



## Safety and future focus for roads and drainage

Targeted roads, drainage and pathway investments that leverage grant funding are a focus for Bundaberg Regional Council's 2022-23 budget.

Roads and Drainage portfolio spokesperson Cr Bill Trevor said Council's capital budget included two major footpath upgrades that will benefit local students.

This funding is in addition to the SafeST program, which is an annual partnership between Bundaberg Regional Council and the Queensland Government which provides infrastructure improvements around schools.

"An additional 280m pathway is set to be installed along Goodwood Road from the McCarthy Road intersection," Cr Trevor said.

"Part of the design will include consideration of safe crossing points of side streets for pedestrians and cyclists which, considering the high traffic levels in this area of a morning and afternoon, will offer considerable safety improvements."

Gin Gin Primary School students are set to benefit from the renewal of 350 m of pathway along Mildren and May Streets while a new refuge on Eastgate Street will provide a safe crossing for both East State Primary School students and Liberty Villas residents.

Cr Trevor said work had gone into prioritising infrastructure investment, like the Bonna Road upgrade which was identified through Council's Roads Investment Strategy.

The safety improvements, supported through the Australian Government Roads to Recovery program, will also cater to future growth within the area.

"Bonna Road will be widened between Childers Roads and Bartholdt South Drive and more targeted safety improvements will be provided for what is currently a tight, potentially dangerous corner," Cr Trevor said.

"This project will be integrated with the Department of Transport and Main Roads' upgrade of the Childers and Bonna Roads intersection."

Work will also be underway on the naturalisation of Washpool Creek in the next financial year following the development of a masterplan for the area.

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“The project will see an outdated and deteriorated concrete drain converted into a natural waterway which features stepping stones, boardwalks, facilities like picnic shelters and plenty of open space for the community to enjoy.”

The Washpool Creek Naturalisation project is jointly funded by the Commonwealth and Queensland Government's through the Local Economic Recovery Program.