Welcome...

There is something about this time of year that prompts us to reflect. It is a time where I look back on the things Council has done well, as well as the things we need to improve on. During the last four years, important infrastructure has been delivered with water treatment and sewerage treatment plants now upgraded in Imbil, Kandanga, Kilkivan and Goomeri. Recently, our road network has benefited from six new rural bridges along with extensive re-sealing works in the western areas on top of hundreds of kilometres of roads which have been graded.

We have strived for and delivered on a number of major community projects which have greatly enhanced our region’s liveability. The Aquatic Recreation Centre, The Mary Valley Rattler, the Youth Precinct and of course the River to Rail Trail and Mary Valley Rail Trail are examples of why this region is becoming the natural choice to live, work and play. A number of our parks and playgrounds have been revitalised including spaces at Tin Can Bay, Rainbow Beach, Imbil, Amamoor, Kilkivan and Goomeri.

The Kilkivan Equestrian Centre is another project which will add a new and exciting element to the Kilkivan township.

We have worked closely with our region’s sporting groups at Albert Park, One Mile Sports Precinct and the Gympie Hockey Club.

This council term has brought forth extensive building activity with well over 3,000 new building applications processed by Council. This has meant that our local building industry has defied the declining Australian trends. It also means that people are seeing our region as a desirable place to live and this makes me incredibly proud.

Major outside employers have also identified the vast opportunities this region’s economy offers by investing in our area. Fletcher Building Group, through their subsidiary business of Laminex has expanded into the former Carter Holt Harvey site. Adelaide Brighton Ltd has also commenced operating in our region through their quarrying business ‘Hi-Tech’ at their Gunnedah site. We have also seen major expansions of true local ‘big’ business with expansions by both Nolans Meats and Corbet Industries. In fact, over the last four years over 700 new jobs have been created in our region (ABS).

The fact is I am immensely proud to be born and bred here in Gympie, and I could not be more proud when I see groups of people who use teamwork for the betterment of others. I would like to wish all our residents a very merry Christmas and a happy and safe New Year.

Mayor Mick Curran BM

THE ROUND-UP DECEMBER 2019

A Gympie Regional Council publication
Contact us at:
Town Hall, 2 Caledonian Hill, Gympie
1300 307 800 or communications@gympie.qld.gov.au
Follow us on Facebook

Gympie Regional Council acknowledges the traditional owners of the land and pays its respect to the elders of the past, present and emerging.

Front cover image: Jason Foulke, aged 7 from Forest Glen enjoying the new Gympie Youth Precinct

If you would like to become a member of Gympie Community Gardens Inc, visit gympiecommunitygarden.org.au or email gympiegarden@gmail.com.

THE ROUND-UP DECEMBER 2019

COMMUNITY GARDEN LICENCE

Council recently finalised a licence agreement with Gympie Community Gardens Inc. for vacant Council-owned land at Tozer Park Road to be used as a community garden.

The project began in late 2016 when Gympie Community Gardens approached Council requesting assistance in sourcing a suitable location to re-establish a community garden, as there were no other public access community gardens in Gympie at that time.

The licensed area provides approximately 4,550m² of land for Gympie Community Gardens to help promote sustainable food production and knowledge sharing.

The group has extensive plans for the new site as a result of meetings and collaborations with members, and they welcome new people to help bring their plans to fruition.

The garden will include raised beds for everyone to use and share produce, an eating and meeting place with a pizza oven, sensory and pollinator gardens, native food/bush tucker forest, fruit orchard, zen garden, kids’ zone, a wishing tree, herb spiral, vertical gardens and more.

Mayor Mick Curran BM
The Mary Valley Rattler
In October 2018, Council opened the Mary Valley Heritage Railway. One year on from its grand opening, this project has created jobs, stimulated our economy and ensured the region has a significant tourism product that sets us apart from the rest of our competitors in South East Queensland. The Rattler recently took out the silver award at the Queensland Tourism Awards for the category of new tourism business.

Overview
Kilkivan to Kingaroy Rail Trail
The Kingaroy to Kilkivan Rail Trail opened to the public in 2017 by Gympie Regional Council in partnership with South Burnett Regional Council, with funding provided by the State Government. The trail has become a feature of the region and has become very popular with horse riders, hikers and mountain bikers.

