

GEOFF EATON – THALASSA WARD COUNCILLOR – OCTOBER 2024 - NEWSLETTER

During the month of August my community meeting/events activities included the following attendances:

- Wattle Day Street Event Aberfoyle Park.
- Southern District Neighbourhood Watch Committee AGM.
- Prostate Cancer Support Group City of Onkaparinga monthly meeting Noarlunga Downs.
- Coromandel Valley Community Centre's Men's Breakfast.
- Aberfoyle Park Community Centre's Men's Breakfast.
- Healthy Cities Onkaparinga/Onkaparinga Food Security Collaborative monthly meeting on-line.
- Coromandel Valley and Districts National Trust Morning Tea listening post.
- Community street meeting with the Member for Waite and residents regarding bus stop safety issues Main Road Coromandel Valley.
- Meeting with resident regarding community event planning.
- On-line Local Government Association session - Local Government Financial Sustainability.
- Elected members mandatory training session - Meeting Procedures.
- Special Council Meeting - Representation Review.
- Spin Your Wheels event Minkarra Skate Park.
- Clarendon Historical Hall and Museum monthly meeting.
- Aberfoyle Repair Caffe' listening post.
- Street gathering with Member for Davenport, Cr Themeliotis and residents of Eucalypt Circuit Flagstaff Hill.
- Aberfoyle Park and Happy Valley Neighbourhood Watch area meeting.
- Council monthly meeting.
- Coromandel Community Centre AGM with Cr Themeliotis.
- Clarendon Agriculture Bureau monthly meeting.
- Reynella Neighbourhood Centre Markets.
- Southern Districts Showcase Hackham with Crs Themeliotis, Davis and Stafford.
- Opening of Seaford Rotary Clubs new shed facility with Deputy Mayor Platten.
- On-line session - State Planning Greater Adelaide Regional Plan.
- Elected Members session – Council's Sport Light Review and Council Leasing and Licensing policy.
- Clarendon Community Association AGM with Cr Themeliotis.
- Clarendon Historic Hall and Museum AGM.
- Southern Districts Baseball Committee monthly meeting.

Due to time clashes I had to miss the following engagements opportunities:

- Cherry Gardens Garden Club.
- Cherry Chatter Newsletter committee.
- Healthy Cities Onkaparinga Water Security, Environment and Health Forum.
- Reynella Neighbourhood Watch Area meeting.
- Flagstaff Oval Board meeting.

2024 City of Onkaparinga Business Awards

The 2024 Onkaparinga Business Awards registrations have commenced and we are encouraging local businesses to participate by registering at gosouthgolocal.com.au/awards.

Now in their sixth year, the Onkaparinga Business Awards acknowledge and celebrate the high calibre businesses who make an integral contribution to Onkaparinga's local economy,

by asking the locals to vote for their favourites. The Business Awards aim to increase the number of residents engaged with local businesses, boost patronage and improve local consumer spending within the region. The Awards Program is going from strength to strength, and last year garnered more than 9,000 votes for 450 businesses across the region.

Key dates

Business registrations opened Monday 2 September 9am

Public voting opens on Monday 30 September at 9am Public voting closes on Sunday 27 October at 11.59pm
 Finalists are announced on Thursday 31 October

How can you assist?

Start encouraging businesses in your area to participate and register at gosouthgolocal.com.au/awards. They will be directed to download a flyer to display prominently in their premises which contains a QR code customers scan to vote, and digital marketing assets to use on their social media channels.

How can you encourage voting?

When voting opens (30 September), we will send a social media tile and draft social media post for you to use on your social media channels to encourage the community to vote for their favourite businesses.

Winners will be announced at an Awards Night being held at the Vale Brewing Restaurant and Bar in McLaren Flat on Wednesday 13 November, hosted by our very own Cr Dan Platten! We hope you can join us.

