



News from your Local Councillor

Division 2
**Cleveland/
North Stradbroke Island**

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Dear residents of Division 2,

April 2010

Hello to you all,

As I write this it's raining outside and it feels like it has been raining for the last few weeks. Of course, this has been great for gardens and grass but from a Council point of view it has led to a few problems, not the least of which is keeping up with the mowing. Rain means increased grass length and downtime for the mowers so it's a double whammy. I haven't had too many people ring me complaining, which shows there is a great level of understanding of the predicament, and I thank you for that.

Increased density/code assessment

Recent community outrage in Capalaba at a six storey development in Aramac Court has highlighted the concerns associated with code assessable applications. We have a number of these in Cleveland. The 2006 planning scheme took a lot of development out of the impact assessment category, which requires developers to publicise their plans and allow for community to protest an application through the courts if they have grounds. While this change was introduced with new zone and use codes upon which assessment would be based, I protested this move at the time. Nevertheless, the change was made and we now have a situation where a six storey development could be approved without neighbours having any knowledge of it happening whatsoever. For this reason I was happy to support Councillor Debra Henry in asking for the preparation of a policy for public notification to residents of the details of code assessment applications that do not require public advertising under the planning legislation, and will result in a substantial increase in density.

Narnia

During the consultation we did on Cleveland Point, we also asked people to give their reaction to the filming that took place and whether they would be comfortable with future filming projects. The answer was a strong yes to both questions. You might be interested to know that during the filming our local unemployment rate dropped from 4.1 to 3.3 per cent, while in the area around us it went up.

Cleveland Point

After Narnia was finished, the Point was restored, as far as is practicable, to its original state. The mature trees that were there will be replaced during the master plan upgrade, as will the shelter. The concrete plinth is obvious now, but will be barely noticeable when the upgrade is finished.

Council will soon be going out to tender for the upgrade works for the Point. The timeline at the moment is that the picnic shelter and toilet will be finished by the end of this year and the landscape works, road markings and playground/furniture installation will be finished by April 2011.

Cleveland CBD Master Plan

Following completion of the enquiry by design process, (the community/stakeholder engagement which provided community and state agencies feedback on the draft plan), Council has responded with the completion of additional pieces of work and strategy development. This includes contemporary traffic modelling based on a 2009 base year traffic survey; a landscape strategy for the centre including extending this into the broader Cleveland neighbourhood and a built form and public realm report and visualisation study. Now with this complete, the master plan is being finalised for presentation to Council for its adoption. It is intended that this master plan will guide development in the CBD for 20 years and beyond.

