



BUDGET 2011-2012

Planning and Delivering FOR THE FUTURE



BUDGET MEDIA ANNOUNCEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NATURAL RESOURCES A PRIORITY

Initiatives to preserve our unique natural assets are a priority in Council's Budget, with funding allocated towards the development of Foreshore and Reserve Management Plans and projects, together with development of sustainable operational practices aimed at reducing Council's carbon footprint, according to Council's Natural Resource Management Spokesperson, Cr Danny Rowleson.

Specific initiatives include:

- \$600,000 for Natural Resource Projects and Management;
- \$60,000 for Waterways management; and
- \$800,000 for Land protection measures.

"This budget provides the framework to continue working with our coastal and hinterland communities to raise awareness of Natural Resources Management issues through education programs which reflect Council's responsibilities as a Reef Guardian Council" said Cr Rowleson. "The allocation of \$600,000 for Natural Resource Projects and Management is a significant contribution, post-floods, toward improving the amenity of our Region and further engagement of Council's "Community Consultation and Advisory Committee", which provides voluntary environmental assistance throughout our Region".

Council will continue the assault on aquatic weeds in our rivers and waterways with innovative programs in partnership with property owners. "This budget provides Council with an opportunity to engage with professional environmental groups, Reef Guardian schools and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority with Clearwater education programs" said Cr Rowleson.

"The \$800,000 for Land Protection is a clear signal to landowners, graziers and farmers that Council's is committed to pasture improvement, weed and pest removal and continuance of subsidised herbicide programs for farmers" said Cr Rowleson. "Bundaberg Regional Council has been able to make a significant contribution in our Region with pest and weed removal programs and I commend Council on its commitment to these programs".

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.