



News from your Local Councillor

Cr Alan Beard (Deputy Mayor)

Initiatives make Redlands a greener place

Our environment will get a boost under this year's budget, with more than \$30 million committed to projects and initiatives that will make our City even greener.

Included in this funding is the upgrade of Birkdale Transfer Station, which is a key project for Division 8. This \$1.2 million project, required by the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection, will see the closed landfill capped and covered with grass to improve water and stormwater quality.

These works will also limit greenhouse gas emissions by capturing and using gases to generate electricity. Residents will also find it easier to access the transfer station thanks to the construction of a new gate bypass lane.

The upgrades, which began recently, are expected to take

12-18 months. They are part of a \$20 million investment in water, wastewater and waste upgrades to be completed across the city in 2015-16. These projects are in addition to the \$11.65 million for the day-to-day environmental work Council does. Some of this work can be seen around Division 8, including revegetation and erosion-control projects.

Importantly, this year's budget comes with a modest rates increase of just 0.5 percent on average, including all water and utilities charges. Division 8 residents will also get a reprieve at the tap with Council offsetting the State's 10 percent bulk water price increase by reducing the Council-controlled retail component by 30 percent.

The budget also includes a healthy \$78 million capital works program.

At a glance



A typical Redland household* will see a modest rates increase of just

0.5%

or



about

31 cents

a week including water, rates and utility charges.



Average domestic water user (200kl) costs

down 0.46%

excluding waste water



Predicts a

\$106,000 surplus

continuing Council's strong financial performance over the previous two years, including a surplus in 2013-14 and a predicted surplus in 2014-15

* a category 1A owner occupied property, with a property value of about \$280,000 including all water, rates and utility charges.

More fun for our parks

I have selected two park projects to be completed for Division 8 this year under Redland City Council's Community Infrastructure Fund.

Residents will soon see soccer goals installed at Alexandra Hills' Valentine Road Park to improve the existing kick-around area. Meanwhile, construction of a shelter over outdoor exercise equipment in Bailey Road Park, Birkdale, will enable residents to use this equipment in all weather.

Across the City, more than \$8.5 million will be spent upgrading parks and open spaces this financial year.



APPRECIATED: I was recently honoured to be presented with a certificate of appreciation by Quandamooka elder Aunty Rose Borey, pictured, for supporting and advancing the understanding of Aboriginal culture within Council.

New lights to shine on popular sportsfields

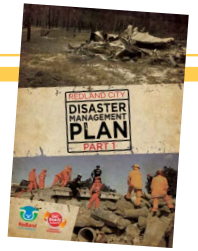
Local sporting teams will benefit from a \$700,000-plus lighting upgrade at Judy Holt Park.

Council is tipping in more than \$600,000 for this project, with the rest coming from a State Government Get Playing grant to the Redlands Rugby Union and Recreation Club.

This project will dramatically improve lighting at this popular sporting precinct, bringing it up to competition standard.

Council's contribution is part of a three-year \$3 million program to upgrade lighting at sporting fields across the City, with Judy Holt Park the first cab off the rank.

Council is currently finalising the successful tenderer, with the lights expected to be ready to be switched on by the end of this year.



READY: I was recently part of a major exercise to hone our disaster preparedness.

Preparing for the unexpected: What you can do to keep your family safe

As Deputy Mayor, I am also Deputy Chair of the Local Disaster Management Group and chair of the Local Disaster Recovery Group. In the absence of the Mayor during the 2013 Stradbroke Island bushfire emergency, I was called upon to take a lead role in the evacuation of Dunwich, during which many families had to move into an emergency shelter.

Although more than 70 percent of the island was burnt out in the days to follow, we were able to contain the fire and, as a

result of the wonderful work of the firefighters and other emergency personnel, no lives were lost and there was no significant loss of property. We were very lucky.

You may not live in a bushfire or flood-prone area but that doesn't mean there is no chance of a disaster which might force you to quickly evacuate your home. In this eventuality, preparation can be spare you and your family a lot of stress. I hope the information below is useful.



Graffiti gone

Help us manage graffiti by notifying Council as quickly as possible. You can download the handy VandalTrak app or visit www.vandaltrak.com.au to report graffiti at the click of a button. You also can call or text Graffiti Stop on 1300 472 334 or email graffiti@redland.qld.gov.au.



Wild encounters

To report sick or injured wildlife, call Redlands 24-hour Wildlife Rescue on 3833 4031.



Inquiries

All general Council inquiries can be made on 3829 8999.

Assembling an evacuation kit

I want you to consider putting together an emergency evacuation kit containing the items that you will need should you be forced to relocate. Here is a list of essential items that you can personalise to suit your own requirements.

Medical: Prescriptions, medicines, Medicare number, contact details of your local doctor, puffers, spare glasses, a clear account of any special medical needs that you may have.

Documents: Passport, driving licence (copy), Medicare card (copy), bank account details, credit card numbers, birth certificate, copy of your will, list of critical telephone numbers.

Insurance: Policy documents including vehicle and or boat policies.

Clothing: Sufficient for five to 10 days (include comfortable shoes). Remember personal items such as a toothbrush, combs and shampoo.

Irreplaceable items: Photographs (scan irreplaceable memories onto a memory stick), jewellery (heirlooms such as grandma's wedding ring).

Things to consider: A few good books, transistor radio and batteries, diaries.

There are other things that you might consider important enough to include in your kit, but the main thing is to be prepared.

We all hope that we will never need to grab the kit and run, but if the day ever does arrive, you will so relieved that you have everything ready to go.

Here's a tip! Keep your kit somewhere accessible but secure - you do not want it falling into the wrong hands.

The disaster management and community safety section on Redland City Council's website contains suburb-specific emergency information and advice for Division 8 residents, so check it out at www.redland.qld.gov.au

Ten things you must include

Your emergency kit should contain:

- a portable radio with spare batteries
 - a torch with spare batteries
 - a first aid kit
 - candles and waterproof matches
 - a waterproof bag for valuables
 - important documents including emergency contact numbers
- If evacuation is likely or required:
- a good supply of any prescribed medications
 - any special requirements for babies, the disabled, infirm or elderly
 - strong shoes and protective clothing
 - food and drinking water



Keep in touch

In closing, may I invite you to keep informed on Division 8 issues by visiting my Facebook page, 'Division Eight news'.

Cr Alan Beard

Deputy Mayor and
Councillor for Division 8