

FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY THE KEY TO PROSPERITY

An independent review conducted by the Queensland Treasury Corporation says Redcliffe City Council is in a strong financial position. Mayor Allan Sutherland described the review as "a warts and all procedure" and said it had spurred council on to even greater efforts to bolster its financial position even further.

The graph at the right shows Redcliffe's position as the lowest rating council in south-east Queensland compared with other major local authorities.

"The QTC report said the council's improving financial position since 2003 indicated sound financial management," said Cr Sutherland, who is a candidate for Mayor in the new Moreton Bay Regional Council.

"The council's capacity to significantly fund capital expenditure using operating cash flows was also noted by QTC as a positive indicator," he said.

Recently graduating with a Diploma of Business from the Metropolitan South Institute of TAFE, Cr Sutherland is Chair of the Local Transition Committee which has been working through the nuts and bolts arrangements for merging the councils of Pine, Caboolture and Redcliffe.

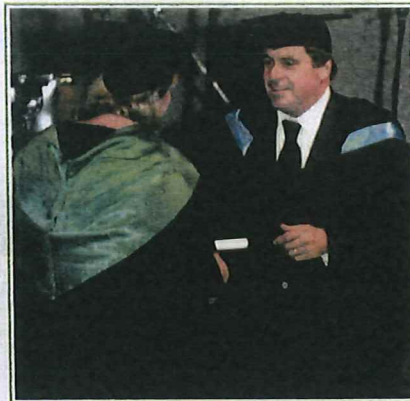
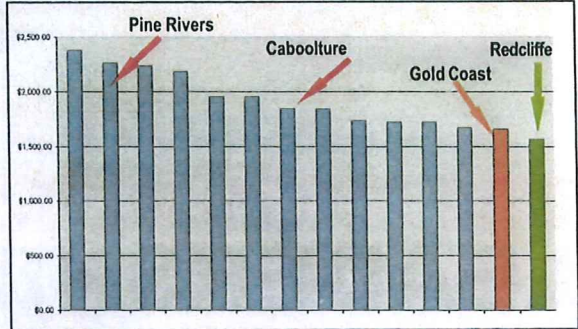
"Overall, achieving a strong rating is great news – it shows the council's financial position is sustainable and well placed to meet the present and future needs of a dynamic community," he said.

"The review assessed council's capacity to meet its financial commitments in the short, medium and long term, rating councils as very strong, strong, moderate, weak, very weak and distressed," Cr Sutherland said.

"The QTC reported that Redcliffe had relatively low debt levels with a good capacity to service new debt if it became needed," he said.

"The review also concluded that there were no known events or circumstances that were likely to have a direct impact on the council's financial sustainability in the immediate future," he said.

Following the report Redcliffe began an internal review of its asset management processes, examined ways to maintain revenue sources, investigated resource sharing and shared service options in a bid to improve its financial status even further.



• Allan Sutherland is presented with his Diploma of Business.

DID YOU KNOW?
When Bryan Galvin was Deputy Mayor, Pine Rivers Shire Council was charging among the highest rates and charges in south-east Queensland

CAN YOU HELP?
If you want to help Allan Sutherland become Mayor, call him on 3203 4680.



CABOOLTURE HAS DEBT WORRIES

Less than a year ago the Caboolture Shire Herald reported on Page 1 that the shire debt was set to grow more than tenfold in four years.

The council's Budget documents indicated that debt would rise from \$18.5 million in May last year to \$95.3 million by the end of the 2008 financial year, and \$194.8 million by 2012.

Included in the blowout was a provision of \$18 million for Mayor Joy Leishman's pet Caboolture Central Project, which has raised eyebrows in some quarters.

"Mayor Joy Leishman, who made no mention of the deficit or the extent of debt when announcing the Budget, was unavailable for comment," the paper said.

Endorsement from Cr James Houghton

Anyone can make empty boasts, but actions always speak louder than words. Following his election to Mayor in 2004, under Allan Sutherland's guidance and leadership, Redcliffe has really turned around.

He set in place goals and priorities, sought support from his fellow councillors and worked to a definite plan to turn Redcliffe from financial distress, blatant disregard for planning issues and arrogance towards the residents by elected councillors.

As a result, Redcliffe is prospering. Under Allan's leadership, city debt which was in danger of hemorrhaging has been turned around so that Redcliffe is now recognized among the top local governments financially in Queensland. A new Town Plan protecting our lifestyle has been gazetted, City rates and charges are the lowest in South-East Queensland and the most extensive operational works in Redcliffe's history have been implemented. Our city maintenance program for existing facilities is second to none and building approvals are at an all time high both in numbers and value. All of this within the last four years.

Being a firm believer in "plan your work - work your plan," the city, under Allan's leadership, is now benefitting.

Awards such as Queensland's Tidiest Town, Cleanest Beach, Friendliest Beach and environmental innovation awards have all been as a result of Allan's drive to see Redcliffe on the map nationally.

In all this Allan retains his down-to-earth approach to all residents. His office is always open to fresh ideas or to resolve difficulties residents experience.

I urge all voters on polling day, if you want your community to benefit from action, not just empty platitudes and rhetoric, then Allan Sutherland is definitely your man.

He has my endorsement and my vote.



Cr James Houghton