



News from your Local Councillor

Cr Mark Edwards

ISLANDS
EDITION

Bay islands' benefit from budget boost

Redland City Council's 2017-18 budget includes substantial allocations for the Southern Moreton Bay islands, with the green seal program and Macleay Island foreshore high priorities.

It responds to residents' wishes for island roads to be sealed faster and for better community infrastructure, while also addressing issues of particular concern to island communities.

All up, \$3.4 million has been allocated to continue green sealing island roads. Work also is set to begin this month on an \$8.5 million upgrade of the Macleay Island foreshore precinct, providing substantial long-term improvements to island parking issues, greater access for recreational boats and sealing asbestos contamination on the foreshore.

This is the largest single infrastructure project in the 2017-2018 budget. Civil construction group Pensar Civil Pty Ltd has been awarded the contract to construct a new seawall and sealed car park, associated road works and marine infrastructure, a new two-lane recreational boat ramp, a third lane for a future floating walkway and access stairs.

The redevelopment will provide an additional 147 car parks, including an additional six disabled car parks, 26 car-trailer parks and eight motorcycle parks, as well as an improved drop-off zone and safer vehicle access. The entire foreshore project has been designed to entomb any asbestos at the site.

Barge traffic and recreational boat ramp users will be separated, with the new boat ramp being constructed

to the west of the ferry terminal. The existing rock revetment wall will be extended and a formalised beach landing area designed to minimise the impacts of the expanded facility. This upgrade reflects years of effort to gain works approval and will benefit all the Southern Moreton Bay Islands.

The budget also allows for \$654,000 for the Karragarra Island Esplanade boat ramp renewal, with a further \$500,000 to be spent on the Russell Island pontoon upgrade.

Money also has been allocated for the islands' waiting shed and bus shelter upgrades program, as well as disability access for Macleay's Pats Park. With the islands boasting such vibrant and active arts communities, it is fitting that almost \$30,000 has been included for art platforms on the islands.

Community Champions update

Our 29 Community Champions have already shown they will be invaluable in times of emergency on the islands.

They are great examples of community members being prepared to help neighbours during times of crisis.

Our SMBI Community Champions from Macleay, Russell, Lamb and Karragarra, who were nominated by their communities, have been trained in evacuation centre management, assessing and assisting people in trauma and managing volunteers in community recovery. With their invaluable community knowledge, they will be reliable first points of information during natural disasters and emergencies,



LOCAL HEROES: Well done to our new Community Champions, who are being trained to help neighbours during times of crisis.

as well as extra hands in times of need.

They have already put their training into practice by participating in the recent Exercise Exodus on Russell Island. The exercise is part of Council's commitment to annually test its disaster preparedness systems.

In September, Council is planning a visit to the evacuation centres on Macleay and Lamb islands, with our champions to be accompanied by Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, Red Cross, Volunteering Queensland and Council officers as they undertake additional

training and familiarisation. This will provide them with a comprehensive understanding of the evacuation centre capacities across all of the islands so that should a situation occur on any island that requires an evacuation response, the Champions will be ready to fly into action.



Earthworks explained

While not within our division, this may answer some questions you might have.

When you drive out of Redland Bay along Boundary Street to the traffic lights (yes, those lights that hold us up when we need to be going!) there are massive earthworks on the lefthand side and a large pond

that has been created by the recent rains. This area, which was a bog, is being transformed into a park and conservation corridor.

The pond will not remain and a public space will emerge. Future sports play areas could also be built on this land.

This diagram shows what has been approved and I look forward to the completion of an area that everyone can enjoy. The layout provides a linked community parkland with full public access on both sides. The parkland will have improved stormwater quality outcomes and extensive revegetation, improving the area's habitat value.

The road network will also improve connectivity of the area, allowing traffic and pedestrians to move throughout the neighbourhood.

Approval of the project is conditional on hydraulic works being undertaken to improve flooding issues for roads and sporting fields, as well as properties both upstream and downstream.



- 1 Low-flow channel to meander through parklands
- 2 Endemic tree and shrub species to margins of low-flow channel and bio-filtration areas
- 3 Bio-filtration areas to facilitate treatment of on-site stormwater
- 4 Revegetation to low lying areas to reduce maintenance and alleviate flood events
- 5 Native grasses to batters
- 6 Feature street trees define esplanade road
- 7 Rip-Rap rock treatment to areas of potential high-velocity flows
- 8 Recreational lawn areas
- 9 Playground facilities including shelters, tables, bins and water fountain - location to be confirmed during operational works

Easier access to council

If you are used to travelling to Cleveland to use the Customer Service Centre, the good news is that a new service centre has opened in Council's library at Victoria Point. Not only is this more convenient, it will save a lot of travel time for residents.

The new centre responds to feedback from southern Redland island and mainland residents. The location is ideal as it is serviced by public transport and surrounded by a great range of shops and restaurants.

It has also been economical as we have used an existing Council building and staff. This new centre offers all services, with the exception of building and development services, which are only available at the main Cleveland branch.

The new centre is inside the Victoria Point Library building, entry via High Street off Lakeside Drive.

It's open 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays).

Staying connected

The new Wi-Fi service at Russell Island library is proving popular and now residents will get to use it for longer.

Following a review of opening hours, Council will be extending the library's opening hours.

The new hours, effective from 30 August, will be: 9.30am-12.30pm and 1.30pm-5pm on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays and 9am-1pm on Saturdays.

Keep in touch

Why not join the hundreds of residents who have already contacted me for help with an issue?

You can email me anytime at **mark.edwards@redland.qld.gov.au** or telephone 0407 695 667.

Warm regards,

Cr Mark Edwards
Division 5 - Islands