

LIVINGSTONE SHIRE COUNCIL

State Election Priority Projects

2024



Foreword

MAYOR ADAM BELOT



Sunshine, Coastal Vibes and Hinterland Serenity - We do have it all and the world is noticing. Livingstone Shire is a truly remarkable place to call home or stay for a holiday. To preserve our lifestyle and nurture our great communities we need support in the form of key infrastructure and region building projects.

Let's Go Livingstone!

The Capricorn Coast region boasts an enviable lifestyle and work-life balance, with the region demonstrating remarkable resilience and solid growth.

With a population of close to 42,000, an estimated gross regional product (GRP) of \$1.93 billion and well over 3,000 businesses, we are one of the fastest growing areas outside southeast Queensland.

This progress is a testament to the strength and appeal of living in our region.

To sustain and build on this growth, it is crucial that we secure funding for key region-building projects.

These projects are essential to ensuring ongoing prosperity, enhancing our infrastructure, and supporting our vibrant local economy.

As Mayor of Livingstone Shire Council, I am humbled to present our state election priority projects document.

This advocacy document outlines the reasons

why support is requested from the State government for three initiatives, which are considered 'game-changers' for our community.

This support will help us continue to thrive and pave the way for a bright future for all residents of Livingstone Shire.



Great Keppel Island (Woppa) Masterplan

PRIORITISING THE DELIVERY OF SAFE, ALL ABILITIES ACCESS

The Great Keppel Island Masterplan is a transformative initiative aimed at revitalising and sustainably developing one of Queensland's most iconic destinations.

Resources and Readiness

A masterplan that envisions a vibrant, eco-friendly tourism and recreation hub that preserves the island's natural beauty while providing modern amenities and attractions. In this second Year of Accessibility, an initiative of the State government, equitable access should be at the core for supporting visitors to this stunning island.

Current Support & Commitment

Queensland Government:

- \$30 million commitment towards common-user infrastructure.
- \$500,000 to The Department of Transport and Main Roads/MSQ to undertake further technical studies for safer and more weather resilient maritime access as a Priority Action in the Master Plan.
- The Master Plan notes the highest priority for future opportunities is to "deliver safer and more weather resilient maritime access to enhance accessibility and arrival and departure experience".

Project Reference Group

- Accessibility for all visitors was considered the highest priority during the planning phase of the Master Plan.

Livingstone Shire Council

- Currently leading the project to build a Wastewater Treatment Plant and amenities in partnership with the State, having called for tenders for design and construction in July 2024.

Objectives and Outcomes

- Rapid commencement of construction projects and infrastructure upgrades

- An all-abilities access solution is crucial to the island becoming a more inclusive destination, attracting a broader range of visitors.
- Upgraded infrastructure, including utilities, transportation facilities, and public amenities, creating a conducive environment for attracting further private investment.

Ask and Action

- Implementation of the master plan by fast-tracking delivery of the committed \$30 million plus additional funding to enhance the island's infrastructure.
- A minimum amount of \$80 million is sought to fund the construction of a jetty and barge ramp on Great Keppel Island.

Alignment

- The Livingstone Community Plan Towards 2050 commits to reviewing options for development at Great Keppel Island which balances stewardship of its environmental values and a desire to showcase its unique tourist potential.
- The Queensland Infrastructure Strategy promotes sustainable development, enhancing regional connectivity, and driving economic growth through strategic infrastructure investments.

Economic Benefits

Should GKI's potential future economic contribution be realised through the realisation of the GKI masterplan vision, the value of the tourism industry's contribution to the Capricorn Coast economy is expected to increase by 151.9% to \$137.4 million.

The increase in activity on GKI will also double the island's share of the broader Capricorn Coast tourism economy's contribution to GRP from 27.1% to 52.0%.

Yeppoon Aquatic Centre

STAGE 2

The Yeppoon Aquatic Centre will be a year-round health and wellbeing aquatic destination, featuring the best in fitness aquatic facilities.

