



# A message from the Mayor

## Cr Karen Williams



## Walker Group to rejuvenate Redland waterfront

Dear Resident,

The multi-award-winning Walker Group has been named as the preferred partner with the State Government and Redland City Council to transform Toondah Harbour and Weinam Creek into dynamic waterfront precincts.

Council, the State and Walker Group Executive Chairman Lang Walker signed a Memorandum of Understanding on 19 September that brought both developments a step closer.

Walker Group was selected from a strong field in a competitive Expression of Interest process for our City's two Priority Development Areas.

The signing was a red letter day for the Redlands and we are ecstatic to have secured Walker as the developer for both sites. I have no doubt they will deliver vibrant mixed-use precincts that will give the Redlands additional points of difference and put us on the map.

The selection of Walker Group is a massive vote of confidence in the Redlands. Its commitment to community values was a key part of the decision to select it as our preferred partner to take these projects to the next exciting phase.

Known globally as a consummate professional, Lang Walker has a reputation for producing exciting projects that maintain the values of the community, the environment and cultural heritage. Walker Group doesn't just make places where people visit, shop and dine, it creates communities, where people call home, kids go to school and families grow. You only have to look at examples of its work in Australia and internationally to know that these two projects are in good hands.



*RED LETTER DAY: Walker Group Executive Chairman Lang Walker at Toondah after we signed the memorandum.*

Having spoken at length with Mr Walker and his senior officers, I know they are excited about having the opportunity to transform our current transport hubs into exciting waterfront people places with a mix of business and residential opportunities.

The next step of the process is for a detailed design to be developed that matches the final development scheme, which was determined in consultation with the community. The final design for each site will be worked through in coming weeks with Walker and key stakeholders. The final design will reflect the needs of the community as outlined during the original consultation phase.

Deputy Premier Jeff Seeney is confident we will see a start on the projects in the first half of 2015.

## Council to deliver carbon tax refund

Redland City Council will this month pass savings from the repeal of the carbon tax on to ratepayers.

All ratepayers will receive a one-off refund of \$38.48 in their rates notice as compensation for the costs of the carbon tax.

While Council absorbed much of the cost associated with the carbon tax since its introduction, we could not absorb the increase to waste

management costs. The repeal of the carbon tax means disposal costs no longer include the tax.

We removed domestic tip fees in 2012 and we are now able to also reduce commercial and industrial tip fees by more than 10 per cent – or \$15.85 a tonne.

The rates refund and lower commercial tip fees are expected to deliver about \$2 million in savings to residents.

In addition to passing on the immediate saving, Council will also seek to identify other cost savings from the removal of the tax and reinvest them in the city.

Residents should note that it is still in their best interests to reduce and recycle waste as these costs continue to rise as volume increases and waste disposal sites become scarcer.

# A message from the Mayor



*HONOUR ROLL: Our inspiring Redlanders (back, from left) Don Seccombe AM, Daniel Fox, Robert Galsworthy, Alex Fisher, Paul Bancroft OAM and (front, from left) Alexa Curtis, Jordan Duffy, Tegan Napper and Bailey Mills.*

## Celebrating our inspiring locals

I have said many times that the Redlands punches well above its weight in so many areas. One very obvious area is the quality of our locals, who have chalked up some impressive achievements.

It was my great pleasure to officiate recently at the inaugural Inspiring Redlanders function to thank and congratulate a group of outstanding Redlanders on behalf of our City.

We had gold medal-winning athletes from the Commonwealth Games, our own world BMX champ and the winner of *The Voice Kids*.

These people are an inspiration to me and to others, because they have shown what can be achieved with determination, integrity and dedication to excellence.

They are part of quite a large group of inspirational and passionate people who call our City home.

## Council back into the black

Council has posted its first surplus for many years, delivering on my prediction at budget time last year.

I am happy to be able to report that we have exceeded our targets set out in the 2013-14 budget, finishing the year with a significant surplus and continued growth in community equity rather than the \$2 million-plus deficit anticipated mid-year. Our audited result will be formally announced in Council's annual report, due for release in late November.

I am confident that tight financial management and an ongoing drive for efficiencies and cutting waste, as well as a renewed focus on the management of future costs and risks, can continue to pay dividends for Council and ratepayers.



We will continue to look for ways to make the ratepayer dollar stretch further, as well as improve the quality of our service.

## Dedicated DV service for the Redlands

The Redlands is a step closer to having a dedicated domestic and family violence centre with the State Government's call for tenders for much-needed local support services.

Other regions with similar rates of domestic violence have their own State-funded centres and finally the Redlands has the chance to secure its own service.

The successful tenderer will deliver services in the Redlands from next March. This is great news for those who have suffered violence in the home and follows lengthy and vocal lobbying of the Government by Council and others.

Domestic and family violence affects far too many local families.

On average, 12 incidents are reported to police each week in the Redlands and we have an alarming rate of Domestic Violence Order breaches.

I wrote to Communities Minister Tracy Davis last year to explain how desperately needed these services were and later met with her.

It is great to see the Minister respond to this need through the release of this tender. It is the first step towards having dedicated local services that will support families and provide a visible, accessible point of help.

Local community and church groups are doing their best to carry the burden, but the fact is the local response to family violence has been fragmented and under-resourced.

## See you at Starlight

I look forward to seeing you at Christmas By Starlight on Saturday, 6 December, at Capalaba Regional Park and wish you all the best for the holiday season.

**Mayor Karen Williams**  
Redland City Council

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