



A message from the Mayor

Cr Karen Williams

November 2019



Merry Christmas Redlands Coast

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all the best for Christmas and the New Year. For most of us we are approaching that wonderful time of year when we look forward to catching up with family and friends and enjoying our great lifestyle.

It is a lifestyle Council works hard to sustain through investment in local roads, parks, conservation, economic development, essential infrastructure such as water and waste services, and through support for local community organisations. Council also has been relentless “behind the scenes” in lobbying other levels of

government to try to get the best deal possible for the future of our community.

Perhaps the most important part of being Mayor is advocating to other levels of government on your behalf. Recently a resident asked me how many State and Federal representatives I had met with and so I decided to dig through my diary to find out. I was surprised to see that over the past four years I have met with State and Federal government representatives on more than 120 occasions on behalf of the community. Topics of discussion have

included transport, local jobs, better internet and phone connectivity and recognising the regional challenges faced by parts of our community.

Recently a number of these meetings have also focussed on getting greater support for the economic transition of North Stradbroke Island and a potential South-East Queensland Olympics and Paralympics bid and the infrastructure that may come from it.

It is pleasing that this advocacy has helped deliver for the community, including mobile blackspot funding eligibility of our islands. It also has helped deliver vital services such as the new Maybanke Accommodation and Crisis Support Service units which are now under construction to provide a safe haven for victims of domestic and family violence.

I hope you and your family have a safe and satisfying holiday.

Cr Karen Williams
Mayor of Redland City

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SPECIAL TIME: Christmas is a time for family and friends. On behalf of Council, I wish all Redlanders a happy and safe festive season.

Council lobbies State for better infrastructure and better planning

Council has received overwhelming support from the Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) for our call for an overhaul of a range of State Government infrastructure and development issues.

Residents have told Council that they want infrastructure to keep up with growth and this result will keep the pressure on the State to implement longer term infrastructure plans that provide greater certainty for our community. It is also important

that the State Government reviews its own mechanism for collecting infrastructure charges from developers. Currently it caps what infrastructure charges councils can collect from developers, sometimes resulting in a funding gap that our community has to meet.

Removal of these State-imposed caps will allow councils to collect infrastructure charges from developers based on the impacts the development will have on local

infrastructure. We have also sought a clearer planning framework to give the community certainty about what will be built, as the State’s current “performance based” system arguably allows too much flexibility for the development industry, creating confusion for the community. The LGAQ also backed our call for the State to provide more infrastructure, including carparks at railway stations, to encourage people to use public transport.

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Working with young Redlanders

Council has taken an important step in ensuring young Redlanders have a say in the future of their city with the decision to establish a youth reference group.

The group will provide young residents with a direct line to Council on issues that affect them. It will also offer them a platform to voice their opinions to effect change on a range of subjects from youth facilities and events to public transport and local employment opportunities.

Our young residents are the future of our community and, as such, they have a valued role to play in shaping Redlands Coast.



Seeking greener road alternatives

Council is at the forefront of a pioneering process that turns plastic bottles and other waste into new, high-quality roads.

Council has teamed with leading recycler Alex Fraser and Suncoast Asphalt to resurface a 1km stretch of a Cleveland road with an innovative, high-performance asphalt product containing reclaimed hard plastics - the first in Queensland to do so. It is hoped this pilot project will lead to many more roads being built and resurfaced using reclaimed materials.

Roads are big business for Council, so if we can find a better way to build and maintain them using sustainable materials while removing waste from landfill that will be a major coup. This is very much part of Council's vision for our naturally wonderful Redlands Coast,

so we are excited to be at the forefront of greener road building and the environmental benefits that can bring.

The recent resealing in Princess Street used about 933 tonnes of reclaimed asphalt and about 90,000 hard plastics, such as the milk and shampoo bottles you place in your yellow-lid recycling bins - the equivalent of about nine months of kerbside recycling collected from that street.

I have been working with the Australian Local Government Association to investigate these sorts of innovative solutions for years and I am pleased this work is delivering value for the community. It adds to other recycling initiatives embraced by our city including the use of recycled plastic for seats, bollards and signs.

Let's all sing in Christmas

I'm looking forward to seeing you at Christmas by Starlight, which will again be at Cleveland's Norm Price Park - Redland Showgrounds with an exceptional line-up of top carols performers, as well as plenty of fun for youngsters.

Redlands Coast's biggest free family Christmas show will kick off at 4pm on Saturday 14 December and feature exceptional home-grown talent and some household names to be announced soon.

It promises to again be one of the best free community Christmas concerts in Queensland, with plenty of kids' activities this year with the return of the Starlight Express, a trackless train that will shuttle guests around the event, along with the usual children's favourites. All rides will be free and will run from 4pm to 8pm. The main event will get underway at 6pm, with our annual Christmas fireworks spectacular to light up the sky from about 8.15pm.

While entry is free, people will have the opportunity to make a donation to support charities combatting domestic and family violence if they wish.

A variety of food, drink and merchandise stalls will be available but please remember that Christmas by Starlight is an alcohol-free event.

For more information, go to redland.qld.gov.au/cbs



Olympic whitewater park update

The case for Redland City as a future 2032 Olympic white water canoe-kayak venue is being strengthened by a newly commissioned feasibility analysis, a valuable industry partnership and the growing support of influential advocates and experts.

The Redlands Coast venue opportunity is currently progressing as part of high-level future South-East Queensland Olympic consideration. Council is viewing the opportunity

to deliver an Olympic-standard whitewater facility as a catalyst to deliver the economic, transport, cultural, community and infrastructure our community needs. These legacies are now the subject of a Council-commissioned financial and economic impact study.

The proposal also includes a significant opportunity for whitewater emergency training and an education partnership with Queensland emergency services organisations. Community, sporting and cultural reference group representatives have accepted Council's invitation to be part of a stakeholder reference group in support of these project opportunities.

