



News from your local councillor

Cr Julie Talty, Deputy Mayor

Division 6: Mt Cotton/Redland Bay

June 2020

Dear resident,

Welcome to the Division 6 update for the first half of 2020. It has certainly been a whirlwind start to the year and, as a community, we have faced significant challenges during the past 12 months.

It seems a long time ago, pre-COVID, that we were all doing our best to support those in rural Australia battling drought and it is important to remember that, for some, that battle continues.

We also gathered during January to raise funds in support of communities hit by bushfire, while Australia Day was a brief bright note amid these wider issues. We then all rallied to stave off the coronavirus, with many residents staying home in isolation while others worked on the front line or in other essential services to keep our community as safe as possible through the pandemic.

As we enter the recovery phase, Council will be working to support the community and get services and facilities back to normal. This process will be under constant review and your feedback is important. There is information on the back of this newsletter which I hope you will find useful.

A less positive aspect of the shared experience of lockdown has been an increase in illegal dumping in our reserve areas. If you see anyone doing this, please do not interact with them but take a note of the time and the number plate of any vehicle, a photograph if possible, and make a report.

We have all been doing our best to support our local businesses, and that has been a positive aspect of the experience that I believe will continue after we return to normal.

Many people have chosen to take new pets into their homes through the lockdown period, with two new puppies joining our household. It is timely to remind everyone of their responsibilities in relation to managing their pets within their properties, not impacting on their neighbours and ensuring that you comply with

the law in regard to registration and keeping dogs on a lead except when in official dog off-lead areas.

I also want to flag that Council is working on a review of local dog off-leash areas, particularly whether there should be more dog beach areas recognised. Please contact Council or myself with your feedback.

On a positive note, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services Commissioner Greg Leach has approved a new brigade service to be called Brisbane Region Headquarters Rural Fire Brigade, Mount Cotton Service Group. The training of our volunteers has been delayed by COVID-19 restrictions but uniforms have been ordered and they are already planning for fuel-reduction activities.

My regular community chats in Redland Bay and Mount Cotton are on hold until social distancing restrictions allow but, in the meantime, if you have any Council-related issues or questions, don't hesitate to get in touch. Stay safe.



 facebook.com/CrJulieTalty

Cr Julie Talty –Division 6



COMPANIONS: Furry friends have made it much easier for many of us to get through COVID-19 isolation.



READY: Our volunteers are keen to get working with the new Brisbane Region Headquarters Rural Fire Brigade, Mount Cotton Service Group.

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)

Sport and recreation precinct to boost area

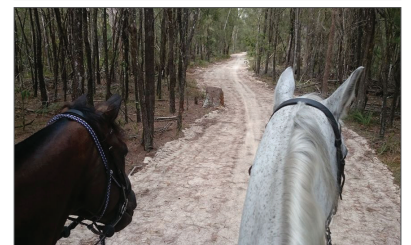
The proposed multi-million-dollar regional sport and recreation precinct for Heinemann Road promises to be a major asset for both Mount Cotton and all Redlands Coast.

The project, which will be implemented in stages, will provide exciting new sporting facilities with the recently approved masterplan providing for 17 playing fields, 2.8km of cycling tracks, new BMX tracks, hundreds of car parking spaces, and new buildings with the spaces that clubs need, such as change rooms.

There will also be a series of multi-use trails linking the site's recreation and conservation spaces with reserves and our growing local community.

This is also an opportunity to provide a range of local sports groups with new facilities that will allow them to grow and host large carnivals and events.

I would like to thank State Minister for Sport Mick de Brenni for his support of the project and the \$100,000 Get Planning Spaces grant for the development of the precinct master plan.



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