



Development Services

Monthly Review Report

March 2020

Executive Summary

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

March has been an unusual month with a number of activities and programs delivered by Development Services cancelled or postponed due to COVID-19. Despite this, work continued on many significant projects such as the Mackay Waterfront Project, the Northern Beaches Community Hub, the Mirani Master Plan, the Mackay Region Transport Strategy and the Mackay Floodplain Management Plan.

In an effort to reach out to the community despite social isolation restrictions, the Natural Environment team collaborated with Corporate Communications staff to produce three videos on how to grow your own food using seed from fruit and vegetables in your fridge. These videos were posted on Council's Facebook page and were well received by the community.

In addition, the Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens Visitor Services team released a number of self-guided activities that people visiting the Botanic Gardens can complete while engaging in recreation at the Gardens. These activities include butterfly counting and identification, finding the gnomes in the shade garden and a creatures of the gardens fun facts nature trail. Activity sheets for these activities are available on the Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens Website.

Representatives from Council's Economic Development and Tourism program sit on the COVID-19 Economic Response Group, along with representatives from Greater Whitsunday Alliance, Regional Development Australia, the Mackay Chamber of Commerce, Mackay Tourism Limited and Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning. Council staff were involved in the delivery of activities arising from the Response Group, including:

- Circulation of State and Federal Government business support assistance to key stakeholders.
- Preparation of survey material for tourism operators, accommodation providers and event organisers.
- Coordination of REMPLAN regional impact survey across Mackay, Isaac and Whitsunday networks.
- Review of Mackay Region Joblink platform to respond local employment impacts due to COVID-19.



Aletta Nugent
Director Development Services



Resource Industry Network's International Women's Day Luncheon was held at the MECC on Friday, March 6 - Proudly delivered in partnership with the Gold Coast Suns and Mackay Regional Council.

Development News 03/2020

Updates on Significant Developments Currently Being Assessed by Council

APPLICATION LODGED

DA-2020-27

102 Farrellys Road PAGET

The application proposes the establishment of an Educational Establishment (industrial training) within an existing industrial development (formerly the Macalese Transport depot). The facility will be for training BHP employees relating to operations carried out at BHP mine sites. One existing warehouse building will be refurbished and part of the existing administration office area will be used for the training operations.



APPLICATION LODGED

OW-2020-3

23-29 Oak Street ANDERGROVE

OW- Civil Works – Commercial – Coles Shopping Centre with proposed works to include roadworks, stormwater, water infrastructure, drainage work, sewerage infrastructure and landscaping.

APPLICATION APPROVED

DA-2019-129

86 Andergrove Road ANDERGROVE

The approval allows for the development of a new residential estate comprising of 22 residential lots in a community management scheme.



APPLICATION APPROVED

OW-2018-26

L1 East Point Drive Mackay Harbour

OW – Civil Works – East Point Mackay Harbour Stage 1A, 1B, 1C & 1R approved works to include roadworks, stormwater, water infrastructure, drainage work, earthworks, sewerage infrastructure, landscaping and clearing vegetation.



Monthly Safety Review

Summary

Twenty incidents were reported involving MRC employees and contractors.

The following injuries to MRC employees were reported in March:

- Small cut to finger from sharp plant while pruning.
- Three instances of wasp sting whilst working in gardens and around trees.
- Minor knee pain after stepping on a bandicoot while working in a garden bed.
- Minor back pain after stepping in a hole while whipper snipping.
- Minor back pain while walking and carrying a leaf blower.
- Jarred wrist and elbow while loading ramps into the back of a truck.
- Twisted thumb while removing the drill bit from a cordless drill.
- Minor knee pain after day of whipper snipping.

The following near miss incidents were reported in March:

- A hanging shelf fell from a desk partition when the shelf was bumped.
- A member of the public became aggressive and verbally abusive towards MRC staff during a site visit.

The following asset damage incidents were reported in March:

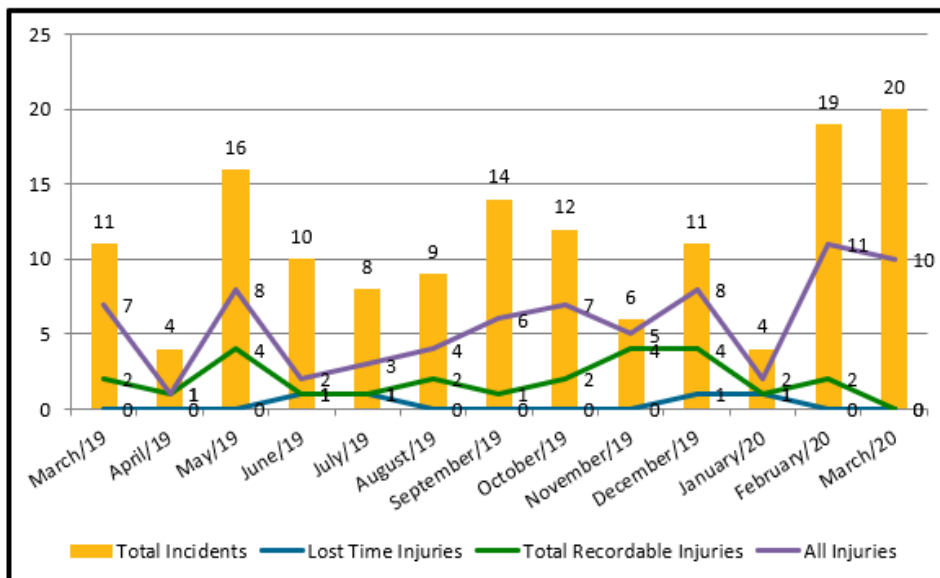
- A truck tilt tray engaged unexpectedly, hitting a trailer.
- A tractor slid on wet ground while slashing, striking a tree and causing minor damage.
- A fence paling was damaged when hit by a mower deck.
- A MRC light truck was involved in a minor collision with a non-staff member's vehicle.
- An object flew out from a mower deck, hitting a non-staff member's vehicle.
- A truck and trailer combination hit a street sign while rounding a corner
- A pole saw was damaged whilst cutting down a tree branch.

The following incidents involving a contractor were reported in March:

- A fence was damaged when hit by small plant that was spreading sand.

