Mayor's Budget Speech 2026-27

CITY OF MORETON BAY

2026-27 Budget Speech - Mayor Peter Flannery

Council's $1.2 billion budget is fiscally responsible and focused on what matters most to our community.

Our annual budget delivers on projects and activities that strongly support our fast-growing City of Moreton Bay, while also investing in the services our community relies on every day.

Like households across our community, and other local governments, City of Moreton Bay is not immune to the rising costs of living including increases electricity, labour and construction.

Even with these pressures, thanks to strong financial position and management, we can continue to keep costs down for locals while spending wisely on important infrastructure projects for our future.

We have worked hard to keep rate increases under Brisbane CPI, and ease the burden on our residents wherever possible.

This year, our minimum general rate increase will be 4.69 per cent, just $1.13 per week for owner-occupiers.

Even in this challenging economic environment, City of Moreton Bay continues to maintain some of the lowest rates in South East Queensland and one of the lowest debt levels.

This is a financial position our community can feel comfortable with and have confidence in as we plan for the future together.

Our responsible budget and financial position supports strong resilience and long-term stability.

We are committed to making sensible decisions, so every dollar contributes to safer roads, stronger communities and a better quality of life for everyone that lives, works and plays in our city.

City of Moreton Bay will be home to 1 million people in around 30 years time.

That's why we are investing $454 million in infrastructure and capital works for the future of the city and the community.

Investing in infrastructure is about more than roads and buildings.

It's about keeping our community connected, supporting local jobs, and shaping a vibrant city where people want to live, work and play.

From roads, to parks, libraries and community facilities, this budget supports the infrastructure and programs that keep our city running and our community connected.

Council also continues to invest in our frontline and maintenance workforce ensuring we can deliver faster, more responsive services as our city grows.

Today's budget adoption is delivered alongside City of Moreton Bay's operational plan.

Together these documents deliver and fund our priorities.

That is maintaining our lifestyle, investing in infrastructure, supporting jobs, protecting our environment and delivering everyday services.

In practice, this is delivering on our city shaping infrastructure projects like the upgrades to Caboolture River Road to a safer four-lane corridor with improved connections to Waraba and the wider community.

Delivering the Youngs Crossing Road upgrade and new flood-resilient bridge to improve reliability and safety.

Progressing upgrades to Old Gympie Road, easing congestion and improving traffic conditions.

Building a 4-lane link to Dohles Rocks Road connecting through Moreton Bay Central, a location we are continuing our investment.

Moreton Bay Central is a key innovation hub in the city which includes plans for a boulevard linking Petrie Station, UniSC and the TAFE to the Moreton Bay Indoor Sports Centre that will welcome Olympic competitors in 2032.

We are delivering the Suttons Beach Pavilion, creating a beachfront destination for locals and visitors.

Upgrading the Centenary Lakes precinct, including a new inclusive playground.

And progressing upgrades at James Drysdale Reserve to create a flagship sporting hub for the city.

We will continue to deliver some of the lowest waste charges in South East Queensland, while maintaining our highly valued free tipping for residents.

This is despite the State Government's waste levy which will increase to $135 per tonne.

To break that down, Council's contributes:

- The levy paid to State for household waste is $25.4 million.
- The state rebate is $13.7 million.
- Which equates to an $11.7 million cost to ratepayers.

This is one of our largest cost pressures.

We are proud of the strong environmental focus shown by the Moreton Bay community, as residents continue to reduce waste and keep more out of landfill.

At the end of the day, this budget and our continued focus is about making it easier, safer and better for our community to live, work and move around our city now and into the future.

I'd like to thank the CEO Scott Waters, the Executive General Managers, the City of Moreton Bay leadership team and council officers involved in delivering this year's budget and operational plan.

I would like to further thank my fellow Councillors for their ongoing support, representation of their communities and commitment to ensure our key focus on liveability remains.

Together we ensure every dollar is managed with care, transparency and accountability.

City of Moreton Bay is investing in what matters most to the community and living within our means, and managing for growth.

We absolutely cannot afford to slow down due to the rapid population growth we are experiencing, but we're looking ahead and spending wisely on the delivery of vital projects for our now and the future.

To finish, thank you to the community that makes up City of Moreton Bay, for your ongoing input and trust, as we plan and work towards delivering our City of Tomorrow.

2026-27 Budget Reply - Cr Brooke Savige

Thank you, Mr Mayor.

