

Redland City Council

Federal Election Priorities 2025



Acknowledgement of Country

Redland City Council is committed to working with Traditional Custodians, supporting their role as custodians of their traditional lands and helping ensure the future prosperity and cultural enrichment across Redlands Coast. Council acknowledges the Goenpul, Ngugi and Noonuccal First Nations Peoples of the Quandamooka region and recognises that the Quandamooka People are the Traditional Custodians of much of Redlands Coast. Council also extends acknowledgement to the people of the Danggan Balun (Five Rivers) who are recognised as the Traditional Custodians of parts of southern Redlands Coast.

Working together to deliver for Redlands Coast

Redland City Council is committed to partnering with all levels of government to deliver for our community. We have identified eight advocacy priorities ahead of the 2025 Federal Election. These priorities aim to support liveability for all community members, boost our local economy and create local jobs, reduce reliance on ratepayer dollars, support disaster resilience and community safety, and enhance safe and efficient travel around our beautiful city and surrounding areas.

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What is advocacy?

Advocacy is the strategic process of engaging and influencing key decision-makers to drive meaningful change. It serves as a powerful tool to raise awareness and champion projects, initiatives, and issues that matter to our community. By forging strategic partnerships with government entities, private sector stakeholders, and other relevant organisations, advocacy enables us to effectively represent and address the needs of our community.

Why are we advocating?

Our advocacy efforts are driven by the need to collaborate with various sectors, including government bodies, agencies, peak organisations, the private sector, and the broader community. The primary goal of our advocacy activities is to align with the vision outlined in our corporate plan, A Corporate Plan to 2026 and Beyond, and to support the implementation of key projects and priorities that will benefit our region.

The challenges we are addressing

Our region is projected to grow by an additional 28,000 people by 2046, highlighting the urgent need for critical infrastructure and investment in our community assets. To meet the demands of this growth, our advocacy program is focused on securing essential public transport and infrastructure.

It is important no community is left behind. Our islands, in particular, are experiencing growth but have historically received limited investment. This had led to significant disadvantages for the community who lack access to adequate facilities in times of need. Addressing these issues is a key priority in our advocacy efforts, as we strive to create a more equitable and connected region for all.

How we selected our priorities

Our advocacy efforts are grounded in a strategic framework to ensure that we address the most critical needs of our community. The priorities are the result of a thorough and deliberate process, guided by five core principles that shape every aspect of our advocacy activity.

Evidence-based: We rely on data and research to identify and prioritise the issues that have the most significant impacts on our community. This ensures that our advocacy is informed by evidence and that our efforts are focused on areas where they can achieve the most meaningful outcomes.

Partnerships first: Collaboration is at the heart of our advocacy approach. We actively seek to build and strengthen partnerships with key stakeholders across government, the private sector, and the community. By working together, we amplify our voice and increase the likelihood of achieving shared goals.

Shared voice: Advocacy is most powerful when it represents a collective voice. We engage with diverse groups within our community to ensure our priorities reflect a broad consensus. This inclusive approach allows us to advocate for issues that resonate widely and are supported by a strong and united front.

Outcomes focused: We set clear objectives and measure our success based on the outcomes we deliver for the community. This results-oriented approach ensures our advocacy efforts lead to real, positive change.

Always on: Advocacy is an ongoing process, not a one-time effort. We maintain a consistent and proactive presence in the advocacy space, continuously engaging with decision-makers and stakeholders to maintain momentum on key issues while remaining agile within the changing environment.

Our eight priorities



Brisbane Metro network extension

Council is advocating for funding to support delivery of the Brisbane Metro busway extension to Capalaba.



Sport and recreation upgrades

Council is advocating for investment to support local sport and recreation facility upgrades to increase access and participation, enhance pathways to high performance and support liveability.



Enabling infrastructure

Council is advocating for investment in infrastructure to support population growth, housing supply and liveability.



Redlands Coast Islands

Council is advocating for regional status recognition for Redlands Coast Islands in relation to federal and state planning and funding, as well as black spot funding and investment for wastewater infrastructure.



