



District Council of Mount Remarkable



MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

I am pleased and thankful to be elected as the Mayor for the District Council of Mount Remarkable. Coming to Council in the last term, already I have seen some great work by both Council and our communities.

I bring to the role a wealth of experience from my professional career, most of which was spent working within the Commonwealth Government through various government statutory authorities. These varying roles took me all over Australia, and has equipped me with an array of skills that I now plan to apply to Council for the betterment of the organisation, and the communities that we serve.

I plan to certainly be up and about, making Council and the team visible, while getting on with business. We have before us opportunities, and opportunities that I am keen to explore. Our growth in the tourism sector is an opportunity like no other, and through our recently adopted Strategic Tourism Plan, I will be keen to get some runs on the board. In addition to tourism, my background is also rich in agricultural experience, including my current farming operations held within the Council area. I plan to make sure that our deep connection to the land and history in agriculture is not forgotten, and maximised as we move forward.

I believe we have a good team in place to ensure that our Council area grows, and we can capture our youth to ensure longer term sustainability. A key focus of ours needs to be on a strategic approach, and by raising our sights up a little, I know we can continue to achieve more.

I look forward to getting out and meeting many of you as I travel around, and I make myself available for community members, community groups, and businesses that are keen to roll up their sleeves, and get on with making Mount Remarkable, remarkable!

Mayor Stephen McCarthy

THE BLUFF LOOKOUT – BINOCULARS INSTALLED

The Bluff Lookout continues to receive high visitation numbers and through the great generosity of Max Cranes & Equipment Hire now has commercial grade binoculars which enhance the visitor experience when taking in the sweeping views.

Council thanks Max Cranes & Equipment Hire for its support and generosity in supporting our community and benefits Council's overall tourism objectives.



COUNCIL NEWS

Upcoming Ordinary Council meeting dates
Community Question Time 5.30pm - 6.00pm
Ordinary Meeting of Council 6.00pm

- » 17 Jan - Melrose Council Chambers
- » 21 Feb - Melrose Council Chambers
- » 21 March - Wirrabara Institute
- » 18 April - Melrose Council Chambers
- » 16 May - Melrose Council Chambers
- » 20 June - Wilmington Bowling Club
- » 18 July - Melrose Council Chambers
- » 15 Aug - Melrose Council Chambers
- » 19 Sept - Booleroo Centre Bowling Club
- » 17 Oct - Melrose Council Chambers
- » 21 Nov - Melrose Council Chambers
- » 12 Dec - Port Germein Community Hub

Audit & Risk Committee

Next meeting Friday 10 February 2022

To access copies of current and past Council and Committee meeting agendas and minutes click here:

[Council Agenda and Minutes | District Council of Mount Remarkable \(mtr.sa.gov.au\)](https://www.mtr.sa.gov.au)

[Committees | District Council of Mount Remarkable \(mtr.sa.gov.au\)](https://www.mtr.sa.gov.au)

Media Releases

Media releases issued since the previous newsletter are available here:

[Latest News | District Council of Mount Remarkable \(mtr.sa.gov.au\)](https://www.mtr.sa.gov.au)

Newsletters

Previous issues of newsletters are available here: [Council | District Council of Mount Remarkable \(mtr.sa.gov.au\)](https://www.mtr.sa.gov.au)





CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Reflect. Respect. Celebrate.

AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS

Award ceremonies and celebrations were held on 26 January throughout the District.

CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to Melrose local Mr Ken Walter who was awarded the 2023 Citizen of the Year award at the Australia Day celebrations coordinated by the Melrose Hospital Auxilliary and held at Paradise Square, Melrose.

Ken's extensive volunteer work in the Melrose and district community over a period of more than 50 years was acknowledged by Cr Colin Nottle at the event..



Ken Walter & Cr Colin Nottle

JUNIOR CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to Miss Sienna Lines, who was awarded the 2023 Junior Citizen of the Year award at the Australia Day celebrations coordinated by the Wilmington Show Society held at the Wilmington Show Grounds.

Sienna's leadership and community commitment was acknowledged by Deputy Mayor Cr Lesley Till at the event.



Sienna Lines & Deputy Mayor Cr Lesley Till



ADMINISTRATION CENTRE OPENING AND CLOSING TIMES

Following Council's November meeting decision to undertake public consultation on proposed changes to Council's Administration Centre opening and closing times, a further report which included all feedback received from the community was considered by Council at its January Ordinary meeting. As a result, the Council resolved to change the opening and closing times of the Administration Centre.

From Monday 23 January customers will be able to access services at the Administration Centre (in person and by telephone) from 9am–5pm each weekday (excepting public holidays). There is also no longer a one hour closure during the luncheon period. As Council currently operates an Australia Post agency, the sorting of Australia Post mail will be completed by 10am each day.

