



Fences and shading for region's parks

Natural Resources and Environment

Safe and diverse play opportunities, from fully-fenced playgrounds, shaded parks and updated skate facilities, are among the essential services prioritised in Bundaberg Regional Council's 2024-25 budget.

In the upcoming financial year, Bundaberg Regional Council will continue to place an emphasis on the enhancement of local recreational areas.

One of the key projects is the refurbishment of Laurisen Park, a highly popular space identified for upgrade in the Parks and Open Space Strategy 2019 – 2026.

Natural Resources and Environment portfolio spokesperson Cr Jason Bartels said the park, which served the Kalkie and Kepnock areas, would see significant improvements to meet the community's needs and ensure the safety and enjoyment of its users.

“A strategic relocation of the play equipment in Laurisen Park will better maximise the site's potential,” Cr Bartels said.

“While this will move the play area closer to the road the design also includes a barrier fence which will see the playground fully enclosed.

“It's the latest in a series of parks to be upgraded with barrier fencing because the community has told us this is a priority to increase accessibility and we are listening.”

Additional funding has been incorporated into the budget to allow Council to consider other areas for full fencing in upcoming upgrades.

“During a community consultation for the Lake Ellen Heritage Hub and Playground the need for fully enclosed play spaces was identified,” he said.

“Detailed designs for this project are currently underway, promising a safer and more inclusive environment for all users.”

Budget 2024–25



Funding has also been committed to a Skatepark Refurbishment Program which identified Innes Park Reserve Skate Park and Jack Strathdee Memorial Park Skate Park for upgrades based on a comprehensive audit.

Cr Bartels said the program would ensure these popular facilities remained safe and enjoyable for users.

He said visitors to regional parks would also be kept safe from the sun, with Council's Shade Sail Program making strides in improving comfort and usability in several locations.

“Shade structures are currently being fabricated for Apple Tree Creek, with Gorman Park, Burnett Shores Park, and Innes Park Reserve scheduled for installations before summer,” he said.

“Additionally, three shelters are ready for installation at Elliott Heads Skate Park.”

Cr Bartels said overall the upgrades reflected Council's dedication to meeting the needs of the community and providing high-quality recreational facilities for all.