Youth Precinct
The Youth Precinct recently opened and has been a smash hit with skaters, scooters and bike riders. The $2.8 million facility was a joint initiative of Council and the Queensland Government under the Building Our Regions Program. Council’s contribution towards the project was $1.4 million.

Aquatic Recreation Centre (ARC)
Council opened the state-of-the-art $22.2 million Aquatic Recreation Centre in April 2017. Since it has opened, it has been a popular attraction for locals and visitors, with over 140,000 patrons through its doors each year. In August 2017, the facility was awarded a Master Builders Queensland Sunshine Coast Construction Award for Tourism and Leisure Facilities over $10 million.

Curra Community Hall
The Curra Community Hall officially opened to the public in 2018. The building is a modern, multi-purpose venue which has accommodated a diverse range of activities and events, providing a space to build community connections and well-being. The hall received the Australian Institute of Architects ‘Gabriel Poole Award’ (Sunshine Coast Building of the Year).

River to Rail Trail
The River to Rail Trail was developed as a unique recreational experience for walking, running and off-road cycling, enabling residents and visitors to connect with the Mary River in the heart of the Gympie region. Stage one was opened in late 2017 and included a 1.8km unsealed trail, which skirts along the banks of the Mary River between Kidd Bridge and The Sands recreational area, and has been popular for admiring the native habitat and wildlife exclusive to the area. Stage two opened in September this year and added a further 2.2km extension. Work is currently underway on stage three which will complete the trail from the Mary River to The Mary Valley Rattler.

Smithfield Street Revitalisation
The revitalisation of Smithfield Street was completed in July 2017 and included the construction of fixed outdoor artwork, catenary lighting for evening street events, shaded café style seating and improved pedestrian access. In November 2017, Council was awarded with a Commendation in the ‘Great Place’ category at the Planning Institute of Australia’s (PIA) state awards for the makeover of Smithfield Street.

Other projects include the Arts & Culture Forum, Kilkivan Equestrian Centre, Red for Remembrance, Our Towns Sustainable Centre Program such as the Goomeri Town Centre, Community and Environmental Grants program, Early Years Forum, Rush Festival including the Jimmy Barnes Concert, Rainbow Beach viewing platform, public and community halls partnerships, major water and infrastructure projects across the region plus so much more.

With local government elections occurring next year, we thought it was time to have a look back to see all the progress the community has made in the past four years.

Current Council
New Year’s Eve means fireworks.

Join with us for some family friendly fun to welcome in the new year! From 5.00pm on Tuesday, 31 December 2019 at Nelson Reserve, Gympie, enjoy live music, kids rides and activities, food trucks, drink vendors and more!

There will even be a licensed bar, and the ever popular fireworks display at 9.00pm.

So grab a picnic rug and some folding chairs, gather your friends and family, and settle in for a great night.

This year’s event is proudly supported by Gympie Hammers Rugby Union.

New Year’s Eve Means Fireworks.

We love fireworks, but our furry friends do not. Don’t forget to keep your pets safe and secure during the new year’s celebrations.

If your dog is found to be wandering, our rangers will do their best to return them home. Dogs that are registered with council and microchipped find their way home much more quickly. To find out more about dog registration, visit gympie.qld.gov.au/animal-registration.

Australia Day

On Sunday 26 January 2020 Australians all around the country will celebrate what’s great about Australia and the people who call Australia home. This is an opportunity to shine the spotlight on the Gympie region’s achievers, people who have contributed to our region’s culture, excelled in sport and made positive contributions to our community.

Come along and celebrate our special Aussies at the 2020 Australia Day Awards Ceremony at 9am at the Gympie Civic Centre, 32-34 Mellor Street, Gympie. The celebrations will also include the Citizenship Ceremony to welcome our newest Aussies, followed by morning tea and music from a local artist.

Natalya Lee won the 2019 Young Citizen of the Year Award for winning the Widgee Country Music Club Webb Brothers’ Open Talent Quest, The Gympie State High School Talent Quest and also sang the national anthem at the 2017 Australian Schools’ Volleyball Cup in Melbourne. Natalya was also awarded the Australian Defence Force Long Tan Award for being an outstanding school leader.

