

Tully State High School

Multi-Purpose Centre (MPC)

Securing Ongoing Community Impact
2027 Onwards



Background: The MPC

The Multi-Purpose Centre (MPC) at Tully State High School is a key community asset that supports education, recreation, culture and social connection across the Tully region.

The Facility

- Located at the region's only secondary school
- Serves approximately 700 students, as well as sporting clubs, community organisations and residents across the wider Cassowary Coast Region
- Purpose-built as a shared-use facility for both school and community activities
- One of the region's few large-scale indoor venues
- Constructed in 2010 through a partnership between government, council and the local community

Community Impact

The MPC hosts a wide range of activities, including:

- School assemblies, sporting programs and educational events
- Netball, basketball and other organised sporting competitions
- Cultural performances, community celebrations and school cluster activities
- Community meetings, private functions and civic events
- Election polling and other public services

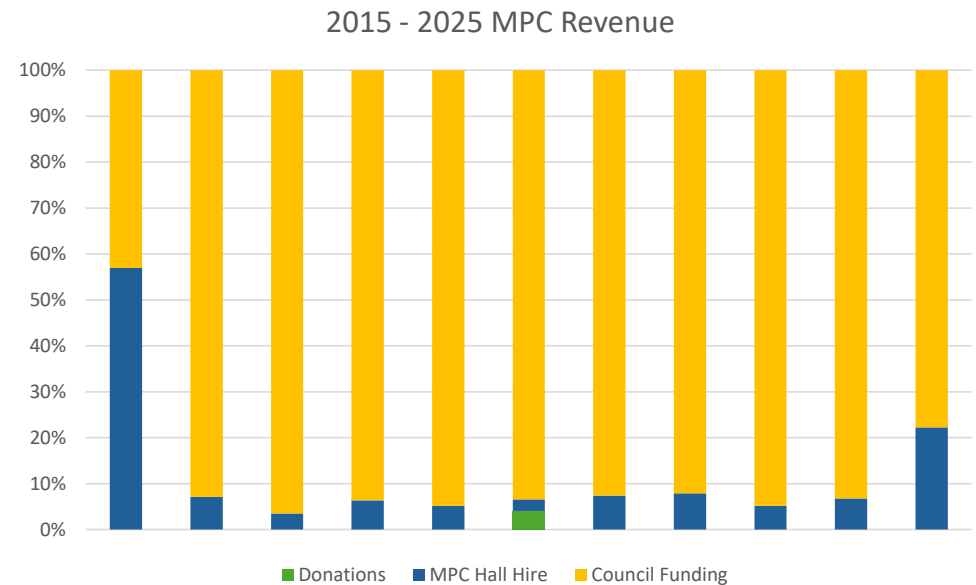
Why It Matters

- Enables year-round participation regardless of weather conditions
- Provides critical indoor infrastructure in one of Australia's wettest regions
- Delivers lasting social, recreational, cultural and wellbeing benefits to the region
- Strengthens connections between students, families, sporting clubs and community groups



Financial Overview (Revenue)

- Council funding provides more than 90% of annual revenue and remains critical to the operation of the MPC.
- Community hire income has historically averaged approximately \$3,500 per annum and is forecast to increase to around \$8,500 per annum following the introduction of a formal fee structure in 2025.
- Hire fees are intentionally kept affordable to maximise community access, limiting opportunities for full cost recovery.

