

From: AuConsulting .
To: [Corporate Email Address](#)
Subject: "Review of Warooka Office"
Date: Wednesday, 28 February 2018 11:37:08 AM

To whom it may concern.

From: Robert Palmer, 3/21-23 Melville Street, South Plympton, 5038 (rate payer in the Warooka area is how I was invited to comment).

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed closure of the Warooka council office. It's awesome to be able to have a say.

It seems from what you said in the letter inviting comment about the closure that in the current fiscal climate, desperate savings need to be made. It is a sad day for the York Peninsula that \$20k has become such a huge amount of money.

However, putting that gripe aside, perhaps when you decide how to use the space for the community at a later date, you could consider putting in a touch screen that provides access to basic council services information for local residents.

Also, a touch screen could be used to help tourists who pass through Warooka find out information about the region. Branding the touch screen as a tourist information portal as well as providing basic info for locals, might tempt people to pull over and stop. Once they stop, they might then be tempted to spend some money in Warooka, thereby providing some benefit to local businesses. Especially if the local business put out vouchers to tempt tourists to their business.

Just a thought or two, and once again, many thanks for the opportunity to comment, it is appreciated.

Regards,
Rob

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Kind regards

Rob Palmer
auc
+61 409267100
[auc](#)



From

Mrs Nola Murdocks

PO Box 90

Warooka SA 5577

Review of Warooka Office

Dear Councillors,

The Warooka Office may not be used very often but at this point in time it is still available to those who do wish to use it.

Small towns on Yorke Peninsula are losing their identity quickly enough. Having a Council Office at Warooka gives the town and district a sense of belonging and status.

To say that money will be saved by closing the office can't be true because the personell, who man the office twice a week, are employees of Yorke Peninsula Council. I doubt that closing the office will mean their employment will be terminated, so where is the saving?

Surely who ever works at the Warooka Office can continue with the usual section of work done on the other three days. With today's technology communication between Warooka and any other council office is almost immediate so there would contact for the person at Warooka to be gainfully employed - NOT knitting as I saw one relief person doing a couple of years ago.

It is important that who ever is at Warooka is fully able to facilitate the needs of the client eg Fire permits, Dog registrations etc. Not every one is

computer literate or even owns one. Although Yorke Peninsula Council leaders have put the proposed closing of the Warooka Office to the general public, for its feed back, I believe that the decision to close has already been made.

Yorke Peninsula Council has to be seen to be doing the process of public consultation so that there is no backlash later

Having stated that, however, I ask the councillors to consider retaining the Warooka Office for the time being.

Yours sincerely
Nola Murdoch

From: Sevice Security
To: [Corporate Email Address](#)
Subject: "Review of Warooka Office"
Date: Friday, 2 March 2018 12:58:40 PM

Council rates continue to rise: Council services continue to diminish. Do you really believe we should be satisfied? Mark Leslie Williams, Point Turton. Dissatisfied ratepayer.

In the YP Country Times newspaper, back in 1997 when lower YP councils amalgamated, there was an article entitled 'District Council of Yorke Peninsula is born'. In this article, the group proposing the amalgamation of local councils was at pains to claim that once amalgamated the 'existing council offices will all continue' and, in fact, there would be an 'Improvement to existing services'.

How disappointing then, that YP Council continue with their topcentric approach to their business of looking after ALL ratepayers with a push to close the Warooka Council office. Have reduced hours for the Maitland office been considered to save money? I wouldn't think so.

According to the information sheet on council's website, council is seeking 'the most appropriate level of service that will yield benefits for the entire community'. I fail to see how proposing to entirely cease a council service that benefits lower YP residents (who already have reduced facilities) meets this goal.

The inference (in the proposal) that a council officer has to 'juggle' their substantive duties whilst 'looking after' the Warooka office on Tuesdays and Thursdays is insulting. If the Warooka office is visited as little as claimed then surely this uninterrupted time should lead to a better environment to complete more work and with more efficiency?