Copies of the related Council agenda reports on this matter are available here:

[PUB-notice-of-meeting-and-agenda-Ordinary-Meeting-of-Council-29-November-2022.pdf](#) (mtr.sa.gov.au) (go to page 196)

[PUB-Notice-of-meeting-and-agenda-Ordinary-Meeting-of-Council-17-January-....pdf](#) (mtr.sa.gov.au) (go to page 95)



COUNCIL GRADING PROGRAM

Monthly Patrol Grading Reports can be found at

[Infrastructure | District Council of Mount Remarkable](#) (mtr.sa.gov.au)



NEW COUNCIL INDUCTED

The District Council of Mount Remarkable is represented by six (6) Elected Members (Councillors) and one (1) Mayor, noting one (1) vacancy at present for the Willochra Ward.

The current Mayor and Councillors were elected by the community at the Local Government periodic elections held in November 2022, and will represent the communities of the District Council of Mount Remarkable for a four (4) year term until the next periodic election in 2026.

The role of the Councillor is to represent the views of residents and ratepayers, provide community leadership and guidance, and facilitate communication between the community and the Council.

Their role also includes representing Council on other bodies, and taking part in discussions and decision making at Council and committee meetings.

As part of the induction process for the new Council, a session was held on the Why and Achieve factors of being an Elected Member. A summary of this is provided in the table below.

Residents can take up relevant matters of concern with one of your Councillors, who can then relay to Council through the appropriate channels.

Contact details for your Councillors are available here:
<https://www.mtr.sa.gov.au/our-council/contacts>

MEMBER	WHY DID YOU STAND FOR COUNCIL	WHAT DO YOU WANT TO ACHIEVE
 Mayor Stephen McCarthy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Skills & attributes to bring to Council » Keep Council strategic » Help drive & implement change management » Improve governance & transparency 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Innovation » Brand (identity) » Explore opportunities » Social/economic growth » Strategy implementation » Develop/manage risk » Position of harmony » Identify key issues » Sustainability (organisation and service delivery)
 Cr Phillip Heaslip	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Complete projects » Enjoy change (Council) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Explore opportunities » Complete Pt Germein Jetty » Continue cross council collaboration » Build on stakeholder relations » Business growth » Trails/tourism growth » Service delivery of Council
 Cr Ian (Danny) Keller	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Motivation » Community pressure » Support community groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Change culture of Council » Change in Elected Members » Finish jobs/projects » Core business/delivery of Council
 Cr Colin Nottle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Passionate » Contribute » Help rate payers » Experience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Council a better place » Attract younger families » Leave a better place
 Cr Sheriden Tate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » More representation (Western side and female balance) » Community pressure » Experience (to gain) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Council to grow (organisation) » Service delivery » District wide growth » Grow community
 Cr Lesley Till	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Long interest in Local Government » Passionate about regions » Advocacy » Bring skills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Advocacy – support regional communities » Service delivery – enhance Local Government & State Government services



COUNCIL BUDGET UPDATE

At its December 2022 Ordinary meeting, Council received a budget update report, of which indicated that financial impacts are favourable with the operating surplus ratio improving by 5%, the net financial liabilities ratio improving by 21% and the asset renewal funding ratio has improved by 7%.

The annual financial statements will be completed and presented to Council's Audit & Risk Committee on 10 February and will then be presented to Council for adoption. A snapshot of the budget is as follows:

UNIFORM PRESENTATION OF FINANCES	Original Budget \$,000	Budget Update \$,000	KEY FINANCIAL INDICATORS	Original Budget \$,000	Budget Update \$,000	Mvmt	STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME	Original Budget \$,000	Budget Update \$,000	Variance to Adopt	Comment
Operating Revenue	8,435	8,712	Operating Surplus Ratio				INCOME				
less Operating Expense	(8,314)	(8,177)	Operating Surplus	121	535	414	Rates	4,539	4,539	0	
Operating Surplus / (Deficit) before Capital Amounts	121	535	Total Operating Revenue	8,435	8,712	276	Statutory Charges	91	91	0	
				1%	6%	5%	User Charges	505	505	0	
less Net Outlays on Existing Assets			Net Financial Liabilities Ratio				Grants & Subsidies	2,819	3,095	276	Additional \$31k FAG's & R2R, additional \$50k STRAVP funding, \$100k ODP, \$45k LTICP
Capital Expenditure on renewal and replacement of Existing Assets	5,022	5,359	Net Financial Liabilities	(976)	(2,856)	(1,880)	Investment Income	90	90	0	
less Depreciation, Amortisation & Impairment	(1,807)	(1,807)	Total Operating Revenue	8,435	8,712	276	Reimbursements	134	134	0	
less Proceeds from Sale of Replaced Assets	(395)	(395)		-12%	-33%	-21%	Other Revenues	250	250	0	
	2,819	3,156	Asset Renewal Funding Ratio				Total Operating Income	8,435	8,712	276	
less Net Outlays on New & Upgraded Assets			Net Asset Renewals	4,627	4,964	337	EXPENDITURE				
Capital Expenditure on New & Upgraded Assets	1,773	1,090	Asset Renewals per AMP	4,627	4,627	0	Employee Costs	2,678	2,540	(137)	Reflects savings from various unfilled positions.
less Amounts Specifically for New or Upgraded Assets	(2,435)	(2,372)		100%	107%	7%	Materials, Contracts & Other Expenses	3,771	3,771	0	
less Proceeds from Sale of Surplus Assets	0	0					Depreciation	1,807	1,807	0	
	(662)	(1,283)					Finance Charges	59	59	0	
Net Lending/ (Borrowing) for Financial Year	(2,036)	(1,339)					Total Operating Expenditure	8,314	8,177	(137)	
							OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	121	535	414	
							Amounts Received Specifically for New Assets	2,435	2,372	(63)	
							NET SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	2,556	2,907	351	
							Gain on Revaluation of IPP&E	1,129	1,129	0	
							Total Comprehensive Income	3,685	4,036	351	

