

FUNDING AGREEMENT FOR FERRY OPERATIONS TO SMBI

Objective Reference: A650653
Reports and Attachments (Archives)

Attachments: [Council Resolution](#)
[DTMR Letter Response](#)
[Funding Agreement](#)

Authorising Officer: Gary Soutar
General Manager Infrastructure and
Operations

Responsible Officer: Murray Erbs
Group Manager City Infrastructure

Report Author: Christine Cartwright
Adviser Infrastructure Projects

PURPOSE

This report presents a new agreement for the continuation of contributions between the Department of Transport & Main Roads (DTMR) and Redland City Council (RCC) through to December 2018 for Translink Southern Moreton Bay Islands (SMBI) passenger ferry services. The purpose of this report is to request approval for the agreement to be signed under the delegated authority of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

BACKGROUND

- 19 June 2013 – Council resolved to raise a special charge in the annual budget for 2013-2014 to fund the contribution agreed to under the Funding Agreement executed 18 December 2012 for ferry operations to SMBI between RCC and the State of Queensland (acting through DTMR).
- 27 June 2013 – Council adopted the SMBI TransLink Operations Special Charge Overall Plan and the 2013-2014 Annual Implementation Plan.
- 26 June 2014 – Council adopted the SMBI TransLink Operations 2014-2015 Annual Implementation Plan.
- 25 June 2015 – Council adopted the SMBI TransLink Operations Special Charge Amended Overall Plan and the 2015-2016 Annual Implementation Plan.
- 9 September 2015 – Council resolved to advise DTMR to investigate 3 items listed in the resolution. A letter regarding the resolution was provided to DTMR on 11 September 2015.
- 17 November 2015 – DTMR provided a response to the 3 resolution items.

ISSUES

Three issues were raised as part of a resolution by Council at its General Meeting of 9 September 2015 (Attachment 1) about public transport for residents of SMBI. These issues have now been responded to by DTMR (Attachment 2).'

DTMR have indicated that they are committed to working collaboratively with RCC and local operators to continue to improve delivery of transport services.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

Legislative Requirements

Section 92 of the *Local Government Act 2009* (LGA) and Section 94 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* (Regulation) require a resolution by Council to levy special rates or charges, and the adoption of an overall plan and an annual implementation plan to identify the rateable land and services/activities/facilities being supplied (whether or not the service is supplied or undertaken by the local government).

Council adopted the SMBI Translink Operations Special Charge Amended Overall Plan and the 2015-2016 Annual Implementation Plan on 25 June 2015.

Risk Management

The adoption of a special charge for the payment of the financial obligations under the funding agreement will provide transparency for the SMBI residents and ratepayers in the benefited area regarding the purpose of the funds collected.

Financial

The amount for the 2015-2016 financial year for the Annual Implementation Plan is \$962,084. This was calculated based on the CPI of the existing contribution in 2014-2015. The new agreement states a baseline contribution of \$950,000, meaning that the adopted levy will recover more than what is required in 2015-2016. It is anticipated that the 2016-2017 amount will be adjusted by the difference of these 2 amounts.

People

Nil impact expected.

Environmental

Nil impact expected.

Social

Nil impact expected.

Alignment with Council's Policy and Plans

This report aligns with Council's Corporate Plan 2015-2020:

2. Green Living

- 2.5 Transport planning reflects a desire to maximise economic, environmental and liveability outcomes through quality road design, public transport, pedestrian and cycling strategies.

6. Supportive and vibrant economy
 - 6.1 Council supports infrastructure that encourages business and tourism growth.

CONSULTATION

Consultation has been held with Councillors, the Executive Leadership team, senior management of City Infrastructure, Financial Services and General Counsel.

OPTIONS

Option 1

That Council resolves as follows:

1. To delegate authority to the Chief Executive Officer, under s257(1)(b) of the *Local Government Act 2009* to: execute agreement as attached; and
2. That the report and attachments remain confidential until a formal announcement relating to this agreement has been made by the State Government.

Option 2

That Council resolve not to delegate this authority to the Chief Executive Officer and note the attached agreement.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council resolves as follows:

1. To delegate authority to the Chief Executive Officer, under s257(1)(b) of the *Local Government Act 2009* to execute agreement as attached; and
2. That the report and attachments remain confidential until a formal announcement relating to this agreement has been made by the State Government.



