NOVEMBER 2025

ISSUE 37

# OUR NEWS



# MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



Road maintenance has continued throughout the district over the last quarter and grading remains on target to complete the total unsealed road network of 935 km by late November, despite heavy rainfalls affecting the schedule of works. Meanwhile, council's Road Renewal Program has seen the completion of resheeting works on Hundred Line Road and preparatory works progress for the renewal of Murdinga-Murlong Road.

Council has been investigating new, potential quarry sites across the district to secure long-term, sustainable sources of construction material for road renewal projects. This will aim to reduce transport distances, improve road material suitability and increase the longevity of road constructions.

To ensure the maintenance of our road network aligns with long term financial sustainability, Council has updated our Transportation Asset Management Plan, which includes the depreciation of sealed and unsealed roads, carparks, kerbs, spoon drains and footpaths. Detailed levels of service for these assets have been adopted to match affordability.

Phase 1 of the Elliston Stormwater Harvesting and Reuse Scheme Project has progressed with the completion of upgrades to the Elliston CFS Groundwater Access Trench. The installation of smart meters for Elliston's parks and gardens is planned to follow. Council continues to closely follow the latest updates concerning the source of Elliston's water supply, the Bramfield Basin, with a response to be submitted to the recent release of the draft Water Allocation Plan.

In partnership with Surf Life Saving South Australia (SLSSA) and the State Government, Council has installed shark safety infrastructure at key locations that includes shark sighting boards, flagpoles and emergency trauma kits.

SLSSA is inviting community members aged 16+ to express interest in becoming drone operators to be part of a drone operator program that will assist with shark surveillance and emergency response.

Congratulations to the recently established Eyre Peninsula Conservation Board with the completion of their first project; replacing invasive species along the Elliston Esplanade foreshore with low lying endemic plants that will help stabilise the dunes. The consultation phase of the project also opened discussions from residents regarding other important esplanade issues including drainage and stormwater discharge erosion, sand encroachment onto the roadway, informal parking, vegetation disturbance and conflicts between vehicles and pedestrians. Council has now endorsed community consultation to take place regarding these issues and how to best address them under an Esplanade Management Plan.

Thankyou to all of the residents of Venus Bay and Port Kenny who participated in consultation for the completion of their respective Masterplans. It's pleasing to see the people who live there have a say in shaping their townships. At Lock, planning has begun for the establishment of a new play space on the Tod Highway, giving passersby a convenient place to stop and rejuvenate within walking distance of the deli. This is a great initiative by the community at Lock who continue to provide valuable input to guide the project.

The last 3 months has seen many community events take place with the Annual Australian Salmon Fishing Competition finishing with close to 200 entries, proof of the event's growing popularity. The Elliston Speed Shear and Elliston Area School Wool Show were also very successful, while several smaller, family-friendly programs have included the Lego Challenge Morning, an All-Ages Board Game Session and a Children's Craft Session.

An initial section of the Elliston jetty has reopened with plans to extend this in stages as works to make the structure safe continue. We are hoping the full length of the jetty will be open by the school holidays. With our coast being clear of the state's algal bloom, we could be in for a big boost in tourism this summer. Enjoy the warm weather and Christmas holidays!

**Andrew McLeod**
**Mayor**

## COMMUNITY AND BUSINESS DIRECTOR'S UPDATE




Since joining the District Council of Elliston, I have been genuinely inspired by the pride, spirit and connection that define our communities. I have felt very welcomed by staff, volunteers and community members, and I want to sincerely thank everyone for the kindness and support shown over these first months. It has been a pleasure to work alongside such dedicated people who care deeply about their towns and the wellbeing of others.

This year Council has been proud to support and deliver a wide range of community programs and events across the district, from Elliston and Lock to Port Kenny, Venus Bay and our smaller townships. Volunteers continue to be the heart of what we do. Their work in running the Visitor Information Centre and the recent revamp of the Op Shop by a team of dedicated volunteers has created a friendly and vibrant hub for both locals and visitors.

Weekly Kindagym sessions have continued at the Community Hall, bringing families together, and our school holiday programs in Lock and Elliston have been well attended. From Lego challenges and board games to arts and crafts, movie afternoons and Youth Week Laser Tag, these activities have offered something for everyone and added great energy to our community spaces.

