



THE FORTNIGHTLY FOCUS

3 DECEMBER 2021

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COUNCIL NEWS

Last chance to nominate!

Nominations for the 2022 Australia Day Awards close on December 6.

People can nominate Citizen of the Year, Young Citizen of the Year, Business of the Year, Employee of the Year OR Community Event/ Organisation of the Year. Download an application form & guidelines on Council's [website](#). Please note: If you have previously submitted a nomination that was not successful, you are able to submit it again for the 2022 Awards.

Waste management over Christmas

Extra kerbside collections will occur in Coffin Bay during the school holidays on Friday, December 31, January 7, 14 and 21. All other collections (including recycling) will be as normal.

Waste Transfer Stations

The Cummins Waste Transfer Station will be closed on Sunday, December 26 but will otherwise be operating at its normal hours. The Coffin Bay Waste Transfer Station will be operating at its normal hours.

40kmh speed limit

Council has been approved to apply a temporary speed limit reduction of 40kmh on Bruce Terrace, Cummins, during the harvest period. Council thanks members of the community who helped lobby the Department of Infrastructure and Transport to reconsider its original decision to not approve the application.

Online camping permits

Farm Beach and Louth Bay campground bookings are now taken through Council's website using an online portal. Council has introduced the system as part of efforts to better manage campgrounds. Visit Council's website and click the [link](#) to book at either of the two current campgrounds.

North Shields beach access

Council have closed the current access at North Shields due to safety and environmental concerns and have been trying to establish a formalised vehicle access point further up from the 'no vehicles' zone for a number of years. Unfortunately after significant investment on environmental reports Council has not been able to gain approval from the Coast Protection Board however are working with the Board to identify a suitable access location.

My Local Services App

Council is now live on the

'MyLocalServices' app. People can report issues, get reminders to put their bins out, keep up to date with Council news and find nearby parks and Council facilities. The app can also be useful when you're travelling as it will find nearby facilities in whichever council you are located.

COMMUNITY

COVID-19 Update

A Message from the Eyre and Far North Local Health Network

South Australia's borders reopened on November 23 and there has since been local transmission of COVID-19 in Adelaide.

The best defences against COVID -19 remain:

- Getting vaccinated
- Wearing masks
- Maintaining good hand hygiene
- Maintaining social/physical distancing

At this time, Cummins has among the best vaccination rates in the Eyre and Far North and are doing well against State averages too:

- 91% of the population 16+ have had a first dose
- 83% of that population have had a second dose.

Don't forget to have your second dose.

Evidence from across the world shows people are at much higher risk of severe illness or even death, if they remain unvaccinated and contract COVID-19.

There is a lot of misinformation being spread about COVID-19 and about vaccinations. All COVID vaccines in use in Australia have to go through a formal approvals process to be allowed to be supplied to the public and are only approved if the benefits outweigh the risks.

There are still opportunities to get vaccinated, including at Lower Eyre Family Practice, Bayview Medical Service or the Port Lincoln COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic – visit

www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/covidvaccine to check appointments and follow the EFNLHN Facebook page for updates about our mobile vaccination team clinic visits.

SA Health has put in place a COVID Response Plan for the State, which sets out that:

- 85% of COVID cases will be safely managed at home
- 10% will recover at supervised COVID-19 facilities (not hospitals)
- 5% will be cared for in hospital

This is to ensure there is capacity in the State's hospitals to care for those who become seriously unwell.

The majority of people who test positive for COVID-19 are planned to recover at home, monitored by a team in Adelaide using technology and regular checks, and supported if they deteriorate, to receive care and treatment.

In cases where people cannot recover safely at home, there are plans to set up supervised COVID-19 facilities. These are not hospitals but places where people can recover with some support.

At this point, the nearest facilities to Cummins are planned to be in Port Lincoln and Port Augusta, and there are also medi-hotels in Adelaide.

EFNLHN has developed a local COVID-19 Response Plan, working with local General Practitioners, the SA Ambulance Service, the Royal Flying Doctor Service, Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations and Councils.

As the local health service, our top priorities are to:

- keep our communities and staff safe
- protect our vulnerable, elderly residents living in our aged care facilities.

We will do all we can to prevent the spread of COVID-19 to those vulnerable, elderly residents.

Under our local plan, Cummins Hospital will not be accepting COVID positive patients.

Three hospitals have been designated as COVID hospitals – Port Lincoln, Ceduna and Coober Pedy. Our three COVID hospitals will be separated into COVID (red) and non-COVID (green) zones. Red zones will be restricted to essential personnel only and staff will wear full Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) at all times. Patients and staff in each zone will be separated to reduce any risk of transmission.

If there is a COVID outbreak in Cummins or surrounding areas, anyone who comes to the hospital's Emergency Department will be treated as potential COVID positive patients. They will undergo a risk assessment to determine if they are a high COVID risk or are COVID positive.

Patients who do not require admission but are still considered high risk, will be referred for a COVID test, discharged and advised to quarantine at home until they receive their test results. Many people who test positive are expected to be able to recover at home with home monitoring. Anyone who requires admission will be taken to one of the three COVID hospitals, most likely Port Lincoln in this case.

However, any COVID-19 positive patients who become unwell will be transported to Adelaide for treatment; they will be cared for at a COVID hospital while awaiting transport.

- Chief Executive Officer
Verity Paterson