



NOTES FROM THE MAYOR

REGARDING OUR ROADS

I want to take this opportunity to offer the community some important information regarding the roads on Flinders Island.

Council is well aware that a range of work needs to be done on many of our roads.

THERE ARE A FEW THINGS I NEED THE COMMUNITY TO RAISE ITS AWARENESS OF

Council has not had a road drainage program for a substantial number of years, and yet water causes significant damage to both the gravel and the sealed roads. Water washes away the gravel constantly which means that much of the work carried out doesn't last long. Too much water on the sealed roads leads to soft spots, damage to the edges, and potholes. A good drainage system will help.

Much of Council's Road equipment is very old and has to be constantly nursed along.

Council does not have access to some very important equipment: for example, a steel drum road roller that is fit for purpose.

Council owns some pieces of equipment that are surplus to requirements.

There are a few possible changes to some maintenance practices that would keep our roads at as good a standard as possible for longer periods of time.

This Council does not have enough income to implement a road program to the standard we would all like to have. We need to work smarter rather than harder.

In addition to the above, when this Council began its term, Council was seriously in the red financially, which made changes difficult.

COUNCIL STAFF AND COUNCILLORS HAVE BEEN CONSIDERING OUR ROAD PROGRAM SERIOUSLY

A workshop is scheduled for the near future when a holistic approach to road building and maintenance will be planned. This will include:

Identifying the big picture – what are going to be Council's key road goals over the next two to three years?

What methodologies might be better employed in the immediate twelve to eighteen months?

How do we best respond to everyday problems and emergency road issues that arise?

THE BIG PICTURE OF ROADS

The big picture goals include the following:

- Ensure that the road connecting the north and south of the Island is sealed.
- Implement a proper drainage system to service as many of our roads as possible.
- Get rid of some of the surplus road plant;
- Prioritise and budget for the equipment that we badly need;
- Implement a few improved methodologies;
- Work with the Department of State Growth to get the very best deal for the State-Owned Lady Barron Road.

THE ROADS TO PALANA AND KILLIECRANKIE

Sealing the final part of the road between the north and south of the island has been a Council priority for many years. Gravel roads will always be part of the Flinders Council Road system. There will always be farms and homesteads serviced by gravel roads. However, it is only logical that the main villages on the Island have the most traffic and are accessed by sealed roads if possible

COUNCIL IS ADDRESSING THIS

Council lobbied the State Government over the last three years. Prior to last year's State election, Council was granted \$2 million, and the sealing of Palana Road between Erita and Five Mile Jim Road has now been completed.

In addition, Council has managed the finances to the point that we are now in a better financial position. Council grants officers have applied to the Commonwealth Government for a major grant to finish the job by sealing from Five Mile Jim to Palana boat ramp.

The grant is one that covers only 80% of the required work, with scope to justify a higher funded percentage, which we have requested. Being in a better financial position, Council believes the gap can be managed.

NOW FOR DRAINAGE

Council is now of the opinion that to continue to maintain the roads without properly addressing the drainage issue would be throwing good money after bad. From the end of the 21/22 financial year, Council is expecting \$600K from the Commonwealth. That money will be applied to maintaining a road drainage system on as many key roads as possible. Such a program is expected to take two years – but it will be well worth it, for it will mean that work done will last longer.

LADY BARRON ROAD

The road from Whitemark to Lady Barron is actually a State road, meaning that the Department of State Growth is responsible for its upkeep. Our General Manager has been working with State Growth to ensure that we get improved value for money in the future. We are expecting that maintenance will begin on that road soon – possibly in stages but with completion as soon as possible.

INTRODUCING A BETTER RANGE OF METHODOLOGIES

When gravel roads are re-sheeted, they certainly look and feel better for a while. However, various weather conditions and traffic numbers can damage the roads very quickly. Our Infrastructure Manager plans to make more use of a method referred to as Rip and Reform. This means that a section of road, instead of simply having new gravel spread and rolled, will be ripped up to a depth of approximately 300mm. Then the road material will be mixed with some new gravel, if needed, and will then be re-formed and heavily rolled. This means that 300mm thickness of road surface will be firmed, impacted, and able to provide an improved road surface.

