



District Council of
Mount Remarkable

**2022 STATE ELECTION
APPROACH TO CANDIDATES
FOR THE ELECTORATE
OF STUART**

A Remarkable Experience...

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The District Council of Mount Remarkable acknowledges the traditional landowners of the district, the Nukunu People.

The ongoing contribution of First Nations people to the area plays a fundamental role in shaping the region into the future.

2022 STATE ELECTION APPROACH TO CANDIDATES FOR THE ELECTORATE OF STUART

AN EXERCISE IN UNDERSTANDING AND INFORMATION SHARING

The lead up to the March 19, 2022, State Election presents a valuable opportunity for the District Council of Mount Remarkable (Council) to clearly articulate its strategic direction and aspirations to those contending the Electoral Division of Stuart. It does so with the express purpose of seeking the candidates' views and positions on a range of matters.

Council intends to publish those views and positions so that the Electors of Stuart, of whom are ratepayers in our Local Government Area, may have a suite of relevant information to draw on to inform their individual vote.

THE CHANGES TO THE BOUNDARIES OF THE ELECTORATE OF STUART

On November 18, 2020, The South Australian Electoral Districts Boundaries Commission ordered an electoral redistribution via the Order (pursuant to Part 5 of the Constitution Act 1934 (SA), contained in its [Final Redistribution Report](#).

The Electorate of Stuart has been significantly reshaped and now includes a portion of Northern Areas Council and a portion of Port Pirie Regional Council, notably taking in the City of Port Pirie.

Council is politically neutral in its position. It will however have regard to the best possible outcomes for its ratepayers and the wider community, based on assertions and commitments made by candidates during the campaign period.

COUNCIL'S APPROACH TO CANDIDATES

In parallel to the provision of this high-level document to candidates, it will also extend individual invitations to candidates to meet with Council's leadership and Elected Members. As part of this open and transparent process, details of any interactions will be made available for public scrutiny.

OUR COUNCIL'S PROFILE – A SNAPSHOT

- » Population 2909
- » Area 350,931 Ha
- » Capital Property Value \$797m
- » Total Operating income \$8.052m
- » Unsealed roads 1,955 km
- » Sealed roads 113km

OUR REGIONS MATTER

In April 2021, the State Government released the "Our Regions Matter" blueprint to drive economic growth in the state's regions and create jobs across a range of industries. The "Our Regions Matter" blueprint focuses on five key areas to drive growth. Details may be perused at this link: [Our Regions Matter website](#).

For ease in conveying its message to candidates, Council has aligned the areas it seeks support in with the five key areas outlined in the blueprint.

- » Regional Voice
- » Regional Connectivity
- » Regional Leadership & Skills
- » Regional Services
- » Regional Investment



REGIONAL VOICE

Engaging regional stakeholders, businesses, and communities to share values, identify local solutions and contribute to identifying and implementing the priorities for development and growth in South Australia.

PARTNERSHIPS	OUR STORY	COLLABORATION & COMMITMENT SOUGHT
	<p>Council values the partnerships it has brokered and continues to nurture with a diverse range of stakeholders.</p> <p>We are well connected with all tiers of Government and importantly our First Nations People, the Nukunu through Nukunu Wapma Thura (Aboriginal Corporation).</p>	<p>Council seeks ongoing support and a commitment to ensure funding is maintained with agencies such as Regional Development Australia (locally RDA Yorke & Mid North).</p> <p>We seek strong representation and advocacy for place-based engagement and action. We believe that adopting local solutions to local problems is fundamental to thriving local, regional communities.</p>



REGIONAL CONNECTIVITY

Identifying and enhancing digital connectivity through telecommunications and data infrastructure solutions in partnership with all levels of Government, RDAs and local stakeholders. Ensuring that major infrastructure programs, including transport network solutions, engage representatives for local intelligence at the point of development and design.

RELIABLE INTERNET

OUR STORY

Our district is home to Kelly Engineering. This local business with a global reach, states its mission as: *“Kelly Engineering products will cost effectively assist in the economic, agronomic and environmental sustainability of farms the world over.”*

The one fundamental element holding this business back (and others) is digital connectivity. Currently this business has its specialised engineering team based in Adelaide because, simply, connectivity is better.

