



Development Services

Monthly Review Report

June 2020

Executive Summary

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

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

- The first meeting of the Mackay Waterfront Priority Development Area Advisory Committee (PDAAC) in the new term of Council was held on 15 June. At the meeting, the preliminary designs for the Riverside precinct were well received by PDAAC members.
- Preparation of Major Amendment 2 to the planning scheme is well underway, with officers continuing to review and develop proposed amendments related to the workability of the scheme, zoning changes and miscellaneous amendments that have been identified since the commencement of the planning scheme.
- The Gordon White Library garden redevelopment project has been completed. The garden was designed and planted by a number of teams within the Parks, Environment and Sustainability program and showcases a garden comprised of native plants.
- The first Free Plant Giveaway since COVID-19 was held on 25-27 June. The Giveaway was again very successful, with increased requests for bush food and edible native plants.
- The renewal of play equipment at Northview Park was completed in June. The project involved replacing the large tower structures, small children's combo, spring toys and carousel. The existing shade structure was also replaced. The new equipment has proved very popular since the works were completed.
- Council's Economic Development and Tourism program coordinated the preparation of a detailed submission to the State Government's Inquiry into the Queensland Government's economic response to COVID-19. Isaac Regional Council, Whitsunday Regional Council, the Resource Industry Network and GW3 also made submissions, ensuring a high level of representation of the Mackay-Isaac-Whitsunday Region and the economic impacts experienced during COVID-19.



Aletta Nugent
Director Development Services



The launch of the #buymackay Campaign held on 8 June in Mackay City Centre. The campaign is being lead by Mackay Region Chamber of Commerce, with support from GW3 and Mackay Regional Council.

Development News 06/2020

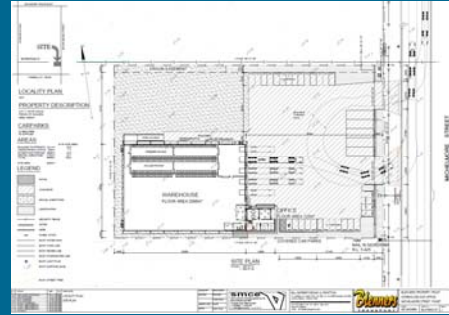
Updates on Significant Developments Currently Being Assessed by Council

APPLICATION LODGED

DA-2020-74

80-86 Micheltmore Street PAGET

The application proposes the establishment of a new industrial warehouse that will be used by Blenners Transport as their Mackay depot. The warehouse will contain chilled and frozen products for distribution.



APPLICATION LODGED

OW-2020-12

Norwood Parade BEACONSFIELD

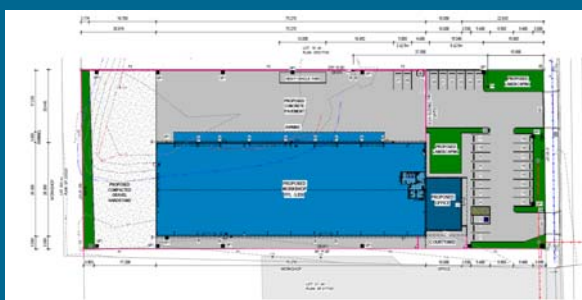
Proposed works to include roadworks, stormwater, water and sewerage infrastructure, drainage work, earthworks, landscaping and signage.

APPLICATION APPROVED

DA-2020-15

108 Olletts Road HABANA

This approval granted a development permit for the creation of 13 Rural Residential lots which form Stages 2 & 3 of Bayview Estate.



APPLICATION APPROVED

OW-2020-1

44 Gateway Drive PAGET

Approved works to include landscaping and internal works for stormwater (quantity and quality), sewerage, water supply, access, car parking and landscaping.



Monthly Safety Review

Summary

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

The following injuries to MRC employees were reported in June:

- Elbow bruising after hitting a wall whilst trimming trees.
- Small burn on finger after it came into contact with whipper snipper exhaust whilst snipper was being loaded into vehicle tray.
- Ankle strain after falling whilst stepping off path.
- Neck pain whilst starting whipper snipper.
- Lower back pain following mowing over rough and uneven ground.
- Ankle strain after stepping into small hole on uneven ground.
- Insect became stuck in eye.
- Suspected spider bite on neck.
- Ankle pain whilst stepping onto mower. Aggravation of pre-existing injury.

The following near miss incident was reported in June:

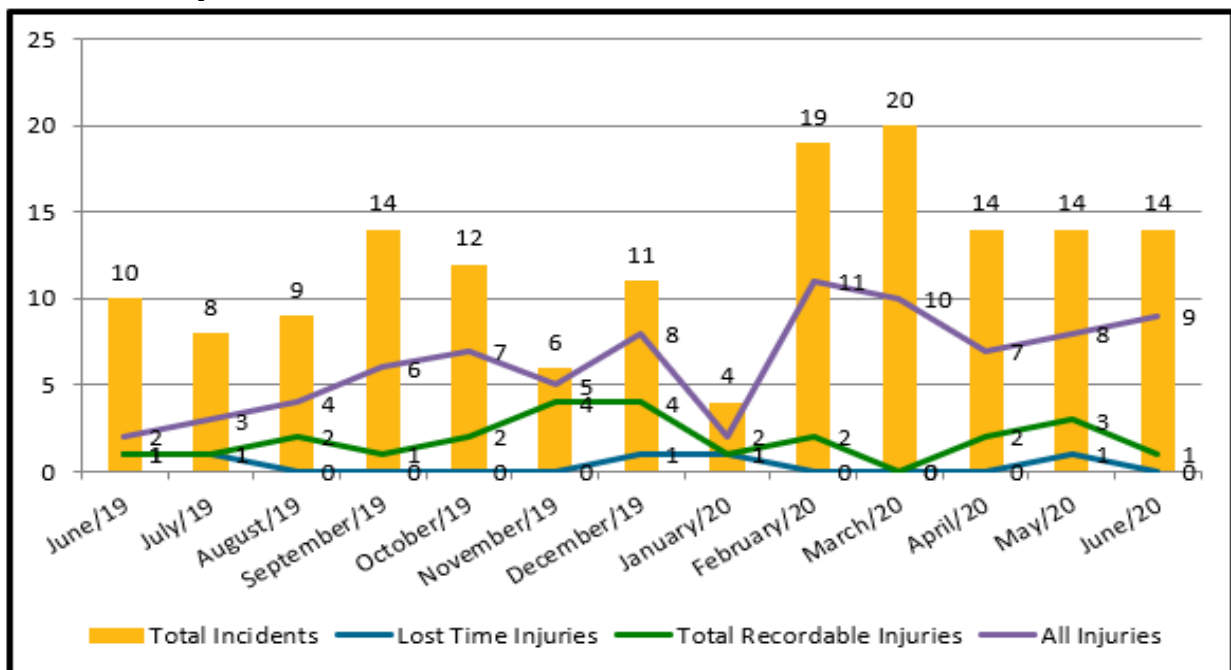
- Herbicide leaked from the top of a spray pack onto pant leg.

