



# A message from the Mayor

Cr Karen Williams

April 2019



## Supporting the community

One of the things I love most about my job as Mayor is supporting our amazing local community groups.

In recent months I have had the privilege to provide almost \$20,000 through my Councillor small grant program to local groups and individuals who are achieving great things.

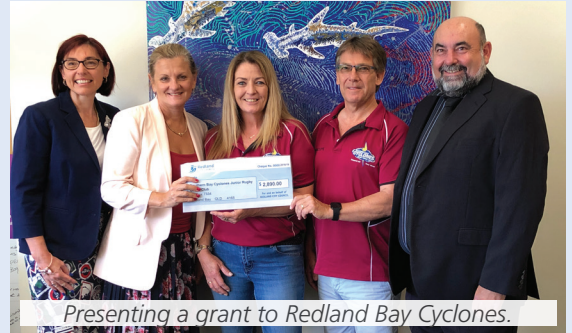
This included assisting the Pink Magic Netball Club with new equipment, U3A with new cycling shirts, Australian Volunteer Coast Guard Association with furniture, the Redland City Choir with their Christmas Concert and the Redland Bay Cyclones with new equipment.

I also have helped some gifted young athletes achieve their goals, including the very talented Paige Leonhardt who competed at the World Para Swimming Championships

Well done and thank you to all of our amazing community groups and individuals.

**Cr Karen Williams**  
Mayor of Redland City

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*Presenting a grant to Redland Bay Cyclones.*



*With fellow Councillors supporting the U3A team.*

## Ensuring Redlands Coast gets a better deal

With a federal election and State Budget on the horizon, a recent focus for Council and myself has been to give voice to the concerns of residents to try to get the state and federal governments to meet their obligations.

There are significant challenges which need responses that are beyond the this city's financial and legislative capacity, particularly when it comes to improving transport infrastructure and internet and mobile phone coverage.

As many of Redlands Coast's issues are indeed regional issues, we have joined with our neighbours to push for commitments to key transport projects. I am especially encouraged by the backing of neighbouring councils for our continuing calls for a regional solution, with the Council of Mayors (SEQ) People Mass Movement Study strongly supporting our long-held position that the Cleveland rail duplication and Eastern Busway are critical regional projects.

We believe the evidence is overwhelming that duplicating the Cleveland "misery" rail line and delivering the Eastern Busway are keys to unlocking our economic potential as well as encouraging public transport use and taking cars off the road.

During my recent meetings in Canberra and with state ministers, I have made it clear that our community needs State and Federal investment in these critical initiatives ... and soon.

These projects go to the heart of Redlands Coast's ability to preserve its lifestyle and Council will make sure that the depth of local feeling and the breadth of our expectations are clearly understood by governments.

Council also has a federal election advocacy plan which includes these among other projects and initiatives that we are pursuing on your behalf.

As well as transport infrastructure, it also includes improved health services, a commitment to the proposed Surf Lifesaving Queensland centre of excellence and acquisition of the Birkdale Commonwealth land for community use. You can see the full list on Council's website.

At the same time, we are also pressing the State Government for better localised transport services, such as a free bus from key transport nodes (including our marinas) to the Redlands Hospital precinct, which would particularly benefit island and older residents.



*Working with the SEQ Council of Mayors.*

# A message from the Mayor



## Getting Redlands Coast moving

Over the last few months Council has spoken with literally thousands of residents in response to the Redlands Coast Transport Strategy.

Transport is one of the topics residents ask me about as I walk around the city and so Council has been focussed on ensuring your feedback goes into planning our transport future.

So committed are we to hearing your feedback that I recently asked Council to extend engagement on our Draft Transport Strategy to align it with the engagement period for the State's Regional Transport Plan.

We also invited the State to join us at the extended engagement sessions so residents could comment on both draft plans together. Inviting the state to attend our engagement sessions also reflected the fact that much of the feedback from residents was about state-controlled roads and public transport, which is managed by the State.

Thank you to everyone who provided feedback, which we will now use to inform the final transport plan.

## Efforts continue for a worthy cause

Five years ago I began a journey to secure more housing for those in our community affected by domestic and family violence.

It is a journey that many of you have joined me on and our combined advocacy has now resulted in a major commitment by the State Government to crisis accommodation and support.

Housing Minister Mick de Brenni and Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence Minister Di Farmer visited Cleveland in January to commit to building the new shelters, as well as announce funding for a child support worker for Redlands organisation Maybanke.

There is no doubt a major catalyst for this decision was the generosity and efforts of dedicated Redlanders who have raised more than \$260,000 for the cause, particularly through *Dîner en Rouge*, my annual fundraiser for domestic and family violence services.

The money raised so far will pay for furnishings and a playground for children staying in the promised units.

But this commitment is not the end of the story, with this scourge on our community relentless. As a member of the Local Government Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence

Prevention Project Reference Committee, I know only too well how much more needs to be done to improve services for the local women and children who are affected.

That effort will continue on Saturday 18 May, with our fifth annual *Dîner en Rouge* to be held at a secret location to be revealed on the night.

I am also pleased to announce that this year's guest speaker will be Rebecca Poulson, who has a powerful but tragic story she will share on the night, so it will pay to book early.

The funds raised this year will add to the pool which will go towards making life a little easier for the children who find themselves homeless through no fault of their own and expanding the work of the Maybanke Accommodation and Crisis Support Service.

Tickets to the sumptuous banquet, which has a red and white theme (red is for Redlands Coast and white is to acknowledge the national campaign to stop violence against women) are now available from the Redland Performing Arts Centre box office at [www.rpac.com.au](http://www.rpac.com.au) or by calling 3829 8131.

Tickets are \$175 each of \$1700 for 10. Check [redland.qld.gov.au/dinerenrouge](http://redland.qld.gov.au/dinerenrouge) for updates.

 *Dîner en Rouge*



## Close watch on state's waste levy

The State Government's waste disposal levy, which comes into effect on 1 July, has a major impact on Council as the primary providers of waste management for the community.

Council will be responsible for ensuring the \$75-a-tonne charge for disposal of waste destined for landfill is accurately administered. Our officers have been busy planning for the changes to staffing, infrastructure, IT and finance systems and other procedures to

meet the obligation which has been imposed on us.

The State Government has promised that the levy will have no direct impact on households and I will be doing everything in my power to ensure this is the case. However the lack of detail, at the time this newsletter was produced, about how the costs passed on to councils will be adequately met by the State Government makes it difficult to know what the future may hold.

I will continue to work with the Local Government Association of Queensland, which has set up a working group to advocate for and represent the interests of affected councils and ultimately their communities.

Council will also need to review its own waste management strategy once the State Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy is finalised this year. In the meantime, you will find helpful tips on how to minimise waste at [redland.qld.gov.au](http://redland.qld.gov.au).