

Divison 5 News

from Cr Richie Bates

representing Westcourt, Portsmith,
Bungalow, Paramatta Park, Cairns
CBD, Green Island and parts of
Manunda, Mooroolool and Manoora

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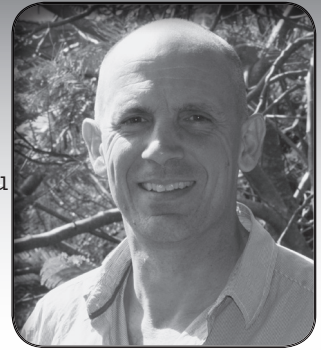
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Green light for Moody Creek flood retention

Inner city residents in Bungalow, Westcourt, Manunda, Mooroolool and Manoora were "over the moon" to hear the risk of waters rising from Moody Creek should soon be much reduced after Council announced a significant investment in drainage and flood mitigation last month.

Division 5 Councillor Richie Bates said the 2013-14 Cairns Regional Council budget, handed down by the Mayor last month, gave high priority to a major flood mitigation project. Inner suburbs residents who have endured the risk of flooding every wet season will benefit.

"The allocation of \$4.3 million for the construction of a 120 megalitre detention basin will reduce flooding in the Moody Creek catchment," Cr Bates said.

"And what that will do is catch a lot of that peak rainfall and stop it from becoming a surge in the creek.

"For residents in Division 5 this vital project will protect homes, increase peace of mind and reduce the trauma of dealing with insurance companies."

He said the detention basin was a significant investment for Council.

"It will bring substantial benefits of flood immunity to the inner suburbs," he said.

"With the detention basin capturing storm water and controlling flow, flood depths could be reduced by up to 600mm.

"The flooding issue has caused angst for residents and businesses across the inner suburbs for years so this project is an important step in alleviating community concerns.

"We live in a region capable of producing extreme wet seasons.

"Couple this with high insurance premiums and excess fees and this type of infrastructure becomes a priority, making it core business for council."

Cr Bates said Council had prioritised the project.

"If you look at all the capital works projects in the budget this is one of the biggest ones, so it was a good win for us," he said.

He said an additional \$7 million will be spent on drainage renewal and maintenance.



David Bence,
caretaker,
Cairns
Cycling Club

"I think it's an excellent idea and from my experience it will alleviate a lot of the problems – anything that will alleviate having water come low down this far into the residential areas will be great."



Linc Biggins,
ScootaCo

"As a concerned business owner our shop falls well and truly in the affected area, so I am all for it."

Thelma's Moody Creek history...

"The first time Moody Creek flooded was on the 19th of December 2000, and it all started from there," Thelma writes.

"Back then there was a court case, the Fisheries Tribunal Court came up from Brisbane in 2001. We won that case, in 2002 and a small retention basin was constructed as well as the half concrete lining of Moody Creek from Cochrane to Alfred Street bridges.

"In the 2006 wet season it flooded again. The existing retention basin was inadequate due to the development upstream. It overflowed and came down all over the community. You can do wonders out here when everyone pulls together. The community formed the Regional Ratepayers Association of Cairns, as founder and President since the association commenced in May 2009.

"Now the dotted line is signed, the drawings are done it is now all go ahead.

"There is more to be done in Rifle Creek, we are working on that."



Thelma Spelta,
President,
Regional Ratepayers
Association of Cairns
and Coordinator,
Mooroolool, Manunda
and Manoora
Neighbourhood Watch

"This is long overdue, the community is over the moon because we've worked so long and so hard for this, it's just fantastic."



Spence St stage of new Southern Cycle Way under construction

Construction of Stage One of the Southern Cycle Way project has begun.

The Cairns Cycle Way project aims to provide a three metre wide concrete path for safer cycling from Woree to the City, mainly via the disused rail line along Spence Street.

"This is great for commuters and good for cycling in general," Cr Richie Bates said.

"The path enables people to ride to work, cycle recreationally and allows kids to ride to school – it gets them and everyone on bikes off the main roads and gives them some safe space of their own."

The Spence Street section, which starts at the western end of Spence St near Moody Creek and extends east to Fearnley Street, is the first stage to be constructed.

It is estimated the section will take approximately six weeks to

complete, weather permitting.

The next stage is to connect that to Mulgrave Road through the construction of bridges over Moody Creek and Chinaman Creek, and followed by the eastern section through to Sheridan Street.

"When it's fully completed the cycle way will join up Mulgrave Road around Cannon Park Racecourse.

"So if you jump on there, you have a separate cycle way all the way into the CBD, and that will then link up with the Esplanade cycle way.

"When all this is done you could ride from Mulgrave Road all the

way into the CBD and then out to Aeroglen. In all, it connects up with our existing network and is a good southern link into the town."

Cr Bates said during construction there may be minor access disruptions to property driveways Council will keep to a minimum as much as possible.

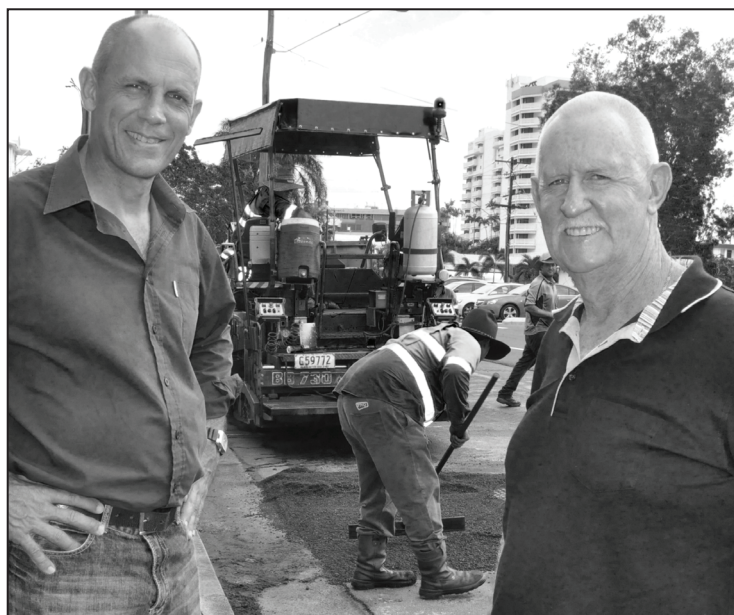


If you have any concerns about the works or would like to find out more contact Council on (07) 4044 3303 or email feedback@cairns.qld.gov.au

Taking on the 'Cr' challenge

Cr Bates says his role as a Councillor is challenging but he enjoys it!

"I went into this with my eyes pretty wide open because I ran four years ago and was unsuccessful," he reflected.



Richie and Division 7 Cr Max O'Halloran making sure all is well with the recent construction of more parking spaces in Lake St

"So I had another go with a better understanding of what would be involved.

"It's challenging, but very enjoyable.

"Every day it's constant, getting inquiries and calls from people asking for help or to solve particular issues.

"Working as a Councillor is a full-time job though, talking to people all the time and taking up issues for them – there are a lot of 12-hour days there.

"If you like doing it, it's easy, and I had a good background for coming into this as a resident of Cairns for 25 years with two now-young adult children, chair of Cycling Far North and an industrial advocate for my trade. It was all good grounding.

"The best thing has been the flood retention basin, it's a big thing worth a lot to the community and many people have worked very hard for a long time on that.

"It's great to be involved in things which make a difference."

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