The following asset damage incidents were reported in June:

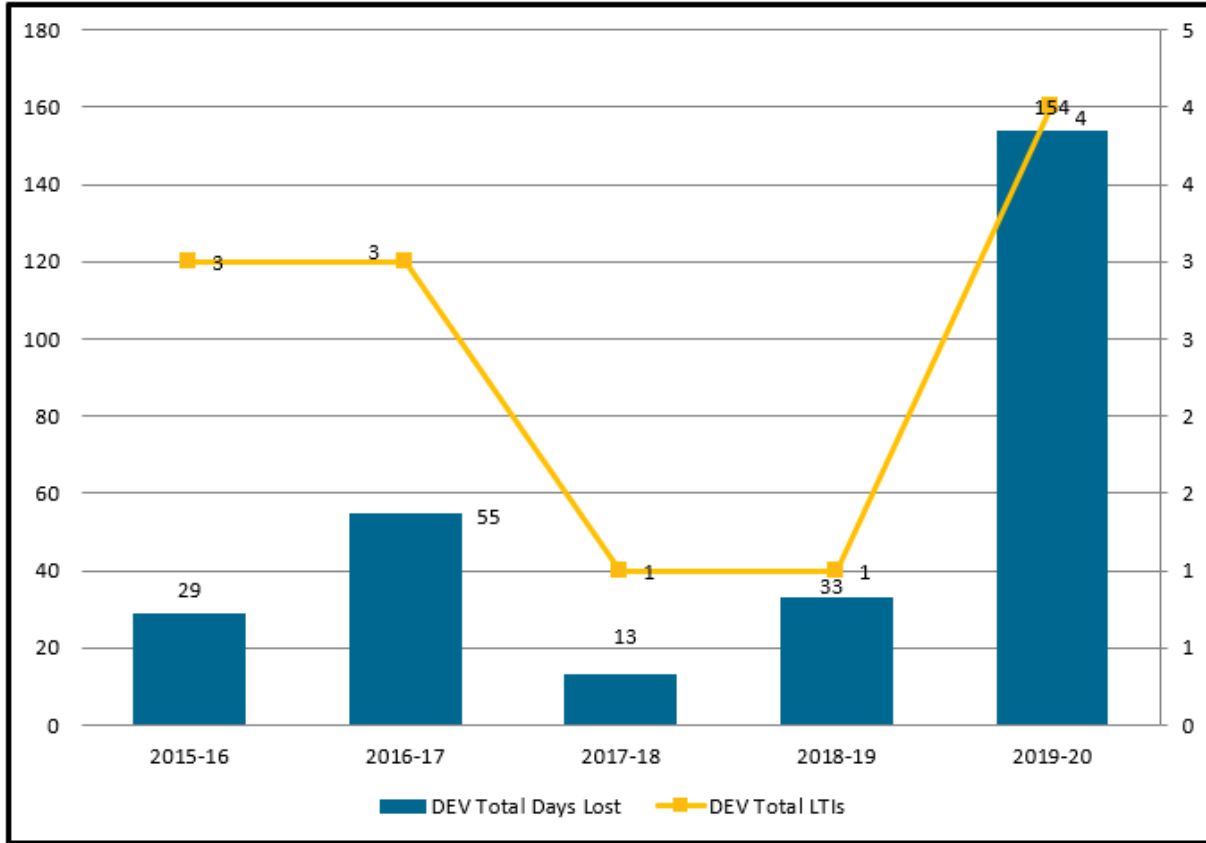
- While recovering a stuck mower, hit and knocked over a surveyor post unseen in long grass.
- Whilst being removed, a tree branch swung down and struck a fence, damaging a railing.
- An unknown object was thrown from mower deck, hitting and damaging the mower door.
- A truck was driven a small distance between job sites with trailer ramp down. The driver noticed, stopped, and raised ramp.

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

Incidents and Injuries



Lost Time Injuries & Days Lost



For the 2019-20 year, four 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. Eighty-two 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.
- Whilst walking over an uneven surface in the field an employee slipped and suffered an ankle sprain. Three days were lost as the worker recovered.

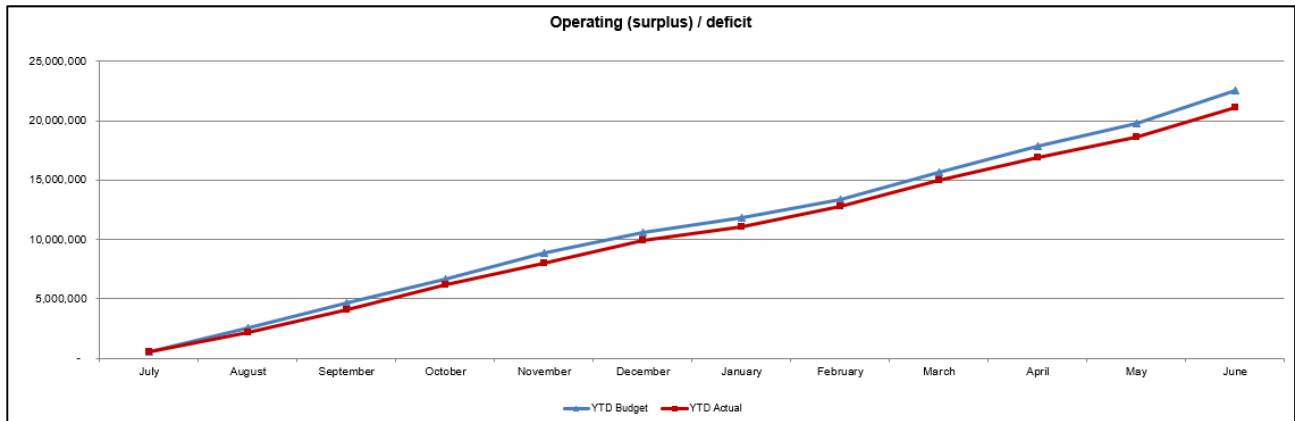
Department	2015-16		2016-17		2017-18		2018-19		2019-20	
	LTI	Days Lost	LTI	Days Lost	LTI	Days Lost	LTI	Days Lost	LTI	Days Lost
Development Engineering										
Development Assessment										
Parks, Environment & Sustainability	3	29	3	55	1	13	1	33	4	154
Strategic Planning										
Economic Development & Tourism										
Development Services	3	29	3	55	1	13	1	33	4	154

Financial Report

At the end of June 2020 the Development Services budget was in surplus, as a result of cuts to expenditure and overtime and a halt on recruiting a number of vacant positions to reduce costs in response to COVID-19. Revenue generated through applications received by the Development Assessment and Development Engineering Programs continued to track above budget projections, and this added to the Department's surplus at the end of the financial year.