It is their preference, and it makes good business sense, to have those key personnel, such as the engineers located in the region and on-site. Until a cost-effective solution is found the disconnect and adverse impact on productivity will continue.

Mobile phone coverage and fast internet is vital for people living in regional and remote areas, not only for safety, but to help grow our state’s economy through improved business opportunities and access to technology.

COLLABORATION & COMMITMENT SOUGHT

In April 2021 the State Government declared that *“Digital connectivity has been identified as a top priority infrastructure need in regional communities, equal to improved highways and roads”* quote attributed to Minister Basham.

We seek a commitment in advocating for funding to invest in the infrastructure required to ensure that businesses like Kelly Engineering are serviced by reliable internet. Importantly, this is not just about attracting business but retaining existing business.

The cost for NBN connectivity is estimated to be **\$250,000**.



REGIONAL CONNECTIVITY

PINE CREEK BRIDGE (NORTHERN AREAS COUNCIL)

OUR STORY

We work collaboratively with adjacent Councils and have unified strength as a member of the Legatus Group. As a near neighbour to the Northern Areas Council (NAC) we support NACs efforts to secure funding for this project to have the bridge reinstated to allow traffic to flow along a significant commodity route in the region.

The Pine Creek Bridge is located on the very northern boundary of the Northern Areas Council. It forms part of a major commodity route, which proves an integral route particular for primary producers within the District Council of Mount Remarkable.

The bridge is currently limited to 30t Mass and a by-pass for the bridge is in operation over unsealed roads.

The Laura-Appila road and this bridge is used for heavy vehicle transport including HML 36.5m road trains for a range of industry needs including grain cartage.

COLLABORATION & COMMITMENT SOUGHT

We seek support and representation from our Local Member to garner \$3M in funds to strengthen the existing structure.

The option considered the most desirable involves demolition of the existing deck and constructing a new one in its place. The alignment of the bridge will remain the same, however since the new deck will be widened, the road approaches will need to be modified to suit.

This option also includes the installation of new guard railing to current design standards.

The Australian Government had previously requested a preliminary list of projects from Council at very short notice that would conform to existing grant program guidelines.

The option for Pine Creek Bridge would align with the Federal [Bridges Renewal Program](#) and is shovel ready.



REGIONAL LEADERSHIP AND SKILLS

New and emerging leaders in the regions are engaged and have access to the professional and personal development opportunities that will enable their participation. Strategies are in place to support worker shortages and seasonal worker demand.

A SEAT AND A VOICE AT DECISION MAKING TABLES

OUR STORY

For the 'regional voice' to be heard we need to ensure our local leaders and community representatives have seats at the table with decision makers.

COLLABORATION & COMMITMENT SOUGHT

We seek support in ensuring that opportunities continue to exist for regional constituents to be recruited to government boards and committees.

We call for platforms such as [Boarding Call](#) to be widely advertised and for support to be offered for interested candidates to register interest.

We feel that this pro-active approach will help attain a diversity of representation on boards and committees which includes the regional voice.



REGIONAL SERVICES

Identifying and addressing regional service gaps and establishing solutions, including hub and spoke models, for the implementation of critical services for community safety, wellbeing, and liveability.

ACTIVE DECENTRALISATION POLICY

OUR STORY

Notwithstanding the impacts of the global pandemic, regional communities in South Australia are shrinking in population. The very fact that the boundaries of the Stuart electorate have changed significantly are further evidence of that.

The District Council of Mount Remarkable is seeking diversification in industry to cater to long term sustainability and population growth.

Covid-19 has illustrated that South Australians are adaptable, and willing to work from home and/or from regional locations.

COLLABORATION & COMMITMENT SOUGHT

The State Government has set a clear growth agenda with an ambition to shift economic growth to an average 3% per year and raise population growth to align with the national average more closely.

Council seeks support in advocating for a shift in State and Federal Government recruitment practices to incorporate a flexible approach to recruitment. Such a flexible approach would seek to actively identify which roles and functions can be undertaken outside of metro areas and therefore shifted to the regions.



REGIONAL SERVICES

Port Germein Jetty at Sunset

PORT GERMEIN JETTY

OUR STORY

This regional icon was constructed in 1881 and in 1883 it was extended another 400 feet to measure 5,459 feet or 1,680 metres.