A FEW ADDITIONAL PRACTICES WILL BE TRIALLED

These may include:

- How road inspections are carried out;
- How ongoing issues like potholes are addressed;

- Questions as to whether staff rosters for addressing road maintenance are adequate; and so on;
- Requesting our police to, on a semi regular basis, carry out some random speed testing in particular spots.

I AM CONFIDENT THAT THIS DIFFERENT REGIME WILL PROVIDE IMPROVED ROAD CONDITIONS

However, as I said above,

Our roads will never be perfect. We do not have the money!

In dry weather there will always be corrugations! They will be fixed as soon as possible.

Roads will be prioritised as to which will be graded when the rain arrives.

People must strive to “drive to the conditions!”

If you know of a road problem – Ring with a service request or report it online!

Don't use Facebook for negative remarks on roads. The only thing that will achieve is to get people wound up!

Work collaboratively with Council.

THANKS TO CHRIS WILSON, COUNCIL'S INFRASTRUCTURE MANAGER

This article has been written collaboratively by Annie Revie and Chris Wilson, Council's Infrastructure Manager. Sincere thanks to Chris and his road crew for their work. First day of rain and they were up north grading.

THANK YOU FOR READING THIS – I ANTICIPATE IMPROVED COMMUNITY UNDERSTANDING

All this is a lot to ask but it would help rather than hinder. If you wish further information – do not hesitate to ask.

**ANNIE REVIE
MAYOR**

EMAIL: annie.revie@flinders.tas.gov.au

TEL: 0477 557 338

ISLANDER WAY UPDATE

The last week or so has been particularly busy for the Project Team, with both of us back on the Island. It's been wonderful catching up after a longer period away than we had originally planned.

One of our first tasks was to make an extended presentation to Council on 29th March, which included some initial data gathered from the survey and postcards, as well as some key insights from all our conversations with the community so far.

Five major themes have emerged:

1. Managing visitor behaviour
2. Managing visitor expectations
3. Working with government and the private sector to help them understand what is appropriate tourism on the Island
4. Exploring ways to address food supply issues in high season
5. Clearly articulating a vision and the values for tourism.

Thank you to everyone who attended the Community Workshop last week – it was such a positive day, with so many conversations, ideas and post-it notes! We are aware that there have been several requests for the workshop to be repeated outside business hours, and we are currently working out a suitable date.

We will also be offering a forum specifically for the business community on Monday 11th April between 5pm – 7pm at the FAEC. This will be an interactive session, so be sure to bring your best ideas! Please RSVP to FIBI.business.assist@gmail.com for catering purposes.

In the next few weeks, we will be collating all the information from the various ways in which you have shared your thoughts with us and writing a summary report. Community engagement is the foundation of this project. We are aware that there are still many people we've not connected with yet. It is a very big task, and we would love some help.

Are you a member of a club/organisation/informal group? If so, is there an opportunity for the Project Team to come and talk to your group about The Islander Way?

Or perhaps you are a member of the community who would like to share your ideas about the future of tourism on the Island and haven't done so yet. Please do get in touch. We are here to listen to the whole range of views regarding

tourism and related issues. We have also been thinking about different ways of meeting more of you – perhaps a BBQ or some other more informal kind of getting together.

While community conversations will continue, we are moving on to a new phase of the project at the end of April. This is a natural progression linking all your hopes for the Island (vision and values) to some practical, tangible outcomes – i.e. businesses and projects that reflect the right kind of tourism and address some of the Island's challenges and opportunities. Watch this space!

Contact details:

Dianne Dredge
contact@islanderway.co
0410 604 921

Sarah Lebski
Sarah.Lebski@gmail.com
0418 134 114



Whitemark Tip – Opening Hours

- **Monday** 1.30pm - 4.30pm
- **Tuesday** 7am -10am
- **Friday** 1.30pm - 4.30pm
- **Wednesday** 8.30am - 11.30am
- **Thursday** 7am -10am
- **Saturday** CLOSED
- **Sunday** 1.30pm - 4.30pm

CLOSED PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

Casual Register

Did you know that Council maintains a Casual Employment Register?

