



# A message from the Mayor

## Cr Karen Williams



### Strong and secure future for the Redlands

Redland City Council's budget for 2014-15 lays the foundations for a strong and secure future for our great City. It not only continues to build a strong financial foundation but invests in projects that will provide for future generations of Redlanders; projects such as the Toondah Harbour and Weinam Creek Priority Development Areas and the Cleveland CBD rejuvenation.

I am incredibly proud that Redland City is again the benchmark for South East Queensland councils in minimising rates increases. We have again kept our headline rates increase to about CPI, with a 3.48 per cent rise. For category 1A owner-occupied property, with a property value of about \$280,000, this equates to a general rate rise of about 80 cents a week.

Our headline rates have increased by a total of below 7 per cent over the past three years.

For the third year running, internal savings achieved through a relentless focus on efficiency and trimming of

excesses have enabled us to absorb millions of dollars in increased external costs. If we passed all extra costs on to ratepayers, rates would have increased by about 10 percent.

As your Mayor, while facing many challenges, I am proud to lead a Council that has kept rate rises as low as possible, easing the cost-of-living pressures that rates, utilities and charges place on our residents.

We have kept our utility price rises for 2014-15 to a modest 3.3 percent despite a 14 percent hike in state bulk water charges. Some neighbouring councils have responded with significant price increases.

We have absorbed a 13 percent increase in electricity costs and 7 percent hike in our fuel costs.

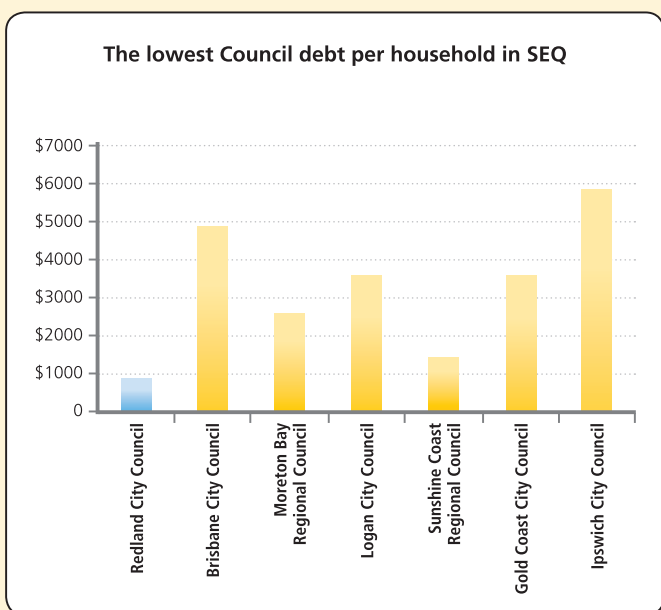
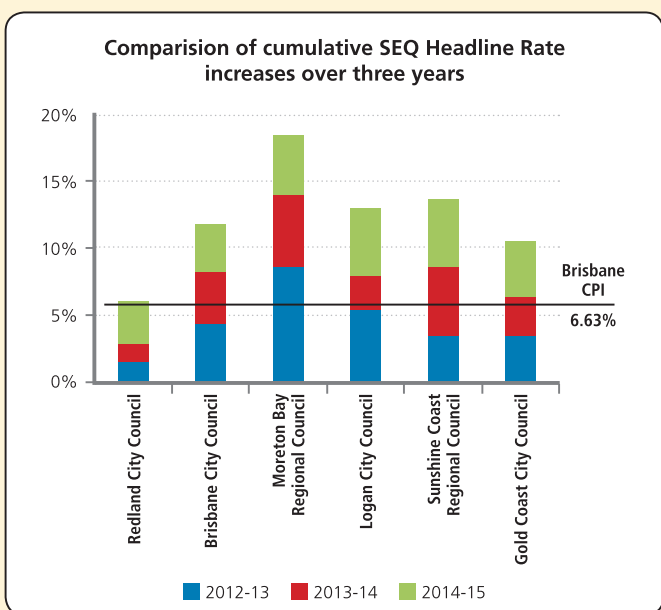
We have again recognised the contribution our wonderful pensioners make to our community by maintaining our existing generous rates concessions, which have now increased to a total \$2.7 million.