Operating Results	YTD budget	YTD actual	Variance	Status
Development Services Management	433,996	414,569	(19,427)	🌿
Strategic Planning	2,108,503	2,040,103	(68,400)	🌿
Development Assessment	109,176	52,947	(56,229)	🌿
Development Engineering	33,071	(297,534)	(330,605)	🌿
Economic Development & Tourism	2,454,856	1,967,227	(487,628)	🌿
Parks, Environment & Sustainability	17,440,233	16,962,647	(477,586)	🌿
TOTAL OPERATIONAL	433,996	414,569	(19,427)	🌿
Legend	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🌿 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

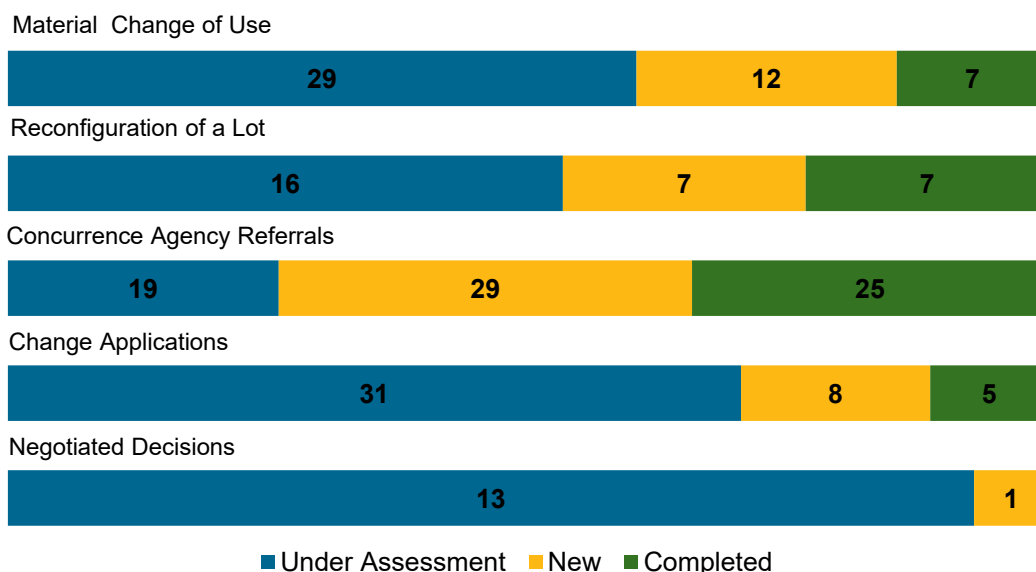


Review of Operations

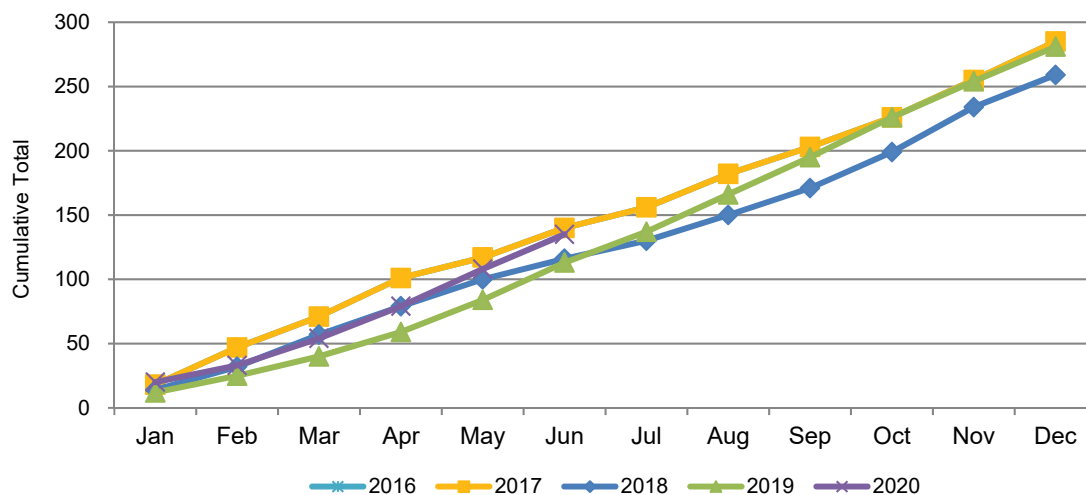
- On Track
- Potential Issue
- Definite Issue

DEVELOPMENT ASSESSMENT

Volume of Operations



Cumulative Number of Approved Development Assessment Applications

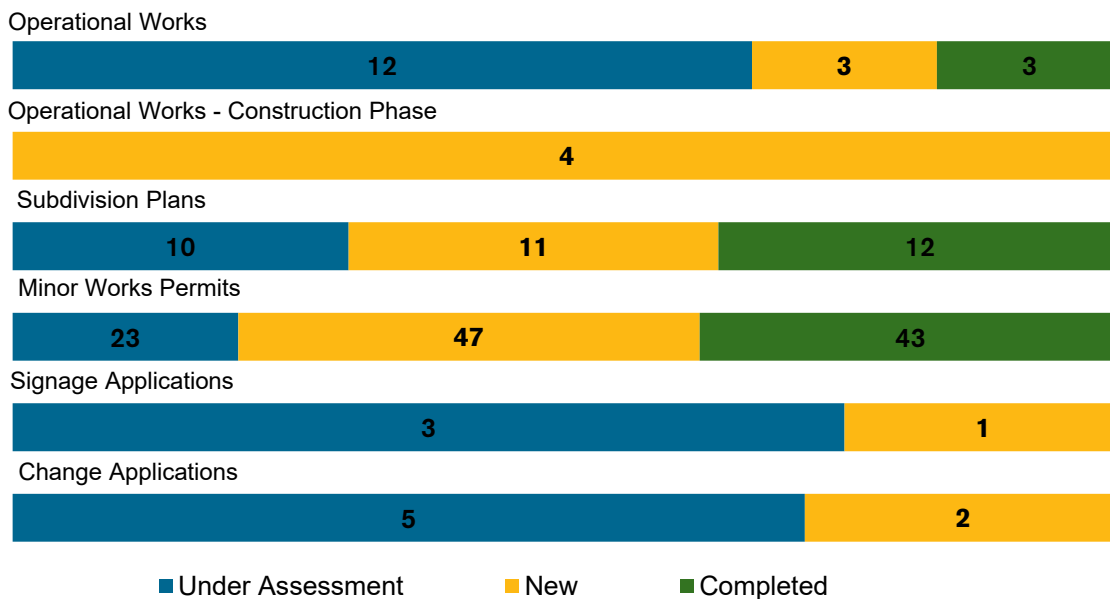


Development Assessment Performance Against Legislative Timeframes

Application	Status	% Decided
MCU Code (85% in 35 Days)	●	100% decided in 35 days.
MCU Impact (50% in 35 Days)	●	There were no Impact Assessable applications decided in June.
ROL (85% in 35 Days)	●	85% decided in 35 days.
Concurrence Agency (85% in 10 Days)	●	96% decided in 10 days.

