



News from your Local Councillor

Cr Peter Mitchell

ISLAND
EDITION

Dear residents of Straddie

Council has worked as a team to deliver a sound, prudent and fair 2016-17 Budget for the city.

This, my first Budget, has been approached with a city-wide focus, while vigourously representing the residents of Division 2. I am pleased to say that while concessions were made, it had unanimous support.

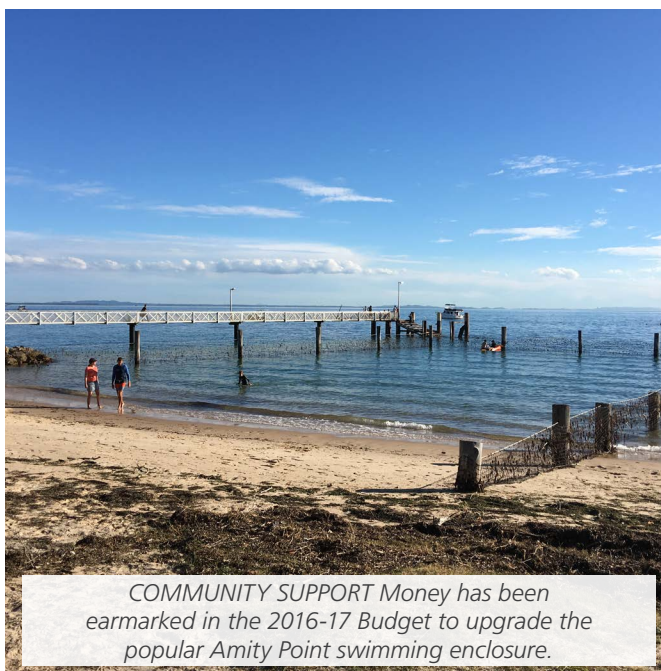
We have managed to keep rate increases to a minimum while acknowledging that the State Government's recent property revaluations will impact some residents.

The average rate rise is about 43 cents a week for a category 1a owner-occupied property with a land 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.

Improving community infrastructure while keeping a tight rein on spending was at the heart of Budget deliberations.

The Budget also delivers a predicted fourth successive operating surplus while maintaining a low level of debt. We need to live within our city's means and I will not support



COMMUNITY SUPPORT Money has been earmarked in the 2016-17 Budget to upgrade the popular Amity Point swimming enclosure.

leaving debt for our children or grandchildren to pay because we cannot be fiscally hygienic.

We have managed to do this while still funding a healthy \$77 million capital works program.

Among the projects earmarked for this financial year are \$268,600 for work at Dunwich's Ron Stark Oval, \$85,000 to upgrade the Amity Point swimming enclosure and \$70,000 for work at Point Lookout's Frenchman's Beach, along with \$600,000 for

the One Mile overflow parking project. Almost \$3.4 million has been allocated to the Point Lookout Wastewater Treatment Plant project.

All up \$20.97 million will be spent on improving roads across the city, with another \$5 million to be spent on footpaths, bikeways, carparks, bus stops and shelters.

This includes \$875,000 for sealing gravel roads on Straddie and the mainland.

Catch up for a chat

September 2: Amity, 9am-10.30am.

September 9: One Mile Jetty, 6.20am-8.20am.

October 7: Point Lookout 9.30am-11.30am.

October 17: One Mile Jetty, 6.20am-8.20am.

November 4: Amity, 9am-10am.

November 28: Dunwich shops, 7am-8.30am.

Call for an appointment or just drop by - look for my ute or pop-up sign. Keep an eye on my Facebook page for updates.

Embracing our tourism opportunities

The Redlands' new tourism sub-committee (pictured) will be keeping pressure on the State Government as it looks for opportunities to boost the island's economy post sand mining. This committee is all about taking control of our own

future in a spirit of collaboration and finding opportunity in the challenges that undoubtedly lay ahead. I encourage all Straddie residents, businesses and intrested groups to get behind the sub-committee, as a win for one is a win for all.





Corroboree sure to be memorable

The Kunjiel (Corroboree) on September 17-18 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 showcase emerging new talent, including young Torres Strait Islander guitar virtuoso Chris Tamwoy, plus local and Quandamooka spoken-word artists and musicians.

It will be headlined by the awesome Xavier Rudd.



For more information, visit www.quandamookafestival.com.au

DRAWCARD: Sand sculptures by island artist Craig Tapp were a feature of the Quandamook Festival's Yural opening ceremony in July, particularly with the youngsters.

City Plan update

Councillors are deep into an intensive series of workshops with Council officers on the draft City Plan.

As a new Councillor this has been an informative and engaging process with the workshops responding to issues tabulated from more than 6000 public submissions received during the draft City Plan public display last year and in response to ongoing planning on key issues, such as employment and economic development, future urban growth areas, land availability, population growth and housing demand.

The document has been dramatically simplified without diluting the strength of local planning provisions.

Out and about

I was honoured to represent Redland City at the Quandamooka Native Title Commemoration and fifth anniversary of the Indigenous Land Use Agreement on 4 July. It was a moving occasion, with the day an important celebration for this city. The successes and spirit of co-operation that we now enjoy holds much promise for the future.



GOOD SPORTS: I was proud to attend the Reef and Beef Triples at Straddie Bowls Club, which has benefitted from Council support.

Get involved

Council will soon be talking with residents about transport strategies for our city. This is particularly timely given the recent angst surrounding timed parking at the Junner Street ferry terminal. I am gathering input from Straddie residents and businesses as we look for practical solutions. Your views will help inform Council's and, more importantly, State Government planning, so please email me with your ideas on how to meet our transport needs. I am committed to finding long-term outcomes for both Junner Street and our wider transport issues.

Peter Mitchell

Cr Peter Mitchell
Division 2 – NSI