

NOVEMBER 2026

ISSUE 41

OUR NEWS

District Council of
ELLISTON

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

As another busy year draws to a close, thank you to everyone who has contributed to our district and supported their local community. Your ideas, time and care help make this a welcoming place to live, work and visit.

One new initiative I'm particularly pleased to introduce is Council's Community Engagement Sessions. These sessions create more opportunities for residents to speak directly with Council, raise questions and share what matters to them. They help us hear local perspectives early, explain what Council is working on, and build a clearer understanding of the needs and priorities across the district. I encourage you to come along when a session is next held in your community.

Congratulations to the netball and football teams who won their grand finals in the Great Flinders Football and Netball Leagues. It's a wonderful achievement and a credit to the players, coaches, volunteers and supporters who make local sport such an important part of community life.

With the 2027 local government election approaching, I encourage everyone to take an interest in Council's work and consider standing for Council. If you live outside the district but own or occupy rateable property here, you may also be eligible to enrol on Council's Voters Roll. Please check your eligibility and apply in time to vote; the roll closes at 5pm on 4 January 2027. Further information is available from Council and the Electoral Commission of South Australia.

As harvest gets underway, I hope the season goes well for everyone involved. On behalf of Council and staff, I wish you all a happy Christmas and a safe, healthy New Year. I hope the holiday season brings time to rest, reconnect and enjoy the people and places that make our district special.

Nikki Becker
Chief Executive Officer



JOIN THE TEAM IN GREEN
SAAS needs volunteers to provide care in your community. Volunteer with us now!
Contact us today:
1300 175 584
saasvolunteers@sa.gov.au
saasvolunteer.sa.gov.au
SA Ambulance Service

COUNCIL STAFF

Council is pleased to welcome Michael Biddell and Nathan Jacobs to the District Council of Elliston team in their roles as Outdoor Workers.

Michael and Nathan will play important roles in maintaining Council's roads, parks, gardens and public spaces, helping to keep our district safe, tidy and welcoming for residents and visitors.

Council is also pleased to welcome Charlize Beaurain to the District Council of Elliston office team in the role of Economic and Community Development Officer.

We are delighted to have Michael, Nathan and Charlize on board and look forward to the valuable contributions they will make to our Council and wider community.



MICHAEL BIDDELL



NATHAN JACOBS



CHARLIZE BEAURAIN

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SESSIONS

Council's Community Engagement Sessions have been off to a fantastic start, with great attendance and valuable feedback received from community members at our recent sessions.

These informal drop-in sessions provide an opportunity for residents to connect directly with Council, ask questions, raise local issues, share ideas and discuss matters important to their communities.

Your feedback helps Council better understand local priorities and continue building strong connections across our district.

UPCOMING SESSIONS:

- November 2026 - Elliston
- December 2026 - No session will be held
- January 2027 - Lock
  - Date, time and location to be confirmed

Council looks forward to continuing these sessions across the district and encourages everyone to come along, have a chat and have their say.

No appointments or formalities – just drop in and say hello!



ESSENTIAL SERVICES AND ASSETS UPDATE

Road maintenance has continued across the district, although wet conditions and mechanical issues with the Lock grader affected progress.

Council has progressed targeted contractor repairs for priority unsealed road sections in the Lock and Tooligie areas, including roads used by school buses.

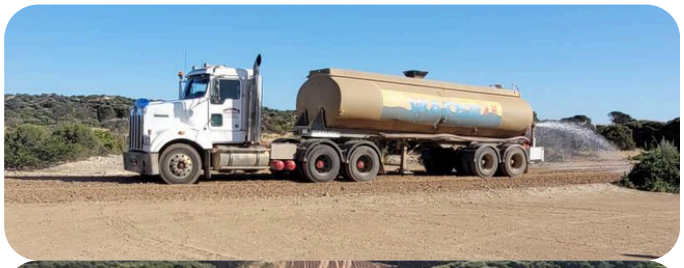
Planning has also continued for repairs to Mt Wedge-Kyancutta Road and the Palkagee Road sealing project.