Tell us what you have been up to since winning your award.

I started studying a Bachelor of Occupational Therapy (Honours) in February at the University of Sunshine Coast. My goal is to become an Occupational Therapist so I can help treat injured, ill or disabled patients and help them get back on their feet.

I also work at a local fruit shop while I am not at Uni. My sister and I performed at various events around Gympie as part of our group Sista Lee including the pre-muster party at the RSL, Cooloola Berries, Child Safety week at Gympie Central, a few weddings, Kenilworth dairy festival and many more events. So life is busy!

Tell us about the Australian Defence Force Long Tan Award you won and what led you to receiving this.

The award recognises students who demonstrate leadership and teamwork within school and the broader local community. I received this award for being actively engaged in many community events through my role as the senior school captain, receiving good grades at school, singing at many charity events and displaying leadership skills both at school and around the region.

What did winning the Young Citizen of the Year Award mean to you?

I was over the moon when I won the award! I worked so hard in grade 12 representing the school and myself at many events, so it was rewarding to see all of my hard work was being recognised.

What would you like to tell next year’s winners and nominees about the Australia Day Awards?

Being recognised as one of the hardest working young citizens is so exhilarating and makes you motivated to keep being the best version of yourself. To those who are nominated, keep up the hard work because it is amazing being recognised as the Young Citizen of the Year and you will be able to look back on this in the future and remember how motivated you were. I would like to thank Mrs Helen Kable, my former Head of Senior at Gympie State High School for nominating me, and my family and close friends for supporting me every step of the way.

For more information about the Australia Day Awards, visit gympie.qld.gov.au/australiadayawards.
Councillor updates

Cr Mark McDonald
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Cr Hilary Smerdon
Division 6
Portfolio: Water, Sewerage and Waste Management
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Mobile: 0499 080 913

Cr Bob Leitch
Division 7
Portfolio: Infrastructure Services
As 2019 draws to a close, I want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a safe and prosperous New Year.
These school holidays will be extra special with the Youth Precinct now open. Council also hosts a number of holiday activities around the region and you can check out all the fun at gympie.qld.gov.au.
One suggestion for parents and kids alike these holidays is to check out the new makerspace at the Gympie library. Checkout the 3D modelling, computer sewing or slice up some fruit using virtual reality technology.
In other community news, the final meeting of the year for members of Southside Neighbourhood watch occurred earlier this month at the Gympie Wesleyan and Methodist Church. I would like to thank all who attended.
I would also like to take this opportunity to thank on behalf of the community, the dedicated emergency services personnel and volunteers who have been busy fighting the fires around our region.
Mobile: 0429 231 516
Email: bob.leitch@gympie.qld.gov.au

Cr Daryl Dodt
Division 4
Portfolio: Environment, Special Projects and Tourism
Living in the Gympie region, we have a lot to be thankful for. Within our region, our 50,000 residents have chosen their location somewhere between our breathtaking vistas to the west and our unspoilt beaches to the east.
Our communities have one thing in common, a strong community spirit and pride for our place in the world. This can be seen in times of adversity such as the recent fires, storms and droughts and past floods. Random acts of kindness and support are part of our greatness and what sets our region’s communities apart.
The festive season is a time to reflect on the bountiful goodness of our community. It would be great if we could consider all of the blessings we have and thank those around us for making this region a wonderful place in which to live. I would like to wish everyone a very merry Christmas and a joyous 2020!
Mobile: 0499 080 164
Email: daryl.dodt@gympie.qld.gov.au

Cr Dan Stewart
Division 5
Portfolio: Community Development
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Mobile: 0499 081 404
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Cr Bob Fredman
Division 8
Portfolio: Arts, Culture and Open Space
Again the last three months has been busy with functions and festivities all across the region.
I have attended two wonderful facility openings, the Imbil Skate Park and the Gympie Youth Precinct. Both are great additions for our region and will be enjoyed by residents of all ages for years to come.
I also attended the James Nash School and Victory College awards night and was very proud of all the students’ achievements. The way they conducted themselves is a credit to their parents and the teachers.
In Division 3, I am very happy to see the commencement of the footpath along Oak Street adjoinig the existing footpath at James Nash School. This will make it safer for students before and after school. I am also very happy to say that in early 2020 work will commence on Rammutt Road, Chatsworth which will make this busy road a lot safer for residents.
I also look forward to work to be done on Old Maryborough Road in the future.
Finally I want to wish all residents a safe Christmas and an enjoyable new year.
Mobile: 0437 477 245
Email: mal.gear@gympie.qld.gov.au

