

Advocate

Thursday, March 6, 2025

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Impressive Kyle

Whether he is competing on the golf course or making an address inside Parliament House, Streaky Bay teenager Kyle Feltus continues to make an impression across his chosen fields of interest. Recently, the 17-year-old was invited to speak at South Australia's annual Teen Parliament event, where he advocated to the state's leaders for a nuclear solution to Australia's energy future. Such was the eloquence of Kyle's debate that he was one of 10 students from across SA to be awarded a \$10,000 scholarship toward higher education, presented by BHP president for copper in South Australia Anna Wiley. The current Streaky Bay Area School school captain, who has always maintained an interest in politics, said the event had lit a fire in him.

FULL STORY PAGE 8

Space history made at Koonibba
- PAGE 5

Successful Crossways fete - PAGE 10

Cleve comes together to Clean Up
- PAGE 19

JETTY STALEMATE

CHARLOTTE MARTIN

There is uncertainty as to how Tumby Bay District Council will fulfil what the state government says are its contractual obligations to get the Tumby Bay jetty up to standard, before handing it back at the end of the lease in June 2026.

The decision was recently made to reject the state government's \$2.4 million co-contribution to fix the jetty following advice of a prudential report and two community consul-

tation surveys.

That \$2.4 million contribution was also provisional of the council renewing the lease for both the Tumby Bay and Port Neill jetties, which are state government-owned assets.

Tumby Bay council ratepayer Robert Randall has kept a close eye on the proceedings, often attending council meetings and assisting to facilitate community discussions on the matter.

He said there was a lack of information given to the public from the council in the sur-

veys, where community members were given the option to vote 'Yes' - to increase rates and assist in payments toward the jetties - or 'No' - to not increase rates and hand the jetties back.

"The survey form gave no indication of a \$4.7m requirement if a 'No' vote was made," he said.

"I still believe that the offer of \$2.4m from the minister should be accepted and with council's \$2.4m the jetty can be reinstated for the full length.

"A \$2.4m expenditure will have a much less

impact on ratepayers than a \$4.7m payment to hand the jetty back."

Infrastructure Minister Tom Koutsantonis said on ABC radio after the council's decision that when the council took on the lease of the jetty it agreed to maintain it, which it had not done.

He said he would expect the state government to receive the jetties back in their required state.

CONTINUED PAGE 6

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STREAKY BAY SOUNDS 25 MUSIC FESTIVAL

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 *THE TULLAMARINES
 REVEL *AUDIO REIGN
 LAMINATED KITCHEN *CHICKEN SALT
 AMUNDSENS FLAG *DJ TAIJYYY
 *ALICE HADDY

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 MARCH 9TH 2025
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 STREAKY BAY COMMUNITY HOTELS, Ltd

Community bands together

CHARLOTTE MARTIN

Volunteers at Lock Football Club, Lock Bowling Club and smaller facilities are taking up the reins of entertaining and catering to the community since the closure of the supermarket and Lock Hotel.

Lock resident Creagh McGlasson said the new Aquatic and Fitness Centre was also a good place for young people to socialise during the warmer times for the pool, and throughout the year for the gym.

"The younger ones head to the pool - it has been upgraded incredibly and the gym is used just about every night," he said.

"Both the football and bowls clubs have licenses and have been trying to take up the slack so to speak. Fortunately, the football club has a takeaway licence.

"You know what a small community has to do, work hard to survive, but we're very fortunate to have the people we do."

For shopping, Lock residents are having to travel to nearby Cummins, Cleve or Wudinna, or even to Port Lincoln.

"Cummins is our nearest so my wife and I go there, because it's just us, we can survive on that shopping for about a fortnight," Mr McGlasson said.



Lock Friendly Grocer is currently closed, but there is hope it may reopen in the coming months. (Charlotte Martin: 463056_01)

"I think the community knows how to make things work, we just need to keep the numbers here to make it work.

"The recent and ongoing sporting/community facility upgrades, totalling around the \$3.4 million range with grants and huge community input speak for itself - netball, football, bowls, racing, golf clubs, and the aquatic/fitness centre, and caravan park."

Mr McGlasson said there were options for people living in the township.

"Cummins IGA and Cummins Meat Store are catering for Lock very well, you can order online and indicate for it to be collected, and Kanga Freight will pick it up and have it in Lock by 4.30 in the afternoon, and the Lock Deli is catering the best they can.

"The footy club and bowls club are open during the summer and run by volunteers, because of the package licenses they are catering to the community - as a community we're surviving."