Deputy Premier
Minister for Transport, Minister for Infrastructure,
Local Government and Planning and Minister for Trade

Our ref: MC83356

Your ref: KW:DS:fm

17 NOV 2015

Councillor Karen Williams
Mayor
Redland City Council
PO Box 21
CLEVELAND QLD 4163

Level 12 Executive Building
100 George Street
PO Box 15009 City East
Queensland 4002 Australia
Telephone +61 7 3719 7100
Email deputy.premier@ministerial.qld.gov.au

Dear Councillor Williams

Karen,

Thank you for your letter of 11 September 2015 about a resolution passed by Redland City Council (RCC) at its 9 September 2015 general meeting about public transport for residents of the Southern Moreton Bay Islands (SMBI).

I am advised the Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) has investigated the three items listed in the resolution, with its response to each item provided below.

Before responding to the resolution, I wish to assure you that, as per the proposed funding agreement which is with your office for review, no financial contribution for the funding of SMBI ferry services is required from RCC beyond December 2018. Further, as part of this agreement, free inter-island travel will be maintained until the conclusion of the proposed agreement in December 2018.

In response to the first item of RCC's resolution requesting a review of connection times at Weinam Creek, I am pleased to hear that, TMR has received advice from RCC that it is in the process of writing to TMR to confirm its support for restarting the Weinam Creek bus station upgrade project, which I understand was previously halted in 2014.

If upgraded, customers using the Weinam Creek bus station will benefit from improved, safe and comfortable facilities that are compliant with the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* (Qld), with the station also increasing in capacity to allow for more buses to access it.

Should the station upgrade proceed, based on RCC's support and on the condition the proposed SMBI funding agreement is executed by RCC, TMR will commit to reviewing the connection time between bus and ferry services at Weinam Creek as part of a package of changes aligned with the delivery of the upgraded infrastructure.

In response to the second item of RCC's resolution requesting SMBI services be considered by the fare review taskforce, I can confirm that the taskforce has received a submission on behalf of SMBI residents regarding its thoughts on the TransLink network.

Comments from this submission, which are deemed within the scope of the taskforce's mandate, will be considered as part of the taskforce's holistic review of the network and I can assure you that, once the taskforce's recommendations are released for public consultation in early- to mid-2016, SMBI residents will be able to provide further comment on any proposed changes.

In response to the third item of RCC's resolution, requesting the investigation of shortfalls in capacity with SMBI ferry services, I can advise that, similar to the response to item one of the resolution, if support is provided by RCC to restart the project, and on the condition that RCC executes the proposed funding agreement for SMBI services, TMR is committed to reviewing the capacity of SMBI services. Any agreed changes will be delivered as part of the upgraded Weinam Creek bus station infrastructure.

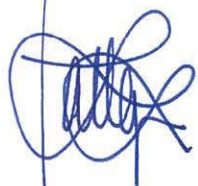
I also note your letter requested support regarding the facilitation of on-island transport for Macleay and Russell Islands and funding for a park 'n' ride facility. While I can appreciate the benefits both of these projects would have for the SMBI region, the Queensland Government's two major priorities in the region are the permanent extension of TransLink ticketing to SMBI, and delivering an upgraded bus interchange at Weinam Creek.

Due to the precedence of these two projects, unfortunately, the Queensland Government is unable to provide funding for additional projects at this time.

I do however, look forward to seeing TMR working collaboratively with RCC and local operators, to further improve delivery of transport services across Redland, and identify future improvements in the region.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely



JACKIE TRAD MP
DEPUTY PREMIER
Minister for Transport, Minister for Infrastructure,
Local Government and Planning and Minister for Trade

Right to Information Release

Stephen Kuehnemann

From: Gerard Noon
Sent: Monday, 17 December 2012 11:33 AM
To: 'Stephanie Shield'
Subject: Emailing: MR - SMBI GoCard (RCC).docx, 20121218 Cheaper travel on SMBI ferries (EDRCC).docx
Attachments: MR - SMBI GoCard (RCC).docx; 20121218 Cheaper travel on SMBI ferries (EDRCC).docx

