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Our Reference: 1-16956
Your Reference

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National Biodiversity Response
PO Box 1715
TAMWORTH NSW 2340

Dear Sir or Madam

**SUBMISSION ON AUSTRALIA'S NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY 2010-2020
(CONSULTATION DRAFT)**

Please accept the following submission from Sunshine Coast Regional Council's Environment Policy Branch for consideration in relation to the Commonwealth Government's proposed *Australia's Biodiversity Conservation Strategy 2010-2020* (the Strategy).

In many respects, the vision, priorities and actions outlined in the Strategy accord with the direction that Council is taking with our own draft regional biodiversity strategy, which is currently under development. This shared direction is encouraging to note and it is hoped that it will provide the basis for genuine biodiversity outcomes.

There are, however, several areas in which the Strategy could be improved and strengthened. It is hoped that the following points will be considered and addressed in the final Strategy document:

- The Strategy does not make an effective link between broad scale loss of biodiversity and continuing pressure from population growth, urban development and major infrastructure development. This Strategy provides the Government with a crucial opportunity to provide leadership and direction in managing these universally challenging issues.
- The overarching principles of the Strategy reflect a desire to retain and protect biodiversity. Whilst this is certainly an important objective, maintaining the status quo is simply not enough. It is critical that the Strategy provide strong direction towards *enhancing* Australia's biodiversity by including this as one of the Strategy's key underlying principles.
- The Strategy is silent on funding mechanisms that will be put in place to deliver the outcomes. This information is fundamental to enabling targets to be achieved and should be addressed by the Strategy.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input and we look forward to the Strategy having positive outcomes for Australia's biodiversity.

Yours sincerely



DR STEPHEN SKULL
MANAGER ENVIRONMENT POLICY BRANCH