

MAY 2026

ISSUE 39

OUR NEWS

District Council of
ELLISTON

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

As we move into May, I hope everyone had an enjoyable and safe break over the recent school holidays. It's always a welcome opportunity for families to spend time together, and it's been great to see renewed activity across the district as students return to school and our communities settle back into routines.

Across the district, seeding has now commenced, marking the beginning of another important season for our agricultural sector. We wish all of our farming community the very best for the months ahead and hope for favourable conditions to support a successful year.

Like all councils across Australia, we continue to closely monitor the ongoing challenges associated with fuel prices. Fuel is a significant operational cost for Council and underpins many of the essential services we deliver each day, ranging from road maintenance and waste collection, to the upkeep of community infrastructure.

Fluctuations in fuel pricing have a direct and immediate impact on Council's financial position. Even modest increases can result in substantial additional costs across our operations, and flow-on effects are being felt through higher material costs, transport expenses, and contractor pricing. These pressures are being experienced across the local government sector and require careful and considered financial management.

In response, Council is continuing to take a disciplined approach as we prepare for the development of our next Strategic Management Plans, including the annual budget. This process is critical in ensuring that we strike the right balance between maintaining essential services, delivering priority projects, and managing financial sustainability in an increasingly uncertain environment.

Our teams are working diligently to review priorities, seek external funding opportunities, and ensure that future plans remain both responsible and achievable. While some projects may need to be carefully staged or deferred, our focus remains firmly on delivering value for our community.

Looking ahead, preparations are also underway for the Local Government elections to be held in November. This is an important opportunity for community members to have their say in the future direction of our district. I strongly encourage anyone who is not a resident of the district and therefore not on the Council voters roll to register for inclusion on the Supplementary Roll to ensure you are eligible to participate.

As always, Council remains committed to supporting our community, maintaining essential services, and planning responsibly for the future. We appreciate your continued understanding and engagement as we navigate these challenges together.

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

KEEPING OUR COMMUNITY SPACES MAINTAINED

Council crews have been working steadily across the district to keep our shared spaces looking their best and functioning well for everyone. Regular maintenance has continued across parks, gardens, and public facilities, including repairs to amenities, irrigation upgrades, turf care, and general upkeep to ensure these areas remain safe, welcoming, and enjoyable year-round.

At Venus Bay, works were carried out to repair the beach access boardwalk following recent coastal erosion. These improvements have restored safe access to the beach and come at an important time as we head into a busier period for visitors.

Upgrades to Council's main office have also now been completed. The refreshed space offers improved functionality for staff, along with enhanced meeting areas that can better accommodate community use.









ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

Maintaining and improving our road network continues to be a key priority for Council. Over recent months, crews have carried out reseal works, pothole repairs, and grading of unsealed roads across the district. Recent rainfall has provided ideal conditions for grading, allowing works to be completed more effectively and with longer-lasting results.

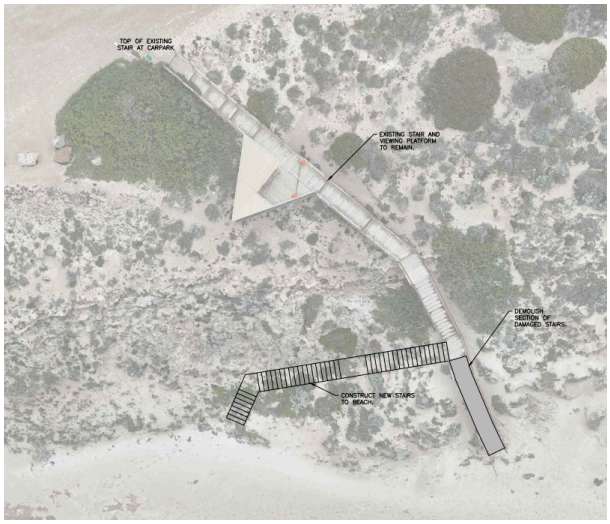
Looking ahead, planning work is progressing for the proposed sealing of Palkagee Road. Design and investigation stages are now underway, laying the groundwork for future funding opportunities and construction readiness.

PROJECT UPDATES

There has been solid progress across a number of key projects throughout the district over the past month, with several reaching important milestones and others continuing to move forward.

The resealing of the Elliston Aerodrome was completed in April, delivering important safety improvements and ensuring the facility remains accessible for essential services such as the RFDS. This is a significant outcome for the community, particularly given the critical role the aerodrome plays.

At Sheringa Beach, planning and design work is progressing on the replacement of the stairway damaged during recent storm events. A more resilient alignment is being considered, with a focus on ensuring the new structure is better equipped to withstand future coastal conditions.



Work is also underway on the Elliston Irrigation System Upgrade, with a new pump and metering system currently being installed. This will improve efficiency and water management across key areas and support more sustainable operations moving forward.

Council has also secured grant funding to upgrade the Elliston standpipe, which will enhance access to water for both residents and visitors.

To support ongoing service delivery, Council has recently invested in new equipment, including a heavy rigid tipper truck with water cart capability and a new woodchipper.





