



Development Services

Monthly Review Report

August 2020

Executive Summary

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

This report is for Development Services for August 2020. Some highlights from this period are as follows:

- Consultation has commenced on the review of four Planning Scheme Policies relating to Water and Sewerage, Stormwater drainage design, Landscape and Open Space. This first round of Planning Scheme Policy amendments is part of a broader program which will see all of Council's Planning Scheme Policies reviewed and updated.
- Stage 2 of the Faces Behind the Places campaign was launched, with three short promotional videos created. This time, the key theme of the videos was 'Thank you Mackay'. These videos were posted on the Mackay City Centre Facebook page and have so far achieved a collective reach of 14,600.
- Another successful Free Native Plant Giveaway was held on 21-22 August at the Mackay Natural Environment Centre. Over 2200 local native plants were given away and an additional 1220 were purchased over the two days.
- Works have commenced on the refurbishment of the Grasstree Beach Basketball Court. This work is being undertaken through Works for Queensland COVID19 funding, along with works to repair and replace minor play equipment at a number of other parks across the Region.
- The Mountain Bike Alliance met on 13 August 2020 and will now meet monthly to discuss the delivery of specific action items from the Mountain Bike Strategy. On 20 August, Council provided the Eungella and Finch Hatton communities with an update on the Pioneer Valley Mountain Bike Park Project.
- Council, in conjunction with Mackay Tourism, continues to deliver the Recreational Fishing Strategy 'Hooked-on Mackay' marketing campaign which supports the promotion and awareness of the Mackay Region as a world-class fishing destination. Council partnered with Mackay Tourism to promote the Hooked-on Mackay brand at the Big Boys Toy Expo on 8 and 9 August.
- The Sugar Shed held an official launch for the SB13 3-year rum on 17 August. The SB-13 rum was released in time for Father's Day and included single-bottle sales and a special Father's Day gift box. The response was overwhelming, with the gift boxes selling out the next day and the single bottles selling out within four days.



Aletta Nugent
Director Development Services



Opening of Orchid House at Queens Park

Development News 08/2020

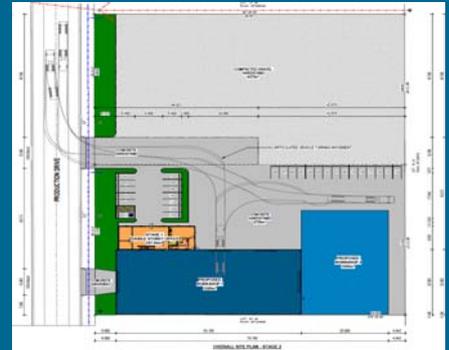
Updates on Significant Developments Currently Being Assessed by Council

APPLICATION LODGED

DA-2020-114

14-16 Production Drive Paget

The application proposes the establishment of a Medium Impact Industry use on the recently developed property in Production Park industrial estate. The development will be completed over two stages and will include two workshops and ancillary offices.



APPLICATION LODGED

OW-2020-28

1-11 Carl Street Rural View

The operational works application is for civil works associated with The Emporium Northern Beaches development. The proposed works include roadwork, carparking, stormwater, water and sewerage infrastructure, drainage work and landscaping.

APPLICATION APPROVED

DA-2020-59

135-139 Diesel Drive Paget

The approval allows for the establishment of a Transport Depot on land located on the corner of Stockroute Road and Diesel Drive. The proposal indicates that a crane business will occupy the site, with provision of overnight accommodation for drivers at the facility.



APPLICATION APPROVED

OW-2020-4

23-29 Oak Street Andergrove

The operational works approval is for civil works associated with a Coles Shopping Centre at Andergrove. The approved works include roadwork, stormwater, water and sewerage infrastructure, drainage work and landscaping.



Monthly Safety Review

Summary

Six incidents were reported involving MRC employees and members of the public.

The following injuries to MRC employees were reported in August:

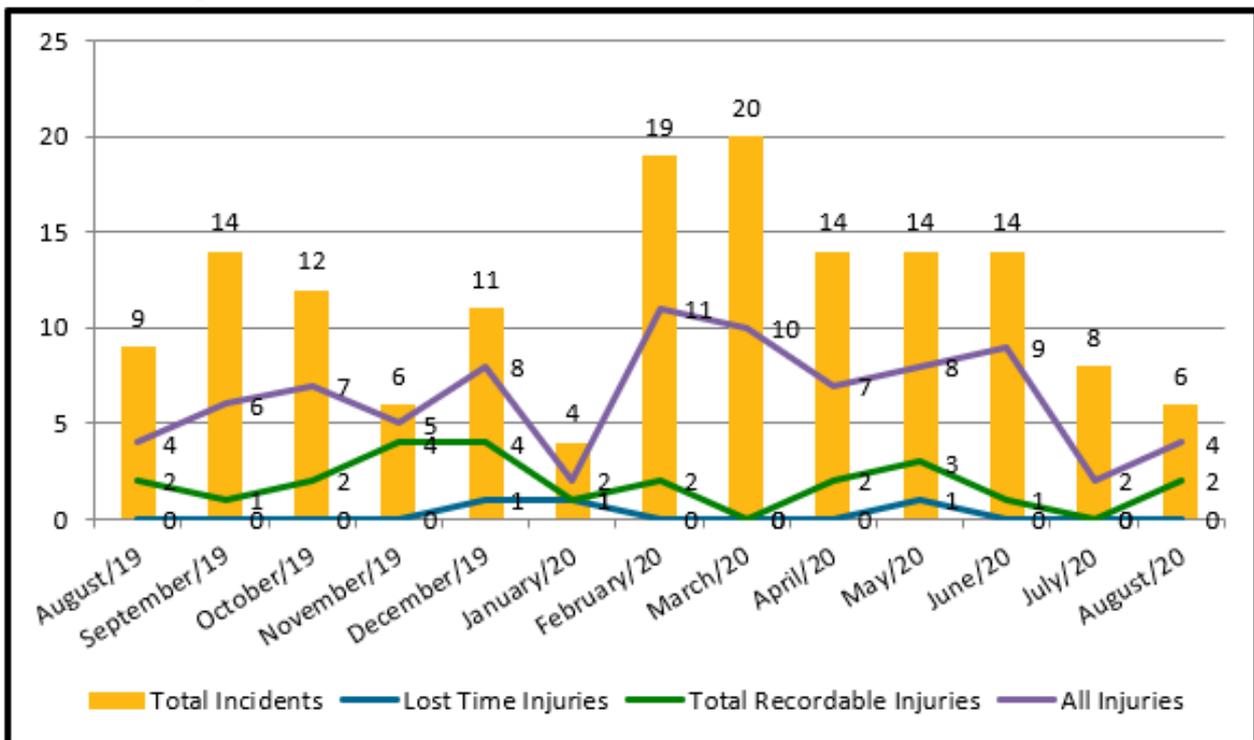
- Small cut on finger whilst removing canopy on truck.
- Small cut on finger whilst changing out whipper snipper chord.
- Neck pain whilst using pole saw to trim trees.
- Shoulder pain over period of time whilst hedging and lifting tree branches.

