



News from your Local Councillor

Division 7

Alexandra Hills South/
Capalaba

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Dear residents of Division 7,

Water pricing – the facts

Recent articles in the media have created confusion about the cost of water in south-east Queensland and how water revenue is spent by Councils.

In the past:

- From the 1990s, councils were required by the state government to set water prices based on full cost recovery.
- As for any investor, this included a financial return on its investment.
- The community paid for water and the funds raised were used for the community, to provide facilities and services, and to reduce the reliance on general rates.
- This has always raised funds; in the past year, it raised more than \$29m for the benefit of the community.
- Pricing was always in accordance with state government legislation and overseen by the stage government-appointed 'watchdog', the Queensland Competition Authority (QCA).

Now:

- The state government imposed the water reform, against councils' wishes.
- As a result, Council is now just a shareholder of Allconnex (along with Logan and Gold Coast City Councils).
- The state government acquired the bulk water assets (dams, bores, reserves) from Council as part of this reform for \$82,322,765.
- Allconnex Water now buys water in 'bulk' from the state government and sets prices in accordance with state government legislation (monitored by the state government 'watchdog'.)
- The state government sets the prices for bulk water, which will increase significantly in the future. In 2007-08, bulk water cost \$620 per megalitre. In 2017-18, it will cost \$2,755 per megalitre. Bulk water is 46 per cent of the cost charged to consumers for water.

How it works in the Redlands

- Allconnex Water imposed a low water price increase on the Redlands (2.95 per cent).
- The increase was 20 per cent in the Gold Coast and Logan, and up to 66 per cent in parts of Moreton Bay Regional Council.

How this revenue is spent by Council

Council is developing a policy to clearly confirm:

- it expects to be no worse off in the long term financially following water reform
- it will only use returns from Allconnex Water to provide community facilities and services and to reduce the reliance on general rates.

You should note though that any reduction in returns could mean reduced services or increased rates which could disadvantage the Redlands community.

Council is fighting hard to make sure this does not happen and that the Redlands gets a fair go!!

Cleveland Centre Master Plan

The master plan was recently adopted by Council and it is intended to guide the revitalisation of the CBD to 2031 and beyond as an attractive, liveable and sustainable centre that supports the needs of our growing community. This plan supports the state government's vision for the Cleveland area to become a principal regional activity centre and transit oriented development under the South East Queensland (SEQ) Regional Plan. Council will be continuing to work with all stakeholders in the CBD to begin the implementation of the master plan over short, medium and long term timeframes in partnership with the state government and private sector.



Capalaba CBD Master Plan

The master plan, which followed a similar process to that for Cleveland, has recently been workshopped with Councillors and is likely to be adopted by the end of this calendar year. This will be another important milestone in planning our city's development and growth over the next 20 years and beyond.



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

Redlands arts development

I recently attended the Aveo Art Show and Redlands Antique Fayre at Cleveland. Based on the success of previous years many were anticipating, and by this stage no doubt have experienced, yet another pleasing event. If you missed it in the past make sure you get along next time!

In October, the Old Schoolhouse Gallery, now situated on Shore Street East, Cleveland, celebrated 20 years of supporting emerging and established artists and promoting art in the Redlands.

The Redland City Council and Yulara Art Society will once again present the Redlands Art Awards, which attracts entries from artists across Australia. The Exhibition will be held from 5 November to 7 December at the Redland Art Gallery.

Merry Christmas and a safe and happy new year to all.

Kind regards,

M. Elliott

Murray Elliott

**Deputy Mayor and
Councillor for Division 7**
Redland City Council

