



News from your local councillor

Cr Peter Mitchell

Division 2: North Stradbroke Island edition

June 2020

Dear Straddie resident,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your faith and support in re-electing me as your local Councillor for another term.

As Straddie emerges from COVID-19, I look forward to supporting the island's community groups, businesses and sporting clubs, as well as addressing local infrastructure needs.

I also remain committed to representing not only the residents of the island and Division 2 but also the constituents of the whole city.

While we all no doubt would have liked more notice of the easing of travel restrictions to the island, I am relieved that we have been able to start the process of rebuilding Straddie's economy.

My congratulations go to those local businesses and transport services who have worked hard to begin the process of returning their services to normal.

It is now more important than ever to get the state's economic transition strategy not

only back on track but accelerating to fill the sand-mining void.

The Redlands Coast islands topped the list in Queensland for employment vulnerability resulting from COVID-19, according to research from the Centre of Full Employment and Equity at the University of Newcastle. Straddie Chamber of Commerce also identified that as a result of COVID-19, 500 people had lost their jobs with a further 300 workers having their hours cut.

This only serves to reinforce the merits of Straddie and the other islands to be recognised as regional communities in order to be able to access regional support funding from other levels of government to help with the post-COVID recovery.

Our businesses have told us they require assistance to market the island once they are up and running again and it is appropriate, given the island missed out on trade during the popular Easter period.

Meanwhile Council has identified community disaster resilience and



infrastructure improvements worth \$10.4 million for Straddie as part of a suite of projects under the Local Government Association of Queensland's job-creating battleplan for which we are seeking funding.

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Division 2 – Island



Getting active

I am keen to see the formation of an "active travel" advisory committee to explore ways to reduce the reliance on cars to get around and enjoy Redlands Coast.

In the past, the Redlands Bicycle Advisory Committee has provided advice on active travel projects across the city but it hasn't convened in several years.

Work is now underway to enable the formation of a refreshed active travel group that looks beyond just cycling and has a broader role in providing advice and influencing the creation and implementation of active travel project across the city.

Let me know what you think.

Connection and communication vital

I am committed to ensuring residents are fully informed of decisions and projects which affect the island.

When appropriate, I will resume my township-based Councillor listening posts. These have been well received in the past as well as being well supported by Council officers. Keep watching noticeboards and Council media for these meetings.

I welcome the constructive feedback that comes my way as I believe it is important that we work together to ensure a bright future for the island.

For operational matters, please contact Council direct on 3829 8999 or at rcc@redland.qld.gov.au

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)



Caring for our coast

In 2020, Council began work on phase six of its Coastal Hazard Adaptation Strategy (CHAS), a city-wide plan that identifies key assets and values in Redlands Coast that are at risk from the likes of sea-level rise, storm tide inundation and erosion out to the years 2070 and 2100. The strategy will outline how Council, the Redlands Coast community and other stakeholders can adapt to these hazards and manage the risks. Phase six of the strategy involves Council identifying a list of potential adaptation options that will help safeguard our region long into the future. Council is seeking feedback from the community on what they value most about Redlands Coast and their understanding and experiences of coastal hazards via an online survey. The survey will be available from June. More information on the strategy, and the survey, can be found on the project's Your Say page at yoursay.redland.qld.gov.au by searching Coastal Hazard Adaptation Strategy.

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