

## Message from the Mayor



### What is the Caretaker Period and What Does it Mean?

It's no secret that the 2022 Local Government Elections have commenced and that means Council is now in the Caretaker Period.

This period ensures that:

1. *Major policy decisions are not made by Council in the leadup to an election that would prove binding for an incoming Council.*
2. *Council resources are not used for the advantage of a candidate in a local government general election.*
3. *The requirement to act impartially in relation to all candidates standing for election is clearly understood.*

This policy applies to elected members and employees of the Northern Midlands Council for duration of the caretaker period for a local government general election.

However, it does not prevent the Council and staff from carrying on the normal business of the Council. Council meetings shall continue to be held during the Caretaker Period and will consider Agenda items that relate to the ordinary business of Council.

### Footpath Trading By-Law

Council have endorsed the Footpath Trading By-Law No. 1 of 2022 with the following minor amendments:

*Additional wording in the by-law Clauses 6 and 8 stating structures and freestanding signs must not obstruct regulatory and wayfinding signage.*

Before the By-Law can take effect, it must be certified and sealed, published in the Gazette and the Director of Local Government must be informed.

### Telstra upgrades in the Northern Midlands Municipality

Residents and businesses across the municipality should soon be enjoying improved connectivity thanks to the lobbying of the NMBA and, Board member Richard Duncan. Telstra has made several installations and upgrades, to improve mobile reception and internet services where there was previously intermittent, or no service, in several Northern Midlands locations.

Richard initiated several meetings with Telstra, NMBA and the state government which I also attended on behalf of Council. Working collaboratively has resulted in signal improvements occurring in Campbell Town, 4G coverage at Bonney's Plains and Rajah Rocks, with 5G happening at Evandale and Cressy. New, low impact base stations will also be built at Royal George, Lake Leake and Deddington.



**Wear Orange for Mental Health Week – 'Awareness, Belonging, Connection'**

Mental Health Week promotes the awareness of everyone's mental health and wellbeing, increasing understanding and reducing stigma about mental illness.

- ★ **Awareness:** understanding what we need to maintain and boost our mental wellbeing and knowing when to seek help.
- ★ **Belonging:** looking out for and supporting each other. Understanding that you are not alone, and that others may be going through the same thing.
- ★ **Connection:** Relationships with those that we care about, including groups, clubs, and other networks around us to help keep us happy and healthy.

This year, Mental health Week is being held from 8 to 16 October and you can **show your support by wearing orange** and starting a conversation about how you can support others. Rural Alive and Well (RAW) provides practical and tangible interventions to promote positive mental health, reduce stigma, and address life stressors.

Providing access to specialist support services for people who live and work in Tasmania's rural and remote areas, a 2-day Mental Health First Aid training program is also being offered in Perth on the 9 and 10 November. Contact Paulette Kay on [pkay@rawtas.com.au](mailto:pkay@rawtas.com.au)

### Palmerston Battery – Poatina

Akaysha Energy Pty Ltd is proposing to develop a grid scale battery storage facility adjacent to the TasNetwork Palmerston Terminal Substation and on Friday 23 September, a community information session was held at the Poatina Chalets to discuss the proposed large scale Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and answer any questions from the community.

Known as the Palmerston BESS, if approved, Akaysha says that the system will have a capacity of 100MW/h and 2 hours of energy storage that will help regulate and stabilise the energy network from intermittent sources like wind and solar, balancing it with traditional forms of electricity like hydro.

Mary Knowles OAM  
Mayor

## Project Updates

### Perth Early Learning Centre



Still on track for opening in early 2023, the roof is on, and windows are in.



### Longford Road Safety Park

Site work has commenced at the all-new Longford Road Safety Park. At a cost of \$135,000, the park will include a one-way lane, railroad crossing, shopping area, emergency area, pedestrian crossing with lights and a petrol station



### Cressy Memorial Pool

The stage 2 upgrades at Cressy Pool have progressed well ensuring the pool will be open on time for the swimming season.



The window installation in the new fence will occur in the coming weeks.



Tiling of the pools is ongoing.

### Other Projects

Other projects scheduled to commence soon (weather dependent) include:

- Reroofing of the Evandale Hall - \$220,000
- Lake Leake amenities upgrade: incorporating insect proofing of toilet and shower facilities and refreshing the barbeque/seating area - \$145,000
- Tooms Lake campground upgrade - \$120,000.

## Northern Midlands Council Australia Day Awards

Nominations are now open for our Annual Australia Day Awards. The awards ceremony will be held at our 2023 Australia Day Event in Cressy. Nominations are to be considered for the following:

- Citizen of the year
- Young Citizen of the year
- Community Event of the year

Nominations can also be made for:

- Volunteer Recognition
- Business Presentation

Nomination forms are available on our website on the below link, hard copies can also be sent upon request.

Completed forms must be returned by **Thursday, 1 December 2022**. Please contact Council's Executive & Communications Officer, Lorraine Wyatt on

[lorraine.wyatt@nmc.tas.gov.au](mailto:lorraine.wyatt@nmc.tas.gov.au) or on 6397 7303 if you have any questions.