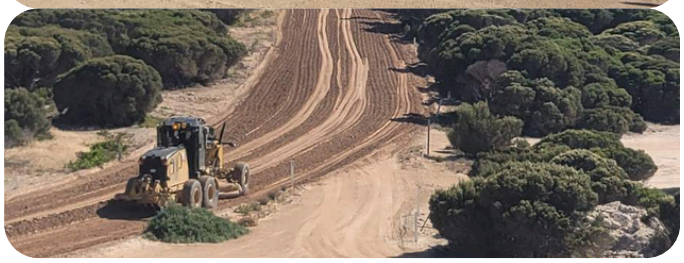
POLYCOM ROAD REPAIR TRIAL

Council is trialling Polycom, an innovative road stabilising additive, on Sheringa Beach Road and Tooligie Hill Road.

Mixed into existing road material, Polycom is designed to improve strength and flexibility and help resist water erosion and surface wear. The different road materials and traffic patterns at the two sites will allow Council to assess how the treatment performs in varied conditions.

The trial will help us explore options for recurring road issues that routine grading alone may not resolve, and inform future maintenance decisions.





OTHER DISTRICT WORKS

Council has completed pre-season fire inspections and is continuing fire prevention work across townships, firebreaks and roadside verges. Staff have also prepared equipment and completed in readiness for the Fire Danger Season.

Water security works have progressed, with new tanks installed at Port Kenny and Venus Bay to strengthen local storage. Three additional tanks have been delivered to Elliston, with site preparation underway.

At Sheringa Beach, updated plans for repairing the storm-damaged stairs and relocating the lower section to a more stable, rock-supported area are underway. Council is working with the insurer regarding suitable contractors for the repairs.

In Elliston, staff have restored the town irrigation line after clearing sediment and airlocks, and will continue servicing the system.



BACKHOE FIRE

Council would like to sincerely thank the local CFS volunteers who responded quickly when the Council backhoe caught fire at Siviour Pit on Dearman Road. Their prompt action extinguished the fire and prevented it from spreading. This incident is a strong reminder of the important role local volunteers play in protecting our community and district.





COUNCIL IN ACTION

The following provides a summary of key decisions and initiatives progressed by Council over the past three months.

IMPROVING PEDESTRIAN SAFETY IN ELLISTON

Council has identified an opportunity to improve pedestrian safety and accessibility within the Elliston town centre through a proposed raised pedestrian crossing, commonly known as a wombat crossing.

The proposed crossing would connect the Elliston CWA and Trudinger Playground, providing a safer link between these important community facilities.

The project forms part of the Elliston Town Centre Revitalisation Plan, with Council investigating technical requirements, costs and potential funding opportunities through federal grant programs.

Any future construction will be subject to technical feasibility, relevant approvals and available funding.

PORT KENNY JETTY ASSESSMENT

Planning continues for a coastal engineering assessment of the Port Kenny Jetty and surrounding marine environment.

Specialist consultants Water Technology have been appointed to undertake the assessment, which will investigate coastal and sediment conditions to help inform future planning and management decisions.

The assessment is being fully funded by the Department for Infrastructure and Transport, with the majority of fieldwork anticipated between February and April 2027.





REGIONAL WASTE AND RECYCLING STRATEGY

Council is working alongside the councils of Streaky Bay, Wudinna, Ceduna and Kimba to develop a collaborative Waste and Recycling Services Strategy for the Western Eyre Peninsula.

The project will review existing waste collection services, recycling opportunities, infrastructure and operating costs across the region.

Consultants Rawtec have been engaged to undertake the review, with the strategy expected to be completed by February 2027.

ADVOCATING FOR SUSTAINABLE REGIONAL COUNCILS

In August, Council's Chief Executive Officer represented the district at a Federal Parliamentary Inquiry into Local Government Funding and Fiscal Sustainability in Port Lincoln.

