

# 6 MONTH REPORT CARD

*JULY - DECEMBER 2023*

**ROXBY**  
COUNCIL

This 6 Month Report Card provides a half yearly snapshot of Roxby Council's projects, services and programs.



Gidja Munda Pump Track

# REPORT CARD SUMMARY

Welcome to the eleventh edition of Roxby Council's 6-Month Report Card series. This report card initiative was first introduced in 2017 to provide the Roxby Community with an insight into Council's activities over a 6-month period.

This latest 6-Month Report Card supplies a snapshot of Council highlights during the period July to December 2023. 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 2023-2033, and Strategic Plan 2021-2025.

Many of Council's activities throughout the course of the year are reported as they happen via Council's social media pages as well as Council's website.

Council's Draft Annual Business Plan and Budget for the 2023-2024 financial year went to community consultation during the first six months of this year.

With several large projects undertaken in previous years, 2023-2024 saw a reduction in the number of new projects being undertaken. This was to ensure ongoing projects such as the Gidja Munda Pump Track, Sports Precinct and main oval light tower upgrade were completed to a high standard, without competing for resources with new initiatives.

The budget also included a total rate revenue increase of 7.5 percent, equivalent to the Adelaide March 2023 Consumer Price Index (CPI). This marks the second property rate increase since 2016.

Due to increasing waste disposal costs the domestic waste collection service charge was increased by 15% to \$567.50 per annum.

Utility tariffs and charges remained steady with no increase to power and water supply charges for FY 2023-2024.

Keeping the Roxby Community connected continues to be of critical importance to Roxby Council as we continue to take every opportunity to build community spirit and confidence.

**Geoff Whitbread**  
Administrator



Sports Precinct Under Lights



# HIGHLIGHTS

## Gidja Munda Pump Track

The Pump Track project was first indicated in 2018 following needs identified by the Community for the replacement of the dilapidated BMX Track. In April 2021 Council was successful in its grant application to the Infrastructure Partnership Program (LGIPP) for the construction of the Pump Track. Council was awarded \$1,210,000 for this project.

Gidja Munda originates from the Kokatha language and translates to 'children's place'. Council acknowledge and thank the Kokatha people for their support for this project.

Track construction was completed in May 2023 and the facility opened to the public on Wednesday, 25 June 2023.

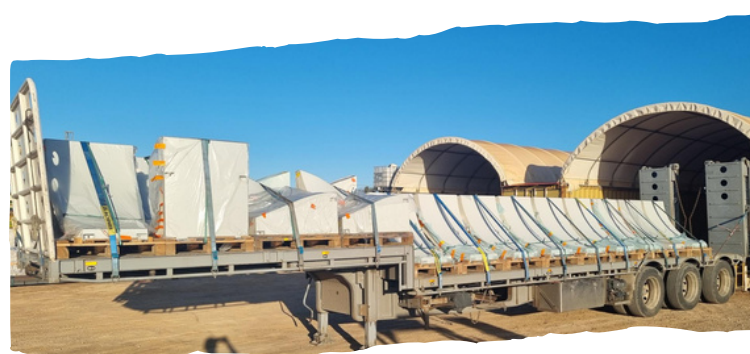
Landscaping and installation of additional shade facilities, soft fall surface and artificial grass followed.

A community donation by BHP enabled Council to secure additional shade structures and install an area of artificial grass in the park, for the comfort and amenity of visitors to the park.

Council's Horticulture Plan formed the base for landscaping of the track and was specifically designed for the Roxby climate. Over 1000 plants were established and are maintained by under surface irrigation.

While it will take some years for the landscaping to reach its full potential, the landscaping is showing a pleasing rate of establishment.

The Gidja Munda Pump Track is a fantastic facility for the community and caters to all ages and skill levels.





# HIGHLIGHTS

## Sports Precinct Upgrade

In November 2021, Roxby Council received advice from Federal Member for Grey, Rowan Ramsay MP, that the Council's recent application under the Federal Government's Building Better Regions Fund (BBRF) grant program was successful. Council was awarded \$2.74 million for the project. The BBRF program aims to build stronger regional communities, promote local job creation, and stimulate economic growth.

The sports precinct upgrade project included new outdoor multi-purpose netball/tennis courts, as well as modern, family-friendly changerooms and amenities.

The project is expected to reach completion in January 2024.

