



**TOOWOOMBA
REGION**

STATE ELECTION

SUBMISSION 2020



WATER



WASTEWATER



ROADS



RESILIENCE



FACILITIES



DEVELOPMENT



SUSTAINABILITY



“ Local governments are community builders. Few organisations deliver the range of services that we provide for our customers every day. ” *Mayor Paul Antonio*

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

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

As a Council, we are determined to overcome the effects of the global pandemic and ensure the essential services we provide keep up with the growth of our Region.

The State Government has always been a significant investor in the Toowoomba Region. In the past financial year, Council has received more than \$28 million in grants, subsidies and contributions from the State and Federal governments. While Council is grateful for these contributions, it reinforces how dependent local government is on external funding.

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

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.

For the next State Government term, our Region is advocating for investment in the following:

- **Water Security**
 - Toowoomba Region Southern Water Pipeline
 - Perseverance Pipeline
- **Wastewater upgrades**
 - Clifton Sewerage Treatment Plant
 - Crows Nest Wastewater
- **Roads of regional significance**
 - Bowenville-Moola Road and Dalby-Nungil Road
 - Highfields CBD Road Upgrade Project
 - Highfields/Gowrie Growth Area Connection
- **Flood mitigation upgrades**
 - Neil Street Culvert
 - Gowrie Creek Corridor Planning Study
- **Community facilities**
 - Highfields Library
- **Economic Development**
 - Highfields Town Centre Infrastructure Development
 - Railway Parklands PDA
 - Railway Goods Shed Stage 2
 - Bridge Street Quarry Gardens
 - Russell Street Streetscape
- **Regional Sustainability**
 - New Toowoomba Hospital
 - New State High School – Toowoomba West Growth Corridor
 - Cooby Dam and Cressbrook Dam Spillway Upgrades
 - Toowoomba Showgrounds sustainability
 - Asset Sustainability Ratio (ASR) Change
 - Fast Rail - Brisbane to Toowoomba

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.

We are a resilient Region. We have rebuilt after floods, fire, severe drought and we will again after COVID-19.

The best years are ahead of us and working together; we can rebuild our Region. Toowoomba Regional Council looks forward to working with the next Parliament of Queensland to make our Region an even better place to live, work and play.



Paul Antonio
Mayor - Toowoomba Regional Council



Back row: Cr Tim McMahon, Cr Melissa Taylor, Cr Bill Cahill, Cr Carol Taylor, Cr Nancy Sommerfield.

