



10 April 2020

## **OPEN LETTER TO KINGSTON COUNCIL RESIDENTS**

Dear Community Members,

Our message to you is simple; as a community we have experienced real and significant emergency management challenges in 2020, first the Keilira bushfire and now COVID-19. We are a strong and resilient community; we will support each other, and we will recover.

### **COVID-19**

As individuals, we all have a part to play in slowing the spread of the virus and protecting our community. We thank you for your patience and diligence in putting social distancing measures into effect, as well as observing other health and hygiene practices. For those in our community also affected by the Keilira bushfire, please be assured that we will continue to maintain our focus on assisting you in recovery efforts in any way we can.

In response to COVID-19, Council has implemented a planned response to ensure services to the community can continue, albeit in a limited or changed format, in order to protect the health and wellbeing of our community and staff. One noticeable service alteration is the closure of our office and Visitor Information Outlet to face-to-face visitors. We are still here, working behind the scenes for you; please contact us by telephone, Facebook messenger, email or website submission, or arrange an appointment where necessary.

Following decisions and announcements from the Federal and State Government we have also temporarily closed our RV Parks, some public toilets, playgrounds, public BBQ's, works depot and the skate park. Further, we have also cancelled all bookings in our caravan park, except for essential travelers as supported by the South Australian Police Commissioner travel directive.

Other measures aimed at limiting the spread of COVID-19 in our community include temporary suspension of some services and cancellation or postponement of events, activities or programs that present a risk to public safety.

Of note at this time is that our upcoming annual 'Free Tree Program' can't safely be delivered in the same format as we have seen in previous years. As our depot is closed to the public, as well as to protect our community and key contributor Mr Max Sly, we are proposing to deliver this program through an order system facilitated through the Council office. Further information on this process and expressions of interest will be available in the coming weeks.

Thank you for your patience and understanding in restrictions and shut-downs Council has put in place. These decisions have been made after thorough risk assessments, with consideration to federal and state directives to keep our community as safe as we can reasonably do so.

### **COUNCIL OFFICE**

#### **Address**

29 Holland Street  
Kingston SE  
South Australia 5275

#### **Telephone**

08 8767 2033

#### **Facsimile**

08 8767 2937

#### **Email**

[info@kingstondc.sa.gov.au](mailto:info@kingstondc.sa.gov.au)

### **COUNCIL WORKS DEPOT**

#### **Address**

Lot 23 Adam Road  
Kingston SE  
South Australia 5275

#### **Telephone**

08 8767 3070

#### **Facsimile**

08 8767 3095

#### **Email**

[depot@kingstondc.sa.gov.au](mailto:depot@kingstondc.sa.gov.au)

### **POSTAL ADDRESS**

PO Box 321  
Kingston SE  
SOUTH AUSTRALIA 5275

[www.kingstondc.sa.gov.au](http://www.kingstondc.sa.gov.au)

## **Business Support**

We are here to support our business community during this extremely difficult and uncertain time. It can be an overwhelming task to adapt and consider the ongoing operation of a business with such challenging directions and restrictions. We can help with information provision, support, posters and on-site risk assessments with key members of our staff, to support you to have the confidence in your position through this time. We encourage any business to reach out for a confidential discussion and assistance.

## **Kindness for Kingston (K4K)**

The implications of the current situation, and in particular social distancing, are greater for people who are already socially isolated. In response to this, we are now looking at introducing a program of phone contact for our elderly, vulnerable or isolated residents. We are doing this as part of a new initiative called "Kindness for Kingston" (K4K). Given the devastating start our community has had to 2020, it is time for us to come together and show kindness, compassion and understanding; K4K is hoping to achieve just that!

We know that there are many of you who want to offer your support to other members of the community but may not know how to. You are not alone; there is no template for the sudden and extreme change to our way of life; together we are writing the COVID-19 response rule book as we go! However, we want to connect our community members, as well as offering outreach to those who need it, to provide a positive response to these challenging times. We are a caring and resilient community and it is important we work together to overcome challenges and prioritise the needs of our community members who may need a little extra support during these times.

You can help by nominating a family member or friend who would benefit from a phone daily check-in, by either one of our friendly staff, or by local volunteers who may wish to get involved. Whilst there are other not for profit organisations offering something similar, it is hoped that by connecting people within our already supportive community, the initiative will be more personal and develop lasting local relationships long after this crisis is over. Please contact us to register your interest or provide contact details of a vulnerable community member (our contact details are on Page 1 of this letter).

We have launched a new Facebook page, where you can post random acts of kindness, positive and kind messages, facilitate offers of assistance or give social support suggestions for those that need it. If you are not a Facebook user, details of this program can be found on our website at this link; <https://www.kingstondc.sa.gov.au/our-community/emergency-management/coronavirus-covid-19>

## **Our message to you**

We are calling on you, our valued community members, to look after each other, and the most vulnerable, during this uncertain and unsettling time. As a community we need to work together, to find ways to keep our community positive and connected.

In closing, we applaud everyone for embracing social-distancing, self-isolation and the 'stay at home' position that is being so strongly messaged across our state and country. We can see by daily updates that these measures are getting us closer to our goal of 'flattening the curve'. We encourage you to keep it up so that together, we can return to the freedom and way of life that we are so lucky to have here in Australia.

As always, we are available for our community and are open to discussions, feedback or suggestions; please feel free to call or email us at any time.

Kind regards

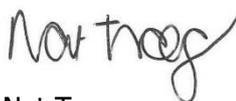


Kay Rasheed

**Mayor**

[mayor@kingstondc.sa.gov.au](mailto:mayor@kingstondc.sa.gov.au)

0429 095 081



Nat Traeger

**Chief Executive Officer**

[ceo@kingstondc.sa.gov.au](mailto:ceo@kingstondc.sa.gov.au)

0408 809 712