

STATEMENT

June 24, 2019

Community support comes first as Budget delivers boosted services and below-CPI rates increase

Logan City Council has delivered a 2019/20 Budget that aims to minimise cost-of-living pressures on residents while boosting the delivery of essential Council services to our community.

Under the \$972.9 million budget adopted by Interim Administrator Tamara O'Shea today, the bottom-line rate increase will remain below CPI for the third consecutive year at 1.49 per cent.

Council's component of water and sewerage charges will also be frozen for a third straight year to help ease cost of living pressures on ratepayers' hip pockets.

Ms O'Shea said a key part of her role as Interim Administrator was delivering a budget that ensured Council remained in a strong financial position while also balancing the needs of the Logan community.

The bottom-line rate increase of 1.49 per cent will mean an annual increase of \$39.71 or 76 cents per week for the majority of residential ratepayers.

Pensioners will receive increased remissions on their general rates under the budget, with a remission of up to \$349.20 per year available to owner-occupiers on the maximum rate pension, an increase of \$10 on last year's amount.

Those on a non-maximum pension will receive a remission of up to \$174.60 per year.

Discounts for paying rates on time will again be offered.

"We have delivered a budget that keeps rates and other costs down as much as possible while ensuring Council can expand on the services it delivers well into the future," Ms O'Shea said.

"This budget allows us to cater for anticipated growth while maintaining our existing infrastructure base, which includes more than 2200 kilometres of sealed roads, 930 parks and more than 4500 kilometres of combined water and wastewater mains.

"With a consolidated budget of \$972.9 million and a budgeted operating surplus of \$6.2 million, we're establishing a solid base for next year's incoming council."

The value of Council's total assets will be \$6.2 billion at June 30, 2020, making Council's forecast debt just 4.4 per cent of its asset base.

While focusing on essential services, Ms O'Shea said the budget also approved projects that would help the City of Logan prosper into the future.

"\$10m has been committed to two city centres, Meadowbrook and Logan Central, to deliver projects that will drive investment and economic growth," she said.

"Meadowbrook's evolution into a health and wellbeing precinct will be boosted with \$5 million with another \$5 million set aside to unlock the economic potential of Logan Central.

"Funding has also been set aside for detailed design of a creative and cultural hub, upgrades to our animal management centre, road safety and traffic improvements and environmental initiatives."

Across the city, Council is investing:

- \$350.5 million on water and sewerage services
- \$230.2 million on roads, drainage and engineering services
- \$76.2 million on parks management and maintenance
- \$71.3 million on community infrastructure
- \$45.4 million on waste management

Additionally, Council is funding:

- \$17.3 million for libraries and creative industries
- \$10.6 million for animal and pest services
- \$9.1 million for environmental services

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Road maintenance creates solid network for city growth

Council has listened to Logan residents and will spend more than \$230 million to deliver a safer city road network over the coming 12 months.

Results from the 2018 Logan Listens: Residents Survey affirmed that upkeep of the city's roads and drainage services remains a primary focus for Logan residents.

Logan's road network includes approximately 2270 kilometres of sealed road spread across 950 square kilometres.

Logan City Council Road and Water Infrastructure Acting Director Daryl Reilly said an increase to Council's road maintenance budget was required to properly service the city's existing road network and ensure it can cater for ongoing growth.

"Council has listened to feedback from the community, particularly the Residents Survey, which indicated having good and well-maintained road infrastructure is a high priority for residents," he said.

"To ensure Council continues to maintain Logan's ever-increasing road network, more than \$10 million has been allocated to boost the annual road maintenance budgets over the next five years.

"The budget increase will improve the level of service, provide equivalent maintenance to new sections of the network and allow Council to respond to the challenges associated with a growing city.

"Not only is Council committed to maintenance of the road network but we also take road safety very seriously and have increased the line marking budget by \$5.2 million over the next five years to improve the prominence of line marking across the city.

"Improved line marking creates safer roads – in particular increasing the visibility of roads at night and in wet conditions."

Mr Reilly said \$150,000 would also be made available to complete the Find and Grind footpath program, to create a safer pedestrian environment around the city for residents and visitors.

"This program of work will allow for lifted sections of footpath to be ground down, rather than replacing the sections of footpath at a much greater cost," he said.

“Having a program to proactively grind displaced paths will help us to provide a safer network of paths for the city.”

Residents can notify Council if they have concerns over the condition of a concrete footpath. Providing as much information as possible will assist Council in responding to hazards promptly. If possible, including a photograph is also helpful.

Members of the public can call Council on 3412 3412, send an email to roadmaintenance@logan.qld.gov.au or lodge a request via Council’s website.

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Water charges frozen for a third year

Logan City Council has frozen water and sewerage charges for the third year in a row to help reduce financial pressures on households.

The rates freeze comes as Council rolls out a significant program of new water and wastewater projects for 2019/20.

Logan City Council Road and Water Infrastructure Acting Director Daryl Reilly, said Council was committed to ensuring the development of the city's water and wastewater networks remained ahead of demand, while maintaining affordability of services for residents.

