

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 Peter Ramage - Division 4

In partnership with the W4Q, council will deliver hard structure shading at the Collinsville Skate Rink to provide important sun protection for all users of the popular facility.

Several major road improvements have been allocated funding in the 2017/2018 Budget with Gloucester Avenue Stage 1 construction funded as a \$1 million project and Strathmore Road Stage 2 construction a \$725,000 project. There is also \$205,000 allocated for Mt Wyatt Road Bridge construction.

Pedestrians will be pleased with the Scottville footpath solar lighting being funded.

"This budget will deliver fundamental upgrades to a range of highly utilised roads and bridges in Division 4 and provide greater safety and accessibility for our residents"

W4Q: As mentioned previously, Collinsville Skate Rink will receive hard structure shading and Anzac Park will receive major landscaping.



Cr Peter Ramage

