

# Council News

## Mayor's Report

### **Outcomes from February Council Meeting:**

Planning: A development application for a subdivision of 4 lots less than 40 hectares in the Rural Zone at North East River Road was refused.

Planning Scheme: In answer to public questions, Council will continue to work under the current planning scheme until the introduction of the State Wide Planning scheme. The work that Council did for the regional planning scheme and the community consultation that took place is being used in the development of the State Wide Planning Scheme as it will apply to the Flinders Municipality.

The draft Interim Planning Scheme documents that were released for comment during the Regional Planning Scheme process were **never approved and should not be taken into consideration when considering a development.**

Policies: The following policies were recommended to be rescinded:

1. Advertising Signs – Airport;
2. Aerodrome Upgrade Policy;
3. Flinders Island Airport - Charges Policy; and
4. Policy for Leasing Land for Aircraft at Flinders Island Aerodrome.

The Aviation Policy is due for review and will be considered at the March Council meeting.

Finance: Received the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter financial report and approved a 2015-16 half yearly budget update, which included changes such as recognising the federal grant for airport runway maintenance, recognising the increased expenditure on Memana road as a result of increased Roads 2 Recovery allocation and recognising the efficiency to be achieved by the purchase of another waste transfer bin.

## Resource Sharing and Amalgamation modelling:

The five Councillors present at the meeting unanimously resolved that Flinders Council:

- does not support amalgamations as it would disempower local decision making and take the “local” out of Local Government.
- believes that amalgamation could have significant consequences for the viability of our remote communities.
- will withdraw from the regional benchmarking and resource sharing project if modelling of amalgamations is included in the project.

### **New residents:**

Welcome to all recent and new residents to the Island. As you settle into life in the Furneaux Group I urge you to register on the Electoral Roll as residing at your Furneaux Group address.

Registration on the **Electoral Roll** is used as proof of Tasmanian residency for the Tasmanian **Ambulance** system that is funded by the State Government for Tasmanian residents. Proof of residency is also required for eligibility for the **Patient Transport Assistance Scheme** (PTAS) should you be referred to Launceston for medical reasons.

### **Visitors and sometime residents:**

Non-Tasmanian visitors should ensure they are covered for emergency evacuation by Air Ambulance from the Islands either through travel insurance or their own state ambulance cover. Air ambulance costs are expensive and patients not covered by the Tasmanian Ambulance scheme are expected to pay the cost should they be unfortunate enough to require air evacuation from the Island.

### **Furneaux Islands Festival & Australia Day Celebrations:**

I thank the residents who have already written to Councillors making their feelings known to us. Councillors will have an initial

# Council News

discussion regarding the festival as a part of the 2016-17 budget discussions at the next workshop on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March.

## **Airport Update:**

I would like to acknowledge the work of Jeff Grace as the Airport Manager and his commitment to Council for his many years in this position. I wish him all the best for his retirement.

The Airport Manager's position is not being refilled at this time, with further consideration being given to how the airport is operated into the future. The General Manager is assisting Airport Operations Officer, Ben Foot, with the high level running of the airport and Works staff have been trained as reporting officers.

Discussions with the State and Federal Government are ongoing as to the long term solution for replacement of the long runway which is coming to the end of its useful life. A runway with a new alignment, slightly different to the long runway is a possible solution that would cause much less disruption to air traffic than rebuilding the current long runway. The re-sited runway may also allow for instrument approach capability at a future date.

Either rebuilding the existing runway or building a new runway on a different alignment is estimated to cost is in the vicinity of \$20 plus million. The Minister for Infrastructure, The Hon Rene Hidding, MP, has recently visited the airport and is very supportive of implementing a long term solution. The issue is that by having a depreciable asset with a value of around \$20 million + that must be depreciated, Council will never be able to budget for or achieve an operational surplus. Thus the business case being developed is also looking at other ownership and operating models for the airport. Ownership of the airport was forced on the Council in 1992 by the then Federal Government.

## **Waste Transfer Stations:**

*These are in place for your convenience. Please do not put any other waste than green waste, i.e. only waste from growing plants, in the green waste area.*

If there is no designated area for your waste then please take it to the Whitemark Tip and while there check out the Giving Shed. You might just be able to save an item from becoming landfill for a few more years.

## **Opportunities:**

At the last State Election Council was granted some funds to undertake marketing of the Island with the Flinders Island Tourism & Business Inc. (FITB) in line with an Island Marketing Strategy. Expressions of interest have now been called for the development of the strategy. Please see Council's website for further information.

