



A message from the Mayor

Cr Karen Williams

November 2017



Partnership works towards a smarter future

The term “smart” is a recurrent theme in Council’s planning for the future.

We continually look for opportunities in this space, including being part of the COMSEQ Smart Cities bid which offers an opportunity for us to position the Redlands as a productive, accessible, liveable city that supports innovation and talent, ultimately leading to economic growth and jobs creation.

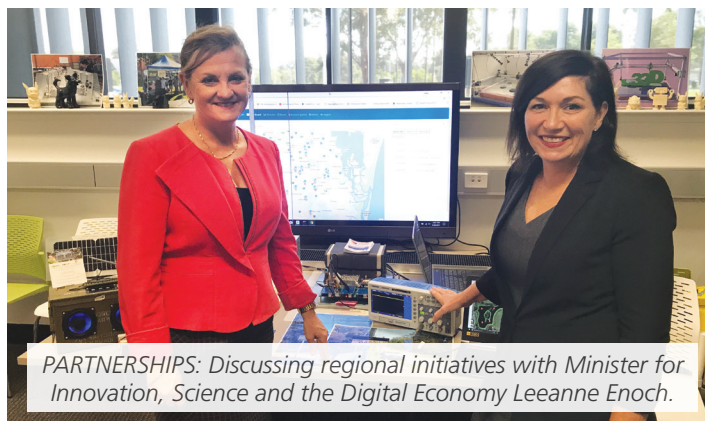
Redland City also is now part of the Advancing Regional Innovation Program, a partnership with Logan, Griffith University (Meadowbrook), Alexandra Hills TAFE and Redland City Chamber of Commerce.

Backed by significant funding, this program aims to support local innovation and entrepreneurship, particularly the creation of local jobs of the future – something which is becoming increasingly important as traditional jobs disappear.

Redland-specific programs to emerge from this partnership will include a series of innovation summits that will highlight best practice in innovation and investment opportunities to targeted sectors of the Redlands economy.

A series of free monthly entrepreneurial events is also being planned which will be open to all through Griffith Business School.

Meanwhile, we will be partnering with Redlands Chamber of Commerce to match innovation businesses with mentors and “angel investors” – individuals prepared to inject capital for start-ups.



PARTNERSHIPS: Discussing regional initiatives with Minister for Innovation, Science and the Digital Economy Leanne Enoch.

The futures of young Redlanders are heavily invested in this program. In recognition of that, and the fact that health and aged care will be significant growth sectors for the city, we are planning the Redland High School Entrepreneurial Innovation Competition.

This is aimed at encouraging our high school students to generate ideas to improve disability, aged and health care in Australia with technology.

Besides targeted workshops and training for local entrepreneurs, the program also will look at the development of an innovation hub – a co-working, networking and incubation space in Cleveland.

This also is part of our planning to improve connectivity in the Redlands and address traffic and transport issues.

The first step will be to identify stakeholders and the specific requirements for such a hub.



ON TRACK: Koala detection dogs such as Maya and Baxter are helping to save koalas.

Council grant helps koala program

Specially trained dogs may soon be able to detect the deadly chlamydia disease in koalas simply by sniffing their scats (poo) thanks to a Council grant.

The University of the Sunshine Coast recently visited Council along with their specially trained koala detection dogs Maya and Baxter to tell us how a grant from Council had helped them track koalas across South East Queensland.

Council’s grant has helped them grow their kennel of koala detection dogs from one to five in the past two years and carry out almost 1500 surveys that

have detected 510 koalas by finding scats in the wild.

Once they find the koala scats they have been successful in extracting DNA from them to test whether the koala may be infected with the potentially deadly chlamydia disease. They will now look to expand their research to see whether the dogs can be trained to detect the chlamydia in the scats themselves.

Council is proud to support this research and you can help train more dogs like Maya and Baxter by visiting www.usc.edu.au.

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Advocating for a better Redlands

The unique nature of the Redlands demands strong representation from both your Council and State representatives.

There are a range of key priorities the State needs to address in the Redlands during the looming State election.

One of the most important is a commitment at the state level to fund the economic transition of North Stradbroke Island from sand mining by 2019.

Council will continue to advocate for the \$110 million required to back an effective economic transition plan.

We need funding to implement the Dunwich masterplan, deliver a Great Walks of Straddie trail similar to Three Capes Walk in Tasmania, improve tourist access, build facilities for eco-tourism, promote school-based visits and tertiary research, run marketing campaigns and provide seed funding for local business opportunities.

It will not be fair for Redlands ratepayers to be slugged with this cost.

At the same time, congested State roads - including Cleveland Redland Bay Road and Moreton Bay Road - are well overdue for upgrades.

Council has been consistent in not just requesting improved and upgraded transport infrastructure - both road and marine - but has offered suggestions for funding. We await a firm response.

We also need long-awaited infrastructure fast tracked - in particular, the Eastern Busway and the duplication of the Cleveland rail line, which is at capacity - as well as better health and social services for our islands.

With a state election on the horizon, we will be seeking commitments from all candidates and we ask you to join us.



An artist's impression of the proposed SLSQ Centre of Excellence.

State-of-the-art centre an Australian first

A \$71 million surf lifesaving Centre of Excellence and Emergency Services Precinct is a step closer after Council and Surf Life Saving Queensland signed a Memorandum of Understanding recently.

This is a major coup for the Redlands, with SLSQ looking to relocate its headquarters to Cleveland, with the facility to include a Centre of Excellence to provide hands-on training for tomorrow's surf lifesavers.

It will be co-located with the new Cleveland aquatic centre, which will include four new public pools and

potentially other facilities.

The new Australian-first centre will bring economic benefits and support Straddie's transition from sand mining. There is potential for the project to also include emergency services organisations already located at the Cleveland site.

Council has committed the \$21 million required to upgrade the aquatic precinct. We will be calling on the State and Federal governments to commit funding to the project and expect it to get the green light by this time next year.

Season's greetings

I would like to take this opportunity to wish each of you all the best for Christmas and the New Year. This is the time we look forward to catching up with family and friends, enjoying our great lifestyle. But for some the festive season can also raise the spectre of domestic unrest.

Every Redlander deserves to feel and be safe in their own home and workplace. Domestic and family violence of any kind is unacceptable in our city, and I remain committed to using my civic voice for change. Together, we can make a difference and help stop this often invisible danger to our community.

At this year's Christmas by Starlight event, which returns to Cleveland's Norm Price Park showgrounds, from 3pm on Saturday 16 December, donations will be collected to help those affected by domestic and family violence. Every contribution will help, no matter how small.

The Redlands continually shows that it is a caring, generous community and that is something that makes me incredibly proud and committed to being an outspoken advocate.

For domestic violence assistance: Contact WAVSS Across The Redlands on 3808 5566 or DV Connect on 1800 811 811.



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