



# Development Services

Monthly Review Report

April 2020

## Executive Summary

### DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

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

- A new feature was launched on the Connecting Mackay website to provide a space for community members to share their gardening stories, upload photos, provide updates on how their free native plants are going and ask questions to be answered by a gardening expert. This content on the Connecting Mackay website is being managed by Council's Natural Environment and Mackay Natural Environment Centre (MNEC) nursery teams.
- The MNEC was officially recognised by the Nursery and Garden Industry Queensland as having a best management practice sprinkler layout and irrigation system.
- The renewal of the play equipment at Northview Park has commenced, with this project involving the replacement of the large tower structures, small children's combo, spring toys and carousel. Site works have commenced, and the existing play equipment has been removed. Installation of the new equipment will commence in the first week of May and will take approximately 4 weeks, weather permitting.
- Council's Economic Development team have been working closely with Mackay Tourism and the MECC and Events Program on progressing shared actions identified in the Mackay Region Event Strategy 2020-2025. A meeting was held in April with Luminair Consultancy to discuss the 2020/21 implementation plan, and work has commenced internally on reviewing Council's resourcing of event facilitation, approval and delivery.
- As a result of feedback from the COVID-19 Tourism Impacts Mackay Region Survey, Council's Economic Development team has partnered with Mackay Tourism to roll out a series of webinars and mentoring sessions to support the region's events now and post COVID-19. The webinars and mentoring sessions will be held from 12 May to 5 June 2020.



**Aletta Nugent**  
*Director Development Services*

Marine Media has developed a series of five "Fishing Tips" videos, and other promotional videos of varying lengths. When content is finalised it will be promoted via Hooked on Mackay's social media platforms and website. Mackay Tourism will also promote via their channels.



# Development News 04/2020

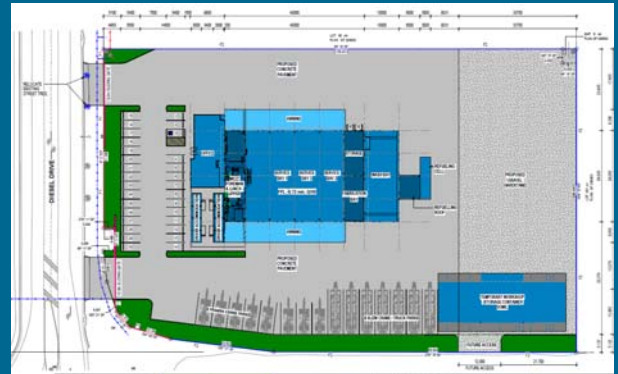
Updates on significant developments currently being assessed by council

## APPLICATION LODGED

DA-2020-59

135-139 Diesel Drive PAGET

The application proposes the establishment of Transport Depot which is to accommodate a crane hire business on the corner of Diesel Drive and Stockroute Road. The site development will accommodate parking areas for the vehicles, as well as offices, a workshop, driver accommodation and other facilities.



## APPLICATION LODGED

OW-2020-8

235 Connors Road PAGET

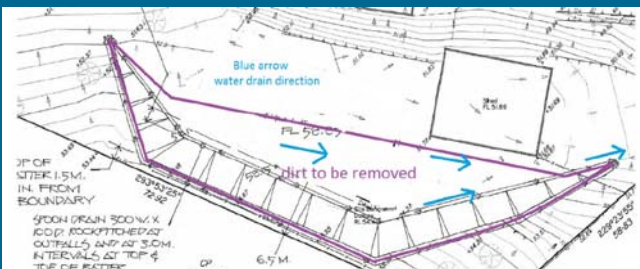
Operational Works- Civil Works – Industrial for a proposed metal waste treatment facility, with works to include earthworks, drainage works, stormwater, sewerage reticulation and internal hardstand.

## APPLICATION APPROVED

DA-2019-155

2-4 Empire Street PAGET

The approval allows for the development of a new service station, located on the intersection of Broadsound Road and Empire Street.



## APPLICATION APPROVED

OW-2019-10

539 Eversleigh Road ALLIGATOR CREEK

Operational Works – Earthworks – Residential for bulk earthworks.



## Monthly Safety Review

### Summary

Fourteen incidents were reported involving MRC employees and contractors.

The following injuries to MRC employees were reported in April:

- Anaphylactic reaction caused by food allergy. First aid provided. Ambulance called with transfer to hospital.
- Small cut to head after tripping, falling and hitting head on chair. Attended hospital as precaution.
- Multiple tick bites after working in gardens.
- Neck pain after operating a pole saw over a period of hours.
- Minor irritation when backpack sprayer leaked onto backpack straps and onto shirt.
- Small laceration on leg when bumped against side of chipper.
- Stepped in hole while whipper snipping, spraining ankle.

The following near miss incident was reported in April:

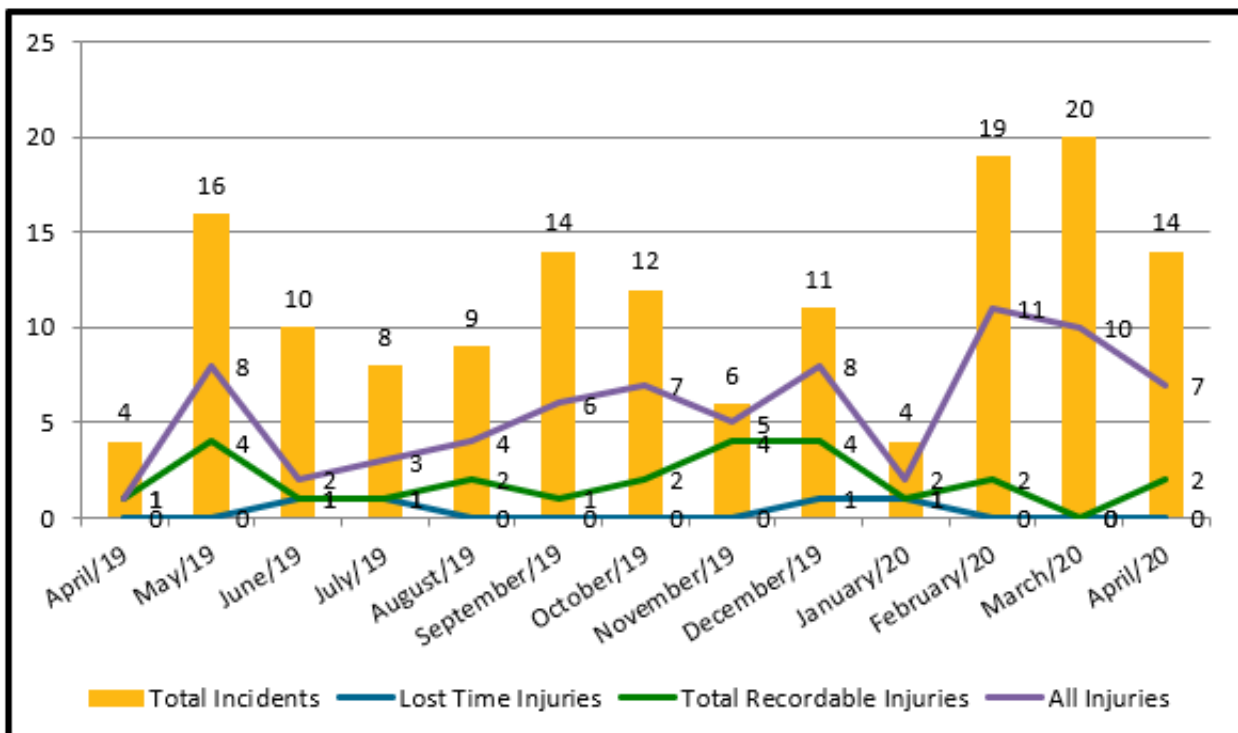
- A hose coupling came undone while spraying insecticide and leaked onto shirt.

