Edition | November 2025

Monthly Community Newsletter

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Have your say on disability access and inclusion

The District Council of Grant is committed to building an environment where everyone feels welcomed, valued, and empowered to participate within the community.

All Councils are required to prepare a Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (DAIP), in line with the State Government's Disability Inclusion Plan, detailing how they will allow people with disability to access and be included in Council places, services, events, jobs and representation.

Council has now released its draft DAIP 2026-2030 for community consultaiton.

The draft DAIP proposes a range of actions for Council to do to make our district more accessible and inclusive, including making documents, communication and website more accessible, supporting people with disability to be safe in emergencies, and raising disability awareness in Council and the community.

Interested community members are invited to review the draft DAIP and share their thoughts or attend a Drop-In Session to ask questions.

Find out how to have your say on page 7.

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Council Decisions



Funding for Accessible Infrastructure

During the Access and Inclusion Advisory Panel's recent tour of the district, members identified several ways to improve accessibility across our community. Key opportunities included installing accessible toilets at the Mount Gambier & District Saleyards and purchasing a portable Changing Places facility.

At Council's most recent meeting on Monday 17 November 2025, it was agreed to support both initiatives. Council will now begin seeking funding through the Julia Farr Disability Grant Program and Federal Government opportunities to help bring these projects to life.

Planning for a Future Shared Space at the Port MacDonnell Community Complex Progresses

Council is exploring the opportunity to transform the former local SA Ambulance facility at the rear of the Port MacDonnell Community Complex into a flexible Shared Spaces Hub for community and small businesses.

The proposed hub would bring new life to the area by creating space for workshops, community meetings, co-working desks, pop-up stalls, wellbeing services and more. To bring the hub to life, a range of upgrades would be required including improved accessibility, refreshed interiors, better internet connectivity, an inviting outdoor area and updated security and access systems.

At the most recent Council Meeting, Council endorsed the next steps for the project which involves developing a detailed design. An additional $10,000 was also approved to begin accessibility improvement works to doorways and to prepare the request for quotation for future works.

More information about these projects and other Council matters can be found in the Council Meeting Agenda and Minutes on the District Council of Grant website.

The website also includes Council's complete yearly meeting schedule so community members can easily see when upcoming meetings are planned.

www.dcgrant.sa.gov.au/council/meetings/ordinary

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Next Ordinary Council Meeting:
Monday 15 December 2025 at 5:30pm

Draft Coastal Adaptation Strategy

It has been identified that the coastline along the Limestone Coast has experienced coastal erosion and inundation, and it is expected that this is likely to increase in future years. The District Council of Grant acknowledges these hazards and commenced a joint project, with the District Council of Robe and Wattle Range Council, to develop strategies to reduce the risk of erosion and inundation.

The project aims to identify hazards and associated risks for each coastal township by 2050 and up to the year 2100, and evaluate options to adapt and protect our communities into the future.

The District Council of Grant is specifically focusing on adaptation strategies for Carpenter Rocks, Pelican Point, Blackfellows Caves, Nene Valley, Cape Douglas, Port MacDonnell, Racecourse Bay, Eight Mile Creek and Donovans.

Council is now inviting residents and interested community members to have their say on the draft Coastal Adaptation Strategy which is now open for community consultation.



The draft Strategy outlines how Council proposes to respond to these long-term coastal hazards, including erosion, flooding and storm impacts, while supporting the liveability and resilience of the district's coastal townships into the future.

Mayor Kylie Boston said the release of the draft Strategy is an important step in planning for a changing coastline.

"We are encouraging everyone with an interest in our coast to review the draft Coastal Adaptation Strategy and share their thoughts."

The document builds on a series of community workshops held earlier this year in Port MacDonnell, Carpenter Rocks and Donovans. These sessions allowed community members to better understand the project, and ask questions about the potential impacts of coastal erosion and flooding in the district with Council's coastal management expert.

Community members also provided valuable input on initial adaptation options for Council to implement to safeguard townships.

Chief Executive Officer Darryl Whicker explained the Strategy will provide an important framework for long-term decision-making.

"By outlining clear adaptation pathways, the draft Strategy supports Council, Government and our communities to work together on practical solutions that strengthen resilience over time," Mr Whicker said.

"It also puts Council in a strong position to seek future external grant funding for priority adaptation projects in the coming years."

The draft Coastal Adaptation Strategy can now be viewed online via Your Say DCG.

yoursaydcg.com.au/coastal-adaptation-strategy

Hard copies are available at Council's Principal Office, 324 Commercial Street West, Mount Gambier and Port MacDonnell Community Complex, 5-7 Charles Street, Port MacDonnell.

Feedback must be submitted by 5:00pm Friday 12 December 2025.

