

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Media release

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Building a sustainable economy

Sunshine Coast Council has adopted a budget to develop a sustainable economy, adding even further value to its local business support and new investment attraction initiatives.

Mayor and Economic Development Portfolio Councillor Mark Jamieson said the budget measures are designed to provide a stimulus to new economic activity, provide a better climate for local business and offer an impetus to projects and developments hit hard by difficult economic conditions.

“One of our top priorities was to make the Sunshine Coast an ideal place to do business and our suite of economic development initiatives has us pointed in the right direction,” he said.

“This new council has listened to the business community and responded through the budget to make the Sunshine Coast a highly competitive and attractive option for current and future investors.

“By no means is this the end of the road; there is more work to do.

“But we are making a start and heading in the right direction.

“You can only have a sustainable community, lifestyle and environment with a sustainable economy – they are inter-dependent,” Cr Jamieson said.

Among the initiatives to invigorate the region’s economy include:

- Scrapping pre-lodgement fees for discussions on possible development applications
- Reduce application fees by 5% for all Commercial, Business and Industrial land uses
- Reduce application fees for 7 selected land use types by 25% by means of a fee rebate when the use commences within 2 years
- Boosting funding for economic development initiatives
- A capital works program of \$146 million of which a substantial part will available for local businesses to tender for

“Through our *Delivering a Natural Advantage to Business* and Local Business Support programs, we are already offering great opportunities for attracting new business as well as helping those who are already here,” Mayor Jamieson said.

“Council’s budget initiatives help complete a holistic economic canvas, firstly by removing any perceived or actual hindrances to worthwhile commercial development, and secondly by offering incentives to get employment generating projects happening sooner.

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“We are on the cusp of some game-changing projects in this region - the Maroochydore Principal Activity Centre, the Kawana Health Precinct and the proposed expansion of the Sunshine Coast Airport.

“This budget will make sure we lay the ground work to make the most of these opportunities - while at the same time ensuring the Sunshine Coast place remains a great place to live.”

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Media Contact: Alan Lander, 0418 227 219