



# News from your local councillor Cr Shane Rendalls

Division 5: Southern Moreton Bay Islands edition



Christmas 2024



## Ho, ho, ho, Islanders,

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

While for most of us this is a time to celebrate with family and friends, for some it can be a time of loneliness or to remember loss. Please keep an eye out for each other – a pleasant smile and simple 'hello' can really brighten someone's day.

For those of you who reach out and support the community, thank you.

With our islands and bayside location, we see a lot of visitors over the Christmas and New Year period. Please be considerate and slow down for each other and our wildlife. Be safe at home, on the roads and on the water.

The end of 2024 is also a time to reflect on what we have achieved in the first year of this Council's term. This year, \$3 million has been put aside to fund green sealing of roads across the islands, with road crews already working on Macleay and on Russell islands and into 2025.

There also has been a focus on improving the amenity of our islands, with planning for opening up tracks and trails, environmental protection, foreshore remediation, pontoons, swimming enclosures and addressing the parking congestion at our ferry terminals.

It is an honour to work with local residents as your Councillor. I am enjoying the challenge and I feel that we are slowly getting things done for our community. I have brought other Councillors and Council's Executive Leadership Team to Redland Bay and the SMBIs to help them understand our community and how our needs differ from the rest of Redlands Coast.

Please continue to reach out to me at [shane.rendalls@redland.qld.gov.au](mailto:shane.rendalls@redland.qld.gov.au) or 0403 689 717.

Come along to one of my regular pop-up offices on the islands and Redland Bay, and follow my Facebook for regular news and updates.

Have a joyous break and watch us thrive in '25.

**Cr Shane Rendalls**  
Division 5 – Islands



## A growing population and economy

The SMBI population growth is higher than initially forecast, with a service population (factoring holiday homes, travel patterns and daily visitors) of approximately 11,565 people.

Our population growth rate has been 4.6 per cent per annum, compared to an overall growth rate of 1.2 per cent for the whole of Redlands Coast. In 2023 we welcomed more than 235,000 visitors to the islands.

There has been strong business growth, with the number of businesses registered on the islands increasing from 305 to 377 over the past three years.

This means more jobs and more money in our local economy. I will continue to work with local businesses to reduce the cost of creating and doing business on the islands, to develop training opportunities and grow jobs for island residents.





## 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](https://redland.qld.gov.au/CapitalWorks)

## Welcome works for transport and parking

The local community and Council have been advocating the Queensland Government for many years to recognise their responsibility for providing parking at the Redland Bay Marina public transport hub (pictured).

This advocacy has paid off with both major parties making pre-election commitments around the Weinam Creek carpark, work on which is due to commence in 2025.

The planned multi-level car park within the Weinam Creek Priority Development Area will reduce the pressure on local residential streets. The new barges are coming to the bay in November/December and Council is currently completing widening of the

pylons at barge ramps to accommodate the bigger barges.

I have also convened a Transport and Parking Resident Group to work with me to develop advice and policy recommendations around: island and mainland public transport; parking at ferry terminals; barges and ferries; alternative transport (bikes, scooters, golf buggies, car share, etc); improving parking and traffic flow; and accessibility for people with mobility needs.

The group also will provide input into the development of the overall Redland City transport strategy.

## More value for visitors to go explore

The 50 cent ferry fares and expanded barge capacity means more mainland visitors to the islands.

We have seen a 25 per cent increase in mainland visitors of a weekend, which is welcomed by local businesses. This means more locals are being employed on the islands and there are more services for locals to enjoy.

I am working to support local businesses and community groups here, and on the mainland, to boost tourism on the islands, including Macleay Island (pictured).

Tourism provides the opportunity for someone else to pay for the amenity and services we can all enjoy.

I want to see this flow through to our markets, galleries and community events so that we can support our creatives and local businesses.

We have already seen two Festival of Small Halls events, several amateur theatrical productions, visiting entertainment troupes and art exhibitions.

Clubs, pub and cafes are all supporting local musicians. Let's continue to work together to make our islands the place where people want to visit and to live.