Resources and Readiness

An upgrade planned to be delivered in two stages, significantly enhancing the facilities and infrastructure. Stage 1 is being delivered following a \$13 million grant, which includes the demolition of the existing hall, amenities, and 50-metre pool, and the construction of a new 50-metre pool with a partial shade roof. The existing Learn to Swim (LTS) facility and its filtration system will be retained. This stage also involves limited car parking works and provision for heating, contingent on budget availability.

Current Support & Commitment

- \$13 million Commonwealth Government funding under the Community Development Grants Program.
- Demolition and construction work for the new facility is expected to begin in October 2024, with an anticipated completion time of 12 months.

Objectives and Outcomes

- Full development of the swimming complex will require extra funds to ensure a heated pool for year round enjoyment and major upgrades to the existing 18m "Learn to Swim Pool". The 18 m pool is used to teach children to swim and by seniors for aqua aerobics and other classes.
- A state-of-the-art facility that attracts increased patronage, fosters community health and wellness, and hosts regional events. This facility will enhance social cohesion and improve health and wellbeing.

Ask and Action

An additional \$5 million in funding is sought to enhance the Stage 1, 50 metre pool deliverables and for major upgrades to give the existing 18 metre Learn to Swim pool a much needed "makeover".

Alignment

The Livingstone Community Plan 2050 and the Queensland State Infrastructure Strategy are committed to fostering economic growth and regional development, promoting sustainable and environmental infrastructure practices, and enhancing community well-being and liveability.

The Department of Tourism and Sports Strategic Plan 2023-2027 commits to operating precincts and venues that serve the community and industry, from grassroots to elite sporting levels.

The upgrade will promote greater community participation in sports and recreational activities, and enhance physical health and wellbeing among residents, aligning with the Queensland Sport and Active Recreation Strategy and the Queensland Health and Wellbeing Strategic Framework.

Economic Benefits

Construction Phase (over a 1 year period)

- \$9.45 million in output
- \$2.88 million value added
- 22 local jobs per year

Operational Phase (per year)

- \$3.32 million in output
- \$1.21 million value added
- 21 local jobs per year



Investment in Critical Trunk Road Infrastructure

PRIORITISING THE DELIVERY OF A ROBUST ROAD NETWORK

Livingstone Shire Council is committed to addressing the housing shortage created by strong demand to live and work on the Capricorn Coast.

Resources and Readiness

It is now critical to advance infrastructure and overcome “roadblocks” to ensure the supply of residential, industrial, and commercial developments. The major Trunk Road, East West Connector, needs to commence as soon as possible.

Current Support & Commitment

Livingstone Shire Council

- Prioritised road infrastructure in planning and budget allocations.
- Conducted assessments and community consultations for critical improvements.
- Seeking pathways to fast-track approvals for residential developments.
- Partnering with affordable housing providers and supplying land.

Queensland Government

- Provided preliminary support through funding for road projects aligned with State infrastructure goals.

Objectives and Outcomes

The project will:

- Replace the “gull wing” intersection at Neill’s Road with a signalised 4-way intersection, improving traffic flow.
- Connect to the Gateway Business and Industry Park, offering direct access to Rockhampton.
- Alleviate congestion on Tanby Road and Scenic Highway, reducing future upgrade costs.
- Reduce pressure on the Jordy Drive intersection and separate commercial and industrial traffic.
- Establish a road link from Yeppoon Rockhampton Road to Tanby Road, identified in multiple studies and the Strategic Framework of the Planning Scheme.

- Provide road access to the emerging Hidden Valley community.

Ask and Action

We seek a \$25 million commitment to:

- Investigate, design, and document the initial stages of the East West Connector.
- Upgrade Neils Road-Yeppoon Rockhampton Road intersection to a signalised 4-way.
- Construct the first stage of road to connect to the Gateway Business and Industry Park.

Alignment

- Aligns with the Strategic Framework of Livingstone’s Planning Scheme, Central Queensland Regional Plan, and Livingstone Community Plan 2050.
- Supports the Queensland Infrastructure Strategy, emphasizing resilient and efficient transport networks for regional growth, safety, and economic productivity.

Economic Benefits

Construction Phase (over a 2 year period)

- \$47.55 million in output
- \$15 million value added
- 59 local jobs per year



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