Building our City
Light Rail Corridor 2017 Status Report
Prepared by the City of Gold Coast, in conjunction with the Griffith University Cities Research Institute.

Previous reports in the Building our City – Light Rail series. Available at cityofgoldcoast.com.au/buildingourcity

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“The Gold Coast Light Rail is more than just a transport project; it is a significant piece of city-building infrastructure…”

The G:Link light rail system that began service on 20 July 2014 has become a resounding success in terms of passenger numbers and changing the way that people move around our city. With the opening of Stage 2 on 17 December 2017 between the previous northern terminus of Parkwood and Helensvale there is now the ability for people to travel from Brisbane to the heart of the Gold Coast via rail for the first time in half a century.

But the light rail does not operate in a vacuum – it is a transformational piece of infrastructure that is changing our city around it.

This report is the third in a series of biennial reports looking at how the area known as the Light Rail Corridor is changing. This report follows on from the 2013 Baseline Report and 2015 First Update Report and outlines changes that are taking place in the study area (see map left) that stretches from the Gold Coast University Hospital in Parkwood to Broadbeach.

The Building our City – Light Rail Corridor reports aim to quantify the ‘flow on’ economic, social and environmental benefits that are being driven by the light rail in a way that is easy to measure and understand. The method is straightforward and simple; record a number of metrics at regular two year intervals and compare those changes.

This iteration of the reports also includes an additional measurement (where available) to show how the Light Rail Corridor is changing – compared to the City of Gold Coast as a whole. This will not only show how the corridor is changing, but will further expand on our understanding of its context within the wider city.
Gold Coast 2022 supports the implementation of the City Vision – ‘Inspired by lifestyle. Driven by opportunity’. It describes the outcomes the City of Gold Coast is working towards, the key plans and programs and signature actions aimed to deliver of the next few years.

Gold Coast 2022 is structured around three themes – Place, Prosperity and People:

*The best Place to live and visit*
– describing the city and how it will look.

*Prosperity built on a strong diverse economy*
– describing jobs and opportunities people will have.

*People contribute to a strong community spirit*
– describing the city, its culture and people coming together.

Each theme has a number of outcomes painting a picture of what we want to see, and each outcome is supported by performance measures that help us to understand our progress toward achieving this picture over the life of the plan. Each theme also lists signature actions that identify what will be underway by 2022.

The Building our City project can assist in the delivery of Gold Coast 2022 by showing the changes occurring in specific parts of the city over time.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Prosperity</th>
<th>People</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>/01 Light rail</td>
<td>/01 Business</td>
<td>/01 Social media</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/02 Traffic</td>
<td>/02 Development applications</td>
<td>/02 Demographics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/03 Bicycles</td>
<td>/03 Activity</td>
<td>/03 Heritage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/04 Community facilities</td>
<td>/04 Events</td>
<td>/04 Active and Healthy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/05 Building edges</td>
<td></td>
<td>/05 Public art</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/06 Connections</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/07 Environment</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/08 Street trees</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/09 Pedestrians</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/10 Waterways</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Overview

The Gold Coast offers an enviable lifestyle, a stunning environment and modern infrastructure that support the city as it grows. With the population expected to increase by 320,000 over the next 20 years, the Gold Coast must build on its exceptional economic opportunities, lifestyle and environment to use this growth as a lever to become a prosperous, connected and liveable world-class city.

The light rail system is a key component of this future, and has already proven to be an immediate success in terms of ridership numbers and the way it is shaping the city.

This spread shows the key changes that have occurred in the two years to 2017. Further detail on these and other changes can be viewed in more detail throughout this document.
20.1% \text{↑} \text{INCREASE OF AVERAGE DAILY TRIPS ON THE LIGHT RAIL FROM 2014/15 TO 2016/17}

42% \text{↑} \text{INCREASE ALONG NERANG STREET BETWEEN GARDENS AND DAVENPORT STREETS}

12.5km \text{ OF BICYCLE ROUTES ADDED BETWEEN 2015 AND 2017}

13.9% \text{↓} \text{DECREASE IN TRAFFIC VOLUME ALONG GOLD COAST HIGHWAY AT SOUTHPORT}

12,199 \text{ DWELLINGS HAVE BEEN APPROVED IN THE CORRIDOR AS PART OF MAJOR DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS FROM 1 JANUARY 2016 TO 31 DECEMBER 2017}
Place

Over the past 50 years, the Gold Coast has evolved from a quiet seaside holiday destination of connected villages to a vibrant and diverse international city.

Lifestyle is of paramount importance and the climate promotes a healthy, outdoor way of life. Add in a strip of world-class beaches, an expansive natural hinterland dotted with national parks and rainforest reserves and you will be hard pressed to find a more inviting place to call home.

The next part of the evolution is now the creation of a stronger public transport network to support and manage population growth and the associated challenges whilst retaining that true Gold Coast lifestyle and character.
Light Rail

Light Rail has provided an alternative way to move around the city. A fast, reliable and affordable public transport option moves many people where they need to go and also provides options for those who are unable to drive.

With the opening of Stage 2 on 17 December 2017 between the previous northern terminus of Parkwood and Helensvale there is now the ability for people to travel from Brisbane to the heart of the Gold Coast via rail for the first time in half a century.

Method

TransLink provides the City of Gold Coast with patronage data.

Key findings

Since the commencement of Light Rail operations on 20 July 2014, patronage has grown steadily year-on-year, increasing by 20.1% across the route. Note that these statistics are prior to the opening of Stage 2 to Helensvale in December 2017.

It should also be noted that there has been an increase of 510,000 (or 27 per cent) in trips across the entire Gold Coast public transport network, since Stage 2 of the light rail to Helensvale was launched compared to last year, with a total of 2.37 million trips taken on the network since 18 December 2017 (as of 11 March 2018).
Traffic

Private vehicle access throughout the corridor is essential, however as the city grows space for vehicles is likely to be constrained and a balance between private and public transport options will need to be achieved. Keeping track of vehicle numbers will assist the City in planning to ensure access is not compromised.

Method

The City of Gold Coast undertakes regular traffic counts and monitoring at multiple locations throughout the city.

Key findings

Vehicle movements have continued to decrease throughout Light Rail corridor since the start of tram operations. Gold Coast Highway south of Ada Bell Way has seen a significant reduction between 2015-16 and 2016-17, and vehicle movements remain low on Scarborough Street.

