

CITY OF ONKAPARINGA – GEOFF EATON - THALASSA WARD COUNCILLOR UPDATE JUNE 2021

Southern Region Waste Resource Federal and State Funding Grant

The City of Onkaparinga received some great news in May, with the federal and state government announcing a further \$3.14 million funding boost our Seaford Heights' Southern Material Recycling Facility. This is on top of \$5.35 million announced after Prime Minister Scott Morrison visited the Southern Region Waste Resource Authority (SRWRA) site earlier this year. The new facility is a joint initiative of SRWRA – a subsidiary of Onkaparinga, Marion and Holdfast Bay councils – and Re.Group, an Australian recycling and resource recovery specialist. This means the partner councils can now process 31,000 tonnes of 'yellow bin' recyclables each year.

Thanks to additional funding the facility will now have capacity to handle more than 60,000 tonnes, which means we can process recyclables from other nearby regions in SA. The site will feature state-of-the-art optical and robotic sorting systems to further improve the quality of recovered materials. This facility will solve many of the recycling challenges we've been facing in recent years, while delivering benefits to our ratepayers and the environment.

This project is a great example of local government working together to tackle a big issue, develop a solution and successfully demonstrate the benefits to state and federal government to secure their support. Our recycling future depended on this solution, and through collaboration we've been able to deliver an amazing outcome.

Cat Desexing

Don't miss out on free cat desexing Do you own a cat or perhaps know a stray cat that might need to be desexed? Onkaparinga residents that own a cat that is not desexed, and residents that feed a semi-owned or stray cat, are being urged to book them in for free desexing before the offer runs out. The free service—which also includes a microchip check, vaccination and flea and worm treatment— is part of Australia's largest cat desexing program, launched by RSPCA South Australia and the City of Onkaparinga in 2020.

This program aims to combat cat overpopulation, and by desexing your cat, you'll be helping reduce the free-roaming cat population in your community and reducing nuisance behaviours such as noise, spraying and fighting. The landmark initiative (funded by a \$200,000 donation from a single donor and \$50,000 from the City of Onkaparinga), allows for the free desexing of 2000 cats until August 2022, but numbers are expected to book out before then.

Bookings are by appointment and for City of Onkaparinga residents only, and you need to register via the RSPCA South Australia website.

Appointments are being opened monthly and fill very fast. If no appointments are available, you can join the waiting list to be notified when new appointments open.

Residents are strongly recommended to vaccinate their cat before desexing, and also to keep your cat indoors at night where it's safe.

Cat Management Minton Farm Petition

Whilst talking about cats it is appropriate to use Bev Langley's email below to remind everyone of the petition that is currently available calling for the better management of domestic cats. Minton Farm is committed to improving our environmental biodiversity and

to the relieving of suffering for wildlife. This year has seen a massive increase in the occurrence of proven domestic cat predation, especially to ringtail possums, but also reptiles and a dozen different species of birds. Its frightening to imagine how many attacks are not witnessed but occur day and night. Many community members arrive in tears being so distressed about their neighbours' cats coming into their garden and decimating wildlife. We have never received such a vast amount in 29 years of rescuing wildlife. To that end we have a petition to the House of Assembly to request a review of the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995. Specifically requiring cats be contained to the owners property 24/7; to give Councils the power to control wandering cats. This has a win/win outcome of protecting cats from harm, as well as the wildlife.

Follow this link to find our petition- <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1LxQvSxhSGPjlxo-tXVOiBYZLTwxymL7v/view>

Could you please print it out, sign, and share as widely as possible to try to reach 10,000 signatures combined. This will make a difference to curb the unsustainable destruction for the children of our Grand children to experience the biodiversity we have that is struggling to survive now. 200 years of uncontrolled cat roaming is long enough. Return the paper petitions to Minton Farm, 455 Cherry Gardens Road, Cherry Gardens, SA, 5157 by mail or in person; or to Carol Alford at 2 Viaduct Road, Eden Hills. SA, 5050. (Opposite Wittunga Botanical Gardens, off Shepherds Hill Road). Digital signatures will not be accepted in Parliament only paper based petitions with a printed name, signature, suburb and postcode fully completed please. Some people may have the original petition, which is still relevant if you print the name next to the signatures please. We do have a separate digital petition on our Facebook page but this paper one will have the most impact.

Promoting Community Groups, Clubs & Events

Promote your groups, clubs and events with MyCity Onkaparinga

Want to tell the world about your club, community group or event?

