AUGUST 2024

ISSUE 32

OUR NEWS





Message from the CEO

It's hard to believe I've been here for a year now! When I first started, I had a few key goals in mind, like working with the Council to set a clear and achievable strategic direction, understanding our assets, improving our asset renewal efforts, and making sure we had an up-to-date ten-year financial plan.

Thanks to the co-operation of the Council and the support of an amazing group of staff, we've been able to move quickly. I feel lucky to lead such a fantastic team, which includes everyone from our indoor and outdoor teams as well as new staff at the Venus Bay Beachfront Tourist Park and the Elliston Community and Visitor Information Centre.

With the adoption of our 2024-2025 Annual Business Plan, Strategic Plan 2024-2028, and Long-Term Financial Plan 2024-2034, we're ready to push forward with our plans for the future. And with the wetter conditions we're seeing, that means tackling some much-needed work on our unsealed roads.

Additionally we have already started work on our capital road program with works on Palkagee and Sieberts Roads commencing and Rocky Valley Road in the next 2 months. We've also ordered cabins for the new Lock Short-Term Workers Accommodation, which will be set up in the Lock Caravan Park. A big thank you to the Department for Primary Industries and Regions SA for the grant that made this important project possible.

Stay tuned for lots of exciting things coming up over the next 12 months!

Cheers

NIKKI BECKER

DISTRICT COUNCIL OF ELLISTON

SHARK BITE FIRST AID KITS

Council have installed 4 shark bite first aid kits at Walkers Reef, Blacks, Cliffs and Sheringa.

Council have ensured that the kits contain equipment and information required if there is an emergency. People who attended our Surfers First Aid Course in June have learnt first hand how to use these.

We hope no one will need to use these, but if anything is used or missing, please contact us at Council.



CHANGE OF SPEED LIMIT

After a lot of advocacy, we are pleased to announce that the speed limit has changed to 80km/h just before the Birdseye Highway turn off on Flinders Highway.

This is to keep the community that use Colton Back Road and Clementina Drive safe.

We are continuing to work with the Department for Infrastructure and Transport on speed limit changes for Lock and Sheringa .



AUSTRALIAN SALMON FISHING CHAMPIONSHIP

This year marks the 30th Australian Salmon Fishing Championship for Elliston. There is just under one month left of the competition but its not too late to enter! Tickets are still available from the Elliston Community and Visitor Information Centre, Elliston Caravan Park, Elliston Hotel, Elliston Waterloo Tourist Park, Elliston Roadhouse. Sheringa Roadhouse and the Venus Bay Licensed General Store.

Don't forget you must purchase your ticket before you fish!

WASTE TRANSFER STATION OPEN HOURS

There have been some changes to the opening hours for Elliston, Lock and Venus Bay Waste Transfer Stations.

The new hours are as below:

Elliston:	Every Wednesday	10am-12pm
	First Saturday of each month	10am-12pm
Lock:	First Thursday of each month	11am-1pm
Venus Bay:	First Saturday of each month	10am-12pm

Please note that the Waste Transfer Stations at Lock and Venus Bay can be open by appointment, so if you are needing to use them outside of the opening times please contact Council to arrange an appointment.

Lock: Red bins are collected every Friday and recycling every second week (marked green on the waste collection calendars).





Joel Bowling Robbie Pickett Chloe Rappl

NEW STAFF

Council is delighted to welcome 2 new staff members to our outdoor team.

Joel Bowling and Robbie Pickett are both experienced outdoor workers and can be spotted all over the District either cleaning or working on our parks and gardens and outdoor facilities.

Council is also pleased to welcome Chloe Rappl and the group of volunteers at the Elliston Community and Visitor Information Centre to our team.

We also welcome the amazing team at the Venus Bay Beachfront Tourist Park to our staff.

LOCK MENS & WOMENS HEALTH NIGHT

On Thursday July 25, the Lock Community Health & Welfare Centre Advisory Committee hosted a Men's & Woman's Health night at the Lock Football Clubrooms. The event consisted of 2 guest speakers and a 3 course dinner.

