

## **NOTES FROM THE MAYOR**

### **COUNCIL'S CURRENT PRIORITY**

You will know, from reading this copy of Island News, that Council is in partial close-down mode. Basically, this means that many Council staff are working from home. The reasons will have been explained in the article from Council in Island News. But basically, the reasons are directly related to Council's number one priority of keeping the Community on the islands as safe as possible from the dreaded coronavirus. I sincerely trust that community members understand this action and thank you also for your anticipated support.

### **WHY DO WE HAVE TO BE PARTICULARLY VIGILANT ON THE ISLANDS?**

I have heard it said many times that there is little reason for the Flinders Community to isolate itself from the communities of mainland Tasmania and Australia. The reason, they say, is that there are no diagnosed cases here. That being the case, say these same people, the virus will not spread so we have nothing to worry about!

### **BUT THE BELIEFS EXPRESSED ABOVE ARE ONLY ONE PART OF THE STORY!**

Council has taken a very strong stand on this one. I am definitely not trying to raise anxiety levels here. It is my belief that we have a good chance of getting through this challenging time with few – even possibly NO – cases of coronavirus on our island homes. However, we cannot afford to be complacent. The General Manager and I have spent significant time on the phone, as well as in letters and emails, ensuring that the Premier and his staff recognise the dangers for the Flinders Community. Fortunately, the Premier and his advisors listened carefully. In his daily address, Premier Gutwein has told would-be visitors to stay away from King and the Furneaux Islands, as well as from other vulnerable communities. For this I am extremely grateful.

### **WHY AM I GRATEFUL TO THE PREMIER?**

In our community we have the following unique circumstances:

- The average age of our community is 55 years. This is significantly higher than mainland Tasmania's average age. Older

people are one of the key groups at risk from this virus.

- In addition, the islands have a higher than average incidence of chronic illness. This includes heart, lung and kidney disease, as well as various types of cancer and of mental illness.
- 17% of our population is of aboriginal heritage. Aboriginal people, in particular, are at extremely high risk when it comes to diseases such as coronavirus.

### **IN ADDITION, WE HAVE LOW CAPABILITY TO COPE WITH THIS VIRUS IF IT INVADES THE ISLANDS**

- We have only a very small hospital facility.
- There are only six acute beds and very little space for isolation. The acute wards are next door to our aged care facility.
- We have only 2 doctors.
- We do not have access to many relief staff, including nurses, if our regular staff become sick.
- Our medications, provisions and other supplies have to be brought in by plane or boat.

Now the above is well and truly enough to keep our population going well under normal circumstances.

### **But we are not in normal circumstances right now.**

### **THESE ARE THE REASONS WHY WE HAVE TO BE EXTREMELY VIGILANT**

You may not be aware that there are people seeking exemption from the travel restrictions to come to the Islands. I and the GM have spent hours on the phone and in writing, seeking that only the provision of clear essential services make it valid for people to travel here. That is my current priority and I take it seriously. I want to ensure, if I possibly can, that the damned coronavirus does not come here – even by accident.

### **MY HEART GOES OUT TO OUR BUSINESS PEOPLE AND OTHERS WHOSE WORK TIME HAS BEEN CUT SHORT**

There are business people here who are losing money hand over fist. There are also people being innovative and enterprising who are finding ways to meet our needs in this

difficult time. Our clever business people are offering:

- A terrific variety of take-away food – delivery, pick-up and drive-through;
- Facilities to wash hands with soap and water and then with cleansing sanitising agents;
- One local distiller has gone out of his way to manufacture hand sanitiser for our health and protection;
- Shopkeepers are only allowing small numbers in the shops at a time; and
- We can't even chat to friends and neighbours in the shops or in the streets unless we are 2 meters apart.

All of this is happening for our safety. I thank all business people, as well as organisations like FIAAI, Mobile Meals and Lions, for contributing to our safety. I also thank everyone most sincerely for sticking their very best to the current rules in order to support the health and well-being of us all.

### **IF WE STICK TOGETHER AND KEEP THE RULES, OUR COMMUNITY COULD COME OUT OF THIS VERY WELL**

Value each other. Stay safe. Do the right thing – stay home unless to do essential things. Be kind to everyone – tough as it is at the moment.

### **COUNCIL MEETINGS WILL BE HELD ONLINE**

My first council meeting online will be on the 28<sup>th</sup> April. That will be a challenge in itself – but I am sure I will get through it. By law, the public will be able to attend. If you have a question you wish asked at the meeting, you can:

- Send your question in beforehand to [vicki.warden@flinders.tas.gov.au](mailto:vicki.warden@flinders.tas.gov.au) ;
- Give me or one of the other councillors a ring in the days leading up to the meeting. My number is 0477 557 338;
- Send me an email: [annie.revie@flinders.tas.gov.au](mailto:annie.revie@flinders.tas.gov.au);
- Or register with Vicki to attend the meeting. (Please see the notice following.)

