## Thursday 26 March 2020



## **Message from Mayor Lindsay Godfrey**

I hope that everyone is staying safe and healthy during these current uncertain times.

As a community, Paroo Shire have been working hard to build our tourism industry and have been very successful at that and have enjoyed welcoming thousands of travellers through our towns.

However, due to the COVID-19 situation I am imploring travellers to sit tight and stay safe in their homes and postpone their trip to the Paroo Shire until it is safe to travel again.

It is imperative that everyone follows the directives given by the Prime Minister and Premier and stay or go home, and stop all non-essential travel.

Paroo Shire is a small community, and as such it hasn't been built to support extra people wishing to 'bunker down' here during the pandemic. In particular the Cunnamulla Hospital only has two respirators for those who require assistance breathing – and that not only includes potential COVID-19 patients but for those who have suffered a stroke, heart attack or even a car accident.

Our Visitor Centre has also had to shut as per Federal guidelines and we are no longer able to provide this service to travellers.

This is a hard message to issue as our community, in particular our businesses, financially rely on the tourist season however we need to ensure our residents' health and safety is protected.

The best place for anyone at the moment is at home, and to only travel for the essentials – and that includes our residents too.

We are so grateful for everyone who has chosen to visit Cunnamulla, Eulo, Wyandra and Yowah in the past and we look forward to welcoming you back in the future.

Yours Sincerely

Cr Lindsay Godfrey Mayor – Paroo Shire