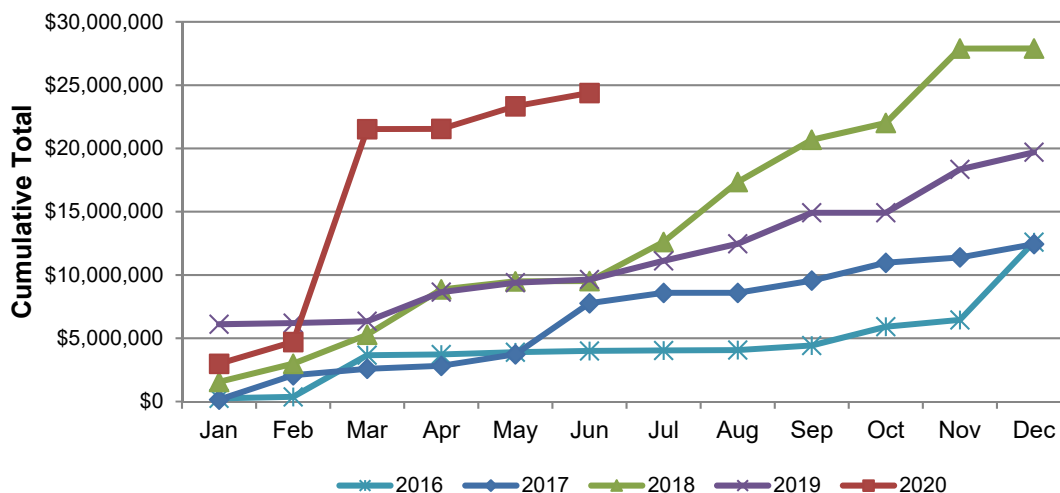
DEVELOPMENT ENGINEERING

Volume of Operations



Cumulative Value of Approved Operational Works

Three Operational Works applications were approved in June with a total value of works of \$1,051,795.00.



Development Engineering Performance Against Legislative Timeframes

Application	Status	% Decided
Minor Works (85% in <20 Days)	🟢	91% 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>A longer-term study on 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 investigation precincts are being finalised in 2020.</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.</p>
Mackay Region Planning Scheme - Amendments	*	<p>Minor amendment 4 will include two flood studies adopted by Council in February 2020 (Sandy Creek Catchment Flood Study and the Rocky Dam Creek Catchment Flood Study) to the Flood and Coastal hazards overlay map of the planning scheme and improve references to planning scheme policies.</p> <p>Letters will be sent to affected landowners in the study areas to inform them of the planning overlay change in due course.</p> <p>Preparation of Major Amendment 2 to the planning scheme is underway. Major Amendment 2 will make a number of workability, zoning and miscellaneous amendments that have been identified since the commencement of the planning scheme. Amendments to the Bushfire hazard overlay code, have been prepared with the assistance of a consultant and will also be included in the amendment. Internal review will be finalised in July, and the amendment lodged to the State later in the year.</p>
Mackay Region Planning Scheme – Planning Scheme Policy (PSP) review	*	<p>The review of PSP content continues to progress through a governance process by relevant internal programs. The first round of PSPs have been internally reviewed and will be progressed through informal targeted consultation and then formal consultation in accordance with the Minister's Guidelines and Rules in the coming months. The PSPs that have been reviewed in the first round are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PSP - Water and sewerage (CTM Water Alliance) • PSP - Stormwater drainage design • PSP - Landscape • PSP - Open Space <p>The review of the second round of PSPs has commenced. Review of the third and final round of PSPs will commence in late 2020.</p>
Finch Hatton mountain bike trail head master planning and planning framework	*	Organised to join the project team to provide strategic planning input into the design and master planning of the Finch Hatton trail head as part of the delivery of the Mountain Bike Strategy.
Rural and rural residential review and review of Tradeable development rights (TDR) policy	*	<p>A Rural and Rural Residential Land Review report has been prepared. Findings have been discussed with council.</p> <p>Amendments to the TDR policy are being considered and will be subject to targeted consultation in August 2020.</p>

Mirani Master Plan	*	The Queensland Government's Building our Regions grant to progress the Mirani Master Plan and designs has been confirmed and Council is progressing the finalisation of the funding agreement with the funding agency. Early studies have been completed which will inform the Preliminary design phase including land survey, measured drawings and drone footage. A consultant team has been appointed to prepare the preliminary design and they are preparing initial concept drawings.
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Transport & Infrastructure Planning

Projects	Status	Description / Update of Project
Growth Allocation Model	*	The Mackay Growth Allocation Model allocates and maps future urban growth over a 20-year projection period based on growth scenarios. The model was updated in 2018 based on the published Queensland Government Population Projections, and will be reviewed in the latter part of 2020. Lead and lag statistics are monitored to measure growth projections against actual population movements.
Mackay Region Transport Strategy	*	Consultants are continuing to prepare the draft Mackay Region Integrated Transport Strategy for future consultation. A draft report is being prepared with consultation planned for the second half of 2020.
Transport Modelling	*	Further transport modelling will be considered as part of the Mackay Region Transport Strategy.