Improved clarity on the Native Title process

Council is advocating for greater certainty and clarity for all to participate in Native Title processes as well as restoring respondent funding and greater community transparency on Native Title land dealings



Wellington Street / Panorama Drive upgrades

Council is advocating for \$80 million in funding to simultaneously deliver Stages 2 and 3 of this road upgrade program.



Improved consultation for environment protection

Council is advocating for improved consultation to the application of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* to better plan and deliver important community infrastructure.



Disaster resilience

Council is advocating for funding to enhance disaster resilience and community safety.



PRIORITY ONE

Brisbane Metro network extension



Ask

Redland City Council seeks funding from the Australian Government to support delivery of the Brisbane Metro extension to Capalaba.

Why is this critical?

Redlands Coast is anticipating significant population growth of around 17 per cent, or approximately 28,000 new residents, by 2046. This growth will put considerable strain on existing transport routes and networks.

Expanding the Brisbane Metro busway east to Capalaba will help tackle growing vehicle congestion, reduce emissions with fully electric buses, and provide a safe and efficient way for our community to travel. This extension will improve connectivity between the Redlands and greater Brisbane, bringing substantial economic benefits to the city.

The new busway route would enable bus services in the city to use Capalaba as a transit hub servicing all parts of the city, including the rapidly growing Redlands Coast southern suburbs and islands, and evolving precincts and venues which are set to provide great social and economic value to Redlands Coast, including:

1. The Capalaba Town Centre

Revitalisation – This project will transform land behind Capalaba Central Shopping Centre into a vibrant mixed-use urban heart, with exemplar public spaces including a new Council library and customer service centre, spaces for the arts and a community hall. The precinct will also accommodate an employment hub and innovative public realm (suitable for entertainment uses) that will create a day/night economy, attracting both visitors and businesses.

The first stage of the revitalisation works has commenced with planning underway for the works involving the bus interchange facilities.

2. Several potential Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games venues, delivering long-term legacy benefits for the region before and after the Games.

Community benefits

- Improved access to, and levels of, reliable public transport
- Enhanced connectivity between the Redlands and greater Brisbane
- Supported population growth with better transport options
- Reduced congestion and shorter commutes
- Increased economic, tourism and employment opportunities
- Enhanced liveability and quality of life
- Improved environmental outcomes by alleviating congestion and emissions.

Redland City Council continues to partner and work together with Brisbane City Council and the Queensland Government to deliver a fast and efficient bus route that will connect Capalaba to greater Brisbane.

Sport and recreation upgrades

Ask

Redland City Council seeks significant investment from the Australian Government to support local sport and recreation facility upgrades to increase access and participation, enhance pathways to high performance and support liveability, including:

- precinct upgrades at William Taylor Memorial Sports Precinct and Keith Surridge Sports Precinct
- key lighting upgrades across the region
- skate park upgrades at Cascade Gardens Skate Park in Victoria Point and John Fredericks Skate Park in Capalaba
- facility upgrades at EGW Wood Sportsfield in Wellington Point to enable pickleball development in the Redlands.

Why is this critical?

With Redlands Coast's growing population, it is critical our local sport and recreation facilities are supported to ensure community access to quality sport and recreation offerings.

Redlands Coast has a strong sports legacy, with many top athletes calling the area home. As the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games approach, it is important to build on this legacy and ensure our city continues to thrive in sports.

Investing in quality infrastructure will support local jobs, attract major events, and provide more opportunities for community participation in sport. It will also strengthen pathways for athletes from grassroots to high performance, enhancing the city's reputation as a great place to live, work and play.

Community benefit

- Attraction of major events and associated economic benefit
- Increased access and participation in sport
- Improved community health, wellbeing and social cohesion
- Opportunities for facilities to be used for pre-Games events and training leading up to the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.





