



Development Services

Annual Review

2017 / 2018

Executive Summary

The 2017 / 2018 year was a strong year for the local economy and the Development Services directorate. The following annual review details high level performance and highlights for the year.



Gerard Carlyon
 Director Development Services

STRATEGIC PLANNING



MACKAY WATERFRONT PRIORITY DEVELOPMENT AREA (PDA)

The Mackay Waterfront Priority Development Area was declared by the Minister for Economic Development Queensland and became effective by regulation on 25 May 2018. The area encompasses the Mackay waterfront areas of the Pioneer River and Binnington Esplanade. The PDA consists of five precincts: Mackay City Centre, Riverside, Enterprise, Queens Park and Beachside, each with its own unique character and offerings.

MACKAY FLOOD AND STORMWATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

The first year of implementation of the flood and stormwater management strategy is complete. This has included flood studies in North Mackay and Paget, rectification of levee assets identified at risk of imminent failure, an asset management plan for stormwater infrastructure (pipes and open channels), ongoing condition assessment of the stormwater network and investigation into options for the Ron Camm Bridge training wall.



Major flooding in Mackay during February, 2018.

SARINA TOWN CENTRE REVITALISATION PROJECT

Council is preparing an ambitious proposal to revitalise Broad Street in Sarina, ready to seek external funding.

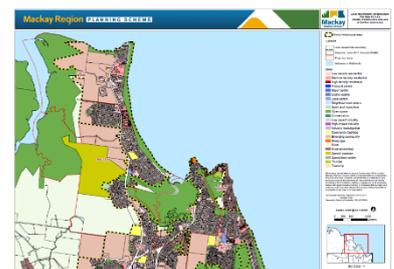


The strategy is underpinned by rigorous technical analysis and a stakeholder-led planning and design approach that uncovered the challenges facing the town. Consultation occurred through many activities at public events in 2017. The activities resulted in 278 comments, 595 views and social media attention. The results showed overwhelming support for the project.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN (LGIP)

The Local Government Infrastructure Plan was adopted by Council on 27 June 2018 and commenced as part of the Mackay Region Planning Scheme (version 2) on 1 July 2018.

The LGIP identifies the council planned infrastructure required to support the land use vision in the planning scheme based on the assumed growth across the region to the year 2031. A new Infrastructure Charges Resolution was also adopted as part of implementing the LGIP.



PARKS, ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY

MANSFIELD DRIVE PARK

This project delivered a new covered playground as well as full-sized multi-sports courts for older children living in Beaconsfield. In addition to pathways, which have become a popular riding circuit, a covered seating area was also provided and complemented by a range of amenities including drinking fountains, bins and bicycle racks.



QUEENS PARK

Funding was secured to replace and significantly expand the playground facilities in the park and develop 'family friendly' facilities which included access to barbecue facilities. The design caters to all age groups and features aerial sky-towers with a choice of slides set amongst the canopies of the park's historic arboretum.

NORTH STREET PARK

Stage 1 of the reserve's transformation was funded through the program and enabled council to upgrade Goodes Lookout and give a much-needed facelift to the cricket oval. Improvements included construction of new pathways, treatments to the North Street intersection and a new visitor carpark, visible from Mackay-Eungella Road. Additional picnic facilities and landscaping completed the works.



LAMBERTS BEACH LOOKOUT

Completion of the much-awaited Lamberts Beach Lookout with its landmark whale watching pavilion.

The success of this site attracting visitors to Slade Point prompted the potential development of a scenic lookout trail for the region. Plans to formalise the existing 'goat track' and develop a board walk linking through to the water tower are also at concept stage.

MIRANI RAILWAY PARK PLAYGROUND

This project replaced the aged play equipment and developed a new play space for local children in Mirani. This new attraction, which is double the size of the original play area, offers a covered small children's area as well as more challenging equipment for the older kids as well as variety of swings which are always popular. In addition to ensuring the safety of children by fully-fencing the play area, opportunity was taken to better integrate the playground with the park's existing picnic facilities.



SHELLGRIT CREEK ENVIRONMENTAL RESERVE

A new environmental reserve at Shellgrit Creek was launched in April 2018. The reserve contains a diverse range of regional ecosystems and is home to many species of flora and fauna. Visitors can now experience a low-impact nature trail, learn about the area through interpretive signage and view migratory shorebirds at the high-tide roost site from October to April each year. Weed mapping has been undertaken and a program to control the major priority weeds is underway. This is a great place to find out about the region's flora and fauna and is already proving popular with bird watchers, walkers and photographers.



VIEWING PLATFORMS AT BLACKS BEACH

Two new viewing platforms have been created at Blacks Beach, A new set of stairs has also been built at the Pitt Street beach access. These projects have helped improve accessibility at Blacks Beach and provide focal points for appreciating our coastal environment and coastal vegetation. Interpretive signage provides information on marine turtles and other significant species in our region.



