



News from your Local Councillor

Division 2

Cleveland/
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Dear island residents of Division 2,

Allconnex return will be good for rates

You are probably aware of the ongoing water saga and how it applies to Redland City Council. In March of this year the State Government made some dramatic announcements. The first was that water prices would be capped for two years at CPI. This had a dramatic impact on council's finances and led to significant cost cutting and voluntary redundancies. The second was that Councils could withdraw from the Allconnex water business but only if any that did so was prepared to pay for the disestablishment and re-establishment costs. Gold Coast City Council was prepared to pay those costs estimated at greater than \$60 million by the Gold Coast City Council and so we were able to exit that business without incurring any costs.

This should be good news for your rates bills. The water business when under Redland City Council's control was a lean mean organisation and we were able to keep prices low and still provide a good dividend to Council to pay for roads, rubbish etc. I believe that any good returns from the newly formed business should go back into minimising rates increases.

Over the last few years Council's revenue streams have been hammered. Water business income went from \$29 million in 2009/10 to \$16 million in 2010/11. And there was a major slowdown in development, caused by the global financial crisis, which caused a major drop in revenue from headworks charges etc. All these things, and the high Local Government CPI caused by the floods, has meant that Council has been hard pressed to keep rate increases low and still run a financially sustainable organisation. The return of the water business to Council should assist greatly in keeping your rates increases down.

Broadband

Just to clear up any uncertainty, NBN maps are showing that Amity and Point Lookout will also be included in the broadband uptake.

Point Lookout Hall

Legalities associated with the severance of the contract with the first building contractor made progressing the Hall difficult. Nevertheless, 'all's well that ends well' and I'm sure you will agree that it is now becoming a great asset to the community.

Gorge Walk

The work on the gorge walk is now planned to be completed in time for the Christmas holidays. Sorry for any inconvenience that you may have suffered whilst work was carried out but the scope of the work meant that the track had to be closed for an extended period.

Pub Track

The Pub has now completed the upstream stormwater treatments which means that work on the track below the pub can be done without fear of future washouts.

Amity Point Gazebo

The gazebo in Cabarita Park will be replaced as soon as the State Government processes our request to regularise the reserve. The gazebo is purchased and ready to be installed.

Toondah Harbour

Council will soon be considering the future of Toondah Harbour. The current layout was controversially adopted in secret 6-5 by the last Council. It has significant shortcomings and as I write this, I am looking for Council to closely review its support for that option. Council has chosen to clear the decks and make way for the State Government to now plan this area in conjunction with the community. Council has made some strategic purchases in the area to facilitate the best options in that area.



Economic 'transition' funding proposition

Council has put a funding proposition to both the State Government and the LNP for future capital works on NSI. It is clear that much of the work required to give NSI the best chance of a effective 'transition' will be done by a Council whose revenue base is on the mainland.

Economic 'transition' - open house

The State Government is running a range of community consultations as part of the planning of the transition. Council has played a role in advocating for the island during the Government's transition planning but our real responsibilities don't kick in until the Town Planning process gets underway. This is where the 'rubber will hit the road' on the many changes to the township's development footprint. There will be further consultation with the community when this process starts. I look forward to explaining more about this at the open house.



Straddie Island singers entertain crowd at 'Island Vibe'.

The October festival and event program has been a lot of fun and been great for the island as well.

Appeals Lowest on Record

Council has spent a lot of time and money on improving the development application processes. I know from my own recent experience that there is room for improvement. A recent application of my own at Point Lookout had to go through a full Council sign off because I am a Councillor but it was a good first hand experience of the frustrations. There have been a number of changes and these are starting to bear fruit. Applications being processed within timelines are the highest on record and the court appeals are the lowest on record! Currently 40% of all applications are being lodged via Smart eDA.

Hope you have found some of that information useful and that you enjoy the Christmas period. Thanks to everyone who has been the 'eyes and ears' of Council and assisted by reporting things that need attention. Until next time.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Craig Ogilvie".

Craig Ogilvie

Councillor for Division 2
Redland City Council

