

SOUTH BURNETT
REGIONAL COUNCIL

BUDGET 2025/26 MEDIA PACK



Council has adopted its 2025/26 Budget, featuring an investment of \$42.8M into renewing community infrastructure and an operational expenditure budget of \$90.1M to deliver vital services for residents.



**OPERATING
REVENUE**

\$86.6M

To provide services to our
34,290 residents



**CAPITAL
EXPENDITURE
BUDGET**

\$42.8M

Funding vital infrastructure



**TOTAL INCREASE IN
DEPRECIATION**

\$2.03M

Across Councils
complete Asset Base

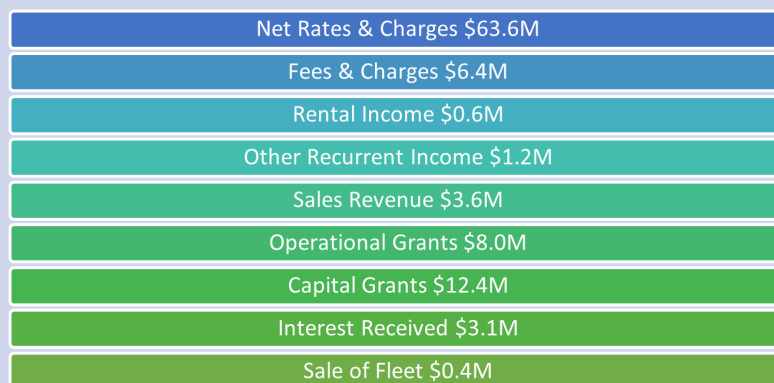


**TOTAL CHANGE IN
RATES & CHARGES**

5.28%

Compared to rates and
Utility charges levied in
2024/25

Where the Money Comes From



Where the Money Goes



What is Depreciation?

Depreciation is an accounting measure which estimates the usage of South Burnett Regional Council's property, infrastructure, plant and equipment assets over the estimated useful life of an asset.

Depreciation is not a cash expense; it is an accounting treatment to represent the value of an asset consumed during the period reported on.

The depreciation reflects the current valuations and is distributed as follows:

Asset Class	2025/26
Water	\$ 3,274,406
Wastewater	\$ 2,299,952
Waste	\$ 130,627
Fleet	\$ 2,000,000
Works	\$ 13,778,550
Property	\$ 4,318,199
Community	\$ 115,000
Parks	\$ 726,943
ICT	\$ 500,000
Total	\$ 27,143,677

Each year Council reviews the asset registers for key asset classes, in the table above either via a comprehensive or desktop review. The key elements of the registers are the asset value, useful life and condition.

The key elements of the asset registers are also the key elements used in calculating the depreciation. Without complicating the issue it is simply the Asset Value divided by the Useful Life.

COUNCIL'S CAPITAL RENEWAL PROGRAM

\$9.4M
for
Water

\$6.4M
for
Wastewater

\$1.4M
for
Waste

\$6.8M
for Plant &
Fleet

\$13.7M
for
Roads

\$1.3M
for
Facilities

\$2.2M
for
Commercial
Enterprises

\$1.2M
for
Parks

\$225K
for
ICT

Budget 2025/26 at a Glance

Delivering a budget in line with the 2025-2030 Corporate Plan:

- Operating Budget of \$86.6 million up from \$84.7 million in 2024-2025
- Differential Rating Categories, rate in the dollar, have generally been set to increase by 2.25%
- Water Access Charge increase – 6%
- Water Consumption Charge increase – 6%
- High Volume Water Consumption Charge increase – 3%
- Sewerage Charge increase – 3%
- Domestic Refuse Collection increase – 6%
- Commercial Refuse Collection increase – 6%
- Recycling Collection increase – 6%
- Community Rescue and Evacuation Levy – no change
- Emergency Management Levy (collected on behalf of the State Government) - 3.4%
- Rural Fire Levy – no change
- Waste Management Levy – 15%
- Total change in rates and charges – 5.28% compared to rates and charges levied in the previous budget for 2024/2025 (this percentage includes natural growth in number of rateable properties, number of water and sewerage connections, changes to water consumption volume and changes to number of waste collection services)
- Capital Expenditure totals \$42.8 million
- Debt forecast to be \$ 17.1 million at 30 June 2026
- No new borrowings in 2025-2026
- Projected overall operating deficit of \$3.5 million moving to surplus in 2029-2030
- Council's maximum \$200 pensioner rebate remains, matched by the \$200 maximum State Government pensioner subsidy



