

Jared Cassidy

Councillor for Deagon Ward
Leader of the Opposition



4 March 2022

The Honourable Adrian Schrinner
Lord Mayor
Brisbane City Council
Ann Street
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Dear Lord Mayor

I am writing to you in response to your request for my submission for the 2022/23 Council Budget.

As was the case with my 2021/22 Deagon Ward Budget Submission, I have decided to provide you with the following letter as my submission.

Previously I had sent in a detailed excel spreadsheet which included hundreds of entries that were based on feedback from local residents and also in consultation with Council Officers. However, these submissions were generally ignored.

Again this year I have decided to highlight to you the key priorities for the Deagon Ward in this letter. They should come as no surprise to you.

I do note that I have continued to work with Council Officers in various divisions to identify local projects for funding and have allocated priorities against those collaboratively. I have been assured they have been submitted through the standard budget process.

Brisbane's suburbs are in desperate need of more investment. Residents feel they are not getting a decent return on the rates they pay. Residents in my Ward live with flooding issues, deal with broken and dangerous footpaths, are plagued by mosquitoes, see vital infrastructure like the Brighton Foreshore crumble and have waited far too long for the Einbunpin Lagoon to be fixed.

I'm sure this sounds familiar, Lord Mayor.

Twelve months on from my last budget submission, these vital suburban projects remain unfunded in your budget. They also remain as vital as ever.

At the Council election around 2 years ago you made several commitments to my community and I urge you to stick to those commitments.

Your hard working local

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Lord Mayoral commitments to Deagon Ward:

1. Develop a Deagon Sportsground precinct plan
2. \$500,000 for the first stage of the Brighton Foreshore Upgrade – community consultation and design
3. Upgrade to the Zillmere Library (\$1.4m)
4. Village precinct project at Sues Korner, Boondall

Given the need for economic stimulus, I would strongly encourage you to fast track projects in Brisbane's outer suburbs which will deliver both a good outcome for the community in community assets and jobs.

Deagon Ward Priorities:

1. A major upgrade of the Brighton Foreshores Park was promised to be completed during the 2008-2012 Council term. While the Shorncliffe and Sandgate section was completed, Brighton missed out. Subsequently, this work was supposed to be undertaken in the 2012/13 financial year, however the funding was 'delayed' due to the 2011 flood reconstruction. Upgrades to the playground at Decker Park should include accessible play components to ensure it is a regional playground for all. The Brighton Foreshore requires a significant upgrade including wider paths, more shade, BBQs, seating, additional groynes and beach areas. I note you committed to starting this process in the recent Council election by allocating \$500,000 for consultation and design. This work should now be fast tracked with a view to construction starting in the next 12 months.
2. Create a rolling program to repair the sea wall and groynes in Brighton and Sandgate to assist in reinstating sandy beaches – which may help protect the sea wall and prevent tidal inundation as has been proven effective at the beach built near Nineteenth Avenue
3. Fully fund the Einbunpin Lagoon Management Plan. This remediation work will ensure the long term health of the lagoon for the community. This project is set to cost less than \$3m. This is a lagoon of city-wide significance given it's place in the heart of a bustling suburban community and the home to countless festivals and events.
4. More funding for ongoing maintenance of Dowse Lagoon. This is a RAMSAR site of international significance and the lack of maintenance is appalling.
5. Improve facilities for local parks including:
 - a) Update the skate park at Deagon Sports Park. To date the only funding from Capital has been for concrete grinding and limited replacement of sections.
 - b) Upgrade facilities at Youth in Space at O'Callaghan Park Zillmere
 - c) Shade over playgrounds at local parks
 - d) More public toilets including the Brighton Foreshore.

These are important upgrades given the lack of shade at so many local parks across Brisbane. The skate facilities at both Deagon and Zillmere are long overdue for upgrades. While the Bracken Ridge facility has

proven very popular, these local skate parks are still well attended and many families have requested better facilities for their children. There is a chronic lack of public toilets across the Deagon Ward and SEF allocations cannot come close to funding them in the long term.

