

## TECH SUPPORTS LOCAL FIRE PREP

Simulation technology from the USA is set to give Noosa residents a confronting look at how bushfires might behave if they break out close to home.

Council's aim with the new Simtable technology is to educate residents on the risks bushfires pose to their immediate neighbourhoods and to encourage locals to be prepared.

"With this tech we can model how different hazards such as fires, smoke and even floods might behave. Knowing how these hazards are influenced by local terrain, vegetation types and weather conditions such as wind speed and direction is key for residents to better prepare for different events," Disaster Management Officer James Ulyate said.

"Knowing what you face, and the best way to respond – well before disaster strikes – will help keep you safe when the time comes."

Council will begin community workshops in coming months to show residents how fires, as well as floods, might move through their immediate streets and neighbourhoods.

Noosa is the first Queensland council to adopt the Simtable technology, which uses a sand table and computer to overlay hazard projections over local mapping and terrain.

Council funded the technology with support from the Federal Government's Black Summer Bushfire Grants and the 2019 Cat C Bushfire fund.



BRIGHT IDEA: The Simtable technology in action. Inset: Properties were lost in the 2019 Noosa bushfires.

## SURVEY TO HELP GUIDE FUTURE DECISION-MAKING

**Input from Noosa residents will be vital to ensuring the corporate plan continues to meet the local community's needs and future aspirations for the shire**

The 2023-2028 Corporate Plan is considered critical in finding a balance between improving the Noosa lifestyle and guiding Council decisions over the next five years.

CEO Scott Waters said hearing from the community is vital in formulating the plan.

"This new plan will look to have a focus on rebuilding

our culture and continuing to deliver the projects and meet the needs and future aspirations of our community," he said.

All councils must provide a corporate plan every five years.

The community has until Sunday October 23 to complete the survey currently on the Your Say Noosa website – [yoursay.noosa.qld.gov.au](https://yoursay.noosa.qld.gov.au)

"This is the first phase of the community consultation, so we really hope residents provide input," Mr Waters said.

"Considering the significant changes and challenges we have seen, particularly in the Hinterland, we want this plan to support an enriched and sustainable future for the shire," he said.

A key part of developing the plan is to review and renew Council's corporate goals so they are in line with Council's new direction and organisational culture.

Check out the survey before Sunday, October 23, or simply provide feedback by emailing [corporateplan@noosa.qld.gov.au](mailto:corporateplan@noosa.qld.gov.au).

## ELECTRIC MOWER HELPS SLASH EMISSIONS

A new electric ride-on mower is not only cutting the grass at Noosa Botanic Gardens, it's also helping slash emissions from Council's mowing operations.

"The more petrol-powered plant we can swap out for newer, more efficient electric alternatives the better it is for the environment," says Carbon Reduction Project Officer, Annie Nolan.

"The benefits are even greater where we're able to draw the power needed to recharge the equipment from the sun via solar," she said.

"So far we've installed more than 630kw of solar across 16 buildings."

Council has already transitioned many of its traditionally petrol-powered tools to battery alternatives, with the mower one of the largest new electric tools now in use, in support of Council's 2026 net-zero emissions target.

Gardens staff member Tahlia Walker-Bonney said the new



CUTTING EDGE: Tahlia Walker-Bonney takes the new electric ride-on mower for a spin

machine – which plugs in to a wall outlet to charge – was easy to handle and quick to get the job done, plus quieter than traditional mowers which made it a good fit for the gardens.

"Electric machinery and vehicles are the way of the future and Council is pleased to lead by example for the community in this space," Ms

Nolan said.

Recently, Council upgraded two of its fleet vehicles to all-electric cars, adding to the six hybrid vehicles already on the road as part of Council's fleet.

The new all-electric Hyundai IONIQ and MG ZS replaced a diesel-powered ute and a petrol-powered car.

## TAKE SIMPLE STEPS TO BE DISASTER RESILIENT

**Make time during October to ensure you're prepared for disasters**

As work continues on rebuilding Noosa after the February floods, it's important residents take a few minutes and make plans for the storm and bushfire season.

October is Get Ready month and it's a good time to clean up your home and yard.

A few simple steps can make all the difference:

- Have a household emergency plan.
- Pack an emergency kit.
- Clean gutters, check roofs and tidy up the yard.
- Check insurance is up to date.

Council's Disaster Management Officer, James Ulyate, said being prepared can help reduce the impacts of disasters.

"We know the weather is becoming more unpredictable but improving our preparedness makes such a huge difference when disaster strikes," he said. Recently, Council staff held a



FLOOD WATCH: Where will you go if you need to evacuate?

number of planning workshops with emergency services, and community groups to prepare the draft Disaster Management Plan.

"These discussions helped highlight key risks and better understand how our community is prepared for a potential

disaster."

Visit the Disaster Dashboard at [disaster.noosa.qld.gov.au](https://disaster.noosa.qld.gov.au), download the Noosa Emergency Action Guide and subscribe to Noosa Alert. Council's website has all the information on what to do during and after an event. Visit [noosa.qld.gov.au](https://noosa.qld.gov.au).

## IN BRIEF

**Bridge nears completion**



Like a mechano set, the key structural pieces are in place for the Cooroy Belli Creek Road bridge.

Sixteen precast concrete deck units have been installed, with work now focusing on the reinforced concrete slabs to support the road pavement, guardrails and tidying up the approaches to the bridge.

Project Manager Jaspre Outram said completion is on track for early November, pending favourable weather.

"Our crews have made good progress in recent weeks and have about another four weeks on site," he said.

Infrastructure Services Director Larry Sengstock said Council has had a strong focus on renewing bridges in the hinterland.

"This is the third hinterland bridge replaced as part of the jointly funded Bridge Renewal Program with the Australian Government," he said.

"The program has injected over \$5 million in vital bridge infrastructure to the hinterland in the past 18 months," Mr Sengstock said.

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