The following asset damage incidents involving a MRC employee were reported in August:

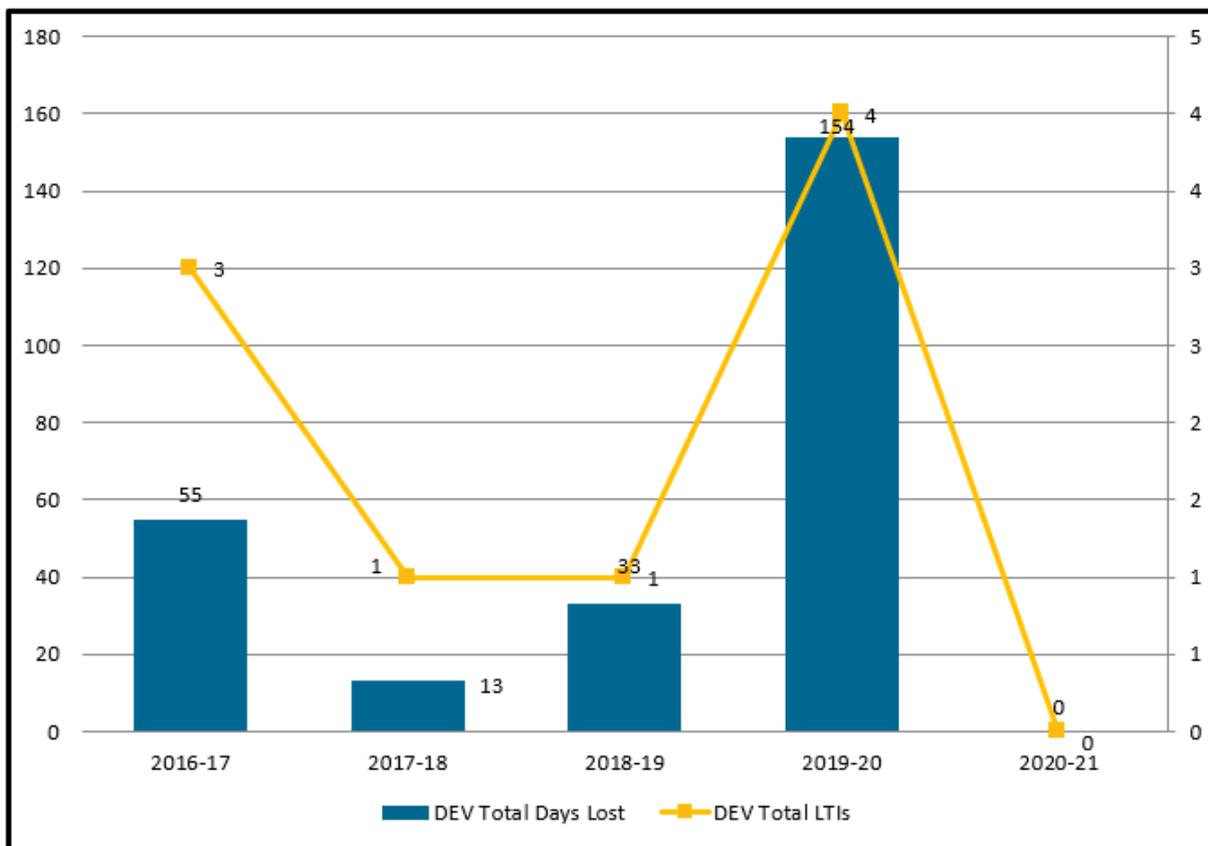
- While mowing road verge, a rock flicked up and hit a passing car.
- Light vehicle hit a light post whilst turning around in a cul-de-sac.

Each incident is investigated, and appropriate corrective measures implemented to reduce future risks.

Incidents and Injuries



Lost Time Injuries & Days Lost



For the 2020-21 financial year, no lost time injuries have been recorded:

Department	2016-17		2017-18		2018-19		2019-20		2020-21	
	LTI	Days Lost	LTI	Days Lost						
Development Engineering										
Development Assessment										
Parks, Environment & Sustainability	3	55	1	13	1	33	4	154		
Strategic Planning										
Economic Development & Tourism										
Development Services	3	55	1	13	1	33	4	154	0	0

Financial Report

The Development Services Management and Strategic Planning budgets are tracking well, with a minor variance associated with the timing of leave taken and certain expenses.

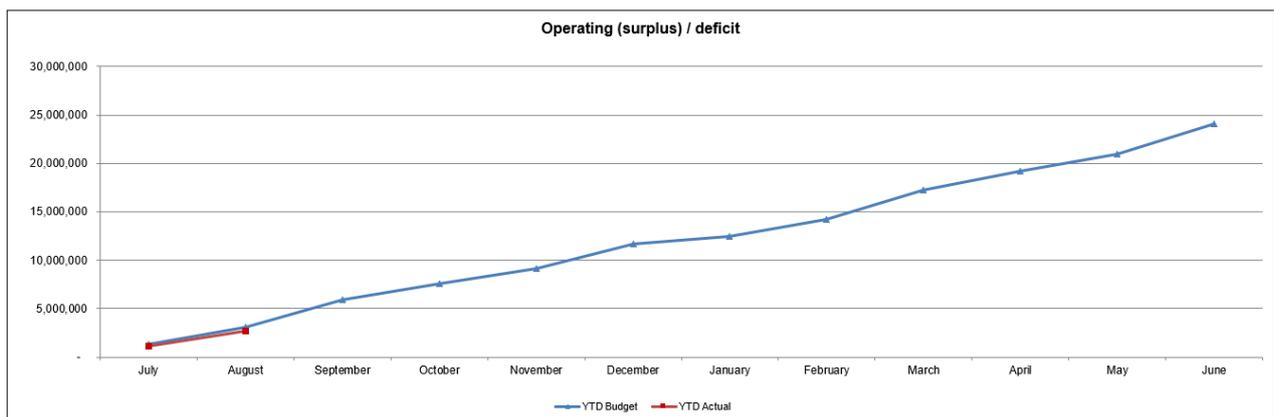
The Development Assessment program budget is showing a negative variance, due to a large application fee that was incorrectly allocated following the withdrawal and re-lodgement of an application originally made in the 2019/20 financial year.

The Development Engineering program budget is showing a positive variance due to an increase in number of developments entering the operational works and construction stages. The Economic Development & Tourism Program is showing a positive variance as a result of timing of certain expenditure and strong sales at the Sarina Sugar Shed. The Parks, Environment & Sustainability program budget is showing a positive variance largely due to staff vacancies and also revenue trending above budget projections from Council's campgrounds.

