



# A message from the Mayor

## Cr Karen Williams

August 2016



### Budget 2016-17: a responsible platform for the future

The first Budget of the new Council is the product of a unified and collaborative approach in the interests of our City as a whole.

I thank councillors for their input and commend them for helping me produce a responsible plan that invests heavily in our city and builds on our strong foundations at the same time as minimising the cost impact on residents.

This is a “business as usual” Budget that balances the needs of all our communities by providing the services we need now and into the future. It continues to build our strong financial position and guides us on the path to improve service delivery to our No. 1 customers – you.

Having balanced books is more important than ever to shield our city from volatility. This Budget achieves that. It predicts a fourth consecutive surplus while maintaining Redland City Council’s enviably low debt levels. There are no new borrowings. There are no frills.

Under this \$288 million budget, a typical Redland household – a category 1 owner-occupied property with a property value of about \$306,450 – will see a modest increase of just 0.7 per cent or about 43 cents a week – including all water consumption, rates and utility charges.

This is by far the best result of any comparable council in South-East Queensland. It compares more than favourably with 72 cents a week extra for Moreton Bay



A typical Redland household\* will see a modest rates increase of just

**0.7%**

or



about

**43 cents**

a week including water, rates and utility charges.



Total increase in water and waste charges

**2.55%**



Predicts a

**\$479,000 surplus**

\* a category 1a owner-occupied property; with a property value of about \$306,450 including all water, rates and utility charges.

### 2016–17 rate increases – how do we compare?

Local Council	Total Rate % change		Total Rate incl all state/levy	
	Includes utility, separate charges and state	Excludes utility, separate charges and state	Annual increase	Per week increase
Redland	0.70%	-2.30%	\$22.65	43c
Gold Coast	1.77%	2.71%	\$58.15	\$1.12
Logan	2.88%	4.39%	\$72.80	\$1.40
Brisbane	4.70%	na	\$70.20	\$1.35
Moreton Bay	2.98%	na	\$37.16	72c
Ipswich	3.25%	4.29%	\$105.60	\$2.02
Sunshine Coast	3.63%	3.95%	\$111.50	\$2.14

Regional Council, \$1.12 for the Gold Coast, \$1.35 for Brisbane, \$1.40 for Logan, \$2.02 for Ipswich and \$2.14 for the Sunshine Coast.

The State Government-imposed property valuations will mean some properties have higher rates, as councils must base their rating system on valuations.

Council has again been able to absorb much of the 9.2 per cent increase in State Government bulk water costs. While we cannot absorb it all and still provide the high level of services our communities deserve, we have kept our retail water costs at last year’s levels and limited the increase in total water and waste charges to 2.55 per cent.

Once increases in water and utilities costs are removed, the average general rate has in fact fallen by 3.1 per cent. Redland is the only council in South East Queensland to have achieved this.

This year’s headline rate rise – essentially the increase in total revenue – allows us to achieve this delicate balance.

But existing ratepayers will fund only a small part of this 3.41 per cent rise, with much of the increase coming from new growth, as well as improved grants funding from the state and federal governments and substantially higher contributions from development projects.

The headline rate reflects Council’s Consumer Price Index and spending patterns. The weighted percentage change once State Government water costs are removed works out to 2.15 percent – just below Redland City Council’s blended CPI of 2.16 percent.

**Cr Karen Williams**

Mayor of Redland City

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# A message from the Mayor

## Engaging our community a priority

Redland City Council will soon embark on a community engagement program as part of its goal of addressing two major issues – transport connectivity and coastal erosion.

The listening strategy was promised last year and is being rolled out as part of a new era of communication and engagement with local communities.

Council is currently developing a new

transport plan to address connectivity issues and transport infrastructure needs. It is a follow-on from a series of transport forums I convened last year during which I promised further community input in addressing connectivity issues.

I have met with and written to State Transport Minister Stirling Hinchliffe asking that the Redlands not be forgotten in developing

the South East Queensland Transport Plan.

We are already working closely with the State Government in early work via the Cross Boundary Connectivity Group that I established to prioritise transport and infrastructure needs.

Council is also developing, in conjunction with local communities, a Coastal Adaptation Strategy, with erosion at Amity Point on

North Stradbroke Island the priority issue.

With other communities on islands and skirting Moreton Bay, the strategy will be of great interest to many residents.

It is anticipated that both transport and coastal adaptation will be 12-month projects. Further details about those important strategies will be available soon and I encourage people to get involved.

## Festivals big drawcards for Redlands



The second annual Quandamooka Festival has kicked off in fine style and is already shaping as a great success.

This three-month event has real potential to become a major South East Queensland festival in coming years and really put the Redlands on the map as a place to visit.

From its official opening on Sunday 3 July to the final event, Kunjiel (corroboree) at Goompi (Dunwich) on

17 September, the festival is offering something for everyone, from the welcoming of the whales, to dolphin day, exhibitions and displays on North Stradbroke Island, other islands and our mainland.

Festivals are big business. Redland City Council recognises this and is tapping into many new opportunities, resulting in a multi-million-dollar injection into our economy. The community and local businesses will be the big winners.

Quandamooka Festival, RedFest, Straddie Salute, our Easter Festival and Christmas by Starlight are among the bigger drawcards.

RedFest, held from 2-4 September, draws more than 20,000 people.

This year an extra attraction will be the National Town Crier Championships, which has attracted town criers from across the nation. It is set down for Saturday

3 September at Cleveland Showground.

Take the opportunity to enjoy one of the many festivals coming our way this year.

