



News from your Local Councillor

November 2019

ISLANDS EDITION

Dear island resident,

Recently I brought to Council two significant notices of motion that will determine the islands' future infrastructure.

The first focuses on when an island's reticulated sewerage system will be built and the effects on population density that it will have. Reticulated sewerage enables a potentially greater population density and that, in turn, would require more infrastructure and services and would significantly change the islands' aesthetics.

Instead of one large sewer option, Council officers have been given 12 months to deliver a report with multiple options and outcomes. The key focus at that time will be to empower the islands community to determine what will be delivered.

How that process will be undertaken will be decided by the new Council following the March 2020 election however the

intent is for the islands community to say how they would like the future islands community to look.

The second motion is for officers to prepare a report listing all the islands' roads yet to be sealed, the order of sealing the roads, the cost to seal them and a three-year delivery period. Importantly, I have asked that this report be made a public document so that all residents have a clear understanding of where their unsealed road stands in relation to other unsealed roads.

The funding for sealing the roads has taken a hit this year however I hope the new Council will see the important community value that sealing roads provide and reflect that in next year's budget. The three-year timeframe is to inform Councillors but the amount of budget approved each year is the factor that enables a shorter or longer time period.

Aquatic centre to open longer

The Bay Islands Aquatic Centre opening hours have been extended while Council engages with the community on the longer term management of the pool.

Residents have provided valuable feedback to us on the need for longer hours and other pool improvements and Council has responded to those calls.

The result is a big increase in hours during school terms and adjustment of holiday hours to be more in line with what pool users have told us they would prefer.

Council will also provide EFTPOS facilities and consider further upgrades to the centre facilities and boosting maintenance of the grounds.

Under the trial, school term hours will be increased from 32 hours a week to 59 hours and we have adjusted school holiday hours so the pool will be open 11 hours a day, from 6am until 5pm to better align with users' needs.

The current pool agreement between Council and the State Government expires next April.

Weinam Creek carpark update

Construction has begun on the new carpark on Moores Road, Redland Bay, within the Weinam Creek Priority Development Area (PDA) project.

The ground-level carpark with a boardwalk and a footbridge connecting with the Redland Bay Marina is expected to take about six months to complete, with plans for it to be open to the public next April.

Meanwhile, the final design plans for the overall masterplan and future stages of the project are now being finalised and will include secure carparks and a multi-

deck carpark within the Redland Bay Marina precinct.

Once the Moores Road carpark is open, it will allow cars to park there so work can start on the extra car parking at the ferry terminal, which will provide additional parking for both island and mainland residents.

The footbridge will provide more direct access to the marina and accommodate bicycles as well as mobility scooters. I expect it will be five to 10 minutes on average to walk from the ferry terminal to the carpark.



TIME TO 'GET READY'

Prepare your home and a family emergency plan

Prepare your home

- Clean gutters and downpipes
- Secure loose items around your property
- Trim trees around the house (check with Council first), install metal screens and ensure LPG cylinder relief valves point away from the house to minimise fire risk

Make a household emergency plan

- Prepare an emergency kit with essentials such as medications, legal papers, first aid, a battery operated radio, batteries, pet food, money and a torch
- Identify a safe place to evacuate to in a bushfire and decide how you'd look after your pets
- Decide whether to go early or stay and defend in bushfire situations
- Make sure everyone in your household knows the plan
- Have your bushfire survival plan ready.

Visit ruralfire.qld.gov.au for more information.

Know your neighbours

- Your neighbours can be a source of support during emergencies
- If you don't know who owns the property next door contact Council on 3829 8999 for their details
- Those without family or friends close by who would like more social contact can organise for a Red Cross check-in call by phoning 1300 885 698

Be Informed

Visit disaster.redland.qld.gov.au for information on how to prepare, respond and recover from natural disasters.

Community action recognised

Congratulations to Council's disaster management team members and all those involved with the SMBI Community Champions Program for their most deserved win at the 2019 Get Ready Queensland Resilient Australia Awards.

The program which began on the islands was a joint winner of the Local Government Award category.

Our islands champions have set the benchmark for the program, which connects community members with

disaster management agencies to assist with planning, preparation, response and recovery.

Our Community Champions Program began as a joint initiative with the Redlands Coast Southern Moreton Bay Islands community in partnership with Red Cross, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services and Volunteering Queensland and has developed into a remarkable example of communities working with Council to care for themselves.



Fun and games

Find Your Fun Day was recently held on the islands. It was a festival of events bringing diverse island groups together to showcase a range of activities and organisations that people could join. In other words, finding your fun!

The event was organised by Bay Islands Multi-Sport and Recreation Association as part of Mental Health Week and more than \$2000 was raised to support future health programs. Bay Islands Auto Club, which received a Council grant, had a large contingent of classic

vehicles on display and many other groups also had a presence on show. Whether it be self-defence, tennis, soccer, gymnastics, dance, bowls, a range of community groups or our wonderful Community Champions there was something for everyone. Many people took the opportunity to join up as new members.

The children had a lot of fun with the games on the day, including billy cart and tug-of-war events. I had no chance in the tug of war against lots of very strong little people!

Merry Christmas

I would like to wish all residents of the Redlands Coast Southern Moreton Bay Islands and their families a great Christmas and a safe and happy New Year. Don't hesitate to contact me for help if you need it. You can email me anytime at mark.edwards@redland.qld.gov.au or call me on 0407 695 667.

Warm regards,

Cr Mark Edwards
Division 5 - Island