At the time of construction, it was reputedly the longest wooden jetty in the Southern Hemisphere. Goods were carted via bullock dray through the Port Germein Gorge from the Willochra Plains and beyond. With the introduction of steam-powered ships, large sailing vessels fell out of favour. The era of the Windjammer and Port Germein as a trade hub ended.

Its value as a tourism destination however thrives.

There are about 36 jetties and wharves across the state – mostly in the regions. They are owned by the Department for Infrastructure and Transport however are maintained and repaired by councils under varying lease terms and conditions negotiated some 20 years ago. In the case of DCMR, the lease commenced on 25/6/2002 for 25 years (expiring 25/6/2027).

COLLABORATION & COMMITMENT SOUGHT

Council has a strong working relationship with the Department for Infrastructure and Transport and has been pro-active in its solution focused approach.

Marine infrastructure such as jetties, by their very nature are inherently expensive to maintain. The past decades' extreme weather events have placed a number of LGAs under budget pressure to repair jetty structures damaged by storm events. The ongoing costs to keep these popular structures safe and in service are considerable.

With the expiry date of the current lease fast approaching, Council has a unique opportunity to plan for this historic piece of infrastructure to form part of a wider tourism experience.

Council is in discussion with key personnel to progress plans to stage a range of work including a Jetty Condition Report and a detailed design assessment and documentation (specification) for repair works.

Council is seeking support to garner a State Government commitment to provide a long term solution to the Port Germein Jetty, which may include revitalising the asset for future generations to enjoy.



REGIONAL SERVICES

BOOLEROO SWIMMING POOL

OUR STORY

Booleroo Centre is home to the broader district swimming pool. An integral asset, used by locals for recreational swimming, and by local health providers and the local school.

The Booleroo Swimming Pool is nearing the end of its life. With continual maintenance costs, and the need for a facility upgrade, the broader district and Booleroo Centre rely on this community asset to be ammoniated both now, and well in to the future.

COLLABORATION & COMMITMENT SOUGHT

\$3m

In order to full redevelop the existing site, to reconstruct the facilities in which presently exist, it is estimated that a build cost of circa \$3m will be required.

To continue to provide such an important community asset for the people and service providers of the Council area, the Booleroo Swimming Pool is in desperate need of investment.

This project if supported at a State Government level, has the future potential to be considered for a BBRF (Building Better Regions Fund) grant application through the Federal Government.



REGIONAL SERVICES

In 2013, the SA CFS used the Booleroo Centre Districts and Community Airstrip to keep the water supply up to two Aerotech 802 Air Tractors that supported CFS ground crews fighting the Bridle Track fire in rugged terrain near Melrose on Sunday. Pictured in front of the Air Tractors is one of the pilots Richard and two CFS personnel Morgan and Shannen.

PHOTO: Barry Zander (The Recorder)

BOOLEROO AIRSTRIP

OUR STORY

Council presently owns and operates the Booleroo Airstrip. Like many regional communities, access and connectivity is an important part of ensuring liability and safety amongst our broader community.

The Booleroo Airstrip is used by emergency services providers, such as the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

The Booleroo Airstrip has a large volume of local users. The airstrip is favoured by many amongst the region.

The Booleroo Airstrip is a critical asset in which the region relies heavily on for not just recreational purposes, but essential service delivery.

With increased visitation numbers to the region, and Council advocating strongly for the retention of essential service to maintain liveability of the region, the proposed investment in the Booleroo Airstrip will help Council achieve these objectives and more.

COLLABORATION & COMMITMENT SOUGHT

To ensure compliance, **a funding commitment of \$250,000.00 is sought** to undertake the following work:

Improve the unsealed pavements by mechanical stabilization of the existing material or re-sheeting with better quality granular material.

Seal the northern runway end and taxiway to reduce future erosion and the level of ongoing maintenance.

Replace unserviceable runway edge light and other small, but essentials pieces of work such as replacing the windsock.



REGIONAL INVESTMENT

Continued focus on the development and delivery of initiatives that result in increased trade, productivity, profitability, sustainability, and growth.

RECREATION RENEWAL GRANT

OUR STORY

Council's recent effort in the development of an Asset Management Plan (to be adopted), which included district-wide playground audit, seeks to enhance and renew its existing family friendly facilities.

This planned process and work will also mitigate the existing risk associated with the aging infrastructure.

