

Redlands 2030

creating our future



Discussion Paper February 2009



“There is no power equal to the power of a community conversing with itself about what it wants. Meaningful conversations create the power to change, create or transform communities, organisations, values and worldviews. If we want to affect change we need to convene the community, discover what is important to it, and then connect it with similar conversations.”ⁱ

Margaret Wheatley, the Berkana Institute

A changed world, a different city

Redlands 2030 is an opportunity for the whole community to create a vision for Redland City in 2030 and set a course towards achieving that vision. Crafting an effective community plan to ensure a bright future for all of the people and places of the Redlands will require a conscious examination of our values. Creativity, knowledge, imagination and a robust community discussion are essential ingredients in our task.

This paper outlines some of the challenges and opportunities ahead, and suggests that changes in our thinking and action may be needed to respond to these.

The Redlands 2030 Community Plan will be founded on two principles – sustainability and strong communities – as defined below.

Sustainability	Strong communities
Meeting the needs of the present, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. ⁱⁱ Sustainability is important for all aspects of life – environmental, economic, social and democratic.	A connected community with access to a full range of options required for a rich community life and an active attachment to place. ⁱⁱⁱ

Sustainability and strong communities have emerged as widely-supported aspirations for the Redlands. In many forums over the past four years, Redlands people and

community leaders have said they want a great community **and** that they want to protect the things we value for future generations, particularly the natural environment. These two concepts are strongly linked, as shown in the diagram. While Redland City has many strengths and assets, profound



global and regional changes suggest that neither a strong community nor a sustainable future will “just happen”. The Redlands has experienced large-scale change since last undertaking a visioning exercise

in 2001 – for example, we have evolved from a shire into a city and our population has grown by approximately 23,000 people. Looking ahead to 2030 we are sure to confront more significant changes that require thoughtful responses and sound planning (see the *Redlands 2030* fact sheets for more detailed information).



Redland City in 2030 – the likely future

- Our population is likely to increase by about 50,000 people – growth of 38% on current figures.
- New urban developments in the southern suburbs of the city - in Redland Bay, Victoria Point and Thornlands will accommodate large increases in residential population, and will be home to about half of the city's children.
- The population of North Stradbroke and the Southern Moreton Bay Islands will grow to over 12,000 people, almost double the current population.
- Almost one third of our population will be over 65.
- Land clearing, and other threats from development will place pressure on Redlands' endangered native animal and plant species and declining waterways health.
- 24,500 new jobs will be needed to reach the city's local employment target of 60% (currently only 40% of our city's workers have jobs in the Redlands – most of the rest drive to Brisbane or Logan).^{iv}

With change comes challenges and opportunities. Over the next 20 years the people and places of Redland City will be impacted by:

- global transformations including major population movements, economic shifts, climate change and reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and information technology
- national trends such as the rapidly ageing population, the federal government's focus on inter-government partnerships and social inclusion, new funding models for infrastructure, the need to reduce energy consumption or find alternatives, the need to maintain reliable supplies of food and water and stop careless waste of limited resources
- regional trends such as south east Queensland population growth and water reforms, focus on cross-local government initiatives, changes in industry, increased demand for housing, and management of Indigenous cultural heritage
- local challenges such as the need for improved health services and healthy lifestyles, better public transport, diverse housing choices, local jobs, and the increasing pressures facing many clubs and community services.



Thinking ahead – what v

New ideas and different voices

The changes coming in Redland City make it clear that we need to think differently to plan for a future where residents can live well and make sure their children and grandchildren can too.

“New ideas have never been more needed, both locally and globally ... We can't afford to keep rolling out the thinking of the past 20 years to create the livable communities of the future”.^v

Across the developed world, cities, towns and regions are grappling with similar opportunities and challenges. Some of them have found ways to thrive and to plan for a sustainable future and a strong society. Research shows that local areas can improve their ability to solve problems by building up their networks and linking people from different walks of life or organisations to share information and ideas.^{vi} In the Redlands we will need to bring a wide range of people into the discussion so that we challenge and refresh our thinking.

Did you know?

Between 2004 and 2008, Redland people reduced their average residential water consumption from 320 litres per day to 192 litres per day in response to the drought.

Did you know?

In the Redlands in 2006, 54% of households consisted of one or two people, but only 14% of dwellings had only one or two bedrooms. This means at least 30% of households had more room than they needed. People choose to have more space for a variety of reasons, but this has a significant impact on the environment, and on the affordability of housing for everyone.





Did you know?

Across the world, communities have run with “little ideas” that have made a big difference. In Brisbane’s West End last year a small group of friends initiated a not-for-profit organisation called Local Power to buy and install solar panels in bulk. Their target was for 50 households to be viable — 150 households signed up for the first round.



