

6 MONTH REPORT CARD

JANUARY - JUNE 2022



PREPARED BY
Esther Thorn

REPORT CARD SUMMARY

I am pleased to present the ninth edition of Roxby Council's Six Month Report Card series.

The Report Card summarises our recent performance and activities. It also illustrates our ongoing commitment to informing the community and other stakeholders about our progress in meeting the objectives of the Annual Business Plan and Budget, Long Term Financial Plan and Strategic Plan.

This latest Six Month Report Card provides an extensive and thorough review of our projects, services and programs.

The first half of 2022 presented unprecedented challenges, with heavy rains in the region washing away a section of road between Woomera and Pimba. This cut all transport into and out of Roxby Downs, left residents stranded and disrupted supplies to the town.

Council worked tirelessly with BHP, the Department of Infrastructure and Transport and



Floodwaters washed away a key section of road between Woomera and Pimba leaving residents stranded and disrupting supplies.



Contractors had to wait several days for the water to subside before the repair work could begin.

local contractors to create an alternative access route until the flood waters subsided enough to rebuild the road.

The beginning of 2022 also saw a rapid rise in the number of COVID-19 cases in Roxby Downs as borders opened and restrictions eased. The spike in case numbers meant there were disruptions and delays to some services and projects.

Despite the challenges, our community has shown resilience and found ways to move forward.

At a time when the cost of living is rising, it's critical Council carefully considers how our budget is spent.

REPORT CARD SUMMARY

Council's Draft Annual Business Plan and Budget for the 2022 - 2023 financial year went to community consultation during the first six months of this year.

Key projects in the budget include the \$5 million Sports Precinct Upgrade, the Horticulture Plan, replacing bark chips at playgrounds with recycled rubber soft fall and upgrading the cinema seats.

The budget also included a total rate revenue increase of 4.7 per cent, which is equivalent to the Adelaide March 2022 Consumer Price Index.

Keeping our residents connected has been of critical importance during these challenging times and Roxby Council has seized opportunities to build community spirit and optimism.

Join the Roxby Community Library on the Web!
Monday 7 Feb to Sunday 13 Feb 2022

Guided Packs

- **Toddler Storytime (2-5yrs)**
Tuesday 8 February at 9:30am
- **Think It, Make It, Do It (5-12yrs)**
Thursday 10 February at 1:30pm
- **L.E.A.P. (3-5yrs)**
Friday 11 February at 9:30am

D.I.Y. Packs

- **Recycled Bird Feeders**

Pack Collection

Come into the library to collect your packs during opening hours.
Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm
or Saturday from 9am to 2pm
Note: Limited pack numbers available.

Cyber Sessions

- **Books 'n' Bubs* (0-2yrs)**
Monday 7 February at 9:30am
- **Bedtime with the Library* (all ages)**
Saturday 12 February at 6:30pm

Note: Items with an asterisk (*) do not require a pack.

Cyber Challenges

- **Lego Club* (all ages)**
Wednesday 9 February at 1:30pm
- **Term 1 Reading Challenge**

RO BY LINK Follow us on Facebook @RoxbyCommunityLibrary

The Community Library found innovative ways to build connection in Roxby Downs, even when COVID-19 cases were at their peak.

In May Council celebrated the Sport Precinct Upgrade with a ground breaking ceremony and community sausage sizzle. The project, which will be completed in 2023, will include two new gender-diverse, AFL standard changerooms and four new multi-purpose playing courts.



One of the pieces of art commissioned by Council as part of the Kokatha Art Development Project.

Another highlight of the first half of 2022 was the Kokatha Art Development Project and exhibition, which was a collaboration between BHP, Roxby Council and the Kokatha Aboriginal Corporation.

Kokatha artists from across Australia were invited to submit entries into a competition. A panel of judges selected three artworks to be commissioned by Council. The winning pieces of art were then exhibited at the Roxby Link Gallery, alongside other paintings by Kokatha artists. The commissioned artworks are now on permanent display in the Roxby Link facility.

Bringing colour and vibrancy to Roxby Downs was also the focus of the Richardson Place Mural Project, which was completed in June.

The project was an initiative of Roxby Council and the Roxby Downs Business Forum and was funded by BHP.

Large-scale realism artist Sam Brooks was commissioned to paint the Olympic Dam story on the auditorium wall in Richardson Place, which has been well received by the community and visitors alike.

Geoff Whitbread
Council Administrator

HIGHLIGHTS



SPORTS PRECINCT RECOGNITION EVENT

Roxby Council held a ground breaking ceremony to launch the \$5 million Sport Precinct Upgrade in May.

The event was attended by Council Administrator Geoff Whitbread, Member for Grey Rowan Ramsey MP, BHP Olympic Dam Asset President Dr. Jennifer Purdie, local sporting groups and associations and community members.

The project, which aims to encourage participation, diversity and inclusion in sport, has been jointly funded by the State and Federal Government, Roxby Council, BHP and the contractors involved in the smelter maintenance project. The upgrade will include:

- construction of 4 outdoor multi-purpose (netball/tennis) courts.
- construction of 2 AFL standard, gender-diverse changeroom facilities, including public toilets.

The upgrade will be one of the largest infrastructure projects commissioned by Council in recent times.

HIGHLIGHTS



KOKATHA ART DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

The Kokatha Art Development Project was a 12 month collaboration between Roxby Council, the Kokatha Aboriginal Corporation and BHP. The project aimed to create an enduring legacy of Kokatha Artwork in Roxby Downs, as well as create a vibrant and thriving Kokatha arts economy in the town.

Kokatha artists were asked to submit designs for paintings in 3 categories:

- Traditional Food
- Partnerships and Connections
- Recreation, Sport and Lifestyle

A panel of judges comprising representatives from BHP, Roxby Council and the Kokatha Aboriginal Corporation, as well as an independent judge, selected one painting from each category to be commissioned by Council.

The paintings are currently on display at the Roxby Link facility.

HIGHLIGHTS



ANNUAL BUSINESS PLAN AND BUDGET

The Annual Business Plan and Budget 2022-2023 was developed within the context of the key principles of the Long-term Financial Plan, underpinned by a newly developed Asset Management Plan. Property rates and the waste collection service charge have increased by 4.7% (Adelaide CPI for year to 31 March). There was no increase to power and water charges for 2022-23.

A keystone project is the \$5 million Sports Precinct Upgrade, which will encourage participation, diversity and inclusion in sport. Roxby Council is also championing environmental sustainability, with plans to reduce the amount of Great Artesian Basin water being used for irrigation. Our capital works program is assessed according to criteria to prioritise and allocate funding that will provide the greatest economic, environmental and community outcomes for the town.

