



## Solar Energy Delivering Much Needed Savings to Council

Great results from Council's move toward solar energy Page 4

## New Mayor and Deputy Mayor

Cr Ben Browne appointed as Mayor for a two year term with Cr Merv Robinson appointed Deputy Mayor



## Infrastructure Update

New Road Seals and Reseals in full swing

6

## Fire Prevention

With Summer here it's more important than ever to be prepared

10



## Christmas Closure Dates

A simple checklist of when things close for the Christmas and New Year break



12

# Mayor Browne's Christmas Message



As we reach an end to 2020, on behalf of the Northern Areas Council I'd like to wish you and your families all the best for the festive season and best wishes for a happy and prosperous 2021.

2020 has proved to be a challenging year for people not just in the local area, but across the globe.

It'll certainly be nice for people to be able to spend time with their families across the Christmas and New Year period.

Having returned to the role as Mayor in November, I'm looking forward to working with the local communities as well as my fellow elected members of Council and

our Council staff as we look forward to a busy year in 2021.

As we work toward the new year, Council's focus will be to work hard to get things back on track and continue to work on our core responsibilities as representatives of you as the rate payers and community members, as we look to deliver equity across the whole Council area.

As a Council we've recently begun looking at our service levels, which will be a very strong focus across 2021 as we look to ensure that we are able to deliver for the local communities and the rate payers. This is not limited to roads, but encompasses all areas of Council operations, where we'd like to hear your views as a local community member, as we do value your opinion and in many cases many years of valuable knowledge and experience.

We're also undertaking a rating review, which has not happened at the Northern Areas Council since amalgamation in 1997. The reasoning behind this project is to review our current rating structure to see if this can be done in a better and fairer way. This won't be a short process, but after over twenty years, it's perhaps well overdue.

In terms of activities at Council we've again been able to secure project funding from the Federal Government for much needed upgrades to community facilities, which has occurred across the entire Council area. Upon the completion of the current list of projects it will be very pleasing to see much overdue upgrades take place at key community facilities such as Halls and Public Swimming Pools, whilst we also undertake further upgrades at public facilities for disability compliance for those in the community who may have mobility issues.

Finally, I'd like to acknowledge Cr. Denis Clark who has served in this role for the past eight years and also Cr. Sue Scarman who has served as Deputy for the past two.

Season' greetings and all the best for a safe and happy 2021,

Cr. Ben Browne  
Mayor

## Your Elected Member Contact Information

### **Broughton Ward** **Spalding, Yacka** **& surrounding areas**

Cr Ben Browne—Mayor  
M: 0419 038 474  
F: 8845 8004  
E: ben.browne@nacouncil.sa.gov.au

### **Belalie Ward** **Jamestown, Caltowie, Tarcowie** **& surrounding areas**

Cr Merv Robinson—Deputy Mayor  
P: 8664 1838  
M: 0417 863 450  
E: merv.robinson@nacouncil.sa.gov.au

Cr Denis Clark  
M: 0408 148 725  
F: 8664 0220  
E: denis.clark@nacouncil.sa.gov.au

Cr Glan Moore  
M: 0419 803 854  
E: glan.moore@nacouncil.sa.gov.au

Cr Leon Pollard  
M: 0409 691 037  
E: leon.pollard@nacouncil.sa.gov.au

### **Rocky River Ward** **Gladstone, Laura, Stone Hut** **& surrounding areas**

Cr Sue Scarman—Deputy Mayor  
P: 8636 2691  
M: 0418 844 935  
E: sue.scarman@nacouncil.sa.gov.au

Cr. Denise Higgins  
M: 0428 222 610  
E: denise.higgins@nacouncil.sa.gov.au

Cr Kathy Webb  
P: 8662 2553  
M: 0412 644 665  
E: kathy.webb@nacouncil.sa.gov.au

### **Yackamoорundie Ward** **Georgetown, Gulgare, Narridy** **& surrounding areas**

Cr. Ian Pomeranke  
M: 0412 154 610  
E: ian.pomeranke@nacouncil.sa.gov.au

## Council Appoints New Mayor and Deputy Mayor for Two Year Term

At the ordinary meeting of the Council held on Tuesday the 17<sup>th</sup> of November, the two year terms for both the Mayor and Deputy Mayor were completed, with nominations sought for the positions for the next two years.