Operating Results	YTD budget	YTD actual	Variance	Status
Development Services Management	95,247	98,808	3,561	☀️
Strategic Planning	268,208	272,815	4,606	☀️
Development Assessment	(1,339)	38,594	39,933	🔴
Development Engineering	34,806	(20,563)	(55,369)	🌱
Economic Development & Tourism	620,873	440,604	(180,269)	🌱
Parks, Environment & Sustainability	2,079,403	1,824,215	(255,188)	🌱
TOTAL OPERATIONAL	3,097,199	2,654,473	(442,726)	🌱

Legend	🌱 YTD Variance favourable of budget
	☀️ YTD Variance unfavourable, between 0% and 5% of YTD Budget
	🔴 YTD Variance unfavourable, more than 5% of YTD Budget

Operating Results

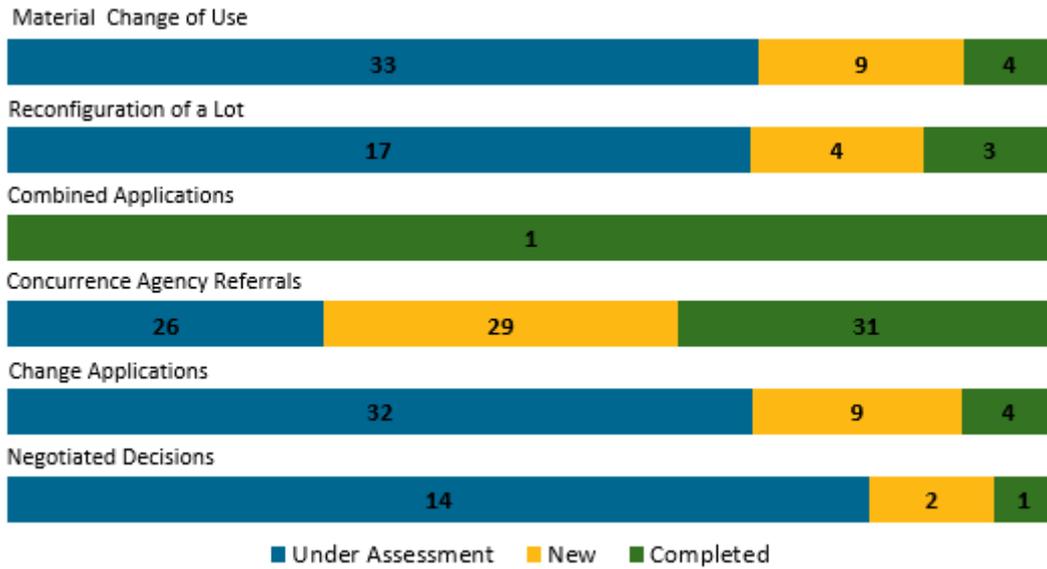


Review of Operations

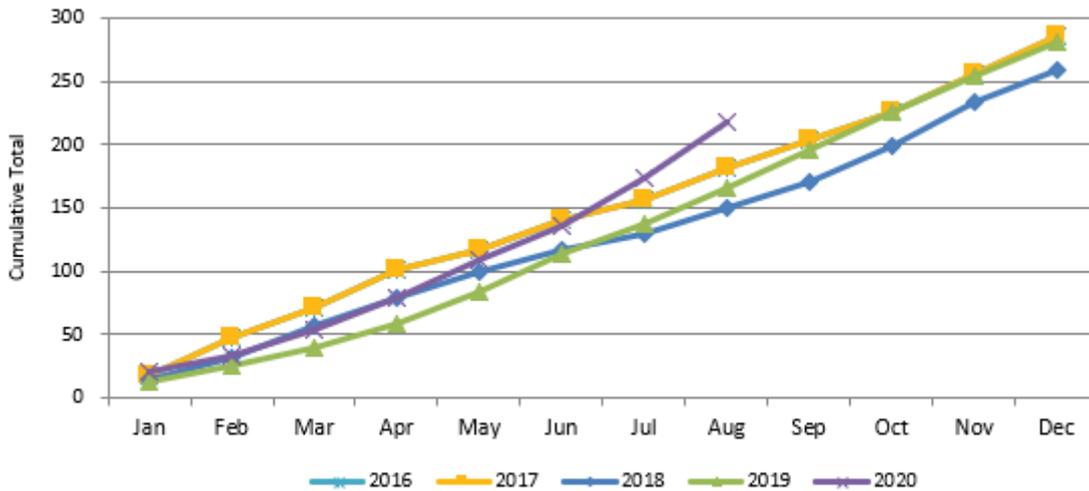
- On Track
- Potential Issue
- Definite Issue

DEVELOPMENT ASSESSMENT

Volume of Operations



Cumulative Number of Approved Development Assessment Applications

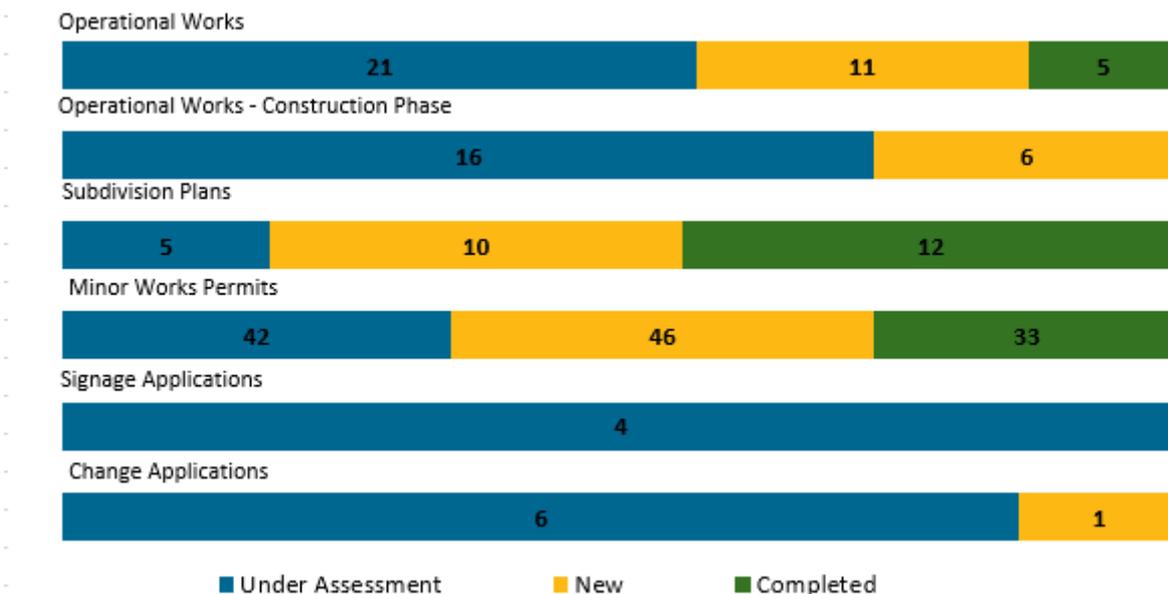


Development Assessment Performance Against Legislative Timeframes

Application	Status	% Decided
MCU Code (85% in 35 Days)	●	75% decided in 35 days. 1 application was approved in 39 days to allow negotiation on the conditions of approval.
MCU Impact (50% in 35 Days)	●	There were no Impact Assessable applications decided in August.
ROL (85% in 35 Days)	●	100% decided in 35 days.
Concurrence Agency (85% in 10 Days)	●	100% decided in 10 days.