Council would like to acknowledge and thank its funding partners for this project.

- Federal Governments Building Better Regions Fund (BBRF)
- State Governments Grassroots Facilities Program Round 1
- BHP Community Donation Program
- Safety Campaign Maintenance 2021 (SCM21) Changeroom Fundraising Program
  - Bechtel
  - Monadelphous
  - Boom Logistics
  - Veolia
  - Kaefer
  - Ice Engineering
  - Alexander Symonds
  - Furnace Solutions
  - CITC
  - Zancott Knight
  - Aggreko
  - Powertech
  - Atsys

The total cost for this project was \$6.8m.



Monadelphous



When it counts, count on us.



Zancott Knight





# HIGHLIGHTS

## Changeroom Upgrade Project

As the Sports Precinct Project was nearing completion, work commenced on the demolition of the old 'miners' changerooms.

The old changerooms were constructed circa 1985 and were reflective of a very different era with exposed amenities, common change areas and showers that provided little privacy and discretion to those who used the facility.

The AUSCO module changerooms proposed by Roxby Council provide a family-friendly facility that meets modern standards, offering appropriate and high-quality facilities for participants. They are integral in supporting Roxby's active sporting community.

In January 2024 a verandah will be installed to provide shelter from the elements to participants and spectators. The verandah was not included in the initial scope of works for the main oval changeroom project.

The changeroom facilities were generously supported by BHP and the contractors involved in the 2021 Olympic Dam Smelter Campaign Maintenance (SCM21) together with State and Federal Government grants.

## Citizenship Ceremony

On Wednesday, 27 September 2023, Council Chief Executive Roy Blight conducted the ceremony under authority of the Minister for Immigration Hon. David Coleman MP and the Council Administrator. Mr. Blight spoke about the reciprocal rights and responsibilities of being an Australian citizen and the sharing of democratic beliefs.

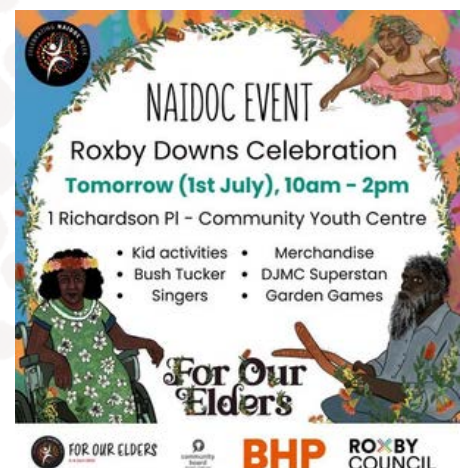
Candidates were recognised with Australian Citizenship.

## NAIDOC Week Celebrations

NAIDOC Week celebrations were held on Saturday, 1 July 2023. Members of the community were invited to enjoy live music and DJ sets, kids' activities, merchandise, and some very tasty food / bush tucker.

This event was presented by the Roxby Downs Community Board, with support from BHP and Roxby Council.

NAIDOC Week is a chance to recognise and celebrate the culture, history and achievements of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal peoples.





# ESSENTIAL SERVICES

## Animal Management

|                             |    |
|-----------------------------|----|
| Dogs reported wandering     | 38 |
| Dogs impounded and returned | 29 |
| Cats caught in a trap       | 11 |
| Cats impounded and returned | 3  |
| Warning letters sent        | 25 |
| Expiations issued           | 4  |
| Orders issued for dogs      | 1  |
| Exceeding animal permits    | 2  |



## Fire Prevention



Fire Permits issued between July and December 2023:

- Schedule 9 permits issued 2
- Schedule 10 permits issued 0

## Litter Control



Litter Abatement Notices issued 2

## Nuisance



Nuisance Abatement Notices issued 1

## Parking/Traffic Management



|   |    |
|---|----|
| Parking Warnings Issues                                   | 21 |
| Impounded Vehicles  | 0  |
| 24-hour tow notice warnings issued for abandoned vehicles | 3  |
| Parking expiations issued                                 | 45 |
| Crane permits issued                                      | 3  |

## Development Applications

Between July and December 2023, 16 Development Applications were lodged through the Plan SA website, all of which have been granted Development Approval, including applications lodged before July 2023. Below is the breakdown of the approved developments:

