



MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Moreton Bay Regional Council's record \$655 million budget for 2019-20 delivers for the region and invests in the future.

No project better illustrates what the budget aims to achieve than the Mill Project at Petrie which will see Council provide for the initial design and development of the precinct.

This hub for innovation, research and design will generate a billion-dollar future economic benefit and 6000 future jobs. The university campus will open next year and is expected to welcome 10,000 students by 2030.

This project further endorses Council's investment in the Redcliffe Peninsula Line, which will deliver students at the front door of the new university, strategically placed at the intersection of north-south and east-west rail connections.

Council is also providing \$64,000 this financial year of the \$768,000 for the equity scholarships program that will help tear down the financial barriers holding back local kids from pursuing tertiary education. Local Year 12 graduates will be able to apply for cash bursaries if they choose to study at the new USC Moreton Bay Campus and come from families experiencing financial distress.

The Mill precinct is not just about education, it will be a centre for healthy lifestyles and conservation as well, with around 12 hectares for sport and recreation and 110 hectares for koala habitat.

This budget delivers an operational surplus for the ninth straight year and Council's debt is more than \$20 million lower than at the beginning of this term three years ago. This makes Moreton Bay Regional Council one of the most financially sustainable councils in Queensland.

This allows us to keep downward pressure on rates, continue Council's pensioner remission at \$250 per eligible property, and make no change to the regional infrastructure charge or the residential waste management utility charge.

This fiscal discipline and sound financial management also means we can invest in the future of the region.

In the next financial year, we will provide more than \$227 million for capital works with nearly \$112 million for our road and transport networks.

Moreton Bay has a lifestyle second to none and that will be enhanced with \$54.3 million for parks and the environment and \$34.1 million for sport and recreation.

From the hinterland to the bay, urban centres and relaxing escapes in between - we are making Moreton Bay an even better place for residents and businesses.

This 2019-20 budget delivers for the region and invests in the future.

Allan Sutherland

Mayor - Moreton Bay Regional Council