

June 2019

Mayor's Report

Robe has again been extremely busy during the first quarter of 2019. Our tourism industry continues to grow and the resultant economic spin off for our region is significant.

But with growth comes many challenges for our small town, including:

- traffic and parking concerns,
- managing and protecting our natural assets whilst still promoting them,
- providing adequate infrastructure for our holiday community as well as for our residents, and
- managing all of these differing, and at times conflicting demands on rates generated from a base of approximately 1800 ratepayers.

We are undergoing a time of change in the Council with our new CEO James Holyman, our new CCOWS Director Karla Dew and her assistant Dominique Turner all on board. We will also be searching for a new Rates/ Finance Officer as Paula Bigmore moves to Victoria to be with her family in July.

These changes give us all an opportunity to refocus as those coming into the organisation bring with them their own fresh ideas and vision. It is an exciting time and we are all looking forward to getting on with the job at hand.

We are into our community consultation phase with our Community Plan 2019-2039 and Annual Business Plan and Budget 2019-2020. Hard copies of both documents are available from the Council office and on the website. There will be an information session on Tuesday 28th May, 3-6pm at the Bowling Club for anyone wanting to chat about the plans or other Council business. It's also a good opportunity to meet the new CEO if you haven't had a chance as yet.

There have been a number of discussions with Elected Members about how to better engage with our non resident ratepayers. We are thinking of having an information session in Horsham and possibly Adelaide for those people who live away but would still like to meet with the CEO and Mayor face to face. This will be completely dependent on demand so if you would like to take us up on this offer, please contact us ASAP so we can put some dates in place. It will only occur if the demand is there.

Our Elected Members are always available to talk with our community. If you have any issues or would like clarification on any matters, please just give one of us a call.

During my short time as Mayor, I have really noticed there is a lack of understanding in the wider community as to what the Council actually does. It is the job of the Elected Members to educate and assist the community in what is Council business and what is not.

We are all happy to attend meetings, formal or informal, to answer questions and gather information from the community. Some of the things we have coming up (or have recently had) are Coffee with a Councillor (Sunday 19th May), Volunteers Morning Tea (Friday 24th May) and the community information session for the Community Plan and Annual Business Plan and Budget (Tuesday 28th May).

Details are available from the Council or the website.

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Council Offices

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State Planning Reforms

South Australia's urban and regional planning system is currently undergoing its biggest reform in over 25 years.

The Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure (DPTI) in consultation with planning and building professionals and Local Government have been busy producing and refining the necessary documents associated with moving towards the full implementation of the new Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016 and associated Regulations which will replace the current Development Act by 1 July 2020.

The Development Plan will be replaced by the creation of the Planning and Design Code (the Code) for the State and be progressively introduced across SA in three phases, land outside council boundaries (outback and regional council areas), regional council areas and metropolitan Adelaide.

The Code as it would apply to the District Council of Robe will be implemented by late 2019.

To keep up to date with what is happening please refer to the SA Planning Portal www.saplanningportal.sa.gov.au

CEO's Report

It's About Community

It is a privilege to be able to live and work within the District Council of Robe. I would like to thank the many individuals and groups I have met with to further understand how Council and community can work together to achieve outcomes that reflect the needs and expectations of our community. I look forward to meeting with other community members, groups and businesses and can be contacted through the Council office on 8768 2003 or by email james@robe.sa.gov.au.

Volunteers are Vital

Some of our most important services and events are delivered for our community by volunteers. This includes a range of services from ambulance and fire through to key community events such as The Beer Fest that brings people to our town to stop, stay and spend.

The dedication, hard work and community spirit of our volunteers are a significant contribution to the shared responsibility that the District Council of Robe and communities have for supporting and delivering services. Volunteering provides most volunteers with an increased sense of belonging to their community, social contacts, support a greater sense of self-worth and an opportunity to learn and develop.

Without volunteers, we would all be left without vital local services. Put simply, volunteers are the lifeblood and heart of our town.