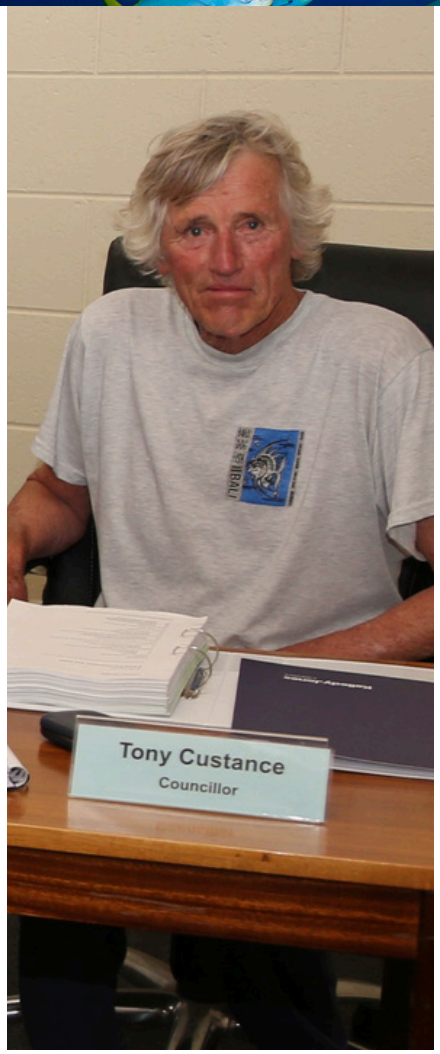
Chris Blowes, Australian Para Surf Champion and shark attack survivor, was a great presenter, inspiring listeners with his resilience and perseverance.

ABC presenter, Brooke Neindorf, spoke about her challenging journey as a cancer survivor, and the ins and outs of rural journalism. Brooke's story of strength and determination was admired by all.

Lock local Michael Zacher stated that the event went extremely well with 65 people attending.

The District Council of Elliston was proud to support the night together with Rabo Bank, DLL Group, AWB Cargill, Pinion Advisory, Lock Pharmacy, Cummins Pharmacy, Priceline Port Lincoln, Lock Sports Centre, Lock Football Club and Hancock Farming.





TONY CUSTANCE

What is the greatest accomplishment of your life to date?
My wife, family and my life in Elliston

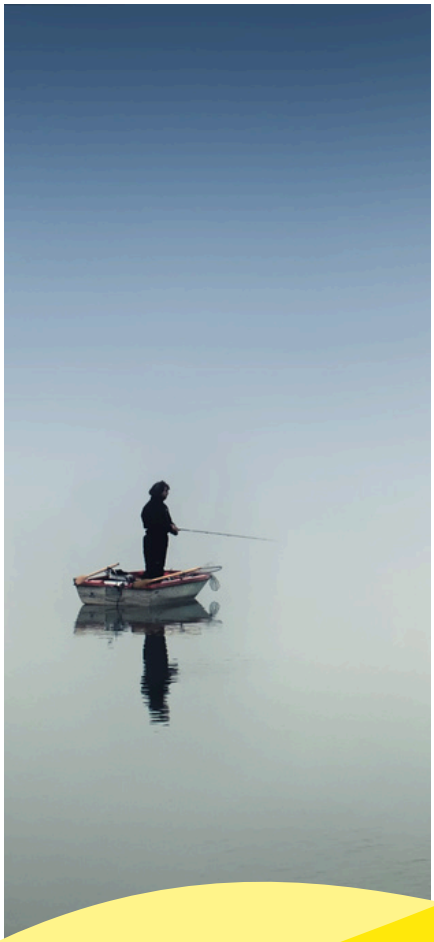
What do you do in your spare time?
Read, play music with friends, go fishing when the weather is Ok.

What is your favourite music?
Rock 'n' Roll or any music with a good beat and a message.

Have you always live in Elliston, if not, where else have you lived?
I have lived here for 48 years. Before that as a kid, and in my early working days, I lived in Kadina (9yrs), Melbourne, Adelaide and Whyalla (my father worked for the Post Office so we moved around a bit)

What is your current occupation?
*Semi retired, I am "shore-b****"/maintenance man for boats and gear used in Vongole Fishery, run by my sons Kym & Jesse.*

Do you live by any piece of advice or motto?
Try to be happy. It is up to you in the end and if you are happy it projects to whoever you deal with and what you are doing.



What is the furthest place you have travelled to?
Nias and Mentawai Islands in Indonesia for a surf trip – good fun.

What is a perfect day for you?
Floating around on a nice day on the ocean, fishing, with no-one in sight.

