



**TOOWOOMBA
REGION**

FEDERAL ELECTION SUBMISSION 2019



ROADS



RESILIENCE



WATER



DEVELOPMENT



SUSTAINABILITY



CITY DEAL

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Toowoomba Region is one of Queensland's most vibrant and diverse regional communities. The area is experiencing unprecedented growth, with the current rate of development testament to the region's potential.

We are fortunate that the Federal Government is a significant investor in our Region through their assistance with local projects.

Construction of the Toowoomba Second Range Crossing, a \$1.6 billion project is set to cement Toowoomba's vision of becoming a nationally recognised intermodal transport hub. The Federal Government's continuing commitment to the Melbourne to Brisbane Inland Rail Project is also creating excitement in our Region.

Our task, as a local government, is to provide the community's essential services that set the environment for our community to prosper in an economically responsible manner. Council believes that further investment by the Federal Government is vital to cater for our future growth and seize the wealth of opportunity before us.



The priority projects included in this submission will enhance Toowoomba's social and economic strength and improve the lifestyle of our community as it moves into an exciting new chapter:

- Bowenville Moola and Dalby Nungil Stages (Maranoa)
- Continuation of East Creek Masterplan - Upgrade of Neil Street Culvert (Groom)
- Perseverance Raw Water Main Renewal (Maranoa)
- Railway Parklands Stage 2 (Groom)
- Escarpment Trails and Tourism (Groom).

Council also supports the Australian Local Government Association's (ALGA) objective of ensuring local government's sustainability through:

- 1% taxation guarantee for local government (all electorates)
- Constitutional recognition of local government (all electorates).

The population of South East Queensland (SEQ) is the home of one in seven Australians and our Region craves better connectivity to this growing area. For this reason, our Council is supportive of the SEQ Council of Mayor's strategy that brings together all levels to find new funding options for economic and social infrastructure to service the growing region. Council considers the best opportunity to fund the future infrastructure that will assist connectivity is through the:

- SEQ City Deal (all electorates in South East Queensland).

Toowoomba Regional Council looks forward to working with the forty-sixth Parliament of Australia to make the Toowoomba Region an even better place to live, work and play.

Paul Antonio

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Antonio". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Mayor - Toowoomba Regional Council





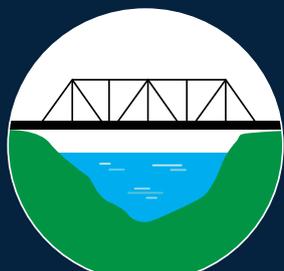
ROADS

PRIORITY: ROADS OF REGIONAL SIGNIFICANCE **PROJECT: BOWENVILLE-MOOLA AND DALBY-NUNGIL**

Total project estimate: \$24 million | Electorate: Maranoa

Greater access for Higher Productivity Vehicles (HPVs) has been a high priority for government, industry, freight operators and end users of freight services because of the productivity gains and cost savings they generate. However, many freight journeys commence or end on local roads and an inability to operate HPVs for the entire journey can substantially reduce the productivity gains.

Toowoomba Regional Council is seeking support from the Federal Government for a key freight route, the Bowenville-Moola Road and Dalby-Nungil Road. These roads of regional significance provide strategic industry access to seven cattle feedlots and four piggery operations. New investment in these key freight routes will strengthen the economic growth of key industries in the Toowoomba and Western Downs Regions.



RESILIENCE

PRIORITY: COMMUNITY RESILIENCE **UPGRADE OF NEIL STREET CULVERT**

Total project estimate: \$12 million | Electorate: Groom

Toowoomba Regional Council is determined to build flood immunity in our Region and requests support for the upgrade of Neil Street culvert. This upgrade is the next stage of the East Creek Flood Mitigation Masterplan.

The upgrade will include:

- An intersection upgrade of Neil Street and New England Highway (Chalk Drive)
- Replacement and upgrade of existing box culverts to improve flood mitigation
- Improvements to traffic configuration of intersection; and improved connectivity of pedestrian and cycleway networks.

The Neil Street culvert upgrade will provide maximum benefit for flood mitigation on this important waterway.