Importance: High

Tracking:	Recipient	Read
	'Stephanie Shield'	
	Mayor Karen Williams	
	David Smith	
	Eleanor Noonan	Read: 17/12/2012 12:02 PM
	Murray Erbs	Read: 17/12/2012 1:07 PM

Dear Stephanie,

- Please see revised and approved media releases attached.
- The attached and approved RCC release has been amended slightly to reduce length and has been approved with the Minister's quotations
- The Mayor has agreed to the Minister's release with some recommended amendments marked as tracked changes.
- The Mayor has acknowledged that it is not now intended to organise a media event at Weinam Creek for tomorrow (Tuesday) but that a future opportunity may be available.
- The Mayor will make herself available for media interviews after the meeting and decision of Council today.
- I have suggested an embargo time of 5pm today.

I believe we should be

Regards

Gerard Noon,
Senior Adviser Strategic Communications | Redland City Council
Tel: 07 3829 8726. Mb: 0439 546 595
www.redland.qld.gov.au
www.koalacentral.com.au
Queensland's Most Sustainable City 2012

17 December 2012

Islanders to save millions in Translink coup

Southern Moreton Bay islanders will save millions of dollars in travel costs a year under a deal struck today by Redland City Council and the State Government.

Redland City Mayor Karen Williams and Assistant Minister for Public Transport Steve Minnikin said successful negotiations to link the SMBI to the Translink network would deliver huge savings and social benefits to islanders who used water taxis, buses and trains from 1 July 2013.

“Based on 2013 fares the annual savings on a variety of travel options for SMBI residents will potentially range from over \$200 for a single student to up to \$6000 for a family of four,” Cr Williams said.

“The savings from this agreement will be in the millions of dollars.

“This is fantastic news for islanders. The extension of GoCard for travel to and from the islands is long overdue and deserved recognition that island residents should be able to access the same public transport concessions as the rest of South-East Queensland.

“GoCard travel will be at least 30% cheaper than the cost of a paper ticket, all travel is free after the ninth paid GoCard journey in a seven-day period and islanders can save another 20% by opting for off-peak travel.

“One of the greatest outcomes of our negotiation is *free* travel for island residents between the SMBI, giving greater access to facilities, schools and services at no cost to the traveller.”

The Go Card service will be trialled for two-and-a-half years from 1 July 2013 until 1 January 2016.

Council at a special general meeting today (Monday 17 December) formally endorsed the trial agreement and a SMBI ratepayer contribution of approximately \$88 towards the cost of the service in 2013-14.

“For this very small investment residents will get not just savings on travel costs but better employment opportunities and access to facilities and services on the mainland or other islands,” Cr Williams said.

“A working adult commuting daily to work from SMBI to Weinam Ck can expect to save over \$1000 a year.

“A single adult working in Brisbane’s CBD will potentially save close to \$2000 a year.

“GoCard will have significant social and economic benefits for nearly 7,000 people living on the islands, reducing barriers to social isolation, particularly for the elderly and those on limited incomes who can now travel free between the islands to visit friends and family.

“This is very welcome news and I am delighted the State Government has acknowledged the travel cost disadvantage long experienced by island residents.

“This announcement has come after long and intensive lobbying by myself and Council and has only been possible in the end after Council agreed to a SMBI community contribution towards the cost of the service.”

Assistant Minister for Public Transport Steve Minnikin said he was delighted Redland City Council and the State government have been able to reach an agreement that will mean cheaper travel for the residents of Redlands.

“For the first time go card equipment and technology will be available for passengers on Bay Island Ferries integrating the islands into south-east Queensland public transport,” Mr Minnikin said.

“Visitors and residents can take advantage of GoCard discounts, including free travel after nine weekly journeys.”

An estimated 100,000 SMBI passenger ferry trips are taken each month, including 1750 return trips a day. In addition, there are a total of 10,000 bus trips through Weinam Creek each month using Translink.

Media Contact – not for publication

Gerard Noon, Senior Adviser Strategic Communications | Redland City Council
Tel: 07 3829 8726. Mb: 0439 546 595

Right to Information Release



Media release
Steve Minnikin MP
Assistant Minister for Public Transport

Embarqued before 5.00pm 17/12/12

Cheaper travel on SMBI ferries

Southern Moreton Bay Island residents will have cheaper travel with local passenger ferry services to be integrated into TransLink network on July 1, 2013.