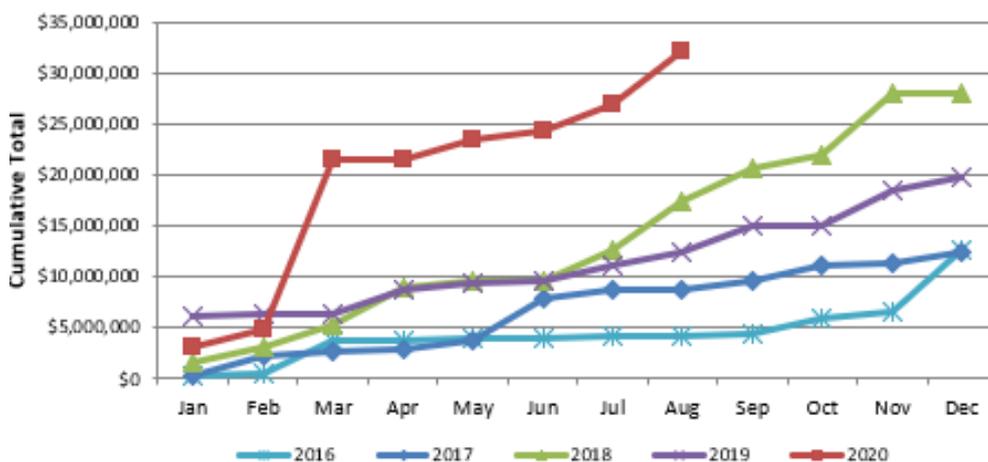
DEVELOPMENT ENGINEERING

Volume of Operations



Cumulative Value of Approved Operational Works

Five Operational Works applications were approved in August with a total value of works of \$5,313,389.



Development Engineering Performance Against Legislative Timeframes

Application	Status	% Decided
Minor Works (85% in <20 Days)	🟡	80% decided in 20 days. Delay in several applications due to the volume of applications received.
Signage Applications (85% in <20 Days)	🟢	100% decided in 20 days.
Operational Works (85% in 35 Days)	🟡	60% decided in 35 days. Decision making period for one application was extended several times on the request of the applicant after their 'stop the clock' options were exhausted. One approval was issued late due to a systems issue.
Plan Sealing (85% decided in 20 days without action notice)	🟢	89% decided in 20 days without Action Notice.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Regional and Local Area Planning		
Projects	Status	Description / Update of Project
Mackay Region Industrial Land Provision Study	*	<p>Council is finalising a longer-term study on industrial land supply in the Mackay region, which includes investigating high level development options for the six industry investigation precincts; and monitoring of industrial land take up. Reports on the investigation precincts are being finalised in 2020.</p> <p>Council engaged a consultant to prepare an Independent Report on Industrial Land Supply in the Mackay Region. A report will be presented to Council in the coming months.</p>
Mackay Region Planning Scheme – Minor amendment 4	*	<p>Minor amendment 4 includes the amendment of the Flood and Coastal hazards overlay map of the planning scheme to include two flood studies adopted by Council in February 2020 (Sandy Creek Catchment Flood Study and the Rocky Dam Creek Catchment Flood Study) and improves references to planning scheme policies. The amendment process for Minor amendment 4 is progressing, with letters sent to affected landowners in the flood study areas to inform them of the upcoming change to the hazard mapping. The targeted consultation period has now concluded, and the proposed minor amendment is awaiting final adoption.</p>
Mackay Region Planning Scheme – Major amendment 2	*	<p>Council has resolved to amend the planning scheme through the preparation of a proposed major amendment. The purpose and general effect of the proposed amendment is to update and improve various parts of the planning scheme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • as a result of new information and studies; • in response to a number of workability matters identified since the planning scheme commenced in 2017; • to reflect completed development approvals; and • to improve clarity, remove redundant wording and improve alignment with the <i>Planning Act 2016</i>. <p>The preparation of the major amendment is underway, with a report to council planned in September to endorse the proposed amendments for lodgment to the State Government for State interest review, followed by public consultation when the State review has been completed.</p>
Mackay Region Planning Scheme – Planning Scheme Policy (PSP) review	*	<p>The review of PSP content continues to progress through a governance process by relevant internal programs. Informal consultation with Council's Engineering Reference Group on the first round of PSPs have been completed. Formal consultation has now commenced. The first round of amendments include the following Planning Scheme Policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PSP - Water and sewerage (CTM Water Alliance) • PSP - Stormwater drainage design • PSP - Landscape • PSP - Open Space <p>The review of the second round of PSPs has commenced. Review of the third and final round of PSPs will commence in late 2020.</p>

Finch Hatton and Eungella Local Area Planning	●	Strategic Planning is preparing a scope to establish a local planning framework for the Finch Hatton township to support the implementation of the mountain bike strategy.
Rural and rural residential review and review of Tradeable development rights (TDR) policy	●	A Rural and Rural Residential Land Review report has been prepared. Proposed amendments to the TDR policy are being considered and will be subject to targeted consultation in September/October 2020.
Mirani Community Precinct Master Plan and Concept Design	●	Initial concept drawings for the proposed Mirani Community Precinct are progressing with investigations now focusing on operational and user requirements. Preliminary designs will be informed by these investigations, balancing costings and level of service required. Implementing the proposed community precinct is subject to external grant funding.
Northern Beaches Community Hub		A concept master plan for the 3.7 hectare site between Rosewood Drive and Eimeo Road at Rural View is being prepared. The masterplan will support the development of the centrally located community hub that will provide access to a range of community facilities to serve the existing and future needs of the community and enable the staged development of the site over a number of years. Nominations for a small dedicated reference group to discuss potential future user requirements will be called in the coming months.

Transport & Infrastructure Planning		
Projects	Status	Description / Update of Project
Growth Allocation Model	●	The Mackay Growth Allocation Model allocates and maps future urban growth over a 20-year projection period based on growth scenarios. The review of the 2018 model, which was based on the published Queensland Government Population Projections, has commenced. The reviewed model will be used to inform the review of the Local Government Infrastructure Plan. Lead and lag statistics are monitored to measure growth projections against actual population movements.
Mackay Region Transport Strategy	●	Consultants are continuing to prepare the draft Mackay Region Integrated Transport Strategy for future consultation. A draft report is being prepared with consultation planned towards the end of 2020.
Transport Modelling	●	Further transport modelling will be considered as part of the Mackay Region Transport Strategy.

Stormwater		
Projects	Status	Description / Update of Project
Mackay Region Coastal and Inland Flood Hazard Adaptation Strategy (CIFHAS)	✱	The current project stage involving the completion of the hazard assessments has been finalised. The project will be on-going in 2020/21, with Council liaising with LGAQ on future grant funding opportunities to complete further stages of the strategy.
Mackay Floodplain Management Plan	✱	A draft flood study and management plan has been completed and includes the identified and tested mitigation options. A third-party review of the study and plan has been completed and the reports are being updated based on these recommendations. Consultation on the Plan is expected to commence in the coming months.
Flood Intelligence Plan	✱	<p>The Flood Intelligence Plan project commenced in late 2019 and currently includes two main projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A “pilot” flood emergency assessment and action plan; and • A Total Flood Warning system. <p>This project has received funding from the Australian and Queensland Governments through the Far North and North Queensland Monsoon Trough Flexible Funding Grants Round One.</p>

