



News from your Local Councillor

Division 2

Cleveland/
North Stradbroke Island

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Dear island residents of Division 2,

I hope you find some of the following information useful.

Budget news

This was easily the toughest budget that I have been involved in. The recent decision by the state government to cap water prices AND infrastructure charges was a surprise and required quick action so that Council could remain on track to return to operational surplus in 2013-14. Council was keen to moderate impacts on ratepayers so this has meant serious cutbacks in goods and services and staffing levels.

The bottom line for ratepayers is what most of you are interested in and I'm pleased to report that 97% of owner occupied properties will be paying less than \$3 extra per week and 88% will be paying less than \$2 extra per week. The overall 'headline' increase for the Redlands is 6.09% as opposed to say, Ipswich which is 11.31% and the Gold Coast which is 7.28%.

Pensioner remissions have also been increased to \$330 for full pensioners and \$165 for part pensioners. These remissions are amongst the highest in Queensland.

Waste Arrangements

One of the changes will be the new 310L recycle bins. This will help with keeping things under control at Point Lookout where holiday makers are known to fill these bins a couple of times over. Unfortunately the prospect of increasing pick-ups for recycled rubbish is not possible for logistical reasons so hopefully these bins will make a difference.

Point Lookout Hall

Delays in construction have made it necessary to change the date for the Point Lookout Hall official opening which has now been set down for later in the year.



Island 'Transition'

Since the state government made its announcements regarding the end of mining/National Park timelines it has begun a transition planning process. This process is a rapidly moving feast and the first tranche of economic strategies are due to be completed by the end of October. These strategies are being done with 'stakeholder' consultation in the early stages and are expected to be open for broader community input at a later stage. The Economic Transition Taskforce is charged with overseeing the development of these documents in conjunction with the Department of Environment and Resource Management. One of the groups that will have an input is the recently formed Chamber of Commerce.

As part of the transition the government is looking at how to enable project planning for both Toondah Harbour and Dunwich Harbour.

In addition to the Economic Transition Taskforce, a North Stradbroke Island Reference Group has been formed. A range of people, including the Mayor and myself, have been appointed to this group and they will be asked to provide their own personal input into the government's overall efforts. A Land Use Planning Group has been formed too in order to provide high level input into land use decisions. This group will have a coordination role over National Park Planning, Recreational Reserve Planning, Township Planning and Land Bank planning. The Land Bank is an outcome of the State Government ILUA negotiations with the Quandamooka.

'Straddie' Transition – information on internet

Council is maintaining a web page www.redland.qld.gov.au/AboutRedlands/NorthStradbrokeIsland.

You can also share news, views, information etc. On 'Straddie Futures' on Facebook. Also the State Government office in Dunwich has detailed information.

Native Title

On July 4 in a special Federal Court sitting in Dunwich various parties to negotiations with Quandamooka people agreed to a consent determination of the long running Native Title claim. This marks the end of a long running fight for the Quandamooka to achieve recognition, rights and compensation as outlined in the Native title Act for their prior/traditional occupation of the island. I was very pleased to be part of this process. All negotiations were conducted with professionalism and respect and a desire to create win/win outcomes rather than resolve it through arbitrary court litigation. From a Council perspective we sought to preserve the rights of the whole of the community on the lands that are controlled by Council and this objective was supported by the Quandamooka representatives. There is no question that the future of the Quandamooka people is a lot more positive as a consequence of this determination and this can only mean good things for the whole community.



Weddings and commercial use of reserves

Council has undertaken site assessments of various areas of open space on Straddie for consideration for commercial use. This work was done by an external consultant who evaluated a range of sites taking into consideration the environmental, social, amenity, cultural and management impacts of commercial uses as well as looking at potential commercial opportunities in the reserve locations. The assessment was undertaken before the state government announcements regarding the closure of the mines, native title and the national park. In light of these announcements, and community feedback some of the assessments will be reviewed before being used by Council as an assessment tool.

Community grants

Council has given out over \$174,000 to organisations out of its grants program and the Regional Arts Development Fund. Recipients from the island have included: NSI Rugby League and Allsports Club, Minjerrabah Moorgumpin Elders in Council, and LINES in the SAND.

As usual, I'd like to sign off by thanking everybody who has taken the time to report issues and provide feedback. Council relies on the community to be its eyes and ears and it helps a lot. Until next time.

Yours sincerely,

Craig Ogilvie

Councillor for Division 2
Redland City Council