Assistant Minister for Public Transport Steve Minnikin said *go* card equipment and technology will now be available for passengers on Bay Island Ferries integrating the islands into south-east Queensland public transport for the first time.

“From July 1 next year, customers who travel from Russell Island to Weinam Creek by ferry will pay \$6.55 or \$5.24 off-peak using *go* card, rather than the current \$8.80,” Mr Minnikin.

“A trip to Brisbane, currently \$18.40, will cost \$10.53 using *go* card or \$8.43 off-peak, from 1 July next year.

“Visitors and residents can take advantage of *go* card discounts, including free travel after nine weekly journeys. This means many regular commuters from Brisbane will also be able to access the island for free.”

The Newman Government will be investing almost \$500,000 to expand the *go* card network and the Redlands Council will introduce a SMBI ratepayer’s contribution of around \$88.

Redland City Council Mayor Karen Williams said the the new ticketing arrangements would also allow passengers-island residents to transfer between the four southern Moreton Bay islands for free.

“The extension of *go* card for travel to the islands is long overdue and deserved recognition that island residents should be able to access the same public transport concessions as the rest of the South East Queensland community” Cr Williams said.

“With over 1 million trips taken a year, the saving and benefits from this agreement will be in the millions.”

Member for Redlands Peter Dowling said he was delighted the State and local governments have been able to reach an agreement for the residents and visitors of Redlands.

“A further win for the Redlands area is the refurbishment of the Weinam Creek bus interchange which will provide a seamless connection for anyone travelling to shops and services at Redland Bay, Victoria Point and Cleveland,” Mr Dowling said.

“Bus route 250 from Redland Bay to Brisbane via Victoria Point, Cleveland, Capalaba and Carindale will connect with all ferry services at Weinam Creek making it even easier to get across to the Islands or across to the mainland for work.”

[ENDS] 18 December 2012

Media contact: Stephanie Shield 0418 186 625

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MEDIA ALERT

Countdown to TransLink is go

The Southern Moreton Bay Islands (SMBI) are being incorporated into TransLink's public transport network from July 1. With two weeks to go, the countdown to integration is well and truly on.

To celebrate the countdown, Redlands City Council and TransLink are teaming up to give away more than 3,500 go cards to islanders – so they are ready to go on the new network from July 1.

This is the first extension of the TransLink network since it was established in 2005.

More than one million trips are taken on SMBI ferries each year.

Media Opportunities:

- Interview with Peter Dowling MP (Member for Redlands), Karen Williams (Redland City Council, Mayor) at Weinam Creek ferry terminal
- Vision of Macleay island residents at 'Countdown to TransLink' community event on Macleay Island
- Vision of TransLink Senior Network Officers (SNOs) and Customer Liaison Officers at the community event
- Vision onboard Bay Island Transit SMBI passenger ferry services

Where:

- Weinam Creek ferry terminal, Banana Street, Redland Bay
- Macleay Island Community Hall, Macleay Island

When: 10am, Friday, June 14

Contact:

- Dom Costello (Media Officer, TransLink) – 0417 184 553
- Gerard Noon (Media Officer, Redland City Council) - 0439 546 595

MEDIA RUN SHEET

SMBI 'Count down to TransLink' Community Event

PLACES:

- Weinam Creek ferry terminal, Banana Street, Redland Bay
- Macleay Island Community Hall, Macleay Island

PEOPLE:

- Steve Minnikin MP (Assistant Minister for Public Transport)
- Peter Dowling MP (Member for Redlands)
- Cr Karen Williams (Mayor of Redland City Council)
- Gerard Noon (Media Officer, Redland City Council) - **0439 546 595**
- Bernard Houston (Communications, Redland City Council)
- Dom Costello (Media Officer, TransLink) – **0417 784 553**
- Nick Miskinis (Project Officer, TransLink)
- 2 x Senior Network Officers (TransLink)
- 4 x Customer Liaison Officers (TransLink)

TIMES/ACTIONS:

- **10:00** – Arrive at Weinam Creek ferry terminal: P Dowling MP, Cr K Williams, G Noon and D Costello
- **10:00** – News crew from Channel 10 arrive
- **10:15-11:00** – Interview with news crew - P Dowling MP and Cr K Williams
- **11:00** – P Dowling MP and Cr K Williams depart
- **11:30 – 11:48** – SMI ferry over to Community Event at Macleay Island
- **12:00 – 13:00** – Opportunity for media to get vision of Community Event – Redland City Council Officers, TransLink CLOs and SNOs talking with community members
- **13:35** – SMI ferry to Redland Bay
- **13:55** – Arrive at Weinam Creek ferry terminal
- **14:00** – Depart

**Speaking points for Mayor Karen Williams
Network Ten
SMBI TransLink integration
Friday 14 June 2013**

Background

- Council negotiated with the state government over an extended period to secure TransLink services for the SMBIs to improve accessibility for residents
- Council voted in favour of the trial TransLink integration at a meeting Monday 17 December
- TransLink will commence operations on the Southern Moreton Bay Islands in two and a half weeks (from 1 July)
- The go card service will be trialled for two-and-a-half years from 1 July 2013 until 1 January 2016
- The TransLink integration will provide an effective and efficient means of transport for both SMBI residents and visitors to the SMBIs
- An estimated 100,000 SMBI passenger ferry trips are taken each month, including 1750 return trips a day. In addition, there are a total of 10,000 bus trips through Weinam Creek each month using Translink.

Benefits of the TransLink integration

- One of the greatest benefits is free travel for island residents between the SMBI, giving greater access to facilities, schools and services at no cost to the traveller
- This free inter island travel also delivers additional savings to commuters travelling to the mainland. It means commuters travelling from any of the SMBIs to Victoria Point will pay the same as they currently pay to travel from the SMBIs to Weinam Creek
- Linking the SMBI to the TransLink network will deliver huge savings in travel costs to islanders and deliver considerable social benefits through improved accessibility
- Based on 2013 fares the potential annual savings on a variety of travel options for SMBI residents are as follows:
 - A working adult commuting daily to work from SMBI to Cleveland: over \$2500 a year.
 - A family of four with one parent and both children commuting daily for work/school: almost \$7000
 - A retired couple commuting twice a week to the mainland: more than \$800
 - A single adult commuting to Brisbane will save more than \$7 per return-trip
- go card travel will be at least 30% cheaper than the cost of a paper ticket, all travel is free after the ninth paid go card journey in a seven-day period and for seniors is free after the second paid go card journey in one day.
- Islanders can save another 20% by opting for off-peak travel.
- Residents will get not just savings on travel costs but better employment opportunities and access to facilities and services on the mainland or other islands

TransLink integration countdown

- In preparation for the TransLink integration two community information sessions will be held today (Friday 14 June) and tomorrow (Saturday 15 June)
 - Friday 14 June; Macleay Island community hall, 11am-1pm
 - Saturday 15 June; Russell Island Community Hall, 2pm-4pm
- At these sessions Council and TransLink will distribute 3,750 free go cards. These go cards have a value of \$10 and would also normally require a \$10 deposit, so this initiative equates to a \$75,000 saving for residents and enables them to get onto the TransLink services sooner
- Residents should bring their licence, pensioner card or concession authority so they can collect the card that best suits them
- A limit of one card per person applies
- These sessions will also provide valuable information about the TransLink integration including route selections and how to use go cards