A vote for Mayor was subsequently held, with Broughton Ward Councillor Ben Browne declared the winner and appointed as Mayor for the next two years.

Nominations for Deputy Mayor were also received with Belalie Ward Councillor Merv Robinson appointed for a two year term, having been elected unopposed.

Cr Browne previously served in the role from 2010-2012, whilst Cr Robinson has previously served as Deputy Mayor from 2016-2018.

Both Mayor Browne and Deputy Mayor Robinson acknowledged their predecessors Cr Denis Clark and Cr Sue Scarman for their services as Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

Cr Clark served as Mayor from 2012-2020, having served as Deputy Mayor prior to being appointed, whilst Cr Scarman has served as Deputy Mayor from 2018-2020.

During Cr Clark's eight year period as Mayor, he has also represented the Northern Areas Council at several key organisations including:

- Legatus Group (the former Central Local Government Region)
- South Australian Regional Organisation of Councils (SAROC)
- Regional Development Australia (RDA) Yorke and Mid North
- Murray Darling Association Region Eight Committee
- Local Government Association of South Australia.  
(including serving as a board member)

The current two year term for both Mayor and Deputy Mayor conclude in November 2022, when the next Local Government Elections will be held in South Australia.

Both Cr. Clark and Cr. Scarman continue in their roles as Councillors for the Belalie Ward (Cr. Clark) and Rocky River Ward (Cr. Scarman).



*Cr. Ben Browne returns to the role of Mayor. He had previously served in the role from 2010—2012*



*Cr. Merv Robinson has returned to the role of Deputy Mayor. He had previously served as Deputy Mayor from 2014-2016*

## Solar Installations Delivering Savings for Council

Across the past several years, Council has looked at mechanisms to seek to mitigate the rising cost of electricity across its many sites.

A solution has been through the installation of solar energy systems.

The 2019/20 budget included a \$120,000 allowance to install at least 6 30kW solar power systems at sites with suitable roofing.

The sites include Gladstone Hall, Gladstone Depot, Jamestown Depot x 2, Spalding Hall and Gulnare Hall. All sites were completed together with an additional 20kW system at the Laura Depot.



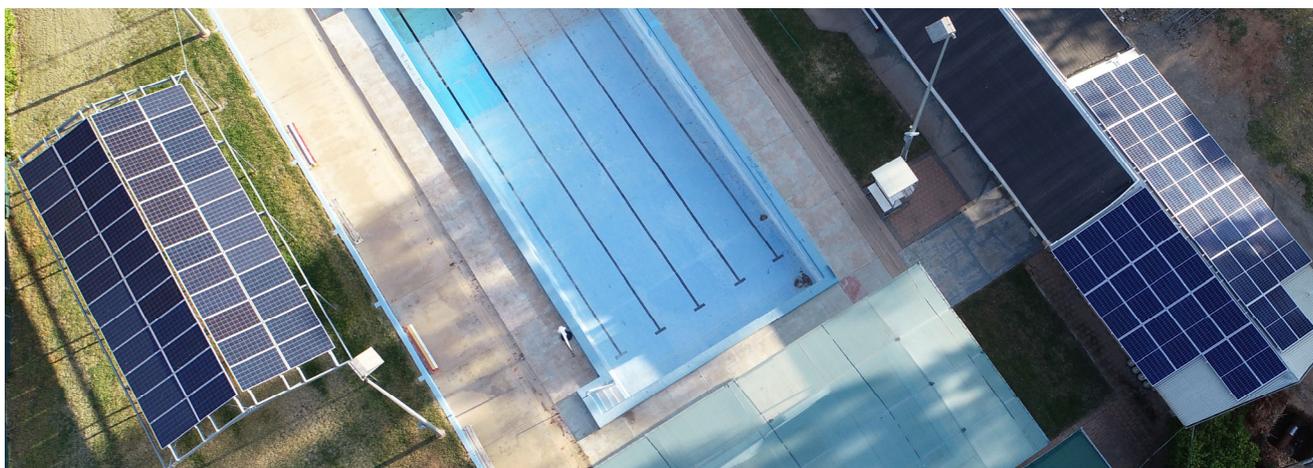
*Installations at Town Halls have made a significant difference to operating costs*

The feed-in credits expected from the systems will be used to offset other Council sites in the first instance. Once fully implemented, the results will present further ongoing savings to the Council budget.