The Annual Business Plan produces an operating deficit of \$261,000 which will be addressed through spending discipline.

ESSENTIAL SERVICES

WASTE MANAGEMENT

General waste, recycling and green bin tonnage collected from kerbsides all increased compared to the same period last year.



Waste generation increased by 10.4% during the Jan - June 2022 period compared to the previous year.

The total number of bins emptied did not increase, but the average bin weight went from 10.62kg per bin in 2021 to 11.75kg per bin in 2022.

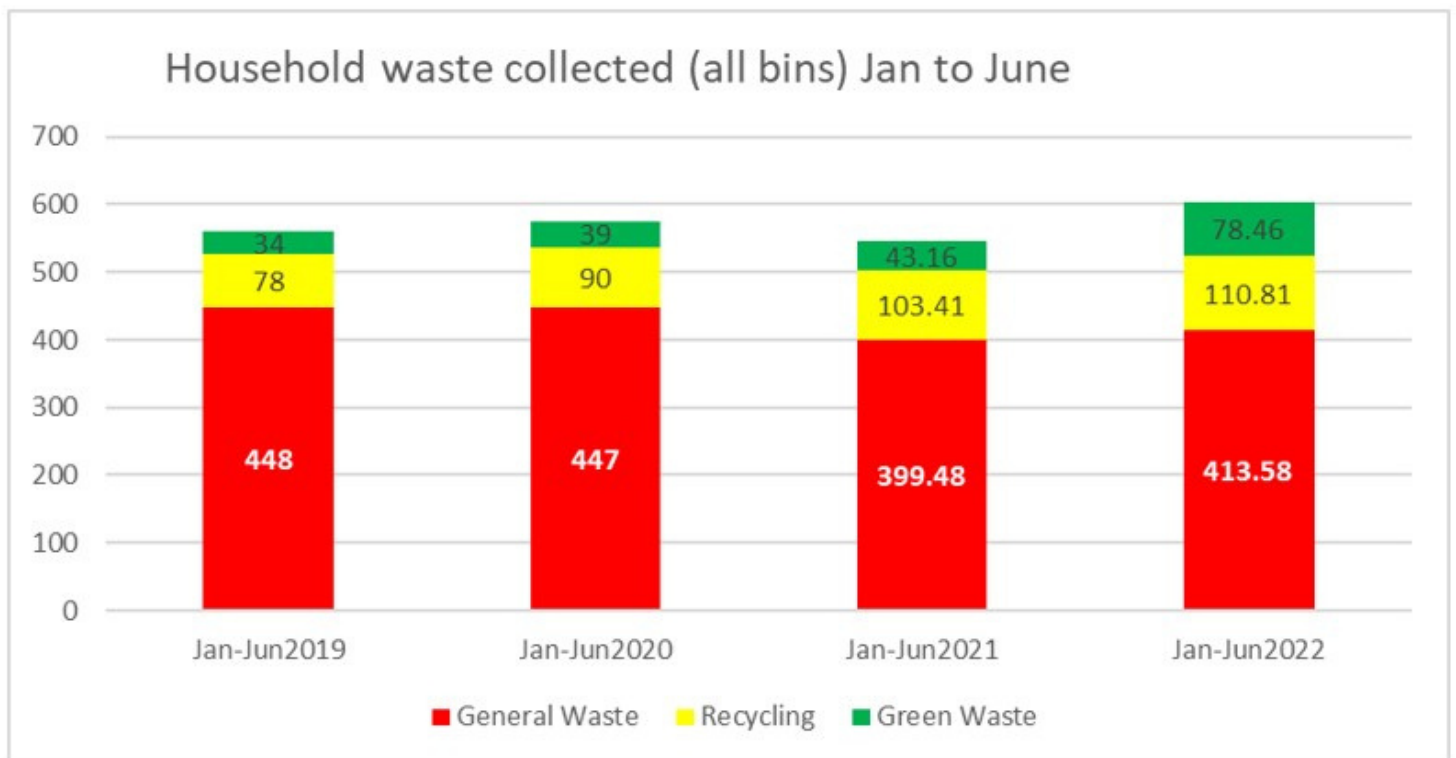
It is possible that the increased tonnage collected was related to a larger population as a result of the planned maintenance shutdown at Olympic Dam.

While it is assumed that the increase in general waste and recycling bin tonnes is due to the larger population size (with possibly several contractors sharing the one house), it's unclear why the green waste bin tonnes increased so significantly.

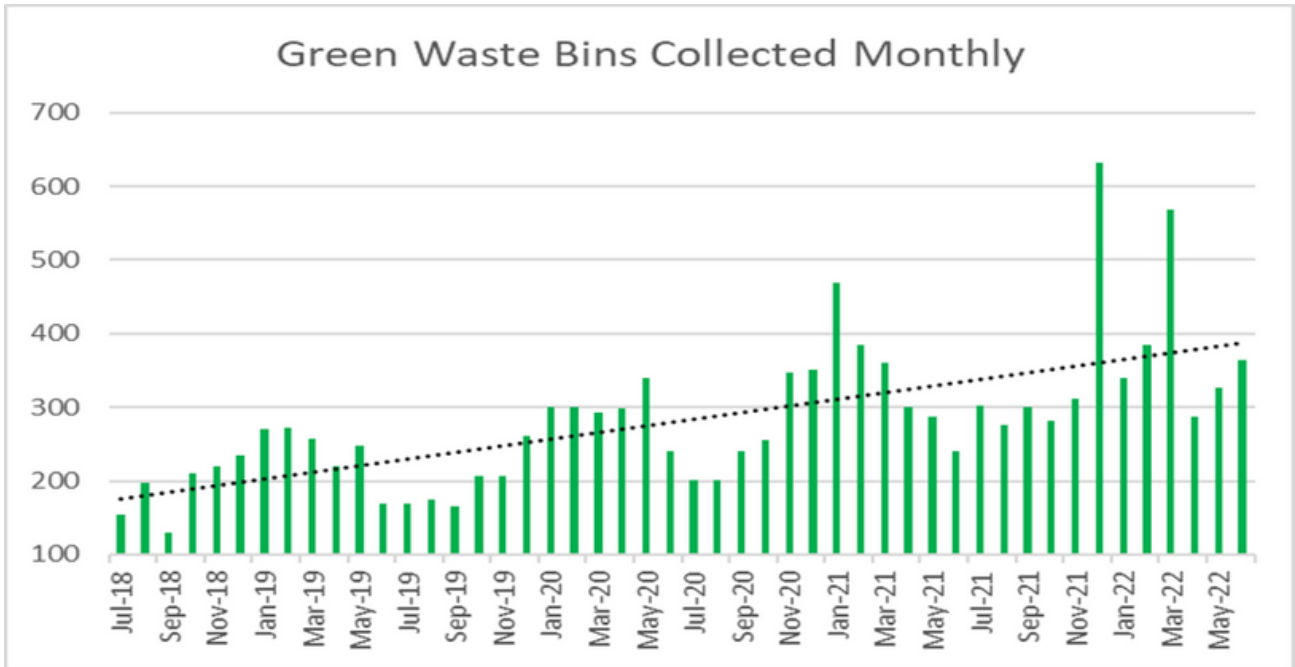
Although the total tonnages are still relatively low, there is a clear longer term uptrend in green waste tonnes collected. This is evident in the monthly total bin numbers as shown in the chart on the following page.