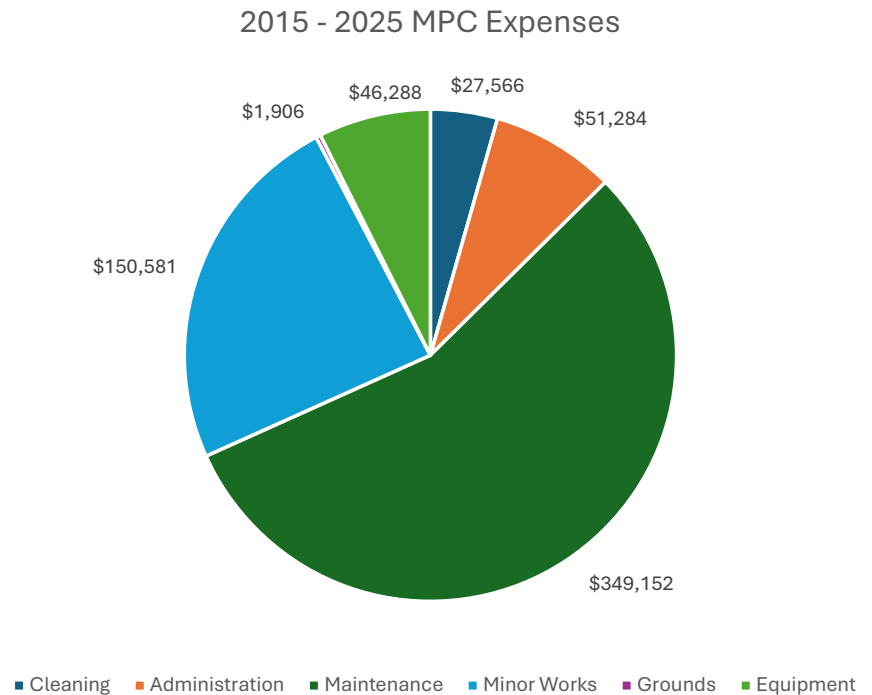


The current funding model supports day to day operations but does not generate sufficient capacity to fund long term asset renewal and replacement.



Financial Overview (Expenses)

- The facility requires ongoing maintenance expenditure of approximately \$50,000-\$60,000 per annum, with periodic major maintenance events exceeding \$40,000-\$70,000.
- Maintenance and minor works have accounted for approximately \$500,000 in expenditure over the past decade, reflecting the increasing demands of an ageing facility.
- Operational costs are largely absorbed by available funding, with limited capacity to build reserves for future renewal and capital replacement. Significant additional in-kind support is provided by the school through utilities, cleaning, administration and facility management.



Financial Need

- Establish a sustainable funding model that supports both ongoing operations and long-term asset renewal.
- Maintain annual operational and maintenance funding of approximately \$50,000-\$60,000 per annum to ensure the facility remains safe, functional and accessible.
- Develop a dedicated asset renewal fund to address ageing infrastructure and reduce reliance on reactive maintenance.
- Address emerging capital renewal requirements, including a recent estimate of approximately \$270,000 for replacement of the retractable seating system.
- Plan and fund future lifecycle renewal works, including painting, building infrastructure upgrades and replacement of key facility components.
- Recognise and support the significant in-kind contribution currently provided by the school through utilities, administration and facility management.

The financial challenge is no longer simply operating the facility, it is funding the growing asset renewal and replacement requirements of a highly utilised, ageing regional community asset.



Community Engagement Survey

- The MPC is a highly valued and heavily utilised shared use facility, with more than 80% of students using the facility daily or weekly.
- More than 75% of community respondents identified the MPC as an important or essential community facility for the Tully region.
- Students and community members consistently identified seating condition, comfort, accessibility and space limitations as key issues impacting the user experience.
- More than 80% of respondents supported upgrades to seating and internal infrastructure to improve comfort, functionality and long-term usability.
- Community feedback highlighted the MPC as one of the region's few suitable indoor venues, particularly during wet season conditions and periods of extreme rainfall.
- Both surveys reinforced the MPC's role in supporting sport, recreation, education, cultural activities, social connection and community wellbeing.



Consultation results delivered a clear and consistent message: the MPC is a highly valued and heavily relied upon facility, with strong support for continued investment to address ageing infrastructure and meet future community needs.