If there are any issues that you wish to bring to our attention you can also email our General Manager, Warren at:

[warren.groves@flinders.tas.gov.au](mailto:warren.groves@flinders.tas.gov.au)

### **WE ARE WORKING IN ONLINE MEETINGS AND IN HOME-OFFICES**

We are exploring all ways possible that we can possibly support our community to get through this and safely out the other side. Thank you for being the wonderful community that you are.

**ANNIE REVIE**

**MAYOR**

**TEL: 0477 557 338**

**EMAIL: [annie.revie@flinders.tas.gov.au](mailto:annie.revie@flinders.tas.gov.au)**

### **\*\*CHANGES TO COUNCIL MEETING\*\***

#### **ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING**

Notice is hereby given that the next Ordinary Meeting of Flinders Council will be held via videoconference on:

**Tuesday 28 April 2020 at 9.30am.**

The meeting will be held via Zoom and members of the public will be able to attend by pre-registration only. To register, please email [vicki.warden@flinders.tas.gov.au](mailto:vicki.warden@flinders.tas.gov.au) or call 0418 763 307 before 4pm Monday 27 April 2020.

Public Question Time will be held between 9.30 – 10.00am. Members of the public, who do not wish to attend via Zoom, may submit their questions via email, before 4pm Monday 27 April 2020, to [vicki.warden@flinders.tas.gov.au](mailto:vicki.warden@flinders.tas.gov.au)

The Agenda will be available for perusal from Thursday 23 April 2020 on the Council Website [www.flinders.tas.gov.au](http://www.flinders.tas.gov.au).

Warren Groves | **GENERAL MANAGER**

### **COUNCIL OFFICE CLOSURE**

Flinders Council Offices will be temporarily closed from 6 April 2020 however we are still delivering essential services and emergency response during the COVID-19 situation. Community members can still phone us with enquiries between 10am-12pm, Monday to Friday, on 6359 5001 or email on [office@flinders.tas.gov.au](mailto:office@flinders.tas.gov.au). Non-urgent emails will be responded to as soon as possible on our return.

Please keep an eye on our website <http://www.flinders.tas.gov.au> and our Facebook page for updates.

We appreciate your understanding and support during this time. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

**Warren Groves  
GENERAL MANAGER**

**WASTE INFORMATION**

Transfer Stations at Lady Barron and Killiecrankie are still open. It is preferred that waste be taken directly to Whitemark Tip when possible to save double handling.

**Lady Barron Transfer Station**

Council will now be able to accept green waste at Lady Barron Transfer Station as fire permits requirements have now been lifted for the Furneaux area.

**Whitemark Landfill**

Due to concerns for our staff's workplace safety and the current COVID-19 situation, our workers will no longer be handling household waste streams by baling. We ask all tip users to please continue to separate their waste but will be instructed (at a safe distance) to dump household rubbish over the edge of the landfill as happened in the past.

**Whitemark Tip Hours**

Sunday	1.30pm to 4.30pm
Monday	1.30pm to 4.30pm
Tuesday	7.00am to 10.00am
Wednesday	8.30am to 11.30am
Thursday	7.00am to 10.00am
Friday	1.30pm to 4.30pm

**Giving Shed – CLOSED**

**TRAVEL TO AND FROM FURNEAUX ISLANDS**

A NOTAM (Notice to Air Men) has been issued through Air Services Australia notifying all itinerant aircraft that all landing areas on Flinders Island are closed to all aircraft coming from mainland Australia, with the exception of Whitemark, where they will be directed to land at Flinders Airport.

**On the 25 March, Peter Gutwein advised that people should not travel to Flinders Island or King island at this time.**

**All 'non-essential' travellers from mainland Australia to Tasmania are now required to self-isolate for 14 days upon arrival to Flinders Island.**

All passengers will be screened on arrival by Bio-Security and must demonstrate they meet the essential traveller criteria.

At Flinders Island Airport, passengers disembarking now exit through the side 'air gate' of the airport to pick up their luggage from the baggage area. There is generally no access to the terminal for arrivals, (dependent upon weather conditions) however, the side door will be open for restroom access. Check-in at the terminal counter will be unaffected.

Sharp Airlines have in place stringent hygiene and sanitation processes of their aircraft and terminals. Up to date information is available at [www.sharpairlines.com](http://www.sharpairlines.com)

**2020 KIDS HOLIDAY PROGRAM**

In current circumstances, we will be adapting the Autumn Kids Holiday Program to ensure we keep our kids connected. In partnership with FIAAI, we have developed an interactive web app specifically designed for the kids on Flinders Island.

Download the app at [islandkids.glideapp.io](http://islandkids.glideapp.io)  
The app includes a series of 'Kids Challenges' that can be completed online over the break - Recipes, Pedometer Challenge, Photography, Poetry.

Further information will be emailed out to parents who have registered their children for the Kids Holiday Program.

