



BUDGET 2011-2012

Planning and Delivering FOR THE FUTURE



BUDGET MEDIA ANNOUNCEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BUDGET 2011-2012: Planning and delivering for the future

Bundaberg Regional Council's 2011/2012 Budget includes record funding for flood damaged infrastructure while planning for future growth, according to Mayor Lorraine Pyefinch.

"This Budget is an important link to our Long Term Community Plan, revitalizing communities in the short term and planning for future growth in the long term" said Cr Pyefinch. "It delivers a diverse range of services across our region that will benefit the community over the coming 12 months and well into the future".

Some of the highlights include:

- The largest ever capital works expenditure on Roads and Drainage around the region of over \$40 Million
- \$ 21.4 Million allocated for new and upgraded Water and wastewater infrastructure across the region
- \$ 15 Million towards Waste Management Services and Infrastructure, including major upgrades and additional infrastructure at the Cedars Road Regional Landfill; University Drive and Qunaba Transfer Stations.
- Additional Seniors Housing
- Upgrades to major sporting and recreational facilities across the region
- Continuation of Streetscape projects in Gin Gin and Childers
- Upgrades to our parks and foreshores, including new and upgraded car parks and roadworks around our popular coastal boat ramps
- Completion of the new entry road to Bundaberg Regional Airport,
- Ongoing installation of footpaths and bikeways to enhance and improve existing networks
- Cemetery upgrades across the region
- Upgrades to infrastructure at Council-run Holiday parks to generate additional revenue from these important tourism facilities
- Upgrades to many of our venues and facilities to provide improved services for our residents
- Upgrade to Bundaberg Regional Library – the first major upgrade since it opened in 1994.

Cr Pyefinch said the Christmas/New Year floods had had a huge bearing on this Budget. "The personal cost of these events can never be fully measured, and while the financial impact on our community can be quantified, we as a region are likely to feel the effects of this disaster for many years to come" said Cr Pyefinch. "In recognition of the ongoing difficult economic climate and the



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increased financial pressure faced by our community, Council has retained the 10% early payment discount on Net General Rates for all Ratepayers. And eligible pensioners will see an increase in the Council Rebate from \$90 to \$110 per year”.

“As well as facing a flood damage bill of around \$50 Million, ongoing challenges continuing to face Council include increased operating costs to meet new standards in areas such as Environmental Compliance; escalation in costs for utilities such as electricity and fuel, despite ongoing efforts to reduce consumption; the reduction in financial support from State and Federal Government; and increasing community expectation in demand for new and higher levels of service” added Cr Pyefnch.

Budget Overview

- An average general rate increase of 4.85% for the whole region;
- An early payment discount of 10% off the Net General Rates.
(NB: For Pensioners, this discount applies after the Pensioner Rebate is deducted.)
- Council’s rebate for eligible pensioners will increase from \$90 to \$110 per annum;
- Utility Charge for Sewerage of \$536. (Increased EPA requirements and community’s expectations of stringent treatment standards has required an increase of 5% on last year);
- Utility Charge for Cleansing and Waste Management is \$273. This equates to \$3.50 for the collection and disposal of each bin and \$3.50 for the recycle bin collection, with its labour-intensive sorting and recycling, per collection; and
- Utility Charge for Water Access has a modest increase of 5% to \$352. The consumption charge has not increased for the rural and coastal communities. The former Bundaberg City residents’ consumption charge will be in line with the rural and coastal communities.

For more details on Bundaberg Regional Council’s 2011 – 2012 Budget, visit Council’s website: bundaberg.qld.gov.au; view the Budget at Council Centres at Bundaberg, Bargara, Childers and Gin Gin; or phone the Call Centre: 1300 883 699.