



Push for more affordable housing

To accommodate continued growth in the region and provide more affordable housing options, Mackay Regional Council is proposing amendments to the Mackay City, Mirani and Sarina Planning Schemes.

The proposed Mackay, Sarina and Mirani Planning Scheme Amendments 1 of 2010 all seek to standardise minimum lot size to 300m² for residential areas and replace the existing Dwelling House Code with a new Code that contains common and unique provisions.

Planning and Development portfolio councillor Diane Hatfield said the proposed amendments will streamline and standardise development controls for dwelling houses and provide the opportunity for smaller lot development and greater housing diversity in Mackay.

"With diverse groups of people requiring accommodation in the region, singles, families, workers, young couples and retirees, it is important that Mackay offers a wide variety of affordable housing options to cater for the needs of our community," she said.

Residents are invited to have their say on the proposed planning schemes amendments during the public consultation period from Wednesday, April 20 to Friday, June 10.

The proposed amendments are available to view at the Sir Albert Abbott Administration

Building, Gordon Street and the Mirani and Sarina Customer Service Centres.

The documents are also available at various council libraries and can be viewed on council's website.

Submission forms can be obtained online or from the locations stated above.

>> For further details on the proposed Planning Scheme Amendments call 1300 MACKAY or email strategic_planning@mackay.qld.gov.au.

Utilise facilities to boost your health and wellbeing



Take advantage of council's facilities and public spaces to do your 30 minutes of exercise to improve your fitness.

Mackay Regional Council's Aquatic Facilities offer a Adult Swim 4 Fitness program which caters for all levels of swimmers from beginners to advanced, so whether you want to correct your technique or train for a marathon, this program will be able to assist you in achieving your goals.

Some key facts on why swimming is a good all-round activity is it:

- keeps your heart rate up but takes some of the impact of stress off your body
- builds endurance, muscle strength and cardiovascular fitness
- helps maintain a healthy weight, healthy heart and lungs
- tones muscles and builds strength
- provides an all-over body workout, as nearly all of your muscles are used during swimming.

If swimming is not for you, alternatively jump on your bike, scooter or go for a walk along the Bluewater Trail which encompasses the Botanic Gardens, Bluewater Lagoon, Bluewater Quay, Sandfly Creek Environmental Walk and Iluka Park All Abilities Playground.

Health, Sport and Recreation portfolio councillor Paul Steindl said the 2010 National Heart Foundation Local Government Award winning Bluewater Trail is becoming a popular spot for fitness fanatics.

"The picturesque trail encompasses breath taking views of the region's natural beauty," he said.

To download a map of the trail visit council's website.

>> For business and corporate rates for Adult Swim 4 Fitness, phone Rhona on 4957 5767.

Rock'n good time to be had in the Valley



Due to the generous support of local businesses and Mackay Regional Council the award winning River Rock to Mountain Top Community Festival will once again be held in the Pioneer Valley from May 6 to 15.

The festival celebrates the towns of the Pioneer Valley, Eungella, Finch Hatton, Pinnacle, Gargett, Mirani, Marian and Walkerston and offers a variety of activities for all ages.

Live music, a lantern parade, Tagalong Ride - a charity horse ride, a fireworks display, and arts and crafts are just some of the exciting treats on offer.

>> For a full list of events, visit www.riverrocktomountaintop.com.au

Did you know?

Mackay Regional Council has a facebook page. Follow us at www.facebook.com/mackayregionalcouncil to keep up-to-date with the latest news on projects, events and much more.



Notice to motorists

With significant road repairs happening throughout the region, Mackay Regional Council is calling on motorists to please adhere to all road signage and traffic controller's instructions to ensure the safety of everyone concerned.

More than 50 council workers and 16

Remote controlled slasher trims tricky bits



It doesn't have a nickname, but 'razor' is probably an appropriate description of this miniature slasher.

Local contractor Anything Earthmoving sourced the remote controlled unit to help council tackle the growing problem of mowing inaccessible areas.

Persistent rain has made it impossible and a safety risk to mow overgrown riverbanks and many low lying parks and open spaces with the traditional mowing equipment.

>> For more details on works around the region, visit our website today.



Make your pet's safety a priority

Mackay Regional Council is calling on pet owners to be more vigilant in the care of their animals as the Easter break approaches (Friday, April 22 to Tuesday, April 26).