CASE STUDY

Light Rail Stage 2

The City of Gold Coast is investing in a world-class public transportation system, with an extensive light rail corridor connecting people to places across the City. Stage 2 extends this coverage.

Overview

Gold Coast Light Rail Stage 2 commenced passenger services on the 18 December 2017. Stage 2 links Southport’s Gold Coast University Hospital station to Helensvale heavy rail station, providing a one-transfer journey between Gold Coast and the capital Brisbane. This stage has a capacity for 3000 passengers per hour. The construction phase supported up to 1000 new direct and indirect jobs in the local construction industry.

Stage 2 expands the Gold Coast Light Rail adding:

- three new light rail stations – Helensvale, Parkwood and Parkwood East
- 1400 car spaces in two park ‘n’ ride facility at Parkwood and Helensvale, with a kiss ‘n’ ride set down area and facilities for taxis, motorcycles and accessible parking
- four new trams
Bicycles
The City of Gold Coast is committed to improving the transport infrastructure throughout the city. The construction of the light rail didn’t just deliver a tram service, but also assisted in augmenting the bicycle network throughout the corridor. That work has continued with more lanes, facilities and dedicated routes being delivered by the City to help people change the way they move.

Method
The City of Gold Coast publishes the Gold Coast Cycling Guide which outlines the cycle routes throughout the city. It is available at cityofgoldcoast.com.au/activetravel

Key findings
The total length of both off-road and on-road bicycle routes has continued to grow within the corridor, improving connections and safety for cyclists.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total bicycle routes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>83.3km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>112.6km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>125.1km</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Community facilities

Well planned and coordinated social infrastructure is fundamental to the economic and social wellbeing of a community. The City operates and maintains significant infrastructure throughout the corridor, which is now a lot easier for all to access thanks to the light rail.

Method
The City of Gold Coast operates and maintains and inventory of social infrastructure.

Key findings
In regards to play equipment, overall there has been one additional piece of equipment added and one new location where equipment is available. Overall two additional showers were added throughout the corridor. It should be noted in regards to play equipment and showers that areas with higher use occasionally receive equipment from areas with lower use. The number of libraries and community centres has remained the same.

Community centres

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Public libraries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Beach showers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Pieces of playground equipment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>249</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>241</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>242</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Building edges

The way in which buildings ‘hit the street’ has a major impact on the amenity and safety of that location. Blank walls, driveways, and pleasant but uninteresting landscaping often results in street devoid of activity and surveillance. However buildings with physical openings, retail and office uses, and that are built right up to the footpath add interest and vibrancy to the street.

Method

The City regularly surveys the residential and commercial building edges close to the centres of activity.

An active edge offers two-way visual and physical permeability at street level. The activities in these buildings add a sense of life and activity to the streetscape.

A moderate edge provides some visual and/or physical access to the interior, but is partially obscured by distance, small fences and gates, signage, or the scale and type of glazing.

An inactive edge provides no visual or physical interface due to solid walls, car parking, driveways or a lack of windows and doors. Also includes vacant lots.

Key findings

Between 2013 and 2017, some 1600 metres of inactive frontages across the light rail corridor have been replaced with active frontages, representing a gradual improvement in street level activation of the built environment.
Surfers Paradise & Chevron Island

8,100m EDGES SURVEYED in Chevron Island

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Change</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>7,020</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>6,986</td>
<td>-34</td>
<td>-2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>6,900</td>
<td>-86</td>
<td>-12%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Florida Gardens & Broadbeach

8,500m EDGES SURVEYED in Broadbeach

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Change</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>5,970</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>5,609</td>
<td>-361</td>
<td>-9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>5,430</td>
<td>-540</td>
<td>-9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

22,300m EDGES SURVEYED in Surfers Paradise

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Change</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>17,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>16,475</td>
<td>-525</td>
<td>-3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>16,455</td>
<td>-20</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6,900m EDGES SURVEYED in Florida Gardens

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Change</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>5,740</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>5,790</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>5,885</td>
<td>145</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Connections

Increasing the ability for non-vehicle traffic to move through and around the corridor will increase the attractiveness of light rail as a transport option. It will also link together communities and encourage more non-vehicle trips to be taken. These links include bridges across waterways, laneways opening up large city blocks and locations for pedestrians to cross busy roads.

Method

The City of Gold Coast regularly surveys the midblock links (arcades and laneways), bridges and pedestrian crossing points (pedestrian operated) within the corridor.

Key findings

There has been a net increase in eight pedestrian specific road crossing points, predominantly in Broadbeach and Surfers Paradise. There have been three additional mid-block links (not 24 hours) created. Two are through the renovated Transit Building in Surfers Paradise, and a new link from the renovated Australia Fair West Shopping Centre to the Southport Central complex in Southport.

One new bridge has been built, linking the Star Casino and Hotel to the Gold Coast Highway at Broadbeach. The Thomas Drive Bridge has been upgraded, providing wider pedestrian paths which improve the connection between Surfers Paradise and Chevron Island.

### Mid-block links

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(not 24 hours)</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(24 hours)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Bridges

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>(of which 6 are pedestrian/cycle only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>(of which 9 are pedestrian/cycle only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>(of which 9 are pedestrian/cycle only)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Pedestrian specific road crossing points

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>139</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>148</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CASE STUDY

Surf Parade Broadbeach Placemaking

The section of Surf Parade at Broadbeach in between Victoria and Queensland Avenues plays a pivotal role in the greater Broadbeach business precinct. Considered the main Eat Street of Broadbeach, it consists of restaurant, retail, residential and commercial businesses and a number of restaurants have licensed outdoor dining areas that extend out onto the footpath contributing to a lively, active public domain.

It also had a critical role during the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games as well as major events including Blues on Broadbeach, SupaNova Weekend and the Groundwater Music Festival in which the street is closed to traffic.

