



## Delivering essential services efficiently while also planning for growth

*That's the focus of Council's 2023/24 budget.*

With inflation above seven per cent in Queensland and government grants to Council reduced by \$5 million, putting together this year's budget has been challenging.

As every household or business knows, everything is costing more. Council's electricity costs increased by almost \$3.5 million in 2022/23 while the cost of building a kilometre of road has almost doubled.

Council has worked hard to deliver a financially sustainable budget that keeps the general rates increase to 4.9 per cent, well below the inflation rate.

For residential homeowners on the minimum general rate, the average increase to their total bill – including water and wastewater charges – will be about \$4.41 a week.

Council's total budget is \$430 million in 2023/24, which includes \$179 million in capital works.

We're delivering new and improved roads and footpaths, upgrading water and sewerage networks and treatment plants, and investing in recreational facilities like parks, pools and sporting fields to maintain and enhance our region's lifestyle.

Council has sought to minimise and share the financial burden with residents by examining how we can be more efficient in our operations through a range and level of service review.

## Individual project highlights in the 2023/24 Council capital budget include:

- ✔ \$20 million to complete the new Material Resource Recovery Facility in Maryborough (recycling centre);
- ✔ \$11.5 million to complete the Boundary Road extension;
- ✔ \$27 million towards the Hervey Bay City Centre revitalisation, which includes undergrounding powerlines and starting construction of a new library and Council administration centre;
- ✔ \$9 million to upgrade the Saltwater Creek Road Landfill in Maryborough;
- ✔ \$3 million for the new Howard Sewage Treatment Plant;
- ✔ \$10.2 million to redevelop the Scarness, Burrum Heads and Pialba Caravan Parks; and
- ✔ \$5 million in recovery and repair works following the 2022 floods.

While there are multi-million-dollar infrastructure projects, there are also smaller works that make a big difference. There are replacement bridges at Gundiah and North Aramara, and new equipment for the Tiaro Water Treatment Plant, to name just a few examples.

More information about the Fraser Coast Regional Council budget is available on Council's website at [www.frasercoast.qld.gov.au/budget](http://www.frasercoast.qld.gov.au/budget)

Every **\$100** of your rates enables Council to deliver a range of services

**\$40.99**

Maintaining and improving roads, bridges and drainage



**\$19.50**

Managing and maintaining parks, streetlights and foreshores



**\$13.23**

Customer service, community facilities and community support



**\$9.13**

Libraries and cultural venues such as art galleries and the Brolga Theatre



**\$8.77**

Development assessment, planning, and property management



**\$4.61**

Animal facilities, community rangers, environmental health and biosecurity



**\$3.77**

Economic development and major projects



## Caravan park redevelopment underway

The Scarness Caravan Park redevelopment is entering a new phase.

Council recently awarded Rejuvenate Construction Solutions the tender for the construction of the manager's office/residence, amenities block, camp kitchen and barbecues in the western half of the park.

Work is already underway to build roads and install underground power, and water and sewerage systems, in preparation for the new facilities.

While all this work is happening, the eastern section of the park remains open for fully self-contained campers.

The redevelopment is being done in stages so the new western facilities will be opened as they are completed, with works then moving to the eastern section.

For more information on the redevelopment of the four Council-owned caravan parks, visit [frasercoast.engagementhub.com.au/caravan-parks](https://frasercoast.engagementhub.com.au/caravan-parks)



*Note: Water, sewerage and waste services are funded through specific charges rather than general rates.*



## Library services relocated temporarily

Hervey Bay Library services are currently being provided from a temporary pop-up facility in front of the regional art gallery at 166 Old Maryborough Road in Pialba.

Car park access is available from Charles Street.

The temporary facility is operating while the library building's roof is replaced, with the works expected to be completed by September.

A small borrowing collection is available, with customers encouraged to reserve items, use online resources or visit other library branches which remain open.

The toilets and spaces within the Hervey Bay Regional Gallery are also available to library staff and visitors.

Limited public computers, printing and Wi-Fi is available in the art gallery café space, while adult and children's programs continue to be offered at alternative venues such as the art gallery, parks and the University of Sunshine Coast campus.

Council thanks residents for their patience while the roof repairs are underway and thanks the Queensland Government for providing \$1.5 million through the Works for Queensland program to help with the project.

For more information, including opening hours, go to [www.frasercoast.qld.gov.au/libraries](http://www.frasercoast.qld.gov.au/libraries)

## Major upgrade for M'boro road

Motorists will have safer and smoother journeys through Maryborough following an almost \$4 million upgrade of a key road in the heritage city.

Local company JAC Civil has been awarded a \$3.8 million contract to rebuild Walker St from Pallas St to Ferry St.

The work is underway and is due finish in early 2024.

The Queensland Government's Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme is partially funding the project, which is the next stage to rebuild this major Maryborough thoroughfare.

## Showgrounds Main hall refurbished

The \$4.4 million refurbishment of the main hall at the Maryborough Showgrounds and Equestrian Park was finished just in time for the annual Fraser Coast Show.

The facility is used by many groups, including the Fraser Coast Agricultural Show Society, Lifeline, and Rotary Clubs from Hervey Bay and Maryborough.

Council wants to ensure the facility continues attracting significant events such as lifestyle expos, caravan and RV rallies and car shows.

The refurbishment of the main hall was one of the first projects outlined in the Maryborough Showgrounds and Equestrian Park Strategic Plan that was undertaken by Council.

Structural inspections confirmed that the building had reached a point where maintenance was no longer effective or viable.

While the steel frame of the building was kept, the external walls and inside facilities (toilets and office space) were demolished and rebuilt.



## RECYCLING GUIDE



Hard plastic containers  
**YES**



Glass bottles & jars  
**YES**



**1300 79 49 29**  
frasercoast.qld.gov.au/recycling-waste



Plastic bags & soft plastics  
**NO**



Polystyrene  
**NO**



Paper, cardboard & foil lined cartons  
**YES**



Tins, cans, empty aerosols & aluminium foil (in balls)  
**YES**



Coffee cups, waxed cardboard & plastic lined cartons  
**NO**



Fabrics, clothing & bedding  
**NO**

## Good Governance

**Sign up and complete the FREE course**

If you are a member of a community group committee, thinking of starting a new group, or just want to make sure your group is following best governance practices – this course is for you!

To sign up and complete the free course visit:  
**[www.frasercoast.qld.gov.au/supporting-community-groups-clubs](http://www.frasercoast.qld.gov.au/supporting-community-groups-clubs)**





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## HAVE YOUR SAY



**Have Your Say** on important projects, initiatives and influence Council decision making.

For more information and to register visit  
**[frasercoast.engagementhub.com.au](http://frasercoast.engagementhub.com.au)**

Community Development and Engagement Team  
E. [community@frasercoast.qld.gov.au](mailto:community@frasercoast.qld.gov.au)  
P. 1300 79 49 29

## Customer Service:

**Hervey Bay**  
77 Tavistock Street, Torquay, Qld, 4655  
Hours of operation: 8.15am to 4.30pm

**Maryborough**  
211-213 Adelaide Street, Maryborough, Qld, 4650  
Hours of operation: 8.15am to 4.30pm

**Tiaro Library**  
Lot 1 Forgan Terrace, Tiaro, QLD, 4650  
Hours of operation: 8.30am to 4.30pm (Mon – Fri), 9am to noon (Sat).

PO Box 1943, Hervey Bay Qld 4655, AUSTRALIA



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