

# Jared Cassidy

Councillor for Deagon Ward  
Leader of the Opposition



27 February 2023

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 2023/24 Council Budget.

A budget is a statement of priorities. The question for you this year is, will you prioritise the suburbs of Brisbane and start getting back to the basics, or will you continue to prioritise the inner city? You put suburban projects on hold last year to fund flood recovery, but still borrowed an addition \$400 million to cover cost blow outs on your metro and bridges.

This letter shows my priorities, informed by the community I represent. 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.

Residents living in Brisbane's suburbs are crying out for more investment. Council rates are at historically high levels after you delivered the largest increase to rates in over a decade, last year.

Lord Mayor, my budget submission will sound familiar. Twelve months on from my last submission, vital suburban projects remain unfunded.

The lack of basics in my Ward are astounding. There is a total lack of footpaths and too many are broken and dangerous, inadequate and outdated drainage, iconic public spaces like the Einbunpin Lagoon are neglected and sports precincts like O'Callaghan Park are forgotten about. The list is long, and I will outline it further in this submission.

*Your hard working local*

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*Dedicated to a better Brisbane*

I note, the situation in other Wards across the Northside isn't much better with fewer park, footpath and drainage projects funded by you in the Northgate, Bracken Ridge and Marchant Wards in your last budget.

I have surveyed local residents in my Ward over the past few months on their priorities for this year's budget and have included that feedback in this submission. I have also included the results of my 2022 drainage survey. This remains a critical issue for many people.

**Deagon Ward Budget Priorities (in no particular order):**

- 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 before, during and after the February 2022 flood event. Streets have been regularly inundated with sea water as a result of damaged and faulty drainage infrastructure in Sandgate and many houses remain under threat from storm water flooding with drainage systems awaiting upgrade. **The drainage system in the Brighton Catchment is currently being investigated. Any recommendations should be funded in full as a matter of priority.** Drainage upgrades to the system that runs from Kempster Street in Sandgate to Cabbage Tree Creek should also be prioritised. This would alleviate flooding and also assist with car parking pressures at the Deagon Oval. I have included the full list of drainage concerns from my survey as an appendix below. I note these have all been sent to the CEO also.
- The Brighton Foreshore upgrade must proceed with priority. There is a \$5 million commitment from the Federal Labor Government. This is welcomed and I believe there should also be a Council contribution beyond the funding for consultation. If there are further elements identified by the community that go beyond the \$5 million that Council should expand the project.
- Fund the expansion of the Netball Courts at Bill Brown Reserve. When the four courts were opened in 2020 demand for their use almost immediately exceeded their capacity. The design allowed for an additional four courts with parking to be added. This should be done as a matter of urgency. Netball is a growing sport on the Northside and Council should be supporting that with facilities. Most Clubs do not have a lease and rely on use of these and private / school courts.
- 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. This work should be done in addition to the one-off Brighton Foreshore upgrade.
- 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 around \$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. I have written to you about this previously.

- More funding for ongoing maintenance of Dowse Lagoon. This is a RAMSAR site of international significance and the lack of maintenance is appalling.
- 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. The approach of leaving the volunteer run clubs to carry out major upgrades to facilities at O'Callaghan Park is a failed one. Ahead of the Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2032 we need a significant investment in suburban sporting clubs.
- Connect internal road at O'Callaghan Park and upgrade traffic signals at Church/ Zillmere Road Zillmere intersection for safer access to O'Callaghan Park
- 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) Playground upgrade at Joseph Lee Park in Zillmere
  - e) Upgrade the playground at the Einbunpin Lagoon
  - f) Fund the installation of a dog park in Zillmere
  - g) 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.

- 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. There is persistently high levels of enterococci in Cabbage Tree Creek and the specific causes remain largely unknown. More investigation needs to occur rather than simply referring to a 10 year old report.
- Develop a pedestrian safety plan for the Sandgate shopping village. We need more raised pedestrian crossings, a redesign of the roads around Memorial Park and widening the footpaths in Third, Fourth and Fifth Avenues to make pedestrian boulevards connecting the foreshore to Brighton Road. Raised shared platforms have proven to be very successful at Redcliffe in making the area safe for all users.
- 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 Officers now seeking funding from

SEF for projects that remain unfunded from Capital Works. This means there is even **LESS funding for new footpath construction**.

- Intersection upgrade to Loftus/ Barclay/ Adams Street Deagon intersection and improve road safety in that neighbourhood
- Signalise intersection of Groth and Zillmere Roads, Zillmere
- Signalise intersection of Bilsen and Pritchard Roads, Geebung
- Signalise intersection at Brighton Terrace / Wakefield Street / Ninth Ave
- Properly allocate specific funding for maintenance of the local foreshore parks in Shorncliffe, Sandgate and Brighton as popular, high-use parks
- 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. Following consultation on the Shorncliffe Escarpment Plan, it was clear that not enough funding is allocated to ongoing maintenance of the escarpment's vegetation. If this cannot be done out of parks maintenance then a specific allocation must be made.
- Annual funding of local Festivals including Music By The Sea, Bluewater, Einbunpin, Christmas in Sandgate, Zillmere Festival, The Greek Affair and Vaisakhi Festival.
- 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. If a system similar to the Suburban Enhancement Fund is put in place, higher levels of funding can be allocated to each Ward's LMCF. This is much needed.
- Fund heating and improved accessibility of the 50m pool at the Sandgate Aquatic Centre
- Increase funding for the Suburban Enhancement Fund for local projects.
- 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.

Thank you for considering my community's requests for funding for the 2023/24 Council Budget.

Yours sincerely



**JARED CASSIDY**  
Councillor for Deagon Ward

CC: Colin Jensen, CEO Brisbane City Council