The following asset damage incidents were reported in April:

- Felling tree from EWP bucket, chainsaw got caught in cut and fell to ground. Exclusion zone had been established.
- While whipper snipping, a rock flicked up into a window, breaking it.
- While slashing the road edge, a polly pipe in long grass was damaged.
- A MRC truck / trailer hit a parked car whilst manoeuvring in car park.
- A truck wing mirror was damaged after hitting a power pole, whilst pulling over to the side of the road.
- A whipper snipper flicked up a rock up into the window of a passing vehicle.

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

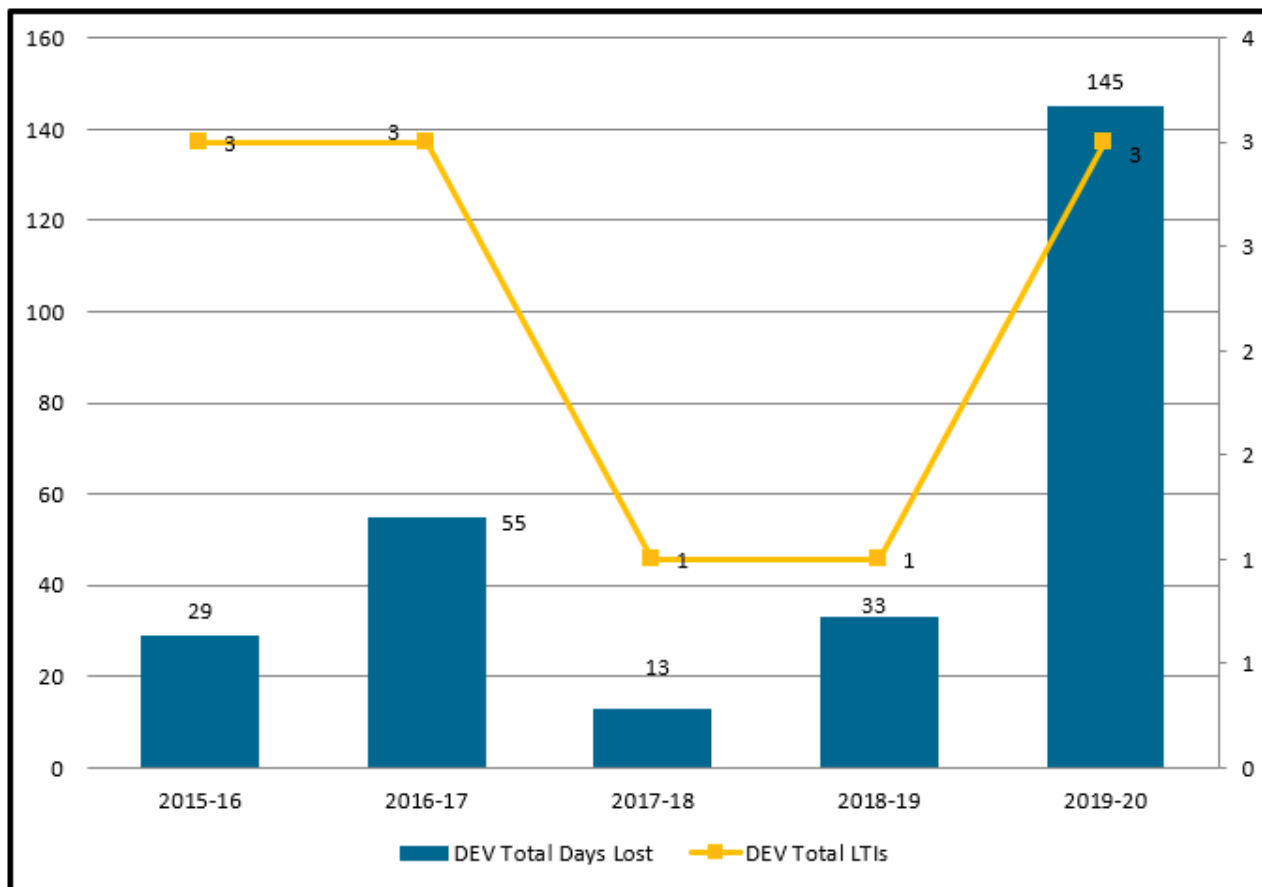
### Incidents and Injuries



For the 2019-20 year, three lost time injuries have been recorded:

- In July 2019, while standing up from a crouching position an employee felt severe back pain. Three days were lost.
- In December 2019, while alighting from mobile plant, an employee suffered a shoulder injury requiring surgery. Seventy-six days have been lost as they recover and receive medical support to return to work as soon as possible.
- In January 2020 an employee suffered an ankle injury whilst alighting from a vehicle. Sixty-six days have been lost as they recover and receive medical support to return to work as soon as possible.

**Lost Time Injuries & Days Lost**



Department	2015-16		2016-17		2017-18		2018-19		2019-20	
	LTI	Days Lost	LTI	Days Lost	LTI	Days Lost	LTI	Days Lost	LTI	Days Lost
Development Engineering										
Development Assessment										
Parks, Environment & Sustainability	3	29	3	55	1	13	1	33	3	145
Strategic Planning										
Economic Development & Tourism										
<b>Development Services</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>145</b>

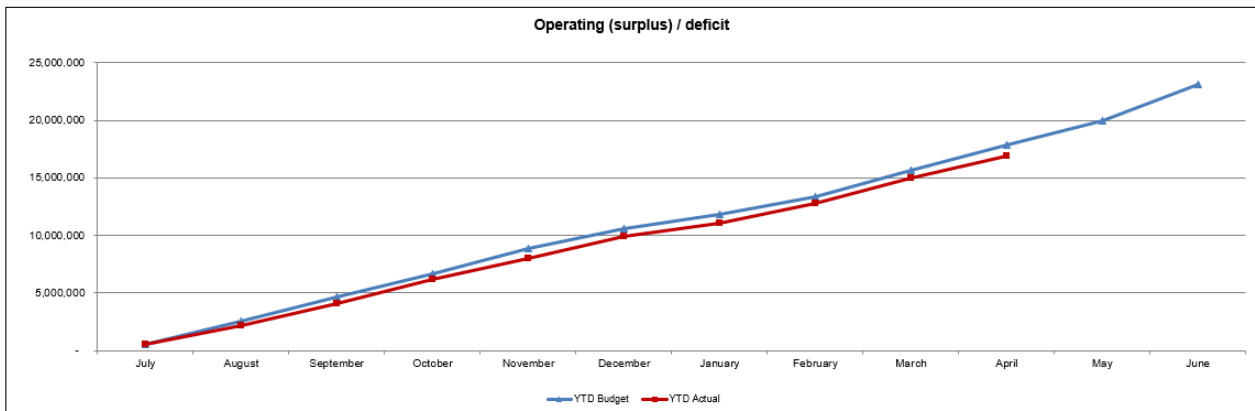
# Financial Report

The Development Services budget is showing a positive variance with all programs except for Development Assessment showing a surplus. While development application numbers have remained steady, the 50% discount on application fees has already had a minor impact on revenue, giving rise to the negative variance in Development Assessment. The impact on revenue from the discount has been less pronounced in Development Engineering, where this impact has been offset by savings in wages.

Delayed expenditure, events and activities and a halt on planned overtime primarily as a result of COVID19 has given rise to larger surpluses in the Economic Development and Tourism Program and the Parks, Environment & Sustainability Program.

