

Our

Redlands

A Newsletter by Councillor Karen Williams, Redland City Council Mayoral Candidate 2012

• Initiative • Compassion • Commonsense



Budget Hits Our Pockets

Redland City Council needs to give residents better value-for-money as struggling families face a record hike in their cost-of-living with average residential rate rises of 6.5%, the highest in South East Queensland. It is timely to become aware of the financial performance of the council you currently have.

At a time when Redland families are facing severe cost-of-living pressures, Redland City Council recently delivered a 2011-2012 budget that brings with it South East Queensland's largest average residential rate hike for the next 12 months.

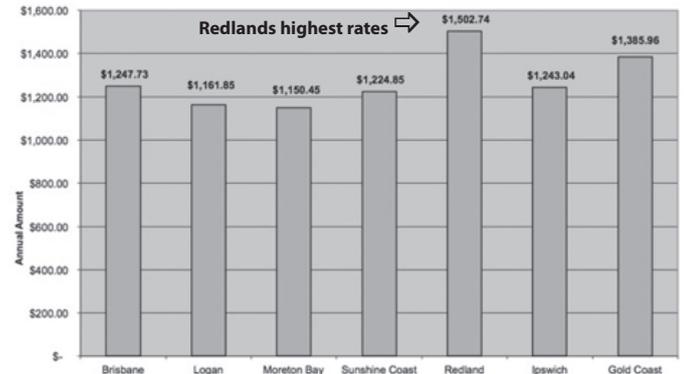
Redland City will increase its rates, levies and utility charges and take from the people of Redlands a further 6.7% compared to the most recent budget review. The total increase in revenue from residential rates is 10.76%. Other city increases: Ipswich at 4.9%; Brisbane at 1.79%, Gold Coast at 4.3%, and Sunshine Coast at 3.6% for 2011-2012.

The increases in this term of Council are the steepest in a decade.

Interestingly, some may recall when I announced my candidacy for Mayor I said I would endeavour to keep rate increases around CPI. Councillors chastised me, accusing me of grandstanding.

Clearly other Councils find this achiev-

Comparison SE Qld Councils - Average Net Residential Rates & Charges 2011/12



able, even in the face of some real tragedy they have endured in the last six months. See www.karenwilliams.com.au/blog/category/budget

Redland City is now the most expensive Local Government area to live in South East Queensland. In addition, council has further burdened local businesses struggling to remain viable by adding yet another commercial rate increase of 11.5%. That's on top of the 18.5% increase delivered last year. It's just robbery!

In this term, council has increased its rates and levies revenue by 45.8% or \$31.8m. This is equivalent to 11.5% per annum or three times the annual CPI rate.

The Mayor attempted to absolve herself of responsibility by blaming the State Government's recent water and infrastructure capping.

The "Not OUR fault" approach demonstrates lack of leadership and direction over this term of Council and the inability to understand the financial implications of previous decisions.

The political uncertainty of water has not just happened. It was always a concern that we had allowed ourselves to become so dependent on the returns of Allconnex. Despite increased revenue from crippling rises in rates and other fees and charges, the Mayor fattened the top level of the organisation which has seen the employee costs of the organisation rise by 28.9%.

Earlier this year there was panic at council when the true value of our reliance on Allconnex dividends became known. This led to another poor restructure in an attempt to correct the escalating organisation growth costs. The council is still 'top heavy' with more managers than in the previous term of council. See more details on my website blog at www.karenwilliams.com.au/media/comments/bureaucrats-1-ratepayers-11

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Karen Williams
Candidate for Mayor 2012

Authorised by B Hope, Wilson Esplanade, Redland Bay

A fresh start for
Redland City

www.karenwilliams.com.au

Our Redlands

• FROM FRONT PAGE

BLAME GAME DOES NOT WASH

Much of the Redland City Council budget woes were blamed on other factors such as the State's Water and Infrastructure legislation. This "Not OUR fault" approach demonstrates lack of leadership, foresight and direction over this term of Council and the inability to understand the financial implications of previous decisions.

The political uncertainty of water has not just happened. It was on Council's radar as far back as 2006. It was always a concern that we had allowed ourselves to become so dependent on the returns of Allconnex. Though Council has finally backflipped and agreed - under pressure - to withdraw from Allconnex, Redland's ratepayers have had to pay dearly and in my opinion the battle is far from over. See more on my blog at www.karenwilliams.com.au/blog/category/water

Budget Hits Our Pockets

So what's in this budget for you?

The budget:

- Increases average residential rates by 6.5% p.a.
- Increases commercial rates by 11.5% p.a.

Which means:

- Pensioners and families hit hard
- Business looks at relocation
- Less employment for residents, especially young people.

It is time for all of us to demand more. Cost increases are a fact of life, but Redland City should be doing better than other councils, not worse.

Huge Turnout for Fundraiser!

More than 200 Redland City community and business leaders turned out to Cleveland's Icon Restaurant and Bar recently to hear Ipswich Mayor Paul Pisasale outline his blueprint for a successful and vibrant South-East Queensland.

Mayor Pisasale was guest speaker at the event hosted by Redland City mayoral candidate Cr Karen Williams. The popular Ipswich Mayor urged Redland City to get behind community group and business partnerships to ensure a holistic approach for the future.

He stated: "Unless elected representatives facilitate these relationships, regions go backwards. As jobs leave the region, young people leave and, in turn, facilities deteriorate. And comparatively in South-East Queensland, Redland City is flat-lining," the Ipswich Mayor said.

In thanking Mayor Pisasale for his insight, Cr Williams spoke of the urgent need to refocus Redland City's future.

"A Karen Williams led council will work toward a balanced future for Redlands to ensure we, our children and grandchildren not only have a beautiful place to live, but also to work and raise future generations," she said.

"So it's time we re-open the Mayor's office door to everyone in the community to facilitate partnerships and community and business outcomes," Karen Williams said.

At the close of the event, Mayor Paul Pisasale accepted a donation to his Ipswich Mayor's Community Flood Appeal. You can see more about this event on my website at the following link.

www.karenwilliams.com.au/media/comments/huge-turn-out-for-out-of-town-mayor



• Karen making a donation to Paul Pisasale

Sallyanne is Coming!

Brisbane's first ever female Lord Mayor, Sallyanne Atkinson, will be guest speaker at a Karen Williams fund-raiser on Wednesday, August 31.

The event is being held at the Point of View Restaurant in Main Road, Wellington Point, on Wednesday, August 31, in the form of a luncheon with an 11.30am arrival for a 12 noon start.

As Queensland's first ever female Lord Mayor of Brisbane, Sallyanne Atkinson has inspired hundreds of women around Australia with her achievements.

Famous for her intelligence, style and natural charm, Sallyanne will share stories about her life, her career and her perspective of what it takes for women to succeed as a leader.

The luncheon includes a delicious two-course meal at a cost of \$55 per head.

Find out more at www.karenwilliams.com.au or phone Karen on 0416 123 588.

Be part of this exciting fund-raiser to help the Karen Williams Mayoral Campaign 2012.

See you there!

Karen Needs Your Help!

If you would like to make a donation to my Mayoral campaign, it would be greatly appreciated.

If you can, please forward a cheque to 'Karen Williams Mayoral Campaign' - PO Box 574 Capalaba Q 4157, via an online donation on my website or phone me on 0416 123588.

www.karenwilliams.com.au