Precinct upgrades

Sports precincts provide easy access to various sports and recreation activities in one place, making it convenient for the community. They become lively social centres where people of all ages can gather, promoting community spirit, health and wellbeing. These precincts also attract events and visitors, boosting local businesses and the economy. We are seeking:

- **\$5 million** for clubhouse upgrades at the **William Taylor Memorial Sports Precinct** in Thorneside. This precinct requires field and clubhouse upgrades including the relocation of netball courts. While Council has already secured funding under the Queensland Government's South-East Queensland Liveability Fund (which forms part of the City Deal) for BMX, skate, playground and amenity upgrades; further funding is still required to deliver the important clubhouse upgrades to support the existing tennis, soccer, cricket and netball clubs.
- **\$5 million** for upgrades at **Keith Surridge Sports Precinct** in Alexandra Hills. This precinct requires sports and clubhouse upgrades, and a new amenities block to support the existing Australian rules football and netball clubs.

Court upgrades to support pickleball

Pickleball has experienced rapid growth in Australia and Queensland in recent years. It is one of the fastest growing sports with a 92 per cent increase in participation in Queensland since 2018.

We are seeking **\$1.5 million** for a roof structure for the current netball courts at **EGW Wood Sportsfield** in Wellington Point to enable them to become multi-use pickleball courts to support the high growth of this sport in our region.

Sports field lighting

Many of our sports fields and courts need lighting upgrades to transition from outdated halogen or mercury incandescent lights to contemporary, energy efficient and more environmentally friendly LED technology. We are seeking:

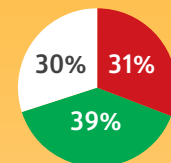
- **\$1.2 million** for **John Fredericks Park**, in Capalaba, to support rugby league.
- **\$2.2 million** for **Ern & Alma Dowling Memorial Park**, in Victoria Point, to support the Australian Rules football club.
- **\$2.2 million** for **Russell Island Sport and Recreation Park** to support the soccer club.
- **\$2.2 million** for **Laurie Burns Recreation Reserve**, on Coochiemudlo Island, to support the Coochiemudlo Recreation Club including gym, tennis and croquet.

Skate park upgrades

Skate parks offer a variety of important benefits to our community including youth engagement, health and fitness, community building, social cohesion and crime reduction. Redlands Coast has many skate parks across the city and requires funding to ensure our skate parks remain fit for purpose for our growing population. We are seeking:

- **\$1.875 million** for upgrades to **Cascade Gardens Skate Park** in Victoria Point.
- **\$10 million** for upgrades to the skate park at **John Fredericks Park** in Capalaba.

The Australian Government's 2018 report *The Value of Community Sport Infrastructure* prepared by KPMG, finds that community sport infrastructure is estimated to generate an annual value of more than \$16.2 billion to Australia, comprising:



■ Social benefits \$5.1B

■ Economic benefits \$6.3B

■ Health benefits \$4.9B



PRIORITY THREE

Enabling infrastructure to support population growth



Ask

Redland City Council seeks investment from the Australian Government for infrastructure to support population growth, housing supply and liveability.

Why is this critical?

The population of Redlands Coast is set to grow significantly over the next twenty years, with 20,000 people forecast for the South-East Queensland Development Area in Southern Thornlands alone.

As our population grows, so does demand for essential infrastructure such as transport networks, housing, wastewater infrastructure and recreation spaces.

Adequate infrastructure will enhance the quality of life for our current and future residents by providing access to reliable transport, clean water, sanitation, recreational spaces and more.

Infrastructure funding now will help Council to provide the required infrastructure ahead of growth, rather than playing 'catch up'.

In particular, it could help us to expand our sewer network to include those parcels of land in our urban footprint that are not yet connected.

Housing affordability and infrastructure adequacy are critical factors that influence a region's economic competitiveness and attractiveness to businesses and investors. Failure to address these issues could hinder our economic growth and development opportunities.

Community benefits

- Creation of local jobs
- Economic stimulation
- Supports growth in industries such as construction, engineering and manufacturing
- Improved liveability and quality of life.

The Redlands Coast Islands have unique infrastructure needs to support standards of living equitable to those throughout greater south-east Queensland and the Redlands Coast mainland.

Our island communities deserve upgrades to key infrastructure such as:

- sealed roads
- footpaths
- drainage, and
- wastewater infrastructure.

See more detail over the page in Priority Four - Redlands Coast Islands.

