

MEDIA RELEASE

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Council releases funding wish list for State election

Mayor Cr Les Tyrell said it was important the next Government of Queensland followed through on making Townsville the State's second capital with funding for critical infrastructure.

Cr Tyrell today launched the Townsville City Council's State election wish list which includes five priority projects for the city's social and economic development.

"It's important that we fight to get the best deal for Townsville and we will be putting forward the strongest arguments to both sides of politics to secure funding commitments for all of these projects," Cr Tyrell said.

"Both the government and the opposition have acknowledged Townsville as the State's second capital, the time is right for the next Queensland Government to put those words into action.

"The council has developed detailed submissions for five strategic projects and we will be seeking firm commitments from the major parties in the lead-up to the March 24 poll.

"Projects that the council has prioritised for the election wish list are all important for Townsville's growth and lifestyle of our residents, and in each case the State Government has a strategic responsibility to ensure they're delivered."

Council's top five projects include:

- \$129 million Townsville Northern Approaches Flood Mitigation project to keep principal routes linking the rapidly growing Northern Beaches community to Townsville's CBD. Project comprises bridges at the Woolcock St (\$90 million) and Dalrymple Rd (\$15 million) crossings over the Bohle River and flood proofing of Blakeys Crossing (\$24 million).
- \$47.67 million equal contribution with council and Commonwealth to the proposed \$143 million Townsville Entertainment and Convention Centre and investigate opportunities for co-locating with other sporting facilities to CBD. Proposed centre will be catalyst for business and employment growth and showcase Townsville as a tourist destination at a proposed site in the CBD. Importantly the centre will thrust Townsville into the lucrative convention market and replace the existing centre which is limited and in need of major renovations. Council is currently co-funding the preparation of a detailed business case for the proposal.
- \$55.7 million Upper Ross Arterial Road Upgrade incorporating duplication of Riverway Drive, and improvements to Beck Drive to relieve congestion and to provide long term safe transport infrastructure for residents of the Upper Ross. Two stage project includes upgrade and extension of Beck Rd and duplication of State controlled Riverway Drive to four lanes.

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- \$5 million multi-purpose Northern Beaches Community Centre at Peggy Banfield Park, Bushland Beach. Construction planned for 2013. Project will provide increased opportunities for recreation, skills development, neighbourhood activity and boost lifestyle advantages of the Northern Beaches area. Facility will support local youth and seniors groups, sports clubs, arts and cultural groups, community projects and events, fitness activities, school holiday programs and health and welfare services.
- \$1.5 million for Castle Hill Community Recreation project to improve safety, visibility and recreational facilities for the growing number of people using the iconic landmark for health and fitness, recreation and tourism. The proposal includes solar lighting (\$850,000) and an exercise and observation platform on the old Panorama House site (\$650,000).

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