

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



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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 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 Friday 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



Mr Peter Saba Group Executive - Development, Walker Corporation

Peter has been with the Walker Group since 1994 and brings a unique skill set, encompassing the design and delivery of city-shaping and placemaking strategies across all sectors. As Group Executive, Developments, he has led many of our urban transformations across Australia, driving the Walker 'vision to reality' ethos.

Peter has closely managed the execution of some of the group's largest and most successful developments including Broadway Shopping Centre, Bluestone Mount Barker, Banksia Grove, Citiswich Business Park, Riverlea and the highly acclaimed Hope Island Resort.

Currently overseeing the development of the new Maroochydore City Centre, along with the Toondah Harbour Revitalisation and Lakesview Robina projects, Peter's experience is critical in managing the execution and delivery of large master planned projects.

Peter also plays a fundamental role within Walker's national new business team and is responsible for helping secure new tenants, land sales and future acquisitions, as well as nurturing government, community and key stakeholder relationships.



Mr James Tuma Managing Partner, Urbis

James is an accomplished strategist and future-focused thinker with over 25 years of international experience in both government and the private sector. He has advised on the creation of new towns, global innovation hubs, strategic infrastructure, major events, and tourism precincts. James brings a unique perspective to each challenge, combining a creative mind with data-driven decision-making.

An advocate for sustainable cities, James focuses on imaginative solutions that ignite community passions. His notable contributions include leading the Brisbane City Centre Master Plan, serving as the overall Lead Designer for the Queen's Wharf redevelopment, and advising on the redevelopment and governance of Orchard Road in Singapore.

James's work is instrumental in shaping vibrant, sustainable urban environments, blending creativity with strategic insight to deliver impactful outcomes.

Key projects:

- Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games Legacy Strategy
- Queen's Wharf Brisbane Redevelopment
- 'New Sydney Waterfront' Business Improvement District Strategy
- Future South Bank Master Plan
- Gold Coast 2032 Legacy Framework
- Innovation Precinct Value Proposition, University of Queensland
- Brisbane City Centre Master Plan
- Global Innovation Precinct Strategy, SEQ
- Orchard Road, Singapore
- Floating City Centre for Excellence, Singapore



Mr Mike Day Co-founder and Director, Sharp | Day

Mike is a co-founder and director of Sharp | Day, a practice dedicated to Nature Positive Urbanism—embedding biodiversity solutions with timeless walkable neighbourhood design. He was formerly the co-founder of Roberts Day, which merged with HATCH | Urban Solutions, where he helped shape award-winning new towns and urban renewal projects across Australia, New Zealand, the UAE and Asia.

Mike was the principal master planner and urban designer of the Ellenbrook New Town in Western Australia and the recipient of the Russell Taylor Award for Design Excellence for Ellenbrook. Ellenbrook received the International Real Estate Federation [FIABCI] 2015 World Prix d'Excellence Award as the world's best master-planned community.

Consecutive Western Australian Planning Ministers appointed Mike; Deputy Chairman of the Subiaco Redevelopment Authority and Board member of the East Perth Redevelopment Authority. Mike has held the positions of; Chair EPRA Planning Committee, Chair SRA Planning Committee and Chair Housing Industry of Australia WA – Planning Committee.

The Victorian Department of Planning and Community Development appointed Mike to the independent property industry panel that nominated the 900-hectare Werribee East

landholdings, within the City of Wyndham, as the site for a model 21st century city for metropolitan Melbourne.

Mike was the recipient of the 2018 Place Leaders Asia Pacific Centrepiece Award | Leadership Excellence in Promoting Walkable Urbanism.

Most recently Mike led the masterplanning for the jointly funded Consolidated Land and Rail Australia | Federal Government Strategic Business Case for the CLARA High Speed Rail and eight sustainable, liveable, connected cities between Sydney and Melbourne.

Based in Melbourne since 2005, Mike has led design teams implementing new towns and urban renewal projects in Indonesia, Victoria, SA, Qld and the ACT.

Mike is a Fellow of the Planning Institute of Australia, a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and a Board member of the Lighthouse Foundation for Homeless Youth.

Specialties: Facilitation of project visioning and planning design forums for the urban development industry and public sector agencies, peer reviews of new town plans and urban regen projects. Embracing the UN #SDGs



Mr Phil Schoutrop Director | Sector Lead - Precincts, Buchan

Phil Schoutrop is a Director, Principal and Precincts Sector Lead at Buchan. Phil brings more than 30 years' experience as a commercial architect, leading the design and delivery of integrated urban destinations and high-profile precincts internationally.

His portfolio spans developments that integrate retail, residential, commercial, transport infrastructure, and civic uses into cohesive and vibrant places - destinations that are activated, enduring, and grounded in community. He offers a distinctive perspective shaped by design leadership, commercial insight, data-driven thinking, and cross-sector collaboration - delivering places people want to be, and keep coming back to.

Phil has led projects in Australia, New Zealand, Asia, China, India, and Africa for a broad client base, including Lend Lease, Scentre, Vicinity and AMP, CapitaLand, Hongkong Land and Apple.

Strongly invested in sharing his knowledge, Phil offers his expertise to his clients, colleagues and the industry at large, regularly invited to lead local and international conferences, panel discussions and study tours.

“Successful developments foster a deep sense of belonging and it is this feeling that generates loyalty and a sense of community. We need to rethink what it means to engage the needs and lifestyles of individuals. Personalised experiences are at the heart of all blended projects.”



Ms Debra Robinson Director Sustainable Growth and Planning, Sunshine Coast Council

Debra Robinson is a distinguished professional with a wealth of experience in both the public and private sectors.

Since 2000, she has held senior executive positions, including roles as a Town Planner and Development Manager in the Building and Construction industry.

Her tenure as the Director – Major Projects and Strategic Property with Sunshine Coast Council saw her oversee the Maroochydore City Centre project and lead a significant \$2.5 billion private sector investment deal with Walker Corporation.

In May 2022, Debra took on the role of Group Executive, Customer and Planning Services, where she has been instrumental in shaping the new Planning Scheme to ensure the Sunshine Coast's future livability, sustainability and prosperity.

She is known for her innovative approach to customer-facing services and her efforts to strengthen Council's relationship with key community stakeholders.

Debra is also passionate about exploring tailored opportunities that elevate development and community response services, ensuring exceptional customer experience.

In June 2024, Debra was appointed as the Acting Chief Executive Officer of Sunshine Coast Council, where she was dedicated to maintaining Council's positive culture and providing stability during the recruitment of a permanent CEO. A position she held for six months.

In this capacity, she was committed to serving the community, focusing on customer needs, building trust and promoting sustainability.

In 2025 she was appointed Deputy Chair - Queensland Building and Construction Commission.

Debra's academic credentials include formal town planning qualifications, a Master of Business Administration, and she is a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

Her exceptional contributions to her field were recognised in 2006 when she was awarded the Outstanding Business Woman of the Year by the Sunshine Coast Business Women's Network.

