



News from your **Local Councillor** Cr Peter Mitchell

November 2018

ISLAND
EDITION

Merry Christmas Straddie!

With holiday season almost upon us, we are approaching a busy but wonderful time for Straddie.

As such a special spot for both locals and visitors, fingers are crossed for weather that matches Straddie's reputation as the jewel in Redlands Coast crown.

There is no doubt that 2019 will bring many challenges and, hopefully, plenty of opportunities and I look forward to continuing my joint efforts with you all to ensure the island's strong future.

I am happy that my township-based Councillor listening posts are being well received by residents and that senior Council operational staff have been very receptive to joining me when needed on visits to each township. Mayor Karen Williams and senior operational staff have their eyes clearly on Straddie. The goal is to improve results with more direct communication with the management of Redland City Council. I feel quite positive that the good intent of residents and Council will lead to improvements for the community over the coming years, especially with the island's transition away from sand mining next year (see update opposite).

Please look for township-specific announcements on community noticeboards or my Councillor Facebook site. I also 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

Finally, a personal thank you to all the community members who have taken the time to send me their ideas and roll up their sleeves to work with me. I wish you all a wonderful festive season. Keep happy and safe!

Cr Peter Mitchell
Division 2 – Island



Economic transition update

I am pleased to see the new State Government office has opened in Dunwich town centre. While it is among positive signs of state representatives working "on the ground", results need to follow quickly.

I am also pleased to report that Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development Kate Jones has heeded calls for better communication on the economic transition strategy (ETS) for Straddie and has set up a series of meetings with Mayor Karen Williams to discuss progress, with two more meetings scheduled this year. With island residents naturally eager for information and engagement on the state's plans, Council will continue to advocate for improved communication to residents.

At the first of the meetings with Ms Jones last month, better communication regarding land transfers was a key topic, with Council urging the State Government not to transfer any land until there is consultation and consideration of the impacts on community services and Council operations.

However, the community needs all 23 projects put forward to help the island cope with the loss of

its sandmining industry next year to move forward as quickly as possible to cushion the impact.

While there is genuine optimism about what is already in the pipeline for the island, Cr Williams and I remain concerned that Straddie will be adversely affected if job opportunities are not created soon. In the meantime, I have asked Council to ensure its core responsibilities are being well delivered.

We are proceeding, as lead partner, with the island's "Location and Interpretive signage" project and Council has taken significant input from the community while working with the Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation on the design and delivery of Quandamooka-inspired entry statements and public art at Amity Point and Point Lookout. There also are other funding opportunities on the horizon but it really is time that commitments are turned into job opportunities.

I urge residents to get directly involved in the ETS projects by visiting the State Government Office at 2/9 Ballow Road, Dunwich, or going to haveyoursay.dsdmip.qld.gov.au/dunwich-goompi



Become an emergency 'Island Champion'

With the summer storm season here, Council is seeking volunteers to train for an active role in Straddie's disaster management.

We are currently recruiting for the new Straddie Community Champions Program, which recognises the benefits of local input and immediate response on the island.

This program is an innovative response to the isolation of island communities, recognising the critical importance of local knowledge and having a reliable first point of contact for information and assistance already on the ground should a natural disaster threaten.

It follows the successful introduction of a Community Champions Program last year on the Redlands Coast Southern Bay islands.

Straddie Community Champions will get extensive training to assist in community preparedness and response to emergencies such as bushfires and severe weather events.

Island community champions must be permanent local residents not currently volunteering for other emergency agencies.

To register your interest call 3829 8999 or email emergency@redland.qld.gov.au

Stay safe this summer

As we head into summer, ask yourself: "Am I ready for storms and bushfires?"

With warmer than usual conditions predicted and the ever present threat of severe storms at this time of year, it is important to be prepared for all conditions.

Simple tasks you can do today to keep you and your loved ones safe include:

- Clearing debris from roof gutters
- Cleaning up your yard
- Creating an emergency evacuation kit with all the essentials in one easy-to-access spot, and

It pays to have a plan for what you would do and where you would go in an emergency to protect yourself and the things that are important to you.

For information visit redlandsdisasterplan.com.au

Your say on parking plans

Proposed new parking arrangements on Straddie will go to community consultation.

Council is looking to update the local law to include new off-street regulated parking areas.

As part of this process, residents will be fully consulted before any changes come into effect in the new Junner Street and East Coast Road areas.

There also will be a community education campaign once regulations are in place.

Amity Point SEMP update

The Amity Point Shoreline Erosion Management Plan (SEMP) is in final draft and Council is now consulting with the State Government agencies that have an interest in the details of the plan.

As recommended by Council's Coastal Adaptation Steering Committee, the project team will meet on site with state agency representatives from the departments of Environment and Science, Agriculture and Fisheries, State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning, as well as Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation, as part of a pre-approval process.

While not approving the SEMP as such, agencies may provide their endorsement of the SEMP thereby providing smoother passage of development applications that may be required in the future.

Together with pre-lodgement feedback, the final draft will then be presented to the Amity Point SEMP Community Reference Group (CRG) and then to Council for formal endorsement.

At the same time, the Amity Point SEMP CRG will be invited to review and refine the draft specification for the implementation plan, with a proposed procurement timeframe during December-January.