Stormwater

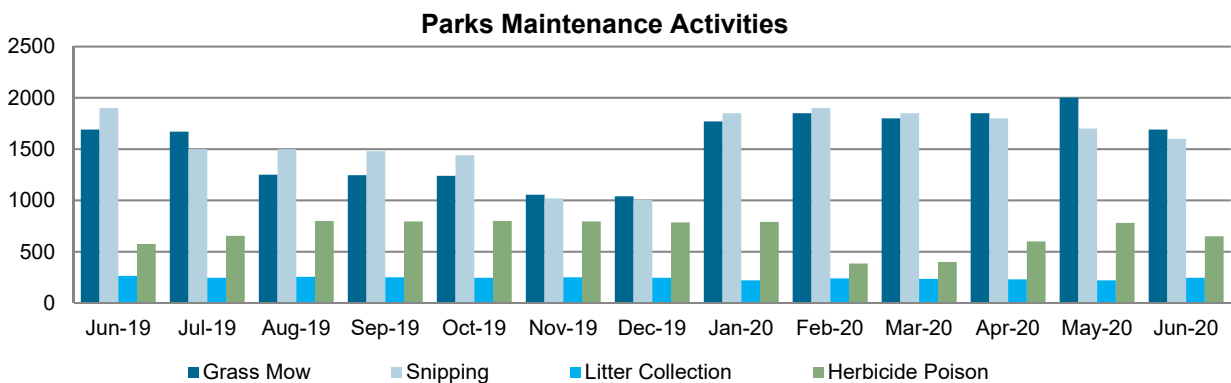
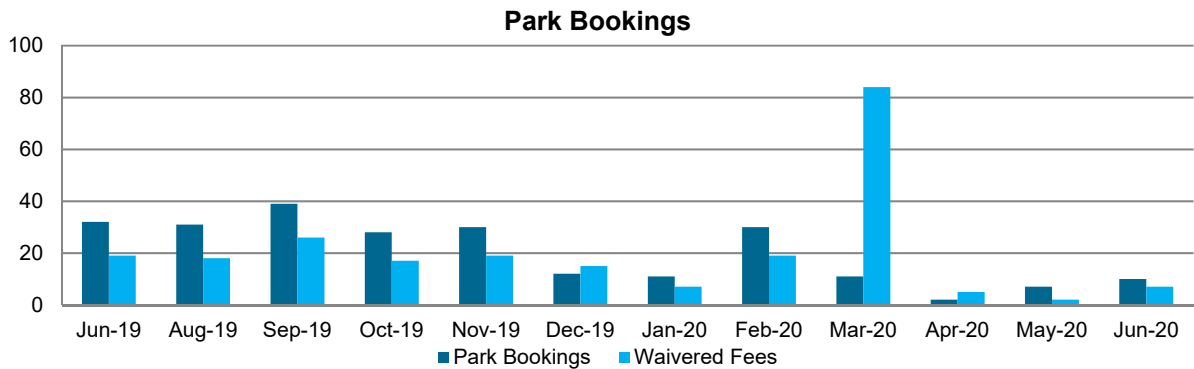
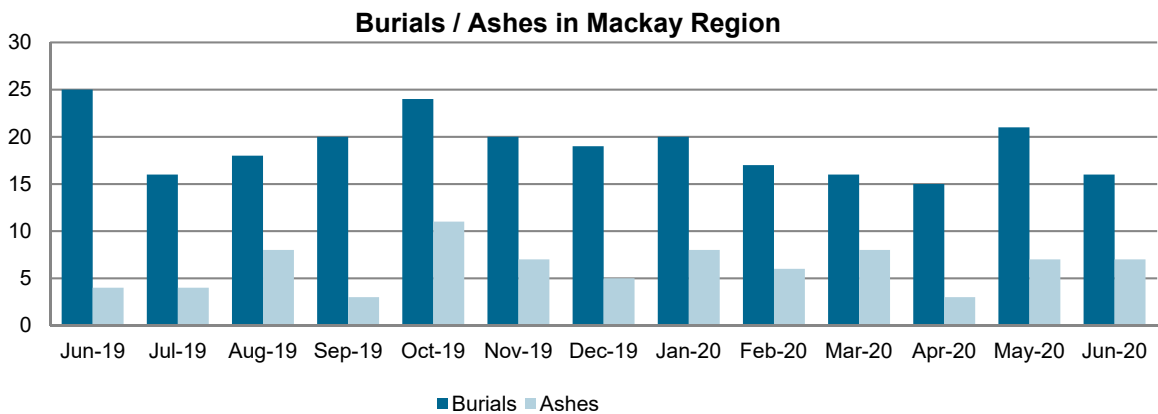
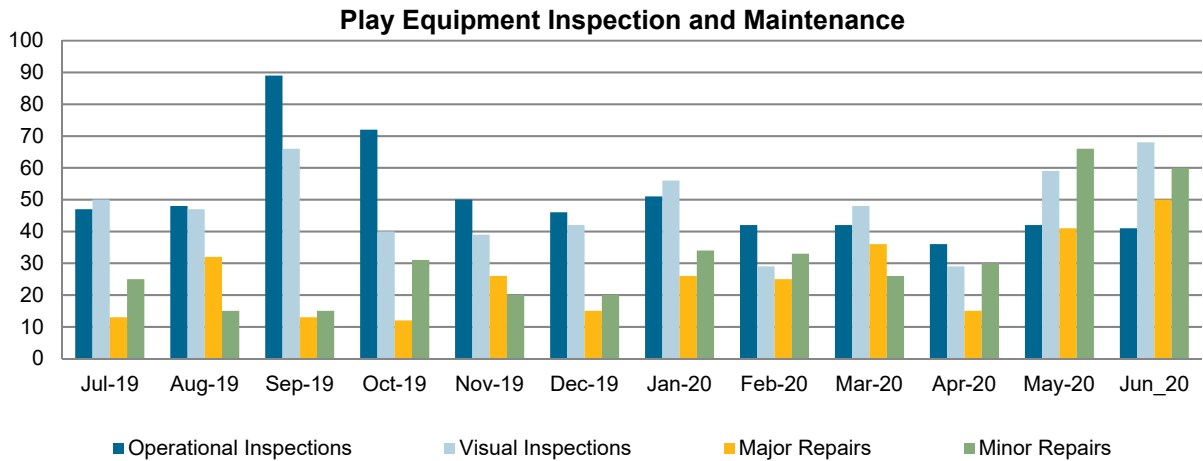
Projects	Status	Description / Update of Project
Mackay Region Coastal and Inland Flood Hazard Adaptation Strategy (CIFHAS)	*	The current project stage to finalise the hazard assessments has been completed. The project will be on-going in 2020/21. Council is liaising with LGAQ on future grant funding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

Mackay City and Waterfront

Projects	Status	Description / Update of Project
Structure change for Mackay City Centre and Waterfront projects	*	With the strategic and statutory land use planning component of the Mackay Waterfront PDA project mostly finished, the project is moving towards the implementation and project delivery phase. <p>The Mackay Waterfront Project area overlaps and covers a significant portion of the City Centre, and as the project focuses</p>

		<p>more on infrastructure and economic development stream activities, it is important that activities undertaken as part of the Mackay Waterfront Project are aligned with and support Council's activities in the City Centre.</p> <p>As a result, a structure change will be implemented on 1 July whereby the Mackay Waterfront and City Centre projects merge, to form the new Mackay City and Waterfront Project. Officers currently working on both projects in the Strategic Planning and Economic Development program will come together, with the Project overseen by a Project Manager.</p>
<p>Mackay Waterfront Project Update (PDA)</p>	<p>✱</p>	<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 and the project was awarded in May. The intent is to improve the area from a functionality, safety and amenity perspective, while capitalising on the Pioneer River to activate the area. Concepts are scheduled to be completed by end of July.</p> <p>Council continues to engage with property owners and investors in relation to development opportunities within the PDA.</p> <p>The first meeting since PDA Advisory Committee (PDAAC) since the Council elections were held in June.</p> <p>Council recently partnered with Neighbourlytics as part of their 'Launch City' tailored 6-month program to help Council measure, benchmark and adopt a data-driven approach to citizen well-being. Neighbourlytics is a digital platform dedicated to measuring the quality of life and wellbeing in neighbourhoods based on their unique data footprint and is being used by a number of Councils across Australia. The data will cover the entire Mackay Region Area.</p> <p>Council endorsed an Expression of Interest (EOI) process for development opportunities on Council owned freehold land in the project area. There are six sites offered for consideration, including three in the Mackay City Centre Precinct and three in the Riverside Precinct. Council is currently focusing upgrades to public realm and complementary placemaking activations in close vicinity to these sites.</p>

PARKS, ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY



Natural Environment Projects		
Project	Status	Description / Update of Project
Sustainability and Environment Committee	●	The first Sustainability and Environment Committee was held for this term of Council. The committee welcomed several new members and reviewed the both the membership and terms of reference, proposing changes for the consideration of Council.
Monitoring signage installation	●	Staff worked in partnership with Birdlife Mackay to install marker signage at key monitoring sites, including sites where regular surveys of the Eungella Honeyeater are undertaken.
Aerators in the Gooseponds	●	Aeration devices were reinstalled at the Gooseponds following routine maintenance. The devices play an important role in oxygenating the water and preventing fish kills.
Gordon White Library garden redevelopment	●	The Gordon White Library garden redevelopment project was completed and now moves into the maintenance phase. The feedback from staff and members of the public has been very positive with many people commenting how great the gardens are now looking. One of the many benefits of these gardens is to showcase the native plants available as part of the Free Plant Giveaway program.
Free Plant Giveaway	●	The Free Plant Giveaway was held from 25-27 June in line with social distancing requirements. A new 'Click and collect' system was trialled which proved hugely popular. Feedback received was very positive, with people finding it quick and easy to use. Plant sales were also higher than previous events, demonstrating that people are keen to get out in their gardens at the moment. Requests for bush food and edible native plants was high.