Where are your rate dollars spent?

General rates are for services, facilities and activities that are supplied or undertaken for the benefit of the community. We are required to raise an appropriate amount of revenue to maintain assets and provide services to the region as a whole.

Community Services & Facilities - \$10.0M
Parks & Recreation - \$4.5M
Planning & Economic Development - \$3.1M
Infrastructure Operations, Road Maintenance & Fleet - \$9.9M
Water - \$9.8M
Wastewater - \$4.2M
Waste - \$9.7M
Environmental Health, Rural Services & Compliance - \$2.7M
Asset Depreciation - \$27.2M
General Operations - \$8.9M



Did you know?
Eligible South Burnett pensioners can receive up to \$400 per annum off their annual rate fees plus 50% off recycling bin charges and dog registrations.

INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS INCLUDE:

- \$5.8M Gordonbrook Dam Raw Water Off Stream Storage
- \$525K Nanango Sewerage Treatment Plant Upgrade
- \$1.1M Kingaroy Trunk Sewer Upgrade
- \$210K Proston CED Pump Station Replace & Renewal
- \$525K - Yallakook Park Switchboards Renewal
- \$350K Nanango Switchboards Renewal
- 262K - SBRC Wastewater SCADA Hardware and Software Upgrade
- \$100K Cloyna Waste Transfer Station New Fencing & Electric Gate
- \$5.1M - SBRC Bitumen Reseal and Rehabilitation Program
- \$2M Blackbutt Crows Nest Road Widening
- \$50K Boondooma Homestead Restoration Works
- \$140K South Burnett Aquatic Centre Replacement Heat Pump
- \$90K Hivesville Sportsground Upgrade Amenities and new Dump Point
- \$1M Tingoora Chelmsford Road Stage 2 Upgrade
- \$200K Wondai Town Hall Re-Roofing
- \$460K - Tessmans Road - Footpath Extension
- \$30K Wondai Airport Extension to Runway
- \$330K - Coolabunia Saleyards Refurbishment of Toilet & Canteen and Replacement of Yards
- \$475K Bjelke-Petersen Dam Refurbishment of Existing Facilities and 2 new Cabins.
- \$725K Boondooma Dam Upgrade Bunkhouse Area, New Ensuites, Repairs to Existing Cabins
- \$550K Coronation Park New Playground
- \$173K Kingaroy, Wondai & Nanango Soft Fall Replacement in playgrounds
- \$40K Murgon Dog Park New Fence Murgon Dog Park
- \$85K Benarkin Park New Flying Fox Zipline
- \$204K Alan Downie Sports Field Parking



PROMPT RATE PAYMENT DISCOUNT: **10% OFF**

General Rates, Water Access, Wastewater (Sewerage) and Wheelie Bin Collection charges.

RATES



Council's two-year rates strategy was outlined last year.

The rate in dollar is increasing by the following:

- For residential properties – 2.25%
- For rural properties – 2.25%
- For commercial properties – 2.25%
- For renewable energy categories - 6%

RESIDENTIAL

Across approximately 7,369 assessments, the average increase is \$45 per year, or \$3.75 per month.

FEES & CHARGES

- Maintained a 10% discount for prompt payment.
- Fees & Charges have increased by 2.5% on average.
- Utilities and Charges – including water and waste collection – 6% increase.