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

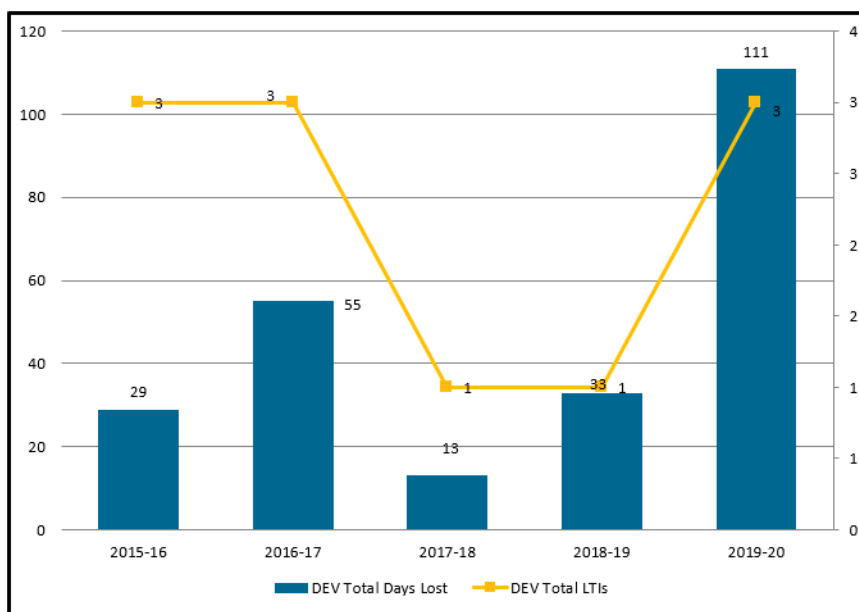
Incidents and Injuries



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. Fifty-eight 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. Fifty 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	111
Strategic Planning										
Economic Development & Tourism										
Development Services	3	29	3	55	1	13	1	33	3	111

Financial Report

The Development Assessment and Development Engineering budgets are both showing a minor positive variance, with revenue from application fees being overall consistent with budget projections. The Parks, Environment and Sustainability program budget is also tracking well with a minor positive variance.

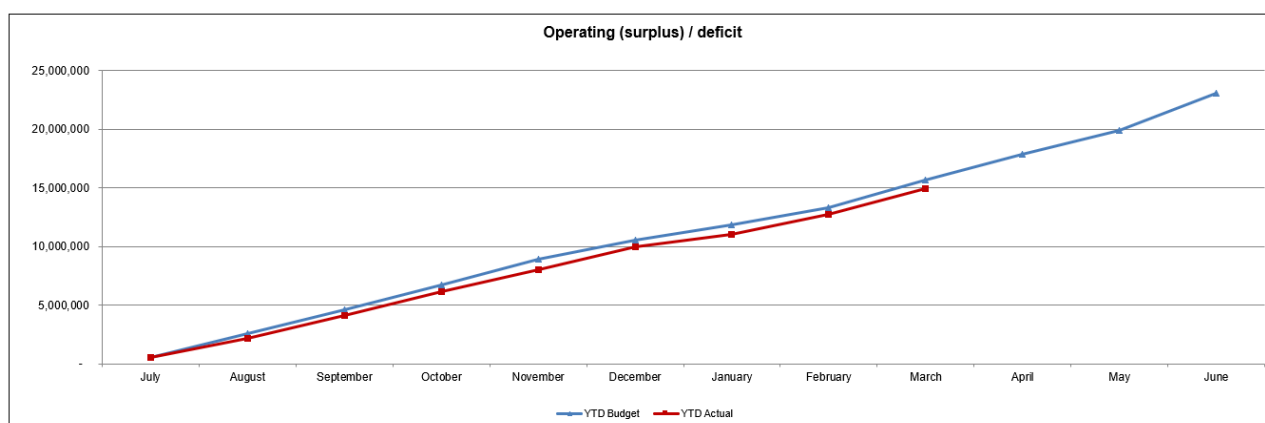
The Development Services Management budget is showing a slight negative variance due to timing associated with the taking of leave. This variance is continuing to close as the financial year progresses.

The Strategic Planning budget is showing a positive variance due to some wages savings and with expenditure still to occur on a number of strategies over the remainder of the financial year. The Economic Development and Tourism program has a positive budget variance due to staff vacancies, and also due to some events, projects and initiatives being delayed as a result of COVID-19.

Operating Results	YTD budget	YTD actual	Variance	Status
Development Services Management	319,818	335,382	15,564	☀
Strategic Planning	1,504,604	1,396,662	(107,942)	☀
Development Assessment	(39,295)	(50,272)	(10,977)	☀
Development Engineering	(228,400)	(253,852)	(25,453)	☀
Economic Development & Tourism	1,603,863	1,309,050	(294,812)	☀
Parks, Environment & Sustainability	12,479,631	12,201,965	(277,666)	☀
TOTAL OPERATIONAL	15,640,221	14,938,935	(701,286)	☀

