



ADVOCACY PLAN 2024

Our priorities for a stronger **South Burnett**



ABOUT THE SOUTH BURNETT

Inland from the Sunshine Coast, South Burnett is an easy drive from Bundaberg, Brisbane and Toowoomba. It is an agricultural region growing a diversified economy.

A diverse range of agricultural produce and associated supply chains, including leather, pork, wine, pharmaceuticals, fruit, horticulture, beef, oils, peanuts and timber are the core strength of the South Burnett economy. The diverse range of growing industries exporting to domestic and global markets are supported by high employment and value add industries including Health & Social Services, Manufacturing, Mining, Electricity, Water & Wastewater and Retail Trade. Australia's two

largest peanut processors and a global pharmaceutical industry extend from the region's rich red volcanic soils, while Swickers is one of the southern hemisphere's largest, and Queensland's only, export accredited pork abattoir.

Enabling growth in the agriculture and advanced manufacturing is integral to realising Council's vision for the regional economy.



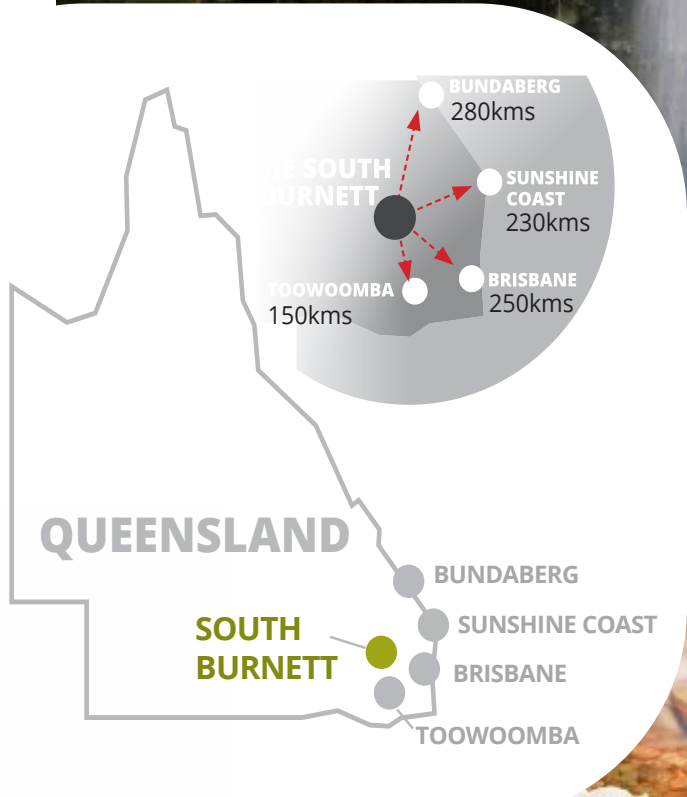
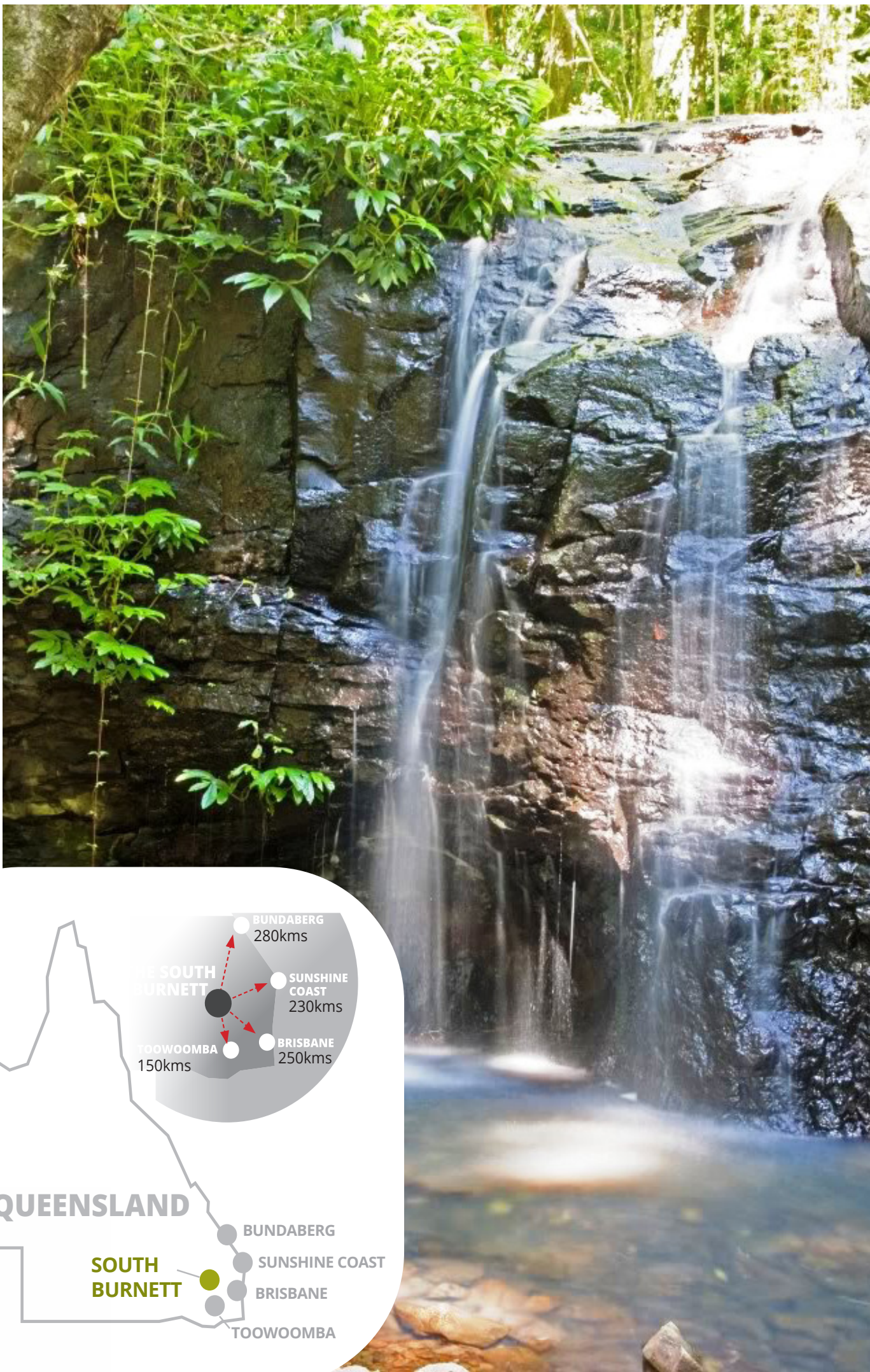
Major employment industries in the South Burnett in 2022/23 were Health Care and Social Assistance (16.41%), Retail (10.9%) and Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing (10.5%). This demonstrates a stable base of employment across the region. Productivity has decreased from \$142,262/worker in 2017/18 to \$129,517/worker in 2022/23. Worker productivity by industry is calculated by dividing the industry value add by the number of persons employed in that industry. It shows which industries generate the most value add per employee. Some industry sectors, such as retail trade, are not highly productive per worker, but they employ a lot of people. Other industries, such as mining, employ fewer people but generate high levels of productivity. In the South Burnett 50.3% of the local workers (people who are employed in the local area, regardless of where they live) are males and 49.7% are female. In the South Burnett, there are more younger workers (15 to 54 years) than older workers (55 years and over) in the local worker population. 39.3% of local workers in the South Burnett are employed part-time and 58% are employed full-time. Within the South Burnett region, the workforce has a similar proportion of managers and professionals compared to Queensland. In South Burnett, 11% of local workers earned \$2,000 or more per week.