You can now add your clubs, community groups and events to the City of Onkaparinga website, attracting new audiences and interest.

MyCity Onkaparinga is a new portal on the City of Onkaparinga website, allowing residents to register for an account and then create events, community directory listings or local business listings. Events must be community focused, open to the public and held within the City of Onkaparinga.

Suitable events include: come-and-try days, community fundraising events, open days, markets, online training opportunities, webinars, etc.

Garage sales, business sales events and real estate open houses/auctions will not be approved. Similar to the local business directory on the ON Business Partner Program website, the local Community Directory provides community groups, clubs and organisations a place to share information and promote events they're running with City of Onkaparinga's residents. Suitable groups include: sporting and social clubs, book clubs, knitting/craft groups, youth/senior groups, scouts/girl guides, other not-for-profit organisations.

Groups must be based within the City of Onkaparinga and be open to public enquiries and new members.

Go to the MyCity Onkaparinga portal to register for free and connect with your city onkaparingacity.com/mycity

Sustainability Onkaparinga Facebook Page

Follow the new Sustainable Onkaparinga Facebook page Onkaparinga residents have a new community-focused Facebook page to follow with a spotlight on the environment.

The Sustainable Onkaparinga page, launched to coincide with World Environment Day (5 June), welcomes locals to stay informed, share ideas, learn new skills and spark discussions. A wide range of topics will be covered on the page including how to reduce waste to landfill and recycle right, getting outdoors to conserve and connect with nature, how to get climate ready, tips to reduce energy use and costs, how to be water smart, food and growing tips for your garden, and much more. Every one of the 170,000 households in our region is serviced by our waste, recycling and organics collection, so it's no surprise this is the number one enquiry our customer relations team receives.

Council's popular and free face-to-face sustainability workshops came to an abrupt halt last year due to COVID-19 restrictions, but the team quickly moved them to an online format via social media so the learning could continue during the pandemic.

We immediately realised our residents have an appetite for the convenience of an online approach that is accessible to them at anytime and suits their hectic lifestyles.

Fantastically, our 2020 online program reached more than 45,000 people. That's 40,000 more than our face-to-face workshops and events best year. In a recent council survey, 81 per cent of respondents said the best thing about living in the City of Onkaparinga is the diverse and unique natural environment including its spectacular coastline, flora and fauna.

Our goal is that the Sustainable Onkaparinga Facebook page will create an online community that helps to reduce our environmental impact and preserve the natural beauty of the Onkaparinga region into the future. As well as sharing council initiatives, the Sustainable Onkaparinga page will celebrate local environmental champions and advocates including households, businesses, schools, volunteers, and community groups that are doing their bit for the environment.

We absolutely welcome our community to share their own sustainable tips and success stories. You never know how sharing your story, might inspire someone else to make a difference too. Be one of the first to follow the new Sustainable Onkaparinga page here to stay up-to-date with content in your

[Facebooknewsfeedfacebook.com/SustainableOnkaparinga](https://www.facebook.com/SustainableOnkaparinga)

Children Reading to Success

Did you know reading aloud with your child has proven to be one of the most valuable ways to set them up for success and help them develop a lifelong love of reading?

City of Onkaparinga's six libraries offer free story time sessions for toddlers and babies, and there are a range of benefits the sessions offer. Research has shown children whose parents read to them when they're young learn to speak, read and write more easily.

The most important stage of brain development is between birth and three years of age, with 90 percent of brain development taking place between birth and five years of age.

Reading can help develop the brain's ability to focus, concentrate, plus improve social skills and communication skills.

Reading with your child promotes early literacy skills including phonological awareness and letter recognition. It can help a child regulate their emotions and learn about their world and events, help them to discover, stimulate curiosity and learn new things such as familiarisation with animals and the sounds they make, different types of vehicles and transport and different cultures.

Reading with your child also promotes a sense of safety, resilience, closeness and belonging with parents as they sit together and share the story. There are a range of storytime sessions available at Woodcroft, Seaford, Aldinga, Noarlunga, Willunga and Hub Libraries,

which provide an opportunity to socialise with other new parents and caregivers, and provide an opportunity to learn new skills to engage with your child from experienced library staff.

Free sessions include:

Babytime – featuring age-appropriate stories, songs and rhymes to enjoy with your baby and encourage a sense of closeness and communication

Toddler time – which develop literacy skills with age-appropriate stories and lots of action-based songs and rhymes to keep active toddlers engaged

Storytime – where children can enjoy stories and songs while developing school readiness skills for kindergarten and primary school

Sensory-friendly Storytime – which is focused on sensory based stories and activities that are accessible and fun for young children who prefer a calmer storytime environment with smaller group numbers and less distractions.