MELROSE LICENCED POST OFFICE

Since 2005, Council has been providing a postal agency service at the Administration Centre to the Melrose community.

Post services have included the management of letter/parcel collection, post office box rental renewals, bill payment services, cash withdrawal/deposit (banking services); stamps, envelopes and post-sale stock; domestic and overseas postage; mobile phone credit; money orders; unaddressed mail and philatelic orders.

Consistent with Council's recently adopted Long Term Financial Plan, a review of the existing service was undertaken and presented to Council for consideration. The report is available here: [PUB-Notice-of-meeting-and-agenda-Ordinary-Meeting-of-Council-17-January-....pdf \(mtr.sa.gov.au\)](#) (go to page 103). Council noted that whilst a postal agency is not core business for Council, nor is the provision of mail services

a requirement under the Local Government Act 1999, Council did elect in 2005 to assume responsibility of this.

Council also recognised that service provisions and market conditions have changed since that time. Through the passage of time, and current requirements placed upon councils in general, an argument of core service delivery and the ability for Council to focus on other mandatory and essential areas was identified. Council considered a report on this matter at the January Ordinary Meeting Council and resolved to:

- » request that Australia Post seek an alternative provider for Australia Post services for the Melrose community;
- » support Australia Post in its endeavours to find a potential new Licensee for the Melrose Post Services; and

» advise Australia Post that once a successful provider has been secured for the current Australia Post services as currently provided by Council, that Council formally surrender the Melrose Licence Post Office arrangements with Australia Post.

Whilst the decision will have an impact on the Melrose community all considerations were taken into account and Council will endeavour to ensure that there is limited interruption to services where possible.

Council is liaising and working collaboratively with Australia Post to find an alternative solution and believes there is an opportunity presented for any local/s seeking to establish or expand any business offering within the local area. Existing post services will be maintained until such time if and when an alternative option is found.





COUNCIL ADOPTS MODEL BEHAVIOURAL MANAGEMENT POLICY

The introduction of the LGA's Model Behavioural Management Policy is a major component of local government reforms which commenced with the new Council term in November 2022.

The Minister for Local Government approved drafting of transitional regulations which will deem the LGA Model Behavioural Management Policy as each council's policy from commencement of the new framework until each Council adopts its own policy. Advice from the LGA is that the Minister has approved the LGA Model Behavioural Management Policy being utilised by all councils for a period of up to 12 months, to enable all councils within this period to establish and adopt its own Behavioural Management Policy. It is understood the regulations will require councils to adopt their own Behavioural Management Policy which may be the LGA Model Policy or some other variation of that document.

The provisions relevant to the Behavioural Management Framework commenced immediately following the 2022 council periodic elections which were held in November. At this time, the Behavioural Standards for Council Members will replace the former Code of Conduct for Council Members which become obsolete as the respective legislative provisions relating to the Code of Conduct no longer exist. At the same time, the investigative and disciplinary powers of the Behavioural Standards Panel will commence.

The LGA Model Behavioural Management Policy has been developed in consultation with Local Government Risk Services, the Office of Local Government and the LGA's Legal Connect partners, Norman Waterhouse Lawyers. The Model Policy sets the framework within the Policy that councils may wish to customise, as part of its review of the Model Behavioural Management Policy within 12 months after adoption, to meet requirements specific to each council.

The LGA Model Behavioural Management Policy reflects the changes to the role of the principal member of council, set out in section 58 of the Local Government Act 1999. Consistent with the increased leadership obligations, the Policy assigns responsibility for the management of complaints to the Mayor (except in circumstances where the complaint relates to the conduct of the Mayor). Councils may determine and appoint an alternative person to be responsible for managing any complaints received in accordance with this Policy.