WATER

PRIORITY: WATER SECURITY **PERSEVERANCE RAW WATER MAIN RENEWAL**

Total project estimate: \$78 million | Electorate: Maranoa

Toowoomba Regional Council requests support for the renewal of the Perseverance raw water main. Built in 1968, this important 28 km trunk main has been declining in performance and needs substantial renewal.

A recent condition and performance analysis provides a strong case for upgrade.

The project, estimated to cost \$78 million, involves replacing the entire length of main to 750 mm pipe from the Pechey balance reservoirs to the Mt Kynoch Water Treatment Plant.

An upgrade to the Perseverance raw water main renewal would provide improved water security for the Toowoomba Region.





DEVELOPMENT

PRIORITY: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT **RAILWAY PARKLANDS STAGE 2**

Total project estimate: \$30 million | Electorate: Groom

The Toowoomba Railway Parklands project is a once-in-a-generation opportunity that will transform Toowoomba, unlike anything we have seen in the past 100 years.

The 50 hectare parcel of land, bound by Russell, Neil, Campbell, Ruthven, Bridge and Mort Streets, has been identified as an opportunity to invigorate business investment, employment opportunities and boost the housing sector within an under-utilised area of the central business district.

Toowoomba Regional Council is seeking support from the Federal Government for Stage 2 that will see the commencement of parkland development to the north of the Goods Shed.

ESCARPMENT TRAILS AND TOURISM

Total project estimate: \$25.7 million | Groom, Wright

The Toowoomba Regional Council is seeking support from the Federal Government to initiate three significant nature based tourism and trails projects that will unlock the potential of nature-based, outdoor recreation facilities and increase sports tourism opportunities across the Toowoomba escarpment parks.

ESCARPMENT TRAILS IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

(with Lockyer Valley Regional Council)

Total project estimate: \$7.2 million

The Escarpment Trails Implementation Plan aims to improve recreational facilities in the parks to help draw more people to the region. New lookouts will be built to maximise the brilliant vistas from the range and across the Lockyer Valley.

PICNIC POINT REGIONAL PARK - MASTERPLAN

Total project estimate: \$15.5 million

The iconic Picnic Point Parklands is the centrepiece of Toowoomba Region's escarpment. Investment will occur across multiple projects.

BRIDGE STREET QUARRY GARDENS PROJECT

(Stage 1 – Safety Upgrade)

Total project estimate: \$3 million

The development of the Bridge Street Quarry Gardens Project provides the Region with an opportunity to develop a world-class ecotourism attraction that complements Toowoomba's reputation as 'the Garden City'.

“ The beauty of the Toowoomba Range is a natural advantage for our Region. ” *Mayor Paul Antonio*





SUSTAINABILITY

PRIORITY: LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUSTAINABILITY **1% TAXATION FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

Electorate: All electorates

Toowoomba Regional Council supports the ALGA campaign calling for a fixed 1% share of Commonwealth taxation revenue to enable long term financial planning and certainty.

Local government currently receives just over half a per cent (0.55%) of funding from the Federal Government. In total local government raises 3% of all the taxation revenue in Australia and are required to manage 33% of public assets. In comparison, the Federal Government collects 80% of taxes and manages 11% of public assets.

Toowoomba Regional Council joins the ALGA in requesting that the Federal Government restore Commonwealth financial assistance grants to at least 1% of Commonwealth taxation revenue.

CONSTITUTIONAL RECOGNITION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

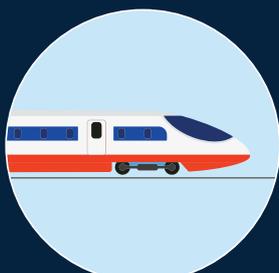
Electorate: All electorates

Toowoomba Regional Council supports the ALGA position for a referendum on “financial” recognition of local government through the amendment of Section 96 of the Constitution.

If passed, the amendment would enable the Commonwealth to continue to provide direct funding to local government for vital community services and infrastructure, something governments have been doing for more than a decade.

Adequate resourcing of local councils to meet the needs of their communities is in everyone’s interest. The only way to resolve the uncertainty surrounding this funding is through a referendum.