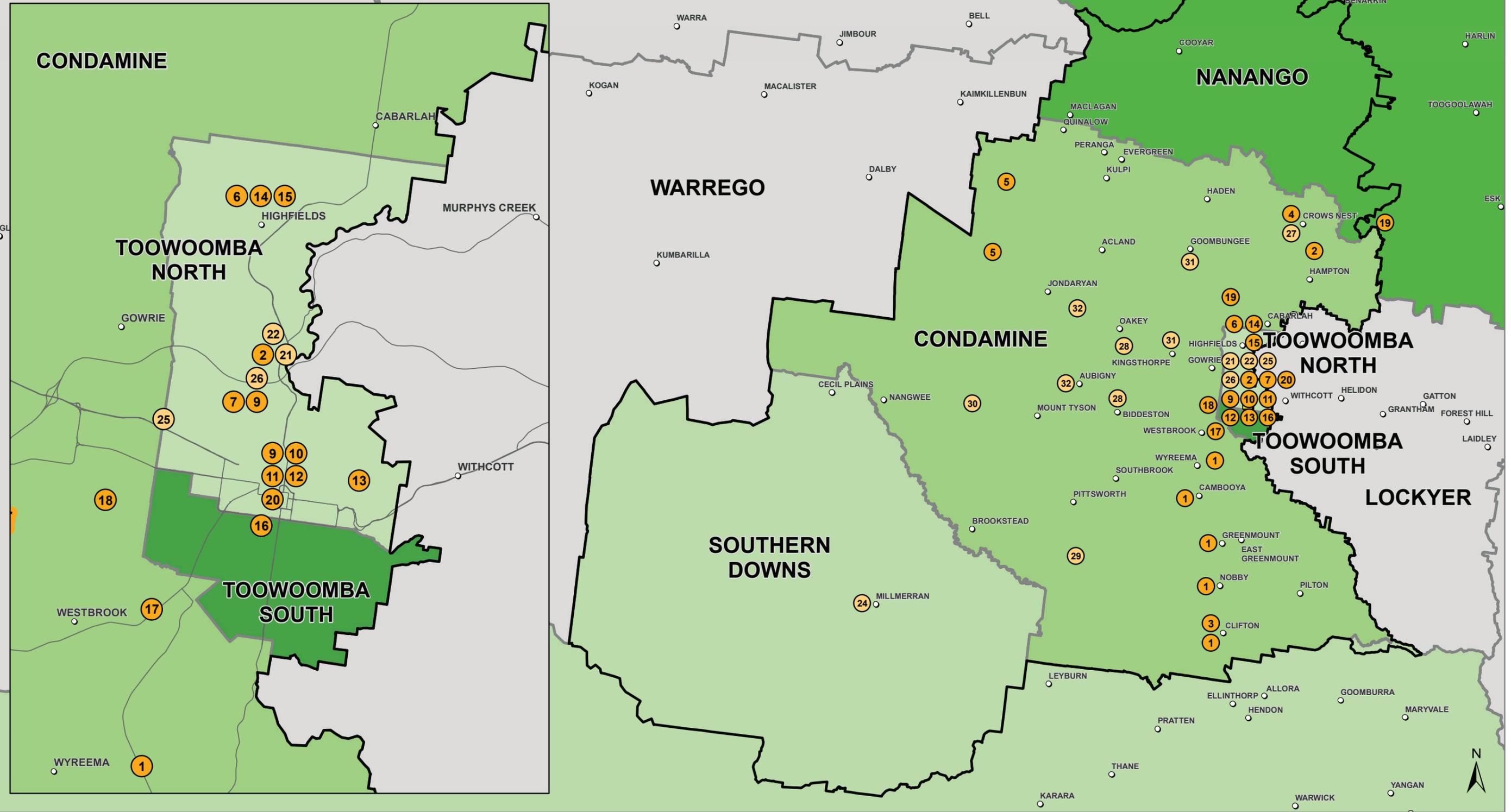
Middle row: Cr Kerry Shine, Cr Rebecca Vonhoff, Cr James O'Shea.

Front row: Cr Megan O'Hara Sullivan, Mayor Paul Antonio, and Deputy Mayor Geoff McDonald.

“ Toowoomba Regional Council looks forward to working with the Queensland Government to make our region an even better place to live, work and play. ” *Mayor Paul Antonio*



Toowoomba Region State Electorate Map



Key Projects

- | | | |
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| 2 Perseverance Raw Water Main Renewal | 7 Highfields/Gowrie Growth Area Connection – Detailed design | 12 Russell Street Streetscape |
| 3 Clifton Sewerage Treatment Plant Upgrade | 8 Asset Sustainability Ratio (ASR) Change (All of Queensland) | 13 Bridge Street Quarry Gardens Rehabilitation – Stage 1 |
| 4 Crows Nest Wastewater | 9 Gowrie Creek Corridor Planning Study | 14 New Highfields Library Building |
| 5 Bowenville Moola Road and Dalby Nungil Road | 10 Railway Parklands Stage 2A – Detailed design | 15 Highfields Town Centre Infrastructure Development |

Other Projects

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PRIORITY: WATER SECURITY
PROJECT: TOOWOOMBA REGION SOUTHERN WATER PIPELINE

Total project estimate: \$25 million | Electorate: Condamine

The proposed Toowoomba Region Southern Water Pipeline will provide a sustainable water supply to the communities of Vale View, Cambooya, Greenmount, Nobby and Clifton.

For decades, water quality in these communities has been of concern with local bores declining in production capability. Council is currently carting 11 truck loads of potable water from the Toowoomba Bulk Water Supply into Clifton every day.

With a total pipeline length of 45km and an estimated cost of \$25 million, all towns could be serviced for the foreseeable future by a Toowoomba Region Southern Water Pipeline connecting Clifton to the Toowoomba Bulk Water Supply.

Toowoomba Regional Council seeks the State Government's support and financial assistance to coordinate, plan, design and construct the Toowoomba Region Southern Water Pipeline.

PRIORITY: WATER SECURITY
PROJECT: PERSEVERANCE RAW WATER MAIN RENEWAL

Total project estimate: \$50 million | Electorate: Condamine

Toowoomba Regional Council requests support for the renewal of the Perseverance Raw Water Main. With the pipeline constructed in 1968, this critical 28km trunk main has been declining in performance and needs substantial renewal.