This year's budget will deliver a capital program that includes:

- \$14 million for local roads;
- \$13.7 million for marine and foreshore infrastructure, including boat ramp upgrades, new jetties and pontoons;
- Nearly \$6 million for parks and open spaces;
- \$12 million for waste water treatment plants.

While this budget delivers for Redlanders, we cannot remain complacent in an environment in which revenue is falling and costs rising. Federal and State government budgets and policy continue to provide challenges.

Council will continue to look for new ways to deliver the projects and services the community expects as we strive to ensure Redland City remains the best place to live, play and do business.



# A message from the Mayor

## Tourism incentives

Redland City Council is considering offering incentives to attract more tourism investment to the Redlands.

A shortage of tourist accommodation options is preventing the City reaching its potential as a drawcard and it is time we did something about it. I have asked that Council explore options for offering incentives and a report will come back to Council in coming weeks.

The Redlands has some beautiful assets that attract more than a million visitors each year, the majority of them day-trippers. We want more people to come here, and to stay longer.

We already have some great tourism accommodation in the Redlands but we need more. We have been hamstrung in bringing conventions and other major events to the City because of a shortage of suitable accommodation.

We expect new accommodation will come with the Priority Development Areas at Toondah Harbour and Weinam Creek, and this incentive package will complement them.

Redland City has major advantages over our neighbours – position, position, position. We are just 35km from the third-largest city in Australia, in close proximity to the Brisbane port and airport and ideally situated on Moreton Bay, midway between the Gold and Sunshine coasts. We want the Redlands to not just be part of the journey but for it to be the main attraction.

A tourism accommodation incentives package is yet another example of Council looking for ways to get the investment wheels turning.



*EXCITING TIMES: From left, Cr Julie Talty, Member for Cleveland Mark Robinson, Member for Redlands Peter Dowling, myself, Deputy Premier Jeff Seeney, Cr Wendy Boglary, Member for Capalaba Steve Davies, Cr Alan Beard, Cr Lance Hewlett and Cr Mark Edwards at the Redlands Open for Business and Investment breakfast.*

## Expressions of Interest for priority projects

Redland City's most exciting projects have moved a step closer with the call for Expressions of Interest from investors for Priority Development Areas at Toondah Harbour and Weinam Creek.

Deputy Premier Jeff Seeney officially launched the EOI process at a special Redlands Open for Business and Investment breakfast at Sirromet Winery, co-hosted by Redlands Chamber of Commerce and Council, on 19 June.

Mr Seeney said the two sites had the potential to be world-class facilities.

"They could include open spaces for families to visit and play as well as retail and residential opportunities," he said.

"We are confident developers will share our vision to enhance Toondah Harbour as the gateway to Moreton Bay and North Stradbroke Island, and Weinam Creek as the gateway to the Southern Moreton Bay Islands."

I also believe the precincts have enormous potential to be transformed into dynamic waterfront destinations in their own right. They are our two most exciting projects for many years.

Overarching plans for the sites have now been finalised and incorporate changes requested by the community, such as reduced building heights, retention of existing open space and the requirement that developments respect issues such as local character, views and breezes.

Desired outcomes for Toondah Harbour include a new plaza and passenger ferry terminal, marina precinct and mixed-use village delivering a range of community, tourism and recreational experiences. There also is potential for marine and tourism-associated retail, business and

residential opportunities. This will be balanced with community open space and parks.

Weinam Creek has potential for a new esplanade and public space lined with shops, cafes and apartments to attract locals and tourists, as well as a marina.

At the same time it is also important to ensure locals have the amenity and services they require, including sustainable long-term parking for island residents and community facilities.

The community has been calling for these two sites to be developed for many years so there is a real sense of excitement now that we have invited expressions of interest from investors.

Council has always said the redevelopment of these key sites should be taken up by the market rather than left to the ratepayers and the Expression of Interest stage is our chance to sell the Redlands to the world. There has been a high level of investor interest already.

Expressions of Interest closes on 28 July 2014. For more information visit [www.edq.qld.gov.au](http://www.edq.qld.gov.au) or [www.redland.qld.gov.au](http://www.redland.qld.gov.au). To view the EOI documents visit [www.etender.qld.gov.au](http://www.etender.qld.gov.au) and use reference no EDQ-10-229/14

**Mayor Karen Williams**  
Redland City Council

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