Redlands Coast Islands

Ask

Redland City Council seeks a commitment from the Australian Government to deliver initiatives that will improve the liveability, infrastructure and safety for island residents now and into the future, including:

- regional status recognition for federal and state planning and funding
- continued Mobile Black Spot funding
- significant investment to expand critical wastewater infrastructure.

Why is this critical?

While relatively close to the centre of the city when measured in a straight line, the Redlands Coast Islands face unique infrastructure, service delivery and social challenges that align more closely to remote and regional communities.

Despite facing social challenges such as high unemployment, low education, and concerning health and aged care outcomes, the islands do not have regional status recognition when it comes to federal and state planning and funding.

Council's investment in our island communities is disproportionately high when compared to the mainland spend. Our efforts to help address these island-centric issues are constrained by the current classification as part of a major city, which limits access to funding and services tailored to regional communities. Granting regional status would open doors to funding that aligns better with the islands' specific needs and facilitates infrastructure upgrades.

More Mobile Black Spot funding is also needed to enable telecommunication providers to improve digital coverage on the islands, address telecommunication black spots, enhance connectivity and improve resilience during power outages. Improved coverage is crucial for community safety during natural disasters as well as fostering digital literacy and connectivity.

Additionally, expanding wastewater infrastructure is vital to meet the growing needs of the islands, where more than 1400 properties are still reliant on septic systems (many ageing) or a home sewerage treatment plant. Residential septic systems can pose environmental and public health risks when not maintained or replaced as needed, due to contaminated water discharges. Upgrading to a fit-for-purpose sewerage system would mitigate these issues and ensure sustainable development for the islands.





Community benefits

- Regional status recognition will provide access to better-aligned funding and support for regional challenges
- Regional funding will enable significant planning and infrastructure improvements tailored to the islands' needs
- Improved digital coverage will enhance community safety, connectivity and access to services
- Upgrades to wastewater infrastructure will improve environmental outcomes and ensure sustainable living conditions.

Green sealing Southern Moreton Bay Island (SMBI)

Open the door to funding so we can make the noise, dust and risk of unsealed roads a thing of the past.



49 kms

of unsealed roads remain on the Southern Moreton Bay Islands



\$37 million

estimated cost to green seal the remaining 49km of unsealed roads on the SMBIs.

Outages impact safety

During the Christmas period of 2023, one of the major telecommunication providers on Russell Island, within the SMBIs, experienced loss of mobile services. This meant customers could not dial 000 to access emergency services, putting our Russell Island community at risk.

Business & tourism

In January 2025 a similar outage on North Stradbroke Island caused 18 hours of business disruption during the busy tourist season.

Outages and lack of coverage is an issue our island communities are all too familiar with.

Plumb us all in

Help us connect all island properties to a fit-for-purpose sewerage system.



More than 1400

non-sewered island properties

PRIORITY FIVE

Improved clarity on the Native Title process



Ask

Redland City Council seeks commitment from the Australian Government to:

- remove uncertainty and provide greater clarity for all to participate in Native Title processes
- restore respondent funding to achieve just outcomes for both claimants and responders
- provide greater community transparency on Native Title land dealings.

Why is this critical?

Approximately 3,500 parcels of Council-owned land are included in the Quandamooka Coast Native Title Claim that is currently being considered. A Native Title claim process is costly and timely, for both claimants and responders.

Council is seeking to improve clarity and certainty around provisions in *The Native Title Act 1993* (The Act) that suggest Native Title rights or interests are not subject to Commonwealth, state or local government laws. The Act should be reviewed and amended to make certain that mainstream Australian law applies over Native Title land, as it does over non-Native Title land.

Clarity, certainty and transparency about the process will add robust governance, improving outcomes for all parties and improving timeliness and efficiency of resources.

It is important that all laws apply over Native Title land to ensure consistency, clarity and cohesion.

Council is also seeking to restore respondent funding to achieve a just outcome for both claimants and responders.

The Australian Government has historically provided financial support to both Native Title claimants and responders. Recently, the Federal Government repealed the Native Title Respondent Funding Scheme resulting in no financial assistance for responding to Native Title claims, while claimants are fully funded. This change passes the financial burden to rate payers for local governments to respond.

