



# A message from the Mayor

## Cr Karen Williams



## Budget continues to deliver on all fronts

I was very proud on 25 June to deliver my fourth budget as Mayor of Redland City.

Our budget for 2015-16 is responsible, sensible and practical and will continue to deliver on all fronts for Redlanders.

Budget time is about balancing the needs of the community with the external cost pressures Council faces in providing the services and projects needed to take our City forward, while at the same time keeping costs down. It is in its ability to meet the needs of the community where the true measure of this budget will be seen. Full budget details can be found at [www.redland.qld.gov.au](http://www.redland.qld.gov.au).

In 2015-16, the typical Redlands household – that is a Category 1A owner occupied with a property value of \$280,000 – will see a modest rates rise of 0.5 percent, or about 31 cents a week and

significantly less than the average rates increases of our neighbouring councils (Gold Coast average increase 1 percent, Brisbane average 2.5 percent). This is a great result for our community and, while some residents' rates may be impacted by a change in State Government property valuations, this is outside of Council's control and we have done everything in our power to again keep rates increases low for the fourth-straight budget.

We have achieved this modest increase despite facing a 4 percent rise in operating costs, mainly due to a 10 percent hike in State Government-imposed bulk water costs. We have again put people first by absorbing these external costs rather than pass them on to residents in the form of higher rates.

Over the past four budgets, we have handed down cumulative headline rates increases lower than the

cumulative Brisbane Consumer Price Index for the same period. Our rises have consistently been the lowest in South-East Queensland. We have been responsible and responsive by cutting costs and saving millions of dollars through efficiencies – something we will strive to do even more.

This budget also provides the foundations for a strong financial future for the city, predicting a small surplus of \$106,000. This continues our strong financial performance which resulted in the first surplus in more than a decade in 2013-14.

It allows us to continue to deliver great value for money for our ratepayers. The budget responds to our residents' needs and lays the pathway for our journey ahead as a community. It represents Council's commitment to ensuring the Redlands becomes an even better place to live, play and do business.

## Redlands leaves lasting impression on Consul-General

Redland City recently hosted People's Republic of China Consul-General Dr Zhao Yongchen – and we left a lasting impression.

Dr Zhao and four Chinese Consuls and Vice Consuls were given a traditional Quandamooka Welcome to Country at Council's administration building and entertained by didgeridoo player Che Walker before a visit to, and briefing, on the exciting Toondah Harbour project and a tour of North Stradbroke Island with popular guide "Barefoot" Dave Thelander.

In welcoming the Consul-General and his party, I highlighted our City's growing relationship with China, including our sister city relationship with Qinhuangdao. I hope to continue to build on and strengthen our relationship with China through growing development and tourism investment opportunities, education and cultural exchanges.

Dr Zhao said he was committed to growing our relationship with Qinhuangdao, describing it as the start of a journey.



*BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS: China Consul-General Dr Zhao Yongchen gets a Quandamooka welcome to the Redlands.*

I am pleased Dr Zhao was able to accept my invitation to visit the Redlands so he could see for himself what a beautiful place it is and also its great potential. He and his party had an encounter

with a Straddie koala, saw whales and kangaroos and left the island with a lasting impression. Former Capalaba MP Michael Choi was instrumental in organising the visit as an honorary ambassador.

# A message from the Mayor

## Our new citizens bring great promise for City's future

Citizenship ceremonies are certainly a big affair in the Redlands and I was again very proud recently to welcome another 173 Redlanders as Australian citizens.

As a descendant of migrants to the Redlands, it is always gratifying to see so many people seeking to make their homes in this City.

The Redlands was largely pioneered by people seeking a new life. And just as they helped shape the communities that we cherish today, I know the latest Redlanders to take the oath will play an important part in our future.

At our most recent ceremony at the Redland Performing Arts Centre, 23 countries were represented. These included Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, China, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, India, Republic of Ireland, Netherlands, New Zealand, Latvia, Philippines, South Africa, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Sweden, USSR, Ukraine, the UK and Zimbabwe.

A number of residents also attended the evening and took the opportunity to take the re-affirmation pledge.



*LOOKING TO THE FUTURE: I was proud to welcome, from left, Ester and Angel Kishore and Sheeba Baby of India as Australian citizens.*

Quandamooka elder Aunty Evelyn Parkin welcomed guests to Country.

Guests also got to hear from the inspirational Jordan Duffy who, at the age of 15, launched his own IT company and today employs 20 staff and has clients from all over

the world desiring its sporting software. As a G20 Youth Delegate, he also provides input to one of the most powerful groups in the world. Jordan is passionate about guiding the business community to create meaningful and positive advances for society.

## Trade college comes to town

The Australian Industry Trade College (AITC) plans to open its second Queensland campus in Cleveland for the 2016 school year.

The disused research facility once operated by CSIRO at Toondah Harbour will become its temporary home, pending approval from the Non-State School Accreditation Board. The former CSIRO research site - pictured with myself, AITC CEO Mark Hands and AITC Redlands principal Alan Denham - will provide a perfect short-term location for the college, enabling it to identify a suitable permanent site before Walkers requires the land for development as part of the exciting Toondah Harbour PDA project.

This strategic land was bought by Council in 2012 after being used by the CSIRO as a marine research facility for more than 30 years.

Now the land and large commercial buildings will provide a good short-

term solution for the AITC and position it to potentially take advantage of the major \$1.39 billion redevelopment of Toondah Harbour by the Walker Group.



Council negotiated this temporary deal with AITC and the Walker Group as the college offers a great service to students in the Redlands.

Its curriculum gives young people an alternative means of completing their Queensland Certificate of Education while training full time as an apprentice and providing genuine employment pathways. Positioning the college at Toondah in the short-term will provide an opportunity for aspiring tradespeople to learn from the most important development to occur in our region in a generation.

## Stay in touch

I always love to hear your views and ideas for our great City, so please don't hesitate to contact me by emailing [mayor@redland.qld.gov.au](mailto:mayor@redland.qld.gov.au).

For updates on what's happening in the City you can also connect with me via social media.

**Cr Karen Williams**  
Mayor of Redland City

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