Residents who are going away for Easter are encouraged to ensure their animals are well looked after utilising boarding kennels or arranging reliable friends and family members to provide proper care such as food, water, attention and exercise for the animal.

So before you head off to enjoy the five-day weekend take the time to arrange appropriate care for your furry friend.

>> For further details on responsible pet ownership, log onto our website.

Road Management Contract crews are out fixing our region's roads.

Mayor Col Meng said it is crucial that motorists obey all road messages.

"With potholes in our roads from severe wet weather and workers trying to repair our roads, it is critical that motorists keep a watchful eye on our roads and heed all road safety advice."

Cr Meng said to ensure motorists have a safe journey and road maintenance crews carry out their work in a safe environment, council is posting regular updates on our website regarding the conditions of our roads and road repair work throughout our region.

"If you go to www.mackay.qld.gov.au/residents/roads/fixing_our_roads you will be able to find out where the repair crews are located and the extent of the work being carried out."

>> To report a pothole, email council@mackay.qld.gov.au.

Let us entertain you



The Mackay Entertainment and Convention Centre have a fantastic range of shows catering for people of all ages and tastes. An upcoming event to get your tickets for is Café Rebetika!, which is on show next week, Tuesday, April 26 from 7.30pm.

Café Rebetika!, is an epic story of the heart; a passionate and uplifting musical theatre production which tells a dramatic love story set in the slums of 1930s urban Greece amongst the rise of rebetika, the 'Greek blues'.

The darkly beautiful songs of rebetika tell the raw and often bawdy hard-luck stories of outcast people in turbulent times.

Tickets prices > Adults \$38, Concession \$35, Group 6+ \$30 and Student U18 \$22. NOTE: Pre-show dining available.

>> For more information and to book your ticket, visit www.mackaytix.com.au.



ANZAC Day

On Monday, April 25, ANZAC Day commemoration ceremonies will be held around the region to acknowledge and remember the service of our veterans and all Australians who have served and died in wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations.

Dawn and Main ANZAC Day services in Mackay will be held at Jubilee Park, corner of Alfred and Wellington streets:



Dawn Service > 5am Main Service > 8.30am

Other services that will be held include:

Location	Dawn Service	Main Service
Bloomsbury	Dawn Service > 5.30am	
Calen/St Helens	Dawn Service > 4.25am	Main Service > 11am
Eton	Dawn Service > 5am	
Farleigh	Dawn Service > 5.30am	
Finch Hatton	Dawn Service > 4.28am	Evening Service > 6.30pm
Gargett	Main Service > 8am	
Half Tide	Dawn Service > 5.30am	
Koumala	Main Service > 7am	
Kuttabul	Dawn Service > 5.30am	
Marian	Dawn Service > 4.20am	
Midge Point	Dawn Service > 5am	
Mirani	Sunset Service > 4.30pm	
Pleystowe	Dawn Service > 6.40am	
Sarina	Dawn Service > 4.28am	Main Service > 10.30am
Seaforth	Dawn Service > 6am	
Walkerston	Dawn Service > 5am	Main Service > 7.45am

>> For more information and location points, visit our website.

Easter Carnival in the City

Sunday, April 24
8.30am to 12.30pm
Victoria Street, Mackay

Hop on down to the City Centre for Mackay's annual free Easter Carnival.

The morning is jam-packed full of Easter activities, games and competitions with great prizes to be won such as a trip for two to Hamilton Island!

Join the monster egg hunt, Cold Rock ice cream eating competition or have a go at pinning the tail on the bunny.



>> Contact council on 1300 MACKAY for more information.



ecoMackay website delivers green ideas

In a bid to reduce the region's carbon emissions and create a more energy efficient and sustainable region, Mackay Regional Council in conjunction with the Natural Strategies Group has created the ecoMackay website (www.ecomackay.com.au).

The website is packed with ideas, tips and simple changes that will have positive impacts on the environment and the health and wellbeing of the community.

Log on and view over 40 sustainable living actions that you can do on a daily basis, as well gain valuable information on available rebates and schemes on offer.

>Sustainability tip!
Switch off appliances and electrical equipment at the power point and greatly reduce your household carbon pollution and power bill.