

# Redlands Coast priorities for the 2019 Federal election

Redland City Council acknowledges the support of the Federal Government and we thank all current and past Federal members and candidates for their support.

Redlands Coast needs strong representation in the upcoming Federal election and we are seeking a commitment to the following projects from all candidates.

Council will send this advocacy document to all candidates in this year's Federal election, as well as their respective political parties and will publish their responses on our website.





## Birkdale Commonwealth Land



Council is committed to ensuring this strategically important land is used to benefit the community and is not used for housing. Given this commitment, Council has been trying to acquire this land from the Federal Government off-market since 2015. This has included Mayor Karen Williams meeting with a number of Federal Ministers and MPs to try and secure this land. In May 2018 the land was identified for divestment in the Federal Budget, and earmarked for housing, prompting Council to lobby the Federal Government to rescind its decision and for Council to acquire the land. This would also help protect the environmental and heritage values of the property. Council is now asking all candidates to commit to Council acquiring the land (regardless of who wins the election) and working with Council to ensure the land is used to benefit the community.



## Internet/mobile connectivity

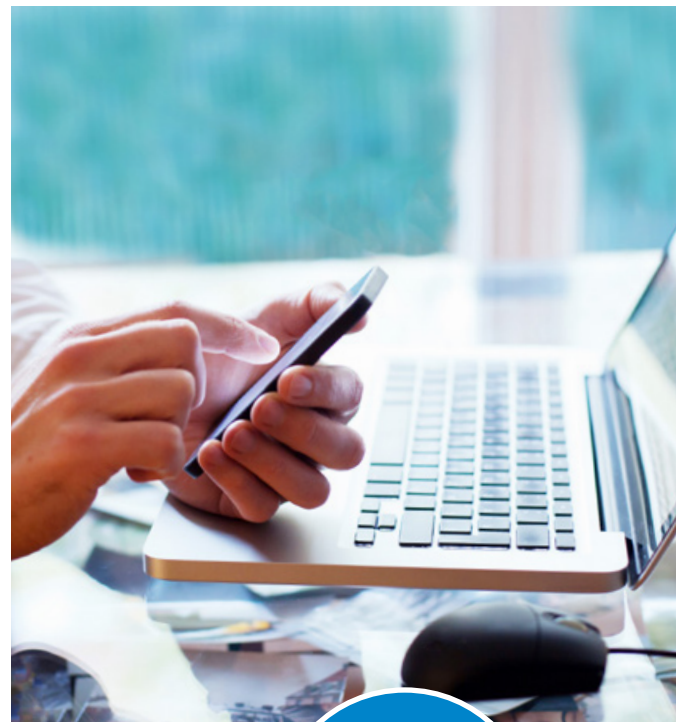


### **Advocate for improved mobile coverage across the city.**

The Redlands Coast has significant mobile connectivity issues. These issues create significant challenges in terms of economic opportunity for local business. They also create significant community safety concerns, particularly for our island communities where isolation can be dangerous during an emergency. Following ongoing advocacy, the Federal Government announced in 2017 new mobile phone towers for North Stradbroke Island and Russell Island, however to date a location for these towers has not been announced. Even with these towers, mobile phone coverage remains an issue in a number of areas of the city and requires further Federal Government investment.

### **Advocate for improved internet connectivity at a speed that will enable local business to grow and access national and international markets.**

Currently about 60 per cent of Redland Coast residents of working age leave the city each day to work or study. Providing fast and reliable internet connectivity would lay the foundations for economic growth in the city, particularly in the key economic hubs of Cleveland, Capalaba and Victoria Point. Independent surveys with local businesses in 2013 and 2015 identified internet connectivity as one of the greatest impediments to local economic growth. These survey results were further supported by the Redlands Economic Development Advisory Board identifying internet connectivity as a key priority for economic growth across Redlands Coast.



**Internet/mobile connectivity is key to reaching the Coast's 2041 job growth target of 30,000**

## Transport infrastructure



Redlands Coast has a deficit in transport infrastructure, creating congestion and impacting economic potential. As a city of islands, marine infrastructure plays an important part in our transport needs, prompting Council to seek commitments from Federal candidates regarding this infrastructure in particular.