What is the best advice you have ever received?
Try your best at whatever you do and don't stress over things that you can't control.

What or who inspires you?
Anyone with a positive attitude and a good outlook on life.

We are blessed to live on the Eyre Peninsula and for me living in this great community of Elliston, the people, the environment and all, I know how lucky I am.



THE WOOLSHED CAVE CAMPGROUND TALIA CAVES

Council have opened a new camping area at Talia Caves called "The Woolshed Campground". There are 9 allocated, unpowered sites situated opposite to the beautiful Woolshed Cave and Talia Rock Pools. This campground is for self-contained campers only as there are no amenities. Camping is only permitted in the designated area.

These sites are now available to book on **https://book.eyrepeninsula.com.au/book** for $10 a night.

Please make sure to respect our environment, by only leaving footprints. We advise that you book your site in advance as the phone service is limited.







CENOTAPH

With the Saluting Their Service Commemorative Grant from the Department of Veterans Affairs Council has replaced the Elliston Cenotaph which was deteriorating due to the location. The same information has been transferred on the new Cenotaph.

The original rose quartz base that sat underneath the Cenotaph has not been included in the new monument however Council will incorporate this into the RSL Memorial Garden plans in the coming year.



DOG AND CAT REGISTRATIONS ARE DUE FOR RENEWAL BY 31 AUGUST 2024.

Simply Go to Dogs and Cats Online if you have an online account.

1. Go to Register/Renew using your renewal code and surname
2. Check your personal details are correct
3. Check your dog and/or cat details are correct
4. Add any new dogs and/or cats
5. If required, register yourself as a Breeder under Breeder Details on the Review Summary page
6. Complete payment section

If you require assistance at all, please do not hesitate to contact the Customer Service Centre.





The Dog and Cat Management Board has released a step by step guide that will help you bring a roaming cat inside to be safe, comfortable and happy.
Ideally, cats should live indoors with access to some outdoor enclosed space.
Cats are safer and healthier inside and it could take as little as four weeks to help a roaming cat transition to living permanently indoors. Your environment and wildlife will be much happier too!
Download the Roam to Home booklet containing the full program and planner.
https://dogandcatboard.com.au/cats/keeping-cats-in/roamtohome



CAT REGISTRATIONS

Cats make great pets and wonderful companions, however, all cats must be registered in the District Council of Elliston, with their details recorded in dogsandcatsonline.com.au.
Registration for cats is FREE!! (a renewal late fee may apply). An annual renewal is required to keep the registrar details up to date. Registration assists in the management of cats in our District.
As a cat owner, you are responsible for the animal's health and wellbeing and you also have responsibilities which can impact on your community and environment.
As a cat owner you must:

- Have your cat desexed and microchipped (unless exempt);
- Make sure your cat isn't a nuisance.

Owning or keeping an unregistered cat may attract an expiation of $170.00.
As awareness of our impacts on the environment and native wildlife continues to grow, so too does our interest and desire for better cat management. Gone are the days of keeping a cat to "keep the mice down". Community now recognises the tremendous impact cats can have when left to free roam outside. The damage is well known and, in some cases, irreversible. The environment deserves better.

There's a number of things you can do to reduce the effect your cat has on local wildlife.

- Confine your cat to an enclosure to keep wildlife safe (it also keeps your cat safe from injury and disease). Council encourages cats to be kept indoors and confined to their own property;
- Desex your cat (this is mandatory) to make them less territorial, less likely to wander and unwanted litters;
- Microchip your cat (this is mandatory) and attach a collar with identification so it can returned to you if it does wander. We are receiving many reports of wild cats across our District. Ensure your cat can be identified if caught while trapping is carried out and returned to you;
- Never dump unwanted kittens or cats, try to rehome them or take them to a shelter to be rehomed;
- Don't feed unowned cats. When large cat colonies form, this can have an enormous impact on the local wildlife.

Be a responsible cat owner and register your cat now. Please call Council if you require assistance or need any further information.





ANNUAL BUSINESS PLAN AND BUDGET
2024 – 2025

The Annual Business Plan sets out the Council's proposed services, programs and projects for 2024-2025. It aims to maintain efficient services for the community and continue progress towards the longer term objectives for the district as set out in the Strategic Plan adopted by the Council on 18 June 2024. Specific objectives for the year are consistent with the Council's Long Term Financial Plan and Infrastructure and Asset Management Plan to ensure the long term sustainability of the Council's financial performance and position.

