



## PROTECTING THE DIVERSITY AND RICHNESS OF THE SUNSHINE COAST REGION BEYOND ITS ECONOMIC VALUE

### BALANCING GROWTH, DEVELOPMENT AND THE ENVIRONMENT

#### Introduction to session attendees:

#### Thought Leaders

**Katy Dean** is Director – Advocacy, Green Building Council of Australia. Katy joined the GBCA in August 2010 with experience working on policy development for the Australian Government, most notably with the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development. Katy is responsible for developing the GBCA's advocacy strategy and communicating the GBCA's green building policy priorities to federal, state and local government. As well as encouraging government to support the transformation of commercial buildings, Katy also develops policy to drive the adoption of green building practices in areas such as education and healthcare. Katy sits on the Council Development Committee of the World Green Building Council and the Australian Sustainable Built Environment Council's Task Groups for Cities & Regions and Resilience.

**Prof Mike Hefferan** is Pro Vice-Chancellor (Engagement) and Prof of Property and Development at the University of the Sunshine Coast (USC) and Adjunct Professor at the Queensland University of Technology. He is also chair of the wholly-owned subsidiary of USC, the Innovation Centre Sunshine Coast. For many years previously he was an executive director within the Department of State Development Qld, responsible for the Smart State Initiative, and delivery of a range of major projects. He is currently involved with research and project input on major public infrastructure, master planned communities and property taxation and mass valuation.

**Prof Tim Smith** is the inaugural Director of the Sustainability Research Centre (SRC) at the University of the Sunshine Coast (USC), which is one of three flagship research concentrations of the university, comprised of over 60 researchers. Prior to his appointment with USC, Prof Smith was a senior research scientist with the CSIRO. Prof Smith has also led the social science research and education portfolios of two national research centres, the Coastal Cooperative Research Centre and the Catchment Hydrology Cooperative Research Centre.

Apart from academic appointments, Prof Smith has worked in local government, state government, and in private industry. Along with his research partners, he was awarded the 2009 Australian Museum Eureka Prize for

Innovative Solutions to Climate Change. Prof Smith is a Director of the Noosa Biosphere Reserve Foundation Board, a member of the Executive Scientific Advisory Committee for Healthy Waterways, on the Editorial Board of Geographical Research, and Convenes the Social, Economic and Institutional Dimensions (SEI) Research Network for the National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility (NCCARF). He has held adjunct or honorary positions at Griffith University, the University of Queensland, and the New Zealand Climate Change Research Institute at the Victoria University of Wellington. He is currently an adjunct Professor with Brock University, Canada.

**Dr Dana Thomsen** is a Senior Lecturer in Sustainability Advocacy within the Faculty of Arts and Business at the University of the Sunshine Coast (USC) and is a core researcher of the Sustainability Research Centre (SRC). Dr Thomsen has previously worked in state government and at several other universities (eg. contributing to the outcomes of two national environmental research centres, the Coastal Cooperative Research Centre and the Catchment Hydrology Cooperative Research Centre). Recent projects have been supported by the Australian Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency, the CSIRO Collaboration Fund (Southeast Queensland Climate Adaptation Research Initiative), and the CSIRO Coastal Collaboration Cluster. Dr Thomsen currently leads the NGO theme within the Social, Economic and Institutional Dimensions (SEI) Research Network for the National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility (NCCARF).

Dr Thomsen's research addresses sustainability issues at local and global scales with a focus on social-ecological systems, learning and communication. She was recently awarded funding from the Australian Government Office of Learning and Teaching to develop the first Regional Community of Practice for Transformative Climate Change Education. Dr Thomsen also led the first comprehensive Sustainability Indicators report for the Sunshine Coast. Dr Thomsen is an adjunct Professor with Brock University, Canada.

### **Interest Groups**

**Narelle McCarthy** is Liaison & Advocacy – Sunshine Coast Environment Council (SCEC). **She** primarily undertakes the liaison & advocacy roles with the Sunshine Coast Environment Council, the peak environmental advocacy group for the region since 1980.