Bookings via Eventbrite are essential – head to onkaparingacity.com/libraries to explore the children and youth programs on offer and book your place.

Clarendon Netball Courts

Following the strong advocacy of my co-councillor Marion Themeliotis and a meeting held in early June between Steve Korendyk (Clarendon Netball Club), Mayor Erin Thompson Nick Carr (Manager Recreation Services) and myself it can be confirmed that the following upgrade of the Clarendon Netball Courts will occur:

- Each of the three netball courts (top and bottom courts) used by Clarendon Netball Club and the head leasee Clarendon Tennis Club are in need of investment to make them safe, compliant and improve the player experience.
- No capital construction works are planned/budgeted for the courts 2021-22 financial year.
- There is **budget in 2021-22 to design the full reconstruction and lighting upgrade of the top court** to meet current court standards in line with Netball Australia National Facilities Policy and Tennis Australia National Tennis Facility Planning and Development Guide.
- It is **scheduled to rebuild the top court in 2022-23** subject to approval of Council's budget and the securing of 50% funding through the Office for Recreation Sport and Racing or other external source. Other internal funding sources will also be investigated.
- **Recoating of bottom courts (netball courts 2 and 3)** is scheduled for 2021-22 – subject to the approval of Council's budget. It should be noted that whilst the safety hazard posed by the tennis post sleeves will be addressed, the current courts runoffs will not be increased.
- **Reconstruction of bottom courts (courts 2 and 3)** is scheduled for the mid-term (4-7 years), tentatively 2026-27 – subject to approved budget. The timing of large capital works projects such as this only becomes firmer once the project moves into the short term window (1-3 years) – noting we plan in year 1, design in year 2 and construct in year 3. Repositioning/reorientation of the bottom courts to meet current court standards in line with Netball Australia National Facilities Policy and Tennis Australia National Tennis Facility Planning and Development Guide will be considered as part of the planning and design process in the context of the Clarendon Recreation Ground Master Plan.
- In this context, whilst there is a desire by the club to bring the construction of the top court forward into 2021-22, this is not possible, as a design has not been undertaken and the council and state government funding required is yet to be secured.

- Whilst there is also a desire to bring the reconstruction of the bottom courts forward, this would require a decision of Council (the elected body) given the budget implications and likelihood it would mean that another sport and recreation infrastructure project would be postponed – which has its own ramifications for another club/s.
- Progress planning and scheduling of recoating works for the bottom courts in consultation with the Club.
- Assist with negotiations for use of the Kangarilla Recreation Ground Committee netball courts during the works period if required.
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Main Road Cherry Gardens Update

The Mayor has recently written to the Minister for Transport concerning the need to upgrade Main Road between Black Road and Cherry Gardens Road. It is being proposed to hold a community meeting in July involving residents, Hon. Josh Teague (Member for Heyesen), Mayor Thompson and ward councillors. The time, date and location has not yet been finalised but once it is known we will ensure that the relevant communities are advised, so please keep *an eye out* once an announcement is made.

Aldinga Washpool Conservation Park Announcement

The state government will protect the unique Aldinga Washpool forever by proclaiming it as a conservation park. This is a huge win for the Onkaparinga region and anyone who loves the Washpool area. The City of Onkaparinga has been advocating strongly on behalf of the community for many years to secure the future of the Washpool and surrounding land. Many thanks to the tireless efforts of local community and environment groups who've supported on this journey, providing their energy and support through advocacy and on-ground conservation activities. Thanks to Minister Speirs for this decision which represents a strong commitment to conservation, culture and the environment. The Aldinga Washpool area can now continue providing environmental, cultural, social and economic benefits for generations to come. However there are still areas of land adjacent the Washpool zone that are marked as "subject to further consideration for inclusion in the conservation park" on the state government's proposed park map. Both Council and our community agree that all land in the area should be included in the park, including these zones. Given the cultural significance of the Washpool, the City of Onkaparinga also recognises the important opportunity the proclamation of the park presents for co-management with Kurna representatives. Through their community co-design process, we urge the state government to discuss the potential of involving Traditional Owners in the management of the park. We look forward to working alongside all stakeholders involved in the co-design process in shaping a management plan for the area.

Disclaimer

The views expressed in this article are my own and do not necessarily reflect those of Council.

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