We are currently accepting Expressions of Interest for casual administration positions with flexible hours at Flinders Council. Those with computer literacy and administrative skills are encouraged to submit a resume and cover letter to jade.boyes@flinders.tas.gov.au

Flinders Council is an equal opportunity employer.

PARKING ARRANGEMENTS AT THE AIRPORT

The new pedestrian crossing is working well as is the pickup and drop 2 hour maximum parking time in the front rows.

Car park users are reminded NOT to park on the pedestrian crossing as this area must be kept clear at all times.

Residents and visitors to the airport are reminded to observe all road rules and signage.

Due to parking limitation within the Airport grounds, we request all owners of vehicles currently parked at the airport on a long-term basis to contact Airport Operations on 0429 813 929 to discuss ongoing storage arrangements.

No unauthorised vehicle or persons are permitted past the RFDS hanger located opposite the Operations Office.

Chris Wilson
Manager Infrastructure and Airport

SAVE THE DATE

The Islander Portrait Prize has been rescheduled for the June long weekend.



Islander
Portrait
Prize

Artists are invited to submit a work of art to the inaugural Islander Portrait Prize. The subject matter should be a person who has a known connection to Flinders Island.

Entries can be submitted in any medium (painting, drawing, digital photography, sculpture, etc.), but the maximum dimensions cannot exceed 1.5m x 1.5m.

The exhibition will be held at the Lady Barron Hall.

More details soon!

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Policy to be Adopted

Council's Policy Manual is an important document of Council as it provides direction to Staff, Management and Councillors. Many of the policies are required by, or relate to, legislation and in most instances help manage Council's exposure to risk.

Council resolved at the 15 March 2022 Ordinary Council Meeting to adopt the **Dog Management Policy and Code of Responsible Dog Ownership**.

The policy and code will lie on the table for public comment until 20 April 2022. It is available to download from the Council Website www.flinders.tas.gov.au/policies and hardcopies are available from the Council Office.

Should you wish to make comment on the policy, please do so by addressing relative correspondence to:

Warren Groves
General Manager



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COMMUNITY GRANTS

Applications for funding are now being sought from Community Groups.

Applications received by C.O.B. 10th May will be considered by Council as part of the budget process for the next financial year.

GUNN BEQUEST

Applications for funding are now being sought from sporting organisations under the Gunn Bequest.

These funds are provided to suitable projects for the promotion or improvement of sporting facilities on the Island. Applications must be received by C.O.B. Monday 10th May.

Written applications for both grants, using the forms available from the Council Office or the Council website <http://www.flinders.tas.gov.au/community-grants-and-awards> should be addressed to:

General Manager
Flinders Council
PO Box 40
Whitemark TAS 7255



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Council resolved at the 29 March 2022 Special Council Meeting to adopt the **Alcohol and Other Drugs Policy and Fitness for Work Policy**.

The policy and code will lie on the table for public comment until 6 May 2022. It is available to download from the Council Website www.flinders.tas.gov.au/policies and hardcopies are available from the Council Office.



CALL FOR COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE

Nominations from the public are called for the position of Community Representative on the Whitemark Community Gym Special Committee of Council.

The Committee consists of council and community representatives and exists to support, assist and advise in the management and operation of the Whitemark Community Gym.

Nominations can be sent to the Committee Chair: Councillor Rachel Summers

Flinders Council
PO Box 40, Whitemark TAS 7255

Or via email to
rachel.summers@flinders.tas.gov.au



ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the next Ordinary Meeting of Flinders Council will be held at

Tuesday 12 April 2022 commencing at 2pm
at Lady Barron Hall

Public Question Time will be held between 2.00 – 2.30pm. Members of the public are invited to attend.

The Agenda will be available for perusal from Thursday 8th April 2022 on the Council Website www.flinders.tas.gov.au and at the Council Office.

Warren Groves
General Manager