



MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Moreton Bay Region is one of the fastest growing areas in Queensland. Good planning by Council will ensure that our growth will be the basis of future prosperity for generations to come. Budget 2021-22 is a coming of age budget. It steps up to address the two key challenges facing our region: Responsible fiscal management and the need to deliver services that protect the character of this great place we call home. This financial year we will deliver better planning for local neighbourhoods, greater protections for our environment and increased spending in local parks and playgrounds. We will build on the foundations laid in 2020 with the launch of our new Regional Economic Development Strategy (REDS) by delivering a breadth of visionary projects to address tomorrow's challenges today.

“**Our objective is to put Moreton Bay Region on the national map, by attracting major investment and jobs growth to sustain future generations.**”

We've already commenced this ambitious agenda by taking long awaited projects out of the “too hard basket” and making them a reality. Like the construction of two new bridges over Youngs Crossing, thanks to an additional \$25 million funding from the Australian Government and a commitment from the State Government to work to secure a \$10 million contribution for this upgrade. Our strengthened relationships with other levels of government have secured Council around \$100 million in State and Federal grants to fund more than 150 projects across our region. At our inaugural Leaders' Forum all 27 of our region's elected representatives agreed to tackle critical infrastructure needs including an upgrade of the Bruce Highway, a new western road corridor, the Moreton Connector road, and the Knowledge and Innovation Centre at The Mill.



Not only are we working to improve our relationship with governments, we're working to improve our relationship with you - the residents of Moreton Bay Region. In 2021-22 we will continue our commitment to community engagement and being responsive to community concerns by ensuring every action of Council is aligned with the values of our region. This will be achieved through the Moreton Says Survey, the largest community engagement campaign ever undertaken in our region. We are currently analysing your responses and I can't wait to report back with the findings from this survey.

I'm proud to say we're already listening. In fact, we have redesigned and realigned the Youngs Crossing Bridge project to reflect the expectations of locals who provided invaluable insights through more than 4,000 survey responses. We've also made key structural changes to the way we operate by hiring additional staff to provide you with a better standard of service and have guaranteed pensioner rebates on rates. We've acted on calls to give more council contracts to local businesses. Since launching our 'Local Preference Policy' last year, we've recorded a 9% increase in the proportion of Council's spend flowing to local businesses, 47% of orders are now being raised to local suppliers, and 62% of Council tenders invited at least one local business.

This Budget rises to the challenges of tomorrow with the confidence of knowing there's nothing we can't achieve together. Just as we are responding to COVID-19 together, this year we begin the next stage in Moreton Bay Region's transformation together.

Peter Flannery

Mayor - Moreton Bay Regional Council