Capital Works Projects		
Project	Status	Description / Update of Project
Play Equipment Renewals	●	<p>Works are in progress on the replacement of play equipment at Schaefer St Park, Corella Way Park and Delachantos Rd Park. Old play equipment has been removed from all three sites and the play areas prepared for the installation of the new equipment.</p> <p>Currently minor work on associated parks infrastructure is nearing completion. These works include upgrading and refurbishing picnic settings, drainage works and additional tree plantings. Installation of the new play equipment has commenced at Schaefer St Park and is almost complete at Corella Way Park, Blacks Beach and Delachantos Rd Park, Marian Hampden.</p>
Queens Park Revitalisation	●	<p>Queens Park Revitalisation is an \$8.86 million legacy upgrade project of Mackay's historic Queens Park 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 includes 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 yarning circle, a dog off leash park and additional picnic shelters, barbeques and seating.</p> <p>During June, construction raced towards completion throughout the park. Finishing touches were applied to all landscaping, buildings and infrastructure. The park is now open to the public and is being well utilised.</p>
Northview Park Play Equipment Renewal	●	The renewal of play equipment at Northview Park is now complete. The project involved replacing the large tower structures, small children's combo, spring toys and carousel. The shade structure over the large



		combo was also replaced as part of the works. The park was opened to the public on Friday, 26 June. The park has proven very popular since opening with extremely high visitation numbers.
Botanic Gardens Footpath linking Alexandra Street to Meadowlands	*	The tender for this project is nearing award. Construction is due to commence end of July.


Botanic Gardens Projects		
Project	Status	Description / Update of Project
Promotional videos	*	A promotional video is being prepared to give a snap shot of the Botanic Gardens. It will be aired on Facebook and Council's website as well as the Botanic Gardens Australia and New Zealand (BGANZ) website.
Society for Growing Australian Plants (SGAP) Mackay Branch Nursery Gateway Sale	*	Due to COVID-19, events have been cancelled throughout the region. SGAP is one of Council's main stakeholders at the Botanic Gardens and share nursery space at the Garden's nursery facility. SGAP have been unable to sell the large numbers of propagated plants through their usual routes, and therefore a gateway sale for MRC employees was organised after the SGAP member sale. Nearly 900 plants have been sold over this period.
Desilting trial project	*	<p>The desilting trial aims to find a solution to create a usable product out of the silt which needs to be removed from the Lagoons at the Botanic Gardens.</p> <p>Eight sediment pits were originally constructed to enable amelioration of the silt and collection of leachates to take place. 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. Construction of the new pits has commenced, but work has been delayed due to wet weather.</p>
Lagoon weed management	*	Staff have met herbicide application targets with two applications this month. Clear water has been maintained around the café deck area. This has been partially assisted by favourable weather conditions with prevailing wind pushing the weed mass to the north of the Lagoon and cooler temperatures limiting regrowth. A weed harvester is due to start work on Eulamere Lagoon at the end of July.
School holiday activities	*	<p>It has been another busy school holiday period at the Gardens, with families taking part in the "Creatures of the Gardens" Fun Facts trail and booked craft sessions. More than 300 children took part in this interactive activity which had them follow instructions to find 10 stops in the Garden where they could read and learn about creatures that call the Gardens home. At each stop there were questions to be answered and stickers to collect for each question answered correctly.</p> <p>In addition, five small group sessions were held where kids could upcycle coconuts into colourful eco-friendly pots, potting a plant and learning some simple macramé to create a hanging pot.</p>
Self-guided activities	*	More self-guided trails, including a lady bug trail and other children's activities are being released to engage the public as higher than usual visitor numbers are being experienced at the Botanic Gardens. Many people are now using the Gardens for small picnics, exercise and to enjoy the lovely weather being experienced. Visitor numbers have remained high despite the return to school and work for most people. This is an opportunity to engage visitors and encourage interest in the Gardens' plant collections as well as the wildlife seen at the Gardens.

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
<p>Attract events which bring economic benefit to the Mackay region</p>	<p>★</p>	<p>Regional Events Strategy The Economic Development Program has commenced work on the following implementation actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.1 Redevelop Council’s methods and metrics (so that Council may quantify and capture the economic, social and/or environmental impact of identified events); and that these measurements may be applied consistently throughout the organisation. • 1.2 Transition toward a minimum ROI of 1:10 across all future Invest Mackay event investments. For clarity this means that the Mackay region receives the \$1 investment back, plus an additional \$10 for every dollar strategically invested in events. • 1.3 Establish a portfolio approach to events for the Mackay region. • 1.4 Structural / Efficiencies Audit: Further investigate the opportunity for human and financial efficiencies via the centralisation of event teams. <p>Invest Mackay Events and Conference Attraction Program Due to COVID-19 mass gathering restrictions there were no events or conferences held in the month of June. There were also no new events or conferences approved through the program in June.</p> <p>Events Recovery Program Economic Development, in partnership with Mackay Tourism, has now completed the delivery of a series of webinars and mentoring sessions to support the region’s events now and post COVID-19. The Road Ahead webinar series had been designed to provide events in our region with an opportunity to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Articulate the challenges event organisers are facing; • Reflect on the underlying health of their event; and • Participate in webinars and mentoring sessions on a range of topics that contribute to a successful event. <p>Whilst this period of uncertainty presents an enormous challenge to local event owners and investors, it also provided a moment in time to pause, reflect, up-skill and innovate. The series commenced with an online event health check followed by eight targeted webinars and over 30 x one-on-one mentoring sessions.</p> <p>While this program was designed and implemented for the Mackay, Isaac, Central Highlands and Whitsunday event communities, the program also hosted event organisers in need of assistance from as far as Fraser Coast, Scenic Rim and Canberra. The webinar series was a massive success, hosting 157 participants – an average of 20 people per webinar session between the 12 May and 5 June 2020. The Events Health Check survey was conducted on 40 events with the one on one mentoring sessions commencing in late June and it is anticipated to be completed by 31 July.</p>
<p>Identify new tourism experiences and business opportunities in conjunction with Mackay Tourism Ltd</p>	<p>★</p>	<p>Camping Analysis The easing of COVID-19 travel restrictions has allowed for a visitor survey to be launched via Council’s online engagement platform Connecting Mackay. The survey is open from 15 June until 15 July. Questions are focussed on Council’s four camping grounds with the</p>

and existing tourism providers.		<p>intention to identify how the potential of these assets can be maximised to improve experiences for residents and out of region visitors.</p> <p>The survey results will form part of a comprehensive analysis to establish a framework to guide investment and development of Council's camping facilities and to investigate future development opportunities for our camping and recreational facilities.</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 restrictions slowly lifting during June, the Hooked-On Mackay Facebook page increased its promotional activities with a marketing campaign targeted at South East Queensland.</p> <p>On 17 June, Council agreed to the establishment of the Recreational Fishing Strategy Steering Group. The draft Terms of Reference for the group has been circulated for feedback.</p> <p>Mackay Tourism has received funding to develop marketing collateral on recreational fishing "experiences" within the Banana, Rockhampton, Central Highlands, Isaac and Mackay local government areas. Economic Development has provided content which will feed into the development of the website and brochure.</p>