MACKAY CITY AND WATERFRONT

Mackay City and Waterfront		
Projects	Status	Description / Update of Project
Mackay Waterfront Priority Development Area (PDA) Update	●	<p>Council endorsed the Mackay Waterfront Master Plan early in 2020 and this sets the vision for the public realm. The Master Plan, along with the Development Scheme and supporting investigations, is used to guide the delivery of the Mackay Waterfront and is available on Council's website.</p> <p>Council is prioritising preliminary design efforts on the Riverside Precinct, with design for the area between Paxton's and the Fish Market underway to support construction in 2021. The demolition of the large former Seafresh shed at 6 River Street is scheduled to occur by the end of 2020 to open up river views in readiness for the upgrade.</p> <p>The preliminary design of Bluewater Quay improvements is also now underway, with the intent being to improve the area from a functionality, safety and amenity perspective, while capitalising on the Pioneer River to activate the area. Concepts are scheduled to be complete by end September 2020.</p> <p>Upgrades to the intersection located at River Street and Sydney Street to improve pedestrian and cycling safety along the Bluewater Trail is in the detailed design phase.</p> <p>Council continues to engage with property owners and investors in relation to development opportunities within the PDA.</p> <p>Council endorsed an Expression of Interest (EOI) process for development opportunities on Council owned freehold land in the project area. There were six sites offered for consideration, including three in the Mackay City Centre Precinct and three in the Riverside Precinct. Council is currently focusing upgrades to public realm and complementary placemaking activations in close vicinity to these sites. Submissions closed on 18 August and there was a good balance of quality applications across the sites. Council is pleased by the number of EOIs that have been received.</p> <p>Council recently partnered with Neighbourlytics as part of their 'Launch City' tailored 6-month program to help Council measure, benchmark and adopt a data-driven approach to citizen well-being. Neighbourlytics is a digital platform dedicated to measuring the quality of life and wellbeing in neighbourhoods based on their unique data footprint and is being used by a number of Councils across Australia. This project has now commenced and Council is due to receive a base line report in August. The Mackay City and Waterfront team is working towards establishing an internal working group as data will cover the entire Mackay Region.</p> <p>The next PDA Advisory Committee (PDAAC) meeting is scheduled to be held in September.</p>

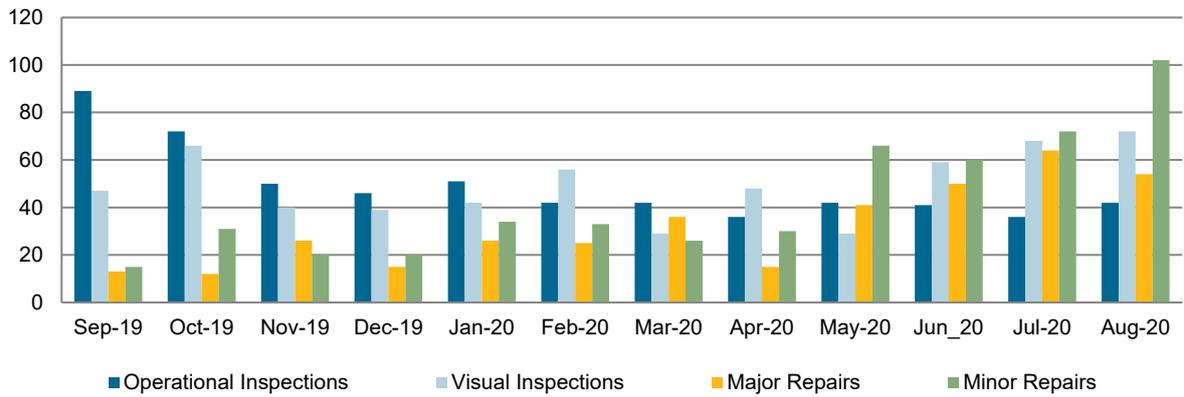
<p>Activate Mackay City Centre</p>	<p>✱</p>	<p>Fifth Lane resurfacing works Design of the Fifth Lane resurfacing works is underway and consultation with neighbouring properties has commenced to ensure opportunities and constraints are well considered. Construction of the resurfacing works is scheduled to occur this financial year.</p> <p>Faces Behind the Places- Stage 2 At the beginning of August, Stage two of the Faces Behind the Places campaign was launched. Once again three short promotional videos were created, this time with the key theme of 'Thank you Mackay'. The videos were posted to the Mackay City Centre Facebook page and have so far achieved a collective reach of 14,600.</p> <p>City Centre Reference Group Council is working with the Mackay Region Chamber of Commerce on the establishment of a City Centre Reference Group. The first meeting with Chamber of Commerce and City Centre business representatives in attendance was held at the end of June with further meetings held in July and August to work towards developing a Terms of Reference.</p>
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e-Statistics

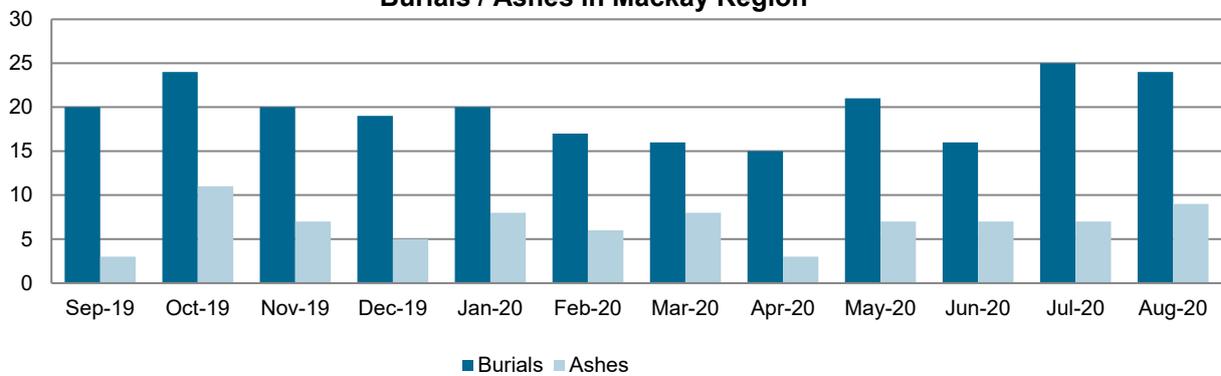
Subscribers	Feb 20	Mar 20	Apr 20	May 20	June 20	July 20	Aug 20
City Centre Facebook Likes	6,399	6,405	6,455	6,453	6,448	6,447	6,456
City Centre Instagram Followers	1,375	1,375	1,390	1,403	1,415	1,415	1,423
City Centre Wi-Fi Sessions	790 users	718 users	287 users	300 users	375 users	Not available	331 users
	8,713 sessions	6,360 sessions	1,500 sessions	1,913 sessions	2,195 sessions	Not available	2,009 sessions

PARKS, ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY

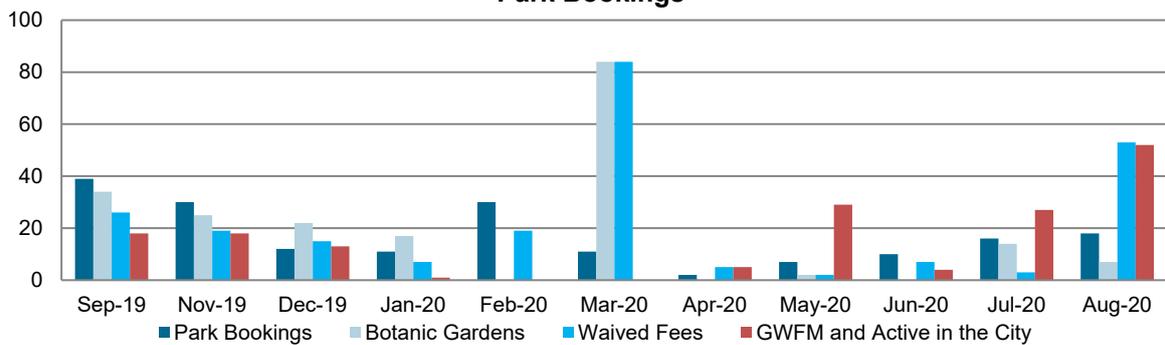
Play Equipment Inspection and Maintenance



