

MEDIA RELEASE

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Parks add two ‘mega mowers’ to the grass cutting fleet

The council won't be letting the grass grow under its feet with a big budget to maintain the city's parks network as one of the best in regional Australia.

Two new super mowers will be purchased to boost the council's grass cutting firepower.

Council will purchase a 4WD-powered slasher/mower and a wide-cut mower, both capable of delivering double the cutting width of a conventional mower/slasher which has a span of about 2m.

The mowers are part of a \$45.3 million Parks Services budget for the city's 220 parks, gardens and open spaces stretching from Alligator Creek to Rollingstone.

This year's budget maintains the same level of funding as last year and is up on the combined parks budgets of the two former councils in 2007-08.

The parks budget features a \$13.1 million capital works program that includes new suburban parks, playground upgrades and improvements in parklands along Ross River.

Environment and Sustainability Committee chairman Cr Vern Veitch said the two bigger mowers could each do twice the work of one conventional machine.

"The purchase of the mowers will enable the parks staff to get through the big task of cutting grass much more efficiently," Cr Veitch said.

"In a climate like ours where you can almost see the grass grow during the wet season, the big machines will be invaluable.

"The parks budget targets funding to priority areas so that parks, playgrounds and the city's favourite locations like The Strand and Riverway are kept in tip-top shape."

The extensive capital works program includes \$1.2 million for on-going playground renewal, with facelifts planned for facilities at Soroptimist Park, Queens Gardens, Mount View Park and Dan Gleeson Gardens.

A further \$890,000 has been set aside for the All Abilities Playground at Pioneer Park, Riverway, which is underway.

The Ross River Parkway will receive \$1.8 million for major new park developments with new park nodes and pathway connections at Louise St, Cranbrook, and Riverview Park, Condon.

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Other highlights are:

- \$2.85 million for maintenance of The Strand and Riverway
- \$187,000 for maintenance of Reid Park
- \$120,000 upgrade of aeration and filtration and weed control at Golf Links Drive Lakes
- \$120,000 replacement softfall on Strand water park
- \$30,000 improvements to Queens Gardens playground.

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