

# Sunshine Coast Public Transport

An improved public transport system

July 2023



The Sunshine Coast is a **highly desired** place to live, work, play and grow, and for good reason.



With its stunning natural beauty, relaxed lifestyle and strong sense of community, the region is a leading destination to visit and a dream location to settle in forever.



Already home to 393,000 locals and enjoyed by more than 3.8 million holidaymakers every year, locals and visitors combined make more than 1.1 million trips each day.



With expansive growth forecast for the region between now and 2041, a fresh approach is needed to provide more convenient, sustainable and accessible ways to get around and develop an improved public transport system that connects everyone.



# We're working towards a **better public transport system** for the Sunshine Coast.

## What we're doing

The Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) is leading a detailed business case for an enhanced public transport connection between Maroochydore and the Sunshine Coast University Hospital at Birtinya, with a possible extension to Caloundra.

The detailed business case involves an assessment of alternative transport modes and investigates all components of the project to understand and demonstrate the economic, social, environmental and financial viability of a preferred option. Community feedback is an important part of this process.

In developing the detailed business case, TMR will also consider the work previously undertaken by Sunshine Coast Council (SCC) as part of its Mass Transit Options Analysis, endorsed in 2021.

A total of \$15 million has been allocated for the detailed business case, jointly funded by the Australian Government, Queensland Government and SCC.

If and when a detailed business case is approved, a project can be considered for funding for detailed design and construction.

## How you can help

TMR is seeking your feedback to understand what's important to you, to help shape planning for the region's future public transport solution. Scan the QR code to complete a survey or add your ideas and insights to an interactive map for the proposed route.

SCAN  
HERE!



[www.yoursay-projects.tmr.qld.gov.au/sunshine-coast-public-transport](http://www.yoursay-projects.tmr.qld.gov.au/sunshine-coast-public-transport)



## Survey

- 
- 
- 
- 

**SUBMIT**



## Current transport challenges and risks

The popularity and appeal of the Sunshine Coast also highlights some of the key transport challenges currently being faced. The limited availability of transport options means residents and visitors rely heavily on private vehicles to make local trips, leading to congestion on key roads and impacting the efficiency of all trips and freight movements. With rapid urban growth on the horizon, without considered and careful action, the region's lifestyle and liveability are at risk.

### High private vehicle reliance

The Sunshine Coast's private vehicle ownership rates are the second highest in Australia. With continued car dependence, those who cannot afford or do not have the ability to operate a vehicle will face reduced access to essential services and job opportunities, leading to social and economic disadvantage.

Without a comprehensive public transport system, the appeal of the region to investment and skilled workers is reduced, hindering economic growth and prosperity.

### Increasing congestion

During peak periods, key roads become bottlenecked, causing delays and frustration for all road users. This leads to late arrivals, lost productivity and missed opportunities, reducing time able to be spent with loved ones or enjoying recreational activities.

Increased congestion will lead to continued growth in car dependence, further exacerbating gridlock across the transport network, resulting in longer commute times, increased pollution and crash risks, and reduced quality of life.

### Local trips on major roads

With current limited availability of public transport options and public transport patronage at just 3.4 per cent, a large volume of simple, local trips are being made by private vehicles on major roads.

This is placing increased pressure on the broader transport network and compromising its efficiency.

### Urban growth

Rapid urban expansion and population growth are leading to increased traffic congestion and demand for essential services and infrastructure.

By 2041 the Sunshine Coast will need a transport network that can support 500,000 residents, 87,000 more dwellings and 85,000 additional jobs.

Without futureproofing and forward thinking now, the lifestyle and liveability of current and emerging communities are at risk.

## Future travel options

SCC's Mass Transit Options Analysis, endorsed in 2021, compared five options for an enhanced public transport connection.

TMR is reviewing and using SCC's Mass Transit Options Analysis Report, alongside the outcomes of previous and future community feedback, to determine the public transport options to progress to Detailed Business Case.



Bus  
Rapid  
Transit



Light  
Rail



## Future possibilities

Picture a Sunshine Coast that empowers everyone to easily get where they need to be and choose how they get there.

One that allows residents to leave the car at home and seamlessly transfer from one public transport service to the next, spend less time looking for a car park and more time enjoying the attractions and destinations on the region's doorstep.

The opportunities a better public transport system can bring are endless, but here's just a few.

### Enhanced community access to affordable services

More available and affordable public transport services will make it easier for everyone in the community to access key destinations and attractions, regardless of their needs and abilities.

### A multi-modal, integrated transport connection

Unprecedented access to public transport services will allow locals and visitors to embrace the Sunshine Coast way of life and reap the health benefits of an active lifestyle.

By seamlessly and conveniently transferring between different modes of transport, like bikes, buses and the Direct Sunshine Coast Rail Line, users will have a range of travel options available to get them right where they need to be.

### Sustainable and attractive travel options

Having efficient, convenient and reliable travel options will enable everyone to reach their places of work, school or play, and back home again, safely and on time, all while helping reduce emissions and pollution.

### Increased capacity to support future demand

Improving the ability of the public transport system to handle a larger volume of passengers will help meet the demands for travel to key local destinations and major events for generations to come.