In addition the 2019/20 budget included a \$60,000 allowance to install 6 x CWMS Solar structures at pump stations. In this case gable carport structures were built with an east/west orientation to house the 7kW systems. Pump stations generally only have small sheds that are not large enough for solar systems so it was decided a structure was a much better option than ground mounting.

As mentioned above Council has implemented a range of measures to offset rising electricity prices over recent years. The effect of past solar installations can be seen in the graph on page 5. This does not include the range of community facilities with solar in which power bills are paid direct by the group.

Jamestown CWMS electricity increased 1822% from \$984 in 2010/11 to \$18,910 in 2011/12. This was due to the introduction of the Waste water treatment plant.



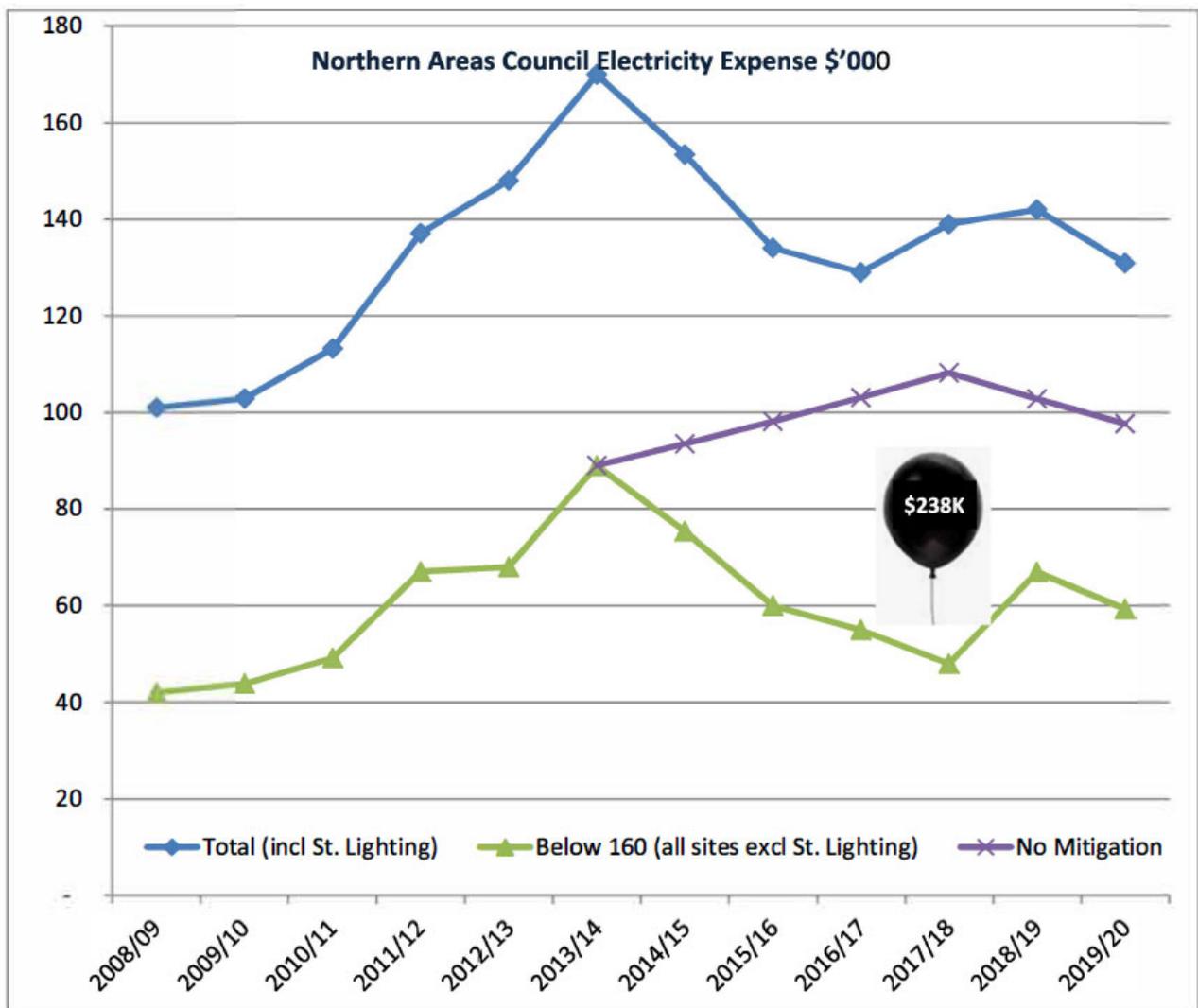
*Multiple Solar energy installations have taken place at swimming pools across the past several years. This has helped ensure that the sites can remain financially sustainable and it has helped future proof these key community facilities.*