Flinders Island Tourism & Business Inc. (FITB) has approved the brief for the development of the marketing strategy and will a part of the selection panel.

## **Online Community & Business Directory:**

The Council website provides an online directory of community groups and businesses in the Furneaux Group. If you would like to include your business or community group to the directory, please contact the Front Office [office@flinders.tas.gov.au](mailto:office@flinders.tas.gov.au) or call 6359 5001 [www.flinders.tas.gov.au/furneaux-business-directory](http://www.flinders.tas.gov.au/furneaux-business-directory)

## **Online Health Service Directory**

Looking for the contact of a health service? The Council website provides an online directory of health services. Please visit: [www.flinders.tas.gov.au/health-service-directory](http://www.flinders.tas.gov.au/health-service-directory)

## **Save the Date:**

Council at times facilitates bringing people to the Island to support training programs for the Community. Coming up is:

# Council News

## BOATWISE/MAST safety night

5:30pm on the 23rd of March at the Whitemark RSL and Sports Club. Come along and hear from MAST, Surf Lifesaving Tasmania and others about boat safety.

Everyone and all ages welcome to the night, there will be a BBQ run by the Lions Club and the opportunity to let off some flares at the end of the night

Door prizes and giveaways will include a Stormy Seas Life jacket valued at \$295 and a further \$300 worth of Stormy Seas gear. Anyone that has old or expired flares can hand them to Flinders Police for use on the night.

### **Community Calendar:**

Check out the Community Calendar for more upcoming events and please add your event to the calendar.

**Carol Cox**  
**Mayor**

### **Ordinary Council Meeting**

Notice is hereby given that the next Ordinary Meeting of Flinders Council will be held at the Flinders Arts and Entertainment Centre Whitemark, Flinders Island on

**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2016 commencing at 1pm.**

The Agenda will be available for perusal on the Council Website

[www.flinders.tas.gov.au](http://www.flinders.tas.gov.au) or at the Council Office from Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2016.

Public Question Time will be held between 1.00pm – 1.30pm.

Members of the public are invited to attend.

**Raoul Harper**  
**GENERAL MANAGER**

## **Attention Accommodation Businesses**

As members of the Community would be aware, Whitemark and Lady Barron water supplies are deemed unsafe to consume and are therefore covered with a PHA – Public Health Alert.

It is paramount that all accommodation businesses display “Do not consume” warnings on all taps available for drinking, including those in the bathroom that may be used for brushing teeth etc.

Any untreated water supply must display advisory warnings at each available outlet, this includes tank water supply as it is also an untreated source.

Should you have any queries regarding this matter, please feel free to contact Council’s Environmental Health Officer on 63 595 001.

## **Request for Proposal** **Marketing Strategy**

Flinders Council is seeking a professional services consultant to design and develop a marketing strategy to drive increased visitation, improve the Islands’ existing product offerings (and market knowledge of them), and stimulate investment and population growth.

Development of the strategy will include significant stakeholder and community consultation. Applicants are required to demonstrate previous experience in working with remote or island based communities.

It is expected that the finalised strategy will be completed and endorsed by stakeholders by May 2016.

The Request for Proposal can be downloaded from Council website:

[www.flinders.tas.gov.au/employment-and-business-opportunities](http://www.flinders.tas.gov.au/employment-and-business-opportunities)

Proposals must be received by Council no later than close of business Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2016.

# Council News

Proposals and all questions with regards to this Request for Proposals are to be directed in writing (via email) to the Flinders Council Manager Community Economic Development:

[jana.harper@flinders.tas.gov.au](mailto:jana.harper@flinders.tas.gov.au)

## **Policies to be Rescinded**

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 18<sup>th</sup> February 2016 Ordinary Council Meeting to rescind the following policies:

- Advertising Signs – Airport;
- Aerodrome Upgrade Policy;
- Flinders Island Airport - Charges Policy; and
- Policy for Leasing Land for Aircraft at Flinders Island Aerodrome.

These policies will lie on the table for public comment until the 24<sup>th</sup> March 2016. They are available to download from the Council Website [www.flinders.tas.gov.au/policies](http://www.flinders.tas.gov.au/policies) and hardcopies are available from the Council Office.

Should you wish to make comment on any of these policies, please do so by addressing relative correspondence to myself.



Raoul Harper  
**General Manager**