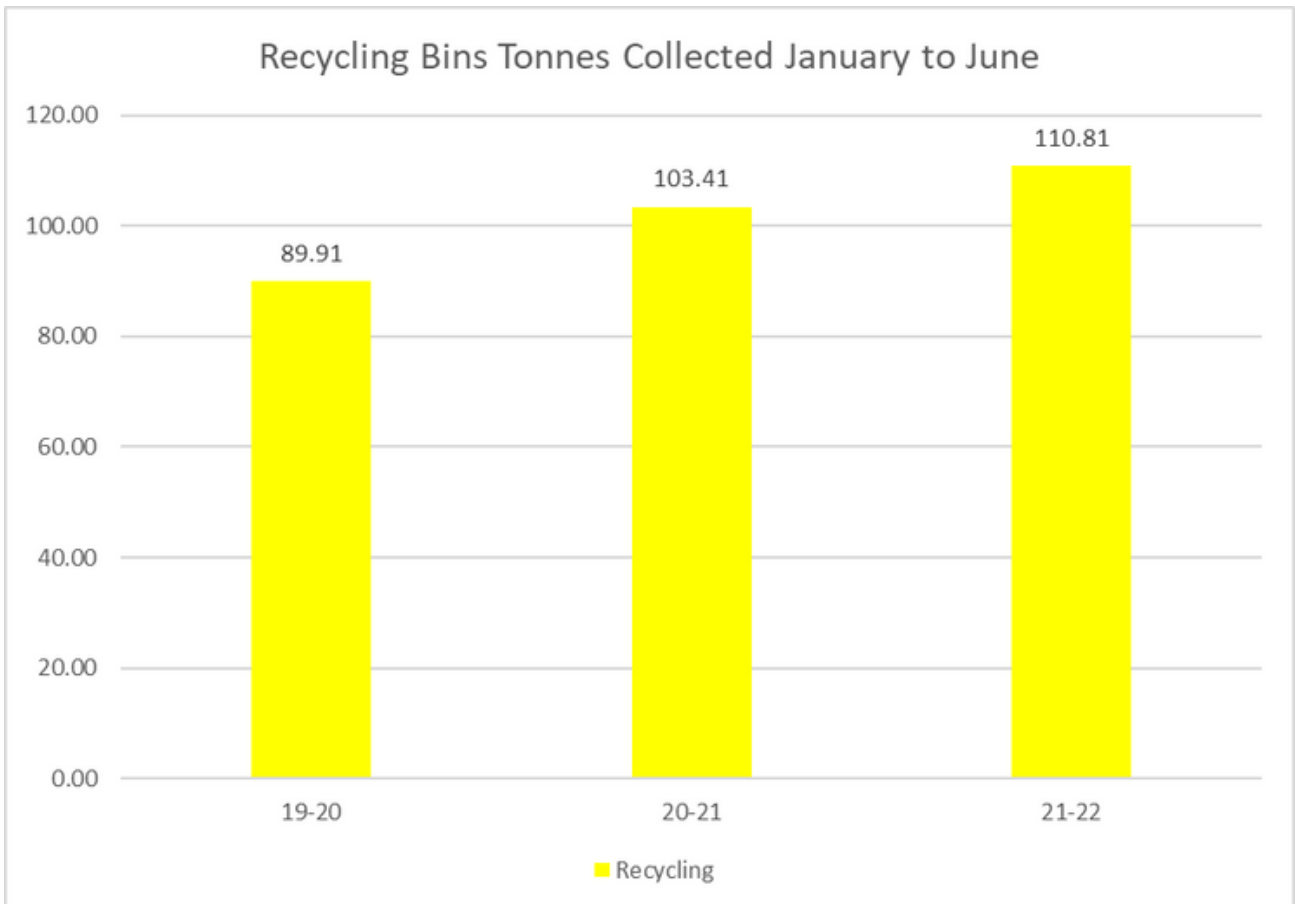
Green waste increased by over 80% compared with the previous year, while recycling increased by 7%.



ESSENTIAL SERVICES



Green waste increased by 80% compared to the previous year (78 tonnes compared with 43 tonnes in 2021).



Recycling tonnes collected increased by 7% compared to the previous year.

ESSENTIAL SERVICES

DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS

Between January and June 2022, 22 Development Applications were lodged through the Plan SA website, 17 of which have been granted Development Approval. This includes 4 applications that were lodged in 2020 and 2021.

Breakdown of Approved Development:

VERANDAHS/PERGOLAS	10
SHED (RESIDENTIAL)	2
CRIB ROOM (OLYMPIC DAM)	1
RESTROOM BLOCK (OLYMPIC DAM)	1
COVID TESTING AND INDUCTION CENTRE (OLYMPIC DAM)	1
ST BARBARA'S PARISH SCHOOL REDEVELOPMENT	1
6 OFFICE BUILDINGS, 2 CRIB ROOMS, 2 ABLUTION FACILITIES (OLYMPIC DAM)	1



17 Development Applications approved between January - June.



Swimming is a big part of the Roxby Downs lifestyle and Council plays an important role in making sure the approximately 350 pools in the town are safe.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