GRP
\$2.11B
Year Ending
2022/23

3,345
Registered
Businesses

5.8%
Unemployment
Rate 2024

Population
34,290



WATER

The completed Burnett Feasibility Study funded under the National Water Industry Fund (NWIDF) and the Water for Economic Growth 25-year Road Map has delivered the stages of a programme for the completion of strategic business cases and future options for the region. The development of this strategy identifies the best options to capitalise on the region's water and economic environment. The strategy will focus on job creation and the assistance in a transitional environment with particular reference to the future changes at the Tarong Power Station.

Council is aiming to increase access to water allocation and establish infrastructure that provides for improved water security across rural and urban supplies.



Project	Details	Costs	State
AFC Upgrade	Average Flood Capacity - Gordonbrook Dam Spillway	\$40M	
Barlil Weir	Full business case leading to the construction of a re-regulating weir on Barambah Creek	DBC and design \$6m / design and construct - \$30M	
Barker Barambah Scheme	Completion of a hydrological and economic assessment of a potential storage facility on the West Barambah Catchment of the Barker Barambah Water Scheme	Options analysis \$500,000	
Urban Water Security	Assessment of incremental urban water needs from now until permanent water allocations are obtained from Stanwell	\$200,000	
Gordonbrook Dam	Strategic assessment of the future viability of Gordonbrook Dam as an urban and/or irrigation water source for the region and develop a plan for augmentation of the existing strategic water infrastructure	\$300,000 Business Case	
	RO Plant Gordonbrook Dam and Nanango water supply	DBC & design \$1M	
Blackbutt	Targeted investment assessment on the strategy for accessing new water for irrigators in Blackbutt	\$300,000	
Funded Programmes	Reintroduction of programmes such as the "Small Communities Assistance Programme" to fund 50% or greater of essential water and waste water infrastructure	Projects such as Wondai and Murgon Waste Water Treatment Plants	
Water for Roadworks	Durong Bore	\$100,000	
Water for Villages	Option analysis of water upgrade from non-potable water to potable water supplies	\$1M	







ROAD NETWORKS

Regional communities need safe roads.

South Burnett Regional Council will continue to prioritise works in both the sealed and un-sealed networks which includes ongoing maintenance and improvement works to our regional roads.









Council plans to develop transport corridors throughout the region with appropriate infrastructure to support the volume and type of road transport to support tourism, industry and agricultural production. Poor roads are not only unsafe and risk lives, but also damage produce and dampen economic opportunity.



Project	Details	Costs	State
DTMR renewals and safety improvements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tanduringie Bridge Mundubbera – Durong Road Byee Road Kingaroy Barkers Creek Road 	\$500,000 planning \$22M \$5M \$3M	
Cherbourg	Upgrade of guardrail and bridge including pedestrian access.	\$1.2M	
Connecting highways and freight routes	Continued state government investment in major connecting highways and freight routes that enable producers to transport their product to export markets via Bundaberg Port, Wellcamp Airport or Brisbane. Advocate for critical transport assets and community connectivity infrastructure.		
Essential Road Network Maintenance	Increased support for state programmes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RMPC, Black Spot Programme School Infrastructure Programme 	Increase in funding allocated	
Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme (TIDS)	Continue, at a minimum, the current TIDS allocations and increase non LRRS road percentage allocation.		
Weed Programs	Ensure a targeted weed program for state controlled roads in the region.		

FINANCE GOVERNANCE, ASSET MANAGEMENT & HOUSING

Queensland is growing and so is the demand for Council services. Within Australia, since 1996 local government costs have increased over 400%. Over the same period the value of the Financial Assistance Grant from the federal government has fallen from 1% of commonwealth tax revenue to just 0.55%. This funding gap is becoming harder for Councils to close through own source revenue options, particularly in rural and regional communities. Often these communities' ratepayers have lower incomes and still the demand for both infrastructure and operational spending is higher per person. This funding gap forces Councils into a choice of delivering the services that their community needs (and not just want), or their own financial sustainability. Restoring the Financial Assistance Grant funding levels back to 1996 levels will go a very long way to giving rural and regional Councils and their communities the stability and services they need to thrive.

