

# NEWS from your Local Councillor



## **Councillor Craig Ogilvie** Representing Division 2 – Cleveland/North Stradbroke Island

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Dear resident

## **Council budget**

This newsletter is focused on giving you information on the last Council Budget and how it affects you and the local area.

In framing this year's budget, Council began with the premise that it wanted to maintain a large capital works program and thus stimulate the local economy and support jobs but still try to keep the general rates increase to a minimum. This has been a difficult job considering Council has been adversely impacted by a decline in development fees and the state government water reform process. This has meant many hours of meetings and a strong drive towards 'belt tightening' on the operational, behind the scenes activities of Council.

Consequently, Council has delivered one of the lowest general rates increases in Queensland – 5.3%. The sewerage charge – our second largest revenue source – has increased this year by only 2.4%. The waste and recycling charge is our fourth largest revenue source, and it has increased by just 3.9%. Unfortunately, the cost of buying water off the state government has increased by 26%. The impact of the water reform on Council's finances is still unknown, so Council has taken a conservative approach to debt.

## **Council funding in our local area**

Key funding allocations on North Stradbroke Island (NSI) include:

- a project to integrate the existing Point Lookout Landscape Plans for public open space (beaches, parks, natural areas, headlands, streetscapes) into one single plan
- developing a strategic plan for the commercial use of public open space at Point Lookout
- further implementation of the Quandamooka Indigenous Community Plan and partially funding the Quandamooka Combined Aboriginal Organisations Forum Secretariat

- a feasibility study to establish an Indigenous-focussed knowledge centre on NSI (it is hoped the study will form the basis for Council/state/federal investment in a major new cultural institution for Dunwich)
- continuing the feral animal trapping program
- preparing local area plans for the townships of Dunwich and Amity Point on NSI (this is an exciting planning opportunity with 'real world' impacts and when the time comes, I urge all community members to get involved)
- a weed management program on Point Lookout Headland Heritage Reserve
- a 'second stage' to the Dunwich streetscape project which will include the rear of the CBD area and planning for a pathway on the oval side of the township
- an upgrade to the boat ramp parking area in Amity
- refurbishing Point Lookout Hall
- a strategic plan for dealing with the commercial use of public open space at Point Lookout
- improvements to Ballow Road – Amity.

Council will also be planning the 'old camp-ground' areas and the 'flat' and incorporating all existing landscape plans for other areas at Point Lookout (beaches, parks, natural areas, headlands, streetscapes) into one single plan.

## Other important news

As part of the state government's changes to animal management legislation, we – along with all Queensland councils – introduced **cat registration** in the city on 1 July 2009. The good news is that we're giving people the first year to get their pet registered before fees apply.

And, the good news for **pensioners** is that we've increased our concession by 8%, from \$300 to \$324 for full pensioners. Those on a half pension will also receive the same percentage of increase, and will now receive a \$162 concession. Under this budget, war widows will also receive the same concession as full pensioners.

Another point worth noting for those who say Council is preoccupied with environmental matters, is that the spend on 'essential services' and 'community health and wellbeing' is \$214.5 million and dwarfs the environmental budget at \$18.4 million.



Craig Ogilvie  
Councillor for Division 2  
**Redland City Council**