



SIX MONTH REPORT CARD

JULY - DECEMBER 2020

Edition 7

Welcome to the seventh edition of Roxby Council's Six Month Report Card series.

This Report Card initiative was first introduced for the July-December 2017 period. It illustrates our ongoing commitment to inform the community and other stakeholders about progress in meeting the objectives of Council's Annual Business Plan and Budget and reporting Council-initiated and/or partnered activities, programs, and events.

This edition provides a snapshot of Council highlights during the period July to December 2020.

It also reports on a number of projects that are already underway and will, as they are implemented, contribute to the economic and community well being of Roxby Downs.

Many of these activities are reported upon as they happen via the Roxby Council website and the Roxby Council and Roxby Link Facebook pages. Radio segments on RoxFM (Council Catchup, Thursdays at 9am and The Vibe, Fridays at 1pm) and other radio programs broadcasting in the region are also utilised as a key way of communicating progress and achievements.

This Report Card represents a succinct and easy-to-read summary of these highlights.

We are interested in your feedback. Please feel free to provide comments and suggestions via: roxby@roxbycouncil.com.au



Adapting to the Challenges of Coronavirus (COVID-19)

2020 has been a year of uncertainty and unprecedented challenges. The first Australian COVID-19 case was recorded in Australia in January 2020. It did not take long to have an immense impact upon the daily lives and routines of all Australians. Many Australians became acquainted with the terms social distancing, COVID testing, hand hygiene and home isolation.

By mid-March 2020, and in response to Australian Government COVID-19 directions, many of Council's facilities and services were delivering modified services or completely closed to the public. With these changes came a host of challenges, many of which had never been experienced. The public domain of the Roxby Downs community was restricted, and adaptation was required in order to maintain community well being.

Virtual delivery of community programs and limited access to recreation and fitness facilities became the norm.

Roxby Downs was fortunate to have not recorded a single case of COVID-19 throughout 2020. The adaptability of the community to such a year of disruption has been notable.

Roxby Council played an important role in the enabling and enforcement of State Government restrictions arising from COVID-19. Council is responsible for the provision of essential services and facilities for the community; it was essential for us to continue to provide essential services, abide by Emergency Declarations and Directions, and ultimately protect/support community health and well-being.



A year of uncertainty and unprecedented challenges

Roxby Downs - Andamooka COVID-19 Working Group

Early 2020 saw the Chief Executive of Council convene a Roxby Downs – Andamooka COVID-19 Working Group which meets virtually to discuss implications for our region. This group, now known as the Roxby-Andamooka Round Table, continues to meet and has expanded the agenda to discuss a broad range of community matters. Members include Roxby Downs health services, BHP, local school and children's services, APOMA and SAPOL.

JULY - OCTOBER

COVID-Safe Plans now a requirement for businesses that conduct a range of defined public activities including:

- Onsite purchase and consumption of food or beverages
- Sport, fitness, recreation activities, public functions and public entertainment
- Roxby Link kiosk, sport & leisure facilities, meeting spaces, Creche, Cinema, Community Library, Community Youth Centre reopen with limited capacity and COVID-Safe restrictions
- Indoor Pool - lap swimming and hydrotherapy only

Most facilities reopen with COVIDsafe conditions in accordance with the continued advice from SA Health and directions from the SA Police Commissioner.

NOVEMBER

18 November 2020 -

Lockdown

- Council office and all Roxby Link facilities closed to the public
- Expected duration 6 days

22 November 2020 -

Lockdown ends

- Council office opens
- Outdoor facilities and public spaces (parks, playgrounds, skatepark, tennis and netball courts) - Open
- Roxby Link - all facilities remain closed in line with Police Commissioners Direction.

DECEMBER

1 December 2020

- COVIDSafe Checkin mandatory for patrons
- Strict capacity numbers for facilities
- No food in recreational areas



HIGHLIGHTS

Installation of Roxby Downs Town Entry Signage:

The 2019/20 Roxby Downs budget allocated funds toward the design and installation of Roxby Downs Town Entry Signage. Significant financial support for the project was also received from BHP.

The Roxby Downs Town Entry design concepts are based upon a painting by Kokatha artists Shirley, Lee and Jennifer Williams. The painting is an inspiring interpretation of Roxby Downs.

