



News from your Local Councillor

Cr Mark Edwards

A safer City

Residents of Redland Bay now have their own tailor-made emergency management plans.

With community consultation now finalised, our special emergency guide is now available free online as an interactive website as well as at Council Customer Service Centres and libraries.

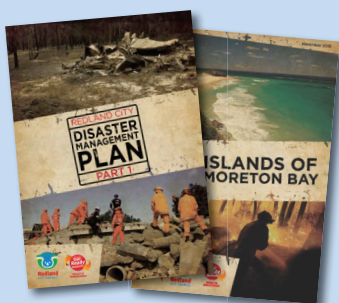
It offers detailed hazard assessments, safety information and potentially life-saving tips.

These Australian-first plans recognise that the Redlands is a "community of communities", each with specific needs in an emergency situation, whether it's a severe weather event, fire or an oil spill.

They explain in detail what residents need to know to ensure the safety of themselves, family and neighbours - from the potential risks in their areas to evacuation routes, assembly areas and up-to-date contact numbers for getting information and help.

For more information, check Council's website at www.redland.qld.gov.au.

The latest plans cover the mainland suburbs and hinterland.



The financial road ahead

In developing our annual budget, we always need to keep in mind the services and infrastructure our community expects against the ability for this to be funded through revenue streams such as rates.

Unfortunately the cost of doing business each year increases and this places greater pressure on rates.

This financial year, we will need to allow approximately \$51 million for depreciation just to ensure we can replace and renew the existing infrastructure we have and every new road, pump station, building or other facility increases the annual depreciation required each year.

Fortunately, through a strong financial management process, we as a Council have been able to deliver for the community, restrict our borrowings and have strong cash reserves.

However Redlands is an unusual Council when compared with many others throughout Australia.

On the week of the 15th June, I had the honour of representing our Council at the

National Assembly of Local Government in Canberra.

The key issue facing Councils throughout Australia is their financial viability - 30 percent of all councils nationwide have been assessed as "financially unsustainable" and that number is growing.

Councils cannot continue to operate with cost shifting from other levels of government and have the ratepayer covering the cost of the necessary infrastructure expected.

The future financial sustainability of local government rests on the ability to source funding other than rates.

The Australian Local Government Association's website says "that future federal-state and local financial relationship arrangements must ensure long-term sustainable distribution of taxation revenues between the levels of government that are commensurate with the roles and responsibilities of each level of government in our modern Federation".

If this is achieved, all levels of government would have greater certainty in planning the future.



*MEETING EXPECTATION:
Redland City Council
has been able to deliver
essential infrastructure for
the community despite
budget pressures.*



Pet chipping

Council offers a mobile microchipping service for pets. Officers will visit pet owners at home and for \$25 people can pay on the spot via EFTPOS. For more information, call Council's Animal Shelter on 3829 8663.



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.



New footpaths in Redland Bay

Council's footpath priority program aims to extend the footpath network in our City.

New footpaths listed for construction include the section between Hamilton and Pitt streets (180m), School of Arts Road from Fielding Street to Collins Street (210m) and the missing link on Stradbroke Street (200m). Further footpaths will be identified for construction in the future.



Your say on your City

Up-to-date information about the Redlands' future needs is now being collected through Council-commissioned studies which will inform the new City Plan.

These studies will be available on our website and Council has developed a feedback tool so residents can read and comment on the information as it becomes publicly available.

This is very important as City Plan will define the future of land use in the Redlands until 2041.

Once the draft planning scheme is available, Council must undertake a statutory consultation period of at least 30 business days.

During statutory consultation, community forums, stakeholder briefings and surveys are planned across the City, as well as opportunities to comment online, to make sure everyone has the opportunity to offer their views or make detailed submissions.

Council will consider comments made during the consultation process and make necessary changes before it goes back to the State Government for further review. It will then be presented to Council for adoption.

When it comes on line, the new scheme will be fully electronic, making it easier for people to find the information that is relevant to them. The intention is to simplify the plan into plain and clearly understood language to make it easier to use.

There will not be much change in existing suburbs. Most development will take place in the emerging greenfield areas, together with infill development such as reconfiguration of blocks, dual occupancy and low-rise townhouses, to take advantage of existing services and infrastructure.

You will find more detail at www.redland.qld.gov.au/cityplan.

Wheelie good fun

I was chuffed that the wheelie bin I decorated for this year's Koala Fun Run politicians' race was named "Best Bin in Show".

For the race at Sharks Victoria Point, the bins were pushed by volunteers and I have to thank Selina Sutton for racing my bin. Also, thanks to Mayor Karen Williams and Member for Capalaba Steve Davies, pictured with me, for their support of what was a great event.



Keep in touch

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
Division 5 - Mainland