NON-FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE MEASURES 2024 – 2025

The following proposed non-financial performance measures for the financial year are linked to the District Council of Elliston Strategic Plan 2024 – 2028.

Our People – *a healthy, welcoming and inclusive community, with pride in our history and heritage*

Outcome 1 - *A diverse and inclusive community*
- Provide facilities and services to meet the needs of families and young children
- Provide and promote services and programs that positively engage with and develop young people
- Provide and promote services and programs that support independence, connection and quality of life for older people
- Improve access and inclusion for people with a disability.



Outcome 2 - *A happy, healthy and resilient community*
- Improve access to quality health facilities, services and programs to achieve good general and mental health in the community
- Improve access to sport, recreation and fitness facilities and programs
- Grow participation in art, culture and community events
- Grow community capacity and belonging through volunteering

Outcome 3 - *A safe community*
- Improve community safety
- Encourage responsible animal management

Our Place – *responsibly planned communities that are attractive, vibrant and well connected*

Outcome 4 - *Responsible growth, development and renewal*
- Deliver contemporary land use planning that encourages and facilitates economic development, livability and sustainability
- Plan for adequate utilities to support responsible growth

Outcome 5 - *Interesting, vibrant and welcoming places*
- Develop appealing, accessible and vibrant retail and service precincts across the District in support of local business activity

Outcome 6 - *Local history, heritage and character preserved*
- Identify, preserve and showcase significant local history and heritage

Outcome 7 - *A safe, sustainable and efficient transport network*
- Improve road safety, connectivity and traffic flow
- Improve access to marine, rail and aviation transport to support population growth, tourism and economic development

ANNUAL BUSINESS PLAN AND BUDGET

2024 – 2025

Our Planet – ***promoting, protecting and enhancing our natural environment, now and for generations to come***

Outcome 8 - *Sustainable management of natural areas*
- Provide sustainable protection and enhancement of the coastline and wetlands

Outcome 9 - *A resilient community that can withstand, adapt to, and recover from, adverse weather events*
- Reduce water usage
- Work towards net zero greenhouse gas emissions
- Develop a sustainable, low waste, circular economy
- Increase community readiness and resilience to adverse weather events

Our Prosperity – ***a thriving community, with an abundance of opportunities for all***

Outcome 10 - *A strong, diverse and resilient economy with work opportunities for everyone*
- Attract, retain and support a diverse range of businesses and industries to grow the economy and create more jobs
- Facilitate access to quality education, training and work opportunities

Outcome 11 - *A highly sought after tourist destination*
- Create a competitive and sustainable tourism offering



Strong Leadership – ***a well governed Council that uses resources wisely to meet the needs of the community***

Outcome 12 - *Strong workplace culture and performance*
- Embrace innovation and best practice to improve business efficiencies and customer experience
- Foster employee engagement and a positive workplace culture
- Maintain sound financial management, including robust long-term modelling

Outcome 13 - *Proactive visionary leaders who are aligned with community needs and values*
- Provide strong, accountable leadership

Outcome 14 - *A well informed and engaged community*
- Grow awareness, understanding and engagement in Council projects, activities and decisions

Council is forecasting an operating surplus of $958,000 for the 2024-2025 financial year.

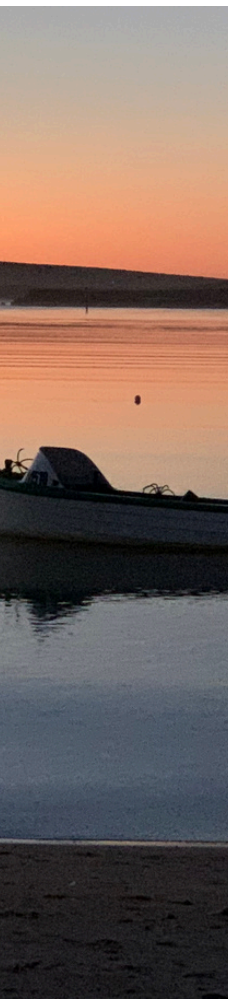
The total budgeted Capital Program for this financial year includes:
- $2.126 million investment in asset replacement works; and
- $1.056 million on new and upgrade of infrastructure

