

NEWS from your Local Councillor

Redland Shire Council

December 2006



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Representing Division 2
Cleveland/North Stradbroke Island

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Dear Residents

It has been another interesting year in Council and I hope you find the following short update helpful.

Water

You will have seen much discussion in the press about water and our part in the south-east Queensland drought management study. My concerns at this stage are threefold. Firstly, we must ensure that any increased water take does not compromise the environment of Stradbroke Island or our water source. Secondly, if we are to be a part of the big picture then we must make sure that we are part of a system that financially rewards the Redlands community for past investment in infrastructure. Thirdly, ensure the new system also offers up further incentives to us to conserve water.

Lighting

Council received funding from the Department of Local Government and Planning for a Security Improvement Program project to upgrade the lighting in the Cleveland CBD area. A safety audit was conducted and based upon the findings of this safety audit, we have devised the following action plan:

- Upgrade the existing orange lights to white lights throughout Bloomfield Street, Queen Street and Middle Street.
- Investigate lighting around the Donald Simpson Centre (both the pathway to Wynyard Street and the car park areas).
- Investigate lighting in the Raby Bay Foreshore Park.

Community Engagement Policy

Council recently approved a community engagement policy. The object of this policy is to ensure the community is informed, has opportunities to contribute to the policy making process and is educated about matters that impact their lives. If you would like a copy of the policy please ring my office.



News from your Local Councillor

Christmas Concerts – bring the family

Saturday - December 9 – *Christmas by Starlight* will be held at **Capalaba Regional Park** – 6.00pm - 8.30pm. There will be fireworks, and car parking is available at Capalaba Park Shopping Centre.

Get Ready Redlands for summer storms

Now's the time to get ready for storms. Just a few simple steps will help keep you safe. Trim trees and branches, check your roofing and clear guttering, fit windows with screens or shutters, secure loose materials in your yard, prepare a 72-hour emergency pack (food, water, portable radio, torch, batteries), have first aid kit, manual and strong plastic bags, tarpaulins. Also check your home insurance is up to date and adequate.

Developments

A number of 'medium-rise' development applications have recently been made to Council for properties in Cleveland. These developments are now 'code assessable' since the adoption of the new Redlands Planning Scheme. This means that these applications do not require formal notification and will be assessed for compliance against the zone, use and other codes within the scheme.. There are applications in for 12-14 Wharf Street, Cleveland and 213 Shore Street West, Cleveland and the details can be viewed at Council's Cleveland Customer Service Centres.

Raby Bay Canal Levy

Residents of Raby Bay who are interested in how their Canal Levy will be spent this year and where it has been spent in past years, can now find this information on my website www.craigogilvie.com

Redlands Performing Arts Centre

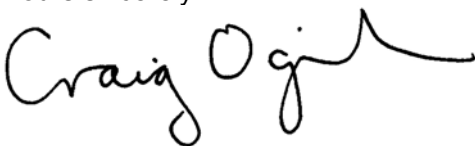
I recently voted against letting a tender to build this facility. I am sure it will prove to be a wonderful facility, which will enhance life in the shire, however, my opposition to it needs to be understood in terms of the opportunity costs. Council's commitment has escalated to around the \$8 million dollar mark. From an arts and culture point of view, this money could have been used for a festival program, smaller and cheaper facility improvement throughout the shire, grass roots cultural programs like cinema in the park and putting money into artists pockets rather than a building. Spending money on this building also means that we have less money to spend on other things (parks, roads, rates, sewerage) too. This capital outlay is substantial for our Council and coming at the same time as large water infrastructure commitments will mean that our debt is set to increase quite significantly.

Mobile office

I have continued to door knock a couple of hours a week in order to seek you views. I have enjoyed these 'chats' but recently I tried something different and ran a *mobile office* so that the people that have issues to raise can do so. You may have seen me sitting on the roadside in your neighbourhood. This proved quite successful and I will do this again in the new year.

Thanks goes out to all those people who have been my eyes and ears in the division in 2006 and have pointed out things that could be done better. And a big thanks to those people who have volunteered in some way that has brought benefit to the community.

Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year !!
Yours sincerely



Craig Ogilvie
Councillor for Division 2
Redland Shire Council