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

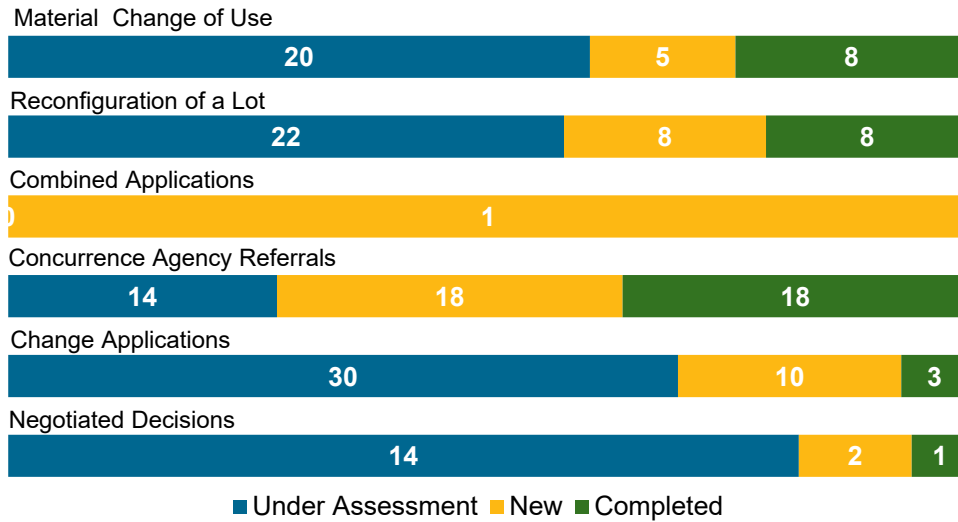


Review of Operations

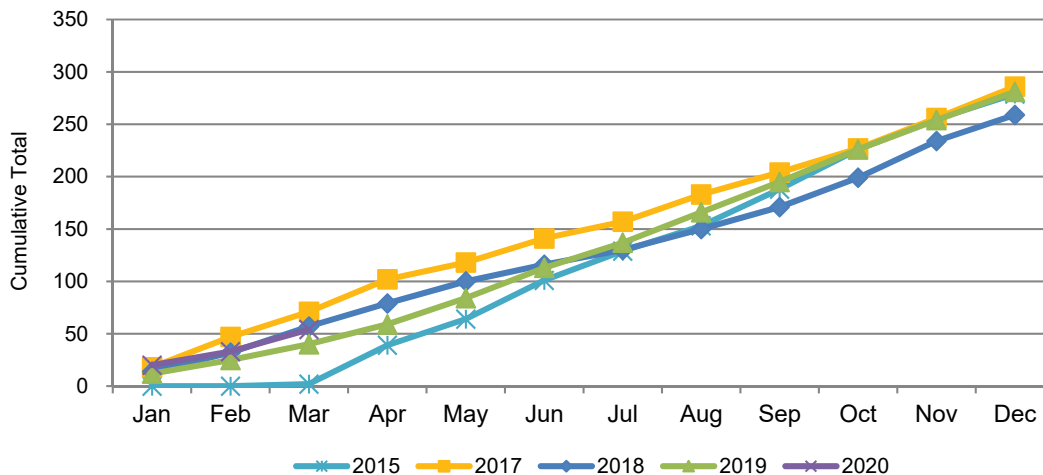
- On Track
- Potential Issue
- Definite Issue

DEVELOPMENT ASSESSMENT

Volume of Operations



Cumulative Number of Approved Development Assessment Applications

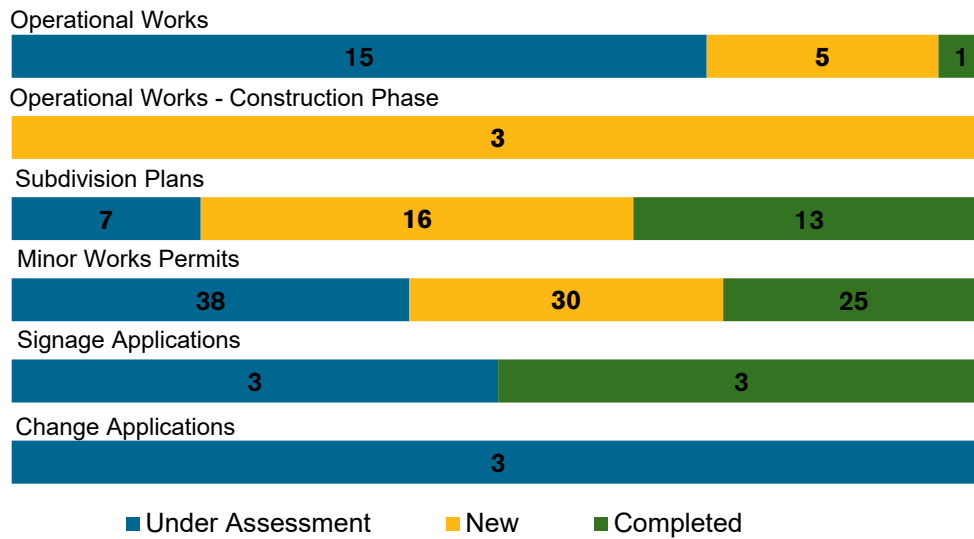


Development Assessment Performance Against Legislative Timeframes

Application	Status	% Decided
MCU Code (85% in 35 Days)	●	67% decided in 35 days. 2 of 6 approvals were issued outside of the 35 day period. In both instances extensions were granted by the applicant to allow the provision of additional information or comments in order to allow the finalisation of the application
MCU Impact (50% in 35 Days)	●	50% decided in 35 days.
ROL (85% in 35 Days)	●	85% decided in 35 days.
Concurrence Agency (85% in 10 Days)	●	89% decided in 10 days.

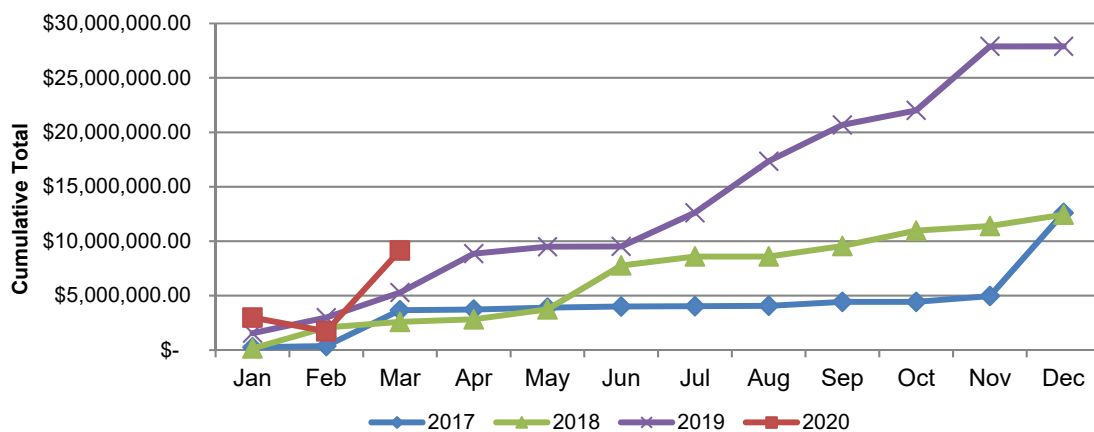
DEVELOPMENT ENGINEERING

Volume of Operations



Cumulative Value of Approved Operational Works

One Operational Works applications was approved in March with a total value of works of \$9,142,816.00