Council has also supported many local events including Photos with Santa, the Australia Day celebrations with the Elliston Markets, the Elliston Speed Shear and the Wool Show at Elliston Area School. Community drop-in sessions in Port Kenny and Venus Bay provided valuable opportunities for residents to share ideas and be part of local planning. We have also been proud to promote and assist initiatives led by local businesses, groups and clubs right across the district.

Council's support for community health and wellbeing has also continued. Council supported the refurbishment of the Family Room at the Elliston Hospital as well as fundraising for a Cuddle Bed. We also led R U OK Day activities across the district to strengthen connection and remind everyone that simple conversations can make a real difference.

I have appreciated the chance to talk with community members about what wellbeing means to them, and about the kinds of activities and services they would like to see in the future. These conversations are important as they help guide how we continue to grow together as a connected, inclusive and hinking district.

I also look forward to meeting more members of our community and hearing more voices as we continue to plan and deliver projects that reflect local priorities. Your input, ideas and involvement are what keep our communities strong and thriving.

Finally, I want to thank all Council staff for their effort, teamwork and professionalism. Their commitment to the community is evident in everything they do, and it is a privilege to work alongside them.

Together we will continue to build a district that values connection, celebrates community and looks to the future with confidence and pride.

**Narelle Biddell,**
**Director Business and Community**

# ESSENTIAL SERVICES AND ASSETS DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

Since joining the District Council of Elliston in May 2025, I have been grateful for the warm welcome from our community and staff. It has been a busy and rewarding period, and I am proud of the progress we have made across a range of essential service and infrastructure projects.

This year, our focus has been on maintaining and improving the district's core assets while continuing to build resilience for the future. The annual patrol grading program has been progressing strongly across the district, ensuring local roads remain safe and accessible. In addition, the renewal of key road sections has been completed, and planning is well underway for further improvement works scheduled for delivery in 2026. These efforts form part of Council's ongoing commitment to providing reliable infrastructure that supports residents, businesses, and visitors alike.

Following the severe storm event in May, significant attention has also been given to the Elliston Jetty Remediation Project, which continues to progress within budget and on schedule. All inspections have now been completed, design documentation is advancing well, and the first section of the jetty has already reopened to the public, with further access to follow as engineering clearance and make-safe works are completed.

Council has also remained focused on sustainability and long-term asset management. The Elliston Stormwater Harvesting and Reuse Scheme is progressing, supporting more efficient use of water for public spaces. At the same time, community consultation will soon commence for the Elliston Esplanade Integrated Coastal Foreshore Management Plan, which will guide future improvements to coastal protection, vegetation restoration, and public amenity.

Alongside our project delivery, we have placed strong emphasis on continuous improvement within the organisation. The review and refinement of internal processes have been a key focus to strengthen efficiency and accountability. Staff development and training continue to be prioritised to ensure our teams have the capability and confidence to deliver high-quality outcomes.

Contractor management and compliance within our road renewal programs have also been a priority area, helping to enhance delivery standards and performance across future projects. Additionally, the continued improvement of asset management practices and financial management for critical infrastructure remains central to our operations, ensuring that Council's investments are well planned, transparent, and sustainable.

As we approach the end of the year, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all Council staff for their hard work, dedication, and professionalism throughout 2025. The achievements of this year are a direct result of their efforts, teamwork, and commitment to serving our community.

Reflecting on my first months in the role, I am genuinely appreciative of the collaboration, support, and community spirit that make the District Council of Elliston such a great place to work. I also welcome feedback on our services and operations as we continually look for ways to improve the way we deliver outcomes for the community.

I look forward to continuing this momentum and building on the strong foundations already in place. Thank you to everyone who has supported and engaged with our work so far; your input helps shape the sustainable, safe, and vibrant communities we are all proud to call home.

**Luke Moane,**
**Director Essential Services and Assets**



## CHRISTMAS CLOSURE

The District Council of Elliston wishes everyone a safe and joyful festive season!