YEARLY RESIDENTIAL UTILITIES

	24-25	25-26	Increase
Garbage	\$204	\$216	\$12
Recycling	\$78	\$83	\$5
Waste Management Levy	\$213	\$245	\$32
Sewerage Access	\$808	\$832	\$24
Water Access	\$781	\$828	\$47

Other Significant Operational Expenditure excluding depreciation:

- \$5.49M allocated to Buildings, Tourist Facilities, VICs, Art Galleries, Museums and Caravan Parks
- \$776K allocated to Pools and Halls
- \$348K for Aerodromes
- \$5.11M allocated to Sport, Regional Rail Corridors, Parks and Public Conveniences
- \$1.29M towards Natural Resource Management, Pest Management, Dips and Sale Yards
- \$599K allocated to Cemeteries
- \$1.35M allocated to Libraries
- \$9.82M allocated to Water Supplies
- \$4.23M for Wastewater Supplies
- \$9.68M allocated to Waste Collection, Management and Disposal
- \$11.03M allocated Works Maintenance and Contracts



SOUTH BURNETT
REGIONAL COUNCIL

BUDGET 2025/26 MAYOR'S SPEECH



Message from South Burnett Regional Council Mayor Kathy Duff

I am pleased to hand down the 2025/2026 financial year budget on behalf of this Council team.

The CEO, Senior staff and Councillors I think would all agree that the recent State Government revaluations have been incredibly challenging because they have been inconsistent across nearly every category of rateable land.

I am pleased to say that our wonderful General Manager of Finance and Liveability and her team have been able to navigate this problem, and I believe they have done a great job of minimising the impact on our ratepayers as much as possible.

Within the categories and across the majority of categories the rate rise will be on average 2.25% but because of the revaluations I need to emphasise that there will be winners and losers. The average residential block's general rates will increase by approximately \$45 per year.

There will be some areas across the region where ratepayers may even get a small reduction in their general rates however some landholders, because of the large fluctuations in valuations will get a significant increase. We have used tools such as three years averaging to try to minimise the impact on these property owners.

Our rate rise is very minimal compared to some other Councils that I know have reached double digit figures. We have also kept our 10% discount that many other Councils have removed. The 10% discount for early payment not only comes off General Rates. It also includes water access, wastewater and wheelie bin collection charges. Eligible South Burnett pensioners can also receive up to \$400 per annum off their annual rate fee plus 50% off recycling charges.

This Council team have made a huge effort to find savings across our organisation while still maintaining basic essential services and infrastructure. I am proud to say that in delivering this budget we have not had to reduce any of our cash and our operations are covering our costs so in real terms our books are balanced.

Wastewater and water are both separate business units and we continue to collect additional funds to ensure that we can maintain and improve these assets going forward. Waste is also its own business unit and is an increasing cost to Council because of State Government compliance. Many Councils are closing their smaller transfer stations to help reduce costs however we have chosen to keep our transfer stations as we realise that they are important particularly to our rural communities who do not have a bin collection service.



In delivering this budget we have kept a large focus on our roads and have again put the majority of capital works into our roads. We successfully air scoured the Kingaroy CBD and this year we will be air scouring the Blackbutt and Benarkin water pipes.

Our Council is very much focused on growing our own and as such have put on four biosecurity officers to spray the weeds instead of contractors. We are also training our own traffic management team and have put on two additional staff to ensure that our cemeteries are looked after in the way that everyone would expect.

I hope that everyone has noticed the presentation across our region with slashing done, guideposts straightened, and the town gardens looking tidy and maintained. Our goal this term is to get the basics right so that our community feels that everything is being cared for and looked after. We have a new direction with a customer focused team and have put on additional staff to ensure that you as ratepayers are being looked after and your concerns are followed up and dealt with. In closing I would like to thank my fellow Councillors for the massive amount of work they have put into this budget, the Senior leadership team, GM Kerri, GM Aaron and your respective staff, our CEO Mark and our team in Executive Services.