Major Projects include:

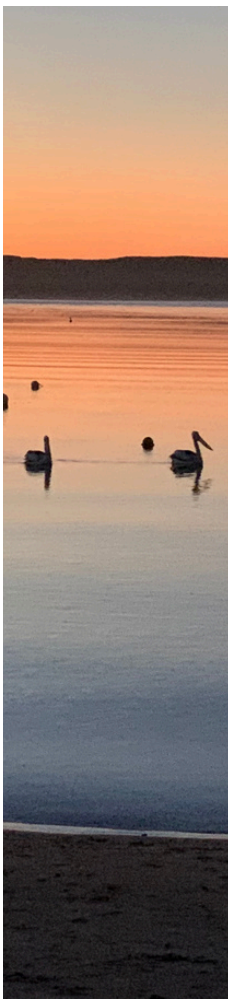
- Unsealed Road Renewal
- Sealed Road Renewal
- Footpath and Kerbing Upgrades
- RSL Memorial Building and Gardens
- Cemetery Upgrades
- New Playground Equipment
- Elliston Aged Care Homes design
- Lock Short Term Workers Accommodation

ANNUAL BUSINESS PLAN AND BUDGET

2024 - 2025



STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME	Forecast 2023-2024 $,000	Budget 2024-2025 $,000	Movement $,000
INCOME			
Rates - General	3,119	3,296	177
Statutory Charges	34	38	4
User Charges	478	1,623	1,146
Grants & Subsidies	2,440	2,318	(123)
Investment Income	32	0	(32)
Reimbursements	41	10	(31)
Other Revenues	25	19	(6)
Total Operating Income	**6,168**	**7,303**	**1,135**
EXPENDITURE			
Employee Costs	1,592	1,990	399
Materials, Contracts & Other Expenses	2,983	2,947	(36)
Depreciation	1,242	1,313	71
Finance Charges	0	94	94
Total Operating Expenditure	**5,817**	**6,345**	**528**
OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	**351**	**958**	**607**
Amounts Received Specifically for New Assets	621	663	42
NET SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) transferred to Equity Statement	**972**	**1,621**	**649**



RATES

Council's budget contains general rate revenue of $2.819M net of mandatory and discretionary rebates. This represents a 5.6% increase on total general rates raised net of mandatory rebates compared to 2023-2024. The average residential rates payable is budgeted to be $2,131.

The general rate comprises of fixed charge of $335 per assessment, and differential general rates on rateable land with the differentiating factors being:

- Residential 0.2929 cents in the dollar
- Commercial – Shop 0.2929 cents in the dollar
- Commercial – Office 0.2929 cents in the dollar
- Commercial – Other 0.2929 cents in the dollar
- Industrial – Light 0.2929 cents in the dollar
- Industrial – Other 0.2929 cents in the dollar
- Primary Production 0.2929 cents in the dollar
- Vacant Land 0.2929 cents in the dollar
- Other 0.2929 cents in the dollar
- Employment (Bulk Handling) Zone 1.2125 cents in the dollar



ANNUAL BUSINESS PLAN AND BUDGET

2024 - 2025

SERVICE CHARGES

Community Wastewater Management Systems – Service Charge

For all properties at Lock serviced by the CWMS, an annual service charge of $493 per property.

Water Supply – Service Charge

For all properties at Port Kenny serviced by the Port Kenny Water Supply, an annual charge of $164 per property.

Waste Management – Service Charge

- 0-0.3m^3 of waste per week on average - $360 per annum
- 0.3-0.6m^3 of waste per week on average - $720 per annum
- 0.6m^3 to 0.9m^3 of waste per week on average - $1,080 per annum

Regional Landscape Levy

The Regional Landscape Levy is a State Government initiative under the Landscape South Australia Act 2019 to provide funding to help take care of natural resources such as water, soil, animal and plant control sustainably developing and protecting natural resources for the benefit of communities and future generations living in the District. Council levies an amount against each rateable property to collect the amount determined by the State Government. For 2024-2025 Council's annual contribution to the Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board is $129,107.