Following the closure of community consultation, all feedback received will be reviewed by the District Council of Grant and Council's coastal management expert.

Amendments will be made to the draft Coastal Adaptation Strategy, where appropriate, before the final strategy is presented to Council for endorsement in early 2026.

Have you created a Your Say DCG account?

Visit yoursaydcg.com.au to register online to stay up to date with projects like the Coastal Adaptation Strategy.



Food Organics and Garden Organics

Service Trial #1 Outcomes

At the end of 2024, the District Council of Grant commenced a free Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) kerbside service trial for residents in Nene Valley, Port MacDonnell and the rural living area stretching from Crafter Road, Compton through to Kilsby Road, OB Flat.

The trial aim was to collect data on the feasibility of providing an ongoing FOGO service to residents across the district with participation rates, load contamination information and service costs helping to inform Council leading into the next budget period and shape a potential service.

Based on the trial data and additional written feedback collected throughout the trial period, Council approved an opt-in service in Nene Valley, Port MacDonnell and the rural living area stretching from Crafter Road, Compton through to Kilsby Road, OB Flat.

Council also approved for the commencement of a second service trial in the areas of Tarpeena, Allendale, Yahl, Kongorong and Racecourse Bay.



Service Trial #2 Commencing Soon

In November 2025, participating households will be issued with a 240L bin with a lime green lid for the duration of the second free FOGO kerbside service trial in Tarpeena, Allendale, Yahl, Kongorong and Racecourse Bay.

The formal trial period will commence Monday 8 December 2025 and end Friday 20 February 2026 with collection days coinciding with the existing yellow lidded recycling bin collections.

Participants can continue using the service free of charge until 30 June 2026, to afford Council time to evaluate the trial data and consult the community through the draft Annual Business Plan and Budget process. This approach will help to ensure service continuity to those residents likely to participate in an Opt-In service beyond the trial.

Participation rates, load contamination information and service costs will all be collected to help inform Council leading into the 2026-2027 budget period and shape a potential opt-in service.



Have Your Say on FOGO

Participants in the second trial are encouraged to submit written feedback on the trial and express their level in gaining an ongoing FOGO collection service. Those not involved in the trial also have an opportunity to express their interest in gaining a future FOGO service.

Have your say online at Your Say DCG or scan the QR code.

yoursaydcg.com.au/fogo

Feedback must be submitted by 5:00pm Friday 27 February 2026.

Community Spotlight

Disability Access and Inclusion Advisory Panel



Council's current Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2020-2024 sets the roadmap for achieving a district where people with lived experience of disability can access services, participate in community life, and feel valued and included.

One of the Plan's key actions was to establish a dedicated Disability Access and Inclusion Advisory Panel to help guide, monitor and review Council's progress. This Advisory Panel was established in 2022.

Members of the Advisory Panel provide advice and feedback on a wide range of matters including policy development, project planning and how Council responds to State and Federal strategies or legislation relating to disability.

They also assist Council in identifying community needs, prioritising improvement projects and recognising opportunities to strengthen access and inclusion across the district.

The Panel is made up of up to 12 members, including three Elected Members, independent community representatives and organisational members from the disability sector.





At least two members have lived experience of disability, ensuring local community perspectives directly inform Council's decision making.

The Advisory Panel meet at least twice a year and become more active during major planning or consultation periods. This includes during the review of Council's Disability Access and Inclusion Plan which is now open for community consultation.

The Advisory Panel's contributions have helped deliver several meaningful projects such as:

- Installing a hearing loop system at the Port MacDonnell Community Complex.
- Accessible seating at Donovans Landing.
- Supporting the first Art-Ability Exhibition celebrating the diverse talents of people living with disability, in conjunction with International Day of People with Disability on 3 December 2025.

Council acknowledges the valuable contributions of the Access and Inclusion Advisory Panel and their continued support to building a district where everyone can participate fully and with confidence.

From the Archives

Opening of the Port MacDonnell boat ramp signage created in collaboration with the Allendale East Area School to share the message - 'don't be the reason our ocean creatures disappear'.





Reminders

Fire Danger Season

The Lower South East's 2025-2026 Fire Danger Season has been declared from 1 November 2025 to 30 April 2026.

During this period, restrictions apply to lighting fires to reduce the risk of large fires starting. These restrictions become even stricter on Total Fire Ban Days.

More information about how to prepare for the season can be found via the CFS website.

www.cfs.sa.gov.au/plan-prepare/



Works Progress Update

SA Water, together with their construction partner John Holland Guidera O'Connor Joint Venture, has been upgrading water infrastructure in Port MacDonnell.

The Elizabeth Street pump station upgrade works were completed in March 2025.

Upgrades to the elevated water tank at the corner of Charles and Church Streets were delayed due to inclement weather.