PORTERS ROAD FISHWAY

Detailed design and construction of the Porters Road fishway was completed. Fishways allow connectivity for various fish species that need to move upstream for spawning, migration or recruitment purposes. Commercially and recreationally important fish species such as barramundi, mangrove jack and sea mullet are examples of fish that utilise fishways to facilitate these parts of their lifecycle.

GOOSEPONDS AERATION PROJECT

Council has recently installed a series of fountains and aeration devices at the most upstream pool of the Gooseponds. This project has been trialled to mitigate against future low-oxygen induced fish kills which have previously occurred almost on an annual basis. Three fountains will displace water above the waterline, adding to oxygen enhancement and amenity for those driving or walking past the area. This project was funded by council's Voluntary Mechanism for Stormwater Quality Management.



CAMILLERI STREET DISTRICT PARK – MASTERPLAN

Planning for the upgrade of Camilleri Street District Park was finalised. This project provided the opportunity for council to engage with the local community and set a collective vision for the site's upgrade. In addition to planning for the development of a new skate and youth hub, fully-fenced dog park, playground improvements and other family-friendly features, conservation of the site's natural gully and remnant vegetation featured in the plan. Detailed design for stage 1 has commenced with construction anticipated to be completed during 2018/19.

MACKAY REGIONAL BOTANIC GARDENS OPERATIONS CENTRE AND NURSERY

The operations centre and nursery construction is now complete. The operations centre is the new home for the Botanic Gardens horticultural team and the nursery is set for propagation, seed storage and herbarium works to begin imminently.



MACKAY REGIONAL BOTANIC GARDENS – FOYER UPGRADE

The administration building of the Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens saw a foyer renovation creating a far more welcoming and informative area for visitors to enjoy.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

INVEST MACKAY EVENTS AND CONFERENCE ATTRACTION PROGRAM

Major events and conferences play a vital role in attracting visitors to Mackay and stimulating the local economy. Events and conferences support the regions tourism industry by boosting tourist numbers and by creating fantastic opportunities for local operators such as hotels, restaurants and retailers.

Major events and conferences supported by the program include:

- Women's Big Bash League
- Basketball Australia National Women's (Opals) Pre-Commonwealth Games Camp
- NEAFL Match
- Brisbane Roar Vs Magpies Crusaders
- Elton John 'Once in a Lifetime' Concert
- Australian Wagyu Association National Conference
- Upcoming Etnies Rumble on the Reef



SARINA FIELD OF DREAMS PARKLANDS AND MACKAY REGION VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE

The past 12 months has seen a transformation of the Sarina Field of Dreams Parklands and Sarina Railway Station to become a premier tourist destination for the Mackay region. With \$1.3 million in funding from the Queensland Government's Significant Regional Infrastructure Partnerships Program (SRIPP) and funding from Mackay Regional Council, a total of \$3.5million has been invested into the tourist precinct.

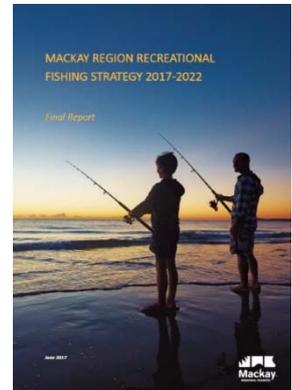
STRATEGIES FOR GROWTH AND DIVERSIFICATION

A proactive approach has been undertaken this financial year with regards to identifying the Mackay region's opportunities in the tourism sector.

The Economic Development program has been responsible for the delivery of three strategies, each with a focus on delivering increased economic benefits for through growth in tourism.

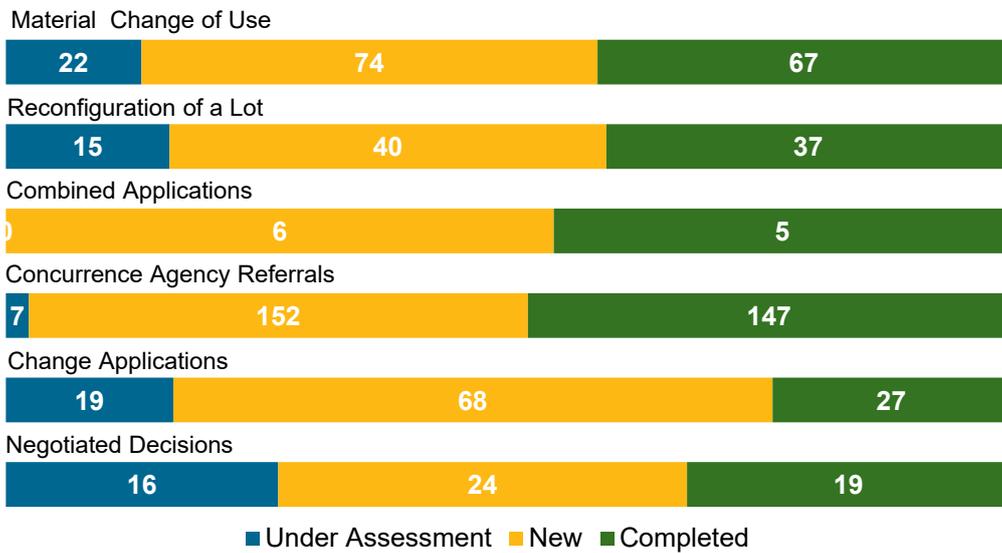
These three strategies include the Mackay Region Recreational Fishing Strategy, the Mackay Region Mountain Bike Strategy and the RV Regulatory Review.