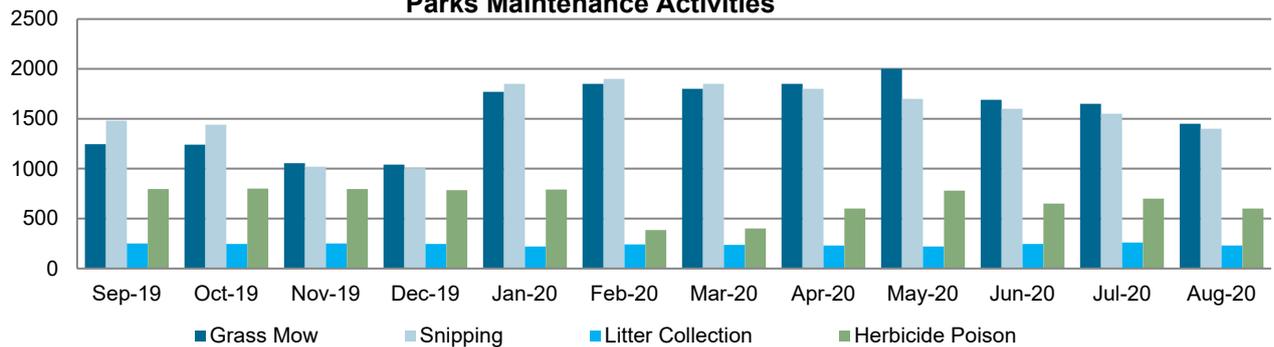
Burials / Ashes in Mackay Region



Park Bookings



Parks Maintenance Activities



Natural Environment Projects		
Project	Status	Description / Update of Project
Free Native Plant Program	●	Residents flocked to the Mackay Natural Environment Centre on 21-22 August to pick up their free native plants. Over 2200 local native plants were given away and an additional 1220 were purchased by keen gardeners. Click and collect continued to be popular for people who knew what they were after, while others enjoyed spending time browsing and getting advice from the helpful and knowledgeable staff. Bottlebrushes, banksias and wattles continued to be popular choices, with everlasting daisies and native violets being favourites for those with smaller gardens. The program aims to introduce locals to the beauty and benefits of growing local native plants, and to increase habitat for wildlife in the region's gardens.
Sustainability and Environment Advisory Committee (SEAC)	●	The SEAC met in August to discuss grant opportunities and the review of the Sustainability Strategy Action Plan.
Platypus Beach	●	Minor beach reprofiling works were undertaken at Platypus Beach. A land management plan is being developed as part of the State conditions associated with establishing a reserve managed by Council for Platypus beach.

Capital Works Projects		
Project	Status	Description / Update of Project
Works for Queensland COVID19 Funding	●	Works have commenced on the Grasstree Beach Basketball Court refurbishment. To date, installation of a new asphalt surface to the court has been completed. Additional works currently underway include a new goal post, backboard and hoop, line marking and replacement of several picnic settings. Other works to be included in this project involve minor play equipment replacements at Seaview Park Bucasia, Caneland Park, Illawong beach and John Breen Parks. Components for these have been ordered. Components have also been ordered for repairs to shade structures at Botanic Gardens, Col Story Park and James Muscat Park.
Queens Park Revitalisation	●	Contractors are working through the remaining defects from the construction and landscaping. The Orchid House orchids that have been stored at the Botanic Gardens nursery were moved back into the Orchid House in preparation for its reopening on 1 September.
Permanent Shade Shelters		The project to retrofit picnic shelters to parks at Shoal Point and Blacks Beach has been completed and the shelters opened to the public. On 24 August, a consultation session was held with residents adjacent to Eimeo Esplanade to discuss the proposed retrofitting of picnic shelters in this location.
Brooksfield Park Sarina Beach Basketball Court	●	The Brooksfield Park Basketball Court project is now complete and open to the public.
Botanic Gardens footpath linking Alexandra Street to Meadowlands	●	Construction has commenced on the footpath, with works due to be completed by October 2020.

Botanic Gardens Projects		
Project	Status	Description / Update of Project
Promotional videos	★	A promotional video providing a snapshot of the Botanic Gardens has been completed. It will be aired on Facebook and Council's website as well as the Botanic Gardens Australia and New Zealand (BGANZ) website. The video is also being played at Council Libraries.
Movies in the Meadows	★	The decision was made to cancel this year's Movies in the Meadows event due to COVID19 restrictions.
Desilting trial project	★	<p>The desilting trial aims to find a solution to create a usable product out of the silt which needs to be removed from the Lagoons at the Botanic Gardens.</p> <p>New pits have been constructed and lined appropriately. Silt has been removed from the Lagoon and mixed with organic matter in the trial pits. This will now be monitored over the coming months and leachate removed for testing of pollutants.</p>
Lagoon weed management	★	<p>An aquatic weed harvester has completed works on Eulamere Lagoon. A large amount of weed has been removed resulting in clear water in areas which we have not been clear in several years.</p> <p>Herbicide application is continuing in conjunction with this activity to managed isolated clumps or areas where the harvester is unable to reach.</p>
Self-guided activities	★	<p>Two main self-guided activities are being released for school holidays which are linked to the 250-year celebration of the collection trip made by Banks and Solander on board the Endeavour. The activities are in the form of treasure hunts, which take children around the same trail as the Botanic Endeavour self-guided walk.</p> <p>Other activities are also available including bird, butterfly and bug identification games and find Tibbles the gnome in the shade garden.</p>

Requests for Maintenance Work

Customer survey results have not been finalised for this period.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

