Winter 2026



Northern Areas Council

Community News

MESSAGE FROM MAYOR

As we come up to the end of the financial year, it's a good chance to stop and think about what's been happening around the district and what's coming up next.

Council has recently put together its Disability Access and Inclusion Plan. That's about making sure everyone in our community can get around and be included as best as possible. Thank you to those who have provided feedback on our draft Annual Business Plan and Budget for 2026/27, along with our Long-Term Financial Plan out to 2035/36. Like everyone else, Council is dealing with rising costs, especially fuel. It costs more to get things done, whether that's fixing roads or running services across a big rural area. We've had to allow for that in the budget, while still trying to keep things as fair as we can for ratepayers.

Later this year we'll have Council elections. I'd encourage residents and ratepayers to make sure they're on the voters roll so they can have their say. Local government plays a big part in how things run day to day, and it only works if people get involved. If you've ever thought about putting your hand up, now might be the time to think about it.

Out in the district, we're sticking to the basics that matter. Road resheeting, grading and general town maintenance are ongoing priorities.

We've also started work on a couple of important projects, including upgrades to lighting and electrical at the Jamestown Aerodrome, including remote light activation, and the Stone Hut Rail Corridor, which will link through to the sections already done between Laura and Wirrabara.

We've also got some bigger projects moving along. Stage 1 of the Jamestown Stormwater Diversion Project is complete. In Laura, Council is working with the community and the State Government on the $1 million Community Infrastructure Fund to make sure it delivers something useful for the town long term. I'd like to thank all our staff, volunteers and community groups. They do a lot behind the scenes and are a big part of what keeps our towns going.

Finally, on behalf of Council, I'd like to pass on our condolences to the family of Robert Stacey following his recent passing. Robert was Council's Citizen of the Year in 2015 and was also awarded the 2015 South Australian Citizen of the Year. Our thoughts are with his family.

Mayor, Keith Pluckrose

GREEN WASTE SURVEY RESULTS

Thank you! Over 600 people took part in our Green Waste 12-month Check-in Survey.
Here is a snapshot of what you told us.



Most households support the green bin service.
Over 80% of respondents use their green bin regularly.



You're reducing waste
60% said you are putting less in your general waste bin. However, most do not support less frequent bin collections.

Top issue: collection frequency.
Over 70% said monthly collection doesn't meet needs for Green Waste.

What people want most
More frequent green waste collections, especially fortnightly or seasonal options

What you told us

Many people supported having more options during peak green waste periods.
But, most do not want increased costs.

What you can do now

If you need more green waste capacity, you can request an additional green bin (fees apply).

What's next

Council is reviewing waste and recycling services to develop a new Waste Management Strategy.

This review will consider feedback from the survey, including interest in increased green waste collections. While we know many residents would like to see improvements, current services are under contract until November 2027, so changes cannot happen straight away.

The strategy will help plan and guide future improvements to waste services, which can feature in a new contract from December 2027 (subject to Council approval).

We will seek community input as the strategy is developed.

POWERING SPACES WITH SOLAR

Northern Areas Council is investing in the future of our community facilities, with new solar battery systems now installed across several key sites.

These upgrades include the swimming pools and town halls in Jamestown, Gladstone, and Spalding, as well as the Jamestown Hydrotherapy Pool.

All of these facilities already have large solar systems in place. By adding battery storage, much of the energy generated during the day can now be stored and used overnight, reducing reliance on grid power and helping to manage rising electricity costs.

Funded through Council's budget, the project has been made possible thanks to reduced battery costs linked to changes in federal government rebates.

This is a practical step towards lowering operating costs while making better use of renewable energy, helping to keep our community facilities running efficiently for years to come.



HAVING DIFFICULTY PAYING YOUR RATES

If you have or are likely to have difficulty meeting the required payments by the due date, there are short-term and long-term payment plan options that are available depending on your situation. These enquiries are treated confidentially. If you receive Centrelink payments, you may also be able to set up regular deductions through Centrepay.
Northern Areas Council CRN: 555 064810C
Visit: www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/centrepay
For more information or assistance with this process, please contact Bernadette McCarthy or Tanya Francis at the Jamestown office on (08) 8664 1139, before your rates fall into arrears.