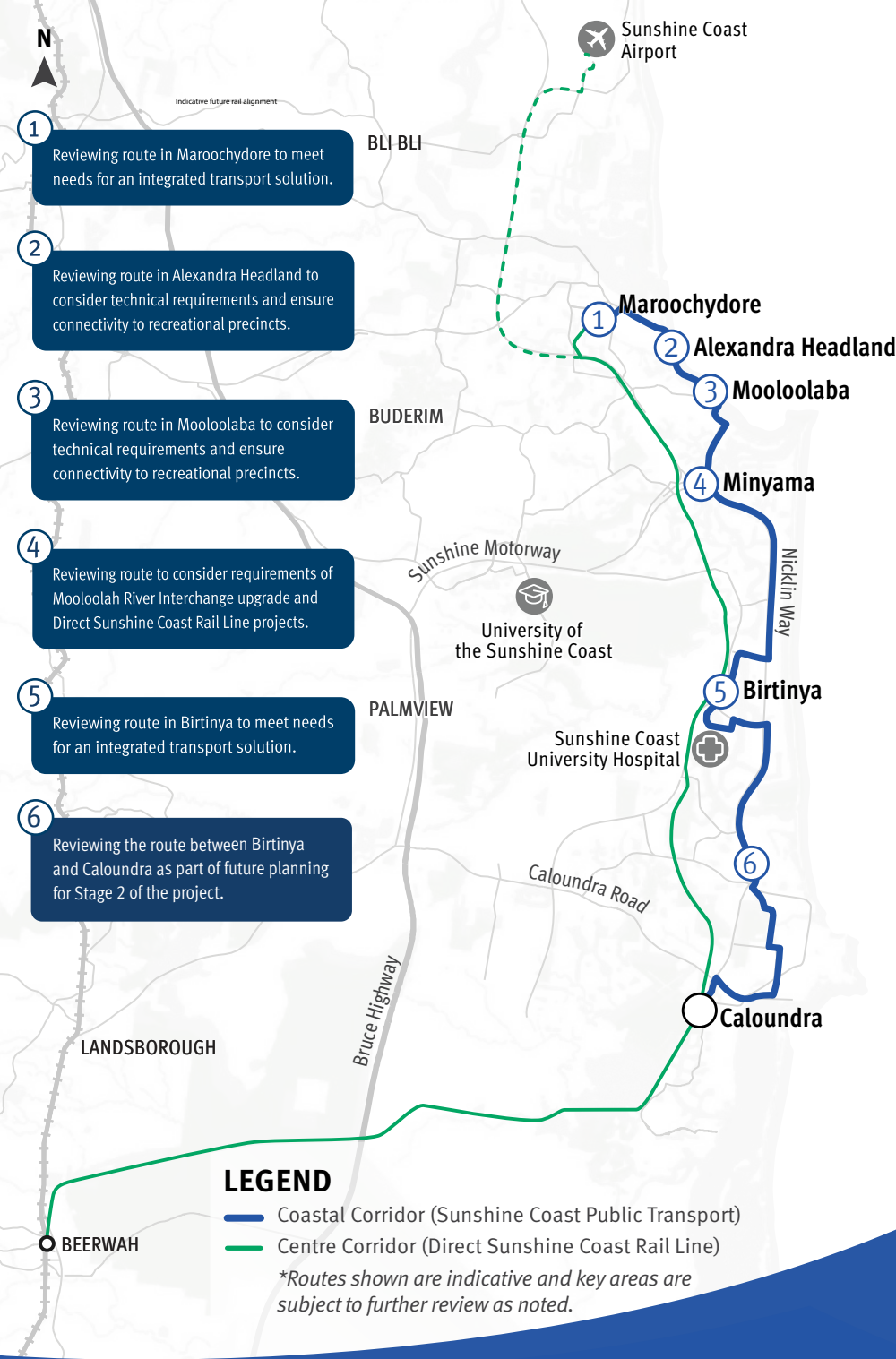
Quality Bus Corridor



Trackless Tram



Wireless Light Rail



- 1 Reviewing route in Maroochydhore to meet needs for an integrated transport solution.
- 2 Reviewing route in Alexandra Headland to consider technical requirements and ensure connectivity to recreational precincts.
- 3 Reviewing route in Mooloolaba to consider technical requirements and ensure connectivity to recreational precincts.
- 4 Reviewing route to consider requirements of Mooloolah River Interchange upgrade and Direct Sunshine Coast Rail Line projects.
- 5 Reviewing route in Birtinya to meet needs for an integrated transport solution.
- 6 Reviewing the route between Birtinya and Caloundra as part of future planning for Stage 2 of the project.

## Proposed corridor and route

In line with the *Southern Sunshine Coast Public Transport Strategy*, which sets out the department’s vision for a future public transport system for the southern Sunshine Coast area, the project is identified as a strategic connector to support the Coastal Corridor.

The Coastal Corridor is comprised of several existing state and local roads including Aerodrome Road, Alexandra Parade, Brisbane Road, Nicklin Way, Main Drive and Kawana Way.

Travel along the Coastal Corridor is intended to be for short, local, intra-regional trips, providing access to key coastal tourism, health and business precincts and to the Centre Corridor which consists of the Direct Sunshine Coast Rail Line.

Stage 1 of the Sunshine Coast Public Transport project will investigate the section between Maroochydhore and Birtinya, with Stage 2 to investigate a possible extension, including corridor options, to Caloundra.



[www.yoursay-projects.tmr.qld.gov.au/sunshine-coast-major-projects](http://www.yoursay-projects.tmr.qld.gov.au/sunshine-coast-major-projects)

## Related projects

TMR is planning for various road, rail and public transport projects to get the Sunshine Coast’s growing number of residents and visitors where they need to be. Nearby projects have been considered in the planning for this project.

Scan the QR code to view details and consultation opportunities for the Direct Sunshine Coast Rail Line, Mooloolah River Interchange upgrade and Kawana Motorway projects.

## Contact us

- 1800 407 533 (8.30am to 4.30pm)
- [scpublictransport@tmr.qld.gov.au](mailto:scpublictransport@tmr.qld.gov.au)
- Sunshine Coast Public Transport  
Department of Transport and Main Roads  
PO Box 1600  
Maroochydhore QLD 4558