Events and Tourism		
To develop the Mackay region as a leading regional tourism and events destination through the implementation of the Mackay Region Event Strategy 2020-2025 and Destination Tourism Plan 2017-2022		
Business Priority	Status	Action
Regional Events Strategy Implementation - Refine and develop the structures, framework and tools within Council to best support and progress new events.		Economic Development in partnership with the MECC, has drafted a scope of works to engage the professional services required to capture, quantify and evaluate the economic, social and environmental impacts of identified events held across the Mackay region. It is anticipated a request for quote will go out in September 2020 and a supply arrangement is expected to be finalised in late 2020. Council officers have commenced an internal audit of Council's resources being utilised for event delivery, promotion, sponsorship and grants as well as regulation and customer liaison. This review will focus on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whole of Council spend on events and staff resourcing, (particularly given the span of activities across three different departments and numerous teams). • Resourcing required to further assist event organisers with their events. • A review of alternative models and structures for improved efficiencies and customer service.
Regional Events Strategy Implementation - Create the correct environment for event success and sustainability via supporting programs, increased awareness of Mackay as an events destination and increased leverage of event benefits for the region.		Mackay Region Tourism and Events Update Following the 'Events The Road Ahead' Industry recovery program, Mackay Regional Council in partnership with Mackay Tourism have organised a free local events update and Q&A session with a team of panellists on how to organise a COVID19 Safe event. The session will include a special update from guest speakers who have delivered successful events during COVID19. The online event program outline includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mackay Tourism update • Local Public Health Unit update (Mackay COVID19 Team) • Guest speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mackay Tourism - Tas Webber, CEO ○ Local Public Health Unit - Andrew Jones, Team Leader Environmental Health, Mackay Public Health Unit ○ Mackay Regional Council - Andrew Macdonald, Team Leader Environment Health ○ Joanna Jordan, Ipswich City Events Manager Community, Cultural and Economic Development Department ○ Krista Hauritz, Krista Hauritz Tourism & Mount Isa Rodeo
Regional Events Strategy Implementation - Develop and acquire strategic events aligned with council's vision to partner on a local, national and state level for increased opportunities.		Invest Mackay Events and Conference Attraction Program Due to COVID-19 mass gathering restrictions there were no events or conferences held in the month of August. There was one new event approved and four event bids approved and endorsed through the program in August. Mackay Beach Horse Races – Expression of Interest Council has been working in partnership with Mackay Tourism and key stakeholders on the future of the Mackay Beach Horse Races event. Stakeholders agreed to seek Expressions of Interest from professional event management firms to investigate the potential to deliver a refreshed version of the Mackay Beach Horse Races from 2021-2023. The Expression of Interest was released on 28 April 2020 and closed

		<p>on 1 June 2020, with 6 Expressions of Interest being submitted to Mackay Tourism. A panel was formed in June and Expressions of Interests were assessed against the criteria.</p> <p>A Request for Tender was sent to the shortlisted applicants on 17 July and responses to partner with Mackay Tourism for the potential re-launch and delivery of the event closed on 20 August. Assessments of tenders are expected to be reviewed and assessed in September.</p>
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Economic Development

To encourage sustainable and diversified jobs and investment in the Mackay Region through the implementation of the Mackay Region Economic Development Strategy 2020-2025

Business Priority	Status	Action
<p>Economic Development Strategy Implementation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Advocacy and Leadership through engagement with State and Commonwealth Governments to promote investment into local infrastructure as a catalyst for future economic development. 		<p>During August, media statements were published on the following developments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provenance Magazine - “Second chance to own magazine selling the story of our regional product” • ABC Tropical North – “Pandemic cycling boom may help Mackay become Australia’s next mountain bike mecca” • Resource Industry Network – MIW METS Export Hub Industry Capability and Supply Chain Mapping Project • Daily Mercury – Mackay’s job growth bucks COVID trend • Daily Mercury – Recovery Plan: 15 projects to transform region post-COVID • Mackay and Whitsunday Life – Newly released rum sells out within days of launch • Daily Mercury – Time is right for developers to curb home shortage <p>Economic Development has established an internal Digital Infrastructure Working Group to review the actions identified in the Mackay, Isaac and Whitsunday Digital Infrastructure Study undertaken by Greater Whitsunday Alliance (GW3). A follow-up meeting was held during August with internal stakeholders and representatives from GW3 and Aurecon to identify aims of the working group.</p>
<p>Economic Development Strategy Implementation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Investment Attraction activities to promote and market investment opportunities. 		<p>Economic Development has commenced preparation of the Mackay Region Investment Prospectus. The prospectus will highlight key development opportunities for the Mackay region.</p> <p>Economic Development received four individual business enquiries during August and continues to support the Mackay City and Waterfront Project team as well as external stakeholders including Mackay Tourism Ltd, UDIA and Mackay Region Chamber of Commerce through the provision of information and potential investor support.</p> <p>Currently Economic Development has the following Facilitating Development Policy applications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One Expression of Interest (EOI) received and three EOIs are currently on-hold until their development applications have progressed. • One application has progressed through the EOI assessment stage; however, a Stage 2 application has not yet been submitted. • Two Stage 2 applications have been received and are currently under assessment. • One application is pending approval. • One extension has been requested. • Six EOIs have been removed from the register due to ineligibility or a lapse in timeframes for provision of Stage 2 application.

		<p>The Facilitating Development in the Mackay Region Policy is reviewed annually, with an internal review commenced and a Councillor briefing scheduled for September. External stakeholder consultation will be undertaken during September and October, prior to the endorsement of the Policy in November.</p>
<p>Economic Development Strategy Implementation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Industry Development through engagement with local businesses and industry groups, providing support and assistance for growth. 	<p>•</p>	<p>The Economic Development Program is represented on the Project Advisory Group (PAG) for the MIW METS Export Hub project. An industry workshop was hosted by the Hub to promote the draft Capability Mapping and Supply Chain Analysis report and present key findings to the METS business community. Economic Development is working with the Export Hub project manager to promote identify capabilities on a digital platform.</p> <p>Economic Development has been working closely with Corporate Communications team to prepare a pre-recorded webinar on the Resources Centre of Excellence. The webinar is due to be aired on 3 September as part of the QME Webinar Series.</p> <p>Economic Development is assisting the Greater Whitsunday Food Network in the delivery of the Regional Agritourism Development Project and provides ongoing support as an ex-officio committee member. The network’s final business plan has been presented to Council officers and the GWFN management committee on 20 August 2020. The Network endorsed the business plan and is preparing to advertise for a GWFN Manager position toward the end of September 2020.</p> <p>The Mountain Bike Alliance met on 13 August 2020. Cr Justin Englert was elected as Chair and Cr Michelle Green was elected as Deputy Chair of the Alliance. The Alliance will meet monthly to discuss the delivery of specific action items from the Mountain Bike Strategy.</p> <p>Eungella and Finch Hatton communities have been updated on the Pioneer Valley Mountain Bike Park Project on 20 August 2020. The information presented during the Community Update has been published via the Connecting Mackay project page.</p> <p>The Project Control Group for the Mountain Bike Park Project has established the internal governance structure for the delivery of the project with three internal working groups -Tenure and Native Title; Design, Construction and Operations and Planning, Economic Development and Engagement. The Planning, Economic Development and Engagement working group held its inaugural meeting on 27 August and will meet fortnightly. An engagement plan is being developed for the project along with an implementation plan for business development support. The Strategic Planning program will continue to develop a Local Area Plan for Finch Hatton and Eungella including a master plan for the Finch Hatton trailhead.</p> <p>Economic Development, in conjunction with Mackay Tourism, continues to deliver the Recreational Fishing Strategy ‘Hooked-on Mackay’ marketing campaign which supports the promotion and awareness of the Mackay Region as a world-class fishing destination. With COVID19 restrictions slowly lifting, the Hooked-On Mackay Facebook page has increased its promotional activities. Economic Development is planning to hold the first Recreational Fishing Strategy Steering Group meeting in September and has circulated the Terms of Reference for internal review. In conjunction with Mackay Tourism and Rockhampton Regional Council, a draft scope to investigate the “Barra Highway” concept is being prepared for future consideration if funding opportunities arise. Economic Development partnered with Mackay Tourism in promoting the Hooked-on Mackay brand at the Big Boys Toy Expo on 8 and 9 August.</p>