Council has adopted the new Model Behavioural Management Policy, and believes this is a positive step for the broader sector to ensure the overall professional conduct of local government is enhanced. A copy of the policy is available here: <https://www.mtr.sa.gov.au/documents/policy-documents/councilpolicies>



NPTN Care in Motion Volunteer Val Hitch

NORTHERN PASSENGER TRANSPORT NETWORK UPDATE FROM CARE IN MOTION

David McDonald the CEO for Care In Motion, whilst reflecting on the past 6 months since taking on the operations of the NPTN, stated that,

"We could not be happier with the overall positive feedback and support that we have received from the community. The Care In Motion team are absolutely thrilled with the way in which all clients, volunteers and the community in general have embraced us. We truly feel that we are an integral part of the community. Mount Remarkable Council has been most helpful in ensuring that everything has run smoothly, which we have been most appreciate of. Have no doubt that Care In Motion is clearly in for the long term to ensure that the community has the best and most efficient community transport service available to it, ensuring that no one is transport disadvantaged. We are hoping that all stakeholders will embrace Care In Motion, and be supportive of us to be everyone's preferred community transport provider, not only now but well into the foreseeable future."

David has stated, that recent statistics have further highlighted the growth and success of Care In Motion's performance to date. On a July to December 2022 v 2021 comparative, the six months highlight that Medical trips have increased by 16%, Social (Out 'N' About) up 3%, Total trips are up 10% and our "Unique Clients" have grown by almost 16%. Even more encouraging is the massive growth for December now that our marketing strategies to further promote the service are now taking effect. Here are the highlights: Medical Trips up a staggering 181 or 105.8% on 2021, Total Trips up by 174 or 101.8% on 2021, Unique Clients have also grown and are up 42 or 62.7% on the prior year, and we are currently in the process of recruiting 5 new Volunteers, which is most impressive and heartening.

Val Hitch, one of the many valuable volunteers working with Care In Motion for the NPTN had the following to say,

"The transition to Care in Motion has been most supportive and smooth. Care in Motion puts the volunteers and clients first and I'm so happy to be part of an organisation that values me and our community."



NORTHERN PASSENGER TRANSPORT NETWORK SERVICE

In 2007 Council became the service provider for the Northern Passenger Transport Network service ("NPTN"). The service was previously administered by the Central Local Government Region (LEGATUS). LEGATUS undertook a review of the community passenger transport network service at this time, which led to a member Council taking over the service, which was the District Council of Mount Remarkable.

As part of the transition to Council, the employees and assets associated with the service were transferred to Council (primarily a cash reserve and one (1) vehicle under lease). The service has been in operation now for some 22 years, and operates across six (6) primary Council areas. These Council areas include;

- » Port Pirie Regional Council
- » District Council of Orroroo Carrieton
- » District Council of Peterborough
- » Northern Areas Council
- » District Council of Mount Remarkable
- » The Flinders Ranges Council

Council has been responsible for the NPTN since formally taking the service over from the Central Local Government Region (LEGATUS) in 2007.

In June 2022 Council received a report relating to this matter, of which at that time Council resolved the following:

- Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and enter in to an appropriate sub-contracting arrangement for the provision of services for the Northern Passenger Transport Network Service, on the basis there is no reduction to the current service provided;

- Continues to work with key stakeholder Council's, namely; The Flinders Ranges Council, Orroroo Carrieton Council, Peterborough

Council, Port Pirie Regional Council and Northern Areas Council to provide a long term solution to the provision of services to communities for community passenger networks;

- Approves the appointment of Community Care & Transport Incorporated as a sub-contractor on terms as negotiated by the Chief Executive Officer; and

- Approves dispensation from Council's Procurement Policy (Section 5 a) & g)) noting the specialised service provision required for the engagement of Community Care & Transport Incorporated as a sub-contractor for the Northern Passenger Transport Network Service.

Since 1 July 2022, the NPTN service has been operating under a contractor model as approved by Council with Community Care & Transport. During this time, Council and key stakeholder Councils have received regular updates on the service and its performance, including the enhancements in which Community Care & Transport have implemented.

Presently the NPTN is administered by the District Council of Mount Remarkable, and is then sub-contracted to Community Care & Transport – Care in Motion. This means Council is the responsible entity to all funding bodies, and the overall operational requirements which include associated legal, regulatory and risk management requirements.

The administrative and service delivery functions are undertaken by the current sub-contractor, Community Care & Transport.

The service has been very successful for over twenty (20) years in which it has been operating. The feedback that Council receives from volunteers and passengers is consistently positive.

The NPTN is considered an integral service and one which has strong community demand and support. The current funding partners are also keen to see the service continue.

Presently in South Australia there are only a small number of councils that administer community passenger transport services. This has been a growing trend as the not for profit sector have developed their presence in this market. There are certainly other providers such as the Mid-North Community Passenger Network Service, Eyre Peninsula Community Passenger Network Service and the Yorke Peninsula Community Transport Service (Community Care & Transport).

These organisations in particular receive local government support, which some member councils make annual contributions to assist the service in its effective delivery to service their communities. They are not specifically under the control and administration of one (1) singular council.

Existing funding bodies have expressed concern with the District Council of Mount Remarkable remaining the administrative and service delivery body unless a demonstrated and significant improvement to governance practices is implemented. This issue was somewhat outlined within the independent service review report previously provided to Council.