Community benefits

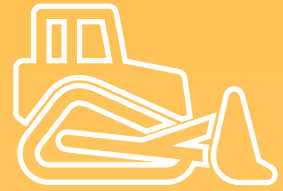
- Better understanding of processes and more effective consideration of claims
- Reduced legal expenses for both claimants and responders
- Reduced negotiation time and better efficiency with lower chances of litigation
- Less reliance on ratepayer dollars to fund Native Title claim responses
- Improved community transparency on Native Title land dealings.

Redland City Council acknowledges the important step Native Title plays in our broader reconciliation journey, and advocates for these changes to improve the shared understanding for Native Title holders.



PRIORITY SIX

Wellington Street / Panorama Drive upgrades



Ask

Redland City Council seeks \$80 million in funding from the Australian Government to simultaneously deliver Stages 2 and 3 of the Wellington Street/Panorama Drive road upgrade program in Thornlands and Cleveland.

Why is this critical?

Stage 1 of this important road upgrade was completed and opened to the public in late 2024. Delivery of Stages 2 and 3 are dependant on securing external funding.

These road upgrades are essential to improve access and connectivity, especially for users of the hospital precinct and for emergency vehicles accessing the ambulance station at the northern end of Wellington Street.

Significant growth of up to 8,000 new dwellings is projected for Southern Thornlands in the next 20 years, but existing roads are already at capacity. These important upgrades will support that population growth, providing improved access and better connectivity along this critical north-south arterial route.

Community benefits

- Faster completion: delivering Stages 2 and 3 concurrently will see the entire project delivered quicker, minimising disruptions to residents and road users, and reducing costs compared to separate delivery
- Improved access: better access to the Redland Hospital Precinct for both users and emergency vehicles
- Reduced congestion: shorter commute times and decreased peak-hour traffic congestion
- Enhanced safety: increased safety for vehicles, cyclists and pedestrians
- Job creation: approximately 140 new jobs during construction.

Stage 2 will continue the road duplication along Wellington Street from South Street in Thornlands to Bay Street in Cleveland. Stage 3 will extend duplication to Russell Street in Cleveland.



PRIORITY SEVEN

Improved consultation for environment protection, biodiversity and conservation



Ask

Redland City Council seeks improved consultation to the application of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act), to better plan and deliver important community infrastructure.

Why is this critical?

A more balanced application of the EPBC Act, considering cultural, economic, social and environmental outcomes (the 'quadruple bottom line'), would empower Council to effectively plan and deliver important community infrastructure while meeting environmental protections.

Clearer guidelines and timelines for the EPBC Act's application would support Council in fulfilling our obligations to protect and manage the environment, while delivering essential infrastructure for liveability, social wellbeing, transport and housing.

Local governments play a key role in delivering essential infrastructure such as roads, water and wastewater systems.

A streamlined EPBC process is crucial for supporting national and state housing strategies. The current complexity of the EPBC Act process creates uncertainty, impacting project timelines and increasing costs.

Community benefits

- Improved transparency regarding protected matters under the EPBC Act
- Enhanced efficiency in planning and delivering important community infrastructure
- Stronger communication and partnerships with the Australian Government's Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water.

An amended EPBC Act referral process would provide local governments with greater clarity and transparency through early consultation.

Protected matters under the EPBC Act, such as World Heritage areas, wetlands and nationally threatened species, often change without advance notice to Council.

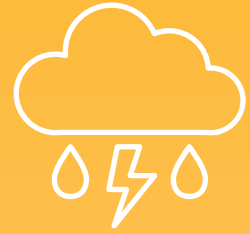
Council invests heavily in planning community infrastructure.

When updates to protected matters occur without early consultation, much of this planning becomes redundant at a cost to ratepayers.

These unexpected changes often impact vital community projects such as sport facilities, parks, cultural and education facilities, road upgrades and wastewater network expansions.



Disaster resilience



Ask

Redland City Council seeks the following funding from the Australian Government to enhance disaster resilience and community safety including:

- \$10 million for a purpose-built dedicated disaster coordination centre
- \$2 million for flood warning infrastructure and rainfall and creek gauge networks to provide important warnings and data
- Funding for assessments and upgrades to improve the wind resistance of our buildings.

