Our communities are our future

The Sunshine Coast is renowned for many things – our lifestyle, our vibrant and distinct communities and our environmental assets. And it is our vision for the future that really sets us apart.

Healthy. Smart. Creative.
**Mayor's message**

Our communities are our future – and this is the focus of Sunshine Coast Council’s $848 million budget for 2019-2020.

Our council has delivered a budget which invests in our greatest assets – our communities, our environment and natural assets, and our economy.

From library services and local venues to sporting fields, parks and gardens, coastal restoration and rehabilitation, and continuing to expand our conservation estate, our budget focuses on delivering for communities right across our region.

Council is also making major investments in improving our local roads and pathways to enable our residents to move around the region and to keep these assets in great shape. We are delivering region-making projects such as the Sunshine Coast Airport expansion project, the new Maroochydore City Centre and the International Broadband Submarine Cable, all of which are delivering jobs now and will continue to generate more enduring employment.

This is the eighth consecutive budget from our council which delivers a surplus and one that has our community and your needs front and centre – today, next year and well into the future.

After all, that is what a healthy, smart, creative region does.
Where do your rates go?

Community
- Community venues
- Disaster management
- Libraries
- Cemeteries
- Public Health services

Parks and gardens
- Recreation parks, trails and facilities
- Sporting facilities

Environment
- Beaches, foreshore, coastal infrastructure and canals
- Bushland conservation and habitat
- Rivers, streams, estuaries and water bodies

Roads and transportation
- Roads, cycleways and pathways
- Stormwater assets
- Public lighting

Economic initiatives
- Major regional projects and events
- Local business support and industry development services
- Attracting new investment to the Sunshine Coast

$848 million
TOTAL COUNCIL BUDGET

$1243.20 Minimum general rates

A rates and charges increase of 2.97% which is 93c per week for the majority of homeowners.

This includes $8.60 increase to waste management charges for a 240L wheelie bin

and a combined $3.50 increase for the Environment, Heritage & Transport Levies
**Investing in our future**

The Heritage, Transport and Environment levies contributed by all ratepayers enables us to build on our investment in our environment, plan for our region’s future transport needs and preserve and celebrate our cultural heritage.

**Heritage Levy raises $1.8 million**

The Heritage Levy will increase by 50 cents to $13, and will continue to:

- support research into regional stories and explore options for our community to better interact with our heritage through digital solutions
- conserve the region’s heritage assets, including State Heritage-listed Bankfoot House and its collection
- support the region’s community museums and historical societies through grants, professional development, workshops, community programs, collaborative marketing and events
- support cultural heritage projects developed in collaboration with Kabi Kabi, Jinibara and Descendants of Australian South Sea Islander peoples.

**Transport Levy raises $6.2 million**

The Transport Levy will increase by $1 to $44, to support:

- the detailed business case for the Light Rail project and other strategic transport planning outcomes
- the continuation of local transport services for our community such as Council Link, the Flexilink trials and the Kenilworth Community Transport Service
- the continuation of bus stop upgrades to comply with the Disability Discrimination Act requirements
- travel behaviour change programs.

**Environment Levy raises $10.9 million**

The Environment Levy will increase by $2 to $76, and will continue to:

- support the implementation of the Environment and Liveability Strategy
- protect and enhance our valued natural environment, including our native plants and animals, waterways and wetlands and coastal environments
- support the purchase and management of conservation lands, catchment and coastal rehabilitation projects, and partner with private landholders and environment and community groups.
**Investing in our future**

Our Council’s budget includes a $320 million Capital works program:

- **$3.3 million** on sealing gravel roads including Zgrajewski Road and sections of North Arm-Plains and Sippy Downs Drive, Sippy Downs.
- **More than $4 million** to improve facilities and infrastructure for walkers and cyclists including pathway renewals, new green cycle lanes and the start of a new link along Nambour Connection Road, between Erbacher Road and Magnolia Street, Nambour.
- **$20 million** on resurfacing more than 117 streets across our region.
- **More than $4 million** to improve facilities and infrastructure for walkers and cyclists including pathway renewals, new green cycle lanes and the start of a new link along Nambour Connection Road, between Erbacher Road and Magnolia Street, Nambour.
- **$3.3 million** on sealing gravel roads including Kiamba Road, Kiamba and McGilchrist Road, Eulola and the planning and design work to seal Zgrajewski Road and sections of North Arm-Yandina Creek Road, Yandina Creek.

