



A message from the Mayor

Cr Karen Williams

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Priorities reflect community sentiment

Here, in the Redlands, we are not immune to the sometimes breathtaking pace of change to the way we live, work and connect.

Yes, we can still boast of a wonderful, relaxing lifestyle in our part of the world and there is no doubt a great appetite for that to be preserved. But there also is an undeniable hunger for better transport, health, education and services driven by technology.

Population growth here is inevitable, albeit at a slower pace than the rest of South-East Queensland, and it would be unconscionable for Council to ignore that. Instead, we need to not only deliver what's needed today but also ensure we are well prepared for what lies ahead.

To that end, Councillors have endorsed a suite of strategic priorities to guide us through the remainder of this local government term.

The priorities are grouped under five categories – transport and connectivity; sport, education and the arts; economic development; planning; and branding identity. Each reflects areas the community has told us are important.

This focus on addressing issues we know are critically important to the Redlands' "community of communities" will complement what I believe is a high standard of fundamental services and infrastructure development.

Councillors want the whole organisation to buy into these priorities and will seek a quarterly progress report to ensure Council stays the course and that your needs are firmly front of mind.

Residents and businesses have told us they want better transport connectivity and road infrastructure, as well as a fix for the internet connectivity gaps which frustrate

Help us to define the real Redlands

What do you think defines the Redlands? As we move to develop a "brand" to help sell our city to the world, we will be asking you for your input. The aim is to provide a clear picture of what the Redlands is all about, something which epitomises our world-class natural assets, rich heritage, cultural diversity and enviable lifestyle. Details will be released soon.



parts of our community so much. Councillors have agreed these will be key planks in our strategy.

The transport priorities will help address the challenges faced by residents of the Southern Moreton Bay Islands, as well as North Stradbroke Island as it transitions from sand mining.

There also is a strong view by Councillors that the Redlands has gaps in social and educational infrastructure, lending weight to the argument for better sporting facilities to cater for our young people and improved tertiary opportunities to encourage them to make their lives in the Redlands.

Council will determine what facilities are needed, where they can go and whether there are opportunities through co-location and third-party investment to reduce the cost for ratepayers.

In the year since this Council was sworn in, economic development has become embedded in the Council psyche, with the Economic

Development Advisory Board offering clear guidance on how we can drive sustainable growth and create jobs for our future.

This economic development is vital. However, it also must enhance our special lifestyle. Among the board's recommendations strongly supported by Councillors is for the city to give itself identity and develop our own brand.

This will embed city pride and offer a clear message when seeking private sector investment and Government support and innovation. Our world-class natural assets and enviable lifestyle are points of difference that can be leveraged so we can stand proudly in our own right.

Cr Karen Williams

Mayor of Redland City

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Making the Redlands proud

The quality of so many residents and their commitment to the community is an enduring strength of our city. We are blessed with an army of people who are willing to give back to the place they love.

People such as our newest Order of Australia recipients Elizabeth Parkinson (Birkdale), Glynn Topfer (Thornlands), Edward "Tony" Brown (Dunwich) and Deirdre Hargreaves (Ormiston) are all long-time servants of our community who deserve this accolade.

It gave me great pleasure recently to officiate at the annual Redland City Australia Day Awards, held for the first time at the impressive new Alexandra Hills Convention Centre.

My announcement of Denis Ryan as Citizen of the Year was roundly applauded, and is fitting reward for Denis's many years of hard work within our local community.

Young Citizen of the Year is teenage soprano on the rise Leah Lever, Senior Citizen is Col Cunningham, Ian and Judy Wintle took the Local Hero Award, the Community Organisation Award was shared by

the Redlands Centre for Women and Bayside Vehicle Restorers Club, the Environment and Sustainability Award went to Michael Wilson and the Sports Award to Paralympian Daniel Fox. A special cheer was reserved for our own Town Crier, Max Bissett, who won the Cultural Award and showed those in attendance his special talent that has him hailed as one of the town-crying greats.

Redland City also punches well above its weight in the sporting arena. Recently we have seen surfer of the future Ethan Ewing, of North Stradbroke Island, living up to his "next big thing" tag with a

popular victory in the World Junior Surfing Championships. Ethan is the youngest rookie on the world professional circuit and is tipped to make more big waves this year. Young Redland cricketer Sam Heazlett continued his meteoric rise by being selected in the Australian one-day squad which recently toured New Zealand and making his international debut in Auckland.

On behalf of Redland City I would like to congratulate all Australia Day honours and award winners and our sporting stars for their achievements and to wish them all the very best for the future.



HEROES: It was a pleasure to recognise such an outstanding group of Redlanders at our recent Redland City Australia Day Awards.

Transport collaboration way of the future

Solving many of the transport issues we face in the Redlands depends on the support of our civic neighbours.

The volume of commuters between Brisbane and the Redlands alone demands that we work closely with Brisbane City Council to overcome the bottlenecks and frustrations that residents of both cities endure.



FOCUS: Practical solutions are needed to transport issues.

To that end, Redland City Council recently hosted a meeting with Brisbane City Council's Infrastructure Committee chair Cr Amanda Cooper, State and Federal MPs and senior Council and State transport officers at which we set the scene for ongoing collaboration on cross-border connectivity. The aim is to jointly identify and prioritise the work that needs to be done to improve travel between the cities.

There is intense demand for infrastructure funding and there is no doubt that a partnership with Brisbane is in our best interests. As a relatively small player in the competition for transport and infrastructure funding, it will allow us to make a stronger case that network deficiencies are having a significant regional economic and social impact.

Problems such as log jams on single-lane state roads outside the city

which affect local public transport services have a clear cost to employers, Redland workers and the regional economy.

Through this collaboration, we also want to show government that innovative thinking and solutions can be shared to the benefit of the region. We are now working on presentations on private sector investment and will host an innovation forum mid-year to look beyond traditional approaches to transport issues.

We will be focused on finding practical solutions and securing the money to get the job done as quickly as possible. We do not want a repeat of the long-awaited eastern busway extension and Cleveland rail duplication projects, which have already been delayed so long that they now risk being overtaken by new transport technology.