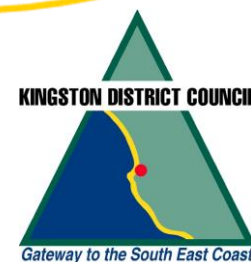


# MEDIA RELEASE

DATE: 26 March 2020



## COUNCIL MODIFIES ITS SERVICE DELIVERY FOR SEVERAL KEY FACILITIES IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19



*Photo: Kingston township RV Park, temporary closed to travellers.*

In a move to further protect its community and staff against the rapidly spreading COVID-19, at a special meeting held last night, Council agreed to significantly modify its service delivery model for several key facilities. Mayor Kay Rasheed said, “the Kingston District Council considers the wellbeing of its community to be the utmost priority. That is why we have put new measures in place that will enable us to continue serving our community in the safest and most efficient way possible, while keeping our employees, elected members and volunteers as safe as possible” she said.

“Whilst the world is changing rapidly around us, our number one priority is to look after the safety of our community and our staff. We will maintain this focus whilst continuing to provide essential services to support our community through this challenging time”.

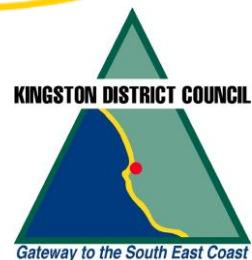
Council has unanimously agreed to close both its RV Parks immediately, located at Pinks Beach and Kingston township. However, in balancing community concerns with that of local businesses, the Kingston Foreshore Caravan Park will remain open for essential travellers. Mayor Rasheed said, “we want to show compassion and be welcoming in a time of crisis, but we also need to offer reassurance to our community that we are putting safety measures in place”.

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Essential travellers with self-contained RV's will be able to access unpowered sites at the caravan park for the same rate as currently offered at the Kingston RV park. This shift will allow Council to closely monitor the movement of visitors into our Caravan Park and township, with a travel declaration required upon arrival.

To further protect our community, all future bookings until 31 May 2020 at the Caravan Park have been cancelled, however those visitors currently in the park can remain. Other safety measures have also been implemented, such as closing the camp kitchens and fish cleaning facilities, as well as increased cleaning and hygiene practices.

Council has also sent a clear and positive message to its staff and community by closing the office and visitor information outlet to face-to-face customers. Chief Executive Officer Nat Traeger said, "our people are important to us and so is the welfare of their families; we need to take whatever safety measures we can whilst maintaining functionality of our office". We are still here, working behind the scenes for our community and you can contact us by telephone, Facebook messenger, email or website submission, or arrange an appointment where absolutely necessary" Ms Traeger said.

Council believes that having a responsive and adapted focus in this unprecedented situation will contribute to minimal service disruption, which is crucial to recovering quickly and being in a positive position moving forward.

Ms Traeger said "we need to continue to look up, not down, and cast our minds forward, focus on not just the here and now, which is important, but on plans and strategies ready to help our community regain its strength and move into recovery mode when the time comes."

Mayor Rasheed acknowledged that the coming weeks and months will be difficult, especially for local businesses affected by the restrictions and the impact on their staff. "I urge everybody to respect the social distancing measures that are now in place in order to protect everyone in our community and stop the spread" she said. "Not only that, except for essential travel, work or ducking into the shops for supplies, please stay at home. It's an opportunity to catch-up on all those things you've been meaning to do, read a book, clean the windows, post a letter, binge watch Netflix or have a Facetime BBQ with friends or family."

Council has been thinking about ways it can directly help the local community through this crisis, whether that be deliveries, business support, signage, outreach programs, welfare checks etc. Community members are encouraged to share any suggestions or requests that could appropriately be facilitated by Council, particularly if there is a void that could be filled that Council is not aware of.

- ENDS -

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