



DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION APPROVED FOR TOURISM OPERATION

At the February Ordinary Meeting of Council meeting, a proposal for a Tourism Operation Use at Leeka was approved. The proposal is for tent structures that will be erected in October and removed in April of each year. There will be a road into the site in order to transport materials and supplies. The visitors using the site will walk in and out. While there, they will engage in tours, bird watching and plant identification, as well as other nature-based activities. As one of the Councillors said: "The proposal is for a non-invasive, low environmental impact activity that fits well with the Islander Way', the Island's current direction in tourism.

ROAD SPEED CHANGES ARE NOT AUTHORISED BY COUNCIL

I recognize that sometimes people see changes to road speed as something that is easily achieved. However, Council has no authority to change road speeds unless the changes are for the purpose of road works or road dangers. The State Transport Commissioner, employed at the Department of State Growth, is authorized for this. If Council believes there are credible and sensible changes required, an application must be accompanied by well-researched data. Anyone interested in reading more about this topic can find the Tasmanian Road Transport Guidelines on the State Growth Website, which includes a section on road speeds.

ARE WE GOING TO HAVE OFF-SHORE FISH FARMS CLOSE TO FLINDERS?

A few people have been wondering about this, including Council. I was saved the trouble of writing a letter to the Honorable Guy Barnett recently when I heard on the ABC News that any trials on this will be in the Bass Strait north of Burnie. Richard Flannagan's Book, "TOXIC", has led to a few people wondering about the environmental impact of fish farms in lakes and coastal waters. It will be interesting to see how Burnie City Council respond to the suggestion.

SUCCESS IN GAINING A \$1.6 MILLION GRANT FOLLOWING THE 2020 FOOCHOW FIRE

The Commonwealth Government offered grants for municipalities that were affected by the 2019/2020 bushfires. Flinders Municipality was eligible based on the Foochow fire in 2020. Recently Council received the news that its submission was successful to the sum of \$1.6 million. Below is what the funding will be used for. The work will make all three halls and sites useful for several additional functions than at present.

PROJECT 1 - UPGRADE OF THE FURNEAUX ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT CENTRE - FAEC (RECOVERY CENTRE) WITH A COMMERCIAL KITCHEN AND EMERGENCY POWER SUPPLY.

The Furneaux Arts and Entertainment Centre (FAEC) is an important multipurpose venue for community meetings, activities, events and is the Islands' registered Recovery Centre. The FAEC will provide a safe haven in the event of emergency. The project covers improved facility upgrades via extension of existing infrastructure including installation of a commercial kitchen, meeting room, storage area and 3 phase diesel generator. The centre can also be used for a community communication centre.

PROJECT 2 – OFF GRID MOBILE STAGING AREA / INFORMATION HUB FOR EMERGENCY RESPONSE.

A Mobile Shipping Container for temporary location of emergency response resources.

The project is for the purchase of an 'off grid' staging area which can be easily deployed to an affected area in the event of an emergency and used as a respite / staging area / office / information centre.

PROJECT 3 - UPGRADE OF COMMUNITY FACILITIES AT EMITA HALL & HOLLOWAY PARK.

There will be an infrastructure upgrade to Emita Hall and Holloway Park for community and tourism recreational use. This will improve recreational and camping facilities at each location.

This project includes a collaborative venture with Tas Fire for the construction of a 3-bay shed at each location to house emergency response vehicles, equipment and training rooms.

FURNEAUX SHIPPING COMMITTEE

The first meeting of 2022 was held last week.

Tim Smith, from Batchelor Civil Contracting,

addressed the meeting, regarding the upgrade of the Lady Barron Port facilities and the many stages of the project. An onsite visit to the Port is planned for late March, so that committee members may gain a better understanding of the complexities involved in keeping the wharf accessible and operational, while the upgrade work is being undertaken.

A small number of Committee members are now working together to improve animal welfare issues that may arise at the Port of Lady Barron from time to time. I am so appreciative of those who volunteered to be a part of this subcommittee.

STAY SAFE EVERYONE!

The pandemic is not over yet, but the Flinders Community seems to be faring well.