As per the proposal, the council find it 'difficult to continue to justify the separation of this officer from the finance team'. Surely, the justification in this is providing a service to ALL ratepayers.

I also struggle to understand the claims of saving \$20000 per annum for staff wages. According to the proposal, a staff member is removed from their finance team to 'look after' the Warooka office and therefore assumedly already employed five days a week. The wages will still need to be paid, just at a different location. This is not a saving. And if, as stated, the building is to be available for community use after closure then maintenance expenditure will also remain. These claims are just an attempt of muddying waters to justify the office closure. If I am wrong, please explain...

As a lifetime Warooka resident I am proud of our district's community spirit and it is good to see this recognised by Council. Back in 1996, this same community spirit prompted members of the final Warooka Council to resign in protest of the proposed amalgamation. Perhaps they could see the writing on the wall? According to the proposal, "'Community spirit" issues associated with the closure of the Warooka office have long been recognised by Council and the opportunity to present on these grounds is made available as part of the consultation process.'

Unfortunately, I believe this community consultation as merely a box ticking exercise when the decision has already been made, although I have confidence sitting councillors will listen to their constituents.

Letter to “Your View”

The Editor, Yorke Peninsula Country Times.

“Close Warooka YP Council Office”

I do not believe Kristin Murdock’s article relating to the closure of YP Council’s Warooka is a view of a lot of SYP residents. If it is not used frequently and is not economically viable then close it and save ratepayers money. Forget about the convenience and past history. YP Council is like a business that we as ratepayers have input and a financial interest in. Several bank agencies on the Peninsula have been deemed to be not economically viable, so have been closed down. Costs far outweigh the “good will of location convenience” in these sorts of decisions.

Like banks, more transactions and services of the Council are available online reducing the necessity for “in office visits. Our Council like many other councils are under pressure to keep our Council rates at an acceptable level and to see our Council looking at cost cutting measures is great.

I am sure other pensioners and single income families who are struggling to make ends meet will agree with the Council’s decision to look at closing the Warooka Council Office.

Many SYP residents visit Yorketown and Minlaton quite regularly for business, banking, medical and shopping etc, so like me plan “In house Council business” to coincide with these visits. These offices are conveniently staffed five days a week. Yes, close Warooka YP Council Office please and save money.

Malcolm Ball, Marion Bay.



Warooka Progress Association Inc. (WPA Inc)
PO Box 212, Warooka 5577

David Harding
Director Corporate and Community Services
Yorke Peninsula Council
MAITLAND SA

Dear David,

RE Review of Council's Warooka Office.

On behalf of the Warooka Progress Association we would like to express our concern over the proposed closing of the Council Offices in Warooka.

Although we appreciate the financial cost associated with council remaining as status quo, we as an association do not believe that we under estimate the importance of Community Spirit as mentioned in the councils proposal.

Although we appreciate many of the current services offered can be accessed via various technologies, we believe it is important to recognise the broader community, and the members of community that either are unable to access such services or are not in a position to utilise them.

Having access to the council we believe is important to many members and although visitor numbers are in decline it is important that council are not seen to be reducing services in the community.

As a rural community we have Health and welfare services steadily decline over the last number of years, with many services being completely removed. Removing the council resources will be yet another services locals here will have to travel to obtain.

Warooka is utilised by surrounding communities, with some being 60kms away. We as a progress have seen increased services benefitting the larger communities, where the smaller rural communities are suffering under the decline and distance. Another closure of resource has flow on effects the broader community and local businesses.

We would be happy to discuss further or more diligent use of Council resources should council wish to engage.

From: Diana Sweeney
To: [Corporate Email Address](#)
Subject: Review of Warooka Council Chambers
Date: Thursday, 8 March 2018 7:40:44 AM

Good morning

I am writing to you regarding the proposed closure of the Warooka council office.

This office is a community service for the lower Yorke Peninsula.