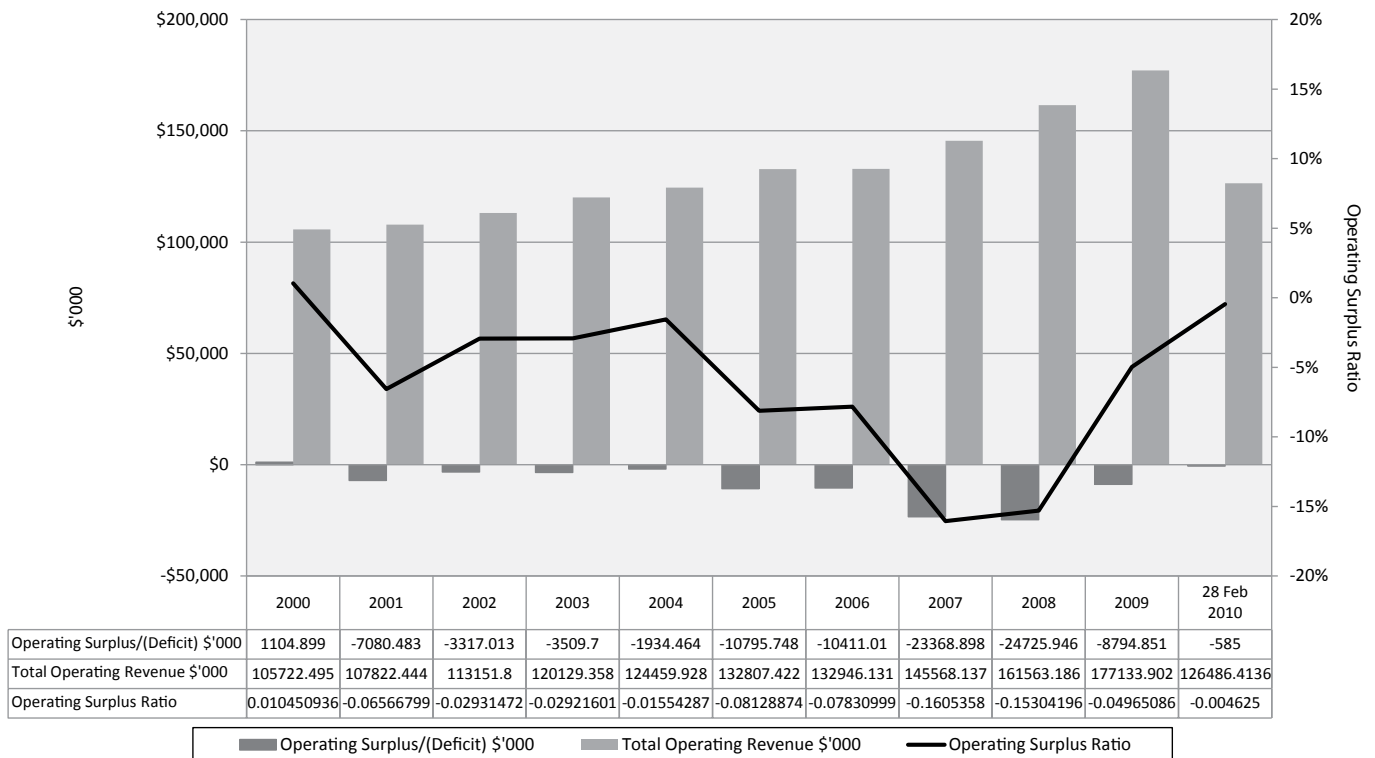
This master planning satisfies the state government's vision for the CBD area to become a principal regional activity centre and a transit oriented development under the South East Queensland (SEQ) Regional Plan. Council will, after the plan's adoption, be working to bring the vision into a reality and we intend to continue to meet with CBD retailers, property owners as well as business advocacy groups, and to partner with the state government, in fostering implementation of the SEQ Regional Plan's centres framework.

Budget

While I can't reveal any details yet, I can say that it will be a tough one. Council in tandem with our new CEO and management team has been developing a new financial strategy. The impact of the global financial crisis and a new understanding of our financial situation will need to be faced square on. Not to do so would be irresponsible. Many will remember the warning I put out during the 2008 election about the unsustainability of our financial strategy at the time.

It was a claim that was flatly rejected by the then Mayor in a letter on the eve of the election. The point I was making at the time was simple: you can't keep spending more than you are earning. It is best understood by looking at the graph below. The graph shows the revenue (\$'000) that council has collected over the past 10 years (2010 is to 31 Jan), and the associated operating loss (%) after depreciation and interest. Chickens have come home to roost.

Operating Surplus/Deficit after Depreciation and Interest on Loans



Raby Bay residents

We are making steady progress towards establishing a memorandum of understanding with the Raby Bay Ratepayers Association. This MOU will establish clear protocols for the exchange of information with regard to the canal levy, parks, rates etc. Incidentally, it was pleasing to see many residents involved in the rates focus groups.

Councillor remuneration

I was pleased to move a motion rejecting a pay increase that had been recommended by the state government Remuneration Tribunal. This increase would have amounted to about \$3,000 for each Councillor but I was unanimously supported by the rest of the Councillors. Councillors have a thorough knowledge of the budget to come and felt that it was important that if we were going to ask the community to tighten its belts, then we should show some leadership.

Thanks to you all for contacting me when something comes up. We continue to do our best to serve your needs. Until next time

Yours sincerely,

Craig Ogilvie
Councillor for Division 2
Redland City Council