We are also looking for a commitment to the duplication of the Cleveland rail line. This is the only significant single rail line in South East Queensland without a commitment for duplication. With a single line servicing a growing population, travel via rail has become unviable and unreliable for Redlands Coast residents. The Draft State Government SEQ Regional Transport Plan shows the Cleveland rail line is significantly underperforming with it consistently being faster to drive from Redlands Coast to Brisbane rather than using rail transport (Draft State Government SEQ Regional Transport Plan fig 33). Currently it takes 64 minutes to travel from Cleveland to Central Station, earning the Cleveland line the tag "Misery Line" and resulting in many residents electing to drive to the Brisbane CBD.

Recent examples of the Federal Government investing in South East Queensland rail projects such as the Beerburum to Nambour upgrade and Brisbane Metro show there is a commitment at a Federal Government level to relieve road congestion. Duplication of the Cleveland rail line would provide a more viable public transport alternative for Redlands Coast, making rail transport a more attractive alternative to driving.



## Health



### Redlands Hospital

The Redlands Hospital has a significant deficit of beds and specialist services, resulting in local patients having to travel outside the city for medical treatment. Redland City Council has

partnered with Queensland Health, Metro South and Mater Health to master plan the hospital precinct to help attract investment and specialist medical services into the area. This would not only provide improved health services across the city, it would also deliver significant employment opportunities, with health identified as a key employment sector on the Redlands Coast, currently accounting for more than 16 per cent of local jobs.

Redland City Council is seeking a commitment from all candidates to be part of this process, as well as providing funding for specialist medical services, including oncology and birthing services.

### Tele-health services for islands

Redlands Coast has one of Australia's largest populations living on un-bridged islands, with approximately 10,000 residents calling our islands home. This presents unique challenges with respect to isolation and transport connectivity. These islands are also home to an ageing population and a higher-than-average proportion of residents with disabilities. Redland City Council is looking for a commitment from candidates to establishing tele-health or e-health services for the islands as a way to connect residents directly with health professionals without having to leave the island.

16%  
local jobs



10,000  
island  
residents



## SLSQ centre of excellence



Redland City Council and Surf Life Saving Queensland have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to establish a \$70 million Surf Life Saving Centre of Excellence and

Aquatic Facility. This project would be the first of its kind in Australia and would help train future life savers from across the country, as well as tomorrow's swimming stars. This project would provide 200 local jobs, as well as practical training opportunities on our islands, including North Stradbroke Island, which is currently going through a significant economic transition.

In order to become a reality this exciting projects needs a significant funding commitment from the Federal Government. This funding could potentially be sourced from a number of Federal portfolios and be spread over a number of years.

200  
local jobs



## Small business and innovation



Small business is the lifeblood of the Redlands Coast economy, accounting for approximately 88 per cent of local employment. Redlands Coast also has an active innovation sector, with passionate and capable locals exploring innovation across many areas of business.

There is a challenge however in retaining local business owners, with 60 per cent of locals currently leaving the city every day to work or study. Through our Economic Development Advisory Board, Council has identified a number of growth sectors and initiatives to help grow the local economy. We are looking for a commitment from candidates to invest in these specific sectors, as well as providing funding for a local innovation hub.

88%  
local  
employment



## University or other tertiary education



The Redlands Coast has some great schools that are known globally for producing high-quality students with bright futures. Council's *Education and Training Industry Sector Plan 2018-2023* identifies high education and alternative learning pathways as a key opportunity for the Redlands Coast. For a number of years Council has been trying to encourage a university or other higher-education facility to establish a satellite campus in the Redlands and we are now seeking a commitment from Federal candidates to work with Council to attract interest from a suitable education institution.

## Federal funding allocations



The allocation of Federal Assistance Grants to councils provides an important source of funding so Council can continue delivering the projects and services that are important to our community. Redland

City Council, along with the Local Government Association of Queensland and the Australian Local Government Association, is calling on the Federal Government to restore Financial Assistance Grants to a level of at least one per cent of Commonwealth Taxation revenue.

In 1996, Federal Assistance Grants were equal to around one per cent of Commonwealth taxation revenue. However, a freeze on the indexation of Federal Assistance Grants has seen a 43 per cent decline in relative terms over the past 20 years, with them now equating to approximately 0.55% (2018) of Commonwealth tax revenue.

Council is seeking a commitment from all candidates to advocate to the Federal Government to restore Federal Assistance Grants allocations to one per cent of taxation revenue, which would provide an increase of approximately \$4 million to Redlands Coast.