We pay rates. We deserve to have a council office within an 80km radius of our area of residence to allow all your ratepayers to be able to access council services as easily as possible.

I urge you to keep this office open and I also urge council to consider their constituents on the lower Yorke Peninsula.

Cheers Diana Sweeney

From: Steph Ball
To: [Corporate Email Address](#)
Subject: Review of Warooka Office
Date: Monday, 19 March 2018 4:29:04 PM

I fail to see how closing only the Warooka office as outlined will save costs, given the person manning the office on Tuesdays & Thursdays is employed elsewhere the rest of the week!

I'm sure with increasing online awareness there would be less people visiting ALL offices, as is the case with banks, post offices etc.

Obviously with less people coming to the office the council employee has ample uninterrupted time to complete other tasks efficiently, therefore cutting costs!

The building will still have to be maintained, as it should be, by Council for the community.

Council has hand-balled many historic buildings to Progress Associations, these buildings having been previously cherished and cared for by their respective local councils before amalgamation in 1997.

It is insulting that Council would think this is not important! Maybe in a couple more generations...

Rather than close, perhaps Council could be a little more productive by exploring what else it could be used for ie. tourism.

After all we are the "Gateway to the Bottom End"!

I would like to see an itemised list of the costs Council envisages saving by closing the Warooka office.

Steph Ball
Warooka

From: Chris Mitchell
To: [Corporate Email Address](#)
Subject: Review of Warooka Office
Date: Wednesday, 7 March 2018 10:12:44 AM

I am in favour of closing the Council's Warooka office and probably the Minlaton office as most queries/problems can be handled online or by phone and Yorketown is in close geographical proximity..

Richard C Mitchell
53 Esplanade , Point Turton 5575

From: Marilyn Polgreen
To: [Corporate Email Address](#)
Subject: Warooka office
Date: Wednesday, 7 March 2018 10:09:09 AM

To who it may concern

Having read Review of Warooka Office I feel that the Warooka Office should be

Closed and money spent on upgrading the North Coast Road. and other projects

such as dredging the Pt. Turton Boat Ramp especially Holiday time.

We pay a considerable amount in Rates with not much in return.

Regards

Polgreen Family

Shack 362 Nth, Coast Road

From: Robin Murdock
To: [Corporate Email Address](#)
Subject: Review of Warooka Office
Date: Friday, 23 March 2018 3:57:15 PM

To Elected Members,

We are told that the decision whether or not to close the Warooka Council Office will be made at the April Council meeting.

REALLY!

Since forwarding my feedback, I have learnt that council personnel have been gathering up the records held in the

Warooka Council Office all this week- prior to the closure of feedback, today, 23 March.

So I believe that the decision to close the Warooka Office has already been made and public consultation was a waste of money.

Yours sincerely,

Nola Murdock

This email has been checked for viruses by Avast antivirus software.
<https://www.avast.com/antivirus>

From: Peter Edmonds
To: [Corporate Email Address](#)
Subject: Review of Warooka office
Date: Thursday, 1 March 2018 11:48:14 AM

Submission from

Peter Edmonds,
8 Oxford Street,
Somerton Park,
SA 5044

Property location
3972 South Coast Road,
Warooka
SA 5577

While it is appreciated that the Council must continually seek to reduce costs and improve efficiencies this must of course be balanced against the effective delivery of services to the Yorke community and the maintenance of communities within the Council area. From perusal of the information provided the potential 'savings' from the closure of the Warooka office appear to be quite small, and in all likelihood would be offset by additional costs incurred by residents accessing other Council offices. However the greatest concern is that the closure of the Council office in Warooka would be a significant step in the death of Warooka as a town and community. It is very obvious from over 30 years of residency in the Warooka area that Warooka is a dying town with a number of businesses closing or being wound right down. This death will be accelerated with the closure of the Warooka Council office. Warooka is the gateway to the Bottom End but it is trending to becoming more of a cattle grid than a gateway.

