



PRIORITY PROJECTS 2021-2022

Leading the way



MAYOR'S MESSAGE



The future prosperity of Hinchinbrook lies through diversification of our economy. The world is changing and we as a community must embrace the change. We can no longer rely on a single industry to facilitate the way of life and lifestyle we have been accustomed to.

The Priority Projects detailed in this document identify natural assets and attributes of Hinchinbrook that if properly developed and utilised can enable growth, create jobs and realise the economic potential of our district.

In cooperation with Government and our community, we are confident of stimulating the economic recovery and growth of our district, our region and our State through our projects by encouraging industry and private sector investment and business confidence.

Mayor Ramon Jayo



HINCHINBROOK AT A GLANCE

In Hinchinbrook we thrive on being pragmatic, resourceful and energetic with the cheapest developable land and highly affordable value housing.

Hinchinbrook Shire encompasses 2,810km², nestled within the Herbert River Valley, just over an hour's drive north from Townsville and 3 hours south of Cairns, Queensland. With a population of 10,900 persons (as of 30 June 2017) it has a rich multicultural population, most of whom call the heart of the Shire - Ingham, home.

Surrounding the heart of the Shire are multiple townships of smaller density including Forrest Beach, Taylors Beach, Lucinda, Halifax, Dungeness, Trebonne and Toobanna. Our Shire boasts a variety of well developed employment sectors and established infrastructure and markets in agriculture, training, manufacturing and healthcare. Hinchinbrook Shire is a vibrant and entrepreneurial regional economy in which a collegiate approach is adopted.

We believe that every person in Hinchinbrook Shire should have job opportunities, high standards of living, variety of consumer selection, services that add value and elevate the broader community. Business development in the private and public sectors is paramount to the life blood of the Hinchinbrook Shire economy and community. Council seeks to work directly with the private sector to assist, develop and nurture businesses, to grow, provide jobs and to accelerate wealth.

Authentic Destination

The aspects that attract visitors to the Shire are the natural environment, authentic experiences, heritage and culture. The locals of Hinchinbrook come from a long line of pioneers and hard workers. They are resilient, entrepreneurial, creative, determined and accepting of change and growth.

With room to expand in the Hinchinbrook Shire, we have 70,000 hectares of cleared, flat and useable land. Council is focused on driving the Shire's economic future through diversification opportunities such as rotational cropping with our sugar industry and value add opportunities derived from cane. The Shire has a considerable amount of resources such as power, water, unique farm industries and quality farm produce. Value for money is a key incentive for doing business in the Shire, with low barriers of entry in industrial, commercial and leasing or rental opportunities.

With the National Highway passing directly through the Central Business District (CBD), this ease of access and direct linkage for distribution will streamline your supply chain. Hinchinbrook has unparalleled technology gateways to directly access broader global economies, we are strategically placed with high speed NBN and wireless, to rapidly build a digital economy.



HIGH PRIORITIES

1 Dungeness Marine Access Upgrade

The Dungeness Marine Access Upgrade project involves the dredging of the channel, construction of a rock armoured retaining wall and beach replenishment.

Council is proposing to undertake capital and maintenance dredging in the Dungeness Enterprise Channel located in Lucinda, North Queensland.

It is intended that access to the Dungeness Enterprise Channel will be improved by increasing the main channel depth which will allow vessels to safely navigate to and from the boat ramp and marina area during low tides. In addition, Council proposes to construct a rock armoured retaining wall at the Channel entrance, adjacent to the main channel and to beneficially utilise the clean dredged sand to nourish the adjacent beach foreshore to protect the remaining spit from further erosion.

The proposed capital and maintenance dredge zone extends over an area 540m long by 50m wide, comprising an area of approximately 27,000m² with a total approximate volume of material to be removed of 13,615m³.

The breakwater can be designed as a low crested structure to reduce capital cost while providing a barrier to reduce dredge channel infill rates.

