



FROM THE MAYOR

HAPPY NEW YEAR

I hope everyone has had a peaceful Christmas and New Year period. I hope that 2022 brings us some positive change. I wish all residents the very best for this new year. Let us all keep our awareness high; keep ourselves and each other safe; and try to be kind to one another.

COVID UPDATE

The Christmas period has been a little different this year since the opening of the borders on 15 December. I made official enquiries and we have had cases on the Island. It may be that we still do at the time of writing. Some people report that they have COVID-19 and others don't. Unlike most places, the Flinders Municipality is quite well positioned with regard to the pandemic. We managed to avoid having a case for 2 years, have a high vaccination rate, and we have protocols well established to keep us all safe.

Remember:

- Remain up to date with vaccines to protect yourself against the virus;
- Wear your mask when indoors;
- Ensure social distancing when outdoors;
- Wash your hands often;
- Check in via the TasCheckIn app;
- Keep up to date at:
www.coronavirus.tas.gov.au

WHY DOES THE KING ISLAND COUNCIL HAVE MORE INFORMATION THAN THE FLINDERS COUNCIL?

Some people are confused that there is more information available about the COVID-19 situation on King Island than on Flinders. The following points tell the story of what is happening on King Island:

- King Island is in a totally different situation to Flinders.
- There have been large scale events on King Island recently that have been identified as super-spreader events. This is because

quite a lot of people attended, including people from off-island.

- This meant that the risk of virus spread was increased.
- The new Omicron version of COVID-19 is milder in its symptoms, but it spreads very quickly.
- The number of people with COVID-19 on King Island rose quickly and is now reported as 90 cases.
- The number of doctors and nurses on King Island is similar to the number on Flinders.
- With so many COVID-positive people, they would have had to call for back up from Public Health.
- Public Health sent a team over to enable lots of testing and contact tracing.
- This has led to King Island's situation being in the news.

IF YOU ARE CONFUSED AND ANXIOUS, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CALL ME

My number is always at the end of my Island News article, as well as on Council's website. I am very happy if people wish to call me to check out whether rumours are correct. Please try to be kind to all.

I HAVE URGED YOU ALL A FEW TIMES TO BE KIND

What does kindness in this situation look like?

- Say kind words.
- Post kind words.
- Avoid posting negativity.
- Try to understand how others are feeling.
- Make your best decisions.
- Remember that everyone is entitled to confidentiality.

THE NEXT ISLANDER WAY VISIT FROM DIANNE AND SARAH IS POSTPONED

In order for Dianne to enter Tasmania from her home in Queensland, she has to have evidence of a Rapid Antigen Test to prove she does not have Coronavirus. She is unable to acquire one of the tests currently because of the shortage. We have decided to put Dianne and Sarah's visit off until the current level of disease spread has decreased. Lots of work has been done in the meantime. But right now, we all have too many things to think about and community meetings are not advised. We will keep you advised as things improve.

COUNCIL'S INFORMATION CENTRE

As a precaution against the spread of COVID-19, it has been decided that Visitor Information will be closed at the Council Office. Printed information is available on the porch and you

can also download the Community Information app – link below. If someone needs information beyond that, please feel free to ring Council reception on 6359 5001. We apologise for any inconvenience. We are simply trying to be as careful as possible.

ANNIE REVIE, MAYOR
annie.revie@flinders.tas.gov.au
Tel: 0477 557 338



2022 Festival Update



Due to the uncertainty of the COVID situation on Flinders Island and the chance of community transmission at large scale events, we regret to announce that the Furneaux Islands Festival has been cancelled for 2022, including the Saturday Street Market Day. Council will consider holding the Festival at a later time in the year. We will be working towards the Islander Portrait Prize exhibition being held at the Lady Barron Hall during Easter.

ROAD WORKS

Council is pleased to advise that construction work has begun on the stabilising and bitumen sealing on a section of Palana Rd, from Emita to Five Mile Jim Rd.

The work is programmed to be completed by early April 2022.

Motorists are requested to observe all traffic management directions as work crews and large construction vehicles will be working on the road throughout the construction phase.

New parking arrangements at Flinders Island Airport

Due to the increased numbers of vehicles utilising the airport car park, the Flinders Council has implemented new vehicle parking arrangements.

There is now a 2-hour maximum limit in the front row near the terminal.

A Hire Car parking area has been established opposite the terminal. The general parking area is now to the south of the terminal. New signage has been installed indicating the locations.

A new pedestrian crossing has now been installed in front of the terminal, so pedestrians can cross from the terminal building to the main car parking area.

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

Due to parking limitations within the Airport grounds, Flinders Council requests 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

Policy to be Adopted

Council resolved at the 14 December 2021 Ordinary Council Meeting to approve the **Roadside and Reserve Vegetation Management Policy and Procedure.**

These will lie on the table for public comment until 10 February 2022. They are available to download from the Council Website www.flinders.tas.gov.au/policies. 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



ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETINGS

Notice is hereby given that the 2022 Ordinary Meetings of Flinders Council will be held at the Flinders Arts and Entertainment Centre, Whitemark on the following Tuesdays unless stated:

- 18 January
- 15 February
- 15 March
- 12 April at Lady Barron Hall
- 17 May
- 14 June
- 19 July
- 16 August
- 20 September at Emita Hall
- 18 October
- 15 November
- 13 December

Council Meetings will start at 2:00pm and Public Question Time will be from 2.00pm – 2.30pm.

Each meeting agenda will be available for perusal on the Council Website www.flinders.tas.gov.au or at the Council Office on the Thursday before the meeting.

Warren Groves
General Manager