SPALDING POOL MAINTENANCE UPDATE



During the off season Council identified a slow leak in a supply pipe connecting the plant room to the main pool at the Spalding Swimming Pool Complex, causing significant water loss which in turn results in an increase in water and chemical costs. Temporary repairs have now been completed to stop the immediate leak, and further works are scheduled to help ensure minimal interruption to the pool's long-term operation. A fibreglass specialist will soon carry out minor repairs to the pool, while also reconfiguring pipework to improve reliability and performance. These works will help ensure the Spalding Pool remains in good condition for the community to enjoy for years to come.

BACKYARD BURNING AND FIRE DANGER SEASON

Fire Danger Season 2026/27
With good early rainfall and warm weather leading into winter, grass and weeds are growing rapidly. As the year progresses and temperatures rise again, this may lead to increased fire fuel loads across the district and state.

Residents are encouraged to remain mindful of the amount and height of vegetation on their properties to help reduce fire risk and keep our towns safe. The maximum allowable height for grass and vegetation, particularly during Fire Danger Season, is 100 mm.

Council will be conducting property inspections prior to and during Fire Danger Season to assist in raising awareness and reminding property owners of the importance of maintaining their properties to help create safer communities for everyone.

Backyard Burning
With the colder weather upon us, many people may be thinking about having a comfort or cooking fire in their backyard. This is an acceptable practice and can be a great way to socialise while helping keep the cold at bay.

While no permit is required for a comfort or cooking fire, there are still some important requirements to follow:

Comfort Fires
(e.g. braziers, chimineas, or fire pits)

- Must only be fuelled by charcoal or heat beads.
- Wood or other vegetable matter must not be used.

Cooking Fires
(e.g. BBQs, pizza ovens, Weber-style kettles, or camp ovens)

- Must be an appropriate size for the food being prepared and used solely for cooking purposes.
- May be fuelled by charcoal, heat beads, or dry, well-seasoned wood only.

Larger Campfires

- Require a permit from Council.

Please also remember that burning green waste within townships is prohibited and may result in a fine being issued. By following these requirements, we can all enjoy the cooler months safely while helping to reduce fire risks within our communities. For further information please visit the Council website www.nacouncil.sa.gov.au/fire-prevention/backyard-burning-and-keeping-warm-in-winter

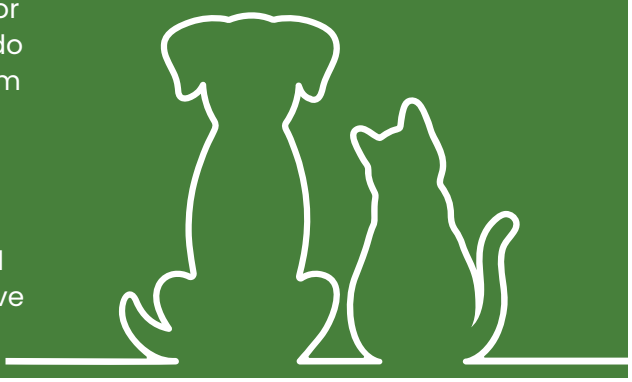
DOGS AND CATS

Dog and cat registrations are due in July 2026. Please go to Dogs and Cats Online (DACO) to register. Please ensure your dogs and cats (over 3 months old) are microchipped and registered.

Not only is it a lawful requirement but microchipping and registration assists with identifying an animal should it wander off from you or your property and makes it easier for Council to return to you.

It also helps Council identify a legitimate pet from a stray or feral animal. Council would like to remind people that we do have cat traps for hire should you have problems with them on your property.

There will also be some new Council By-Laws in relation to animals in townships that will be coming out for public consultation in the near future. Keep an eye on the Council website and socials for further details and a chance to have your say.



LOCAL PROJECTS BENEFIT FROM HORNSDALE WIND FARM COMMUNITY FUNDING

Local community groups across the Northern Areas Council are celebrating another successful year of funding through the Atmos Renewables Hornsdale Wind Farm Community Fund, with a combined $120,000 awarded across two programs.

