



Dedicated to a better Brisbane

Brisbane City Council BUDGET SUMMARY 2026-27





Foreword

We're spending less where we can and investing more where it counts.

We've made relieving the cost of living a priority for this Budget because we recognise families are feeling the pressure of higher grocery bills, electricity prices, rent and mortgages.

Every dollar we spend is residents' money and we have a responsibility to spend it carefully.

Our cost-of-living Budget provides practical relief for Brisbane residents while continuing to invest in the infrastructure and services needed to keep Brisbane moving.

While we're keeping costs down overall, this Budget delivers a record \$110 million for better, smoother roads and a record \$213 million to subsidise bus, ferry and Brisbane Metro services.

These record investments set a new benchmark and are a critical part of our commitment to keeping Brisbane moving.

As Brisbane grows, we're also continuing our efforts to unlock thousands more homes in the right places.

Sensible financial management means we're reducing unnecessary spending while investing more in the infrastructure and services that help shape our reputation as Australia's lifestyle capital.



Adrian Schinner
Lord Mayor

Brisbane Budget by numbers

Brisbane is Australia's largest local government, home to 1.3 million residents and forecast to grow to 1.72* million by 2046.

While net internal migration is declining in Sydney and Melbourne, Brisbane is gaining.

Our population growth of 2.1% eclipses the national average of 1.6%.

Cost shifting continues to be a challenge for local councils, with the Local Government Association of Queensland reporting a 378% increase in the financial impact of services shifted onto local councils.

The Middle East conflict has also impacted the cost of Council services, including:

- 15% increase in delivery and transport costs for road infrastructure contracts
- 90 cents per litre increase in diesel costs
- 10%-20% increase in construction costs, with high risks of contract renegotiations.

That's why we're driving down debt and maintaining a surplus as a buffer against any unexpected cost increases.

By managing our finances responsibly and continuing to balance the Budget, we can ensure Brisbane residents continue to pay less than other councils but get more for their money.

*SEQ Regional Plan

\$3.9 billion
budget

\$76.5 million
Cost-of-living package

\$110 million
Record road resurfacing

More than
\$3.6 billion
Suburbs-first
guarantee

We're striking
the right balance
between keeping
costs down and
keeping Brisbane
moving.



Wynnum Pier, Wynnum

Key figures

\$1.9 billion
Keeping Brisbane moving

\$899.1 million
Improving our lifestyle

\$146.5 million
Planning for our future

\$217.5 million
Delivering better services

Keeping costs down

We're delivering a below-inflation rates increase of 3.97% – equivalent to around \$0.70 per week for minimum general rates, and \$1.22 per week for the average owner-occupier.

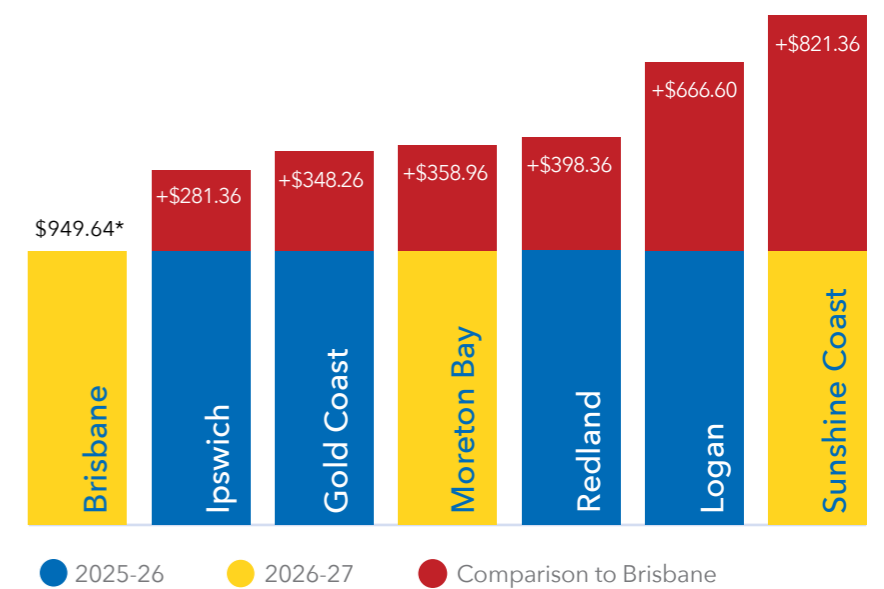
Brisbane ratepayers will pay hundreds of dollars less per year on average than other South East Queensland councils.

