



# News from your local councillor Cr Lance Hewlett

Division 4: Coochiemudlo Island edition



Christmas 2024



## Dear Coochiemudlo Residents,

It's hard to believe that another year is drawing to a close. I would like to take this opportunity to wish all island residents a very joyous, blessed Christmas season and a safe and prosperous New Year.

It is the time of year we reconnect to enjoy time with family and friends and to take a well-earned break from our very busy lifestyles.

As always, it has been a privilege to be involved with many of our local community groups throughout 2024, and I would like to personally thank them all for their invaluable contribution to our great city.

At this time of year, I especially enjoy attending the many school graduations and award ceremonies at our wonderful local schools and wish those students transitioning to further studies, jobs and careers, the very best as they embrace an exciting new chapter in their lives.

As members of RedVic Lions, Sheena and I will again be on roster, enjoying wrapping presents at Victoria Point Shopping Centre at various times throughout December. A gold coin donation for this service is appreciated and always goes to a very worthy cause.

Your support is greatly appreciated.

**Cr Lance Hewlett**  
– Division 4

Please connect with me on Facebook to stay posted on all local issues.

@lance.hewlett

## Council offers new ways to access capital works information

The way residents access information about Redland City Council's capital works program has been transformed for the 2024–2025 financial year, with a new-look guide and interactive map now available online.

Council is committed to enhancing the city's infrastructure, best practice asset management and sustainable growth, investing annually in a broad range of projects as part of the annual capital works program.

Council reports on the program as part of every annual budget, and this year is providing additional information about the program with a detailed supporting guide and an online map of proposed city projects.

The new resources provide residents with information about where and how Council plans to invest in community facilities such

as roads, streetscapes, parks and public spaces across the city.

Residents can download the guide from Council's website or consult the online map to read about the projects being designed or delivered in their suburb this financial year.

The program guide lists each project by asset category, provides a brief project description, and states whether the capital investment is for the project's planning, design or construction stage, with the online map presenting information spatially.

The filter function on the map allows users to search for projects according to their category, pinpoint funded projects in their local area, or browse more information about project staging.

To download the program guide or use the online map, visit [redland.qld.gov.au/CapitalWorks](http://redland.qld.gov.au/CapitalWorks)

## Get ready for storm season

Division 4 residents are reminded to prepare for this year's summer storm season.

To keep your property and yourself safe, it is important to ensure your home is best prepared to handle an extreme weather event.

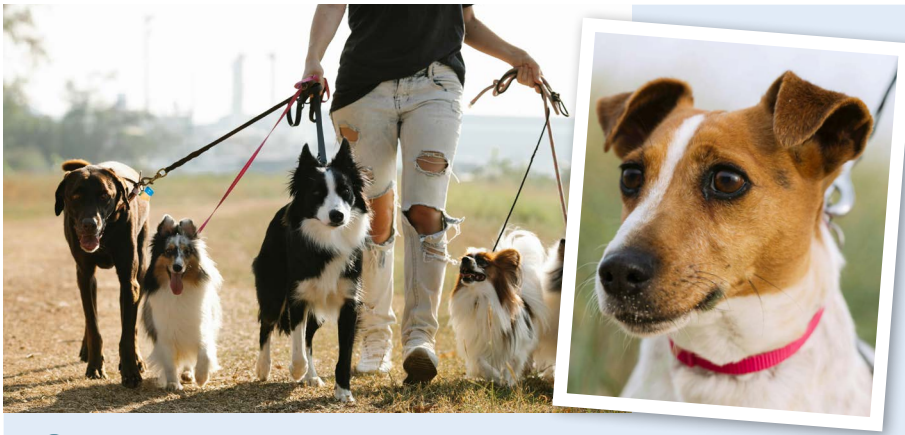
Some of the steps you can take to secure your property include clearing downpipes and gutters, and trimming overhanging branches, trees and shrubs.

Items around the yard that could become projectiles under high-wind conditions should be secured or stored safely. Also, have a think about how to secure caravans, boats and trailers.