From my discussion with community groups, it is apparent that many of our volunteer organisations require more volunteers. I urge you to consider joining one of these organisations. For example, ambulance services in Robe are provided by volunteers. Collectively we need to maintain this service for our community so if you have a passion in this area please contact Ambulance SA.

Infrastructure Update

Construction work on the 7.3 kilometres of the southern end of Woodleigh Lane is continuing throughout May. Please be careful and observe speed limits when driving in this area.

Upgrading of the CWMS lagoon is continuing, a pad on the southern side of the lagoon is in the process of being constructed. This is a multi-year project to improve our wastewater system.

The upgrade of the stormwater system on Davenport Street is underway. The lagoon in the Golf Course on Davenport Street takes a large amount of the stormwater on the southern side of the old town area as well as the new Golf Course sub division.

An access track has been constructed onto Fox Beach and this will allow Council to commence sand replenishment. This is one of the actions being undertaken to strengthen the dunes on Fox Beach to prevent inundation during storms.

Painting of sign posts throughout town has been completed.

We Want Your Views

In the 150th year of your Council we need your views and ideas on our draft strategic planning documents. Council has approved the following draft documents for consultation:

- Draft Community Plan 2019-2039
- Action Plan 2019-2022
- 2019-2020 Annual Business Plan

Our vision is *“The District Council of Robe will be a sustainable, vibrant, harmonious and prosperous place to live work and visit”*. To realise this vision, the Council has developed the draft suite of documents framed around four key themes: Community, Economic development, Natural and built environment and Governance and financial sustainability. These broad themes underpins the priorities, policies, strategies, projects and services that will be designed and delivered to meet the needs of our community.

The Community Plan provides the vision, goals and objectives for the future wellbeing of the community of the District and the Council itself. Details of strategies and actions to achieve the vision are set out in the Four Year Action Plan. The proposed activities and capital program to be undertaken in the first year of the Community Plan are contained in the Draft 2019-2020 Annual Business Plan.

The draft Annual Business Plan & Budget 2019-2020 forecasts an operating deficit of \$58,000. Council is interested in particular on your view on whether Council should:

- remove any of the following activities and associated budget allocations;
- a minor increase in rates to cover the deficit; or
- operate with a deficit for the 2019/20 financial year.

Ideally Council should get as close as possible to a balanced operating position and the following budget items are listed for the community to consideration to reduce the operating deficit:

Activity	Budget	Risk/Impact
Admin Donations Donations to Stand Like Stone/Southern Ocean Art Price/Easter Fete	\$3,500	Council has supported community events such as the Southern Ocean Art event and Easter Fete over a number of years.
Cemetery Operating Cemetery Master Plan	\$12,000	The Master Plan will determine how the cemetery is developed in coming years.
Sport & Rec Program Financial Support Grants	\$10,000	Community groups have used the Financial Support Grants to help fund community projects and many of these groups have a limited ability to raise their own funds.
Town Tree Trimming	\$15,000	Council is struggling to complete tree trimming in the township and the risk is potential damage to property and injury to residents.
Rate Rebates Discretionary RSL & Golf Club	\$10,000	Both clubs qualify for a discretionary rebate of rates on the basis that the clubs provide a benefit or service to the local community. Council has provided a rebate to both clubs over a number of years and there would be an expectation that Council would continue to assist.
Newsletter Remove quarterly newsletter and reduce postage	\$4,000	The quarterly newsletter has recently been introduced to improve communication and the removal would reduce Council's ability to present information to the community.
Public Convenience Council budgeted for additional public toilet cleaning	\$5,000	As Robe expands and visitor numbers increase public toilets are utilised more and require additional cleaning, potentially Robe's reputation will suffer if toilets are not adequately cleaned.
Foreshore Protection Funding for investigation of long term solutions to beach erosion issues	\$20,000	Recent reports to Council have highlighted the erosion issues at several beaches and long term solutions need to be identified. The risk is that beaches will suffer further erosion and Council infrastructure and private property could be damaged.
Fireworks Council's contribution to New Year's Eve fireworks	\$5,000	Council has supported fireworks on New Year's Eve and residents/visitors could be disappointed if the fireworks do not continue.