Why is this critical?

Queensland is the nation’s most disaster-prone state, and it’s not a question of if, but when a natural disaster will occur. The state has endured more than 100 disasters over the past 15 years including floods, fires, cyclones, storms and storm tides, highlighting the need for enhanced disaster preparedness and resilience.

As the frequency and intensity of natural disasters continues to rise, the need for comprehensive disaster management is paramount, including preparedness, resilience, response and recovery.

Council, in partnership with agencies and organisations, coordinates activities during a disaster event to minimise loss of human life, illness and injury, property loss or destruction and damage to the environment.

To better manage these critical functions, Council is seeking significant funding for a purpose-built disaster coordination centre. This facility will serve as a command centre for coordinating and responding to emergencies and disasters. A purpose-built

disaster coordination centre would ensure that in times of crisis, essential services and disaster response operations can continue seamlessly, safeguarding the community during its most vulnerable moments.

Additionally, funding is needed for flood warning infrastructure, such as rainfall and creek gauge networks, to provide critical information and data to support community safety and assist responses during severe weather events.

Furthermore, Council seeks funding for wind rating assessments and building upgrades to enhance the resilience of Council-owned buildings, ensuring safety for all in the face of severe storms, cyclones and other natural disasters.

Community benefits

- Enhanced community safety
- Improved disaster preparedness, resilience, response and recovery
- Mitigate risks associated with natural disasters.

Council currently operates its disaster coordination out of an old demountable building that is not cyclone rated, that does not have sufficient parking or space for emergency service and liaison vehicles and personnel, does not have the facilities to store water or food onsite and does not have toilets, showers or overnight accommodation facilities.

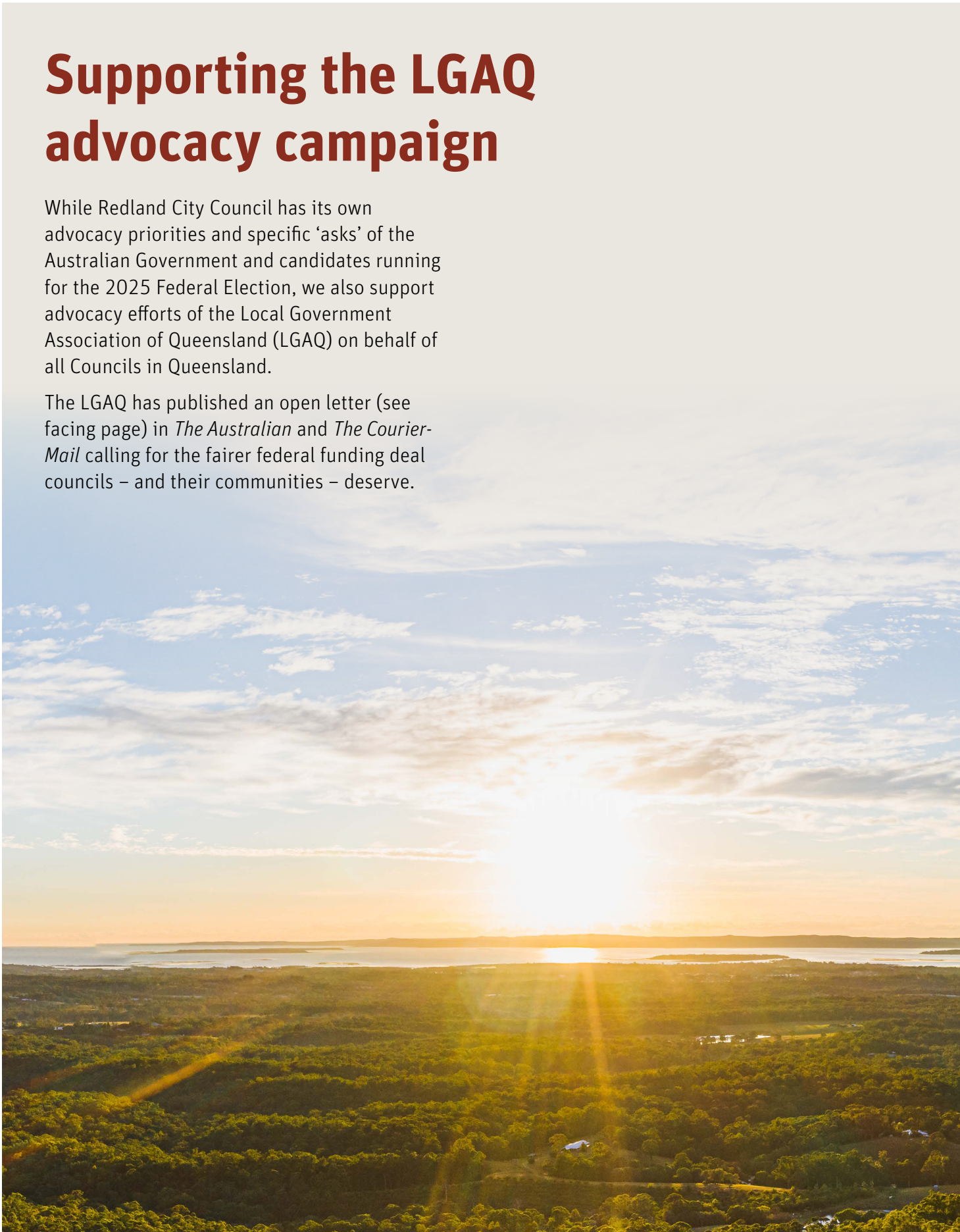
A purpose-built dedicated centre will support improved disaster management as well as safer conditions for staff and emergency services coordinating disaster response and in turn keeping our community safe.

