

### Stimulus measure to ignite economy

**Council's \$3 million Better Community Building Fund will help deliver \$6.5 million in infrastructure projects and provide a \$14 million economic boost**

WHEN council devised its \$3 million Better Community Building Fund as part of this year's budget, it hoped the stimulus measure would light up the region's economy.

It has done just that, with 13 organisations to share in the funding that is tipped to provide a \$14 million economic boost.

And the scheme is set to further light up Harrup Park Country Club's main oval, providing a significant boost

to plans for a major upgrade to help attract high-profile, televised sporting events.

Tourism and Economic Development portfolio councillor Greg Martin said projects had to be shovel-ready to meet the funding criteria.

"We need real jobs, real money, real investment and real infrastructure right now. We can't wait, so we're ready to steam roll ahead," Cr Martin said.

The sporting and not-for-profit community groups also had to be able to contribute some of their own funds and use local contractors.

Cr Martin said the 13 capital projects were worth \$6.5 million and REMPLAN data forecast a \$14 million boost to the economy.

He said Mackay Cricket Association's major lighting upgrade would be a great outcome, with Harrup Park contributing funds and also



Aussie Rules players training at sunset at Harrup Park. A planned \$1 million lighting upgrade of the main oval will help attract major televised events.

leveraging the contribution for more government funding. "That is a \$1 million return for our \$250,000 investment."

General manager Michael Jones said Harrup Park had to ensure lighting capacity met standards required so it was competitive when targeting major sporting events.

"Most games are now broadcast live and prime time viewing is at night, so to secure these sporting events we need broadcast quality lighting," he said. "Harrup Park can be a real economic driver for Mackay by attracting major sporting events and drawing spectators to the region."

The \$250,000 from council is being matched by \$250,000 from Harrup Park Country Club.

An application has been lodged for a Federal Government National Stronger Regions grant of \$500,000 for the club's \$1 million project.

>> Council's \$250,000 contribution can deliver a \$1 million lighting upgrade for Harrup Park Country Club. The main oval's lighting would go from 500 lux to 1500 lux

### Sports on ball to tune of \$500,000

MACKAY'S governing netball and basketball organisations will share in \$500,000.

Each has received the maximum grant of \$250,000, with Mackay Basketball's new seating project at Candlestick Park already under construction.

That project will triple the seating capacity at the home of the Mackay Meteors and Meteorettes.

Mackay Netball is now in a good position to secure State Government funding for a \$1.4 million upgrade for its Casey Avenue complex.

"Our project is to construct 16 concrete-based, acrylic surface courts, which will then give us a state competition standard complex," said president Lyn Law.

"That means we'll be able to attract state events, which will be the first time Mackay will have held a netball state event," she said. "We're envisaging the project will be finished in time for 2017 fixtures and I will be applying for a state event that year."

The funding, combined with Mackay Netball's contribution, will boost its chances of funding through

the state's Get Playing Plus program.

"We've put in an expression of interest and we'll know whether we're invited to the next stage in February," said Mrs Law. "We couldn't apply for that without this help."

"We have eight surfaces that are in bad shape. We have two-centimetre gaps and cracks."

The existing courts are used by 1500 members, as well as school competitions. "We have something like 170 players per court during the year," said Mrs Law.



Sports, Recreation and Facilities portfolio councillor Paul Steindl and Mackay Netball president Lyn Law check out the courts.

>> Watch a video on successful applicants in the \$3 million Better Community Building Fund at [mackay.qld.com.au/bettercommunity](http://mackay.qld.com.au/bettercommunity)

### - in brief -

#### Fund popular

COUNCIL'S \$3 million Better Community Building fund was extremely popular. When expressions of interest closed, 61 were received for projects worth \$9.9 million. Council shortlisted 18 and asked them for more detailed applications. There were many worthy projects, including in the initial expressions of interest phase. But council could only fund \$3 million from the scheme in its 2015-16 budget.

#### Saddling up

A \$100,000 grant will allow Mackay North Horse and Pony Club to build a cross-country course of a size and standard to host state competitions. It will include 20 cross-country jumps over a 2km course. The new course, at the Cremorne-based club, will also enable local riders to develop their equestrian skills. No such course exists in our area. Riders have had to travel to Burpengary, Collinsville, Caboolture or Ingham for practice or competition.

#### New heights

A LOCAL Scouts organisation will use a \$140,000 grant to build an abseiling tower at Rowallan Park. The free-standing tower will have multi-platform areas to cater for differing heights and difficulty levels. The venture will also provide the Central and Coastal Region Scouts with an ongoing income. The tower will be able to be hired out to community groups, cadets, SES, emergency services and training organisations for working at heights courses.

#### Leap of joy

MACKAY Gymnastics has already delivered two stages of its new facility in Snow Wright Court, Beaconsfield, with the help of Federal and State government funding. It now has \$250,000 from council's Better Community Building Fund to help with plans for further expansion.

#### Future growth

A NEW fire hydrant system to be built at Western Suburbs Leagues Club, Walkerston, will cater for future development on the site. The club will receive \$250,000 towards the project, which will assist with investment in specialised fire tanks and assembly equipment to ensure water supply at the required pressure.

### Funds hit target at range

THE Sporting Shooters' George Range, between Eton and Mirani, is a busy place.