#onkaparingabusinesawards #gosouthgolocal

Mayor's Drawing Competition

Primary school students are invited to enter the Mayor's Drawing Competition for a chance to win \$100 in art supplies with all entries to be displayed at our Family Fun Day to celebrate Children's Week at Aldinga Community Centre on Saturday 26 October where the winners will be announced. Visit any Onkaparinga Library during the October school holidays, collect a template and draw something that fits the theme 'Where I live, what I love'.

City of Onkaparinga's Australia Day Awards Nominations

It is time to recognise all the hard-working people in our community that help make our region a great place to live. These awards acknowledge and celebrate local individuals and groups who have made significant contributions to our community.

Nomination categories include:

- Citizen of the Year
- Young Citizen of the Year (Aged 13-30)
- Little Hero of the Year (Aged 12 and under)
- Sportsperson of the Year
- Community Event of the Year
- Active Citizenship (for non-Australian Citizens).

Nominations close on 15 November 2024 and recipients of these prestigious awards will be announced on Australia Day, 26 January 2025. Elected members are encouraging the community to nominate people who have contributed significantly to our community. For nominations or further information [click here](#).

Trucks on Tour

The big trucks are back, and we are inviting everyone to come to this free event.

Trucks on Tour will return to Wilfred Taylor Reserve, Morphett Vale between 10am and 2pm, Friday 11 October.

[Trucks on Tour](#) is a community event which council hosts annually.

This year there'll be more than 35 vehicles at the free, family-friendly event at Wilfred Taylor Reserve on Friday 11 October.

See fire trucks, police cars, street sweepers, excavators, ambulances and waste trucks. Watch the flashing lights. Hear the sirens, honk the horns or get behind the wheel of an emergency vehicle.

It is not all noise and engines. The event caters for those with sensory issues as well. The event will have a sensory hour – 1pm to 2pm – when there'll be no horns, sirens or noisy demonstrations.

There will also be an all-day sensory refuge and quiet activity zone hosted by Spectrum Connect.

This year, for the first time, Trucks on Tour welcomes five new organisations and their great array of vehicles: the Royal Flying Doctor Service, the RAA, the Australian Army, Fleurieu Connections Alliance and Southcoast Earthworx.

They will join the line-up of vehicles from SA Police, the State Emergency Service, the Country Fire Service, the Metropolitan Fire Service, the City of Onkaparinga and – returning to the event – the South Australian Ambulance Service.

Officers from the council, emergency services and SA Power Networks will be on hand to demonstrate how vehicles like backhoes, skidsteer loaders, waste trucks and hard rubbish trucks work.

Food, drinks and snacks can be purchased from local food trucks or the onsite barbecue. You can also pack your own picnic and bring a rug to spread out on the grass.

Long-Term Financial Plan Strategic Asset Community Consultation

The council is always seeking community views on its plans, policies and projects.

One way we do it is through our online platform, Your Say Onkaparinga – head to onkaparingacity.com/yoursay

There are several interesting engagements open now:

Planning for our future

We are seeking views on two of our key plans:

- the Long-Term Financial Plan which outlines how we will maintain a solid financial position over the next 20 years
- the Strategic Asset Management Plan which details how we will manage our assets to align with community needs and goals.

Our focus is on debt reduction to better position the council for a sustainable financial future. The two documents show how we plan to achieve this.

Primarily it means a reduction in the capital budget for new and significant upgrades in 2025-26.

In 2025-26, only water resource projects, works on the Noarlunga Aquatic and Recreation Centre, and fully funded projects already scheduled will be fully funded in that year.

The New and Significant Upgrades (NSU) program, which includes things like footpaths, playgrounds, sport and recreation facilities, coastal works and trails, will resume in 2026-27.

The budget for road renewal works has also been reduced for the next four years to focus on roads with significant safety or financial risks, but other renewal programs will continue as planned.

The engagement is open until 20 October.

Cat Management

The City of Onkaparinga is undertaking a survey to learn how many cat owners are currently containing their cats and the extent to which respondents are experiencing issues with uncontained cats.