Please note that the **Elliston Council Office will be closed:**
**12:00pm on Tuesday, 23 December 2025**

and will **reopen:**
**8:30am on Monday, 5 January 2026**

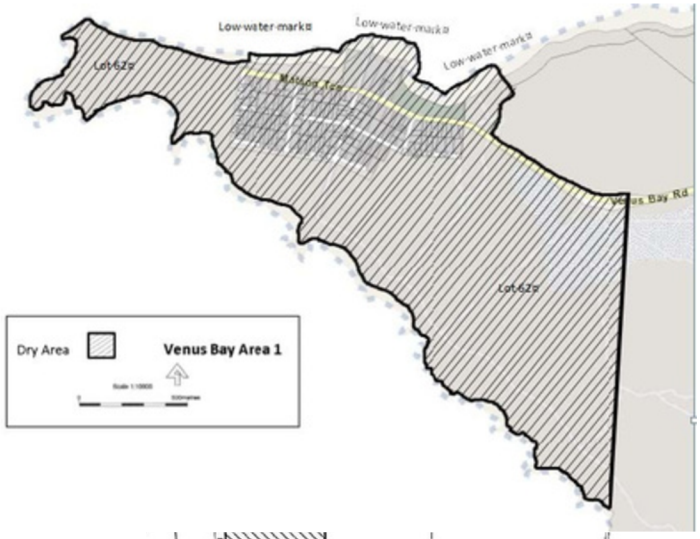
Keep an eye on our social media platforms for updates on bin collection and community services over the Christmas period.



## TEMPORARY DRY ZONES – NEW YEAR'S EVE 2025

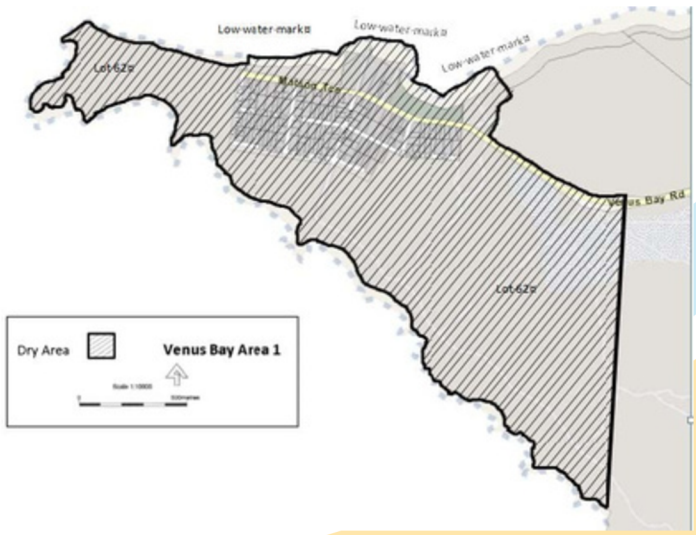
As we head into the New Year celebrations, the District Council of Elliston will once again implement temporary dry zones in Elliston, Venus Bay, and Port Kenny to help ensure a safe and enjoyable environment for all residents and visitors.

The temporary dry zones will be in effect from **9:00pm on Wednesday, 31 December 2025, until 8:00am on Thursday, 1 January 2026.**












## Council is encouraging property owners to check that any buildings, sheds or other structures on their land have the right approvals in place.

Over the next 12 months, Council will be reviewing properties across the District to ensure all development has the required approvals. This work supports Council's ongoing commitment to community safety, fair compliance and well-planned growth that protects both the character and amenity of our towns and coastal areas.

If you have added or installed buildings, sheds, cabins, shipping containers, pergolas, decks or other structures over the years, now is a good time to check whether approval was needed and if it was obtained. In some cases, this also includes living in a caravan, tiny home or transportable dwelling on a property, even on a temporary basis. Property owners may not be aware that approval is needed for certain works, changes of use, or when adding a new business activity on a property.

To help property owners understand what types of work generally need approval and how to apply, further information is available on the PlanSA website at https://code.plan.sa.gov.au.

If you are unsure about the approval status of any work or change of use on your property, please contact Council at dce@elliston.sa.gov.au for guidance.

Checking now helps ensure your property meets safety and building standards. It also protects property values across the district, supports fair and consistent development, and contributes to strong, well-planned communities that future generations can be proud of.

