



25 January 2015

Cr Karen Williams
Mayor of Redlands

Dear Mayor,

Priorities for Redland City Residents and Businesses

In reference to your request dated 16 January 2015, we address many of the issues you raise and provide details on how our policies would benefit the residents of Redland City. Please note that all our [policies](#) are displayed on the Queensland Greens website.

We update our policies from time to time, but the current policies are always available for everyone to read.

In addition we have issued two recent initiatives ([Solar energy](#) and [Public transport](#)) both of which we refer to in our responses below. We trust that the above gives the voters and ratepayers some idea of our policies and ideas that apply to the three Redland electorates.

Yours faithfully

David Keogh
Greens Candidate for Redlands and on behalf of
Amanda White (Cleveland) and Erin Payne (Capalaba)

Authorised by: Penny Allman-Payne, Convenor The Queensland Greens

Cost of Living

Privatisation of utilities generally leads to rising prices with a greater impact on lower socioeconomic groups. In general we support the public ownership of “natural monopolies” such as the provision of utilities and public transport. In the long run, the community will be better off retaining ownership of public assets and services, provided there is adequate oversight and efficient management of these services.

Electricity – Queensland Greens have long supported renewables, especially solar. After all we live in the Sunshine State. Queensland homeowners have adopted solar roof panels in a big way with 423,000 homes and businesses opting to have a substantial part of their power needs provided by the sun. Increasing advances in battery technology will ultimately make energy self-sufficiency and local networks feasible, no longer requiring grid connection. It is in all our interests to embrace this transition as the overall cost of living will come down as we adopt solar and other renewable energy sources. However we accept that it is difficult for people in rented accommodation and public housing to access the benefits of going solar. The Greens will invest \$40 million in 40,000 solar power and storage systems for social housing, low-income residents and charities.

Water – Prices are too high. A full economic review is required to establish the cause and address economies that could be achieved. It is clear that senior executives are highly paid, and this needs to be addressed. We also propose adopting completely variable water tariffs so users are charged for what they use, substantially reducing or even eliminating fixed access fees. This rewards prudent water users and those with tanks and water-saving devices.

Public Transport – Bus and ferry fares are unacceptably high in the Greater Brisbane (*TransLink*) area. The Greens will reduce public transport fares back to 2010 levels and modernise our transport fare zones to make them fairer and reduce costs for those living outside the city centre, alleviating cost-of-living pressures and promoting use. This has been estimated to cost \$200 million per year, an increase of 19%. The Greens will also boost social mobility by extending concession travel to *Newstart* recipients, estimated to cost \$4 million per year. It is our view that increased frequency of bus services, increased number of stops, particularly in the southern part of Redlands, would significantly increase patronage.

Food – Queensland Greens are concerned that agricultural land is being lost to housing and resource development and other “short term” uses. Protecting our agricultural land and retaining viable farmland across the State – including the Redland City – helps cut the cost of fresh food.

Transport and roads infrastructure

Simply building new roads and expanding existing roads will not solve our transport problems. In addition to our Public Transport initiative outlined above, the Greens will commission a review of public transport in regional and remote Queensland, similar to the 1990 the S.E. Queensland Passenger Transport Study, which provided a visionary role for public transport. We would like to see the ideas it contained revisited.

In the medium term, we would like to see a light rail network linking Cleveland Railway Station through Victoria Point to Redland Bay and ultimately to the Pacific Highway. A particular need is to address the transport needs of the Southern Moreton Bay Islands by considering the available options.

Many main roads have been severely underfunded for decades. We propose using a larger share of funding to deal with traffic hotspots and safety issues as an immediate priority. We recognise that available funding is insufficient, so new ideas and new technologies must be adopted to meet transport issues. In the short term we support the Capalaba bypass.

Economic development

Small business is the key driver for economic activity and jobs in the Redlands. We propose initiatives to attract and retain small business, as well as promoting the founding of a university (see below) and the relocation of state (and federal) government offices to the Redlands.

Some individual measures are outlined below:

- Encourage the growth of small businesses providing goods, innovative services and employment that do not erode the ecosystems of the Redlands and Moreton Bay.
- Work to increase training opportunities and the take-up of new communications technologies by small business, including e-commerce to achieve greater business opportunities in a global market.
- Work to maintain a publicly owned local TAFE.
- Ensure small business gains greater access and increased involvement in government purchasing.
- Review all current tax and rate imposts on small business to assess their impact and recommend change.
- Create incentives for small business to become ecologically sustainable (energy efficiency, use of renewables, green audits).
- Ensure ministerial representation and Queensland small business concerns are included on a COAG agenda that shapes national strategy for taxation reform, infrastructure planning and telecommunications policy development.
- Establish Queensland-wide networking between small business and the tourism industry to foster regional communication and the development of

commercial strategies that provide employment, training opportunities and sustainable communities.

- Promote an innovation and start-up culture (seed funding).

Redland City Priority Development Areas

We do not agree with the PDAs as currently proposed. They are isolated and not integrated into existing adjacent developments.

Toondah Harbour – This development needs a strong connection to the Cleveland CBD and Raby Bay. The current proposal – for which no need has been demonstrated – will have a severe impact on the Bay.

Weinam Creek – The proposal is a short-term fix that does not address the possible future needs of the Islands. We agree that the existing facility is inadequate, but a feasibility study incorporating the islands and Weinam Creek needs to be undertaken so that a long-term ecologically sustainable solution can be developed.

The current short-term ad hoc approach to development is not properly planned and integrated, and puts unnecessary additional strain on ratepayers. It also adds the infrastructure burden, in particular causing further traffic congestion and forcing multiple car ownership, which impacts on cost of living.

Urban footprint – We do not oppose development but there is an ample supply of land within the existing urban footprint without developing the Southern Redlands.

University – We support the concept of a local university to service local needs, reducing student travel times and providing local jobs. State and /or Federal government funding will be required.

Government services

Redland City has an ageing population, so there is a growing need for health and aged-care services. We encourage the provision of home-based care for many aged residents.

We would like to see more government services and facilities moved to Redlands, increasing accessibility, cutting travel costs and creating more local jobs.

Mental health services need to be improved and we would like to see greater use of e-health to provide specialised help for both medical and mental health. With the coming of the NBN, more local services can be provided and we strongly support the use of emerging technologies to avoid patients having to travel to Brisbane.

In addition, more State Government help is needed for social housing and reducing homelessness, as well as more facilities available to deal with domestic violence.

Authorised by: Penny Allman-Payne, Convenor The Queensland Greens