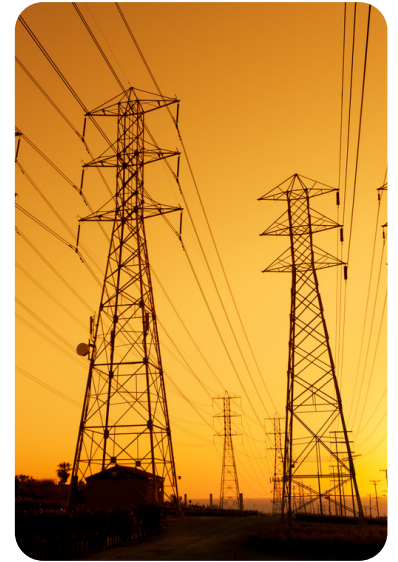
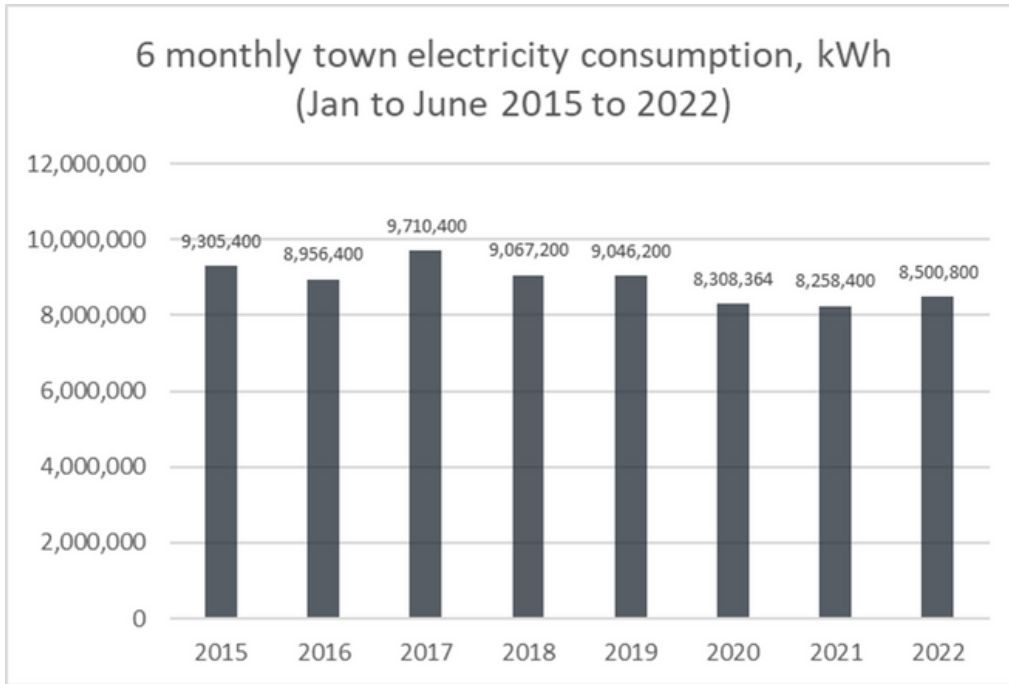
Health inspections were carried out on the following premises:

FOOD SAFETY (BUSINESSES)	7
FOOD SAFETY (EDUCATION)	1
RESIDENTIAL SWIMMING POOLS INSPECTED	40

ESSENTIAL SERVICES

ROXBY POWER

See below for the January - June 2022
Electricity Consumption, displayed in kWh.



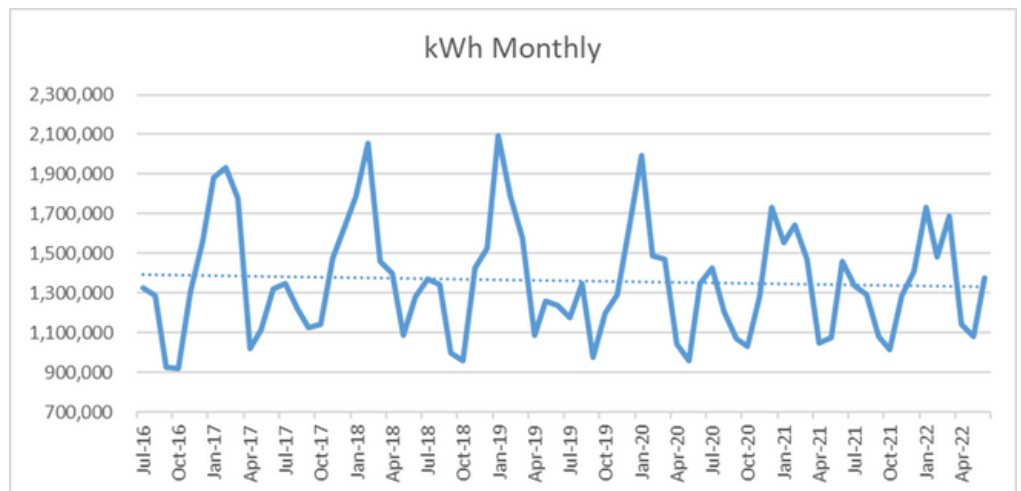
Roxby Power operates under a Distribution Licence issued by ESCOSA.



Town electricity consumption was in line with expectations, with 8,500,800 kWh used.

APPROVED SOLAR INSTALLATIONS	13
METERS REPLACED	23
STREET LIGHTS UPGRADED TO LED	10

The long term trend shows a slight downward decline in power consumption monthly, although the seasonal power usage is consistent each year. April to October are typically the 'low' usage months and peak demand occurs during the warmer months between October and April.



ESSENTIAL SERVICES



New isolation valve and fire hydrant on Pioneer Drive.

ROXBY WATER

From January to June 2022, Roxby Water carried out the following works:

- 6 lift and clear pumps at various pump stations.
- Unblocked 1 sewer connection on Stuart Road.
- 1 water mains leak repair on Bopeechee Street.
- 34 water meters repairs identified during quarterly reads.
- 6 water meters repaired due to customer request.
- 7 water meters replaced due to lack of pressure.
- All pump station chambers cleaned twice.
- Sewer lagoon transfer pipe cleaned twice.



Water consumption for the Jan - June period was 318,229 KL.



The pipe from the anaerobic weir to Primary Dam 3 was blocked at the elbow.

BACK UP POWER SUPPLY FOR TOWN WATER

A new backup 200 kVA diesel powered genset was installed at the town water supply facility to ensure continued water supply in the event of a power outage.

The new genset automatically starts during a power outage.

The genset is connected to the remote telemetry systems to enable remote status monitoring by staff.