We are also asking for community their views on the best way to manage cats, considering the effectiveness and cost of regulation versus education. The survey covers:

- containment of owned cats
- limits on cats
- registration fees for cats
- preferred approach to cat management.

The survey is open until 13 October.

Onkaparinga Grants Program Review

The City of Onkaparinga is currently reviewing the Onkaparinga Grants program.

We have finite funds in the grants pool, so we want to ensure the greatest impact is delivered to the community from the grants provided.

In line with the Community Vision, we are designing a new grants program that will support initiatives that demonstrate partnership with

other community groups or stakeholders, emphasise collective impact and are driven by community leadership.

We're seeking the community's help to shape the new grants program.

The engagement is open until 20 October.

State Government Small Business Energy Efficiency Grants

The following information has been provided by the Member for Waite Catherine Hutchesson MP.

I thought you might be interested in a new State government initiative: the Small Business Energy Efficiency Grants fund. It's run by the Office for Small and Family Business (OSFB) and is part of an overall Malinauskas government \$154.2m Economic Recovery Fund.

The Program will support eligible small businesses and not-for-profits to invest in energy efficiency equipment or other improvements. The aim is to help you to reduce and manage your energy use and costs.

The not-for-profit area includes community organisations, sports clubs and churches as long as they meet the following criteria:

- Have a valid and active ABN
- Be registered for the GST. If you're not registered, you'll need to provide your most recent tax return showing that your annual turnover was greater than \$75 000.

A total of \$20 million is available in 2024-25. The Government will reimburse 50% of matched eligible expenditure up to a maximum of \$50,000 (ex GST). It's first in best-dressed -so make sure you get your application in as soon as possible. Applications close 29 November 2024.

You can find all the details in this link: <https://business.sa.gov.au/programs/small-business-energy-efficiency-grant>.

Batteries and solar panels; lighting systems; energy efficient appliances; heating, cooling and refrigeration upgrades; hot water systems; pumps and compressors; insulation and external shading; and automated energy monitoring and management – these are all eligible activities.

You can contact the Office for Small and Family Business at smallbusinessenergygrants@sa.gov.au or by phone at 08 8429 3801.

The OSFB advises that you can start an application and ask questions as you go along. You are also welcome to contact my office for advice at waite@parliament.sa.gov.au or 08 8278 5844.

The Office for Small and Family Business is also offering the **Small Business Sustainability Support Program**.

It includes a free workshop to be held at an Adelaide metro venue on 14 November as well as subsidised one-on-one consultations at a cost of \$500. You can find out more at <https://business.sa.gov.au/programs/sustainability-support-program>.

These are really great opportunities for our local businesses, community groups, sports clubs and churches. I hope that you'll look into it.

Onkaparinga Business Awards

Voting for the Onkaparinga Business Awards is now open.

The awards are an annual event – and it is the community who decides their favourite businesses in our region.

The [awards](#) recognise and celebrate the businesses that make the region thrive. The judges are our community, and you can vote for as many of your favourite businesses as you like but only one vote per business is counted.

Last year, more than 9,000 votes were received for more than 400 local businesses, from large companies to sole traders. We have 15 categories in the awards as we're keen to recognise the important impact businesses have across all sectors, from hospitality and retail to the creative arts and personal and professional services.

No matter their size, they build our local economy and contribute to the vibrancy of our community.

To be eligible, businesses must have a valid ABN with their central business address located within the City of Onkaparinga region.

Three finalists will be named in each of the 15 award categories, based on the number of votes.

Voting closes on Sunday 27 October. Head to gosouthglocal.com/awards and cast your vote now.

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We encourage you to promote the awards through your networks to ensure the groups and individuals receive the recognition that they deserve.

For nominations or further information [click here](#).

Department for Infrastructure and Transport Forward Work Plan Projects

The Department for Infrastructure and Transport (DIT) recently held their annual industry briefing event on Thursday 19 September 2024 and have subsequently released their Forward Work Plan for Major Programs 2024-2027 ([click here for link](#)).

