



News from your local councillor

Cr Mark Edwards

Division 5: Southern Moreton Bay Islands edition

June 2020

Thank you island residents

I would like to thank the electors of Division 5 for returning me as their Councillor for the next four years.

I am humbled not only by the 66 percent vote of support but also that I will have an unprecedented 12 consecutive years as your Council representative.

I am committed to do the best I can to support you, our community and the whole of Redlands Coast.

Our Council team also welcomes Rowanne McKenzie (Division 7) and Adelia Berridge (Division 9), replacing Murray Elliott and Paul Gleeson. I wish them well and hope that all Councillors work together to deliver the best outcomes for Redland City.

It has been a very unusual time for everyone due to the COVID-19 pandemic and we have all had to adjust to the way we keep safe. Usually I am attending a range of functions and personally meeting people. However, with the social distancing

required, more and more activities are being done remotely.

Please remember that I can be contacted via email, phone and SMS. I will try to respond within 48 hours but, if you have not heard back from me by then, please send me a reminder as I have a very large amount of emails and calls a day.

The virus has presented us with great economic and social challenges. It is likely that we will need to continue to interact differently in the future and we will also need to support and protect the most vulnerable among us. The Aussie spirit always rises to the challenge and our history shows we are resilient, compassionate and innovative. I love the saying "We are all in this together" and we will all get through this together. On the back of this newsletter you will find some information relating to our emergence from COVID-19 which I hope you will find useful.




Cr Mark Edwards
Division 5 – Islands

Preparing for our future

As I write this newsletter, Councillors and officers are involved in a series of workshops discussing all aspects of the 2020-21 budget.

It has been a lengthy process and, as with all budgets, we need to ensure that Council only collects income that is required and the expenditure of that income is necessary. This is a carefully thought-out process as we need to ensure the services and infrastructure delivered to the community represents value for the

rates paid. This year, however, presents an unusual complication of a once-in-a-century pandemic. COVID-19 is not only a major health issue but also an economic bomb that has caused millions of people to lose their income.

Council's rate income has also been impacted as we work to help ratepayers experiencing financial hardship. Other revenue streams that Council relies on in its budget also have been reduced, with property activity also falling.

This impact is in the millions of dollars, yet Council has a responsibility to be part of the nationwide government economic stimulus to target projects that benefit local business and employment.

It is not an easy task to get the balance right of keeping rate increases as low as possible and also provide the continuity of services and economic stimulus for the local economy. I will be working to ensure our budget delivers the right balance.



Allowing for ease of access for recreational water sports to Moreton Bay, Council has recently installed a platform seat and kayak launching point at Lions Beach Sandy Point on Russell Island.

Your Council is here to help

Council has measures in place to ensure eligible ratepayers, community groups and clubs directly affected by COVID-19 can access provisions to waive, suspend or defer Council fees. Payment arrangements for rates and utility charges are also available to support you at this time.

Through our business support program, dedicated officers are also assisting local businesses and groups with information about the various government support programs available.

You can keep up to date with the support available and the COVID-19 measures still in place by staying connected with Council via our COVID-19 Business and Community page. The very helpful team at Council's Customer Contact Centre on 3829 8999 can also direct you from 8am-5pm Monday to Friday.

Getting Redlands Coast moving

Council has provided a \$2 million stimulus package so far to help residents, businesses and community and sports groups recover from the effects of COVID-19.

Council also has already put forward for funding 64 projects worth \$82.9 million that we will be ready to deliver under the Local Government Association of Queensland's job-creating Battleplan for Queensland Local Communities.

The city's "buy local" preference has also been strengthened, with the benefits already starting to flow through.

Council has established a dedicated webpage with industry-specific information and regular updates about government support packages, COVID-19 fact sheets and resources to support businesses at this time.

Future tourism campaigns are also being developed to promote and encourage post-COVID visitation to Redlands Coast.

Helping our clubs

Council is developing support packages for local sporting and community clubs, as well as offering assistance in accessing potential funding streams.

Clubs directly affected by COVID-19 can access Council's provisions to waive, suspend or defer Council fees.

A one-off contribution equivalent to three months of network charges has also been made available to clubs and associations directly affected by COVID-19 and registered under Council's Community Electricity Scheme.

Grants assistance

Council has introduced targeted grants to support local businesses and community organisations impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic totalling approximately \$290,000.

It has also focused its Advancing Regional Innovation Program budget to support businesses introducing innovation to their business operations of approximately \$80,000, bringing the total grants assistance pool to \$370,000. For details, go to Council's COVID-19 Business and Community page at redland.qld.gov.au

Public centres and spaces

Council is working to restore operations across the city, with popular services such as libraries already open under state rules with some restrictions.

For the latest on what's happening at the libraries, art galleries, Redland Performing Arts Centre, IndigiScapes and Animal Shelter, check Council's website.

Parks, playground equipment, dog off-leash areas, skate parks, outdoor exercise equipment, basketball hoops, picnic settings and barbecues have re-opened subject to state rules.

Watching your back

The Redland City Local Disaster Management Group continues to monitor COVID-19 developments around the clock and is working closely with state authorities and Councillors to ensure the safety and resilience of residents.

Stay informed

Council's recovery measures are guided by the State Government and its expert medical advice. You can monitor the latest state directives and advice by visiting the Queensland Health website at www.health.qld.gov.au/coronavirus

Supported by Council, a Disaster Chaplaincy Hotline has been established to help those affected by COVID-19. It operates daily from 8am-8pm on: [1800 841 106](tel:1800841106)

Ferry terminal project update

The detailed design phase for the new island ferry terminals is set to start soon.

In 2019, Council and the State Government undertook a range of consultation activities as part of stage three of the project's engagement phase. The activities allowed the SMBI community to tell the project team what they wanted considered in the upgrade of the ferry terminals. The following key concerns and themes were identified: improved weather protection increased seating; wider gangways and

better access for people with disabilities; toilet facilities at the terminals; adequate parking; separate access for emergency services; and repurposing the existing pontoon for recreational use.

These themes were incorporated into the preliminary designs which were then presented at open houses where each island community also voted for their terminal's colour palette. Council developed a consultation flyer in early 2020 announcing the voting results. The flyer can

be viewed and downloaded via the project's Your Say page.

The project team will be in touch with the SMBI community for consultation pertaining to landside plans in the near future, subject to Council budget, and prioritisation. I will continue to provide updates as we move closer to delivering this much-needed project. There's more information on the project's Your Say page at yoursay.redland.qld.gov.au

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