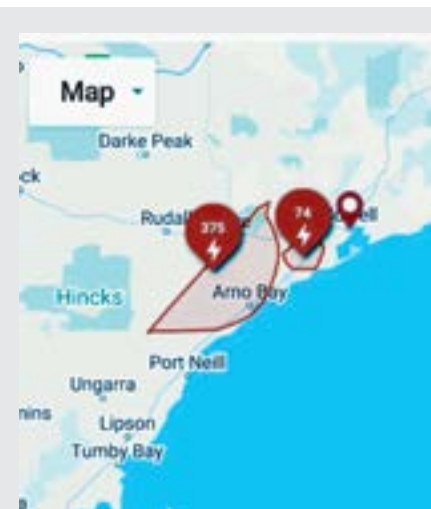
Mr McGlasson said when the football and netball players were in town, they also helped at the club, but when they were not available it was their families and community members.

"Since we got the bus at the football club that has helped bring back a lot of football/netball players that grew up here, but had to move on when they got older for work," he explained.

On the Lock supermarket, Mr McGlasson said the owner indicated he would open and try to make it work again once returned from overseas in about three months.

"I've been told that the family will come back and reopen, I'm hoping that happens," he said.

"There seems to be a pretty quick turnaround - that's little old Lock."



A total of 449 households between Cowell and Port Neill lost their electricity supply on Tuesday, February 25. (Supplied)

Dry weather blamed for power failures

BEV STORY

Hundreds of people were left without electricity for 13 hours between Cowell and Port Neill on Tuesday, February 25.

SA Power Networks said the lack of rain for months meant insulators had a build up of salt or dirt on them - causing the outage and others in recent times.

Both Cowell and Port Neill townships had electricity supply, but it was cut to 449 customers at 4.30am.

Initially SA Power Networks advised it would be back on by 10.45am, but that stretched out to 3pm, then 7.30pm, but was restored at about 5.30pm.

"Good rainfall washes these deposits away however moisture such as dew or mist causes tracking across the salt or dust which then causes power flickering and can sometimes lead to longer outages," the network said.

"While we recognise the inconvenience, the outages are an indication that our protection equipment is functioning correctly. We are manually washing insulators in targeted areas however with hundreds of thousands of insulators on the network, it is not possible to wash them all.

"We hope for significant rainfall soon to naturally wash away the accumulated salt and dirt from the insulators and assist in resolving the issue."

'Unfair' jetty burden for regional towns

FROM PAGE 1

Mr Randall hoped given Minister Koutsantonis' comments, the council would call a special meeting and a community meeting so elected members could have a re-think, before they lost the \$2.4m.

Mayor Geoff Churchett shared a letter to residents after the decision was made by the council to return the jetties back.

In the letter he stated maintaining the Tumby Bay jetty alone would require over \$13.4m in investment over the next 15 years - "a cost we simply cannot sustain without significantly increasing rates".

"Even if we pursued the required loans, LGFA (Local Government Finance Authority) has raised concerns about whether council and our ratepayers could realistically afford the rate increases needed to cover the debt," he wrote.

"Regional jetties are not funded equally across the state, regional jetties like ours do not receive the same level of financial support as metropolitan jetties, despite being just as important to our communities.

"The state government, which owns these jetties, provides full funding for jetties in metropolitan areas, while expecting small regional councils like ours to shoulder the burden. This is simply unfair."

Minister Koutsantonis was asked by the



Infrastructure Minister Tom Koutsantonis and the state government are at a stalemate with Tumby Bay District Council. (Supplied)

Eyre Peninsula Advocate to confirm the total cost of the Tumby Bay jetty over the next 15 years.

A spokesperson replied the Department for Infrastructure and Transport was aware the council engaged its own consultant to undertake a structural inspection and to provide a costed remediation strategy for the Tumby Bay jetty.

"As the report was not commissioned by the department, it is not able to comment on

its costing," they said.

"The \$2.4m funding offer to the Tumby Bay council made in March 2024 represented 50 per cent of the total project cost estimate (\$4.8m) to undertake a scope of works to bring the Tumby Bay Jetty back up to the standard required under the lease.

"The Department for Infrastructure and Transport's advice is that should the works be undertaken, minimal further maintenance would be required for around 10 years."

Outgoing council chief executive officer Rebecca Hayes said the council directed its administration to remove all financial provisions for jetty maintenance and upgrades from the Long-Term Financial Plan and Infrastructure Asset Management Plan.

"At this stage [the] council has not scheduled a special meeting regarding the jetties," she said.

"Any additional direction on this matter would need to be provided by elected members at a future meeting.

"However, council remains hopeful that the state government is open to further discussions on how we can work together to develop a sustainable and affordable solution - not just for Tumby Bay, but for other regional communities across South Australia that will face similar challenges in the coming years."



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