The Town Entry signs incorporate the artists Kokatha symbols for the town of Roxby Downs, the Olympic Dam mine and waterholes.

- Roxby Downs is depicted as a coalescing circle of rich hues of brown and gold and a bright core. This denotes the town as a focal point, a coming together of communities and cultures from around the world. The cultural diversity of Roxby is such a powerful element to the town and it contributes to the engaging and vibrant atmosphere that we enjoy every day.
- The Olympic Dam mine is depicted as an ochre-coloured concentric circle (single circle on the Town Entry sign and group of circles in the painting). The mine symbol represents the coming together of people from all around the world, bringing with them valuable knowledge of mining practices and cultural knowledge.
- Waterholes are a vital element to the desert landscape in that they provide a place of shelter and sustenance to all wildlife in the area. Waterholes are depicted as teal colored concentric circles. Waterholes bring communities together during times of heavy rain, highlighting the beauty of the desert.

The Town Entry signs were installed in December 2020 and are located at three sites on the perimeter of Roxby Downs. Olympic Way (northern approach to Roxby Downs), Olympic Way (southern approach to Roxby Downs) and Axehead Road.

The signs have been very well received by the community and others across the region. The signs are a significant representation of the strong relationship between Kokatha, BHP and the town of Roxby Downs.

Endorsement of the Disability Access and Inclusion Plan:

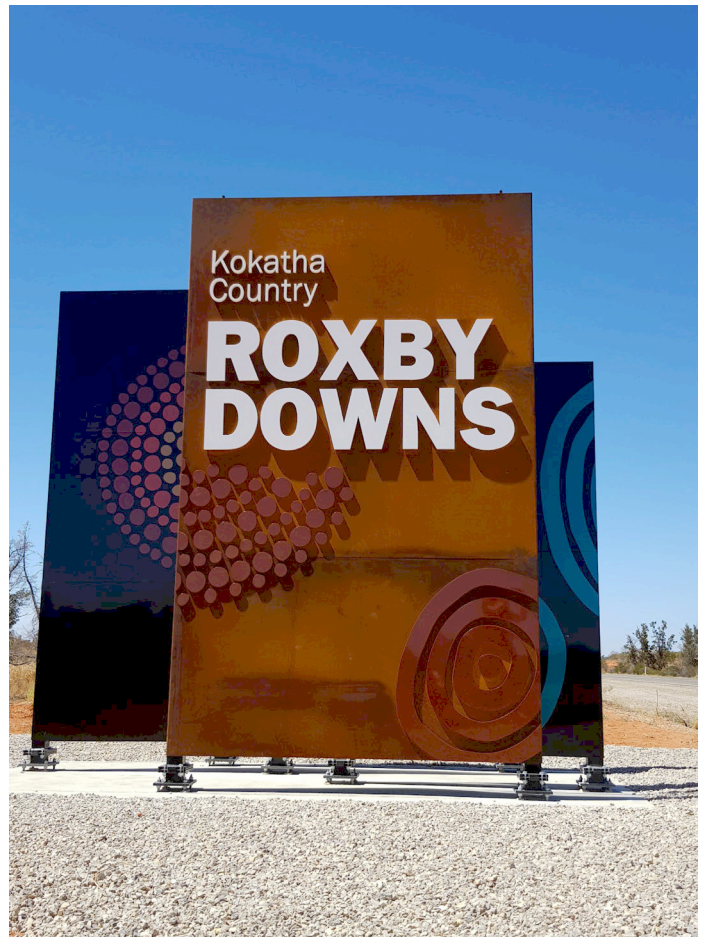
All councils in South Australia are required to prepare a Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (DAIP). The DAIP addresses risks relating to priority groups living with disability in the Roxby Downs township and provides measures to ensure people living with a disability can access Council supports and services.

Items addressed in the DAIP include:

- Equitable access to facilities, events and the built environs
- Access to information and communications
- Discrimination of people with disability
- Address specific needs of people with a disability in programs and services
- Ensuring Council's employment practices are inclusive.

Community and key stakeholder consultation was undertaken in the process of preparing the Disability Access and Inclusion Plan.

The Roxby Downs Council DAIP was endorsed at the October 2020 Council meeting.



HIGHLIGHTS

Draft Regional Public Health Plan

The South Australian Public Health Act 2011 (Act) requires that councils must prepare and maintain a Regional Public Health Plan (Section 51 (1)) which must be reviewed every 5 years (Section 51(19)).

