

COUNCIL NEWS

NOTES FROM THE MAYOR

MEDIA RELEASE

The following media release has been given to the Examiner Newspaper yesterday, Wednesday 22nd May. The information has been shared with all Council staff in meetings yesterday morning prior to its being released to the media.

Flinders Council General Manager, Bill Boehm, to finish on 31 May

Flinders Council Mayor, Annie Revie, today announced that General Manager, Bill Boehm, will finish his current contract with Council on 31 May.

Mayor Revie stated, "As a largely new Council, we have spent the past few months reviewing our strategic approach to maximise the potential of the community over our four-year term and beyond.

"As part of this review it was noted that a number of significant improvements had been achieved over the past two-and-a-half years under the current General Manager, Bill Boehm, who was recruited by the previous Council."

She noted that, among other things, Mr Boehm had restored staff and councillor relationships following a challenging staff change. This was critical to the organisation's moving-on. Bill has also initiated some positive operational improvements; implemented positive changes to our rating system; overseen the development of a sound long-term financial management plan and secured Building Better Regions funding for the Telstra Communications and Structural Review Projects. One of Bill's most timely projects has been to initiate a review of Flinders Business, Economics and Social Structure. The recently released report augers well for the economic and social development of the municipality, as Council moves into the period of working with the community on a futuristic strategic plan.

Mayor Revie believes that, in order to leverage these gains, Council must now seek the certainty and continuity of a General Manager who can support and lead Council through the strategic planning and, importantly, implementation period.

Although Mr Boehm has 18 months still to run on his contract, a change in personal circumstances means that he is unable to make the necessary long-term commitment. He understands and supports Council's need to seek a general manager who can make such a commitment.

Bill Boehm stated, "My partner Kaye and I have very much enjoyed our time on Flinders and remain passionate about the Islands and the community. I feel we are leaving Council in a better place and very much look forward to staying in touch. We will closely follow Flinders' assured strategic growth!"

Mayor Revie thanked the General Manager and praised his contributions. "Bill has been a passionate champion of Flinders and leaves with our full support and best wishes."

Council's Accountant, Heidi Marshall will act in the General Manager's role until a permanent appointment can be made.

Mayor Revie confirmed, "Heidi has been an integral part of Bill's team. Her knowledge and vast international experience, working at the highest levels in corporations and with government, make her the immediate and obvious choice to act in the General Manager's role through this transition period. The quality of Heidi's work is respected by staff and councillors alike.

Council extends to Heidi the warmest welcome and looks forward to continuing the already strong working relationship."

IS THE COUNCIL BEHIND THE SAFE HARBOUR PROJECT?

Of course Council is behind the project. We fully support the building of the safe harbour. We fully understand the potential benefits that will hopefully emanate from it. However, currently we only have a concept plan rather than a full business plan. Federal and State Governments have offered \$5.7million in total. But there are still many unanswered questions regarding overall costs. Council approved a motion to sign off on the funding as facilitators of the project and to negotiate with State Government on how we approach it from here.

Large projects costing a few million dollars, seldom come in on budget.

We have to be sure – on the community's behalf - that we can pay for all costs incurred by this or any other project!

How would you have us do anything other than that? The newly elected government, after all, succeeded by asking over and over of Labor: how can your promises be paid for? Surely the community would have Council ascertain the risks responsibly. Flinders Council's rate base is very small. I feel sure that the community will not wish to incur large rate rises.

SO WHAT COUNCIL CURRENTLY DOING? We are negotiating - with State Government, including TasPorts, and with MAST, to identify a responsible approach. I will keep you posted.

ANNIE REVIE, MAYOR

Tel: 0477 557338 or

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**CALL FOR COMMITTEE
REPRESENTATIVE**

Nominations from the public are called for **Community Member Representatives** on the Furneaux (Emita) Hall and Recreation Ground Special Committee. The Committee exists to support, assist and advise in the management and operation of the Emita Hall on behalf of Council.

Send nominations by C.O.B. 4th June to:

Cr Rachel Summers (Committee Chair)
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 for 2019 will be held at the Flinders Arts and Entertainment Centre, Whitemark, Flinders Island on:

Tuesday 18 June 2019 commencing at 9.00am.

Public Question Time will be held between 9.00 – 9.30am. Members of the public are invited to attend. The Agenda will be available for perusal from Thursday, 13 June 2019 on the Council Website www.flinders.tas.gov.au and at the Council Office.

The refurbishment of Emita Hall is almost complete!

The building works are now finalised with some external site works still to be completed.

We are pleased to announce the **Emita Playscape** will be **open** to the General Public from **Saturday 1st June.**

We look forward to unveiling the Emita Hall at a later date.

Fantastic work Shane Wain & team.

WHITEMARK TIP OPENING HOURS

SUN, MON, FRI 1.30pm - 4.30pm

TUES +THURS 7.00am - 10.00am

WEDNESDAYS 8.30am - 11.30am

CLOSED PUBLIC HOLIDAYS