



News from your Local Councillor

Cr Mark Edwards

Dear residents of Redland Bay

Improving community infrastructure while keeping a tight rein on spending was at the heart of Council's Budget for 2016-17.

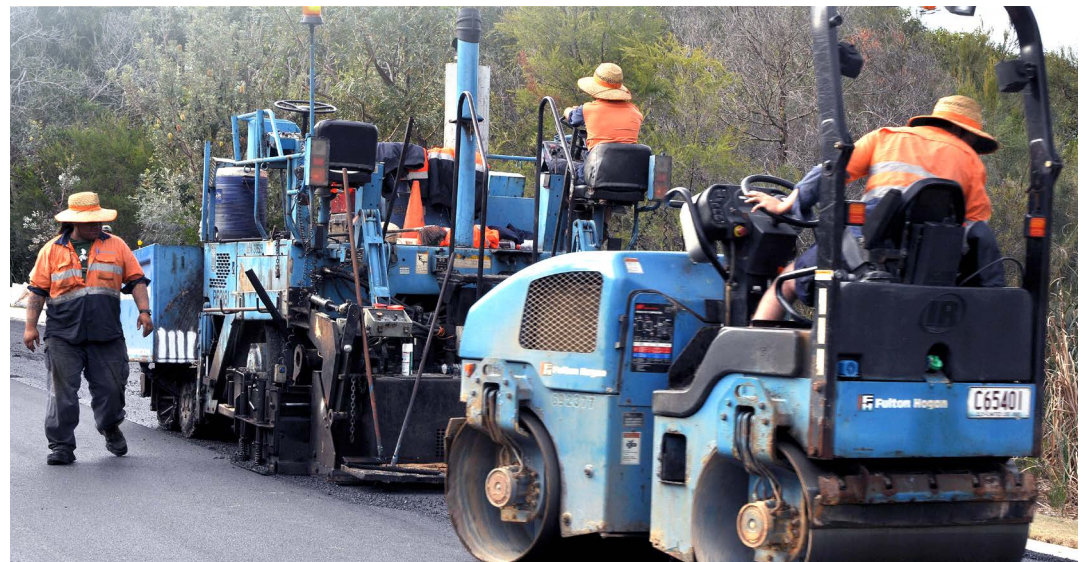
Council managed to keep rate increases to a minimum, while acknowledging that the State Government's recent property revaluations would have a significant impact on some residents.

These valuations are outside of Council's control but we worked to minimise their impact by adjusting rating categories.

As part of ratings reform begun four years ago, owners of property on the islands are now embraced on the same terms as their neighbours on the mainland.

Overall, the average rate rise is about 43 cents a week for a category 1a owner-occupied property with a land value of about \$306,450, the lowest in South-East Queensland.

This increase covers only a small part of the extra



COMMUNITY: Council's \$77 million capital plan commits nearly \$25 million for road, traffic and transport upgrades and initiatives.

impost on Council from rises in water, utilities and other State Government charges - particularly a 9.2 per cent increase in the State Government's bulk water charge. Council has kept its retail water costs at last year's levels to minimise the impact on residents.

The Budget also delivers a predicted fourth successive operating surplus while maintaining low debt.

There also has been an increase in rebates to pensioners by \$5 to \$335 for full pensioners and \$2.50 for part-pensioners.

Council's \$77 million capital plan commits nearly \$25 million in total for road, traffic and transport upgrades and initiatives. The \$20.97 million roads budget includes almost \$1.6 million for upgrading the Collins and School of Arts road junction and

\$300,000 for work at the School of Arts and German Church road junction. Overall, nearly \$5 million will be spent on footpaths, bikeways, carparks, bus stops and shelters.

In total, \$4.58 million has been set aside for open space infrastructure, parks and conservation, including work on Grevillea Street and Point Talburpin parks and Charlie Buckler Sportsfields.

Community work honoured

Four outstanding Redlanders who were recognised with Order of Australia Medals in the Queen's Birthday Honours were recently presented with certificates of appreciation at a Council reception. Pictured with Councillors are: Peter Beauchamp, Ross Bower and Richard Thomason. The fourth, Susan Russell, was travelling and could not be with us on the day.





Council community grants available

Council offers assistance to community groups and individuals to turn great ideas into reality through community grants.

Applications are open now for a wide variety of community-led projects and initiatives.

Every year, Council provides more than \$750,000 in grants and sponsorship to help local organisations, community groups and individuals make a difference in the Redlands through events, projects and initiatives that strengthen the community.

Applications for community grants close on 26 August, while Capital Infrastructure Grants to help build, renovate or refurbish community facilities will close on 2 September (these are offered once a year only). For sponsorship, applications must be in by 16 September.

For eligibility criteria and to learn more about how to apply, visit www.redland.qld.gov.au/Grants or call 3829 8912.

Draft City Plan update

Councillors are deep into an intensive series of workshops with Council officers on the draft City Plan. This has been an informative and engaging process discussing issues raised by the community and stakeholders in more than 6000 properly made submissions received during the draft City Plan consultation period late in 2015.

The draft City Plan is intended to get the balance right - to accommodate projected population growth, offer a greater housing choice, and stimulate local business, jobs and investments while using contemporary data to identify and protect the city's key natural assets. The draft City Plan is a shorter, clearer document

that will be easier to use. The draft City Plan removes duplication of regulation, but does not remove or dilute regulation. For example, by relying on a more performance-based planning approach the draft City Plan will facilitate better design outcomes, by clearly expressing intended outcomes without unnecessarily restricting innovation and diversity in future development. It also brings Council's land-use planning into line with the standard zones, overlays and definitions used throughout the state.

Councillors will be carefully considering options for making changes to the draft City Plan to respond to issues raised in these submissions, while still focussing on achieving this

balance. In making changes to the draft City Plan, it is also important that Council complies with rules set out by the State's statutory guidelines for Making and Amending Local Planning Instruments and Council must also ensure that the planning scheme continues to appropriately integrate the South East Queensland Regional Plan 2009-2031 and the State Planning Policy 2014.

Following this detailed and intensive process, it is expected that the formal report on issues raised and any proposed amendments may be completed later this year. This report will be submitted to the State Government and will also be made available to those who made a submission as well as the general public.

Wildlife volunteers

The Redlands' after-hours wildlife ambulance service, co-ordinated by Council, is always seeking volunteers to rescue and transport sick and injured wildlife. Inductions are held as required, so please contact 3824 8611 or email lisa.bailey@redland.qld.gov.au if you can help or would like more information. Council supplies a fully-equipped vehicle and our volunteers work in teams of three and are rostered on-call



Events in the Redlands

The Kunjiel (Corroboree) on 17 September promises to be a magical experience. One of the most anticipated events of the Quandamooka Festival, it will bring together traditional and contemporary dance, music and arts at Dunwich from 11am-3pm. This year's Kunjiel will be headlined by the awesome Xavier Rudd.

And don't forget Redfest from 2-4 September at Cleveland Showgrounds. Check out the program at www.redfest.com.au.

The Cleveland Caravan, Camping, Boating and 4x4 Expo comes to Cleveland on 23-25 September, offering a great day out for the family. Info: clevelandexpo.com.au



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 - Mainland