These additions will provide greater flexibility for our crews and enable more work to be undertaken in-house, helping to reduce reliance on external contractors while maintaining a high standard of service across the district.

Alongside these projects, Council continues to take a proactive and considered approach to long-term planning. This includes investigating local gravel sources to support road construction and reduce transport costs, as well as monitoring traffic volumes on key roads to help inform future upgrades and investment.

Work is also continuing to strengthen our asset management practices, including integration with Before You Dig Australia to support better planning and protect underground infrastructure.

Community input remains an important part of this work. Recent engagement on the Elliston Esplanade Management Plan has seen strong participation, helping to guide future planning and ensure the coastline continues to be enjoyed by both residents and visitors for many years to come.

DISABILITY ACCESS AND INCLUSION PLAN CONSULTATION

Community consultation for the Disability Access and Inclusion Plan has been delivered across Elliston, Venus Bay and Port Kenny, with strong participation and thoughtful feedback from residents.

A clear and consistent message has emerged from these sessions, highlighting the importance of improved footpaths and accessibility across the district. These insights will play an important role in shaping future infrastructure planning and ensuring our communities are inclusive and accessible for all.



NEW SAFETY CAPABILITY FOR OUR COASTLINE

Our coastal safety capabilities have been strengthened, with six local volunteers now trained as drone operators through Surf Life Saving SA.

This new capability will support coastal monitoring and shark mitigation efforts, as well as assist in emergency response and search operations when required.

The addition of drone technology provides an extra layer of safety for the community and enhances local capacity to respond to incidents along the coastline.

COMMUNITY-LED PROJECTS GAINING MOMENTUM

Council has also been working closely with the Elliston Country Women's Association branch on two community-led initiatives that are gaining strong local interest.

Early discussions are underway around the establishment of a community garden in Elliston, with SACWA supporting the initiative through the provision of space. This project presents a valuable opportunity to create a shared community space that encourages connection and local involvement.

In addition, new beach clean-up signage has been installed at key coastal locations including Elliston, Sheringa and Venus Bay. This initiative encourages both residents and visitors to take an active role in caring for the environment and maintaining the natural beauty of our coastline.



These initiatives demonstrate the value of strong community partnerships and local collaboration. If there are other community-led ideas or projects that Council may be able to support, we encourage you to get in touch.





COUNCIL IN ACTION

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

Regional collaboration on fire safety
Council has endorsed participation in a North-West Eyre Peninsula Regional Building Fire Safety Committee, working with neighbouring councils to strengthen compliance and safety outcomes across the region.

Joint procurement delivering better value
Council has entered into a joint asphalt and bitumen contract with neighbouring councils, improving value for money and supporting long-term road maintenance.

Improving community safety in Venus Bay
New public streetlighting has been installed on Matson Terrace, Venus Bay, in response to community feedback to improve lighting and safety.

Supporting local business in Lock
Council has approved funding support for shopfront improvements in Lock, contributing to the presentation and activation of the township.

Supporting early years and families
Council has endorsed the development of an Elliston and Districts Early Years Program, aligning Kindergym with existing community playgroups under a coordinated delivery model. Council also approved additional annual funding to support the program, with a review to be undertaken after 12 months to assess participation, community benefit and future delivery.

Investment in Council systems and customer service
Council has approved an upgrade of its core IT systems, transitioning to a cloud-based platform to improve customer service, efficiency and future capability.

Planning for future growth
Investigations are underway into the potential development of an industrial precinct adjacent to the Elliston Aerodrome.

Advocating for regional health services
Council has made a submission to the Federal inquiry into Rural, Regional and Remote Medicare Access, advocating for improved health services for the district.

Electoral representation and advocacy
Council has considered proposed changes to the Federal electorate boundaries and has made a submission to ensure regional representation is maintained.

Coastal and marine infrastructure under review
Council continues to work with the Department for Infrastructure and Transport in relation to the Elliston and Port Kenny jetties, with a focus on future management and planning.

Port Kenny road closure request considered
Council considered a request to close a gazetted road in Port Kenny and resolved not to proceed with the statutory process.

Land and rating compliance matters
Council has progressed recovery actions for non-payment of rates under Section 184 of the Local Government Act 1999, including the sale of land in line with legislative requirements.

Planning for future aged care
Council has continued discussions regarding aged care and investment opportunities, recognising the importance of future service provision.



DOG AND CAT MANAGEMENT UPDATE

Residents are advised that the Dogs and Cats Online (DACO) system is currently unavailable to the public while important upgrades are being carried out.

During this time, DACO cannot be accessed by dog and cat owners (including breeders), veterinary practices or industry users. However, Council, along with authorised organisations such as the RSPCA, Animal Welfare League and the Department for Environment and Water, can still access the system to meet legislative requirements.

Council staff are available to assist residents with registering their pets or updating animal details during this period. If you require support, please contact the Council office on (08) 8687 9177 or visit in person at 21 Beach Terrace.

These upgrades are ongoing, with every effort being made to have the system restored and fully available ahead of the upcoming renewal period. Council appreciates the community's patience and understanding while this work is completed.

