



News from your Local Councillor

Cr Lance Hewlett

Dear resident of Division 4

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

We have managed to keep rate increases to a minimum while acknowledging that the State Government's recent property revaluations will impact some residents.

The average rate rise is about 43 cents a week for a category 1a owner-occupied property with a property value of about \$306,450, the lowest in South-East Queensland. This increase covers only a small part of the extra 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 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 \$1.1 million to green seal roads on Coochiemudlo Island, with road and footpath upgrades including Bunker Road, Victoria Point.

Work on bus shelters is earmarked for Cleveland-Redland Bay Road, Colburn Avenue and Benfer Road at Victoria Point.

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 Flinders Beach and Laurie Burns Sportsfield on Coochiemudlo Island, playground renewal at Victoria Point's Basil Avenue Park and Cascade Gardens, and equipment renewal at Wilson Street Foreshore Park.

Signs of the times at Victoria Point

Volunteer Marine Rescue Victoria Point will manage the new changeable regulatory parking signs to be installed in the Victoria Point Jetty carpark (pictured).

The signs have been designed so parking conditions can be easily changed to cater for demand. On Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays only, the signs

applying to the shared car/boat trailer parking area may be "flipped" to allow cars to use all of the area if conditions mean they won't all be needed by boaties.

The signs, in the shared car/trailer parking section of the lower carpark adjacent to the jetty, will help to better manage the parking needs of Coochiemudlo Island visitors, island residents and boaties.





Save the dates

Our annual spring festival **Redfest** is on from Friday 2 September to Sunday 4 September.

I will be MC for the strawberry-eating competition final on the Sunday.

More than 300 performers and artists are booked for this year's big event, which will also include the national Town Crier Championship.

Amid the wonderful entertainment, the Redfest Vocal Contest for residents will celebrate 13 years of showcasing the incredible talent of the Redlands.

Check out redfest.com.au for all the latest details.

The popular **Renaissance Spring Fair** is on 11 September at Renaissance Retirement Living, Bunker Road, Victoria Point.

This has grown into a fun community event which attracts visitors from throughout the region. There will be heaps of activities, entertainment, stalls and delicious food, with parking available at Victoria Point Shopping Centre. Entry is free from 10am-2pm.

The **Caravan, Camping, Boating and 4x4 Expo** comes to Cleveland on 23-25 September, offering a great day out for the family. You will find details at clevelandexpo.com.au

Tackling erosion on Victoria Pt beaches

Council continues to develop a city-wide approach to coastal adaptation issues and treatment options for individual areas of coastal erosion.

An important requirement for major capital works, especially for large projects or those requiring state or federal funding, is the opportunity for community engagement. On 23 July, I arranged for a community information session for the fully planned design of foreshore protection works at Wilson Esplanade, Victoria Point. This work involves either construction of a rock revetment wall, sand nourishment and foreshore access ramp or a more natural treatment which involves using geofabric sand bags and dune restoration. Community comments will be taken on board and the plans progressed for construction in 2017 subject to state permit approvals.

I am also working with officers to progress finalisation of plans for Thompsons Beach, including a similar community information session, so that the agreed plans can be progressed to construction next year or sooner, if funding can be brought forward.

Keep in touch

As part of my commitment to personally communicate and get feedback from local residents, I conduct regular Council information booths at Victoria Point Shopping Centre and Pelican's Nest.

I always post times and dates on my Facebook Page. Just send me a friend request to remain updated on many local issues and events.

I am also more than happy to meet with you in person at your home or in my Council office - all you need do is phone 3829 8603 or 0421 880 371 to organise an appointment.

I look forward to meeting with you while I'm out and about in the community.

Cr Lance Hewlett
Division 4

Connect with me at [lance.hewlett](https://www.facebook.com/lance.hewlett)



Mutiny on Coochie

It was wonderful to be able to attend the Flinders Day celebration on Coochiemudlo Island again this year. The local swashbuckling Coochie pirates have certainly added another layer of excitement for all ages at many Coochie events.

Coochie embraces both its European and Indigenous heritage and I look forward to attending the [cane4country](http://cane4country.com.au) day on September 11,

which is part of the celebration of the Quandamooka Festival. For details of the day's activities, contact Heather Smith on 0433 667 315.

Meanwhile, Coochie Pirates in the Park and Market Day is on Sunday 18 September from 8am. The ferry leaves Victoria Point every 30 minutes.