



Councillor Gail O'Neill

Division 14

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CITY OF
GOLDCOAST™

COUNCILLOR NEWS

DECEMBER 2020



Following this challenging year, my hope is that the joy and delight of the Christmas season will bring much cheer to our community. Wishing Division 14 a safe and merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

My office in Tugun continues to safely operate in isolation Tuesday to Friday from 8.30am-12.30pm and 1.30pm-4.30pm.

My office will be closed for the holiday period from 4.30pm Wednesday 23 December and will reopen on Monday 18 January at 8.30am.

For any issues requiring attention during this time please contact City of a Gold Coast Customer Contact on 1300 465 326 or email mail@goldcoast.qld.gov.au. The City's after-hours emergency number is 1800 637 000.

Local area works

Boyd's Timber Bridge replacement

It was fantastic to receive \$2 million in Federal funding towards the rebuilding of Boyd's Bridge in Currumbin Valley. The bridge will be converted to a concrete structure to improve safety and access, with upgrades to include an added pedestrian walkway and safety shoulders. Construction is expected to commence in April 2021 and will take up to 12 months to complete.



Boyd's Bridge, Currumbin Valley

Viewing platform, Pacific Parade

The City has considered the feedback of residents and the broader community needs regarding replacement of viewing platforms. This includes:

- reinstalling a slightly larger platform at the Wagawn Street location;
- creation of a turfed area adjacent the Oceanway at the former Pacific Parade platform location; and
- retention of the turfed area near the carpark at Kropp Park.

Amenities upgrade, Kropp Park

Construction of the accessible change room extension to the existing building in Kropp Park is now complete and the facility is open to the public. This new change room facility accommodates people with high-care needs, providing a private change-room space and ability to transfer between chairs with adequate circulation space, beach wheelchair accessibility, benches and grab rails.



Kropp Park, Tugun

Update on Tugun to Bilinga Oceanway lighting upgrade

Community feedback received prompted a review of the lighting design to determine if any improvements could be achieved. Subsequently, investigations confirmed that compliance could be achieved with a reduced pole height of 6.2m and lights to be dimmed at 9pm.

In response to a petition lodgement regarding turtle hatching, the City committed to undertaking a further ecological assessment in accordance with the revised Federal guidelines.

This assessment confirmed that the proposed lighting upgrade appropriately responds to best practice lighting design as set out in the National Light Pollution Guidelines, and confirms the City's general environmental duty has been met.

Impacted residents may have already received notification of the proposed timeframe for the project which is scheduled to commence in late March 2021.

Drinking fountain installation

Drinking fountain installation projects at Coplicks Family Park and Dolan Family Park are now complete.

Spotlight on SouthernGC

Boyd Lake

The City will be continuing to manage the Salvinia plant that is affecting Boyd Lake through a multipronged management approach including biological weevils, harvesting and spot spraying. Weevils are the preferred solution as they work, 24/7. Whilst this process can be slow, the overall benefit is better for the environment. Officers are promoting growth of the native Azolla plant to take over as the dominant floating species in the lake. Azolla is beneficial to the aquatic environment as it provides habitat and is a great food source for waterfowl, fish, shrimp, insects, worms, snails and crustaceans.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact the team at lakesandwaterways@goldcoast.qld.gov.au, or for more information on Azolla visit: goldcoast.qld.gov.au/environment/azolla-11156.html.



Boyd Lake, Tugun

Shared use pathways

In response to my Councillor Request about possible actions that could be taken to point out etiquette and slow users down along our shared pathways, the City has chosen the Tugun to Billunga Oceanway section as the location for a project to determine what signs and pavement messages are effective in influencing the right behaviours on our shared-use pathways.

Tugun skate park

A new colour scheme for Tugun skate park and surrounding landscaping has revamped this much loved facility.



Tugun skate park at Betty Diamond Sport Complex

What's on in our community

Tugun Lights Up 2020

Presented by Division 14, Cr Gail O'Neill, in partnership with Community Bank Tugun, part of Bendigo Bank, Tugun Lights Up (a Tugun Progress Association event) is scheduled for Saturday 5 December from 4pm to 8.30pm.

This event is being conducted under a COVID-19 Safe Event Plan and therefore staged entertainment will be by ticket only. Entry is free, with attendees asked to register online beforehand by visiting tugunlightsup.com.au.

Currumbin Community Christmas Carols 2020

Currumbin Community Christmas Carols 2020, presented by Division 14 Cr Gail O'Neill, is on Monday 7 December, from 5.30pm to 8pm, at Galleon Park Currumbin Waters (subject to QLD Health and City Event approval).

This event is being conducted under a COVID-19 Safe Event Plan and therefore entry will be by ticket only. Entry is free, with attendees asked to register online beforehand. For more information visit ticketebo.com.au/currumbincarols.

Coolangatta Christmas Carols 2020

Coolangatta Christmas Carols 2020, presented by Division 14 Cr Gail O'Neill, in partnership with Hutchinson Builders, will be held on Sunday 13 December from 4pm for pre-entertainment, with the main show commencing from 5.30pm to 8.30pm (subject to QLD Health and City Events approvals).

This event is being conducted under a COVID-19 Safe Event Plan and therefore entry will be by ticket only. Entry is free, with attendees asked to register online beforehand. For more information visit coolangattachristmascarols.com.au.

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



Natural disaster season is not over

It has been a hectic and at times challenging start to this severe weather season. We have seen nature demonstrating its awesome power through several storms that have caused heartbreaking damage to many people's homes and lives.

With our glorious sunny weather we tend to think the worst won't happen. But it does and the statistics prove that south Queensland is a hot spot for damaging storms. Consider that in just one storm early this season, power distributor Energex logged 413,000 lightning strikes in one afternoon event and more than 1 million strikes in a week.

Each bolt can contain up to one billion volts of electricity and about 100 strike Earth's surface every single second.

Sadly, quite a few Gold Coasters have been injured and that's something we really want to avoid. So, please take note when I urge you to Get Ready.

As we have transitioned from Spring into Summer, storms are less frequent but we now face the threat of cyclones with the official season running from November through to the end of April. With a La Nina event this year, the danger is substantially greater. On average, about 10 cyclones develop over Australian waters each year and around six of these cross the coast.

Even though a La Nina event promises lots of rainfall, bushfire remains a serious threat in our hinterland area. If we have a dry spell – even a short one – a lot of fuel can be at risk of ignition.

My thinking is: don't be scared but be prepared.

To protect yourself, prepare an emergency plan and create an emergency kit with sensible supplies to cater for unfortunate situations if they arise. It's smart to be cautious. I encourage you to check our City website for lots of great information that truly could be a lifesaver for you. Visit: www.cityofgoldcoast.com.au/getready

Tom Tate

TOM TATE
MAYOR