2026 ELECTION

The supplementary roll is now open for anyone who has recently moved into the area, changed address, or become eligible to vote. It's important to ensure your details are up to date so you're ready for any upcoming elections. Details are on the Council website.

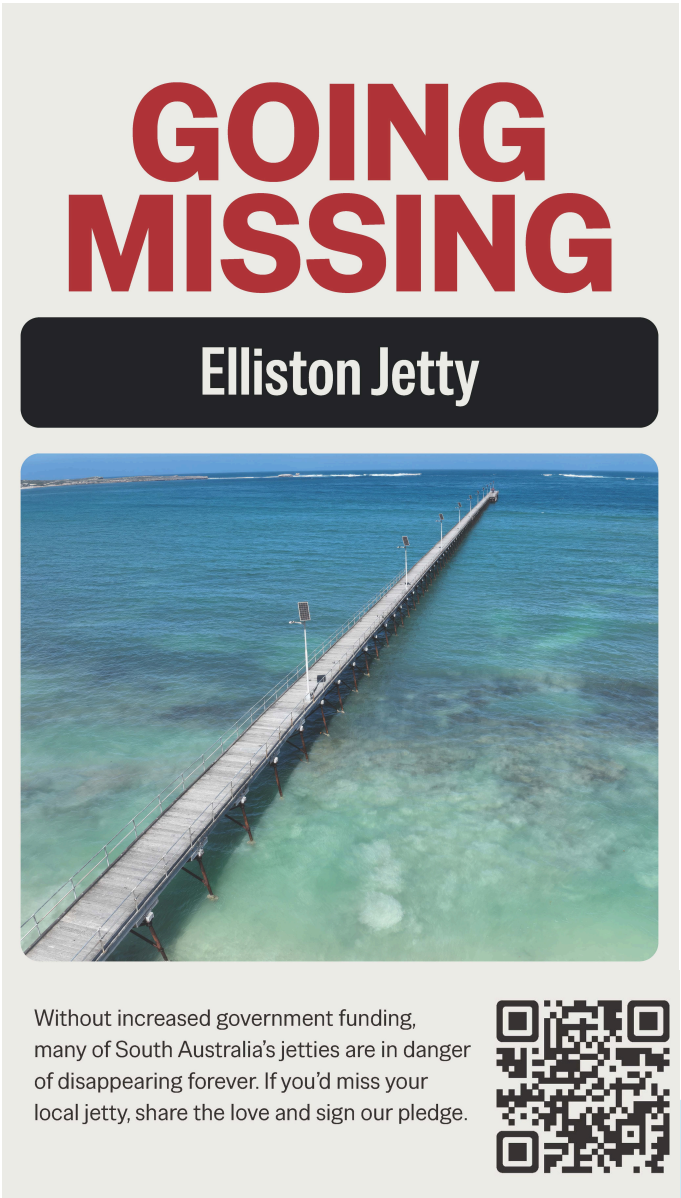
If you're interested in getting more involved in your community, now is also a great time to consider nominating as a candidate. Being part of local decision-making is a valuable way to help shape the future of our district.



COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Community consultation sessions will soon be held for the Annual Business Plan, Long Term Financial Plan, Rating Review, and Community Engagement Charter.

These sessions are a valuable opportunity for residents to learn more about Council's priorities and provide feedback on key plans that guide services, projects, and future direction. Keep an eye out for dates and details on how to take part.



EVENTS BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER

Recent events across the district have once again highlighted the strength of community spirit and the importance of coming together.

The Elliston and Port Kenny Markets were well supported with a strong turnout from both locals and visitors. School holiday activities were run in Elliston and Lock. Youth Week activities run partnership with West Coast Youth and Community Support, provided valuable opportunities for young people to connect and participate.

ANZAC Day services in Lock and Elliston were respectfully attended, while school holiday activities, including craft sessions in Lock and Elliston and an outdoor session in Elliston, offered families a chance to get involved and stay active during the break.

These events continue to play an important role in fostering connection and keeping our communities vibrant.



AUSTRALIAN SALMON FISHING CHAMPIONSHIP RETURNS THIS JUNE

The much-loved Australian Salmon Fishing Championship is set to return this June, bringing another exciting season of fishing, visitors and community activity to the district.

As preparations get underway, we are currently seeking sponsorship from local businesses and supporters who would like to be involved in this event. Sponsorship is a great opportunity to showcase your business while supporting a long-standing community event that attracts participants from across the region and beyond.

If your business is interested in coming on board as a sponsor, please contact the Elliston Community and Visitor Information Centre at info@elliston.com.au for more information.

For further updates don't forget to check out our Facebook Page https://www.facebook.com/asfc.elliston/

VOLUNTEERS WANTED



Love Elliston? Join our friendly, community-minded volunteer team and help showcase what makes our town special.

It's flexible – volunteer for just one 3.5-hour shift a week, fortnight, or even once a month. A great way to meet people, stay connected, and give back to the community and visitors.

No experience needed – just a welcoming attitude and a love for the region.

Interested? Contact Tayla Jones on 8687 9200 or email info@elliston.sa.gov.au, or drop in for a chat.