Operating Results	YTD budget	YTD actual	Variance	Status
Development Services Management	367,605	362,676	(4,929)	🟢
Strategic Planning	1,670,393	1,555,553	(114,840)	🟢
Development Assessment	(28,774)	(539)	28,235	🔴
Development Engineering	(162,557)	(202,248)	(40,691)	🟢
Economic Development & Tourism	1,804,890	1,471,467	(333,423)	🟢
Parks, Environment & Sustainability	14,236,906	13,692,998	(543,908)	🟢
<b>TOTAL OPERATIONAL</b>	<b>17,888,463</b>	<b>16,878,906</b>	<b>(1,009,557)</b>	🟢
<b>Legend</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>🟢 YTD Variance favourable of budget</li> <li>🟡 YTD Variance unfavourable, between 0% and 5% of YTD Budget</li> <li>🔴 YTD Variance unfavourable, more than 5% of YTD Budget</li> </ul>			

## Operating Results

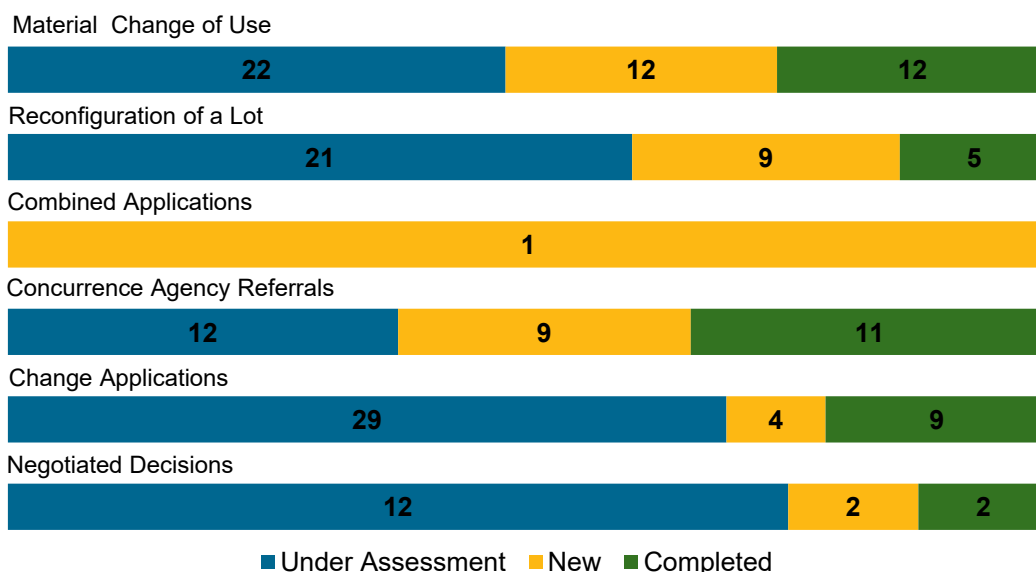


# Review of Operations

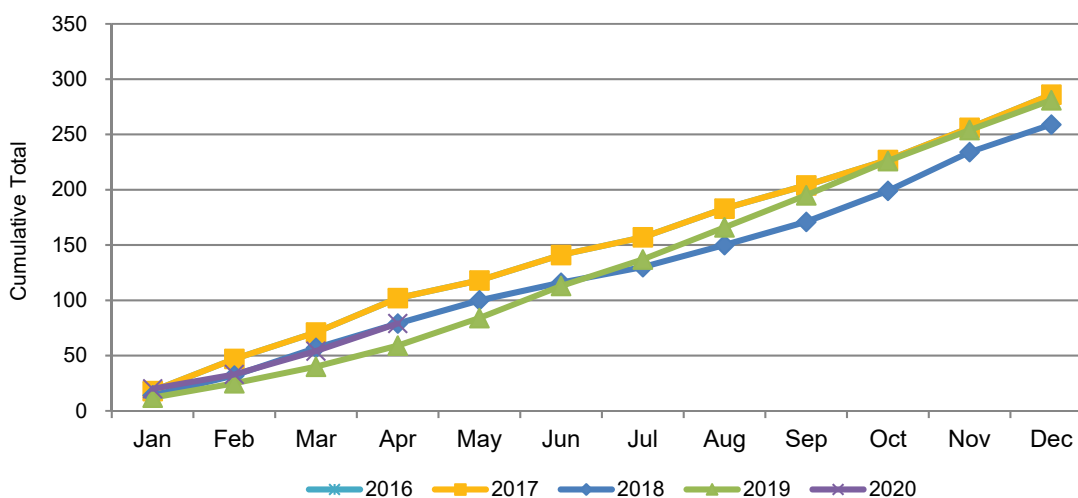
- On Track
- Potential Issue
- Definite Issue

## DEVELOPMENT ASSESSMENT

### Volume of Operations





### Cumulative Number of Approved Development Assessment Applications



### Development Assessment Performance Against Legislative Timeframes

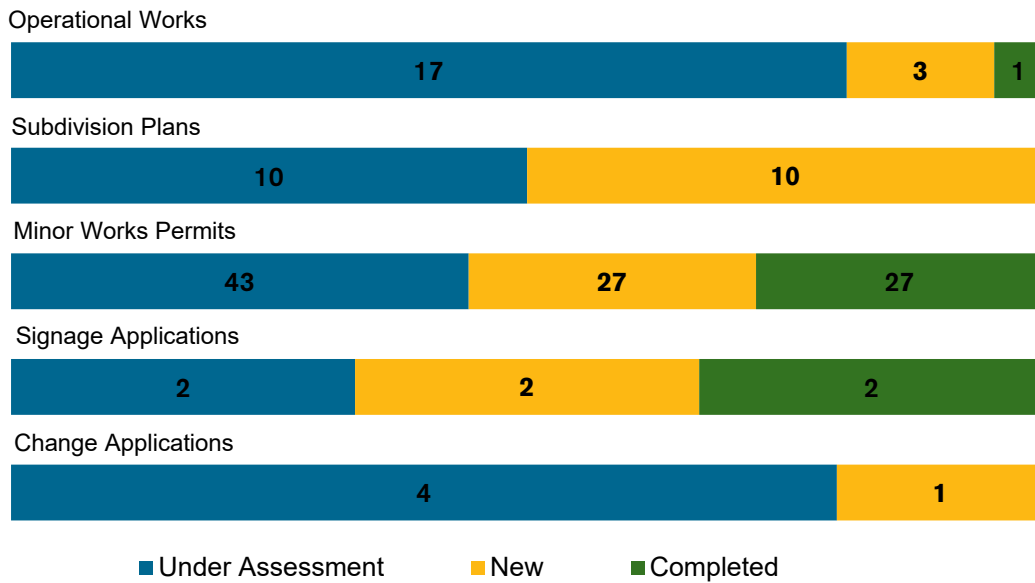
Application	Status	% Decided
MCU Code (85% in 35 Days)	<span style="color: orange;">●</span>	82% decided in 35 days. Two of eleven approvals were issued outside of the 35-day period. In one instance extensions were granted by the applicant multiple times to allow the provision of additional information in relation to flooding and stormwater matters to allow the finalisation of the application. In the other instance an extension of time was granted by the applicant to allow a review of draft conditions to be undertaken.
MCU Impact (50% in 35 Days)	<span style="color: green;">●</span>	100% decided in 35 days.

ROL (85% in 35 Days)		75% decided in 35 days. Of the four approvals issued this month, one was approved in 40 days after providing the applicant draft conditions to review before finalisation, which required a 5-day extension to the decision period.
Concurrence Agency (85% in 10 Days)		91% decided in 10 days.