Thank you everyone. I present our budget.

Mayor Kathy Duff

SOUTH BURNETT
REGIONAL COUNCIL

BUDGET 2025/26 MEDIA RELEASES



South Burnett Regional Council Budget Preparation for the 2025/26 Financial Year

Council staff began budget preparations in January for the 2025/26 Financial Year. In the lead up to the presentation of the budget, the Mayor and Councillors attended 15 workshops over the course of this time, allowing the Mayor and Councillors to understand and debate all elements of the budget.

Throughout the preparation of this budget, the Mayor and the Councillors priority was to align the budget with Council's 2025-2030 Corporate Plan.

Council's Corporate Plan is a living document where its success lies in having conversations with our communities to ensure that Council's goals align with the needs and priorities of our people and community.

The five outcome areas and long-term goals identified in the current Corporate Plan are as follows:

1. ENHANCING LIVEABILITY AND LIFESTYLE - Elevate the South Burnett region to be recognised as a "Region of choice";
2. PROVIDING KEY INFRASTRUCTURE FOR OUR TOWNS AND VILLAGES - Develop, renew and maintain community infrastructure through sound asset management principles;
3. GROWING OUR REGION'S ECONOMY AND PROSPERITY - Boost our economy through investment and innovation that promotes population growth and community wellbeing;
4. SAFEGUARDING OUR ENVIRONMENT - A sustainable environment, proactively and responsibly managed in partnership with the community for future generations; and
5. ORGANISATIONAL EXCELLENCE - An organisation that is characterised by effective leadership, responsible management, good governance and quality service delivery.

As with the 2024/2025 budget preparation the Councillors were provided the opportunity to take a deep dive into the budget line item by line item in terms of the revenue and expenditure requirements for the coming year.

The budget with a projected overall operating deficit of \$3.5 million moving to surplus in 2029-2030 will continue to review all areas of Council operations to balance basic need with good governance and affordability.

For further information contact Council on 4189 9100 or email info@sbrc.qld.gov.au.

Concessions to continue for Eligible South Burnett Pensioners

For the 2025/2026 year the South Burnett Regional Council budget has continued to maintain concessions for eligible pensioners, which includes Council's subsidy of 20% of eligible rates and charges (maximum \$200 per annum) which matches the Queensland State Government subsidy of 20% (maximum \$200 per annum). A concession of 50% for waste recycling and a reduced concession for dog registrations for eligible pensioners will also be continued for the 2025/2026 year.

"Council's pensioner concessions and the Queensland State Government pensioner subsidy scheme reduces the financial strain associated with rates and charges and hopefully this will help towards pensioners remaining in their own homes", said Mayor Kathy Duff.

To qualify for the Pensioner Concessions, a customer must be the holder of a current Centrelink Queensland Pensioner Concession Card or a Veteran's' Affairs Gold Card and the property they are claiming on must be their principal place of residence.

For new applications, Council can only apply the subsidy to the current six-monthly rating period. No backdating of pensioner subsidy has been authorised by the State Government.

Application forms for the rebate must be lodged by 30 June each year. These forms are available from Council's Customer Service Centres or may be downloaded from Council's website.

For further information contact Council on 4189 9100 or email info@sbrc.qld.gov.au.

Enhancing liveability and Lifestyle

South Burnett Regional Council is committed to enhancing the South Burnett region to be recognised as a “Community of Choice” by investing in community recreation and lifestyle facilities.

Investing in Arts and Heritage with \$15,000 for the repainting of the State Heritage listed Kingaroy Art Gallery and \$50,000 to the external painting of the Wondai Art Gallery. Conservation of the Boondooma Homestead restoration works will receive \$25,000 from Council, that will go towards repairing the original timber windows and doors and secure the building.

