

LOCAL ROAD NETWORKS

The local road network covers 870kms of roads and that's a distance from Noosa to Mackay.

This year, \$17 million of our \$42 million capital works budget will be dedicated to roads and transport infrastructure work.

Civil and Asset Operations Manager Bryan O'Connor said this year the focus is on emergency and emergent work.

"We've been taken away from the usual schedule of work due to the significant weather events earlier this year," he said.

"The focus is to get through the backlog of requests relating to ongoing storm damage such as potholes which we are filling at a rate of about 70 per day," Mr O'Connor said.

"In addition to this, our crews are delivering \$5.3 million of road reseals across 690kms of our existing sealed road network and our maintenance grading program will see approximately 180kms inspected and repaired to address potholes, corrugations and to improve drainage."

Mr O'Connor said the focus is on the busier gravel roads and school bus routes – most occurring in the Hinterland area.



INSET - Civil Works team with the Caterpillar six-wheel grader.

BUILDING BETTER INFRASTRUCTURE FOR NOOSA

Council focused on delivering new assets to meet the shire's future needs, despite construction industry challenges such as material and labour shortages.

Noosa Council delivered a record \$35 million in projects last year and over the next 12 months, will embark on an ambitious \$42 million capital works program.

Infrastructure Director Larry Sengstock says annual capital works program is made up of two components being the asset renewal program and work to upgrade or build new assets.

"Council has an existing asset base which must be maintained to make sure assets continue to serve the community into the future.

This renewal program, including assets like our road network, makes up about 70 per cent of our capital spend. The remainder, much of which is jointly funded with the State or Federal Government delivers new or

upgraded assets to meet growing needs of our community.

We also continue to work through the substantial damage to community infrastructure from recent flood events and have requested funding from the Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA) to fast-track this process.

Despite operating in a really challenging construction environment, fuelled by the combined forces of material and labour shortages, we are focussed on ensuring our infrastructure is maintained and delivering new assets to meet the future needs of our community," said Mr. Sengstock.

BRIDGES CONNECT COMMUNITIES



Director Infrastructure Services Larry Sengstock on Lake Doonella Bridge in Tewantin.

Bridge infrastructure provides essential linkages within Noosa's road and pathway network.

Council is partnering with the Australian Government through the Bridges Renewal Program to either upgrade or replace five bridges across the shire.

Director Infrastructure Services Larry Sengstock, said the bridge management program extends

the life of existing bridges and is based on regular detailed assessment of the condition of the bridge as well as traffic volumes and future demand.

"Over the past 12 months, Council has delivered the first two of five bridges funded under the Bridges Renewal Program," Mr Sengstock said.

"Tablelands Road Bridge B in

Cooran and Wahpunga Lane Bridge in Kin Kin have been replaced with wider and safer concrete structures with a 100-year design life."

"The Cooroy Belli Creek Road Bridge in Cooroy is currently being replaced with a wider and safer concrete two lane bridge. Construction is expected to be completed in late October," he said.

But the bridge program is not just about making our bridges better for motorists.

Delivery Co-ordinator Garry Perfect said bridges closer to our coastal communities also provide great pathways for cyclists and pedestrians to access some of Noosa's more popular destinations.

"The next two bridges in our works schedule will be Garth Prowd Bridge in Noosa Heads and Lake Doonella Bridge in Tewantin.

These busy bridges will be remediated with a focus on improving safety for multiple users crossing the bridges and improving connections into shared pathways on approach and departure from the bridges," Mr Perfect said.

IMPROVING BIKE AND WALKING LINKS

Making it more accessible for residents and visitors

The planning for strategic and local pathway infrastructure that supports walking and cycling is underway, including pedestrian improvements on existing pathways, trail upgrades and the construction of new pathways and pathway links.

According to Aiden Flannery, Council Project Manager the investment of \$2.8M in upgrades will improve accessibility for Noosa residents to make it more attractive for visitors.

"Our pathway network and boardwalks are in line for a range of renewal works," said Mr. Flannery.

The projects also include on and off-road wayfinding signage and bike parking facilities to accommodate the growing number of cyclists.

In terms of infrastructure, four pathways projects have already been designed and nine pathways are scheduled for construction this year.

Major projects include the Noosa Parade corridor upgrade which is already in construction and Noosa Drive which is currently in design with community consultation scheduled in coming months.

The Tewantin Bypass has reached

Stage 1 construction phase and the Noosa Biosphere Trail between Cooran and Pomona is also getting an upgrade.

AT A GLANCE

New Pathway Links in Cooroy, Peregrine Beach, Pomona, Sunshine Beach, and Tewantin.

Expansion of Pathway Links in Cooroy, Pomona, Noosaville, and Tewantin.

Noosa Hinterland Recreation Trail 5 Upgrade (Pomona Section).

Tewantin Memorial Park Pathway Upgrade.

IN BRIEF

Sports lover's dream

A million-dollar revamp of the McKinnon Drive Community Sport Facility is gathering momentum.

Tenders close next week for the project, which is jointly funded by Council, the Queensland Government, Australian Government and Cricket Australia.

Work includes four change rooms, spectator amenities, a referees' room and a large undercover multi-purpose area with pickleball courts.

Also on the sports radar is news of a funding application to upgrade the Noosa District Sports Complex. Our funding is locked away and further talks with government officials will hopefully secure further funding.

FUNDS FOR SOLAR BATTERY STUDY

A Council feasibility study, under way now, could pave way for Noosa's first community battery – a concept, which was first flagged with Council by ZEN Inc.

"With a shared battery, customers could feed the excess solar their panels generate by day into the battery, which they all then draw from at night," Carbon Reduction Project Officer Annie Nolan said.

"As well as save customers the cost of buying their own batteries, the greater use of the stored renewable energy eases pressure on the network."

Ms Nolan said Council was following community battery trials underway elsewhere.