Is our region climate ready?

Noosa Council and Sunshine Coast Council are working together to better understand current and emerging climate risks. Together, we have developed a Regional Climate Action Roadmap as the start of a longer journey to collaboratively address climate change across the Sunshine Coast and Noosa region.

The Roadmap looks at our climate risks from two perspectives:

1. Looking inwards at the Councils' people, assets, and services

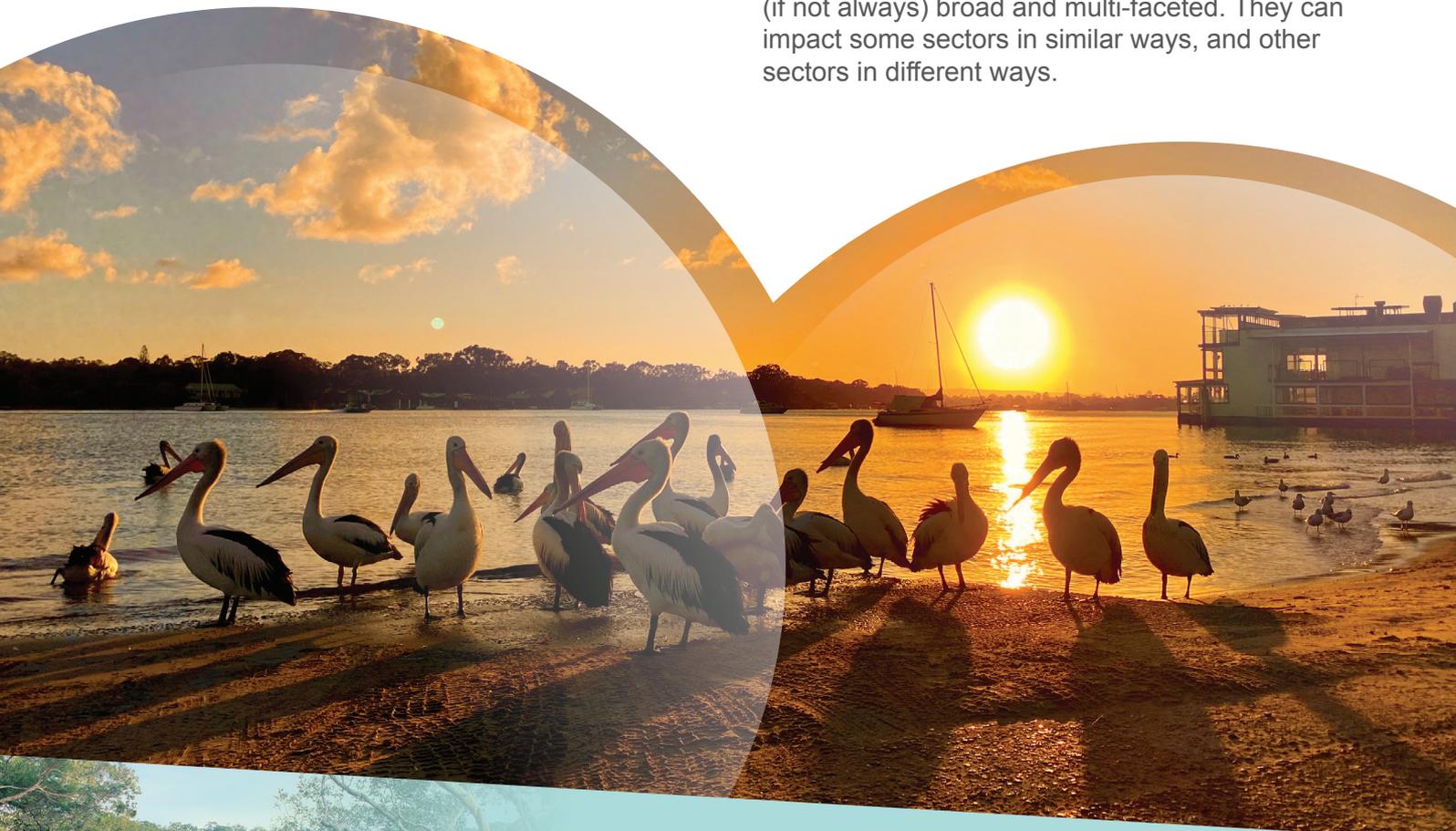2. Looking outwards at communities and sectors across our region

This factsheet outlines what we heard from local leaders and key sectors within our community.

Looking outwards

We brought together leaders from many different sectors across our community to discuss how climate risks are likely to impact local organisations and the communities they support and serve. Some of the sectors we spoke to included:

*   Built environment and infrastructure
*   Not-for-profits
*   Community outreach groups
*   Small and medium business sector
*   Education
*   Health and wellbeing
*   Natural resource management
*   Youth

Our local leaders valued the opportunity to discuss these impacts on a scale greater than their own organisation or sector. Climate impacts are often (if not always) broad and multi-faceted. They can impact some sectors in similar ways, and other sectors in different ways.

Is our region climate ready?

What we heard from our local leaders

The mental health and wellbeing of our communities is at risk from the compounding stresses that arise from a changing climate

People do not compartmentalise impacts from climate change – everything comes together at a personal level.

Most sectors are not well prepared for the loss of critical infrastructure such as electricity, water, telecommunications that often occurs with climate hazards.

We experience impacts to the places we value, such as our beaches, national parks, and turtle nesting places.

We experience disruption to our livelihoods, especially for the many small and medium business owners and employees in sectors such as tourism, retail and construction across our region.

We struggle to juggle family, work, and caring responsibilities when climate hazards happen.

Our local leaders urged us to take a big picture view of climate risk in our region and pursue transformative action to acknowledge and respond to the urgency of the issue. Our Youth leaders reminded us that everyone has the power and responsibility to make change and protect the future for our children and our children's children.

Listening to our local leaders and key sectors helped the Councils identify the concerns shared by a diverse range of stakeholders across our region. It has shaped the Councils' understanding of everyone's role in managing climate risks, and how we can support the community in the future, especially by providing climate-resilient Council services. It has also strengthened our commitment to working collaboratively with stakeholders moving forward.

What's next?

The Regional Climate Action Roadmap outlines a way forward for our collaborative partnership to start addressing impacts to both Council services and to the community. It highlights both Councils' commitment to working with the community, key sectors, and other levels of government to build our shared vision of a climate-ready region. We aim to develop creative solutions that leverage opportunities for a low-carbon and climate-resilient future. The Regional Climate Action Roadmap is the start of a longer journey to address climate change and associated impacts.

Read the full Roadmap on the Council websites here:

www.noosa.qld.gov.au/climate-action-roadmap

www.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au/Environment/Sustainability-and-Climate-Change/Climate-Change