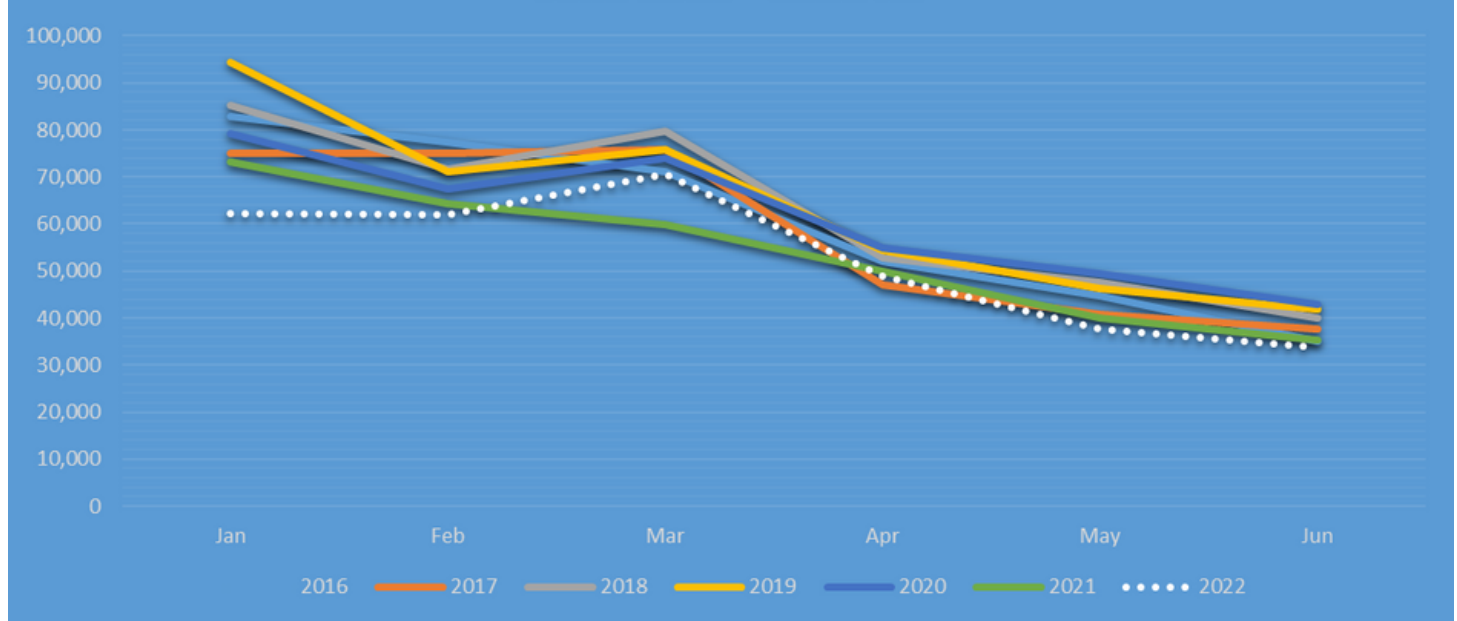


Installation of the new 200 kVA backup genset.

ESSENTIAL SERVICES

ROXBY WATER

Monthly Water Use Roxby Downs Township January to June 2016 - 2022 KL



Jan-June, Year	Total KL	% Change
2016	363,072.00	
2017	351,121.00	-3.29
2018	376,948.00	7.36
2019	383,934.00	1.85
2020	368,036.00	-4.14
2021	322,641.00	-12.33
2022	314,981.00	-2.37



The town's total water consumption reduced by 5% during 2021 - 2022 compared with the previous year.

FY	kL water used	Change %
16-17	653,051	
17-18	696,314	6.62
18-19	709,049	1.83
19-20	706,813	-0.32
20-21	630,181	-10.84
21-22	598,271	-5.06



The new pump at Pump Station A being installed as part of the replacement program.

ASSET SERVICES

FOOTPATH REPLACEMENT

Council received a Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Projects grant of \$291,000 to upgrade the footpath along Pioneer Drive and Arcoona Street.

The existing footpath consisted of pavers, which over time had shifted to create an uneven surface and potential tripping hazard for the many young children who walk or ride to and from school.

The upgrade included:

- 260 metres (312 m²) on Arcoona Street.
- 573 metres (688 m²) on Pioneer Drive.



The new footpath outside St. Barb's School on Pioneer Drive.

FLOODING EVENT

Council's infrastructure was put to the test during the unprecedented flooding event in January this year.

Unlike many towns across regional South Australia, Roxby Downs' road network, footpaths and drainage held up well throughout the deluge, which is testament to Council's commitment to maintenance and renewals.

The only road that was impacted in the weather event was a section of road between Woomera and Pimba, which was washed away.

Without the key access road, vehicles couldn't get in or out of Roxby Downs and Olympic Dam, which left the town without food or fuel supplies and posed a risk to BHP's operations.

Local contractor Red Mulga was able to cut an alternative access route, while the road was repaired.



Contractors at work rebuilding the road that was washed away.