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
Maintain strong partnerships through communication networks with key industry and regional development stakeholders		<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 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 which has been confirmed for 23 September.</p>
Identify and support delivery of industry sector priorities		<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. Along with projects and activities listed in this report, key actions currently underway include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.2.2. Provide positive economic development media statements • 1.2.7. Delivery of the MIW Digital Infrastructure Study • 3.1.1.1. Support the operation of the Resources Centre of Excellence • 3.1.6.2. Implement recommendations from the Recreational Fishing Strategy. <p>Greater Whitsunday Food Network Economic Development is assisting the Network in the delivery of the Regional Agritourism Development Project and provides ongoing support as an ex-officio committee member. The Network's Farmers' Market is achieving excellent attendance with visitor numbers doubling in comparison to this time last year. Over the month of June, more than 3,800 customers visited the Greater Whitsunday Farmers' Market.</p>

		<p>The development of the Network’s business plan is on track. Economic Development has been involved in a focus group session to address opportunities and challenges for the Network. The final Business Plan is expected to be completed in August 2020.</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. GW3 will be coordinating future meetings to implement identified strategies. Economic Development will coordinate the formation of an internal working group to unlock digital opportunities in the Mackay region.</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 and anticipate the draft report will be ready for review in July. Economic Development is working with the Export Hub project manager to promote identify capabilities on a digital platform.</p>
<p>COVID-19 Response and Recovery</p>	<p>✱</p>	<p>COVID-19: Australian Business Economic Impact Survey (ABEIS) Data collection of this REMPLAN survey is continuing across Mackay, Isaac and Whitsunday networks. As at 30 June 2020 participation rate is at 326, (up 16.43% from last reporting period). Trend analysis has become publicly available detailing the Impacts of COVID-19 on employment in the Mackay Region.</p> <p>In Mackay, prior to COVID-19 and the introduction of social lockdown measures to manage the pandemic, the total employment across all local industry sectors was estimated at 47,975. For May 2020, total employment is estimated at 41,028, a fall of 14.5%. The greatest decrease in employment is in Retail Trade. In percentage terms, it's Accommodation & Food Services.</p> <p>Percentage Change in Employment Impact by Month</p>  <p>For further information refer to the website: https://app.remplan.com.au/mackay/economy/covid-19/impact-on-employment?state=QGY6sn!V36w15A78TXeEMWcPaaQMUyigSzMYFpSVSwRu7S5Ujee6zsKnW</p> <p>Mackay Region Joblink Community platform Mackay Region Joblink platform is a career and job vacancy platform focused on local people for local jobs. The platform provides employers the ability to post their job vacancies for free.</p>

Promotion of the platform is heavily underway this quarter, utilising YouTube, radio and digital sign board mediums. The platform currently hosts 1,375 active job vacancy advertisements available across Mackay postcodes (up 128.03% from last reporting period). Platform engagement by Job views reached 7,617 for the month of June 2020 (up 75.1% from last reporting period).



Queensland State Government’s Inquiry into the Queensland Government’s economic response to COVID-19

Mackay Regional Council submitted a response to the Queensland Government’s Inquiry in June. Isaac and Whitsunday regional councils, GW3, and Resource Industry Network (RIN) are known to have submitted their own individual submission also. Collectively these individual responses will provide a holistic representation of the Mackay-Isaac-Whitsunday region during COVID-19. A total of 41 submissions were submitted from across Queensland. Mackay Regional Council’s submission is publicly available through the Queensland Parliament website - <https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/work-of-committees/committees/EGC/inquiries/current-inquiries/COVID-19>

Mackay Festival Sessions



The Economic Development team are supporting the MECC in the engagement of local businesses to become involved in the Mackay Festival Sessions.

Mackay Festival Sessions will fill the Saturday’s in August starting Saturday, 8 August to Saturday, 29 August. Each session will feature live bands, dance groups, live mural artists and #SupportLocal segments inviting local business to get involved to chat live on stage at the MECC. The MECC will promote local business in a bid to grow and engage new customers, increase sales and increase local business community engagement.

		<p>Calls to businesses have begun as at 30 June 2020, with it being planned to continually engage businesses over the month of July for the August event.</p> <p>#buymackay Mackay Regional Council continues to support the Mackay Chamber of Commerce as they drive locals supporting locals through the #buymackay campaign. The campaign was launched on 8 June and includes social media promotion, ambassador program, and webinar series.</p>
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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 The Pitch Night and Graduation for the 10 Startup Onramp participants was held on 26 June. A total of 6 businesses pitched on the evening to both a live and zoom audience. Council, along with Local Buying Foundation and Australian Government, is supporting the Expert in Residence program, which will offer Masterclasses and Mentoring to successful applicants. The program will begin mid-July. The STEM Punks program for youth 8-15 years will start in August and run once a month for 15 months.</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 An internal Project Control Group (PCG) has been formed and will meet regularly to ensure the delivery of the project across the multiple programs of Council that are involved. A meeting was held on 22 June. Capital Works is leading the implementation of the trail network and is engaging with stakeholders regarding permits and approvals. Community updates are expected to be held in August.</p> <p>The next meeting of the Mackay Region Mountain Bike Alliance will be organised for late July/early August in line with Community updates.</p>
Proactive targeting and attracting business to the Mackay region.	*	<p>Facilitating Development in Mackay Region Policy Currently Economic Development has the following applications registered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One new Expression of Interest (EOI) received and three EOIs are on-hold until their development applications have progressed. • One application has progressed through the EOI assessment stage, however, a Stage 2 application has not yet been submitted. • Four Stage 2 applications have been received and are under assessment. • One extension has been requested. • Five EOIs have been removed from the register due to ineligibility or a lapse in timeframes for provision of Stage 2 application.
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
<p>Activate regional localities to achieve social, economic and environmental potential</p>	<p>★</p>	<p>Activate My Place (AMP) Program On 10 June at Council's Ordinary Meeting, Council endorsed two applications for Activate My Place (AMP) grant funding, valued at \$8,490.</p> <p>Funding applicants were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Mackay Hospital Foundation which proposed to establish an Indigenous Meeting Place and Healing Garden at Mackay Base Hospital that will support and preserve Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander language, arts and culture within the hospital.  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Finch Hatton Progress Association has proposed to start Stage 2 of the Finch Hatton Flood Wall. Stage 2 involves installing large sepia photographs to the already painted flood wall near the entry to the showgrounds. A local artist has sourced images from pioneering families in the immediate area showcasing various historical scenes involving the cane industry. 

