

NEWS from your • Local Councillor

Redland Shire Council

June 2007



Councillor Murray Elliott
Representing Division 7
Alexandra Hills

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Dear Resident

Hello and a big welcome to new residents of Alexandra Hills South. I hope you find my regular newsletters of interest.

Residents Survey

My recent survey had an excellent response and I would like to thank residents who took the time to send comments back. I will be writing to those residents who sent their names and addresses to seek clarification on some issues.

Water

The ramifications of the State Government's proposed takeover of Council's water infrastructure will filter through Council operations from this coming budget. It is too early to say what the final outcome will be on Council's financial position as the State is yet to finalise compensation for the assets. However, it is safe to say that there will be a significant impact on council operations. Council's choice will be to either increase rates to cover the short fall or reduce services across the board depending on the level of restitution given by the State for our assets. All water and wastewater assets are currently being revalued to make sure we can use the most up to date compensation figure in our discussions with the State..

Water Prosecution

A Redland resident was fined \$7,000 in the Cleveland Magistrate Court recently for tampering with a residential water meter and taking water through unapproved metered works. Council estimated that he took approximately 1,000,000 litres of water between 4 June 2006 and 25 November 2006. This is the first prosecution of this type for Redland Shire Council. At a time when our region is facing the worst drought on record we have to be vigilant with any water offences. Council is currently investigating a number of other offences with water meter tampering and we will prosecute if we find sufficient evidence. I encourage residents to look out for any suspicious activities and report them to Redland Water & Waste on 1300 362 036.

Clothing Charity Bins

As we enter the winter season, I would remind residents that bins are located in Windermere Road opposite the high school main entrance for your convenience. Your unwanted items will go a long way in supporting our community, particularly at this time of year.





News from your Local Councillor

Climate Change

In the near future it is highly likely that we will be living in a carbon constrained economy with carbon trading a part of our everyday lives. This shift in economic winds will mean that it will become more lucrative for people to trade carbon offsets. With this in mind, Council will investigate opportunities in our Shire to obtain carbon credits through the planting of trees. Potentially, such a scheme could be a win for the environment, a financial win for Council and a win for rural property owners who would be paid for the use of their land.

RDCOTA

Council has agreed to lease a parcel of land at 57 Wynyard Street, Cleveland to the Redland District Committee on the Ageing. This will co-locate the building near the Donald Simpson Centre and Killara Place Respite Centre and this area should become a hub for activities relating to our ageing population. RDCOTA was formed in 1971 and undertakes a range of activities relating to seniors in the Redlands Community.

Community Garden - Keith Surridge Park Windemere Road

The garden has been a great success but needs more members to "dig in" – literally! If you are interested in permaculture, and having your own patch, give Lyn Quirk a call on 3286 7166. Lyn would love to hear from you.

Council's Action Request System

Residents approach me from time to time requesting minor maintenance works to be done which includes trees, potholes and the like. I thought it maybe a good time to explain the best ways to advise Council about attending to these matters. For those who have an email access rsc@redland.qld.gov.au is the address or you can contact me at murraye@redland.qld.gov.au, phone 3829 8999 or mail to PO Box 21 Cleveland QLD 4163. Most action requests are commenced within a few days depending on the urgency of the matter. Issues like broken glass in sand areas are addressed immediately. I strongly advise when making contact that you ask for an Action Request Number, so if your item has not been fixed in a reasonable amount of time, staff or myself can track the action undertaken easily.

Speeding in Streets

I would remind residents that sole responsibility of enforcing laws with respect to speeding on all roads rests with the Queensland Police. Only continued phoning and writing to the police on 3433 3333 will provide the resources we need "on the ground". There is simply no other way to achieve this police presence. Residents also have a responsibility to their own neighbourhoods in monitoring their own speeds when driving and encouraging others to do so as well. It all helps in having a safer road environment.

Meet Your Local Councillor

I conduct my "Meet Your Local Councillor" stand at the Alexandra Hills Shopping Centre every second Saturday between 9am and 12noon. This has met with great enthusiasm and I look forward to meeting you, so drop in and say hello.

Finally, I would like to thank the residents of Division 7 for their continued support. By working together we will ensure that our families will continue to enjoy the lifestyle we value so much. If I can be of assistance with any matter please call me on the numbers listed.



Murray Elliott
Councillor for Division 7
Redland Shire Council