The Draft Public Health Plan comprehensively assesses the state of public health in the region; and identifies existing and potential public health risks. It also provides strategies for addressing and eliminating or reducing risks. Furthermore, the Draft Regional Public Health Plan identifies opportunities and potential strategies for promoting public health and information regarding environmental, social, economic and practical considerations relating to public health across Roxby Downs.

Key stakeholders from the community were invited to provide feedback and input to the Draft plan. Representatives from priority populations were also consulted to identify emerging issues. The results of these consultations have helped inform the Plan.

At the December 2020 Council meeting Council endorsed the release of the Draft Regional Public Health Plan to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing. Subject to receiving the Minister's permission the Roxby Downs Community will then be consulted with regard to the preparation of the final plan.

Off-Leash Dog Park

Roxby Downs Off-Leash Dog Park was open to the community in August 2020. Featuring sturdy fencing, a perimeter path and car parking area. The dog park also incorporates separate small and large dog run areas, water stations, bins, waste disposal bags and a range of activity components for dogs of all kinds.

Council would like to express sincere thanks to the many volunteers who have assisted with the development of the park including students from Saint Barbara's Parish School and the Roxby Downs Area School. Council would also like to thank BHP Olympic Dam for their ongoing support of this project.

Dog Pound Upgrade

The Dog and Cat Management Board (DCMB) of South Australia is required to approve facilities that will be used to detain dogs and cats under the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995 (the Act). The DCMB guideline recommends minimum standards of management, accommodation, and care that should be applied in council dog and cat detention facilities..

Council's previous pound was constructed over 20 years ago and required improvements to ensure the health, security and welfare of detained dogs and cats.

The Dog Pound upgrade incorporates:

- Improved distancing between food, litter and sleeping areas
- Isolation provisions for isolation of particular animals eg: sick animals
- Improved ventilation and protection from the extremes of weather
- Natural light
- Improved mechanisms for disposal of waste



ESSENTIAL SERVICES AND ASSETS

Throughout the July to December 2020 period Council's Essential Services and Assets team progressed a number of significant projects. The Town Entry Signage, Off-Leash Dog Park and upgrade of the Dog Pound. In addition to scheduled town infrastructure and asset upgrades and maintenance key highlights for the team include:

Climate Change Policy

The July to December period saw Council commence the development of a Climate Change policy. The objective being to produce a policy that represents the climate change concerns specific to the Roxby Downs region and community. Eight focus areas and key concepts were initially drafted:

- Reducing net greenhouse gas emissions
- Climate risk resilience and adaptive capacity
- Transportation
- Cultural and Natural Heritage protection
- Waste
- Energy
- Water
- Vegetation and Fauna
- Health and Wellbeing

Council then consulted key expert groups and stakeholders for policy feedback and suggestions. Arid Recovery, BHP, the Roxby Downs Environment Forum, SA Landscape Board, Kokatha Corporation and Department for Energy and Mining were consulted.

The Policy is now undergoing refinement and will be presented to the Community and Council. The Policy will provide a framework for how Council and the Community can best respond to the challenges of climate change and take advantage of technological and other opportunities that may arise in addressing the challenge of rising temperatures and associated impacts.

Roxby Water - Recycled Water Management Plan (RWMP)

Roxby Downs Council is committed to responsible use and management of recycled water. The Roxby Downs Community Wastewater Management System (CWMS) collects, treats and produces recycled water from the Roxby Downs Township. An additional flow from the Olympic Dam Village (ODV) Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) has been included in 2020.

The Roxby Downs catchments consist of 2,156 connections and nine (9) pump stations with an average daily flow of 754 kL entering the WWTP. Current reuse of recycled consists of surface irrigation of the Roxby Downs Golf Course.

The review of Roxby Water's RWMP was carried out in late 2020 to ensure that it continues to align with Council's commitment to responsible use of recycled water. The State Department of Health and Wellbeing has approved the updated Recycled Water Management Plan.

Roxby Power

Street lighting maintenance resulted in an upgrade of 79 street lights to LED; this brings the total street light LED conversion to 429 to date. With over 50% of Roxby Downs street lights now converted to LED we should see less frequent maintenance requirements. LED lights emit less greenhouse emissions, over time will reduce operational and maintenance costs and emit a broader beam of light than the traditional lights.