"Logan City Council is committed to minimising the cost of essential services such as water while still maintaining and investing in the infrastructure necessary to service our city," Mr Reilly said.

"We are continuing to enhance the efficiency of our water and wastewater services, which means we have been able to approve a significant capital works program in 2019/20 without adding to the financial burden on our ratepayers."

Mr Reilly said the only increase ratepayers would notice on their water bills was related to the cost of bulk water purchased by the city from the State Government.

That charge has increased by 3.5 per cent this financial year.

Mr Reilly said in addition to the new projects being rolled out, Logan City Council would maintain and service an existing water network that includes 2285km of wastewater mains, 2345km of water supply mains, 134 wastewater pump stations, 4 wastewater treatment plants, 27 water pump stations, 40 water supply reservoirs and 10 chlorination facilities.

Among the projects approved for 2019/20 are:

- Cedar Grove Environmental Centre Stage 1: \$26.1 million
- Greenbank to Flagstone Central wastewater conveyance system: \$25.6 million
- Flagstone Central to Cedar Grove Environmental Centre conveyance infrastructure: \$17.5 million
- Bahrs Scrub Wastewater Conveyance system: \$7.8 million
- Renewal and Improvement of the city's water supply network: \$13.5 million
- Renewal and upgrade of the city's wastewater network: \$9.7 million

- Renewal and upgrade of the city's wastewater treatment plants: \$5.8 million
- Smart/Digital metering project: \$1.3 million

Council's 2019/20 water and wastewater pricing is:

- Water base charge: \$299.20 (remains unchanged)
- Wastewater charge: \$706.40 (remains unchanged)
- Water consumption charge per kilolitre: \$4.0394 (made up of Council's retail charge of \$1.0224, frozen for the third year in a row, and the State Government's bulk water charge of \$3.0170, which increased by 3.5 per cent)

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High priority placed on environment projects

More than \$8.5million will be spent in 2019/20 on a range of environment-based projects to ensure a greener, sustainable and more carbon-neutral city.

The funding will come from 2019/20 Environmental Levy.

Some of Council's key ongoing environment-based programs include:

- Albert and Logan River Vision projects
- Slacks Creek and Scrubby Creek Recovery projects
- Land for Wildlife and Habitat Connections projects
- Environmental grants and incentives
- Carbon reduction and energy management projects
- Bushland maintenance and Bushcare
- A range of free and low cost environmental events and activities
- Maintenance of over 300 environmental parks and reserves
- Aquatic and environmental weed control

Council has been an active, contributing member of the Healthy Land and Water organisation since its inception in 2001.

The City of Logan places an extremely high priority on its responsibility to manage and improve the health of the Logan and Albert Rivers which traverse the city and flow into other council areas.

To ensure the delivery of the Waterways Ecosystem Health Monitoring program, the annual Healthy Land and Water Report Card, Water by Designs projects and Healthy Water Play resources, the Budget allocates \$836,610 to allow Council to enter a new three-year membership with Healthy Land and Water from 2019-2022.

An additional \$239,054 has been set aside to ensure Council has representation in the Council of Mayors South-East Queensland's Resilient Rivers Program.

The program includes the Logan-Albert Catchment Action Plan that encourages and supports private landowners to take riparian restoration along the river banks to reduce erosion and sediment being washed into the waterways.

It also includes the removal and management of exotic vines, in particular the invasive Cats Claw Creeper, and the planting and restoration of native habitats.

Council also continues to support the City of Gold Coast's investigation into the removal of Luscombe Weir to the construction of a fish-way to allow fish to migrate into the upper reaches of the Albert River catchment.

The health of the Albert River upper reaches continues to improve with a recent study scientifically proving the presence of platypus at seven different sites.

Council, in collaboration with the Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland, used environmental DNA (eDNA) technology to test water samples in the Albert River and its tributaries, with a particular focus on the Cedar Creek, Wolffdene and Bannockburn reaches.

Data confirmed that platypus are living in three stretches of the river – two sites at Wolffdene and another at Cedar Creek – while samples at four other sites – two at Wolffdene, one at Cedar Creek and another at Tamborine – contained small amounts of platypus DNA.

The City of Logan has 2362km of waterways, 2633 hectares of wetlands and 930 parks.

In the last financial year, Council planted more than 78,000 trees and 5130 native plants, shrubs and grasses across a range of projects that reinforced the commitment to create an improved and sustainable environment.

In the coming year it is estimated more than \$2.4million will be available from the Environmental Levy reserve balance to fund strategic environmental land acquisitions to further preserve natural bushland spaces and fauna habitats.

To fund 2019/20 projects, the city-wide Environmental Levy will increase \$2 per rateable property.

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Summits shape exciting futures for city centres

Two key city centres in Logan will receive \$10 million in funding to deliver projects that will drive investment and economic growth.

Meadowbrook's evolution into a health and wellbeing precinct will be boosted with \$5 million, with another \$5 million set aside to unlock the economic potential of Logan Central.

Logan City Council Strategy and Sustainability Director David Hansen, said funding for the city centres was set aside following successful Council-hosted summits last year.

