

Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority Bill 2026

Submission No: 086

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From a 17 year old youth perspective, I believe that the SCWA board needs to have a youth representative. I am concerned about the impacts that the decisions the board is making will have on future generations so I strongly believe that there is a need for the inclusion of a dedicated youth representative on the Authority's six-member appointed board.

Young people are not just future stakeholders, we are current users, advocates, and custodians of the Sunshine Coast's waterways. We swim, surf, fish, volunteer in clean-ups, and actively participate in conservation efforts. Many young people are already engaged in environmental education, citizen science, and community initiatives that directly relate to the health of our waterways.

Despite our active involvement in our waterways, our voices are often overlooked and go unheard in formal decision making capacities. Having a youth representative appointed to the board would be a step towards generations working together to create a future shaped by both experience and youthful optimism and innovation.

This will also help to build the next generation of leaders in environmental governance.

It is recommended that the Bill be amended to:

Require at least one member of the six-person board to be a youth representative (for example, aged 16–25), and

Ensure this position is meaningful, with equal voting rights and opportunities to contribute to all decisions.