As part of considering the above items, it is important to recognise that Council has proposed a rate increase of 2.6%. This includes 1.6% CPI and 1% anticipated Growth. However, to ensure that Council is meeting the budgetary needs to deliver services, a comparison is made between the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and the Local Government Price Index (LGPI). At the December 2018 quarter when the CPI was at 1.6%, the LGPI was at 2.7%. Therefore, if the differential continues through 2019/20, then Council will require the growth factor to cover general increases. This may mitigate the ability to undertake the strategic growth planned by Council on behalf of community.

By way of background, the LGPI measures price movements faced by Local Government in South Australia in respect of their purchases of goods and services. This measure of price movements is different from CPI which measures changes in the price of a 'basket' of household goods and services which account for a high proportion of expenditure by metropolitan households and therefore may not accurately reflect price movements faced by Local Councils. As the mix of goods and services purchased by Local Councils is quite different from that typically consumed by households, overall price movements faced by Local Councils may differ markedly from those faced by households.

Printed copies are available from Council's Office and the Robe VIC/Public Library or alternatively it can be viewed and downloaded from Council's website at www.robe.sa.gov.au

Written submissions on the above items and the three draft documents are to be addressed to the Chief Executive and may be made via the following methods:

Council's website: www.robe.sa.gov.au

Email: council@robe.sa.gov.au

By mail: to PO Box 1 Robe 5276, or

Delivered in person: 3 Royal Circus, Robe SA

Submissions close for Council's Community and Action Plans at **5.00pm on Friday 21 June 2019** and for the Annual Business Plan at **5.00pm on Friday 6 June 2019**.

Council provides a further opportunity for community involvement through a public information session on Tuesday 28 May 2019 from 3pm to 6pm at the Robe Bowling Club. All community members are invited.

A Call for Volunteers!

One of the key events held within our community is The Beer Fest. The organisers are currently asking for volunteers.

The Beer Fest started in 2013 as "The Robe Homebrew Festival" to draw visitors to Robe during the off-season. The first event attracted around 200 people and in 2018 the number of attendees were in excess of 3000. From surveys taken at the event, it is estimated that over \$600,000 was spent in Robe during the festival weekend in both 2017 and 2018. For the last two years the event has been receiving financial assistance from South Australian Tourism Commission, and is expected to receive a small grant again this year. The event is also sponsored by local businesses, however, the longevity of the festival is a big concern. Despite the festival growing in size, organisers have seen a drop in volunteer numbers especially this year. It is crucial that a number of volunteer roles be filled ASAP to ensure a successful festival again this year. Vacant volunteer positions include: social media promotion and communications, website management, homebrew competition stewards, festival ground crew, live music organisers, kids play corner organisers, festival merchandise tent volunteers, first aid volunteers, and many more. The next committee meeting will be held on the 27 May at the Caledonian Hotel and the Festival Date is the 26 October. For any further information, please don't hesitate to contact Kristi at info@robebeerfest.com.au

30 Years Service to Community

The Mayor and I were honoured to present the Local Government Association of South Australia 30 year Certificate of Service to Michelle Gibbs at the last Ordinary Meeting of Council. Michelle's 30 years have all been dedicated to service in Robe. We congratulate her and thank her for her service to her community.

Council Employee Changes

Paula Bigmore who has provided over 16 years service to the District Council of Robe has resigned for family reasons and will be moving back to Victoria. She will be sadly missed but it will be great for her family to be back together again. We wish her every success with her move and with her new employer.

We farewelled Robyn Paterson from CCOWS this month and offered our congratulations to Karla Dew who has been successful in becoming our new Director of Childcare. We will also welcome on board this month Dominique Turner who will replace Karla as the administrative support to CCOWS.