Officers from Council's Economic Development and Strategy team collated the feedback from summit attendees and community members to compile a list of priority projects.

"This funding means we can take these projects from being ideas on paper through to the planning, detailed designed, and ultimately delivery stages," Mr Hansen said.

"Meadowbrook is well-placed to become a leading health precinct.

"It is already home to the Logan Hospital, Griffith University and TAFE campuses, making it Logan's prime site for health care and advanced education.

"This funding will allow for infrastructure upgrades along Loganlea Road, such as a new pedestrian crossing between the hospital and shopping centre, as well as projects aimed at attracting health-care and education investment to the area.

"Logan Central is another significant city centre, incorporating Council offices and chambers, the Logan Entertainment Centre, major retail centres and a richly diverse community.

"This funding will allow Council to proceed with projects that stimulate the local economy and enhance its standing as the cultural centre of Logan."

Some of the key projects identified for Logan Central include:

- A shared pathway and promenade from Wembley Rd to Logan Gardens, connecting to the upcoming water park, incorporating gathering spaces, street furniture, lighting and public art
- Free Wi-Fi to Logan Gardens
- A Streetscape Masterplan for the Croydon Road Precinct, including Croydon Road and its laneways, Station Road, Railway Parade and Blackwood Road and delivery of streetscape upgrades

- Place Branding, Centre Activation and Building Improvement Strategies aimed to improve place identity, improving a night time economy and encouraging land owners and business to invest in upgrades to shop fronts

Projects for Meadowbrook include:

- Delivering a new pedestrian crossing on Loganlea Road between Logan Hospital and Meadowbrook Woolworths Shopping Centre
- Create a 'Meadowbrook Leadership Group' comprising of key stakeholders to champion Meadowbrook as Logan's premier destination for health-care and education investment
- Implement works to start the transformation of Loganlea Road into a 'Healthy Street', including street scaping and street trees, an improved pedestrian environment and off-road cycle infrastructure
- Develop a transport and parking strategy for Meadowbrook, including a feasibility study for multi-level car parking

In addition to the above funding, an initial \$300,000 has been set aside for the planning of place-making projects and programs for Jimboomba, to deliver on the key outcomes from the Jimboomba Summit, Council's most recent summit.

Jimboomba's centre provides essential retail, commercial, community and educational services to the regional community, including the rapidly-growing Flagstone development.

About 200 community members and business owners attended the March event to give their feedback on projects that could meet the needs of a growing community and boost the local economy. A list of priority projects is still to be determined.

In previous budgets, \$5 million was allocated to Beenleigh and Springwood following similar summits in those locations.

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Increased financial support for our seniors

Pensioners will receive an increased remission on their general rates at a level well above bottom line rates increase under Logan City Council's 2019/20 Budget.

The remission will increase by 2.95 per cent, almost double the Brisbane inflation rate (Consumer Price Index) of 1.5 per cent and Council's bottom line rate increase of 1.49 per cent.

A remission of up to \$349.20 per year will now be available to owner-occupiers on the maximum rate pension, an increase of \$10 on last year's remission.

Those on a non-maximum pension will receive a remission of up to \$174.60 per year.

Council also offers eligible pensioners on a maximum rate pension a remission of up to 10 per cent per year on household garbage charges, and non-maximum rate pensioners a remission of up to 5 per cent per year.

The remissions are just some of the many services Council offers our valued seniors in the Logan community.

The *Council Cab Service* enables seniors to travel from their home to the nearest major shopping centre for only \$2 per person each way.

The initiative is subsidised by Council with 13cabs providing the service.

Logan City Council also offers a *Senior Pets for Senior People* program where Logan's older lost and abandoned animals are rehoused with seniors free of charge.

The contribution of seniors to the Logan community is also celebrated each year with *Logan Loves Seniors Day*, which promotes positive attitudes towards older people and highlights the many local activities and services open to senior citizens.

The next *Logan Loves Seniors Day* is on August 20, 2019, at the Logan Entertainment Centre. The program includes a free expo, low-cost concerts and the announcement of the City of Logan's 2019 Senior Ambassador.

In addition to council's services, the State Government provides a 20 per cent subsidy on rates and charges to a maximum of \$200 per year, as well as a 20 per cent subsidy on the State Emergency Levy.

The State Government's Pensioner Water Subsidy Scheme also provides an annual subsidy up to a maximum of \$120 off the cost of water utility (water access and volumetric usage) charges.

To be eligible for a remission on rates the ratepayer must be the owner/part owner or life tenant of the property, live on the property permanently and have one of the following:

- A current Queensland Centrelink Pensioner Concession Card
- A Department of Veterans' Affairs Gold Card or Pensioner Concession Card

Further information is available by calling Council's concessions officer on 3412 4461 or by visiting logan.qld.gov.au/community-support/community-development/seniors

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KBF Precinct set to become major events destination

The redeveloped Kingston Butter Factory (KBF) Precinct will become the new home of large-scale entertainment in Logan in 2020.

The space will become the City of Logan's largest outdoor venue, with a permanent stage and capacity for 5000 people.

