



# News from your Local Councillor

## Cr Julie Talty

### Bushfire risk means we must be prepared

Dear Resident,

As you can see from this map - the latest forecasting by the Public Safety Business Agency, prepared in conjunction with Council and the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service - Mt Cotton, Sheldon and parts of Redland Bay face a very serious bushfire threat this summer.

While I sincerely hope that it will never eventuate, a major fire would have a huge impact on this division as the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service has defined West Mt Cotton and parts of Sheldon and Redland Bay as "undefendable".

While all agencies will provide a highly professional response to fires in the areas, they may not be able to control them in all circumstances.

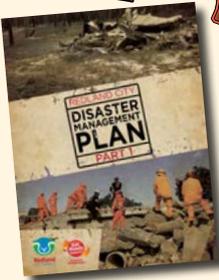
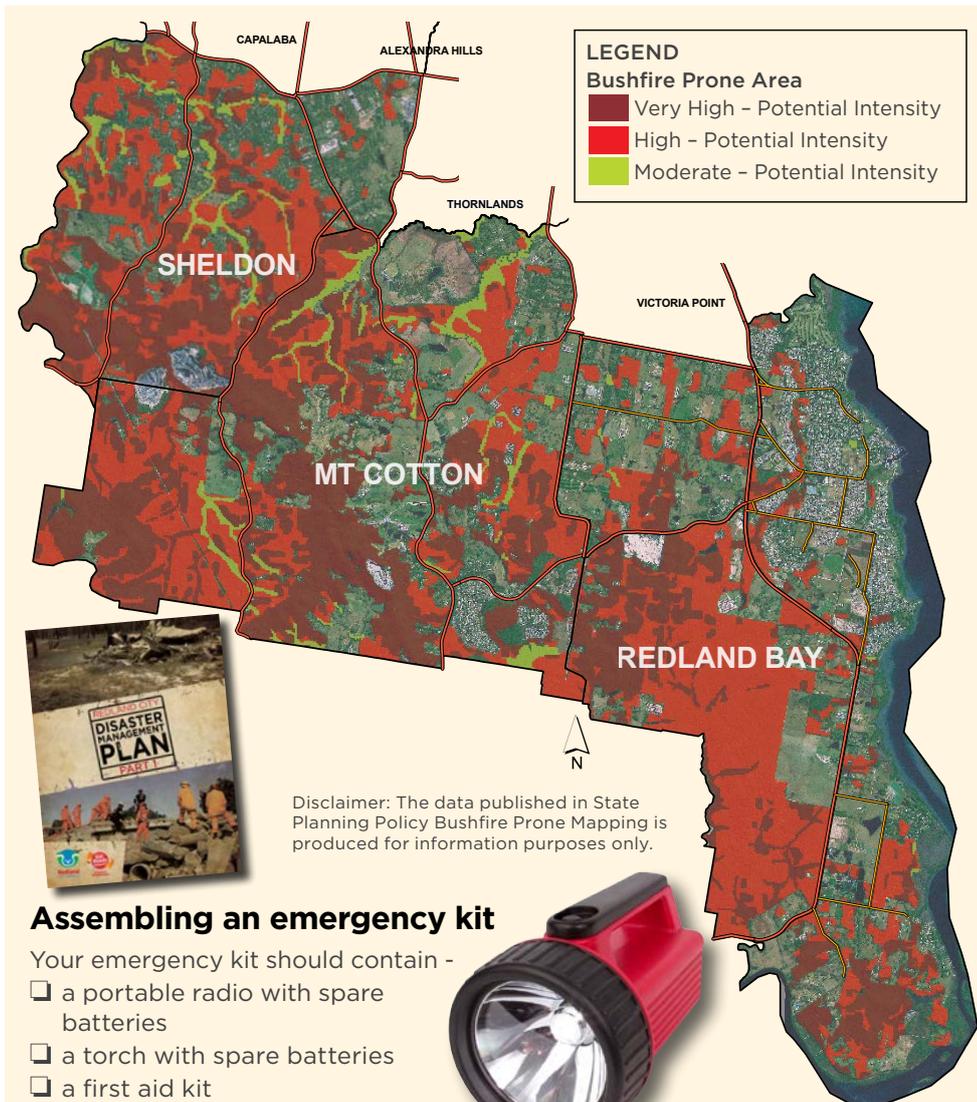
This makes it extremely important for people to have a plan and to educate their children on what to do and when to evacuate.