## Solar Installations Delivering Savings for Council

The graph below does not include 44c solar rebates (14/15 was \$8,756 ) where 2 bills were in credit for a long period, nor are SA Power blackout rebates included (16/17 was \$4,640).

2019/20 includes quarterly credit payments of \$9,113 for depots/halls where above mentioned solar projects have eliminated the bill. A number of sites where metering is internal to the building were being estimated due to Covid restrictions and are not yet reflecting solar credits occurring.

The 'No Mitigation' line applies a 5% yearly increase to the 2013/14 'Below 160' figure of \$89,000 with a downward adjustment for 2019 and 2020; this mirrors industry trends. This is designed to represent the 'do-nothing' approach. The cumulative difference or saving between this line and where we are at the end of June 2020 is \$238,000.



Whilst this has proved to be a highly successful mechanism in saving energy costs, Council's partnership with Neoen through its Hornsdale Wind Farm Energy Efficiency Fund is providing strong results for the many community groups across the Northern Areas Council.

This also has the additional bonus of local groups utilising the services of local contractors to undertake such work. The 2020/21 round of Energy Efficiency Funding is anticipated to open in April 2021.

# Infrastructure Update



## Farewell to Peter Porch

On Friday December 18 2020, Council bid farewell to its Manager of Operational Services Peter Porch.

Peter joined the Northern Areas Council in June of 2016, relocating from the Burnie City Council in Tasmania, where he previously served as the Works Manager.

In Peter's time, he has coordinated Asset Management Plans for much of Council's infrastructure assets, in addition to overseeing Council's infrastructure program.

We thank Peter for his efforts in his time at Northern Areas and wish he and his wife Shelley the very best as they relocate back to Tasmania for family reasons.



## New Street Seals & Resealing of Existing Roads

With the warmer months upon us, Council has been busy with its sealed road program. This has included new seals as well as resealing of existing bitumen roads. As part of year 4 of Council's 5 year new seals program, new seals were completed at:

Ayr Street, Jamestown  
Dublin Street, Jamestown  
James Street, Jamestown  
Church Street, Spalding

Depot Hill Road, Jamestown  
OD5 Road, Jamestown  
Memorial Park surrounds, Jamestown  
Munduney Street, Spalding

Whilst resealing of existing roads has been undertaken in Laura, Gladstone, Jamestown, Caltowie, Georgetown, Narridy, Spalding, Stone Hut and Yacka



## Capital Works

A large amount of work has been undertaken across the Council area, in the repair and upgrade of existing footpaths and kerbing.

Tenders have been called for several projects across the Council area, including the Gladstone Memorial Hall, for a floor upgrade, the construction of a car park for the Gladstone Memorial Hall and Bowling Club and a tender has also been called for the designs of an extended Jamestown Walking and Cycling Trail.

## Bridge Improvements

Council was recently successful in its application for \$77,947 in funding via the Federal Government's Bridges Renewal Program.

This will see two separate bridges upgraded along the Andrews Road at Andrews. The bridges are located at the Eastern and Western sections of the road.

Work will include sealing the deck, renewing guardrails and remediation of concrete.

## Ayr Street Design Proposal

We'd still very much like to hear from you as to your thoughts on the future design of Ayr Street in Jamestown.

Following a letter drop in Jamestown in November and public consultation sessions across November and December, we welcome your feedback.

We encourage people to complete the survey regarding the upgrade either via the link on Council's website or by completing a hard copy of the survey, which is available from Council's Jamestown Office.



## Rural Property Addressing

Have you seen these signs on property entrances? Rural Property Addressing identification signs have been assigned to properties in rural areas with dwellings in recent years.