The purpose of this event and the Forward Work Plan is mainly to inform the industry's contractors and consultants about upcoming opportunities to gain work through DIT. It also provides a good opportunity to understand what kind of work may be upcoming that is located within the City of Onkaparinga, although the program only provides minimal detail beyond the project name and programmed delivery timeframe.

Some key upcoming projects within the City of Onkaparinga include:

- Main South Road – Southern Expressway to Robinson Road / Griffiths Drive Planning Study which is for planning and design only and is to be delivered by June 2025. Whilst this does not commit any funding for the delivery of the project, this project is one of council's key advocacy items which we refer to as 'Gateway to the South'. It will also be critical to inform the planning of the Onkaparinga Heights urban release area.
- Beach Road/Dyson Road Duplication which is for planning and design only and is to be delivered by March 2025. This work is focusing on the potential duplication of Beach Road from Main South Road to Dyson Road, and will also look at opportunities to upgrade Dyson Road from Beach Road to Goldsmith Drive.
- Happy Valley Drive / Chandlers Hill Road and Happy Valley Drive/Windebanks which is for planning and design only.
- Kangarilla Road / Dashwood Gully Road, Clarendon to Kangarilla regional corridor improvement program which is to deliver road upgrades by December 2026.
- Main Road, Cherry Gardens regional corridor improvement program (currently underway) which is to be completed by December 2024.
- Adelaide and Regional Rail Network Extensions
- under the Public Transport program, which is likely to involve the planning for the Aldinga Rail extension and is to be delivered by June 2026.

Additionally, there are other projects which may provide opportunities for council to seek funding or contribute towards strategy. This includes DIT's 'Cycling and Pedestrian Safety' program which will deliver new pedestrian and cyclist crossings, pedestrian safety upgrades for existing intersections and school zone projects. There are also additional strategies in the program, including the Active Transport Strategy, Network Safety Plan, Public Transport Strategy and Transport Strategy.

New Dog-on-lead By-laws

We have introduced new dog control measures across the City of Onkaparinga.

Dogs must be on lead at 12 new sites across Onkaparinga following changes to council by-laws.

The new restrictions address community concerns about protection of plants and wildlife, such as hooded plovers, as well as about safety and dog attacks.

They will come into effect over the coming months as new signage is installed.

The council approved the latest changes to the by-law in July 2024 following community consultation. You can see all the changes at onkaparingacity.com/yoursay

The consultation established community support for introducing dog-on-lead measures at the majority of the sites.

Current dog-control measures at Minkarra Park North, Port Noarlunga Beach and Christies Beach remain unchanged based on feedback in the consultation.

Existing measures

It is also important to remind you of other measures already in place.

Daylight savings starts on Sunday 6 October so dogs must be on lead between 10am and 8pm at parts on local beaches including Christies Beach, Port Noarlunga and South Port.

There are also measures that require dogs to be on lead during organised sporting events and training sessions on sporting grounds.

Protection of hooded plovers

The value of dog-control measures to protect plants and animals comes into sharp focus during the hooded plover nesting season.

Hooded plovers are Australia's most threatened beach-nesting birds and face threats from predators including dogs and foxes.

So far this year there are seven nesting pairs on local beaches. Some of their eggs have already been lost, mainly from high tides, foxes, and bird predators.

Last season was the most successful on record with seven chicks fledging, that is growing big enough to fly.

The council works with volunteers, BirdLife Australia and Green Adelaide to control foxes in the area and look after the dunes.

In 2023, we introduced measures to better protect hooded plover nesting sites, strengthening dog controls and requiring vehicles to park further away from sites.

Get Online Week

Get Online Week is an important national initiative and Onkaparinga Libraries take part every year.

Get Online Week, running from 14 to 20 October, is a national campaign to close the digital divide. It supports people to feel safer and more confident online, so no one is left behind.

Again, this year, our libraries are running free events to build people's online skills, confidence and safety.

A range of events is on offer, from improving digital skills and avoiding scams to 3D printing and researching your family history.