“ With climate change predictions forecasting increased frequency and severity of weather events across the country, it is more important than ever that the Redlands Coast community have a safe and fit-for-purpose centre to support this growing need. ”

Supporting the LGAQ advocacy campaign

While Redland City Council has its own advocacy priorities and specific ‘asks’ of the Australian Government and candidates running for the 2025 Federal Election, we also support advocacy efforts of the Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) on behalf of all Councils in Queensland.

The LGAQ has published an open letter (see facing page) in *The Australian* and *The Courier-Mail* calling for the fairer federal funding deal councils – and their communities – deserve.



Dear Canberra,



It's time for fairer funding.

Dear Canberra,

The current federal funding model for local government was first introduced in 1974 – when Australian TV screens were still in black and white.

Over 50 years on, the demands and expectations of communities are radically different.

Our communities are hurting in this cost-of-living crisis, so we're asking for your support for a fairer way.

With everything costing more these days, communities are increasingly relying on councils to provide the services they need – like the parks and public barbecues, the rubbish collection and recycling, the roads, the libraries,

playgrounds, splash parks and the pools that make a place liveable.

The truth is, when the cost of everything is going up, Queensland councils don't have the money to provide everything their communities need.

For every \$100 of tax paid by Australians, the Federal Government pockets \$80.

Councils receive \$3.

But leaving councils no other choice other than raising council rates or cutting services is not the answer.

Councils don't want to make it any tougher on communities or see ratepayers missing out.

Not when there is a better, fairer way.

That's why councils are asking candidates in the federal election to commit to a fairer funding model for local government.

Councils currently receive Financial Assistance Grants worth just shy of 50 cents in every \$100 of tax paid by Australians. That's 0.5 percent.

Restoring it to \$1 of every \$100 paid in tax and bringing the rate to 1 per cent of total taxation revenue, would go a long way towards guaranteeing the services communities count on from their councils.

It's time for a fair share for councils and their communities.

Don't leave us stuck in the '70s.

For more information, visit

dontleaveusinthe70s.com.au



Every Queensland community deserves to be a liveable one

Alison Smith
LGAQ CEO

Mayor Matt Burnett
LGAQ President

Photo Credit:
Queensland State Archives

Authorised by A Smith, LGAQ
25 Evelyn St, Newstead, QLD 4006



[redland advocacy](#)

[3829 8999](tel:38298999)

