

# Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority Bill 2026

**Submission No:** 085

**Submission By:** Kabi Kabi Peoples Aboriginal Corporation

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State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee

**Queensland Parliamentary Service**

Via email: [SDWIC@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:SDWIC@parliament.qld.gov.au)

Via submission website <https://qldparlcomm.snapforms.com.au/sunshine-coast-authority-bill-2026>

Dear SDIW Committee

**Inquiry into the Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority Bill 2026**

This submission is provided by the Kabi Kabi Peoples Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC (KKPAC) in response to the Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority (SCWA) bill before the Queensland Parliament. KKPAC is the entity that holds the rights of the Kabi Kabi nation. These rights are recognised in multiple legal structures, but principally the Native Title Act 1993 (Cth) and Cultural Heritage Act 2003 (Qld). The Kabi Kabi nation is recognised as the original South East Queenslanders, and we are still here, with an unbroken link that stretches back at least 45,000 years.

The Kabi Kabi estate stretches from the Pine River in the south (near Northlakes) to the Isis River north of Hervey Bay. Our riverine and sea country encompasses waterways from Redcliffe and Bribie Island, including Pumistone Passage, through the astounding beaches and headlands of the southeast and the flows of Mooloolah, Maroochy and Noosa Rivers, their wetlands, lakes, creeks and channels.

Kabi Kabi have inhabited this region for generations of generations and continue to hold responsibility for and knowledge of the life-ways of our homeland and our water country. Our culture is our country. Inhabiting, harvesting, enjoying, celebrating, managing, restoring and coordinating celebration of our country is our purpose and right.

The way we exercise these rights is in partnership. We share our knowledge, we guide strategic plans alongside local Councils and state Government to ensure the most utilitarian outcome for all Queenslanders, Australians and visitors. It is from this perspective that we provide the following guidance.

**1. Representation**

In order for the authority to perform the task allocated;

*“to strategically plan for and facilitate the sustainable use, management and development of Sunshine Coast waterways”*

a representative from KKPAC will need to sit with the SCWA Board as a representative of maritime and environmental management, planning and a representative of the interest of stakeholders, particularly Native Title holders (SCWA Bill, Part 4, Division 2, 27, b, (vii), (ix), (xi)).

**2. Sustainability**

Our waterways identified by the SCWA Bill are the base asset that is the substance to SEQ's economy, residential tenancy, future capacity rests on the sustainability of the waterways. In order for this critical element of the authority's remit to be performed, we submit;

**2.1 Definition.**

The SCWA Bill is silent on the definition of what sustainability might mean, how it would be interpreted and how the SCWA would define success of this obligation. We submit that the SCWA Bill must commit to a robust framework of sustainability.

**2.2 Measurement**

The SCWA Bill is silent on how it would measure success, particularly of the sustainability of the waterways within its remit. We submit that the Bill must commit to publishing iterative measures of sustainability compliance.

### 3. Endorsement Protocol

Kabi Kabi people understand that our waterways connect us all – and to every part of our lifeways for all people on our estate. There is no greater responsibility. Further, the waterways of the Sunshine Coast are KKPAC’s Native Title responsibility. Our Members will require all decisions to impact, develop, control or remediate our waterways (or sea country) will require endorsement by KKPAC members. It is our hope that this process can be enabled by a respectful Endorsement Protocol that supports the work of the SCWA and ensures the rights of Kabi Kabi people are respected in decision-making.

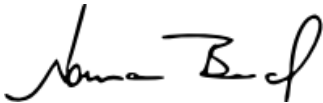
### 4. Collective Coordination

The waterways of our estate are already the subject of multiple water related plans, initiatives and stakeholder groups. We note the SCWA Bill is silent on coordination of existing efforts to manage, develop, protect and restore the water estate. We note that responsibility for these efforts currently rests with a range of stakeholders, authorities and plans. To strategically envision, clarify planning, build and maintain infrastructure, communicate, develop, enable, police, monitor navigational impacts, protect and rehabilitate the waterways of the southeast will require considerable coordination of collective efforts.

We submit that the Bill is currently silent on obligations to collect and coordinate knowledge, plans, initiatives and commitments that currently exist in the region in order for the SCWA to deliver cumulative benefit and transparently report to Parliament and the people of Queensland the impact of their work and the Authority.

I trust the perspectives of Kabi Kabi people will be well received and included in consideration of the Sunshine Coast Waterway Authority. I will make myself available to provide the Parliament with more information and perspectives from the first nation of the region to ensure the investment in such an authority is a representation of the people of the region, and the environmental and economic health of the Kabi Kabi estate improves.

Your sincerely



Norman Bond

**Kabi Kabi Peoples Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC**

cc KKPAC Directors  
John Baker, CEO Sunshine Coast Council  
Mayor Natoli, Sunshine Coast Council  
Frank Wilkie, Mayor, Noosa Shire Council  
Larry Sengstock, CEO, Noosa Shire Council  
Scott Waters, CEO, Moreton Bay City Council  
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