It will be positioned to attract national and international touring acts, as well as festivals, markets and signature local events.

Located adjacent to the Kingston railway station, the venue will not only be a boost for Logan residents but will be easily accessible for visitors and those who live in neighbouring cities including Brisbane and the Gold Coast.

Ahead of its opening next year, Council has allocated funding to create an exciting program of events for the outdoor space that will appeal to all ages and ensure the KBF Precinct becomes a highly valued destination.

The outdoor space is part of the Kingston Butter Factory Precinct Redevelopment Project, which includes transforming the historic butter factory building into Logan's first purpose-designed innovation hub.

While the interior of the building will reflect its new, cutting-edge purpose, the historic façade will be preserved to maintain its heritage value.

Logan City Council Acting CEO Silvio Trinca said the hub will aim to stimulate local economic growth by providing support for local entrepreneurs and start-ups to develop and commercialise their ideas.

"It will give start-ups a space for big ideas to be tested and developed and where they can access the support and networks they need to succeed," Mr Trinca said.

"Logan has seen an increase in start-up and tech entrepreneurs over the last few years, with companies like Black Sky Aerospace and GO1 attracting the attention of venture capitalists and major corporations like Microsoft.

"It's our hope that the KBF Innovation Hub will foster another generation of entrepreneurs that will invigorate and broaden the city's economic landscape."

A website detailing the KBF Precinct Redevelopment Project is now live. Visit kbfprecinct.com.au

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Strong support for small business

Small businesses in Logan will have access to Logan City Council's support services with ongoing funding for business development.

Some of the services offered by Council through the Logan Office of Economic Development (LOED) include business workshops, one-on-one mentoring, business advisory sessions and events such as Queensland Small Business Week, in which Logan has one of the largest Council-driven programs in the state.

Since July 2016, more than 450 one-on-one business advice sessions have been conducted with start-up and micro businesses, while more than 100 workshops have been held in partnership with other organisations and speakers.

Activities planned in the coming year include:

- Direct engagement with start-up and small businesses with one-on-one advice sessions
- Working with Access Community Services to deliver workshops for migrant business owners
- Partnering state and federal government departments and tertiary education providers to deliver workshops
- Business mentoring

The LOED will also continue to partner with the three local Chambers of Commerce to promote key-note speaker events.

There are more than 21,000 businesses operating in the city of Logan, employing more than 93,000 people.

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Our sporting reputation gets another big boost

An events partnership that has brought thousands of visitors to the city and has the potential to inject millions of dollars into the local economy will continue in 2019/20.

Council has collaborated with a leading national sports, events and conference agency for the City of Logan to host a number of major events in the last 12 months, including the Touch Rugby League State Championship, the Royal Rumble Roller Derby and the Queensland PGA (golf) Trainee Championship.

Economic analysis shows the three events alone generated \$1.5m for Logan's economy and enhanced the city's reputation as a significant events hub in Queensland.

Logan City Council Community Services Director Katie Barton-Harvey, said Council was committed to making Logan a destination of choice and delivering a broad selection of events for the city's 326,000 residents who represent 217 different ethnicities.

"Each successful event generates a positive image of the city which translates into increased visitation and investment," Ms Barton-Harvey said.

"This benefits the entire community and grows our reputation as a sporting and cultural hub.

"The growth and expansion of our Events Attraction Program will undoubtedly see more exciting opportunities come our way."

Other events under consideration include the Queensland PGA Championship, the 2020 Squash Australia National Championship and the National Inline Hockey Championship.

Council is also on board with the Council of Mayors (SEQ) efforts to bring the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games to South East Queensland and contributed to a recent feasibility study ahead of a possible bid.

Should the Games come to Queensland, Logan will have two Olympic-standard venues ready to go with a BMX freestyle facility under construction and a whitewater park in planning stages.

Council is currently scouting locations and undertaking an economic feasibility study into the proposed whitewater park project, which would be a Queensland-first.

In Beenleigh, a \$3.1million rebuild of Doug Larsen Park currently underway will give Logan what Cycling Australia has rated Australia's premier BMX freestyle facility ahead of the sport's debut at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics.

In a community-driven effort, Logan-raised BMX freestyle 2017 world champion Logan Martin helped design the BMX course and skate-park half-pipes along with representatives from Cycling Australia and the local BMX and skateboarding communities.

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Training opportunities support a growing city

Logan City Council's commitment to preparing local youth and refugees for the workforce will continue under its trainee and apprenticeship program.

In 2018, Council hosted 67 trainees and apprentices, almost double the number of the previous year.

That figure has grown again in 2019, with 78 participants in the program, which includes 13 school-based trainees, 55 full-time trainees, two part-time trainees, and eight full-time apprentices.

The traineeships cover a wide range of occupations, including events, hospitality, IT, library and information services, marketing, sport and recreation and pest management.

Apprenticeships in boiler making and sheet metal fabrication are also offered.

In addition, Council's Refugee Traineeship program is in its second year with 12 participants taking part, split evenly between conservation and land management and business administration.

Council also works closely with not-for-profit organisation Reclink Australia to provide short-term opportunities for disadvantaged locals to improve their skills and enhance their prospects of gaining employment.

