Lifestyle Budget Kicking Goals for Locals

Moreton Bay Regional Council’s record $622 million Budget for 2018/19 delivers all the hallmarks of a Moreton Bay Budget - disciplined fiscal settings, continuing finance for catalytic infrastructure investment, and an operating surplus.

But Mayor Allan Sutherland said this year’s delivery was acutely focussed on the increasing need to protect the local lifestyle in the face of unprecedented population growth.

“Each year for the past eight years Council has responsibly delivered an operational surplus and proudly we have done it again in 2018/19,” he said.

“Our region is already kicking goals and this Budget has been crafted to cement our reputation as one of the strongest and most financially stable councils in Queensland, while also delivering major infrastructure for our ratepayers.

“Budget 2018/19 has been structured as a strategic investment in our region’s identity, liveability and strong sense of community.

“Our growth is outpacing the rest of South East Queensland and we’re going to keep our foot firmly on the pedal as our population grows beyond 600,000 people over the next two decades.

“This is an exciting period of transformation and we know the need to knuckle-down and invest in our lifestyle to make Moreton Bay a ‘20-minute city’ - where locals can live, work and play all within 20 minutes of home.

“That’s why we have committed more than $109 million in major road and transport maintenance in every corner of our region, to ensure it’s always easy to get the kids to school or simply to get around.

“This commitment is evidence of our resolve to improve our local roads with better surfaces, safety improvements and upgrades to key arterials and intersections so that living locally is as efficient and stress-free as possible.

“And to ensure local kids can boast for the rest of their lives about where they grew up, we will invest $51.2 million into local parks and playgrounds and another $38.9 million delivering major upgrades to sport and recreation precincts around our region.

These include the brand new soccer precinct in Burpengary, a new dedicated active transport link between Caboolture and Wamuran, upgrades to Pine Rivers PCYC, the rugby union building in Brendale and an expansion of Samford Parklands to accommodate growth in grassroots sports.

Council’s Spokesperson for Corporate Services Matt Constance said the total average rate increase for owner-occupied residential properties would be 2.89 per cent - or $0.85 extra per week.

“This financial year Council will return an operating surplus of $106 million in 2018/19 which will be reinvested directly back into our community and into vital infrastructure,” he said.

“Unlike many Queensland Councils, Moreton Bay’s debt remains low at $379 million which, when offset against assets worth $6.8 billion, demonstrates our fiscal discipline and ability to manage the budget responsibly.

“It means 94.5 per cent of assets are owned outright with only 5.5 per cent supported by debt.
“I’m pleased to announce that we have amended our rating categories to ensure they are fairer to our community.

“Families who live in a single household but have a granny flat will no longer be rated as having a secondary dwelling.

“Also, trust-owned properties whose tenants are the sole beneficiaries of the trust will no longer be rated as non-owner occupiers; this means people in our community with a disability who are cared for by a trust won’t be slugged with higher rates.”

This is in addition to continuing the pensioner remission of $250 for almost 16,000 pensioners in Moreton Bay.

There will be no increase in the waste management utility charge and no increase to the regional infrastructure separate charge.

**Key Allocations in 2018/19 Include:**

- $8 million towards Stage Two of congestion-busting works along Old North Road in Warner, from Kremzoe Road to Everest Street.
- A massive $6.1 million for Moreton Bay’s first regional soccer precinct in Burpengary.
- $6 million for our region’s largest aquatic centre - the Caboolture Regional Aquatic and Leisure Centre.
- A $5.5 million investment in the Redcliffe Peninsula’s biggest greenspace project - the 16.6 hectare Nathan Road Sports Precinct.
- Morayfield Indoor Sport and Events Centre will more than double its existing footprint with $5 million funding for major construction.
- Samford Parklands will be transformed with a $3 million expansion for facilities to accommodate growth in local sports like tennis and soccer.
- $3 million for the first stage of works on Oakey Flat Road in Morayfield.
- $3 million to the construction of Cundoot Creek Bridge in this Budget.
- A $2.9 million contribution towards the ongoing upgrade of Dohles Rocks Road and Bruce Highway interchange.
- $2 million for a new art gallery and community space in Redcliffe.
- Traffic flows at Brays Road and McClintock Drive in Murrumba Downs will be improved with $1.5 million in works to ease congestion.
- $1.45 million for the upgrade of Samsonvale Road in Bray Park, including drainage improvements.
- Leis Park in Lawnton will get $660,000 worth of upgraded playground equipment and picnic facilities.
- We’ve allocated $500,000 towards the Scarborough red cliffs preservation project.
- $250,000 to finalise finger pontoon renewal of the Redcliffe Jetty, to maintain this iconic asset for families, fishing and tourism.