### Breakdown of Approved Development

|                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| Change of Use (Commercial)   | 1 |
| Swimming Pool/Verandah       | 1 |
| Mobile Phone Tower           | 1 |
| Pergola/Patio                | 3 |
| Garage (Residential)         | 1 |
| Shed                         | 3 |
| Workshop Office              | 2 |
| Dwelling                     | 1 |
| Shade Sail/Shelter           | 1 |
| Internal Security Gate       | 1 |
| Lighting for Sports Precinct | 1 |



## Public Health & Environmental Health

Health inspections were carried out on the following premises:

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Food Safety Inspections (Businesses)                    | 5  |
| Food Safety Audit (Children's Centre)                   | 1  |
| Public Pool Tests                                       | 4  |
| Annual Inspection of Warm Water System (Health Service) | 1  |
| Residential Swimming Pools Inspected                    | 43 |



# ESSENTIAL SERVICES

## Waste Management

Council entered a new Waste Management and Kerbside Collection Contract as of 1 June 2023. The waste management facility relocated from Gosse Street to Opal Road. The opening hours increased for commercial businesses and Council introduced a new fee schedule for different categories of waste products.

Works commenced on the post closure landfill remediation plan. This has made a vast improvement to the site, and we continue to rehabilitate the landscape and prepare the waste management facility for alterations in public and commercial waste disposal zones.

Kerbside waste collection schedules have been maintained, with Veolia attending to all enquiries and waste requirements.

## Post Closure Environmental Management

Post Closure Environmental Landfill Management Plan (PCELMP) work commenced on the legacy landfill site at the Opal Road Waste Transfer Station. This is a requirement from the previously adopted Local Environment Management Plan 2020.

Earthworks on site have been performed to re-cap the old landfill and correct contours to accommodate weather event water runoff. This work has been very successful and naturally occurring revegetation has commenced (see *images 3 and 4 to the right*).

Management of the green fill zone has maintained compliance to the PCELMP as cover for capped cells.

Gas detection of the legacy cells has been undertaken with zero emissions recorded.



Image 1 (above) & 2 (below) - December 2023 Drone images of remediation works at Opal Road



Image 3 - Opal Road Waste Management Facility Landfill cells (footage taken circa 2018)

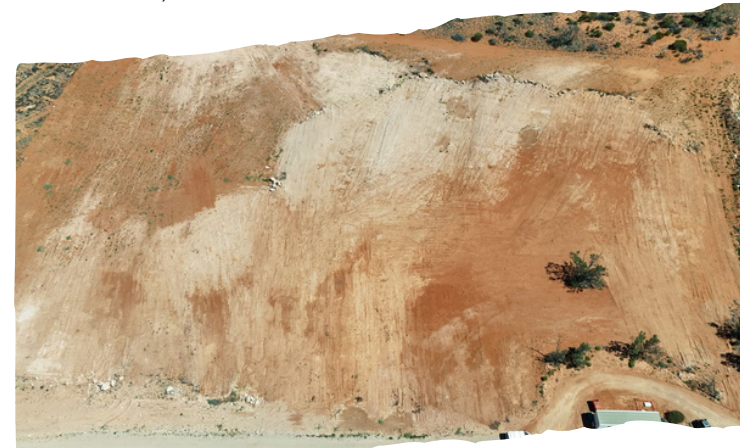


Image 4 - Aerial photograph of the site remediation work (2023)

# ESSENTIAL SERVICES

## Horticulture

Under Council's Horticulture Plan, seedlings have started to arrive for planting within the town and around the Gidja Munda Pump Track. Stage 1 plantings will commence in late March 2024.

A nursery facility was contracted to house seedlings during their acclimatisation phase prior to planting. The nursery is equipped with an automatic mist irrigation system.

## Mechanical Services Upgrade

The mechanical services (air-conditioning) upgrade was well under way in the last half of 2023. The works within the Council offices and at town water supply were completed in December 2023. Upgrades to the Roxby Link facility will commence in January 2024 with project completion and handover expected in March 2024.

## Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program (LRCIP) Grant - Round 4

Following a successful funding nomination, a request for quote has been issued to local contractors for the construction of a footpath to connect the pump track, main oval changerooms and sports precinct. Responses are due February 19 2024 with works expected to commence in March. Following this, additional upgrades to the town oval are expected to commence, including updated landscaping, new open space furniture and parking and access improvements.