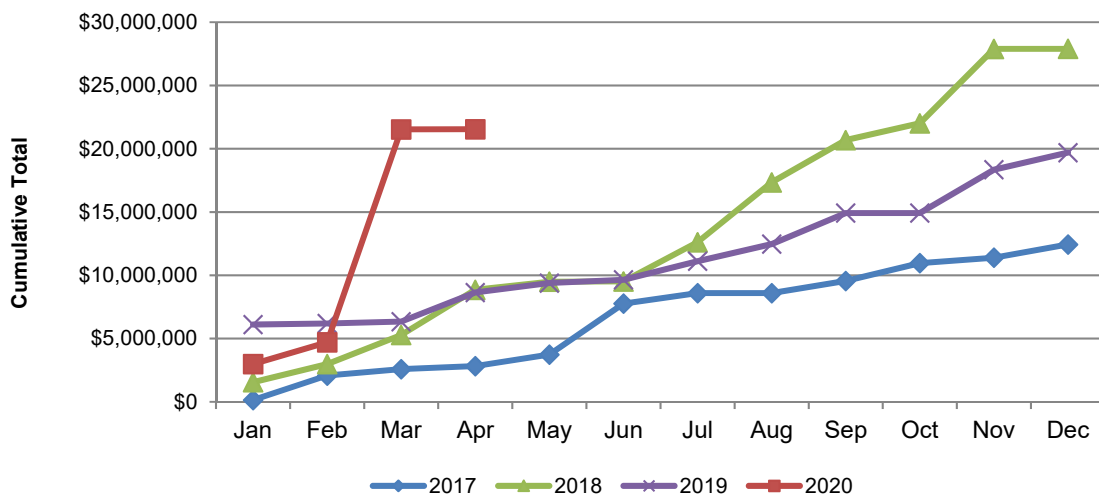
## DEVELOPMENT ENGINEERING

### Volume of Operations



### Cumulative Value of Approved Operational Works

One Operational Works application was approved in April with a total value of works of \$16,400.







### Development Engineering Performance Against Legislative Timeframes




Application	Status	% Decided
Minor Works (85% in <20 Days)	🟢	93% decided in 20 days.
Signage Applications (85% in <20 Days)	🟢	100% decided in 20 days.
Operational Works (85% in 35 Days)	🟢	100% decided in 35 days.
Plan Sealing (85% decided in 20 days without action notice)	🟢	100% decided in 20 days without Action Notice.

**STRATEGIC PLANNING**

Regional and Local Area Planning		
Projects	Status	Description / Update of Project
Sarina Town Centre Revitalisation Study	*	The technical reports to support the development of a business case for the Sarina Town Centre have been completed. Council will continue to liaise with the State about including the project in future planning.
Mackay Region Industrial Land Provision Study	*	<p>This longer-term study considers industrial land supply in the Mackay region, including investigating the development options for the six industry investigation precincts in the Mackay Region Planning Scheme, and monitoring of industrial land take up. Reports on three of the six precincts have been completed, with the Glenella and Sarina industry investigation precincts being finalised.</p> <p>The preparation of an Independent Report on Industrial Land Supply in the Mackay Region is progressing well with a draft report expected in the coming months. The above reports will be provided as input to the independent study.</p>
Mackay Waterfront Priority Development Area (PDA)	*	<p>Council endorsed the Mackay Waterfront Master Plan on 22 January 2020. The master plan has been developed in conjunction with community and industry feedback and will guide the development of the Mackay Waterfront. The master plan document is available to view and download on Council's <a href="#">Connecting Mackay website</a>.</p> <p>Prioritisation of preliminary design efforts on the Riverside Precinct has occurred, with concepts for the area between Paxton's and the Fish Market underway. The concept design is due to be complete June 2020. A brief for the preliminary design of Bluewater Quay improvements was released for tender with submissions due the end of April. The project will be awarded in May and scheduled to be complete by end of July.</p> <p>Infrastructure investigations funded under the Queensland Government Maturing the Infrastructure Pipeline program are now complete. Council continues to engage with property owners and investors in relation to development opportunities within the PDA.</p>
Mackay Region Planning Scheme - Amendments	*	With the commencement of Version 3.0 of the planning scheme (major amendment 1 and administrative amendment 6) and associated new user guides, the focus for the planning scheme shifts to the preliminary review of potential amendment items for an amendment package to commence in accordance with the Minister's Guidelines and Rules amendment process in the second half of 2020. Further details around the amendment package will be provided in the coming months.
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 for the following PSPs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water supply and sewerage design PSPs (to be replaced by CTM water alliance design and construction code)</li> <li>• Stormwater drainage design PSP</li> <li>• Landscape design PSP</li> <li>• Open Space PSP</li> <li>• Bushfire Protection PSP</li> <li>• Quality Assurance PSP</li> </ul> <p>This review will be on-going with the view to undertaking PSP amendments in accordance with the Minister's Guidelines and Rules amendment process in the second half of 2020.</p>

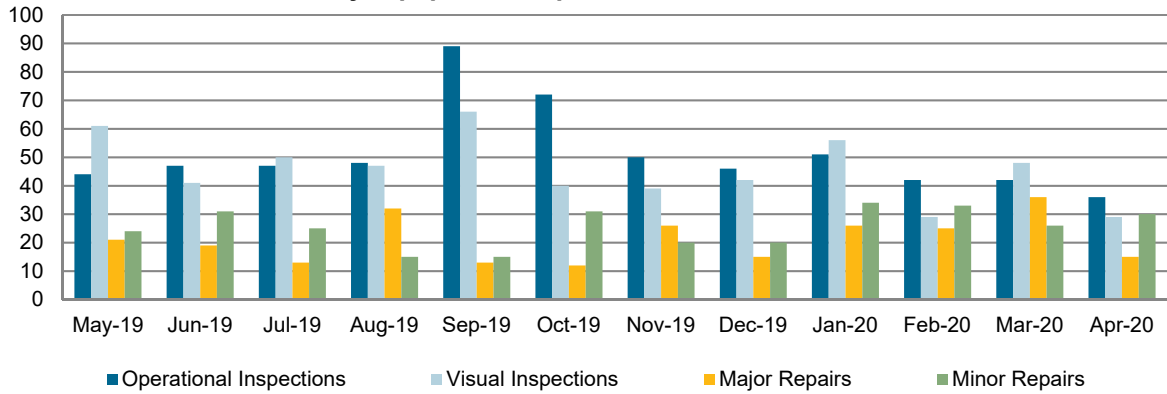
<p>Mirani Master Plan</p>		<p>The Master Plan for the Mirani Community Precinct and associated Pre-Feasibility Report have been completed. A community briefing which outlined the scope of the project was held in Mirani in February and was well attended.</p> <p>A funding application to progress the masterplan and designs using both Council and external funding has been submitted. Council is awaiting notification of the outcome of the grant application to finalise the design phase but are progressing the project to the preliminary design phase with consultants expected to be engaged in May, subject to the outcome of the funding application.</p>
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Transport & Infrastructure Planning		
Projects	Status	Description / Update of Project
<p>Growth Allocation Model</p>		<p>The Mackay Growth Allocation Model allocates and maps future urban growth over a 20-year projection period based on growth scenarios. The model was updated in 2018 based on the published Queensland Government Population Projections and will be reviewed in 2020. Lead and lag statistics are monitored to measure growth projections against actual population movements.</p>
<p>Mackay Region Transport Strategy</p>		<p>This project has now moved from the review of available data to preparing the draft strategy.</p>
<p>Transport Modelling</p>		<p>Further transport modelling will be considered as part of preparing the Mackay Region Transport Strategy.</p>

