



A message from the Mayor Cr Karen Williams



June 2020

Thank you for helping to keep Redlands Coast safe

I would like to thank our community for supporting me as your Mayor for a third four-year term. It is a privilege and great responsibility.

Along with all Councillors, I will spare no effort in steering Redlands Coast through these challenging times.

I also would like to take this opportunity to thank you for doing your bit as Redlands Coast continues to deal with COVID-19, especially through helping to keep your family, friends and neighbours safe.

These have been extraordinary times and Redlands Coast has again proven that community spirit is very much at our heart. However, there is now much to be done to get our community back to social and economic health.

Council is following its initial \$2 million local assistance and stimulus package with plans for an extensive program of projects designed to boost jobs and the local economy as we work with the federal and state governments to heal the lingering symptoms of COVID-19.

To ease the financial pressure on residents and businesses adversely impacted by COVID-19, we have also urged the State Government to freeze current water pricing and the waste levy. This would help to minimise cost increases for residents and businesses as we move forward into recovery as well as allow Council to frame

its recovery budget based on the lowest and most accurate water and waste costs.

With the state's welcome announcement of a \$200 million boost for the Works for Queensland program and the Federal Government's commitment of \$1.8 billion for council infrastructure, we are advocating for funding for a list of local projects.

Council has 64 projects worth \$82.9 million that we will be ready to deliver and have identified 19 categories of shovel-ready projects which, if funded, would support jobs growth and deliver improvements for the community.

These include community disaster resilience and infrastructure improvements worth \$10.4 million for North Stradbroke Island and \$8.6 million for the Southern Moreton Bay Islands, communities which have been particularly hard hit.

It also includes multi-million-dollar upgrades to the Redlands Coast transport network, including 6.2km of footpaths, 26km of resurfacing mainland roads and 3.7km of green seal for the Southern Moreton Bay Islands in the next financial year alone to help residents and visitors move around the city faster and safer.

These job packages can provide immediate opportunities for local businesses and



create a positive ripple effect across the community.

Just as residents have responded brilliantly in adjusting to COVID-19, so too has Council – from ensuring all essential services and works have progressed unhindered and adapting to new roles and workplaces to working swiftly to allow people to access the resources of our libraries and galleries and working with residents to help them through this once-in-a-century event.

Cr Karen Williams
Mayor of Redland City

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Buying local a priority

Never has it been more important for Redlands Coast, as a community, to think and buy local.

To that end, Council has strengthened its local preference for contracting and procurement services, with all Council buyers directed to engage with local suppliers in the first instance. Local suppliers will be afforded an advantage

but it should be clear that Council still has an obligation to ensure it gets value for your money.

Council also is reducing payment timeframes to 14 days or less to improve cash flows.

I am pleased to see the results are flowing in with an increase in our local spend,

and this will grow as Council brings the shovel-ready projects detailed in this newsletter on line to help stimulate the local economic recovery.

We are also encouraging staff and contractors to buy local from shops and restaurants wherever possible and hope that you will do the same as it will do so much to support your fellow Redlanders.

Mayor Karen Williams

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INNOVATIVE: Meeting with the Asterisco Group's Brendan Armstrong and Shine Precision Industries' Ian Boileau at their Enterprise Street, Cleveland, factories. They are among a raft of local businesses to rapidly evolve to help us through COVID-19.

Our kindness and ingenuity shines through

Each time I see a teddy in the window, a rainbow-painted rock in a garden or colourful children's chalk art and beautiful messages on a footpath or driveway I am reminded of our city's awesome response to COVID-19.

Our sense of community has been on display in so many bright and caring ways that it can only make you so proud, something which Council has been inspired to celebrate through its 'Share Redlands Coast Kindness Instead' campaign.

And share we have! There has been an outpouring of kindness and the wonderful stories that has generated – from the coffee shop on Straddie encouraging you to buy a friend or stranger their next coffee and the Cleveland baker selling flour at

very low cost when it was in short supply to Coochie and the Southern Moreton Bay Islands' armies of volunteers helping others in need.

One of our most important retail precincts, Capalaba Central Shopping Centre, created care packs loaded with essential items for elderly and disadvantaged customers, along with free coffees for essential workers.

People also shared the love with the residents of our Animal Shelter, delivering a raft of gifts and necessities for the animals. And these are but a few of many heartwarming examples.

We have also seen much inspiration and ingenuity emerge.

The Make-Up Foundation in Capalaba, better known for producing movie make-

up for the big screen, recently turned to producing hand sanitiser, joining the likes of Cleveland manufacturers Shine Precision Industries, Asterisco Group, Alchemy Cordials and Dye-Pac and Capalaba's Freelance Robotics in evolving rapidly – and exceptionally – to assist with the community's efforts in slowing the spread of COVID-19.

Seeing our community all working together like this makes me proud to be a Redlands Coast resident let alone Mayor. So, please, join us by continuing to share positive messages and feel-good stories using the hashtag #RCKindness.

For details of Council's recovery plans and assistance, go to the COVID-19 Business and Community page at redland.qld.gov.au

An important milestone ... and another act of kindness

The Maybanke Accommodation and Crisis Support facility has a welcome new addition ... a new playground (pictured) for the children of families escaping domestic and family violence.

This centre is very much the result of a caring community doing what it can to help those affected by domestic violence, and especially one wonderful local benefactor who has donated yet another \$50,000 to the cause.

In the meantime, even COVID-19 couldn't stop our annual candlelight vigil to reflect on the lives lost to domestic and family violence. While last month's vigil was held via Facebook to comply with social distancing rules, the event was just as

poignant and was an especially timely reminder of the terrible loss and impact of domestic violence on communities through the country.

Every year I talk about the scourge of domestic and family violence and the fact that our community is not immune to it. In fact, during the 2018-19 financial year 685 DVO applications were lodged with the Cleveland Magistrates Court, the fifteenth highest number in the state.

This year, an already unacceptable situation has been exacerbated by the challenging times we all find ourselves in, which means that we cannot relent and must call out violence in all its forms.



If you need help for domestic violence assistance:

Contact WAVSS Across The Redlands on 3808 5566 or DV Connect on 1800 811 811.

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