General Community Fund
The General Community Fund distributed $60,000 across 15 projects, supporting a wide range of local initiatives. With contributions from community groups, the total value of these projects reaches $285,327.
Funded projects include:

- Community and event initiatives, such as a new Bilby mascot costume for the Bundaleer Bilby Easter Egg Hunt
- Facility upgrades, including shade sails at the Gladstone Swimming Pool and resurfaced indoor courts at the Southern Flinders Regional Sports Complex
- Safety improvements, such as fire safety reels at the Laura Community Caravan Park and electrical upgrades at the Jamestown Pistol and Shooting Club
- Technology upgrades, including video conferencing equipment at the Laura Civic Centre, IT equipment at Gladstone Town Hall and the purchase of start up office equipment for the Southern Flinders Staying in Place initiative
- Infrastructure improvements across the region, including upgrades to the Jamestown Table Tennis Centre, the Jamestown Show Ram Pavillion, a sesqui-centenary arch for the Spalding Centenary Park and a storage facility for the Washpool Hall

Local volunteer based community groups in Jamestown, Spalding, Laura and surrounding towns also benefited from equipment purchases and facility enhancements.

Energy Efficiency Fund
In addition, the Energy Efficiency Fund provided a further $60,000 across 9 projects, with a combined project value of $147,452 including community contributions.

These projects focus on reducing energy use, lowering costs, and improving sustainability across community facilities.

Funded initiatives include:

- Installation of energy storage batteries at community facilities and facilities in Jamestown and Spalding
- Lighting upgrades to LED, improving efficiency at the Jamestown Tennis Courts and Laura Sporting Reserve
- Replacement of diesel powered equipment with more efficient alternatives, including LED lighting for the Jamestown Show
- Transitioning away from generators, with the Belalie East Memorial Hall beginning works to connect to the grid and prepare for future solar
- Upgrading ageing appliances, including new energy efficient fridges and freezers for the Tarcowie Hall.

Supporting Stronger, More Sustainable Communities
Together, these funds are helping deliver practical improvements across the area, from upgraded community facilities and spaces to more energy efficient and sustainable infrastructure, delivering significant savings over the long term. Council congratulates all successful applicants and thanks Atmos Renewables for their continued investment in building stronger, more resilient communities.

For the full list of successful projects visit Council's website.

ASSET AND OPERATIONS TEAM

Road and Infrastructure Update

Council is addressing edge deterioration along Stone Hut-Caltowie Road, with repairs underway by contractor Downer. Work is well underway, with more than 10,000 linear metres of edge break repairs already completed this financial year. These repairs will also pave the way for a full reseal of affected sections in the next financial year.

Council has also recently completed new seals on the following roads:

- Alexander Street, Stone Hut
- Borthwick Street, Stone Hut
- West Street (partial section), Gladstone (pictured below)
- Wenedi Road at its intersection with Hill River Road (safety seal)

Patrol grading has been carried out consistently across the area throughout the year. Roads that missed out have been identified and will be prioritised in the next patrol grading cycle.
(see map on page 7)

We remain committed to maintaining and improving the local road network for the benefit of all residents and road users. For enquiries about road works in your area, please contact the Council office.

Works on the Stone Hut Rail Corridor recreational trail commenced at the end of May, connecting existing trail sections between Laura, Stone Hut and Wirrabara.



Transfer Station Opening Hours

Closed on all Catastrophic Total Fire Ban Days and public holidays.