Cr Mal Gear
Division 3
Portfolio: Business Activities and Sport
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I have attended two wonderful facility openings, the Imbil Skate Park and the Gympie Youth Precinct. Both are great additions for our region and will be enjoyed by residents of all ages for years to come.
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Cr Glen Hartwig
Division 2
Portfolio: Economic Development
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*All Councillors were invited to contribute.*
Local government can be very challenging at times, with finite resources and an increasing range of needs and expectations being placed on it. As we draw to the end of this Council’s term, it is important to reflect on what has been achieved for our community.

Councillors elected in 2016 came together at the former Kilkivan Shire Council chamber to develop our corporate plan. This meeting was for Councillors to consider what they wanted to achieve throughout the term, and how they wanted to approach the delivery of Council’s many services. As we look back today, it truly is pleasing that many of these elements have been achieved.

Examples include lobbying for the upgrade of the Coondoo Creek bridge which is now under construction, successful completion of the Aquatic Recreation Centre (ARC), the Kilkivan Equestrian Centre, the River to Rail Project along the Mary River, the resurrection of the Mary Valley Rattler, enhanced corporate reporting, implementation of the environment strategy and improved community programming particularly with regard to the aged and young people.

The region in 2020 will be much better placed than it was in 2016 thanks to the work and achievements of our Councillors and our hard working and dedicated staff.

As the world around us continues to change, including the expectations and the needs of the community, those changes and expectations need be reflected in the way Council goes about its business. If we do not continue to evolve, then we are going backwards.

This term of Council has been highlighted by many successes and achievements, as well as challenges. And I, on behalf of all staff, would like to thank our sitting Councillors for their passion and their drive to make our community a better place to be.

As we head into a new year, I look forward to working with the new Council as we continue to make our region the natural choice to live, work and play. Merry Christmas to all our residents, and a happy New Year.

Bernard Smith, CEO, Gympie Regional Council

Queensland LGMA Manager of the year

Each year, the Local Government Managers Australia (Queensland) recognises outstanding leadership and management excellence within local government. Congratulations to Pauline Gordon who won the 2019 Annual Local Government Managers Association - Queensland Manager of the year award. Pauline is our Director of Corporate and Community Services and joins a distinguished list of previous winners.

Did you know Council is updating current lighting to energy efficient lighting across the region?

Did you know Council is updating current lighting to energy efficient lighting across the region?

At the Fiveways in Gympie, Council removed 11 sodium vapour (orange colour lights) streetlights and replaced them with LED upgrades.

LED lighting is brighter than standard lights and uses 30-70 per cent less energy!

The new lights are longer lasting and do not require specialist disposal whereas the previous lights contained hazardous waste and had to be disposed of carefully.

Council also worked with Energex to switch out a number of street lights to LED’s on projects such as Mellor Street and the River to Rail Trail.

Investigator Ave

Next year, Gympie Regional Council will undertake one of its biggest road widening and footpath projects to date.

The $3.6 million Investigator Avenue road widening project is due to start in February 2020 and includes the widening of the road to 10 metres, construction of concrete kerbing, a 1.5 metre wide concrete footpath, stormwater pits and underground pipes, rebuilding the affected driveways, planting new trees and turf and installing LED streetlights to light the new footpath between Nautilus Drive and Queen Elizabeth Drive, Coolum Cove.

One of the main features of the upgrade is a 1.5 metre wide concrete footpath from Nautilus Drive to Queen Elizabeth Drive. The footpath will link Investigator Avenue with Nautilus Drive, Canberra Avenue and the existing footpath across Mullin Creek.

Council is in the process of working with residents of Investigator Avenue regarding some of the specifics of the project before work starts next year.

