



## Green light for community hub

The transformation of the Hervey Bay City Centre will start within months, after Council awarded the tender to develop a new community hub to national construction company Hansen Yuncken.

Council is partnering with the Australian Government through the Hinkler Regional Deal to revitalise the city centre, with the new community hub to include a larger library, a Council administration centre and a Disaster Resilience Centre.

More than three-quarters of the development will be community space.

There will be study zones, meeting rooms, creative spaces and areas for large functions available for community use, day and night.

There'll also be a bustling outdoor public plaza where there could be events, markets and live music.

The new hub will be the community's one-stop spot for learning, socialising and accessing Council services.

Bringing hundreds of workers together into the city centre will be a huge boost for nearby businesses. It also means better collaboration between staff and more efficient services for the community.

Work has been occurring in recent months on undergrounding power in the area, with construction of the building expected to start in late January 2024.

Construction will occur progressively over the next three years with the community hub due for completion in mid-2026.

The contract has been awarded for a price of \$108.7 million, and is funded by a \$40 million Australian Government commitment, Council's general revenue and land sales.

More details are available at [frasercoast.engagementhub.com.au](https://frasercoast.engagementhub.com.au)

## New building cheapest option

A report by independent economic experts, the AEC Group, found that constructing a new Hervey Bay Library and Council Administration Centre would cost less than upgrading existing facilities.

AEC Group's analysis found that a new building is between \$42.5 million and \$53.6 million cheaper than the alternative option. It also delivers the most economic and social benefits.

Their report found there was a "clear need for change" and doing nothing was not an option.



## New Division 7 Councillor

Jan Hegge is the new Division 7 Fraser Coast Regional Councillor.

Council considered 26 written nominations for the position and appointed Cr Hegge following presentations from candidates and a secret ballot during a Special Meeting at the Council Chambers in Hervey Bay in September.

Jan has served the community in many ways over the past 40 years in business, through volunteering, running a charity, as a Queensland Government public servant and as an Alderman on the Maryborough City Council for three years.



Cr Hegge's appointment fills the vacancy left by former Councillor Darren Everard who resigned in August.

As the vacancy occurred during the last year of the current Council term, Council was required by law to fill the position through appointment rather than via a by-election.

## Work starts on new recycling centre

Work is underway on a new Materials Recovery Facility, which will sort material collected from Fraser Coast residents' kerbside recycling bins.

The new recycling centre is being built at the Maryborough landfill and will replace the current facility at Dundowran, which has reached the end of its working life.

The new more efficient plant will reduce the level of material ending up in landfill to between 10 and 15 per cent of volume.

It will have more automation to extract recyclables and open the potential to make products like park benches or planking from recycled plastic, or products from recycled cardboard such as cat litter.

Construction began in August with the new facility due to be operational by the end of 2024.



## Maryborough pump track opens

Skaters, scooter and BMX riders can put their skills to the test on a new pump track in Anzac Park in Maryborough.

A pump track is a circuit of rollers, banked turns and jumps designed to be ridden by generating momentum through up and down body movements instead of pedalling or pushing.

The track caters for beginners, intermediate and experienced users. It's also floodlit so it can be used at night, has transitional pathways to the pump track take-off ramp and a water bubbler.

Council thanks the Queensland Government for providing a \$1.3 million grant through the Works for Queensland program to design and build pump tracks in Maryborough and Hervey Bay.

A pump track in Hervey Bay will be built soon in Fraser Coast Park, behind the current Hervey Bay Library and the University of the Sunshine Coast's local campus.

A smaller pump track opened in Tiaro last year.



## Nominations open for 2024 Australia Day Awards

The Australia Day Awards are a chance to celebrate the many people who put so much time and effort into making our community a fantastic place to live, work and play.

We all know someone who inspires us or whose efforts deserve to be appreciated.

So let's thank our local unsung heroes and shining stars from all walks of life by nominating them now!

Simply choose a category and complete the online form before 24 November 2023.