Development Engineering Performance Against Legislative Timeframes




Application	Status	% Decided
Minor Works (85% in <20 Days)	🟢	80% decided in 20 days.
Signage Applications (85% in <20 Days)	🟡	33% decided in 20 days. There were three signage applications in total for the month. One sign application took 33 days to approve due to an information request being issued to the applicant and awaiting a response. One sign application took 24 days to approve due to awaiting an external referral response.
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 3 of the 6 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 has commenced. The above reports will be provided as background information for 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 Connecting Mackay website.</p> <p>Council is currently prioritising preliminary design efforts on the Riverside Precinct, with concepts for the area between Paxton's and the Fish Market underway. A brief for the preliminary design of Bluewater Quay improvements was released for tender with submissions due the end of April.</p> <p>Infrastructure investigations funded under the Queensland Government Maturing the Infrastructure Pipeline program are now complete.</p> <p>Council drafted a marketing plan for the Mackay Waterfront project to better understand key economic development and investment attraction opportunities for the PDA. Actions from this plan are being reviewed and considered for implementation in the coming months.</p>
Mackay Region Planning Scheme - Amendments	*	Version 3.0 of the Planning Scheme (major amendment 1 and administrative amendment 6) and associated new user guides commenced in February. The focus for the Planning Scheme has now shifted to the preliminary review of items for an amendment package expected to commence through the amendment process in the second half of 2020. Amendments to form part of the package are under consideration.
Mackay Region Planning Scheme – Planning Scheme Policy (PSP) review	*	<p>The review of PSP content continues to progress for the following PSPs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water supply and sewerage design PSPs (to be replaced by CTM water alliance design and construction code) • Stormwater drainage design PSP • Landscape design PSP • Open Space PSP • Bushfire Protection PSP • Quality Assurance PSP <p>This review will be ongoing with a view to undertaking PSP amendments in accordance with the Minister's Guidelines and Rules amendment process in the second half of 2020.</p>

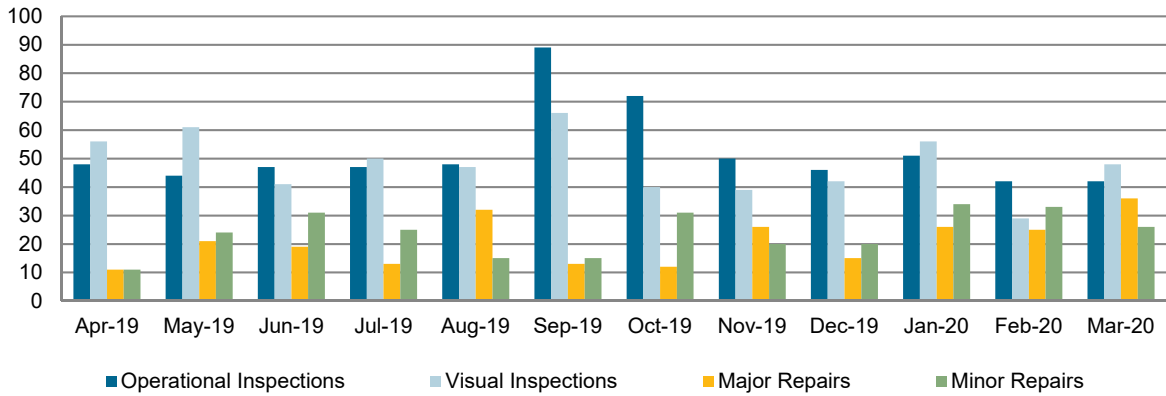
<p>Mirani Master Plan</p>		<p>The Master Plan for the Mirani Community Precinct and associated Pre-Feasibility Report have been completed. A Community briefing which outlined the scope of the project was held in Mirani in February 2020 and was well attended.</p> <p>A funding application to progress the 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 by early May.</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>Through a comprehensive review of available data, policy and relevant land use and transport information, the consultants have completed all the scheduled background analysis and scenario development. The next stage will be the preparation of 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>

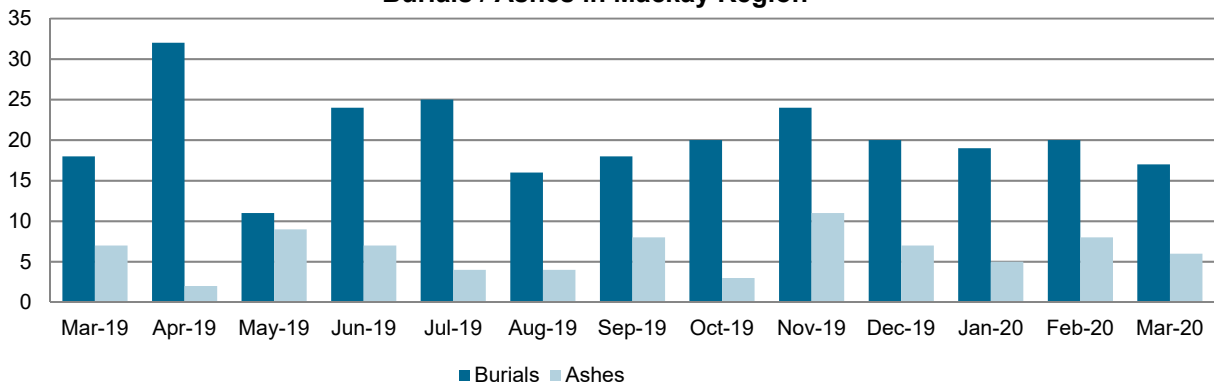
Stormwater		
Projects	Status	Description / Update of Project
<p>Mackay Region Coastal and Inland Flood Hazard Adaptation Strategy (CIFHAS)</p>		<p>The current project stage to finalise the hazard assessments is progressing. Supporting GIS analysis are being finalised. The project will be ongoing in 2020.</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"> • A “pilot” flood emergency assessment and action plan; and • A Total Flood Warning system. <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

