



News from your Local Councillor

Cr Mark Edwards

ISLANDS
EDITION

Dear Island resident

There are a number of islands-orientated projects that are nearing completion, have started or are set to start.

The first major project nearing completion is the Weinam Creek terminal upgrade which, at a cost of more than \$6 million, represents a significant investment in mainland facilities to service the islands.

Already started is the tender for the Macleay Island foreshore redevelopment, which closed on 3 March.

I am looking forward to the selection of the contractor who will undertake one of the biggest island infrastructure projects commissioned by Council and transform the Macleay Island jetty foreshore.

When you consider the cost, it is a great vote of confidence in the islands and a boost for our wider community.

These two projects alone will see more than \$12 million spent on supporting the islands.

Unfortunately, when many people think of rates, they think all the money is available for new infrastructure projects, however this is not the case.



VITAL: The upgrade of the Weinam Creek transport terminal is a significant investment in meeting the needs of islanders.

Rates keep Council operational, paying for wages, city maintenance, and all the costs that keep a large organisation running and delivering the established services that residents need.

To provide a better understanding of where the money goes, I have asked for a breakdown of what your rates pay for to be clearly defined in this year's budget.

In my next newsletter, I hope to be able to talk further about the next big project to start - the Weinam Creek Priority Development Area.

I believe that the Weinam Creek redevelopment is an essential element for the islands and also for the residents of Redland Bay. For parking, transport and

interconnectivity of the islands this is the most important common area for southern Moreton Bay.

There has been debate in the community about alternate transport visions and I welcome that discussion and a pathway to the future.

However, for the present we need to ensure that the Weinam Creek redevelopment progresses as soon as possible, as it is the only transport hub we have.

My focus has always been to maximise island infrastructure and, as such, I need island residents to support me in my negotiations and endeavours to upgrade infrastructure and island services.

Never underestimate the power of the community voice.

Fire management review starts with Russell Island

A Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) review of Council's fire management program should be delivered soon. It will look at Council's current work as well as future planning to map the effectiveness of the islands' fire mitigation program.

QFES is doing modelling which will show the risks and identify areas where we can be more effective. For instance, it is looking not only at what programmed burns were

conducted in risk areas but what those burns actually achieved. It also is looking at whether Council needs to reframe Local Law 3 relating to the clearing of land to reduce fire risks as well as Local Law 6, which relates to conservation, as both were the source of some angst during the recent incidents on Russell Island.

The QFES review will continue to learn from recent fires and increase the safety of residents. It will start with Russell Island, then extend to

areas such as Redland Bay. Council also will continue its "Street Meets" to discuss disaster management planning and answer residents' questions.

Fire management is a process of seeking continual improvement and the QFES review and your feedback will help us to better defend your areas.

If you have any feedback on fire management, please let us know at emergency@redland.qld.gov.au.



Girt by Sea putting island art scene on the map

The Girt By Sea awards evening will be held at Russell Island Recreation Hall on Saturday, 18 March, from 6pm and all are welcome.

The evening will celebrate the artistic works that have been entered and displayed at the arts precincts on both Russell Island (Kennedy Farm House) and Macleay Island (Coast Road) over the weeks preceding the event.

The winning entries will be kept under wraps until the awards evening, where acquisition prizes ranging from \$500 to \$14,000 will be awarded.

Mayor Karen Williams will assist me in the presentation of awards.

This arts event is one of the most lucrative events of its type in Australia and celebrates not only the art works but also our community of artists and our unique islands lifestyle.

After the awards night, many of the art works will be available for sale from the islands' galleries, so make sure you take the opportunity to visit the displays.

Entry to the awards evening is \$5, which includes finger food, with drinks available for sale.

The following acquisition prizes are available to participating artists, subject to selection by judges:



Sculpture Section:

four prizes of \$8000 and three prizes of \$14,000, for a total of \$74,000.

Painting Section:

10 prizes of \$500, five prizes of \$1000, two prizes of \$2500 and one prize of \$5000, for total of \$20,000.



Events plan brings benefits

Council has endorsed a comprehensive events strategy and action plan to support local businesses and help create jobs across the city.

The Redland City Events Strategy and Action Plan 2017-2022 will help make the Redlands a great destination for a range of unique events, while also providing top-class shows and entertainment for locals.

This plan will support existing events, while attracting new events that fit with our vision for the City as a worthy cultural and arts destination.

Events are a major attraction for visitors and residents alike, particularly those involving the visual arts, food and wine and music. With a vibrant arts scene, this is something which can be used to the benefit of the islands.



Coastal strategy good news for islands

Backing of Council's comprehensive *Coastal Adaptation Strategy* with \$195,650 in State Government funding is good news for the islands.

Council worked closely with the Local Government Association of Queensland to present our case for the grant from the QCoast2100 Program, which will support the first five phases of Council's strategy to identify and develop management plans for erosion-prone areas.

This strategy will put us on the front foot in tackling coastal erosion and recognises that we face significant issues as a relatively small council with about 220km

of coast to manage, much of on the Southern Moreton Bay Islands.

When finalised, the overall strategy will provide a consistent and transparent approach to managing existing and emerging coastal hazards, as well as informing future planning.

Council is now about to begin community engagement as part of Phase 2, which looks at emerging risks. This will address long-term concerns for areas of our coastline as well as community expectations, allowing us to better plan for the long-term sustainable management of our foreshores.

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