



Office of the Mayor

Statement from Mayor Hill – 26 January 2026

I have informed the Alice Springs Town Council that I will not be participating in the Australia Day formalities on 26 January 2026. The citizenship and awards ceremony will be conducted by Deputy Mayor Allison Bitar.

Citizenship ceremonies are one of the highlights of my role as Mayor. It is a privilege to witness the joy and pride people feel upon becoming Australian citizens. However, like a growing number of Australians, it is my personal view that the 26 January is not the right date to celebrate our national day.

January 26 means a range of different things to people across our community. For many First Nations people, this is a day of mourning. While I do not intend to stand in the way of others' celebrations, I do not personally want to play a formal role on a day that causes harm to parts of our community.

I welcome respectful conversations about this matter and am committed to exploring how we can move forward with respect and inclusivity in the future.

Asta Hill
Mayor - Alice Springs Town Council
20 January 2026