The following table details the Regional Landscape Levy for 2024-2025:

Land Use	
Residential, Vacant & Other	$92.35
Commercial & Industrial	$138.53
Primary Production	$184.70

PAYMENT OF RATES

Rates may be paid as follows:

- Telephone/internet using the Bpay services through participating banks
- Phone the District Council of Elliston on 08 8687 9177 during business hours to pay with Mastercard or Visa. Please quote your Assessment Number.
- Post Billpay – pay in person at any Post Office, phone 13 18 16 or go to postbillpay.com.au
- Post your cheque (marked payable to the District Council of Elliston) with your remittance to DC of Elliston, PO Box 46, Elliston SA 5670
- In person at the District Council of Elliston Offices at 21 Beach Terrace, Elliston SA 5670.

Rates are payable in four instalments on or before the following dates:

- 13 September 2024
- 13 December 2024
- 14 March 2025
- 13 June 2025

and further that, pursuant to Section 181(11) of the Local Government Act 1999, Council determines that:

- ratepayers may apply to pay their rates and service charges in full by 13 December 2024;
- such applications must be lodged with Council by 13 September 2024;
- if rates in these circumstances are paid in full by 13 December 2024, fines and interest will not be applied for the September to December period.

Where a Ratepayer is suffering hardship in paying rates, they are invited to contact the Council to discuss the matter. As part of this Rating Strategy, Council will make available extended payment arrangements by entering into a payment agreement where the payment of Rates will cause a ratepayer demonstrable hardship.





ANNUAL BUSINESS PLAN AND BUDGET
2024 – 2025

REBATES

The Local Government Act 1999 requires Councils to rebate the rates payable on some land. Specific provisions are made for land used for health services, community services, religious purposes, public cemeteries and educational institutions. Discretionary rebates may be applied by the Council under Section 166 of the Local Government Act 1999.

NON-FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE MEASURES – ACHIEVEMENTS 2023-2024

Strategic Objective: Provide Transparent, Strong and accountable leadership	COMMENT
Continue to liaise with State Government on status of boat ramp upgrade and condition and upkeep of State owned jetties	Ongoing
Proactively investigate and apply for grant funding that aligns with Council objectives	Complete
Review community land management plans and maintain leases and license register	In Progress
Continue to review and update Council policies	Complete
Continue to update the work health and safety and risk management programs	Complete
Continue to upgrade the skills of elected members and staff	Complete
Utilise shared service arrangements with local councils where possible	Complete
Provide open, accessible and accountable governance and ensure the community has access to Council decisions, policies and plans	Complete
Publish quarterly Council newsletters	Complete
Maintain regular updated on website, social media and newsletters	Complete
Work status reports included in Council agendas	Complete
Annual review of general rates and service charges	Complete
Legislation compliance with key measures	Complete
Strategic Objective: Provide Community health and mental wellbeing	
Collaborate with regional stakeholder groups	Complete
Provide support and coordinate community events and civic functions	Complete
Provide grants to local community organisations	Complete
Work closely with the community to support and develop opportunities	Complete
Provide administration and in-kind support to the Elliston and District History Group	Complete
Support Lock District Historical Museum	Complete

ANNUAL BUSINESS PLAN AND BUDGET
2024 – 2025

NON-FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE MEASURES – ACHIEVEMENTS 2023-2024 (CONT)

Strategic Objective: Protect and enhance our environment and natural resources	COMMENT
Work with all levels of government on achievable and sustainable targets	Complete
Support installation of electric vehicle charging stations	Complete
Provide recycling education material	Complete
Initiate and promote recycling practices with the community	Complete
Continue campsite delineation and signage project	Complete
Continue to implement the pigeon control program in Elliston township	Complete
Continue to implement the mosquito management surveillance program	Complete
Maintain membership and attendance at stakeholder meetings	Complete
Strategic Objective: Develop and maintain infrastructure services	
Undertake comprehensive review and update Infrastructure and Asset Management Plan	In Progress
Re-sheet 14 kilometres of unsealed road network	Complete
Replace septic tanks at Council owned facilities	Complete
Collaborate with regional stakeholder groups	Complete
Strategic Objective; Support economic development and tourism	
Provide financial support to the Elliston Community and Visitor Information Centre	Complete
Support regional initiatives provide by RDA Eyre Peninsula	Complete
Attendance at regional tourism meetings	Complete
Provide financial support to local businesses to undertake upgrades of their shop fronts	Complete
Provide an annual Sculptures Competition	Complete
Provide an annual Celebrate Christmas Competition	Complete
Continue to encourage and support new business initiatives within our District	Complete



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