



The space that will become the new Kawana Town Centre

Kawana town centre: closing in on new direction

Kawana is on its way to becoming a vibrant and thriving precinct, bringing with it more than 5000 jobs and a new retail and tourist hub.

Sunshine Coast Council and the master developer for Kawana Waters have been working together towards a final plan for more than 100 hectares of undeveloped land in the areas known as Kawana Town Centre, Birtinya and Bokarina Beach.

The plan includes a generous network of community facilities and a new beachside area, creating diverse employment, education and housing opportunities.

At the time *Encompass* went to press, council and Stockland were close to reaching an agreement on the future planning and infrastructure needs for Kawana.

The current plan for the area was developed in 1996 and since then there has been some significant changes – the main one being the announcement of the Sunshine Coast University Hospital.

The new plan will respond to these changes. It will show the Sunshine Coast University Hospital as the focal point of an expanded network of health services on the Sunshine Coast.

The plan will:

- ▶ focus on a hospital that will bring with it knowledge and health-focused jobs.
- ▶ provide plenty of housing options, surrounded by parks and open space, and connected by a good network of bikeways and walking paths.
- ▶ include a beach hub at Bokarina Beach which will not only create new tourism opportunities for visitors to the region, but also provide a social place for local residents to enjoy – all within walking distance of their homes.

Community building boost for Kawana

Kawana Waters residents can look forward to the construction of a landmark library and learning centre as well as five new community meeting spaces in key locations from Currimundi to Kawana Island, as council rolls out the Kawana Community Development Strategy.

The strategy is a partnership between council, the developer Stockland and the Queensland Government. Funding for these new facilities is supported by a trust fund from land sales. Funding will also be sought from grants and subsidies.

The new community facilities will be designed and constructed by council according to community needs and in close consultation with the community. The library and learning centre will be housed in the new Kawana Town Centre, across the lake from the Lake Kawana Community Centre. New community meeting spaces are earmarked for: Birtinya, Bokarina, Kawana Island, Kawana Forest, and Currimundi.

Council recently secured a venue at Kawana Island and will soon be consulting with the local community to determine the design and the

management model for this facility.

The strategy has also identified land suitable for other facilities required in the area, including child care centres, health-related services, emergency services and lifesaving facilities. Council will liaise with relevant stakeholders to promote the timely provision of such services and facilities.

Social Strategy Portfolio Councillor Anna Grosskreutz said 2011 was an exciting year for the residents of Kawana Waters.

“Whether it’s older residents wanting to attend a bridge club or younger people wanting to get involved in dance groups, these facilities will cater to a range of interests,” she said.

“We already know what an asset the Lake Kawana Community Centre has been, but now residents from Kawana Forest to Kawana Island will have access to local community meeting spaces in their own neighbourhoods in addition to this major facility.

“This project showcases how council can work with a major developer, the State Government and residents to ensure a well-resourced, active and vibrant community.”

In addition to advocating and supporting the interests of their Divisions, Sunshine Coast Councillors are equally passionate about their responsibilities as Portfolio Councillors. Future editions of *Encompass* will explain the scope of these 12 Portfolios and highlight some achievements and successes. The Major Projects Portfolio is the first to feature.



The new ecology centre takes shape

Major projects deliver the wow factor

Council's busy program of capital works includes a portfolio – known as Major Projects – to deliver iconic new buildings, sports facilities, major streetscapes and foreshore redevelopments and significant road infrastructure programs to the Sunshine Coast.

Councillor Debbie Blumel has been responsible for the Major Projects Portfolio – with a total construction budget of \$75 million – since her election to council in 2008.

Major Projects are complex capital works that are typically valued at more than \$3 million with significant public impact and risk and a requirement to engage multiple disciplines and government agencies.

For each major project, a detailed project management plan is completed to cover everything from environmental impact studies (or other government permits) to community consultation programs.

Cr Blumel, who has a lead role in securing funding and support for these projects, said the delivery of these projects brings a much-needed economic boost to the local economy.

“Major projects give the Sunshine Coast the facilities that allow larger sporting and cultural events to take place here,” she said.

“Most importantly, they create significant community assets to meet the growing needs of the Sunshine Coast.”

Major projects at a glance

Noosa Transit Centre

The \$10 million Noosa Transit Centre involves the relocation of the main transit centre to Noosa Junction to increase passenger and bus capacity. The project is jointly funded by council, an Australian Government Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program grant and the Translink Transit Authority. The project should be completed in early 2011.

Maroochy Botanic Gardens – Arts and Ecology Centre

A \$3 million Arts and Ecology Centre – a project supported by funding from the Australian Government – is taking shape amid the subtropical rainforest of the Maroochy Regional Bushland Botanic Gardens at Tanawha. Due for completion in June 2011, the centre will celebrate the region's ecology through an interpretive centre with insights into the Coast's native vegetation.

Northshore Community Centre

On target for completion by mid-2011, the centre will be a cultural hub for the people of the Maroochy North Shore district, providing for social, recreational and cultural activities. The \$4.2 million project is funded by \$3.5 million from the Australian Government's Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program and the remainder from council.

Meridan Fields

The \$7.2 million Meridan Fields project involves the implementation of the Master Plan including construction of a clubhouse and community space through staged construction. Grants from the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations and the Department of Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government have assisted council to undertake this project. The Meridan Fields clubhouse is complete and sports field lighting is nearing completion.

Bulcock Beach redevelopment

The \$8.5 million Bulcock Beach Redevelopment – co-funded by the State Government Q150 Legacy Infrastructure Program – included the reconstruction and expansion of the boardwalk area, improved picnic areas and enhanced pedestrian access, along with a decked fishing area. This project was delivered on time and within budget and is an example of multiple levels of government working together to create a community asset for local residents and visitors. Stage 3 of the redevelopment is about to commence.