Rather than close the Warooka Council office it is my view that the Council should seek to use the office as a vehicle to promote growth in the Warooka community by transferring other council functions to the Warooka office so that staff numbers can be sustained and increased. This would have a flow on through the Warooka community with increased local spending by staff. I am sure that there are a number of administrative functions that could be as efficiently undertaken in Warooka as in other Council offices. I would recommend that this be objectively investigated. I also recommend that this review of the Warooka office be used as an opportunity to provide stimulus to the Warooka so that it reverses its downward trend and becomes a vibrant gateway to the Bottom End, servicing not just the very significant tourist traffic seeking to access the wonders of the Bottom End but also providing a sustainable focal point for the local community. There is a lot of tourist traffic through Warooka heading to Marion Bay, Innes National Park etc. This traffic provides a major opportunity for Warooka to realise its potential as the key gateway to these iconic Yorke destinations. It needs stimulus by the Council, not withdrawal of services by the Council

On the matter of cost savings I am sure that savings significantly in excess of those projected from the closure of the Warooka office could be realised through greater efficiencies in a number of other Council activities.

The Warooka office decision must be treated as an opportunity to facilitate growth and vibrancy

in Warooka, not as another step in the decline and death of the town.

From: Neil&Liz
To: [Corporate Email Address](#)
Subject: Review of Warooka office.
Date: Wednesday, 21 March 2018 5:06:16 PM

2 Sheoak Rd.,
The Pines 5577. rates assessment no.113001

Dear Mr. Harding,

In reference to your letter advising us of the probable closure of the Warooka Council Office, I would like to register my objections to the proposal. There are many residents and shack owners on the "bottom end" of our council area from whom you get a large proportion of your rates and I feel very strongly that our contribution to your income should come back into our area so that we are not disadvantaged anymore than we already are.

We are isolated from the northern end of the Peninsula where you have the majority of your offices – indeed the head office is 150 km. from our residence and if you close Warooka it further reduces our services and forces us to travel much greater distances to access a council office , which disadvantages your ratepayers even more.

If you close Warooka Office you will presumably retain the staff employed there and so will not make savings there . Please consider all of your ratepayers and their needs and not just look at the financial side of the council.

Yours sincerely

James Neil Faggotter.



Friends of Port Moorowie Inc
PO Box 189 Yorketown SA 5576

23 March 2018

Mr David Harding
Director Corporate & Community Services
Yorke Peninsula Council
PO Box 57
MAITLAND SA 5573

RE: Review of Warooka Office

Dear Sir

On behalf of the Friends of Pt Moorowie I wish to comment on the suggestion that due to lack of clientele on the two (2) days that the Warooka office is open that you are considering closing it.

Our committee has accepted that this is possibly a wise economical decision given that many people currently conduct business on-line these days but if they are not comfortable with on-line payments, the residents of Warooka would need to head to Yorketown for major shopping & therefore would have access to the Yorketown office five (5) days a week.

No one expects councils to run at a loss but they are required to provide a service and that must still continue to be available at all times at Yorketown.

Yours sincerely

Jo Daniels-Wilson

Jo DANIELS-WILSON
Chairperson

From: Neil&Liz
To: [Corporate Email Address](#)
Subject: Review of Warooka Office
Date: Friday, 23 March 2018 2:59:24 PM

Elizabeth Faggotter
2 Sheoak Road ,
The Pines 5577

Dear Mr. Harding ,

I would like to express my strongest objections to your proposal to close the Warooka Council Office . Surely as ratepayers we have the same rights as others in the Yorke Peninsula area to have services available to us within a reasonable distance of our homes and not be forced to travel long distances over appalling roads to have access to one of your offices . The rates that come out of this area should be used within this area , and the staff have to be paid wherever they work , so I can't see where you will save much money by closing our office.

Please consider the health and welfare of the residents West of the Peesey before removing what I and many others consider to be an essential service to which we are entitled .

Elizabeth Faggotter .Resident at the above address , my husband being the ratepayer ,113001