



News from your Local Councillor

Cr Mark Edwards

ISLANDS
EDITION

Dear residents of the islands

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

This Budget responds to residents' wishes for island roads to be sealed faster and for improved infrastructure, with \$2.47 million committed to the green seal road program.

Important community projects such as the Macleay Island ramp carpark and Macleay Island's Russell Terrace seawall and asbestos capping have been funded to the tune of \$3.26 million and \$1.5 million respectively.

The accelerated green sealing of roads is being noticed by Macleay Island residents at the moment, with two road construction crews joining forces to fast-track road sealing.

The original idea for a separate crew for



COMMUNITY: This financial year's Budget provides for major works on the Southern Moreton Bay Islands, with \$2.47 million to be spent on green sealing roads.

each of Russell and Macleay islands has been changed because greater efficiencies can be achieved with the two crews working together and sharing equipment.

Later this year the crews will transition to Russell Island to seal a similar amount of road.

It is planned to establish a Lamb Island road construction crew during 2017-18 to seal all the eligible roads and complete that island.

The increased activity in road sealing has prompted many island residents to contact me asking for their road to be included in the current sealing program.

The roads to be sealed are determined by the engineers based on a range of criteria.

If your road doesn't get green sealed this year, it will be part of a sealing program over the next few years.

New date for Girt by Sea

The Girt By Sea sculpture competition, originally scheduled as part of this year's Four Islands Festival, has been deferred until March 2017. Due to timing issues to enable broad artist participation, this new date will enable many more sculptures to be showcased. The acquisition funding will be increased to encourage as many island artists to participate.

And don't forget Redfest from September 3-4 at Cleveland Showgrounds. Check out the program at www.redfest.com.au.



Macleay Island foreshore development

The public comment period for the long-awaited development of the Macleay Island foreshore has now closed and submissions are being assessed.

I hope that Council will act quickly to enable work to begin as soon as possible once the assessment approval has been provided.

I am delighted that after seven years of intensive effort, designs, planning and strenuous representations,

this project is at last proceeding to assessment. The plans provide for extended vehicle parking, a new public boat ramp and prescribed tidal works, including entombment of an asbestos site.

There is no doubt that this project will be a major contribution to SMBI infrastructure. More importantly, it will provide urgent relief to what is a totally inadequate and compromised public parking area.



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 their certificates 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 assistance 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.



Councillor grants

Last year, the Councillor Small Grants for Division 5 were exhausted well before the end of the financial year due to the number of applications. That appears to be happening again based on applications received in July alone. To ensure there is grant funding available for the full financial year, greater scrutiny will need to be applied to applications. This is important to ensure funding is available throughout the year for applications which have a clear benefit to the wider community.

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 over 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.

By relying on a more performance-based planning approach the plan will facilitate better design 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.

Following this detailed and intensive process, it is expected that the formal report on issues raised and any proposed amendments may be completed in the fourth quarter 2016. This report will be submitted to the State Government and will also be made available to those that made a submission as well as the general public.

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