

Direct Sunshine Coast Rail Line

A new rail line to connect our communities

July 2023



We are planning for the Direct Sunshine Coast Rail Line

What we're doing

The Sunshine Coast is one of Queensland's fastest growing regions. The limited availability of transport options means residents and visitors rely heavily on private vehicles, leading to congestion on key roads and impacting the efficiency of all trips and freight movements.

A Direct Sunshine Coast Rail Line would provide a faster, reliable and carbon-friendly heavy rail connection. The rail line would enable more efficient journeys between the Sunshine Coast, Moreton Bay, Brisbane and beyond, whilst also connecting the Sunshine Coast community for medium to long distance trips.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) is reviewing the previously preserved corridor and considering refinements to the alignment and station locations. The rail line will mostly follow the preserved corridor, with some refinements being assessed to allow for changes in land use, current engineering standards, safety legislation and Queensland Rail operational requirements.

This current planning will also provide more detail on various elements of the rail design, rail operation, stabling and construction, as well as environmental and community impacts, to ensure a new rail line can be successfully delivered and operated.

TMR is also undertaking a detailed analysis of design options, risks, financials, economics and utilities. Timeframes for detailed design and construction will be determined after this planning is completed.

The Australian Government and the Queensland Government have partnered for this planning project.



Artist's impression only



[www.yoursay-projects.tmr.qld.gov.au/
direct-sunshine-coast-rail-line](http://www.yoursay-projects.tmr.qld.gov.au/direct-sunshine-coast-rail-line)

Have your say

TMR is seeking your feedback on the proposed rail line. This is your opportunity to have your say on the proposed rail line, stations and active transport connections. Provide feedback and register to stay up to date on planning and future community engagement on TMR's online consultation page.

Travel options for the future

TMR is planning for both road and public transport projects to get the Sunshine Coast's growing number of residents and visitors where they need to be. Nearby projects have been considered in the planning for this project.

You can also view details and consultation opportunities for the Mooloolah River Interchange upgrade, Kawana Motorway and the Sunshine Coast Public Transport project (scan the QR code on the back page).

Line – a proposed 37km passenger rail line between Be...

Corridor (route) alignment

The project corridor will be largely determined by factors such as technical standards, engineering considerations, legislation, Queensland Rail operational requirements and safety standards. TMR may consider minor changes to the previously protected corridor based on the findings being undertaken during current planning (including operational, environmental, cultural heritage, geotechnical and hydraulic), as well as community consultation.

Stations

Proposed stations shown on this map (see right) have been determined based on anticipated population growth, land use compatibility with existing and planned development, forecast patronage demand and technical considerations to ensure desirable train speeds and journey times.

Alignment refinements

Over time, planning and engineering standards have changed. TMR is now reviewing the preserved corridor and considering refinements to the alignment (primarily the corridor width and curves) and station locations. In some locations, the corridor could be modified to achieve faster rail speeds and therefore reduce travel times through the proposed corridor.

The previously protected Caboolture to Maroochydore Corridor Study (CAMCOS) corridor was based on a single-track configuration. Current planning is based on a two-track configuration to provide reliable, faster and more frequent services that meet the increased population and demand. An additional track does require some widening of the rail corridor to ensure safe rail operations and maintenance.

This project will confirm and provide more detail on various elements of the rail design, rail operation and stabling, rail construction, land use, environment and waterways to ensure a new rail line can be successfully delivered and operated.

Queensland Rail operational requirements

The rail corridor must allow for safe construction, operation and maintenance by Queensland Rail. It will adhere to industry standards for rail operation and maintenance including consideration of rail maintenance access roads, grade separation clearances (clearances for overpasses) and track gradients.



Faster and reliable journey times



Removing congestion from the road network



Connecting Brisbane to the growing Sunshine Coast region



More accessible, inclusive and sustainable travel options



A legacy project shaping the future of travel in SEQ



Beerwah and Maroochydore.