Scheduled Township Power Maintenance- 26 July to 30 July 2020
Roxby Power conducts annual scheduled maintenance of Roxby Power infrastructure to ensure the ongoing safety and reliability of power supply to Roxby Downs.

Waste Management

Household waste generation increased slightly compared to the same period in previous years however more waste was recycled than in previous years. This is a positive move forward in terms of effective and environmental waste management.

Notably Green Waste and Recycling collection weights increased significantly in this period; a positive change in community disposal of waste.



ESSENTIAL SERVICES DATA

Data table comparisons are based upon July to December statistics for each year. ie:

Six month data for the same period in the previous year..

HOUSEHOLD WASTE

	2018	2019	2020
Number of Bins	48015	48074	51019
Kerbside Waste (tonnes)	550.25	562.12	564.92
General Waste (tonnes)	443.06	429.36	426.12
Recycling (tonnes)	79.46	108.07	106.35
Green Waste (tonnes)	27.74	24.69	32.45
Diverted from Landfill (tonnes)	107.20	132.76	138.80

ROXBY POWER

	2018	2019	2020
Connections	155	213	214
Vacating/ Transferring within Town	131	73	84
Finals/Leaving Town	229	243	219

ROXBY WATER

	2018	2019	2020
Roxby Downs Businesses*	37,835kL	49,146kL	36,548kL
Residential	218,092kL	234,320kL	209,074kL

*business premises within the Roxby Downs town area and includes the light industrial area north of the BP Service Station.

LIFESTYLE AND SPORT

During the July to December 2020 period the COVID-19 pandemic continued to pose challenges for public utilization of Council's sport and recreation facilities. The State Government emergency declarations meant that whilst facilities could reopen there were limits on the number of people permitted to be in a premise at any one time. The declarations also outlined significant precautions to be implemented by the operators of such facilities – increased cleaning/wiping of equipment and furniture, COVID Safe Check-In/contact tracing record-keeping, person distancing, venue capacity limits and food and beverage consumption directions.

A significant human resource challenge also arose from COVID. Many of Council's lifestyle and sport facilities are supported by casual employees. The closure of facilities earlier in the year meant a considerable portion of the casual workforce was stood down or hours reduced. This saw a movement of the casual staff to employment which was in demand (eg: cleaning, marshalling at the Olympic Dam mine site and workers camps). Upon the re-opening of Roxby Link facilities Council was met with the challenge of reduced availability of its experienced casual staff.



Events and Functions

August saw the reopening of Roxby Link facilities for events and functions; with reduced capacity and increased COVID management requirements. Whilst a number of large event bookings were cancelled during the COVID lockdown the centre did cater for a number of smaller BHP and contractor workshop events.

The Government restrictions upon food and beverage consumption in public venues meant significant patron limits in the Dunes Cafe together with the need to provide COVIDSafe food options and catering for external customers.

Art Gallery

Hosted a small number of exhibitions including:

- Country Arts Touring Exhibition – Ray of Light, Robyn Stacey
- SALA – Grounded in Culture exhibition
- Minyma Talk Group – local Aboriginal artists
- Submerged: Australian Shipwrecks, Australian Maritime Museum

Visitor Information Centre

Reopened after 3 months of closure due to COVID. Visitor numbers reduced significantly compared to the same period last year (almost 50% reduction). Roxby Downs Discovery Tours did not resume during 2020.

Roxby Link Centre

Maintenance during the July to December 2020 period included:

- Installation of a hydra-sentinel system to the Aquatics facilities, improving chlorine gas monitoring.
- Repairs to stadium ceilings
- Installation of adjustable netball rings



COVIDsafe conditions apply with regard to defined public activities including sport, fitness, recreation leisure and functions



COMMUNITY

Many of Roxby Council's community programs are typically undertaken in person with community members able to attend events, workshops and presentations. COVID-19 presented unforeseen difficulties; Government directions meant face to face events either could not take place or were to be undertaken in highly restricted conditions. This saw the Community Team implement innovative ways of engaging with the community. Online/virtual engagement and or 'collection' type services were developed.