Project	Details	Costs	State
Financial Assistance Grants (FA Grants)	A review of the methodology by state government for the distribution of the Federal Assistance Grants and increase of total allocation equivalent to 1% of commonwealth tax revenue.		
Review of Cherbourg Road	Apply to change Cherbourg Road to be a state controlled road.		
Low interest loans for housing developments	Provide funding support for public and private partnerships for housing and land development.		
Review of postcode restrictions by banks	Review of additional lending conditions for the South Burnett.		
Rezoning Parkland for Housing Outcomes	Government commitment to investigate development opportunities in current townships to facilitate medium/high density dwellings on state controlled lands that can accommodate a range of housing typologies.		
Investment for Crisis Accommodation	State government commitment for further investment in crisis accommodation for domestic violence and the homeless with wrap around services.		
Aging in Place	Invest in accommodation for 55+ men and women seeking to downsize from existing accommodation but remain in independent living.		
Workers Accommodation	The state commitment to investigate and develop housing to meet the housing needs for state government employees including QPS, Queensland Health and Department of Education to assist in alleviating the pressures on the private rental market across the South Burnett region.		









“Our Council has a back-to-basics focus on services such as roads, water quality & affordable housing to ensure our region can grow and prosper”

MAYOR KATHY DUFF

COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Effective natural resource management enables land managers to better utilise and protect our natural resources. South Burnett Regional Council is committed to working with those working on the land, to avoid and undo the decline of the earth, while maintaining land uses that are sustainable and productive and ensure that appropriate measures are in place to maintain and preserve our natural assets.

Community facilities are public places where members of the community gather for recreational, educational, artistic, social or cultural activities and are a vital aspect of the livability of the South Burnett, encompassing libraries, halls, swimming pools, parks and other associated places where people gather not just as part of their day-to-day activities, but also to celebrate their connection to this area.








Project	Details	Costs	State
Bio-security	Bio-security initiatives and funding commitments, including bio-security officers, to ensure compliance with local government bio-security plans. Reinstate bio-security officers to manage the control of tick line to support farmers.		
Bio-security	Bio-security initiatives and funding commitments to ensure compliance with local government bio-security plans. Develop and implement feral pig control programs in partnership with landholders, state government and renewable energy companies. Design and construct two wash down facilities in the region to target and reduce the spread of weed seeds.	\$1M \$600,000 \$600,000	
Agricultural Production	Greater diversification of agribusiness Development and implementation of AgTech Innovation in agricultural sectors		
Waterways Erosion and Sediment Reduction Program	Implement measures to reduce erosions and sediment control at Bjelke-Petersen Dam and Boondooma Dam.		
Rail Trail Maintenance	Contribution to the ongoing maintenance of waterways and structures.	\$1M	
	Continuation of cycleways and increased footpath connectivity.	\$1M	

REGIONAL & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & COMMUNITY HEALTH

Council needs investment to grow our region's population, boost employment, liveability and industry across the region.

Regional collaboration is essential for economic recovery because regions are the centers of competition in the new global economy and those that work together to leverage resources and use their strengths to overcome weaknesses will fare better than those that do not.

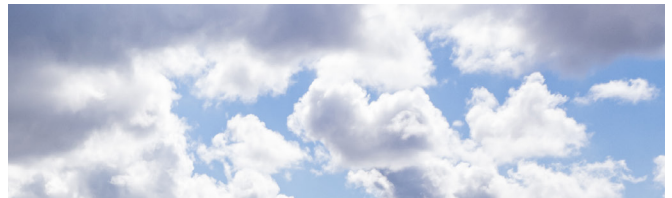
The South Burnett has strong economic and agricultural ties with the Gross Regional Product for the area estimated at \$2.11 billion, which represents 0.45% of the state's GSP (Gross State Product). (<https://economy.id.com.au/south-burnett>)