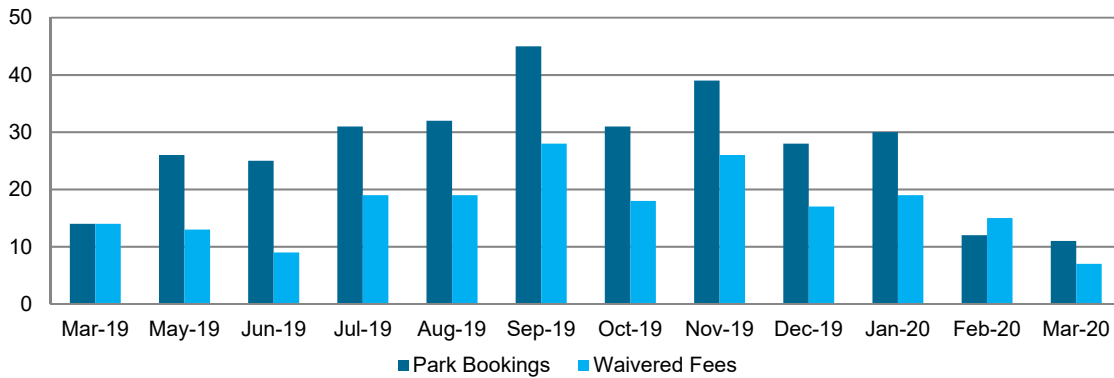
Play Equipment Inspection and Maintenance



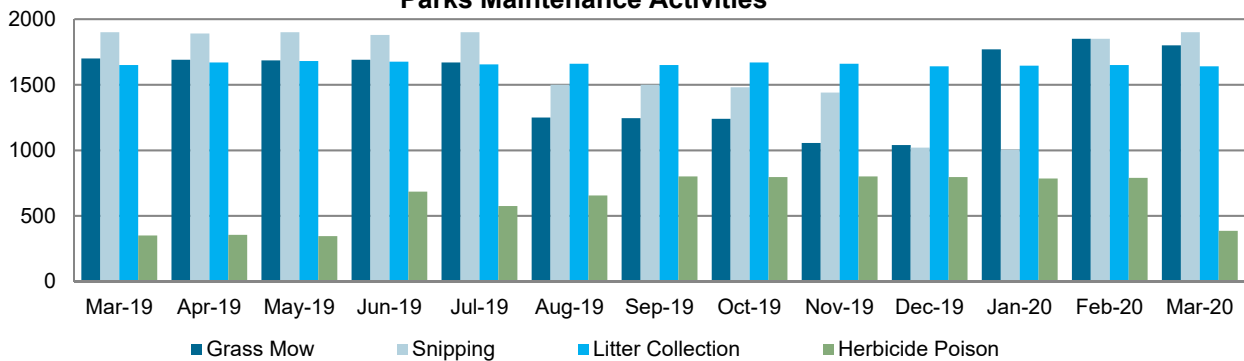
Burials / Ashes in Mackay Region



Park Bookings







Parks Maintenance Activities



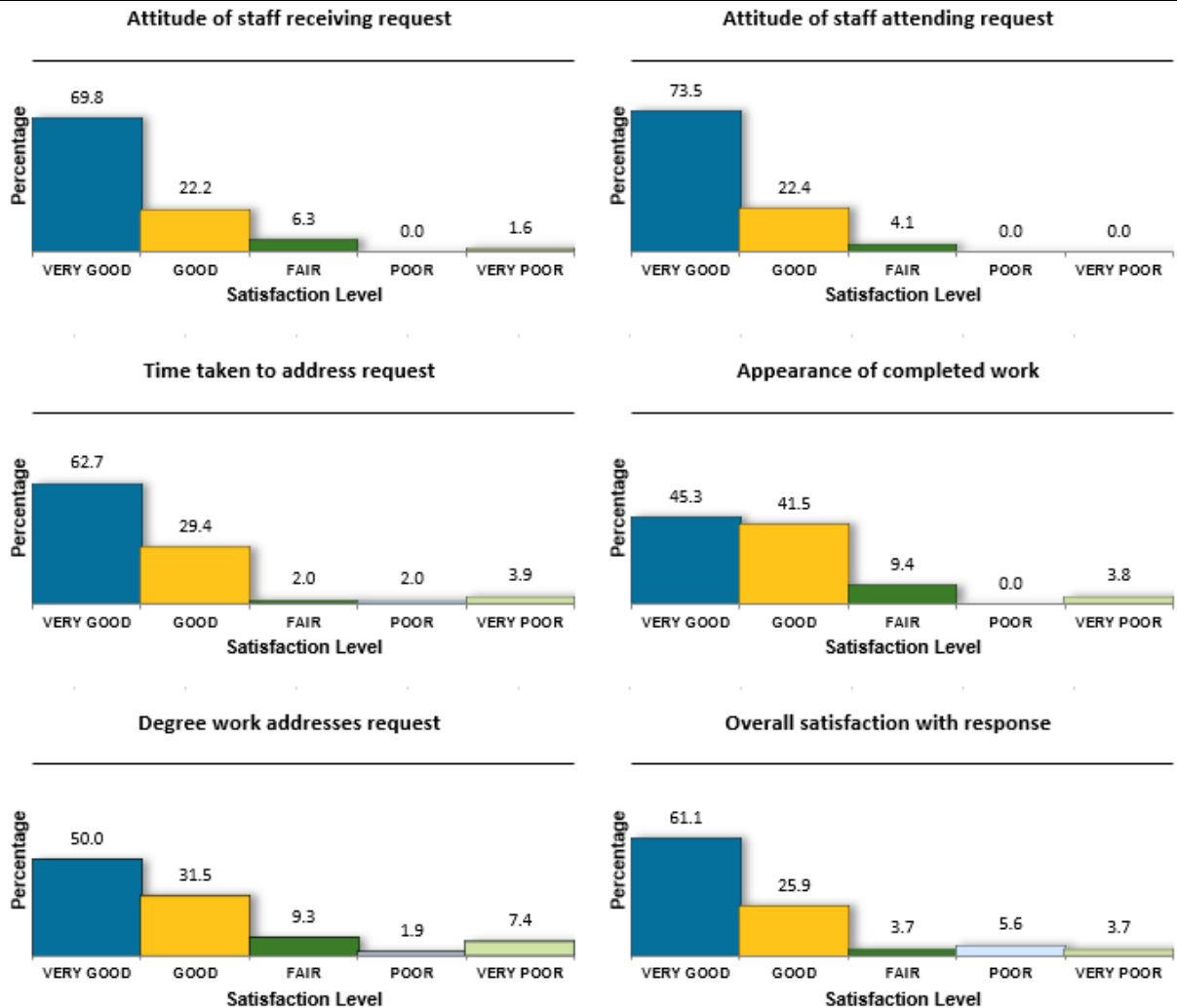
Natural Environment Projects		
Project	Status	Description / Update of Project
Staff Training	★	Staff attended training about marine plants and the permits required for works in areas in which they occur. A site visit and identification session were also held.
Promotional videos	★	Staff worked with the communications team to produce three videos on how to grow your own food using seed from fruit and vegetables from your fridge. These clips have been posted on MRC's Facebook page and have been very well received by the community.
Weed control trial	★	A trial is underway evaluate the effectiveness of different methods to control weeds. Methods include spraying and steam weeding.
Gordon White Library Garden project	★	Work has continued on the redevelopment of the Gordon White Library gardens, with planting being undertaken in the staff car park area at the back of the building. The gardens at the front of the site are looking great.
Trainees commencing	★	Three trainees joined the Natural Environment Team in March. Two trainees will work with the field crews and one will be working in the Mackay Natural Environment Centre and Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens nurseries.