Testing the Market for service providers

Council to date has not tested the market for other service providers in relation to the NPTN Service, noting there are other providers that provide community passenger services. These services are not designed to make a profit, and it would be advisable that in any consideration Council makes, it focusses on the service delivery and how best to make NPTN sustainable and grow for many years to come. This should be the key priority, and not what financial value Council could materialise. NPTN is a community service focused on supporting and assisting multiple communities, and such a service should be considered integral and important both now, and in to the future.

Consistent with previous resolutions of Council, the CEO has been engaging with the impacted Councils on a regular basis, and the NPTN has formed a regular agenda item for the monthly Flinders Alliance meetings, of which council CEOs attend.



Funding Arrangements and financial implications on Council

It was previously advised that the funding arrangements for NPTN with the State and Commonwealth Governments would expire on 30 June 2022, with both levels of government indicating their strong willingness for the service to continue. One of these funding parties has expressed concern over whom should be the administrative and service delivery body.

Council recently received from the primary funding body (Department of Human Services) advice which outlines an offer to extend the current funding arrangements, and the extension of the current sub-contracting arrangements to cater for proposed service provision changes. Since receiving this advice, additional advice was received by the Department of Human Services advising that community passenger transport funding has been extended until 28 February 2025 (state-wide commitment). This also provides security, that post 30 June 2023, the State Government has an ongoing funding commitment with particular reference to the NPTN service.

Council needed to consider annual budget-allocation provisions (increasing) for governance improvements of the NPTN, should Council had chosen to continue the service under Councils management. The previous independent service report identified areas of concern and areas for improvement. These areas will need to be addressed, and will need to be actioned to satisfy the funding bodies and ensure suitable service delivery continues.

The service was previously administered by a Section 41 Committee (Northern Passenger Transport Network Management Committee), of which in 2021 Council resolved to no longer continue with the Section 41 Committee. The rationale was outlined in a report to Council, and supported by Council's Governance Advisory Panel.

Council has previously been supplied (as has other stakeholder Councils) with a financial summary prepared by UHY Haines Norton which provides a summary of financial information making it easier for all parties to have a fully reconciled understanding of the annual finances and current situation of NPTN. The 'reserve account' as illustrated within is considered an asset to the NPTN service, and any future decisions relating to the NPTN should reflect this cash balance being part of the future of NPTN.

Post 30 June 2023

As per a meeting held on Friday 10 June 2022 in Melrose with a number of Council Mayors and CEO's, it is proposed that the clients and volunteers must be the number one priority for all parties involved, and any future arrangements need to reflect this priority.

Following a report to the December 2022 Council meeting, Council resolved the following;

That Council:

- 1. receives and notes the report;*
- 2. accepts to proceed with the offer as received by the Department of Human Services via email dated 11 November 2022 (attached to this report) to extend the current funding arrangements from 28 February 2023 to 30 June 2023;*
- 3. authorises the Chief Executive Officer to extend and apply the Common Seal of Council to the current sub-contracting arrangements with Community Care & Transport for the provision of services relating to the Northern Passenger Transport Network, on the basis there is no reduction to the current service provided for a period not exceeding 30 June 2023;*
- 4. approves the Chief Executive officer to advise all current and relevant funding bodies of the Northern Passenger Transport Network Service, that post 30 June 2023 Council will no longer be the provider of the service, and formally advised funding bodies that Council will relinquish its responsibilities under the current funding arrangements from 30 June 2023;*
- 5. continues to work with key stakeholder Council's, namely; The Flinders Ranges Council, Orroroo Carrieton Council, Peterborough Council, Port Pirie Regional Council and Northern Areas Council to provide a continued and long term provision of services to communities for community passenger networks;*
- 6. provides further information to Council relating to the current assets associated to the Northern Passenger Transport Network Service, and options available for transfer which should include the support of the stakeholder Council's as named in recommendation 5 above;*
- 7. approves supporting the appointment of Community Care & Transport Incorporated as the preferred service provider for the Northern Passenger transport Network Service post June 30 2023; and*

8. approves dispensation from Council's Procurement Policy (Section 5 a) & g)) noting the specialised service provision required for the engagement of Community Care & Transport Incorporated as a sub-contractor for the Northern Passenger Transport Network Service.

This option enables Council time to complete an appropriate process for the extension of the current sub-contracting arrangements, and provide formal advice to funding bodies and stakeholders that Council will no longer be providing the NPTN service post 30 June 2023. This option seeks to have further advice in relation to any potential transfer of assets associated to the current service.

Council through the adopted recommendations at the December 2022 Council meeting, will be providing support for the current sub-contractor to remain ongoing as the permanent provider for the service (become the entity responsible), and thus would consider a transfer of assets to such a provider with the support of other stakeholder Council's. It is noted that funding bodies will be required to undertake their own process to appoint a new service provider, and Council cannot select a new provider of its choosing.

Council has entered in to an agreement to allow the extension of the current sub-contracting armaments. A future draft agreement will be required to be presented in relation to any proposed transfer of assets, post 30 June 2023.

