



News from your Local Councillor

Cr Mark Edwards

Managing our Budget

For many years, the Council has operated on deficits, meaning more money is spent each year than is collected from revenue sources such as the rates you pay.

Running continual large deficits puts pressure on the need to increase borrowings to cover the shortfalls and/or rates must be greatly increased.

The problem is that unless you address the fundamental cause and not spend beyond the income you receive, you will eventually face financial ruin.

I was one of the Councillors who voted in support of the past two Budgets so we can take a stand to break this cycle and start spending within our limits.

Over the past two years we have successfully delivered some of the lowest headline rates increases in Queensland and challenged our staff to find ways to reduce our operational costs and continue to deliver to our community.

It is the hard work and dedication of Council officers that enabled us to deliver two recent quarterly Budget surpluses and we are on track to continue to reduce the deficit we inherited.



Improving our open space

A concern of many Redland Bay residents has been the gradual reduction of access from our foreshores and views from our parks.

Over a number of years, vegetation had been allowed to intrude further into the park space and, as a result, water views have been lost.

Since being elected I have fought for more mowing, removal of invasive plant species and, where possible, to improve water views by trimming branches on trees.

Council staff have done a great job to achieve a balance between retaining vegetation and providing for views.

The solution is to plant appropriate trees that don't break the kerbs, driveways and grow too high that they present a safety issue.



PDA for Weinam Creek... my personal position

The State Government-declared Priority Development Area for Weinam Creek has the potential to transform Redland Bay and to make our foreshore an attractive tourist hub for the region.

The zoning design stage has been completed and the blend of community activity areas, commercial, residential and marine activity throughout this precinct has the potential to make Redland Bay the place to be ... and a focal point for our City.

But the real deal for me starts with the expressions of interest from developers who will bring to the table their visions of what could be delivered.

That is where we will need to make sure that a total parking and ferry terminal solution is included and the

redevelopment of our foreshore adds quality lifestyle access to the waterfront for everyone, including boaties.

That's when it will be embraced by Redland Bay residents.

Should Moores Farm come into play with the development, I see an opportunity to place parklands and gardens in the bulk of this area, separate from the Weinam Creek redevelopment.

The residents of Orchard Beach need to be catered for in this process and their community space improved.

The easy part has been done - now comes the real task of getting a winning outcome for all stakeholders.

That's the challenge before us.



Exciting upgrades near the School of Arts precinct

As you will be aware, there are many changes happening in Redland Bay around the Collins Road and School of Arts Road precinct. This map is indicative of the road and park plans that are expected to unfold over the next few years.

Work is being done in the area behind the corner of Collins and School of Arts roads with a new housing estate under construction. As part of this development, work will also progress on upgrades to the park, including public toilets and an open 'kick-around' area, as well as natural landscaping as part

of the stormwater management infrastructure.

Council is also planning a teenage 'hang-out' area, some BMX bike mounds, bike paths and seating, as well as safer pedestrian access across School of Arts Road between the two parks. This will complete a network of age-appropriate areas for younger children off Denham Blvd, school-age children in Fielding Park (off Habitat Drive) and an area for teens in the park near Donald Road.

Council is working through its 2014/15 Budget allocations and as part of those considerations, Cr Julie

Talty and I are working on ensuring upgrades for the area of School of Arts Road between German Church Road and Kalmia Drive. Roadwork improvements proposed for 2014/15 to School of Arts Road, Redland Bay include the Viola Street intersection, resurfacing sections between German Church Road and Red Edge Shopping Centre and shoulder widening works near German Church Road.

Future road works in the area of Collins Street and School of Arts Road are also planned, but these are sequenced so that they follow the land development in the area.

Dog-off leash area to be extended for small dogs

Last year, a number of local residents met with me and asked that the dog off-leash area on the corner of Talburpin Esplanade and Torquay Road, Redland Bay, be configured to allow a separate small dog-off leash area.

Council officers have now carried out modelling for this and it has resulted in plans for an increased fenced area towards Torquay Road.

The existing dog off-leash area is well used by residents however

I understand that there was considerable community resistance to the facility when it was first constructed.

Before I lobby for funding in this year's coming Budget to extend this facility, I seek feedback from the local residents who live near this site on whether they do or do not support an extension for small dogs.

Please email me or send a letter. I will act according to the will of the majority of the local community.

Why not join the hundreds of residents who have already contacted me for help with an issue? Just email me at mark.edwards@redland.qld.gov.au or telephone 0407 695 667.

Warm regards,



Cr Mark Edwards
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