Thanks to our people who:

- Have taken the time to vaccinate;
- Have maintained the hygiene and safe distancing protocols, and
- Continue to wear masks in indoor spaces.

Please maintain this safe behaviour.

ANNIE REVIE, MAYOR

EMAIL: annie.revie@flinders.tas.gov.au

TEL: 0477 557 338



Casual Register

Did you know that Council maintains a Casual Employment Register?

We are currently accepting Expressions of Interest for casual administration positions with flexible hours at Flinders Council. Those with computer literacy and administrative skills are encouraged to submit a resume and cover letter to jade.boyes@flinders.tas.gov.au

Flinders Council is an equal opportunity employer.

WATER RESTRICTIONS

Stage two water restrictions are now in place for Whitemark.

This is to ensure the community has a continuous water supply over the warmer months due to the Henderson Dam upgrade.

For information on water restrictions and what it means to you visit:
www.taswater.com.au/news/restrictions

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

CLOSED PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

PAYMENT OF RATES

**2nd Instalment
due Monday 28th February 2022**

Rate payment options are listed on the back of your Rates Notice and can be paid:

- by Credit Card Online at Councils Website www.flinders.tas.gov.au/make-a-payment
- or by phoning our Customer Service Centre on 6359 5001
- by Cheque or Money order mailed to GPO Box 40, Whitemark, TAS 7255

Following Councils COVID Safety Plan, if you need information or to make a payment in person, please ring the front office on 6359 5001 to arrange a time to visit.

WORKS UPDATE

After receiving so many complimentary comments on my first Island News update, I thought now would be a good time to write a second item and provide residents with a brief update on the past few months and the future.

Recycling on the island and the Whitemark landfill has been absorbing a lot of staff time over the last few months. The initial design for the planned transfer station was completed about a year ago. In my previous item I stated that construction of the new recycling building at the Whitemark landfill would begin shortly. However, there has been several ongoing changes in legislation and recycling opportunities. Rather than just build what was designed, it was seen as more sensible to pause the project and revisit the design to see how the building could be improved or altered considering the changes and to create the maximum flexibility for the future. For instance, with the introduction of the 'Container Refund Deposit' scheme, it was important to consider changes to how the transfer station would now operate as the initial design did not include the sorting and storing of different types of drink containers.

Alongside this, Council has also been able to submit a grant application for additional equipment to support our recycling effort. This equipment includes a moving-floor for recycled material sorting. Therefore, the design of the building now must consider the possibility of installing this equipment and how it would affect the layout.

Additional equipment also means the building may need to be extended in the future, therefore the building needs to be designed to allow for any extensions in the future.

It is too late to do this after the building has been constructed.

Now that these design issues have been sorted, the final building approval has been submitted and work can begin. The initial site work will involve the laying of the cell leachate pipework and this should begin within the next fortnight. This work will be followed by the bulk earthworks for the transfer station building and then construction of the building itself, subject to the weather and contractor availability.

Much has been said recently about maintenance in general and road maintenance specifically. The fact is that Council only has a limited

amount of money available to maintain all of its assets. This is not just limited to roads, it also includes all the other infrastructure such as; maintaining Emita and Lady Barron halls; the public toilets in Lady Barron, Whitemark and Killiecrankie; the BBQ's in Lady Barron, Whitemark and Killiecrankie; the FAEC; the three boat ramps; mowing the Whitemark foreshore and all the other parks and showgrounds; maintaining all the footpaths; maintaining all the road and other signage, street lighting, and the list goes on.

As I said in my first news item; my first overriding principle when addressing maintenance is to intervene as early as possible so that there is only a small amount of work to be done rather than waiting until it is broken. Run-to-failure has never been a successful way to operate.

So, for instance, is it right to continuously grade a well trafficked road at the expense of all other roads? What about another, less used road where there is no gravel left and the road is slippery, dangerous, and progressively getting worse.

Again, as I said before, my second overriding principle is to plan long-term. This means looking at an issue and deciding what is the best long-term solution that is available, rather than continuing with a line of stopgap solutions.

Therefore, it is a balance between short-term stopgap repairs and longer-term permanent repairs.