RANGER'S REPORT

ANIMAL MANAGEMENT

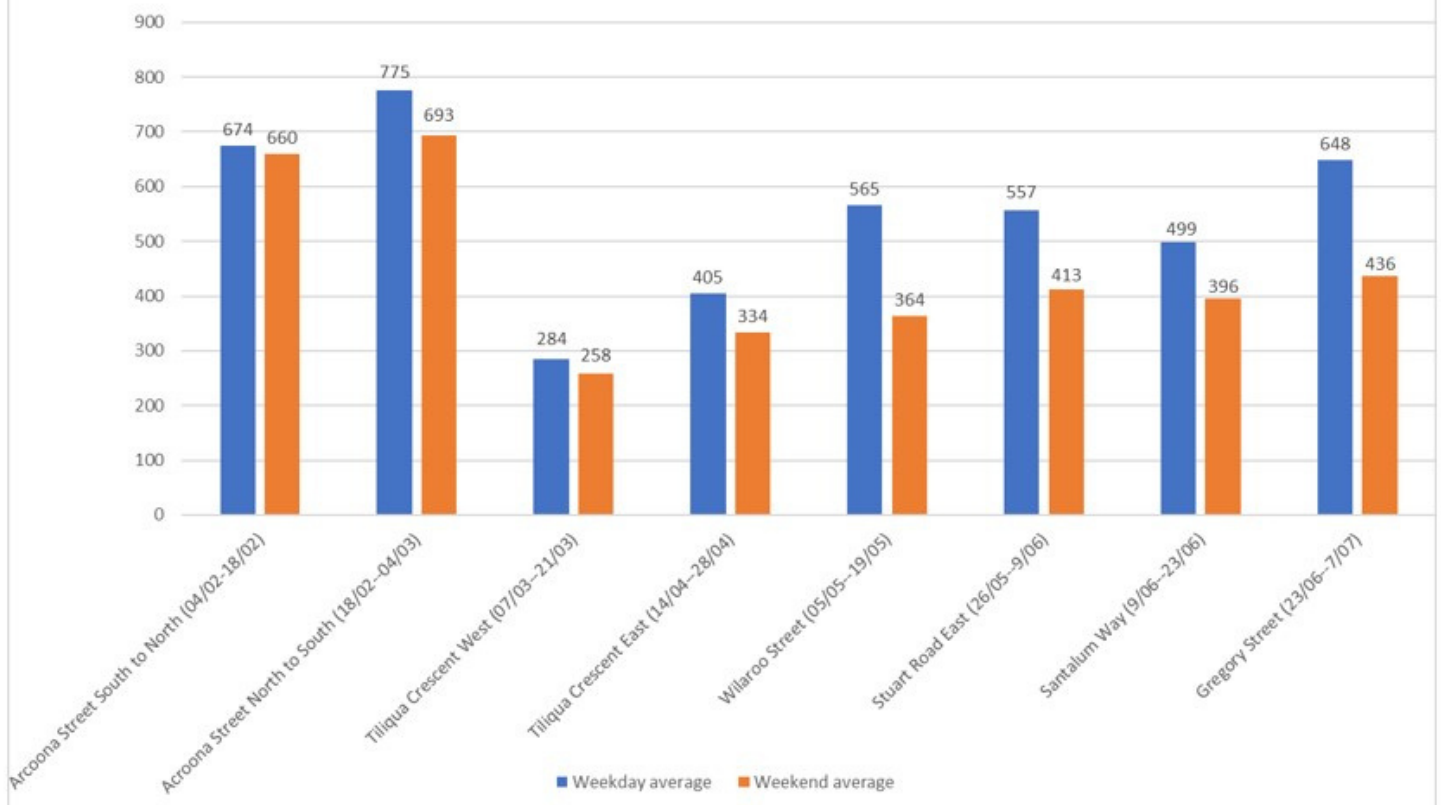
DOGS REPORTED WANDERING	31
DOGS IMPOUNDED AND RETURNED	14
CATS CAUGHT IN A TRAP	2
CATS IMPOUNDED AND RETURNED	3
WARNING LETTERS SENT	16
EXPIATIONS ISSUED	10



PARKING/TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

PARKING EXPIATIONS ISSUED	14
PARKING WARNINGS ISSUED	43
VEHICLES IMPOUNDED	2
TRAFFIC STREET COUNT NO. (SEE GRAPH BELOW)	8

Average Daily Traffic Movements Jan-Jun/2022- selected streets



COMMUNITY YOUTH CENTRE

COVID-19 continued to cause disruptions to programming at CYC during the first half of 2022.

Restrictions at the start of the year meant CYC was unable to open until 14 February. The centre then had to close again in late March, early April to help slow the spread of the virus through the Area School community.

Despite the early disruptions, CYC was able to launch the Leadership In Action program on 24 May. During the April school holidays making 'Easter bread houses' proved a popular activity for CYC attendees. The centre also held two movie events; 'Uncharted' in March and 'Dr. Strange' in June.

One of the highlights was installing the two art panels created last year with artist Dave Court at the CYC entrance.