A recent condition and performance analysis has provided a strong case for an upgrade.

The project, estimated to cost \$50 million, will completely replace the entire length of main to 750mm pipe from the Pechey balance reservoirs to the Mt Kynoch Water Treatment Plant.



PRIORITY: WASTEWATER
PROJECT: CLIFTON SEWERAGE TREATMENT PLANT UPGRADE

Total project estimate: \$2 million | Electorate: Condamine

The Clifton Wastewater Treatment Plant was commissioned in the 1970s and has four settlement ponds as part of its treatment process. The plant has over time received several smaller improvements to extend its longevity but ultimately requires a thorough overhaul. Due to its age, the treatment plant requires a substantial upgrade to meet current regulatory and environmental requirements.

An upgrade to the system would improve the effluent quality to meet current State Government regulatory requirements now and into the future. An improved treatment plant would also provide a valuable resource for the local agricultural industry by making available fit-for-purpose recycled water for drought-affected local growers.

Toowoomba Regional Council seeks assistance from the State Government for funding to assess the current plant, design planning of the inflow and a new plant to meet licence conditions.



PRIORITY: WASTEWATER
PROJECT: CROWS NEST WASTEWATER

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

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 risk from the current system and return many benefits to the community and the environment.

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.



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

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

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 State 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.

“ Investment in local roads will support industry, future regional growth and make us more resilient to natural disasters. ” *Mayor Paul Antonio*





PRIORITY: ROADS OF REGIONAL SIGNIFICANCE
PROJECT: HIGHFIELDS CBD ROAD UPGRADE PROJECT

Total project estimate: \$7 million | Electorate: Toowoomba North

The Highfields CBD Road Upgrade Project involves a major intersection upgrade at the junction of Kratzke Road, O'Brien Road and Highfields Road. The upgrade includes full signalisation, associated drainage works, utility relocations and public transport facilities.

The project will act as a catalyst for the new Highfields CBD Upgrade, improving traffic flow and safer pedestrian accessibility for nearby schools and aged care facilities.

Toowoomba Regional Council seeks assistance from the State Government for this critical upgrade project.

PRIORITY: ROADS OF REGIONAL SIGNIFICANCE
PROJECT: HIGHFIELDS/GOWRIE GROWTH AREA CONNECTION - DETAILED DESIGN

Total project estimate: \$2.5 million | Electorate: Toowoomba North

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 the Region including the Highfields, Gowrie Junction and Meringandan areas.

Growth in the Highfields area is expected to generate 40000 additional vehicle trips per day on the transport network. Of these commuters, 30000 will travel between northern communities, CBD destinations, the Toowoomba Trade Gateway and other destinations within and outside the Region using State-controlled transport networks including the Toowoomba Bypass.

The Highfields / Gowrie Growth Areas Connection Project involves the construction of a new link bridge providing a transport connection between Mort Street Interchange on the Toowoomba Bypass and Old Goombungee Road including safety improvements to Old Goombungee Road.

Council requests \$2.5 million to progress detailed design of the Highfields/Gowrie Growth area Connection Project.

“ We must harness our combined assets to weather the current downturn and position our Region for renewed growth.” *Mayor Paul Antonio*



PRIORITY: COMMUNITY RESILIENCE
PROJECT: UPGRADE OF NEIL STREET CULVERT

Total project estimate: \$12 million | Electorate: Toowoomba North

Toowoomba Regional Council is determined to build flood immunity in our Region and request 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 Projects.

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 in this area of Toowoomba City.

PRIORITY: COMMUNITY RESILIENCE
PROJECT: GOWRIE CREEK CORRIDOR - VICTORIA TO GRIFFITHS STREET PLANNING STUDY

Total project estimate: \$0.4 million | Electorate: Toowoomba North

The proposed planning study will look at the critical elements in Council's Gowrie Creek Catchment Flood Mitigation Project downstream of the Toowoomba CBD.

The project will include a planning study for flood mitigation and green corridor options in the Gowrie Creek Corridor from Victoria Street, CBD to Griffiths Street, Willowburn.

Toowoomba Regional Council seeks funding assistance for this critical flood mitigation planning study.



PRIORITY: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
PROJECT: RAILWAY PARKLANDS STAGE 2A - DETAILED DESIGN

Total project estimate: \$4 million | Electorate: Toowoomba North

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

Investment in this 50-hectare parcel of land, bordered by Russell, Neil, Campbell, Ruthven, Bridge and Mort Streets will invigorate business investment, employment and the housing sector through an under-utilised area of the central business district.

