

# NEWS from your Local Councillor

Redland Shire Council



**Councillor Craig Ogilvie**  
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## 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.

## 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 island.

## Rates

Overall general rates have gone up by 4% across the Shire.

## Capital Works

The island will receive a number of capital works improvements over the next financial year.

## Caravan Parks

Council will be allocating about \$1 million to finishing off the upgrade of the caravan parks. A few people have made a number of comments about the work that has been done so far. The principal motivation for spending money on the caravan parks was to get them up to a standard that was compliant with Council's own building standards. When they are finished they will continue to provide affordable alternative accommodation option for people visiting the island.

## Dunwich Streetscape

Council has allocated about \$800,000 over the next two years to enhance the Dunwich streetscape. This broadens the scope of the project and is a big step up from \$150,000 that was allocated last year to fix up the pavement in the Dunwich town centre and I look forward to seeing this project implemented. Planning has already begun and it is hoped will be finalised by Christmas to allow commencement of works in 2007. Council is also seeking a grant from the State Government through an application under their Regional Centres Program...

## **Capital Works continued**

### ***Point Lookout Hall***

\$289,000 will be spent on refurbishing the Point Lookout Hall in line with the community-driven design that is currently being drawn up. I hope that this will go some way towards achieving a more usable space that works better for the markets, our youth, and other community purposes.

## **Water and Sewerage Rates**

Council is discussing moving towards 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.

## **Water**

The recent water restrictions have led to the fairly large reduction in the amount of water that the Shire population has used. This will be some comfort to those people who worry about the effect of the Redland Shire taking water from the Stradbroke Island aquifer. It looks like the water taken from the island will be down about 22% or 2457 mL of water.

## **Local law (Animal Management)**

This proposed local law has now gone through state interest review and is out there for community comment. This law is what dictates how our compliance officers treat things like the management of dogs. This was an issue that many in the community contacted me about last year. Now is the time for the community to review the law and give us some feedback.

## **Energex**

Energex recently did a lot of tree trimming around the power lines at Point Lookout. I have had a number of complaints from people who thought they were a bit heavy-handed. Council has taken this up with Energex. Ultimately, the best solution is to try and underground the power I have made some inquiries to Energex and will report back in a future newsletter.

## **Community Benefit Fund**

In the last financial year I had contributed money to the North Stradbroke Island Rugby League and All Sports Club, Point Lookout Surf Lifesaving Club, Stradbroke Early Learning Centre and Point Lookout Board Riders Club.

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**