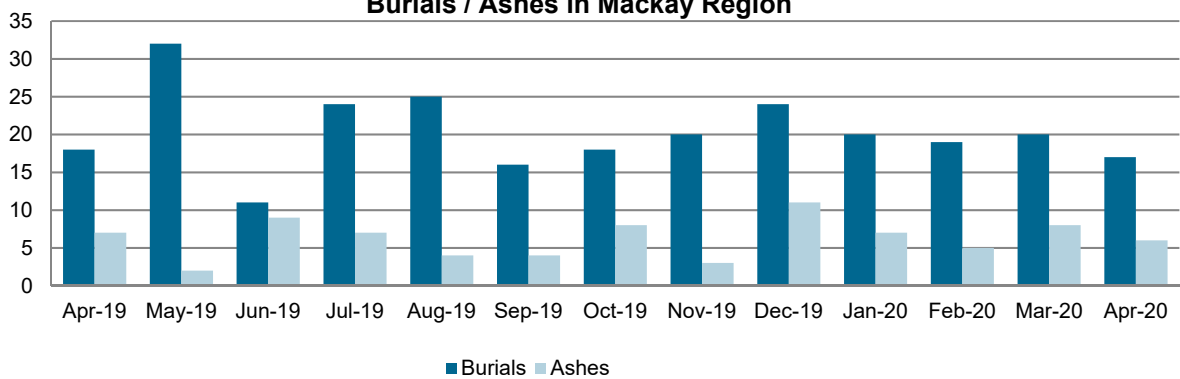
Stormwater		
Projects	Status	Description / Update of Project
<p>Mackay Region Coastal and Inland Flood Hazard Adaptation Strategy (CIFHAS)</p>		<p>The current project stage which involves the finalisation of the hazard assessments is progressing. Supporting GIS analysis are being finalised. The project will be on-going in 2020.</p>
<p>Mackay Floodplain Management Plan</p>		<p>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 study is currently being updated based on these recommendations.</p>
<p>Flood Intelligence Plan</p>		<p>The Flood Intelligence Plan project commenced in late 2019 and currently includes two main projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A “pilot” flood emergency assessment and action plan; and</li> <li>• A Total Flood Warning system.</li> </ul> <p>Requests for quotes for the above projects were recently released and the projects will both commence in May. These projects will be completed by September 2020. 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>

**PARKS, ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY**

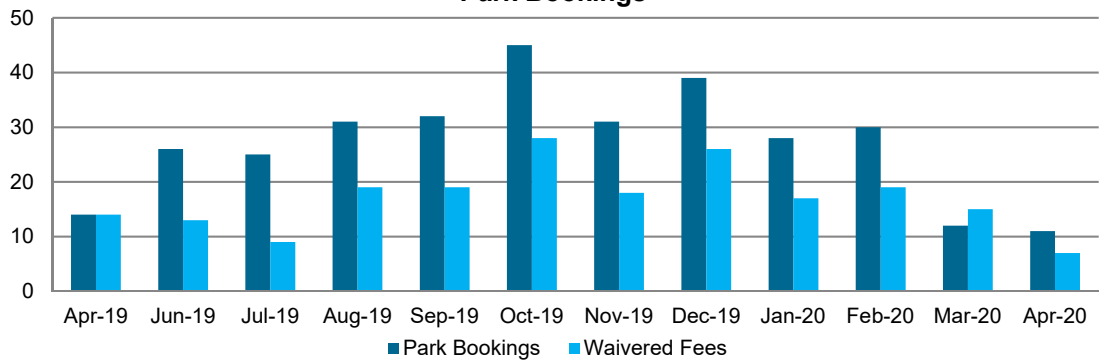
**Play Equipment Inspection and Maintenance**



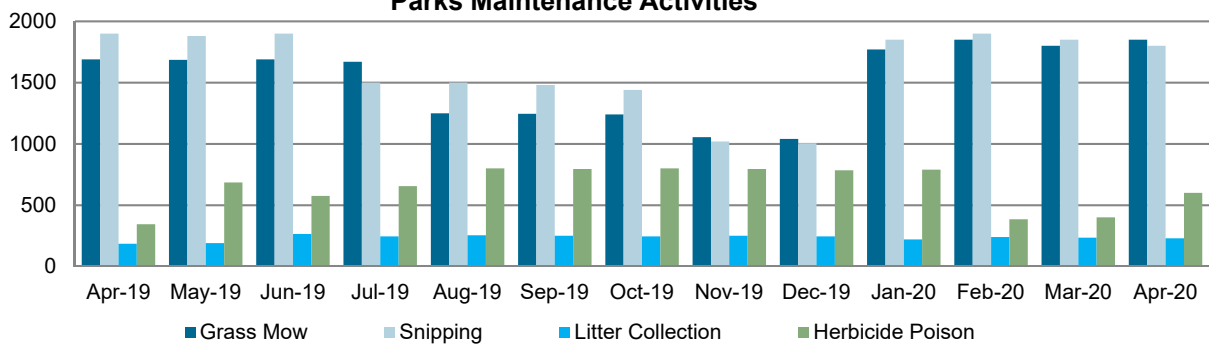
**Burials / Ashes in Mackay Region**



**Park Bookings**



**Parks Maintenance Activities**



<b>Natural Environment Projects</b>		
<b>Project</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Description / Update of Project</b>
National Sustainability Conference	★	The Sustainability Officer attended a two-day virtual conference that highlighted a range of recent initiatives in the sustainability area.
How does your garden grow?	★	A new feature on the Connecting Mackay website was launched to provide a space for community members to share their gardening stories, upload photos, tell us how their free native plants are going and ask questions from a gardening expert. This project will be managed by the Natural Environment and MNEC nursery team.
Weed control trial	★	A trial is underway to evaluate the effectiveness of different methods to control weeds. Methods include spraying and steam weeding.
Fishway inspections	★	Fishways across the region were inspected to assess condition, and inform maintenance and rectification works. Fishways help fish move between areas where there are barriers to their movement, such as fast flowing water or variations in levels.
MNEC nursery	★	The Mackay Natural Environment Centre Nursery was officially recognised by the Nursery and Garden Industry Queensland as having a best management practice sprinkler layout and irrigation system.

<b>Capital Works Projects</b>		
<b>Project</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Description / Update of Project</b>
Queens Park Revitalisation	★	<p>Queens Park Revitalisation is an \$8.86 million legacy upgrade project of Mackay's historic Queens Park with the funding and works part of Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie recovery efforts.</p> <p>The revitalisation project will reinvigorate the park to reflect its iconic position in Mackay and turn it into a modern urban parkland. The project involves park lighting to improve safety, renovation of existing cricket change rooms, new amenities adjacent to the adventure playground, improved car park facilities, protection and enhancement of Arboretum and Palmetum gardens, a yarnning circle, a dog off leash park and additional picnic shelters, barbeques and seating.</p> <p>Construction is well progressed with the iconic shelter almost completed, cricket shed part way through being upgraded, Parks shed constructed, orchid house new entrance nearing completion and painting on other buildings commencing. Irrigation is mostly complete. Landscaping has been commenced with new concrete garden edging poured, turf being laid and plants starting to arrive on site. Drainage work is nearing completion.</p>
Northview Park Play Equipment Renewal	★	The renewal of play equipment at Northview Park has commenced. The project involves replacing the large tower structures, small children's combo, spring toys and carousel. The shade structure over the large combo is also being replaced as part of the works. To date, the work site has been established and the play area closed to the public and all equipment being replaced has been demolished and removed. Installation of the new equipment is commencing the first week of May and will take approximately four weeks.
Botanic Gardens Footpath linking Alexandra Street to Meadowlands	★	Final preparation and design of the footpath has been completed. The tender is scheduled to be issued in mid-May with award likely to be by the end of June. Construction due to commence mid-July and continue for approximately 40 days.