6. Fast track funding for the O'Callaghan Park masterplan to improve facilities at O'Callaghan Park (including upgrading the car parks) in consultation and partnership with the local clubs which lease the site;
7. Connect internal road at O'Callaghan Park and upgrade traffic signals at Church/ Zillmere Road Zillmere intersection for safer access to O'Callaghan Park
8. Improving the water quality of Cabbage Tree Creek and implement recommendations of the "Cabbage Tree Creek Recreational Waters Investigation Final Report" – as well as management plans for local lagoons and wetlands
9. Upgrade the pedestrian crossings to raised crossings in Brighton Road Sandgate through the Sandgate Shopping Village and develop a pedestrian safety plan for the shopping village. These shared platforms have proven to be very successful at Redcliffe in making the area safe for all users
10. Increase funding for drainage projects (including maintenance) across the Deagon Ward to alleviate flooding concerns (there is a long list of projects in the schedule of works). The importance of more funding for this basic work has become very evident in recent months. Streets have been regularly inundated with sea water as a result of damaged and faulty draining infrastructure in Sandgate and many houses remain under threat from storm water flooding with drainage systems awaiting upgrade.
11. Dramatic increase in capital works for footpath repairs and construction. SEF funding cannot keep up with the backlog of work. There is a worrying trend for Council Officer now seeking funding from SEF for projects that remain unfunded from Capital Works. This means there is even LESS funding for new footpath construction.
12. Intersection upgrade to Loftus/ Barclay/ Adams Street Deagon intersection and improve road safety in that neighbourhood
13. Signalise intersection of Groth and Zillmere Roads Zillmere
14. Signalise intersection of Bilsen and Pritchard Roads Geebung
15. Signalise intersection at Brighton Terrace / Wakefield Street / Ninth Ave
16. Properly allocate specific funding for maintenance of the local foreshore parks in Shorncliffe, Sandgate and Brighton as popular, high-use parks
17. Introduce annual funding for maintenance of the vegetation on the Shorncliffe Escarpment in accordance with the Shorncliffe Escarpment Plan developed in partnership with the community
18. Annual funding of local Festivals including Music By The Sea, Bluewater, Einbunpin, Christmas in Sandgate, South Pacific Islander Christmas Festival, Zillmere Festival, The Greek Affair and Vaisakhi Festival
19. Continuation of the community grants program including the localised LMCF program and put in place new guidelines and delegations to ensure it can return to previous levels of funding.

20. Include heating and improving accessibility of the 50m pool at the Sandgate Aquatic Centre
21. Increase funding for the Suburban Enhancement Fund for local projects.
22. Boost the staff levels and funding for equipment in the mosquito spraying team.

In consultation with Council workers, it has become clear to me that barriers are being put in the way of their career progression. I request that you support casual workers converting to permanent employment when they request that and their work is ongoing. It's the fair and decent thing to do for loyal employees of Council.

I also believe an organisation-wide review of contracting and the use of labour-hire is warranted. I have always said there is a place for limited contracting out, but there is a clear pattern of your Administration contracting work out as a first option, rather than a last.

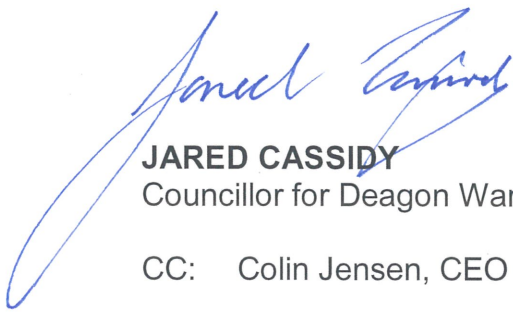
I also urge you to not be tempted once again to cut basic services like Kerbside Collection, as you did in your 2020 budget. These basic services contribute to the lifestyle residents in Brisbane's suburbs love.

A sensible investment in the future of Brisbane would be to roll out a full FOGO service, not the basic and limited service you have proposed. Here in Brisbane, 80,000 tons of organic material is sent to landfill each year. The single biggest thing a Council can do to invest in long term employment and to address dangerous climate change is to roll out a full FOGO service. In a city like Brisbane this would make a discernible difference to Australia's contribution to addressing climate change.

Brisbane has faced a terrible and devastating flood event this year. My Ward of Deagon was particularly hard hit with every suburb affected. By far the worst affected was the suburb of Deagon itself. These residents will take a long time to get over this disaster. Every effort should be made to address the damage caused by the flood and learn from the mistakes during the crisis itself and the response. I hope a comprehensive review, where Councillors can make submissions is launched.

Thank you for considering my community's requests for funding for the 2022/23 Council Budget.

Yours sincerely



JARED CASSIDY
Councillor for Deagon Ward

CC: Colin Jensen, CEO Brisbane City Council