Over the last two months, both the Parks and Environment branches have hosted groups who have learned new skills and gained experience in areas including environmental rehabilitation and conservation.

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Hub will be home for creativity and community

Plans for a creative, cultural and community hub known as Creative HQ will be developed in the coming year.

A Council-owned space in Wilbur St, adjacent to the Logan Central Library, is being considered as a possible site.

Logan City Council Community Services Director Katie Barton-Harvey, said Council planned to undertake the detailed design phase for Creative HQ with funding of \$990,000 allocated in the 2019/20 Budget.

“Council believes this site has strong potential to be developed into a creative, cultural and community hub for the Logan community,” she said.

The hub will provide a space for a range of creative and cultural activities and programs.

It is planned for a commercial kitchen to be included in the development to enable the building to stage food ceremonies and present culturally derived menus.

It will be designed to enhance and complement what is provided at the Kingston Butter Factory, Logan Central Library, Logan Art Gallery and the Logan Entertainment Centre.

During 2018, the Logan Entertainment Centre hosted a total of 154 events attended by almost 50,000 people.

In April, the centre was identified as a Best of Queensland Experience by Tourism and Events Queensland for delivering an exceptional visitor experience and helping to build a positive reputation for both Council and Queensland.

The Logan Art Gallery is also a multi-award winning facility, receiving the Temporary or Travelling Exhibition Award at last month’s Australian Museums and Galleries Association’s national conference and awards night for the *He kākano āhau* (I am a seed) exhibition of contemporary Māori arts and culture held at gallery in October and November 2018.

The gallery also won a state-wide Gallery and Museum Achievement Award in 2018 for Logan City Council’s suite of five public art and heritage trails.

In 2018 Logan Art Gallery held 29 exhibitions and 20,239 people visited the gallery or participated in related outreach programs.

The City of Logan is home to more than 326,000 residents from 217 different nationalities and cultures.

In addition to the Logan Art Gallery and Logan Entertainment Centre, the city has nine libraries, four major event centres and 18 Council-owned community centres.
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Heritage centre returns to Kingston Butter Factory

A dedicated centre to preserve the City of Logan's history is set to take shape at the redeveloped Kingston Butter Factory (KBF).

Funding of \$750,000 has been allocated in the 2019/20 Budget towards the future construction of a Heritage Centre within the KBF project.

This funding will be used to leverage other external funding opportunities with the aim of doubling this investment, which is a requirement for the project to begin.

The KBF redevelopment is transforming the precinct into a state-of-the-art innovation hub and outdoor event space.

Logan City Council Community Services Director Katie Barton-Harvey, said the new Heritage Centre would provide museum-standard storage and space for the research, preparation and display of items including Indigenous habitation and Logan's pioneering history to the start of the 21st Century.

The Logan City Historical Museum Society Incorporated was temporarily relocated from the site to allow the KBF redevelopment to proceed.

The society moved to a Council-owned building in Wilbur St, Logan Central.

"We thank the society for the support they have given to the KBF project and look forward to returning them to their home of the last 30 years," Ms Barton-Harvey said.

The City of Logan is also home to The Beenleigh and District Historical Society, which this year celebrates 50 years of preserving the region's history.

The Beenleigh Historical Village and Museum, in Main Street, has 26 structures, 20 of them 100 years or older, filled with artefacts, photos and memorabilia.

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Powering ahead on solar system installations

Five new Council sites have been identified as suitable for the installation of solar photovoltaic (PV) systems in 2019/20.

The new systems will save Council an estimated \$55,200 in annual electricity costs and reduce carbon dioxide emissions by more than 350 tonnes a year as the City of Logan continues its commitment to a sustainable and cleaner environment.

The sites to get solar PV systems under 2019/20 Budget funding are:

- Logan West Community Centre
- Mt Warren Sports Centre
- Logan North Aquatic Centre
- Logan West Library
- Marsden Library

The new installations continue Council's commitment to embrace solar energy under the Carbon Reduction Strategy and Action Plan launched in January 2018.

The Plan underlines Council's priorities for an innovative, carbon neutral and green city.

There are already 29 solar PV systems on Council buildings including Council's Marsden Depot, Logan Metro Sports & Events Centre and Beenleigh Library which were allocated systems under 2018/19 Budget funding.

Large solar systems have been installed at the Browns Plains Recycling Centre (30 kW) and the Animal Management Centre at Slacks Creek (30 kW) while Council's largest system is at the Round Mountain Reservoir (87 kW).

The cost of the five systems is \$408,000 with Council saving up to \$186,000 through the provision of the Federal Government's Small Scale Technology Certificates to installers.

The life span of the panels is 25 years with the cost of the new systems expected to be recouped within eight years.

The City of Logan, which on average enjoys 300 days of sunshine annually, has embraced solar energy.

Over the past decade, 38,000 individual solar PV systems have been installed across the city, representing 157 megawatts of capacity.

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Food and music festival keeps on trucking

Eats & Beats, the City of Logan's hugely successful monthly food truck and music festival, will continue for another year.

