

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

Seaford Heights Recycling Facility

The Prime Minister Scott Morrison visited the City of Onkaparinga at the beginning of April to announce the Federal Government would contribute \$5.35 million in funding for a new recycling facility at Seaford Heights. The best-practice Southern Materials Recovery Facility (SMRF) is a joint initiative of the Southern Region Waste Resource Authority (SRWRA) – a subsidiary of Onkaparinga, Marion and Holdfast Bay councils – and Re.Group (an Australian recycling and resource recovery specialist).

It will process at least 31,000 tonnes annually of ‘yellow bin’ recyclables and has the capacity to handle more than 60,000 tonnes. This will allow the new facility to service other regional councils and commercial businesses from the surrounding area, helping to create a more resilient recycling sector for all South Australia. It will also meet the Australian Government’s commitment to build the nation’s recycling capacity and stop the international export of low-value material.

This state-of-the-art facility will not only deliver benefits for our ratepayers and local economy, it will respond to the impacts of climate change, joining the renewable energy hub being built next door at SRWRA’s emission-neutral landfill site.

The facility design includes the latest in sorting and screening technology and has the capacity to convert recycled glass into sand for use by local councils in civil and road construction works. It is anticipated the SMRF will employ 18 people on a full-time basis for the next 20 years. These jobs require advanced manufacturing skills, and will see staff using cutting-edge technology to process the region’s recyclables. The SMRF represents an investment of over \$20 million to the Adelaide region, which will result in resilience in the state’s waste management and resource recovery capabilities.

The facility is expected to be operational by the end of June, 2021.

Top Tourist Towns

The City of Onkaparinga’s finalists are Aldinga, Christies Beach, McLaren Flat, McLaren Vale, Port Noarlunga and Willunga. The SA Top Tourism Town awards are delivered by South Australia’s peak tourism body, the Tourism Industry Council of SA, and recognise both well-established and emerging towns in SA that deliver amazing visitor experiences and are committed to growing visitation. Now it’s over to the public, to vote for your favourite tourism town. More details including the link to vote can be found on the City of Onkaparinga’s Facebook page or onkaparinganow.com. By voting, you can enter to win a family getaway at one of 12 SA council-owned caravan parks in a cabin valued at \$500. The City of Onkaparinga was pleased to support business and tourism associations to enter the awards and we’re thrilled to see the hard work and dedication of this industry being recognised, particularly after being hit so hard over the last 12 months.

I continually raise the Clarendon and Coromandel Valley areas as a great place for visitors to our region to travel through at the City of Onkaparinga Economic Development Forum and will continue to strive to get a greater recognition for these locations. As it will have an economic benefit for both locations.

Upgrade Main Road Cherry Gardens

I have been having discussions with a number of Cherry Gardens residents regarding the current status of the road surface of Main Road particularly between Black Road and Cherry

Gardens Road. This is a Department of Infrastructure and Transport road and council administration have written to the department raising road safety issues on this section of the roadway. I took the opportunity to have a good talk to the Member for Heysen (Josh Teague) at the Clarendon Anzac Day memorial service.

Anzac Day

During the evening of Saturday 24 April I attended the Youth Vigil at the Morphett Vale War Memorial, then home for a sleep and then having the pleasure to attend the 6.00 am "Lighting of the Street" ceremony and then the Memorial Service later in the morning at Clarendon. Apart from recognising those service men and women who have served our country it was lovely to mix with the Clarendon and districts residents. You all live in such a nice area and I enjoy the community spirit. By the way I took the opportunity to lay a small rock at the memorial at end of the service and it is now with the Clarendon Museum. One way wonder the background to this little rock? It was one of five that I collected from the shore of Anzac Cove, Gallipoli 100 years to the day that the Australian and New Zealand forces landed on that sacred shore. I had the honour of attending the centenary dawn service with my wife Sue. What an emotional experience/pilgrimage and to experience the respect that the Turkish community has for Australians and New Zealanders.

Morton Road Skate Park

The Morton Road skate park at Christie Downs was opened in time for the recent April school holidays. The park has features for all skills levels and riders, including skateboarders, BMX riding, scooter and roller-skating. There are lots of trees to sit under too, so the whole family can come down and enjoy the action. The skate park is part of the \$3.5 million Sports and Community hub, which is due to open later this year. The hub will include multi-use tennis and netball courts, junior and youth play spaces, seating, shelters, barbecues, basketball half-court, irrigated lawns and public toilets.

Council has partnered with the Roger Rasheed Sports Foundation and federal and state governments to deliver the project, and it really is a great example of all levels of government working together to deliver a positive outcome for the community. The \$3.5 million for the project includes \$1.5 million from both the City of Onkaparinga and state government, \$400,000 from the federal government towards the tennis courts, and \$100,000 from the RRSF.

Happy Valley Drive Bike/Walking Track

Work has now commenced on the Federal Government National Stimulus funded bike and walking trail along the eastern side of Happy Valley Drive from Chandlers Hill Road to Manning Road. This will provide a safe pathway for people to enjoy our great out doors.

Port Noarlunga Sports Complex Upgrade

The \$3.3 million upgrade to the Port Noarlunga Sports Complex will now go ahead with the state government in March announcing it will match council's funding (\$1.65 million). The clubrooms and change rooms for the football, netball, cricket and tennis clubs will be upgraded as part of the project. The new facility will provide new community spaces including the social space and kitchen, both for club members and creating further opportunities for revenue generation through community use and events. Women will also receive their own dedicated change rooms to support their participation in sport, particularly the growing Australian rules football competition.

The ground is used by local football, cricket, netball, tennis and gridiron clubs; community groups; and for events such as the Port Noarlunga Blues Festival, so there's many different groups that will benefit. Each club has a strong membership base at the oval and contributes to the development of a healthy, active community.

Clarendon Netball Club

Mayor Thompson, Councilor Themeliotis and myself have a meeting scheduled in June with the netball club to discuss issue around upgrading the netball clubs' facilities

Happy Valley Reservoir

In late March I was able to visit the Happy Valley Reservoir, thanks to SA Water and the Department for Environment and Water and see what is planned for the future opening of the reservoir with fellow councilors and the mayor, Erin Thompson. The state government is planning to open the reservoir up for recreation activity by December.

It's a beautiful site and it also holds our drinking water, so there'll be limits on the activities allowed. Walking, cycling, fishing and kayaking will all be allowed, but swimming, paddle boarding and boating will not. Dog walking and horses will also not be allowed. The reservoir's trails will connect with existing trails in the area.

Mayor Thompsn was inundated with feedback and questions from residents on social media since the visit, with questions about proposed uses of the site and concerns about the potential impact to the reservoir's natural ecosystem and water security. She has since written to Minister for Environment and Water David Speirs to respond to those questions and concerns, and will keep you informed on her Facebook site.

Open Engagement – Your Say

- Decorative Street Lighting Upgrades ***NEW** (starting in Flagstaff Hill and rolling out across the city)
- Public Art – Old Reynella Murals (closing 9 May)
- Naming options for a reserve in Coromandel Valley (closing 30 April)
- Morton Road Reserve – name suggestions (for shortlisting then further community engagement)

Go to www.onkaparingacity.com/yoursay for more information.

Disclaimer

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

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