Winning the 2018 AILA QLD Landscape Architecture Award - Civic Landscape Award, the project completed in 2017 had a number of objectives which were achieved:

- improve public safety through clever lighting design in association with low level planting to open up sight lines
- improve pedestrian amenity by reducing speed limits and increasing pedestrian pavement space
- upgrade footpath and road pavements utilising decorative road treatments to reduce vehicle dominance
- improve and provide flexible spaces for major events, enabling day and night place activations
- improve access and mobility for pedestrians
- evaluate and improve public transport routes and facilities in collaboration with DTMR and Translink, reducing the impact of noise and fumes on the precinct
- modify parking layout to allow for improved public spaces and access
- modify loading bays and service access for commercial activities, minimising impact on pedestrian activity
- improve lighting conditions, including decorative and festive lighting
- improve cycling conditions
- increase greenery while maintaining the character elements of the street
- new street furniture including outdoor dining structures
- future proofing vital underground water and sewer infrastructure
- improve stormwater capacity upgrading existing pipe networks and installing a flush kerb / invert drain design

For more information: cityofgoldcoast.com.au/surfparadecpm
Environment

Gold Coast is one of Australia’s most biodiverse cities and our world-class natural environment underpins our way of life so loved by both locals and visitors alike. The natural beauty we are privileged to enjoy is a vital encouragement to active and healthy lifestyles.

Nature provides a rewarding experience like no other. Our natural environment also provides vital economic impetus to the city. As a driving force for growth, our clean and green image and reputation fosters economic activity creating opportunities and jobs for current and future generations.

The City has recently endorsed the Our Natural City Strategy which is available at cityofgoldcoast.com.au/ournaturalcity

Method

The City monitors and manages numerous environmental assets and programs. The statistics noted refer to the Light Rail Corridor study area.

167.58 ha
HINTERLAND TO COAST CRITICAL CORRIDOR

166.57 ha
OF MAPPED NATIVE VEGETATION

8.95 ha
OF HIGH PRIORITY VEGETATION

0 ha
OF MEDIUM PRIORITY VEGETATION

64.4 ha
OF GENERAL PRIORITY VEGETATION

93.22 ha
OF REGULATED VEGETATION

81.5 ha
OF LOCAL PROTECTED AREAS

37.42 ha
OF LOCAL SIGNIFICANT SPECIES AREAS

137.47 ha
OF STATE SIGNIFICANT SPECIES AREAS

7.42 ha
OF THREATENED ECOLOGICAL COMMUNITIES (VINE THICKET ON BEACH RIDGES)

15.28 ha
OF LOCAL WETLANDS

22.43 ha
OF STATE SIGNIFICANT WETLANDS

174.89 ha
OF SIGNIFICANT SPECIES AREAS

36
THREATENED SPECIES RECORDED

47
RECORDED KOALA SIGHTINGS

No
STATE SIGNIFICANT AQUATIC SYSTEMS

No
STATE PROTECTED AREAS

No
STATE KOALA HABITAT

MORE THAN 190.44 ha
OF NATURAL WATERCOURSES
Street trees
Street trees are an important ingredient in creating a high quality public realm. They provide both the shade and shelter required in a subtropical climate and are an attractive landscaping element which softens the streetscape and fosters inviting spaces.

Method
The City of Gold Coast maintains an inventory of trees. Trees that are then mapped as being “on the street” are mapped and counted.
(Note: This count is for street trees only, not trees in parks, conservation areas or private land).

Key findings
There has been a significant jump in the number of street trees recorded over the past two years. An improved recording method and the addition of some areas where trees were not previously recorded represents the majority of the increase.

Street trees in the corridor.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>10,898</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>11,560</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>14,413</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Pedestrians
The number of pedestrians moving through and using a space is a good indicator of the social and economic health of a place. More pedestrians mean more customers, more vibrancy, increased safety and more opportunities for social interaction.

Method
The City of Gold Coast undertakes regular pedestrian counts at multiple sites across the city.

For each year indicated the numbers consist of the total number of pedestrians across a consecutive Friday and Saturday from 10am to 10pm.

Key findings
Total pedestrian numbers have been up and down over the years, primarily due to methodological constraints. However sustained areas of pedestrian growth from 2013 to 2017 appear to be occurring in areas of ‘walk up’ towards the Light Rail stations along Via Roma (62 per cent), Monaco Street (53 per cent) and along Hooker Boulevard between Broadbeach South Station and Pacific Fair (104 per cent).
### Pedestrian Count Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Standing 2013</th>
<th>Standing 2014</th>
<th>Standing 2015</th>
<th>Standing 2016</th>
<th>Standing 2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Elkhorn &amp; Orchid Avenues</td>
<td>20948</td>
<td>17946</td>
<td>20580</td>
<td>19590</td>
<td>21696</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surf Parade &amp; Armrick Avenue</td>
<td>3900</td>
<td>3606</td>
<td>3784</td>
<td>3622</td>
<td>4156</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hooker Boulevard Bridge</td>
<td>1896</td>
<td>1938</td>
<td>1674</td>
<td>2134</td>
<td>1996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scarborough Street (Between HINZE &amp; HICKS)</td>
<td>5604</td>
<td>4470</td>
<td>4710</td>
<td>4932</td>
<td>5824</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scarborough Street (South of Young)</td>
<td>22020</td>
<td>21468</td>
<td>23938</td>
<td>20604</td>
<td>22084</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAVILL Ave Mall</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standing</td>
<td>2135</td>
<td>1698</td>
<td>3290</td>
<td>3167</td>
<td>3377</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sitting in Cafe</td>
<td>1658</td>
<td>1721</td>
<td>2037</td>
<td>2834</td>
<td>3109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sitting in Mall</td>
<td>3101</td>
<td>1857</td>
<td>3093</td>
<td>2970</td>
<td>2856</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hooker Boulevard Bridge</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sitting in Cafe</td>
<td>1957</td>
<td>1857</td>
<td>2037</td>
<td>2970</td>
<td>2856</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sitting in Mall</td>
<td>2970</td>
<td>2970</td>
<td>3093</td>
<td>2856</td>
<td>2856</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Surfers Riverside Project

The Gold Coast Waterways Authority has delivered an upgraded river edge treatment in Appel Park at Surfers Paradise as part of the wider Surfers Riverside Masterplan. The interlocking blocks allow access to the Nerang River water edge and can be used in a variety of ways as a platform for seating, steps down to the water and also to protect the riverbank against erosion.

For more information about the Gold Coast Waterways Authority and their projects please visit their website at gcwa.qld.gov.au.

Waterways

The Gold Coast is known for its beaches, rivers and canals. Access to that water and its quality is vital to the environmental, economic and social health of the city.

