



News from your Local Councillor

Division 2

Cleveland/
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Dear island residents of Division 2,

November 2010

Welcome to another newsletter coming to you at the end of one of the busiest years for Council and Councillors that I have experienced. I hope you find some of the updates below of value or interest.

Water debate

You may have seen a bit of press around about who is responsible for price hikes on water. In our local area, price increases have been modest but in other areas not so. I forecast however that our turn will come. By now you will be aware Council no longer owns its own water supply, or its own water retail and distribution services. Allconnex now buys water from the state government and on-sells it to us. Council is a shareholder in that enterprise so receives a dividend. That dividend goes into Council activities and so offsets the amount you pay in rates. In previous years, Council was receiving a dividend of about \$29m for these purposes. The forecast revenue for this financial year is currently set to be less than \$20m. This has had a serious effect on Council finances as you would expect. For me, the bottom line on all this is that the state government spent a lot of money on 'drought proofing' south-east Queensland and somebody now has to pay for it. That somebody will be you and me through increased water charges.

Toondah Harbour

You may have seen press reports about land at Toondah Harbour being put up for sale. CSIRO is exiting their premises there. Council was disappointed that the CSIRO did not negotiate a sale price with Council under 'priority sale arrangements'. Nevertheless, Council has submitted a bid in the open tender process and is hopeful of securing the land. The land in question is immediately adjacent to the Straddie Flyer and is a critical parcel for public access and future planning of the harbour area.



Redlands named Queensland's Sustainable City for 2010

Redland City has been awarded the title of Queensland's Sustainable City for 2010 by Keep Australia Beautiful. Many people think this is an 'environmental' award but it's not. The assessment takes in all the criteria and the quadruple bottom line approach – social, cultural, economic, environmental. The award is recognition I think for the work that went into the Redlands 2030 Community Plan and also the new financial strategy.

Native Title/mining future/national park

I know local mining, business, community and environmental group representatives have been making representations on this topic, and as I write this, the word from the state government is that it is close to finalising the detail. Once it has made its announcements on the future of mining and the timelines for gazettal of national park, then it will be possible for it to start public consultation and develop a plan to address transitioning the island economy and community.

The state government and Native Title claimants are in the process of finalising an agreement that will be ratified by the courts in March of next year. Council also is in negotiations with claimants also to be ratified in March next year.

I have been contacted by residents who are concerned about what they see as pre-emptive occupation of land. Council has no power or authority over these lands. These lands are a state government concern.

Camp grounds

Lease negotiations are continuing with the Minjerriba Camping Community Consortium for the lease and operation of the Straddie Holiday Parks. These negotiations with the Minjerriba Camping Community Consortium have been positive and are expected to be brought to a successful conclusion.

Since the tender and lease arrangements were first announced, Council has also continued to work with the state government on a range of other issues relevant to the future lease and management of the parks, including requirements for a land use management plan (now completed) for the park and Native Title issues.

Barge service

Council has been approached by an operator wishing to reinstate the Amity-Koorngal barge service. Officers are currently looking at ways to solve risk and liability issues that were raised as part of a recent survey of the area done on completion of the recreational ramp. I am very mindful of how useful a service this was and will do my best to get a successful outcome.

Point Lookout main road

Council is planning to do some local traffic modifications to the main road that travels through Point Lookout this financial year. Draft concept plans have been sent to Queensland Transport and Main Roads for assessment and feedback. When this is received, it is proposed to put the plans on display for inspection and comments at the Point Lookout Hall; hopefully in November, prior to the Christmas break.

Caring for Straddie over the holidays

To ensure residents and visitors have a positive experience on the island over the holidays, Council is working with police to spread the message that excessive noise and other disorderly behaviour is not tolerated. Anyone affected is encouraged to contact police on 131 444.

Point Lookout Hall

I am very excited to be seeing the hall being refurbished. Thanks to all the community members who had a big role in ensuring that it turns out right.

Can I take this early opportunity to wish you all a happy Christmas. This will be the last newsletter from me before then. As usual, you are more than welcome to ring me on the numbers listed on this newsletter if you have any questions, views or suggestions that you would like to put before me.

I will be continuing to do the mobile offices throughout the division, so if you see me on the side of a road with my banner up, stop in and say hello. Thanks to all the volunteers who have made this a great year for many organisations and thanks to all those who have been the 'eyes and ears' for Council.

Yours sincerely,



Craig Ogilvie

Councillor for Division 2
Redland City Council

