



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 Mike Brunker - Division 6

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 the 2017/2018 Budget.

Several major road improvements have been allocated funding with Mt Nutt Road Reconstruction (Richmond to Muroona Street), Bells Gully (Mt Nutt Road to Kings Beach, kerb and channel at Ross Hall Street and Ezzy Street and streetscaping at Kennedy Street (Sinclair to Leichhardt Street).

Pedestrians and bike riders will be pleased with the Argyle Park Road Shared Pathway Stage 2 construction and sporting clubs happy with the refurbishment of the amenity block at Bowen Sporting Complex.

"Several major road improvements and new shared pathways will improve safety and connectivity in Division 6."



Cr Mike Brunker

W4Q: Extend the concrete slab to the basketball court at Gideon Pott Park and construction of a soft shade cover. There will also be a hard shade cover and BBQs installed at Greys Bay and shade sails, playground equipment and BBQs installed at Herb Murray Park.