Jamestown:
Address: 21 Springbank Rd, Jamestown SA 5491
Sunday 10am – 1pm
Wednesday 12 noon - 3pm

Gladstone:
Address: Huddleston Road, Gladstone 5473 SA
Sunday 1pm - 4pm
Wednesday 9am - 11am

Spalding:
Address: 88 Borve Hill Rd, Spalding SA 5454
Sunday 3pm - 5pm
Tuesday 4pm - 5pm

Town Waste Reminders

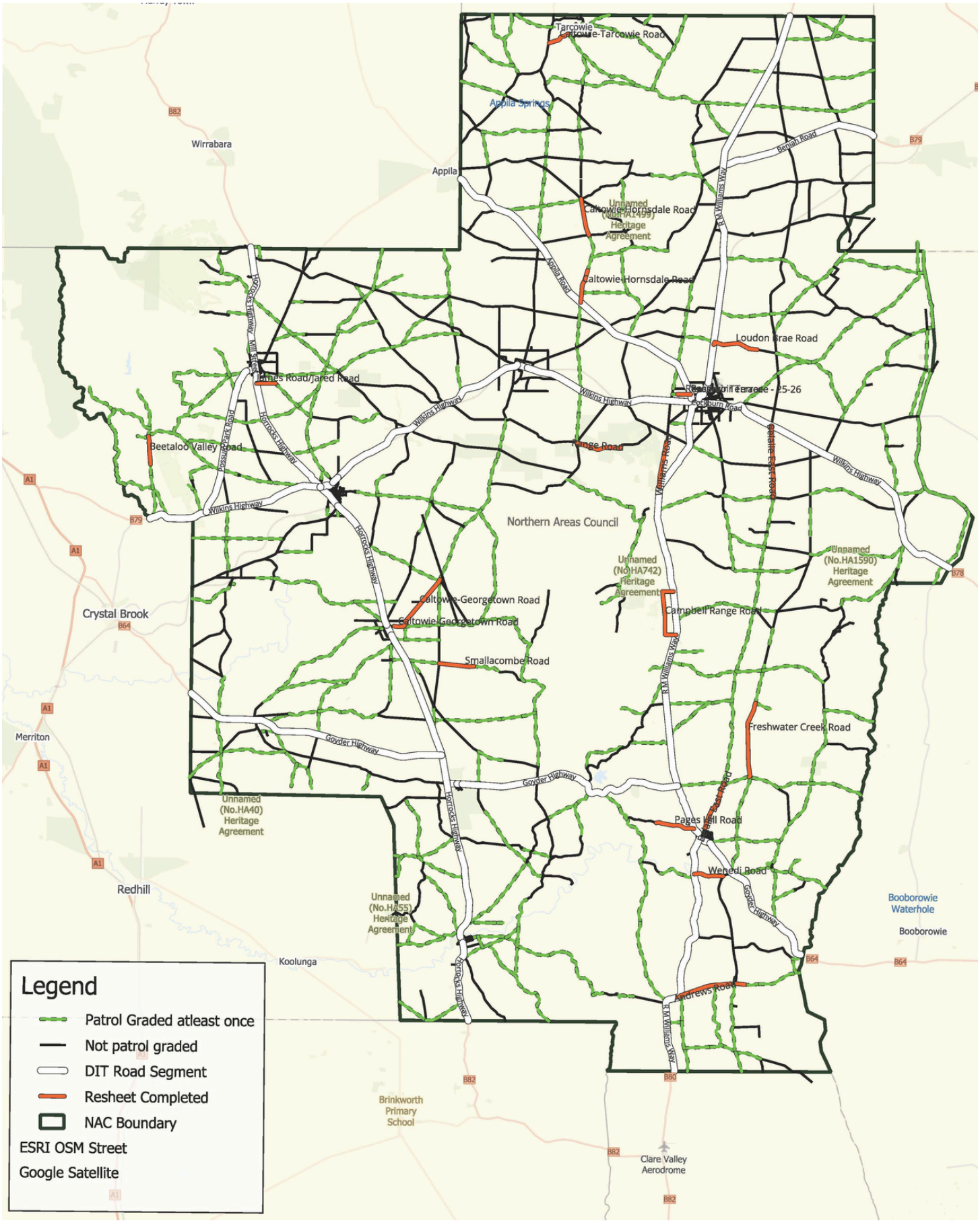
Council provides a Kerbside collection to the townships of the Council district.

- A single council issued General Waste 140 litre Red lid bin - Once a week
- A single council issued Recycling 240 litre Yellow or Dark Green lid bin - Once a fortnight
- A single council issued Green Waste 240 litre Green lid bin - Once a month

Additional bins and collection services are available on request with additional fees being paid by contacting one of our Council offices. Please contact Clare Valley Waste for any collection issues or damaged bins - 0438 884 340.