Toowoomba Regional Council joins the ALGA in requesting that the Federal Government support a referendum to recognise local government in the Australian Constitution.



CITY DEAL

PRIORITY: SOUTH EAST QUEENSLAND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT **PROJECT: SEQ COUNCIL OF MAYOR'S PRIORITY - SEQ CITY DEAL**

Electorate: Several South East Queensland federal electorates

Toowoomba Regional Council, as part of the SEQ Council of Mayors supports the establishment of an SEQ City Deal, a new and innovative funding model that brings all levels of government together through a long-term funding commitment. The SEQ City Deal has the potential to deliver an agreed set of economic, social and environmental outcomes including turning South East Queensland into a 45 minute region.

SEQ Council of Mayors proposal identified three projects that will have a direct impact on improved connectivity for our Region:

- Warrego Highway Upgrade Projects – Ipswich to Toowoomba
- Bus Rapid Transit – Ipswich to Toowoomba
- Faster Rail - Ipswich to Toowoomba.

Toowoomba Regional Council seeks a commitment from the Federal Government to continue negotiating an SEQ City Deal with the aim of signing an agreement in early 2020.



OTHER PROJECTS:

ROADS OF REGIONAL SIGNIFICANCE

HIGHFIELDS/GOWRIE GROWTH AREA CONNECTION

Total project estimate: \$28 million | Electorate: Groom

Council requests \$28 million to support the Highfields/Gowrie Growth Area Connection Project. The project involves the construction of a new link bridge providing a transport connection between Mort Street and Old Goombungee Road and safety improvements.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUSTAINABILITY

FEDERAL DEPARTMENT MOVE TO TOOWOOMBA

Electorate: Groom

In 2018, a Federal Parliamentary inquiry on regional development and decentralisation took evidence in Toowoomba about opportunities to relocate Federal departments or sections of Federal departments to regional centres.

Toowoomba Regional Council supports the Federal Government in this initiative and urges strong consideration of Toowoomba Region for any departmental relocations.

“ The development of economic infrastructure will ensure our Region’s future growth ” *Mayor Paul Antonio*



OTHER PROJECTS:

WATER SECURITY

COOBY DAM SPILLWAY UPGRADE AND CRESSBROOK DAM SPILLWAY UPGRADE

Total project estimate: \$138 million | Electorate: Maranoa

Cressbrook Dam and Cooby Dam are two of three surface storages that are the primary supply of water to Toowoomba and both dams require spillway upgrades to comply with licensing requirements for acceptable flood capacity.

With an estimated cost exceeding \$138 million (2016 estimate) (\$182 million - 2025 forecast), the upgrades to Cooby spillway and Cressbrook spillway could be combined into the one project. The cost of these spillway upgrades, which are both required in a similar timeframe, places an untenable strain and impact on Council's financial resources.

Toowoomba Regional Council seeks support from the Federal Government for the upgrade of Cressbrook Dam and Cooby Dam spillways.

WATER SECURITY

CROWS NEST WASTEWATER

Total project estimate: \$9.8 million | Electorate: Maranoa

Onsite septic tanks or household treatment plants treat sewage in Crows Nest (population approximately 1,800). The effluent from these onsite systems is collected by the Common Effluent Drainage (CED) sewerage system and transported to effluent lagoons where final treatment occurs. Discharge from the effluent lagoons irrigates the adjacent golf course. There is an excessive volume of solids in the network due to ineffective onsite treatment and the system has a significant infiltration rate during wet weather events.

Toowoomba Regional Council seeks assistance from the Federal Government to construct a new wastewater treatment plant at Crows Nest to replace capacity of the current CED lagoons.