The project is 50 per cent funded by the State Government through the Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme (TIDS).
Community Assistance Grants

Round One 2019/2020

Council’s community assistance grants provide funding to not-for-profit community organisations to deliver projects that enhance the social, cultural and community development of the region.

During Round One of this financial year’s funding, 26 grants valued at $88,644 were awarded to a wide variety of community groups. Here is a sample of grant recipients from Round One and the benefits the funding will bring to the community.

Gympie & District Indoor Bowls Association Inc.
Improve access to indoor centre - $9,039

The grant will be used to replace the existing entrance door and steps with an access ramp to allow seniors and people with disabilities to safely access the indoor bowls facility. These additions meet Australian building standards giving patrons confidence that the facility can be accessed safely for years to come. The facility is used by a wide range of groups in the community.

Coolarts Inc. (auspice)
Faerie Festival 2020 - $5,000

The Faerie Festival 2020 will be held on Saturday 2 May 2020 at Lake Alford, Gympie. This unique, community-driven festival creates an opportunity for the community to come together for all things faerie, sparking people’s imaginations and creativity through workshops, performances and displays.

Gympie Squash Racquets Assoc Inc.
Electronic scoring system - $1,743

Funding will be used to purchase four electronic tablets, four protective cases and four lecture chairs.

The electronic scoring system will assist junior players to learn how games are scored through the inbuilt scoring assistant. The electronic system will also improve the record keeping process, reduce the use of paper and minimise scoring errors during matches.

The new technology will enable scores on all courts to be telecast live via the large TV screen in the complex, which will allow spectators to keep up-to-date on all the fast-paced action.

Mary Valley Trailblazers Inc.
Equipment - $2,000

Having their own reliable equipment will increase the group’s capacity to host community events and rides and make it easier for volunteers to do their jobs. The equipment being purchased includes gazebos to shade volunteers and members on horse rides, two-way radios for riders to communicate with each other over long distances and first aid kits and supplies for riders and injured horses.

Applications for Round Two open on 3 February 2020 and close on 16 March 2020.

For more information about Community Assistance Grants, visit gympie.qld.gov.au/grants/cag.

There is a saying you may have heard; ‘without trucks, Australia stops’. Well, the same can be said for Gympie Regional Council which operates and maintains a fleet of plant equipment providing the backbone to council’s infrastructure services.

Council has 940 individual items of plant which are used for everything from grading roads, hauling fill, mowing parks and fixing pot holes.

“We are operating around $29 million dollars worth of assets in our fleet,” Council’s manager of business support, Luke Matthews, said.

“The great thing about our fleet is that when the machines are rolling they are directly helping to get a job done.

Big wheels make a big difference

“IT means every time a resident sees a Council truck, mower or grader in action, some part of the community’s infrastructure is improving, whether that is a road, a park or a major project,” he said.

Some of the monster machines include six graders, two 20 tonne excavators, two Mack trucks capable of hauling 32 tonne plus a new two-in-one emulsion seal vehicle which is a new piece of technology for Council and assists our road maintenance crews with pot hole repairs. This piece of equipment will be used around the region when it arrives early next year.

“Having the machines is one thing, but we are fortunate here at Council to have a number of very skilled and experienced staff like Ray and Bruce (pictured below) who do a great job for the community,” Mr Matthews said.
Better Pathways to Planning

Over the past few months, Council has been working with an independent consultant to gain a greater understanding of the community’s experiences navigating Council’s planning and development services.

An important role of our consultants was to meet with a mix of representatives from our community to hear their experiences, listen to their stories and understand their perspectives. Our independent consultant conducted one-on-one interviews, held workshops and briefing sessions with a variety of community representatives and ran a community-wide online survey. More than 200 people participated in the process.

Our consultant prepared a final report that shared the feedback from our community and highlighted the need for Council to deliver better consistency, communication, transparency and project support for people navigating its planning and development services.

Since receiving the report, council’s has reviewed the key findings and developed an action plan that directly responds to the recommendations.

To find out more about the Better Pathways to Planning project and download the consultant’s report, visit gympie.qld.gov.au/better-pathways.

Council’s action plan will be available to download from 23 December 2019.

