



JOINT MEDIA RELEASE

2 APRIL 2020

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Southern Eyre Peninsula Mayors Brad Flaherty (Port Lincoln) Jo-Anne Quigley (Lower Eyre Peninsula) and Sam Telfer (Tumby Bay) have come together to jointly echo the words of Premier Stephen Marshall imploring South Australians to stay at home during the coming Easter holiday period.

Mayor Flaherty said that at a time that we are normally reaching out for people to visit the Lower Eyre Peninsula we are in the position that visitors present the highest risk of COVID-19 infiltrating our communities.

This is the reason that the difficult decision has been taken for the Councils to issue a message that we cannot welcome tourists this Easter.

Mayor Quigley said that it would be an absolute disaster if the virus was brought into our communities by visitors who we normally welcome with open arms. We simply do not have the health infrastructure and services on Eyre Peninsula to cope with a COVID-19 outbreak.

Mayor Telfer, who is also the President of the Local Government Association said that these are unprecedented times and that across the state we all have to play a part to limit the spread of this pandemic. He noted that Caravan Park operators are now restricting non-essential visitors from their parks, and said he applauded them for this decision.

The Mayors jointly said that the message that the best way for people to protect their health is by staying at home applies equally to people who had plans to visit the Lower Eyre Peninsula, and to our local communities.

The Councils are unified in supporting the message of our Prime Minister that people should not mix in groups outside of their immediate families and should not undertake non-essential travel.

The Councils have taken difficult decisions to close camping grounds, playgrounds, skate parks, swimming pools and other public infrastructure, and people absolutely must not camp in groups this Easter.

The Southern Eyre Peninsula Mayors said they are very much aware that there are currently many vulnerable and lonely people in our communities, that many businesses are hurting and that many people have lost their jobs.

However the clear message to our communities this Easter is simple – stay at home unless you absolutely need to travel, leave the boat in the shed, ring a friend and do those jobs in the garden.

BRAD FLAHERTY
City of Port Lincoln

JO-ANNE QUIGLEY
DC Lower Eyre Peninsula

SAM TELFER
DC Tumby Bay