It's important because so many services are online but also because so many of our social connections happen online now, from sharing photos to events and video calls.

Community members can book into a Get Online Week workshop by going online, booking in person at one of our local libraries, or calling 8384 0655.

Onkaparinga's libraries also offer year-round digital help sessions. Residents can book a free one-on-one, 30-minute training session to get help with their digital devices such as mobile phones, tablets and laptops.

A range of digital resources, including on online safety, is available at onkaparingacity.com/libraries

Mayor's Poetry and Writing Competition

Get writing for the first-ever Mayor's Poetry and Writing Competition.

The launch of the competition is great opportunity for both new and seasoned writers alike.

Writing is a way to share our thoughts and ideas.

The mayor is looking forward to hearing a wide range of voices. Listening and learning from a range of different points of view and media in all the arts helps us see and experience new perspectives.

You are invited to put pen to paper, voice to text and tap into your creativity.

Entries of fiction or poetry can be up to 500 words and must be on the theme 'This Place I Call Home', drawing inspiration from the City of Onkaparinga's people or places.

There are three categories:

- Youth: Open to young people aged 12 to 17 years (flash fiction or poetry)
- Flash Fiction: Open to adults aged 18 years and over
- Poetry: Open to adults aged 18 years and over.

Writers can submit one story or piece of poetry per eligible category.

To be eligible, entrants must be South Australian residents. Employees and household members of the City of Onkaparinga and Writers SA are not eligible.

Entries must be lodged online by 5pm, Thursday 31 October, and you can find the entry link at onkaparingacity.com/libraries or the Writers SA website.

The competition will be managed and judged by Writers SA, the state's peak organisation for writers and writing. Winners will be announced and contacted by Onkaparinga Libraries during the week beginning Monday, 25 November 2024. They will receive Writers SA annual memberships and access to one or more workshops.

Piggott Range Road Chandlers Hill - Safety Upgrades

The road safety improvement works on Piggott Range Road, Chandlers Hill are progressing well. The road shoulder widening is nearing completion, and we are about to commence reconstructing the road. The road reconstruction requires profiling out the existing road surface. During profiling, we will require a full road closure on Piggott Range Road between Grants Gully Road and Education Road, including the intersection with Easton Road and Gunyah Road. This closure is required to manage the safety for road users, contractors and our construction staff onsite. The road closures will commence from Monday 14 October 2024 as dayworks only, from 7:00am to 6:00pm, Monday to Friday, for three consecutive weeks (weather permitting). We will continue to maintain access for local residents and businesses within the work zone whilst the road closure is underway with all other traffic diverted onto Grants Gully Road and Education Road. The road will be open to through traffic with safety restrictions in place outside of these hours. Further road closures will be required on this section of road for pavement treatment works and advance notification will again be provided. This road safety improvement project is expected to be completed by late November 2024.

We apologise for any inconvenience and appreciate your patience while these road safety improvement works are underway.

Sellicks Beach Dust Monitoring

In July 2024, council's Director Planning wrote to Nick Champion, Minister for Planning and Elinor Walker, head of the state Housing, Infrastructure, Planning and Development Unit (HIPDU), requesting consideration of expanding the proposed investigation and monitoring of dust from the Sellicks Hill Quarry. While this has not been directly accommodated, the HIPDU investigation will *'will identify where dust particles are coming from and if they present health impacts on the future residential community'*. It is anticipated that this study will also benefit existing residential users' assessment of amenity/health risks.

The proposed investigation is related to the rezoning of the Sellicks Beach area to the west of the quarry, and not the EPA's ongoing monitoring of dust from the quarry's operations. While the EPA can direct operational change from the quarry operator Adbri, HIPDU's monitoring, referred to in these letters, is proposed to inform rezoning and planning outcomes.

World Mental Health Day – Base 10 Youth Centre

We are celebrating [World Mental Health Day](#) on Thursday 10 October from 6-8pm at Base 10 Youth Centre, Old Reynella.