Various projects have been planned for the South Burnett pools, including:

- South Burnett Aquatic Centre – Replacement of the heat pump to the Hydrotherapy Pool \$140,000
- Kingaroy and Murgon Pool’s – Refurbishment of the toddler pool \$45,000
- Murgon Pool – Vacuum \$22,500

Council supports the ongoing maintenance of our region’s halls and appreciates the vital role they play in bringing the community together, the 2025/26 budget includes the below projects:

- Murgon Hall - Repair and reseal rear access driveway \$40,000
- Kingaroy Town Hall Carpark - Concrete paths \$54,000
- Wondai Town Hall – Re-roofing \$200,000
- Durong Hall - Ramp replacement \$10,000

Recreational facilities are key to fostering a healthy and active community, this budget incorporates many upgrades to the South Burnett parks and outdoor spaces.

- New Playground at Coronation Park in Wondai - \$550,000
- Proston Railway Park shade sail - \$40,000
- Murgon Lions Park - Softfall under climbing caterpillar - \$45,000
- Replacement of playground gates in all towns - \$107,000
- New playground at Memerambi - \$100,000
- Murgon Dog Park fence (using some existing fence panels from Kingaroy Airport) - \$40,000
- Tingoorra Rail Trail timber bridge repairs - \$15,000
- Softfall Replacement – Kingaroy, Nanango and Wondai - \$173,170
- Kapernick Park - Viewing platform area for visitors to look out over the Murgon landscape and volcanic soils, new sign and demolish toilets - \$70,000

For further information contact Council on 4189 9100 or email info@sbrc.qld.gov.au.

Providing Key Infrastructure for our Towns and Villages

South Burnett Regional Council will continue its focus on back to basics with its Transport infrastructure, announcing a continued priority for road construction and maintenance with another major investment in its road capital and renewal program.

- \$13.7M on capital works including:
 - Second major bitumen reseal program at \$5M
 - \$875K in additional major pavement repairs
 - \$2M reconstruction of Blackbutt Crows Nest Road
 - Sealing of Morris Street Blackbutt \$829K
 - On-street parking upgrade Burnett Street (Alan Downie Fields) \$200K
 - Continuation of the Tessmanns Road Footpath Link \$460k
 - Stormwater upgrade Murgon CBD - \$450k
 - Bunya Avenue Dandabah Carpark Upgrade \$70k
 - Youngman Street Kerb & Channel (Near Hospital) \$217k
 - \$875k in complementary works on flood damage roads
 - \$150K for gravel resheeting and shoulder resheeting

Council will continue to deliver its flood damage repairs to its road network which with multiple events over the past few years is now expected to be in excess of \$100M.

Improving safety and reliability of South Burnett's water and wastewater supply will remain key important items for Council, with a combined \$15.8M capital works plan for water and wastewater assets.

- \$9.4M capital works for water supply assets
- \$6.4M capital works for wastewater supply assets
 - River Road trunk sewer main upgrade (provide additional development capacity)
 - Nanango wastewater plant system control upgrades
 - Switchboard and automation renewals
 - Ivy Street water main upgrade (provide additional capacity for development)
 - Bathymetric survey and de-sludging intake tower of Gordonbrook Dam
 - Premier Drive reservoir liner replacement
 - 1000 water meter renewals

For further information contact Council on 4189 9100 or email info@sbrc.qld.gov.au.

Growing our Region's Economy and Prosperity

Council recognises the importance of saleyards to the region and their necessity for rural community not only as a selling/buying and biosecurity complex but also as a vital hub for community members to come together and support fostering of connections and social interaction, to mitigate social isolation that is common in rural communities.

Therefore, Council is investing \$330,000 in Coolabunia saleyards to deliver Stage 2A and 2B for the upgrade of the yards facility to meet industry standards in animal welfare. This builds on the work already completed that has seen an upgrade in the Double Loading Ramp that has increased workplace safety and supports higher animal welfare standards. Additionally, investment will be made in the refurbishment of the amenities block to support the increase in use from our local and regional transport operators that utilise the truck wash. This complements the work already completed in the last financial year that extended the concrete slab and installation of the AvData key system of the truck wash that has led increased functionality.

