

## New flood strategy

Flood prone areas where water enters homes and businesses will be targeted as part of a new comprehensive flood management strategy for the city.

Townsville Mayor Cr Les Tyrell said flood mitigation works would feature highly in the council's budgets for years to come.

"Townsville is built on a natural floodplain and we face an extreme climate, so the reality is we can never flood proof the entire city," Cr Tyrell said.

"What we can do is determine priority areas based on a thorough analysis of our flood data. This will enable us to target resources in a way that will deliver the most benefit for the community."

Cr Tyrell said it was important for home-owners to do their own research on flooding before undertaking costly renovations.

"Residents and investors should contact council or seek professional advice before renovating their homes, particularly if they're building in underneath," Cr Tyrell said.

"In some areas, the floor level will

be too low to withstand flooding."

A majority of flooding occurs in older parts of the city. In 1990, design standards for new developments changed and required homes to be built to a level that could withstand at least a one in a 50 year event.

Roads also play an important role by helping to channel water to local lakes, creeks and the sea whenever flows exceed the capacity of the underground drainage system.

The new flood management strategy includes:

- » identifying priority flood mitigation options in areas where flood water enters houses and businesses – based on a cost benefit analysis;
- » a centralised register linked to the city's Geographic Information System for recording and classifying the extent of localised stormwater flooding; and
- » developing a policy and procedures for full disclosure of known flooding events that have impacted upon individual properties.



## Ross Dam full

**Sight-seers flocked to Ross River Dam to enjoy spectacular views of torrents of water raging over the spillway after an earlier than usual start to the wet season.**

**More than 650mm of rain fell on the region in January, compared to the January average of 265mm.**

**This was followed by another 776mm in the first part of February.**

**When the dam reaches 100mm above full supply level, one set of the three flood gates automatically opens to release water.**

**The torrent of water flows into the Ross River and then out to sea, flushing out some of weeds in the waterway.**



## A plan for the future

At a February meeting, Townsville City Council approved the first draft of the new Corporate Plan which will guide the development of the city until 2014.

It is regarded as the principal long-term planning document which identifies the issues and priorities and sets out to look after the needs of our community by identifying a clear vision for the future, our mission and the values which are fundamental to how we operate and make decisions.

The creation of the document to date has involved hours of

consultation with staff, and this will be on-going as public consultation also gets underway. If you would like to have your say in the Corporate Plan, please visit [www.townsville.qld.gov.au](http://www.townsville.qld.gov.au)

**OUR NEW VISION »**  
Townsville – vibrant, progressive and a great lifestyle.

**OUR NEW MISSION »**  
Working with our community to provide quality services through commitment and leadership.

**OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES »**  
At Townsville City Council we are committed to making decisions responsibly and acting with

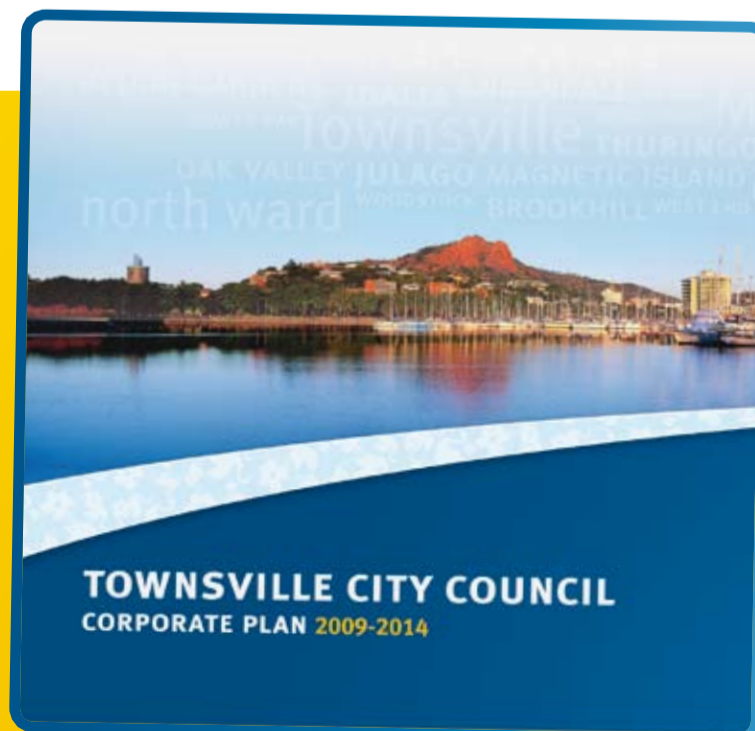
integrity, honesty and respect.

**WE VALUE »**

**Our people:** We will treat everyone with fairness and equity. We value learning teams and a collaborative approach to deliver the best service for our customers.

**Our community:** We will work with our community and business stakeholders to help build a progressive and prosperous city,

**Our environment:** We will provide stewardship to maintain, protect and enhance our natural environment.



A new plan will guide council's operations.