Eats & Beats has attracted almost a quarter of a million attendances since it began four years ago.

The free monthly event is designed to activate and promote Logan's suburbs and has visited 14 different locations.

Greenbank held its first Eats & Beats last month, with an estimated attendance of about 6000.

Council received glowing praise from the community for the neighbourly atmosphere and community-building efforts.

The Eats & Beats Facebook page has 16,000 followers.

Council has committed an additional \$50,000 towards delivering the monthly celebration for another year.

Eats & Beats returns to Underwood Park at Priestdale this Friday, June 28, from 5pm.

The beat also goes on for the City of Logan's established and emerging musical talent with July once again being declared Logan Live Music Month.

The program includes 88 separate music performances throughout July at Logan venues including hotels, cafés, micro-breweries, shopping centres and even libraries.

The full gig guide is available at loganlive.com.au

The Global Food Markets, held each Sunday from 6am in Logan Central, are fast gaining a reputation well beyond the city boundaries.

In February, British TV chef Ainsley Harriott visited the Global Food Markets to film an episode of his new series.

And last week, the Global Food Markets attracted representative from MasterChef Australia as they scouted for contestants for next year's series.

Former MasterChef contestant Poh Ling Yoew visited the Global Food Markets last year.

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Green light for traffic improvements

Motorists in the City of Logan will benefit from improved real-time traffic management solutions and more timely responses to traffic incidents as part of the 2019/20 Budget.

Logan City Council owns and maintains 124 signalised intersections with this number growing each year.

There is 2270km of sealed roads in the city, 1246km of shared footpaths and bikeways and 40 bridges as part of Council's delivery of safe, accessible transit networks across one of the fastest-growing regions in the country.

Logan City Council Road and Water Infrastructure Acting Director Daryl Reilly, said \$1.035 million would be made available to improve Council's traffic signal network over the next five years.

"In order to progress Council's Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) \$681,000 has been allocated to resource a local Traffic Management Centre (TMC) – improving real-time management and response to incidents on Council roads," he said.

"Aside from signalised intersections, Council's growing network includes monitoring of portable speed advisory signs, vehicle-activated signs, flashing school zone signs and flood warning signs.

"A traffic management centre will better equip Council to manage current and emerging ITS network requirements."

Mr Reilly said \$354,000 had also been set aside for traffic signal network enhancement – providing the TMC remote management access for a further 31 signalised intersections.

"Connection of these remaining 31 sites will result in all of Logan's 124 signalised intersections being connected to Council's ITS software which provides for real-time traffic management," he said.

"It will provide Council with a fully connected smart traffic signal network, allowing greater ability to monitor and optimise traffic flows across the network."

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Public swimming pool fees remain affordable

Entry fees across the City of Logan aquatic centres will not be increased in the 2019/20 Budget.

The fees will be frozen to remain at the same rates as listed under Council's commercial fees and charges for 2018/19.

Logan City Council Community Services Director Katie Barton-Harvey, said some entry fees at Logan North Aquatic Centre would be reduced to make that facility even more affordable.

The adult entry fee at Logan North Aquatic Centre will be reduced from \$6.70 to \$6 while the concession entry charge at Logan North Aquatic Centre will be reduced from \$5.10 to \$4.10.

The 25-visit passes available to concession holders at Logan North Aquatic Centre will also be reduced from \$118 to \$93, equating to just \$3.72 per visit, to bring it into line with other venues.

These changes will take effect from July 1 this year.

Ms Barton-Harvey said the freeze on entry fees and selected reductions would ensure Logan's aquatic centres remained affordable.

"Council has six aquatic centres across the city including a new indoor heated program pool at Beenleigh Aquatic Centre which was built at a cost of \$5.5 million and opened in March this year," Ms Barton-Harvey said.

"We want to assist people who are on fixed or low incomes accessing the services available at our aquatic centres so they can achieve their health and fitness goals."

Council recently launched the Move It Logan program to help residents develop a healthier more active lifestyle.

The year-long program is designed to encourage Logan residents to incorporate at least 30 minutes of heart-rate raising physical activity into their day.

It offers free and low-cost fitness activities to encourage residents to become more active through group fitness sessions, basketball, touch rugby sevens and aerobics.

Move It Logan also features a basic ball skills program for three- to six-year-olds developed by retired Maroons State of Origin star Billy Slater.

Ms Barton-Harvey said a key element of Move It Logan would be the provision of regular free buses to several activities.

“We want to ensure that barriers to fitness are removed wherever possible and providing some transport will help with that,” she said.

A wheelchair-friendly bus, which carries up to eight people, will run a round trip every Monday during school terms between Caddies Community Centre in Jimboomba to the Beenleigh Aquatic Centre for an adaptive aquatics class from 10am to 10.30am.

It will also operate every Thursday between Caddies Community Centre and Meakin Rd, Meadowbrook to transport people to and from an adaptive fitness class which will run from 5pm to 6pm.