The hearing provided an opportunity to highlight the unique financial challenges facing small regional councils, particularly the cost of maintaining extensive road networks and community infrastructure with a relatively small ratepayer base.

Council advocated for fairer and more sustainable funding arrangements that recognise the additional costs of delivering essential services in remote communities.

This advocacy is important to ensuring regional councils can continue providing the infrastructure and services their communities rely on.

COUNCIL IN ACTION CONTINUED...

CHILDCARE NEEDS ANALYSIS

In October, Council has undertaken a Childcare Needs Analysis to better understand the current and future childcare needs of families across the district.

Community members were encouraged to share their experiences through a district-wide survey and informal drop-in sessions.

The information gathered will help Council better understand local childcare needs and inform future discussions, planning and potential initiatives to improve access to childcare services.

ELLISTON JETTY – FUTURE PLANNING

Council continues to work closely with the Department for Infrastructure and Transport (DIT) regarding the future of the Elliston Jetty.

Discussions have focused on extending the current lease arrangements while further investigations are undertaken into the jetty's historical and heritage significance, along with its long-term future.

The proposed lease extension would also provide Council with an opportunity to undertake community consultation, allowing residents and stakeholders to share their views on the importance of the jetty and its future.

AGED CARE HOUSING PROJECT

Council continues to investigate opportunities to support the future provision of aged care housing in Elliston.

Planning consultants URPS are progressing the next stage of the project, which aims to explore options for suitable housing that will allow older residents to remain connected to their community as their needs change.

This work forms part of Council's broader commitment to supporting liveable communities and improving housing opportunities across the district.

WATER SECURITY AND DROUGHT RESILIENCE

In September, Council participated in the Eyre Peninsula Local Government Association's Water Security Workshop, sharing its experience operating desalination facilities at Port Kenny and Venus Bay.

Council will continue working with the Department for Environment and Water to investigate whether suitable opportunities exist within the district.

SUPPORTING REGIONAL HEALTH SERVICES

Council continues to advocate for accessible and sustainable healthcare services across the district through its involvement with the Northern Eyre Peninsula Health Alliance (NEPHA).

Community conversations held in Elliston and Lock in recent months have provided opportunities for residents to share their experiences and raise concerns about healthcare access, workforce shortages, continuity of care and the challenges of travelling long distances for medical appointments.

COUNCIL OFFICE CHRISTMAS CLOSURE

Please note that the Council Office will close for the Christmas and New Year period.

Office Closes

5:00pm on Wednesday, 23 December 2026

Office Reopens

9:00am on Monday, 4 January 2027

Information regarding Council services over the Christmas and New Year period, including changes to bin collections and community services, will be communicated through Council's social media platforms and public notice boards.

For urgent matters outside of normal business hours, please contact Council's after-hours service on 0409 434 257.



FIRE DANGER SEASON 2026-2027

The 2026–27 Fire Danger Season has officially commenced for the West Coast Fire Ban District, running from 15 October 2026 to 15 April 2027.

The District Council of Elliston reminds all residents, property owners and occupiers of the importance of preparing and maintaining their properties to reduce the risk of bushfires throughout the warmer months.

FIRE PREVENTION AND YOUR PROPERTY

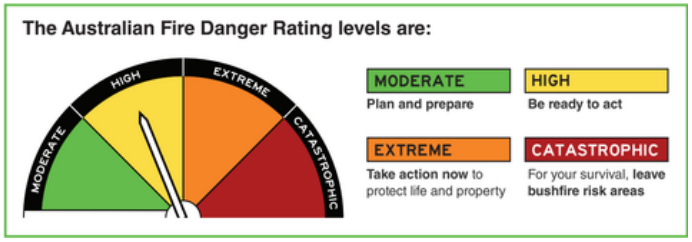
Council continues to undertake fire prevention inspections throughout the district to identify potential fire hazards and encourage property owners to take appropriate action to reduce fire risks.