Method

Water edges

Measure access to the water in the corridor:

- Good access – public access is available with supporting facilities such as a defined park, pathway/oceanway and facilities
- Some access – public access is available however the adjacent space is undefined with no supporting facilities. Also includes semi-privatised spaces where private land has direct waterfront access.
- No access – no public access available, such as canal front homes.

Boat ramps

Map and count publicly available boat ramps (includes public moorings and pontoons)

Healthy waterways grading

The water quality information is sourced from the Healthy Waterways Environmental Health Monitoring Program (EHMP) monitoring of selected sites throughout south-east Queensland is undertaken by the State Government on a quarterly basis and a report card is produced annually.

Key findings

There were three locations where the water edge access changed. An upgrading of a park on Isle of Capri to ‘good’, the new bridge to the Star providing ‘some’ access and a development site at Broadbeach downgraded from ‘good’ to ‘some’. Overall, 85 metres of ‘good’ access and 175 metres of ‘none’ access was lost, whilst 260 metres of ‘some’ access was gained.

Public boat facilities have increased by seven, including brand new facilities at Mitchell Park, and a new Pontoon at Appel Park.

The quality of the Nerang Estuary catchment remains stable, whilst the Broadwater catchment continues to improve.
**Broadwater catchment**

**2017 waterway health grade**

- **2015:** A-
- **2013:** B-

“The overall environmental condition of Broadwater is excellent. Water quality and mangroves are in excellent condition and seagrass habitats in good condition, supporting local fisheries. However, the current condition is under pressure from sediment and nutrient loads.”

**Nerang estuary catchment**

**2017 waterway health grade**

- **2015:** C-
- **2013:** B-

“The overall environmental condition of Nerang is fair. Estuarine water quality is excellent and freshwater stream health is excellent. However, estuarine habitat is almost non-existent, riparian vegetation is poor and very high sediment and nutrient loads are being generated.”

Source: healthywaterways.org
Prosperity

The City Vision outlined in Gold Coast 2022 is: “Inspired by Lifestyle. Driven by Opportunity”.

As such the City is targeting jobs in diverse industries including health, medical science, sport, marine manufacturing, IT and tertiary education. Diversifying our economy allows us to become less reliant on the two economic pillars that have served us so well for many decades – tourism and construction.
Business

Understanding what types of businesses exist in an area, how many there are, how they are changing and what services they provide is a key focus of this report series. Local businesses provide services and employment for local people and underpin the economic life of the corridor. Understanding what changes occur assist the City in planning for the future in terms of transport, land use and economic development.

Method

An independent consultancy was contracted by the City to undertake the business survey.

The consultancy used a mix of property records, property research reports and on-the-ground surveys to compile the information.

(Note the survey does not record vacant land and the colour indicated on the map represents the most dominant land use at that location when there are multiple land uses on one lot).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Area (sqm)</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Retail Trade</td>
<td>294,510</td>
<td>27.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education and Training</td>
<td>192,465</td>
<td>17.6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accommodation and Food Services</td>
<td>178,720</td>
<td>16.4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
<td>89,755</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Services</td>
<td>68,745</td>
<td>6.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Professional, Scientific and Technical Services</td>
<td>60,200</td>
<td>5.5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vacant Lease</td>
<td>48,275</td>
<td>4.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RENTAL, HIRING AND REAL ESTATE Services</td>
<td>22,815</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
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<td>Arts and Recreation Services</td>
<td>20,865</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Administration and Safety</td>
<td>16,515</td>
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<tr>
<td>Administrative and Support Services</td>
<td>11,490</td>
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<td>Construction</td>
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<td>Financial and Insurance Services</td>
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<td>1.0%</td>
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<td>Wholesale Trade</td>
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<td>1.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services</td>
<td>1,670</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information Media and Telecommunications</td>
<td>5,195</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>5,670</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Development applications

The light rail is more than just a transport project; it is a significant piece of city building infrastructure which has been recognised in the City’s planning documents as a key spine along which development and growth can be accommodated.

By encouraging new businesses, residents and activities to occur in and around the light rail corridor, transport and land uses are integrated to increase accessibility and connectivity across the city, reduce the costs of congestion and its impacts upon productivity, and provides alternatives to private car use.

Method

The City keeps records about development approvals. The data shown represents major approvals of four or more dwellings throughout the study area across the period of 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2017.

Note: The map and listed developments are those that consist of 4 dwellings or greater.

Key findings

Development approvals in the study area over the period noted are dominated by a few large developments at the northern end of Mermaid Beach, Burleigh Heads, northern Palm Beach and Kirra, whilst small and medium-rise developments are scattered throughout the corridor.

Total number of dwellings approved in the corridor as part of major developments above four dwellings during the period 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2017: 12,199