The South Australian Tourism Commission (SATC) actively promotes family friendly spaces and playgrounds around the State. Council is very keen to see local facilities included as part of the SATC's promotions to attract more families to the region.

COLLABORATION & COMMITMENT SOUGHT

\$900K

This funding would provide for the redevelopment of up to 3 local nature playgrounds to complement the significant tourism investment in the region.

South Australia's iconic nature-based tourism sector has received a much-needed boost – including the \$10 million Remarkable Southern Flinders Ranges project which will help fast-track the state's economic recovery after the COVID-19 pandemic.

The official opening of The Bluff Lookout on 17/9/2021 marked a significant milestone for the project.



REGIONAL INVESTMENT

CAPITAL WORKS ACCELERATION PROGRAM

OUR STORY

Soon to be adopted, Council's recently developed Asset Management Plan has identified an infrastructure back log of required works. This plan is primarily aimed at asset renewal and focuses on sealed and unsealed roads, kerbing and footpaths.

The works sought to be undertaken are designed for community safety and regional economic stimulus, whereby Council would seek to engage local and regionally based businesses to facilitate the works.

COLLABORATION & COMMITMENT SOUGHT

\$6.5m over two years – being \$3.25m in 22/23 & \$3.25m in 23/24.

These works are closely aligned to those which might be covered as part of Councils asset management plan.

The capital works are proposed to be completed primarily by regional contractors, further supporting the State Governments strategic objective to grow and enhance regional economies.



REGIONAL INVESTMENT

BOOLEROO CENTRE TO QUORN WATER SUPPLY

OUR STORY

The water supply for the townships of Booleroo Centre, Melrose and Wilmington has been identified for an upgrade to ensure a higher quality of water from the existing SA Water infrastructure.

SA Water have previously sought to complete the required pipeline upgrade. Part of that process to invest in the new infrastructure included putting a case to the Essential Services Commission of SA (ESCOSA). Regrettably, ESCOSA did not support the project.

Regional communities, and regional businesses should be entitled to quality water. With such growth in regional tourism, and the broader Southern Flinders, water quality and supply is becoming a larger issue.

COLLABORATION & COMMITMENT SOUGHT

With an estimated price tag of \$20M, Council seeks strong representation by its local member to actively lobby for investment to complete the important and fundamentally essential infrastructure.

The townships of Booleroo Centre, Melrose and Wilmington deserve high quality water.

The proposed investment as indicated through SA Water is to complete the pipeline construction not just within the Mount Remarkable area, but to also the township of Quorn within the Flinders Rangers Council area.

Council has the support of Flinders Ranges Council to jointly advocate for this investment.



REGIONAL INVESTMENT

Kelly Engineering Site

SEALING OF BOOLEROO ROAD IN SUPPORT OF KELLY ENGINEERING

OUR STORY

Kelly Engineering is a regionally based, globally operating pioneering agricultural engineering business.

Still a family business, which has grown significantly over time from the original family farm based at Booleroo Centre, has growing demands on infrastructure.

The success of Kelly Engineering is widely celebrated, and is a wonderful story for the community of Booleroo Centre.



The pin indicates the location of Booleroo Road the area it services

COLLABORATION & COMMITMENT SOUGHT

To support the growth and sustainability of Kelly Engineering in regional South Australia, and Booleroo Centre, infrastructure to support is critical.

Access to Kelly Engineering is via an unsealed road, which ideally would better served as a sealed road to support the growing demands of Kelly Engineering and their production.

The works delivered can be done so through a regionally based contractors providing further economic stimulus to the broader region.

Funding sought \$10.5M.

PORT
AUGUSTA

Saltia

Bruce

Moockra

Hammond

Woolundunga
Winninowie

Amyton

Coomooroo

Wilmington

Willowie

Morchard

Nectar
Brook

Mambray
Creek

Melrose

Booleroo
Centre

Baroota

Wongyarra

Murray
Town

Bangor

Port
Germein

Wirrabara

Weeroona
Island

Telowie

Appila

SPENCER
GULF

PORT
PIRIE



District Council of
Mount Remarkable

3 Stuart Street | PO Box 94, Melrose SA 5483

P. (08) 8666 2014 | F. (08) 8666 2169

E. postmaster@mtr.sa.gov.au

www.mtr.sa.gov.au



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