With warmer and drier conditions ahead, it is important that properties remain maintained throughout the entire Fire Danger Season, not just at the beginning.

Residents are encouraged to regularly inspect their properties and undertake simple preventative measures, including:

- Keeping grass short and vegetation maintained, particularly around homes, sheds, fences and other structures.
- Clearing gutters, roofs and areas surrounding buildings of leaves and other combustible materials.
- Removing fallen branches, dry vegetation and accumulated rubbish.
- Keeping firewood, fuel and other flammable materials safely stored away from buildings.
- Maintaining clear access to properties for emergency vehicles.

Regular property maintenance is an important part of reducing the likelihood of a fire starting or spreading and helps protect neighbouring properties and the wider community.





FIRE PERMITS AND RESTRICTIONS

During the Fire Danger Season, restrictions apply to activities that may cause a fire, including outdoor burning, campfires, outdoor cooking and the operation of machinery or equipment that may produce sparks.

Fire Permits are required for most burning activities during the Fire Danger Season, unless an exemption applies. Residents intending to undertake burning activities must ensure they understand the relevant requirements and obtain the necessary permit before proceeding.

Fire Permits are not valid for burning on Total Fire Ban days under ordinary permit conditions. Residents are encouraged to check current fire restrictions and Total Fire Ban declarations through the SA Country Fire Service (CFS) before undertaking any activities that may present a fire risk.

Fire Permit applications can be submitted online through Council's website or by visiting the Council office.

KEEPING OUR DISTRICT FIRE SAFE

Council thanks residents and property owners for their ongoing efforts to maintain their properties and contribute to a safer district throughout the 2026–27 Fire Danger Season.

For further information about fire prevention, Fire Permits, restrictions and bushfire preparedness, visit: www.elliston.sa.gov.au and www.cfs.sa.gov.au



Council is inviting residents and businesses across the district to take part in this year's Christmas Lights & Display Competition, with prizes of up to $500 available!

Prizes include:

- $100 Best Private Display in each of the three town groups:
  - Elliston, Bramfield, Colton and Sheringa
  - Lock, Tooligie and Murdinga
  - Port Kenny and Venus Bay
- $200 Best Business Display across the district
- $500 Overall Winner – Best display across all entries

Entrants must select one display type, with both types judged against each other for the available prizes.

Entries open 1 December 2026, with judging taking place on 14 December 2026.

Entry forms will be available online and in hard copy soon, so keep an eye on Council's social media pages and town noticeboards for further details on how to enter.

Let's spread some Christmas cheer across our district!







Over recent months, the District Council of Elliston has continued to invest in projects and initiatives that strengthen our communities, improve local services and plan for the future.

TOWN BEAUTIFICATION FUND

Council is pleased to support three community projects through the 2026/27 Town Beautification Fund, helping to enhance public spaces and improve the appearance and amenity of our townships.

Following consideration of applications, Council has approved funding to support the following projects:

- Tooligie Hall Incorporated – Painting and amenity lighting improvements at the Tooligie Hall.
- Elliston and Districts Business and Progress Association – Installation of an oversized picture frame to create a new community attraction and photo opportunity.
- Port Kenny and Venus Bay Progress Association – Township entrance signage to enhance the entrance to Port Kenny, subject to finalising project designs and costs.

These projects reflect the commitment of local community groups to improving their towns and creating welcoming spaces for residents and visitors alike.

Council looks forward to seeing these initiatives progress and thanks the community organisations involved for their efforts in contributing to the ongoing beautification of our district.

Remaining funds will be directed towards revegetation projects across the district.



RSL MEMORIAL BUILDING MURAL PROJECT

Council is inviting professional South Australian artists and artist teams to submit design proposals for a new mural on the RSL Memorial Building, as part of Council's ongoing efforts to revitalise the Elliston town centre.

The mural will recognise the building's history as both an RSL Memorial Building and former kindergarten, reflecting its significance to the local community.

The final design will be presented to Council for consideration before any artwork is commissioned or installed.

