

MEDIA STATEMENT

Statement regarding Goolwa Community Christmas Concert

16 November 2023

The following is a statement from Alexandrina Council Chief Executive Officer Nigel Morris regarding the Goolwa Community Christmas Concert.

“Christmas events are important community gatherings that bring people together and foster wellbeing and Council has a long history of supporting community groups financially and in-kind to make these events happen.

“The Goolwa Community Christmas Concert is one such event that we support with \$2,500 already committed to the event.

“Our staff recently worked hard in a short timeframe to develop a Council Report to request an additional \$3,500 for the event. This request will be considered by Councillors at Monday night’s Council Meeting.

“Council met with a concert organiser from the Rotary Club of Goolwa on Wednesday.

“Goolwa Oval is currently undergoing a major redevelopment and parts of the area are active construction sites.

“The organiser was advised of the need to work around the ongoing construction work.

“Given the changes to access on site, the organiser was advised to arrange a site visit with the staging provider to work through the logistics of accessing the oval with a semi-trailer and setting up the stage.

“We understand this may have resulted in some miscommunication.

“Council is supportive of the Goolwa Oval being used for the event. Council did not advise concert organisers at the Goolwa Rotary Club that the oval was unsuitable for use.

“A stage, food trucks and rides can be placed on the oval, but access needs to be considered.

“The organisers also need to have all appropriate insurances. To mitigate the financial risk to all ratepayers, that requirement is non-negotiable.

“This morning we met with representatives of the Rotary Club of Goolwa to collaboratively work through the logistics of using the Goolwa Oval.

“Council will continue to work with organisers to ensure that the concert is a success, if they wish to proceed with the event.

“I and my team will be working closely with the Rotary Team to jump over the many hurdles that come with running a major event, I am hoping that with our combined efforts that we can come together on 17 December 2023 at the Goolwa Oval and sing a carol together.”

Please attribute the following comment to Rotary Club of Goolwa President-Elect Jan Lawrence.

“Rotary had an extremely productive meeting with Council this morning to work through the miscommunication regarding the use of Goolwa Oval for the concert and to work through the logistics,” she said.

“I thank Council for their support and for working with us as Rotary looks to ensure a successful event for our community.”

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