

**MAY
2020**

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

THE FLINDERS RANGES COUNCIL



COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

**Proposed Annual Business Plan 2020-2021,
Long Term Financial Plan 2020-2040, Fees and
Charges 2020-2021 and Rating Policy 2020-2021**

Draft documents listed above are available for public comment and may be viewed at the Quorn Council Office, Hawker Motors or on Council's website www.frc.sa.gov.au under Latest News.

Ratepayers are encouraged to make a written submission regarding the draft documents addressed to the Chief Executive Officer at PO Box 43, Quorn SA 5433 to be received by 5.00 pm Friday 19 June 2020.

There will be a consultation session held electronically via Zoom on Tuesday, 9 June 2020 from 6:30pm to hear from any person wishing to make a submission on the draft documents.

Council will set aside one hour at the commencement of its Ordinary Meeting to be held electronically via Zoom on Tuesday 16 June 2020 at 6:30pm for any ratepayers who wish to address Council on the Draft Annual Business Plan 2020-2021, Long Term Financial Plan 2020-2040 (including 2020-2021 Budget), Fees and Charges 2020-2021 and Rating Policy 2020-2021.

Those ratepayers who would like to address Council on any of the above draft documents are required to make an appointment by telephoning Council on 8620 0500.

COVID-19 UPDATE

The following facilities are open or will be open in the next two weeks:

Open now

Playgrounds
Skate Park

1st June 2020

The Visitors Information Centre (Quorn)
Warren Gorge

5th June 2020

Quorn Community Hall
Quorn Town Hall
Hawker Institute

6th June 2020

Local History Group (Court House)

Cash as well as cards are now accepted for payments in the Council Office in Quorn.

<https://www.facebook.com/FlindersRangesVisitorInformationCentre/>



<https://www.facebook.com/Flinders.Ranges.Council/>

LIKE AND SHARE OUR FACEBOOK PAGES

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Hello to all our residents.

It's encouraging to see some relaxation of the travel and business restrictions which have been in place to assist management of the CV19 pandemic.

There are travellers coming to the area now as they seek some relief from the isolation measures, and it will be great for our small hospitality and tourism businesses to be able to recommence trading.

Council has adopted a draft budget and business plan for the coming year which is now out for public consultation. The business plan proposes a modest year of consolidation of carry-over projects, as well as the Drought Communities Program works and the normal works/maintenance programs. Importantly, given the serious impacts of drought over recent years and now the economic contraction due to the CV19 restrictions, Council is proposing a budget with no net increase in rate income an average "zero" rate increase across the region. This objective was unanimously recognised by all Members in the earliest discussions about the development of the business plan and budget, and has guided the development of the draft plans from the outset along with ongoing identification of support measures for our community and businesses.

(It is important to note that some properties will have small increases in their rate assessment whilst others will see a small reduction, due to valuation changes within and across the various land use categories.)

We will be trying something new in our consultation phase, a "zoom" presentation and Q & A session. I encourage all residents and ratepayers to have a look at the draft plan and budget, to ask any questions of your Elected Members or senior staff, and to partake in the "zoom" session.

Like everyone, we're actively looking forward to a return to a more normal day to day life!

Bin Collection and Safety of Drivers

If you're parking in a street, be aware of waste collection days and park away from bins

While life is looking a little different right now, our waste and recycling drivers are still here for you, but with lots more people at home, and extra cars parked, they need a hand.

During this time, schedules may change. They may come earlier or later in the day but to help them out, place your bins out the night before.

Help your driver out:

Place your bins in your driveway, if there's lots of cars parked in the street

Keep your bins 1m away from parked cars, trees, stobie poles etc.



Community Grants

The third round of grant funding has been awarded to the following applicants:

Pichi Richi Railway Preservation Society - One (1) Defibrillator with an alarm box to be purchased and provided to PRRPS and one (1) Defibrillator with alarm box to be gifted to PRRPS.

Quorn Mercury - \$850.00 for 12 months of freight cost for Quorn Mercury delivery.

Hawker Community Development Board - \$500.00 for freight cost for the Town Crier delivery.

Christmas Decoration Committee Quorn - \$2,200.00 for the purchase of eight (8) reusable Christmas decorations to be attached to power poles for December.

Cradock Memorial Gardens - \$4,999.00 for irrigation, water tank and pump to be installed at the memorial garden.

The community grants program has supplied \$36,750.00 worth of community funding for 14 projects over the 2019/2020 financial year.

Rate Relief

The COVID 19 pandemic has had a huge impact on our businesses and community. The Flinders Ranges Council is committed to ensuring that the community needs are addressed, based on Councils capacity to provide relief in-line with current financial commitments. Council has looked at its financial capabilities and as a result would like to offer support to its residents and rate payers by way of:

- Immediate support to ratepayers by offering a temporary suspension on all fines and interest on outstanding rates and service charges from the 27th March 2020 to the 27th September 2020.
- In line with Councils Rates Policy Council urges any ratepayers who are experiencing difficulties to contact Council to discuss future financial planning for the ongoing payment of your rates and service charges. For further details the FRC Rates Policy can be found on councils website.

"We acknowledge the financial difficulties within the community and understand that livelihoods are at stake. Our communities are being hit hard as hospitality and tourism grinds to a halt as a result of COVID-19".

"On top of the current drought conditions affecting our pastoral and rural sectors - and, indeed, nationally - this presents a significant escalation in the challenges facing our community. We will work with and support our people through these ordeals."

Please contact Council to discuss your situation at any time. Staff are available to assist any way we can.

DOG AND CAT REGISTRATION

Please make sure your cats and dogs are microchipped ready for the new registration period starting 1 July 2020



Warren Gorge

2000 trees are currently being planted at Warren Gorge. Council Works staff, Administration team and our valued volunteers joined together on Wednesday and Thursday this week to get the plantings in before the rain. With the completion of the planting and the shifting of the toilet facilities, the next stage of the upgrade is to complete the signage.

Once again **thank you** to the Volunteers who came out to help it was greatly appreciated.

The Gorge will be open to campers as of 1 June 2020



Bush Food Volunteers

Council has been successful in obtaining \$240,000 in grant funding for a bush tucker walkway in Quorn. Council is looking for volunteers to be involved to assist with the design and implementation of this trail.

Council is hoping to establish a group of approximately 3 to 10 individuals with skills in a relevant area to review and add to the plans for the bush tucker walkway and would ask that those interested contact Council on 08 8620 0500 to register their interest.

The bush tucker walkway will also develop into an exercise track an open space for the community to enjoy, including seating and rest areas and will provide an opportunity for a renewed focus on bush foods as a tourism direction for Quorn and The Flinders Ranges Council area.

Your involvement will be appreciated!