## PORT KENNY SPORTS CENTRE INC OFFICIAL OPENING

The Port Kenny Sports Centre Inc has proudly unveiled its long awaited upgrade and renovation, marking a significant milestone for the local community. The opening was held in conjunction with the Port Kenny Time Capsule Opening, bringing together residents from Port Kenny and surrounding districts to celebrate both the past and the future.

The revitalised sports centre now offers a welcoming, inclusive space designed to foster connection and community spirit. With improved facilities, extended space and a fresh new look, the venue continues to serve as a vital hub for community life hosting fortnightly meals, monthly bingo, and providing a venue for meetings, celebrations, and social events. It is hoped that a greater variety of recreational activities can be offered to bring the community together.

This transformation is the result of tireless dedication from the volunteer committee who have worked diligently applying for grants, planning and coordinating the project. Their efforts combined with the generosity of the local community and support from various organisations have made this achievement possible.



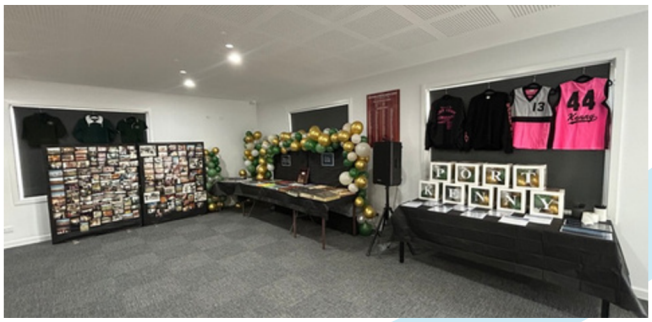
Life Memberships were awarded to Danial Robinson and Leigh Amey for their outstanding contributions and long term commitment to the sports centre. The committee extends its heartfelt thanks to the Port Kenny Community and the following contributors for their generous support.

- Office of Recreation, Sport and Racing: Community Recreation and Sport Facilities Program.
- Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal: Strengthening Rural Communities Program
- District Council of Elliston
- Streaky Bay Community Hotel Board.

Thanks to this collective effort, the Port Kenny and Districts Sports Centre can thrive now and into the future, continuing its legacy as a cornerstone of community connection and celebration.







# BUSINESS HIGHLIGHT




## LOCK DELI

**What is the name of your business and what do you do?**
*Lock Deli. We provide all services as per Aus post, fuel and general store with take away food and pizza.*

**How long have you been in operation?**
*Nearly 18 months.*

**What inspired you to start this business?**
*With background in family hospitality business and where we can see a lot of repeated customers and new people, I found this is the best business for my nature.*

**What products or services do you offer?**
PO boxes, parcels, banking, groceries, food, cool drinks, pizza, oils.

**What do you love most about being based in our region?**
*Less traffic, no pollution and lot of support from community.*

**What do you love most about being based in our region?**
*Less traffic, no pollution and a lot of support from community.*

**How does your business contribute to the local community?**
*We supported the local oval and support pretty much all local clubs, like we donate funds and provide food as requested by club.*

**Can you tell us about a typical day in your business?**
*Mail/parcel sorting to start with. Then customers come for freshly grind barista coffee, breakfast, fuel. Then start preparing for lunch and pizza for dinner.*

**What's something people might not know about your business?**
*Recently we started pizza and extended full range of groceries.*

**What do you value most in your customers?**
*Positive overall experience.*

**How do you ensure great service or a great experience?**
*Clear communication, punctual , proactive and personalised service.*

**Do you have a motto, mantra, or favourite saying?**
*Reliable and consistency.*



# OUR COMMUNITY

## BUSHFIRE SEASON HAS BEGUN – BE PREPARED

The Fire Danger Season has now commenced across South Australia. Residents are reminded to prepare their properties and review their Bushfire Survival Plans.

Keep yards clear of flammable materials, clean gutters, and maintain a 20-metre defendable space around homes.
Ensure firefighting equipment such as hoses, pumps, and water supplies are in good working order.
Stay informed by monitoring daily Fire Danger Ratings and weather updates, and download the Alert SA app for real-time notifications.

Preparation saves lives, take time now to reduce your bushfire risk and protect your property.
For more information visit www.cfs.sa.gov.au or call the Bushfire Information Hotline on 1800 362 361.
In an emergency, always call 000.