As a service to our communities, Council has been working to identify properties in the Council area which don't have dwellings but have substantial structures on the property for ease of location in case of an emergency. Owners of these properties have been advised of the property address and offered the chance to purchase an RPA sign.

If you have a property that you would like identified please contact Council. Addresses are uploaded to Council's property records, the 000 database and Google maps.



## Starclub Update

### Active Club Grants

The South Australian Government through the Office for Recreation and Sport recently announced the successful applicants for the latest round of Active Club Grants, titled the "Reboot Round".

Clubs and Associations were able to apply for up to \$3,000 in funding for programs and equipment.

In the table to the right, is a list of the successful funding applicants in the Northern Areas Council.

17 separate groups were successful with their application, sharing in a total amount of \$24,540.

Across South Australia 1,236 separate sporting organisations were successful in obtaining funding.



Club/Association	Grant
Belalie Mannanarie Cricket Club	\$1,050
Georgetown Bowling Club	\$1,000
Gladstone Bowling Club	\$1,000
Gladstone Golf Club	\$1,000
Gulnare Redhill Football Netball Club	\$1,000
Jamestown & Areas Basketball Association	\$3,000
Jamestown Amateur Swimming Club	\$1,190
Jamestown Bowling Club	\$1,070
Jamestown Golf Club	\$1,000
Jamestown Junior Cricket Club	\$1,410
Laura Cricket Club	\$1,000
North Western Bowling Association	\$3,000
Southern Flinders Football Club	\$2,820
Spalding Booborowie Cricket Club	\$1,000
Spalding Sports Association	\$3,000
Spalding Tennis Club	\$1,000

### Infrastructure Project Grants Now Open

Eligible sporting organisations can now apply for their share in \$24.328 million through our infrastructure projects funding, consisting of:

- Community Recreation and Sport Facilities Program
- Grassroots Facilities Program
- Regional and Districts Facilities Program

These programs will assist organisations to develop infrastructure that will enable greater opportunity for participation in active recreation and sport for all South Australians. Applications close on 27 January 2020.

For further information, contact:

Rhys Millington

Mid North Starclub Field Officer

[starclub@pirie.sa.gov.au](mailto:starclub@pirie.sa.gov.au)

0488 101 783



## Kerbside Waste Collection over Christmas and New Year

### **Please Note the following changes to Waste Collection Days**

**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> Dec 2020 changed to Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> Dec 2020 (No Changes to New Year collections)**

**Weekly General Rubbish Collection (Red Lid 140lt Bin)** The waste collection calendar can be viewed or downloaded from Council's website [www.nacouncil.sa.gov.au](http://www.nacouncil.sa.gov.au)



## **Transfer Station Opening times over Christmas and New Year Opening as Normal**

<b>Gladstone</b>	<b>Jamestown</b>	<b>Spalding</b>
Wednesdays 11am—1pm	Wednesdays 12 noon—3pm	Tuesday 4pm—5pm
Sunday 1pm to 4pm	Sunday 10am to 1pm	Sunday 3pm to 5pm

## **Dog Registrations**

Following the completion of the dog registration renewal period on August 31<sup>st</sup>, reminder letters were sent to those owners who had not renewed their registration. These reminders were followed by expiations if the dogs remained unrenewed at the end of October.

Unless Council is notified that a previously registered dog is no longer at the last known address, has passed away or changed ownership the renewal notices will continue to be sent to the address in the DACO system.

**To avoid unnecessary annoyance or fines please advise Council of any changes to your dog registration details by phone or by emailing [admin@nacouncil.sa.gov.au](mailto:admin@nacouncil.sa.gov.au) or by letter.**

Cats are also required to be registered in the DACO system and their details updated each year when renewal notices are received. There are no registration fees for cat registration.

Breeders are reminded that they must be registered in the DACO system and that when they sell a dog or cat they must do it through the transfer option in DACO and advise the new owner to complete the transfer so that all details are correct and updated. This will also avoid the need for Council to follow up with owners.



## **After Hours Emergencies**

Council has an after hours number for council related emergencies which is a 24/7 response. If the emergency relates to private property then SES is the Emergency service to call. If it relates to power or water supply for example then the water and power authorities are the ones to call.

