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**Brightwater Lake Shared Pathway**

One of the most attractive features of our community is the pathway around the lake. It is used regularly by residents, including cyclists, dog-walkers and the Brightwater Parkrun enthusiasts.

It is unfortunate when a few instances of thoughtlessness or discourtesy spoil the enjoyment by others of this widely used path. So please be considerate of other pathway users at all times in the following ways:

**PEDESTRIANS** - keep to the left hand side of the pathway.

**DOG-WALKERS** - keep your dog on a short lead or harness and under control at all times, and retrieve and dispose of your dog’s waste.

**CYCLISTS** - give way to pedestrians, do not race, and ring your bell prior to overtaking.

**Verge Parking**

Verge parking is becoming a problem in some parts of Brightwater. Parking a vehicle wholly or partially on the nature strip or verge may be considered an offence under the Transport Operations Road Use Management (Road Rules) Regulation 2009.

The road rules state that a driver must not stop on a bicycle path, footpath, shared path or median strip, or the verge adjacent to a length of road in a built-up area, unless the driver stops at a place on a length of road, or in an area, to which a parking control sign applies.

Drivers must park lawfully, safely and consider other road users and pedestrians when parking their vehicle. Sunshine Coast Council is responsible for regulating parking in accordance with its Local Laws and the Road Rules.

Parking on a bicycle path, footpath, shared path, nature strip or verge, or on the driveway across the footpath, may result in a parking infringement being issued including the possibility of on-the-spot fines.

In order to balance the needs of the community with legislative requirements and safety concerns, Council officers will often provide education and a caution in the first instance of the road rules being violated, unless there is a serious and immediate safety issue related to the vehicle being parked on the verge.

If you are concerned about a vehicle parked unlawfully in places that restrict traffic flow and property access, please contact Sunshine Coast Council via phone or email.

Phone (07) 5475 7227, or send an email to mail#sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au detailing the specific location and nature of your concern, and a representative will investigate the matter.

While a shark attack in the lake is highly unlikely and there have been no further sightings since early February, Brightwater residents who use the lake for kayaking, paddle boarding, fishing or other water activities are advised to take care.

Only secondary contact with the water is permitted on Brightwater lake, which means that people are not supposed to swim in it. There is a sign about this near the boat ramp at the western end of the lake, although it does not specifically state that swimming is not allowed.

This matter has been raised with the Sunshine Coast Council and a request has been made to have appropriate signs posted around the lake to advise people that swimming in the lake is not recommended. Similar signs can be seen around lake Kawana, warning of submerged objects and the possibility of marine creatures in the water.

Manta rays have also been sighted in Brightwater lake, thereby confirming that our lake is not immune to the presence of marine creatures.

Brightwater estate receives a higher level of landscape maintenance commitment with the special rates and charges scheme applied by the Sunshine Coast Regional Council, which includes extra maintenance of open space and common areas including parks, median strips and the like.

This extra landscape maintenance is carried out by Council contractors who can be seen working around the estate on a daily basis.

However, Council does not conduct landscape maintenance of the nature strip adjoining residential properties unless there is an associated risk such as road safety, impaired sight lines and hazardous pedestrian movements.

Cyclists, pedestrians and dog-walkers are aware of these matters and of the concerns expressed by the Brightwater Neighbourhood Watch and Queensland Police today (23 April). Queensland Police are aware of the incidents and of the concerns expressed in the Brightwater Community Association and Brightwater Neighbourhood Watch Facebook pages. Residents should see an increase in police activity in Brightwater, which has already commenced. We will seek to take a more proactive approach to resolving the issues with youth congregating in parks and causing problems to prevent these issues occurring in the first place.

It’s essential that all incidents are reported to Police. If you witness any instance of criminal behaviour, please report it to PoliceLink on 131 444 or visit a police station. Obviously if it’s an emergency call Triple Zero (000). When you make a report it should be registered by Police and you should ask for a reference number, so you know it’s been logged.

As always, if you have concerns or ideas that you think you need to be aware of please don’t hesitate to contact me via Facebook or get in touch with me on 5406 2100 or email budermmparliament.qld.gov.au.

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**Message on Crime**

I share the community’s concern in relation to the incidents of break-in, vehicle theft, property damage and assault that have been reported by the community in Brightwater over the Easter weekend. Residents have a right to feel safe in their homes.

I have spoken to the Brightwater Neighbourhood Watch and Queensland Police today (23 April), Queensland Police are aware of the incidents and of the concerns expressed in the Brightwater Community Association and Brightwater Neighbourhood Watch Facebook pages. Residents should see an increase in police activity in Brightwater, which has already commenced. We will seek to take a more proactive approach to resolving the issues with youth congregating in parks and causing problems to prevent these issues occurring in the first place.

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**Hideaway Canal Public Watercraft Access Point**

The BCA is continuing to work with the Sunshine Coast Regional Council to develop options for the installation of a public watercraft access point on the Hideaway Canal at Brightwater.

The intention is to install a modular pontoon which can be used to launch small, non motorised watercraft such as kayaks and stand up paddle boards, thereby providing all Brightwater residents with access to the Mooloolah River and waterways beyond.

Further research on the most appropriate location for the access point is required and community consultation with local residents is ongoing. Council has committed to installing the pontoon in FY2019-20.

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**Maintenance of Nature Strips - Who is Responsible?**

It is common and accepted practice that property owners or residents maintain turfed and garden bed areas within the nature strip adjacent to their properties, excluding the maintenance of street trees.

Council appreciates the support and willingness of residents to undertake this activity as a contribution to the amenity of the whole area which allows Council to direct its resources to other essential services.

Hopefully you will agree that we live in a very well presented estate, but if you have any concerns with landscape management in your area, please contact the BCA by email with your concerns: brightwaterca@hotmail.com