



# News from your Local Councillor

## Cr Peter Mitchell

### Dear Straddie resident,

I am pleased to report that Council is ramping up its campaign to get the State and Federal governments to lift their investment in the island as it transitions from sand mining.

Council recently endorsed an advocacy document that I put forward that calls for increased funding to make it more affordable to visit the island, improve communication with residents and deliver an array of projects.

Essentially, this document sets out Council's vision for the island and includes projects we believe should be fast-tracked to ensure immediate support for island residents and businesses. It is designed to complement the existing North Stradbroke Island economic transition strategy (ETS) projects to deliver immediate on-the-ground results.

The end of sand mining doesn't just mean a loss of jobs - it contributes to

the breakdown of the island's social fabric. While Council acknowledges and welcomes the existing ETS, the reality is that many of the projects it includes are long term, with many being studies or investigations.

What the island needs are real and tangible economic opportunities ... and it needs them now.

Mayor Karen Williams also has raised this in recent discussions with Tourism Minister Kate Jones, who has ministerial responsibility for the ETS, and stressed to her the need for action now to cushion the immediate and longer term economic impact of the end of mining.

What we have done is identify a number of projects that need to be progressed quickly or incorporated into the overall transition strategy.

At the top of our priority list are measures to make it cheaper

to travel to and from the island, as well as the provision of on-island transport more suited to the needs of visitors.

We have also urged the State Government to replace the Sibelco Community Fund with similar grassroots funding to support island community groups.

Importantly, we have made it clear that in addition to extra funding, there also is a desperate need for more genuine and inclusive engagement with the island community, which should include both Traditional Owners and other stakeholders.

This is not the end of the discussion, it is very much the beginning, and the Mayor and I will continue pressing our case until we get a positive response.

*continued over page*



VOICE. TREATY. TRUTH: This year's NAIDOC celebrations at Ron Stark Oval and Terra Bulla Lumea carried a powerful message.

### Celebrating NAIDOC

Along with Mayor Karen Williams, I was proud to be part of the Goompi NAIDOC celebrations, where I also caught up with Uncle Norm Enoch and police community liaison officers.

It is a significant event on the local calendar, not only for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people but also the wider community, as it

provides an opportunity to learn more about the First Peoples of this nation and come together in celebration.

This year's theme is a powerful one: Voice. Treaty. Truth. NAIDOC 2019 asks us all to listen, to talk and to journey together. Community events, such as the day at Terra Bulla Lumea, play a crucial role in this process.



continued from front page

The advocacy document calls for:

- subsidising marine transport to provide more affordable travel to and from the island;
- providing a low-cost shuttle bus or "loop" bus service across key island areas;
- establishing a community benefit fund to support island clubs and organisations;
- fast tracking planning, design and construction of pedestrian and recreational trails and long-term funding for recreational trails;
- construction of telecommunications infrastructure to mitigate black spots;
- a commitment to long-term funding of the transition strategy;
- development of a vision for the island, not just a list of projects;
- improving communication and engagement with the community;
- developing an overarching Moreton Bay Tourism Strategy and ongoing tourism/industry partnerships; and
- requiring companies involved in transition projects to offer traineeships or job skills to local unemployed people.

## Park upgrades

A range of island parks are scheduled for makeovers this financial year. They include:

- **Old Schoolhouse Park, Amity Point:** Park renewal to provide recreation play for all ages. These works will enhance the play experience with climbing, sliding, socialising and motor development activities.
- **NEI Dakota Memorial Park, Point Lookout:** To reflect the community's use of this park as a place of memorial and reflection, the play elements will be removed and a sandstone block and natural turf areas installed. To replace the play elements of this park, Council will increase the play elements at Point Lookout Oval.
- **Point Lookout Oval:** Works will include renewed tennis court surface, new playground behind the Point Lookout Hall with a small, imaginative climbing element, a new play space next to the oval, and a goal post. The cricket wicket will also get a new synthetic turf surface.

## Work on walkways



A number of Council beach access walkways at Point Lookout have had restorative works completed recently. This example is from the Hopewell St access to Cylinder Headlands Point, with other locations including the access stairs to Frenchmans and Deadmans beaches.

Council has taken a very responsible position to repair and refresh the structures rather than fully replace them. Following an assessment of the structural integrity of these assets, Council determined to replace only those components that required fixing, and those that would inhibit further deterioration.

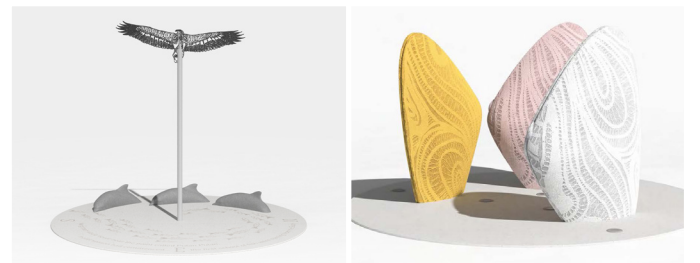
These practical and effective works have lengthened the functional life of these important assets, avoided unwarranted works and allowed public monies to do more.

## Artists make their mark

The place markers for Amity Point (Pulan) and Point Lookout (Mulumba) designed by Quandamooka artists Belinda Close and Delvene Cockatoo-Collins are quite inspiring. Belinda and Delvene drew on each area's living environment in creating their designs. Delvene's design for Point Lookout captures the importance of the eugarie to island people, while Belinda's design for Amity tells the story of the sea eagle. I expect both will become iconic statements and the subject of many tourists' and locals' selfie moments. They also have the potential to increase knowledge of the island and the Quandamooka stories behind the sculptures.

The works will be ready for installation later this year. The proposed locations are Amity's Cabarita Park and the top of Mooloolaba Road at Point Lookout, opposite the shops.

Funding for the place markers is from the State Government's Economic Transition Strategy. You can find out more about them at [yoursay.redland.qld.gov.au](https://yoursay.redland.qld.gov.au)



STUNNING: The place marker designs for Amity and Point Lookout.

## Catch up for a chat

For simple operational matters, please contact Council direct on 3829 8999 or [rcc@redland.qld.gov.au](mailto:rcc@redland.qld.gov.au). You can catch up with me at my Councillor listening posts, where I involve senior Council operational staff where possible. Please check community noticeboards or my Councillor Facebook site for details. I am also available by phone or email.

Cr Peter Mitchell Division 2 – Island