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Development.i - Empowering communities to be informed

The Sunshine Coast Council recently launched Development.i - an Australian first development application tracking system that sets a new benchmark for community engagement on planning and development matters. Developed in-house, the platform provides simplified and enhanced searching, instant visualisation of results and adjustable filters, ability to save searches, favourite properties and applications and set preferences to receive email alerts, and powerful backend business intelligence (BI) analytics.

The Sunshine Coast is one of Queensland's fastest growing regions with current projections suggesting the population will grow by 63% to over 500,000 by 2041. The planning scheme outlines a strong plan for growth to guide development and plan for the future of our community. Understanding the performance of the current scheme, where do we want to be and how do we get there is critical to making sure it remains effective.

In addition to its ability to empower communities to be informed on applications, Development.i presents a new and innovative tool to engage with the community with complete transparency and better inform decision makers on local and regional plan making. Strategic planners will utilise the visualisation features to provide continual pulse checks of our community and inform strategic policy within our planning scheme. Scheme drafters will use the enhanced BI analytics to help understand what our citizens are most interested in and target feedback. Moreover, council could present its planning scheme amendment data visually and allow residents to be proactively alerted to amendments that may affect them.

The presentation will explore the use of Development.i as a policy engagement and plan making tool, through the use of its visualisations and BI analytics. It will focus on its ability to present new information to practitioners and enhance community trust in planning.