Trees or branches blown down in parks or on council roads and slippery roads are council concerns. If there is a break in or vandalism at a council owned facility it should be reported to council for action. This number operates all year round so if there is an emergency that can't wait for normal business hours call: **0488 999 808**

## Fire Danger Season

The Fire Danger Season is from the 15<sup>th</sup> November 2020 to 30<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

Please continue to look at your property on a regular basis and make sure your property is maintained so that you are preventing fires from starting on or moving through your property.

Fire prevention is an **OBLIGATION OF ALL LANDOWNERS**, not an option.

### Property Preparation Checklist

- Maintain your lawns, groundcovers, shrubs, trees and garden beds.
- Slash or mow long grass to a maximum height of 100mm (4") and remove cut material from the land. You could use the clippings as a mulch in the garden or place them in a compost bin.
- Remove weeds around the house. Don't have any shrubs or trees leaning against the house or overhanging the roof.
- Remove weeds around garages, carports, sheds and fences. Don't have any shrubs or trees leaning against them. There must be at least 10 metres of maintained ground around them.
- Remove leaves and any dead weeds from gutters and consider gutter guard systems to help reduce the accumulated leaf litter.
- Wood piles must be at least 5 metres from the house or shed.
- Remove fallen branches and other debris.
- Do not have a creeper or vine growing on a poly rain water tank
- Check and service all of your mechanical equipment, including grass cutters, water pumps, sprinkler systems and extinguishers.
- Review and update your Bushfire Action Plan. Remember to include your pets in this plan.



#### Keep informed:

- CFS website [www.cfs.sa.gov.au](http://www.cfs.sa.gov.au)
- CFS facebook pages
- CFS Bushfire Information Hotline:  
1300 362 361 (TTY 133 677)
- On local ABC radio, FIVEaa, or one of our other Emergency Broadcast Partner radio stations

## Change of Address

Have you moved house or changed your postal address recently?

Updating your new residential and/or postal address ensures Council is able to send your Rates Notice, animal registration and other important information to the correct address.

This is especially important if your current postal address is different from the address shown on your recent Council Rates Notice or if you did not receive your notice.

Ratepayers remain liable for all rates declared on their property, with late payment fess applying if quarterly payment obligations are not met.

To change your postal address you can either:

Complete the tear off slip on the reverse side of your Rates Notice and return to Council.

Email Council at [admin@nacouncil.sa.gov.au](mailto:admin@nacouncil.sa.gov.au), providing the details of your assessment number, property location, your full name and your new postal address.

Advise Council in writing at PO Box 120, Jamestown SA 5491, providing the details of your assessment number, property location, your full name, your new postal address and sign the advice.

## How to receive your Rates Notices via email

Have your rates notice delivered to any device or computer. It is quick, easy and a secure way to view your rate notice. Signing up will let you login to view your notices online at any time. You can self-manage all your properties, send notices to multiple emails addresses and print off additional copies.

Steps to register:

- Step 1            Go to [www.nacouncil.enotices.com.au](http://www.nacouncil.enotices.com.au) .  
Enter your email address and eNotices Reference Number that is located on the front of your Rates Notice.
- Step 2            Check your email inbox and click the validation link.
- Step 3            Select a password and enter your mobile number.

To register additional notices, click "Add your notice" in your Dashboard and enter your eNotices Reference Number.

You will now receive notices in your inbox, and you can log in and view them online at any time.

For more information or assistance with this process, please contact Council's Rates Officers, Bernadette McCarthy or Tanya Francis.

## Single Farm Enterprise

Section 152 of the Local Government Act 1999 provides that "if two or more pieces of rateable land within the area of the Council constitute a single farm enterprise, only one fixed charge may be imposed against the whole of the land".

If you have not completed an application form or have purchased, sold, subdivided or amalgamated any land or changed your entity and need to update your application form. Forms are available from the Jamestown, Gladstone and Spalding Offices and must be completed and returned by **5:00pm on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2021**.

If the application form is not received by Council by the due date, no exemption will apply to the 2020/2021 financial year fixed charge component of your rates.

A majority of farming entities have already completed a form and are receiving a Single Farm Enterprise, and therefore a reduction on the fixed charge component of their rates.

For further information please contact Council's Rates Officers Tanya Francis or Bernadette McCarthy at the Jamestown Office on 08 8664 1139.