## Smart Electricity Meter Planning

The smart meter project planning continues. Roxby Power in conjunction with Enerven have identified appropriate smart meters for 13 of Roxby Powers monthly read customers.

It is anticipated that an order will be placed for the supply and fit of these meters in February 2024.

These meters will become operational during a trial of both the product and functionality and pending results has the potential for roll-out to the wider Roxby Downs community.





The following works have been carried out:

## Isolation Replacement Program

- Replaced 3 Isolation Valves
- Repaired 2 Isolation Valves
- Modify 1 Isolation Valve

## Water Mains / Meter Leaks

- 100mm Water Mains leak on Curdimurka St
- Service branch feed on Arcoona St
- Water Meters Maintenance 34 off which includes 25 taps changed out, 8 repacking of glands and new branch feed replacement
- All Water Isolation Valves were cleaned and inspected

## Town Water Supply

The following maintenance was carried out on the Town Water Supply

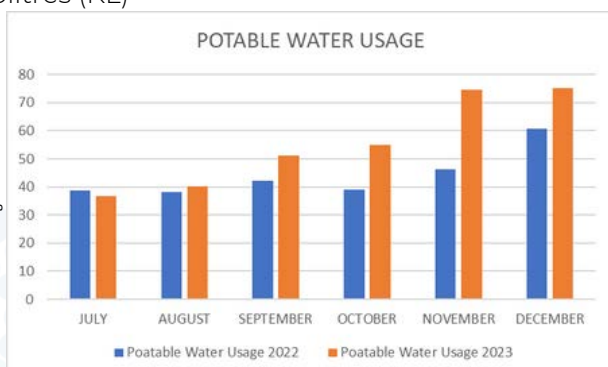
- Magflo Meter Calibrations
- Chlorine Analyser Servicing
- Quarterly Water Sampling
- Replaced the UPS (Uninterrupted Power Supply) Unit
- Serviced Pump Skid

## Town Potable Water Usage

When compared to previous years, town water consumption was slightly above average in the last half of 2023.

The absence of significant rainfall and relatively hot conditions are suspected to be the contributing factor to the increased usage.

Refer to the graph below for the July - December (whole of town) Water Consumption displayed in Kilotres (KL)



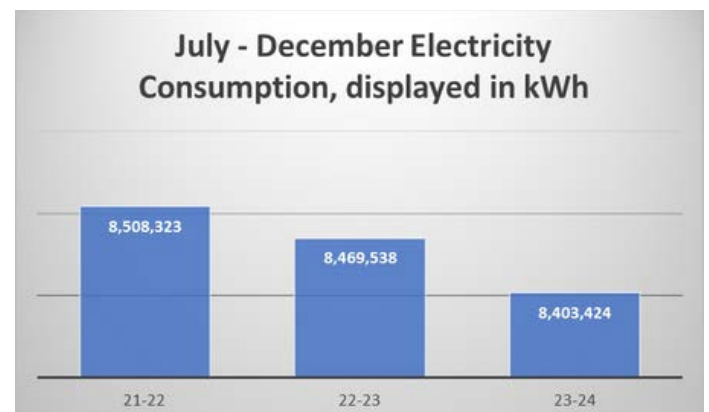
Water consumption for the July December 2023 period was 332,578 megalitres

The annual town electricity network maintenance was completed in August. Each year Roxby Power conducts inspections on one third of the town's electricity network. This work includes preventative maintenance work on existing infrastructure.

## Electricity Consumption

Town electricity consumption was in line with expectations, with 7,570,800 kWh used between July and December 2023.

See below for the July - December 2023 Town Electricity Consumption, displayed in kWh.



## Electrical Works

- Solar Installations
- Meter Replacements
- Town Oval Light Column Fire Inspection and Repair
- September Annual HV Maintenance to Transformers
- Frome Street Cable Fault Find and Repair
- Generator Inspection and Repairs Roxby Link and Town Water Supply
- Annual Overhead Power Line Inspections
- Annual Underground Line Inspections
- Street Light Repairs
- Service Pillar Repairs

## Scheduled and Unscheduled Outages

- 10 planned outages occurred whilst conducting HV Maintenance.
- 3 unplanned outages occurred that were the result of equipment failure feeding into the town of Roxby Downs.



