

Mayor's Budget Speech 2024-25

2024-25 Budget Speech - Mayor Peter Flannery

Today's budget has a key focus on liveability, now and into the future.

With our current population of more than 500,000 set to double to 1 million in under 30 years, our 2024-25 budget needs a strong commitment to lay sustainable foundations.

This ensures as our population grows, we can sustain the lifestyle City of Moreton Bay is renowned for.

This year's responsible budget will deliver value for money and continue our strong commitment to infrastructure, jobs, and innovation.

Today we have handed down a \$922 million budget that includes a \$277 million capital works program which will deliver vital projects to keep our city moving.

We are investing \$88.5 million on road and transport networks.

\$51.6 million towards road rehabilitation projects that ensures connectivity and liveability.

And funding towards 78 footpath projects valued at \$17.3 million.

We are supporting the safety and wellbeing of our community with a CCTV infrastructure spend of \$1.73 million.

This will see Council's network grow to more than 1,910 cameras, making our network one of the largest CCTV networks in Queensland.

We will be committing \$29.6 million to waterways and coastal areas.

\$3.7 million to wildlife initiatives and green infrastructure projects.

And \$41.3 million on parks and the environment.

\$80.1 million is committed to waste management including collection services.

We will continue to have one of the cheapest bin collection charges in southeast Queensland and continue our free tipping for residents.

Our strong environmental focus will help residents reduce waste with the introduction of a garden organics kerbside service in December.

As part of this, we will distribute 116,000 new green bins for this program.

In sport and recreation, Council has committed \$16.8 million and the continuation of our Healthy and Active Moreton programs.

\$51.2 million is invested in our cultural services including free libraries, galleries, museums and community facilities.

This investment will see more than 10,000 free programs activated and 70 high quality exhibitions as well as over 40 free community events to enjoy.

We are also continuing our community leasing program for sporting and community clubs, giving them access to facilities at peppercorn leases.

With a commitment to deliver a budget focused on liveability that supports our growing city, we recognise the need to help local families with cost of living.

As a local government, we don't have many levers to pull.

But sound financial management and the use of Carbon Credits from Council's landfill operations means City of Moreton Bay can support our residents when they need it most.

We know people are doing it tough, and today I can announce that Council is granting a \$50 rates concession to eligible owner-occupied residential properties from 1 July 2024.

This type of concession is a Queensland first and no local Government has implemented this before.

I thank Local Government Minister, Meaghan Scanlon for her support in helping us realise this for our residents.

With the concession applied, the average total rates rise for an owner-occupied residential property including levies is 3.8%.

This equates to just \$1.35 per week or \$70.21 a year.

For full transparency, when our green garden organics service is introduced in December, the total average residential rates rise including levies will be \$2.10 per week.

Despite the staggering average increase in property valuations of 36% across Moreton Bay, and a cost-of-living crisis, we have worked hard to deliver a minimal rate rise.

As an innovative and economically sustainable Council we will continue to look for opportunities to use our assets in a way that maximises potential for both Council and our residents.

Our responsible budget still provides the services and facilities our residents need and want.

We will not be reducing our services or cutting projects.

We will continue to deliver on some of our key projects such as Youngs Crossing Road, the Suttons Beach Pavilion Redevelopment and Caboolture River Road.

In addition to the rates concession, Council will add an extra \$1 million to its already generous business support initiatives for small business and the rural, agribusiness sector.

We are doing our part to future proof our whole community in City of Moreton Bay.

We are looking after our community during this time of cost increases, it's an extension of what we do every day.

Our focus on infrastructure, jobs and innovation ensures better liveability for residents now and into the future.

Council's full budget breakdown and operational plan will be available on City of Moreton Bay's website for the public to view and you will be able to see budget highlights by each division.

In closing, I would like to thank CEO Scott Waters, the Executive Leadership Team and Council Officers involved in delivering this year's budget.

I'd like to again highlight the efforts made to bring a \$50 concession to our residents at a time they need it most.

I would like to extend that thanks to my fellow Councillors for their ongoing support and commitment to ensure our key focus on liveability remains, now and into the future.

