



CLARE & GILBERT  
VALLEYS COUNCIL

## MESSAGE FROM MAYOR WAYNE THOMAS

Date: 28 March 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



*Mayor Wayne Thomas and his family are looking forward to when they can enjoy eating out in the Clare Valley again (from left) Fletcher, Helen, Wayne, Karri, Michael. (Absent – Louise).*

## We will get through this together

Here in the Clare & Gilbert Valleys we are a community which is well known for its resilience. In recent times we have overcome fires and floods and we will overcome the threat of the COVID-19 pandemic in the same way – by working together and supporting each other using all the assistance that is available to us.

Recovery will take time and there will be a lot of heartache for employees, businesses, families and the wider community along the way.

The Federal and State Governments have been working tirelessly to put together packages to help all sectors of the community manage in these difficult times. You can find out more information and updates from the following websites:

Regional Development Australia Yorke & Mid North -

<https://www.yorkeandmidnorth.com.au/>

South Australian Government - [www.sa.gov.au](http://www.sa.gov.au)

Australian Government – [www.australia.gov.au](http://www.australia.gov.au)



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As a Council we are currently focussing on ensuring our day to day business of maintaining local infrastructure, waste disposal and completion of budgeted projects continues.

Due to Federal Government restrictions our libraries have had to close. We have put measures in place within our staff teams to minimise exposure between groups of both outdoor and indoor staff so that the important work of Council continues with minimal interruption.

Council will look at how to best assist the community as we move through our annual budgetary processes, with councillors strongly aware of what is happening in our district.

Our concerns are for the social impact this pandemic will have on our close-knit communities and the demands on everyone's physical and mental health.

I urge you to stay home as much as possible, limiting your trips to essential needs, maintain a physical distance of 1.5m (two arms lengths), minimising contact with others, and washing your hands regularly as we strive to get through this difficult time. Important updates on how to care for yourselves during this pandemic can be found here:

Australian Government Health – [www.health.gov.au](http://www.health.gov.au)

South Australian Government Health – [www.sahealth.sa.gov.au](http://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au)

World Health Organisation – [www.who.int](http://www.who.int)

At the same time, please keep in touch with each other, via phone, email, social media and other electronic means – check on your neighbours, family and friends and vulnerable people in our communities. Online resources are available here:

Beyond Blue - [www.beyondblue.org.au](http://www.beyondblue.org.au)

Lifeline – [www.lifeline.org.au](http://www.lifeline.org.au)

Head to Health – [www.headtohealth.gov.au](http://www.headtohealth.gov.au)

Neighbour Day – [www.neighbourday.org](http://www.neighbourday.org)

Chatterpack (free online resources to help bust boredom) – [www.chatterpack.net](http://www.chatterpack.net)

Together, we will get through this and see our beautiful region thrive again.

**ENDS**

**Contact: Dr Helen Macdonald, Chief Executive Officer**

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