



News from your Local Councillor

Cr Peter Mitchell

Advocating for islanders

Council's determination to get real projects on the ground to help Straddie transition from sand mining led to a meeting between Mayor Karen Williams and State Tourism Minister Kate Jones recently.

Cr Williams made the point that tourism will be a critical part of the future of Straddie and, indeed, the Redlands.

Several opportunities for Straddie were discussed and the minister was very supportive.

Ms Jones committed to visiting the Redlands after the Commonwealth Games to further look at what can be done to give Straddie residents certainty for the future.

Cultural and environmental tourism certainly offer massive opportunities for the island.

Cr Williams and I will also be visiting New Zealand with QYAC representatives to investigate indigenous tourism opportunities.

Straddie was also the destination for the South-East Queensland Council of Mayors' 2018 strategy

meeting. Having the meeting at Point Lookout allowed Redland City to emphasise local issues, especially the challenges and opportunities ahead for the island as it transitions from sand mining.

The meeting discussed a regional approach to issues such as internet connectivity, which again is of particular interest to islanders.

Council also has been working to facilitate tourism connections, as well as attract more film location work.



IN TOUCH: With MPs Kim Richards, Don Brown and Mark Robinson at Straddie's Queen's Baton event.

Our 'eyes and ears'

I encourage island residents to help Council maintain a high standard of basic services - especially relating to roads, parks and rubbish collection - by reporting a problem or passing on an idea.

You are our "our eyes and ears on the ground" and reporting ensures that Council can address the issues promptly.

Day-to-day operational issues should be reported to Council on **3829 8999** or at

rcc@redland.qld.gov.au. You can also "Report a problem" and upload a photograph via our webpage at **www.redland.qld.gov.au** (look under Online Services" at the top of the page).

Our island crew has been very busy of late with storm clean-up operations, almost constant mowing and slashing and work to ensure the drainage system can cope. They also were busy upgrading roads to make sure they were in top shape for the busy Easter holiday period.

Future on show at shuttle roadshow

Transport and connectivity are among the pressing issues for Straddie if we are to develop a sustainable tourism industry.

We were given a taste of transport options for the future when an EasyMile EZ10 electric driverless shuttle operated in Cleveland recently.

Council is now working with bus operator Transdev and the State Government to host another trial in the city.

The autonomous buses have the potential to solve many of the transport challenges island residents, in particular, face.

There are a range of applications for this technology, from connecting people from carparks to water taxi, bus, train and ferry stations to transport within major events and connections with shopping, health or industrial precincts.

Many residents asked us on the day when the technology would be available for use in the Redlands and this is a good indication of the support for this type of innovation.

Council hosted the demonstration in partnership with EasyMile, an international, high-tech company which specialises in software-powered autonomous vehicles, and local bus operator Transdev.

I have been advocating strongly to government on the components of the state economic transition process most related to transport for locals, workers and tourists. This includes the Dunwich masterplan and also the intra-island public transport study. These will inform future transport solutions.

I have also not given up on playing a facilitation role in helping local operators or businesses to provide their own tourism buses. This could enhance business as well as take pressure off infrastructure and also help us to protect the environment and "walk more softly" on the island.



Adder Rock access

The Adder Rock 4x4 access to Flinders Beach is now open but only Mother Nature knows for how long.

Erosion by big seas could quickly undo the work that Council has done.

While there is no easy fix, Council is working on a long-term solution. However, ensuring long-term accessibility is a major exercise and will take time. I will keep you posted.

Preserving our lifestyle

Straddie is a wonderful place to live but we need residents' help to ensure it stays that way.

Issues with dogs, hooning and graffiti can all affect the island lifestyle.

Following the recent spate of domestic dog attacks on wildlife and people, Council is working with island groups to step up compliance measures. I have spoken with QYAC and written to the island's multi-agency pest management group about the need for a community-led proposal on the long-term future of dogs on the island.

In the meantime, owners who ignore the rules can expect their dog to be impounded, with extra patrols by compliance officers. A \$252 fine will be issued to those caught with their dogs off-leash outside of designated off-leash areas. A dog trapping program will also be implemented.

Residents can help keep Straddie safe by ensuring dogs are appropriately contained while at home and on a leash while out and about. Straddie boasts two of the best dog off-leash areas at Skatebowl Park at Dunwich and Home Beach at Point Lookout.

If you see someone hooning on island roads please make a report through Policelink, the Hoon Hotline or our local station to ensure the extent of the problem is reflected in the police statistics, which can be used to demand extra resources. Go to www.police.qld.gov.au/programs/policelink or call **131 444** or **13HOON (134 666)**.

Meanwhile, Council's fight against graffiti vandals continues to reap rewards. The key to continuing success is for quick reporting, so you can help the fight against graffiti by downloading the VandalTrak app and using it to report graffiti as soon as it appears in our community.



Club with drive

I was very pleased to spend a pleasant and informative time with Peter Turner and Andrew Humble, above, at the North Stradbroke Island Golf Club. I have been helping the club to progress their ideas and events, as well as course and clubhouse enhancement, connecting them with Council experts. I am grateful for their drive, enthusiasm and energy and I will do what I can to assist this all-inclusive and progressive community club in its aspirations. Their vision of sustainability in both an environmental and business sense is admirable. I recently was given a "par" rating on my first "fling golf" attempt. Pop in to the club for a game or lunch with a view.

Leaders of tomorrow

I was proud to be invited to Dunwich State School for the presentation of badges to the house captains for 2018. I am sure these young islanders, voted in by fellow students and staff, will show great leadership.



Works continue

Council continues to monitor water quality in the land-locked lagoon at Cylinder Beach in the interests of community safety. However, the lagoon is a natural occurrence and it may be best to let nature take its course. While it mostly gets flushed on the higher tides, water quality can be compromised and swimming in the lagoon is not recommended. Council has listened to local feedback and recently drained the lagoon in response to water quality concerns. It will continue to closely monitor the situation.

Meanwhile, the Junner Street convict causeway repairs should be completed by the time this newsletter arrives, with access for light traffic. This is not the end of the work at this important heritage site. A permanent solution will be a much bigger job.

Catch up at a 'listening post'

I am happy that my township-based Councillor listening posts are continuing to be well received by residents, with senior Council operational staff very receptive to joining me when needed on visits to each township.

Please look for township-specific announcements on community noticeboards or my Councillor Facebook site. I remain available by phone or email daily. For any simple operational matters, I suggest you contact Council direct on 3829 8999 or at rcc@redland.qld.gov.au

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Division 2 – Island