"We've got close to 1200 members but also cater to about 3500 local shooters, as well as community groups," said Sporting Shooters Association of Australia (SSAA) Mackay branch vice-president and range nominee Peter Finch.

Even police use the range regularly for firearms training.

"We often find that the infrastructure can't handle the number of people we have out there," Mr Finch said.

The range, owned by SSAA Queensland, has been granted \$210,000 through



Facilities at George Range will be upgraded.

council's Better Community Building Fund.

The group will build a major new storage facility and ablutions block at the range, which is located on a picturesque 164-hectare property, with camping ground nearby.

Mr Finch said the range would

host national titles at Easter next year and he hoped the new facilities would be completed in time for another major event, a Cowboy Single-Action Shoot, in the second half of the year.

"We'd like to start construction as soon as possible and be finished by the middle of the year," he said.

### Club to tee off early for its project

MACKAY Golf Club can fast-track stage two of its clubhouse development.

"Without this funding it would have taken us probably six or seven years to get that money together to be able to do it," said president Sue Rowlinson after approval of a \$250,000 grant.

"Now we'll be able to fast-track it and get it built in 2016," she said.

"It was a dream to be able to do this."

The project will improve member and function facilities in the clubhouse, as well as disability access and facilities.

Mackay Golf Club, which has more than 740 members, upgraded the clubhouse's roof, kitchen and air-conditioning in stage one, but had to take out a loan for that work, which members are paying off through a levy.



Kucom will build a theatre to seat up to 100 at Snow Wright Court, Beaconsfield.

### Kucom finds home

KUCOM Theatre members have been looking for a new home for some time.

"We'd very much like to thank Mackay Regional Council for giving us the opportunity to achieve that aim."

"We're looking at building a theatre which will seat up to 100 people and we're also planning on making the premises available for hire to other community performing groups."

"We have the design done. It's all shovel-ready and we're hoping to have something built by this time next year."

>> Kucom began as Mackay Community Theatre in 1947

### Projects brief

- > **Kucom Theatre Incorporated:** \$250,000 for a new clubhouse in Snow Wright Court, Beaconsfield.
- > **Mackay and District Mountain Bike Club:** \$250,000 to upgrade downhill trails at Kinchant Dam.
- > **Mackay Basketball Incorporated:** \$250,000 for new seating to triple crowd capacity at Candlestick Park.
- > **Mackay Cricket Association (Harrup Park Country Club):** \$250,000 towards a \$1 million upgrade of lighting to attract major televised sports events.
- > **Mackay Golf Club Incorporated:** \$250,000 for stage two of an upgrade of its clubhouse and function area.
- > **Mackay Gymnastics Incorporated:** \$250,000 to expand its Snow Wright Court facility.
- > **Mackay Netball Association Incorporated:** \$250,000 towards a \$1.4 million project to build 16 new state standard courts at Casey Avenue.
- > **Mackay North Horse and Pony Club:** \$100,000 to build a cross-country course.
- > **Scout Association of Australia Queensland Branch - Central and Coastal Region:** \$140,000 for an abseiling tower at Rowallan Park.
- > **Mackay Tourism Limited:** \$250,000 to upgrade the visitor information centre at the City Gates.
- > **Sarina Arts and Crafts Co-op Ltd:** \$250,000 to upgrade Field of Dreams parkland plus \$50,000 for design costs.
- > **Sporting Shooters Association of Australia Mackay Branch:** \$210,000 for a large, new storage shed and ablutions block at the George Range.
- > **Western Suburbs Rugby League Football Club at Walkerston:** \$250,000 for a major fire hydrant system.

### Future mapped out for mountain bikes

THERE are big plans to put Mackay on the mountain biking tourism map.

Mackay and District (MAD) Mountain Bike Club will use its \$250,000 for a project to upgrade a downhill track at Kinchant Dam.

The track hosted a state titles about nine years ago but is now in a state of disrepair.

"It will also allow us to get more mountain biking tourism in the area," said president Steven Elvy.

"A lot of people will come from up north and down south to ride this track that people still talk about today as being one of the best downhill tracks they've ridden," he said.

Atherton Mountain Bike Park in North Queensland is a flourishing tourism venture.

"They get a lot of tourism through there in conjunction with the local caravan park that has packages for people," Mr Elvy said.

>> The club also has trails at Rowallan Park which will host state titles next year



Owen Elvy, 14, in action on a mountain bike.

"We have a local provider who will also be looking to provide that sort of accommodation."

Mr Elvy said the downhill trail, to be developed with Queensland Parks and Wildlife and landholders, would be about 1.5km.

"We're eventually talking in

the realms of 15 to 20km of trails over five stages on the Kinchant Dam site ... It will be about \$1.5 million."

"This funding will help us do stages one and two. We're looking at getting an equal amount from the State Government, which will bring the cost for the two stages to about \$580,000."

### Boost of \$550,000 for tourism

TOURISM projects in Sarina and Mackay will benefit from funding of more than half-a-million dollars. Sarina Arts and Crafts Co-op Limited has been granted \$250,000 for a major upgrade of the Field of Dreams parkland. The organisation has also received a separate \$50,000 grant for design costs. Mackay Tourism Limited has also received a Better Community Building Fund grant of \$250,000 towards an upgrade of its visitor information centre at the City Gates.