DA Approvals: 1 January 2016 – 31 December 2017

1. 2,523 Gold Coast Highway Mermaid Beach
   48 apartments and short-term accommodation
2. 2,585 Gold Coast Highway Mermaid Beach
   32 apartments, office, café, restaurant, take-away food premises and a shop
3. ‘Elegance’ 16 Mermaid Avenue Mermaid Beach
   536 apartments, office, shop and restaurant
4. NAIA’ 28 Alexandra Avenue Surfside
   97 apartments and short-term accommodation
5. 4 Alexandra Avenue Mermaid Beach
   63 apartments
6. 185 Old Burleigh Road Broadbeach
   91 apartments and a food and drink outlet
7. 218-222 Annes Avenue Broadbeach
   224 apartments
8. 12 Philip Avenue Broadbeach
   263 apartments and short-term accommodation and a food and drink outlet
9. 12 Elizabeth Avenue Broadbeach
   115 apartments and short-term accommodation, food and drink outlet and a shop
10. 2,669 Gold Coast Highway Broadbeach
    293 hotel apartments
11. Broadbeach Island
    406 apartments
12. 2 Charles Avenue Broadbeach
    25 apartments
13. 136 Old Burleigh Road Broadbeach
    91 apartments
14. 11 Jubilee Avenue Broadbeach
    4 apartments
15. 16 Chelsea Avenue Broadbeach
    113 apartments and short-term accommodation
16. ‘Rosewood on Broadbeach’ 15 Gold Coast Highway Broadbeach
    138 apartments, 48 serviced apartments, restaurant, convenience shop and an indoor recreation facility
17. 19 Broadbeach Boulevard
    7 apartments
18. 97 Old Burleigh Road
    51 apartments
19. 2 Wharf Road
    Surfers Paradise
    38 apartments
20. 2,838 Gold Coast Highway
    Surfers Paradise
    391 apartments, café and a shop
21. 2,890 Gold Coast Highway
    Surfers Paradise
    64 apartments
22. 18 Garfield Terrace
    Surfers Paradise
    118 apartments, 184 short-term accommodation units, food and drink outlets
23. 9 Thornton Street
    Surfers Paradise
    81 apartments and short-term accommodation
24. 3 Northcliffe Terrace
    Surfers Paradise
    75 apartments
25. 7 Northcliffe Terrace
    Surfers Paradise
    169 apartments and 2 food and drink outlets
26. 14 Hamilton Avenue
    Surfers Paradise
    53 apartments
27. ‘Orion Towers’ 3,006 Gold Coast Highway
    Surfers Paradise
    165 hotel suites, 1127 apartments and short-term accommodation, food and drink outlets
28. 18 Remembrance Drive
    Surfers Paradise
    183 apartments and short-term accommodation
29. 6 Mallana Street
    Surfers Paradise
    60 apartments
30. 23 Sunrise Boulevard
    Surfers Paradise
    20 apartments and short-term accommodation
31. ‘Spirit’ Trickett Street
    Surfers Paradise
    479 apartments, shop, food and drink outlet
32. 3 Parnoo Street
    Surfers Paradise
    113 apartments
33. 250 Stanhill Drive
    Surfers Paradise
    20 apartments
34. 235 Stanhill Drive
    Surfers Paradise
    10 apartments and restaurant

* Excludes 1252 at the Commonwealth Games Village
Southport

- 41 Allan Street
  - 96 apartments

- 36 Anembo Street
  - 237 apartments

- 25 Mawarra Street
  - 105 apartments

- 23 Burra Street
  - 4 apartments

- ‘Mawarra Tower’
  - 30 Anembo Street
  - Surfers Paradise
  - 190 apartments

- 3 Aruma Street
  - Surfers Paradise
  - 4 apartments

- 247 apartments
  - Surfers Paradise

- 25 Mawarra Street
  - Surfers Paradise
  - 12 Peak Avenue
  - Main Beach
  - 28 apartments

- 3,496 Main Beach Parade
  - Surfers Paradise
  - ‘Midwater’

- 5 Pacific Street
  - Main Beach

- 12 Waverley Street
  - Surfers Paradise
  - ‘South Hamptons’

- 4 apartments
  - Surfers Paradise

- 244 Queen Street
  - Surfers Paradise

- 10 apartments
  - Surfers Paradise

- 137 Johnston Street
  - Southport

- 9 apartments
  - Surfers Paradise

- 126 Eugaree Street
  - Southport

- 6 apartments
  - Southport

- 16 apartments
  - Southport

- 17th Floor
  - Surfers Paradise

- 4 Scarborough Street
  - Southport

- 15 Scarborough Street
  - Southport

- 4 apartments
  - Southport

- 7 Pine Avenue
  - Surfers Paradise

- 1 Scarborough Street
  - Southport

- 4 apartments
  - Southport

- 24 apartments, food and drink outlet
  - Southport

- 10 apartments
  - Surfers Paradise

- 2 Pilgrim Place
  - Southport

- 4 apartments
  - Southport

- 18 Shillito Street
  - Southport

- 190 apartments
  - Surfers Paradise

- 4 apartments
  - Surfers Paradise

- 123 Falconer Street
  - Southport

- 190 apartments
  - Surfers Paradise

- 4 apartments
  - Surfers Paradise

- 36 Anembo Street
  - Surfers Paradise

- 5 Pacific Street
  - Southport

- 101 Pohlman Street
  - Southport

- 4 apartments
  - Surfers Paradise

- 92 Ferny Avenue
  - Surfers Paradise

- 20 Queen Street
  - Southport

- 6 apartments
  - Southport

- ‘Minnie & Allan’
  - 41 Allan Street
  - Southport

- 163 Scarborough Street
  - Southport

- 52 apartments
  - Southport

- 124 apartments, food and drink outlet
  - Southport

- 4 apartments
  - Surfers Paradise

- 113 High Street
  - Southport

- 24 apartments, food and drink outlet
  - Southport

- 188 apartments, 32 short term accommodation units,
  - childcare centre and an office

- The Au’
  - 15 Scarborough Street
  - Southport

- 354 apartments and 120 short term hotel accommodation
  - across 2 high-rise towers, bar,
  - educational establishment, food and drink outlet,
  - healthcare services, indoor sport and recreation, office,
  - sales office, service industry, shops and a showroom

- ‘Oxford on Scarborough’
  - 4 Scarborough Street
  - Southport

- 279 apartments, 45 short term accommodation units, office,
  - shop, food and drink outlet

- 200 apartments, 297 short term accommodation units
  - and 4 food and drink outlets

- 165 apartments and short-term accommodation

- 1000 apartments in 2 high-rise towers, café, community centre, restaurant, shop and a take-away food premises

- ‘Ruby’
  - 2 Birt Avenue
  - Surfers Paradise

- 46 apartments in 2 high-rise towers, shops, office and an indoor recreation facility