<b>Botanic Gardens Projects</b>		
<b>Project</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Description / Update of Project</b>
Promotional videos	★	Staff have provided a butterfly video to Corporate Communications for general release showcasing the Blue Tiger butterflies in the Tropical Shade Garden.



<p>Desilting trial project</p>	<p>☀</p>	<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>Eight sediment pits were originally constructed to enable amelioration of the silt and collection of leachates to take place.</p> <p>It was identified that the wrong type of lining had been used in the pits meaning that the leachate was not being collected as required for testing. This is in the process of being rectified but due to COVID-19, shortage of building supplies is proving to be an issue.</p> <p>After lengthy discussions it has been decided to suspend the current trial and construct new pits in the preferred location. The remediation work on the current pits was too large to be worthwhile. Contractors will reconstruct pits in May ready to restart the trial by June. This work is at no additional cost to Council.</p>
<p>Photo competition</p>	<p>☀</p>	<p>A photo competition has been planned for May with the theme of Pollinators. It will help to raise awareness of the importance of pollinators to all plants, both ornamental, agricultural and those in the natural environment.</p>
<p>Self-guided activities</p>	<p>☀</p>	<p>More self-guided trails, including a winged wonders trail, and activities are being released to engage the public as we are experiencing higher than usual visitor numbers at the Botanic Gardens. Most people are exercising in small family groups or in ones and twos. This is an opportunity to engage visitors and encourage interest in our plant collections as well as the wildlife seen at the Gardens.</p>

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**

Events and Tourism		
Raise awareness of the Mackay region as a tourism destination, increasing the destination appeal, extended and return visitation		
Business Priority	Status	Update of Project
Attract events which bring economic benefit to the Mackay region	*	<p><b>Regional Events Strategy</b> Economic Development have been working closely with Mackay Tourism and MECC and Events on progressing shared actions identified in the Mackay Region Event Strategy 2020-2025. An implementation assistance meeting was held in April with Luminair Consultancy to discuss the 2020/21 implementation plan. Actions and timeframes are being reviewed as required in consideration of COVID-19 impacts.</p> <p><b>Invest Mackay Events and Conference Attraction Program</b> No events or conferences were held in the month of April. No new events or conferences were approved through the program in April.</p> <p><b>COVID-19 Tourism Impacts Mackay Region Survey</b> Economic Development, in partnership with Mackay Tourism, has issued a survey questionnaire for the tourism and events industry to understand the impacts of the COVID-19 outbreak on those businesses operating within the Mackay Region. Over 155 tourism and events operators were surveyed in April and the results were shared with the Mackay Region Emergency Management Economic Response Group.</p> <p><b>Events Recovery Program</b> As a result of the COVID-19 Tourism Impacts Mackay Region Survey, Economic Development in partnership with Mackay Tourism has developed a series of webinars and mentoring sessions to support the region's events now and post COVID-19. This series will be rolled out 12 May – 5 June 2020.</p> <p><b>Mackay Region Events Connect Facebook Group</b> Economic Development has developed a new Facebook group platform to engage with Mackay Region event organisers called 'Mackay Region Events Connect'. This platform has been created as a forum for Mackay Region Event Organisers to post and actively engage with others in the events community. It is being used to discuss issues and opportunities (such as COVID-19), share resources, volunteers and to network and leverage from one another. The Facebook group appears it may also be useful in allowing for information sharing regarding the 2021 events calendar, to help minimise event clashes.</p>
Identify new tourism experiences and business opportunities in conjunction with Mackay Tourism Ltd and existing tourism providers.	*	<p><b>Camping Analysis</b> The Economic Development program has appointed consultant EarthCheck to undertake the Mackay Region Camping Analysis. The purpose of this project is to establish a framework to guide the investment and development of Council's camping facilities and to investigate future development opportunities for camping and recreational facilities at the three Sunwater operated dams. Council was updated on the progress of this project on 20 January 2020 where first draft recommendations were proposed and supported. The expected project completion date will be June/July 2020 with future consultation to be completed as required.</p>
Promotion of the Mackay Region tourism brand	*	<p><b>Recreational Fishing</b> Economic Development, in conjunction with Mackay Tourism, continues to deliver the 'Hooked-on Mackay' marketing campaign which supports the promotion and awareness of the Mackay Region as a world-class fishing destination. With COVID-19 affecting recreational fishing across the country the promotions through the Hooked-on Mackay Facebook page have been altered to including social distancing rules and</p>

	<p>encouraging fishers to stay at home keeping busy with getting their tackle boxes organised and making lures. Magazine advertising has been put on hold until the COVID-19 restrictions are lifted.</p> <p>As part of Council and Mackay Tourism's sponsorship of the 2019 Australian Fishing Championships (AFC), our region receives hero imagery, pro tip videos featuring all three impoundments, along with various promotional videos featuring AFC talent. Economic Development and Mackay Tourism are currently working collaboratively with Marine Media to ensure content is showcasing the best of our region's fishing opportunities. Once content is finalised it will be promoted via Hooked-on Mackay's social media platforms and website. Mackay Tourism will also promote via their channels.</p>
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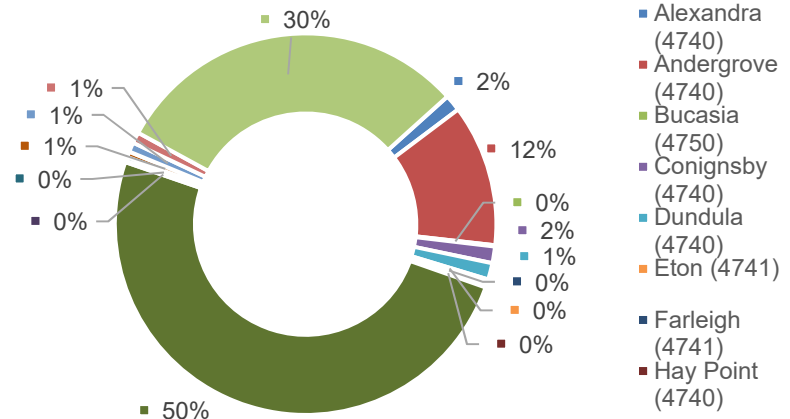
**Industry Development and Support**  
 To facilitate collaboration and growth opportunities within and across industry sectors including resources, agriculture, health and tourism.