- International Volunteers Day would usually be a group event; this period saw Roxby's volunteers thanked by video and collection of small tokens of recognition.
- The annual Nature Play Festival was delivered as a DIY activity. The Community Library team partnered with Time for Wellbeing, the Roxby Downs Children's Centre, Environment/Garden Forum and Minyma Talk to create self-guided scavenger hunt activity packs available for collection from the Community Library. Over 100 activity packs were distributed.
- The Community Library team partnered with the Strengthening our Families program and conducted a special online Father's Day event with a virtual story time. In addition to songs and book reading, dads were offered helpful tips and tricks on how to create special story times with their children at home.
- Zoom sessions with author's were an innovative way for the Community Library to continue to engage with avid readers amongst the community. Sessions presented by Melina Marchetta, author of Finding Alibrandi, best selling author Monica McInerney and local author Tiare Snow were popular online sessions.
- Due to the COVID-19 pandemic International Youth Week was celebrated in September 2020 (usually May of each year). Council was successful in securing a small regional grant to ensure that Youth Week activities and celebrations were COVID safe.
- Local Youth celebrated Halloween with a COVIDsafe cinema event.
- The Community Team continued to provide a variety of online sessions (Boredom Busters) for all ages within the community including online cooking segments, COVID safe tips (how to make antibacterial wipes, masks), craft sessions and science based activities.



COMMUNICATIONS

Effective and responsive community communications is imperative to Council's relationship with the community and other stakeholders. Roxby Council is a front line contact for community members and is the provider of the townships essential services (power and water) and facilities (leisure, sporting, recreation). The community relies significantly upon Council for accurate, up to date and reliable information regarding services and facilities. Council also plays a key role in supporting communities during times of challenge.

COVID-19

State COVID-19 Emergency Declarations and Directions directions brought many unpredictable changes in local service and facility availability to the community. Roxby Council played an important role in the enabling and enforcement of State Government restrictions arising from COVID-19 and needed to communicate impacts promptly and clearly.

Social Media and Website

The community's reliance on Council for information and updates was illustrated by significant increases in engagement with Council's social media and website.

Views for the top 4 pages of Council's website increased by over 40% compared to the same period in 2019. Council also created a COVID specific alert and information page. Views of this page doubled in the July-December period compared to the previous 6 months.

The number of people viewing Council's two main Facebook pages (Roxby Council and Roxby Link) also increased dramatically; with the largest 6 monthly comparative increase in people 'liking' these pages since their inception in 2018.

Community Consultations

- Feedback and comments regarding proposed projects to be funded through the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure (LRCI) Program took place in July 2020. A Federal Government COVID initiative. In addition to an online survey (41 responses) key community representatives participated in a round table discussion of survey results and provided Council with the final recommendations for project funding.
- Community and key stakeholder consultation was undertaken in the process of preparing the Disability Access and Inclusion Plan. The Roxby Downs Council DAIP was endorsed at the October 2020 Council meeting.
- During the July to December 2020 period the Roxby Downs community were also offered the opportunity to provide feedback with proposals to plan and upgrade playgrounds across the township. (64 responses)

Other Communication Tools

Council produce and present two radio programs on the local RoxFM radio station.

- Council Catch-up – The latest Council and community news: Thursdays 9am-10am
- The Vibe – Events and community news: Fridays 1pm – 2pm

SMS Broadcast is proving a valuable tool in terms of direct messaging to customers with regard to pending Roxby Power and Roxby Water invoices, and Dog and Cat Registrations.

Online material about key events, consultations, and local information is consistently supported by hard copy to ensure that all persons within the community (whether or not 'connected') can access reliable, up to date and accurate information.

ROXBY COUNCIL WEBSITE							
July to December							
		2018	2019	2020			
Pageviews		58,797	63,971	67,339			
	Top 4 Pages by Views	Cinema	9,230	Cinema	11,508	Lifestyle & Sport	32,390
		Home	9,000	Home	6,578	Council/Home	16,539
		Roxby Link	2,367	Roxby Link	3,520	Roxby Power	4,051
Employment		1,367	Employment	2,260	Waste Services	3,848	
Views on Key Pages	Roxby Power	684	Roxby Power	1,212	Roxby Power	4,051	
	Roxby Water	381	Roxby Water	427	Roxby Water	455	
	Waste	1,279	Waste	1,663	Waste	3,848	
	Consultations	328	Consultations	1,058	Consultations	24	
					COVID Updates	438	
				- Jan-June	209		

