



News from your Local Councillor

Cr Craig Ogilvie

Transport strategy vital to islander lifestyle and economy

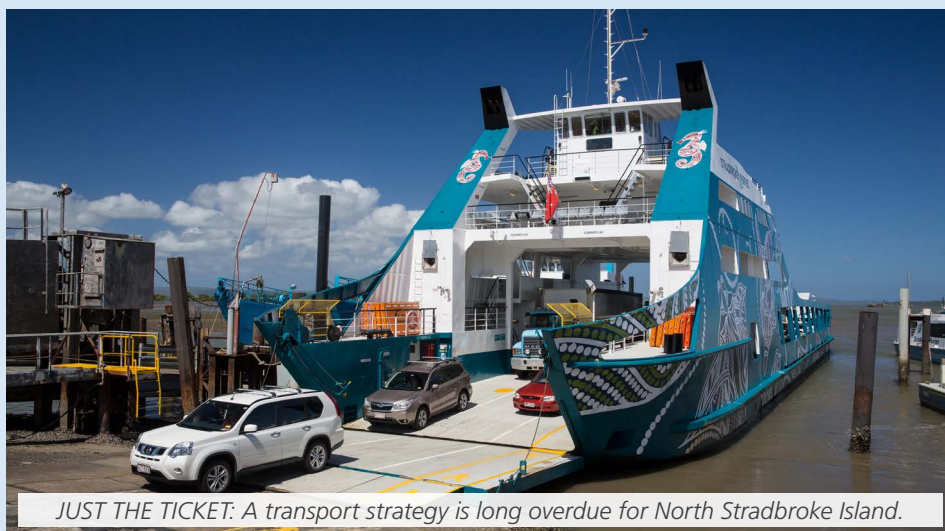
The recent community discussions about changes to vehicle barge ticketing arrangements have once again thrown into sharp focus the dire need for a transport strategy for North Stradbroke Island.

To this end I recently successfully moved a motion in Council to ask the State Government to commence a Southern Moreton Bay Transport Strategy. It is not the first time that Council have asked for a strategy to be done but, hopefully, it will be the last.

Island living is a joy but it comes with the burden of being reliant on water transport, which has its own requirements for land facilities.

The need for a strategy that puts into place a vision and a road map for how we will get there has been urgent for a while now. The land facilities at Toondah Harbour and Dunwich need attention. The situation can't continue for much longer or we will reach breaking point.

The car barge pricing discussion has highlighted how dependent we



JUST THE TICKET: A transport strategy is long overdue for North Stradbroke Island.

are on one operator. This too needs discussion in a strategy.

The car barge operators have argued that their revised ticketing will be good for the island. They say that flexible pricing will make it cheaper for people to come to the island in off-peak times and increase visitation. We can only hope that they are right. Cheaper fares and

good infrastructure could improve islanders' lifestyles and dramatically boost the local economy.

Other opportunities too should be canvassed. The long-discussed Brisbane to Amity route is one such option.

I sincerely hope that this time the State Government will hear Council's call and plan for the future.

Toondah Harbour project progresses

The formal endorsement of plans to revitalise Toondah Harbour takes us to the next step in this \$1.3 billion project - community engagement on the detailed plan and critical environmental impact and development assessments.

This is a massive project. I am keen to see the Walker Group's response to the technical and environmental challenges that a project of this size is likely to meet. It is important to the Redlands that it delivers on its mission to revitalise the local tourism industry by delivering a world-class ferry terminal and amenity improvements for local residents.

The need to fix Toondah's parking issues and terminal is urgent. I

recently met with Deputy Premier Jackie Trad and told her that I was concerned about the possible delays and difficulties inherent in such a large project.

Council will now work with the State Government and the preferred developer to formalise a development agreement and move forward on detailed project plans.

Residents will get a further say on the design when the developer lodges its environmental impact assessment and development application and I urge all interested residents to get involved.

Walker Group will now start preparing its environmental and planning applications.

Treatment plant update

Construction of a new \$11.5 million, state-of-the-art wastewater treatment plant at Point Lookout is on track to start before the end of year with the tendering process now well underway.

The new facility will be built at the site of the existing plant at the end of Tramican Street. Six sewerage pumping stations were recently upgraded in preparation for the project, which will bring environmental and social benefits to the Point Lookout community.

Council is looking to extend the sewerage network to more properties currently using septic systems after the new plant is commissioned next year.



South Gorge

Point Lookout's Gorge Boardwalk has stamped its credentials as one of South-East Queensland's most acclaimed sustainable-tourism attractions with completion of the latest stage.

There is some minor vegetation work to complete but locals and visitors now have a new viewing platform to take in the stunning views.

This latest work makes it even safer and easier to enjoy the 1.2km cliff-top walk. The \$2 million spent in total on the boardwalk ensures it remains an important tourism destination for the Redlands.

Amity update

A project scope has been drafted for the development of a Shoreline Erosion Management Plan for Amity Point, which is expected to be delivered this financial year.

A procurement panel, which will include two members of the reference group, is in the process of being appointed to engage a suitably qualified consultant. The reference group meetings, which I chair, have provided Council with important local knowledge.

Meanwhile, a new \$725,000 swimming enclosure will be constructed at Amity Point this financial year to the south of the existing structure following concern about the safety of swimmers sharing the waters with jet skis.

One Mile

After the community expressed some concerns about the configuration of parking at One Mile, Council officers have taken back the plans and are currently reviewing all options and consulting again with stakeholders. Work in this area is difficult to deliver because of legislative overlays, including environmental issues.

Capitalising on our tourism potential

The Redlands' new tourism strategy sets out how the tourism industry and Council can work together to increase visitation and tourism spending in the City.

The Redland City Tourism Strategy and Action Plan 2015-2020 is particularly important for North Stradbroke Island, with tourism identified in the Redland City Economic Development Framework 2014-2041 as one of our eight key growth sectors.

Under the strategy, Council will be working collaboratively with tourism operators to ensure we offer world-

class tourism experiences, facilities, accommodation, attractions and events.

The strategy highlights key opportunities that tourism operators and Council can focus on to activate and grow the industry in the areas of tourism investment and development, destination marketing and events, as well as supporting infrastructure and coordination.

The most pleasing aspect of this tourism strategy is the "Action Plan" and that it gives our tourism industry a path to be more "hands on" in partnering with Council in the future.



Quandamooka celebrates

The spirit of Quandamooka is on show during the inaugural Quandamooka Festival, a three-month calendar of events and activities celebrating the traditional culture, country and people of the Redlands.

Officially opened at Dunwich on 4 July, with a ceremony that coincided with the fourth anniversary of Native Title determination of Quandamooka, the festival's highlights so far have included a magical ceremony at Point Lookout to welcome the whales.

A jam-packed program of art, culture, conversation, environmental discovery, sport and recreation continues throughout August and September with the Pacific Tides Festival, the 4 Islands Sail & Sculpture Festival and RedFest. The festival's closing ceremony is on 26-27 September and includes a kunjil (corroboree).

Visit www.quandamookafestival.com.au for the full program.

Keep in touch



If you want to follow Island news and my activities, please like the Straddie Futures page.



You can also follow me on Twitter @CouncilCraig.

If you have any further questions about any issues please contact me at any time.

Warm regards

Cr Craig Ogilvie

Division 2 – Island