Further information, including the Artist Brief, Request for Quotation Form and project requirements, is available on Council's website.



SHOPFRONT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Council recently approved an increase in grant funding for the Shopfront Improvement Program to $3,000 per eligible project.

The program aims to encourage local businesses and property owners to improve the appearance of their shopfronts, helping to create more attractive, welcoming and vibrant town centres across our district.

Council encourages eligible businesses and property owners considering improvements to explore the funding opportunities available.

For program guidelines, eligibility requirements and application forms, visit Council's website or contact the Council Office on (08) 8687 9177.

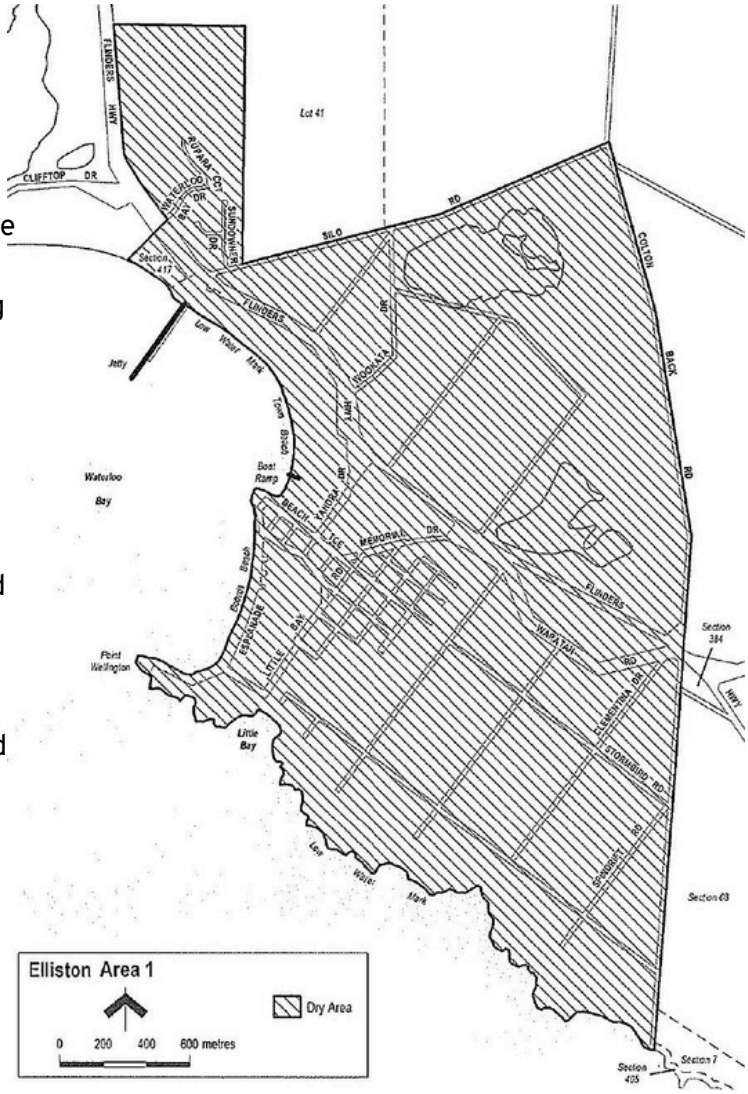
TEMPORARY DRY ZONES - NEW YEAR 2027

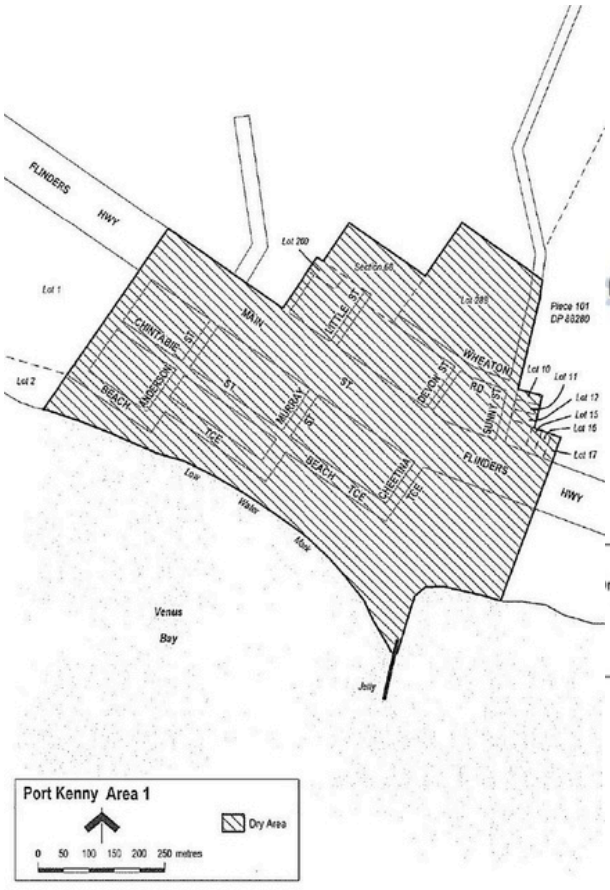
As we head into the New Year celebrations, the District Council of Elliston will once again implement temporary dry zones in designated areas of Elliston, Port Kenny and Venus Bay. These measures help support a safe and enjoyable environment for residents and visitors celebrating the New Year.

