

Budget 2010/2011

Tuesday, July 6, 2010

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES OVERVIEW

Caption: (from left) Council's Infrastructure Services Director Ross Paroz, Golding Contractors Project Manager Cameron Howard and Councillor Matt Burnett view the progress of the Kirkwood Road Stage 3 project.

Council's capital investment eyes off future growth needs

The anticipated growth of the region in 2010/11 and beyond has encouraged Gladstone Regional Council to consider the possible constraints to our road, footpath, drainage, water and sewerage networks.

Council's Infrastructure Services portfolio spokesperson Councillor Matt Burnett said the challenge for Council in handing down its 2010/11 Budget was finding a balance between current and future infrastructure needs.

"Council has an enormous responsibility to residents to construct, maintain and operate road, water, drainage and sewerage networks across the region," he said.

"The challenge for Council is to maintain these services at a standard acceptable to the community in the most efficient and cost-efficient manner while also ensuring there is sufficient infrastructure capacity to allow for future growth and development.

"Allocating the funds for the 2010/11 capital works budget has proven to be a difficult task, however, Council is assured it has formulated a balanced portfolio of current and future needs."

HIGHLIGHTS

Roads

Gladstone Regional Council has provided \$21 million towards the development, upgrade and maintenance of the region's roads. This financial year will also see the continuation of Kirkwood Road Stage 3, a \$25.3 million federally funded project. Stage 3 will connect the Dawson Highway (currently ending at Glenlyon Road) to the Gladstone/Benaraby Road. Other works scheduled for our roads include gravel resheeting and bitumen sealing, pavement rehabilitation, intersection upgrades, additional street lighting and signage.

Footpaths

The continuation of footpath upgrades will benefit the Gladstone region during the 2010/11 financial year with an extension of the footpath/cycle lane on Glenlyon Road, from Dixon Drive to Rifle Range Road. This footpath will provide improved safety for pedestrians and cyclists travelling over the Moura rail line bridge crossing.

Please direct enquiries to the Gladstone Regional Council Corporate Communications Office
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School set down areas at Tannum Sands, Agnes Water and Gladstone, will receive upgrades as part of the ST (Safe Travel) government funding program.

Car parks

Local sporting associations are set to benefit from Council's car park construction and development scheme with the extension of the Harvey Road, football fields car park to the touch football fields. Blain Sports Park car park sealing (off Callemondah Drive), Happy Valley fitness car park sealing, Glenlyon Road, and the Agnes Water Surf Club car park construction are just a few of the car park projects planned for the region.

Storm water drainage

A \$1.6 million flood mitigation project is due to commence construction in 2010/11 at the Philip Street/Glenlyon Road roundabout. On completion, the Tigalee Creek Retarding Basin will control peak flooding through the southern area of Sun Valley during and after heavy rainfall periods. The project will be subsidised under the Federal Government's Disaster Resilience Australia program and jointly funded by the state and federal governments and Council.

Inspection and maintenance of existing drainage systems will continue throughout the region to ensure the effective function in alleviating flooding and minimising property damage.

Street sweeping

Street sweeping operations will continue throughout the region with increased levels of service proposed for 2010/11 to further improve in the cleanliness and safety of our streets.

Water

Construction of the \$41.5 million Agnes Water/Seventeen Seventy Integrated Water Project is well under way with the majority of the work to be completed by December 2011.

The project includes:

- Agnes Water Desalination Plant ;
- Agnes Water Sewerage Treatment Plant upgrade; and
- Seventeen Seventy water and sewerage reticulation.

Other major water projects in the region include:

- Construction of trunk delivery mains to the value of \$4.2 million servicing Tannum Sands and Benaraby.
- New water treatment plant for Bororen (\$395,000).
- Replacement roofing for reservoirs to the value of \$1.6 million.
- Construction of trunk delivery main out of Clinton reservoir (\$200,000).

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Sewerage

Major proposals for the 2010/11 financial year include:

- Completion of work on the \$4.5 million Calliope Waste Water Treatment Plant which is anticipated for December 2010.
- Major upgrade works at Gladstone Waste Water Treatment Plant to the value of \$3.7 million.
- Construction of an effluent reuse scheme from Boyne Island/Tannum Sands Sewerage Treatment Plant to Queensland Alumina Limited, \$2.5 million.
- Continuing upgrade of the SCADA communications systems and electrical switchboards at sewage pump stations.

MEDIA INFORMATION: Contact Council's Community Relations Department on 4976 6953.

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