The collection is an overnight service, meaning bins need to be placed out the night before your scheduled collection day to ensure they are picked up. From time to time, the route taken by the operator may change for operational reasons. As a result, the time for the pick up may alter without notice. Please only place the scheduled bin for the next day's collection out. Bins not scheduled for pickup will not be collected.

2025/26 ROADS UPDATE MAP



DRAFT ANNUAL BUSINESS PLAN & BUDGET UPDATE

Thank you to everyone who took the time to review and provide feedback on Council's 2026/27 Draft Annual Business Plan & Budget and the Draft Long-Term Financial Plan 2026/27 - 2035/36.

The Draft Annual Business Plan & Budget outlines the services, projects and priorities for the year ahead, as well as how Council will manage its finances.

Consultation closed on 22 June 2026, and Council will now consider community input before moving to adopt the final plan.



CONNECT WITH US

Join our Newsletter database for updates on community groups, tourism and business opportunities.

Use the QR Code to signup or email, admin@nacouncil.sa.gov.au.

GRANTS

Each year, not for profit groups across the Northern Areas Council generally have access to four opportunities to source community grant funding for projects or events.

1. Atmos Renewables Hornsdale Wind Farm General Community Fund. Recently awarded.
2. Atmos Renewables Hornsdale Wind Farm Energy Efficiency Fund. Recently awarded.
3. Northern Areas Council Community Project Grants. Anticipated to open in July 2026. Funding pool to be confirmed.
4. AGL Hallett Wind Farm Community Fund. Anticipated to open in late November 2026. Funding pool to be confirmed.



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 you need to update your application form. Forms are available from the Jamestown, Gladstone and Spalding Offices or on Council's website - and must be completed and returned by **5:00pm on Tuesday 30th June 2026.**

If the application form is not received by Council by the due date, no exemption will apply to the 2026/2027 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 Tanya Francis or Bernadette McCarthy at the Jamestown Office on (08) 8664 1139.

SEE IT? REPORT IT!

Spot a pothole, damaged street sign, or a tree that needs trimming?
Report it to Council. You can do this with the MyLocal app!
Alternatively, you can

- call (08) 8664 1139, or
- complete a service request using the form on our website, nacouncil.sa.gov.au/services/customer-request.

HAVE YOU MOVED HOUSE OR CHANGED YOUR POSTAL ADDRESS RECENTLY?

Updating your new residential and/or postal address means 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 fees applying if quarterly payments 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, 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.

Council Elections 2026

Key Changes

Council elections will be held in November 2026, with some important changes following a 2025 representation review.

- The Mayor will be directly elected by the community.
- Wards will be removed, with all eight Councillors representing the entire district.

Voting is by post and voluntary.

Key dates:

- Close of rolls: 31 July 2026
- Nominations: 25 Aug – 8 Sept 2026
- Voting closes: 11 November 2026

For more information, visit the Council website or, www.councilelections.sa.gov.au



ENCOURAGING SAFER DRIVING IN OUR TOWNS

Northern Areas Council is taking steps to improve road safety across several of our towns, with the installation of new smiley-face speed signs. Following the recent installation in Yacka, where the signs have been working well to encourage safer driving habits, Council is now rolling out the initiative to Laura, Stone Hut, Spalding and Caltowie.

These signs are designed to provide a simple and friendly reminder to motorists about their speed as they enter town areas. When drivers are travelling at a safe speed, the sign displays a green smiley face. If they are travelling too fast, a red face appears. This immediate visual feedback helps encourage drivers to slow down and be more aware of their speed.

Improving safety on local roads is a priority, particularly in areas where vehicles enter towns at higher speeds. By introducing these signs, Council aims to support safer driving behaviour and create more welcoming environments for residents, visitors and road users alike.



The signs are solar powered, making them efficient and reliable even in regional locations. They can operate for several days without sunlight and are designed to work across a wide range of vehicle speeds.

