



News from your local councillor

Cr Paul Gollè

Division 3: Cleveland/Thornlands/Victoria Point



November 2020

Dear resident,

With Christmas almost here, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a safe and enjoyable holiday season and thank you for placing your faith in me and allowing me the privilege of serving as your Councillor in Division 3.

In many ways, the COVID pandemic has shown us just how caring and resilient we are as a community, so congratulations for playing your part.

As we continue to deal with the impact of the pandemic, I am keen to hear your thoughts on what Council can do to improve our area, as your compliments, suggestions and criticisms help me to help our community.

Where you need my assistance, I am available on email at paul.golle@redland.qld.gov.au or you can call me on 3829 8618. For matters relating to customer service and direct Council support, contact Council direct on 3829 8999 or at rcc@redland.qld.gov.au

During the holiday period, Council offices will close from Thursday 24 December 2020 and will reopen on Monday 4 January 2021. This includes our Customer Service Centres and libraries.

If you need urgent assistance for an issue that may pose an immediate risk to Council's services and significantly impact residents' amenity or capacity to access

services, then please call our main number 3829 8999 as we will have crews on call.

I will continue to keep you informed of Council's decisions, activities and planning of specific interest to Division 3 residents.

I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and New Year and I look forward to working with you in 2021.

Cr Paul Gollè
Division 3

Helping our koalas

It is great to see Council including selected areas of Thornlands in Redlands Coast's koala conservation neighbourhoods.

It is the result of a lot of work with koala experts and scientists over the past two years to identify and reduce the main threats to our koalas. This work has included a number of initiatives to help our koalas live and move safely, with the establishment of Koala Conservation Safe Neighbourhoods a key development.

Through the Koala Conservation Safe Neighbourhood Program, Council will work with residents to reduce the key threats to koala survival, which are vehicle strike, dog attack, habitat loss and disease. It helps you to become custodians of our

local koalas and work with us to make sure our iconic koalas are protected for future generations.

You can help by participating in the koala conservation programs we will be introducing in our area, such as



environmental partnerships and citizen science programs.

Other practical ways to help include slowing down when driving and being koala alert, particularly at dawn and dusk when koalas often travel and can be difficult to see. When you see the flashing koala signs, please slow down, as these areas have a much higher concentration of koala activity.

Also, make sure that your back garden is koala safe, with an escape ramp in the pool or a post against the fence so koalas have a safe route from the pool or garden. If you have a dog in the backyard, ensure that it is secured at night, particularly from June to December when koalas disperse and breed.

Researchers from the University of the Sunshine Coast will begin monitoring to further our understanding of the local koala population. You also can report all koala sightings on the Atlas of Living Australia's Biocollect portal via the link at redland.qld.gov.au/koala, as well as see more about how we are protecting and conserving our koalas. Should you wish to partner with Council to make environmental improvements for koalas or other wildlife on your property, call 3829 8999 to arrange a free property visit with an Environmental Partnerships Extension Officer.

Your say on our future

Council has been consulting our community on future land-use proposals for the Southern Thornlands Potential Future Growth Area (STPFGA), which it hopes will lead to the creation of local jobs.

The 910 hectare area in the heart of the Redlands Coast, bounded by Boundary (north), Springacre (east) and Mt Cotton (west) roads and Epraph Creek (south), has been the subject of almost 20 years of community debate. The State Government previously included part of the area in the urban footprint, which would have seen it used for residential development, but has since directed Council to determine the preferred future use of the area.

Council has been firm that it should be used for jobs, not small-lot housing, and so a plan has been developed to reflect this. Submissions received during the recent public consultation period are now being assessed and will be used to inform a future major amendment to our City Plan and the ShapingSEQ regional plan. This is just the first stage of the process and there will be a second phase of public consultation activities once the amendment to the City Plan has been approved by the State Government. See Council's Your Say page at yoursay.redland.qld.gov.au for updates.

