



**TOOWOOMBA
REGION**

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SUBMISSION 2021



This document contains the priority projects Toowoomba Regional Council is advocating for, on behalf of the community, from the Federal Government. For a full list of projects visit www.tr.qld.gov.au/advocacy

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Local governments are community builders. Few organisations deliver the range of services we provide for our customers every day.

Our task, as a local government organisation, is to provide the community's essential services in an economically responsible manner. Council believes that further investment is vital to seize the wealth of opportunity before us.

Local government cannot be left to shoulder the full cost of providing essential infrastructure to our growing communities in addition to meeting residents' expectations across our other activities.

The priority projects in this submission will enhance the Toowoomba Region's economic strength and improve the lifestyle of our residents as our community moves into an exciting new chapter.

The best years are ahead of us and working together; we can make the Toowoomba Region an even better place to live, work and play.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Antonio".

Paul Antonio
Mayor - Toowoomba Regional Council



WASTEWATER

PROJECT: CROWS NEST WASTEWATER

Total project estimate: \$9.8 million

Onsite septic tanks and household treatment plants treat sewage in Crows Nest (population approximately 1800). The effluent from these onsite systems is collected by the Common Effluent Discharge (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 significant infiltration during wet weather events.

Investment in new wastewater infrastructure for the Crows Nest township will remove the partial reliance on septic systems. The improvements will also mean that all sewage will pass through an upgraded sewerage treatment plant. Employing modern treatment methods will improve the health and environmental risks from the current system and return many benefits to the community.

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





SUSTAINABILITY

PROJECT: COOBY DAM AND CRESSBROOK DAM SPILLWAY UPGRADES

Total project estimate: \$203 million

Cressbrook Dam and Cooby Dam are two of three surface storages that are the primary supply of water to Toowoomba. Toowoomba Regional Council seeks funding assistance for the upgrade of Cressbrook Dam and Cooby Dam spillways.

The cost of these spillway upgrades, which are both required in a similar timeframe, places an untenable strain and impact on the Council's financial resources.

The Cooby Dam upgrade requires a spillway width increase from 69 metres to 100 metres and a dam crest level increase from 5.9 metres to RL492.5 at a cost of \$32 million. The upgrade is required to meet the requirement of the State Government's Dam Safety Regulator for the dams to safely pass 100% of the Acceptable Flood Capacity (AFC).

Cressbrook Dam Spillway Upgrade requires a spillway width increase from 20.3 metres to 65 metres and a dam crest level increase by 2.4m to RL292.4 at a cost of \$171 million. The upgrade is required to meet the requirement of the State Government's Dam Safety Regulator for the dams to safely pass 100% of the Acceptable Flood Capacity.



WATER

PROJECT: NEW WATER TREATMENT PLANT

Total project estimate: \$96 million

The Toowoomba Bulk Water Supply (TBWS) Water Security Investigations Report identified that augmentations of the existing water sources and infrastructure will be required to meet water demand.

A performance assessment has identified that there will be multiple supply constrictions for the bulk water system moving forward, with respect to raw water supply, treatment capacity and water transportation infrastructure.

A new water source and water treatment plant were identified as key requirements for the TBWS to meet the increasing demand.

The current water treatment plant at Mt Kynoch is expected to reach maximum capacity in 2022. This capacity limit has been experienced during past

summers. The project will include design of a new water treatment plant to meet future population needs as well as elements to improve water security in the Toowoomba Region.

Construction of a new water treatment facility will not only meet existing needs, but also future water quality and quantity requirements for the Toowoomba Region.





ROADS

PROJECT: HIGHFIELDS / GOWRIE GROWTH AREA CONNECTION PROJECT

Total project estimate: \$32 million

Council's strategic planning provides for significant growth (a further 9000 residents over the next 20 years and 4000 new dwellings) in the northern communities of Toowoomba which include the Highfields, Gowrie Junction and Meringandan areas.

Such growth is expected to generate 40,000 additional vehicle trips per day on the transport network. Of these, 30,000 will travel between these northern communities and key destinations in the CBD, the Toowoomba Enterprise Hub (TEH), and to other destinations (both within and outside the region) via the State-controlled transport network which includes the Toowoomba Second Range Crossing (TSRC).

To this end, Council's Sustainable Transport Strategy identifies a need for a transport network link between

Old Goombungee Road and Mort Street to provide alternative access for the northern communities of Highfields, Gowrie Junction and Meringandan to Toowoomba City, the TEH and the State-controlled transport network including the TSRC.

The Highfields / Gowrie Growth Areas Connection Project involves the construction of a new link bridge providing a transport connection between Mort Street and Old Goombungee Road and Old Goombungee Road safety improvements to the New England Highway.

It is worth noting that there is general consensus with the Department of Transport and Main Roads that the project provides benefits to both the local and state road networks.



RESILIENCE

PROJECT: UPGRADE OF NEIL STREET CULVERT

Total project estimate: \$12 million

Toowoomba Regional Council is determined to continue building flood immunity in our Region and requests support for the upgrade of Neil Street culvert to a nominal Q100 design. This upgrade is the next stage of the East Creek Masterplan Flood Mitigation Project.

The upgrade will include:

- an intersection upgrade of Neil Street and New England Highway (Chalk Drive)
- replacement and upgrade of the existing box culverts to improve flood mitigation
- improved connectivity of pedestrian and cycleway networks.

The Neil Street culvert upgrade will continue to build upon Council's flood mitigation program and

substantially improve infrastructure resilience and community safety and connectivity in this area of Toowoomba City.

