



Reshaping our Community 2017/2018 Budget

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 Dave Clark - Division 5

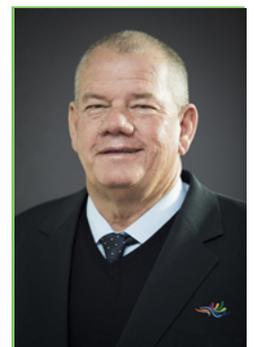
The Bowen community will be excited with the Bowen Beautiful Project and the \$11.8 million Stage 1 of the Greening and Growing Bowen, both funded in the 2017/2018 Budget.

The Bowen Recycled Water Network was also allocated \$975,000 in this year's Budget.

Several major road improvements have been allocated funding with Leichhardt Street open drainage reconstruction, Herbert Street Drainage Reconstruction and Whyte Avenue Kerb and Channel.

Pedestrians and bike riders will be pleased with the Queens Road shared pathway and swimmers will be happy with the Bowen Pool grandstand and heater replacement projects included.

"The 2017/2018 Budget will allow us to move forward with plans for the much needed sewerage treatment plant and recycled water network in Bowen"



Cr Dave Clark

W4Q: Bowen Foreshore will receive play ground equipment improvements for 2 to 5 year age group. The Bowen Skate Park will receive soft shade structures and the Bowen PCYC will receive a major upgrade including facilities for learner skaters and a jumping pillow.