Funding the TransLink integration

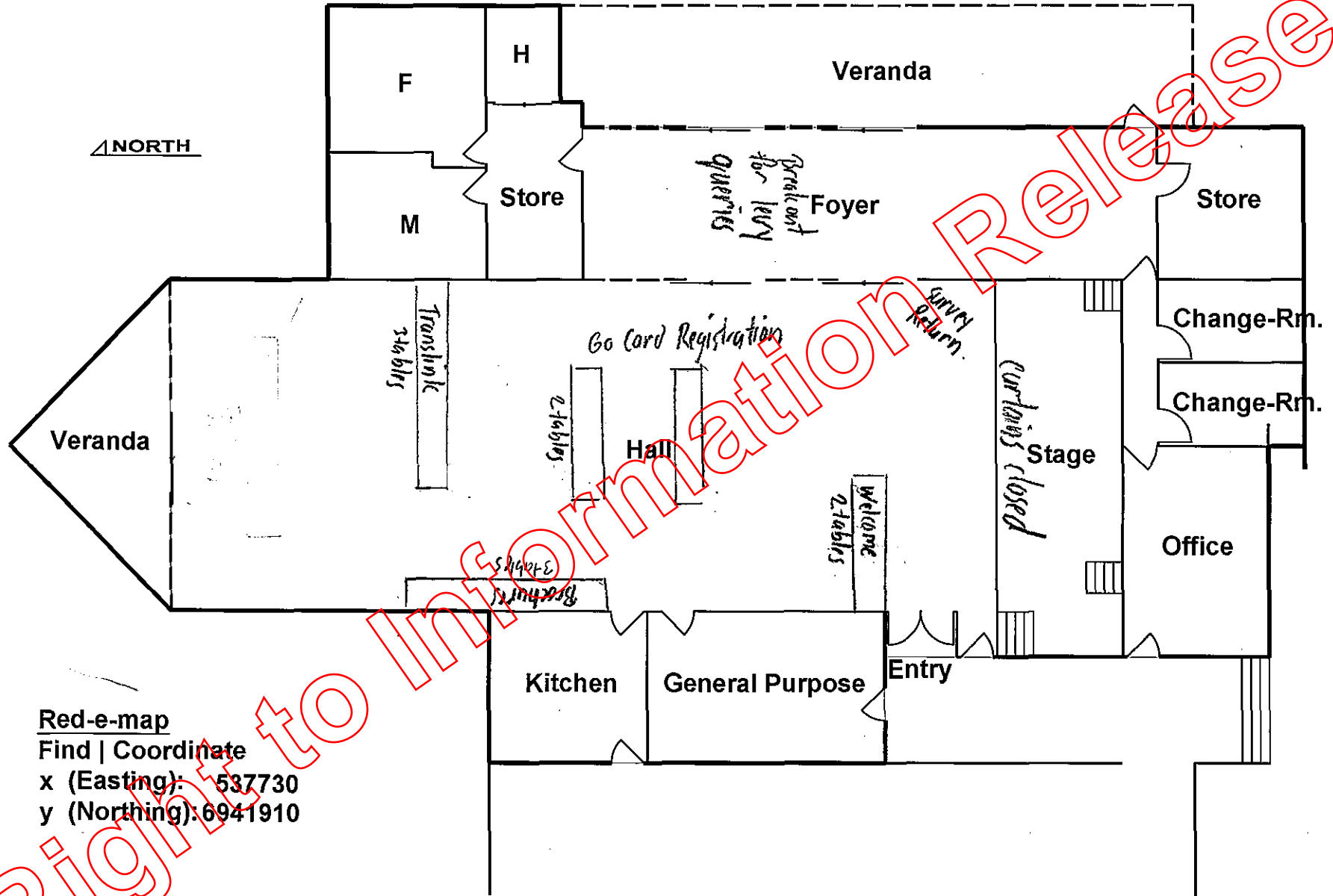
- The original resolution passed by Council included an estimated SMBI ratepayer contribution of approximately \$88 towards the cost of the service in 2013-14. This was an estimate only
- As part of this year's budget discussions, Council is investigating ways to lesson any impact for residents and is confident that an outcome that takes into account the needs of the community will be reached as part of budget deliberations
- Any cost to ratepayers will be offset several times over by the savings the TransLink integration delivers to residents
- An adult will only have to travel to Cleveland once a month to save the \$88 levy originally estimated, however this levy may actually be less when the budget is handed down meaning the savings would be even greater
- For a senior or pensioner a fortnightly inter-island return trip and once per month mainland return journey to Victoria Point will save the originally estimated \$88 levy. There are further savings with the go card one, two, free for seniors and pensioners option.