Stage 2 parkland construction to the north of the Goods Shed will transform the iconic parkland and also provide a catalyst for the broader investment in the Toowoomba Railway Parklands Priority Development Area (PDA). The investment will stimulate growth through community activation, encouragement of significant private sector investment in urban renewal and commercial activities in surrounding precincts and enhancing connectivity to the broader central business district.

The long-term economic benefit of investment in PDA urban renewal and development is estimated at \$680 million and 3000 jobs.

The Toowoomba Regional Council is seeking support from the State Government for Stage 2A of the larger project that provides funding for detailed design for the parkland development.





DEVELOPMENT

PRIORITY: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

PROJECT: RAILWAY GOODS SHED - STAGE 2

Total project estimate: \$5 million | Electorate: Toowoomba North

Toowoomba Regional Council, with support from the Queensland Government, completed the first stage of development of the Railway Parklands PDA in 2019 through the restoration of the 120-year-old Railway Goods Shed.

This builds on the project's existing investment to create a fully functional iconic venue which would also accelerate both commercial and community use.

The additional investment will include soundproofing, commercial kitchens, air conditioning, light riggings and car parking. The investment will enable the venue to be self-contained and to be significantly more attractive to more significant events, conferences and exhibitions, attracting increased visitation and spend.

The project will significantly raise the profile of Toowoomba as an event, exhibition, conference and cultural destination. The completion of the Goods Shed will act as a catalyst for urban renewal of the surrounding precincts of the Railway Parklands Priority Development Area. It will also encourage commercial activities and realise a wider range of economic, cultural, social and civic benefits.

The Toowoomba Regional Council is seeking support from the State Government for Stage 2 upgrades to the Railway Goods Shed.

PRIORITY: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

PROJECT: RUSSELL STREET STREETSCAPE

Total project estimate: \$6 million | Electorate: Toowoomba North

Russell Street is an iconic Toowoomba destination with a critical role to play in the implementation of the Toowoomba City Centre Master Plan. The project that covers the precinct between Victoria and Neil Streets will transform Russell Street into a vibrant, people-friendly destination and enhance the area's unique character. It will provide an engaging and inclusive environment that supports business and community growth.

This project has the opportunity to reconnect Russell Street to the existing laneway network, the Ruthven Street redevelopment as well as the emerging Railway Parklands precinct and Queens Park. The project also capitalises on changes to the way people travel along Russell Street after the construction of the Outer Circulating Road, including provision for a more activated space for pedestrians and cyclists.

The concept plan proposes revitalising the street by upgrading footpaths, building a central median strip between Victoria and Ruthven streets, planting street trees, installing new street furniture, upgrading street and footpath lighting and installing public artworks.

Council is requesting State Government assistance for the construction of this shovel-ready project.



DEVELOPMENT

PRIORITY: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

PROJECT: BRIDGE STREET QUARRY GARDENS REHABILITATION - STAGE 1 - MAKE SAFE

Total project estimate: \$5 million | Electorate: Toowoomba North

Council seeks support to develop a world-class adventure and ecotourism attraction that complements Toowoomba's reputation as the Garden City. The development will create a unique tourism package new to Toowoomba, generating inter-state visitation and visitation from a younger demographic which currently Toowoomba does not attract.

The cost of Stage 1 includes:

- \$3.6 million for rehabilitation and risk management work
- \$1.38 million for entry and community gardens, adventure play, education centre and adventure tourism, site amenities, event outdoor amphitheatre.

A KPMG Feasibility Analysis anticipates that when complete, the Bridge Street Quarry Gardens Project would be expected to attract over 160000 visitors annually, of which 20% are expected to stay overnight in Toowoomba. The ongoing operation of the facility, including the opportunity for private commercial investment, is expected to provide 20 full-time-equivalent jobs (post-construction), and over 60 volunteer opportunities for the community.

Council seeks support for Stage 1 of the project to rehabilitate the site and provide safe and environmentally sustainable green space that will increase connectivity to other escarpment parks.



FACILITIES

PRIORITY: COMMUNITY FACILITIES

PROJECT: NEW HIGHFIELDS LIBRARY BUILDING

Total project estimate: \$7 million | Electorate: Toowoomba North

The Highfields Library project is an initiative to construct a library, customer service centre and community meeting facility in Highfields. The new facility will replace the existing temporary library which supports around 52600 visitors each year.