You can subscribe to Council's free emergency notification messaging service, Redlands Coast Alerts, via the Redlands Coast Disaster Dashboard at [disaster.redland.qld.gov.au](http://disaster.redland.qld.gov.au)

During a disaster, the dashboard is continually updated with vital information on road closures, emergency contacts, Energex power outages, active evacuation centres and weather warnings.





## Keeping koalas safe from dogs

Council is reminding dog owners what actions to take if your dog attacks a koala.

If your dog has attacked or tried to physically play with a koala, even if you think it has gotten away unharmed, please call the Redlands 24hr Wildlife Rescue Service on 3833 4031.

The RWRS volunteers will rescue the koala and transport it to a wildlife hospital for further assessment or treatment.

Due to a koala's thick fur, injuries can be hard to spot. Koalas can also easily suffer from internal injuries from crushing bites that have left no mark. If untreated, these injuries can be fatal.

With the koala breeding season underway and running through to January, these iconic marsupials will be more active in our neighbourhoods.

Dog attacks have historically been ranked as the third most significant impact on koalas and are usually caused by domestic dogs.

Council encourages all dog owners to be responsible by exercising their dog on a lead while in public, unless being exercised in a designated dog off-leash area.

Attacks are more likely to happen during the breeding season.

Even friendly and curious dogs can unintentionally harm a koala through play or stressing the koala.

To join the koala community and learn more about koalas on Redlands Coast and how you can help them, go to Council's koala conservation page at [redland.qld.gov.au/koala](http://redland.qld.gov.au/koala)

## Keep dogs on leash to avoid increased statewide penalties

Dog owners in Division 4 are urged to keep their dogs on leash while in public places following the introduction of increased penalties as part of statewide changes to animal management laws.

The Queensland Government has made amendments to the Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008.

The first changes came into effect in July this year and include increased penalties for general off-leash offences from \$322 to \$806.

The Queensland Government has also introduced an increased penalty for declared dangerous or menacing dogs that are exercised off-leash.

Local governments are responsible for enforcing the amendments.

The changes are a timely reminder about the importance of responsible pet ownership.

Council maintains about 30 designated dog off-leash areas across the city, on both the mainland and the islands,

where people can allow their dogs to run around off-leash and socialise with other dogs.

In Division 4, on the mainland there are dog off-leash areas at Victoria Point Bushland Refuge, 6 Lambert Court, Victoria Point; Eprapah Creek Corridor–Victoria Point West, Liriope Place, Victoria Point; and Les Moore Park, 67 Wilson Esplanade, Victoria Point.

On Coochiemudlo Island there is a seasonal dog off-leash area with shared hours on the foreshore at 1-21 Victoria Parade South. It is available at all hours during the months of May, June, July and August; and only before 9am and after 5pm during the months of January, February, November and December. During all other months, dogs must be on-leash at all times.

For more information about responsible pet ownership on Redlands Coast, including a full list of dog parks and off-leash areas, visit Council's website at [redland.qld.gov.au/dogparks](http://redland.qld.gov.au/dogparks)

## Fire ant vigilance needed

Fire ants have been an increasingly concerning problem across much of our city.

With changes to biosecurity obligations that came into effect in July, Council is now required to undertake treatment and surveillance for fire ants on Council-owned or managed land.

Drones and helicopters are being used for treatments, along with traditional methods such as all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) fitted with spreaders.

Importantly though, it is still everyone's obligation to report any suspected fire ant

nests to Biosecurity Queensland in the first instance, whether the location is on private or public land.

Council will be informed of any reports to Biosecurity Queensland that are on Council-owned or managed land, to ensure relevant surveillance and treatment is carried out.

Fire ants (pictured) are copper brown in colour with a darker abdomen and are quite small, 2-6mm.

They exhibit aggressive behaviour, with hundreds of ants responding if a nest is disturbed. They swarm the threat, trying to



sting over and over, causing the sensation of being on fire.

If you identify or suspect that there are fire ants in an area, call Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23 or lodge a report via their online form. More information on Council's Fire Ant Management Program can be found at [redland.qld.gov.au/FireAnts](http://redland.qld.gov.au/FireAnts)