To support this project, Council has engaged specialist consultants to produce various reports including a Dredge Management Plan for Dungeness,

a Geotechnical Investigation Report, an Ecological Survey and Environmental Impact Assessment Report and Sediment Sampling and Analysis.

This aspect is not shovel ready as Council continues to pursue environmental permits to allow work to progress.

The second aspect was the upgrade of the existing car park and recreation area which was completed in 2021 and will reduce vehicle congestion whilst catering for an increasing demand on boating facilities and future growth in the area.

The region is well established as a destination for local and visiting recreational boats particularly around Hinchinbrook Island, with visits to the island; fishing in the Hinchinbrook passage; Island hopping and trips to the Reef. The area has one of the highest rates at nearly 34% for fishing participation of any region of the State. It is the closest departure point to Hinchinbrook Island and other islands; a ferry and charter boat departure terminal; and it services all Hinchinbrook Shire communities with 64% of boat ramp users travelling from Townsville and other non 4850 postcodes.



80 DIRECT + 100 INDIRECT
ESTIMATED
FULL TIME EMPLOYMENT



\$5,400,000
ESTIMATED
PROJECT SPEND



2 Silos – Grain in the Rain

Council is endeavouring to promote cultivation of alternate crops complementary to, and in rotation to sugarcane utilising current sugarcane fallow practices. The objective is to create additional cropping opportunities for the district increasing industry diversification and employment opportunities.

Studies commissioned by Council have identified that the districts climate, soils and existing infrastructure will allow establishment of alternative commercial crops including capsicum, industrial hemp, kenaff, melons, pumpkins, mung bean, peanut, rice, sweet potato and taro.

Establishment of district grain storage and drying facilities will enable local handling and processing of crops such as pulse, dryland rice and peanuts.

The project entails acquisition and installation of silo storage and equipment to dry and temporarily store new product pending transport to established processors in Queensland. This facility will act as a depot for SunRice processing facilities already at Brandon and subsequent export opportunities through Townsville ports.

Project benefits include:

- Improvement of economic yield of sugar cane in the district through enhanced soil health achieved by breaking down current monoculture.

- Creation of new agriculture industries for supply of agriculture product for both domestic and export markets. This aspects also supports agricultural growth on a regional scale in line with the Queensland Government Agricultural Strategy 2030 and North Queensland Emerging Markets and Supply Chain Capacity Strategy.
- Improved utilisation and protection of cleared cropping land by promoting and facilitating cover crops on traditional cane fallows over the summer/wet season periods to mitigate sediment run off as a key component to promoting better water quality for reef health; and
- Use of legumes enabling large natural nitrogen contributions lessening dependence upon artificial fertilisers as a key component to reducing dissolved inorganic nitrogen for better Great Barrier Reef water quality.

This project is shovel ready with the proposed modular design allowing for future expansion as more growers adopt rotational cropping options.





3 Recycling Facilities

This project involves the construction of a resource recovery facility at the Warrens Hill Landfill and Resource Recovery Centre, including a reconfigured entrance to maximise recycling of all domestic and commercial waste brought into the existing facility.

This will be achieved by providing appropriate facilities for waste separation to occur and by employing recycling attendants to intercept and assist with sorting materials suitable for recycling before the remaining waste is brought over the weighbridge and disposed of into landfill.

To support this project, Council has engaged consultants to produce a detailed Project Plan which includes detailed design, costs estimates and a cost benefit analysis.