As we expand this program, Council is working closely with local community groups to identify the most suitable locations at key town entry points. We look forward to seeing the positive impact these signs will have across our communities

Northern Areas Council

Events Calendar



Council supports local events, festivals and exhibitions.

If you have a community event, business gathering or public activity you would like to promote, it can be added to Council's Event Calendar.

Simply visit our website, fill out the relevant form, and it will be submitted for approval. Once approved, it will appear on the Event Calendar.

To view our calendar or submit an event visit: www.nacouncil.sa.gov.au/community/event-calendar

YACKA HALL DISABLED TOILET

Works are now underway on the new disabled toilet at the Yacka Hall, an important upgrade for this valued community space. The project will improve accessibility and comfort for users. Work is expected to be completed late August.



Flinders Mobile Library

www.flindersmobile.sa.gov.au

Town	July	August	September
LAURA 12.45pm – 4.15pm	Tuesday **28**	Tuesday **11, 25**	Tuesday **8, 22**
GLADSTONE 1.00pm – 4.30 pm	Wednesday **1, 29**	Wednesday **12, 26**	Wednesday **9, 23**
GULNARE 10.00am - 11.00am **SPALDING** 11.45pm - 12.45pm **GEORGETOWN** 3.15pm - 4.15pm	Wednesday **22**	Wednesday **5, 19**	Wednesday **2, 16, 30**
YACKA 2.15pm - 3.30pm	Friday **24**	Friday **7, 21**	Friday **4, 18**

RETURN BOXES are located at the Gladstone Council Office, Laura IGA, Spalding General Store, and the Yacka Craft Shop.

email: flindersmobile.library@libraries.sa.gov.au

Phone: 08 8662 2305

Libraries SA

Libraries SA

Firstival

July 1 - 31

Try something new.

What's on with the Flinders Mobile Library

- **Tech Help Day - 9th July 9.30 - 3pm** Install, setup and start using the Library apps to read or listen to e-books and e-audios for free.
- **Getting started with State Library collections, resources and services 14th July 10 - 12 -** With Karen Brandwood from the State Library of South Australia.
- **Kid's Winter Bookclub - 16th July** various times - book club with activities.

Try something new at libraries across South Australia this July. Visit firstival.com.au

Libraries SA

Flinders Mobile Library

NORTHERN AREAS ELECTED MEMBERS 2022 - 2026



Cr. Keith Pluckrose
Mayor
Broughton Ward
keith.pluckrose@nacouncil.sa.gov.au
0428 452 199



Cr John Barberien
Rocky River Ward
john.barberien@nacouncil.sa.gov.au
Mobile: 0418 804 416



Cr Tom Malone
Deputy Mayor
Belalie Ward
tom.malone@nacouncil.sa.gov.au
0400 791 538



Cr. Denise Higgins
Rocky River Ward
denise.higgins@nacouncil.sa.gov.au
0428 222 610



Cr Fiona Hockey
Belalie Ward
fiona.hockey@nacouncil.sa.gov.au
0415 478 848



Cr. Sue Scarman
Rocky River Ward
sue.scarman@nacouncil.sa.gov.au
0418 844 935



Cr Hank Langes
Belalie Ward
hank.langes@nacouncil.sa.gov.au
0429 694 980



Cr Ian Pomerenke
Yackamoorundie Ward
ian.pomerenke@nacouncil.sa.gov.au
0412 154 610



Cr. Glan Moore
Belalie Ward
glan.moore@nacouncil.sa.gov.au
0419 803 854

COUNCIL MEETINGS IN 2026

Ordinary meetings of Council are held on the third Tuesday of each month at the Jamestown Council Chambers, 94 Ayr Street, Jamestown commencing at 6pm.

Agendas and Meeting Minutes: www.nacouncil.sa.gov.au/council/council-meetings

Jamestown: 08 8664 1139
Gladstone: 08 8662 2018
Spalding: 08 8845 2017

admin@nacouncil.sa.gov.au

94 Ayr Street, Jamestown SA 5491
14 Fifth Street, Gladstone SA 5473
11 Main Street, Spalding SA 5454