

Message from the Mayor

There's no sugar-coating the difficulties of the current global market.

The continuing impacts of the pandemic, flood clean-up bill, soaring power prices, as well as rising fuel expenses and a 14% increase in the costs of goods and materials for Council have combined to create a perfect economic storm.

So I've been humbled by the resolve of Councillors through this year's Budget planning process in agreeing that it's more important than ever to deliver a full program of works and increase Council's services to our community, if we are to deliver on your expectations.

This year will be a record \$816 million Budget with \$259 million for capital works. It will be funded by a general rates rise of 4.8% to ensure we can continue providing the infrastructure your neighbourhoods need now. Historically Moreton Bay has always been one of the lowest rating Councils in SEQ and I'm proud to say that even with this increase, that still remains true compared to our neighbours. But our affordability is a double-edged sword, in the sense that it's also a driver of our accelerating population growth. Which is why we need to act now to preserve the identity, character and lifestyle of this place we all love.

So while the media headlines about Budget 2022-23 will be about the rate rise, what I hope you see in this document is a fundamental shift in the philosophy, organisation, and priorities of this Council to better align our actions with your values. In particular the environment, as part of our objective to 'Go Green As We Grow'.



The extensive community consultation we undertook via the Moreton Says Survey revealed park maintenance, environmental protections, and sustainability (particularly in waste management) were top order priorities for locals.

We've listened and we're increasing the environmental component of the Regional Infrastructure and Environment Charge by \$6, from \$16 last year to \$22 in 2022-23 to fund land buyback and green initiatives.

The survey showed locals also wanted greater lifestyle considerations like the provision of cultural activities, festivals and events as well as investing in an efficient road network to reduce congestion. So I'm proud to say we're bringing events and vibrancy back to Moreton Bay in a big way, by adding another 20 free community events on top of the 23 we currently run as well as 10 ticketed events - which means there'll be a celebration somewhere almost every week of the year.

While Moreton Bay is not immune to market volatility, Council's not shrinking its ambitions or shirking its responsibilities in facing the challenges ahead. We are being pragmatic about our immediate needs and strategically investing in our future, without going beyond our debt limits.

Peter Flannery
Mayor Moreton Bay Regional Council

Solar panels have been installed on 16 community halls across our region and another two facilities will get upgraded this financial year

Did you know?