It is noted that since Community Care & Motion have been engaged as the sub-contractor for this service, that no complaints or service interruption issues have been received by Council, and, the number of volunteers and client interactions utilising the service have both increased

Council is proud of the 20+ year commitment made to NPTN service, and remains committed to the service moving forward to ensure the service including its volunteers are supported, and the community remain well served by the service.



**Community Care & Motion
Volunteer Christmas Function
held in Melrose**



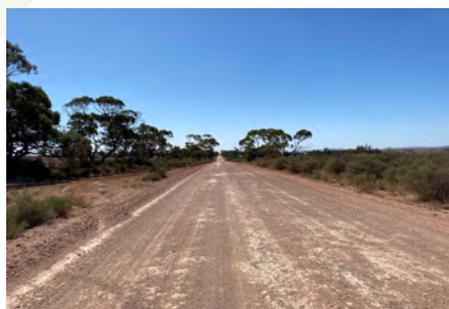
COUNCIL'S CHANGE MANAGEMENT PROCESS

Council is presently working through a robust change management process, with particular reference to operational infrastructure works.

Council has for a period of time, undertaken a process of significant data collection, in which is assisting in the formulation of a suite of new Asset Management Plans. These Plans, which cover all of Council's assets, will directly link to Council's strategic documents (Strategic Plan, Long Term Financial Plan, Annual Budget & Business Plan etc) and set the foundation for the proposed service delivery standard.

As part of the process, of which will take time to further embed, is looking at ways in which Council undertakes its service delivery. One of these changes includes the introduction of crushed rubble material for both road construction, and road maintenance. In addition we have seen an increase in resource allocation for patrol grading practices, and a focus on road maintenance methods. An illustration of such methods includes the works completed on the Booleroo Road recently. In addition, similar practice and program reviews are taking place within the maintenance and parks areas, including significant system and process enhancements with our customer request for services.

The changes that Council is exploring and trialling will take time to fully embed, and our approach is to remain consistent, ensuring appropriate data collection, and the programs developed and embedded link to all key Council strategic documents. This change, over time will ensure enhanced asset management, and overall efficiencies through both asset renewal and maintenance.



COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE GRANTS PROGRAM IS UNDER REVIEW

At its December 2022 meeting, Council's resolved to request a review of its long standing community assistance grants program (CAGP).

In the coming months, the Administration will prepare a report for Council's consideration which provides an analysis of the effectiveness of the current process. The report will also provide suggestions for improvement to the way the program is structured to ensure the process is sound and it provides maximum benefit to the community.

The review will also take into account various other forms of support currently provided by Council, ie

- » in-kind support requests (regular and ad hoc) for events and/or projects
- » Council's Community Insurance Program (annual)
- » financial "annual contributions" to progress groups
- » any other forms of direct and indirect support (ie printing of progress group newsletters and brochures)

In addition a new policy regarding requests for in-kind support will be developed for the consideration of Council. The draft policy will be framed to ensure that there is a structured approach to assessment of requests and to guide the Council and the Administration with clear parameters for considering requests from its community.

A copy of the report from the December 2022 meeting regarding this matter is available here:

https://www.mtr.sa.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0040/1259896/PUB-notice-of-meeting-and-agenda-Ordinary-Meeting-of-Council-13-December-2022-Resize.pdf (go to page 54).



ACCC SURVEY RE MOBILE COVERAGE IN REGIONAL AREAS – CLOSES 12 MARCH

The Australian Competition & Consumer Commission (ACCC) is seeking feedback on mobile coverage, encouraging all Australians, particularly those living, working or conducting business in regional areas to provide the ACCC with their views.

The online survey closes on Sunday 12 March and will take around 10–15 minutes to complete. It focuses on how are businesses and consumers impacted by a lack of mobile coverage; support for the provision of mobile roaming during emergencies and where can mobile coverage be improved. The purpose of the ACCC Inquiry is to inform future Government policy decisions on the provision of regional, rural, remote and peri-urban mobile telecommunications services and investigate the feasibility of providing temporary mobile roaming during natural disasters or other emergencies.

Council resolved at the January Ordinary Council meeting to make a submission on behalf of the community and we encourage progress/community groups and individuals to do the same as this is an important issue for everyone living, working, visiting and/or travelling in regional areas.

The survey can be completed by accessing here:

<https://consultation.accc.gov.au/accc/regional-mobile-infrastructure-inquiry/consultation/intro/>

Further information about the Regional Mobile Infrastructure Inquiry is available here:

<https://www.accc.gov.au/regulated-infrastructure/telecommunications-and-internet/regional-mobile-infrastructure-inquiry-2022-23>





CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM UPDATE

Booleroo Centre Footpath Upgrades

Works have started on the upgrades to the Booleroo Centre Footpaths. Over the next 4-6 weeks a contractor will be undertaking the works that includes the removal of old concrete and bitumen sealed footpaths along sections of Stephens Street and Arthur Street.



