

Raby Bay canals

Community update

Updating residents of Raby Bay on issues relating to canals

You pay – have your say

Redland City Council maintains the Raby Bay and Aquatic Paradise canals and the Sovereign Waters lake. Activities include dredging the waterways so they remain navigable and repairing the revetment walls. Those who own canal or lake waterfront property pay the most for maintenance but all ratepayers contribute to some degree through general rates.

Council is undertaking citywide community engagement to find the best way to fund and manage the maintenance required for our city's canals and lake, and wants to hear from you. A survey on the use of the canals and lake waterways and parks is available online at yoursay.redland.qld.gov.au/canal-and-lake-waterways

Funding and managing our canal and lake estates into the future

Redland City Council's community consultation on the funding and maintenance of the city's canal and lake waterways and revetment walls is proceeding well.

Ratepayer association meetings

A series of meetings with canal and lake ratepayer associations, or ratepayers where no association exists, is well under way. Ratepayers from our city's canal and lake estates, and their representatives, have been involved in meetings with the consultants, Articulous Communications. At the conclusion of the consultation process, a report on the outcomes of these meetings will be presented to Council as it decides how the city's canals and lake infrastructure will be funded and managed into the future.

Citizens' Advisory Panel

A mini representation of the Redlands, the Citizens' Advisory Panel will present to Council a report of its suggestions on ways to fund and manage the maintenance activities at our canals and lake estates. The panel does not have a decision-making role. Rather, the panel is acting in an advisory capacity, with meetings staged over a period of time, giving panel members the time and information they need to become familiar with the history and issues of this complex matter. Following the panel process, market research will be undertaken to test the panel's suggestions against the wider community. This will be conducted by an independent, specialist market research firm and the findings, along with the Citizens' Advisory Panel's outcomes, will be made available in a public report.

The first meeting of the Citizens' Advisory Panel on the funding and management of Redlands' canals and lake estates was held on Saturday, December 2 and the second meeting on Saturday, January 20. Panelists have heard from canal residents, Council officers, engineering and legal experts, as well as a representative from the Local Government Association of Queensland. They also took a bus tour of the canal and lake estates.

Not all panel members were able to attend the first meeting, so another meeting to adequately inform the extra members was held on Friday, January 19. The panel members at that meeting received the same presentations as those at the meeting on December 2, with the exception of the bus tour. However, they viewed drone footage of the canal and lake estates, with an explanation of Council's maintenance activities given by a Council officer. The drone footage can be viewed on Council's website at:

yoursay.redland.qld.gov.au/canal-and-lake-waterways

The consultation's timeframe allows for the sharing of key ideas and outcomes with the wider community – a process that Council is committed to. Council has not yet made a decision on how the canal and lake waterways will be funded and maintained into the future. As part of the decision-making process, Council will receive reports on the outcomes of the Citizens' Advisory Panel deliberations, the ratepayer and ratepayer association meetings and the wider community consultation, including the market research.

For further information on the community consultation, and answers to questions about the Citizens' Advisory Panel process, visit yoursay.redland.qld.gov.au/canal-and-lake-waterways

Citywide engagement

As Council is committed to holding a citywide conversation about the funding and maintenance of the city's canal and lake estates, opportunities to access further information are being provided to all community members. A series of pop-up stands has been held in shopping centres across the city and, in addition to information available online, Council is also holding information displays at the following locations:

- **Victoria Point Library – February 12 to 16**
- **Capalaba Library – February 19 to 23**

Maintenance activities

An aerial survey of Raby Bay was recently undertaken, and data analysis is under way.

Maintenance works, including mangrove removal, revetment wall rock restacks and some concrete repairs to revetment walls, are out to tender and Council anticipates work commencing soon.

The final trial site at Masthead Drive is scheduled to start soon, with the contractor finalising documents.

Special charges

In the ongoing consultation, Council has been asked about the special charges levied to owners of canal and lakefront properties.

Section 94 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* allows councils to make and levy a special charge on rateable land identified as enjoying special benefit to fund the maintenance, construction or renewal of that benefit. This regulation allows Council to collect money to pay for the significant works required to maintain the canal and

lake walls and waterways, from those who get a special benefit from them.

Special charges are not unique to the Redlands – other councils also levy them – and, in Redland City, they are not unique to canal and lakefront properties. Further explanation of general rates for canal and lake waterfront properties and the special charge is available in the Q&A documents online at yoursay.redland.qld.gov.au/canal-and-lake-waterways

Canal and lake refunds

Council announced in March last year it would refund unspent monies levied for canal and lake maintenance and repairs from July 1, 2011 to March 31, 2017.

Refunds commenced to current and former property owners in October 2017.

At the end of November 2017 Council had processed more than 94 per cent of the refunds. Further information and a list of properties to which outstanding refunds apply can be found at yoursay.redland.qld.gov.au/canal-and-lake-waterways

