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Senator Matt Canavan
PO Box 737
Rockhampton Qld 4700

Dear Senator

Invitation to a personal briefing on the Birkdale Community Precinct and the Redland Whitewater Centre.

Redland City Council is proud to have an Olympic venue for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. The Redlands Whitewater Centre will be part of a broader precinct called ***Birkdale Community Precinct; a place with a space for everyone.*** This 62-hectare site has been quietly hidden away; surrounded by un-touched protected bushland and Koala habitat that provides a backdrop that is uniquely Redlands. The Birkdale Community Precinct truly captures the essence of our Naturally Wonderful Redlands Coast.

It appears that the Senate Committee hasn't been afforded the detail around the processes and the work involved in legacy planning for our Olympic venue. I have included below a summary however, invite you to a personal briefing to get a deeper appreciation and understanding of the promise this venue brings for our city.

A day at the Birkdale Community Precinct will be enriching and exciting, and provide opportunities for our community to create lasting memories. The community lagoon, adventure sports, tracks and trails bring active families together, and supports our community's health and wellbeing. Entertainment spaces for outdoor movie nights and local artists enriches our cultural experiences, while Indigenous education and reflection spaces connect us to our indigenous history.

Nestled amongst the valuable natural habitat are two historically significant places to be celebrated. The State heritage listed Willard's Farm Homestead bridges our history and our future with the restoration of this Redlands icon showcasing its valued place in our European history. The Birkdale Community Precinct will also celebrate the important role this place played in World War II, with the former United States Army receiving station on the site connecting the Redlands Coast to the world's history.

The Redlands Coast will again play a part in world history as we welcome regional, inter-state, national, and international guests to the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. The Birkdale Community Precinct will include the Redlands Whitewater Centre hosting the Olympic Canoe Slalom events, and delivering a legacy in natural disaster resilience training – an important global environmental issue.

We have led the what we believe to be a gold standard in a 'legacy-first' approach to venue planning. The design of the venue is focused on securing long-term benefits to Queensland and beyond, and achieves this through the integration of several user channels. In its legacy mode, the Redlands Whitewater Centre will include resilience training, defensive swimming, swift-water urban flooding rescue as well as elite sport training. A range of national and state groups have been a part of the legacy planning for this facility including Surf Life Saving Australia, National Emergency Management Agency, QFES and Queensland Police.

Redland City Council advocated with the Federal Government for many years to purchase this land. Originally planned for housing, we are proud that it is now back in community ownership and that it has an exciting future.

Following the recent Senate hearing, we would like to provide you with an opportunity to have a personal briefing on the Birkdale Community Precinct and the Redland Whitewater Centre to allow you to ask questions, and be provided with Council's confirmed plans and processes around the site. We would like to host you at Redland City Council and the Birkdale Community Precinct or happy to do this in person at a location that suits you best.

I look forward to hearing from your office.

Yours sincerely

Mayor Karen Williams
Redland City Council

Redland Resilience Training Centre

A legacy facility for Queensland, a vital component in how we face a challenging future

The legacy approach

- To secure long-term benefits to Queensland and beyond, the design of the centre must include several channels.
- A multi-channel facility has multi-uses including resilience training, defensive swimming, swift-water and urban flooding rescue, and elite sport training.
- Redland City Council is in conversations with a range of legacy partners such as Surf Life Saving Australia, National Emergency Management Agency, QFES and Queensland Police.
- In 2022, there were 339 drowning deaths nationally; 39 (13 per cent) of those were flood-related.
- There were 141 coastal drowning deaths, the highest number since recording began in 2004. Over the 12-month period, surf lifesavers conducted 8667 rescues across Australian beaches.
- During the 2022 floods in Queensland, more than 660 swift-water rescues were carried out by QFES and SES in February and March alone.
- The centre provides a unique and safe opportunity to teach swimmers how to survive in a rip or swift-water situation.



International resilience and emergency training

Over the past two years, Queensland and its interstate neighbours have battled with the unprecedented effects of climate change.

The Redland Resilience Training Centre will be a much-needed and relevant legacy facility that will provide a safe training environment for some of the most dangerous rescue activities that are becoming increasingly frequent in Queensland and Australia.

There is currently a shortage of swift-water training facilities in the Pacific region, resulting in emergency services personnel having to travel to access these sorts of facilities to New Zealand and further afield.

The Redland Whitewater Centre presents significant opportunities as a swift-water rescue training facility for state, national and Asia Pacific emergency services personnel.

The state-of-the-art complex, comprising a 220m Olympic-standard main Canoe Slalom channel, 150m warm-up channel and 3000sqm-plus lagoon, will provide an environment for swift-water and flood rescue training including emergency boat operations, rescues requiring high-rope operations and submerged vehicle rescues.

Location

The 62-hectare Birkdale Community Precinct incorporates the Redland Resilience Training Centre which includes the Redland Whitewater Centre, the proposed Canoe Slalom event venue for the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games