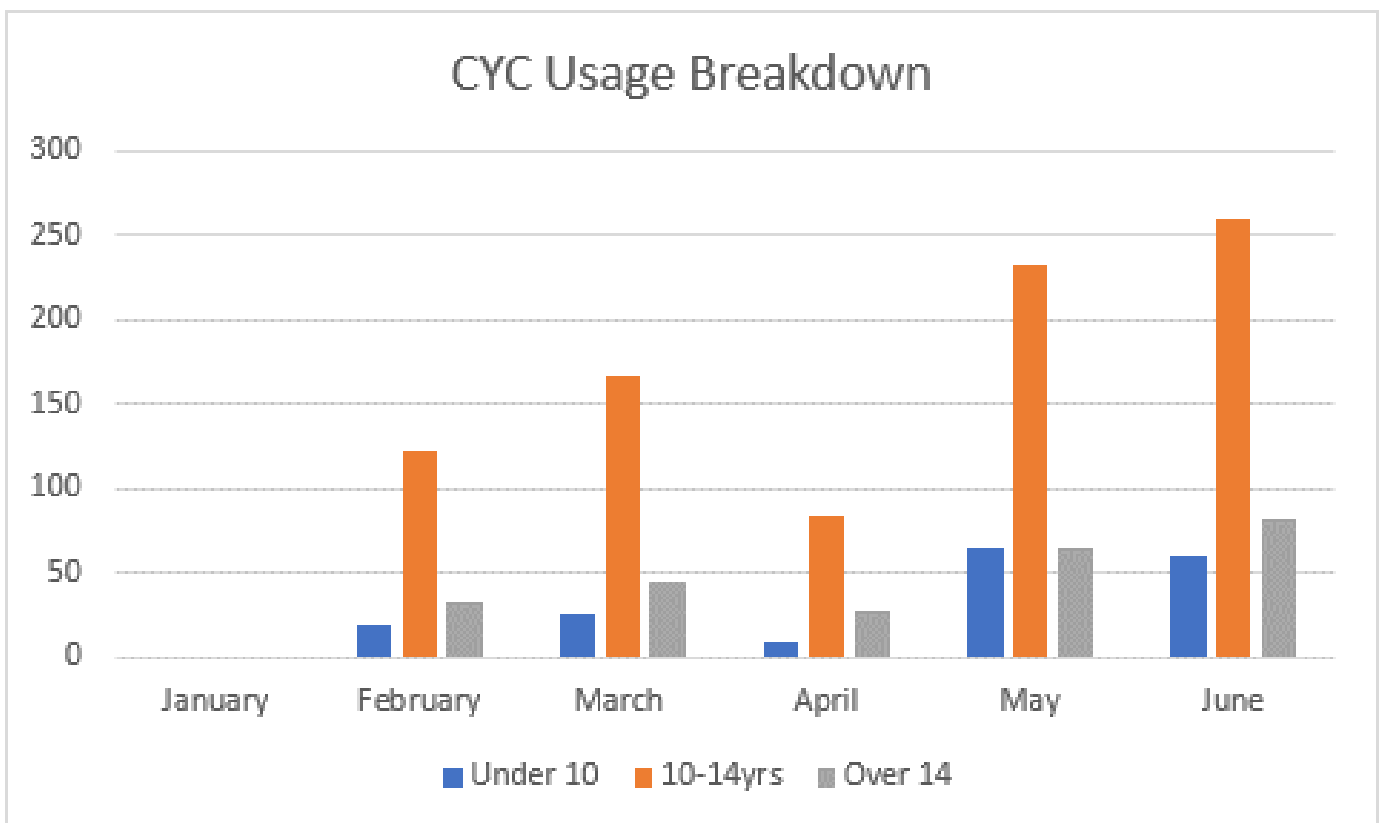
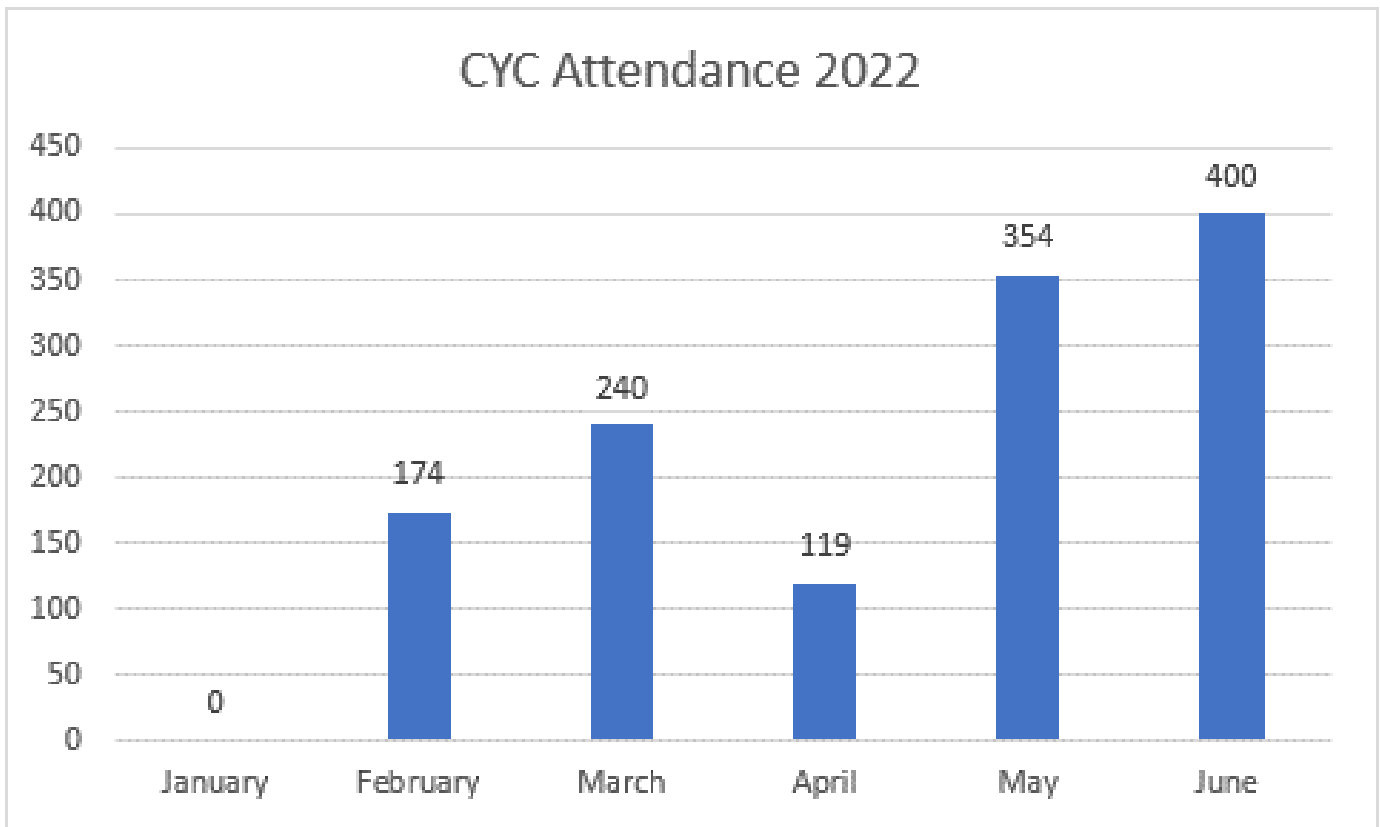


The Dave Court facilitated artwork on display in the CYC entrance.



Making 'Easter bread houses' was a popular activity during the April school holidays.

COMMUNITY YOUTH CENTRE



LIBRARY

There were 9,232 library users during January-June 2022, 153 new membership registrations with 8,046 active members and 10,104 items circulated.

The year started slowly with the summer school holiday program modified to accommodate COVID-19 restrictions. Library staff organised approximately 340 take home activity packs for families to collect.

Despite the restrictions, the library and Roxby Link Cinema were able to coordinate a movie event, screening 'Sing 2'. A maximum of 22 people were allowed into the session, so staff organised two sessions in back-to-back timeslots. Session 1 sold out and Session 2 sold 20 tickets, which demonstrated the success of the event.

In March the Library held a 'Paint & Sip' event to celebrate Women's History Month and International Women's Day. The event was overwhelmingly successful with 46 attendees. Participants were provided with a canvas, paints, brushes, nibbles and two free drink tickets.

The event was fully booked within an hour of being advertised, requiring a move to the auditorium, which could cater for more participants. After careful consideration of the budget and COVID restrictions, organisers were able to increase ticket numbers to 50.

The theme of the night was 'Unleashing your inner Picasso and empowering yourself through art'. Organisers encouraged participants to paint freely without limitations, as children do when given a blank canvas. While some participants doubted their abilities, the end results were impressive.



Paint & Sip participants displaying their artwork.

The community feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with attendees keen to know when next Paint & Sip event would be held.

In April, 14 people attended an in-house author talk at the library with author and publisher Reign Atkins.

The library and the Roxby Link Cinema collaborated on a movie event during the April school holidays. The cinema screened 'The Bad Guys' and sold 28 tickets.