We will be hosting the [Creatives and Wellness Seminar](#), hosted by Youth Program Officer Travis Demsey, where an industry panel will explore wellbeing in the creative arts sector, discussing topics such as defining success, productivity, coping strategies, and more.

The evening will feature personal stories from working artists on how they navigate the connection between being creative and their mental wellbeing and the challenges they face. Guest artists will include Naomi Keyte, Paul Bartlett and Kultar Ahluwalia.

This event will be supported by our [youth event management](#) students, providing them with hands-on experience in planning and delivering community events.

Neighbourhood Watch Meetings Schedule

The Neighbourhood Watch program is run by the South Australia Police (SAPOL) and works towards achieving connected, safe and resilient communities by keeping residents informed of crime and other safety issues in their area and how they can reduce their potential from becoming victims. It relies strongly on volunteers to distribute newsletters and to manage their meetings. I encourage our residents to become involved in this program and attend your local Zone meetings detailed below. It is also a great opportunity to meet local residents.

Meetings are scheduled for the following dates:

- Wednesday 9 October.
- Wednesday 11 December (Christmas dinner at Flagstaff Hotel)..
- Wednesday 12 March.
- Wednesday 11 June.
- Wednesday 10 September.
- Wednesday 10 December – Christmas Dinner.

Meetings commence at 6.30 pm at the Flagstaff Hill Golf Club (temporary restaurant) where a light supper is provided.

Aberfoyle Park Happy Valley Neighbourhood Watch Area 491

- Monday 18 November.
- Monday 20 January.
- Monday 17 March.
- Monday 19 May.
- Monday 21 July.

Meetings commence at 7.30pm at Aberfoyle Park Community Centre where a light supper is provided.

Happy Valley O'Halloran Hill Neighbourhood Watch Area 461

Meetings are scheduled for to be held on the following dates:

- Monday 4 November

Meetings commence at 7.30 pm at the Scout Hall Candy Road O'Halloran Hill

Reynella Neighbourhood Watch Area 048/146

Meetings are scheduled to be held on the following dates:

- Wednesday 18 December.

Meetings commence at 7.00 pm at the Reynella Football Club 1 Oval Road, Old Reynella

Woodcroft Neighbourhood Watch Area 406

Meetings are scheduled to be held on the following dates:

- Tuesday 12 November.
- Tuesday 11 February.
- Tuesday 13 May.
- Tuesday 12 August.
- Tuesday 11 November 2025 AGM.

Meetings commence at 7.30 pm at the Woodcroft Heights Children Centre, 25 Investigator Drive Woodcroft. On Sunday 3 November 2024 they have a fundraising BBQ at Bunnings Reynella.

Morphett Vale Neighbourhood Watch Area 163

A meeting is planned for the evening of Monday 28 November (6.30 pm) to be held at the Morphett Vale Bowling Club to gauge whether the area has meetings in the future or becomes a Facebook only group, so no other meeting dates have been set. I would encourage residents who reside in the Morphett Vale area to attend this meeting as physically getting together is important for communities.

YOURSAY

Open Engagements

- Planning for Our Future - Draft Long Term Financial Plan and Strategic Asset Management Plan (closes 20 October)
- Onkaparinga Grants program review (closes 20 October)
- Piggott Range Road Safety Upgrade - road closure (inform only)
- Cat management survey (closes 13 October)
- Gateways to Ramsay Place Noarlunga (closes 20 October)
- 40km/h speed change Old Noarlunga township (closes 6 October)
- Urban Creek Resilience and Recovery Project (inform only)
- 21 Intersections Road Safety McLaren Vale – Johnston Road closure (inform only)
- Review of the Environment Protection (Waste to Resources) Policy 2010 – State Government engagement (closes 20 December)
- Greater Adelaide Regional Plan – State Government engagement (closes 4 November)

- Local Heritage Code Amendment – advanced notice of engagement opening November
- Representation Review (closes 24 October)
- Community Wastewater Management System petition - TBA

Closed Engagements

- Nil

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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