



# A message from the Mayor

**Cr Karen Williams**

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## Water sports precinct a potential game changer

An Olympic-standard adventure water sports precinct has the potential to be a real game changer for Redlands Coast.

Council is looking into the feasibility of such a venue in an effort to make the most of our reputation as a great outdoor adventure sports destination by extending that attraction to international canoe and kayaking competitions.

The feasibility study will also look at the merits of locating other sports and activities, as well as emergency rescue training facilities, within the precinct.

For generations, our Traditional Owners, the Quandamooka people, have used canoeing as a means of transport around the coast and islands and this history and traditional connection to canoeing also has the potential to create a significant cultural legacy. I see a first-class white-water sports park as a huge drawcard which

would capitalise on our developing adventure tourism market.

Along with our top-class mountain bike trails, it would put Redlands Coast in the frame for major national and international competitions and put us near the top of the queue as a venue in any future South-East Queensland Olympic Games. Indeed, Redlands Coast has been identified as a potential location for a white-water facility as part of the SEQ Council of Mayors' Olympics bid investigations.

The current SEQ Olympic bid investigations could also provide the catalyst to secure the transport infrastructure we desperately need, such as the duplication of the Cleveland rail line and extension of the Eastern Busway to Capalaba.

*K Williams*

**Cr Karen Williams**  
Mayor of Redland City

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POTENTIAL: A white-water course would boost local adventure tourism.

## Future is in our city's youth

Redlands Coast will be under an international spotlight when some of the world's most influential minds gather at Redland Performing Arts Centre on 13 September for the 2019 Young Entrepreneur Summit (YES).

Specially designed for students aged 12 to 25 who want to become scientists, innovators, engineers, technologists and entrepreneurs, the event will bring local and other young people face-to-face with world leading innovators, educators and entrepreneurs.

Council is partnering with Logan City Council and Fiftysix Creations to stage the event as part of the State Government's Advancing Regional Innovation Program (ARIP). The event also has Federal Government funding.

Hosting YES on Redlands Coast provides local youth with a wonderful opportunity, as the event will build on the success of our innovation sector by connecting tomorrow's entrepreneurs with today's budding innovators.

Our young people will be able to explore new ideas and collaborate with like-minded innovators, while the event

itself will be a catalyst for the emergence of more young entrepreneurs on Redlands Coast.

Our city is blessed with great young innovators such as the four professionals who attended the Asia Pacific Cities Summit with Council's support. I was lucky enough to join them at a dinner and can attest to their passion and commitment.



VISION: With speakers for the Young Entrepreneur Summit, from left Paulette Oldfield, City Transformation Leader, Logan City Council; Vanessa Garrard, director of The Garrard Group; Leeanne Bond, founder of Breakthrough Energy; and Taj Pabari, CEO of Fiftysix Creations.

# A message from the Mayor

## Canberra revisited

With changes in Canberra since May's federal election, I will be heading back to the national capital shortly to ensure the voice of Redlands Coast is being heard.

I will be meeting with as many federal MPs as possible, with transport issues and our islands high on my agenda.

Before this year's federal election, Councillors challenged all candidates to put Redlands Coast first and join the fight to fast-track priority projects and now I want to ensure that is happening. Our priority projects include immediate investment in major transport infrastructure, along

with improved mobile and internet connectivity across the city.

I am also looking for federal backing for Council's efforts to grow our local economy, such as through attracting a university or other significant tertiary education facility.

While Council acknowledges the support of the Federal Government and local MPs in a range of areas, such as our successful acquisition of the Birkdale Commonwealth land for community use, there needs to be a much stronger focus if we are to overcome the

funding deficiencies and shortfalls of the past.

The Council of Mayors (SEQ) People Mass Movement Study showed federal and state government investment in transport needed to be increased to accommodate growth.

It also listed the Eastern Busway and Cleveland line rail duplication as no-brainers as they would drive economic growth and create regional opportunities while encouraging public transport use and taking cars off the road.

I will continue to push these projects during my next visit.



## Land acquired for the community

Council has been steadily increasing the community estate through acquiring strategic parcels of important land for community use.

We recently bought prime waterfront land adjacent to one of the city's most popular landmarks, Cleveland Point Recreation Reserve. This followed our success in convincing the Federal Government to allow us to bring the 62ha of Commonwealth land at Birkdale into community ownership to protect its environmental and heritage values.

Both were opportunities too good to pass up and, thanks to our healthy balance sheet, we were able to move quickly to ensure we can do something really special with them for the community. Council would much rather see the community enjoying these areas than risk them being used for more housing. We will be talking to the community about the future uses of these areas.

Since 2012, Council has added 210ha to the community estate, which now includes almost 9800 hectares of conservation land. We own and manage more land on the community's behalf than many of our neighbouring councils. When you take in other green space managed by Council, the area grows to more than 10,340ha or just over 19 percent of our total land area. And that's not including state-managed national parks and privately owned bushland.

Included in recent acquisitions has been the property on Heinemann Road, Mount Cotton, which is now set to become a regional sport and recreation precinct for Redlands Coast. A masterplan is being developed for the 159ha site, which Council bought in June last year and is ideal for sports and recreational activities.

## Supporting the community

One of the most pleasing parts of my job is supporting the great community initiatives across the city through my Community Benefit Fund.

Last financial year I was proud to provide almost \$50,000 to local organisations and individuals doing great things in our city. This included about \$20,000 to local sports stars selected for state and national teams.

I also had the great pleasure of helping to fund organisations such as Rotary, helping to bring international Rotary students to Redlands Coast, as well as supporting local volunteering groups to celebrate international volunteers day, and local sporting clubs and community organisations whose members do so much for our city.

I am looking forward to continuing to support the exciting projects and organisations with my 2019-20 Community Benefit Fund now open.

With Council elections in March next year, this year's fund will close from the end of September until after the election, so if you have an exciting project or initiative or have been selected in a state or national team, I'd love to hear from you. Visit [redland.qld.gov.au/grants](http://redland.qld.gov.au/grants) for more information.