Each Strategy will be delivered over the coming years in accordance with available funding and their recommended implementation plans.



DEVELOPMENT ASSESSMENT

Volume of Operations



BREEZES RESIDENTIAL CARE FACILITY

An application for a residential care facility was approved on a vacant portion of Breezes Retirement Village on Beaconsfield Road in June 2018. The new facility will provide 72 higher care rooms for residents.

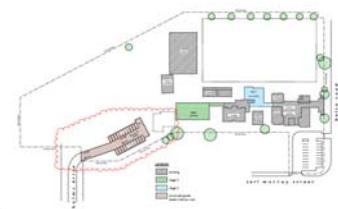


WHITSUNDAY AIRPARK

An application for an airstrip to be used by residents of 70 rural lots was approved by Council in May 2018.

CARLISLE ADVENTIST COLLEGE – STAGE 2 & 3

An application for stages 2 and 3 of the Carlisle Adventist College was approved by Council in August 2017. The stages include two new classroom buildings and a carparking area for staff, accessed from Holmes Drive.

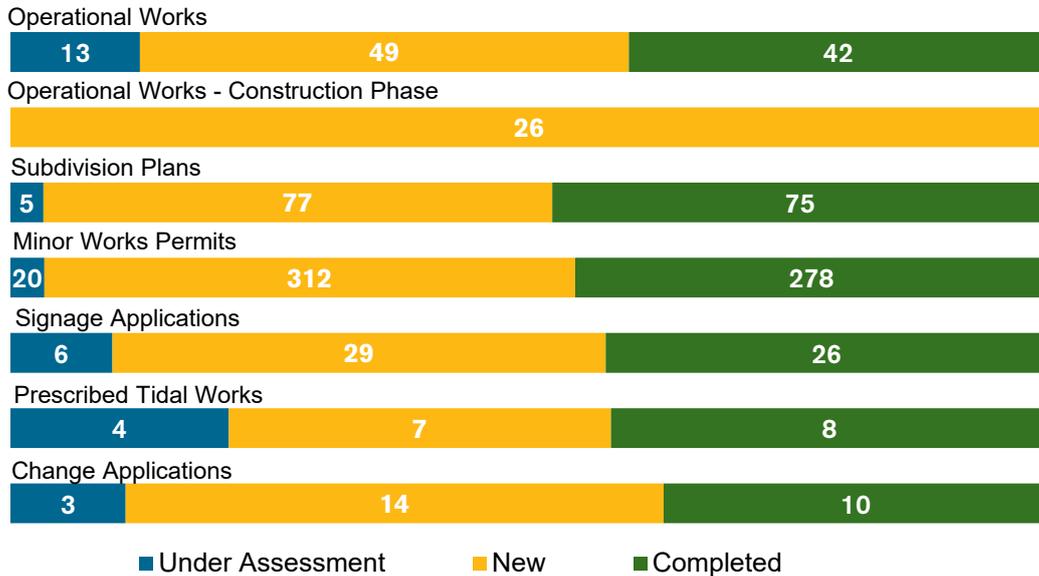


STOCKROUTE ROAD TRANSIT CENTRE

Council approved an application for the construction of a Service Station, Catering Shop and Tourist Facility in August 2017. The development is intended to cater for heavy vehicles (including B-Doubles) and will be accessed off a new eastern leg of the existing Bruce Highway/Stockroute Road roundabout.

DEVELOPMENT ENGINEERING

Volume of Operations



BEACONSFIELD HEIGHTS TRUNK DRAINAGE STAGE 1

An approval for operational works for Stage 1 of trunk drainage system was granted. The works includes earthworks to realign and upgrade an open channel, maintaining the floodplain, upgrading inlet/outlet works of existing culverts and landscaping of the open space.



SOLAR POWER STATION

This operational works application was approved for a solar power station on 1.8ha lot at 53-63 Crichtons Road, Paget.



OZCARE FLOOD MITIGATION WORKS

This operational works application involves flood mitigation and stormwater management works for the Ozcare building site. The development is on a floodplain of the Pioneer River and surrounded by residential development to the east and south and a railway embankment to the west.



KERRISDALE ESTATE STAGES 3 & 4

This operational works approval involves bulk earthworks for Kerrisdale Estate Stages 3 & 4 and the associated road infrastructures.