Capital Works Projects		
Project	Status	Description / Update of Project
Minor Play	★	Replacement of items of equipment and components in playgrounds across the region is well advanced. Items completed in March included replacement of the sand play unit at Illuka Park playground and several play activities at James Muscat Drive playground. Currently works are in progress at Anzac Park to replace deteriorated components of the play combo and smaller spring toys. These works will complete the minor play program for this financial year.
Queens Park Revitalisation	★	<p>Queens Park Revitalisation is an \$8.86 million legacy upgrade project of Mackay's historic Queens Park and works are now underway as part of Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie recovery efforts.</p> <p>This revitalisation project will reinvigorate the park to reflect its iconic position in Mackay and turn it into a modern urban parkland. The project will involve 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 underway with the new toilet block and the iconic shelter footings and pad constructed. Irrigation is mostly complete. Landscaping has been prepared with new concrete garden edging ready to be poured and a few minor issues discussed and resolved. Roads are now sealed temporarily to protect them. Drainage work is well underway.</p>
Public Amenities Minor Repairs	★	The installation of an effluent disposal Enviro System at Koumala amenities has been completed. Installation of the unit also included construction of a fenced dispersion area. Works were completed and the amenities opened to the public on Friday, 27 March.
Botanic Gardens Footpath linking Alexandra Street to Meadowlands	★	Final preparation and design of the footpath has been completed. Construction is due to start in the first half of May. As all events held at the Meadowlands Amphitheatre have now been cancelled until 30 June there is no issue with future works clashing with event traffic.

Botanic Gardens Projects		
Project	Status	Description / Update of Project
Promotional videos		Staff worked on some videos for school holiday activities that families can do in their own gardens including making leaf shaped bowls.
Desilting trial project		<p>The desilting trial is in full swing with the aim 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 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>
School holiday activities		The decision was made to bring forward school holiday activities which are provided by the Botanic Gardens Visitor Services team. All group activities had to be cancelled due to the COVID-19 restrictions, but self-guided activities have proven to be popular. They include bird and butterfly counting and identification, finding the gnomes in the shade garden and a creatures of the gardens fun facts nature trail. All activity sheets are available through the Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens Website and at the front of the Visitor Centre.
Self-guided activities		More self-guided trails 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.

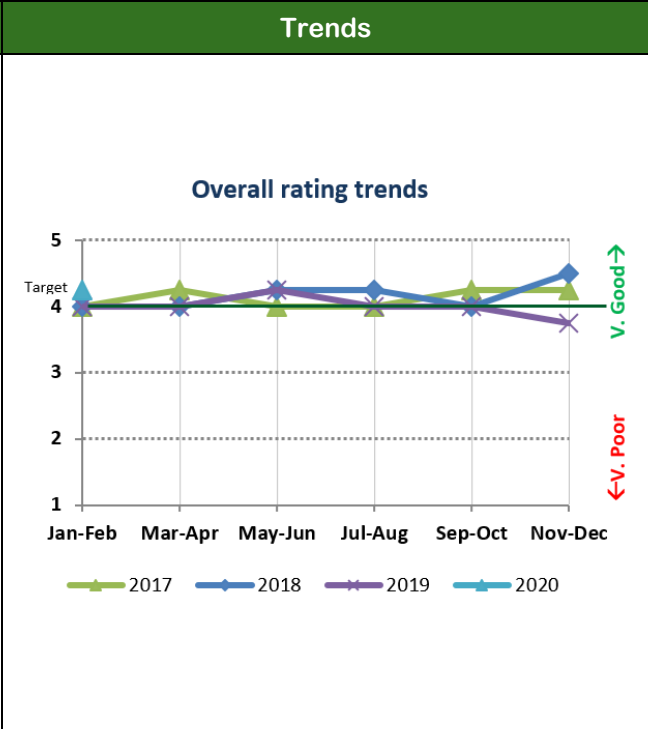
Requests for Maintenance Work

Results of Customer Survey (January / February 2020)



Representative Comments

- Switchboard employees always helpful and polite.
- I thank the Council very much for doing the work on the day I requested it. Thank you!!!
- The men were very polite and listened to my request in cutting the tree which is very important to me
- Terrific job!
- The work team was efficient and professional.
- Have just had mowing done, can't believe how good the work was.
- Have not received any feedback from council regarding why work wasn't carried out
- Supervisor explained what would be done to cut fallen tree and remove stump. They were as good as their word and left the site tidy and well marked for stump removal
- Outstanding work from maintenance crew. Excellent job. A huge thank you to maintenance crew who attended. It's a 10 out of 10. A big thank you to the crew.



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>Regional Events Strategy Economic Development will work 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 March with the consultant Luminair to discuss the 2020/21 implementation plan. Internal meetings have also commenced to discuss the roll out of the 5-year action plan including delivery timeframes, measures and targets, which will be completed in collaboration with key stakeholders in the events and tourism industry. Actions and timeframes are being reviewed as required in consideration to COVID-19 impacts.</p> <p>Invest Mackay Events and Conference Attraction Program AFLW Match Gold Coast Vs Geelong was held in the month of March. The Australian Sugar Milling Council 2020 Industry Safety Conference was cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions.</p> <p>Two new confidential events and conferences were approved through the program in March.</p> <p>COVID-19 Tourism Impacts Mackay Region Survey Economic Development, in partnership with Mackay Tourism, has drafted 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. The survey will commence in early April and results will be shared with Mackay Region Emergency Management Economic Response Group.</p> <p>National Economic Development Conference 2021 Economic Development in collaboration with the MECC has submitted a bid proposal to host the National Economic Development Conference in Mackay in 2021.</p> <p>The three-day conference attracts 200 – 250 delegates yearly and offers a unique opportunity to position our region as a leader in economic development and drive the discussion regarding jobs, growth, investment, industry development and regional competitiveness. A decision from the Economic Development Australia board is expected in May 2020.</p>
Identify new tourism experiences and business opportunities in conjunction with Mackay Tourism Ltd and existing tourism providers.	★	<p>Camping Analysis 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>Recreational Fishing 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</p>





	<p>page have been altered to including social distancing rules and 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>
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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.