Project	Details	Costs	State
Food Manufacturing Industry	Investment in food manufacturing and processing sector, and other potential value adds in a way that creates long term employment, export, and supply chain opportunities.		
Energy Transition	Working together with government to build a plan for our region's coal transition beyond the eventual closure of Tarong Power Station and Meandu Mine.		
Energy Project Consultation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation of renewable projects within the region or adjacent/impacted regions. • Establish Council as a referral agency • Review of all energy projects to assess the impact on the community • Projects be appropriately conditioned to ensure no impact on Council's infrastructure 		
Kingaroy Airport Precinct	Investigate further development opportunities to improve and expand the usage and development of the Kingaroy Airport including Master Plan, Glider Hub, and Air Park development.	\$2M	
Incentive Programs for Medical Professionals	Review of the classification of regional and rural communities to provide increased incentives for medical professional in the South Burnett.		
Paediatrician Services	Introduction of full time paediatric services in the South Burnett by Queensland Health.		
Community Wellness and Mental Health Initiatives	Headspace centres and services operate across Australia, in metro, regional and rural areas, supporting young Australians and their families to be mentally healthy and engage.		



“The SEIFA Index of Disadvantage for South Burnett Regional Council in 2016 was 908. The South Burnett Regional Council Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) measure the relative level of socio-economic disadvantage and/or advantage based on a range of Census characteristics.”





CEO MARK PITT PSM












W4Q FUNDING MODEL & OTHER GOVERNMENT ECONOMIC RECOVERY INITIATIVES

Council advocates for the continued flexibility for local governments to deliver projects which meet the individual community needs. The W4Q funding enables South Burnett Regional Council to build on its promise to deliver both economic recovery initiatives while considering the needs of a growing region. These initiatives are only the beginning in addressing areas of growing concern and the needs for this region.

Water security is of vital importance to the region. It is now an issue of both economic and livability importance, as industry requires access to water to ensure growth and employment, as is the need for further housing for those making their home in the region.

Project	Details	Costs	State
Upgrade of Kingaroy Swimming Pool Complex	Upgrade Kingaroy indoor and outdoor swimming pool complex. To include a new 25m indoor warm water pool, kiosk, amenities, and a new 50m outdoor pool with new plant room and equipment.	\$28M	
Bunya Mountains Community Hub	Design and construct new community hub for the Bunya Mountains community. To support a community meeting place for visiting health specialists, nurses, disaster management meetings, public meeting space. Council has contributed land through a trustee lease.	\$5M	
Tingoora Community Hall	Design and construct a new meeting place for the Tingoora community to replace the old timber hall with a purpose built facility which is air conditioned and technically advanced for future community development and meeting spaces.	\$800,000	
Pound	Upgrade pound facilities to support South Burnett and Cherbourg Regional Council	\$1.5M	

Project	Details	Costs	State
Community livability upgrades including arts, open space including refurbishments, park, and playground equipment upgrades	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgrade Wooroolin Sports Complex with a new multiple purpose court and skating facility. 	\$450,000	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgrade all access playground equipment in Wondai, Murgon, Nanango, Kingaroy. 	\$4M	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgrade adventure playground equipment in Benarkin, Blackbutt, Kumbia, Memerambi, Tingooro, Maidenwell, Hivesville, Proston. 	\$1.6M	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plant a Tree program in Parks and Streetscapes to reduce the effects of climate change on our urban communities. 	\$400,000	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance and safeguard our threatened natural and cultural heritage areas, alongside promoting outdoor recreational and wilderness experiences. 	\$600,000	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of Public Art along the Rail Trail and in community open spaces. 	\$300,000	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgrades to community sporting infrastructure across the South Burnett for netball, AFL, rugby league, basketball, tennis, campdrafting and equine sports. 	\$1M	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a South Burnett Parks and Open Space Strategy to help us manage and grow our parks across the region. Develop park upgrade priorities and develop concepts for new adventures and experiences. 	\$200,000	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement playground audit and maintenance program to improve park and playground experiences. 	\$500,000	






SOUTH BURNETT
REGIONAL COUNCIL

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