As such, she actively engages with over 60 community groups working on environmental protection and policy, conservation, natural resource management, resident interests and sustainability. SCEC's membership collectively represents over 10,000 people across the Sunshine Coast and Hinterland.

SCEC works across four broad strategic areas: Sustainable Communities, the Green Economy, Good Government and Preserving Nature.

With experience working within Federal parliament and not-for-profit organisations, Narelle has been actively studying and working across the environment and conservation sectors for 13 years.

**John Hare** is a key member of Development Watch. He has extensive governance experience in the private and public sectors. Prior to retirement in 2009 he was head of governance with the ACT Department of Education and Training. John has a double honours degree in Politics and Modern History (Sheffield University, UK) and holds a Graduate Diploma in Business (Monash University, Melbourne) in Tourism Management. He is a Fellow of the Institute of Governance and a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Secretaries.

John invested in property in Coolumburra in 1997 and has lived permanently in Coolumburra since 2009.

**Ian Christesen** is president of the peak residents association for Sunshine Coast, OSCAR. In the late 1980's Ian was a Councillor and Chair of the Planning and Development Committee for Noosa Council. He subsequently assisted in the development and then implementation of the State *Environmental Protection Act*. Ian spent more than 10 years as a senior executive with Brisbane City Council responsible for a diverse portfolio including waste management, public health, environmental protection and disaster management. He was also a member of Council's Development Assessment Committee.

Prior to working in the Middle East as a waste management consultant Ian held the position of Manager of the Sunshine Coast Environment Council from 2005 – 2008.

## **Local Government**

**Sandy Bolton** is a Councillor in the Noosa Shire, and Chair of Infrastructure and Services. Her areas of interest include the local economy and job creation, and has been working on opportunities in agribusiness and the health and wellness industries.

Sandy has a diverse background in business development, corporate governance and management in a range of industries including sports, human resources, education, and agriculture. Her combined experiences in both the private and not-for-profit sectors has highlighted the importance of collaborative partnerships and efficient resource management to deliver successful outcomes that include healthy, caring communities with access to vibrant educational, cultural and lifestyle opportunities.

**Rowena Skinner** has been working as a planner since 1993 and for Noosa local council since 1997. She was one of the authors, and managed the delivery of the 2006 Noosa Planning Scheme. During that time she was involved in building sustainability. Her interests lie in social, economic and rural planning.

**Matthew Stevenson** is a town planner with over 20 years' experience primarily in local governments on the Sunshine Coast working on strategic planning projects including drafting and updating of planning schemes and developing long term growth strategies and some local area planning. Matthew has also had private sector experience and has worked on infrastructure and master planning negotiations and so has an appreciation of commercial imperatives as well as community values and their relevance to strategic land use planning.

## **Industry**

**Dustin Welch** is the divisional director Sunshine Coast for Savills Australia. He is also the Property Council of Australia Qld Division's representative on the Sunshine Coast Business Council. Dustin has over 15 years working primarily in commercial property in both the Queensland and NSW markets. He is a Sunshine Coast local.

**Tim Boag** moved to the Sunshine Coast on the eve of Christmas 2004, and joined MODE as the Studio Manager of the Sunshine Coast office. He has over 25 years in the building industry as an architect and has worked for large and small practices and has gained experience in a range of sectors from working with the Australian Agency for International Development in developing countries to internationally-recognised sporting facilities in Australia and New Zealand. Tim leverages the diversity of his experience across project types to provide broader approaches to design challenges and better outcomes in a regional context.

Tim is interested in the economic, social and sustainable development of the Sunshine Coast region. He joined the UDIA taskforce in 2012 targeting key projects within the Region and how best local companies can leverage of

these. Tim was nominated to the UDIA executive community in 2014 and has just been nominated as one of the directors of the Sunshine Coast Business Council.