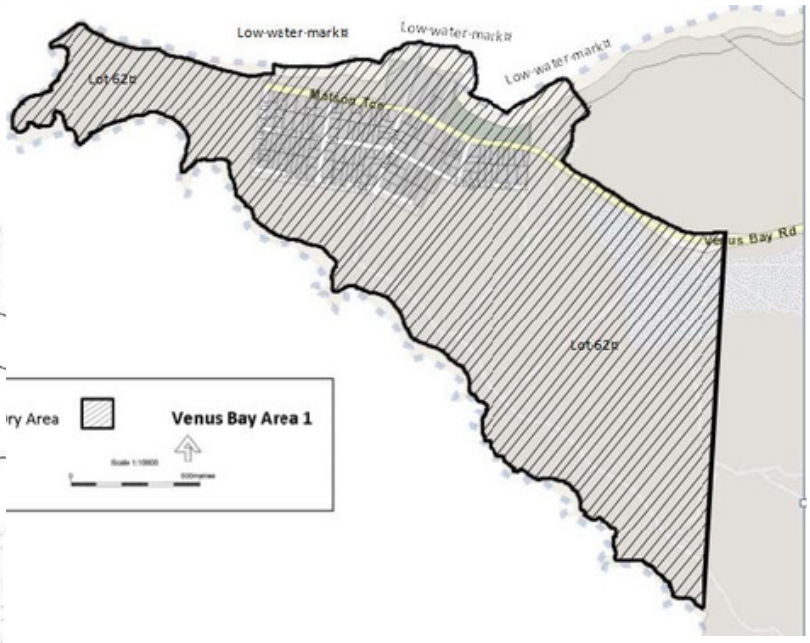
The temporary dry zones will be in effect from 9:00pm on Thursday, 31 December 2026 until 8:00am on Friday, 1 January 2027.

The later commencement time allows families and groups to enjoy public areas before the dry zones come into effect.

Council thanks everyone for their cooperation and wishes the community a safe and enjoyable New Year's Eve.









2027 CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

Do you know someone who makes a positive difference in our community?

Nominations are now open for the 2027 Citizen of the Year Awards, recognising the individuals, groups, events and businesses that help make our district a great place to live.

This year, Council is excited to introduce a new Business of the Year Award, providing an opportunity to recognise local businesses that go above and beyond for our community.

Nominations are open across five categories:

- Citizen of the Year
- Young Citizen of the Year
- Community Event of the Year
- Award for Active Citizenship
- Business of the Year

Nominations close Friday, 20 November 2026.