Also, a special message from the Premier:



## TELEPHONE AHEAD FOR MEDICAL CARE OR APPOINTMENTS

MPC                    6359 0200  
Dr Surgery        6359 2011  
FIAAI                6359 3532  
AND ALSO for veterinary services  
John O'Dell      6359 2148

### EXERCISE

#### In compliance with public gathering rules

– no more than 2 people in a public place, unless from the same household.

#### YOU CAN STILL GO TO:

- Whitemark Beach - Bluff Point to Golf Course Boundary
- Whitemark Showground Oval
- Holloway Park Oval
- Emita Hall Recreation Ground Oval (playgrounds and buildings are closed)

### COMMUNITY GRANTS

Applications for funding are now being sought from Community Groups. Applications received 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.

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> will be received no later than C.O.B. Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May and should be addressed to:

**General Manager**  
Flinders Council  
PO Box 40  
Whitemark TAS 7255

*Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1993* were issued without stating an expiry date. If these permits have not been completed, they will now expire if:

- The permit was in force immediately before 1 January 2017;
- The permit has not since expired; and
- There is no other expiry date on the permit.

If a permit meets these criteria, they will now expire on **1 July 2020** unless they are extended. Further information can be found on the CBOS website. Development Services staff have issued letters to property owners with permits meeting the above criteria.

If you wish to enquire on the status of your permits, or request an Extension of Time, please contact Development Services on [development.services@flinders.tas.gov.au](mailto:development.services@flinders.tas.gov.au) or [03 6359 5007](tel:0363595007).

### STAY INFORMED

Visit the Tasmanian Department of Health coronavirus website at <http://www.health.tas.gov.au/coronavirus> or the Australian Government Department of Health website at <https://www.health.gov.au>

For general information about coronavirus call the National Coronavirus Information Line on **1800 020 080 (24 hours, 7 days)**

### Expiry of Permits

Some Building, Plumbing and Demolition permits issued under the *Building Act 2000* and the *Local Government (Building and*

# Fact Sheet

January 2019  
v1.1

## Expiry of Permits

### Duration of permits

Under the *Building Act 2016*, building/plumbing/demolition permits expire:

- if no work has started, within one year of the permit being issued (unless another period for starting work is stated in the permit); or
- if work has started, within two years of the start work authorisation being issued for the work (unless another period for completing the work is stated in the permit).

Some permits issued under the *Building Act 2000* and the *Local Government (Building and Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1993* were issued without stating an expiry date. If these permits have not been completed, they will now expire if:

- the permit was in force immediately before 1 January 2017;
- the permit has not since expired; and
- there is no other expiry date on the permit.

If a permit meets these criteria, they will now expire on **1 July 2020** unless they are extended.

Law	Section	Provision
Building Act 2016	Duration of Permits	Section 146 (building), Section 172 (plumbing), Section 196 (demolition)
Building Act 2016	Transitional and Savings Provisions	Schedule 2, Part 3, Section 6

### How to apply for a permit extension

If an owner wants work to continue under a permit which is due to expire, they will need to apply to the permit authority to have the permit extended beyond 30 June 2020.

The extension application must be made in the [Approved Form](#) and include:

- reports of prior inspections of work (if any); and
- advice from the building surveyor (or plumber/plumbing inspector for plumbing work) on the state of the works.

The permit authority may extend the permit, refuse to extend the permit or request further information. They have 7 days to make this decision. They can charge a fee for the application.

Law	Section	Provision
Building Act 2016	Extension of Duration of Permit	Section 147 (building) Section 173 (plumbing) Section 197 (demolition)

### What work needs to be finished before a permit expires?

Before a permit expires, all work that is the subject of the permit must be completed. This includes:

- the building/plumbing/demolition work as defined by the *Building Act 2016*; and
- any other prescribed work including inspections (these are prescribed building services work under the *Occupational Licensing Act 2005*).

The inspection and completion of a permit is to occur before the permit expires. To allow for any building work required as a result of the final inspection, a valid permit is required.

A Certificate of Final Inspection or a Certificate of Completion can be issued without a valid permit. If an owner only needs these certificates to be issued for a project to be 'complete' after a permit has expired, a new permit is not required.

Law	Section	Provision
Building Act 2016	Interpretation – Definition of Building/Plumbing/ Demolition Work	Section 4
Occupational Licensing (Building Services Work) Regulations 2016	Prescribed Work	Regulation 4

### What happens if a permit expires before work is finished?

If a permit expires and further building work (including work following final inspection) to continue on the site, a new permit from the permit authority is required. Any work done without a valid permit in place is illegal work.

An application for a new permit must comply with the requirements in the *Building Act 2016*. It will need to use the current forms, fees and supporting documents as per the Director's Specified List. New designs will not be required unless the design has changed or is no longer compliant.

Law	Section	Provision
Building Act 2016	Application for Permit	Section 139 (building) Section 165 (plumbing) Section 190 (demolition)

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