



Your thoughts can help shape the future of our region

Help shape the look, feel and type of community you would like to see as 'Tomorrow's Mackay' and go into the draw to win a \$1000 shopping spree.

"Everyone has a role to play in this plan as it will shape our future and be a guiding document for council, government and community stakeholders."
- Mayor Col Meng.

The draft Community Plan sets out a long term vision, identifies community aspirations and develops the actions required to make that vision a reality.

Mayor Col Meng said it was now time to seek the community's input to provide an accurate reflection of the needs and wants of the region.

To encourage input, council is offering a \$1000 shopping voucher to one lucky resident who completes the Community Plan survey.

People of all ages, walks of life and all parts of our region – rural and urban – are invited to have input into this plan.

The survey for comments and feedback

can be filled out online or alternatively residents can print the pdf version and drop it into any of our Customer Service Centres or post to: Mackay Regional Council, PO Box 41, Mackay, 4740.

The feedback period runs until Friday August, 19 and hard copies of the plan are located at council's libraries and Customer Service Centres.

>> To view the draft Community Plan and complete the survey, log onto www.connectingmackay.com.au.

Flora, Fauna and Food!

For a unique garden experience, fabulous food and scenic views visit the Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens on Lagoon Street in West Mackay.

The Café on the Lagoon is Mackay's unique garden and gallery café which celebrates seasonal changes, stirs the senses and is the place to relax and unwind under the shady alfresco deck.

Whether you want to dine out for a casual breakfast, lunch or indulge in a high tea or delicious treat and coffee, the menu has something to tempt all taste buds.

The Café on the Lagoon can also cater for your next function or meeting at the Botanic Gardens – from casual gatherings and celebrations to five-star events and wedding receptions.

>> To view the opening hours and menu, log onto Botanic Gardens website, www.mackayregionalbotanicgardens.com.au.



Operating hours to change at some rural waste transfer sites



An annual saving of \$130,000 is the result of implementing minor changes to the operating hours at some rural waste transfer sites.

The changes will become effective from September 1, to achieve cost efficiencies and better service the needs of rural residents.

Waste portfolio councillor Greg Thomsen said council operated 11 Rural Transfer Stations in the region and the revised hours would have minimal impact on local communities.

"We have carefully monitored the customer usage and reviewed the hours to ensure the sites remain open when most in need," Cr Thomsen said.

"In some cases we will shut the facility a little earlier or open the gates a few hours later," he said.

The revised operations are part of council's ongoing commitment to deliver cost-effective services whilst minimising operational costs.

Under the changes, Finch Hatton's facility will close and current operating days will be altered between one and four hours at other rural sites.

The Finch Hatton facility is restricted in the waste it can receive, whereas the nearby Gargett Transfer site, a ten minute drive, has the capability of taking large furniture items, steel and timber.

Waste is an expensive business, costing council \$31.4 million a year and the latest changes are necessary to keep operating budgets affordable.

>> For further information on waste transfer sites, visit our website.

The new operational days and times as at September 1:

Waste Transfer Site	Operating Days	Opening Hours
Sarina	Saturday to Wednesday	10am to 5pm
Hay Point	Thursday to Sunday	10am to 3pm
Otterburn	Thursday to Sunday	9am to 3pm
Gargett	Saturday to Tuesday	10am to 5pm
Eungella	Saturday to Monday	10am to 2pm
Kuttabul	Saturday and Wednesday	7am to 5pm
Kolijo	Thursday to Sunday	12.30pm to 5pm
Bloomsbury	Thursday to Sunday	7am to 11.30am
Seaforth	Thursday to Sunday	7am to 5pm
Koumala	Saturday and Sunday	11am to 3pm
Finch Hatton		CLOSED

The drainage works in Wood Street are expected to take about four to five weeks (weather permitting).

Under the Natural Disaster Relief and recovery arrangements, these flood repair works need to be completed by the end of the year. Council apologises for any inconvenience caused during these essential works and asks the public to please adhere to all construction signage and barricading for their safety.

>> For more information and to keep informed during the construction phase, visit council's website regularly.

Check out City Deals

www.mackaycitycentre.com.au

Jump online and surf through fantastic City Deals!

> With savings on fashion, food, fun and more you are sure to find something you will love.

> The best deals, specials and discounts the Mackay City Centre has to offer are right here!

View the latest \$ CITY DEALS!

Did you know?

Council is developing a new planning scheme for the entire region, called the Mackay 200k Planning Scheme. Register on council's website for regular updates.



Repair work starts in the City Centre >>

The City Centre has become a buzz of activity this week with essential repair works commencing to improve existing infrastructure. The planned works totalling over \$4 million are a part of council's 'Rebuilding our Roads' campaign and will repair the existing stormwater drainage network in Wood Street and improve flood damaged roads in Wood, Victoria and River streets.

Visitors to the City Centre will be able to take advantage of free two hour parking in council's off-street car park on the corner of Gordon and Gregory streets from July 11 to August 11 while the essential drainage repair works occur in Wood Street.



Sign up to Business Networks

Are you interested in up-to-date information about business in the Mackay region? Become a member of council's e-business networks, it's free and easy to do online.

The Regional Focus business network is the newest addition to council's highly regarded e-business networks; City Focus Business Network and Sarina Business Network.

Information on regional and business events, particularly those offered at low or no cost, is provided, with current updates on what's on offer across the region.

Council's Economic Development program utilises the network to distribute the latest regional statistics, and publications such as the e-business guide, region profiles and snapshots.

Already a member? Let others know about the benefits associated with being a Regional Focus Business Network member.

>> To register, head to council's website under Economic Development and join to start receiving updates.

Students can access FREE online tutoring

Get help with your homework from trained professional tutors thanks to Mackay Regional Council's Library Services

Students from Grades 4 through to 12 can take advantage of the free one-on-one help thanks to the online service 'yourtutor'.

Available Monday to Friday from 4pm to 8pm, 'yourtutor' can assist in subject areas such as Maths, English, Science, Research and Study Skills.

Community Services and Facilities portfolio councillor Karen May said all tutors are Australian-educated and located, background-checked, and all sessions are monitored and recorded for quality control.

"It's great because parents can provide that extra help for their children at no expense to them and it's even available in the convenience of their own home," she said.



To connect to a live tutor log onto council's Library Services webpage www.mackay.qld.gov.au/libraries and follow the 'yourtutor' prompts. Remember to take advantage of 'yourtutor' users must possess library membership.

>> Library membership is free to anyone who lives in the Mackay Regional Council area, for more details on joining the library visit our website or phone 1300 MACKAY (622 529).

sustainability tip

Composting your food scraps for your garden instead of running a garbage disposal unit will not only help the environment, but also save water.