



Council budget invests in region's future

A state-of-the-art regional aquatic centre, improved drinking water quality along the coast and road safety upgrades feature in Bundaberg Regional Council's 2021-22 budget adopted today.

Mayor Jack Dempsey said 2020 had presented some of the most difficult challenges the community had ever faced and in response council had delivered a responsible budget which put the community back on track for recovery.

"Council spent more than \$2 million on COVID relief measures including community sporting grants and fee waivers," Mayor Dempsey said.

"We also had lower revenue from the airport and venues, and extra costs for cleaning and COVID compliance.

"Despite these challenges, it's important that we as a community continue to move forward.

"This is a responsible budget which puts Council and the community back on track for recovery."

He said Council was "taking the plunge" to build the Bundaberg Regional Aquatic Facility, capable of hosting international standard events.

"During many years in public office, thousands of people have told me they want a new state-of-the-art pool for health and wellbeing," he said.

"It's a genuine pleasure for me and my fellow councillors that we're going to deliver this important generational project over the next few years.

"The regional aquatic centre will benefit all members of our community, including the disadvantaged and people with disabilities."

In the next 12 months Council will also start work on the Moore Park Beach Master Plan, with \$500,000 allocated to supporting the redevelopment of the surf club.

In 2021-22 Bundaberg Regional Council will invest:

- \$27.4 million on strategic road upgrades
- \$15.9 million to provide safe drinking water and improve water quality

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- \$3.5 million to improve and renew parks and open spaces
- \$3.8 million to improve stormwater drainage
- \$2.1 million to expand the pathway network
- \$2 million for public safety initiatives and local emergency services

Mayor Dempsey said Council's commitment remained "building Australia's best regional community".