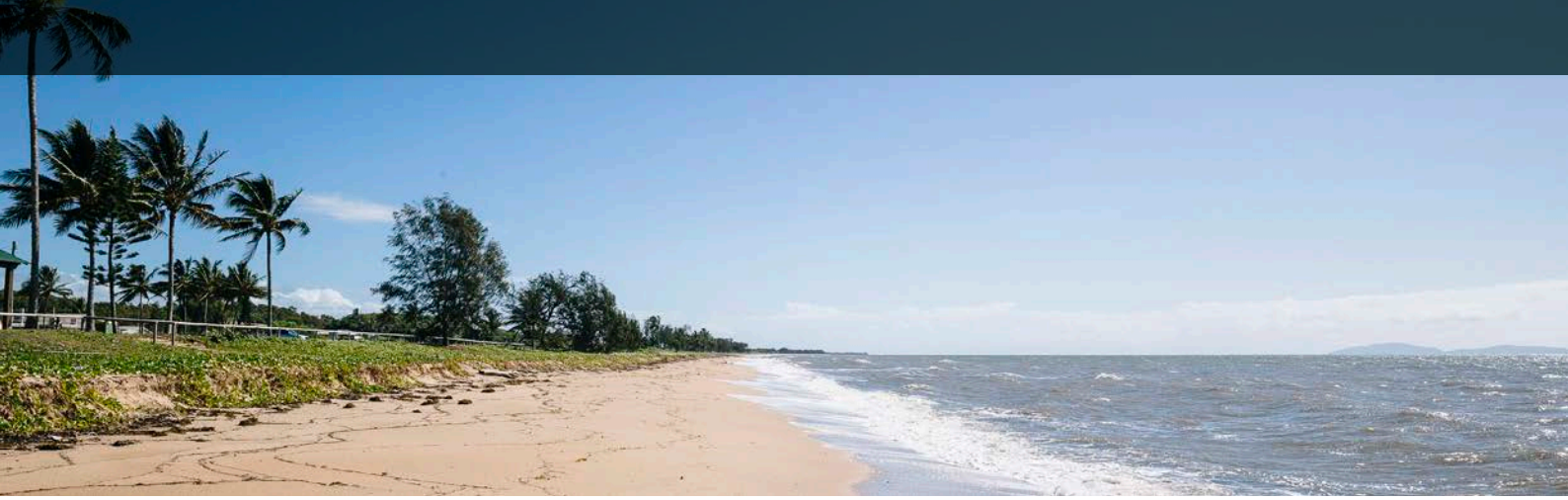
4 DIRECT + **3** INDIRECT

ESTIMATED
FULL TIME EMPLOYMENT



\$2,000,000

ESTIMATED
PROJECT SPEND



4 Forrest Beach Boat Ramp Facilities

There are limitations to accessing marine waters in the region, including access restrictions at low tide, with limited to no access for small shallow draft vessels and a lack of all tidal marine access facilities within reasonable proximity to the Hinchinbrook region.

Marine access within the Hinchinbrook Shire is limited to casual recreational purposes (tide dependent), with the exception of the jetty, operated by Queensland Sugar Limited. There is also an inadequate ability to provide safe and efficient marine access for people and goods within the region, including access to Palm and Orpheus Islands and access for Maritime Safety Queensland vessels, a major concern in emergency situations.

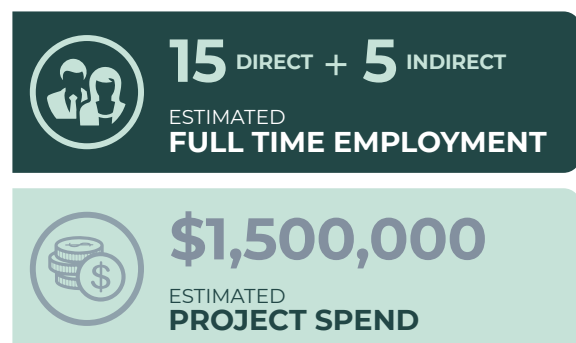
Access at present is achieved via ramp facilities at Cassady Creek, or ramp facilities at the end of She Oak Street, Forrest Beach. Both ramps only afford access at above half tide and the She Oak Street ramp is unprotected from wind and wave action.

Proposals to afford better access are two fold as short and long term measures. Relocation of Cassady Creek ramp approximately one kilometre East to allow for better tidal depth adjacent the creek mouth and long term development of jetty, breakwater and ramp facilities on the She Oak Street foreshore.