		<p>Mackay Pride Façade Improvement Scheme For the 2019-20 financial year, the Mackay Pride Façade Improvement Scheme funded 8 applications and the City Scheme funded 3 applications. To assist businesses in the economic recovery from COVID-19, a relaunch of the new scheme renamed the “Building Improvement Rebate” will take place at the end of July. The Building Improvement Rebate will replace the existing Mackay Pride and City Centre Schemes and will work in partnership with property and business owners as well as real estate agents and property managers to facilitate and support the revitalisation of commercial facades throughout the whole of the Mackay region.</p>
<p>Activate Mackay City Centre</p>	<p>✱</p>	<p>COVID-19 Response and Recovery In June the <i>Faces Behind the Places</i> campaign continued to gain traction. This campaign was designed to connect the community to business owners across a variety of industries. The campaign consists of three promotional videos that have been featured initially on the television networks and continually showcased across social media. Collectively the Facebook videos have gained a total reach of 25,500. During June window signage installations were completed which highlight the campaign messaging and are a prominent feature of the City for the community to see. A concept for future <i>Faces Behind the Places</i> videos is currently in development which will ensure the continuation of the important message to support the Mackay City Centre at this time and into the future.</p> <p>The Economic Development Program is working with the Mackay Region Chamber of Commerce on the establishment of a City Centre Reference Group. The first meeting with Chamber of Commerce and City Centre business representatives in attendance was held on 23 June, with a meeting scheduled for July to develop a Terms of Reference.</p>
<p>Promote the Mackay Region</p>	<p>✱</p>	<p>Mackay Beach Horse Races – Expression of Interest Council has been working in partnership with Mackay Tourism and key stakeholders on the future of the Mackay Beach Horse Races event. Stakeholders agreed to seek Expressions of Interest from professional event management firms to investigate the potential to deliver a refreshed version of the Mackay Beach Horse Races from 2021-2023. The Expression of Interest was released on 28 April 2020 and closed on 1 June 2020. Expressions of interest closed with 6 Expressions of Interest being submitted to Mackay Tourism. A panel was formed in June and Expressions of Interests were assessed against the criteria. Shortlisted applicants will be invited to submit a Request for Tender in early July to partner with Mackay Tourism for the potential re-launch and delivery of the event.</p>
<p>Support for tertiary education</p>	<p>✱</p>	<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. Economic Development is monitoring information being released by Study Queensland (State government) on support for international students and education providers in response to COVID-19.</p>

Sarina Sugar Shed To manage and operate a sustainable tourism facility, which provides a range of tourism products and experiences to promote the region's heritage					
Strategy / Project	Status	Description / Update of Project			
Operate a successful tourism facility which meets its performance targets	★	<p>After having the gift shop only opened during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, the SSS fully re-opened on Monday, 15 June after signing off on the Queensland Health COVID-safe checklist. The facility initially offered three tours per day, limited to twelve people per tour, with strong demand received. Accordingly, after carefully monitoring of physical distancing, it was decided to return to four tours per day in time for the school holidays. Most tours were fully booked in the first week of the school holidays during June.</p> <p>With help from the Corporate Communications and Marketing team, SSS social media platforms recorded significantly higher levels of engagement across many analytics.</p> <p>Reviews are taking place on several operational matters including inventory management, data collection, workplace health and safety, environmental health, security, processes and operating procedures, maintenance and product offerings. Information Services are working on the installation of a new point of sale (POS) system to be installed in July to assist with financial reporting.</p>			
Business Operations (excluding accruals)		Item	June	YTD	Annual Target
	★	Tour Visitation (Paid)	414	7,696	10,000
		Visitation (Total)	0	9,074	-
		Volunteer Hours	147	2,504.5	-
		Item	June	YTD	Annual Budget
	★	Ticket Sales	\$7,152	\$135,955	\$180,000
	★	Retail Sales	\$20,140	\$297,627	\$307,000
	★	Total Income (incl. Ticket income)	\$28,093	\$432,691	\$488,309
	★	Total Expenses	\$68,577	\$ 685,268	\$846,017

Economic Indicators (Quarterly)

Indicator	Sep 18	Dec 18	Mar 19	Jun 19	Sep 19	Dec 19	Mar 20
Employment							
Unemployment rate	3.7%	3.9%	4.4%	5.8%	6.3%	6.4%	Not available
Employed persons	66,678	65,291	62,527	56,751	56,122	56,709	Not available
Real Estate							
Median house sale	\$340,000	\$350,000	\$330,000	\$340,000	\$360,000	\$360,000	\$355,000
Res vacancy rate	0.9%	1.7%	2.9%	1.5%	1.7%	2.5%	2.5%
Residential Lot Supply							
Lots Approved	50	108	60	18	7	53	Not available
Lots Endorsed #	51	135	7	44	54	37	Not available

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

e-Statistics

Subscribers	Dec 19	Jan 20	Feb 20	Mar 20	Apr 20	May 20	June 20
City Centre Business Network	1,023	1,023	1,040	1,040	1,037	1,037	1,037
City Centre Facebook Likes	6,400	6,397	6,399	6,405	6,455	6,453	6,448
City Centre Instagram Followers	1,366	1,367	1,375	1,375	1,390	1,403	1,415
City Centre Wi-Fi Sessions	812 users	851 users	790 users	718 users	287 users	300 users	375 users
	8,682 sessions	9,880 sessions	8,713 sessions	6,360 sessions	1,500 Sessions	1913 sessions	2195 sessions
Invested in Mackay Subscribers	512	531	539	545	543	550	560
City Centre Community	4,304	4,304	4,208	4,208	4,208	4,208	4,208
Mackay Region Joblink Analytic Report	583 users	587 users	651 users	657 users	705 users	729 users	856 users
	2,043 views	3,004 views	3,940 views	3,052 views	2,762 views	4,350 views	7,617 views
Sarina Field of Dreams Usage Wi-Fi	56 users	47 users	55 users	47 users	6 users	23 users	21 users
	253 sessions	306 sessions	279 sessions	259 sessions	61 sessions	194 sessions	154 sessions
Hooked on Mackay Facebook	3,074	3,197	3,203	3,305	3,354	3,384	3,450
Net Free Zone Voluntary Code	537	537	538	542	583	583	583
Mackay Region Event Organisers Connect Facebook Group	-	-	-	-	-	55 members	63 members

UPCOMING EVENTS

Date	Event	Location
25 July 2020	Mackay Scottish Bluewater Fling - Sponsored by MCC <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 – Invest Mackay Funded	Mackay Rowing Club
20 August 2020	2020 PGA of Australia (QLD) Pioneer Valley Pro-Am	Pioneer Valley Golf Club
21 – 22 August 2020	Free native plant giveaway	MNEC
28 – 29 August 2020	NQ Rock'N Country – Invest Mackay Funded <i>Postponed due to COVID-19. New date not known yet.</i>	Mackay Showgrounds
29 – 30 August 2020	2020 Fox Superflow Seal by Stan Series (Mountain Bike Event)	Rowallan Park, Mackay
8 – 11 September 2020	2020 Bowen Basin Symposium – Invest Mackay Funded <i>Postponed due to COVID-19. Rescheduled for 23-27 August 2021.</i>	MECC
13 September 2020	Motorcycle Beach Races at Grasstree Beach – Invest Mackay Funded	Grasstree Beach
19 – 20 September 2020	Orchid Extravaganza	Queens Park
21 – 26 September 2020	Etnies Rumble on the Reef (Skateboarding) – Invest Mackay Funded	Sugar Bowl Skate Park
30 September – 3 October 2020	Etnies Rumble on the Reef - 2020 Hydrofoil Pro Tour – Invest Mackay Funded	Lamberts Beach
1 – 2 October 2020	Etnies Rumble on the Reef Wakeboarding – Invest Mackay Funded	Wakehouse Wakepark, Andergrove
3 – 4 October 2020	Zach Mach Adventure Challenge – Invest Mackay Funded	Pinnacle, Pioneer Valley
16 – 17 October 2020	Free native plant giveaway	MNEC
30 October – 1 November 2020	2020 North Australia Championships – Invest Mackay Funded	Mackay Harbour