# ROXBY WATER

## Sewerage Works

Roxby Water carried out the following sewer works:

### Sewer Reticulation

- Replaced section of mains in Blanche Ct
- Unblocked 3 sewer blockages
- Repaired 3 Council IP Connection

### Pump Station Pump Replacement program

- 4 New pumps were installed at various Pump Stations

### Pump Stations

- Quarterly Pump Station Chamber Cleans
- Calibration of Magflo
- 22 Lift and Clears
- New Level Transducer installed in Pump Station I
- Servicing of Check Valves and Pumps

### Sewer Lagoons

- All aerators were serviced
- All transfer pipes cleared monthly
- Anaerobic Weir clean out
- Reeds and Weeds removed in Anaerobic Dam



Replacing a section of Sewer Mains on Blanche Court



Lift and Clear a Pump at Pump Station E



Unblocking a Council IP Connection



Reeds and Weeds at the anaerobic Dam (Sewer Lagoons)

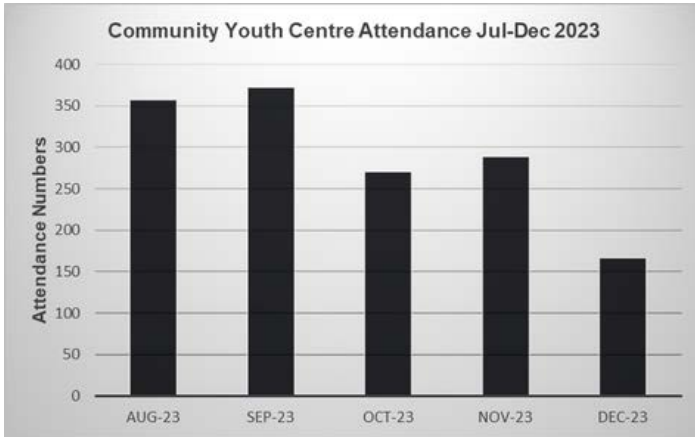




# COMMUNITY YOUTH CENTRE

Attendance numbers at the Community Youth Centre (CYC) remained consistent throughout the period.

Afterschool drop-in attendance increased to 1,809 participants, and events attendance engaged 925 participants.



The CYC is a fantastic place for kids aged 10 to 14. The centre provides a safe and supportive environment for kids hang-out, make new friends and participate in fun activities. The CYC also provides an avenue for kids to explore their creative sides in a nurturing team environment and helps to build community spirit within the centre. It's a place where they learn valuable life skills, build confidence and discover new interests. For some, the CYC can be seen as a home away from home.

Over the last six months the centre has seen an increase in:

- participation
- development of new skills, and
- formation of lasting friendships.

Successful collaboration with the Roxby Downs Area School, St Barbs Catholic School, community groups, and local artists has played a pivotal role in the program offering at the centre.



## Community Youth Centre Highlights

The Community Youth Centre (CYC) has successfully hosted various programs and events, adapting to the changing needs and interests of the youth in our community. Despite the usual fluctuations in attendance towards the end of the year, the CYC has seen significant successes, particularly with events like the Free Feed "Chewsday" and the Mario Kart Championship at the Roxby Cinema.



Mario Kart Championship in the Roxby Link Cinema

## Free Feed Chewsday!

A major highlight has been the Free Feed 'Chewsday' program. This initiative consistently attracted the highest number of attendees, particularly among the 10 to 14-year-old age group.

This initiative offers a nutritious, home-cooked style meal, and has been instrumental in not only bringing young people together but also fostering a sense of community and belonging.



# COMMUNITY LIBRARY

There were 11,574 visits to the Roxby Community Library during the second half of 2023, with 58 new membership registrations.

Active Memberships currently sit at 6,534, with 6,846 items circulated.