On Wednesday 13 November, Council’s CEO and key executive team members invited the people who had been engaged in the project’s briefings, interviews and focus groups to attend an information session. The session gave Council the opportunity to share the key findings and recommendations of the consultant’s report, as well as share Council’s own action plan that has been developed in direct response to the recommendations proposed by the consultant.

Council will continue to keep the project’s stakeholders updated of changes and improvements to Council’s planning and development services and thanks everyone who has contributed their stories, experiences and perspectives so far.

We need to do better

- More clear, consistent and timely communication
- More accessible policies with transparent decision-making
- Nurturing an enabling culture that supports projects with multiple benefits
- Updating the Planning Scheme to better reflect our community’s needs

We are working towards

- Better communication and engagement
- Better awareness of what other councils do
- Better processes and systems
- Better collaboration
- Better policy

We’ve already taken action

- Coordinator/Manager attends every pre-application meeting to ensure consistent advice
- Key Council officers visit different councils to review and reflect upon their processes and systems
- Council co-locates teams for more streamlined processing of applications
- Monthly meetings with key Council staff established to discuss planning matters, including projects of significance for the region

Land for Wildlife

There are few people more passionate about the far-reaching benefits of a strong ecosystem than Paul. Paul is Council’s new Land for Wildlife Officer whose role it is to work alongside Land for Wildlife members to support them with building and maintaining wildlife habitats on their land.

“People on the land have such a wonderful resource at their disposal; supporting and strengthening that resource for better economic, social and environmental outcomes is what this program is all about,” said Paul.

Paul said that the Land for Wildlife program is suitable for anyone with at least one hectare of land, and can be particularly beneficial for primary producers. “As the Land for Wildlife Officer, I work closely with landholders to find ways for the program to fit with and add to their existing land uses,” Paul said. “Some might only have a little pocket of their land that they can dedicate to the program, whereas other have a lot. Every bit helps.”

The cornerstone of the Land for Wildlife program is one-on-one visits by the Land for Wildlife Officer who helps members develop a personalised plan for their property.

To become a part of this amazing program, contact Paul via council on 1300 307 800 or by emailing environment@gympie.qld.gov.au.

Rangers get new wheels!

Gympie Regional Council’s ranger team recently purchased some new bicycles so that they can get out and about and deliver a new level of service to our community.

Being on bikes means our rangers can go off-road and to get places where a car or ute cannot.

So keep your eye out for our rangers in places like the Tin Can Bay foreshore and in parks and reserves throughout the region.

They’d love to say hi ... and if they come across you walking your dog, I’m sure they’d love a quick pat for your dog too!
Making Rainbow Beach even more Beautiful

Rainbow Beach is recognised as one of the region’s top tourist destinations. Beautifying this tourism hot spot is an important step by Council towards supporting tourism growth and celebrating Rainbow Beach’s role as an attractive hub for residents and visitors alike.

The first step towards beautifying Rainbow Beach’s main street is the undergrounding of the power lines along Rainbow Beach Road (Clarkson Drive to Kirchner Avenue). The works are well underway and are expected to be completed prior to the Easter 2020 school holidays. This work is being jointly funded by Council, the Queensland Government and Energex.

The second step towards beautifying Rainbow Beach’s main street is to deliver on the previously endorsed streetscape improvements. These improvements are currently being designed and will deliver elements such as street trees and landscaped gardens, new street furniture, increased on street parking and areas of footpath improvements.

Further engagement with key stakeholders will be completed as part of the design process, with construction tentatively scheduled for mid to late 2020. This step is wholly funded by the Queensland Government under their Works for Queensland program.

Upper Mary Street

Phase two of the Upper Mary Street Revitalisation Project is nearly complete, with the entire project on schedule for completion by the end of March 2020. Major construction will cease from mid-December until after the new year to minimise Christmas trading impacts on local traders.

The project will not only result in a more attractive streetscape, but also mean an upgrade of the street’s aged infrastructure, most of which was in poor condition.

This project is jointly funded by Council and the Australian Government’s Building Better Regions fund.

Draft Gympie Region Economic Development and Investment Strategy 2020 – 2025

The draft Gympie Region Economic Development and Investment Strategy 2020 – 2025 supports and directs business, investment and employment activity to ensure a strong economic future for the Gympie region.