<b>Business Priority</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Update of Project</b>
Maintain strong partnerships through communication networks with key industry and regional development stakeholders		<p><b>Queensland Mining and Engineering Exhibition (QME)</b>            REED Exhibitions has rescheduled QME to 22-24 September 2020, due to restrictions introduced in response to COVID-19. Council is working with the Resource Industry Network (RIN), REED Exhibitions, AusIndustry, Trade and Investment Queensland and Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning (DSDMIP) to determine opportunities for regional collaboration during QME. The exhibition will be held at the Mackay Showgrounds and coincide with the 2020 Queensland Mining Awards.</p>
Identify and support delivery of industry sector priorities		<p><b>Resource Centre of Excellence</b>            The tender for construction was awarded to Fergus in early September 2019 and construction commenced in October. Economic Development is assisting the Capital Works Program with the ongoing stakeholder engagement. The completed Resource Centre of Excellence will be a key feature on the QME 2020 program with significant interest received from industry to tour the facility.</p> <p><b>Economic Development Strategy 2020-2025</b>            Economic Development is continuing to work closely with partners to progress shared actions identified in the Mackay Region Economic Development Strategy 2020-2025. Actions and timeframes are being reviewed as required in consideration of COVID-19 impacts.</p> <p><b>Greater Whitsunday Food Network</b>            Economic Development is assisting the Network in the delivery of the Regional Agritourism Development Project. The Greater Whitsunday Food Network (GWFN) has appointed a Project Officer to coordinate and deliver the identified initiatives, with Economic Development providing ongoing support throughout the project.</p> <p>Economic Development is providing support for the GWFN to develop a Business Plan, with Sparrowly Group now engaged to complete the project. The Business Plan will enable the GWFN to grow and succeed in the delivery of the Mackay, Isaac and Whitsunday Food and Agritourism Strategic Action Plan. The Business Plan will support the GWFN and help drive tangible outcomes across several industries for the region and importantly drive the region as a key food and beverage producer in Australia. The final Business Plan is expected to be completed in August 2020.</p> <p><b>Digital Infrastructure Study</b>            Greater Whitsunday Alliance (GW3) appointed Aurecon to conduct a Digital Infrastructure Study in the Mackay, Isaac and Whitsunday region.</p>



		<p>The report has been finalised and distributed to steering committee members. GW3 will be coordinating future meetings to implement identified strategies.</p>
<p>Support industry sectors to access international markets in accordance with industry sector profile priorities.</p>	<p>✳</p>	<p><b>MIW METS Export Hub</b>                  The Economic Development Program is represented on the Project Advisory Group for the MIW METS Export Hub project. The METS Export Hub project manager is progressing the Capability Mapping and Supply Chain Analysis and investigating options for on-line Export Ready training for interested businesses. Economic Development is working with the Export Hub project manager to identify opportunities to showcase regional METS businesses during the COVID-19 restrictions.</p>
<p>COVID-19 Response and Recovery</p>	<p>✳</p>	<p><b>Economic Response Group</b>                  Economic Development, along with GW3, Regional Development Australia, Mackay Chamber of Commerce, Mackay Tourism, RIN and DSDMIP, is a participant on the Mackay Region’s Emergency Management Economic Response Group. Key actions from the team during April included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Circulation of State and Federal Government business support assistance to key stakeholders.</li> <li>• Coordination of REPLAN regional impact survey across Mackay, Isaac and Whitsunday networks:                         <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ As at 4 May 2020 approximately 206 businesses participated in the survey.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <div data-bbox="587 898 1437 1424" style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 10px; margin: 10px 0;"> <p style="text-align: center;">COVID-19: Australian Business Economic Impact Survey (ABEIS):                      Responses for Mackay as at 04 May 2020</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Responses for <input type="text" value="Mackay (R)"/></p> <p style="font-size: small; text-align: center;">Data updated on 4th May 2020</p> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of Mackay Region Joblink Community platform to respond to local employment impacts due to COVID-19. As at 30 April 2020 the site recorded:                         <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 856 active jobs posted, 50% of those posting in the 4740 postcode.</li> <li>○ 2762 job views.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Active Jobs posted on Mackay Joblink Community - 30 April 2020







- Promotion of #wepledgelocal campaign to support local business in Mackay Isaac Whitsunday.
- Initial phases of Collaborative Regional COVID-19 Response project:
  - Project aims to establish all the individual COVID-19 responses and initiatives currently initiated across the region by peak industry bodies and regional industry networking groups for the support local business.
  - MRC will play a role in coordinating these groups to work collaboratively in their response and recovery efforts.
  - MRC will further seek to identify gaps in regional support.

**MRC Economic Development COVID-19 Response**

- Circulation of MRC Stage one Business Support Measures.
- Participation in survey data collection for tourism operators, accommodation providers and event organisers.
- Mackay City Centre Business Impact Survey:
  - Phone survey of city centre businesses understanding how trading has adapted.
- Promotion of digital marketing campaign Faces behind the places:
  - <https://www.facebook.com/MackayCityCentre/videos/1459814174196506/>



<b>Investment Attraction and Growth</b> To attract new businesses, facilitate investment and support existing businesses to realise growth opportunities		
<b>Business Priority</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Update of Project</b>
Support and facilitate investment in emerging industries and opportunities for diversification	*	<b>Split Spaces Mackay</b> Economic Development has provided funding support to the Startup On Ramp Pre-accelerator Program which is being delivered online from 31 March. This is a 12-week program for startup founders who are early in their startup journey and is also relevant to existing businesses that want to develop new products/services. The program is being delivered via Zoom each week, after-hours for two hours, and comprises a mix of facilitator-led discussion and group work.
Support business growth and investment opportunities through the implementation of strategies such as the Mountain Bike Strategy, Recreational Fishing Strategy and Recreational Vehicle attraction.	*	<b>Mountain Bike Strategy</b> The Eungella-Finch Hatton Mountain Bike Trail Town Feasibility Study has been finalised. A summary outlining the key findings of the assessment will be presented to Council on 20 May 2020. Discussions with authorities and land owners are being progressed. A Project Control Group has been formed and will meet when necessary to ensure the delivery of the project.  The next meeting of the Mackay Region Mountain Bike Alliance will be organised once COVID-19 social distancing restrictions have been lifted. In the interim, a digital update will be sent to Alliance members in May 2020. Cr Englert, Cr Green and Cr Townsend are the new elected members of the Alliance representing Council.
Proactive targeting and attracting business to the Mackay region.	*	<b>Facilitating Development in Mackay Region Policy</b> The status of all applications will be undergoing a review during May. Currently, Economic Development has: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Five Expression of Interest (EOI) applications currently under assessment. All EOIs are on-hold until their development applications have progressed.</li> <li>• Seven applications progressed through to the EOI assessment stage, however, Stage 2 applications have not yet been submitted. Letters requesting outstanding stage 2 applications have been sent to all applicants identifying required timeframes for receipt of applications.</li> <li>• Two Stage 2 applications currently under assessment.</li> </ul>
Explore opportunities for growth and development and facilitate investment opportunities	*	Economic Development's First Point of Contact service continues to assist with development enquiries as requested.

<b>Liveability</b> To support and promote a vibrant, sustainable and affordable community which encourages people to live, work and play in the Mackay region.		
Business Priority	Status	Update of Project
Activate regional localities to achieve social, economic and environmental potential		<p><b>Activate My Place (AMP) Program</b>                      Round 2 of the AMP Program was officially launched in late February and closed on 13 April 2020. Economic Development has assessed the applications and is in the process of preparing a recommendation report to Council for endorsement.</p> <p><b>Mackay Pride Façade Improvement Scheme</b>                      Expressions of interest are assessed as they are received. To date, five applications have been funded in 19/20 financial year, with three applications approved with works still to be completed. Economic Development is assisting a further two businesses with application submissions. The City Centre Scheme has funded two applications in 19/20, with two additional applications approved with works to be completed.</p> <p>The Economic Development Program completed a review of both the Mackay Pride and City Centre schemes early in 2020, with amendments supported by Council for implementation. The relaunch of the new scheme was postponed due to impacts of COVID-19 and will be released to assist businesses with Economic Recovery at an appropriate time. The current scheme is still open for applications.</p>
Activate Mackay City Centre		<p><b>COVID-19 Response and Recovery</b>                      During April, restrictions and guidelines surrounding COVID-19 were implemented in stages and City Centre traders in the retail and hospitality sectors were widely affected.</p> <p>The City Centre Business COVID-19 questionnaire is ongoing as it continues to collate the disruptions and adapted business operations.</p> <p>Details collected through this questionnaire provide the supporting information linked to the <i>Faces Behind the Places</i> Campaign. To promote that businesses are still operational, this campaign was designed to connect the community to our business owners across a variety of industries. The campaign consists of three promotional videos that display the 'faces behind the places' and will feature across social media and television. New pages will also be added to the Mackay City Centre website to house the collected trading information.</p> <p>Organisers of City Centre supported events were also contacted to discuss options. Both organisations have confirmed that they have cancelled their 2020 event. Dates for 2021 are confirmed as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mackay Italian Street Party – Saturday, 22 May 2021</li> <li>• Mackay Bluewater Fling Scottish Festival – Saturday, 10 July 2021</li> </ul>
Promote the Mackay Region		<p><b>Mackay Beach Horse Races – Expression of Interest</b>                      Mackay Regional Council has been working in partnership with Mackay Tourism and key stakeholders on the future of the Mackay Beach Horse Races. 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, with responses due to close by 1 June 2020.</p>
Support for Tertiary Education		<p>Economic Development continues to work with Central Queensland University and James Cook University as required. Current engagement with the tertiary education sector is focused on opportunities for the Resource Centre of Excellence, Study Greater Whitsunday projects and Economic Development Strategy 2020-2025.</p>

