



PRIORITY PROJECTS 2022-2023

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. We have to protect our existing industries while developing new ones.

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 10,920 persons (Census 2021) 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 all weather and 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.

The region and especially Dungeness 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; it services a large catchment with 64% of boat ramp users travelling from Townsville and other non local postcodes and has the potential to generate significant additional economic prosperity to the broader region.



80 DIRECT + **100** INDIRECT

ESTIMATED
FULL TIME EMPLOYMENT



\$5,400,000

ESTIMATED
PROJECT SPEND

2 Wallaman Falls Eco and Adventure Tourism

Council is working collaboratively with the State Government, Traditional Owners and local businesses to develop Wallaman Falls as an international cultural and ecotourism destination and more broadly, Hinchinbrook as an adventure and recreation destination of choice for tourists, festivals, events and as a unique corporate conference facility.

Hinchinbrook Shire Council has identified three key components that will enhance the experience of visiting Wallaman Falls and complement the Paluma to Wallaman Falls Trail being developed. These include:

- Improved visitor facilities and cultural experiences at Wallaman Falls to create a more memorable experience and iconic multifunctional ecotourism location;
- Accommodation at, or nearby, the Falls to provide a substantial "stay and play" experience; and
- The development of a Staging Hub where visitors can stop and be provided with an interactive and interpretive way finding experience, which prepares them for their experience at the Falls themselves.

The project aims to increase visitation, visitor's length of stay, visitor spend and developing local business opportunities within the Shire, capitalising on an incredible and accessible iconic natural feature of the Hinchinbrook landscape.

Council's current project focusses on the delivery of the Staging Hub and supporting facilities. This component requires a mix of public and private investment to resolve tenure arrangements and deliver capital improvements that embellishes existing buildings and local infrastructure with tourist information and activity desk, café, demonstration and waiting area, narrative audio, native and local artwork and souvenirs, RV parking area, and accommodation.

Total project cost (all three components):

- \$10 million to upgrade the day visitor area and develop the new café / function facility;
- \$2 million to develop the accommodation; and
- \$805,000 to develop the Staging Hub.

The development of the overall project is anticipated to help the Shire achieve 6% annual growth, resulting in an increased visitation to the Shire of 295,000 in 2027 from the 240,000 visitors in 2019.

Preliminary feasibility studies have been prepared for each component and indicate positive return on investment for the Hinchinbrook community and the State's ecotourism opportunity deliverables.



35 CONSTRUCTION + **63** ONGOING

ESTIMATED
FULL TIME EMPLOYMENT



\$12,800,000

ESTIMATED
PROJECT SPEND



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, enhancing our contribution to the circular economy.

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.

While this project is critical in supporting the longevity of existing Council's existing landfill site by diverting significant waste volumes, Council is currently committed to further developing capacity at the site at an estimated cost of \$1.7million and an estimated five direct full time employees.