# Christmas Closures

## Office Closures Over Christmas

### Jamestown Administration Office

Closing: 3.00pm Wednesday 23 December 2020

Reopen: 9.00am Monday 4 January 2021

Normal business hours resume 4 January 2020

### Gladstone Administration Office

Closing: 2.00pm Wednesday 23 December 2020

Reopen: 9.00am Monday 11 January 2021

Reduced business hours during January 2021 and part of February 2021 are outlined below:

#### Open 2 Days a Week during January 2021

Mon	11	Wed	13
Mon	18	Wed	20
Mon	25	Wed	27

#### Open 3 Days a Week during February 2021

Mon	1	Wed	3	Fri	5
Mon	8	Wed	10	Fri	12
Mon	15	Wed	17	Fri	19
Mon	22	Wed	24	Fri	26

Gladstone Office will resume normal business hours from **Monday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021**.

### Spalding Administration Office

Closing: 5.00pm Thursday 17 December 2020

Reopen: 10.00am Thursday 14 January 2021

Reduced business hours during January 2021 and February 2021 are outlined below:

#### Open 1 Day a Week during Jan/Feb 2021

Thursday	Jan	7	14	21	28
Thursday	Feb	4	11	18	25

Spalding Office will return to normal business hours opening two days per week from **Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2021**.

## Hydrotherapy Pool Christmas Closure

The Jamestown Regional Hydrotherapy Pool will close over the Christmas period as per below.

Closing: Friday 18 December 2020

Reopen: Monday 4 January 2021

## Kerbside Waste Collection

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> December 2020 changed to Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> December 2020 (No change to New Year collections)

## Waste Transfer Station Hours

**Open as normal**

### Gladstone

Wednesday 11.00am to 1.00pm

Sunday 1.00pm to 4.00pm.

### Jamestown

Wednesday 12 noon to 3.00pm

Sunday 10.00am to 1.00pm.

### Spalding

Tuesday 4.00pm to 5.00pm

Sunday 3.00pm to 5.00pm.

## After Hours Council Contact During Christmas Closure Period

Please call

0488 999 808

## Flinders Mobile Library Christmas Closure

Flinders Mobile Library will be closing for the Christmas/New Year holiday break from 4pm on Friday 18 December 2020. We will re-open for business as usual on Monday 4 January 2021.

You can find us back on the road in Northern Areas Council townships on the following dates:

Laura	5 January 2021
Gladstone	6 January 2021
Gulnare	13 January 2021
Spalding	13 January 2021
Georgetown	13 January 2021
Yacka	15 January 2021

Please check the timetable on our website for more information [www.flindersmobile.sa.gov.au](http://www.flindersmobile.sa.gov.au)

Don't forget, if you run out of reading material you can always borrow eBooks and eAudio items via our website. All you need is your library card number and PIN.

Flinders Mobile Library staff would like to wish all their borrowers celebrating the season a very Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year.

## Northern Passenger Transport Network Christmas Closure

### Office

Closing: 5pm Wednesday 23 December 2020

Reopen: Monday 4 January 2021

### Volunteer Transport

Closing: 5pm Wednesday 23 December 2020

Reopen: Monday 4 January 2021

For further details contact Lyn Forster via:

Phone: 08 8666 2255

Email: [lyn@mtr.sa.gov.au](mailto:lyn@mtr.sa.gov.au)



**Principal Office—Jamestown**  
Monday to Friday 9am-5pm  
94 Ayr St, JAMESTOWN SA 5491  
PO Box 120, JAMESTOWN SA 5491  
Ph: (08) 8664 1139 Fx: (08) 8664 1085

**Gladstone Office**  
Monday to Friday 9am-5pm  
Town Hall, Fifth Street  
GLADSTONE SA 5473  
Ph: (08) 8662 2018 Fx: (08) 8662 2394  
Email: [admin@nacouncil.sa.gov.au](mailto:admin@nacouncil.sa.gov.au)

**Spalding Office**  
Tuesday 10am-2:30pm  
Thursday 9am-5pm  
Town Hall, Main Street, SPALDING SA 5454  
Ph: (08) 8845 2017 Fx: (08) 8845 2017  
Email: [admin@nacouncil.sa.gov.au](mailto:admin@nacouncil.sa.gov.au)