Brisbane will also continue to have the most generous pensioner rates rebate in South East Queensland, increasing by \$52 to \$1,350 per year.

The \$60 on-time rates payment discount will continue in 2026-27, which saved residents more than \$16.4 million in 2025-26.

By keeping costs down, we are delivering a balanced Budget that ensures Brisbane residents pay less than other councils but get more.

SEQ council rates comparison



*Minimum rates for owner-occupier house



Budget highlights

Record funding for **road resurfacing**

Ongoing maintenance and renewal of the **Story Bridge**

Progressing the **Brisbane Metro business case**

Investing in Brisbane's most **iconic destinations**

\$750,000 donation over 3 years to support **Emmanuel City Mission's** Night Sanctuary

Biggest boost to free and low-cost activities as part of the **Move Well Brisbane** program

Aerial view of Kelvin Grove and Herston

Keep Brisbane moving

Brisbane is one of Australia's fastest-growing cities. We're building a transport network for the Brisbane of today and the future.

Our public transport services make it easier to leave the car at home, with more than 10 million trips taken on Brisbane Metro and Brisbane's New Bus Network in the past year.

In 2026-27, we're keeping Brisbane moving with a record road resurfacing program and investing even more into building better roads.



Did you know?

We're investing a record \$213 million to subsidise public transport.

Upgrading footpaths, including Bradley Ave, Cavendish Rd and Oxley Rd

Busting congestion by expanding our Clearway Action Plan to Vulture St in Brisbane's east

Improving our ferry terminals, including an upgrade to Apollo Road, and planning the heritage restoration of Bulimba and Hawthorne

Progressing the rollout of **Smarter Suburban Corridors**

Record road resurfacing, including on some of the city's busiest roads

Suburban intersection upgrades, including Cavendish Rd, Holdsworth St and Kitchener St in Coorparoo, and Milton Rd, Sylvan Rd and Croydon St in Toowong

Gearing up **quarry operations** to capitalise on the increasing demand for quarry and asphalt products

Delivering **Safer School Precincts** in Mansfield, Kedron, Wynnum Manly and Indooroopilly

Construction of the Melbourne St, Prebble St, Sylvan Rd and Shafston Ave **bikeways**

Australia's lifestyle capital

Brisbane is Australia's lifestyle capital and continues to capture global attention as one of the best places in the world to visit.

Our record supporting vibrant precincts like Howard Smith Wharves, West Village, South Bank and Fish Lane have helped shape Brisbane's incredible lifestyle.

Parks and playgrounds like Bradbury Park, Hanlon Park and Archerfield Wetlands have created more to see and do in the suburbs.



Captain Burke Park, Kangaroo Point

Delivering the biggest boost to **free and affordable activities** in Brisbane's history through our new Move Well Brisbane program

Continuing our **\$2 Summer Dips** offer to give everyone the opportunity to stay cool for less

Delivering better parks across the suburbs, including a new inclusive nature-based and water play playground at The Lake Parklands, Forest Lake

Improving dog parks in Wishart, Chermside, Carina, Everton Park, Sherwood, Ascot and Wakerley

Progressing our plans to deliver **new district sports parks** in Pallara and Ellen Grove

Improving our libraries, including upgrading Bulimba Library and enhancing Inala, Mt Gravatt and Holland Park libraries

Suburban pool upgrades at Dunlop and Parkinson pools

Better suburbs

Brisbane has the best lifestyle in Australia and we're determined to keep it that way.

While many families are experiencing the pressures of the cost of living, one of the great things about Brisbane is that some of our best experiences don't cost a cent.

The 2026-27 Budget will invest more than \$3.6 billion through our suburbs-first guarantee to create more for people to see and do for less, while ensuring Brisbane's lifestyle keeps getting better.

Completing the Brighton Foreshore upgrade and releasing the **Wynnum, Manly and Lota Foreshore Master Plan**

Suburban Renewal Precincts in Stones Corner, Alderley, Cannon Hill, Chermside, Mount Gravatt, Upper Mount Gravatt, Sandgate and Wynnum

Progressing the long-term visions for **Kedron Brook, Kingfisher Creek and Oxley Creek**

Investing in community clubs through our **Community Sport and Partnership** Project, including Wynnum Vikings AFL, Valley District Cricket, MacGregor Netball and Easts Mt Gravatt Junior Rugby League

Boosting the **Lord Mayor's Better Suburbs Grants**, supporting community organisations to maintain, improve and develop their facilities

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