

Retaining the Essence and Vibe of a fast-growing region

CONFERENCE

Thursday 5th February 2026
12.00pm to 5.00pm
UniSC Auditorium, University of the Sunshine Coast



PATRON SPONSOR

VENUE PARTNER

EVENT PARTNERS





Maroochydore City Centre - Artist Impression

Over the past decade, SEQ has experienced some of the fastest population growth in Australia. Sunshine Coast region included.

This rapid growth is projected to continue, especially in the lead-up to the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games, placing sustained pressure on Queensland's state and local governments.

To meet this demand, planning environments and infrastructure delivery strategies must evolve quickly. The challenge lies not only in keeping pace with growth but in doing so in a way that preserves the unique urban identities, vibrant public realms, and distinctive features that make Queensland's regions, cities, and precincts attractive to residents and visitors alike.

This conference will bring together some of Australia's most respected strategic thinkers in urban planning. Drawing on both global and national experience, speakers will share insights into how governments, communities, and investors have successfully navigated similar challenges. Through case studies and real-world examples from Australia and around the world, the event will explore effective approaches to planning for new and transforming cities, places, and communities—ensuring that growth does not come at the expense of character, liveability, and long-term prosperity.

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PROGRAM

12 Noon	Arrival and registration
12.15 - 12.45pm	Light lunch and seating
12.45 – 12.55pm	Welcome and scene setting
1.00 - 1.25 pm	Introduction to Conference - Why Essence and Vibe matters to investors. Mr. Peter Saba , Group Executive, Development, Walker Corporation
1.30 – 3.00 pm	Strategies and planning approaches for new and transforming cities, precincts and communities that protect unique urban identities. Speakers Mr James Tuma , Managing Partner, Urbis Mr Mike Day , Co-founder and Director, Sharp Day Mr Phil Schoutrop , Director I Sector Lead – Precincts, Buchan
3.00 – 3.15 pm	Break
3.20 – 4.00 pm	Panel Discussion – Challenges, Opportunities, Lessons Learned. Panel Mr James Tuma, Mr Mike Day and Mr Phil Schoutrop Panel Facilitator Ms Deb Robinson , Director Sustainable Growth and Planning, Sunshine Coast Council
4.05 – 4.10 pm	Closing comments
4.15 – 5.00 pm	Refreshments



CONFERENCE DETAILS

VENUE

UniSC Auditorium, USC Innovation Centre,
University of the Sunshine Coast
90 Sippy Downs Sippy Downs, Queensland

PRICING

Before 10 January 2026

Members & Non-Members:

\$176 per person (incl. GST)

\$1,232 Corporate Table of 8 (incl. GST)

After 10 January 2026

Member:

\$198 per person (incl. GST)

Non-Member:

\$231 per person (incl. GST)

Members & Non-Members:

Corporate Table - Group of 8:

\$1,386 per table (incl. GST)

INCLUSIONS

The ticket price includes light lunch on arrival,
afternoon tea, presentations by keynote speakers
as well as a panel discussion, with refreshments
on conclusion.

NAME TAGS & DIETARY REQUIREMENTS

For all corporate table bookings information is
required for each attendee including first and last
name, company name and dietary requirements.
Please email info@scbusinesscouncil.com.au
with full details by 5pm Friday 23 January 2026 to
guarantee dietary requirements on the day.

BOOKINGS CLOSE

5:00pm Frisday 30 January 2026
or when fully booked.

PARKING

Paid parking is available in the adjacent P1 carpark
in the Innovation Centre precinct.

NEED HELP?

Please contact Event Manager,
Kerrie Bryant-Adams on
info@scbusinesscouncil.com.au

ABN

99 680 681 766

TICKETS

Purchase through Trybooking:
www.trybooking.com/DEGHQ

BOOK HERE

MAP