The Works for Queensland project of the construction of two new cabins at Bjelke Petersen Recreation and Caravan Park will continue with an expectation of completion by June 2026. The cabins will incorporate all abilities access, high-end accommodation to suit the emerging domestic travel market from visitors based in the Southeast and interstate travellers.

Investment in Boondooma Recreation and Caravan Park continue with upgrades to existing cabins and development of a recreation space along with Works for Queensland funding for the increase in accommodation variety that supports families visiting the Dam that like to experience our regions country hospitality.

Kingaroy airport is an important strategic transport asset with underutilised capacity. The airport is available to support commercial transportation options for current and emerging local businesses looking to invest in efficient transportation of products. Council is investing in a Masterplan to model future investment opportunities to increase financial sustainability of the airport and create economic stimulus to the region whilst supporting the diverse group of not-for-profits located at the airport that contribute to the region's social fabric.

Council is investing in commercial assets that support the region's economy in aerodromes, the Coolabunia Saleyards and the South Burnett Tourist Parks

For further information contact Council on 4189 9100 or email info@sbrc.qld.gov.au.

Safeguarding our Environment

South Burnett Regional Council is committed to a sustainable environment, proactively and responsibly managed in partnership with the community for future generations.

The following projects aim to reduce the environmental and community impacts:

- Blackbutt Flying Fox Roost Management – assist residents with a subsidy program to adopt management methods to help reduce the impact of flying fox noise and smell in key residential effected areas of Blackbutt and conduct a habitat and vegetation survey of Lions Park Blackbutt to determine if habitat is suitable for flying fox roost.
- Feral Animal Control Programs – support the three (3) existing syndicate groups with on
- ground management programs to control wild dogs and feral pigs in the region. Purchase of two new pig traps to hire to landholders for feral pig control.
- Council Depot wash down areas – to effectively manage the discharge of oily water from Councils wash down bays through regular pump out and removal of oily water to meet environmental requirements.
- Wild Dog Scalps – additional \$14,000 to pay landholders for wild dog scalps.
- Weed Treatment – additional chemical to be purchased as Council Biosecurity team target the treatment of prohibited and restricted weeds on local roads and reserves

The 2025/26 budget will see a \$1.4M investment in waste for the South Burnett with the following projects planned:

- Kingaroy Landfill expansion – feasibility report and detailed design of the new landfill. This project will be to undertake all activities and processes prior to construction commencing next financial year.
- Cloyna Transfer Station Upgrade – upgrade access and surveillance of the waste facility. This will include a new gate, security functionality and camera surveillance to support operations.

For further information contact Council on 4189 9100 or email info@sbrc.qld.gov.au.

Organisational Excellence

South Burnett Regional Council is continuing to invest in our staff and deliver an organisation that is customer focused and pursuing excellence. This will be actioned through a number of initiatives over the 2025/26 financial year that include:

Strategic Human Resources and Workforce Planning Initiatives

- Develop a Workforce Plan 2025–2029, aligned to Council's strategic direction and long-term service needs.
- Implementation of a Strategic Training Needs Analysis (TNA) to prioritise development investment and identify critical skills gaps.

Learning and Development (L&D) Initiatives

- Enhancement of compliance, safety, and core skills training, aligned to operational risk and service delivery.

Work Health and Safety Initiatives

- Proactively addressing these risks reduces the likelihood of psychological injuries, absenteeism, and WorkCover claims.
- It supports the Corporate Plan and Community Plan 2032 commitments to a safe and inclusive workplace.

Capital Projects and System Improvements

- Implementation of an e-Recruitment Module to streamline job creation, approvals, candidate experience and recruitment reporting.

For further information contact Council on 4189 9100 or email info@sbrc.qld.gov.au.



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