



# News from your Local Councillor

## Cr Mark Edwards

### Sound financial position a comfort for community

Our fourth and final budget for this Council term was recently adopted, delivering welcome relief for ratepayers.

Over the past four budgets the combined headline rates increase is lower than the rise in CPI in that time.

The collective outcome of those budgets is that our community can take comfort in the knowledge that Council has its finances in order.

No matter what your budget is - be it the family budget, a small business or a Council - the most important thing is to spend within your income. Do not keep borrowing.

Council has stopped borrowing, reviewed our staff numbers, cut needless spending (including perks for Councillors), made sure we spent funds carefully and looked for other ways to generate income besides rates. It has been hard work and the

dedication of Council staff cannot be underestimated as they have been the ones who have delivered.

Council is now poised to deliver a third-straight budget surplus. We have more than \$100 million in cash - more than twice our debt, which we are paying off at a tremendous rate.

We have not borrowed new funds nor do we plan to borrow in the future. Again and again we have delivered some of the lowest rate rises in south-east Queensland and our financial position is very strong.

Council is able to deliver services and infrastructure to the community from the income we receive without looking at rate hikes or borrowing; something that I believe our community expects.

An example of our financial ability is our approach to the State

Government's recent increase in the price of bulk water by 10 percent. We have managed to absorb most of this cost without passing this burden on to you.

Good financial management results in a better rates outcome.

We have positioned Council to provide for the wider city in years to come. For instance, more than \$9 million will be spent on island infrastructure projects over the next year, more than has been spent in any previous year.

As your Councillor, I have high expectations of what Council can deliver to the division in coming years, such as sealing all the gravel roads and providing infrastructure and services that enhance our life.

I am passionate about our community and the potential that is before us.

### Upgrading sports facilities for our community

Working together for a great outcome for our Redland Bay community has been demonstrated with neighbouring councillor Julie Talty and myself advocating for an improved sports field at the corner of School of Arts Road and Denham Boulevard.

The open area only had one goal post and a cleared area of land that didn't cater for team sports.

Council has spent a modest \$125,000 to reshape the field and deliver a new team sports playing surface for Redland Bay residents. With the population growth in Redland Bay, we need to continue to plan and deliver sports facilities to ensure it remains a great place to live and play.



*GOOD SPORTS: Myself with Victoria Point Magic Football Club president Adam Carmichael and Cr Julie Talty at the grounds.*





HONOURED: Thanks to Adam Willey for this photo of myself with Cr Julie Talty at the Challenge.

### Another family classic

In its 24th year, the Wilson Moreton Bay & Offshore Family Fishing Challenge was held on 5-8 June. Again Redland City Council was a major sponsor and my Councillor Small Grant provided the club with a further \$3000. This is what family, fishing and fun is all about.

I was honoured to be asked to open the event, which was well attended. Despite the wind, the fishing competition was a great success and stands as one of the premier events for Redland Bay.

The club has developed its waterfront block of land and erected a functional club house at 247 The Esplanade, Redland Bay. Monthly meetings are held every third Thursday at the clubhouse at 7.30pm. All are welcome.

You can contact the club at [enquiriesrbafc@gmail.com](mailto:enquiriesrbafc@gmail.com).

### School harnesses community spirit

Redland Bay State School held its School Blitz Working Bee on 30 May to spruce up the gardens and visual presentation of the school.

There was great community support from throughout Redland Bay, including members of the Men's Shed and South Redland Baptist Church.

It is wonderful to see and be part of the Redland Bay community spirit, where people who have no connection to our local school turn up and help out. It's a great school with a fantastic team of educators. Come along to the P&C meetings at the school on the third Tuesday of the month at 7.15pm.



HELPING HAND: There was great community spirit at the recent Redland Bay State School working bee.

### New dog off-leash area for Redland Bay

There is no doubting the popularity of dog off-leash areas and I have been keen to have another one provided for the residents of Redland Bay.

An initial survey of views on the placement of another facility at Point Talburpin revealed that there would be significant community disharmony as dog owners already had an off-leash area nearby.

The new location, on School of Arts Road, pictured, is a good outcome as it spreads the locations of off-leash areas and offers a range of choices for our residents.

Cr Julie Talty (Division 6) and I pooled our Community Benefit Fund grants to have it built.



### Keep in touch

Why not join the hundreds of residents who have already contacted me for help with an issue?

You can email me anytime at [mark.edwards@redland.qld.gov.au](mailto:mark.edwards@redland.qld.gov.au) or telephone 0407 695 667.

Warm regards,

**Cr Mark Edwards**  
Division 5 - Mainland