- 3,321 Gold Coast Highway
  - Surfers Paradise

- 120 apartments and a shop

- 124 apartments, food and drink outlet
  - Southport

- 128 apartments, restaurant, shop and a take-away food premises

- ‘Sapphire’
  - 7 Pine Avenue
  - Surfers Paradise

- 34 apartments
  - Surfers Paradise

- 101 Pohlman Street
  - Surfers Paradise

- 12 apartments
  - Southport

- 23 White Street
  - Southport

- 175 apartments
  - Surfers Paradise

- 1 Garden Street
  - Southport

- 89 Pohlman Street
  - Surfers Paradise

- 5 apartments
  - Southport

- 44 Stanhill Drive
  - Surfers Paradise

- 247 apartments

- 230 Queen Street
  - Southport

- 6 apartments
  - Southport

- 125 apartments
  - Surfers Paradise

- 4 apartments
  - Surfers Paradise

- 1 Scarborough Street
  - Southport

- 4 apartments
  - Southport

- 105 Falconer Street
  - Southport

- 244 Queen Street
  - Surfers Paradise

- 6 apartments
  - Southport

- 89 Pohlman Street
  - Surfers Paradise

- 9 apartments
  - Southport

- 123 Falconer Street
  - Southport

- 4 apartments
  - Surfers Paradise

- 4 apartments
  - Surfers Paradise

- 33 Lather Street
  - Southport

- 12 apartments
  - Southport

- 95 Johnston Street
  - Surfers Paradise

- 16 apartments
  - Southport

- 137 Johnston Street
  - Southport

- 12 apartments
  - Southport

- 1 Shillito Street
  - Southport

- 16 apartments
  - Southport

- 92 Ferny Avenue
  - Surfers Paradise

- 192 apartments, restaurant, shop and a take-away food premises

- ‘Chevron Regency’
  - 44 Stanhill Drive
  - Surfers Paradise

- 279 apartments, 45 short term accommodation units, office,
  - shop, food and drink outlet

- 24 apartments, food
  - Southport

- 18 Shillito Street
  - Southport

- 24 apartments, food and
  - drink outlet and a shop

- 1 Ferry Road
  - Southport

- 52 apartments, food and drink outlet and a shop

- 89 Pohlman Street
  - Southport

- 4 apartments
  - Southport

- 105 Falconer Street
  - Southport

- 4 apartments
  - Southport

- ‘South Hamptons’
  - 12 Waverley Street
  - Southport

- 50 apartments
  - Southport

- 1 Scarborough Street
  - Southport

- 4 apartments
  - Southport

- 10 apartments
  - Surfers Paradise

- 23 White Street
  - Southport

- 134 apartments, food
  - and drink outlet

- 4 apartments
  - Surfers Paradise

- 18 Shillito Street
  - Southport

- 4 apartments
  - Surfers Paradise

- 113 High Street
  - Southport

- 12 apartments
  - Southport

- 4 apartments
  - Surfers Paradise

- 105 Falconer Street
  - Southport

- 4 apartments
  - Southport

- 123 Falconer Street
  - Southport

- 4 apartments
  - Southport

- 3,321 Gold Coast Highway
  - Surfers Paradise

- 120 apartments and a shop

- 3,496 Main Beach Parade
  - Main Beach

- 165 apartments and short-term accommodation

- 1000 apartments in 2 high-rise towers, café, community centre, restaurant, shop and a take-away food premises

- ‘Ruby’
  - 2 Birt Avenue
  - Surfers Paradise

- 46 apartments in 2 high-rise towers, shops, office and an indoor recreation facility

- 3,321 Gold Coast Highway
  - Surfers Paradise

- 120 apartments and a shop

- ‘Midwater’
  - 3,496 Main Beach Parade
  - Main Beach

- 165 apartments and short-term accommodation

- 5 Pacific Street
  - Main Beach

- 28 apartments
  - Main Beach

- 200 apartments, 297 short-term accommodation units
  - and 4 food and drink outlets

- 20 Queen Street
  - Southport

- 133 apartments
  - Southport

- 18 Lenneberg Street
  - Southport

- 6 apartments
  - Southport

- ‘Minnie & Allan’
  - 41 Allan Street
  - Southport

- 96 apartments
  - Southport

- 77 Minnie Street
  - Southport

- 9 apartments
  - Southport

- 83 Falconer Street
  - Southport

- 4 apartments
  - Southport

- 52 apartments, food and drink outlet and a shop
  - Southport

- 89 Pohlman Street
  - Southport

- 4 apartments
  - Southport

- 101 Pohlman Street
  - Southport

- 18 apartments
  - Southport

- 230 Queen Street
  - Southport

- 6 apartments
  - Southport

- 244 Queen Street
  - Southport

- 6 apartments
  - Southport

- 1 Scarborough Street
  - Southport

- 188 apartments, 32 short term accommodation units,
  - childcare centre and an office

- The Au’
  - 15 Scarborough Street
  - Southport

- 354 apartments and 120 short term hotel accommodation
  - across 2 high-rise towers, bar,
  - educational establishment, food and drink outlet,
  - healthcare services, indoor sport and recreation, office,
  - sales office, service industry, shops and a showroom

- ‘Oxford on Scarborough’
  - 4 Scarborough Street
  - Southport

- 279 apartments, 45 short term accommodation units, office,
  - shop, food and drink outlet

- 1 Garden Street
  - Southport

- 175 apartments

- 23 White Street
  - Southport

- 124 apartments, food and drink outlet

- 18 Shillito Street
  - Southport

- 16 apartments
  - Southport

- 95 Johnston Street
  - Southport

- 8 apartments

- 127 Johnston Street
  - Southport

- 4 apartments

- 137 Johnston Street
  - Southport

- 10 apartments

- 113 High Street
  - Southport

- 12 apartments

- 1 Gray Street
  - Southport

- 24 apartments, food and drink outlet

- 163 Scarborough Street
  - Southport

- 51 apartments

Key

- >20 dwelling
- 21-75 dwelling
- 76–500 dwelling
- 500+ dwelling
- Approved
- Under construction
- Complete
Activity
The light rail links together some of the key tourist, entertainment and educations precincts throughout the city. Tourists and students play an important part in the economy of the city and the light rail makes it easier, cheaper and safer to get around. The same applies for people visiting the entertainment precincts. Outdoor dining activates outdoor spaces and provides business owners with additional floorspace to benefit their business. And for revellers there is now another option to get around without having to drive whilst being kept safer under the watchful eye of the City’s expansive Safety Camera Network.

Method
Destination Queensland (a partnership between the Queensland Government and the tourism industry) keeps track of visitor numbers to the Gold Coast.

The City regulates outdoor dining and records existing permits.

Education institutions track the number of students at their campuses.

The City operates and maintains an extensive CCTV network in conjunction with the Queensland Police Service.

Key findings
Domestic overnight and day visitors continue to grow steadily, whilst international visitors have skyrocketed, reflecting the tourist popularity of the City.

Student numbers at Griffith University Gold Coast Campus continue to increase steadily. The number of TAFE students has jumped significantly, primarily due to a methodological change in how the numbers are calculated.