Some inconveniences will be experienced and we ask residents to be patient during this time.

Works are starting on the School frontage so that works will be completed prior to the start of the school year.



Booleroo Centre to Stone Hut Rail Trail

Works on the Booleroo Centre to Stone Hut Rail Trail is nearing completion (the path has been completed but still waiting for the installation of two (2) bridges).

Signage and seating has been placed at specified locations along the trail with distances linking back to the already constructed trails from Wilmington to Melrose & Melrose to Booleroo Centre.

Works to control weed growth along the path will form part of Councils normal maintenance programs.



NEW HISTORY SIGNAGE AT PORT GERMEIN

Council, in conjunction with the Port Germein Heritage, Arts & Tourism Inc has enabled the replacement of the foreshore history signage at Port Germein. Council, through recent budgets, has been increasing resourcing for signage renewal and replacements. The new signs are looking fresh and vibrant, and illustrates that improving the small things can make a positive impact.



PORT GERMEIN PROGRESS ASSOCIATION INSTALLS A NEW AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR (AED)

The Port Germein Progress Association has recently funded and installed a new AED at the Port Germein Community Hub. Our Council area now hosts a large number of AEDs through an array of community facilities, and provides a degree of community safety and support. AEDs can be obtained through available grants, should any community groups be seeking to renew or install new AEDs.



MENTAL HEALTH IN THE DISTRICT

At the November 2022 meeting of Council, a motion on notice from Cr Colin Nottle was unanimously supported to seek from the Booleroo Centre Health Service an outline of the available mental health programs that are available for community members and information about any proposed plans to increase the provisions of mental health services in the District. In response Council has been advised that the following programs and services have been implemented, available and planned:

» The Mid North Community Mental Health Team (CMHT) based in Port Pirie provide an outreach service to Booleroo on a fortnightly basis and provide services to consumers 16 years of age and above. Country and Outback Health has several programs it provides via an office at Booleroo Centre and provide services for consumers from 12 years of age.

» In July 2022 the Booleroo Medical Centre engaged a GP Registrar, Dr Andrew Hughes, with advanced skills in mental health. He is also eligible for Medicare rebates for focussed psychological strategies (cognitive behavioural therapy and the like). Appointments to see Dr Hughes are available through the Booleroo Medical Centre. For psychotherapy and longer consult a GP mental health care plan is required. Members of the public can contact the Booleroo Medical Centre to discuss. Dr Hughes regularly consults via the Wilmington Clinic.

» Since early 2021 a private educational, developmental, and clinical psychologist specialising in working with children, Kimberly Wells, has been consulting from the Community Health building at the Booleroo Hospital. She can see clients with an age range of 0-21. Appointment can be made by contacting her directly on 0478 649 331. To take advantage of the Medicare rebate clients require a GP management plan and referral from a GP, or may seek an appointment by private arrangement. Where Medicare rebates are applicable a gap payment of approximately \$75 is payable. She specialises in anxiety, depression, mood disorders, attachment issues, trauma, parenting issues, neurodiversity, autism spectrum, behavioural difficulties. She is appropriately credentialed. Private health rebates may apply. Ms Well's consultation capacity is however limited by a lack of childcare services in the area.

Council is committed to working with appropriate parties to provide adequate mental health support to our communities and welcomes the agreement of the local health service to meet to discuss and collaborate on the development of future services. Further updates will be provided to Council and the community.

Welcome to **MELROSE CARAVAN PARK & CAMPGROUNDS**



MELROSE CARAVAN & TOURIST PARK – PROPOSED SALE OF LEASEHOLD

The Melrose Caravan & Tourist Park has been owned and operated by the District Council of Mount Remarkable for many years. There has been over the course of this ownership and management, relevant business and strategic plans developed in relation to the business operations and future directions.

In 2020 a report presented to Council highlighted the financial performance of the Melrose Caravan & Tourist Park. The report is available here: https://www.mtr.sa.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0028/753814/Ordinary-Council-Meeting-15-September-2020-Public-Agenda-Copy..pdf (page 80).

Council has previously undertaken community consultation in relation to a change to the relevant Community Land Management Agreement. Feedback received in relation to that resulted in Council resolving to make changes to the Community Land Management Agreement to enable Council to provide a longer term lease over the property if required.

In determining to review the future directions and strategic approach to all operating assets, it was considered feasible that Council consider this asset and how best to manage it for optimum community impact for both the immediate and long term future. After considering the report, Council resolved to appoint an independent agent (Murray Fielder) to undertake an expression of interest process as to the potential of a long term lease arrangement for the MCTP.

More recently in January 2023, Council received a further report on the future of the MCTP. For commercial in confidence reasons, details of any received proposals by third parties and any decisions made by the Council to accept an offer which involves a commercial transaction remain confidential until such time it becomes appropriate for that information to be made public.