Future Planning & Sustainability

- Maintain the MPC as a shared school and community facility through continued partnership between the school, Council and community stakeholders.
- Improve long-term financial sustainability through increased utilisation, expanded community bookings and more structured user agreements.
- Diversify revenue sources through grants, events, partnerships and targeted facility activation to reduce reliance on operational subsidies.
- Deliver priority infrastructure upgrades to improve accessibility, flexibility, comfort and user experience, including future seating renewal and facility improvements.
- Investigate complementary infrastructure projects, including additional parking, to improve accessibility, event capacity and operational efficiency.
- Position the MPC as a sustainable regional hub supporting education, sport, recreation, cultural activities and community connection across the Cassowary Coast.

The long-term vision is to transition the MPC from a Council-supported community asset to a more financially resilient regional facility, while preserving affordable community access and continuing to deliver strong social, educational and wellbeing outcomes.



Community Impact & Wellbeing

Social Connection

- Brings together students, families and community groups.
- Hosts sporting competitions, school events, cultural activities and community functions. (e.g. Debutante Ball)
- Strengthens community identity and connection across a geographically dispersed region.

Wellbeing

- Supports physical activity, recreation and healthy lifestyles.
- Provides a safe and reliable indoor venue during extreme weather and wet season conditions.
- Reduces social isolation and encourages participation across all age groups.

Youth Engagement

- Supports school sport, performing arts and inter-school activities.
- Builds confidence, skills and social connection.
- Creates opportunities for participation, leadership and community involvement.



The MPC delivers far more than a venue, it creates opportunities for connection, participation, wellbeing and community resilience across the Tully region.



Alignment with Council Priorities

The MPC directly contributes to the strategic priorities of Cassowary Coast Regional Council by supporting inclusive, active and connected communities through shared infrastructure.

Healthy, Active Communities

Supports sport, recreation and regular participation in physical activity.

Inclusive Community Infrastructure

Provides accessible indoor space for people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds.

Community Participation & Connection

Enables local clubs, schools and community organisations to deliver events and activities.

Vibrant and Liveable Region

Supports cultural events, performances and community gatherings that strengthen local identity.

Efficient Use of Public Assets

Maximises use of a shared facility that serves both school and broader community needs.

The MPC is a shared-use facility that directly enables Council's objectives for participation, inclusion, wellbeing and liveability.



Funding/Support Request

Continue operational funding support of **\$30,000-\$50,000** per annum through a long-term partnership arrangement until 2036.

This Funding Enables

- Safe and functional operation of the MPC.
- Affordable access for community groups and sporting organisations.
- Ongoing maintenance, compliance and minor renewal works.
- Continued delivery of educational, sporting, cultural and community activities.

Without Continued Support

- Reduced maintenance and asset renewal capacity.
- Increased pressure to raise community hire fees.
- Reduced accessibility for local users and community groups.
- Increased risk of asset deterioration and reduced community use.

Community Return on Investment

- Supports one of the region's most heavily utilised indoor community facilities.
- Benefits approximately 700 students plus community groups across the Cassowary Coast.
- Delivers social, recreational, cultural and wellbeing outcomes year-round.
- Maximises value from an existing shared-use community asset.



Conclusion

- The MPC is a critical shared-use facility supporting education, sport, culture, recreation and community connection across Tully and the wider Cassowary Coast region.
- The facility is heavily utilised, with strong evidence of community reliance and support for continued investment.
- In a region with limited alternative indoor infrastructure and significant wet season impacts, the MPC provides essential year-round community access.
- The shared-use model delivers significant value by maximising utilisation across school, sporting, cultural and community sectors.
- Ageing infrastructure and increasing renewal requirements present growing challenges that cannot be addressed through user fees alone.
- Continued partnership between Council, the school and the community will be essential to maintain the facility's long-term viability and community benefit.

The MPC is more than a school facility, it is essential regional infrastructure that delivers lasting social, educational, recreational and community outcomes for the Cassowary Coast.