Roadside dining venues overall have increased throughout the corridor. There have been significant increases in Southport and Broadbeach venues, while Surfers Paradise and Chevron Island have seen declines.

Overall day visitors
\[ \uparrow \text{7.7\% increase} \]

Overall domestic overnight visitors
\[ \uparrow \text{3.9\% increase} \]

Overall international visitors
\[ \uparrow \text{41.6\% increase} \]
### Roadside dining

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Southport</strong></td>
<td><img src="https://via.placeholder.com/150" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="https://via.placeholder.com/150" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="https://via.placeholder.com/150" alt="Image" /></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>24</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>34</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>304sqm</td>
<td>287sqm</td>
<td>377sqm</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>689sqm</td>
<td>390sqm</td>
<td>491sqm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Broadbeach</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>59</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1516sqm</td>
<td>1290sqm</td>
<td>1683sqm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Chevron Island</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>152sqm</td>
<td>140sqm</td>
<td>108sqm</td>
</tr>
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<td><strong>Surfers Paradise</strong></td>
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<td></td>
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<td><strong>Mermaid Beach</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>35sqm</td>
<td>65sqm</td>
<td>93sqm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Safety camera network

- **Southport**: 50
- **Surfers Paradise**: 103
- **Broadbeach**: 62

### Education institutions

- Griffith University Students
  - 2013: 15,600
  - 2015: 18,800
  - 2017: 19,200

*including International and IELTS students who come in for English exams.*
Events
Festivals and events not only attract tourists and stimulate the economy, but also act as a bonding element for local communities to get together and enjoy everything the Gold Coast has to offer. The light rail provides an important transport function for many festivals and events, being able to move thousands of people per hour. It also spreads the economic benefits of hotel bookings and hospitality along the length of the route, instead of just the immediate vicinity of a specific event.

Method
The City, Broadbeach Alliance and Surfers Paradise Alliance monitor attendances at events and festivals across the corridor.

Key findings
Events and festivals continue to draw high patronage across the corridor. Arts, cultural and family friendly festivals saw significant growth numbers, whilst slight drops from already huge attendances occurred for the Gold Coast 600 and Gold Coast Marathon.
People

The Gold Coast is a growing city. With an estimated resident population of 591,356 (ABS ERP) in 2017, the city continues to attract residents and visitors from around the world. The City of Gold Coast Corporate Plan focuses on families and will ensure that decisions we make today will allow our children and grandchildren to enjoy fulfilling lives in our great city. We want children that are born in the city today to be raised, educated, employed, have their own families and retire here on the Gold Coast.
Social media

With the advent of social media and the creation of huge amounts of data, there is the opportunity to interrogate this data to see if it provides any insights into how the Gold Coast is perceived. Instagram is a highly visual social media platform which integrates location identification and the ability to add hashtags.

This data can be used to show popular locations/suburbs, as well as the key things people are talking about on social media for those locations.

Method

Using a publicly accessible on-line tool (hashtagify.me) to obtain data about Instagram and Twitter usage. The City of Gold Coast takes privacy seriously and no information was accessed or used at any time that could invade the privacy of those that post information on the Instagram or Twitter platforms.

Key findings

The iconic visual imagery of the Surfers Paradise surfing lifestyle is of a high value for social media content. Surfers Paradise’s reputation as an premier international tourist and entertainment destination is reflected in social media statistics, tagged 1,108,000 times. Broadbeach and Main Beach have lower recognition, tagged 188,000 and 86,000 times respectively. Parkwood’s residential uses attract the least attention, tagged 23,000 times.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Tagged</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Surfers Paradise</td>
<td>1,038,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chevron Island</td>
<td>11,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Main Beach</td>
<td>86,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Broadbeach</td>
<td>188,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southport</td>
<td>318,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parkwood</td>
<td>23,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mermaid Beach</td>
<td>59,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Data for Southport may be inflated due to the name clash with other major urban locations with the same name making it difficult to differentiate between locations.
CASE STUDY

HOTA (Home of the Arts)
The City of Gold Coast’s vision is that when completed, the Gold Coast Cultural Precinct will include drama, music, dance, art, new media and public sculpture, as well as creative educational opportunities and an extensive outdoor program of activities that make the most of the exceptional public space opportunities of Evandale.

Masterplan

The 2014 Gold Coast Cultural Precinct Masterplan presents a design that embraces the city's egalitarian and celebratory character while cleverly addressing its evolving cultural facility needs. While the Masterplan continues to provide guiding principles, Council decisions relating to Stage 1 have changed some aspects of masterplan layout and staging. Any provision of commercial and residential on site would be subject to future council decisions.

Stage 1 – Versatile outdoor space

The City has marked project completion of the $37.5 million (2014 dollars) outdoor stage and concert lawn on time and on budget. Designed for artistic, cultural and civic celebrations, it is equipped for audiences of up to 1000, and can cater for up to 5000 with equipment bumped in. With striking views to the city skyline and the hinterland, the versatile stage doubles as a quality black box venue and can also accommodate seated functions for up to 250 people.

Stage 1b – Art gallery

An international-standard City Gallery will be delivered as part of Stage 1B of the Gold Coast Cultural Precinct. To follow completion in December 2017 of the Stage 1A concert lawn and stage (Versatile Outdoor Space), this next major step in the precinct’s evolution will deliver for the Gold Coast a purpose-built visual arts facility for exhibitions, education and engagement.

To be completed in late 2020, the gallery will be youthful, ambitious, adaptable and collaborative, reflecting the Gold Coast itself. A managing contractor will oversee design and construction.

Stage – 1b Green bridge to Chevron Island

Connecting the Precinct with the light rail corridor to the east, this pedestrian and cycle bridge is expected to be completed by late 2019. Also part of Stage 1b, the bridge will bring the precinct within easy reach of residents and visitors in the busy tourist centre of Surfers Paradise and beyond.

For more information: goldcoastculturalprecinct.info/
Demographics

The Light Rail Corridor community has a specific demographic profile that is different in a number of ways to the wider Queensland community. Similar to the results of the 2011 Census, the 2016 census reveals that the Corridor has a much higher proportion of residents born overseas, and over half of households are couples without children who rent, which is reflective of the predominate age group being people aged in their 20s.

