



Port Augusta

CITY COUNCIL

MEDIA RELEASE

A Message from Mayor Brett Benbow COVID-19

Port Augusta residents, it's important we work together to overcome Coronavirus (COVID-19) challenges and prioritise the needs of our more vulnerable residents.

As individuals we all have a part to play in slowing the spread of the virus and I thank those who are adhering to the social distancing measures.

Port Augusta City Council has been working for the past couple of weeks towards a planned response to ensure crucial services to the community can continue, albeit in a limited or changed format, in order to protect the health and wellbeing of our residents and staff.

Following decisions and announcements from the Federal and State Government over the weekend with advice from peak health agencies, we have made the decision to suspend the majority of face-to-face interactions through our public spaces e.g. sporting hub, library, gallery, theatres and swimming pool.

Our Public Library will be closing today. Book borrowing services are still available via a 'click and collect' service which can be done through the library website, or orders can be made over the phone for collection. We are looking to increase our home delivery service to assist those in need and library chutes are open 24 hours to allow returns.

Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden is still open with public to access the garden as per usual. We encourage social distancing whilst accessing walking trails. The visitor centre and cafe is currently closed to the public. A discounted plant sale is currently available through phone orders with home delivery to Port Augusta and Stirling North or collection by arrangement to minimise face to face contact. Please telephone 86419116 or e-mail info@aalbg.sa.gov.au for further information. Wadlata Outback Centre will be closed to the public from 2pm on 24th March 2020 however visitor information will still be available by telephoning 86419193 or via e-mail info@wadlata.sa.gov.au.

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 in line with Federal Government restrictions e.g. Mens Shed program, Health Focus and all activities at Central Oval Complex including Hancock Stadium.

We would like to encourage the community to phone or email our customer service team with enquiries rather than coming into the Civic Centre to talk to our staff directly. Payments can also be made electronically or via telephone. We have a helpful team here who can assist you with your enquiries, phone 86419100 or admin@portaugusta.sa.gov.au.

We are exploring options for the delivery of telephone appointments, consultations, video networking and cultural activities to our community through online forums and platforms, while acknowledging that not everyone has online access. We encourage the community to remain in regular contact (via telephone) with family, friends and neighbours at this time to check in on them.

As Australia faces this ongoing challenge, the impact on many of our businesses is likely to be significant. Our local businesses are the essence of our region offering greatly valued employment, services and experiences. We encourage all our residents to support them in any way you can, as they

find new and innovative ways to continue. For our business owners, we encourage you to keep a watchful eye on a couple of important links that may provide some assistance during these challenging times:

- [Australian Government](#)
- [South Australian Government](#)

As of Tuesday 24th March we have implemented measures within Council offices to conform to social distancing recommendations as well as ensuring business continuity in the event of staff illness.

The situation in Australia and South Australia is constantly changing so it is important to keep up to date with all health and travel advice from the Federal [Department of Health](#) and [SA Health website](#).

A dedicated Respiratory/ Virus (COVID-19) clinic is now open in Port Augusta. This clinic is for people who have COVID-19 symptoms (especially fever or cough) and have recently returned from overseas or have had contact with a known COVID-19 case.

If you think you are affected you are required to book into the service and will require a referral from a GP. Please note bookings are essential.

If you meet the above criteria and are not able to access a GP please call the Health Service to discuss your options, phone 86687786.

Operating hours: Monday – Friday 1-3 pm

Location: Behind Hospital administration building access via Giles Street entrance.

Take great care in this time of change and uncertainty, as individuals, families and community members. Act appropriately, listen to information from the Government authorities, and help to stop the spread of Covid-19. We will come through this crisis together and stronger.

For further information please contact Council's Media and Communications Officer on (08) 86419100

BRETT BENBOW
MAYOR
PORT AUGUSTA CITY COUNCIL
24/03/2020