Translink for SMI information sessions

Where	When
Russell Island Recreation Hall 1 Alison Crescent, Russell Island	Monday 22 April 10am – 2pm
Macleay Island Macleay Island Progress Hall 2 Russell Terrace, Macleay Island	Tuesday 23 April 10am – 2pm
Lamb Island Lamb Island Bowls and Recreation Club Lucas Drive, Lamb Island	Wednesday 24 April 10am – 2pm
Karragarra Island Karragarra Island Foreshore Park Near the jetty Karragarra Island	Friday 26 April 11am – 1pm
Macleay Island Macleay Island Progress Hall 2 Russell Terrace, Macleay Island	Saturday 27 April 10am – 12pm
Russell Island Recreation Hall 1 Alison Crescent, Russell Island	Saturday 27 April 2pm – 4pm

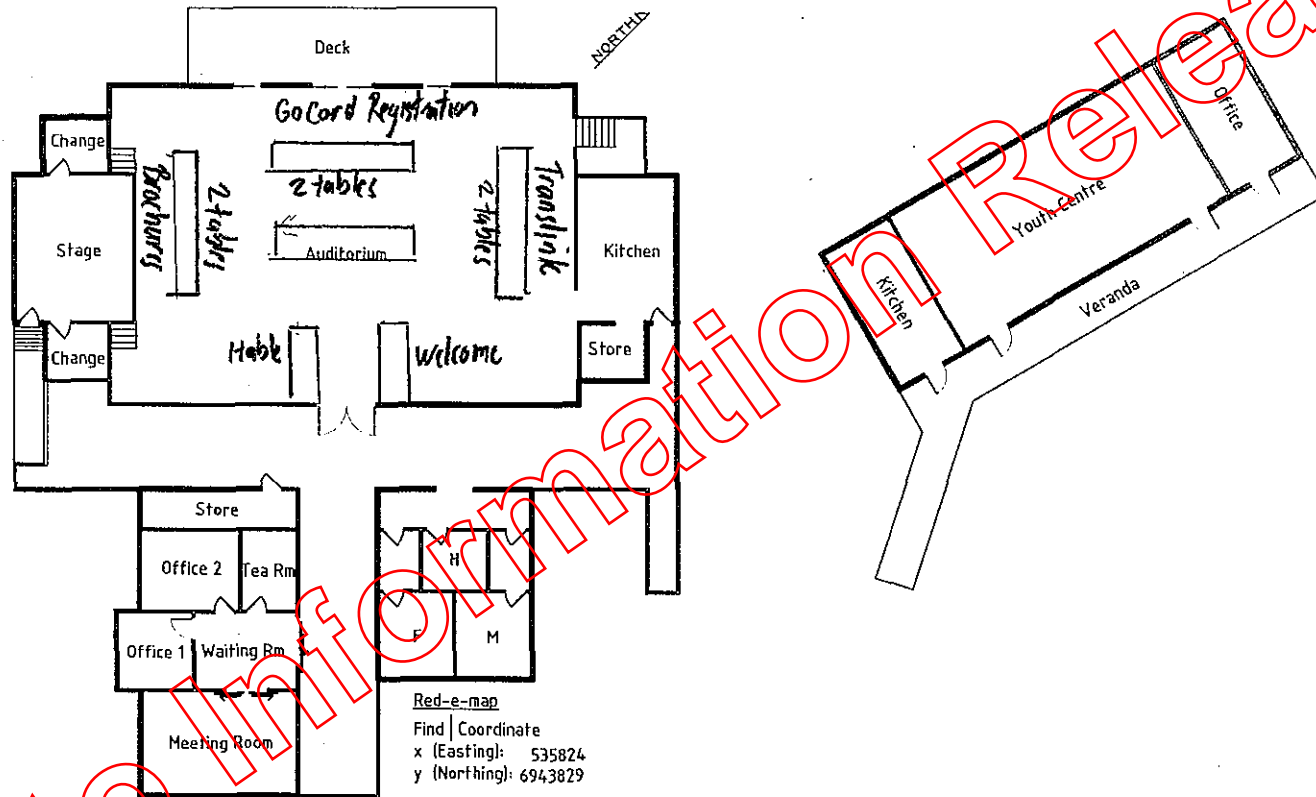
Right to Information Release

NORTH



Red-e-map
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 y (Northing): 6941910





Redland
 CITY COUNCIL

FACILITIES SERVICES UNIT
 MACLEAY ISLAND HALL
 FLOOR PLAN

SCALE 1:200

A3

DWG NO. MACHALL-FLR-00'