



News from your Local Councillor

Division 9
Capalaba

Cr Karen Williams

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Dear residents of Division 9,

November 2010

As this is my final newsletter for 2010, let me take this opportunity to wish you all a safe and happy festive season. Thank you for those who have contacted me with their concerns and ideas over the last 12 months. In this edition, I would like to encourage you to continue to assist me to improve the area in which we live.

Reporting issues/gathering statistics

Vandalism

Recently there has been a spate of vandalism occurring in a number of our local parks. The cost to ratepayers of repairing such damage is extensive. I can report that it cost \$16,000 to repair the Capalaba Youth Plaza Skate Bowl after wheelie bins were thrown in and burnt, thereby damaging the surface. Not long after, there was an attempt to burn a shade shelter in Wentworth Park.

Please report intentional damage to police immediately. Following that please advise Council to ensure interim safety and repair. The police now have a dedicated hotline to report damage to property, some break and enter offences and other crime that does not involve personal injury.

POLICE HOTLINE: 131444
COUNCIL: 3829 8620

Illegal dumping

You can contact me directly to report any incidents of illegal dumping that you may witness or detect. Tel: 3829 8620 or email: karen.williams@redland.qld.gov.au

It is important we take the time to report these offences as it influences decision-making and resourcing in the longer term; e.g. more reporting of criminal activity may influence the number of police allocated to your area.

Reporting pot holes and road failures

After the recent rain, there have been a number of failures in the surface of local roads. Here is a picture of a suburban street I noticed in my travels.

If you notice similar streets in disrepair could you please advise me so that I can ensure they are addressed.



Vandalism at Wentworth Park



Illegal dumping at John Fredericks Park, Capalaba



Road surface failure after recent rain

Information for pensioners - rate concessions

It is important to understand the various types and the associated definition of rate rebates available to pensioners in Redland City. If you are uncertain please call for clarification and to ensure you are registered and receiving your entitlements.

Council pensioner rate rebate – full rate

State government subsidy (100% entitlement)

2009/2010 Pensioner Concessions On Rates	Part Pension Rebate (Quarterly)	Full Pension Rebate (Quarterly)
Council	\$40.50	\$81.00
State government *	\$45.00	\$45.00
State govt water rebate	\$25.00	\$25.00
State govt fire levy rebate	\$7.78	\$7.78
Total	\$118.28	\$158.78

* 20% of rates and charges up to a maximum of \$180 or \$45 a quarter.

Council's rate rebate applies as follows:

- For new 'first time' applicants the rebate to commence from the latter of either the date of application or the date of purchase of a property.
- For new 'first time' applicants where the property on which they are seeking the Council pensioner rebate was bequeathed to them under the terms of a will and was their principle place of residence prior to the death of the previous owner, or where the previous owner had an existing entitlement to the Council pensioner rebate, entitlement will continue uninterrupted if application is received prior to or within 90 days of the death of the previous owner.
- For existing applicants who acquire a replacement property within the city's boundaries, the entitlement to the rebate will continue uninterrupted if application is received prior to or within 90 days of the property settlement.
- For existing applicant's amendments from maximum rate to part rate, or from eligible to ineligible, will commence in the following quarter.

The state government subsidies will apply from the first day of the following rating quarter, being October 2010.

Christmas *By Starlight*

Christmas by Starlight is a community event Redland City Council hosts and it's a **free** family event, so come along and join in the fun, music and the festive season spirit. This year's 2010 Christmas by Starlight event will be held on 11 December, from 3pm to 8pm, at Norm Price Park - Redland Showgrounds in Cleveland.

Implications of Pensions received from Overseas:

The Social Security agreements Australia has established with many overseas countries has at its heart that Australia will not support overseas migrants who are entitled to benefits from their own country. Therefore, before they can apply for an Australian pension they must first access any benefits they are entitled to from their own country. In some instances, the person is still eligible for a part Australian pension. Under Council's pensioner rebate, eligibility is determined by whether the person receives an Australian pension; the amount is determined by whether they are in receipt of a maximum rate or part rate of Australian pension and the percentage of ownership of the principal place of residence.

You should advise Council ASAP if your circumstances change, as any potential rebate you may be entitled to cannot be claimed retrospectively.

As always, please contact me if I can be of assistance on any matter. I wish you and your families a merry Christmas, and a safe and happy new year.

Kind regards,

Karen Williams

Councillor for Division 9
Redland City Council