Bookings for the bus services are essential and can be made with Able Australia by calling 5600 0760 or emailing trips.jimboomba1@ableaustralia.org.au

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STATEMENT

June 24, 2019

Greener times ahead for Logan Eco Action Festival

The long-term future of the Logan Eco Action Festival (LEAF) has been locked in with an annual funding increase of \$30,000.

LEAF is the City of Logan's premier free community festival event, staged each year around World Environment Day.

It aims to stimulate awareness about environmental issues through education and to empower attendees to make positive changes to their lifestyles and communities.

The festival is traditionally held at Griffith University's Meadowbrook campus and has attracted more than 44,000 people since the inaugural event in 2010 (the 2016 festival was cancelled due to bad weather).

The additional funding will allow the continued expansion of LEAF to provide more celebrity speaking workshops, live cooking demonstrations, health and well-being workshops, live music and a children's specific component to the festival.

This year's LEAF (May 26) attracted an estimated 9000 people.

Guests included the City of Logan's new Food Ambassador, Michelin-starred French chef Bruno Loubet, TV personality Costa Georgiadis from ABC's *Gardening Australia*, 'The Environmental Cowboy' Khory Hancock, gardening guru Claire Bickle, award-winning beekeeper Natasha Roebig and horticulturist Paul Plant.

The additional funding will be sourced from the Environmental Levy Reserve.

The City of Logan has 2362km of waterways, 2633 hectares of wetlands and 930 parks.

City of Logan ratepayers can access three free trees each financial year under Council's Free Trees program.

Schools and community groups based on Council-owned land can receive 50 plants per financial year.

Details on locations and times to collect free trees can be found at:
logan.qld.gov.au/environment-water-and-waste/environmental-programs/free-trees

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STATEMENT

June 24, 2019

Flooded road warning system expanded

Logan City Council will invest a further \$80,000 of funding in 2019/20 to continue to warn drivers of flooded roads.

Council has also secured Federal and State Government grant funding of \$250,000 through the Smart Cities and Suburbs program and \$770,000 through the Natural Disaster Resilience Program for the project.

Combined with a previous Council commitment of \$250,000, the total project funding of \$1.35 million will support the extension of Council's Flooded Road Smart Warning System (FRSWS) at 55 new sites.

The funding will cover the supply, installation and maintenance of the new infrastructure, and adds to Council's investment over the past two years installing 35 flooded road warning signs.

When the new signs are operational, Logan will have 90 road locations with significantly improved safety at times of flooding.

Logan City Council is rolling out the project in partnership with Substation33, a social enterprise of Youth and Family Services (YFS) Ltd.

There are more than 2000km of waterways in the City of Logan.

Council has formulated Vision Plans for the Logan and Albert rivers through to 2067 which aim to provide healthy and clean waterway and restore riverside riparian vegetation to reduce erosion and sediment flowing into our watercourses.

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STATEMENT

June 24, 2019

Logan West SES gets new headquarters

A new purpose-built facility for Logan West's expanding State Emergency Service will be constructed thanks to funding from Logan City Council.

The new facility will replace the current Park Ridge SES depot, which comprises three ageing garages.

Council will bring forward its plan to provide \$500,000 in funding over two years to instead invest the full amount in 2019/20.

The fast-tracked spend will enable the SES to continue servicing the Logan community efficiently during adverse events such as flooding, storms and other emergencies.

It is also envisioned the facility will function as a back-up for the SES Logan East depot at Daisy Hill.

The proposed redevelopment of the site includes a new facility containing three offices and training rooms, kitchen and bathroom facilities, communications and technology infrastructure and space to house training equipment.

Council appreciates the commitment and sacrifice Logan SES volunteers make to support the Logan community in times of need and is pleased to be able to expedite this upgrade to assist them with this work.

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STATEMENT

June 24, 2019

Faster assessments flow from plumbing reform

Extra resourcing has been allocated to Logan City Council's development assessment team to help inspectors meet new State Government legislative changes on plumbing assessments.

The legislation, set to come into effect on July 1, reduces the timeframe Council officers have to complete plumbing assessments from 20 business days to 10.

On average, Council currently completes the assessment of these applications in 17 business days.

Other legislation changes include a reduction in assessment timeframes for class 1a and class 10 buildings in seweraged areas, reducing plumbing inspections from 20 business days to two.

The Logan City Council 2019/20 Budget will fund extra inspectors, vehicles and software upgrades to help meet the new requirements, while new fees have been introduced for some inspections to help cover costs into the future.

The new fees are:

- \$200 increase to the new Fast Track fee for class 1a and 10 buildings located within a seweraged area in 2019/20 only
- \$150 increase to the Fast Track fee for class 1a and 10 buildings located within a seweraged area from 2020/21

Council aims to increase the number of plumbing applications lodged online to help achieve the two business day timeframe for the assessment of plumbing applications for class 1a and class 10 buildings.

The online plumbing application service started in October 2018 with the current proportion of applications lodged online at 10 per cent.

Council intends to increase this through marketing initiatives along with additional support to customers when setting up accounts.

There are more than 326,000 residents in Logan and more than 115,000 rateable properties.

The city's south-western suburbs, including Yarrabilba and Greater Flagstone are among the fastest-growing regions in Australia.