		<p>Economic Development is working with the consultant for the Camping Analysis to refine final recommendations for the review. The final document is due in September.</p> <p>With Council support provided to Split Spaces, two Entrepreneurs in Residence (EIRs) will be engaged to deliver masterclasses, mentoring and other educational opportunities to help start-ups understand and develop effective innovation business models and map pathways to global scalability. The EIRs will also facilitate introductions between start-ups, the broader innovation ecosystem, and industry experts, as well as strengthen and build on the existing innovation ecosystem of the Mackay Isaac Whitsunday region. There are ten participants involved in the program, of which six completed the Start-up Onramp Pre-accelerator Program.</p> <p>To assist businesses in the economic recovery from COVID19, a launch of the revised Building Improvement Rebate will take place in September. The Building Improvement Rebate will replace the existing Mackay Pride and City Centre Façade Improvement Schemes and will work in partnership with property and business owners as well as real estate agents and property managers to facilitate and support the revitalisation of commercial facades throughout the whole of the Mackay region.</p> <p>Through the Activate My Place (AMP) funding, two projects are now underway:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Mackay Hospital Foundation proposed an Indigenous Meeting Place and Healing Garden at Mackay Base Hospital that will support and preserve Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander language, arts, and culture within the hospital. • The Finch Hatton Progress Association will commence Stage 2 of the Finch Hatton Flood Wall. Stage 2 will involve installing large sepia photographs to the already painted flood wall near the entry to the showgrounds. A local artist has sourced images from pioneering families in the immediate area showcasing various historical scenes involving the cane industry.
<p>Economic Development Strategy Implementation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Workforce and Skills Development through partnerships to upskill residents and attract new workers to the region. 		<p>Initial discussions have been held with Greater Whitsunday Alliance (GW3) regarding the creation of promotional material to assist industry sectors attract workforce to the MIW region. GW3 are currently preparing a project brief and timeline for the project with the support of the Greater Whitsunday Council of Mayors.</p>

Sarina Sugar Shed					
To manage and operate a sustainable tourism facility, which provides a range of tourism products and experiences to promote the region's heritage					
Strategy / Project	Status	Description / Update of Project			
Operate a successful tourism facility which meets its performance targets	●	<p>The highlight for August was the release of the SB13 3-year rum which was officially launched by the Mayor at a special event at Sarina Sugar Shed on Monday, 17 August. Media attending included 7News Mackay and Star-FM/4MK. The SB-13 rum was released in time for Father's Day and included single-bottle sales and a special Father's Day gift box. The response was overwhelming with gift boxes selling out the next day. All stock of the single bottles were sold out by Friday lunchtime. This provided a strong revenue boost for August and raised awareness of the Sarina Sugar Shed.</p> <p>This was also used as an opportunity to start collecting email addresses for the planned <i>Sarina Rum Club</i>, which will further develop as a means of expanding customer reach and engagement.</p>			
Implement the Sarina Sugar Shed Business Review 2020.	●	An action plan based on the recommendations of the Business Review is being prepared, including short term operational improvements and the development of a concept for the future redevelopment of the site. A Councillor briefing is scheduled for September before progressing to the next stage of the project.			
Business Operations (excluding accruals)		Item	August	YTD	Annual Target
	●	Tour Visitation (Paid)	1,001	2,229	10,000
		Visitation (Total)	1,193	2,817	-
		Volunteer Hours	432.5	764	-
		Item	August	YTD	Annual Budget
	●	Ticket Sales	\$16,887	\$36,099	\$135,000
	●	Retail Sales	\$70,861	\$120,785	\$235,500
	●	Total Income (incl. Ticket income)	\$87,748	\$156,891	\$370,500
	●	Total Expenses	\$68,116	\$81,542	\$877,940

Economic Indicators (Quarterly)

Indicator	Sep 18	Dec 18	Mar 19	Jun 19	Sep 19	Dec 19	Mar 20
Employment							
Unemployment rate	3.7%	3.9%	4.4%	5.8%	6.3%	6.4%	5.8%
Employed persons	66,678	65,291	62,527	56,751	56,122	56,709	58,906
Real Estate							
Median house sale	\$340,000	◦\$350,000	\$330,000	\$340,000	◦\$360,000	\$360,000	\$355,000
Res vacancy rate	0.9%	1.7%	2.9%	1.5%	1.7%	2.5%	2.5%
Residential Lot Supply							
Lots Approved^	50	108	60	18	11	53	31
Lots Endorsed^	51	135	7	44	54	37	80

*Data relates to the Mackay Local Government Area and is updated on a quarterly basis as it is received by Council. There is often a 3-6 month lag from the receipt of data for a previous quarter.

^ In previous reports incorrect data was reported on. This has now been corrected and the report will now contain published Queensland Government data (QLD Treasury).

◦ Incorrected values reported. The values have now been corrected with REIQ published data.

e-Statistics

Subscribers	Mar 20	Apr 20	May 20	June 20	July 20	Aug 20
Invested in Mackay Subscribers	545	543	550	560	563	564
Mackay Region Joblink Analytic Report	657 users	705 users	729 users	856 users	925 users	940 users
	3,052 views	2,762 views	4,350 views	7,617 views	8,339 views	4,206 views
Sarina Field of Dreams Usage Wi-Fi	47 users	6 users	23 users	21 users	NA	28 users
	259 sessions	61 sessions	194 sessions	154 sessions	NA	137 sessions
Hooked on Mackay Facebook	3,305	3,354	3,384	3,450	3,548	3,572
Net Free Zone Voluntary Code	542	583	583	583	583	583
Mackay Region Event Organisers Connect Facebook Group	-	-	55 members	63 members	70 members	78 members

UPCOMING EVENTS

Date	Event	Location
21 – 26 September 2020	Etnies Rumble on the Reef Skateboarding – <i>Invest Mackay Funded</i>	Sugar Bowl Skate Park
1 – 3 October 2020	Etnies Rumble on the Reef Wakeboarding – <i>Invest Mackay Funded</i>	Wakehouse Wakepark, Andergrove
2 - 5 October 2020	Etnies Rumble on the Reef - 2020 Australian National Kitefoil Series & Queensland Kitefoil Championships – <i>Invest Mackay Funded</i>	Lamberts Beach
2 - 4 October 2020	2020 Basketball Qld U14 Girls State Championships – <i>Invest Mackay Funded</i>	Mackay Basketball Stadium
2 - 4 October 2020	2020 North Queensland Athletics Championships – <i>Invest Mackay Funded</i>	Mackay ARC
3 – 4 October 2020	Zach Mach Adventure Challenge – <i>Invest Mackay Funded</i>	Pinnacle, Pioneer Valley
6 – 9 October 2020	2020 Association of School Business Administrators Queensland (ASBAQ) Conference – <i>Invest Mackay Funded</i>	MECC
10 – 11 October 2020	2020 Fox Superflow Seal by Stan Series – <i>Invest Mackay Funded</i>	Rowallan Park, Farlegh
16 - 17 October 2020	Free native plant giveaway	Mackay Natural Environment Centre
30 October – 1 November 2020	2020 North Australian Surf Life Saving Championships – <i>Invest Mackay Funded</i>	Mackay Harbour
12 - 13 December 2020	F5WC Regional Qualifier tournaments – <i>Invest Mackay Funded</i>	Mackay Basketball / Multi-Sports Stadium