



A message from the Mayor

Cr Karen Williams



2015 a year of achievement – and challenge

For Redland City and Council, 2015 has been a year of great achievement – and great challenge.

On the Council front, we have never been in a stronger financial position. Our low debt standing makes us the envy of many other councils, we are on the way to delivering our third-straight surplus after many years of deficits, and we have worked hard to keep rate rises to a minimum – again making us the envy of others. Our rate rises over this term have been kept within the cumulative CPI percentage increase.

Surveys indicate we are continuing to improve as an organisation and are generally meeting the needs of our residents. While this is encouraging, we can – and we will – do better.

Our exciting Toondah Harbour Priority Development Area (PDA) project is moving closer to fruition after being a dream for more than 50 years, and work continues on our second PDA at Weinam Creek.

The Toondah Harbour project will deliver an estimated 1000 new jobs annually during construction. More importantly, it will provide a massive boost to the local economy on a number of fronts. Toondah Harbour – today a dreary transport terminal – will be transformed into a world-class waterfront precinct that will put the Redlands on the map and give us more reason to be proud Redlanders.

The challenges for Council have been to continue to improve our responsiveness to the people we serve, to find further efficiencies to help residents cope with cost-of-living pressures, and to seek to create an environment conducive to economic activity that strengthens our economy and creates local jobs.

And we have to plan sensibly and responsibly for the future, within a sometimes constraining legislative framework imposed on us by the State Government. Growth is inevitable and necessary. Redland

City will continue to grow, albeit at a slower rate than over the past two decades. While councils cannot control growth, we must manage it.

Where planning decisions of the past impact on our City, Council is endeavouring to get the best possible outcomes from the cards we have been dealt. Our responses are not always to the satisfaction of all residents. They notice extra traffic on our roads, they see the need for major road upgrades and they want us to do something about congestion.

Council is working hard on all fronts but we cannot do it alone. We need help from our community, and acceptance by other levels of government of responsibility for their own road assets. We need them to work with us to better manage growth and deliver better outcomes for our community. This Council is working in the best interests of our City and will continue to do so.

Redlanders join community conversation

The transport needs of Redlanders is a priority for Council, and I thank the community for being involved in a transport conversation to help us not just identify our problem areas but to find answers.

The three community forums during November have been part of this conversation, offering residents an opportunity to have their say on the issues of the present as well as to explore ways of meeting those needs now and into the future.

To lead the conversation we assembled a panel of experts who are

leaders in their fields and independent and innovative thinkers.

What has been gleaned from the forums will be invaluable in informing all levels of government of community expectations and what needs to be planned and funded now to

cater for our future needs. The forums were timely as our Draft City Plan 2015 is currently with residents for their input and both the State Government, through its review of the State Infrastructure Plan, and the Federal Government have recently brought the need

for transport infrastructure planning to the fore.

The State has encouraged councils to engage their communities and we have been the first to do so. The feedback will inform a priority infrastructure plan to be developed by Council next year.

Council also is working to address transport connectivity between the Redlands and Brisbane in a project which has major benefits for both cities. Economic growth is another priority for Council. Inadequate infrastructure is a major threat to that priority.



*ENGAGING:
Transport expert
Dr Matt Burke
at our first
community
forum.*

A message from the Mayor

Events putting Redlands on the map

Redland City is fast forging a name as a great place to stage events.

Council has never looked back since creating a specialist community events officer. He has paid his way many times over in the past year by attracting several big-name events to the City.

In recent times we've seen the new Retro Markets held firstly at Wellington Point and more recently Cleveland. Collectively the events have drawn an estimated 25,000 people to the Redlands and resulted in a significant injection into the local economy.

We've had Tough Mudder which attracted 9500 people to Sirromet Winery, our triathlons on the mainland and Straddie, the new Relish Festival that shows great

potential, the Bayside Blues Festival at Capalaba Regional Park, the Cleveland Caravan, Camping, Boating and 4X4 Expo and, of course, the inaugural Quandamooka Festival which also shows great promise for the future.



IN FOCUS: TV outdoors personality Paul Burt was a popular visitor to our caravan and camping expo.

All this before we host the huge Rockabilly Revival next March which is tipped to attract up to 20,000 people. And there's more to come. Council is currently negotiating to bring big new events to our city. Watch this space.

And don't forget White Christmas at RPAC on Saturday, 12 December (matinee and evening sessions) and Council's annual Christmas by

Starlight at Sirromet on Sunday, 20 December. It will be a family night to remember. See you there.

'Thank you' to residents

Redland City Council has accomplished much this year but we could not have achieved at such high levels without the support of our residents.

It is encouraging for me to know that not only the people we serve but those within Council who serve the people believe we are improving as an organisation.

We are committed to continuing Council's journey of self-improvement so we can respond more efficiently and effectively to the people we serve - you, our residents.

It has been an honour to have served you as Mayor and I thank those who have provided positive words of encouragement to keep on working and their thanks for what has been achieved. I also thank those who have offered constructive advice on how we can do better.

Redland City is the best place to live, work, play and to do business and Council is committed to keeping it that way.

Stay in touch through the festive season

I wish all Redlanders a very merry Christmas and a safe and prosperous new year.

I always love to hear your views and ideas for our great City, so please don't hesitate to contact me by emailing mayor@redland.qld.gov.au.

For updates on what's happening in the City you can also connect with me via social media throughout the holiday season.

Cr Karen Williams
Mayor of Redland City

facebook.com/CrKarenWilliams

twitter.com/CrKarenWilliams

Have your say on draft City Plan

As you may be aware, the draft Redland City Plan 2015 is currently with the community for consultation.

This important plan will set the foundations for the future of our City and so Council elected to almost double the consultation period to ensure residents have plenty of time to be informed and have their say.

I have been encouraged to see people discussing the draft plan. While discussing it with your friends and neighbours is great, I encourage everyone to make a formal submission as this is the only way to ensure your feedback will be taken on board in the final plan.

While Council has been holding events across the City and has plenty of information on our website, the opportunity to formally have a say closes on 27 November.

While anything in the draft plan is a proposal only, the only way you can propose a change is through a formal submission to Council.



Sunday 20 December Sirromet Winery, Mt Cotton

Be there from 4pm for free children's activities, plus food, drink and merchandise stalls.

The special children's Christmas show starts at 5.30pm.

Hosted by *The Block's* Shelley Craft, this picnic blanket community event features Darren Percival and Redland's own Mirusia and Alexa Curtis, among many others.

Stay for the fireworks finale at about 8.30pm.

www.redland.qld.gov.au/cbs