I stress that while Council is working to reduce fuel loads on publicly managed land and maintaining fire breaks, especially around highly populated communities, this needs a "whole of community" response. A lightning strike can cause a potentially life-threatening fire, so wherever you live the need for preparation cannot be overstated.

Residents now have their own tailor-made emergency plans to help them plan for such an eventuality.

It is available free online as an interactive website. I urge all residents to access it. It explains in detail what residents need to know to ensure the safety of themselves, their family and neighbours.

You'll find it at [www.redlanddisasterplan.com.au](http://www.redlanddisasterplan.com.au).



Disclaimer: The data published in State Planning Policy Bushfire Prone Mapping is produced for information purposes only.

#### Assembling an emergency kit

Your emergency kit should contain -

- a portable radio with spare batteries
- a torch with spare batteries
- a first aid kit
- candles and waterproof matches
- a waterproof bag for valuables
- important documents including emergency contact numbers

If evacuation is likely or required -

- a good supply of any prescribed medications
- any special requirements for babies, the disabled, infirm or elderly
- strong shoes and protective clothing
- food and drinking water



#### Stay connected

Make sure you are connected to Redland City Council's social media network to ensure you get the latest warnings and information during bushfire season.

You can follow us on Facebook and Twitter for 24/7 updates and advisories.





### Be fire ant aware

Sheldon has now been added to Mt Cotton and Redland Bay as high risk fire ant areas, so I urge all Division 6 residents to be on the lookout for these pests. Besides giving a nasty bite, these imported South American ants also present a serious social, economic and environmental threat.

While the State Government is responsible for the program to halt the spread of fire ants, the vigilance of all residents and businesses is essential if we are to make inroads.

Report any suspected fire ant infestations directly to Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23. You can familiarise yourself with this serious pest and the control measures in place at [www.daff.qld.gov.au](http://www.daff.qld.gov.au).



### Let's celebrate

Don't forget to come to the Mt Cotton Community Christmas Party on Sunday, 30 November. Bring your picnic blanket or chairs and settle in for a great afternoon of Christmas spirit, community fun and local entertainment. There will be food, produce and gift ideas. This free event at Mt Cotton Community Park is organised by Mt Cotton Community Fellowship and sponsored by Council, Silkwood Estates and Villaworld.

## Local teachers inspire new app for kids

Some of our amazing teaching professionals had an opportunity to shine recently when the SPEAK app for children 3.5 years plus was launched at Cleveland Library.



The free app has been developed by the Department of Education as a joint initiative with Queensland Health and Council. It was born out of the passion of dedicated Cleveland State School teachers who recognised the need for better speech pathology to prepare

children in the early years for school.

In this digital age, with screen time growing for young children, it has been recognised that speech development is one of the skills that can suffer.

As a consequence, it can have lasting effects on a student's ability to learn to read and develop.

This app has been developed by education and speech experts to support children's speech development in the early years and is fun to use.



SUPPORT: Minister John-Paul Langbroek, Mayor Karen Williams and myself at the launch of the SPEAK app.

Remember, its free and further support is available through our local libraries.

## Grant helps youth group help others

Mt Cotton Fellowship's C4 Youth Group has received a Councillor Small Grant to buy a projector to show movies and display lyrics and other information during their activities.

The group, which meets twice a month, is involved in supporting the Livewires Kids Club as well as a host of other local community initiatives.



GREAT FUN: I was fortunate to be invited to visit during a recent C4 Youth Group get-together.

## Well done to our quiet achievers

Laurie and Genny McKenzie would have to be two of our community's quietest achievers.

I was privileged to recently present them with an Inspiring Seniors award for 2014 for their work with the Mt Cotton Hall.

The hall is the only one still run by the community in our City, and remains a valued community focal point. The regular dances are an institution.

Over the years, Laurie has helped organise the restumping and other



INSPIRING: Laurie and Genny McKenzie.

improvements at the hall, as well as running the dances and serving on the management committee.

It is quite a family affair, with their children involved as well as Laurie's mum Denise, who at 91 still helps with the suppers.



## Keep in touch

Please continue to stay in touch. Email me at [julie.talty@redland.qld.gov.au](mailto:julie.talty@redland.qld.gov.au) or call 0418 218 847 if I can be of assistance.



With Christmas fast approaching, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a happy and safe holiday season.

*Julie Talty*

**Cr Julie Talty**  
Division 6