<b>Sarina Sugar Shed</b>					
To manage and operate a sustainable tourism facility, which provides a range of tourism products and experiences to promote the region's heritage					
<b>Strategy / Project</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Description / Update of Project</b>			
Operate a successful tourism facility which meets its performance targets	★	The Sarina Sugar Shed facility was closed to the public in March due to COVID-19 restrictions. Staff are continuing to perform annual shutdown maintenance and are still receiving phone and email orders for alcohol and gift shop products with free delivery available.			
		Since being closed to the public the distilling has resumed under the amended JSA, one 125 litre barrel has been filled, this will be ready for release in April of 2022 as batch #17.			
Business Operations (excluding accruals)		<b>Item</b>	<b>APRIL</b>	<b>YTD</b>	<b>Annual Target</b>
	★	Tour Visitation (Paid)	0	7,282	10,000
		Visitation (Total)	0	9,074	-
		Volunteer Hours	0	2,357.5	-
		<b>Item</b>	<b>APRIL</b>	<b>YTD</b>	<b>Annual Budget</b>
	★	Ticket Sales	\$196*	\$125,810	\$180,000
	★	Retail Sales	\$2,093	\$272,968	\$303,000
	★	Total Income (incl. Ticket income)	\$2,829	\$400,087	\$487,000
	★	Total Expenses	\$40,624	\$581,264	\$844,872

\* Invoice payment received for wholesale tour bookings

### Economic Indicators (Quarterly)

<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Jun 18</b>	<b>Sep 18</b>	<b>Dec 18</b>	<b>Mar 19</b>	<b>Jun 19</b>	<b>Sep 19</b>	<b>Dec 19</b>
<b>Employment</b>							
Unemployment rate	3.8%	3.7%	3.9%	4.4%	5.8%	6.3%	6.4%
Employed persons	65,790	66,678	65,291	62,527	56,751	56,122	56,709
<b>Real Estate</b>							
Median house sale	\$342,000	\$340,000	◦\$350,000	\$330,000	\$340,000	◦\$360,000	\$360,000
Res vacancy rate	1.9%	0.9%	1.7%	2.9%	1.5%	1.7%	2.5%
<b>Residential Lot Supply</b>							
Lots Approved <sup>^</sup>	100	50	108	60	18	7	Not available
Lots Endorsed <sup>^</sup>	19	51	135	7	44	54	Not available

\*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.

<sup>^</sup> 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	Nov 19	Dec 19	Jan 20	Feb 20	Mar 20	Apr 20
City Centre Business Network	1,026	1,023	1,023	1,040	1,040	1,037
City Centre Facebook Likes	6,388	6,400	6,397	6,399	6,405	6,455
City Centre Instagram Followers	1,364	1,366	1,367	1,375	1,375	1,390
City Centre Wi-Fi Sessions	874 users	812 users	851 users	790 users	718 users	287 users
	10,266 sessions	8,682 sessions	9,880 sessions	8,713 sessions	6,360 sessions	1,500 sessions
Invested in Mackay Subscribers	512	512	531	539	545	543
City Centre Community	4,327	4,304	4,304	4,208	4,208	4,208
Mackay Region Joblink Analytic Report	634 users	583 users	587 users	651 users	657 users	705 users
	Not available	2,043 views	3,004 views	3,940 views	3,052 views	2,762 views
Sarina Field of Dreams Usage Wi-Fi	65 users	56 users	47 users	55 users	47 users	6 users
	394 sessions	253 sessions	306 sessions	279 sessions	259 sessions	61 sessions
Hooked on Mackay Facebook	2,796	3,074	3,197	3,203	3,305	3,354
Net Free Zone Voluntary Code	527	537	537	538	542	583

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

Date	Event	Location
30 May 2020	Botanic Gardens Open Day and Botanic Endeavour 250 Celebrations - POSTPONED	MRBG
4-7 June 2020	2020 School Sports QLD AFL Championships (boys and girls 10-12-year-old) <i>Postponed due to COVID-19. Likely to reschedule for June 2021.</i>	Great Barrier Reef Arena, Harrup Park
7 June 2020	Mackay Marina Run - <b>Invest Mackay Funded</b> <i>Cancelled due to COVID-19 for 2020.</i>	Mackay Marina
13 – 14 June 2020	Steve Dinsdale Memorial two-Day Motorcross <i>Postponed due to COVID-19. New date not known yet.</i>	Gum Valley Motorcross Club, Koumala
26- 27 June 2020 21 -22 August 2020 16 -17 October 2020	Free native plant giveaway – POSTPONED at present (subject to Covid-19 restrictions)	MNEC
11-12 July 2020	MAD Mountain Bike Mackay Cup – <b>Invest Mackay Funded</b>	Rowallan Park, Farleigh
25 July 2020	Mackay Scottish Bluewater Fling - <b>Sponsored by MCC</b> <i>Cancelled due to COVID-19 for 2020.</i>	Bluewater Quay
29 – 31 July 2020	Australian Water Association Queensland Conference <i>Postponed due to COVID-19. Likely to reschedule for July 2021.</i>	MECC
1-2 August 2020	2020 Rowing Qld North Qld Schools Championship Regatta – <b>Invest Mackay Funded</b>	Mackay Rowing Club
28-29 August 2020	NQ Rock'N Country – <b>Invest Mackay Funded</b>	Mackay Showgrounds
8-11 September 2020	2020 Bowen Basin Symposium – <b>Invest Mackay Funded</b> <i>Postponed due to COVID-19. Rescheduled for August 23-27, 2021.</i>	MECC
13 September 2020	Motorcycle Beach Races at Grasstree Beach – <b>Invest Mackay Funded</b>	Grasstree Beach
19 – 20 September 2020	Orchid Extravaganza	Queens Park
21 – 26 September 2020	Etnies Rumble on the Reef (Skateboarding) – <b>Invest Mackay Funded</b>	Sugar Bowl Skate Park
30 September – 3 October 2020	Etnies Rumble on the Reef - 2020 Hydrofoil Pro Tour – <b>Invest Mackay Funded</b>	Lamberts Beach
1 – 2 October 2020	Etnies Rumble on the Reef Wakeboarding – <b>Invest Mackay Funded</b>	Wakehouse Wakepark,
30 October – 1 November 2020	2020 North Australia Championships – <b>Invest Mackay Funded</b>	Mackay Harbour