To nominate someone deserving of recognition, visit www.citizenoftheyear.com.au/nominate or scan the QR code below.

ELLISTON'S 150TH BIRTHDAY - 2028

Council is inviting community members to express their interest in joining a planning committee to help celebrate this significant milestone.

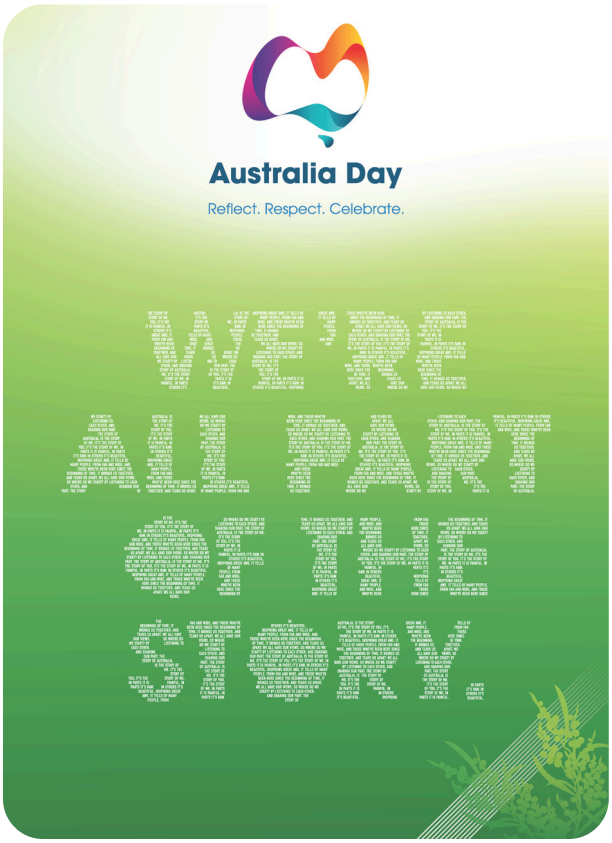
If you are interested, contact Council on 08 8687 9177 or write your name on our Community Interest Sheet located at the Elliston Community and Visitor Information Centre or the Council office.

AUSTRALIA DAY 2027

Council is pleased to announce that it has successfully secured grant funding from the National Australia Day Council (NADC) to support our Australia Day celebrations in 2027.

This funding will assist Council in delivering an enjoyable community event, bringing residents and visitors together to celebrate Australia Day and recognise the people who make our district a great place to live.

Council looks forward to sharing more details about the event in the coming months and encourages everyone to keep an eye out for further announcements.



2027 LOCAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS

The Local Government Elections are approaching, providing an opportunity for residents across the District Council of Elliston to have their say in shaping the future of our community.

ARE YOU ENROLLED TO VOTE?

If you're already enrolled on the South Australian State Electoral Roll, you're automatically enrolled to vote in your local Council elections. However, it's important to check that your residential and postal details are up to date.

Eligible non-resident property owners, business owners, landlords and occupiers may also be entitled to vote through Council's Supplementary Voters Roll.

The Supplementary Roll resets each election year, meaning previously enrolled businesses and property owners may need to reapply.

Council encourages everyone to check their enrolment details before the 4 January 2027 deadline.

For more information, visit: www.elliston.sa.gov.au

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A COUNCIL MEMBER?

Council Members represent their community and work together to make decisions that shape the future of the district.

They consider community feedback, set priorities, guide Council policies and budgets, and make decisions about local services, facilities, infrastructure and future development.

DO YOU HAVE MORE QUESTIONS?

Council will be hosting an informal information session on **Thursday, 26 November**, from **5:30pm to 6:30pm**, at the Council Office, 21 Beach Terrace.



Authorised by I. McLay, Acting Electoral Commissioner

SHAPE your WORLD

Council Elections 2027

Enrol. Nominate. Vote.

ELLISTON

Electoral Commission SOUTH AUSTRALIA

lga South Australia