1 Reviewing alignment to ensure compliance with current technical standards, make it constructable into Maroochydore and minimise operational noise impacts for nearby residents and businesses.

2 Reviewing alignment due to sensitive environmental and cultural heritage areas near Mooloolah River.

3 Reviewing alignment to consider requirements of the Kawana Motorway and provide an optimal road/rail interface.

4 Reviewing curves in the rail line to allow for increased train speeds. Reviewing alignment to reduce impacts through this environmentally sensitive area.

5 Reviewing alignment to accommodate proposed stabling yard.

6 Reviewing alignment to allow for construction from Beerwah Station. The CAMCOS alignment began at the junction, not at Beerwah Station.



LEGEND

- Direct Sunshine Coast Rail Line
 - Sunshine Coast Public Transport
 - Kawana Motorway
 - Sunshine Motorway, Mooloolah River Interchange Upgrade
 - - - Protected future corridor
- *Alignments are indicative only.*

The corridor width and alignment is being reviewed to consider current Queensland Rail standards for safety and operations, current technical standards and constructability, land use planning and sensitive environmental and cultural heritage areas.

Future land requirements

The Queensland Government's responsibility to provide an efficient and safer transport network sometimes means that privately owned land may be acquired for transport infrastructure purposes.

While most of the land for the new rail corridor was preserved in 2001, the proposed corridor changes will require some additional land. The land requirements will not be confirmed until the detailed business case is completed. TMR will liaise directly with property owners who are likely to be impacted by these changes once property requirements are confirmed and before the business case is finalised.

Environmental and cultural heritage

Environmental and cultural heritage impact investigations and approvals are an important part of planning for this project to ensure impacts are minimised. TMR is engaging with the community and Traditional Owner groups to gather feedback, identify opportunities and plan future mitigation measures for areas of environmental and cultural significance.

Accessibility

TMR is engaging with accessibility specialists and groups to ensure accessibility is considered in all stages of planning and design for this project. It is important that access to and at the stations is safe and efficient for everyone. Other important accessibility considerations will include legibility of the new network, active travel connectivity and safe multi-modal connections.

An illustration at the bottom of the page shows a woman in a pink top and blue pants riding a yellow scooter. To her right is a white sign with green text. Above the sign is a grey and black parrot perched on a post. In the background, there are stylized green trees and a yellow sun. In the foreground, the side of a grey train with yellow accents is visible.

You can provide your feedback on the:

- rail line and corridor alignment
- stations
- active transport connections.

Public transport on the Sunshine Coast

The new *Southern Sunshine Coast Public Transport Strategy* builds on previous transport planning for the Sunshine Coast region.

It has been developed by TMR, with input from Sunshine Coast Council and the local community, to address the challenges facing the region due to population growth and forecast increased demand for public transport services.

The key transport corridors being planned for are:

- the western corridor **(the North Coast Line)**: an existing inter-regional freight and passenger line, connecting coastal Queensland between Brisbane and Cairns. This corridor is currently being upgraded with Stage 1 of the Beerburum to Nambour Rail Upgrade project.
- the centre corridor **(Direct Sunshine Coast Rail Line)**: a fast, reliable and direct link to the western corridor at Beerwah to support medium and longer distance trips connecting the local economic centres of the Sunshine Coast and enabling more efficient connection between the Sunshine Coast, Moreton Bay and Brisbane regions.

- the coastal corridor **(Sunshine Coast Public Transport project)**: to enable local, intra-regional travel access to key coastal tourism, health and business precincts between Maroochydore and Caloundra, connecting coastal communities to the centre corridor.
- key connectors, to enable trips that are not directly connected by the western, centre or coastal corridors (largely east/west routes).

Sunshine Coast Public Transport project

Together, the Direct Sunshine Coast Rail Line and the Sunshine Coast Public Transport project will make travelling by public transport to, from and within the region more convenient, affordable and reliable. They will work together to cater for different types of trips, providing a comprehensive travel solution that meets the varied needs of the community.