In the intervening period between censuses no major demographic shifts were noted; however there was an increase in the numbers of couples without children, and lone person households. In terms of tenure, the number of people renting rose in almost direct correlation to a reduction in those buying with a mortgage, and the Corridor continues to have much less child residents (0-14 years) compared to Queensland, but has almost double the number of 20-29 year olds.
Heritage

The Gold Coast plays a significant part in the cultural and social history of not only Queensland, but Australia. This history can be represented in many forms such as places, buildings and landscapes. It is a vitally important part of the current (and future) character and sense of place throughout the light rail corridor.

Method

Buildings and places as entered in the Gold Coast Local Heritage Register.

1. SOUTHPORT BATHING PAVILION
   Marine Parade

2. SOUTHPORT SEA WALL
   Marine Parade

3. SOUTHPORT DRILL HALL
   Owen Park, Queen Street

4. SOUTHPORT TOWN HALL (FORMER)
   Nerang Street

5. CAREY PARK
   Carey Park, Marine Parade

6. HUMPHREYS BOAT SHED AND SLIPWAY REMNANTS
   26A Sea World Drive

7. MAIN BEACH PAVILION AND SOUTHPORT SURF LIFESAVING CLUB
   Sea World Drive

8. SOUTHPORT CABLE HUT (FORMER)
   2 Cable Street

9. MATEY MEMORIAL
   Cavill Park, 44 Cavill Avenue

10. KINKABOOL
    32 Hanlan Street

11. PINK POODLE MOTEL SIGNAGE
    18 Fern Street (Cnr Fern Street and Gold Coast Highway)

12. SEAL SCULPTURE
    Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre, 2684 Gold Coast Highway

Images courtesy City of Gold Coast Libraries Local Studies Collection.
Active and Healthy program

The City’s award winning Active and Healthy program encourages Gold Coasters to lead an active and healthy lifestyle. These activities are free (or very low cost), have qualified instructors, suit different ages and fitness levels and provide opportunities to meet new people and develop new interests. The citywide program has multiple locations throughout the Corridor, which are now easier than ever to access due to the light rail.

Method

The City records the locations, sessions and number of participants in the Active and Healthy program.

Key findings

Demand for the Active and Healthy Program has grown with a 55 per cent increase in sessions and a 35% increase in participant numbers. Nine new locations have been added to the Active and Healthy program, and attendance numbers rise with proximity to light rail stations.

July 2016 – June 2017

1 Gold Coast Aquatic Centre, Southport
   2013 3 Activities | 86 Sessions | 2,776 participants
   2015 3 Activities | 60 Sessions | 1,920 participants
   2017 1 Activity | 63 Sessions | 1,575 participants

2 Australia Fair Shopping Centre
   2013 1 Activity | 26 Sessions | 75 participants
   2015 1 Activity | 20 Sessions | 60 participants

3 Southport Library
   2013 1 Activity | 1 Session | 30 participants
   2015 2 Activity | 2 Sessions | 50 participants
   2017 1 Activity | 7 Sessions | 150 participants

4 Southport Community Centre
   2013 2 Activities | 46 Sessions | 1,044 participants
   2015 2 Activities | 40 Sessions | 1,800 participants
   2017 3 Activities | 84 Sessions | 2184 participants

5 Southport Croquet Club
   2017 1 Activity | 21 Sessions | 315 participants

6 Broadwater Parklands, Southport
   2013 5 Activities | 87 Sessions | 1,776 participants
   2015 6 Activities | 120 Sessions | 2,400 participants
   2017 1 Activity | 21 Sessions | 360 participants

7 Hollindale Park, Main Beach
   2013 2 Activities | 26 Sessions | 3,577 participants
   2015 1 Activity | 20 Sessions | 4000 participants
   2017 3 Activity | 105 Sessions | 6836 participants

8 Surfers Paradise State School
   2017 2 Activity | 42 Sessions | 840 participants

9 Surfers Paradise Esplanade
   2017 1 Activity | 1 Sessions | 10 participants

10 Surfers Paradise Anglican Church Hall*
   2015 2 Activities | 40 Sessions | 600 participants
   2017 2 Activities | 21 Sessions | 420 participants

11 Lionel Perry Park, Surfers Paradise
   2013 1 Activity | 11 Sessions | 97 participants

12 Evandale Parklands, Surfers Paradise
   2013 3 Activities | 93 Sessions | 1,389 participants
   2015 3 Activities | 60 Sessions | 900 participants
   2017 1 Activity | 63 Sessions | 756 participants

13 Platell Park, Broadbeach Waters
   2017 1 Activity | 20 Sessions | 200 participants

14 Cascade Gardens, Broadbeach
   2017 1 Activity | 3 Sessions | 45 participants

15 Kurrawa Terrace, Broadbeach
   2017 1 Activity | 16 Sessions | 400 participants

16 Kurrawa Park, Broadbeach
   2013 1 Activity | 11 Sessions | 269 participants
   2015 1 Activity | 20 Sessions | 400 participants
   2017 2 Activity | 42 Sessions | 966 participants

17 Broadbeach State School, Broadbeach
   2017 1 Activities | 21 Sessions | 420 participants

18 Albert Waterways Park, Broadbeach Waters
   2017 1 Activities | 21 Sessions | 420 participants

19 Broadbeach Library
   2013 3 Activities | 4 Sessions | 148 participants
   2015 2 Activities | 2 Sessions | 50 participants
   2017 1 Activities | 8 Sessions | 120 participants

20 Pacific Fair Shopping Centre
   2017 2 Activities | 46 Sessions | 777 participants

21 Pratten Park, Broadbeach
   2013 2 Activities | 18 Sessions | 126 participants
   2015 2 Activities | 25 Sessions | 750 participants
   2017 1 Activity | 42 Sessions | 630 participants
Public art

Public art is a significant marker and physical manifestation of the culture of a city. As art unfolds through our public spaces, a stronger cultural identity is celebrated and shared by locals and tourists alike. Public art engages communities, tells stories, evokes conversations and creates a sense of place; leaving a cultural legacy for future generations. (City of Gold Coast Public Art Plan 2021).

Method

Survey, map and record public art that is visible from public places. This includes art which is both owned by the City, and privately owned.

Key findings

The number of public art installations continues to gradually increase throughout the study area. Surfers Paradise, Southport and HOTA (see opposite) are areas with large concentrations of public art.
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