SA Water are now scheduled to return in April 2026, with works expected to be completed by June 2026.

Bored and Barking Dogs

Dogs are social just like us. They can be bored, lonely or end up with health issues like depression or anxiety when left alone.

They might also start barking which can cause problems with your neighbours, or become destructive.

When you can't be with your dog, give him/her things to keep them occupied. Keep a box of toys and activities on hand to break out when you leave. Here are some suggestions...

- Chew toys for chompers, plush toys for cuddlers and puzzles for problem solvers.
- Tennis balls, balls of all shapes and sizes.
- Squeaky, crinkly or weird-noise toys.
- Edible, long lasting chews.

Remember to give them options and swap things around often.

For budget freindly activities, why not try...

- Planting tissue boxes with treats inside around the house.
- Collecting clean toilet rolls; milk and egg cartons; shoe, cereal and package boxes, paper bags; paper cups or just safe stuff your dog can rip apart for fun.

Find out more on the Dog and Cat Management Board's website.

dogandcatboard.com.au/dogs/home-alone



Have Your Say



Yahl Soldiers Memorial Hall Carpark Upgrades

In 2023, the District Council of Grant finalised its Inner Townships Master Plan outlining future improvements to landscaping, shared-use paths, signage, play spaces and lighting across key public spaces.

As part of the Master Plan, Yahl was identified as a priority location for investment in its public spaces, particularly at Kennedy Park.

Council, in collaboration with the Yahl Soldiers Memorial Hall Committee, is now progressing elements of the Kennedy Park upgrade with the Yahl Soldiers Memorial Hall carpark. The proposed works include construction of sealed and kerbed car parking spaces, concrete paths, removal and replanting of five trees, and installation of two rain gardens.

Community members are invited to review the draft carpark construction plan and provide their feedback online.

yoursaydcg.com.au/yahl-soldiers-memorial-hall-carpark-upgrade

Hard copies are available at Council's Principal Office.

Consultation closes 5:00pm Wednesday 17 December 2025.

Have you created a Your Say DCG account?
Visit yoursaydcg.com.au to register online to stay up to date with Council projects and have your say.

Draft Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2026-2030

Have your say on disability access and inclusion in the District Council of Grant.

Council has developed a draft Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (DAIP) 2026–2030 which outlines how Council proposes to embed access and inclusion across all aspects of its operations and community engagement over the next four years.

The draft Plan is now available to review at Council's Principal Office, Port MacDonnell Community Complex and online at Your Say DCG.

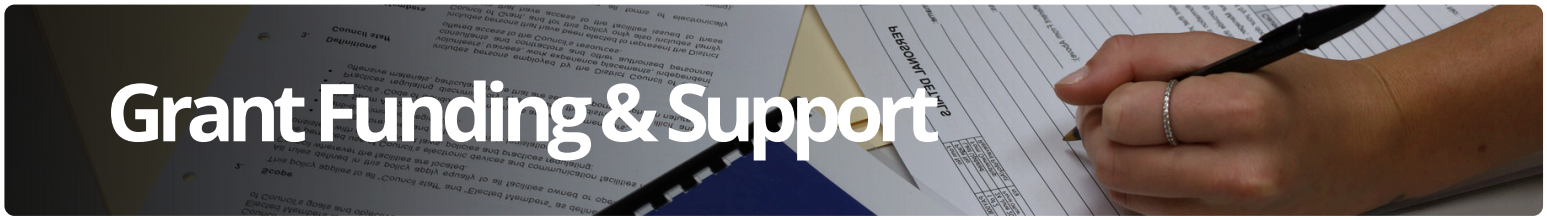
yoursaydcg.com.au/draft-disability-access-and-inclusion-plan

Community members are also invited to attend a Drop-in Session to find out more about the draft Plan and ask questions to Council representatives.

- **Wednesday 3 December 2025** between 12:30pm and 1:30pm at the Mount Gambier Regional Airport, Airport Road, Wandilo
- **Tuesday 9 December 2025** between 5:30pm and 6:30pm at the Council Chambers, 324 Commercial Street West, Mount Gambier
- **Wednesday 10 December 2025** between 12:30pm and 1:30pm at the Port MacDonnell Community Complex, 5-7 Charles Street, Port MacDonnell

Consultation closes 5:00pm Monday 5 January 2026.





Grant Funding & Support

THINK! Road Safety Community Grants Program

The THINK! Road Safety Community Grants Program offers funding of up to $20,000 for community groups and organisations who are passionate about improving road safety and reducing lives lost on our roads.

The total funding pool available is $200,000.

Examples of initiatives that are supported include:

- Delivering school or community education on road safety.
- Supporting existing initiatives like National Road Safety Week.
- Using local events or programs to influence positive road safety behaviour.
- Promoting driver, pedestrian and cyclist road safety.