Road funding a welcome boost

Funding for the first stage of the \$90 million Wellington Street duplication at Thornlands has been approved in a welcome move for residents.

The upgrade of this major north-south arterial link will be delivered as part of the Local Government Infrastructure Plan to accommodate increased demand in the area. The first stage will duplicate Panorama Drive/Wellington Street into four lanes between Boundary Road and South Street. Providing four lanes along this stretch will have enormous benefits through alleviating peak-hour congestion, improving work commute times and increasing safety at intersections. It will also include a dedicated bicycle lane.

It will be funded by Council and also benefit from Federal Government funding

for intersection upgrades at Ziegenfusz Road/Panorama Drive, Panorama Drive/Wellington Street and Wellington Street/Weippin Street.

Construction of the first stage is expected to start in 2021 and be completed in 2023. Subsequent stages will eventually duplicate Wellington Street all the way to Russell Street in Cleveland. Council will work to keep traffic disruptions to a minimum during construction. Fortunately, much of the work will allow for the existing road to continue to carry traffic, while the new lanes are constructed on the adjacent road reserve. Some works, especially around the intersections, may be done outside normal working hours to minimise disruptions. For more information and to watch a project animation, visit yoursay.redland.qld.gov.au/wellingtonstreet

Pet care over Christmas

The excitement and stresses of the Christmas holiday season can rub off on your furry family members, so here are some tips from Council's animal management team to help keep your pets safe:

- If your pet is likely to be overwhelmed with lots of people visiting, put them in another room or area where it will be quiet.
- Look out for signs of stress and protect them from any unwanted attention.
- Do not allow children to hug or kiss your dog. Even a dog which usually tolerates this may not do so in a high-stress situation with lots of noise and people.
- If your dog licks his lips, shows the whites of his eyes or turns his head away when a child or adult is patting him, intervene immediately as they are signals of stress.
- Other signs that your dog does not welcome attention is when they try to walk away or hide, growls or raises the fur on its back,
- Don't feed your pets table scraps as some Christmas fare can be toxic or just unhealthy for them.
- Always ensure pets have access to shade and plenty of water, especially if you are away during the day.
- If you take your dog in the car with you, ensure they are properly restrained, have plenty of ventilation and that you regularly stop for water breaks.
- Don't leave your pet in the car.

If you want to gift a pet this Christmas, check out the furry friends available at Council's animal shelter by going to Facebook to see the most current list of animals available for adoption.

If you want to help them out over the holiday season, the crew at the shelter would appreciate donations of food, toys and towels. No pillows or feather doonas please.



Dealing with midges part of the seasonal cycle

As Regional Mosquito Management Group chairman I am only too aware of the impact of midges.

Unlike mosquitoes, which Council does treat, there are unfortunately no midge-specific insecticides available and no chemicals approved or safe for use in the Moreton Bay Marine Park, where biting midges breed.

Council has a marine parks permit from the State Government that allows us to use certain chemicals in the marine park environment, like the ones we use for mozzies, but the permit does not allow for the use of chemicals that are effective on midges.

Using chemicals where the midge larvae live can harm fish and other marine creatures.

However, we can treat mosquito larvae and have a year-round spray program.

Thankfully, unlike mosquitoes, midges are not known to transmit any human diseases in Australia. But Council hasn't given up the challenge of finding a better way to manage midges and is partnering with industry research bodies and other councils to keep up to date with the latest research and practices.

While biting midges are endemic to our environment, you can take measures to protect yourselves during the peak breeding season, including:

- Wearing insect repellent and long, loose-fitting clothing if heading outdoors at dawn and dusk.
- Installing fine mesh fly screens where midges are making their way through into homes. Fly screens can also be treated with UV stable insecticide.
- Increasing air flow around your home.
- Keeping vegetation surrounding the house to a minimum to reduce insect-harboring areas.
- Privately initiated barrier treatments from qualified pest controllers.

Further information on biting midges can be found on Council's website at redland.qld.gov.au/midges