Business Priority	Status	Update of Project
<p>Maintain strong partnerships through communication networks with key industry and regional development stakeholders</p>	<p>●</p>	<p>Queensland Mining and Engineering Exhibition (QME) REED Exhibitions has rescheduled QME to 22-24 September 2020, due to restrictions introduced for 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.</p>
<p>Identify and support delivery of industry sector priorities</p>	<p>●</p>	<p>Resource Centre of Excellence 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>Economic Development Strategy 2020-2025 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 to COVID-19 impacts.</p> <p>Greater Whitsunday Food Network Economic Development is assisting the Network in the delivery of the Regional Agritourism Development Project. The GWFN has appointed a Project Officer to coordinate and deliver the identified initiatives, with Economic Development providing ongoing support throughout the project.</p> <p>Digital Infrastructure Study Greater Whitsunday Alliance (GW3) appointed Aurecon to conduct a Digital Infrastructure Study in the Mackay, Isaac and Whitsunday region. The report has been finalised and distributed to steering committee members. It is anticipated the document will be available to interested parties in April.</p>
<p>Support industry sectors to access international markets in accordance with industry sector profile priorities.</p>	<p>●</p>	<p>MIW METS Export Hub 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. Economic Development provided support to the Expomin 2020 Project which included a series of four Export Ready workshops with local businesses during February and March, webinars, and trade mission to Expomin 2020 in Santiago. Although the workshops were conducted, unfortunately the webinars and trade mission have been postponed due to COVID-19 restrictions.</p> <p>Study Greater Whitsunday Study Greater Whitsunday members held a strategic planning workshop on 4 March, facilitated by Study Queensland. The workshop identified three areas for further development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mining related training (ie. based around Resources Centre of Excellence) • Tourism/EduTourism/Hospitality

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bowen-Gumlu Agri Sharing Project Extension <p>These projects will be progressed by individual working groups.</p>
COVID-19 Response and Recovery		<p>Economic Response Group Economic Development, along with Greater Whitsunday Alliance, Regional Development Australia, Mackay Chamber of Commerce, Mackay Tourism, and Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning, is a participant on the Mackay Region's Emergency Management Economic Response Group. Key actions from the team during March included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Circulation of State and Federal Government business support assistance to key stakeholders • Preparation of survey material for tourism operators, accommodation providers and event organisers • Coordination of REMPLAN regional impact survey across Mackay, Isaac and Whitsunday networks. • Review of Mackay Region Joblink platform to respond local employment impacts due to COVID-19.

Investment Attraction and Growth		
To attract new businesses, facilitate investment and support existing businesses to realise growth opportunities		
Business Priority	Status	Update of Project
Support and facilitate investment in emerging industries and opportunities for diversification	★	<p>Split Spaces Mackay Economic Development provided funding support to MackHack 2020 which was held on 6-8 March 2020. MackHack is an annual event where participants unite to solve mining and METS industry challenges over one weekend. Thirty-eight attendees participated in the event, including representation from peak mining bodies.</p> <p>Economic Development has provided funding support to the Startup Onramp Preaccelerator Program which will be delivered online from 24 March.</p>
Support business growth and investment opportunities through the implementation of strategies such as the Mountain Bike Strategy, Recreational Fishing Strategy and Recreational Vehicle attraction.	★	<p>Mountain Bike Strategy Eungella-Finch Hatton Mountain Bike Trail Town Feasibility Study is nearing completion with minor modifications required to identified trials. Economic Development anticipate the final study to be available in April. Discussions with authorities and land owners are being progressed.</p> <p>The next meeting of the Regional Mountain Bike Alliance will be organised once the new Council is in place.</p>
Proactive targeting and attracting business to the Mackay region.	★	<p>Facilitating Development in Mackay Region Policy An overview of current applications under the Policy is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Six Expression of Interest (EOI) applications are currently under assessment. All EOIs are on-hold until their development applications have progressed. • Seven applications have progressed through the EOI assessment stage; however, Stage 2 applications have not yet been submitted. • Two Stage 2 applications are currently under assessment.
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.

Liveability 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>Activate My Place (AMP) Program Round 2 of the AMP Program was officially launched in late February and will close on 13 April 2020. To date, two applications have been submitted with four other applications in progress in the Smarty Grants application system.</p> <p>The applications will be considered by the new Council in May 2020.</p> <p>Mackay Pride Façade Improvement Scheme Expressions of interest opened on 11 July 2019 and are currently being assessed as received. Four applications have been funded in 19/20, with two applications approved with works to be completed. Economic Development is assisting a further 3 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, with amendments supported by Council for implementation. Economic Development is delaying the relaunch of the new schemes due to impacts of COVID-19.</p>
Activate Mackay City Centre		<p>COVID-19 Response and Recovery During March, 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>Preliminary work was completed to develop a questionnaire to record how the changes have disrupted business operations and adjusted trading conditions as a result. It is envisaged that the questionnaire will be delivered via phone with staff contacting businesses individually to check in, gather data of how businesses are now operating, ensure businesses are aware of the available government support stimulus and collect relevant contact information for future use and further economic recovery work.</p> <p>Organisers of City Centre supported events were also contacted to discuss options. The Italian Street Party has been postponed to 2021. Organisers of the Mackay Scottish Bluewater Fling have not yet decided if their event will continue as planned in July or will be postponed to a future date.</p>
Promote the Mackay Region		<p>Gold Coast Suns AFLW Match Economic Development and Corporate Communications and Marketing worked closely with Gold Coast Suns and Harrup Park to deliver Mackay's first-ever AFLW Premiership Season match on 6 March 2020. Gold Coast Suns played the Geelong Cats at the Great Barrier Reef Arena. It was Gold Coast Suns' first prime-time Friday night match in the 2020 AFLW calendar and was broadcast on Fox Footy and Seven Mate. Over 2,800 people attended the free event to watch the match, and cheer on the two locals Lauren Bella and Emma Pittman who are in the Gold Coast Suns team.</p> <p>In addition to the broadcast game, the schedule of activities included a corporate tour of Mackay by Club Partners and Sponsors, as well as the International Women's Day lunch featuring GC Suns CEO as guest speaker.</p>
Support for tertiary education		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.
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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	*	Councillor Karen May and Sarah Parrott, Acting Sarina Sugar Shed Coordinator. attended the QANTAS Australian Tourism Awards on 6 March in Canberra. The Sarina Sugar Shed won Silver in the Excellence in Food Tourism category for the 2nd year in a row.			
		The Sarina Sugar Shed facility was closed to the public in March due to COVID-19 restrictions, however staff are completing the annual shutdown maintenance and are still receiving phone and email orders for alcohol and gift shop products with free delivery available.			
Business Operations (excluding accruals)		Item	March	YTD	Annual Target
	*	Tour Visitation (Paid)	212	7282	10,000
		Visitation (Total)	258	9074	-
		Volunteer Hours	186.9	2357.5	-
		Item	March	YTD	Annual Budget
	*	Ticket Sales	\$4,224	\$125,614	\$180,000
	*	Retail Sales	\$11,118	\$267,310	\$303,000
	*	Total Income (incl. Ticket income)	\$16,787	\$397,789	\$487,000
	*	Total Expenses	\$49,101	\$540,640	\$844,872