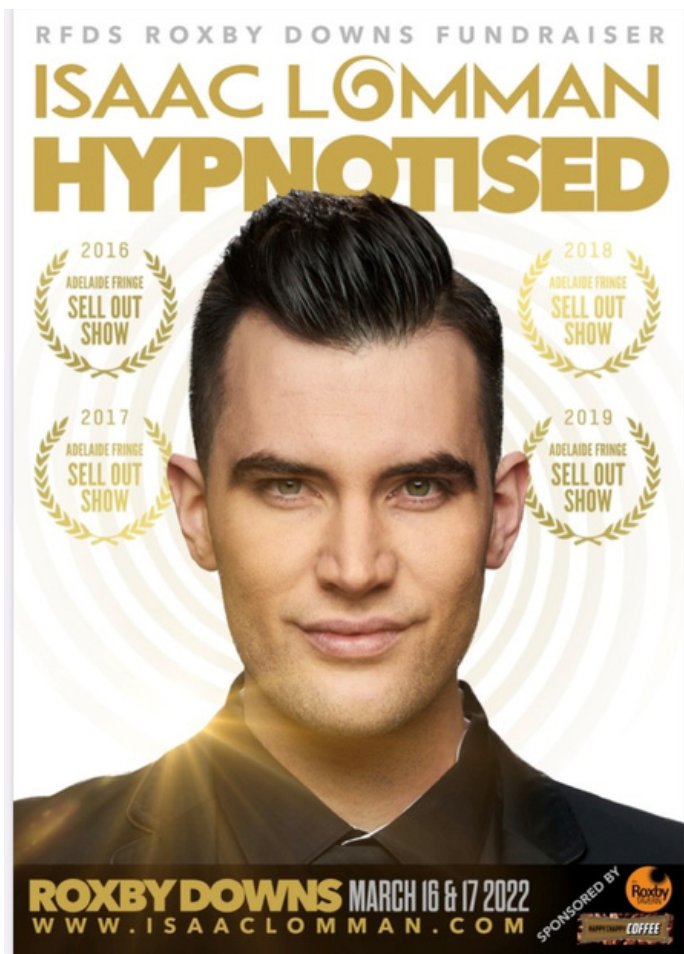
The Teen Talk program was launched in May, aiming to bring teens together and encourage socialisation while exploring topics chosen by participants.

In June the library staff held their second Paint & Sip event, which again had a very strong turnout of 40 attendees, including artist Sam Brooks who was in Roxby Downs painting the Richardson Place Mural.

EVENTS

During the first half of 2022, 5 corporate events were held at Roxby Link, as well as 2 RFDS fundraisers in the auditorium. The corporate events included workshops, forums and an award presentation day.

HYPNOTISED BY ISAAC LOMMAN



In March, the RFDS brought hypnotist Isaac Lomman to Roxby Downs for two shows. Isaac has performed in the town a number of times and always attracts a strong audience.

Reconciliation Week was celebrated with a NUNGA Screen event, which featured an entertaining program of independent films made by both emerging and more established film-makers. This is the seventh year that Roxby Link has participated in Nunga Screen.



One of the paintings exhibited in the Kokatha Art Exhibition by artist Shirley Williams.

ART GALLERY

The Art Gallery hosted travelling exhibition 'Dare to Dream' in early 2022. As part of the exhibition, children were asked to participate in a challenge to design a toy or gadget for someone their age who is moving to Mars. The top-rated designs were remotely printed and featured in a travelling exhibition.

The Kokatha Art Prize exhibition was held during May, with artworks on display by Kokatha artists from across South Australia. Many of the artists who attended the event had never seen their work exhibited before.

Roxby Downs Area School students also shared their creative talent with an exhibition titled 'Progression', which was held during June.

VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE

Between January and June this year 1225 people attended the Visitor Information Centre, with May once again the busiest month.

Overall this season has been quieter than previous years, which could be a result of high petrol prices and the return of interstate and overseas travel due to COVID-19 restrictions easing.

The Arid Recovery Sunset Tour attracted 56 attendees and the Olympic Dam Story video, which is available for free at the cinema, was viewed by 353 people.

COMMUNICATIONS

Council served as a focal point of information for local residents when parts of the Stuart Highway were washed away in the floods in January. The communications team has continued to publish and distribute key notices and announcements to the town through a variety of mediums, including social media, video content, print media and radio broadcast.



Council keeps the community updated with a weekly radio show hosted by Esther Thorn on local station RoxFM.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATIONS



Without a local newspaper Roxby Council continues to play an important role in publicising local news and current affairs.

When Council published a video about a missing python that had been sighted in Roxby Downs after two years, the story went viral and was picked up by mainstream media.

The communications team restructured and redesigned the way that Council presents its Annual Business Plan and Budget. The consultation and budget delivered to the State Government and BHP in July had a strong visual focus alongside concise information to provide greater appeal to Roxby Downs rate payers. In-person consultation sessions significantly enhanced the level of feedback about proposed Council projects.

Council also consulted the community on the Updated Animal Management Plan and Cats By-law 2022 earlier this year. This feedback will influence the ways in which dogs and cats are managed in Roxby Downs.

The Advertiser

My News Local SA National World Opinion Business Entertainment Lifestyle Sport

News · South Australia

Escaped olive python located two years after it went missing in Roxby Downs

Robert McGrory thought all hope was lost when his 2.5m long python escaped in Roxby Downs two years ago – but a recent sighting has sparked new hope.



Dixie Sulda

Follow

@dixie_sulda

less than 2 min read · April 13, 2022 · 2:32PM

The Advertiser

0 comments



Roxby Council's story about Ollie the escapee python went viral and was picked up by mainstream media outlets, including The Advertiser.

COMMUNICATIONS

WEB PRESENCE



19% increase in page views compared to last report.



On average, 20% of users access our website earlier in the week. Any future pages on the website should prioritise Monday-Wednesday publishing.

SOCIAL MEDIA



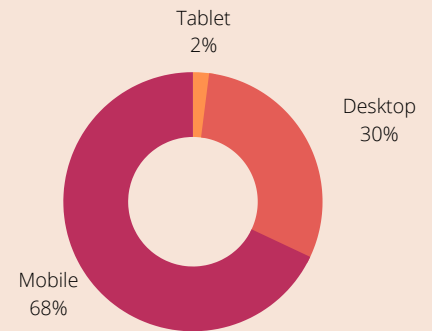
609 new Facebook page likes.



Above: Facebook post reach for Roxby Council and Roxby Link.
Right: Gender profile of Facebook followers.

USERS	27,804
PAGE VIEWS	83,683
AVG TIME ON PAGE	01:37
AVG SESSION DUR	01:20
BOUNCE RATE	66.93%
PAGES / SESSION	1.82

DEVICE USE:



TOP 10 VISITED WEBSITE PAGES

1. Cinema Session Times
2. Homepage
3. Living in Roxby Downs
4. VIC - About Roxby Downs
5. Dunes Cafe - order online
6. Dunes Cafe
7. VIC - Attractions
8. Roxby Link
9. Collection Calendar 2022
10. Employment

