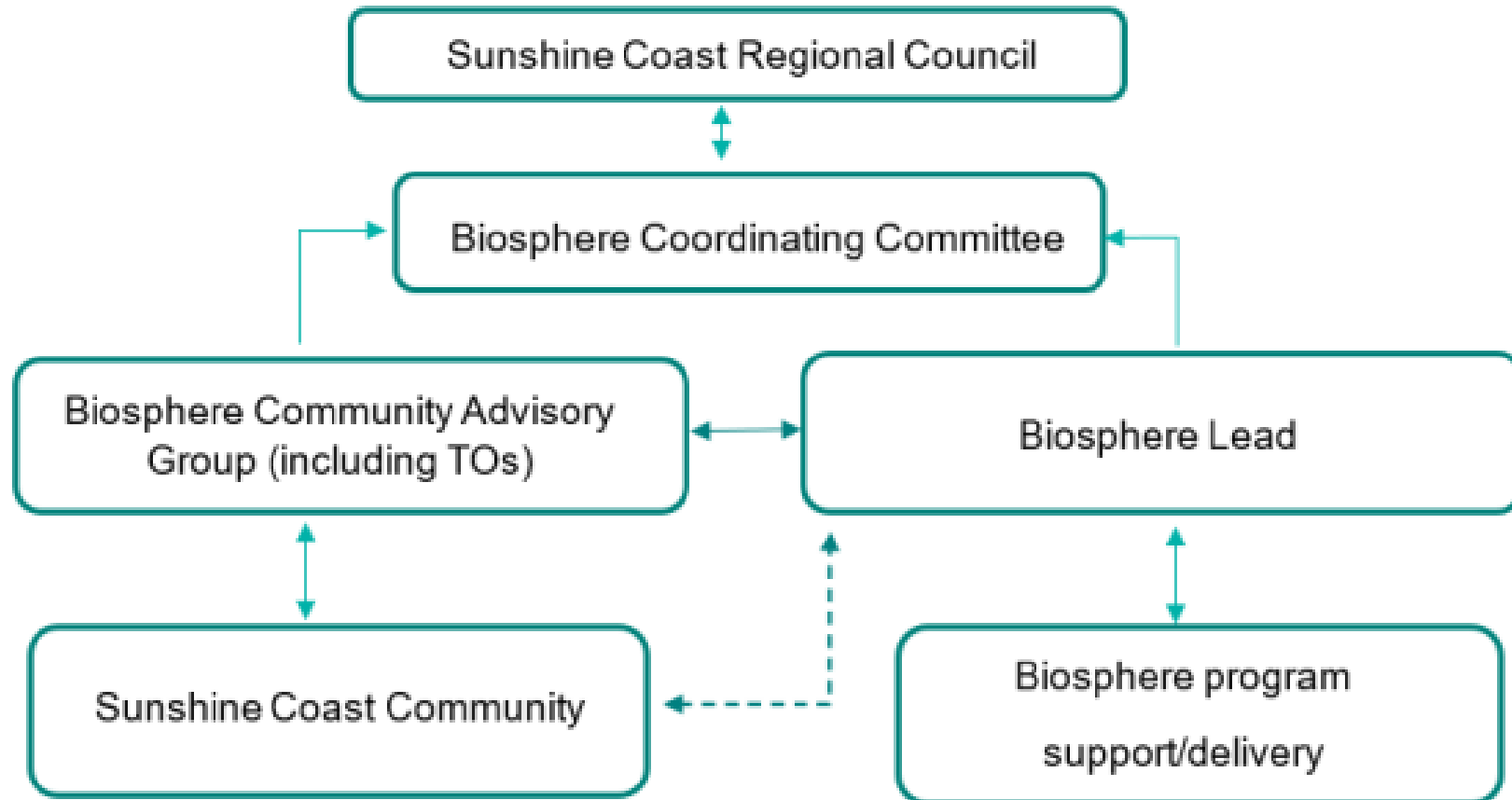


Figure 1 - Biosphere governance principles

Governance Structure

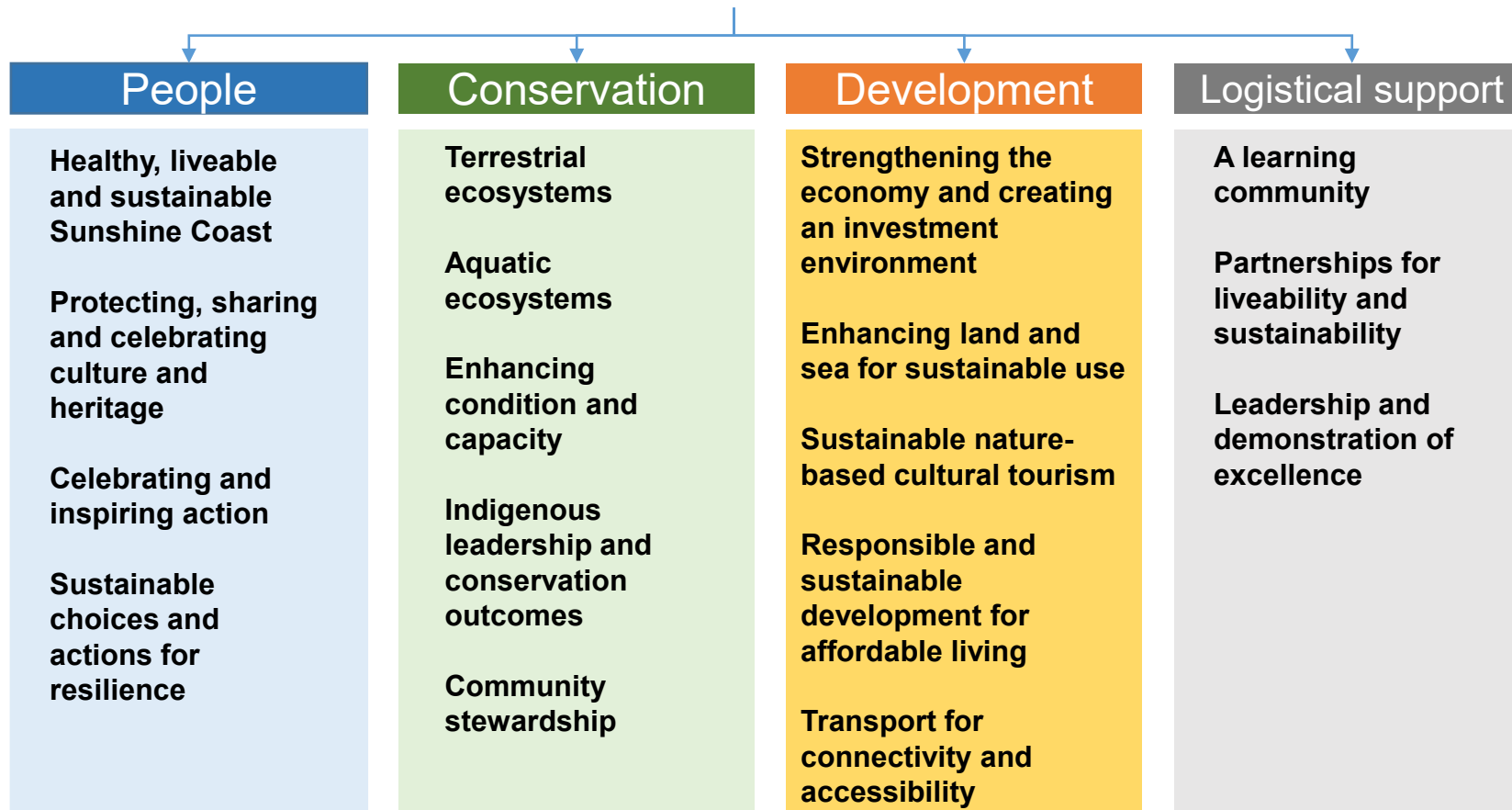


Performance Measurement

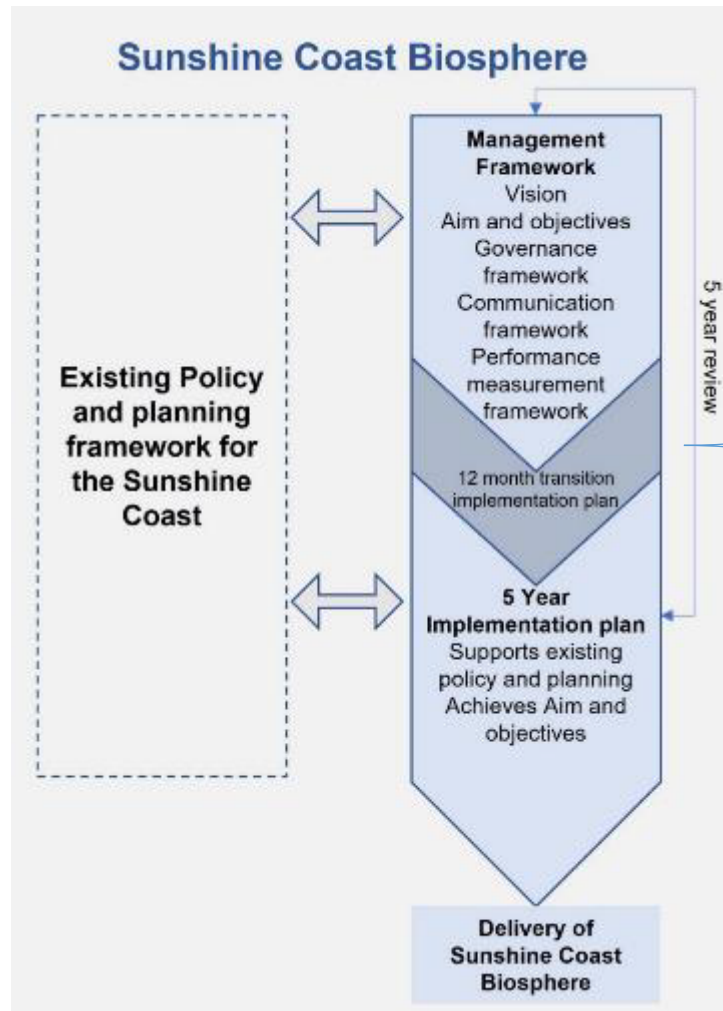
Sunshine Coast Biosphere aim, objectives and focus areas

UN Sustainable Development Goals

Sunshine Coast Council strategies and plans



Transition implementation plan – next steps:



- *Governance arrangements*
- *Performance measurement baseline*
- *Branding alignment with aim and objectives*
- *Communication and community engagement*
- *Implementation plan*

Questions and Discussion



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