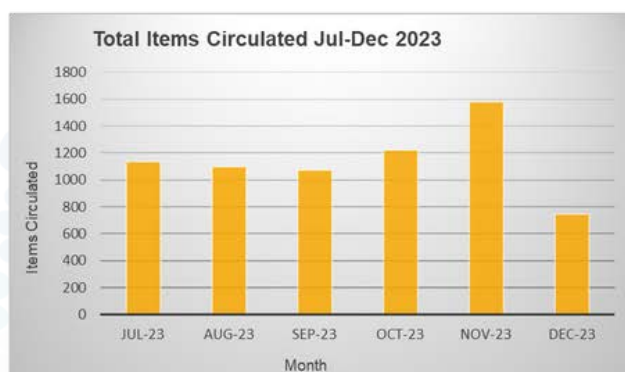
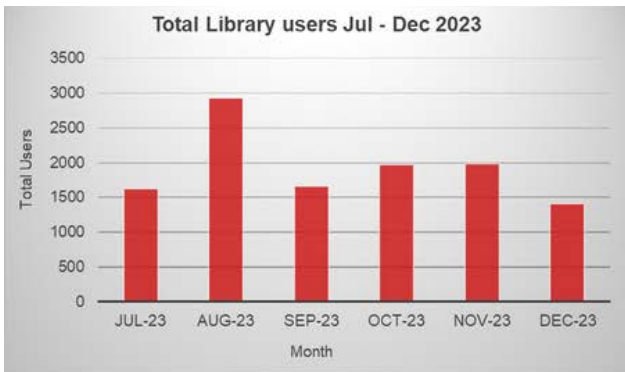
The library hosted and collaborated on 21 community events throughout the period.

## Community Library Highlights

The Roxby Community library hosted a number of activities and events.

Libraries across South Australia participated in the Libraries SA **"Firstival Festival"** in July 2023, by hosting a diverse range of events and encouraging members of their communities to reconnect with their curiosity, book out some time for themselves and "try something new" or "try something for the first time". Along with our usual programs, the library held the events below, as part of the Festival:

- **Teen Talks Disco** - The library hosted an in-house silent disco for youth ages 12-18.
- **Vision Board Workshop** - Staff lead patrons through a process of setting and envisioning strategic and achievable goals, in a self-paced and relaxed environment.
- **Michelle Jager** - Michelle is a local author from Whyalla and the author of the book 'Bird Bones'. Michele spoke about her writing experiences and processes, and led a workshop that focused on place setting while writing.
- **Paint and Sip** - The event featured local artist Hillary Butler as the Library's guest artist who walked participants through some basic painting techniques such as colour mixing, brush strokes and layering with different textures and tools.



Paint & Sip 2023



# VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE

1,388 people were assisted at the Visitor Information Centre, with July being the busiest month.

The Olympic Dam Story video, which is available to view free at the centre, was viewed by 480 people.

## Event Highlights

It was a busy end to 2023 welcoming back a number of events within our venue. The auditorium hosted local sporting clubs for their end of season presentations, a range of corporate workshops, Roxby Downs Areas School Awards Ceremony, RDAS Senior Formal, St Barbara's Parish School Musical, RAD Dance Concert and the Cabarfeigh Showcase.

We also partnered with the library to host a circus performance and workshops by 'Circobats' and a live children's performance with 'Mr Snot Bottom' as part of their school holiday program.

A highlight of the year was welcoming back the BHP End of Year Celebrations, held in the pool yard and out onto the small oval. This involved two events a week apart, catering to 600 people each night. The event provided opportunities for both local and external vendors to provide food services, kids activities, live music and more.

## ART GALLERY

Local artist Hillary Butler shared her exhibition 'Pursued Interest', which included oil paintings and digital illustrations. We also teamed up with the Arts & Culture Forum to present Hillary's 'Drag Art' workshop. Held in the Dunes Café, attendees used household materials to drag paint across canvas' with many different results.

Our entry into SALA festival was by Adelaide artist Alan Louis Ramachandran with a solo exhibition titled – 'A Vision of The Outback'. Alan officially opened the exhibition with a live watercolour painting demonstration and followed up the next day hosting a workshop.

You also may have seen Alan in the main street of Roxby Downs or Andamooka completing more paintings during his visit.

The Roxby Downs Arts & Culture Forum held a community exhibition with an Organic/Industrial theme. There were eleven people that participated in this exhibition.

An exhibition titled 'Three Well Known Australians' that has been touring Australia since 1983 was on display throughout November and encouraged anyone who viewed the painting to make a guess as to who they think the Three Australians are.



Alan Louis Ramachandran - Andamooka Mining Town Painting displayed in the Roxby Link Art Gallery



Circobats performance in the Roxby Link Auditorium

# COMMUNICATIONS

## Communication Tools

SMS Broadcast continues to be 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.