We need

Strengths and assets

Redland City is gifted with a beautiful environment, a strong sense of identity, an active community and vibrant culture and heritage. People power will be essential to generate ideas, plan for the future, and act on those plans. The Redlands has a solid history of community action which will be a foundation for the future. For example, uptake of conservation management programs has been strong through initiatives like Bushcare, Land for Wildlife, Rural Support, Your Backyard Garden and schools programs.

Threats and concerns

We need to be realistic about the serious concerns our community faces. By 2030, Redland City will lose the things we value most if we don’t grapple with:

- ways to overcome resentments and conflicts that divide our community
- ways to keep young people in the city so that we maintain diversity in our population
- ways to improve the health of our waterways and care for our bushland
- ways to protect our islands and support our island communities
- ways to fund and develop infrastructure to keep pace with growth and replace ageing assets
- ways to share the good life and eliminate pockets of disadvantage.

Local action and regional approaches

Redland City is characterised by smaller communities with distinctive identities. The communities of the Southern Moreton Bay Islands are very different from the suburban transit hub of Capalaba or the semi-rural Mount Cotton area. The community plan will need to recognise and respond to this diversity.

At the same time, the Redlands is a city within a region. Boundaries with Logan and Brisbane local government areas do not affect the way most residents live their lives. We need to work in our region to harness the strengths and advantages of south east Queensland so that we attract enterprises, infrastructure and the benefits of collaboration to our area.

Trade-offs and choices

Achieving sustainability will bring choices about what the city does and how it is done. For example, population growth will place pressure on the natural environment if every new dwelling is a detached three-bedroom house. Diverse forms of housing and increased housing density will be needed. The community plan is our chance to make conscious decisions that recognise the trade-offs inherent in the challenges we face.

Learning and experience

For at least 21,000 years, the traditional owners of Quandamooka (Moreton Bay) successfully cared for their lands and waters sustaining the vitality of the people, plants, animals and unique culture that depended on them. Their responsibilities as custodians continue to the present day. We have much to learn from them as a community if we are to do our part to sustain the places that sustain us.

The Aboriginal community on North Stradbroke Island has developed its own vision for the future, which will help inform the community’s broader vision:

“... a future where the island’s spirit, cultural values and the beauty of its lands and seas are conserved and restored. All community members enjoy equal opportunities, working together in a unified way to shape a healthy and happy future for the generations that follow ...”^{vii}

The Redlands can also benefit from the experience of local communities, and from cities and regions in Australia and overseas that have been proactive in planning for a sustainable future.

Conclusion

Some of the challenges that face the Redlands require action from governments at a state, national or even global level. The needs and aspirations of the Redlands' people cannot be met by government alone. However we know from success stories around the world that communities such as ours can take control of their own destinies by embracing new ideas, planning well and working together. We can all be agents in creating our future.



“We need to recognise that the relationships between our identity, our culture, our wellbeing and the natural values of this country are crucial to our future. We should never forget that the health of our communities is related to the health of landscapes, and the relationship flows both ways. You can't have a healthy community without a healthy landscape, and you can't have a healthy landscape without a healthy community”.^{viii}

Professor Ian Lowe, Emeritus Professor, Griffith University



More information

To find out more about Redlands 2030 and how you can contribute to the Community Plan:

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or write to: **Redlands2030**
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Fact sheets with more information about topics touched on in this paper are available on the website as are details of community visioning workshops, speak-outs, creative community engagement activities and a new *Redlands 2030* Community Feedback Network.

ⁱ Margaret Wheatley, the Berkana Institute, USA

ⁱⁱ Adapted from the Brundtland Commission definition cited in the *Melbourne Principles for Sustainable Cities*, Melbourne City Council, 2002

ⁱⁱⁱ *Redland City Council Draft Strong Communities Framework*, 2008

^{iv} Population data and projections in this document are sourced from the Australian Bureau of Statistics, the Queensland Government's Population Information Forecasting Unit and the *Redlands Community Profile*, Redland City Council, 2008

^v Suzuki, H; *Eco2 Cities: Ecological Cities as Economic Cities, A New Business Model for Environmentally and Economically Sustainable Urban Development*, World Bank EASUR, November 2008

^{vi} Bacon, N, Faizullah, N, Mulgan, G and Woodcraft, S; *Transformers: how local areas innovate to address changing social needs*, National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts, UK, 2008

^{vii} *Quandamooka Aboriginal Community Plan*, North Stradbroke Island, 2007

^{viii} Professor Ian Lowe, Emeritus Professor, Griffith University, 2006