**Phil Smith** is a mid-career architect and urban designer with 24 years experience in private practice and local government on the Sunshine Coast. He has worked alongside some of Australia's best known architects including AIA gold medal winners Lindsay and Kerry Clare and Gabriel Poole. Phil established his own practice in 1994 (Gomango Architects with Liza Neil) to explore new models of sustainable regional architecture and in 1998 simultaneously worked as Principal Urban Designer at Maroochy Shire Council.

In 2006 Phil joined Deicke Richards, establishing their Sunshine Coast office as Associate Director of Urban design. Most recently, he has been Project Leader an 'Integrated Residential Community Model' Project for Churches of Christ, Yeerongpilly TOD Master Plan for State Govt and Bokarina Beach Master Plan Team for Stocklands. Phil was part of the team on the successful Bowen Hills TOD Master Plan (2008) for the UDLA and the Moreton Bay Rail Link LAP team (2011).

The USC Seniors Infill Housing Research Project he co-authored won a 2012 QLD PIA Award for Cutting Edge Research & Teaching. Phil continues to advocate for design leadership and sustainability as chair of the Australian Institute of Architects (SC). He currently sits on the SCC Urban Design Advisory Panel and is President of the Creative Alliance, a NFP peak body for arts, innovation and creativity on the Coast. Phil has just accepted a position on the Caloundra CBD taskforce.

**Simon Ambrose** has a background in both, Agricultural and Arts Business and has been the CEO of Sunshine Coast Destination Ltd since September 2013. Past roles have included CEO of the Augusta Margaret River Tourism Association, Director of the Blue Mountains Cultural Centre, Director of the McClelland Gallery and Sculpture Park and General Manager of the Interact Asia-Pacific Multimedia Festival in Victoria. He has also worked in film and arts related organisations in Western Australia.

He represents the tourism industry on a national level as the Deputy Chair of the Australian Regional Tourism Network. Simon represents the tourism industry on the board of Sunshine Coast Business Council.

## **Property Development**

**Michelle Larcombe** moved from Canada to Australia in 1994. She studied Psychology at the University of Wollongong before embarking on a career in IT. Michelle spent 10 years working in a diverse range of roles for Dell Computers and HP including Global Account Manager, Large Project Business Consultant and Sales Executive for NSW Government. During this time Michelle was able to gain valuable experience successfully managing large complex projects and consistently identifying, qualifying and closing significant business opportunities.

After relocating to the Sunshine Coast in 2008 Michelle took a break from the corporate world to have 3 beautiful children before returning to the workforce in early 2012.

A passion for property and property development motivated Michelle to do her real estate license and change career direction. Michelle joined Sunland Group early 2012 as a Sales Executive has worked across the development industry as Caretaker, Onsite Manager, Sales Executive and now Assistant Development Manager.

Michelle is currently Onsite manager and Assistant development manager for Sunland's \$80 million Peregrian Springs development. The Terraces which comprises of 163 single and double story houses. It follows the near completion of the \$30million 60 home project The Pavilions.

**Ben Simpson** is Regional Manager Sunshine Coast, Stockland and is a board member of Sunshine Coast Business Council. Ben graduated from the University of Western Sydney in 1995 in property economics and has over 18 years'

experience in the property development industry. He currently manages five (5) community development projects, comprising a third of Stockland's future residential development portfolio and two city building projects, Caloundra South and Oceanside. Ben is a keen advocate for balancing development and the environment.

### **Sunshine Coast Business Council**

**Sandy Zubrinich** has held the role of chair Sunshine Coast Business Council since 2011. Her personal ambition in this role is to contribute to the strengthening of the regional economy with particular attention to improving youth unemployment rates.

Sandy has held senior executive roles in State Government, Banking and Financial Services, Telecommunications, ICT and consulting. She worked internationally with Ernst & Young LLP managing the global strategy management service line which was based around software Sandy co-developed. During this time she gained experience working with many of the top 50 global companies in the United States and Europe.