Initiatives must support at least one of six Program objectives; Regional and remote communities; Aboriginal road safety; Road user behaviour; Vulnerable road users; Workplaces; and Walking, cycling and public transport.

Applications close Friday 12 December 2025.

Visit the Think! Road Safety website to find out more and apply.

thinkroadsafety.sa.gov.au



Veteran Wellbeing Grants Program 2025-2026

The Veteran Wellbeing Grants (VWG) program provides funding for eligible organisations to deliver community based projects and activities for the veteran community.

The program consists of one annual grant opportunity offering 2 streams of grants:

- Stream A (small grants): up to $50,000 per grant for small-scale, local and community-based practical projects and activities that support safe, accessible environments for veterans and families to enable social connection and positive engagement to improve wellbeing.
- Stream B (large grants): funding between $50,001 to $200,000 available for large projects and activities that deliver practical wellbeing support services and activities of broad-scale benefit to veterans and families in the community.

Eligible organisations must either be:

- an ex-service organisation (ESO) as per the ESO definition in the Grant Opportunity Guidelines; or
- be a non-ESO in a consortium with at least one ESO and also be one of the eligible entity types listed in the Grant Opportunity Guidelines.

Applications close 9:00pm Thursday 5 February 2026.

Visit the Department of Veterans' Affairs website to find out more and apply.

www.dva.gov.au/about-us/grants-and-bursaries

Require assistance finding suitable grants?

Visit the online Limestone Coast Grant Finder. It is a tool provided by Regional Development Australia Limestone Coast and is tailored to our region.

It provides a comprehensive list of grants and funding opportunities available for local businesses, community groups, not-for-profits and individuals.

The Limestone Coast Grant Finder will also help you find grants, manage grant applications and allow you to receive email alerts when new grants are released.

Access the Limestone Coast Grant Finder online at **grantguru.com/au/rdalc**.

For further project support and information on the government grants and/or funding programs that may be available, contact the Regional Development Australia Limestone Coast office on (08) 8723 1057 or info@rdalc.org.au.

Out and About with Council



Photo credit: Limestone Coast Community News



30 Years of Croquet

Mayor Kylie Boston joined the Mount Gambier Croquet Club for their 30th birthday celebrations at Malseed Park.



Remembrance Day

Mayor Kylie Boston laid a wreath on behalf of the District Council of Grant community at the Remembrance Day ceremony at Vansittart Park.



Meeting with the Minister

Mayor Kylie Boston, Councillor Barry Kuhl, Chief Executive Officer Darryl Whicker and Combined Agent Andrew Whan met with the Hon Catherine King MP to discuss the Mount Gambier Districts Livestock Exchange 2030 Transformation Project.







Stay up to date with Council activities on social media.

Follow the District Council of Grant on Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn to be the first to see photos from events and reminders.

Community Events

FATHER CHRISTMAS

IS COMING TO

THE ALLENDALE EAST HALL



FREE

BBQ & DRINKS

FRIDAY DEC 12TH

FREE BBQ START-6:00PM

SANTA ARIVES-7:00PM

Please leave a $15 gift, wrapped and labelled at the Allendale East shop for each child aged 12 years &under.

(Family event-No alcohol please)



MERRY CHRISTMAS!!

From the Allendale East Public Hall Committee

WORKSHOP SERIES

FIREY WOMEN MOUNT GAMBIER

CFS

Prepare, stay safe, and connect with your community.

Learn more about:

- *Bushfire behaviour*
- *Preparing your home*
- *Physical and emotional preparation*

WHEN

Sunday, 7 December
10:00am - 4:30pm



WHERE

Mount Gambier Emergency Services Training Room
152 Jubilee Highway East, Mount Gambier

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Morning tea and lunch will be provided.

Please register each attendee separately to assist with catering.

REGISTER
cfs.sa.gov.au/events

CFS REGIONAL COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OFFICER
MEGAN HURRELL
Phone 08 8762 7100
Email cfs.region5commengage@eso.sa.gov.au

Government of South Australia

Art-Ability

The Hangar Gallery Exhibition

Tuesday 9 September 2025 to Friday 27 February 2026

FREE ENTRY

The District Council of Grant presents the Art-Ability Exhibition, as an initiative of Council's Access and Inclusion Advisory Panel, highlighting and celebrating the diverse talents of people living with disabilities in our community, in conjunction with International Day of People with Disability on 3 December 2025.

District Council of Grant

Find out more online at **yoursaydcg.com.au/art-ability-exhibition**

Have an event to share with the community?

Email info@dcgrant.sa.gov.au for the opportunity to feature in a future newsletter or online community events calendar. Your community groups, event or not-for-profit organisation must be located in the District Council of Grant area.

Community Events