Proposal 1

Cassady Creek Marine Boat Ramp Relocation

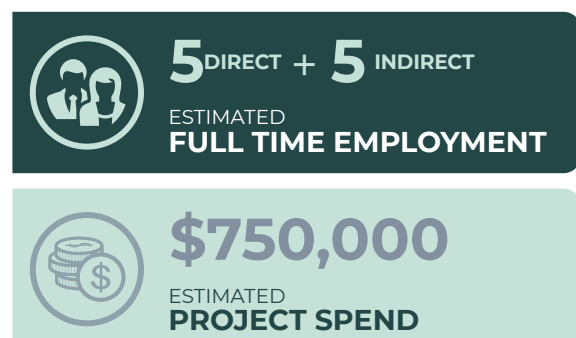
Council is investigating a proposal to relocate the boat ramp and vehicle/trailer parking area at Cassady Creek to improve marine access for Forrest Beach.



Proposal 2

New Boat Ramp/Jetty Facilities at Forrest Beach

Council is seeking \$750K funding to undertake the business case, including comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement for the establishment of ramp and jetty facilities at Forrest Beach.





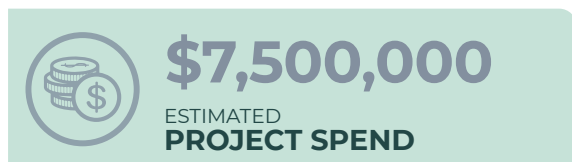
PRIORITIES

5 Dutton Street Bridge

The Dutton Street Bridge project's detailed design has been fully funded by the Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning (DSDMIP) under the Maturing the Infrastructure Pipeline Program 2.

The construction of this bridge will greatly improve flood resilience for the community and improve responsiveness and logistics for emergency services during flooding events. Completion of this project will provide a reduction of cost impacts to Council and disaster management partners, essential services and industry through better trafficability and connectivity during flood events.

The Australian Government has committed \$5.753m towards this project under the National Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Program.



6 Digital Connectivity Infrastructure

This project involves the implementation of free to access public connectivity infrastructure in key locations throughout the Hinchinbrook Shire.

In addition to providing additional free connectivity to the community, this infrastructure can support future expansion for critical services such as security monitoring of public assets. This project improves the connectivity of the Shire, enabling businesses to modify the way they deliver their product and services to suit a digital market by improving the connectivity readily available to visitors.





7 Community Digital Collaboration Infrastructure

Recent pandemic restrictions, especially during emergency events such as cyclones and/or flooding, have highlighted the need for digital technology meeting and collaboration set ups in community halls, meeting rooms, evacuation and disaster centres and gathering areas within the region.

This project seeks to implement collaboration technology, including conference and meeting technology, in key Council public venues. This technology will assist with ensuring that equipment is available for residents and businesses to continue meetings, complete trainings and receive up to date information throughout the Shire. This Infrastructure will also have the redundancies required, including uninterrupted power supplies and both 4G and satellite connections to safeguard against any internet issues within the Shire.



2 DIRECT

ESTIMATED
FULL TIME EMPLOYMENT



\$175,000

ESTIMATED
PROJECT SPEND

ADVOCACY

Council will continue to advocate for the progression of community initiated projects

These projects provide job opportunities, enhance new business and increase economic prosperity for the Shire.

Examples of community-initiated projects include:

- > Townsville Health and Health Service COVID-19 Recovery - Proposed Infrastructure Program;
- > Townsville Health and Health Service Economic Impact Assessment;
- > Renal Services;
- > CT Services;
- > Upgrade of Emergency Department; and
- > Paluma to Wallaman Falls Walking Trail.

Council is open to discussion on any projects that will continue to allow the Shire to sustainably grow.

For further enquiries on Council's projects please contact the Office of the Mayor and CEO on 4776 4600.





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📘 HinchinbrookShireCouncil

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