**Travelling around our region**

$82.7 million will go towards improving our local road and transport network, including:

- **$6.9 million** and **$6 million** respectively for a four-lane upgrade to both Parklands Boulevard, Meridan Plains and Sippy Downs Drive, Sippy Downs.
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**Protecting our environment**

Over $3 million for 26 projects to improve the quality of stormwater entering streams and water bodies:

- **$1.34 million** to rehabilitate coastal dunes, manage shoreline erosion and implement a coastal health monitoring system.
- **More than $1 million** to upgrade recreation trails across the region and progress the Adventure Sunshine Coast project; and **$300,000** for boardwalk upgrades at Mary Cairncross Scenic Reserve.
- **$1.1 million** for programs and services at Mary Cairncross Scenic Reserve, Maroochy Bushland Botanical Gardens and Maroochy Wetlands – our key centres for conservation, learning and community based partnerships.
- **$4 million** invested in our programs with community volunteers and private landholders to support environmental education, land restoration and wildlife care.
- **Completion of the $1 million Maroochydore Beach renourishment program** to improve shoreline resilience, community access and enjoyment.
- **A new roaming education hub** called the Coastal Discovery Centre will open.

**Love getting out and about?**

- **Horizon Festival** will once again bring the Sunshine Coast to life with a 10-day celebration of arts and culture.
- **$9 million** to keep our playgrounds and parks in good condition including **$300,000** for a new playground and much more at Turner Park, Beerwah; **$300,000** at Graeme Stewart Park, Currimundi; and **$655,000** for an adventure playground and more at Russell Family Park, Montville.
- **Caloundra Regional Gallery** will continue to showcase local and national artists in professionally curated exhibitions and programs.
- **Libraries** continue to be great community spaces to meet, learn and play. Check in for WiFi, books, workshops, talks, holiday activities, preservation stations, technology sessions and the online 24/7 eLibrary.
- **$1.37 million** to complete some missing links along the Coastal Pathway at Tay Avenue, Caloundra; Oceanic Drive, Bokarina and Wilson Avenue, Dicky Beach.

**Have a four-legged friend?**

- A new mobile app will be developed to give dog owners quick and easy information about off-leash, on-leash and prohibited areas across our region.
- **$48,000** for a new dog off-leash area at Elders Street, Nambour.
- Our littlest residents will continue to enjoy the responsible pet ownership education program in schools and childcare centres across our region.

**Operating a business**

- Businesses and their employees will be able to access ‘B-Well and Prosper’ – a wellbeing and mental health portal with workshops, factsheets, podcasts and initiatives.
- **$14.4 million** for the International Broadband Submarine Cable network, which is on track to be in service by mid-2020, and forecast to deliver up to 864 new jobs and stimulate **$927 million** in new investment in Queensland.
- **$105 million** to continue the Sunshine Coast Airport Expansion project, which is on track for completion in 2020 and forecast to create **2230 new full-time direct and indirect jobs** by 2040.
- A **Reduced Infrastructure Charge** will remain in place until June 2022 to incentivise residential investment in defined central areas of Nambour and Caloundra.

**Not-for-profit organisations**

- Charities and not-for-profit organisations will receive a 50 percent fee reduction when lodging a development application.
- **$3.4 million** in community grants to support projects, events and activities of not-for-profit groups.

**Enjoy being active**

- Healthy Sunshine Coast will provide free and low cost exercise classes – from group fitness to outdoor yoga – across our region.
- **$6.9 million** is allocated to upgrade sporting facilities – supporting our community to get out, get active and form connections. This includes **$1.9 million** for the Maroochy Multi-Sports Complex and **$2.1 million** to finalise stage 2 of the Regional Tennis Centre at Caloundra.
- **$70,000** to provide visitor access to Doonan Creek Environmental Reserve at Verrierdale.
- **$705,000** for the first stage of a program to replace pathways across our region from Coolum to Burnsise, Minyama to Little Mountain and widen them to 1.8 metres to cater for prams and mobility scooters.

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Pay your rates on-time
Take advantage of your on-time rate payment discount.

Pensioner rate concession
Eligible pensioners continue to receive a rate concession.

Set and forget your rates payment
Did you know you can set up a direct debit to have your rates paid in full on the due date? That way, you can set and forget your payment and guarantee receiving your on-time payment discount.

You can also receive your rates notice by email. You’ll be helping the environment and if you are travelling or have moved house, you will know when your rates are due.

Check out MyCouncil
You can register pets, enter and track a service request, view and pay council accounts quickly and view your rates notice on MyCouncil – a secure online gateway to council’s services.

Find MyCouncil on council’s website.