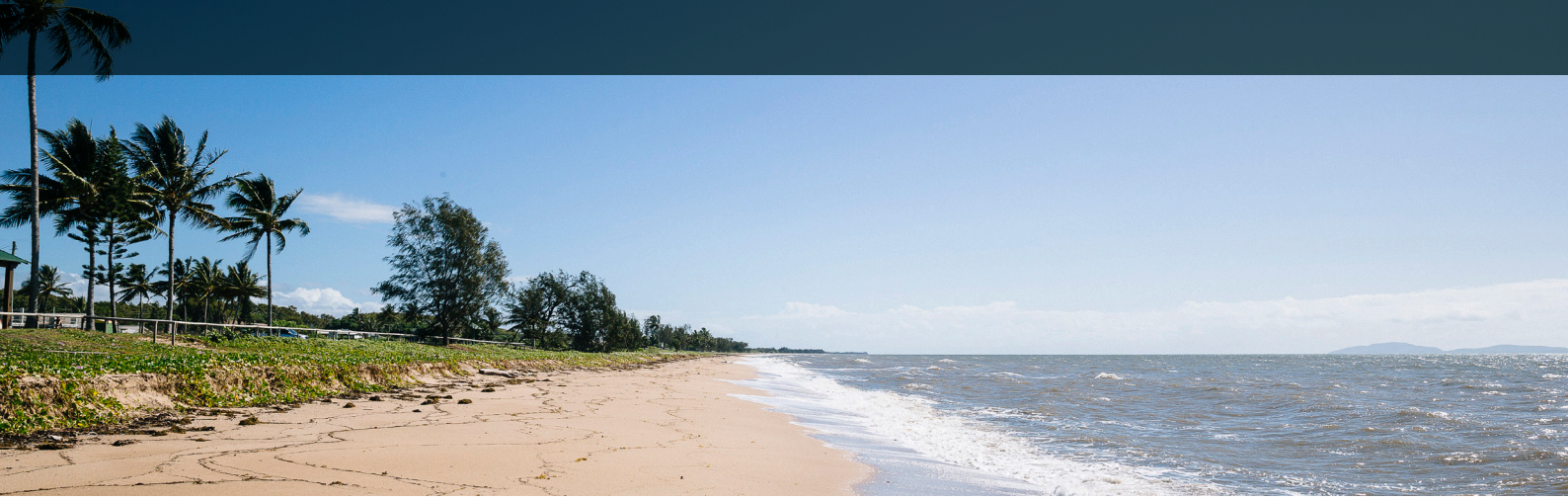
4 DIRECT + 3 INDIRECT

ESTIMATED
FULL TIME EMPLOYMENT



\$2,000,000

ESTIMATED
PROJECT SPEND



4 Forrest Beach Boat Ramp Facilities

Forrest Beach is Hinchinbrook Shire's premier lifestyle beach with approximately 10% of the Shire's residents making the township home. All weather access within reasonable proximity to Forrest Beach is a continuing problem for its residents and visitors alike.

Marine access within the Hinchinbrook Shire is limited to casual recreational purposes (tide and weather 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 rudimentary 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 include both short and long term measures. Relocation of Cassady Creek ramp approximately one kilometre east to allow for better tidal depth adjacent to the creek mouth and the long term development of jetty, breakwater and ramp facilities on the She Oak Street foreshore.

Proposal 1

Cassady Creek Marine Boat Ramp Relocation

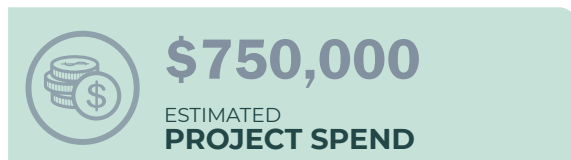
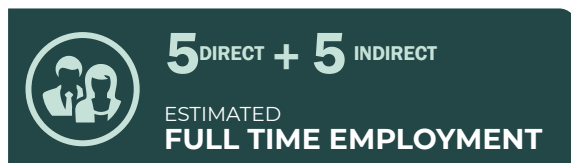
Council is investigating a proposal to relocate the boat ramp and vehicle/trailer parking area at Cassady Creek to improve marine access for Forrest Beach, with the ultimate goal of delivery.



Proposal 2

New Boat Ramp/Jetty Facilities at Forrest Beach

Council is seeking \$750,000 funding to develop the business case, including comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement for the establishment of ramp and jetty facilities.



PRIORITIES

5 The Devil's Chair

Council is developing a world class walking track experience at Mount Cordelia. This is a challenging trail that traverses a rock formation locally known as the Devil's Chair. The project will consist of two phases, with phase one including a detailed business case with planning and comprehensive design. Followed by phase two including construction and marketing to complete the project.

The walking track will start from a carpark on Quarry Road and proceed up Mount Cordelia taking in the specular view from the Devil's Chair. The Mount Cordelia walking track will offer a steep but scenic walk that winds through the bush to reveal the vast views. The uninterrupted views from this rock formation takes in Hinchinbrook Island, the Palm Island Group, the District's rich agricultural country and the sheer size of the Herbert River Valley.

Activity based on trails, such as those for walking, exercise, bike riding and adventure seekers is a growing market and this opportunity will provide for both increasing community wellbeing and is expected to generate significant visitation for the area, bringing with it enhanced economic activity as well as aligning with other ecotourism products in the area, such as Wallaman Falls, Hinchinbrook Island and the Broadwater State Forest.



4 DIRECT + **23** INDIRECT
ESTIMATED
FULL TIME EMPLOYMENT



\$410,000
ESTIMATED
PROJECT SPEND



6 Digital Connectivity Infrastructure

Council aims to deliver modern digital connectivity for its businesses to connect seamlessly with visitors to the Hinchinbrook Shire. This project delivers free to access WIFI 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.

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 through an improved CCTV network.



5 DIRECT

ESTIMATED
FULL TIME EMPLOYMENT



\$500,000

ESTIMATED
PROJECT SPEND

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, supported by electronic community notice boards in high traffic areas. This technology will assist with ensuring that equipment is available for residents and businesses to continue meetings, complete training and receive up to date information throughout the Shire. This Infrastructure will also incorporate redundancies features, including uninterrupted power supplies and both 4G and satellite connections to safeguard against internet connectivity 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:

- > Additional and upgraded Health Services;
- > Expanded Government Services based locally, such as emergency and educational facilities; and
- > Tourism infrastructure, such as the Palulma to Wallaman Falls 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 Mayor and Chief Executive Services on 4776 4602.





25 Lannercost Street, INGHAM QLD 4850

PO Box 366 INGHAM QLD 4850

☎ 07 4776 4600

✉ council@hinchinbrook.qld.gov.au

📘 HinchinbrookShireCouncil

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Adopted 25 October 2022