



A message from the Mayor

Cr Karen Williams

July 2017



Innovation key to better future



The South-East Queensland Council of Mayors inspected innovative transport solutions during a recent visit to Singapore to explore trade and business opportunities.

Simple innovations are helping Redland City Council to better define what needs to be done to make this an even better city to work and live.

A prime example is the installation of recorders along major roads to track vehicle travel times to help build our case to the State Government for road and transport system improvements.

While we have the anecdotal evidence and recognise the frustrations that residents experience on their daily commutes, these recorders will provide the empirical evidence to clearly define where and when the problems are. They will show exactly what the priorities should be. We have 20 devices across the city connected to a regional system under an arrangement with the Department of Transport and Main Roads.

At the same time, Council also is working to measure the effectiveness of what we are implementing to meet other needs voiced by residents and the business community.

While we get valuable feedback about projects to improve our city, such as the recent 7 Day Makeover of the Cleveland CBD, and can see that new community infrastructure is being well used, it would be invaluable if we could accurately measure the impact. To that end, Council is trialling the use of electronic people counters to measure of foot traffic in such areas.

Sensors will be mounted across the Cleveland CBD to provide a valuable insight into how people use the area so that we can better manage the way that it functions and plan for its future. For instance, this will help us to understand how many

people walk from the train station to the town centre.

We will make this information available on Council's website, which will help traders to make better-informed decisions for their business, such as opening hours.

These relatively simple initiatives underscore how important it is for a city such as the Redlands to look for innovative solutions to meeting residents' needs.

During a recent visit to Singapore as part of a delegation from the South-East Queensland Council of Mayors to explore trade and investment opportunities for local businesses, it was easy to imagine how innovative solutions to transport and connectivity issues embraced there could benefit the Redlands.

Meeting our priorities

The Redlands' 2017-18 budget was the first framed around six strategic priorities agreed to by Council after last year's election.

It invests heavily in the city, balancing our commitment to those priorities with the need to keep costs down for our community.

It reflects what the community has told us they wanted, especially investment to stimulate local business and job creation, as well as doing what's needed to make this a better connected community. And it also fulfills our commitment to govern this city with a unified approach, with the community as our guide.

The strategic priorities around which the budget was framed are: transport and connectivity; sport, education and the arts; economic development; planning; branding identity; and smart cities and digital connectivity.

The result is a responsible \$82 million capital expenditure program, a modest predicted operating deficit of about \$11 million and a rates increase in line with the increased cost to Council of running the city. This was heavily impacted yet again by rises in the State Government's bulk water prices, which have escalated by almost a third over the past three years.

Promoting school safety



I was pleased to launch Council's No Excuses School Road Safety Guide, which was rolled out recently to local schools to help them address their individual needs. We produced it with a State Government grant.

Defining what we stand for

I am excited by the momentum we are gathering in our people-led drive to create a brand for our city.

The number of high-profile people with connections to our city who want to come on board as Redlands "community brand champions" is stunning, so stay tuned for some big announcements soon.

We also want all Redlanders to be ambassadors, leading Council's drive to create a brand for the city that will help shape its future? We want you to use your networks to tell the world why the Redlands is such a great place to live and visit and why you are so proud to be a Redlander.

Imagine if we all join forces to promote the Redlands

... what it could do to drive tourism, stimulate business, create local jobs, boost investment and enhance community spirit.

Creating a brand for our city - a message defined and promoted by those who live here - is one of Council's six key priorities.

This is much more than coming up with a new logo. And we don't want to change our identity - rather we want to distill everything that is outstanding about it into a message that will help us to better communicate to those outside the Redlands why they should come here.

It also will provide us all with a definition of what it means to be a Redlander.

We are keen for you to tell us your stories about living or

Our fight against domestic violence goes national

As a member of the Local Government Domestic Family and Sexual Violence Prevention Project Reference Committee, I am determined to effect positive change.

One of the first projects the committee is looking at is the development of a toolkit with resources for businesses, sporting organisations and community groups to promote and assist with action against violence.

I hope to draw on our previous work here in the Redlands and my knowledge of best practice and current research to provide insights and strategic advice to assist in shaping the toolkit, as well as in reviewing and endorsing the final toolkit content.

Once the toolkit is developed, the committee plans to roll it out to nominated local government areas for a trial implementation between February and December next year, and I am eager for Redland City Council to be part of this trial.

As a community, it is our joint responsibility that domestic and family violence does not go unchallenged and our demonstrated commitment and grassroots action to tackling domestic violence makes us well placed to be selected as a trial site.

Council's third Diner en Rouge event in May brought the total Diner en Rouge funds raised to \$220,000 to support families affected by domestic violence,

In June, Council also became the first organisation to sign up as a Star Partner of Australia's CEO Challenge's new business campaign, Challenge Zero, to build awareness of domestic and family violence and better ensure the safety and wellbeing of our staff. Last year we also became one of the first councils to introduce domestic and family violence leave for our staff.

The next Local Government Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Prevention Project Reference Committee meeting is scheduled for September, at which we will provide an outline of the toolkit and consider a range of other initiatives.

If you need help
For domestic violence assistance:
Contact WAVSS Across
The Redlands on 3808 5566 or
DV Connect on 1800 811 811.