It is estimated that by 2066 there will be 200,000 people living in these areas. The City of Logan has 2345km of water supply mains and 2285km of wastewater mains.

There are 40 water supply reservoirs and four wastewater treatment plants.

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STATEMENT

June 24, 2019

Community and pets in mind with new Animal Management Centre redevelopment

City of Logan pets and their owners will benefit with animal care facilities a key component to the \$15.9 million redevelopment proposal for the Queens Road Depot at Kingston.

The 2019/20 Budget allocates funding for detailed designs for the three-stage project.

The redevelopment of the facility will deliver the City of Logan a modern and community-focused Animal Management Centre (AMC) and will help maintain Council's position as a leader in animal management and education.

This includes:

- A modernised community veterinary clinic
- New animal sales facility and new pet experience areas
- A new cattery and cat quarantine area

The new animal sales facility, with designated meet and greet areas, will enhance Council's highly successful Sales and Rehoming Program (Adoption Angels) for abandoned and stray pets.

The redevelopment will also include:

- A city biosecurity and vector laboratory
- Extended native fish breeding area
- New plant and equipment storage to ensure protection and safe keeping of Council's assets

The City of Logan is home to more than 60,000 registered cats and dogs.

In the past year, Council responded to and resolved more than 22,000 customer service requests relating to animals and city standards matters, including graffiti removal, parking regulations and pest and weed management.

Council also recently completed a community engagement program as part of a review of some cats and dogs local law provisions aimed at ensuring Logan remains a leading council in animal management and pet-keeping education.

Logan City Council Community Services Director Katie Barton-Harvey, said the redevelopment of the AMC will help deliver the City of Logan Animal Care Strategy

2018-2022 which includes the Be Pet Smart program and community pet education projects.

“The reason the redevelopment construction is being done over three years is to allow for the relocation of current demountable structure on site and to ensure customer service and operational activity are maintained safely over the three stages,” Ms Barton-Harvey said.

The redevelopment will secure the inclusion of Council’s Amenity, Safety Park program, which is currently based at 150 Wembley Road, Logan Central.

In the last 12 months Council has rehomed more than 2500 animals and sold more than 400 cats and dogs through the successful Sales and Rehoming Program operated out of the Animal Management Centre.

Council also presented the ‘Be Pet Smart’ Program to more than 4800 children at early learning centres and primary schools across the city.

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STATEMENT

June 24, 2019

Depot upgrade will ensure our city is well-serviced

Plans for an upgrade to Council's Marsden depot will be prepared to support the increasing task of maintaining the City of Logan's growing infrastructure.

Funding of \$350,000 is allocated in the 2019/20 Budget for the concept planning and investigation phase of the project.

An improvement of the Marsden depot is required to ensure the long-term viability of Council's services relating to plant and fleet, road construction and maintenance stores and parks branches.

The City of Logan has more than 2270km of sealed roads, 2,285km of wastewater mains and 2345km of water supply mains to maintain.

Thirteen times a year, crews mow 1498 hectares of grass across 2595 sites, while Council also maintains and upgrades 930 separate parks.

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STATEMENT

June 24, 2019

Roadside barriers ensure safety is a priority

Logan City Council's commitment to road safety will continue with additional investment to maintain and upgrade roadside barriers across the city.

Council has more than 44 kilometres of roadside barriers across the city. This \$1.3 million commitment will focus on ensuring the barriers contribute to a safe road environment, compliant with current Australian Standards.

Roadside barriers are installed to redirect or contain wayward vehicles from colliding with significant obstacles or other road users.

The budget allocation will provide for assessment of existing roadside barriers and the development of a prioritised works program.

The program to identify, assess and replace and repair existing roadside barriers will improve safety on the city's 2270km sealed road network.

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STATEMENT

June 24, 2019

Way2Go transport solutions on the way

Logan City Council has committed funding to ensure adequate public transport solutions remain high on the agenda for the City of Logan.

Council will provide more than \$200,000 to support the Way2Go integrated local transport plan and facilitate the delivery of its priorities.

These include infrastructure projects, new planning, detailed studies, advocacy efforts and partnering with other levels of government.

The City of Logan has 70 suburbs covering 957 square kilometres. There is 1246km of shared paths and bikeways and 40 bridges.

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STATEMENT

June 24, 2019

Portable speed signs strengthen safety message

Continued investment in portable speed signs in 2018/19 will boost Logan City Council's already strong track record of promoting road safety.

Council's Portable Speed Advisory Signs (PSAS) program commenced in 2016/17 with initial funding to purchase 12 solar-powered radar signs.

Analysis for that first year of operation demonstrated the placement of portable speed signs reduced the average speed of vehicles travelling over the speed limit by about 10 per cent.

The number of vehicles travelling over the speed limit, when motorists were advised of their approaching speed, decreased from 26 per cent to 15 per cent of the 4.7 million vehicles monitored.

With 2270km of sealed roads across the City of Logan, advocating the importance of road safety is important for Council and our community.

Council has committed an extra \$98,330 to continue this road safety initiative through the rollout of further PSAS in 2019/20.

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