Find out more at [frasercoast.qld.gov.au/australia-day](https://frasercoast.qld.gov.au/australia-day)

## Free public Wi-Fi continues

Free public Wi-Fi will continue to be available around Maryborough City Hall and the youth precinct in Hervey Bay located around WetSide, SkateSide and Seafront Oval, following the successful completion of a 12-month trial.

The locations are popular spots for both residents and tourists, with thousands using the service during the trial period.

To make the service even more attractive, Council has removed the one-hour daily usage limit and increased the daily data usage limit to 1 gigabyte.

The free service operates from 7am to 7pm, seven days a week. Free Wi-Fi is also available at the Hervey Bay Airport and Fraser Coast Libraries.

## Aqua Ninja price plunges

Fraser Coast's award-winning water park, WetSide, reopened in September with reduced prices for the Aqua Ninja adventure course.

The Aqua Ninja course has been a hit since it opened in November 2022, with more than 6000 course runs in its first season.

The course features a series of nine different challenges that participants can tackle while racing the clock in a splash-filled arena with water jets, cannons and dumpers.

Council listened to feedback and changed the pricing to offer three Aqua Ninja runs for \$5, which is better value for money than a single run for \$5 and three for \$12 as it was initially.

Aqua Ninja operates from 10am to 2pm on weekends during school terms and 10am to 2pm seven days a week during school holidays, in line with when there is most demand.



## On-site sewage facilities inspected

Council will use QR codes to inspect on-site sewage facilities not connected to the sewer system.

Under state laws, Council is required to maintain a register of service reports for on-site sewage facilities.

The new QR code solution allows an on-site sewage facility agent to record service information electronically by scanning the QR code, eliminating the need for physical documents and ensuring precise details are provided.

An inspection program is occurring between 1 September and 31 December this year, during which QR code stickers are being installed within electrical meter boxes on properties with an on-site sewage facility.

More information about on-site sewage facilities, including an explainer video, is available at

[www.frasercoast.qld.gov.au/on-site-sewerage-facilities](https://www.frasercoast.qld.gov.au/on-site-sewerage-facilities)

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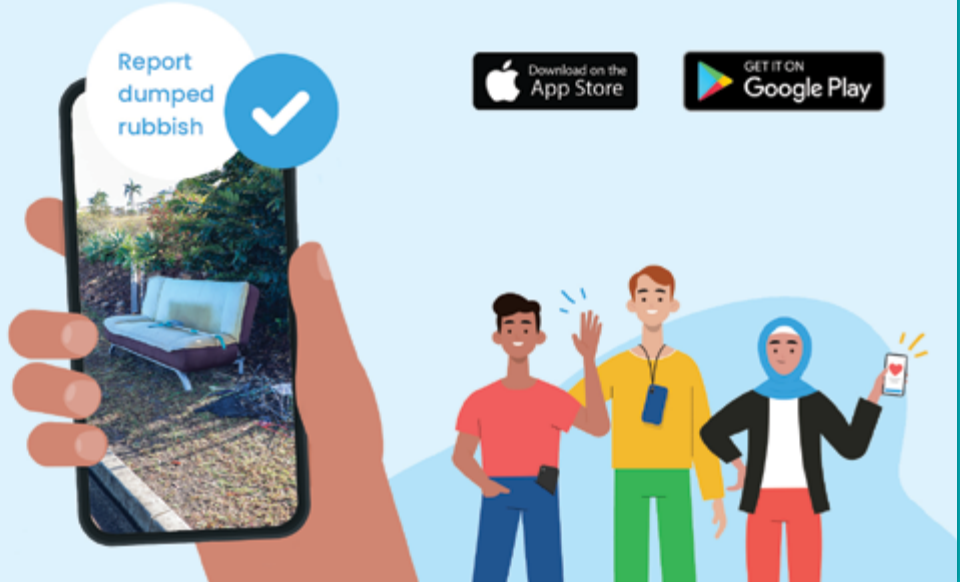


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**Maryborough**  
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**Tiaro Library**  
Lot 1 Forgan Terrace, Tiaro, QLD, 4650  
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