



Redland
CITY COUNCIL

For more information about Council's role in the community and government contact:

🔍 [role of your council](#)

🌐 redland.qld.gov.au 📞 3829 8999



Role of your Council

Australia has three levels of government – federal, state and local. Redland City Council is one of Queensland's 77 councils.



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Role of your Council

Australia has three levels of government – federal, state and local. Redland City Council is one of Queensland's 77 councils.

Councils are made up of people who work with, and for, their local communities. They form an elected body that is responsible for the good rule and local government of their areas.

Redlands Coast has a popularly elected Mayor and 10 divisional Councillors elected every four years by their community. They are elected to make decisions on behalf of the local community, in the best interests of the whole community.

Councils have the power to raise revenue (rates and other income streams), provide and maintain infrastructure and services, regulate activities (eg building development) and impose penalties if local regulations are breached (local laws).

Every council employs a chief executive officer (CEO), who is responsible for the day-to-day management of the council and makes sure all council decisions are carried out.

The council CEO and employees advise the elected members, and carry out the council's decisions.

Roles and responsibilities of the Mayor and Councillors

The Mayor and Councillors set policy to plan for the current and future needs of the community. The CEO is responsible for the day-to-day administration of council or operational matters.

The role of the Mayor

The Mayor is elected by the people and recognised as the civic leader of the community.

The Mayor is involved in advancing community cohesion and promoting civic awareness and is the principal member and spokesperson for Council.

The Mayor presides over regular General Council Meetings, where Councillors debate and vote on motions.

At Redland City, the Mayor is also the Chair of the Local Disaster Management Group.

When the Mayor is unavailable, a Deputy Mayor can act as the Mayor. The Deputy Mayor is elected by a majority of the Councillors.

The role of a Councillor

The fundamental role of a Councillor is to serve the interests of their community as a whole. In the event of a conflict between the public and private interests of the Councillor or related persons, the overall public interest must prevail.

As an elected representative a Councillor is to be an active and contributing member of the local government, to make considered and well-informed decisions as a member of the Council and advocate on behalf of constituents.

Councillors meet formally to make decisions by voting on motions. They have no authority as individuals, rather they have an equal voice in council meetings. Only decisions made by the majority of Councillors can be acted upon by the Council administration.

In the case of a tied vote, the Mayor, acting as chairperson, can exercise a casting vote.

Councillors are elected to represent the overall public interest of the whole local government area, regardless of whether the area is divided into geographic divisions, each with its own Councillor elected by that division (as in Redland City), or whether there are no geographic divisions, with Councillors elected by voters across the whole local government area.

The *Local Government Act 2009* clearly distinguishes between the roles and responsibilities of Councillors and Council employees.

Councillors are responsible for strategic vision and planning for the future of the local government area to deliver outcomes for their community. They are not responsible for the day-to-day administration of council, operational matters, or overseeing the work done by local government employees. This is the role of the CEO and senior staff.

Divisional Councillors cannot direct any Council employees.