

Mayor's Message

The 2017/18 Whitsunday Regional Council Budget has been a difficult one as council and the community count the costs of Tropical Cyclone Debbie causing major destruction across our region. Despite this my council is passionate in maintaining a consistent level of service for our 35,500 residents and also implementing new initiatives to create jobs and a bright future for our Whitsunday Region.



Cr Andrew Willcox

In an historic first for the Whitsunday Region, Council will roll out Kerbside Recycling in 2017/18. As part of Council's extensive education program all residents will receive an information pack which will outline the items that can be recycled and also a timetable for collection times. A \$2 million boat ramp and carpark at Shute Harbour will be popular capital works projects for the community in this year's Budget.

Council has received a \$15 million grant from the Queensland Government for the Whitsunday Coast Airport and Council has also applied to the Queensland Treasury Corporation for a low interest \$25 million loan to complete the \$40 million airport terminal and runway upgrade.

The upgrade project will ensure vital airport infrastructure keeps pace with the forecast growth for our region with record passenger numbers over the past 12 months. Council is also pushing ahead with the \$32 million Greening and Growing Bowen Project to be staged over the next three years. This includes the upgrade of the existing Sewerage Treatment Plant, the Recycled Water Pipeline and the new Sewerage Treatment Plant.

From an organisational perspective, improving efficiencies across the board will be a priority, continuing the work commenced last year.

Reshaping Our Community means another exciting and busy year ahead for us all here in the council organisation.

Mayor Andrew Willcox

Cr Ron Petterson - Division 2

Enhancing community lifestyle and planning for a future that embraces family outdoor living at its finest are key features in Division 2 with both Cannonvale Beach and Cannonvale Lake set for spectacular makeovers and upgrades.

Cannonvale Beach upgrade will see an additional allocation of funding this year, taking the project up to \$590,000. This significant undertaking will now include major upgrades to the playground equipment and BBQ areas, the addition of exercise equipment, a pedestrian walkway over the creek and major works on the drainage outlet. Swimmers will also welcome the re-introduction of the stinger net to Cannonvale Beach.

The expansive and largely untapped Cannonvale Lake parkland will have nearly \$350,000 in W4Q funding allocated to create a major community park area for local gatherings.

" The focus of this year's budget is building upon solid foundations of growth and creating a community quality of life that is both prosperous and sustainable"

In addition to new shaded playgrounds, picnic and BBQ areas and allocated off street car parking, locals will also see improved maintenance programs for both the boardwalk and lake area.

Furthermore, residents will appreciate commencement of planning phases for a new convenient Customer Service Centre in Cannonvale in addition to funds being reserved to facilitate a Master Plan for the Cannonvale/Cannon Valley area.



Cr Ron Petterson