As residents who have travelled to the north of the island would be aware, the project to stabilise and bitumen seal Palana Rd from Fairhaven Rd to Five Mile Jim Rd is well underway and on schedule to be completed by the end of March.

As well as this project, Council has been successful in obtaining a grant to upgrade all the guideposts on Palana Rd from Fairhaven Rd all the way to the end of Palana village. This work should begin shortly and be completed by mid-April.

Council undertook several rip-and-reform projects on Melrose Rd between Wingaroo Rd and Lucks Rd, and Palana Rd northwards from the Killiecrankie transfer station. Even though it was predicted to be a wetter than average summer, this didn't eventuate and unfortunately the road pavement has become too dry to continue with this type of work. However, once the rain returns and there is more moisture in the

road pavement, then it is planned to recommence and do further sections of gravel road.

One of the highest priorities on my long-term plan remains to implement a roadside table drain cleaning programme. This will help prevent the rutting on gravel roads from occurring in the first place and therefore reduce the number of times the road needs grading. The long-term goal is to have a stormwater roadside table drain network that operates properly, so reducing to a minimum the amount of stormwater flowing across the road.

Another of my priorities is to implement scheduled, regular, and ongoing inspection and maintenance regimes and I will have more to say about this in future Island News updates.

As always, I am happy to speak to residents and will continue to listen to their comments and take these into account in future planning.

Chris Wilson
Manager Infrastructure and Airport

ISLANDER WAY UPDATE

First, a quick follow-up regarding the Community Survey. We have now received more than 140 responses, which include some wonderful insights into Island life and the community's varied opinions related to tourism. Postcards are also still being returned, with approximately 80 received.

Given the number and quality of the Community Survey responses, we have extended the closing date until Monday, 28th February. To complete the survey, go to www.islanderway.co It should only take about 10-15 minutes and we would love to hear from you!

We are giving some thought to a series of podcasts, and will delve into this idea further when we return to the Island. We've enjoyed so many interesting conversations since we commenced the Islander Way and we'd like to explore the possibility of capturing these stories. Podcasts can be an effective and engaging way of conveying the essence of a place, and can help build respect and understanding between host communities and visitors. If you'd like to learn a little more, this New Zealand site provides some good examples www.goodawaits.podbean.com

We are also in the process of writing the 'Expressions of Interest' guidelines for projects suitable for the business accelerator program. We already know that the Island is full of people with clever, innovative ideas, so look out for a call to action soon! Hopefully the program will commence late April or early May.

Assuming there are no further COVID-related interruptions, we are really looking forward to our Island return on 21st March!

In the meantime, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Contact details:

Dianne Dredge contact@islanderway.co
0410 604 921

Sarah Lebski Sarah.Lebski@gmail.com
0418 134 114

Parking arrangements at the Airport

The new pedestrian crossing is working well as is the pickup and drop 2 hour maximum parking time in the front rows.

Car park users are reminded NOT to park on the pedestrian crossing as this area must be kept clear at all times.

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

Due to parking limitation within the Airport grounds, we request 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'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 15 February 2022 Ordinary Council Meeting to rescind the **Sponsorship of Third Party Projects and Events Policy**.

The policy will lie on the table for public comment until 23 March 2022. It is available to download from the Council Website www.flinders.tas.gov.au/policies and 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 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:

Tuesday 15 March 2022 commencing at 2pm.

Public Question Time will be held between 2.00 – 2.30pm. Members of the public are invited to attend.

The Agenda will be available for perusal from Thursday 10 March 2022 on the Council Website www.flinders.tas.gov.au and at the Council Office.

Warren Groves
General Manager



CALL FOR COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE

Nominations from the public are called for the position of Community Representative on the Whitemark Community Gym Special Committee of Council.

The Committee consists of council and community representatives and exists to support, assist and advise in the management and operation of the Whitemark Community Gym.

**Nominations can be sent to the Committee Chair:
Councillor Rachel Summers**

**Flinders Council
PO Box 40, Whitemark TAS 7255**

**Or via email to
rachel.summers@flinders.tas.gov.au**