Further information about this project is available at www.tmr.qld.gov.au/SunshineCoastPublicTransport

Station locations

Proposed station locations have been determined considering a balance of local connections, convenience for passengers and end-to-end journey times. Station locations have also been determined based on assessment of engineering and constructability challenges, such as flooding and environmental sensitivities. The proposed stations are:

- Beerwah (existing station to be upgraded)
- Nirimba
- Caloundra
- Aroona
- Birtinya
- Mountain Creek
- Maroochydore.

All station facilities will have accessible parking and direct and efficient access within the station and to connecting modes.

Park 'n' ride car parks are currently proposed for Beerwah, Nirimba, Caloundra, Aroona, Birtinya and Mountain Creek stations. Kiss 'n' ride (drop off) facilities and bicycle cages would also be provided at each station.

Further details about the station locations are available on the project consultation web page.



How we plan station locations

Station locations were initially identified in the CAMCOS planning in 1998–2001 based on land use projections at the time.

Proposed station locations and layouts have been assessed based on the following considerations:

- current and forecast land use planning and demographics (housing and jobs)
- transport modelling (predicted passenger numbers)
- environmental and cultural heritage factors
- ground conditions (geology, hydraulics and soil conditions)
- current and future placemaking and visual amenity, accessibility and wayfinding (to/from and within the stations)
- connections to other public transport modes, adjacent road infrastructure including requirements for grade separation (overpasses) and ease of construction

- train speed and travel times – the more stations, the longer the train travel time for passengers, as the time taken to slow down, stop at a station, and regain speed slows down the rail line’s overall speed and increases travel times.

Previously identified station sites which did not adequately address the above considerations and have been removed from current planning are Pelican Waters, Parrearra and Creekside.

Getting to and from stations

In addition to connection to the Sunshine Coast Public Transport project, the Direct Sunshine Coast (DSC) Rail Line project includes consideration of increased bus services and connections between transport modes, to ensure communities along the route have efficient connections to stations.

The project will also provide active transport facilities (such as pedestrian and bike rider pathways) around stations and along the corridor to connect key communities and centres.

Connecting with the SEQ rail network

The DSC Rail Line project is guided by long-term transport planning for South East Queensland (SEQ).

TMR has a blueprint, SEQ Rail Connect, for shaping the rail network to meet the future needs of the growing South East Queensland region. This blueprint outlines how we are preparing the network to be ready for Cross River Rail, which will transform the way our rail network operates and how customers travel by train in SEQ. The DSC Rail Line is identified as a priority.



Planning a major rail project

TMR uses Queensland Treasury's Project Assessment Framework (PAF) to assess major projects at critical stages, from the initial assessment of the service required, through to delivery.

At each stage of a project, the project's progress and quality is assessed via a series of gateway reviews by subject matter experts and independent reviewers to ensure that the project (and associated investment) meets strategic objectives and achieves value for money.

Once a project 'clears' a particular stage, it can progress to the next. At each stage of planning, more work is undertaken to include further detail around design, operation and reducing impacts.

Community consultation is an important part of this process that can influence the final design and whether the project should go ahead as planned.

Working with the community

Community and stakeholder engagement is an essential step in TMR's planning process.

Engagement activities help gather diverse perspectives that can contribute to developing innovative and collaborative solutions. They allow TMR to better understand opportunities, challenges, impacts and benefits from the community's perspective, and add value to the project outcomes.

TMR encourages you to provide feedback on the project.

We are also meeting with directly impacted property owners to inform them of potential land requirements and future impacts.

Next steps




Following completion and approval of the business case, and if construction funding is confirmed, TMR will proceed with detailed design and construction.

The proposed new rail line is being planned to travel from Beerwah to Maroochydore, connecting to Moreton Bay, Brisbane and beyond.



www.yoursay-projects.tmr.qld.gov.au/sunshine-coast-major-projects

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