



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.



The wait is over... the Skate Park and park upgrade has started on Macleay Island!

Good news for Macleay Island residents as the Skate Park and park upgrades are being rolled out to be completed before June this year.

It has been a long wait. However, considering that this commitment from the previous Council came with no funding and no plans, it has been a huge challenge for myself.

Indeed, it has taken a great deal of work to have the funding approved by

Council and designs completed but now I hope the skate park delivers a great benefit for the youth of Macleay Island.

We now look towards some major financial commitments on Macleay Island to expand the ferry terminal parking and to build a new boat ramp.

Rest assured, I will keep lobbying for as much funding for the Southern Moreton Bay Islands as I can secure.



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 make the 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 front door to our islands - the place to be and a key focal point of 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 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

It is clear this project has the potential to be huge, offering tremendous economic and lifestyle benefits for residents of both the islands and the mainland.



Russell Island

There is a saying on Russell Island that the money stays north of Minjerriba Road. Well that is now in the past.

Although the amount of funding available is limited, I am committed to improving infrastructure right throughout the island.

I started this with the walking trail being opened off Centre Road at Turtle Swamp and now signage is being prepared for installation.

This trail is being well used, which justifies the installation.

I have also opened up a camping area at Sandy Beach for kayakers, boaties and others.

The next step is the soon-to-be-built park on the corner of Ranora Avenue and Palm Beach Road.

This small park has water views and will have play equipment installed specifically for younger children to use.

It will be built this year and will offer a great number of residents a park facility close by.



Due recognition

Congratulations to all our Australia Day Award nominees for your wonderful community spirit.

Our Citizen of the Year Meg O'Driscoll deserves special praise for her leadership skills and selfless contribution to the development and delivery of community nursing.

She has dedicated many years to caring for the sick and elderly and establishing a close relationship with the Redlands Hospital, particularly in support of cancer patients.

Meg also has dedicated many years of voluntary leadership at the historic Ormiston House, helping to modernise one of Redlands best tourist attractions.

As president of the Redlands' University of the Third Age (U3A), Senior Citizen of the Year Julie Porteous exemplifies what seniors in the Redlands can do to keep

their minds and bodies active during retirement.

A special mention goes to Young Citizen of the Year Laura Arnold, who already has dedicated much of her life to working with young disabled people in the City.

Other awards went to: Bob Corbett (Sports); Bert Maynard (Local Hero), with a special commendation to Bob Possingham; Calisto Park Equestrian Centre (Community Organisation), Twilight Makers Market, Deanne Caruso (Cultural Award), with a special commendation to Salt Water Murriss - Quandamooka (Steve Johnson); and Narelle Renn (Environment).

The dedication of all award winners, special commendation recipients and nominees typifies the community spirit for which the Redlands is renowned.

Well done and thank you to all.

Lamb and Karragarra islands

I am inviting Lamb Island residents to email me with their thoughts on establishing a beachfront camping ground on Lamb Island, just north of the sports field.

This existing parkland has most of the facilities required for camping but will need a significant financial commitment for showers and other amenities.

This may be an ideal site for school environmental camps, with access to the waterfront, sports field and also the hall and club, which could provide catering.

There would be obvious economic benefits and also an educational focus on Lamb Island. If you are a Lamb Island resident, please email me with your thoughts.

Karragarra - the little jewel of our islands group - has a great beach and most of the infrastructure in roads and parks to which we all aspire. I will continue to work closely with "Karra" residents to ensure island standards are maintained and improved.

Deaf subsidy

Redlanders with hearing difficulties can get access to specialised smoke alarms under a state-funded scheme.

Launched by Deaf Services Queensland and funded by the Department of Community Safety, the Smoke Alarm Subsidy Scheme provides approved deaf or hard-of-hearing applicants with a specialised smoke alarm at a reduced price.

Applicants must have a pensioner concession card to be eligible.

For more details, go to www.deafservicesqld.org.au/sass

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

Warm regards,

Cr Mark Edwards
Division 5 - Island