

NEWS from your Local Councillor

Redland Shire Council



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July 2006

Dear Residents

Hope this budget edition of my newsletter finds you well, and that the cold, dry, westerly winds that we experience at this time of year have not stopped you getting out and about in the beautiful Redlands that we all love.

Budget

Council has brought down the budget for the 06/07 financial year. Council deliberations have been extensive and hard-fought but I believe that, on balance, the budget is a good one for the Redlands.

Rates

Overall general rates have gone up by 4% across the Shire. In Cleveland, however, the average general rate has gone up by about 3.5%.

Canal Levy

Council has been forced to increase the canal levy for Raby Bay residents. This is as a result of the recent unanticipated revetment wall failures. The levy income will not be sufficient to cover the estimated expenditure in the next financial year. It will be necessary to obtain borrowings to cover the canal reserve shortfall during 06/07. However a 10-year expenditure analysis has been done and it is believed that these borrowings can be repaid from future use of positive cash flow. More detailed information is available on my web site.

Capital Works

Cleveland will receive a number of capital works improvements over the next financial year. These include:

- Stage one and two of G.J. Walter Park master plan - \$135,750
- Streetscape Cleveland town centre, Middle Street West \$280,000.
- Improvements to Cleveland Showground - \$315,000
- South Street, Cleveland bikepath - \$22,000
- Shore Street, North Cleveland footpath - \$23,000
- Smith Street, Cleveland footpath - \$21,000
- Coburg and Clark Streets, Cleveland street work - \$147,000

Water and Sewerage Rates

Council has taken the view that we should try to achieve full cost pricing over the next 10 years. This will mean a very modest increase in the price you pay for water. My own personal view is that, in line with the Australian Competition Commission recommendations on urban water pricing, we should be moving to achieve full cost pricing a lot faster than this. Waste charges have had to go up to reflect the increased costs of the new contract.

Community Safety Policy

Council has recently adopted a community safety policy which is designed to provide strategic direction to council's community safety initiatives. We are extremely lucky to live in a very safe area but it is important that Council builds on this and looks towards developing community safety approaches that make sure that we can continue to live without fear of crime in this community. Fear of crime is one of the most debilitating things for a community and can lead to social isolation amongst our aged. One of the easiest and most practical things we can do to combat crime is to get to know our neighbours and apart from just leaning over the fence and saying hello it is worthwhile supporting your local Neighbourhood Watch. Anybody who wants to read this policy can do so online at www.redland.qld.gov.au/minutes_agendas .

Seniors Policy and Senior Strategy

In response to our growing and ageing population Council has developed a policy and strategy to define what our role will be in achieving outcomes for this group. By 2016 the proportion of Redland seniors aged 55 years and over is expected to rise 58%, representing 32% of our population!

Council's strategy is not just about accommodation and services but is also about wellbeing and good living. Seniors, literally, have a lifetime of experience and we are lucky in the Shire that we have institutions like U3A and the Donald Simpson Centre where this experience is valued and shared. This policy and strategy can be found online at www.redland.qld.gov.au/minutes_agendas .

Memorandum of Understanding

One objective of the Memorandum of Understanding is to further enhance the cooperation between adjoining councils and agencies in managing these Koala Conservation areas. Recently a memorandum of understanding to cooperatively manage Koala Coast habitat was developed with Brisbane City Council and Logan City Council. This memorandum of understanding is a concrete step towards achieving partnership to manage these areas. This memorandum of understanding was an initiative of the Green Space Enhancement Advisory Group, which is a group that I sit on as a representative of Council. These management plans can be found on line at www.redland.qld.gov.au/minutes_agendas .

Community Benefit Fund

In the 05/06 year I have contributed money to the shade in parks program, Redlands United Soccer and Sporting Club, Redlands Arts Council, Goori House Addiction, Redlands Contract Bridge Club, Queensland Country Women's Association, Guides Australia, Cleveland Bowls Club, Redland Lawn Tennis Association, Cleveland High School, Cleveland State School and the Rotary Club of Redlands.

Thanks to all those who have taken the time to report things that needed Council attention. It certainly is an interesting area with lots of issues. Please feel free to contact me on any of the numbers listed, or via e-mail, if you see anything that needs attention or when you have any issues that fall within Council jurisdiction. Until next time,



Craig Ogilvie
Councillor for Division 2
Redland Shire Council