WATER SECURITY

WATER FUTURES - ALTERNATE WATER SOURCES

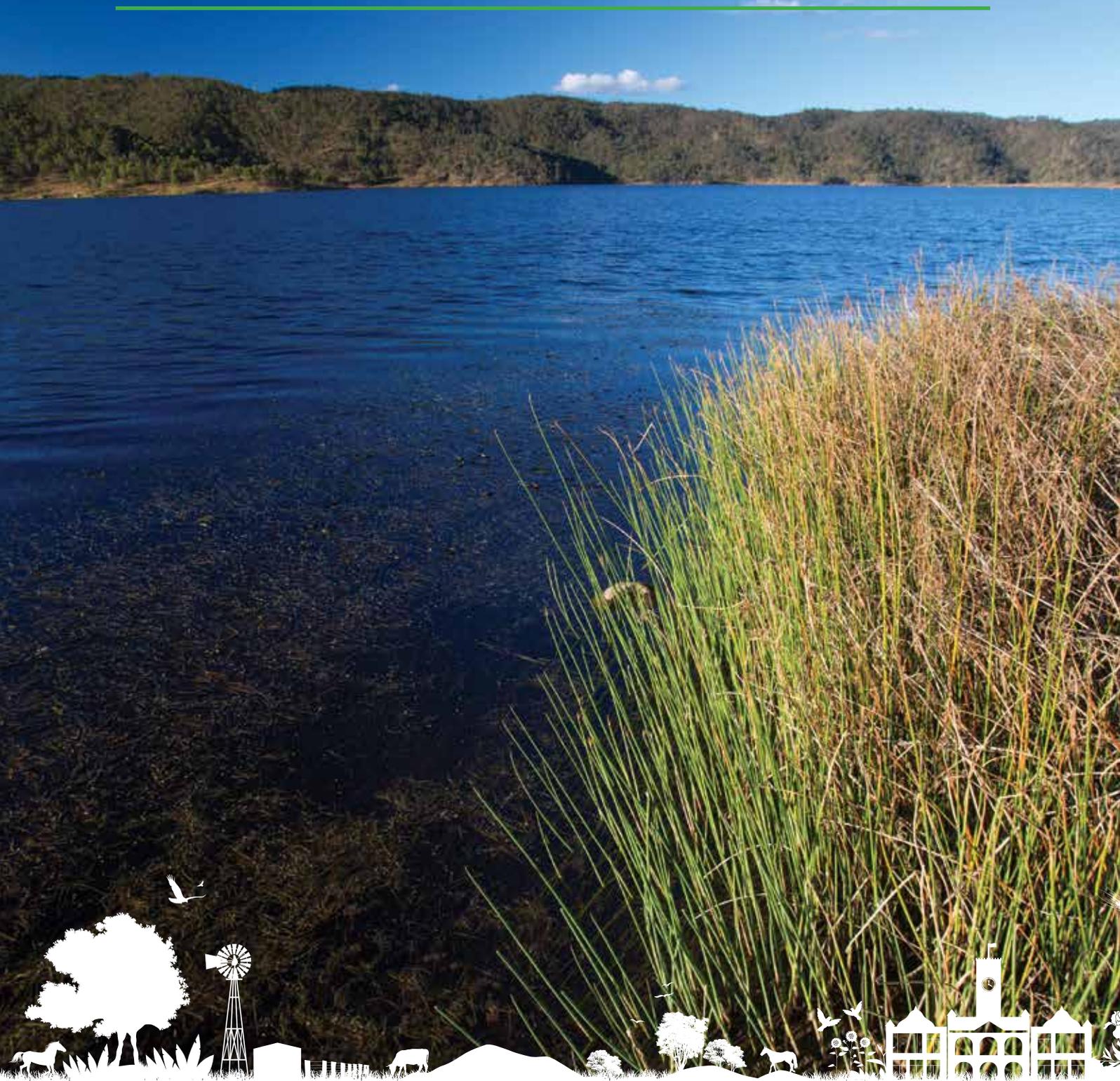
Electorate: Groom, Maranoa

The issue of water security is an issue impacting many local government areas across the state and Australia. Toowoomba Region's full drought status was declared on 1 March 2014 and the severity of the current drought is reflected in the Region's low dam levels and stressed groundwater supplies.

Toowoomba Regional Council is seeking support from the Federal Government to work on future alternative water sources for our region to enhance water security for the future generations.



“ These priority projects will enhance Toowoomba’s social and economic strength and improve the lifestyle of our community. ” *Mayor Paul Antonio*



For more information about the key priorities for the Toowoomba Regional Council visit www.tr.qld.gov.au/federalection