Council is ensuring that the MCTP is maintained and improved and importantly it continues to ensure the asset remains community owned, but investment from Council with respect to infrastructure is transferred to a private operator. Any long term lease arrangement entered into will see Council remaining as the custodian of the land through the current care and control arrangement, as well as being a freehold owner or a small portion of the current park. In addition under such lease arrangements, Council will receive an annual lease income which will be commensurate with a fair market return for the asset.

Relief managers are in place until such time as the Park is successfully leased.



District Council of
Mount Remarkable



Clean Up
Australia Day



FREE WASTE DISPOSAL DAY

SATURDAY 11TH MARCH 2023

WILLOWIE WASTE FACILITY • 9.00AM - 12.00 NOON



- ✓ **CAR BOOTS & WAGONS**
- ✓ **UTE TRAYS & TRAILERS UP TO 2m³**
- ✗ **NO COMMERCIAL VEHICLES**

Waste over 2m³ will incur normal disposal fees

- ✓ Normal household waste accepted, including up to 1 mattress per household
- ✗ Not accepted – glass, vehicle bodies or parts, asbestos TVs or computer monitors, tyres, soil, building rubble, hazardous materials, Chemicals and Car parts

Free Dumping only applicable to DCMR residents, identification required i.e. drivers licence or rate notice

FREE WASTE DISPOSAL DAY IN MARCH IN SUPPORT OF CLEAN-UP AUSTRALIA DAY

Council will be opening the Willowie Waste Transfer Station for Clean-up Australia Day, being 11 March (Saturday) from 9am until 12noon for free waste disposal.

Feedback from the 2022 Free Dump Day from residents has meant a change of day and away from the dedicated "Clean-up Australia Day" to be held on Sunday 5 March 2023 to allow for community groups to participate.

Council wants to show support and provide encouragement to our communities to get involved and play an active role in Clean-up Australia Day.

We see this as a great opportunity for the community to participate in Clean-up Australia Day, as well as be provided an opportunity to dispose of waste at no cost

Members of the community are encouraged to take advantage of this offering, and dispose of any wanted waste except from the below list:

- » Building products
- » Automobile components
- » Rocks & Earth
- » Tyres
- » Oil Filters
- » Paint
- » Batteries
- » Pharmaceuticals
- » Poisons
- » Oils
- » Ammunition
- » Liquids

For further information, community members are encouraged to contact Council on 0886 662014.

THRIVING COMMUNITIES GRANT PROGRAM OPEN FOR APPLICATIONS



Government of South Australia
Department of Primary Industries and Regions

The State Government's Thriving Communities Program consists of small grants for projects that build social capital through facilitating:

- » community group participation
- » a sense of belonging
- » equity of access.

Projects that meet the aims of the program may include:

- » physical infrastructure - new and expanded
- » plant and equipment
- » events to enhance community wellbeing and engagement, including promotional expenses capped at 10% of the grant.
- » training such as first aid, mental health first aid, child safe, cultural awareness and inclusion.

Grants range from \$20,000 to \$50,000. Applications close 30 June 2023. For further information, guidelines, and to apply go to [Thriving Communities Program - PIRSA](#) or contact the Regional Coordinator – Angela Ruddenklau on 88426260, email angela.ruddenklau2@sa.gov.au.

FIRE PREVENTION UPDATE

The fire season was declared by CFS on the 1 November 2022 until the 15 April 2023.

Inspection of all properties within the townships was under taken on the 13 -14 September 2022 and pursuant to section 105F (5) of the Fire & Emergency Services Act 2005, 372 letters were sent out to people as their properties were non-compliant. This was up from 268 letters being sent out in 2021.

With the unexpected spring rains, a lot of re-growth occurred in all townships.

A second inspection was under taken on 30 November - 1 December 2022 showing that the rains did effect properties that had been cleaned up on the first inspections, 175 re-growth letters were sent out to property owners requesting another clean-up.

No expiation fines have been sent out.





District Council of
Mount Remarkable

FATHER CHRISTMAS VISIT

Father Christmas recently visited the Council area, and Council staff and Elected Members had the pleasure of hosting (and chauffeuring) Father Christmas throughout the Council area.

The Christmas cheer was alive and well throughout the district, and Father Christmas sends his many thanks to the remarkable people at Mount Remarkable.

He has already expressed his keen desire to visit again, ready for the 2023 Christmas.

To all those that took the time out to make Father Christmas welcome, thank you.

Pictured with Father Christmas is Cr Colin Nottle, Deputy Mayor Cr Lesley Till and administration staff Tammy Bastian and Penny Archer



PORT GERMEIN PROGRESS ASSOCIATION MEN'S SHED CHRISTMAS SPIRIT

The Port Germein Progress Association Men's Shed was busy in the lead up to Christmas, putting members talent to work to add some extra Christmas spirit, through making public decorations. These fantastic initiatives have added extra cheer and are a great illustration of the talent and community spirit throughout the Council area. The Men's Shed is looking forward in 2023 to getting to work and creating more public decorations for community use.

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Vacant

A Remarkable Experience...