



MEDIA RELEASE

13 August 2021

Planning for Strong Times Ahead in Northern Areas

The Northern Areas Council is embarking on a project of a different kind as it looks to try to capitalise on a growing number of people looking to relocate from the city to the country, at the same time as many business operators are struggling to be able to recruit staff.

Mayor Ben Browne said “we’re hearing from a lot of business people that they’re having difficulty in being able to recruit staff, particularly with tradespeople and other skilled staff, so it’s important that we are able to attract people to the Council area.”

Assisted by Regional Development Australia Yorke and Mid North, Northern Areas Council is looking at ways of how to help address these issues and are inviting community members of all age groups to get involved. Council is inviting people to have their say on how to attract people to the area with a focus on attracting people of two key demographics, being young families, and retirees or semi retirees.

Council has now appointed specialised consulting firm Algo Mas to facilitate some workshops, where community members are strongly encouraged to come along, participate, share their views and help shape the future for their local area.

Mayor Browne commented that “our plan is to hopefully receive input from a number of different people across the community, with involvement from people of different ages and social demographics, business people from farm and non farm enterprise, education, school students, youth, parents, grand parents, we appreciate everyone’s views.

Council took the view that this is too important for the community for Council staff and elected members to tackle alone, which is why we really want to hear from people and get them to come along to a workshop where we can work together and look to set a platform for how this can be developed and rolled out.

We appreciate it’s not a simple task and probable something that hasn’t been done a lot in the regions before, which is why we’re encouraging our local community to get involved, their knowledge and experience is highly valued”.

The project has 5 key themes including:

1. Improving Perceptions and Better Promotion of the Northern Areas Council District
2. Inclusive and Purpose-Built Infrastructure
3. There are places for people to live, rent, buy, and build a home
4. The Business Community is Innovative and Proactive
5. The Northern Areas Council is a place people want to live

In looking at the perceptions of what people from the city may find in a move to the area, in viewing what Northern Areas has to offer, Mayor Browne said “from a health perspective we have excellent services with hospitals at Jamestown and Laura, as well as GP services at Gladstone, visiting specialists in Jamestown, mental health services in both Jamestown and Spalding, public and private physiotherapy, a hydrotherapy pool for rehabilitation and public community gyms in Jamestown, Laura and Spalding. These are always some of the considerations for people looking to relocate from the city to the country.

As for education, we have two secondary schools as well as multiple public and private primary schools and we now have University education available only a short distance away in the neighbouring Council via the Spencer Gulf Uni Hub. There are local students from our Council area who study at the hub, which is great as it delivers a significant cost saving for their families by not needing them to relocate to the city.

Our sporting and community infrastructure has undergone and continues to undergo major upgrades as well as fantastic greenspace experiences in places like the Bundaleer Forest, while there are opportunities to go fishing in the Bundaleer and Beetaloo Reservoirs.

Other conveniences we are lucky to have are 24 hour fuel service in several of our towns as well as 7 day a week supermarket facilities and we’ll continue to advocate for improved child care services.

While we as locals know about the great services and facilities that we have, combined with an affordable lifestyle comparative to the city, we’ve perhaps not been the best at letting our city cousins know that Northern Areas Council is a well serviced and affordable place to bring up your family or to move in to retirement.”

The first workshop will have two sessions available for community members to attend, either Tuesday night on the 24th of August from 7:30pm-9:30pm or the following morning from 9:30am-11:30am. People only need attend one session, but for people’s convenience a morning and evening session will be held. Both sessions will be held at the Caltowie Bowling Club, which is a convenient central location for a large portion of the Council’s population base.

People can register via Eventbrite at the following links, find the links on the Council website or contact the Northern Areas Council office on 08 8664 1139 or admin@nacouncil.sa.gov.au for assistance.

Workshop 1 – Tuesday 24 August 2021, 7:30pm-9:30pm, Caltowie Bowling Club

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/northern-areas-council-economic-population-growth-project-workshop-1-tickets-166760018705>

Workshop 2 – Wednesday 25 August 2021, 9:30am-11:30am, Caltowie Bowling Club

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/northern-areas-council-economic-population-growth-project-workshop-2-tickets-166760325623>

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