Economic Indicators (Quarterly)

Indicator	Dec 17	Mar 18	Jun 18	Sep 18	Dec 18	Mar 19	Jun 19	Sep 19
Employment								
Unemployment rate	5%	4.3%	3.8%	3.7%	3.9%	4.4%	5.8%	6.3%
Employed persons	64,288	65,359	65,790	66,678	65,291	62,527	56,751	56,122
Real Estate								
Median house sale	\$330,000	\$340,000	\$342,000	\$340,000	\$343,000	\$330,000	\$340,000	\$345,000
Res vacancy rate	3%	3.6%	1.9%	0.9%	1.7%	2.9%	1.5%	1.7%
Residential Lot Supply								
Lots Approved	51	27	128	433	297	287	275	126
Lots Endorsed	27	46	74	125	52	45	83	27

**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.*

e-Statistics

Subscribers	Oct 19	Nov 19	Dec 19	Jan 20	Feb 20	Mar 20
City Centre Business Network	1,026	1,026	1,023	1,023	1,040	1,040
City Centre Facebook Likes	6,382	6,388	6,400	6,397	6,399	6,405
City Centre Instagram Followers	1,356	1,364	1,366	1,367	1,375	1,375
City Centre Wi-Fi Sessions	994 users	874 users	812 users	851 users	790 users	718 users
	11,063 sessions	10,266 sessions	8,682 sessions	9,880 sessions	8,713 sessions	6,360 sessions
Invested in Mackay Subscribers	500	512	512	531	539	545
City Centre Community	4,327	4,327	4,304	4,304	4,208	4,208
Mackay Region Joblink Analytic Report	632 users	634 users	583 users	587 users	651 users	657 users
	Not available	Not available	2,043 views	3,004 views	3,940 views	3,052 views
Sarina Field of Dreams Usage Wi-Fi	92 users	65 users	56 users	47 users	55 users	47 users
	579 sessions	394 sessions	253 sessions	306 sessions	279 sessions	259 sessions
Hooked on Mackay Facebook	2,096	2,796	3,074	3,197	3,203	3,305
Net Free Zone Voluntary Code	527	527	537	537	538	542

UPCOMING EVENTS

Date	Event	Location
17 & 18 April, 26 & 27 June, 21 & 22 August, 16 & 17 October	Free native plant giveaway <i>(April events postponed)</i>	MNEC
1-3 May 2020	2020 Rotary District 9550/9750 "Emerge" Conference – Invest Mackay Funded <i>Postponed due to COVID-19 for 2020 and moved to 2022.</i>	MECC
1-4 May 2020	2020 Great Barrier Reef Arena Bash for Cash – Invest Mackay Funded <i>Postponed due to COVID-19. New date not known yet.</i>	Great Barrier Reef Arena, Harrup Park
7-10 May 2020	2020 School Sports QLD AFL Championships (boys and girls 13-15 year old) – Invest Mackay Funded <i>Postponed due to COVID-19. Likely to reschedule for May 2021.</i>	Great Barrier Reef Arena, Harrup Park
9 May 2020	Zach Mach Adventure Challenge – Invest Mackay Funded <i>Postponed due to COVID-19. New date not known yet.</i>	Pinnacle
15-17 May 2020	2020 Fox Superflow Seal by Stan Series (Mountain Bike Event) – Invest Mackay Funded <i>Postponed due to COVID-19. New date not known yet.</i>	Rowallan Park, Farleigh
23 May 2020	Mackay Italian Street Party- Sponsored by MCC <i>Cancelled due to COVID-19 for 2020.</i>	Mackay City Centre
26-29 May 2020	2020 Association of School Business Administrators Queensland (ASBAQ) Conference – Invest Mackay Funded <i>Postponed due to COVID-19. New date not known yet.</i>	MECC
30 May 2020	Botanic Gardens Open Day and Botanic Endeavour 250 Celebrations <i>Postponed due to COVID-19. New date not known yet.</i>	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 - Invest Mackay Funded <i>Cancelled due to COVID-19 for 2020.</i>	Mackay Marina
11-12 July 2020	MAD Mountain Bike Mackay Cup – Invest Mackay Funded	Rowallan Park, Farleigh
25 July 2020	Mackay Scottish Bluewater Fling – Sponsored by MCC	Bluewater Quay
1-2 August 2020	2020 Rowing Qld North Qld Schools Championship Regatta – Invest Mackay Funded	Mackay Rowing Club
28-29 August 2020	NQ Rock'N Country – Invest Mackay Funded	Mackay Showgrounds
8-11 September 2020	2020 Bowen Basin Symposium – Invest Mackay Funded	MECC
13 September 2020	Motorcycle Beach Races at Grasstree Beach – Invest Mackay Funded	Grasstree Beach