



MAYOR'S REPORT

In my last report, I mentioned that unfortunately our local Bendigo Bank Agency will be closing in July. This is obviously, terrible news for our local community, and our businesses. On the 19th April, Kylie Clifford, Warren Groves and myself flew to a last minute meeting with Janie Finlay MP, and senior managers from Bendigo Bank to discuss the effects that the closure will have on our island. We were also joined by the owners of the Beaconsfield Bendigo Bank Agency, who represented a community with many similarities to ours.

The Bendigo Bank representatives listened to our concerns and agreed to evaluate the new information and options discussed during the meeting. They will provide that information to their executive for further consideration and will get back to us within 2 weeks. No promises, no guarantees.

Council is reviewing its Strategic Plan. We have a survey that we would love for everyone in our community to complete. It can be accessed through the Council website, or a paper copy is available from reception at Council. The Strategic Plan is a document that Council uses as part of its decision-making process, to ensure that our plans are in line with community wants and needs.

There are also questions in the survey about Priority Projects aka 'Councils Wish List'. We currently have the following as Priority Projects – do we still need these or are there other projects we should be considering?

- Modern solid waste management practices.
- Reconstruct and seal Palana Road. Transfer ownership to State Government.
- Provide funding for TasWater to establish a wastewater solution for Flinders Island.
- Relocate Council Depot from residential area within Whitemark.
- North East River - Provide a state of the art 'off grid' northern location for campers.

There has recently been some media around the Local Government Review Report. It looks like one of the potential recommendations will be that Councils are forced to “create entirely new council identities, with fresh elections as soon as possible...” During our discussions with the Review Board, Councillors made it quite clear how detrimental amalgamation would be to our community and our islands.

There will be further consultation over the coming months, but Council will continue the fight to oppose amalgamation of our Council.

Rachel Summers – Mayor
Phone 0467 046 809

THE FUTURE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVIEW

The Tasmanian Government has commissioned the Local Government Board to undertake a review of the role, function, and design of local government in Tasmania.

The Stage 2 report has just been released and The Board is particularly interested in community ideas about how local government should be structured to best serve the nine community catchments identified in the Report.

The Report is open for comment until 21 June 2023.

We encourage you to read the Report, and to make a submission. Visit the website at <https://engage.futurelocal.tas.gov.au/> or by email submissions.lgboard@dpac.tas.gov.au

Have your say on your future

North-East Community Catchment	
Rationale and evidence	
<p>North-East Consultation Group Dorset, Break O' Day, Flinders, George Town, Glamorgan-Spring Bay</p>	<p>Place and representation</p> <p>The North-East corner of Tasmania is predominantly agricultural but with several significant green energy and eco-tourism ventures, notably the Musselroe Bay and Cape Portland wind farms, the Blue Derby mountain bike trails, and a range of coastal holiday/tourist towns. While the sparse populations and large areas of these LGAs mean that their commuting connections are not quite as strong as for urban regions, the data clearly show that they are more closely connected to each other than to any other council areas. This relative isolation and shared geography also link these areas into a broader community of interest. While resident movement and identity links are not as strong between Flinders Island and Cape Barren Island and the mainland parts of this region, the importance of Bridport as a freight and transit link means that they would nevertheless be valuable contributors to the North-East Tasmania consultation group.</p>
	<p>Future needs and priorities</p> <p>This region faces a range of economic and demographic difficulties as well as important emerging opportunities. Like many of the state's more rural areas, the first of these is population ageing and also population decline in some areas. All four council areas in this consultation grouping are ageing more quickly than the state average and growing more slowly. These issues pose clear but not insurmountable challenges to the region's economic sustainability. They are compounded in many places by workforce shortages and high service provision costs arising from the small and dispersed nature of the region's population.</p>

STRATEGIC PLAN REVIEW



Council is reviewing the progress on our 2021-2031 Strategic Plan.

Council developed a comprehensive Strategic Plan in 2021 to steer our actions for the next ten years, helping us achieve our vision for the Flinders Municipality.

To ensure we remain on course, we review our Strategic Plan yearly and establish our priorities in an Annual Plan, together with a corresponding budget.

We monitor our progress towards fulfilling the Strategic Plan through quarterly operational reports and an Annual Report. These reports allow us to track our performance and make the necessary adjustments for continuous improvement.

We believe that community involvement and collaboration are essential to the success of our strategy. Your insights and perspectives will help us to better understand community needs, meet community expectations and make informed decisions.

This survey will take approx. 10 minutes to complete.



Strategic Plan Survey Link



Got a great idea for an innovative project?

Need equipment for your community group?

Would you like to put on an event?

Flinders Council is committed to provide funding for projects that support our Furneaux Islands communities through increased community connection, access and participation.

Total project pool funding for 23/24 financial year is \$10,000.

Applications open – please contact the Community Development Team at community@flinders.tas.gov.au to discuss your project, details on the Council website.



Applications for funding for the Gunn Bequest 2023/2024 are open and must be received no later than C.O.B. Monday 15th May 2023.

This year's Gunn Bequest Grant will award 1 successful project grant to the value of \$385

please contact the Community Development Team at community@flinders.tas.gov.au to discuss your project, details on the Council website.

ISLANDER WAY COMMUNITY CONSULTATION



The Background Context and Community Engagement report of the Islander Way is now available for feedback.

“The aim of the Islander Way project is to firstly, identify tourism-related challenges and issues on Flinders Island and secondly to co-design a future where the hosting of visitors generates positive and regenerative benefits back to the Island, its communities, and the environment, and also contributes to a flourishing local economy.”

The Islander Way project's community engagement process recognises and values the input and suggestions of all individuals who took part in the engagement activities and strives to incorporate them in an authentic manner. Rather than attempting to alter or replace existing viewpoints, the aim was to present the feedback as a source of information for future reference. This document serves as a means of honouring the diverse perspectives and ideas of Islanders shared during the engagement process.

The next step is to develop a Draft Regenerative Tourism Framework in collaboration with Visitor Northern Tasmania (VNT), Flinders Council, and other stakeholders. This will also be made available for public comment.

Please visit the Islander Way website to download the report and leave your feedback. <https://www.islanderway.co/>

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

FURNEAUX FUTURES

June 7-9 2023 Theme – Regeneration

Do you have an idea or a solution to an Island challenge? Maybe you would just like to share your business with the broader community?

A component of the Furneaux Futures Forum are the **‘Island Vision’ sessions** where people can present their ideas and stories in an 8–10-minute talk (think TEDx style) and share their expertise and unique perspective on a topic they are passionate about. Topics of talks are totally up to you and could range from fishing and farming to arts and culture, and everything in between.

‘Island Vision’ is a great platform for sharing innovative ideas and inspiring stories. It's an opportunity to make a positive impact in the Furneaux Islands community and beyond. If you're passionate about sharing your ideas and inspiring others, we'd love to have you join in.

Please visit the website at www.furneauxfutures.com.au or contact us for further information.

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**FLINDERS
COUNCIL**

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 on:

Wednesday 24 May 2023 commencing at 1pm.

Public Question Time will be held between 1:00 – 1:30pm. Members of the public are invited to attend.

The Agenda will be available for perusal from Friday 19 May 2023 on the Council Website www.flinders.tas.gov.au and at the Council Office.

**Warren Groves
General Manager**