The strategy also recognises the importance of protecting the environmental and natural assets that underpin the region’s economy and lifestyle.

The draft strategy has been developed in collaboration with locals and the business community through a series of forums, workshops and surveys.

Council is now inviting residents to have your say and provide feedback on the draft strategy.

To have your say, visit gympie.qld.gov.au/haveyoursay.

Waste breakdown

Fast forward to 2019 and Council has retained its flagship Bonnick Road facility but closed all small landfill sites and converted them to bin sites. Unsupervised landfill is no longer legal and can be dangerous as toxins can make their way into our waterways. It’s Council’s role to keep our residents safe and protect our beautiful environment.

Other improvements include the construction of a landfill gas collection system and flare (pictured) at Bonnick Road. The flare burns landfill gas which is a mixture of methane and carbon dioxide and is inevitably produced at landfill sites as a result of breakdown of putrescible waste. As methane is roughly 21 times more potent a greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide, its burning reduces the carbon footprint of Council waste operations. In the 2018/2019 financial year, flaring at Bonnick Road resulted in a decrease from 34,000 CO2-e tonnes to 14,000 CO2-e tonnes, and we are really happy with the decrease.

Gympie Regional Council has also introduced the waste wise app which is helping residents with everything from when their bin goes out to what can and cannot be recycled. The waste wise app is free and available for both iOS and Android users.

If you would like to know more about how you can reduce waste and improve your recycling habits, visit gympie.qld.gov.au.
**One Mile Oval**

Gympie Regional Council recently completed a major upgrade to one of the region’s most iconic and used sporting spaces, thanks to funding from the Queensland Government’s Works For Queensland Program.

The $1.25 million One Mile Sporting Precinct project is set to provide a high level facility for both cricket and soccer.

Some of the features include cricket wickets that have been planted with a grass that has been successfully trialled at Alan Border Field in Brisbane, giving quicker regrowth from damage, enabling the wickets to wear better and for a longer season; the installation of two new competition wicket blocks; the construction of a unisex change room block with unisex referee rooms and storage rooms; and improvements to the irrigation and lighting of the main cricket oval.

The new facility was officially opened on 14 December 2019.

**Water Fill Stations**

Refill, not landfill. This is the message emblazoned across Gympie Regional Council’s new, portable water fill stations and a message Water Business Unit Manager Stephen Jewell, hopes will be embraced by our community.

Council has invested in four portable water fill stations which will be available for use at events around the region. Connected directly to town water via an ordinary tap, they never run out. The use of the water fill stations will minimise waste, conserve resources and promote sustainability, and will be available for loan to community-based organisations.

“It is vitally important council leads by example in this space, hence why we have made the investment to purchase the water fill stations,” Mr Jewell said.

“Not only are they practical, but they will help residents to minimise their waste when out at events and they will assist Council in delivering the important message of sustainability and responsible waste management,” he said.

The water fill stations are free to hire for community organisations. You can book by calling Council on 1300 307 800 at least a week before your event.

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**Brand story**

Over 1,000 residents across the region were involved in the writing of our story, better known as the brand story. This is about us, who we are, what we stand for, and what makes us so special.

And you’ve told us, we’re proud of who we are, we’re welcoming, resourceful and we’re real. And we don’t disagree!
The Mayor, CEO, Councillors and staff of Gympie Regional Council wish everyone in the Gympie region a Merry Christmas and a happy and safe New Year.

**Council Offices**
Closed from 3pm Tuesday 24 December 2019 until Wednesday 1 January 2020 (inclusive).

**Library Branches**
Gympie and Tin Can Bay libraries will be closed on 25, 26 and 29 December 2019 as well as new year’s day.
Rainbow Beach library will be closed on 24, 25, 26, 29 and 31 December 2019 as well as new year’s day.
Kilkivan, Goomeri and Imbil libraries will be closed from Wednesday, 25 December 2019 until Wednesday, 1 January 2020 (inclusive).

**Gympie Regional Gallery**
Closed from Wednesday, 25 December until Wednesday, 1 January 2020 (inclusive).

**Tourist Information Centre**
Closed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and new year’s day.

**Waste Facilities**
Closed on Christmas Day. Kerbside collection of waste and recyclables will operate as normal.