



MEDIA RELEASE

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Local Cycling Advocates Propose Blueprint for Enhanced Community Transport Planning Sunshine Coast, QLD

The Sunshine Coast Bicycle Users Group (SCBUG) has presented Sunshine Coast Council with a comprehensive reform proposal designed to strengthen community participation in active transport planning and delivery across the region.

SCBUG Chair Craig Humphrey has submitted detailed recommendations to Council CEO John Baker aimed at transforming the Sunshine Coast Active Transport Advisory Committee (SCATAC) into a more effective partnership between Community, Council, and state government agencies. "After four years of SCATAC operation, we're at a pivotal moment where we can build on the foundation that's been established and create something genuinely powerful for our community," Mr. Humphrey said.

"We've seen strong community engagement—over 400 submissions for the Caloundra to Currimundi corridor and more than 260 for Mooloolaba to University. That level of public interest shows people care deeply about active transport. Now we need a structure that can harness that energy and turn it into real outcomes."

Key Reform Proposals

The SCBUG proposal centers on three main reform areas:

Structural Enhancement: Formalizing SCATAC as a statutory advisory committee under the Local Government Act, rebalancing representation to ensure community voices aren't outnumbered, and increasing meeting frequency to enable responsive planning.

Operational Transformation: Implementing genuine engagement processes where community expertise shapes projects from the earliest stages, establishing transparent performance measurement with public reporting, and providing regular updates to build community confidence.

Strategic Empowerment: Demonstrating clear value to participants, supporting evidence-based decision-making, and creating mechanisms for community advocates to contribute meaningfully to transport planning.

"We're not just critiquing, we are offering solutions," Mr. Humphrey explained. "These reforms would benefit everyone: Council gains genuine community partnership and support for evidence-based decisions, community groups get meaningful influence, and residents see better coordination of transport projects."

Looking Ahead

The proposals come as the region prepares for significant transport infrastructure development, including the advancing Mooloolaba to University corridor, the Draft Active Transport Plan 2025-2035 awaiting adoption, and the region's preparation for 200,000 additional residents by 2041.

"The Sunshine Coast has an opportunity to become a model for integrated transport planning—not just in Queensland, but nationally," Mr. Humphrey said. "With the Brisbane 2032 Olympics approaching and our region's rapid growth, now is the time to get this right."

SCBUG has expressed optimism about working collaboratively with Council to implement reforms that deliver better outcomes for all residents.

"We're committed to constructive partnership with Council," Mr. Humphrey concluded. "Together, we can create a transport planning process that genuinely serves our community's needs while supporting Council's strategic objectives."

The full review document and reform proposals have been submitted to Council for consideration.

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For media inquiries:

Craig Humphrey

Chair, Sunshine Coast Bicycle Users Group

M: 0409 605 890

E: scbug@scbclub.net

About SCBUG: *The Sunshine Coast Bicycle Users Group is a community organization advocating for improved cycling infrastructure and active transport options across the Sunshine Coast region. SCBUG represents cyclists and active transport users in consultations with local and state government and works to promote safe, accessible, and sustainable transport options for all residents.*