The project delivers a modern purpose-built library, customer service centre and community meeting facility that will meet the needs of the growing Highfields community. The project is planned to commence in early 2021 and expected to open in late 2021.

Council is seeking State Government support for this shovel-ready project.



“ Increased State Government investment will build on Toowoomba's economic strength. ” *Mayor Paul Antonio*



SUSTAINABILITY

PRIORITY: REGIONAL SUSTAINABILITY

PROJECT: HIGHFIELDS TOWN CENTRE INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

Total project estimate: \$2 million | Electorate: Toowoomba North

The growth of Highfields and the potential of the Central Highfields CBD is a good news story for our Region. The development of Central Highfields provides an opportunity to catalyse investment and jobs creation in one of Toowoomba's fastest-growing areas.

Council has worked in partnership with the Highfields community in developing the master plan. The new town centre will provide for a diversity of housing opportunities in a thriving greenfield centre. Council is currently developing the structural plan that sets the intended future urban form and land uses. The next phase of work will investigate a range of investment and development models for Council consideration.

Council is asking the State Government for funding to assist with the design of the infrastructure for the Highfields Town Centre development.

PRIORITY: REGIONAL SUSTAINABILITY

PROJECT: NEW TOOWOOMBA HOSPITAL

Electorate: Toowoomba South / Toowoomba North

Council is asking the State Government to fast-track development of the new Toowoomba Hospital and redevelopment of the current site.

PRIORITY: REGIONAL SUSTAINABILITY

PROJECT: NEW STATE HIGH SCHOOL - TOOWOOMBA WEST GROWTH CORRIDOR

Electorate: Condamine

Council is asking the State Government to deliver a new State High School to the Western Toowoomba Growth Corridor.

PRIORITY: REGIONAL SUSTAINABILITY

PROJECT: TOOWOOMBA SHOWGROUNDS SUSTAINABILITY

Electorate: Condamine

Council is seeking assistance from the State Government to support the future viability of the Toowoomba Showgrounds.

PRIORITY: REGIONAL SUSTAINABILITY

PROJECT: GOOBY DAM, CRESSBROOK DAM SPILLWAY UPGRADES

Total project estimate: \$203 million | Electorate: Condamine

Council is seeking funding for the upgrade of Spillways to meet the State's Dam Safety Regulator - 100% Acceptable Flood Capacity (AFC).

PRIORITY: REGIONAL SUSTAINABILITY

PROJECT: ASSET SUSTAINABILITY RATIO (ASR) CHANGE

Electorate: Whole of Queensland

Council is seeking a review of the measurement of depreciation under the ASR as a practical measure that will improve financial sustainability of local government.

PRIORITY: REGIONAL SUSTAINABILITY

PROJECT: FAST RAIL - BRISBANE TO TOOWOOMBA

Electorate: Toowoomba South / Toowoomba North

Council calls on the State Government to commit to a genuine exploration of fast rail in South East Queensland, delivered in partnership with the Commonwealth, the Council of Mayors (SEQ) and industry.

OTHER PROJECTS

WATER

New Toowoomba Water Treatment Plant Planning Study

Cost: \$3 million | Electorate: Toowoomba North / Condamine

Mt Kynoch Water Treatment Plant Upgrade

Cost: \$20 million | Electorate: Toowoomba North

WASTE

Yarraman Waste Facility Upgrade

Cost: \$4 million | Electorate: Nanango

Millmerran Waste Facility Upgrade

Cost: \$5 million | Southern Downs

ROADS

Boundary Street North Connector

Cost: \$60 million | Toowoomba North

Toowoomba Bypass Mort Street Interchange Gateway Entry Statement

Cost: \$3 million | Toowoomba North

Crows Nest - Blackbutt Link Upgrade

Cost: \$5 million | Nanango

Oakey Biddeston Road Rehabilitation Project

Cost: \$1 million | Condamine

Clifton Road Rehabilitation Project

Cost: \$1 million | Condamine

Bongeen Road Rehabilitation Project

Cost: \$1 million | Condamine

Kingsthorpe Haden Culvert Renewal

Cost: \$1 million | Condamine

Cockburn Road Upgrade Project

Cost: \$1 million | Condamine

“ Water Security is a national issue, and with State Government support, we must tackle this at a local level. ” *Mayor Paul Antonio*



www.tr.qld.gov.au/advocacy