The 2026-27 $1.2 billion budget inclusive of $454 million investment in infrastructure and capital works reflects what our community have told us they want from their Council.

You have outlined our clear priorities, responsible decision-making, and a strong focus on delivering the infrastructure and services needed for our fast growing city.

And, as you outlined, the budget and operational plan documents work together to ensure we are not only setting the direction of our Council and delivering for our City, but we are also funding it appropriately.

We are turning our commitments into real outcomes for our community.

We are maintaining the lifestyle our residents value, while ensuring we are planning our future.

We are investing in the infrastructure our growing city needs so people can move around safely and efficiently.

We are supporting local jobs and businesses so our economy continues to grow and provide opportunities.

We are protecting our natural environment so future generations can enjoy the same lifestyle we value today.

And we are delivering the everyday services our communities rely on.

Importantly, this budget is fiscally responsible and focuses on delivering for our ratepayers whilst living within our means.

At a time when we are facing so many economic uncertainties, and when we know the cost of living pressures that are continuing to impact our residents and ratepayers, it is important we deliver a budget that meets the needs of our growing and changing city whilst still maintaining a focus on our long-term financial sustainability.

To put our finance management into perspective, our position equates to a $23,000 mortgage on a $925,000 home.

It is our responsibility to ensure Council's financial position is accountable, effective and sustainable.

It is also our responsibility that our budget delivers for our growing city.

On behalf of Mayor Flannery and our team, I am pleased to share that we're continuing support for our pensioners and seniors with increased rebates to help ease cost of living pressures including:

- a 10% increase to the pensioner and self-funded retiree rebates which will benefit over 35,000 properties across the city.

Of course, Mr. Mayor, we continue to lead the way as the only southeast Queensland Council to offer these rebates for self-funded retirees.

Council have listened to the feedback from our community which is why we are investing in better roads and transport, strengthening community safety, protecting our environment, and supporting the facilities, programs and spaces that bring our community together.

$209 million is invested in our budget to keep our city moving with safer, more connected roads and transport.

$56.86 million will be spent to maintain and improve roads through rehabilitation and resurfacing.

A significant, $31 million will support walking and cycling connections across our growing communities.

$37 million will be invested in strengthening public safety and disaster resilience, areas we know are vitally important to our communities.

And this includes a $2.57 million expansion of our CCTV program- one of the largest networks in SEQ.

But that is not all, Mr. Mayor we will see:

- $32 million towards protecting our waterways and coastal areas.
- $22 million conserving our natural environment.
- $4 million invested in continuing our land buyback program.
- $115 million enhancing parks and open spaces for our community.
- $128 million delivering waste and recycling services across our city.
- $72 million supporting libraries, art galleries, museums and community facilities.
- And $87 million investing in major sporting and aquatic centres.

All of this, in addition to the:

- Continuation of our community leasing program supporting local clubs with low cost access to facilities.
- Our community grants program which provides significant support for our local organisations and clubs who are delivering fantastic local programs and initiatives.
- As well as our much loved library and healthy and active programs and our ever popular, free, community events and activations.

To further break all of this down though...

For every $100 in rates, we're investing back into our city building better places, supporting our community, protecting our environment and delivering the everyday services people rely on.

- $36 out of every $100 is contributed to our well planned places, our largest investment area and focuses on building and maintaining the physical foundations of the city.
- $27 goes towards our engaged Council, delivering reliable services and strong customer support.
- $18 is dedicated to our vibrant communities with a core focus on bringing people together across the city.
- $17 will go towards our healthy environments which protects what makes us special through conservation, waste and recycling, stormwater management and long-term environmental sustainability.
- And $2 goes towards our progressive economy which is about driving sustainable economic growth by supporting local business, investment and job creation.

Our residents and ratepayers can view the full breakdown of the budget and operational plan on our website and also view highlights via our social media channels.

In closing, I acknowledge the work that has gone into delivering a responsible budget that balances careful financial management with meeting the needs of our growing community.

I acknowledge and thank the Mayor and my fellow Councillors for their leadership, collaboration and shared focus throughout the development of this budget.

I'd also like to extend my thanks to our CEO, Executive General Managers, our leadership team and our

Council Officers, who have guided this process with a clear strategic vision for our city's future.

It is through this collective effort that we are able to respond to the needs of our community while maintaining our fiscally responsible budget.

This is a budget we all stand behind with confidence as we prepare for our City of Tomorrow.

Mr Mayor, I commend the budget and hand the session back to you.