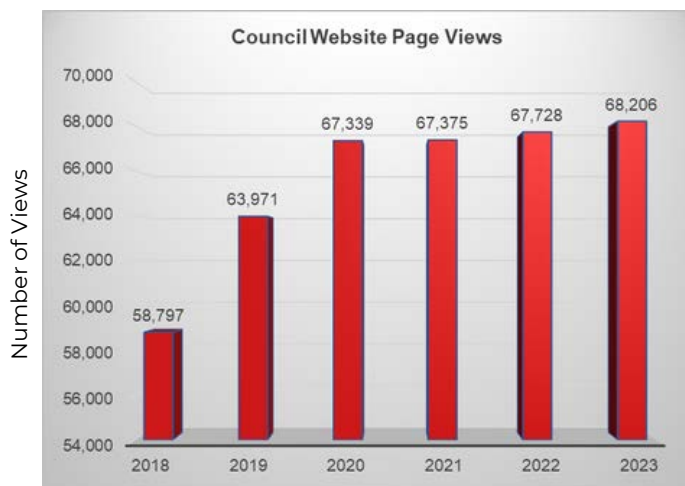
Online material about key events, consultations, and local information is consistently supported by hard copy to ensure that all persons within the community (whether or not 'connected') can access reliable, up to date and accurate information.

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

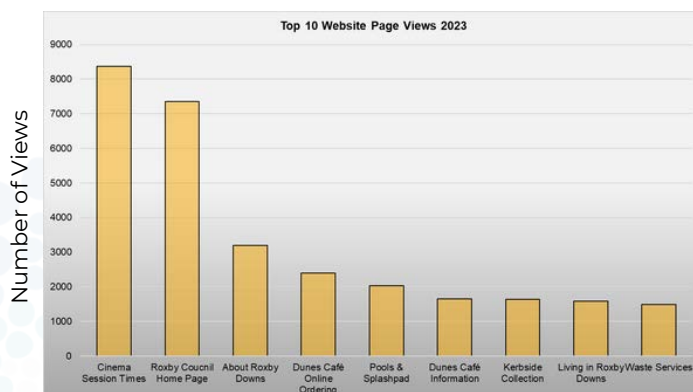
## Website

The number of people viewing Council's website has increased significantly; with the largest 6 monthly comparative increase being in 2023 with 68,206 page views.

*Note: Analytical data prior to 2018 is not available*

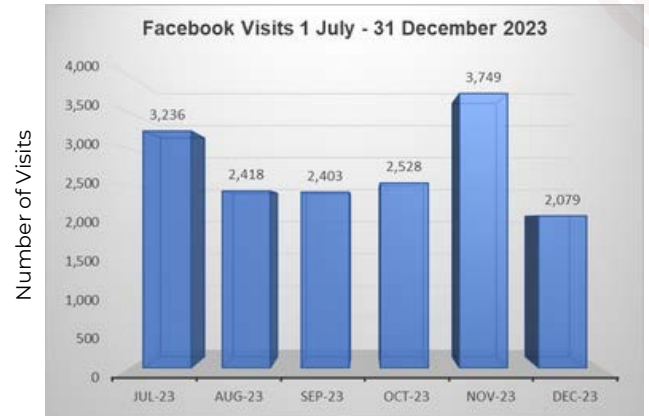


The Top 10 Page views by visitors to Council's website in 2023:

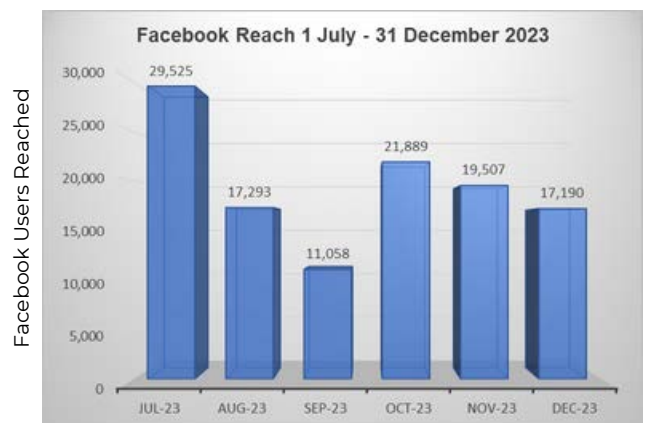


## Facebook Statistics

Comparison Statistics on visits to our website between the current period and the 2022 period Facebook page



Comparison Statistics on the reach to our Facebook community between the current period and the 2022 period.





## **VISIT US**

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## **CONTACT US**

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